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Christmas in July is back this year inside Hometownlife INSPIRE published today. List the pages where you spot the holiday icon and enter with the form inside the print edition of INSPIRE or online at hometownlife.com. All entries must be received by midnight July 31. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries. You could win \$250, \$125 or \$75 to go on a Christmas in July shopping spree.

Palmer problem

Wondering why you can't cross I-275 on Palmer?
On Tuesday, construction crews closed the Palmer Road overpass above I-275 between Haggerty and Lotz as crews begin bridge repair work. Weather permitting, the overpass will reopen Friday, Sept. 7. Motorists are advised to use Cherry Hill Road as a detour. For up-to-date information on construction projects going on in Canton, follow on Facebook: [cantonmidsd](http://cantonmidsd.facebook.com/cantonmidsd), twitter: cantonmidsd or visit www.canton-mi.org.

No passports

Due to the busy election year, the Canton clerk's office will not be accepting passport applications from July 23 through Nov. 9. Passport service will resume Monday, Nov. 12. Residents in need of a passport agent during this time should visit the Department of State website at travel.state.gov or call the National Passport Information Center at (877) 487-2778. For more information, call the clerk's office at (734) 394-5120.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Enjoying the 11th annual Canton Grub Crawl were (clockwise, from left) Becky Blackburn, Jessica Roland, Holly Schmude, Aleasha Peck, Liz Gurgel, Wendi Southwick and Yvonne Lawson.

Fine dining

Record crowd samples Grub Crawl eateries

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A group of Canton women wearing tall, colorful hats and one bright pink wig couldn't be missed as they made their restaurant rounds Tuesday evening during the 11th annual Canton Grub Crawl.

"We decided to bring a little bling this year," Aleasha Peck said.

The eight women, members of the civic and social group Canton Area Moms 4 Community, captured attention as they left Hayden's Grill & Bar on Ford Road near Lotz.

"The deep-fried pickles were great," Yvonne Lawson, wearing the pink wig, said.

Leaving their children and husbands at home, the women were among a record-shattering 600 people who paid \$35 to sample food from 16 restaurants.

That averaged out to less than \$2.20 per eatery, not a bad price for sampling Chinese cuisine, Italian favorites, barbecue sliders and other palate-pleasing treats.

Shuttle service

Diets took a break as the Canton Chamber of Commerce rolled out its four-hour Grub Crawl, providing

Please see CRAWL, A2

Don't miss the bus! Roxanne Gill rounds up Grub Crawl riders for the trip to the next restaurant.

Former teacher pleads guilty to sex charges

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Former Wayne Memorial High School teacher Brandon Tomblin of Canton is facing sentencing Aug. 9 after he pleaded guilty to multiple criminal charges amid allegations he had sex with two male students and exchanged nude photos with a third teen. Tomblin, 26, could face up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Margie Braxton for sexual incidents two teens say happened in Tomblin's office, at his sister's Garden City house and in his car while parked off a Romulus road. A third boy said he and Tomblin traded explicit photos on their cell phones, but never had sex.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Maria Miller has confirmed Tomblin's guilty plea last Thursday to charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, fourth-degree CSC, child sexually abusive activity, using a computer to commit a crime and distributing sexually explicit material to children.

Tomblin's decision averted a trial and came just five weeks after the three teens, now ages 16, 17 and 18, testified June 8 during a preliminary exam in Romulus 34th District Court that they had voluntary sexual contact last year.

Please see TEACHER, A5



FILE PHOTO

Ex-Wayne Memorial High School teacher Brandon Tomblin, seen with his attorney Robert Mullen, has pleaded guilty to multiple criminal charges that he had sex with two male students and exchanged nude photos with a third teen.

Crash sends victims to hospital

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A 26-year-old Northville woman suspected of driving drunk in Canton crashed head-on into another vehicle while traveling the wrong way on Michigan Avenue early Sunday, injuring herself and an Ypsilanti couple inside the other car, township police said.

"They are all expected to survive, but the two drivers had pretty substantial injuries," Canton Police Special Services Sgt. Pat Sullivan said.

The accident happened shortly after 2:30 a.m. Sunday, when police say the Northville woman

turned left from southbound Lilley and drove the wrong way along westbound Michigan Avenue in a Chevrolet Lumina, crashing into a Chevrolet Impala driven by a 38-year-old Ypsilanti man whose wife was a passenger.

Both drivers were airlifted to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, where they were listed in stable condition with what Sullivan described as "serious injuries."

The passenger in the Impala was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and then transferred to U-M Hospital, where she was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Sullivan said none of the identities of the three people have been released. He confirmed it appears alcohol may have been a factor in the crash, though he said it likely will be "at least three to four weeks" before Canton police receive a toxicology report from a state lab where blood work is sent.

Those results are expected to help decide what charges the Northville driver could potentially face.

Canton police arrived on the scene within seconds of the crash. Coincidentally, the Northville woman had just driven past officers who had made an unrelated traffic stop on Lilley north of Michigan Avenue, according to a

police statement.

The officers quickly returned to their patrol car and tried to catch up to and stop the Northville woman before she crashed head-on into the Impala.

Police officers gave aid to the injured people until Canton Fire Department paramedics arrived.

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was called in to investigate the crash.

Sullivan said a preliminary investigation indicated both drivers were driving approximately 50-55 mph — within the legal speed limit along Michigan Avenue.

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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

HEART BEATS 2012

Date/Time: Saturday, July 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth

Details: "Heart Beats 2012, Music with a Message" is a free outdoor music event hosted by Plymouth First United Methodist Church. It will feature music performed by the following Christian based bands: Impact band, The Beck and Saltz Band and Chosen. They will be rocking out their own songs as well as many you may already know. Their music covers many styles including praise, rock and alternative. Bring some chairs and some friends and come and enjoy some great music. This is a family event where you will also find free face painting and balloon animals for the kids.

Contact: Call Plymouth First United Methodist Church at (734) 453-5280 or visit www.pfumc.org.

TINY TOTS

Location: The Salvation Army Plymouth, 9451 S. Main

Details: The Plymouth Salvation Army is taking registration for its Tiny Tots Preschool and Young 5s program. Classes range from 2-4 days a week, depending on the child's age. A four-day Young 5s program is new for 2012/13.

Contact: Sheila Johnson, preschool director, (734) 453-5464, Ext. 27, or email sheila.johnson@usc.salvationarmy.org

POM CLINIC

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 25, 9-11:30 a.m.

Location: Canton High School North (Phase 3)

Details: The Canton Chieftettes host their pom pom clinic for potential cheerleaders ages 5-14. Students will learn pom techniques and a short dance routine. Parents will be treated to a performance at 11:30 a.m. Participants will also perform at the Canton High School varsity football game Aug. 30. Cost is \$45 for pre-registration, \$50 at the door.

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



Real Bar BQ is packed with Grub Crawlers. The pulled pork sliders are a big hit.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CRAWL

Continued from page A1

shuttles for diners who opted not to drive as they made their rounds wearing special T-shirts.

"It was a huge success," chamber President Thomas Paden said, commending participants, restaurants, sponsors and event volunteers.

Canton resident Tamika Montgomery, joined by friends from Westland and Detroit, made a stop at China Garden on Canton Center south of Ford.

"It's delicious," Montgomery said as she sampled sweet and sour chicken and Chinese noodles. "I love the crab rangoon."

Her group of six attended Grub Crawl for the first time, and all said they would do it again.

China Garden owner Ken Cao said he participated in Grub Crawl "for exposure" since he just opened his restaurant in March.

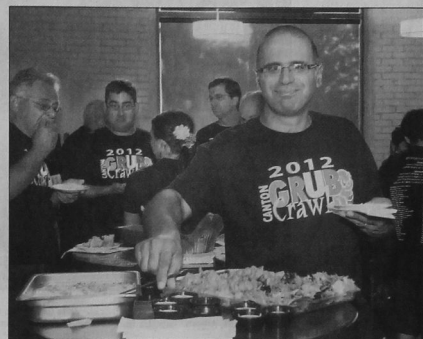
Repeat eaters

That was exactly the reason Dianne Cojei, former chamber director, helped initiate Grub Crawl in 2002 — to promote Canton restaurants and give local residents an economical way to try eateries in hopes they would become repeat customers.

"Everybody used to say we didn't have good restaurants here," she said, dining with a group of friends inside Real Bar-BQ on Ford Road.

Cojei knew Canton had quality restaurants, and Grub Crawl has proved the naysayers wrong.

The first Grub Crawl drew 210 people to 10



Khalil Kandah tries the fried pickles at Hayden's.



John Wisniewski is pretty happy about arriving at Hayden's.

restaurants, and it has steadily grown to Tuesday's 600 participants and 16 eateries.

A few tables away from Cojei's group, Bill and Gail Ollar complimented the barbecue sliders served up by Real Bar-BQ. They already had tried the "excellent" ribs at Bailey's Pub & Grille.

The Ollars are Grub Crawl regulars, partly

because they like to try new restaurants.

"That's one of the things we like about the Grub Crawl," Bill Ollar said.

Greg and Debi Greene, sampling food inside Hayden's before volunteering their time to usher diners in and out of restaurants, have been Grub Crawl regulars since 2002. They were glad to see new partici-



Tamika Montgomery likes the crab rangoon at China Garden.

pants such as Szechuan Restaurant on Ford near Canton Center.

"I like it when it brings out other restaurants," Debi Greene said.

Other restaurants participating in Grub Crawl included Antonio's Cucina Italiana, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Carvel Ice Cream, Chili's Grill & Bar, Crown's Nest Bar & Grill, Olga's Kitchen, Rose's Grill & Bar, Super Bowl Pizzeria, T.G.I. Friday's and T.C. Gators Sports Place.

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Preview highlights Concours d'Elegance

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Jerry Szostak of Plymouth drove his 1910 Stanley Steamer the short distance he had to cover to get to Tuesday's press preview day for the upcoming Concours d'Elegance at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.

Szostak has owned the car since February and noted it was mostly restored when he bought it, with Szostak needing to do paint touchup and some other work. That car is noteworthy for running on steam. Szostak owns 14 classic cars ranging from 1908 to 1966.

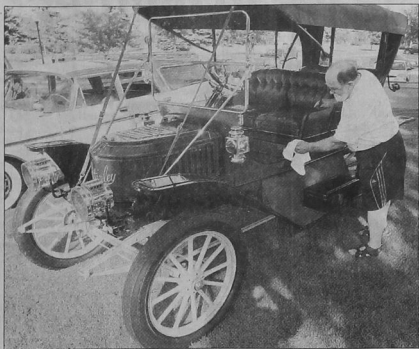
"I was an engineer," said Szostak, whose dad worked in a Pontiac dealership. "I like mechanical things."

He's retired from his heating/cooling and electrical business. "Stay home now and play with cars," said Szostak, 64, adding a hotter day is actually better for the steam-powered car. "You get to meet other enthusiasts for the hobby." He's been in Concours, now in its 34th year, for a number of years.

Motor City fun

Tuesday was a big car day (and a motorcycle day, as well) with many classic cars on display at the Inn at St. John's to promote the Concours d'Elegance. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 29, at the Inn.

Larry Miller of Plymouth Township brought his 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 with a retractable



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth resident Gerald Szostak polishes up his 1910 Stanley at the Concours D'Elegance Auto Show media day on July 17 at St. John's Conference Center. Szostak said that there were about 20,00 of the cars made by the Massachusetts-based company that was in operation from 1897-1927.

hardtop. He owns another 1957 Ford Fairlane, a '57 Pontiac two-door hardtop and a '57 Olds two-door hardtop. He recalled colleagues joking he was stuck in 1957.

A year ago, Miller, 67, got a 1939 Ford roadster with a rumble seat. He also still owns his first car, a 1970 Plymouth Fury 123 convertible. Miller drives a 2011 Grand Marquis daily and is a Ford Motor Co. retiree.

Businesses benefit

The event has significant economic impact, organizers and supporters agree. "This helps

put Plymouth Township on the international map," said Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor.

Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, noted the area hotels that fill up. "They'll shop, they'll dine," Graff said. Attendees will also be helped along by shuttle service to downtown Plymouth and Northville.

Reaume noted local schools, service clubs and the Michigan Philharmonic do fundraising during the event.

"The event creates a buzz," Reaume said. Overall charities for the

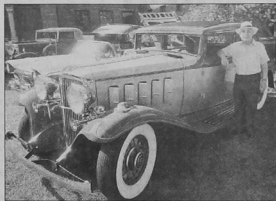
event are the Center for Creative Studies, Hospice of Michigan and Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Paul Wegert of Brighton is general manager of the Inn at St. John's, on the job more than 10 years. He agreed the economic impact is large.

"We've seen a lot more business because of the show," he said.

New to them

Some visitors didn't know the Inn at St. John's, a former Catholic seminary, existed. Some are surprised to see ballrooms for weddings and conference rooms good for business meeting use.



Lee Barthell will be showing his 1932 Victoria Nash Coupe at this year's Concours D'Elegance auto show at Plymouth Township's St. John's Conference Center. The Farmington Hills resident (with a Northville mailing address) stands with his car at the show's media preview day on July 17.



Jim Quinlan of Northville Township is looking forward to being in the show with his 1941 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet.

"We're looking for a long-term relationship," said Wegert, who appreciates the good board of directors and car selection process. "Just changing it up each year has added a new flair."

The golf course closes Friday night and reopens the following Monday for the event, Wegert said, and it's quickly set up and taken down. "There was

little tweaks here and there," he said.

Keith Crain, president of Crain Communications and an event board member, said "thank you" for the Center for Creative Studies support. He's also a board member there. "It is an exciting time for all of us who love cars," Crain said. "It is an exciting time for all of us."

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Canton man pleads to murder charge

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton resident Michael Joseph Sutton is facing 20-40 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for killing a 57-year-old Romulus man who was found lying face down in his own bathroom, with his hands tied behind his back and his head covered by a plastic bag.

Sutton, 41, avoided a potential life term in prison by

accepting a plea agreement in Wayne County Circuit Court that prompted authorities to dismiss charges such as first-degree murder and torture.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Maria Miller said Sutton faces his formal sentencing Aug. 2 by Judge Timothy Kenney after he pleaded guilty July 10 to killing 57-year-old Frank Jones of Romulus.

Romulus Police Chief Robert Dickerson has said Jones and Sutton had an "intimate

relationship." According to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office, the official cause of Jones' death was blunt force trauma.

Sutton's guilty plea to second-degree murder averted a trial. If convicted of first-degree murder, Sutton would have faced a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Canton authorities have said Sutton lived in the Autumn Ridge apartment complex near

Cherry Hill and Lotz roads before his arrest. Police have said Sutton was arrested near his residence after he tried to flee. A cooperative effort among police agencies led to the arrest.

After Jones' body was found in a pool of blood in his bathroom, his Ford Mustang had been found in the Walmart parking lot on Ford Road east of Lotz in Canton, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said. Romulus police had cited

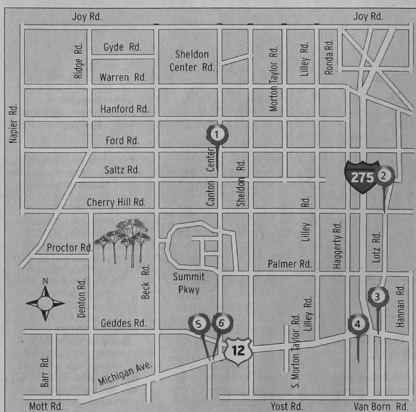
phone records and other evidence they say led to charges against Sutton.

Jones lived in the 15600 block of Springhill in Romulus and was a registered sex offender. According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, he had served three years in prison for child sexually abusive material or activity.

Jones had been released from prison in August 2009.

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CRIME WATCH



Ink spill

1 Canton Center Road was closed for several hours Tuesday evening between Ford and Heritage roads as the Canton Public Safety Department worked with cleanup crews after a truck spilled what was described as a non-toxic ink spill of an ink-like substance. Motorists had to find alternate routes.

BB gun confiscated

2 Canton police making a traffic stop shortly before 12:30 a.m. Sunday found inside the car a pair of black leather gloves, a folding knife, a ski mask, a BB gun and containers of BBs, a police report said.

Police confiscated some of the items as they investigated the incident.

It began when police saw a Ford Explorer ignore a flashing red light in the area of Cherry Hill and Lotz roads. A driver and several passengers were inside the vehicle.

A police report indicated there was a strong odor of marijuana in the vehicle. Officers were told the occupants had

been to a graduation party and that several people had been inside the Explorer during the course of the party.

The driver said he forgot the BB gun was in the car. He said the gloves and ski mask belonged to someone else.

Police took one of the vehicle's occupants into custody after learning he was on parole for an unrelated offense. An investigation was continuing into whether the male may be wanted for larcenies from cars in another community.

Intruder alert

3 A Canton police officer driving past Mel's Auto Clinic, a business on Michigan Avenue near I-275, noticed an open door around 6 a.m. Saturday. Police subsequently learned that an intruder had entered the building and that some contents had been found by Plymouth Township police near a restaurant in that community.

The investigation was continuing.

Warrant arrest

4 Canton police arrested a man wanted on several warrants after going

to the West Point mobile home park on Old Michigan Avenue and Hagerly Road, shortly before 11 p.m. Monday, a police report said.

Police had gone there to

arrest a woman on a warrant, then learned her husband was wanted for felony forgery by Wayne County authorities, for a domestic incident in Westland, obstructing authorities in Huron

Township and driving with a suspended license in Southgate.

The 35-year-old man was taken into custody as Canton police arranged for Westland police to pick him up.

Strong-arm robbery

5 In what was listed as a strong armed robbery, Canton police investigated reports a 19-year-old Ypsilanti man pushed a Walmart employee before fleeing with pills he allegedly stole from a

box of Coricidin.

The incident happened around 1:30 p.m. last Thursday at the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue near Belleville Road.

A police officer was on patrol in the area when he got a call about the incident. He saw the suspect running through the parking lot, ordered him to the ground and ultimately captured him.

As police were chasing the man, he was seen throwing something toward a Dumpster. Police learned it was two packets of red pills identified as Coricidin cold pills.

Retail fraud

6 A 21-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for retail fraud by Canton police following an incident that happened shortly before 7 p.m. Sunday at the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue near Belleville Road.


The woman cried when approached by police and told officers she wasn't thinking when she allegedly tried to steal items such as a desktop computer.

According to a police report, the woman left the store without paying for the computer and other merchandise. She was placed under arrest for retail fraud.

Police also learned she had warrants out of Westland and Van Buren Township for retail fraud.

Compiled by Staff Writer Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

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Canton write-in enters Republican fray

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Drexel Morton believes that Congress should have numerous voices serving the American people.

When Thad McCotter decided not to run as a write-in candidate in late May, Morton viewed it as an opportunity for himself and others who aren't backed with thousands of dollars to run a campaign. Morton has declared a write-in candidacy on the 11th Congressional District Republican ballot with the Secretary of State's office.

Morton, 60, a Canton resident and pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Milford and write-in candidate Nancy Cassis, who is a former state senator and state representative. When Morton saw who was in the race, Morton believed it brought an opportunity for others like himself.

"You like to hear from as many voices as possible," Morton said.

Morton said he thought about running two years ago. "When Thaddeus McCotter decided not to run this year, it completed my thoughts about running," Morton said.

Morton said his 25 years experience as a pastor helps him conciliate discussions and views, and counsel members of his congregation, experience that he can bring to Congressional office.

"I want to reach across the aisle," Morton said.

Major issues

Morton said the three major issues facing vot-



Morton

ers are the economic situation in the United States and Europe, jobs and the fiscal crisis. "We need as many jobs that we can create," Morton said. "The fiscal cliff that is impending on Jan. 1 needs resolution as both parties are entrenched. The Bush tax cut will expire on Jan. 1 and spending will increase, so it will be an increase in spending and in taxes. We need to solve this problem by reaching across the aisle."

Morton describes himself as a fiscal conservative, but he describes himself as a moderate on other issues.

Morton believes that his lack of experience in government does not hinder someone in politics. "Parish politics prepares you for real politics," Morton said, quoting another pastor. Morton's parish consists of about 175 members, the estimated average church attendance on any given Sunday.

Morton said he knows residents throughout the district through his work in bereavement ministry, from Livonia, Plymouth and Canton in western Wayne County to Highland and South Lyon in western Oakland County. Morton is active in Pennycuik Theater in Ann Arbor.

"I'll be using Social Media and word of mouth," Morton said about his campaign plans.

Citizen servant

Morton views politics as a "citizen servant,"

he said. "That's what our Founding Fathers wanted, citizen servants to serve in government for a couple of years, and come back to civilian life when they finish their terms," Morton said. Running for Congress is so expensive today that Congressional members start fund-raising when they begin their terms in office.

Morton has no plans to run for the short, unexpired term of Thaddeus McCotter. Morgan said McCotter's decision to resign "was a personal matter."

Morton said the Affordable Health Care Act, recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, now is the "law of the land."

"But there wasn't any discussion about it," Morton said about the act when it was first enacted. Morton believes both parties need to talk about health care coverage, but adds that complete coverage is unrealistic. Morton noted that Romney's plan was used in Massachusetts when he was governor. "We've been at log-headers for some time," Morton said. "We need to look at costs rising, and not throw the baby out with the bath water," Morton said.

Morton also supports the government's help with the managed bankruptcies of General Motors and Chrysler and the bank bailout. "We had to do this," Morton said of the bank bailout. "Without it, it may have been worse than the Great Depression," Morton said.

Morton has Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/RevDrexel-MortonForTheHouse and www.facebook.com/groups/325636100857139.

TEACHER

Continued from page A1

with Tomblin, though Judge Tina Brooks Green ruled such relations between a teacher and students cannot by law be consensual.

"This happened in the high school in his office, and he's a teacher," Green said of one incident.

Tomblin's defense attorney, Robert Mullen, couldn't be reached for comment.

Tomblin, described as a vocal music teacher who was well-liked among students and other teachers, became embroiled in controversy after a 16-year-old student's mother contacted police to report inappropriate contact between Tomblin and her son.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy



Tomblin

has said school officials cooperated fully when law enforcement authorities began investigating allegations against Tomblin.

Under questioning by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Brian Surma during the June 8 court hearing, one male, now 18, said he appeared in a production of *Hairspray* directed by Tomblin, exchanged texts with him and eventually had unprotected sex in the teacher's office during after-school hours.

On another occasion, the teen said he and another alleged victim rode with Tomblin to a place in Romulus, where they parked. He said he sat in the back seat while Tomblin

performed oral sex on the other boy, now 17.

On yet another occasion, the 18-year-old teen testified he and the other teen accompanied Tomblin to Tomblin's sister's house in Garden City, where other sexual acts occurred. The 17-year-old gave similar testimony.

The teens said Tomblin never offered them alcohol or drugs. The third male, 16, testified in June that he and Tomblin sent texts to each other and traded nude pictures using their cell phones. He said they never had sex.

Tomblin's family has declined to comment. However, Mullen has said Tomblin has strong support from family members who have repeatedly appeared in court on days his case was heard.

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Providing for Paws fills flatbed to assist families with pets

Joanne Dixon is hoping to fill a 50-foot flat-bed truck with pet supplies to help families suffering from financial hardship who own pets.

The Garden City resident is the president and founder of Providing for Paws which holding "Fill a Flatbed for Furry Friends" event 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at Goody's Pet Supply, 35240 E. Michigan Ave., Wayne. Misfit Angels Rescue and Heaven Will Wait Animal Rescue are also sponsoring the event.

"We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we help them to keep their pets in the home and not end up on the streets, left behind in abandon

homes, euthanized or placed in rescue by providing food assistance, spay and neuters, vaccines and other medical services their pet may need," said Dixon.

Providing for Paws services families in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Livingston and Monroe counties. There will be raffle baskets and rescue merchandise. Adoptable pets also will be on site for those interested in taking in a new furry four-legged best friend, Dixon said, adding that leashed friendly pets are also welcome.

On the flatbed wish list are dog food (wet or dry), dog treats, collars, leashes, crates (especial-

ly large sized), dog and cat toys, food and water bowls, dog beds and crate bedding, preventatives, dog shampoo, cat food (dry and wet), cat treats and catnip, cat litter, litter boxes, cat collars, cat carriers/small crates, cat beds, cat shampoo/dips, gift cards - pet supply stores, large chain stores, gas cards, office supply stores, office supplies, paper towel, bleach and anything pet related.

A similar fundraiser is planned for the Southeast Michigan Surgical Hospital at 21230 Dequindre, Warren. For more information, visit the Providing for Pets website at www.providingforpaws.org/fill-a-flatbed-for-furry-friends.

Fundraiser benefits Humane Society

By Brad Kradrich
Observer Staff Writer

Deborah Morkut has had eight cats in her lifetime, including the three she has now who complement the three birds who live with her in her Plymouth home.

So it's safe to say Morkut is passionate about animals. She's putting that passion to good use Sunday, hosting a fundraiser, "Clips for Paws," to benefit the Michigan Humane Society. Morkut and the other stylists from her hair salon, Sebastian Group Hair Salon in Dearborn, will be cutting children's and adults hair for \$10 apiece, with all the proceeds to the MHS.

The event takes place noon to 6 p.m. at the

American Legion Post 32, located at 9318 Newburgh in Livonia.

"I love animals. It always seems like I get in a situation where an animal needs help, and I have a real passion for that," the Plymouth resident said. "I am taking in a class at Landmark Education (in Livonia), and one of the things we needed to do is a project you're passionate about. I couldn't think of anything I'd rather do more than something for the humane society."

In addition to the hair-cutting fundraiser, the event will feature a variety of parties:

- Three Dog Bakery of Plymouth will be selling goods, with 25 percent of their sales being donated.
- Discount Pet of Livonia sponsored T-shirts,

and 50 percent of the proceeds go to MHS.

• Sharon Sheehy of Sheehy Animal Hospital will answer basic veterinary questions.

• Pet groomers from Kelly's Klips in Livonia will be on hand to provide grooming tips.

• Mary Kay Cosmetics will hand out manicure and pedicure kits, with 25 percent going to MHS.

Morkut hopes to raise more than \$3,000, because she points out the cost for caring for animals at the Humane Society is about \$150 from the time they come in until they are adopted.

"I want to get 20 animals from homeless to loved with this event," Morkut said.

bkdrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899



The pond of Ray of Teri Alexander of Livonia will be featured during Saturday's tour.

Club hosts pond, water garden tour

Ten homes in Livonia, Westland and Garden City will be featured in the Michigan Koi and Pond Club's 14th annual pond and water garden tour this weekend.

The self-guided tour will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 21, and feature 10 unique backyard settings.

The home owner's yards express their personalities, hobbies and interests along with various garden and aquatic plants, according to Ron Kardynski, MKPC vice-president and pond tour chairperson.

"Our club's annual tours are unique in a way that we select different areas of southeast Michigan to host the tour," he said. "This year the ten homes selected will be in the Livonia, Westland and Garden City. We are excited to have such a wide variety of Koi along with beautiful gardens."

The backyards include water features and ponds up to 12,000 gallons. There also are several small fairy gardens.

"In the past two years, we have noticed that

fairy gardens are gaining in popularity and this year is no different," Kardynski said. "Two will be on display with one being a 150-square-foot area nestled under a group of evergreens."

The tour costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-15 with an adult. Wristbands and a tour booklet will be given with ticket purchases. The booklet contains a description of each yard and a map to the homes. Koi Cops (MKPC club members) will be at each location to handle any questions.

Tour wristbands and tour booklets can be purchased the day of the tour at 32525 Six Mile, on the south side between Farmington Road and Merriman.

For more information, visit the club website at www.mkpc-se.com or call Kardynski at (734) 646-7607.

The MKPC was founded March of 1996 after the founder, Gil Orris, took some advice from a pond supply store on how to get rid of algae in his pond which resulted

in the death of every fish in his pond except one.

After losing 15 mature Koi, he felt there had to be a better way to learn about the hobby and that others in the area were probably also experiencing "learning pains" and may want to join in. Seventeen people attended that first meeting at his home, and the club has met continuously ever since.

MKPC is one of the oldest and largest Koi and pond clubs in Michigan and a member of the Associated Koi Clubs of America. Members range from those just learning about the hobby who have yet to have their first pond to members with three decades of experience in the hobby. Some members have very small ponds with either a few or even no fish to one of the largest being a garden with a half dozen ponds from 1,000 gallons up to 25,000 gallons.

Over the years the club has been affiliated with several knowledgeable vendors, including Barson's Greenhouses in Westland.

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- Talented and Gifted, Third Grade (limited to 20 students and testing is required) at Dodson Elementary
- International Academy, Ninth Grade (limited to 10 students) at Plymouth High School

Accepting applications beginning July 16. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on July 31. Applications can be completed on the District website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us

PLYMOUTH-CANTON
Community • Schools

Buyout seminar a success; don't fall for latest scam

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I want to thank the nearly 600 people who attended our seminar last week (sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers) regarding the Ford and General Motors pension buyout.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

It was great to see so many people and to hear so many intelligent questions. It was obvious that people understood the importance of this decision regarding whether to accept a buyout for their pension. Hopefully, the seminar accomplished our goal of helping peo-

ple make the right decision for their individual situation.

Unlike so many other seminars I've heard about where the goal was, our goal was, and always is, to help you keep more money in your pocket — exactly where it belongs. As a side note, when Ford comes out with its information, I plan to do educational seminars targeted specifically for the Ford buyout.

Don't get scammed

Sometimes I shake my head and say, "What were they thinking?" Then I realize they weren't thinking at all. What I am referring to is a story last week about many metro Detroiters who have been swindled due to a utility paying scheme. People were told either

on social media that President Obama would pay their utility bills. They were told that all they needed to do was forward their Social Security number and bank routing information, along with information on their utility bills, and they would be reimbursed.

Unfortunately, many people provided the necessary information and, as opposed to having their utility bills paid, money was stolen from them. I know that many people think that the government pays for everything, but come on, we have to be reasonable. My philosophy has always been if something smells too good to be true, it's smelly.

Scam artists don't take the summer off, they work 24/7 365 days a year. Unfortunately, government and law

enforcement officials can only do so much to protect us. You and I have to be the ultimate protector of our personal finances.

As far as I'm concerned, when anyone asks for sensitive financial information such as a bank account number or Social Security number, the automatic answer ought to be no. Of course, there are certain situations where you have to surrender your Social Security number, however, these are few. Remember, just because someone asks that does not mean you have to give it to them.

One of the reasons why scam artists are successful is because

we allow them to be. We let our guard down because we don't think we have to protect ourselves or we seem times just don't think. The bottom line is that it is up to us to protect ourselves from the low lives in our society who prey on our good nature.

One mistake people make is not reporting an incident to the proper authorities. I suspect that many people are so embarrassed that they don't want to report that they've been taken advantage of. As difficult as it is, you must.

In the old days when the crooks robbed you, they generally had a weapon in their hand and looked very intimi-

dating. In today's world, the crooks don't carry weapons and don't look intimidating. In fact, many times they are very friendly and outgoing. However, the results are the same. In today's world, we have no choice but to constantly remain on guard and always protect ourselves. The crooks never take a day off and they have no shame. Good luck!

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

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After traveling from Traverse City, Tiandra Thomas, 12, made a dog balloon for Sophia Wilson, 4.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crowds pack art festival



Claire Kostum, 14 months old, went to the Plymouth art fair with her mother Erin and grandmother, Edie Wysocki.



Ben Martin, 4, from Monroe rolled through the festival in the stroller being pushed by his mother, Susan.



Artist Kristen Dillenbeck Anderson painted in her booth during this year's artist market.



Living Statue George Tait entertains 16-year-old Erin Zimmer.

Greg and Allie Poulos were in Plymouth for dinner Friday night, talking about escaping the huge crowds in town for the annual Art in the Park Festival.

But even the Northville residents trying to avoid the traffic got sucked into the fold. Passing one of the booths, Greg noticed vintage post office box piggy banks. He didn't stop to get one Friday, but he couldn't stop himself from coming back to nab one Saturday.

"It's unique," Greg said, his vintage 1896 bank tucked safely into a bag. "It's a little slice of history for my book shelf."

The annual festival, which annually draws crowds in the hundreds of thousands, featured the art and crafts of hundreds of vendors, along with some music and other activities.

Mother Nature cooperated, providing clear skies and warm temperatures for the three-day festival.

"The weather has been good, and I think the crowds have actually been a little larger than usual," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok said Saturday.

A variety of crafts were flying off the shelves and, as usual, the festival seemed to produce a particular favorite. This year's pick: a foam-rubber-tipped bow and arrow, which kept selling out at the booth of Diana and Larry Townsend of Charlotte, Mich.

"All the kids love those bow and arrows," said Diana Townsend, who said she and her husband do about 20



Charlyn Darling of Westland brought her dog, Hobbes, shows a year. They certainly attracted



Beating the heat with some Italian Ice cream were Heather Tartaglia of Northville, and Irene Fletcher and Nina Hier of Plymouth.

Mark and Ruth Seitz of Canton, who were in line for two of them for daughters Emily, 10, and Olivia, 7.

"I just think it's a really cool idea," Mark Seitz said. "I've never seen a safe bow and arrow for kids."

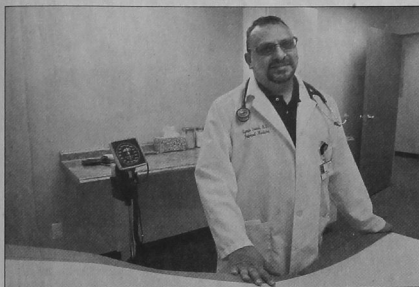
The Seitzes said they're vet-

erans of the festival, and are big fans.

"We try to come every year," Ruth Seitz said. "It's close to home, and they really have so many unique things."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Ayman Daoude has opened a new practice in Canton.

Patient care key in doctor's office

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Internal Medicine: Our specialty in Internal Medicine allows us to see patients for many reasons such as heart disease, sports medicine, physicals, diabetes, stomach issues, preventative medicine, pneumonia, headaches, cough, the common cold, and many others. We welcome walk-ins and same day appointments.

Observer: How did you decide to open your business?

Internal Medicine: Dr. Ayman Daoud is a long time resident of Canton and has practiced Internal Medicine for over 15 years. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and has worked and trained at various medical centers including the University of Michigan, Detroit Medical Center, and Henry Ford Hospital. He first decided to open this business because he felt it was very important to have a Doctor's Office that was focused on the care of patients and making them feel welcome during their visit. Any type of illness whether it is major or minor can be hard for a patient to deal with and they need compassionate people like us to care for them.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Internal Medicine: Can-



Receptionist Aya Halwani greets patients at Internal Medicine of Canton.

ton is a wonderful community to both visit and live. We are from the Canton area and love it here. We love the diverse population and growing community and feel it is a wonderful place to have a business.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Internal Medicine: We strive on friendliness and giving our patients the best quality of service. We care greatly about our patients and want them to feel at home when they are visiting our office. Patients are our top priority. Our employees are very friendly and compassionate especially when it comes to patient care. We are easy to get hold of and to communicate with.

Observer: Do you have a story to share with readers about your experience as a small business owner?

DETAILS

Business name and address: Internal Medicine of Canton, 43050 Ford Road, Suite 160, Canton

Your name: Ayman Daoude, M.D.

Your hometown: Canton

Business opened: June 2012; grand opening planned for August
Number of employees: 3

Hours of operation: Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Your business specialty: Internal medicine.
Phone: (734) 927-4486

Internal Medicine: It can be a little challenging getting the word out about our business opening.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Internal Medicine: When starting out a new small business it takes time to build up the flow of customers so you really have to have some patience.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Internal Medicine: We are looking forward to growing our office in the Canton community in the coming years.

CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber golf

The Canton Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing takes place Thursday, Sept. 13, at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton. Sponsors include: Burren Law Offices, Bovitz CPA, PC, Jack Denmer Ford, Lou LaRiche Chevrolet and Plumbing Professors.

For details on how to register or for more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-4040.

Family Fun Fest

The Canton Chamber of Commerce presents Family Fun Fest 1-4 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., in Canton.

The free skate with Artie event features music by DJ Roman, games on ice, balloon sculptures, face painting, raffle prizes, a sports silent auction (to benefit local families in need through Open Door Ministry, Canton's Food Pantry) and more.

Car show

The Power and Platinum Car Show will be presented by the Showroom of Elegance and America's Most Wanted Car Show 5:30-8:30 p.m. today (Thursday).

The event features live music, fun, discount savings, food vendors and specialty vendors. Partial proceeds to benefit the Michigan Autism Society.

Admission is free. Showroom of Elegance is located at 6018 N. Canton Center Road.

First Friday

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Club meets 8:30-9:45 a.m. Friday, Aug. 3, at the chamber offices located at 45525 Hanford Road in Canton.

It's an opportunity for one-on-one net-

working in a small group setting. This networking event is limited to 10 separate businesses plus a sponsor. Participants should bring business cards, flyers, etc., to share with the group. Participation in this networking event is limited to once per quarter. The fourth member to register will be asked to bring bagels or doughnuts. To make a reservation, call (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com. The event is sponsored by Showroom of Elegance.

Membership max

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's Membership to the MAX is designed to show how to use the Canton Chamber to its fullest capacity.

The meeting takes place 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the chamber office, 45525 Hanford Road in Canton.

The chamber's goal to help members redeem all of the advantages that accompanies their membership. Reservations are required, call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com. Sponsors are Bovitz, CPA, PC, Molly Maid and Showroom of Elegance.

Business workshop

The Canton Chamber sponsors Business Education Workshop Series #3 on the topic, "Using Technology To Boost Your Business," 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office, 45525 Hanford Road in Canton. There is no cost for members and first-time guests. The event is presented by Bart Patterson.

Call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com to reserve a spot.

CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Olympic eating

RealBarBQ will host the Olympic eatin' competition Saturday, July 28, beginning at 2 p.m., at its new Canton location at 42452 Ford Road at Lilley.

This Olympic style contest will kick off the 2012 Summer Olympics. The adult who eats the most pulled pork sandwiches in eight minutes will win a \$200 RealBarBQ gift card and all other contestants selected to participate will receive \$25 gift cards.

In all, eight contestants will be selected to participate, and they will have eight minutes to finish off as many pulled pork sliders as they can.

Eight children between the ages of 6-12 will compete to see who can eat a RealBarBQ Deep Fried Twinkie the fastest. The first place winner will receive a \$50 iTunes gift card, and each of the participants will receive a \$10 book store gift card.

Anyone interested in competing is encouraged to enter at the RealBarBQ restaurant or on-line at realbarbq.com to fill out an entry form. Eight people for each contest will be randomly selected by RealBarBQ staff and all contestants will be notified if they were chosen by July 23.

Paws visits

Monroe Bank & Trust announced that Paws, the official mascot of the Detroit Tigers, will visit the Plymouth branch on Wednesday, July 25, from 1-3 p.m.,

for a meet and greet with fans and friends.

The branch is located at 706 South Main Street and the event is open to the public.

Light refreshments, coloring pages and more will be available.

Platinum car show

A summer tradition roars into Canton, featuring some glitzy bling and bumpers next month. The Power and Platinum Car Show, hosted by the Showroom of Elegance and the America's Most Wanted Car Club, rolls into Showroom's parking lot at 6018 North Canton Center July 19. The event will offer lots to look at, food and entertainment from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

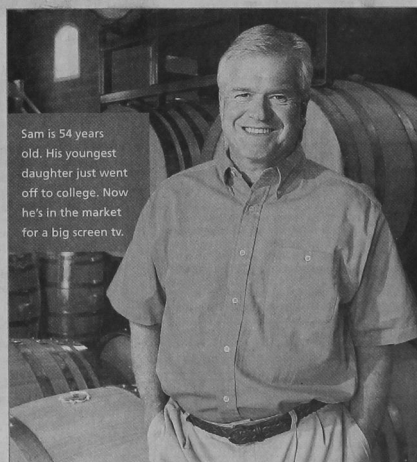
"This car show is free to the public, and we'll be offering some great discounts throughout the event on some great jewelry pieces," said Linda Robin, owner of Showroom of Elegance. "We're also donating partial proceeds of all jewelry sales to the Autism Society of Michigan."

Some of the vendors will also be donating a percentage of their food sales to the charitable organization which offers educational resources and materials, workshops, seminars and other services to Michigan families coping with Autism.

For more information, contact Showroom of Elegance at (734) 207-1906 or at info@showroomofelegance.com.



RealBarBQ hosts a contest July 28 to see who can eat the most pulled pork sliders. The restaurant is located at 42452 Ford Road (at Lilley) in Canton.



Sam is 54 years old. His youngest daughter just went off to college. Now he's in the market for a big screen tv.

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OUR VIEWS

Trustee choices Incumbents, Yack get nod in primary

With all of the political battles swirling in surrounding races, the Canton Township Board of Trustees race in the Aug. 7 primary is relatively calm. But no less important.

Six candidates are vying in the Republican primary for four nominations (the top four will battle the only Democrat, Steven Sneiderman, for four seats on the November ballot). Supervisor Phil LaJoy, Clerk Terry Bennett and Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin are unopposed.

We recommend Canton voters choose incumbents **Pat Williams** and **John Anthony**, appointed incumbent **Greg Demopoulos** and former Canton Township Supervisor **Tom Yack** in the Aug. 7 vote.

John Anthony is seeking his second term on the board, having first been elected in 2008. A former FBI special agent, Anthony brings an analytical mind to the board. He's intelligent, thoughtful and is willing to look at ideas from all sides.

He's been part of a board that fought its way out of a \$14 million budget deficit two years ago, using a combination of cost-cutting and department realignment, reduction of salaries and other measures to bring it back to balance. Anthony is a voice of reason on which the board relies as it tackles the issues facing the township.

He's served on many of Canton's committees, and his community support shows up in areas ranging from youth baseball to the library to civic groups like the Canton Lions Club.

Pat Williams is also seeking his second term. As an account manager for a Tier 1 automotive supplier and a partner in a pet cleaning products manufacturer, Williams has a unique set of experiences from which to draw as he considers issues facing the board.

A recipient of the township's Community Supporter Award in 2006, Williams also backs the arts effort in Canton as part of the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities and civic groups such as the Canton Lions and Rotary clubs.

Greg Demopoulos was appointed last year to fill the remaining portion of Todd Caccamo's term, and he has been a solid addition. The thing to like about Demopoulos is the road he took to get there. Demopoulos has served on the township's Zoning Board of Appeals, the Merit Commission and the Planning Commission. That's a municipal background few trustees ever get. He's also been involved in one of Canton's biggest jewels — the Canton Cup soccer tournament — as a coach and director.

A lawyer by trade, Demopoulos has provided another analytical mind as he has transitioned into the seat.

Tom Yack's political acumen is unquestioned. The longtime Canton Township supervisor is well-versed in how things run, dealing with issues ranging from public safety to roads and everything in between. He knows the players when dealing with regional issues, and he knows how the system works.

In his absence, he's stayed busy promoting the arts as part of the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, among other community support efforts.

The Canton Township Board has been operating smoothly and efficiently. **Pat Williams**, **John Anthony** and **Greg Demopoulos** have been a part of that, and **Tom Yack's** previous experience would make him a natural fit. We recommend those names to voters casting ballots in the Aug. 7 primary.

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COMMUNITY VOICE

What are you doing to beat the heat?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"Staying in the air-conditioning and using sunscreen outside."
Breonna Dixon
 Canton



"Air-conditioning."
David Telgen
 Canton



"We can go in the pool."
Jaskiran Kaur
 Canton



"Every now and then I go out and relax on the patio under the shade."
Clarence McNeal
 Canton

LETTERS

Absurd accusation

In the letter "Attacking religious freedom," June 28, it appears that yet another letter writer seems to confuse our First Amendment right to practice whatever religious faith we wish without any government interference with imposing our religious beliefs and practices on others who may not share our beliefs and practices.

Catholic institutions service Catholics and non-Catholics. They also employ Catholics and non-Catholics and therefore are public institutions run by Catholics. As institutions that service and employ a variety of individuals, some who may even be non-religious, they are bound to respect and follow the laws of the land that govern such institutions.

The new Obama health insurance rules governing certain employers mandate coverage for specific health-related issues, which happen to include paying for contraception (birth control pills, etc.).

Catholic leaders preach against any and all means of contraception and have for some time now and that is well and good as long as they demand obedience to their views from their fellow Catholics and not of non-Catholics or non-religious individuals.

That is why churches such as the Catholic Church are not bound by rules, but as institutions that cater to and employ non-Catholics, they are bound by the same rules and regulations as all similar institutions are.

To accuse President Obama of attacking religious liberty in general and the Catholic Church in particular, is patently absurd and speaks to the ignorance and confusion of many people who believe their religious freedoms are under attack while at the same time do not recognize the freedom of others not to be bound by someone else's religious beliefs; yes freedom from religion is a right!

The Catholic bishops, who are behind this campaign of misinformation and blatant deceit against the Obama administration, should concentrate on convincing their own membership to follow their pronouncements on contraception since most do not, instead of trying to force their beliefs on non-Catholics or Catholics that do not subscribe to or follow the Vatican's unrealistic and misguided views on contraception.

Janusz M. Szyszko
 Canton

Drop out, Mr. Yack

Canton Township has been my home for almost 20 years and I care about the people that live here. This is an open letter to Tom Yack to ask him to back out of the race for township trustee.

Mr. Yack, your last years in office proved to be only for yourself and not the people of Canton Township. In November 2007, you and the other board members voted yourself a salary increase from \$123,372 to \$127,073. This not only solidified your higher lifetime pension from the township, but it was done at a time when residents in the community were getting pay cuts, losing their jobs, homes and benefits, and there was a marked increase in district-wide children in the reduced

lunch program.

You did it because you could — the *Canton Observer* quoted you as stating, "That's the way it works." And another quote Dec. 16, 2007 — "I think we run an efficient operation, but there are some people who believe we should hurt with them." You showed no concern at all for the residents you were representing.

The *Observer* reported in last Sunday's paper that there are large legacy costs in Canton — \$33 million when you left — another present from you, Mr. Yack.

During the 2008 run for offices, you strategized on campaigns, slandered opposing candidates and created and passed around campaign literature. This was illegal activity conducted during normal business hours. This violation covered misuse of professional time as a township employee, as well as illegal use of township email facilities.

Your emails that displayed blatant disregard for your elected office were published in the *Observer* — 200 of them — after you yourself read through them and turned over what you thought fulfilled the FOIA — again, conflict of interest.

There were charges filed against you by the Michigan Campaign Finance Network and you paid a fine to the Michigan Department of State. In your letter to the Department of State, you were very glib and did not agree you had done anything wrong — your last paragraph went as follows: "Please let me reiterate, once I became aware that I might be in conflict with the Michigan campaign law, I changed my behavior. I am completing my 20th year in office and will leave office at the end of the current term. I will not be seeking public office again."

Keep your promise Mr. Yack. Do not seek public office again.

Ann Marie Graham-Hudak
 Canton

Better than Somalia

I read Mr. Gordon's letter (July 12) with great interest. I then tallied up my Comcast bill and calculated that taxes comprised some 5.43 percent of the total. Monstrous! I told myself.

Clearly we need to remove ourselves from the onerous burden of government taxation and intrusion into our personal lives.

I would suggest to Mr. Gordon that he relocate to the virtually tax-free Eden called Somalia. Somalia has no taxes because it has no government (parade indeed!). It doesn't strain the bonds of personal freedom because it doesn't have the extraneous obligations that we must shoulder: roads, schools, hospitals, public employee unions. Very few people survive to what we would call a retirement age.

Almost everyone in Somalia seems to have guns and to be willing to express their freedom in using them. I don't know if they have an NRA chapter.

I would encourage Mr. Gordon to pack up his old "Love it or leave it" bumper stickers, and embark for this land of freedom. But on reflection, I think I may just stay here and pay that crummy 5.43 percent.

Sam Barnes
 Canton

Pattern of deceit

Gov. Romney's two explanations for what he was doing from January 1999 until the end of 2002 were involved in a head-on collision with each other this week as Romney tried to explain why he should not be considered "outsourcer in chief" and a culture capitalist. Seems as though after early 1999, Bain Capital had an unusually savage record of "creative destruction" that presidential candidate Romney thought he needed to distance himself from.

The problem for Mitt is that he had already fashioned a scenario for how and where that chunk of time was spent back in the early 2000s. Gubernatorial candidate Romney's tangled web first began with a successful attempt to meet residency requirements in Massachusetts. In those days Mitt was CEO of the Salt Lake City Olympics and had to impress upon election officials that he actually did live in Massachusetts, even though it seemed that he was spending the lion's share of his time in Utah.

In order to do this, Mitt had to document that he was the active CEO of Bain Capital headquartered in Massachusetts and a sitting member on the boards of several of BC's holdings, proving that he was present in Massachusetts enough to discharge his executive responsibilities and qualify as a resident of the state. Eventually Romney was deemed eligible to run by state officials and the rest is history, at least until Mitt's ambitions for higher office got the best of him.

Fast forward to 2012 as Mitt is being called to stay by fellow Republican presidential hopefuls for his role at Bain Capital. How could Mitt escape culpability for the heinous acts of culture capitalism and outsourcing that the likes of Gingerich, Perry, Paul and Santorum were accusing him of? Simple, redefine the 1999 to 2002 time frame and hope nobody notices. Remember that was the same period of time when Romney was scrambling to provide proof of residency in Massachusetts so that he could run for governor.

Mitt now claims that during that time he was retired from Bain Capital and busy in Utah. He can't seem to recall even one Bain meeting attended, one personnel decision that he participated in or one deal that BC did where he played an active role after January 1999, even though personal quotes, SEC document filings and signatures on contracts and other documents indicate otherwise. In a specific filing, Romney even checked a box on a state of Massachusetts form indicating he was receiving a salary of at least \$100K for at least two years during that time span.

Why should anyone care? It goes to a pattern of deceit that has become far too common with the Romney campaign. Regardless how one feels about venture capitalism, leveraged buyouts or even outsourcing, Romney has woven a tangled web that should by all rights strangle his ambitions for the presidency. Again, it is not the crime, real or perceived, that is the problem; it is the attempt to cover up the truth.

Mitch Smith
 Canton

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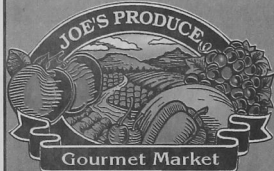
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SPORTS

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Redford All-Stars headed to K'zoo for state tourney

Boys finish 5-0 in District 5

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Sweltering 100-degree heat didn't seem to faze members of the Redford Little League 9- and 10-year-old All-Stars as they hustled through Tuesday afternoon's baseball practice at Redford's Claude Allison Park.

The All-Stars' cool-as-cucumbers demeanor was not too surprising considering they've already proven they're pretty good at performing when the heat is on. Last week, the team — which is made up of select members of the six-team Redford Township Little League — won the 9-10-year-old Michigan District 5 championship when it went 5-0 in a double-elimination tournament held in Lincoln Park.

Among the five wins were two late-inning rallies, including a two-out walkoff triumph in its second-to-last contest. The title-winning performance earned Redford a berth in this weekend's state tournament in Kalamazoo.

"Every player on the team contributed during our 5-0 run," head coach Jason Cantrell said. "It wasn't just one or two kids. Everybody stepped up."

Cantrell noted that the team doesn't have one obvious strength.

"It's just a good, all-

around team," he said. "All the boys play with a lot of heart and they want to win. They play with a lot of composure, too."

Following the conclusion of the regular season in late June, the league held an evaluation session for all players who wanted to try out for the All-Star squad.

Cantrell was selected by the league board to serve as head coach.

"All of the kids were evaluated and we chose a team," he said. "It didn't matter how they did during the course of the season."

The All-Stars had just 10 days to prepare for the district tournament once the evaluation process was completed.

"We were able to put together a good, solid team," Cantrell said. "The boys get along well and they're working hard in practice."

The All-Star squad is made up entirely of Redford residents.

The All-Stars' most thrilling victory in the district tournament came when Justin Cantrell delivered a clutch two-out, two-run single to spark a comeback from behind 4-3 victory over a Lincoln Park team.

"Justin got the big hit, but it wouldn't have meant anything if he didn't have the strength."

Please see **TOURNEY, B4**



ED WRIGHT PHOTO

Jason Gaines (left) chases Devin Gobel in a run-down during the Redford All-Stars practice Tuesday night at Claude Allison Park.



Jim Sechler holds the trophy after the Fast Eddie II racing team won the Governor's Cup last year in Ohio. With him are (from left) crew member Tim Collins, driver Dan Kanfoush and his son, Eddie.

Racing team chases 8th powerboat title

Sechler's Fast Eddie II is perennial APBA champ

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

Jim Sechler isn't accustomed to being in any other place but first in the American Power Boat Association points standings.

That's something new for the Farmington Hills owner of the Fast Eddie II and his hydroplane racing team. But that's okay with Sechler for now.

What matters is where you finish. Half the season remains, and the perennial champion hopes to be back on top when it's done.

Fast Eddie II has won seven consecutive APBA national championships in the one-litre modified inboard class, and Sechler



Jim Sechler

expects to be in contention for an eighth despite increasing competition.

"It's a marathon; it's not a sprint," Sechler said.

"You really don't start looking at points till the end of the year and not in the middle. In the end, there will probably be four or five teams that will be going for the title."

Sechler's team had a later start this year due to scheduling changes. It didn't have as many early races; consequently, it's behind in the points race at present.

Fast Eddie II has had

just seven racing days so far; whereas, it had that many before the start of May last year. Many of its competitors have had eight, nine or more days.

"Most years we start racing so early; we begin the year leading in the points, and we maintain it throughout the year," Sechler said. "This year we're starting behind, and we're going to be behind most of the year until we get our 15 (required races) in."

"We looked at the schedule and knew that was going to be the case. Usually, we front-load the schedule and race real hard in April, March and May."

Please see **TEAM, B3**

Hole-in-one

Richard Behrendt Jr. aced the par-3 13th hole July 12 at Glenhurst Golf Course.

The 57-year-old resident of Garden City used a pitching wedge on the 125-yard hole.

It was the first career ace for Behrendt, who picked up the sport 15 years ago.

MWGA lineup

A strong contingent of women golfers from the Observerland area will compete July 21-22 at the Michigan Women's Golf Association State Championship at Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing.

Area golfers slated to compete include Lisa Bishop (Garden City), Kathy Brennan (Livonia), Barbara Coury (Plymouth), Linda Morton (Westland), Monica Oliver (Farmington Hills), Lauri Ponikiewski (Livonia), Pat Shelton (Farmington) and Lu Stockton (Canton).

More than 40 golfers from around the state will take part in the MWGA tournament.

Bucks No. 1

The Michigan Bucks won the Premier Development League's regular-season championship for the third time in their 17-year history Sunday with a 4-0 win over the River City Rovers at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

The win also gave the Bucks the right to host the Central Conference Final Four this weekend.

The 10-time Great Lakes Division champions will take on the Heartland Division's No. 2-seeded Real Colorado Foxes at 6 p.m. Saturday. In the second half of a doubleheader, the Heartland's No. 1-seeded Thunder Bay Chill will play Great Lakes runner-up FC London at 8 p.m.

The semifinal winners will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday at Ultimate Soccer Arenas to determine who will represent the conference in a PDL semifinal match July 28.

Thunder Bay defeated the Bucks in overtime in 2010 and duplicated the effort last season when it scored a late goal to win back-to-back conference championships.

Kevin Cope, Steve Givens (PK), Zach Steinberger and Matt Bahr scored goals Sunday for the Bucks.

Goalkeeper Adam Grinwis finished the regular season with a record of 8-0-1, five shutouts and the PDL's best goals-against average (0.44). Tom Catalano tied for the PDL lead in assists with 12.

Win or lose, Salem alum Roth always glad to be home

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer



Roth

The greens at the U.S. Senior Open last week had longed Michigan golf pro and Salem grad Jeff Roth feeling blue.

Roth — who played for the Rocks' state championship boys golf team in fall 1973 — struggled on the large, challenging greens at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in

Lake Orion late during Friday's second day of the tournament. "I putted my way into oblivion on the last 11 holes," Roth said, chuckling. "I've played that golf course so many times since I was a teenager, so I don't have any excuses. It was just

some poor putting." After posting 71 Thursday, the best score among all Michigan golfers at the par-70 course, he slipped to 76 Friday to miss the cut by a mere three strokes.

Roth finished with a two-day tally of 147. Roger Chapman captured the tournament with a 68-68-66-200 score.

"For the most part I played very well," Roth

said. "I kind of let it slip away from me. I played kind of a sloppy bogey on 16 and had a three-putt on No. 18 for a bogey, so I was pretty disappointed at the finish."

Still, even a tough day is pretty good for Roth when it entails hitting a ball off a tee.

"I love playing. I love competing," said Roth, 54, a 1975 graduate of Salem. "Part of playing and com-

peting is dealing with the valleys as well as enjoying the peaks."

Catching up

But the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame member enjoyed returning to his former home state (he now is based out of New Mexico) to meet up with some of his old Salem friends such as Chuck

Please see **ROTH, B4**

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New room in works for Rocks

But sponsors sought to help pay for \$9,000 PCC project

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Next season, if all goes according to Ryan Ossennmacher's plan, his Salem varsity boys hockey team will finally have a place to call its own at Plymouth Cultural Center.

A summer project to construct Salem's locker room is in full swing, with the help of the Rocks' booster club — which fronted the funds to get the work under way, Ossennmacher said.

When the puck drops in November, what will be a nondescript cinder-block storage area will be transformed.

It will feature royal blue team colors everywhere, not to mention 20 individual lockers that it becomes a place to display Salem Rocks pride.

"We don't have the funds to put (\$9,000) into Salem's locker room," the veteran coach said.

So they're going to help us pay for it initially and then our sponsorships will reimburse the booster club.

"It's just being done this way because we need to get it done right now," Ossennmacher also credited arena staff for being receptive to the project. "We are very appreciative of the staff at the PCC for their help in this process," Ossennmacher said. "And we are looking forward to continue calling the PCC our home rink."

Salem will be the last Plymouth-Canton Educational Park hockey team to have official facilities.

Arctic Edge Arena in Canton features locker rooms for the Canton and Plymouth boys teams, as well as the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls team.

Meanwhile, Ossennmacher stressed that 17 of 21 teams in the KLAA will have their own locker room by the start of 2012-13.

"It's not just a spot to keep equipment," he said. "It's a lot about the pride and respect of having your own room and taking care of it. You can show up before games when you want to, you're not waiting for someone to get out of your locker room. After practice you don't feel rushed to get out of there."

He said on-ice competition is only part of the deal for varsity hockey players. "They're also playing for the locker room atmosphere, hanging out with the guys," Ossennmacher said. "By having your own room, those relationships have a tendency to be formed a lot stronger."

Concurring from personal experience, Jeremy Majszak, head coach of the Canton Chiefs, housed at Arctic Edge. He said the Chiefs have

ing a locker room solely for the team continues to be a plus.

"Our locker room is our home away from home during the season," Majszak said. "It's really nice (having) everything in one place and it being stored there so you don't have to cart things back and forth like our equipment, TV for game review and sound system to name a few."

It's a real nice setup, something incoming players really look forward to having."

Sponsors sought

For the Salem project at PCC, Hines Park Lincoln is the main sponsor so far.

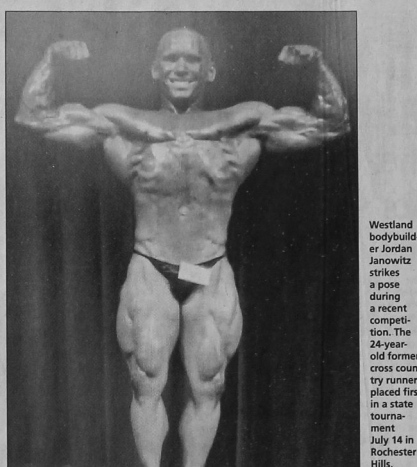
But Ossennmacher is still looking for others to step forward and make \$500 donations to the project.

For that money, sponsors would get a permanent plaque in the locker room, advertising space in game programs and the team website and a tax writeoff.

In a recent letter Ossennmacher sent to prospective sponsors, he wrote that "With this donation, we can continue to provide our players, parents and the community with a varsity hockey program at the highest level."

Those interested in making a sponsorship donation should email Ossennmacher at ryanosennmacher@wiscd.org or give him a call at (248) 207-3917.

tim@hometownlife.com
(734) 469-4128



Westland bodybuilder Jordan Janowitz strikes a pose during a recent competition. The 24-year-old former cross-country runner placed first in a state tournament July 14 in Rochester Hills.

Area bodybuilder earns top prize

Diet of hard work pays for Westland's Janowitz

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Westland bodybuilder Jordan Janowitz's diet is probably very similar to the ones his sport's old-school predecessors consumed — with one pretty significant exception.

Jammed onto his five-meals-a-day training-season menu are grilled chicken breasts, brown rice, oatmeal, protein shakes, more grilled chicken breasts and vegetables.

"If I want to change it up a little bit, I'll put a little barbecue sauce on my chicken," Janowitz quipped.

The one missing ingredient that separates Janowitz from bodybuilding's 1970s icons?

"I don't do steroids," he said. "Never have, never will. It's smarter and healthier to stay natural."

It's hard to argue with the 24-year-old's logic — or his recent results. On Saturday, the Wayne Memorial alum placed first in his weight class at the NPC National Michigan Bodybuilding Championships held at Rochester High School in Rochester Hills.

Janowitz earned first-place points from all five judges in the 12-man field and earned the golden sword that is awarded to each weight class champion.

The top five scorers in each weight class must provide urine samples, which are later tested for steroids and diuretics.

If any are detected, the un-natural competitors are disqualified. "I've always been active — I ran cross country and played basketball in high school — but after high school, I wanted to gain some size," said Janowitz, who said his measurables at Wayne Memorial were 5-feet-7 (his current height, too) and about 145 pounds. "I started lifting at Powerhouse Gym (in Lincoln Park) and Bodylocks (in Livonia), and began seeing results. I started getting a few compliments and I was told I had good genetics for the sport, so I kept at it."

Janowitz said his current weight is 168. "During the off-season, I got up to about 209 (pounds)," he revealed. "It takes me about four months or so to get down

to where I need to be to compete."

Somewhat Janowitz manages to juggle a pretty extensive weekly training regimen into a schedule that includes school work (he's a full-time student at Eastern Michigan University) and regular work (he's employed at an area grocery store).

"I work on one body part one day a week for about an hour," he said. "It's high-volume, high-intensity training."

Saturday's title-winning effort was Janowitz's third competition this year. He finished fourth in his inaugural event in April and seventh at a meet in Redford in May.

Janowitz credits his trainer — C.J. Jackson — and a heightened level of cardiovascular work for his recent improvement.

Saturday's first-place showing qualified Janowitz for the 2013 Mr. Natural Universe competition.

"I'd really like to do this as long as I live," he said, when asked about his long-range bodybuilding plans. "Kind of like Jack Lalanne did."

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SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Wrestling camp

Canton's varsity wrestling program is hosting the intensive EMU Wrestling Camp again this year, running from July 23-26.

The Eastern Michigan satellite camp will take place at Canton High School's gymnasium from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. all four days. Among counselors will be Canton 2011 state champion Anthony Abro.

According to the camp brochure, participants will receive plenty of individual attention and focus on a combination of running, lifting, technique, drill, intense practices, and end of the day competitions."

The Canton Wrestling Boosters will have concessionable meals during 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch items.

For more information, call (734) 927-5141.

'Summer Blast'

The second annual Garden City High School Summer Blast Soccer Camp will be July 23-27 from 6-8 p.m. at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood in Garden City.

The camp is open to all players in U4 through U12, will be orchestrated by members of the Garden City High School varsity and junior varsity coaching staffs.

To register, visit www.GotSoccer.com. The camp costs \$30.

Walk-up registration is available the first day of camp at 5 p.m.

Golf Xperience

Junior golfers have a unique opportunity to hone up on their tee shots and short game.

Pheasant Run Golf Club, Canton's premier 27-hole golf course, is hosting a special Athletic Golf Xperience Camp for junior golfers (ages 12-18), from Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26. The four-day camp (\$240, with two sessions, daily (8 a.m.-to-noon, 1-5 p.m.), aims to help youngsters receive one-on-one attention to

improve their golf game's accuracy as well as the distance of drives, pitches and putts. To help do just that, the camp will feature professional instructors.

No previous golf experience is necessary to sign up, but they are required to bring a putter and 7 iron. In addition, athletes should bring sun screen, water bottle and golf shoes.

The Athletic Golf Xperience camp features the Nike Golf 360 Functional Performance System, which develops athleticism as the foundation for all its golfers.

To register, please call the Pro Shop at (734) 397-6460. To learn more about this camp or the great summer specials at Pheasant Run Golf Club, located at 46500 Summit Parkway in Canton, please visit www.golfrpgc.org.

Wayne football

Wayne Memorial will be staging summer football camps.

For more information, call new varsity football coach Lee Grizzell at (313) 408-8765.

Victory Soccer

Victory Soccer will offer a series of summer soccer camps including:

Ages 6-17 — 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday, 16-20, or 23-27, at Livonia's Taylor Elementary (cost \$180 for each); goalkeepers ages 8-17 — 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Taylor Elementary (cost \$18); High School Elite — 1-3 p.m., July 17-20 or July 24-27, at Taylor Elementary (cost \$150 for each).

Call Schoolcraft men's soccer coach Rick Larson at (734) 564-3693, or e-mail rick.larson@victory-soccer.net.

Glenn wrestling

The Westland John Glenn wrestling program will stage its annual Rocket Camp for incoming grades 9-12 from 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 23-27, at the high school.

Registration will be at

12:30 p.m. Monday, July 23, at the wrestling room. The cost is \$100 (includes T-shirt).

There will also be a youth camp (kindergarten through eighth-grade) from 4:30-6 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 23-27, in the Glenn wrestling room. Registration begins at 4 p.m. Monday, July 23. Included in the \$50 cost is a T-shirt.

For more information, e-mail Glenn wrestling coach Bill Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com, or call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

MU boys hoops

Madonna University will stage a series of summer boys basketball camps including:

All-Star — 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 23-27, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 30-Aug. 3, both at Madonna (cost \$200 each); Post/Perimeter, 4:30-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, July 30-Aug. 3 (cost \$150).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCru-saders.com.

MU cross country

Madonna University will stage its 2012 bass camp from 8-9:45 a.m., Monday through Friday, July 23-27, at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

The cost is \$75.

There will also be long training runs from 7:30-9 a.m. Saturdays at Cass Benton Park (cost \$2).

For more information, visits www.MadonnaCru-saders.com.

LTU soccer

Lawrence Tech University men's coach Will Dyer and women's coach Jamie Scott will stage a co-ed soccer camp for ages 4-13 from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, July 23-27, on the campus of LTU, 21000 W. Ten Mile Rd., Southfield.

The cost is \$60 per person (snacks included along with discount for LTU alumni).

For more information, visit www.BlueDevilAthletics.com.



Storm warning

The 16-and-under Livonia Storm Twigg/Johnston girls fastpitch team got a 1-hitter from pitcher Mary Green in a 7-0 win last Friday over Stitzitz (Ill.) to capture the Silver Bracket at the five-day Chicago Bandits Champions Village Tournament in Omaha, Neb. The Storm also defeated the Colorado Buckaroos (11-0) and Durien Fusion of Wisconsin (9-1) earlier in the day en route to the title. Team members include (front row, from left): Ashley McDowell, Anna Lewis, Celeste Boyer, Mary Green, Sarah Cramton, Rikki Keene, Hannah Rowlett, Julia Twigg, Maggie McGowan, Hallea Garcia, Lauren Michael; (back row, from left) coaches Tom Johnston, Art Garcia, Jerry Twigg and Bill Rowlett. (Not pictured are Morgan Johnston, Jessica Jones, Maddie Omietskanski and Katie Holt.)



The 12U Motor City Riversharks pose with their newest trophies after winning the KVBSA Advanced Playoffs Sunday afternoon. Pictured (front row from left) are Brendan Olepa, Andy Lentine, Gage Moyers, Joe Watson, Nik Patel, (back row from left) head coach Bill Boyd, coach Ed Olepa, Brian Martin, Kyle Winfrey, Jeremy Armstead, Brendan Lacorato, Ryan Boyd, coach Jerry Moyers, Chase Every and coach Mark Winfrey.

Motor City Riversharks devour competition

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

If the Motor City Riversharks 12U travel baseball team had a theme song this summer, it would probably be the opening tune from "Jaws".

Opposing teams quickly discovered that their records were safe when they shared a pool, division or bracket with the Plymouth-Canton-based "Sharks," who carved out a stellar 36-8-2 record — often against elite competition.

Under the guidance of head coach Bill Boyd and assistants Jerry Moyers,

Mark Winfrey and Ed Olepa, the team captured first place in the Alar Trammell Division of the Kensington Valley Baseball & Softball Association with a near-perfect mark of 17-0-1.

Other noteworthy successes for the team included championship performances in the KVBSA Advanced League playoffs and at the Pinckney Pirate Classic; runner-up showings at the Play at the Cage Tournament and Shawnee Shootout Tournament; and a third-place finish at the Ripken Experience Tournament in Myrtle

Beach, S.C.

The team also reached the quarterfinal round of the AA 12U Michigan State Tournament.

The Riversharks posted a team batting average of .401 while scoring 417 runs. Their team earned run average was a stingy 2.61.

Team members include: Jeremy Armstead, Ryan Boyd, Chase Every, Brenden Lacorato, Andy Lentine, Brian Martin, Gage Moyers, Brendan Olepa, Nik Patel, Joe Watson and Kyle Winfrey.

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TEAM

Continued from page B1

"By the time July and August came, we could pick and choose where we wanted to go. This year it's the opposite. We'll be racing like crazy in August just to catch up."

Fast Eddie II, which is driven by Dan Kanfoush of Buffalo, N.Y., has done well in its limited action thus far, winning every race on the seven racing days.

All races are two-day, weekend events with two heats Saturday and two Sunday. (The second day was cancelled in Lakeland, Fla., so Fast Eddie II has seven official days.) Each racing team can enter 20 events, and the top 15 finishes count toward its overall points total.

Fast Eddie II has won this year on Wall Lake and in South Dakota and Washington. Sechler hopes to add a fourth victory this weekend (July 21-22) in the annual Quake on the Lake.

It would be the second straight win for Fast Eddie II in the races on Pontiac Lake in Waterford. Sechler's boat has won the one-litre modified title every year but one since 2006.

By far this will be the toughest year (to win), Sechler said. "There will be more fast boats in our class than there ever has been. There are at least six boats that could easily win it."

"It's pretty fair to say the competition has caught up to us. It's not catching up."

Major events

Fast Eddie II won the Western Divisional



Fast Eddie II, owned by Jim Sechler and driven by Dan Kanfoush, will be in action again this weekend during the annual Quake on the Lake in Waterford.

championship — one of the four major races — two weeks ago on Black Lake in Olympia, Wash., but it was a hard-earned victory, Sechler added. "It was really tough to win, which is good," he said. "That was our goal, to build up the class. The top three boats from that race are going to be here this weekend along with several others. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Pontiac Lake also will be host to the APBA World Championships — another of the four majors — on Saturday, offering bonus points and helping to attract quality competition.

Winning a qualifying heat will be worth the usual 100 points, but the winner of the final heat will earn 150. Sunday will be a regular day of racing in terms of points.

Fast Eddie II, which is sponsored by Metro Aircraft Instruments, won two majors last year: the Summer National and World Championship.

Not a big deal

Sechler has never won all four in the same year — the Eastern Divisional being the fourth — but that has never been a big

priority. "That's going to be pretty difficult to do now," he said. "I'm happy because the competition has gotten to the point where five or six boats can win any given race."

"It used to be we'd show up, and we had a chance to win the race unless something happened. Now it's a matter of your boat's race, which is what racing is all about. It's good."

"Our approach is to try to win every race. If it so happens we win those (majors), that's great. Our goal is to win as many as we can and to be on top at the end of the year."

The Fast Eddie II is running as well as it ever has, according to Sechler, who does much of the work on the boat. He added his team is on track to be where it wants despite trailing in the points at the present time.

"We recognized this year would be a little different because of the race schedule," he said. "Things can change very quickly in this sport, but we've been able to do what we wanted to do. So I'm very happy with where we are."

Rams' late surge sparks 4-2 win

Trent Drumheller went 2-for-4 with two RBI Monday to lift the Michigan Rams to a 4-2 victory over the Livonia Mens Collegiate Baseball League contest at Bicentennial Park in Livonia.

The visiting Rams (15-15-1) trailed 1-0 after the first inning and each team scored a run in the fourth. But a three-run fifth catapulted the Rams into the lead for good and the strong pitching of starter Keith Paslean and closer Donnie Eaton ensured the victory.

Paslean went 6 2/3 innings, giving up one earned run while walking just two and striking out five. Eaton retired the only batter he faced for the save.

For Steel (15-16), Pat Del-pa collected two hits and drove in a run while Calvin Franklin tallied the only other hit.

Other Rams contributing on offense included Brandon Katta (2-for-3, one run), Zach Zott (double, RBI), Miles Sorise (1-for-3, RBI), Eaton (1-for-1, run), Garrett Gordon (double, run) and J.P. Maracani (1-for-4).

RAMS 2-4, BULLS 12-0: On Sunday at Bicentennial Park, the Michigan Rams earned a split of a doubleheader against the Michigan Bulls (22-6) thanks to strong pitching by starter Evan Piechota, who gave up just one earned run over six innings.

Closing out the nightcap win with a scoreless inning of relief was Donnie Eaton. The Rams scored a run in each of the first four innings to take command. Garrett Gordon (2-for-4, run, RBI), Justin Sherman (1-for-3, run, RBI), J.P. Maracani (1-for-4, run) and Trent Drumheller (1-for-4, run) were key performers at the plate.

In the opener, the Rams gave up four runs in the first inning and never could bounce back in a five-inning game ended by the 10-run mercy rule.

The host Bulls led 5-2 after three innings and blew open

the LMGBL contest with three runs in the fourth and four more in the fifth.

Maracani slugged a homer for the Rams, while Gordon doubled in another run. Earning the win for the Bulls was Josh Vandemark, who went the distance, scattering five

RAMS 2, RED SOX 1: A complete-game, two-hitter by Michigan Rams starting pitcher Jeff Sorenson keyed this LMGBL victory Friday at Ford Field in Livonia.

Sorenson faced just two over the minimum, allowing one walk and two hits while striking out 13. The only Red Sox hit was collected by James Moore and Ben Mahlgian.

For the Rams, Gordon Garrett drove in Dominic Janett (1-for-2) with the game-winning run in the fifth.

Clipping in with two hits in three at bats was Donnie Eaton, with other contributors including Brandon Katta (1-for-3, run, RBI), Miles Sorise, Zach Zott and J.P. Maracani (each 1-for-3).

Taking a tough loss for the Red Sox (12-16) was Chris Renaldi. He pitched all six innings, allowing seven hits and walking four.

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The Redford All-Stars pose with their hard-earned trophies. Pictured are (front row from left) Payton Jackson, Jason Gaines, Shane Rakowski, Jordan Szabo, Justin Cantrell, Nathan Raniszewski, (middle row from left) coach Keith Zurekko, David Rozmys, Grant Ingersoll, Ryan Zurekko, Devin Gobel, Nole Ugon, Derrick Yancey, (back row from left) manager Jason Cantrell and coach Eric Thompson.

TOURNEY

Continued from page B1

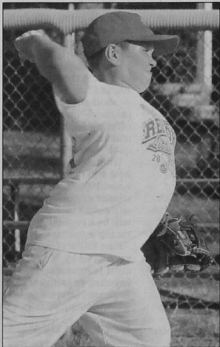
two kids ahead of him wouldn't have reached base," Jason Cantrell said. "This whole thing has been a team effort."

The All-Stars will join 15 other district champions in Kalamazoo to battle for the Minor A state championship.

The national Little League tournament doesn't start until the boys are 11 and 12 years old, Cantrell said.

"We're excited about the trip," Cantrell said. "We'll be seeing some very good teams, but I like our team, too. It should be fun."

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Redford All-Stars hurler Justin Cantrell delivers a pitch during Tuesday night's practice.

ED WRIGHT PHOTO

ROTH

Continued from page B1

Thomas and Tom Willette (now co-athletic director in the Plymouth-Canton district).

Thomas and Willette came out to Indianwood to visit with Roth last Wednesday, when the final practice round took place.

Then after he was eliminated from the tournament, Roth got in some weekend golf at Spring

Meadows Country Club in Linden and Flint Golf Club — the latter where he was head golf pro for a number of years before relocating to New Mexico in 2010.

Roth currently is the golf pro at San Juan Country Club in Farmington, N.M.

"I enjoyed being back there and I always enjoy coming back to Michigan and playing and I hope to do that for years to come," said Roth, who hopes to play competitive golf for a

couple of more decades at least.

Actually, it won't be very long at all before Roth will be back golfing in Michigan.

"I'm going to be back in the state here in a couple weeks," he said. "I'm going to play at the Tournament of Champions up at Boyne Mountain."

"Then I'll be back in New Mexico for the rest of my golf season."

He added that he's "kind of lucky that I got two homes now. I got a beautiful place to work in Farmington, New Mexico, and Michigan will always be home."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Hawk golf outing

The Farmington Harrison High School Football Boosters Club will have its annual golf outing Sunday, Aug. 5, at Cat-tails Golf Club in South Lyon.

The event will be a Texas Scramble starting at 2 p.m. The cost is \$100 per player or \$400 per foursome. A steak dinner will follow the golf outing. A registration form is available at www.gohawks.org, or people may register by calling Dave Race at (248) 376-1535.

GCHA registration

The Garden City Hockey Association will begin accepting walk-in registrations for the upcoming 2012-13 season at the Garden City Civic Arena 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 26, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 28.

GC learn-to-play hockey program

The Garden City Hockey Association will be offering a novice hockey program for kids who would like to learn to play the sport. The eight-week program, which begins in September, costs \$40. Rental equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on the program, visit www.leaguelineup.com/gcha; or contact Darlene Hennessey at shortdog@wideopenwest.com or (313) 917-4173.

Cheerleading coach needed

Livonia Clarenceville High School is currently accepting applications for its varsity girls cheerleading coach position. To apply, send a resume, letter of recommendation and references to Clarenceville athletic director Kevin Murphy at kmurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us.

Maybury run

The 2012 Roadrunner Classic, sponsored by the Northville Road Runners, will be Saturday, July 21, at Maybury State Park (use the Eight Mile Road entrance one mile off Beck Road).

The 1-mile run-walk on a paved trail will be at 5 p.m., followed by the 8-kilometer run-walk on dirt and paved trails at 5:30 p.m. Registration and packet pickup will be 3 p.m. race day.

The family fun event includes story hour, face painting and hands-on activities. Post race activities include pizza, live music, libations and homemade baked goods.

Registration fees are \$25 (8K) and \$5 (1-mile) before July 21. Race day fees are \$30 and \$5, respectively.

For more information, visit www.northvilleroadrunners.com; or call Bart Gregoroff at (734) 748-2555.

WYAA football

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association football will be 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays at the WYAA Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington (north of Ford).

The WYAA offers two football units, the Comets and Meteors. Each unit has four squads divided by age and weight restrictions for junior freshmen (7-8), freshmen (8-10), junior varsity (11-12) and varsity (13-14).

In addition, both units have four cheerleading squads (ages same as football). For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640.

CYO volleyball

Registrations are being accepted for the Livonia St. Edith fall volleyball program (grades 2-8).

Members of St. Edith, St. Kenneth, St. Aidan and St. Colette are eligible to play in the Catholic Youth Organization. To register, e-mail Gary Smart at smart5959@bcglobal.net; or call (734) 432-5959.

Charity bowl

The seventh annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue will take place 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

All proceeds benefit the Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

Whether you bowl or not, you can help animals in need by becoming a sponsor, making a donation, donating an auction item or by getting pledges (donations) to the event.

The event has raised nearly \$100,000, and organizers are hoping to surpass that figure this year. Participants can earn V.I.B. (Very Important Bowler) status by raising \$300.

The event includes bowling, food, music, auctions, raffles, karaoke and more. For more information, email michigan@bowl4bowling-coach.com or call (248) 615-9600.

Coaches wanted

Livonia Ladywood is seeking varsity golf and varsity pool pon coaches for the fall of 2012.

An afternoon and weekend bus driver is also wanted to take teams to games.

If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood athletic director Sal Malek

at (734) 591-2386.

Divine Child jobs

Dearborn Divine Child High School has head coaching vacancies for girls golf and boys ice hockey.

Resumes and letters of interest should be sent by June 10 to: Tony DeMare, athletic director, 1001 N. Silvery Lane, Dearborn, MI 48128; or e-mail demare@divinechild-highschool.org.

Glenn golf outing

The Westland John Glenn wrestling program will stage its 15th annual golf outing and fund-raiser on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Livonia's Idyl Wild Golf Course.

Included in the \$85 cost is golf, cart, lunch at the turn and steak dinner. Hole sponsorship and raffle donations are also being accepted.

For more information, e-mail Glenn wrestling coach Bill Polk at rockwrestling@gmail.com; or call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Hilltop glow golf

Hilltop Golf Course in Plymouth is hosting Glow Ball every Friday night through Sept. 1 for just \$25 per player.

The fee includes nine holes of golf, glow ball, neon necklace. Plus there are food and drink specials available.

For more information, call (734) 453-9800 or go to www.hilltopgolf.com. Hilltop is located on Beck Road just north of Ann Arbor Trail.

Carr speech

Lloyd Carr, former University of Michigan football coach, will be the celebrity speaker for the St. Joseph Mercy Oakwood Fall Spectacular fund raiser 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the hospital's cardiac care unit in the new South Patient Tower.

Carr's teams won or shared five Big Ten titles and the 1997 national championship during his 13 seasons as head coach at Michigan. He was recently inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Daniel and Kim Nye and Chris and Tracee Chelars are the honorary co-chairs for the event. Guy Gordon of WDIV-TV will return as the celebrity master of ceremonies.

Dinner will be served, and an afterglow will follow. Tickets are \$350 per person.

For more information and tickets, call (248) 858-3161. Sponsorship opportunities also are available. For other information, call (248) 858-6146.

TEAM TRYOUTS

Riversharks

The 13U and 12U Motor City Riversharks travel baseball teams will have tryouts for their 2013 teams Aug. 7, 11 and 12 at the Waik Quadplex, which is located on Forest Road (between Venoy and Hubbard roads) in Wayne.

The 13U tryouts will be 7:30-9 p.m. on Aug. 7 and 1:30-3 p.m. on Aug. 11 and 12.

The 12U tryouts will be 6:30-8 p.m. on Aug. 7 and noon to 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 11 and 12.

Players must commit to playing between 40 and 50 games, including weekend tournaments, from April through July.

Sign-ups for both teams begin 30 minutes before each tryout.

Players do not need to attend all three tryouts. For more information and to pre-register for the tryouts, send an e-mail to motorcityriversharks@gmail.com.

Both teams placed first

in their respective divisions this summer in the Kensington Valley Baseball & Softball Association.

Blue Jays

The 11U Michigan Blue Jays travel baseball team is holding tryouts for the 2013 season over the next month at Eastern Michigan University, 100 Westview Street in Ypsilanti (the team's home field).

Sessions will be 9-11 a.m. Saturday, July 28 and 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12.

There are several spots available for the team, comprised of boys from the Plymouth/Canton and Ann Arbor areas.

Older players also are invited to take part in tryouts for other Blue Jays teams. Players ages 12-17 can try out from noon to 2 p.m. on July 28. Also on Aug. 12 will be tryouts from noon to 2 p.m. for ages 12-15 and 3-6 p.m. for ages 16-18.

Visit www.michigan-bluejays.net and contact the coach at coach.bluejays@hotmail.com to confirm your date.

bluejays.net and contact the coach at coach.bluejays@hotmail.com to confirm your date.

GCYBSA

The Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association will be hosting several tryouts for travel and competitive teams in the coming weeks. All tryouts are Saturdays at Canton High School's varsity field, a \$10 fee will be charged.

The tryout schedule is as follows: July 28: 12-13U (4-6 p.m.), 14U (6:15-7:35 p.m.); Aug. 4: 9-10U (noon-2 p.m.), 11-12U (2:15-4:15 p.m.), 13-14U (4:30-6:30 p.m.); Aug. 11: 9-10U (noon-2 p.m.), 11U (2:15-3:35 p.m.); Aug. 25: 9-14U players will take part in a makeup session between 9 a.m. and noon. Times will be assigned.

Pre-registration is urged. Info can be found at www.gcybsa.com. For more information contact danrafft@hotmail.com or cott@canton-mi.org.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

July

ADULT ACADEMY

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The Rev. Paul Stunkel will lead adult learning. The series is "Theology for the Fearless: Who is God? What do we mean by 'Incarnation'?" and Other Conversations"

Contact: (734) 422-1470

BIBLE TALK

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, July 22

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: These one-hour meetings will emphasize the life and teachings of Christ. No collections will be taken. Ministers are Matthew Jensen and Jason McNally
Contact: (515) 851-2939

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 28

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

Details: Free clothing and shoes to anyone in need

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

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, July 28

Location: Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, Westland

Details: Free food, bouncy houses, Westland Fire Truck, face painting, games, silent auction and more

Contact: (734) 536-1210

CONCERT

Time/Date: 5:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday, July 21

Location: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: "Heart Beats 2012, Music with a Message," is a free outdoor music event hosted by Plymouth First United Methodist Church. It will feature music performed by the following Christian based bands: Impact band, The Beck and Salt Band and Chosen. Their music covers many styles including praise, rock and alternative. Family event with free balloon animals and face painting
Contact: (734) 453-2800 or www.pfumc.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m., July 19

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church & School, 3003 Hannan, Wayne

Details: Spoke Folk Christian music concert; free will donation

Contact: (734) 728-3315

MOVIE NIGHT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, July 25

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

Details: "Monsignor Quixote" will be screened. A brief discussion will follow the film. Admission is free and refreshments

will be served

Contact: RSVP at (734) 425-5950

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, July 27 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 28
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Contact: timothylivonia@yahoo.com; (734) 422-2290

SEEKING CRAFTERS

Time/Date: Show is Oct. 6

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: An 8- to 10-foot space can be rented for \$30. Tables are available for \$5 and electricity for \$5. Crafts must be hand-made; no resale. Profits will go to mission work in the community

Contact: (248) 478-4708 or e-mail jlsnc2436@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., July 23-27

Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Church and School, 3885 Venice, Westland

Details: The theme is "Incredible World Amazeum Park." Kids will experience the wonder of God's creation made in six days. As they travel back to the beginning, they will put on their "Bible glasses" and get a closer look at God's design features in animals. Kids will make crafts, play water games, relays and more. Aimed at age 3 to 6th grade.

Contact: (734) 425-0261

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m.-noon, July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2

Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: "Sky - Everything is Possible with God" is the theme. Aimed at children, age 3-5th grade. Preschoolers must be potty-trained. Free CD of music from the week. Cost is \$10 per child, \$25 for families with three or more children. Registration forms are available in the church office. Church office hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call ahead to assure someone can help you

Contact: Pam Gunderson at (734) 422-0494, Ext. 14, or visit rpgc.children@yahoo.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m.-noon, July 30-Aug. 3

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: "VBS Olympics" is aimed at children, age 3 through 5th grade and will include story time and lesson, music, crafts, recreation and snack. Cost is \$5 per child and registration is available now
Contact: (734) 422-1470, ext. 17 or e-mail to christianeducator@sppc-email.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m., Saturday, July 21

Location: St. Valentine Church, 14841 Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Mass followed by social hour and snacks. Sign up to bring food items such as veggie tray, dip, chips, salad, cheese and crackers. RSVP by July 12 to let organizers what dish you'll make.

Contact: Ann Marie at (248) 477-6167, Donna at (734) 420-0461 or Laura at (734) 942-3866



Spiritual, musical growth

Hearts, Hands and Voices," is accepting registration for campers, grades 2-8. The camp, a joint venture of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, will run 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 13-16 at Holy Cross, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia. The camp is in its fourth season. Tuition is \$85. Families that enroll more than two children pay \$45 for the third child. Youngsters will show what they learned at camp at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 16. For more information or to enroll, call Ellen Batkie (248) 497-1451 or visit <http://www.hearthandsvoices.org>.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

HOISINGTON, RUSSELL F.

July 14, 2012, age 85. Beloved husband of Marlene. Dear father of Lesley Castle, Peter (Susan) Hoisington, Joseph (Josefina) Hoisington, Heather (Jay) Brittingham, Linda Gowans and Lisa Shott. Grandfather of Benjamin, Raymond, Christopher, Dayton, Brittany, Jesse, Tyler, Daniel, Daniel and Cassie and great-granddaughter of Kirra. Memorial gathering Thursday from 4pm until time of special remembrances at 6pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Memorial service Friday, 11am at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 West Six Mile Road, Northville. Contributions suggested to St. John's Hospice, the Salvation of Army or Plymouth Rotary Foundation. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

PASSAGE, MARION F.

July 15, 2012, age 96; member of Saint Andrew Episcopal Church of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Robert. Beloved mother of Carolyn Kleinsmith and Rita Passage. Dear grandmother of Douglas (Astrid), Jeffrey (Emily) and Erik (Susan) Kleinsmith. Great grandmother of Christian, Alexander, Ethan, Olivia, John and Grant. Memorial service Saturday, October 6, 2012 at 11 am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. In lieu of flowers contributions suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675; or the Secret Service Uniform Division Benefit Fund, Attention Rosie Manning, 2057 Stargrass Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

SMITH, DENNIS JAMES

July 14, 2012, Age 54. Beloved husband of Janet M. Dear father of Dale (Erin) and Denise. Brother of Dianna (Denny) McComas; Dorothy (Al) Mumy; Daniel, Dean (Sara) and Kelly (Romero) Suryono. Loving grandfather of Devon and Travis. The family has entrusted care and services to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home (734) 981-1700. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

JONES,

V. JEAN (DEARTH)

Age 68 of Naples, FL formerly of Westland, MI. Passed away on July 11, 2012. Beloved mother of Rhonda (Jason) Moore. Survived by her brother, Ronald (Diana) Dearth, Nancy Henry, Debra (Robert) Denoisey, Patricia (William) Engle and grandmother of Zoe Moore and her pet Sophie. A private service was held.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 30300 Fire Hills Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions heard Prior to each Mass Member of Perpetual Eucharistic Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Beechmont & Farmington Hills)</p> <p>734-422-0494 (734) 422-0494 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Visit www.roseadlegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 West Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248-274-3600 www.wardchurch.org</p> <p>Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 10:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 8:30 & 11 a.m.</p> <p>The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 www.christsaviors.org</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-3413</p> <p>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 4805 W. Van Arman Road • (734) 463-1622 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Friday Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>NEW HORIZON FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 465-3180</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Woodward) (248) 848-1750</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith • Freedom • Fellowship</p> <p>Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School 17818 Farmington Road Livonia, (734) 261-1360</p> <p>Worship Services Sundays: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 8:30 P.M. www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-pc.org</p>

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Karen Marzolf at 313-222-2214 or e-mail:
kmarzolf@hometownlife.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Station wagon documentary debuts at Concours d'Elegance

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

It was the perfect vehicle for the drive-in.

It hauled cargo and kids alike.

It looked attractive dressed in bright colors, wood trim and "jet age" styling.

And it's going to get the respect it's due at this year's Concours d'Elegance, July 29 at the Inn at St. John in Plymouth.

The station wagon of the late 1950s and early 1960s is a featured class at the show that will include such entries as:

- A 1960 Dodge Polara with wild fins and space age styling, that is believed to be the only remaining example in the U.S.

- A 1959 Mercury Colony Park, the most luxurious wagon built by Ford.

- One of six custom-built 1959 Cadillac Broadmoor Skyview models that contain a plex-glass observation panel in the roof.

- The 1958 Rambler Ambassador Custom Hardtop Cross Country, a top-of-the-line Rambler aimed at the full-sized market.

- 1961 Chrysler New Yorker and Country, a prestige model with towering tail fins.

The station wagon also stars in its own documentary, *Wagonmasters*, that will debut with hourly screenings as a pre-Concours event on Saturday, July 28 in the Inn at St. John Conference Center. Filmmakers Sam Smartt, 25, and Chris Zaluski, 26, both master of fine arts stu-



Chris Zaluski (left) films Stephanie Lovett and her "peacewagon" as Sam Smartt captures sound, during a shoot in Winston-Salem, N.C. for their documentary, "Wagonmasters," that will screen at Concours d'Elegance in Plymouth.

dents in the documentary film program at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., will be on hand to show their work and answer questions.

"This is going to be its first public screening, although it's still a work in progress," said Smartt, in a telephone interview last week.

Cultural icon

The pair embarked on the project after learning that Volvo planned to discontinue its station wagon sales in the U.S. last year.

They started filming in February 2011 and traveled across the country to interview station wagon enthusiasts in California, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Vermont, as well as in Ontario,

Canada.

"It's about the cultural significance of the station wagon," Smartt described the film. "The station wagon is a very interesting lens with which to look at changes in American culture. It was an icon of the American dream in the 1960s."

The station wagon fell out of favor, becoming "uncool" as the 1970s and '80s unfolded. Families decreased in size. Gas prices went up and motorists became concerned about safety and pollution, Smartt said.

He pointed out that the station wagon was saddled with a stigma (uncoolness) that 1990s mini vans would later inherit. Even the marketing term, station wagon, met its demise as car

companies phased out their "workhorses on wheels." "There is no one out there marketing station wagons. They might market a sport wagon, but the whole V-8 thing is a dinosaur. It typifies American family life of the past."

Still, the filmmakers found motorists and collectors for whom the station wagon is still very much alive today.

Peace wagon

One owner who appears in the film lives less than a mile from Smartt's home and drives a station wagon decorated with peace sentiments.

Another person they met who only drives a '62 Falcon, but wears vintage clothing and lives in a 1957 house with vintage furniture.



CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

What: Exhibit of vintage and antique vehicles from 1900-1970

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, July 29

Where: Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth

Details: Featured classes this year include Pioneers Pre-1900, Cord Cousins, Trans-Am under 2 liters, Trans-Am over 2 liters, Slingshot Ralls, Featured Designer Retropective, Jaguar vs. Corvette, Jet-Age Station Wagons, Micro Cars, Supercars and Station Wagon Pedal Cars

Events: Charity gala, 6:30-9 p.m. Saturday, July 28 at St. John's Atrium; Vintage car auction, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, in St. John's Ballroom; free screening of "Wagonmasters" documentary, shown on the hour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday in St. John's Conference Center; 6th Annual Bumpers, Bikes and Bands exhibit of cars, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, in Old Village section of downtown Plymouth.

Admission: Tickets are available online or at the gate and cost \$25 for adults, children under 12 are free. Tickets for the Saturday night gala are \$175

Contact: (248) 645-8645 or go to www.concoursusa.org

"He's one of the only, if not the only person in the country who reproduces fake wood grain. That's what most people think is the most uncool thing about wagons."

The pair filmed four station wagon owners in Michigan, including Mike Bonkowski of Livonia who restored the station wagon his parents owned when he was a kid.

"It was passed down to him when he got to high school," Smartt explained, adding that the car subsequently "sat in a junk

yard for 10 years" before Bonkowski began restoring it.

Smartt said the film appeals to "car people" and "non-car people" alike, especially Baby Boomers who recall the station wagons of the past.

"Anyone who grew up in that era will appreciate this film. There are a lot of interesting people. It's got humor in it and it's not dry."

For more about the film, visit wagonmasters-the-movie.com. For more about Concours d'Elegance, visit concoursusa.org.

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Two Thousand and Twelve

July 21/22

7/21 11 am - 10 pm & 7/22 10 am - 5 pm

REDFORD

Performing: **Austin Scott**

Michigan Craft Beer Garden

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In it's fourth year, this intimate festival takes place at the Marquee of Redford Township, a garden setting with both indoor and outdoor space. Our unique, interactive event features a fabulous selection of juried artists' booths, a variety of fine foods, Michigan Craft Beers, live entertainment, art workshops, artist demonstrations and children's activities. Fun for the whole family.

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Redford Parks and Art Conservancy | www.praconservancy.org



Blake Morgan sings with the Western Michigan University's vocal jazz group, Gold Company.

Livonia musician wins international honor

DownBeat Magazine, an international jazz publication, has awarded Blake Morgan, co-founder of the group Goodnight Mr. Max, the distinction of top Blues/Pop/Rock Group. Morgan won the award for the music he wrote on the group's *Sleepaway* album. The award, announced in the magazine's June issue, was published in the 35th annual Student Music Awards section of *DownBeat Magazine*.

Goodnight Mr. Max was founded by Livonia natives, Blake Morgan, who composes the music, and Graham Liddell, who writes the lyrics. The group, anchored by Morgan on lead vocals and guitar, and Liddell, on vocal harmonies and guitar, features an interchangeable array of musicians playing acoustic-driven music with strings, horns, harmonies, and tribal percussion. Morgan describes the sound as orchestral indie/acoustic/freak folk. Goodnight Mr. Max pairs chamber orchestra ensembles with the rhythmic instruments of sub-Saharan Africa, melding traditional and tribal styles with today's revival of folk music.

Morgan is entering his senior year of studies at Western Michigan University where he is majoring in vocal music performance and choral music education. He is a member of Gold Company, WMU's internationally renowned vocal jazz group and also sings in the WMU University Chorale. He is currently touring Europe as a counselor and singer with the Blue Lake Fine Arts International Choir. In addition to the Goodnight Mr. Max, *Sleepaway* album Mor-



The cover of the "Sleepaway" CD.

gan also released a solo album.

This is not the first major award Morgan has won for music he has written. As a sophomore at Stevenson High School, Morgan won an award at the national level of competition in the PTSA Reflections program for a song he composed. Morgan and Liddell went on to record that winning song on an album with their band, Knockturne during their senior year at Churchill High School. One of the songs from that album, *I Remember Your Smile*, was selected by the senior class to be their prom song.

Morgan's interest in music took root at Coolidge Elementary School and continued to grow as he advanced to the Riley Middle School Jazz Band then to the Stevenson High School Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble and Pit Orchestra. He transferred to Churchill his junior year of high school so he could be part of the Creative And Performing Arts (CAPA) program and while there was also in the Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Pit Orchestra and Choral.

Visit Goodnight Mr. Max on their Facebook page for more information and to listen to their *Sleepaway* album.

Art

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Through Aug. 24
Location: Cortic Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Fire and Ice" exhibit features photos by Royal (Roy) Severs. Severs was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2001. His now-limited mobility, however, has not put a damper on his love for photography. He often uses a vehicle to get him to his subjects, whether on land or water.

Contact: (248) 473-1800

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Details: Patti Smith: Camera Solo, shows performer Patti Smith's photographs, through Sept. 2. Five Spanish Masterpieces features works by Picasso, Goya, Velazquez, El Greco and Dali, through Aug. 19; Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013.

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

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: Exhibit runs through July

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: "Behind the Lens 6" includes more than 100 photos taken by Pioneer Middle School 8th graders during a trip to New York City.

Contact: (734) 416-4267

VILLAGE THEATRE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through July 31

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: Photos by Bruce Giffin, former staff photographer at "Detroit Metro Times"

Contact: (734) 394-5300

Comedy

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 Dambra, through July 21; Dwayne Gill, July 25-28

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

MARK RIDLEY'S

COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Mike Baldwin, July 19-21; Andy Woodhull, July 26-28; Shen Wang, Aug. 2-4; James Ervin Berry, Aug. 9-11; Mike Bonner, Aug. 16-18; KT Tatar, Aug. 23-25

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedy-castle.com

Dance

FAIRLANE BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

Time/Date: 7:30-10:30 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Iyaskawa VFW Hall, 6840 Waverly, east of Telegraph, south of Warren in Dearborn Heights

GET OUT!



Kelsey Rottiers and Rising Tide will perform July 20 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Details: Singles and couples dance to live bands on a hardwood dance floor. Admission is \$7 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Free refreshments

Contact: Jean Orleans at (734) 516-0500

MOON DUSTERS

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

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

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

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

Film

COMPUWARE ARENA DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Gates open at 7:30 and movies start at dusk; open nightly through Sept. 2

Location: 14900 Beck, Plymouth

Details: Listen to the film through a battery-operated FM radio or your car radio. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for ages 4-12 and free for age 3 and under. Students with ID pay \$7 Sunday-Thursday

Contact: (734) 453-8300

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 20-21, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 22

Location: 760 Pennington Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Dark Shadows," \$3

Coming up: "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 27-28 and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 29; "The Avengers," 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3 and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 4-5; "Men in Black 3," 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12

Summer Cinema: All shows screen at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," Thursday, July 19; "The Rookie," Thursday, July 26; "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Thursday, Aug. 2; "Batteries Not Included," Thursday, Aug. 16; "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Thursday, Aug. 23; and "Muppets from Space," Thursday, Aug. 30. Tickets cost \$3

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. July 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. July 21

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

Details: "Cool Hand Luke," tickets \$4
Coming up: Abbott & Costello double feature, "Buck Privates," and "Abbott & Costello meet the Killer," 8 p.m. Aug. 10 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 11, \$5; "North by Northwest," 8 p.m. Aug. 24 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 25

Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: 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.

Exhibits: "The Chris Webber Collection: Exceptional People During Extraordinary Times, 1755-Present," includes rare artifacts collected by Detroit native Chris Webber, through September; "Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney," through Sept. 9

Contact: (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Nov. 7

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Inaugural Gowns of the First Ladies" is the new exhibit, featuring 14 reproduction inaugural gowns. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: Junior Brown, July 22; Danny Britt & Marvin Dykhus, July 23; Rebecca Loebe, July 24; Open Stage, July 25; Buckwheat Zydeco, July 26; Lucciana Costa, July 27; Jay Stelstra in "An Old Man in Love," July 28; Chuck Prophet, July 29; Slide Ireland, July 30; Riverfolk Festival Songwriting Contest, July 31; Mindy Smith, Aug. 1; Maia Sharp, Aug. 2; The Makem & Spain Brothers, Aug. 3; Riverfolk Festival Finale Concert with Christine Baffa & Friends, Bob Black & His Bluegrass Boys, Songwriting Contest Finalists & The Rasin' Pickers, Aug. 4; Harpeth Rising, Aug. 6; The Persuasions, Aug. 7; Open Stage, Aug. 8; The Applesseed Ensemble, Aug. 9; Candye Kane, Aug. 11; JJ Grey & Mofro, Aug. 12

Location: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor

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

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Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs

FIRING UP FOR A Grilliant Summer

Simple steps for grilling brilliantly

Whether cooking on a gas or charcoal grill, at home, at a park or at a tailgate, grilling provides an unmistakable aroma, a sizzling sound and maximum flavor. And research shows that when it comes to grilling, nearly three out of four Americans choose beef as the meat they grill the most often; but nearly 30 percent are still looking for more information on how to harness the power of the grill.

For guaranteed, delicious results when grilling beef, try following these three easy steps:

1. Choose your cut

Some of the best cuts for grilling include naturally tender ribeye, top loin (aka strip) and ground beef. Flank steak is also an excellent choice after a dip in a tenderizing marinade.

Tip: Rubs and marinades are easy ways to add flavor and tenderize.

2. Prepare your beef

Prepare grill (gas or charcoal) according to manufacturer's directions for medium heat. Remove beef from refrigerator and season with herbs and spices, as desired.

Tip: Wait to salt until after cooking so you don't draw out the natural, flavorful juices from the meat.

3. Grill

Place beef on grates and grill, covered, turning occasionally. Test doneness with meat thermometer: Cook burgers to 160°F and steaks to 145°F for medium rare or 160°F for medium.

Tip: Turn steaks with long handled tongs instead of a fork. Do not press down on steaks or burgers as flavorful juices will be lost.

Tip: For detailed grilling time by cut, visit www.BeeftisWhatsForDinner.com and type in "grilling."

Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs

Total Recipe Time: 30 minutes
Makes 4 servings

Lemon Pepper Rub:
3 large cloves garlic, minced
2½ teaspoons lemon pepper
1½ teaspoons dried oregano

Steak and Kabobs:
1 pound medium mushrooms
1 medium red onion, cut into wedges
2 tablespoons olive oil
6 lemon wedges
2 boneless beef top loin steaks, cut 1 inch thick (about 1½ pounds)

4 cup crumbled feta cheese (optional)
Combine rub ingredients.
Combine mushrooms, onion, oil and 2 teaspoons rub in medium bowl; toss. Alternately thread mushrooms and onion onto six 12-inch metal skewers. Finish with a lemon wedge.

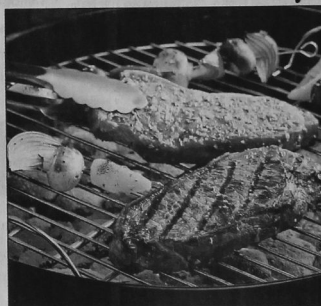
Press remaining rub onto beef steaks. Place steaks and kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill steaks, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 11 to 15 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally. Grill kabobs 6 to 8 minutes or until mushrooms are tender, turning occasionally.

Remove vegetables from skewers; toss with cheese, if desired. Carve steaks. Season beef and vegetables with salt.

— Courtesy of The Beef Checkoff



Grecian Top Loin Steaks and Mushroom Kabobs



Place steaks and kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals.

Firecracker Burgers with Cooling Lime Sauce

Total Recipe Time: 35 minutes
Makes 6 servings

1½ pounds ground beef
6 sesame seed sandwich rolls, split, toasted
1 cup watercress or mixed spring greens
Seasoning:
1 tablespoon curry powder
1 tablespoon Caribbean jerk seasoning

Sauce:
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
½ cup low-fat plain yogurt
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
2 teaspoons grated lime peel
1 teaspoon salt
Combine ground beef and seasoning ingredients in large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Shape into six ½-inch-thick patties.

Place patties on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 7 to 9 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally.

Meanwhile, combine sauce ingredients in small bowl; set aside. Spread sauce on cut sides of rolls. Place one burger on bottom half of each roll; top evenly with watercress. Close sandwiches.

— Courtesy of The Beef Checkoff

— Courtesy Family Features

MORE WAYS TO MASTER YOUR 'GRILLIANCE'

- Temperature is critical when grilling. Don't grill over high heat. This may cause charring on the outside before the inside has reached desired doneness, which is why it's best to grill over medium heat. If using a charcoal grill, make sure the coals are white, ash-covered.
 - Trim visible fat before grilling to prevent flare-ups.
 - Less tender cuts, like flank steak, benefit from a tenderizing marinade. Think acidic ingredients like lime juice or vinaigrette.
 - Keep raw meat separate from other foods. Use clean plates and utensils for cooked food.
- For more delicious recipes, grilling tips and simple rub or marinade ideas, visit www.BeeftisWhatsForDinner.com.



Rallied to urge Congress to support homeownership

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, Michigan Association of Home Builders and the National Association of Homebuilders are joining forces to host a major mid-summer Rally for Homeownership where federal, state and local officials will join with Michigan citizens to highlight the need for pro-housing policies at the local, state and federal levels. This non-partisan event is one of seven major homeownership rallies currently planned by NABH throughout the country in 2012.

"It is important that we revive the housing market, create jobs and spur growth for the entire U.S. economy," said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of BIA. "The home is central to American life, and homeownership is a cherished ideal for most families."

Legislative and regulatory proposals now under consideration by government policy makers would greatly harm homeowners, home buyers, the housing market and the nation's economy. "It is important that Michigan families know homeownership is under attack and have an opportunity to have their voices heard by our legislators," said Robert Filka, CEO of MAHB.

The event, which is open to everyone who is interested in protecting and enhancing the American dream of homeownership will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, July 20, at Gardenview Estates Development, located at Joy Road and the Southfield Freeway in Detroit. As many as 700 concerned citizens, legislators and policy makers are expected to attend.

NABH has established a website at which people can register to attend the rally and sign a petition of support. The site can be found at www.ProtectHomeownership.com. The site describes how tax, legislative and regulatory policies currently under consideration would scale back or eliminate the mortgage interest deduction and make mortgages and small business loans unaffordable and difficult to obtain.

The rally also features expert analysis and reports, data from homeownership surveys and polls, and the answers to many frequently asked questions about housing and homeownership. "A strong housing market is not only important to help more Michigan citizens realize the dream of homeownership, but it is essential to revitalizing Michigan's economy," Fil-

ka said. "When builders are constructing homes that means jobs and investment, which provide a better quality of life and support for Michigan schools and municipalities."

"Housing means jobs," Stoskopf said. "NABH estimates that for each new home that is built, three new jobs are created, not only for builders but in the industries where lumber, concrete, lighting fixtures, heating and cooling equipment and other products that go into a home are produced. More jobs are created when real estate agents, lawyers and brokers provide services to home builders and home buyers. Beyond that, every house that is built generates about \$90,000 in government revenue — \$67,000 in federal taxes and \$23,000 in state and local taxes."

Approach short sale with care

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: Our condominium lawyer has contacted us about a short sale of a unit owner where there are substantial assessments due and owing and wants us to make a substantial compromise of the back assessments. What has been your experience?

A: Obviously, each case depends upon its own facts and circumstances, but generally, I advise my community association clients to stand firm with respect to short sales

since it is the mortgage company that should bear the brunt of any loss given the fact

that they permitted the loan to be made in the first instance, perhaps, based upon unjustifiable reasons or basis as has been shown throughout the country. Perhaps you should get a second opinion from another attorney who is experienced in community association law and who may be best able to negotiate with the mortgage and/or the seller of the unit on behalf of the association.

Q: We are talking about converting our voluntary association into a mandatory one. Is that difficult?

A: Generally, it is difficult to get all of the members of the subdivision involved in the mandatory association unless you are providing substantial benefits to membership in that association. Another way in which a voluntary association can become a mandatory one is through governmental action creating a water, tax, utility or similar district including, perhaps, a special assessment district; however, as previously discussed, creating a new association where each member would have to choose to join. Also, if this is a homeowner's association, membership of individual owners would have to be evidenced by recording a declaration including covenants running with the land in order to bind present and future owners. You are best advised, however, depending upon your jurisdiction, to consult with a knowledgeable real estate and/or community association attorney.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit brmeisner-law.com.

This column should not be construed as legal advice.

Realtor associations urge responsible appraisal process

Developing and reporting property values more accurately is critical to improving market performance, reducing risk and strengthening the housing finance system, according to the National Association of Realtors.

That message was delivered recently by Frank Greigore, immediate past chair of NAR's Real Property Valuation Committee, in testimony before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Involvement regarding appraisal oversight.

"As the leading advocate for housing issues, Realtors know that an accurate appraisal is an important part of the home buying process and that a strong and independent appraisal industry is critical to restoring faith in the mortgage origination process," said Greigore, a state-certified residential appraiser and president of Greigore & Greigore Inc. in St. Petersburg, Fla. "There are many challenges currently facing the appraisal industry, and these appraisals are one of the most crucial and overlooked aspects of the recovery of the real estate market."

Bob Taylor, a Realtor, heads up the appraisal management company for the Michigan Association of Realtors. He handles marketing and development, and was MAR president in 2010. He's with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel in Birmingham and has been a Realtor 38 years.

"I was very pleased with Frank's testimony," said Taylor, who knows Greigore professionally. Taylor chairs the Research Committee for NAR this year, and is on the Real Property Valuation Committee with Greigore for NAR.

"Let me say quality. I think that might be a better way to put it," Taylor said of appraisal issues. "There's a lot of misinformation, which has made it difficult."

Fee erosion
"There has been some erosion of fees." Some more experienced appraisers have retired or don't do mortgage work. "There are also many that do an excellent job," Taylor emphasized.

The appraisal is done for the lender. "They need to make sure the collateral is sufficient," Taylor said. He had four transactions in 2010



where the house didn't appraise sufficiently for the mortgage, but the deals went through by other means.

"They found other ways to make it work. It's strictly designed to evaluate the collateral of the house," Taylor said.

Appraisers evaluate history, and look at a certain period of days. "It took a little bit of time for them to accumulate the empirical data" that the metro Detroit market is improving. Agents could assist with real-time information to demonstrate market improvement, he said.

"The appraiser can't just decide on a whim that this is what's going on," Taylor said.

He sees the bigger problem is agents and purchasers need to understand lenders are less concerned about process than perhaps they should be. Agents need to identify those lenders that care.

MAR has developed some questions for agents to ask their lenders, such as "How do they operate when there is a reconsideration of value?" Buyers should receive prior to closing a copy of the appraisal done on the house, Taylor said.

"We want real estate agents to be prepared for the questions" coming from that report. All appraisals must be ordered on a random basis, but there should be a panel of appraisers close to the market on an even day.

Those pros must understand the mean-

ing of being north or south of Five Mile in Livonia, Taylor said. If appraisers come from Troy or Saline, "you can end up with somebody who doesn't understand those nuances in the marketplace."

The buyer can meet the appraiser, but should understand it's not a client-type situation like a home inspection. "The appraiser's really working for the lender. It's really not something I would see the buyer attending," Taylor said.

Nothing prohibits the agent from talking to the appraiser, he stressed.

His observation is that MAR "is working very diligently to better inform its members about the appraisal process."

House testimony

In his House testimony, Greigore said that a number of issues are impacting the credible valuation of real property, including appraiser competency and local market knowledge, challenges in accurately estimating market value in stabilizing markets, and the lack of oversight and regulation of Appraisal Management Companies (AMCs).

While many AMCs provide legitimate services for legitimate fees, a large number of AMCs are contributing to problems in the appraisal business and the overall housing market, said Greigore. There is evidence that AMCs are often compromising appraiser independence by insisting appraisers include

specific transactions as comparable sales, complete appraisals in unreasonably short turnaround times and comply with a broad scope of work not commensurate with the fee paid.

Many AMCs also require appraisers to accept any and all liability if a loan defaults if there is any claim relation to the value of the property. All of this puts pressure on the appraiser, compromises their independence and negatively impacts the quality of the appraisal report, said Greigore.

"Appraisers are facing undue pressure by AMCs to complete appraisals using distressed transactions as comparable sales, to deliver completed appraisal reports faster, and do a greater scope of work for a lower fee than a competing vendor," said Greigore. "The end result is that lenders and consumers are being underserved, and all of this is contributing to the failure to recognize positive movement in prices and values in many markets, creating an additional obstacle to the housing market recovery."

NAR strongly supports the independence of appraisers and the appraisal process, and believes that all AMCs should be required to register with the state appraisal regulatory agencies where they are providing appraisal management services. Currently, AMCs that are subsidiaries of lenders are regulated at the federal level and not sub-

ject to state AMC registration requirements, which exacerbates problems because it leads to different standards and creates confusion. Lenders should also be prohibited from retaining an AMC's services if that lender maintains any level of ownership in the AMC.

Other appraisal challenges include limitations of the current reporting format, lagging market information, discrepancies in market definitions, the funding structure of appraisal programs, and a declining number of appraisers. NAR represents about 30,000 state-licensed and certified appraisers throughout the country, who report that their colleagues are leaving the industry for many reasons, but among the most cited is that experienced appraisers refuse to work under the current AMC-imposed climate.

Greigore said that while appraisals are the gold standard for mortgage origination, there is also an important role for broker price opinions, comparative market analysis and automated valuation models. While some organizations focus only on appraisals, NAR is the only real estate trade association that can speak with authority on appraisals and alternative valuation products.

NAR has long been seeking to ensure credible valuation of real property for the industry and since 1993 has encouraged appraiser members to demonstrate their professional competence by earning one or both of NAR's appraisal designations. The Residential Accredited Appraiser (RAA) and General Accredited Appraiser (GAA) are awarded to certified appraisers with education and experience in excess of the minimum state qualifications.

Earlier this year, NAR also adopted the Responsible Valuation Policy, which serves as a guide for members and staff in advocacy efforts for federal legislation and regulatory policy. Through its subsidiary, the Realtors Property Resource (RPR), and its Real Property Valuation Committee, NAR is able to provide one of the most comprehensive sets of data and tools for determining credible home values.

O&E staff writer Julie Brown and the National Association of Realtors website contributed to this report.

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