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TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

District has schools-of-choice plan



Dr. Michael Meissen. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Applications to fill seats are being accepted now
through July 30; lottery scheduled for Aug. 4By Brad Kadrach
Staff Writer

Now that the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has approved a limited school-of-choice option that will allow 200 K-2 students from outside the district's borders, district administrators have put together a plan for how to find and seat them.

The district Tuesday began accepting applications to fill the seats; applications will be accepted through 4 p.m. July

30.

Applications can be completed on the district website (www.pccs.k12.mi.us) and also are available at the E.J. McClendon Center, 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

The district will also open up to 10 seats at the International Academy, if those slots aren't filled by in-district students.

Schools-of-choice students will be filled using a lottery scheduled for Aug. 4 at the board office.

Support staff

While many residents at last week's board meeting expressed opposition to the move, which is expected to raise some \$1.5 million in revenue, Supt. Dr. Michael Meissen said opening the seats lets the district do what it's designed to do.

"We have outstanding teachers and support staff and we have exemplary programs," Meissen said.

"We have space available, and our primary mission is to educate kids, grow them academically and socially. While

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Canton man charged with trying to kill wife

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton man has been charged with assault with intent to murder following allegations he hit his wife with a Ford F-150 pickup truck after a domestic dispute escalated outside their condominium.

James Martin Hoffman, 54, was jailed with a \$500,000 cash bond when he was ar-



Hoffman

raigned Saturday on charges that also included felonious assault with a motor vehicle and having a high blood-alcohol level

that placed him under the state's so-called super drunk law.

Hoffman could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted as charged. He faces a preliminary examination July 11 in 35th District Court to determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

A not-guilty plea has been placed in his court file.

Hoffman's 41-year-old wife, who was struck once by the truck, was described Monday by Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh as escaping serious injury.

"She's fine. She's very cooperative," he said.

Hoffman, described by police as an auto industry engineer, was charged after police say his wife was struck with a Ford F-150 truck in the driveway of their condominium, before the truck hit the back of a Mustang parked in their garage and partially pushed it into the residence.

The incident happened shortly after 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the Preserve on Fellows Creek, a normally quiet condominium devel-

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Ben Bednarz took gold medals in all four powerlifting events in which he competed — bench press, deadlift, squat and the combination (bench-deadlift-squat).

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE



Catherine Thornburg of Plymouth gets a smooch and a hug from sister Emma.

Local Olympians bring home the hardware

By Brad Kadrach
Staff Writer

Sure, Julie Abraham is happy she won two gold medals and a silver medal at the national Special Olympic games in New Jersey last week.

She won the 1K race by less than a second and also took gold in the 2K, and won a silver medal in the 500-meter race. But when you ask her what her favorite part of the trip was, the medals seem secondary.

Because she got to meet the Uso Brothers.

Julie, a huge professional wrestling fan who loves the WWE, got to meet the federation's reigning tag-team champions, who were on hand because the WWE was a major sponsor of the event.

"I love them," said Julie, who got to spend time with the Usos and other wrestlers during the event. "They're my good friends."

And, oh yeah, there were the games. Julie was one of four Plymouth-Canton area athletes who traveled to New Jersey and came home with medals. Fellow cyclist Catherine Thornburg of Plymouth earned silver medals in the 1K, 2K and 5K. Weightlifter Kyle Siarto of Plymouth won three silvers and a bronze, while Canton's Ben Bednarz, also a weightlifter, brought home four gold medals.

Cycling whiz

Julie Abraham, the daughter of Bill and Karen Abraham, came new to the sport this year, having captured gold in last fall's state games to qualify for the national event. Previously, Julie has been a swimmer, played basketball and bowling. She said she likes cycling because "you go really fast" and it's something "I can do with my Dad."

In addition to riding a stationary bike in the basement of their Plymouth home, Julie rides with her dad here and at the family's place in Florida.

"She's come a long way," Bill Abraham said. "She only started this a cou-

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Canton program to focus on stress management

In an effort to teach ways to reduce stress, speaker Sri Swami Veditatmananda Saraswati, a disciple of Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, is leading a two-part program at the Canton Public Library.

The public is invited to the workshop by the event sponsor, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam (Institute of Vedanta and Sanskrit). It happens 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, July

8-9, in the library's Community Room. Wednesday's workshop includes a question and answer session.

The workshop focuses on stress management followed by guided meditation. It is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Sri Swami Veditatmananda Saraswati expounds Vedanta with a simplicity and directness that organizers say

makes it easy to assimilate. He is familiar with the lifestyles of India and the West and reaches out to everyone with equal ease, organizers say.

He graduated in 1978 from the course taught by Pujya Swamiji in Bombay, India. He has been active teaching, writing books and preparing Pujya Swamiji's words for publication.

No change in Canton recycling

Canton Township officials are telling residents there will be no change in the Canton Waste Recycling collection schedule this week.

Since the July 4 holiday falls on a Friday, CWR crews will follow the regular Monday-Thursday collection of refuse, recycling and yard waste, officials said.

All refuse and recycling must be placed at the curb by

6:30 a.m. to ensure pick-up. CWR will not pick-up refuse or recycling that is placed passed the sidewalk on private property. All recycling must be placed separate from your refuse on the opposite side of your driveway.

For questions or more information on solid waste collection, visit www.canton-mi.org or call CWR at 734-397-5801.

OLYMPIANS

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ple of years ago. It's a new sport for her, so I'm proud of her for how she's done."

The venue – the games were played at The Prudential Center, home of hockey's New Jersey Devils – was "wonderful," according to the Abrahams. And the effort it took to put the games on – there were some 3,500 athletes, 1,000 coaches and some 10,000 volunteers – was impressive.

"It was pretty spectacular," Karen Abraham said. "(The wrestlers) were really good guys. They spent as much time with the athletes as they wanted."

Julie had a serious fan base at the games, an entourage of 14 people that included her parents, siblings Michael, Amanda and Patrick, and other family and friends. And when Julie's name was called for medals, the entourage drowned out the announcements.

"You saw more crying than anything," Karen said with a smile. "You couldn't hear them call her name because we were cheering."

Lifting gold

Ben Bednarz of Canton told the Special Olympic folks, in his biographical sketch on the official website, that participating in the Special Olympics gave him a chance to show what he can do.

And then he went out and did it, capturing gold medals in all four powerlifting events in which he competed – bench press, deadlift, squat and the combination (bench-deadlift-squat).

"It's given me a chance to show everyone how strong I am, and have fun with my friends," his profile reads. "I am proud to be able to go."

Ben, who is also a bowler, a cyclist and a softball player, said he collects "space-related items" and likes to follow current events. His biggest accomplishment?

"My gift of making friends wherever I go with

whoever I meet is my best, favorite thing," he told the committee.

More medals

Winning medals is nothing new to Catherine Thornburg.

The 18-year-old took the three silvers in New Jersey and added them to medals she's won in past competitions, including being a gold medalist in cycling events at the state games the last four years.

A Special Olympian for seven years, Catherine said while the New Jersey games "were hot and cranky," she really enjoyed the competition.

"The race was hard," said Catherine, the daughter of Sarah and Ross Thornburg. "I liked being on Stars (her name for her bike), and being with my coach and family. I liked all of my friends cheering for me."

Like the Abrahams, Sarah Thornburg thought the games were wonderful. In addition to the wrestlers and other celebrities, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie made

an appearance and talked to the athletes.

"The games were very impressive," Sarah Thornburg said. "The opening ceremonies were spectacular. It was pretty cool."

Catherine also had a large following, including her parents and both sisters. It was an emotional time for everyone.

"You have those moments when you're just crying," Sarah said. "The opening ceremony had a beautiful song, the whole family was bawling. It was just great to see (Catherine) excel at something. These kids don't get much chance to be the best at things, so it was really exciting. It was pretty amazing."

Weighty matters

Kyle Siarto of Plymouth is no stranger to winning. He's been to the World Games in Dublin, Ireland, he's won state medals. And he took three silver medals and a bronze in New Jersey.

Not bad for a kid who doctors said would never

make it, an assertion that still makes his mom, Kathy Siarto, a little angry.

"I think back when he was born and a doctor telling me many of 'these children' need to be institutionalized," she said. "I'd like to find that doctor now and tell him not only did he not have to be institutionalized, but he's lifting 285 pounds. He has been a blessing and then some."

Kathy watched Kyle participate in a variety of powerlifting events, including bench press, combination, deadlift and squat. He trained, according to his mom, "nine-10 months twice a week."

Still, Kathy did her share of fidgeting while he competed.

"It's nerve-wracking," she said. "It's such a precise sport and he works so hard. The dedication level is amped up. Watching him compete is awesome."

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DISTRICT

Continued from Page A1

(schools of choice) is new to our community, providing additional educational choice, when we're in the business of growing all kids, is a great opportunity for us."

Meissen pointed out the district's elementary schools are operating at below 85 percent capacity; in fact, he said, even if the district takes in 200 students, it will still be operating below that level.

There are currently open seats at 12 of the district's 15 elementary schools (Allen, Bentley, Dodson, Erikson, Farrand, Field, Gallimore, Hoben, Hulsing, Is-

bister, Miller and Tonda). Those seats will be filled based on availability. Students from the same household will be kept together, and (as much as possible) assigned to a school close to the student's home.

While state law doesn't allow the district to dictate priority to certain groups – for instance, they can't guarantee admission to Canton residents who live in other districts like Wayne-Westland or Van Buren – they do plan to take care of students already in the district first.

More than 350 students have already been assigned under the Parent Request for Adjustment program; requests under the PRA program for the 2014-15 school year will be honored

before other school assignments are made.

Positive programs

Meissen said the SOC option is necessary because the pool from which the district can draw students is diminishing.

According to Meissen, the number of kids in Wayne County is down by a third, and other families are making choices other than public schools, such as charter schools.

But Meissen said the district can beef up its enrollment by marketing the positive aspects of the district.

Plymouth-Canton schools embarks on a 1:1 technology program next year, the STEM academy and International Baccalaureate pro-

gram are gaining in popularity.

In addition, the district is forging partnerships with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and Schoolcraft College designed to ensure students' readiness for college and the working world.

"We're very excited about our college and career readiness initiatives, looking at development of students across the continuum from early childhood to college," Meissen said. "Those developing partnerships will position us well to connect what we do in Plymouth-Canton schools with the bigger Michigan turnaround plan."

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CHARGED

Continued from Page A1


opment near Palmer and Lotz roads, Baugh said.

A preliminary breath test indicated the suspect had a blood-alcohol level of .27 percent, Baugh said. That's more than three times the legal limit of .08 percent, leading to charges under Michigan's super drunk law.

Drivers with a blood-alcohol level of .17 percent or higher can be charged under the super drunk law.

Police took Hoffman into custody at the scene. The incident caused extensive damage to the condo.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH
ACCURACY TESTING FOR VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR
AUGUST 5, 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION.

The City of Plymouth has scheduled and will be conducting the Accuracy Testing for the Optical Scan Voting Equipment, as well as the Hearing Impaired Equipment for the Primary Election to be held on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014**. The testing is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170

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

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

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2004	Cadillac	Cts	1G6DM57N730170111
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Pictured at the signing are, from left, state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia; Carol and Mark Garofoli of Livonia; Gov. Rick Snyder and Stacey Garofoli, the family's eldest daughter. On the desk are photos of the Garofolis' son, Mark.



New law to assist people struggling with substance abuse

Under a new law recently signed by Gov. Rick Snyder, families and health professionals can petition a court to involuntarily evaluate and treat adults who struggle with substance abuse.

"Substance abuse doesn't just harm the person struggling with addiction; it harms the families and friends of people in need of help, too," said state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, who introduced the legislation. "This law makes it easier to help those we love recover from drug use and repair families damaged by abuse."

Walsh introduced the legislation after meeting with Mark and Carol Garofoli of Livonia, whose 22-year-old son Mark committed suicide while addicted to heroin. The son could no longer think rationally and had walked out of a rehab facility in Memphis, Mich., just two weeks prior to his death. His parents, and everyone else, were powerless to stop him because he was over age 18.

The Garofolis had shared their story with the *Observer* in the hopes of making the public aware that the law was not on family members' side. Walsh said he was unaware of the need for involuntary treat-

ment for substance abuse until then.

Walsh introduced his proposed legislation May 24, 2012, the one-year anniversary of the Garofolis' son's death. It was modeled after the Marchman Act in Florida, as well as similar laws in other states such as Ohio.

It took the bill more than two years to work its way through the Legislature because of the concern lawmakers had over taking away an individual's personal liberty, Walsh said. He worked with the American Civil Liberties Union, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Probate Judges Association and the Michigan Association of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies, among others, to protect individual rights and guard against someone being wrongfully committed.

House Bill 4486 — now Public Act 200 of 2014 — requires proof of a substance abuse problem as well as the likelihood to cause harm to themselves or others before rehabilitation is mandated. Those petitioning for mandated treatment must also guarantee payment for all associated health care costs.

"Our goal is to help family

and friends improve the lives of those affected by drug abuse by allowing requests for much-needed medical treatment," Walsh said. "Not everyone can recognize and seek substance abuse help on their own, nor should they have to."

Health professionals must present certified proof that patients require involuntary treatment, are dangerous to themselves or others and would actually benefit from rehabilitation. The type, duration and location of the patients' recovery efforts must also be prescribed by health professionals.

"Hopefully this will help bring families together to help overcome very challenging emotional, psychological and medical dilemmas," Walsh said.

The final decision to mandate treatment is decided by a probate court.

Mark Garofoli said his goal is to spread the word to as many people in Michigan as possible, using all forms of media, so they know there is now a tool in place that can help. "The faster people know about this, the faster it could help save lives and spare families the heartache we are still going through every day," he said.

Canton striking back against illegal signs

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Sign, sign, everywhere a sign.

Signs touting political candidates, garage sales, open-house tours, home-cleaning services, auto repairs, weight-loss programs, cell phone plans — the list goes on — are littering the Canton landscape.

"It's sign pollution," Alex Mamo, Canton's head building inspector, said.

Signs are dotting public rights-of-way, grassy fields, vacant land, utility poles — places prohibited under local ordinances. They stick in the ground. They flap in the wind. Some are held by people.

And Canton is striking back.

Canton police, building and ordinance employees are preparing to launch an initiative to seize illegal signs and impose fines amounting to \$200 for a first offense, \$400 for a second offense and \$600 for each subsequent offense.

"The goal is to clean Canton up," Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said.

A letter signed by Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler already has warned political candidates they are personally responsible for signs placed in areas prohibited by township ordinance.

"As a candidate for public office," the letter states, "it is your responsibility to ensure compliance to the sign placement requirements by your committee members and/or volunteers."

With the Aug. 5 primary approaching, Mutchler's letter also contains a warning against placing campaign signs within 100 feet of an election precinct.

Though the election sea-

son ushers in a flurry of illegal signs, local officials say the problem persists year-round as businesses and residents seek to lure customers to shops, garage sales and other places.

"It's a growing problem," Canton Building Official Robert Creamer said.

Local officials hope to educate the public as they begin to clamp down on sign problems.

Some signs are perfectly legal, such as these:

» Wall signs mounted on buildings after a township permit has been received.

» Ground-level, or monument, signs that have received a building permit.

» Temporary signs placed on buildings — again, after receiving a permit.

» Political signs placed on occupied private property — with permission of the property owner.

Local officials say the rules are straightforward and they expect candidates, businesses and residents to start following them.

Offenders could find their penalties quickly increasing. Every day that an illegal sign remains in place amounts to a separate offense. Moreover, local authorities plan to dispose of any signs they confiscate.

Authorities are strongly urging political candidates to communicate the rules to their campaign workers. Yet it's not just an election season problem — and offenders in all cases are facing fines if they ignore the law.

More information on Canton's ordinances can be found at www.canton-mi.org. Look under the Government tab for Ordinances.

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Jump into July!

Be sure to take advantage of all the great events we have planned for the month of July. Join in for fun, informative, and entertaining activities throughout the entire month!

Events At:

Independence Village of Plymouth
14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-2600

Fourth of July Celebration

Wednesday, July 2 | 1:30 pm

Join your own Village Joy Singers as they help Independence Village celebrate Independence Day. Our thirty-voice choir will present a program of all your patriotic favorites. Light refreshments will be served.

Art in the Park

July 11 - 13

Friday, 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sunday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Be sure to stop by our booth during Michigan's second largest art fair. Located in downtown Plymouth, it's a great weekend of art, food and fun you won't want to miss.

America the Beautiful Patriotic Presentation

Monday, July 30 | 1:30 pm

Celebrate America through song and story. "Suzanne and Jim" will inspire your patriotic pride with this star-spangled show.

Sunday Brunch & Open House

Sunday Brunch

Sunday, July 20

Bring your family and friends and join us for a delicious chef-prepared brunch buffet. In addition to the delicious breakfast and lunch food, be sure not to miss the fantastic desserts our chef has prepared especially for this event.

Cost **\$17.00** adults, **\$13.00** ages 6-12, ages 4 and under are free.

Summer Celebration Open House

Saturday, July 26

Join us for the July Open House and enjoy an old fashioned picnic with everything but the ants! It's a chance for us to get together as a community, tell a few stories, and share a laugh and a meal.

Please Call for Details

Events At:

Independence Village of White Lake
935 Union Lake Road, White Lake, MI 48386
248-360-7235

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, July 9

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Two of our favorite things come together for this fun event—ice cream and being social. Create your own ice cream with a variety of flavors and toppings, then sit down with your friends and swap stories like you used to do at the local soda fountain.

Time to get Jazzy

Thursday, July 31 | 6:00 pm

What could be better than some cool jazz and an ice-cold martini? Independence Village of White Lake proudly presents an evening of jazz with vocalist Sheila Landos. Enjoy exquisite appetizers and be part of the scene.

PLEASE RSVP THREE DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT



LO 8800 06/15/14



Fund to benefit family of deceased referee

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The Livonia Police Department is setting up a donation fund to assist the family of the soccer referee who died from his injuries after being assaulted by an adult player during a match Sunday afternoon.

John Bieniewicz, 44, of Westland was refereeing an adult league match when he was punched in the head after issuing a red card to a player, ejecting him from the match. He was pronounced dead Tuesday morning.

"The Livonia Police Department has expressed our deepest sympathy to the family of

Mr. Bieniewicz," the police department said in a statement.

Livonia police were called Sunday afternoon to Mies Park, 32305 W. Chicago, on a report of an assault during an adult league soccer match.

Officers and Livonia Fire Advanced Life Support arrived at the field and found an adult victim, the referee, on the ground unconscious. Officers investigating the incident determined the victim suffered a head injury after a player threw a punch at him during the match. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said the referee had determined the suspect was to be ejected from the match and the man became upset. Police say they believe the suspect then hit the referee in the head, causing injury.

Baseel Abdul-Amir Saad, 36, of Dearborn, was arraigned Monday by District Judge Sean Kavanagh on a charge of assault to do great bodily harm less than murder, a felony. His bond was set at \$500,000 cash or surety.



Baseel Abdul-Amir Saad

Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said the prosecutor will review the case and make updates when confirmations are made and documentation are

sent to the county. There was no word on when or what kind of changes would be made to the charges Saad faces.

If convicted on the original charges, Saad faces up to 10 years in prison. He is scheduled for a preliminary examination at 9 a.m. July 10 in Livonia's 16th District Court.

Funds to support his family

Livonia police chief Curtis Caid said the department is in the midst of setting up a donation fund at Huntington Bank to help support Bieniewicz's family during this tough time. While he's still working to secure an official name, area residents can go to any Huntington Bank branch and request to donate to the fund to support his wife and two children.

"It's a terrible, terrible tragedy, and certainly senseless," he said. "They need help."

Those interested in donating can do so by leaving dona-

tions at the Livonia Police Department, 15050 Farmington, or at any Huntington Bank branch in Michigan.

A website dedicated to Bieniewicz is also raising funds to help support his family's future and to help cover burial costs. According to the site, Bieniewicz worked with pediatric dialysis patients at Mott Children's Hospital and was the president of the Metro Detroit Soccer Officials Organization. He officiated games at various levels, including professional, collegiate, high school and children's leagues.

Those looking to donate at that site can do so by visiting johnbieniewiczmemorial.com.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Fraudulent transactions

A 55-year-old Canton man notified police Monday evening after two fraudulent transactions were made on his debit card.

The man said one purchase for \$836 was made at a liquor store in Detroit and another for \$398 was made at a market in Detroit.

Bullet in yard

Canton police went to a home in the 42000 block of Fairview, near Ford and Lilley, after a man found a bullet in his yard while he was doing yard work, a police report said.

The man turned the bullet over to police. It wasn't clear where it originated.

Online passwords stolen

An 18-year-old Canton woman notified

police after she began receiving text verification that her passwords had been charged on several of her online accounts including Microsoft, Verizon, Gmail and Yahoo.

She wanted to document the incidents.

Accident citation

Police cited a 24-year-old man after he left the scene of an accident he allegedly caused on Sheldon near Michigan Avenue.

A woman told police she was preparing to turn onto Michigan Avenue when a male driver struck her car from behind.

She said he offered to give her \$50 to fix the bumper of her car, but she declined and began to notify her insurance company.

The suspect then left the scene but police tracked him down us-

ing a license plate number.

He allegedly told police he panicked and left the scene because he didn't want his insurance rates to go up.

Police cited him for failing to stop at the scene of a property damage accident.

Warrant arrest

A man on the state's sex offender registry was arrested for a warrant out of Lansing after he went to the Canton Police Department Monday afternoon to report his new address.

Canton police learned that a tether unit out of Lansing had a warrant for the man's arrest.

He was taken into custody in Canton to be turned over to Lansing authorities.

By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Shoplifting, fleeing

A 26-year-old woman was arrested at her Livonia home June 24 in the theft of less than \$8 worth of hygiene products from the Kmart in Plymouth Township earlier in the day.

The woman was charged the next day with third-degree retail fraud and fleeing and eluding police, then released on a personal bond, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. She is due back in 35th District Court on Monday.

The shoplifting occurred around 5:30 p.m. June 24 when a woman put two hygiene products in her purse at Kmart and left the store without paying for them, a store security worker later told police. He confronted her outside, but she ran into the parking lot and left in a red Chevrolet Cavalier, the employee said. Police

were called.

A responding officer saw a red Cavalier on eastbound Ann Arbor Road and attempted to stop the driver, using his patrol car's lights and siren, but the driver accelerated, driving into a Livonia residential area, the report said. The officer followed, but at not quite the speed of the other driver, and eventually lost sight of the Cavalier, police said.

Police, however, found the car was registered to someone at a nearby address and went to that house, finding the suspect there with her father.

Fuel theft?

Police reported the possible theft of fuel early on June 17 from a box truck parked outside the Comfort Inn on Ann Arbor Road west of I-275. The truck was registered to U.S. Marble in Saginaw.

A witness had reported hearing a clanging sound and then seeing a man near the truck just before 1:30 a.m. June 17. A pickup drove away from the scene a short time later, the witness said.

Police said there appeared to be spilled fuel on the truck's fuel tank and on the pavement nearby.

Debit fraud

A township woman reported the fraudulent use of her debit card to police last month.

The woman said she had learned the card had been used to make just over \$400 in purchases from a Best Buy in the Ann Arbor area. She still had possession of the card, she said, and didn't know how someone could have gotten the numbers.

The woman canceled the debit card and replaced it.

By Matt Jachman

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Spree 64 ends with a bang

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

The Spree fireworks on Sunday night almost went off without a bang.

A problem with a generator delayed the computerized show by about 10-15 minutes until another power source could be found.

"It really came together pretty good," Spree board president Dan Spurling said of the grand finale of Livonia's weeklong birthday celebration. "That really was the biggest hiccup of the week."

Attendance at Spree 64 was down this year, impacted by heavy rain on June 24 when it opened and hot, humid weather the rest of the week, not to mention the closure of the I-96 freeway.

"There's certain things you just can't control; the freeway was one of them," Spurling said.

The weather was another. Spurling said this year's attendance was similar to last year's when it rained four of the six days. He said 2012 was when the festival hit its best numbers.

But the people who made their way last week to Ford Field, despite the freeway closure, and put up with the heat and humidity had a good time, Spurling said.

A new roller coaster was a hit, evidenced by the long lines. And people enjoyed the continuous live music playing from 7-11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday in the Main Tent.

"We got a lot of compliments on it," Spurling said of having two bands alternate between playing all evening long.

Almost 550 people attended this year's Taste of Spree on June 26. O'Malley's Bar and



Honest Abe grooves to the sounds of Parallel Fifth. Ron Carley has portrayed Abraham Lincoln for about 18 months. He's from Livonia. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grill received the "Best Decorated Table Award." Attendees voted on their favorite establishments. The top three vote-getters - O'Malley's Bar and Grill, Zino's Subs and Pizza, and Mitchell's Fish Market - each received a People's Choice Award.

Other participating establishments included Bahama Breeze, Buddy's Pizza, Hooters of Novi, Jimmy John's Subs, Luigi's Restaurant, Noodles and Company, Pancho's Mexican Grill, Potbelly Sandwich Works, Trader Joe's and Velvet Peanut Butter.

"Attendee's comments were very complimentary toward all the establishments and the organization," said Taste of Spree chair Bob Biga. Attendees feasted on crab cakes, carrot cake, coconut pineapple cake, mango juice, cheese brie, mini cookies, several types of sub sandwiches, "fall off the bone" barbecued ribs, pork plantains, chicken wings, salads, many types of pizza, Japanese



Tristin Thompson of Dearborn Heights won the big stuffed bear playing Break a Bottle for Lyndsey Wiewiora of Plymouth during their visit to Livonia Spree. The popular six-day event finished Sunday evening with the traditional fireworks and included the annual pie-eating contest sponsored by the Observer.

pan noodles, lasagna, tortellini, chips and queso and peanut butter sandwiches, Biga said. "No one left hungry."

Biga was grateful to the Spree volunteers who helped the participating establishments set up and serve the attendees. "Without them, this event could

not be held," he said.

Likewise, Spurling said the Spree volunteers and police department kept all of Spree running smoothly, and the crowds were well-behaved with no major incidents. "I want to thank everybody that was involved," he said.



David Perry and son Benson Perry, 3, step through the spinning barrel at the Rumble In The Jungle funhouse. They are from Plymouth.



Eight-year-old Robert Jenkins, of Garden City, plays Ring a Bottle, with a little advice from Angela Hamilton, of Northville, and Phyllis Olszewski, of Taylor.

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Tons of fun, lots of history: A tour of historic Hines Drive Park

Shortly after we moved to Livonia, Barb and I took a walk in Hines Drive Park. We saw herons, egrets and wood ducks on that first walk and later canaries, woodpeckers, butterflies and deer. Why did we go to Florida when such wonders of nature are so close by?



Gene Scott

GUEST COLUMNIST

This is part of the magic of Hines, where worlds of nature, recreational fun and history await everyone.

Hines Drive was opened in 1949 by the Wayne County Road Commission and is named after Edward N. Hines, one of its first commissioners. Hines (1870-1938) was a cyclist who founded the Good Roads organization, which preceded the Road Commission.

The 17-mile long Hines Drive begins in Dearborn and winds along the Middle Rouge River through five other cities — Dearborn Heights, Westland, Livonia, Plymouth and Northville. It begins at Ford Road in Dearborn, a city of 96,000 that was first settled in 1826 and named after Gen. Henry Dearborn.

The first stops are several of 24 recreational areas with picnic facilities and shelters, ball fields, playgrounds and bits of history too, beginning with Parkdale, named for a nearby Detroit neighborhood — one of 51 in the city before annexations ended 1926.

A mile north on Hines is Warrendale, named for one of 44 early villages that once existed inside the Detroit city limits. At 2.7 miles is Wallaceville, near a former village founded in 1862 by saw-miller John Wallace.

Ten more recreational areas are ahead as we pass through Dearborn Heights and Westland, some named for sections or streets within these cities, like Helm's Haven, Parr, Nolar Bend and Perrin.

The city of Dearborn Heights (pop. 57,000) was created out of parts of Dearborn and Inkster in 1960. Westland (pop. 84,000), a city since 1966, was founded with the Perrin brothers sawmill in 1832. It was first called Perrinville and later (1887) Pike's Peak, after the one in Colorado.

Then comes Middlebelt Hill (aka Dead Man's Hill), an old landfill that's one of Hines' best winter recreational areas, with long sled/toboggan runs.

Next is Sherwood, a recreational area named for a nearby 1900s village on the old Detroit & Northwestern inter-urban railway.

Nankin Mills

At 7.6 miles, we come to the heart of Hines Drive Park — Nankin Mills, today Wayne County Park's headquarters, a nature center and a museum of the Henry Ford mills along the Rouge river watershed. Nankin Mills is named after the former Nankin Township, established in 1829 when split off from Bucklin Township, along with Pekin Township — both taking names from provinces in China.

Dating to 1842, the mill was the center of Pike Peak's village. The first grist mill burned and the present one was built by Sam Hardenbergh in the 1860s.

Henry Ford bought the mill and nearby dam in 1918. It is the first of six of his village industry mills along what became Hines Drive. He converted the mill to hydroelectric power, building a larger dam that created a larger Nankin Lake. Ford's mill produced screws, stencils and other parts for Ford automobiles. Nearly all mill workers were nearby farmers.

This and other mill properties along Hines were donated by Ford to the Road Commission in 1948 by his wife, Clara, the year after his death. It was remodeled in 1955-57, becoming an interpretive nature center offering park tours. The miller's Greek Revival-style house next door is now used for special events.

Nankin Mills visitors can see replicas of mill equipment, and there's a changing wildlife exhibit in the lobby. The Friends of Nankin Mills group has been helping keep it going since 1988. For more information, visit nankinmills.org or

call 734-261-1990.

The mill and adjacent Nankin recreation area are assembly points for numerous Hines Park annual events, including the helicopter Marshmallow Drop, Cruisin' The Hines old car show in August and Saturdays in the Park, when the eastern half of Hines is closed for family fun until 3 p.m. May through September.

Most popular is the Holiday Lights display along Hines, from Merriman east to Warrendale, mid-November to New Year's Eve.

Perrinville School

Across Ann Arbor Trail is the 1856 Perrinville School one-room school, closed since 1937 and a church until 1968. At Joy Road, we enter the city of Livonia (pop. 97,000), first settled in 1818 and started as a township in 1835. It was named after Livonia, N.Y., an eastern Russia province, now part of Latvia.

At 9.1 miles is the Stark Road Bridge. Stark (1870-1930), one of Livonia's early villages, was an interurban stop.

Next comes Newburgh Mill and dam, Ford's last-purchased village industry mill site along Hines. Two earlier mills, by Asa Johns in 1819 and Nicolas Bodee in 1870, made cider from nearby apple orchards. Ford built his mill in 1934 with Wayne County and the WPA program under FDR's New Deal. It made airplane parts during World War II.

Ford's mill is now a County Sheriff's Mounted Division headquarters. His bigger dam created Newburgh Lake, the largest lake along Hines. Newburgh (1819-1930) was another Livonia early village.

At 11.1 miles is the most elaborate of 20 Comfort Stations along Hines: Newburgh Pointe on the lake, built in 1935. Several other stations on Hines were designed to simulate train stations, as was Ford's wish. A canoe livery recently reopened here.

After passing under the M-14 expressway, we enter Plymouth (est. 1825, pop. 9,000) and come to the newest attraction on Hines at Haggerty Road: Wayne County's First Responders Memorial. It includes the names of more than 400 police, fire, and EMS personnel since 1867 who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Next is the site of Gunsolly Mill, a wool carding mill from 1851 which Ford moved to Greenfield Village in 1929. Then, it's up a hilly stretch to Wilcox Mill and Dam and the entrance to Plymouth's "Little Village." Here earlier was the Hardenbergh Grist Mill, built in 1850. The miller's 1840 house is around the corner in the village.

Ford rebuilt the mill, the fourth of his village industry mills, and by 1923 it was making cutouts and taps for Ford cars. In 1933, he rebuilt the mill pond dam into a much larger dam, creating Wilcox Lake. During World War II, it produced bomber plane parts. The building is now used for storage.

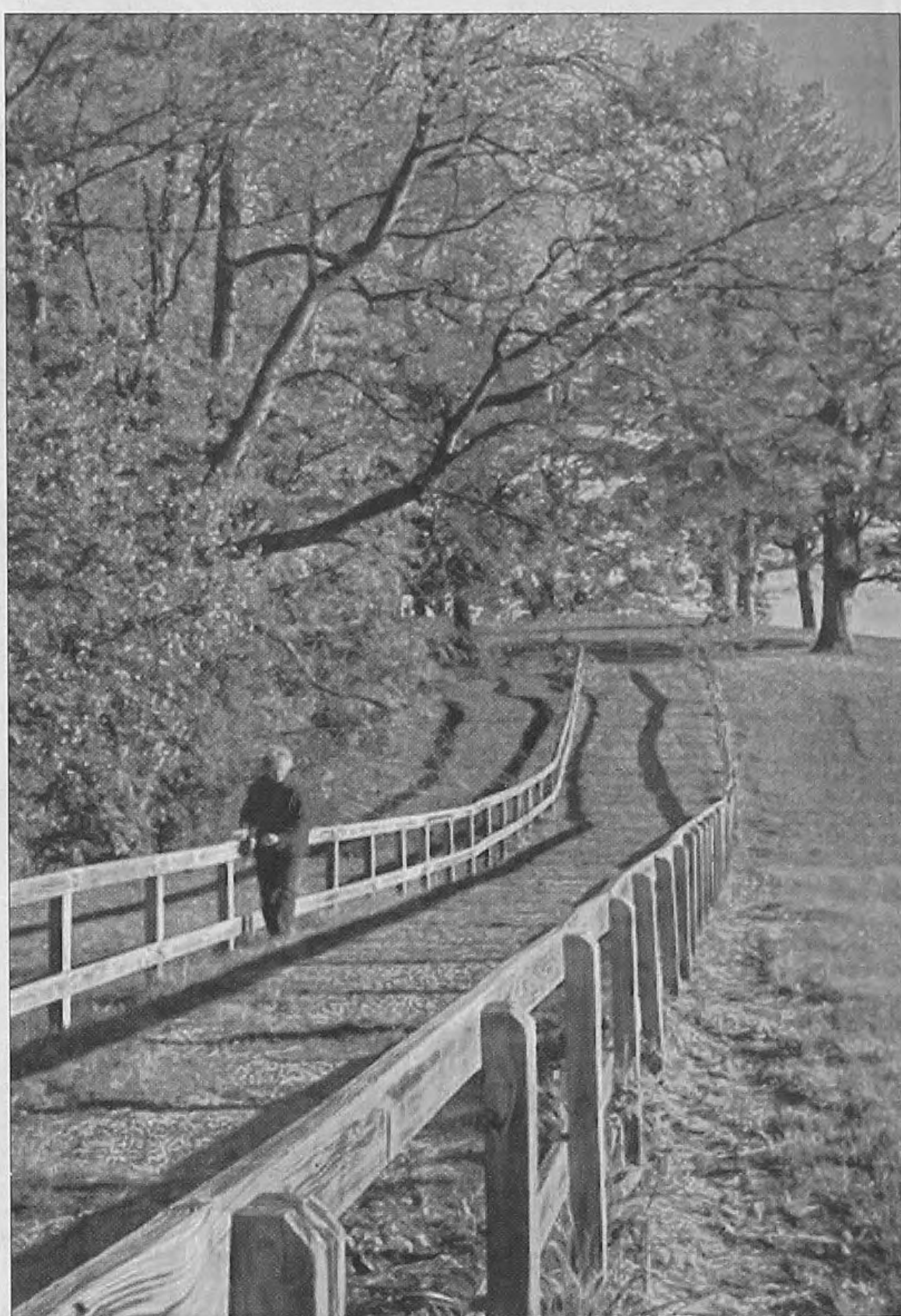
Next up the road at Five Mile is Phoenix Mill, a grist mill 1840-1905, named after Phoenix village, 1837-1880. It became Ford's third village industry mill in 1922. The former mill also was a distillery, briefly.

The Phoenix Mill made voltage regulators and switches and employed mostly women, 70 of them. They were paid like the men: \$5 a day. In World War II, the plant made ID badges and wiring for M-7 guns. Across Five Mile is Phoenix Lake, which had a beach in the 1920s. The mill buildings are used for park maintenance.

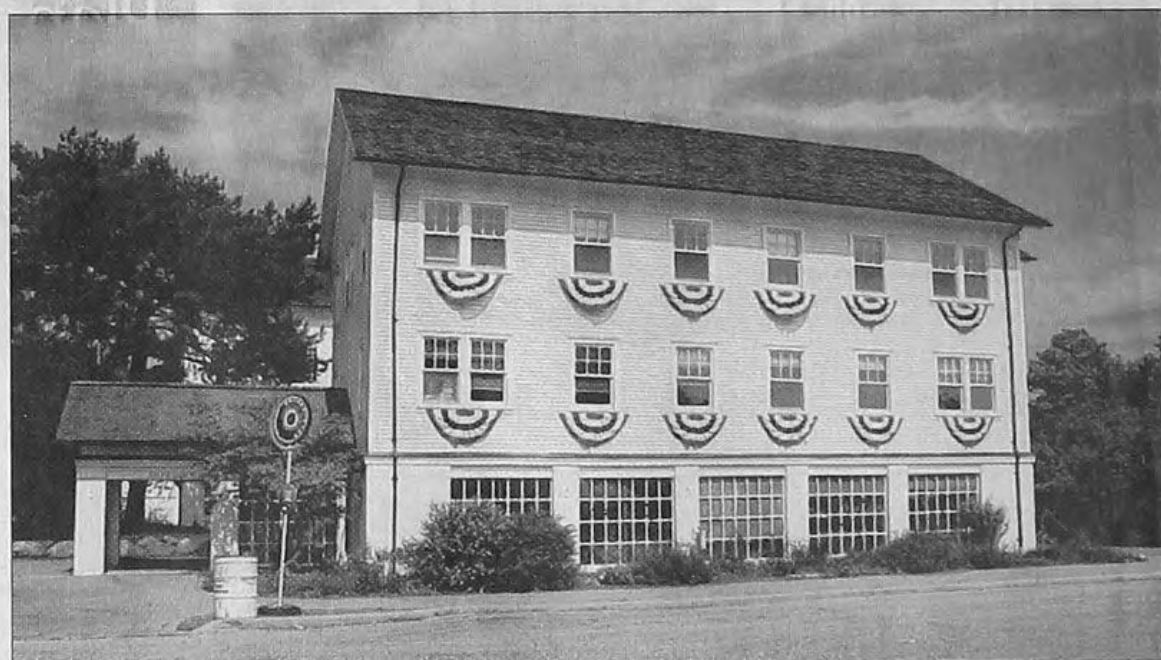
Hines continues northwest on Five Mile and Northville roads. The next of Ford's mills is just off Hines. Go north on Northville Road and right turn onto Mill Street to Waterford Mill in the former town of Waterford (1837-1880). Ford's sixth village industry mill, it opened 1925 and produced precision gauges until 1958. It is now used by a durable castings firm.

Bell Foundry

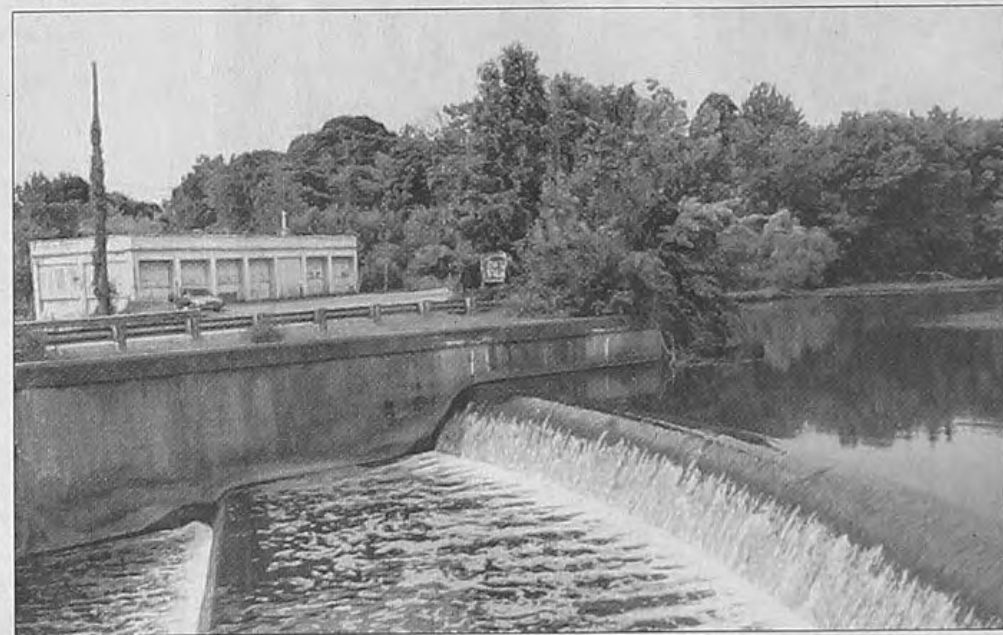
Continuing back on Hines and around a bend brings us near the remains of Mead's Mill, an 1850s bell foundry that closed after a fire in the 1880s. Michigan's largest grist mill was next door. The foundry collapsed while being relo-



Fall is the prettiest time of year to take a drive, bike ride or Segway (rentable at Nankin Mills) on Hines Drive.
PHOTOS BY GENE SCOTT



Restored and remodeled Nankin Mills, at Hines Drive and Ann Arbor trail.



Wilcox Mill and Dam at the entrance to old Plymouth's "Little Village."

cated to a small dam nearby. It's barely viewable from the roadway and a difficult walk. Mindless vandals continue to deface the mill's stonework.

Hines then goes into Northville (pop. 6,000), founded 1825 and a city since 1955, and up a hillside past Bennett Arboretum, planted here in 1936 by Jesse Bennett, first County parks superintendent, and the Cass-Benton recreation area, named after road commissioner Cassius Benton.

Along this final stretch of Hines is another favorite winter sledding run and, in and out of the nearby woods, a fairly

new disc golf course, unfortunately also subject to frequent vandalism.

This brings us to the end of Hines Drive at Seven Mile Road. However, there is one more mill a few blocks north on Northville Road that is worth a look. It's the Northville Mill, opened in 1920 and the last of Ford's village mills to close in the 1980s. An 1827 grist mill and a later sawmill were once here.

Now commercial offices, the Northville Mill still has an operating waterwheel (just wait a few minutes and you'll see).

There's reason in every season to take a drive, bike ride or Segway (rentable at Nankin Mills) on Hines, with fall the best time.

Mile for mile, it's as pretty as the 384-mile Blue Ridge Parkway from Virginia to the Smokies and conveniently close to home.

Gene Scott has been a Livonia Historical Society member for about 12 years. He is a retired editor and teacher who has published four books on the histories of Michigan towns. The most recent is "Michigan Shadow Towns." He and his wife Barb have lived in Livonia for 23 years.

Fife and Drum Corps plans busy Fourth

It's shaping up to be a busy Fourth of July for the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

The PFDC, made up of students ages 12-18, has three performances scattered around the area, taking them from the streets of their hometown to the home of the Detroit Tigers.

The day kicks off in Plymouth, where they'll march down Main Street in the annual Good Morning USA Fourth of July Parade beginning at 9 a.m.

The PFDC will then make their way through the streets of downtown Northville, where the Independence Day Parade marches to the

theme of Celebrating America's Heroes.

Anyone not necessarily interested in small-town parades can head to Detroit, where the Detroit Tigers have invited the PFDC to help celebrate Independence Day as they take on the Tampa Bay Rays, at 7:08 p.m. Friday, July 4.

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps performed at Comerica on Independence Day in 2012, and corps officials said they're "honored to accept the invitation again this year."

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps' pregame performance takes place in front of

Gate A off Witherell Street.

During a special 4th of July pregame celebration, they will march around the field inside Comerica Park while performing patriotic Revolutionary War-era fife and drum music in their historically accurate colonial uniforms.

"This is an event our members will remember the rest of their lives," PFDC President Sue Momano said.

"It's nearly every kid's dream to be able to step on the field at Comerica Park, but to be able to perform there as well is a lifelong memory."



The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is scheduled to perform at Comerica Park Friday.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HOOPS CAR WASH

Date/Time: Sunday, July 13, noon to 3 p.m.

Location: Dick Scott Dodge, Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Salem High School girls basketball team hosts a car wash fundraiser. Proceeds will help offset the cost of uniforms and equipment throughout the season.

FALL FEST CRAFTERS

Date/Time: Craft show is during Plymouth Fall Festival, Sept. 5-7

Location: Downtown Plymouth

Details: It's not too late to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. Organizers say spaces are limited and are filling up quickly. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.

Contact: For more information, contact Colleen Brown craft-show@plymouthfallfestival.com.

IDENTITY THEFT

Date/Time: Friday, July 11, 10 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Council on Aging will host a presentation on identity theft with a speaker from the attorney general's office and Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price. This presentation will provide valuable information on how to reduce the risk of falling

victim to the fastest growing crime in America and what to do if you become a victim.

Contact: Call 734-453-1234, ext. 236, to RSVP.

HISTORY KIDS KAMP

Date/Time: Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum

Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts its third annual History Kids Kamp, where children can experience aspects of the Civil War by recreating what life was like during the war, including dressing in period clothing, getting their picture taken, as well as a chore race consisting of old-fashioned tasks from the mid-1800s. There will also be a scavenger hunt, which will entertain and educate while they search for clues to solve a puzzle. Children will be able to chat with Civil War soldier re-enactors who can answer questions, demonstrate marching and much more. The boys will be given the opportunity to "enlist" in the army.

Tickets purchased by July 18 are \$35 per child; after that, tickets are \$40; alternatively, the purchase of a new or renewed Daisy membership to the Plymouth Historical Museum (value \$50) will allow one child to attend for free. The target age for children is 6-12 years old; however, children under 8 will need to be

accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours or can be purchased using PayPal on the museum's website. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main.

Contact: Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:

» Thursday, July 3, noon to 5:45 p.m., Resurrection Church, 4875 Warren, Canton

» Monday, July 7, 1-6:45 p.m., Church Of Christ, 9301 Sheldon, Canton

» Sunday, July 20, 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 44800 Warren, Canton

» Monday, July 21, 1-6:45 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

» Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Living Word Church, 46500 N. Territorial, Plymouth

» Monday, July 28, 1:30-7:15 p.m., Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton

» Tuesday, July 29, noon to 5:45 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Drive, Canton

» Tuesday, July 29, noon to 5:45 p.m., Super Bowl Lanes, 45100 Ford Road, Canton

» Wednesday, July 30, noon to 5:45 p.m., Canton Municipal Office

Details: The American Red

Cross sponsors the above blood drives in the local community. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: Call 800-redcross to make an appointment

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Date/Time: Oct. 18

Location: West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Details: The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried Craft Show. Proceeds from the show provide scholarships for young people who are pursuing a career in education and mini-grants for educators in the district.

Contact: For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at debortellini@comcast.net or 734-451-1525.

LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

Time/Location: Each Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

Dates:

» July 9, Hollywood's Golden Age – The film score hits its stride as it accompanies some of tinsel town's classic films.

» July 30, The Film Score Grows Up – After World War II, films and film music become darker and more realistic.

» Aug. 20, The Classical Film Score, Lost and Found – Big changes in films and scores in the '50s but it all comes back again in the '70s.

Details: The Plymouth District Library will host music professor Karl Schmidt for a four-part series this summer. Schmidt will present music and video excerpts from films such as *The*

Jazz Singer (1927), *Gone With the Wind* (1939), *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946) and *High Noon* (1952), as well as a study of political and social changes that influenced all forms of art, including films. This music series is made possible through the Michigan Opera Theatre's Department of Community Programs and the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

Contact: Call 734-453-0750.

BNI MEETING

Date/Time: Each Thursday, 7-8:30 a.m.

Location: Red Olive Restaurant, 1051 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The BNI Northville-The \$1 million Referral Chapter meets every Thursday morning.

Contact: For more information, visit www.NorthvilleBNI.com



NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 2014 SUMMER TAXES

Summer taxes are due **July 1, 2014** and payable through **August 10, 2014** without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Payments can be made at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the Church Street lobby of City Hall or use the DROP BOX located next to the book return behind the Library. For additional payment options, please check the City website @ ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Teresa Cischke, MICPT/CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: July 3 and July 6

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Ascent Audiology and Hearing recently held its grand opening at 4195 Old Canton Center Road. Family members, employees, Canton Chamber of Commerce members and residents were all among the attendees.

Audiologist offers one-on-one program

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the products and services you offer.

Ascent Audiology: Diagnostics and treatments for hearing disorders, including hearing loss, tinnitus and hearing aids.



Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Ascent Audiology: Desire to leave a larger practice and bring back to "one-on-one."

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Ascent Audiology: Have been practicing in Canton the last 15 years.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Ascent Audiology: A small, personal practice with one audiologist. Patients will get to know and build relationships with doctor and staff.

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

Ascent Audiology:

ASCENT AUDIOLOGY

Business name and address: Ascent Audiology, 4195 Old Canton Center Road, Canton.
Your name/position: Dr. Marie Rowe.
Your hometown: Westland.
Business opened when? April 2014.
Number of employees: 2.
Hours of operation: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday; evenings and weekends by appointment.
Your business specialty: Audiology, hearing, hearing aids.
Business phone/website: 734-398-5724; www.ascentaudiologycanton.com.

Don't confuse "Old Canton Center" and "Canton Center" roads. It will make it confusing.

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

Ascent Audiology: Becoming a greater part of the community, giving back by volunteering professional services and community education.

Tired of the negative posts, constant ads and annoying articles on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter? If so, you might enjoy the flexibility of Tumblr, a relatively new microblogging site.

A microblog is the name for a site that allows you to share short updates (like Twitter). Unlike Twitter though, Tumblr allows users the ability to create content that is as long or as short as they want. Let's pretend you want to make a 140-character update; you can do that. You can also write a 2,000-word story, add a video, audio, photos or animated files.

The beauty of Tumblr is that there are few restrictions. Users can create their own profiles with customized imagery, links and designs. Advanced users can build their own templates using HTML (computer code), while novice users can grab free templates or pay for some enhanced templates.

Tumblr also gives users the ability to change their own URL. So if you wanted to write an awesome blog about hockey, you could theo-



retically name it "awe-somehockeyblog.com" and it could still be hosted on Tumblr.

Still, the most popular feature on the social network is the lack of ads. Tumblr is owned by Yahoo, but it doesn't concern itself with shareholders, as do Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Therefore, there are hardly ever ads. The ones there are, you barely notice.

The lack of advertisements isn't an accident. Founder David Karp keeps them out of the system by design in order to make the site less intrusive. The site can generate revenue by selling themes.

Generally speaking, the type of content you will find on Tumblr is more advanced than anywhere on the social web. There are more pieces of graphic designed art, video clips, animated GIFs and audio than on the other aforementioned social networks. And to allow the

Hashtagging helps organize sites like Tumblr, while also allowing users to find content they may be interested in.

mass viewing of this content, Tumblr also utilizes hashtags, like Twitter and Facebook.

If you still aren't sure how hashtags work, hashtagging is the process of typing the pound sign/hashtag sign (#) before a keyword or phrase. The combination of the pound sign and phrase becomes a clickable link and a link takes you to a stream of similar content. So if you visited Twitter or Tumblr and typed in #DetroitLions, you would see all of the content that was tagged with #DetroitLions.

Hashtagging helps organize sites like Tumblr, while also allowing users to find content they may be interested in.

Another great feature of the blogging site is the

lack of negativity. In order to comment on something, users must "re-blog" them or share them to their own page. It is only then that they can make a comment. For instance, if you draw a terrible painting of a pony and share it to your Tumblr account, you would never actually have to see people telling you how terrible your pony is. That's why Tumblr is considered the positive social network.

While the site has been in development for nearly a decade, it has only been mainstream for about two years. The site is populated mostly by millennials, but two-thirds of people 18-49 are millennials, so don't confuse it as simply a site for kids.

If you're interested in checking out the flexibility of Tumblr, visit Tumblr.com to sign up. It takes about five minutes and the sign-up process will walk you through following other bloggers and picking a theme.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager and freelance writer. Contact him at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com or @gunnsh0w.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gardner-White holding job fair on Wednesday

Michigan-based Gardner-White Furniture is hosting a job fair to recruit sales associates for locations in Canton and its newest store in Brighton, which will

open later this year.

The Canton job fair takes place from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, at the Canton Gardner-White store, 39453 Ford Road. For details, call 734-844-3190.

The company is looking for candidates with an entrepreneurial spirit who are seeking successful careers in commissioned sales. In addition, Gardner-White is hiring for positions in the stores' offices, backroom and cleaning personnel, and also drivers and helpers for its Auburn Hills facility to provide support with customer deliveries.

Applications can be found at gardner-white.com and will also be available for completion at the Job Fair.

Candidates should come to the Job Fair prepared to interview, and Gardner-White will be extending job offers on-the-spot.

Canton resident graduates from leadership program

Canton resident Dave Trader, chief security officer of GalaxE.Solutions, graduated from the Detroit Regional Chamber's Leadership Detroit program on Thursday, June 19, marking successful completion of its 35th class.

Leadership Detroit is a 10-month transformational leadership program designed to challenge emerging and existing community leaders from Southeast

Michigan to bring about positive change.

Leadership Detroit Class XXXV featured 70 executives from across the region, representing a cross-section of the community, including business, organized labor, government, education, media, civic groups, health services and community organizations.

"Leadership Detroit has become a vitally important program for our company and our leadership team," said Tim Bryan, CEO of GalaxE.Solutions.

"The opportunities and challenges presented by our region are best addressed by a team of dedicated individuals. We are proud to be a part of such a team."

Business milestone



Basket Kreations on Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth marked its 25th anniversary in business June 19 with a special event at the store. Basket Kreations was in Canton its first 10 years and then moved to Plymouth, said owner Stella Delap of Canton, shown here. The merchandise ranges from Michigan-made gift items to made-to-order gift baskets, hostess gifts and more. JULIE BROWN

ATTENTION BOYS, GIRLS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS!

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New legislation brings opportunities for W-W career, technical programs

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Sue Wilk couldn't have been happier to see Gov. Rick Snyder sign legislation revising the Michigan Merit Curriculum to allow school districts the flexibility to enhance career technical education programs.

The outgoing assistant principal at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland, Wilk has seen how the rigorous high school curriculum has affected the center. The opportunity to add core academic curriculum to different classes will "certainly open up opportunities for students."

"This is definitely advantageous for students in the career technical field," she said. "It also recognizes the fact that there are rigorous academics in career and vocational education. We're excited that the legislature and the governor support career and vocational education that meets the needs of the students, the employers and Michigan in expanding the state's economy."

The governor recently signed into law two bills that will assist more students in taking courses where they can obtain technical, employable skills that lead to good jobs.

Fulfill requirement

Public Act 208 amends the Michigan Merit Curriculum to allow students to fulfill the algebra II requirement by completing a career and technical education program that has the material em-

bedded into lessons. Public Act 209 requires that students be informed about potential career and technical education options and streamlines the process for students who wish to pursue the personal curriculum option.

"We want to make sure students have options for career-oriented courses that include material from rigorous subjects and that maintain high educational standards," Snyder said. "We know that a strong public education is an important part of Michigan's comeback. Career-technical classes play an important role in developing talent and helping open opportunities for students for jobs of today and tomorrow."

When the Michigan Merit Curriculum was instituted in 2007, the center saw a drop off in enrollment. The program has come back, but there is a concern about this fall, when the new group of students will be required to take a foreign language, Wilk said.

At the William D. Ford Center, four classes have been offered with algebra II imbedded in the curriculum — the first year of Construction Technology and Welding, as well as Electronics and Robotics and Alternative Energy. However, because the algebra II is embedded in the classes, it took four semesters to earn the required credit and reduced the amount of time students were in their career technical program.

"The kids coming

out of our career and technical programs move into college and careers," she said. "We do a study a year after they complete the program and find we have a very high number, 90 percent, of our completers who go into post-secondary education, careers or the military."

Beyond algebra II

She added the center can now look beyond algebra II in incorporating other core academics into other classes.

"We are anxious to look at all opportunities that we have to offer core academic credits in career and vocational education," she said.

The new laws also are being praised by the Michigan Manufacturers Association for maintaining rigorous standards while allowing for more flexibility so that more students achieve a high school diploma that is applicable and relevant to the jobs and careers of the 21st century.

"This legislation allows Michigan to be innovative with learning methods and opens the door for more experiential, hands-on and project-based learning," said Delaney McKinley, MMA director of human resource policy. "Allowing high school students more opportunities to explore project-based learning adds to their growth and creates real opportunities for high-paying jobs and rewarding careers in Michigan's manufacturing sector."

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Fourth of July drunken driving crackdown kicks off

To celebrate freedom this Fourth of July holiday, police officials said motorists need to designate a sober driver or risk ending up behind bars. A statewide Night Patrol impaired driving enforcement crackdown kicked off Tuesday with nearly 150 law enforcement agencies in 26 counties participating.

In 2013, 354 people died in Michigan as a result of alcohol and/or drug-involved traffic crashes, a 3.5-percent increase from 2012. To help prevent these avoidable tragedies, law enforcement agencies from local police departments, sheriff offices and Michigan State Police posts across the state will conduct extra drunken driving patrols throughout this popular summer holiday period.

The effort runs through July 13 and is paid for with federal funds administered by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. Grant-funded counties in Southeast Michigan are Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.

"Alcohol-involved fatalities have increased during the last few years, resulting in more families mourning the preventable loss of a loved one," stated Michael L. Prince, OHSP director.

"The officers are taking part to encourage drivers to make smart decisions and plan ahead to ensure a safe way home. Make no mistake, if you drive drunk, you will be arrested."

During the 2013 Fourth of July holiday period, 19 people died on Michigan roads. Six of the fatal crashes were alcohol-related.

In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood-alcohol content of 0.08 or greater, although motorists can be arrested at any BAC level if an officer feels they are impaired.

Under the state's high BAC law, motorists face enhanced penalties if a first-time arrest is for a 0.17 BAC or higher.

Wish you were here



Pictured in front of a floatplane in the Misty Fjords National Monument in Ketchikan, Alaska, are Bob (from left), Debbie and Marissa Antosiewicz of Livonia with Joyce and Nick Rodriguez of Plymouth. The group cruised to Alaska for a land and sea adventure where they helicoptered to the Mendenhall Glacier and spotted a pod of 13 orcas while whale watching. Marissa and Nick were celebrating their engagement with plans for a 2015 wedding.

Surveys show progress in restoring Rouge watershed

Two reports recently released by the Friends of the Rouge highlight progress being made in restoring the Rouge River and issues that need to be addressed.

The reports summarize what was found by volunteer monitoring during the April 12 Spring Bug Hunt and the March 31 through May 15 Frog and Toad Survey.

The bug report is part of FOTR's long-term Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program. "Bugs" or benthic macroinvertebrates are aquatic insects, clams and snails that live in the streambed. The types and number found are used as indicators of stream health.

According to the report, improvements were found in Johnson Creek, a coldwater Rouge tributary in Northville, Plymouth and Salem Townships, and the upper portion of the Middle branch. Improvements are no longer being seen in the lower portion of the Middle branch and the Main branch.

There also were an unusually high number of poor scores in the Main branch and Upper and downstream ends of the Lower and Middle Rouge.

The Frog and Toad Survey Report documents what frog and toad species are calling in quarter-square-mile block sections. The presence of calling amphibians is used as an indicator of wetland health because amphibians are sensitive to pollution. Healthy wetlands are critical to the health of the Rouge River as they filter water, prevent flooding and provide critical wildlife habitat.

According to that report, frogs started calling unusually late

this spring due to the long cold winter. The Lower 1 subwatershed — Canton, Superior and Van Buren Townships — had the largest average diversity of species at four per block, followed closely by the Middle 1 — Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township and Novi.

The data collected by the programs is used in several ways to improve the watershed. The State of Michigan uses the data to screen for problems and pinpoint clean-up areas. The federal government uses the data to assess the success of restoration projects, such as the recent removal of 21 abandoned boats from the Fordson Island and the removal of two dams. Local governments use the data to assess restoration projects and identify areas in need.

Additionally, volunteers act as eyes and ears for the watershed and are able to alert officials to problems. Over the past 22 years, the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project was a significant source of funding for these and other FOTR programs.

For more information, visit www.therouge.org or call 313-792-9621. Friends of the Rouge is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed.

The Rouge River covers 466 square miles in three counties and 48 communities in the metropolitan Detroit area.



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OUR VIEWS

Put safety first this Fourth of July holiday

Follow local laws in use of fireworks

In January 2012, it became legal for Michigan residents to buy consumer fireworks, such as Roman candles, bottle rockets and other items that leave the ground.

Now the landscape is peppered with an assortment of stores and tents peddling the pyrotechnics to the public, who wholeheartedly embraced having their own fireworks displays long before state lawmakers made it legal, by buying fireworks in Indiana and Ohio.

But the new found residential banging and booming comes with some rules that some people chose to ignore. For them, celebrating the Fourth of July holiday can start as early as several weeks before the holiday and runs well past. But lawmakers tweaked the law last summer, giving communities the power to restrict the use of aerial fireworks from midnight to 8 a.m. on nine holidays and the days immediately before and after. On New Year's, fireworks are restricted from 1-8 a.m. For the rest of the days of the year, municipalities can restrict fireworks use as they see fit. Violators can face a fine of up to \$500.

But beyond the noise factor, care is needed in handling fireworks. Every year, injuries from consumer fireworks send thousands to the emergency room. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has found that a majority of fireworks-related injuries happen around the Fourth of July holiday. Its data shows that there were more injuries last year than there has been since 2000. There were an estimated 11,400 injuries in 2013, up from 8,700 in 2012 and 9,600 in 2011.

According to the report, children younger than 15 years of age accounted for approximately 30 percent of the estimated injuries. And of the total overall injuries, 12 percent, or 600, were to the eyes. Burns were the most common injury to all parts of the body, except the eyes, where contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies in the eyes occurred more frequently.

Groups like the public health-based organization Prevent Blindness continue to support development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks and sparklers, except for authorized public displays by competent licensed operators. The group believes such bans are the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage.

But such bans may be an uphill battle. The American Pyrotechnics Association reported a record \$662 million in personal-use fireworks revenue for last year, compared with \$328 million for display fireworks, such as those used at public shows. In Michigan, more than 880 certificates were issued for vendors to sell fireworks this year, up from 727 in 2013 and 704 in 2012, according to the Michigan State Fire Marshal's Office.

So those planning to use fireworks on, before and after the Fourth of July, follow the rules. Find out what the times are for fireworks in your community and follow them. And, do it safely. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these safety tips when using fireworks:

- » Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- » Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- » Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. They can cause severe skin burns or ignite clothing.
- » Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- » Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- » Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- » Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or another mishap.
- » Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- » Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- » After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding to prevent a fire.

Put safety first this Fourth of July. Enjoy the parades and picnics, and if you must shoot off fireworks, do it with the utmost care. Fireworks can and do injure, maim and kill, if not handled properly.

GUEST COLUMN

Who should lose? The zero sum game of education

Last week, the Plymouth Canton Community Schools voted in favor of limited school of choice for 200 K-2 students. Many community members showed up to the meeting to show their opposition to limited school of choice. They discussed their concerns about property values and enrolling non-resident students in the district.

They have legitimate points that should be considered, and I acknowledge their concerns. I recognize there is always concern over the unknown.

However, what concerns me most in what I have seen over the last year as a school board member both at the state and the local level, and even at the meeting that night, is that we have resigned ourselves to the notion that education has become a zero-sum proposition where one person's success must come at the expense of others.

The truth is regardless of how many innovative ideas we implement or how we try to inspire use of best practices across the system or how much energy and effort teachers and administrators give to try to improve the quality of education, the real barrier to educational reform, and social progress for that matter, is zero-sum thinking.

Zero-sum thinking helps no one and, in fact, prevents us from working together to improve education for all. Our state



Kim Crouch
GUEST COLUMNIST

legislature is a key, if not the dominant player, in the game of zero-sum thinking. It has created a modern day school system culture that resembles a gladiator arena that pits charter vs. public, public vs. public, and so-called "rich districts" vs poor districts all in the fight for students and funding to see who will be the last one standing.

Our legislature has erroneously framed the discussion as an "either/or" scenario never realizing there can be an "and" scenario, where the parties can all work together.

Believe me, I understand where the zero-sum thinking stems from. Education, like many other issues in our society, has become political. And like everything political, there is a winner and a loser, or so we are told. But I would like to caution that education is not like politics. It is not a zero-sum game and so we should not frame our issues in the same political discourse.

But if we choose to do so, then we must also ask who should fail? Who should be the loser? Should it be the teachers? How about the students? Should it be the kids in poor districts, who don't have the resources they

need to succeed and against whom the obstacles are increasingly insurmountable?

Should it be the kids in middle class or "rich" districts, who the state legislature, in general, believes need less funding and can absorb more cuts? Should it be special needs students, who are deemed by some as too time consuming and too costly to educate? Should it be the students who fall into the short end of achievement gaps who often face obstacles beyond their control? Should it be my child? What about yours?

At the end of the day, education can be a win-win if we, the people, choose to see it that way and demand that the legislature start to fund all of our schools equitably. The same can be said of the limited School of Choice decision made by PCCS. The win-win is that we provide 200 kids access to a better education.

They in turn, allow us to maintain the high quality of education we have for the 17,000 without having to increase class sizes, or cut the media specialists and interventionists. Otherwise, we will continue to play the zero-sum game and in the end we ALL lose because a zero sum game ultimately only generates losers.

Kim Crouch is a resident of Canton and the secretary for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education

LETTERS

Petition motivation

In reference to the story, "Parents petition to stop schools of choice" (Observer, June 22), I'm a Canton resident and I find your petition to be racially driven. Even though your full statement was paraphrased, I think anyone is able to read between the lines.

You mention that there are other ways that need to be explored to make up the \$1.5 million in revenue that is needed for the 2014-15 school year. What do you suggest that already has not been adopted in the past? Maybe a millage increase for the city? That would solve the problem. With the tax rate on housing already through the roof, how many petitions do you think you will get in favor of that as opposed to letting 200 non-district little 5-7 year old kids enroll in your precious school system?

The few reasons of the so-called many reasons published in the article that Collins stated as a reason for not allowing school of choice were very poor. She lists:

1. Traffic – As far as this goes, there is a school bus system for Plymouth and Canton kids, so why would there be an extra 200 out-of-district vehicles crowding the "already dangerous parking lots?"

2. Home Values – Don't even get me started. We all know where you were going with this issue since you mentioned the difference in home values between Canton and Plymouth versus Wayne/Westland areas being attributed to the schools. Really.

3. Planning – This is where your committee comes in. I worked for an extremely large school system. I worked on a project that handled the tracking of over 40,000 electronic assets in over 40 schools. I only had a team of six people plus one IT person – me. This project allowed the district to save millions of dollars in revenue because of decrease of and retrieval of assets stolen and allowed the re-distribution of expensive equipment from one school to another when possible instead of ordering new items. If you can't handle the integration of just 200 students in a school district, then there is a problem with the experience of the committee member(s).

Lastly and most importantly, if you do your research, other close-by schools to Hoben, that have a larger minority attendance record, have consistently better test scores. After all, we are talking about schools, students, not a social club. By the way, the district's Mission Statement, as quoted on the school's website, reads: "Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will develop capable, involved citizens who recognize that they are citizens of the world, using critical thinking

skills and are lifelong learners."

Tell me where does your petition fall within this noble mission?

Carolyn Rushing
Canton

Disappointed in decision

It has been brought to my attention the PCCS Board of Education voted to approve school of choice (albeit limited). The vote passed 5-1, with Mark Horvath absent, but stating his objection to the idea in a letter that was read into the record by the only dissenting voter, trustee Mike Maloney.

In 2011, the *Observer and Eccentric* requested volunteers to serve on a panel of Plymouth/Canton residents who would interview candidates running for the PCCS Board of Education. I, along with four others, were chosen to serve on the panel, aptly titled the Observer Reader Election Endorsement Panel. Our function was to interview the candidates and provide recommendations to fill the board vacancies to other residents through an endorsement article that appeared in the *Observer and Eccentric* newspaper.

One of the questions that we specifically asked each candidate was their position on school of choice. Each of the four candidates (at the time) that were elected to the Board of Education, stated that they were against school of choice. These candidates include Mike Maloney, Mark Horvath, Sheila Paton and John Barrett.

I am deeply disappointed in each of the five board members who chose to vote in favor of this very important issue without substantially more resident input than was allowed. Although Mr. Horvath and Mr. Maloney held to their word, I am especially disappointed in Mr. Barrett and Ms. Paton, who clearly have changed their minds over the past three years.

It's interesting. The primary reason given by these individuals against school of choice at the time was their concern with the lack of investment and "ownership" toward our community by those from the outside. So, this very legitimate concern can be so easily overridden by a quick financial fix that is temporary at best and will certainly continue to reoccur until the state Legislature decides to overhaul the way in which districts are funded?

In hindsight, my 2011 recommendations for the Board of Education very well might have changed.

Kary S. Amin
Plymouth Township

Supports schools of choice

I am a Plymouth resident since 1970, a mother of two daughters who went through P-CCS schools

and graduated from Salem High School and I am also a retired P-CCS classroom teacher and intervention specialist. I recently retired from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor as an instructor whose undergraduate interns have benefited greatly from the mentorship of outstanding P-CCS teachers. I support the P-CCS School Board decision to open kindergarten through second grade classrooms to 200 students as Schools of Choice.

I attended the P-CCS meeting June 24 when the board members heard citizen comments for over two-and-a-half hours. Attendees spoke both in favor of and in opposition to the proposal to allow School of Choice for a limited number of young children. I have read opinion articles in the *Observer* and *Patch* and understand that an online petition was available for anyone to sign. I won't review all the arguments.

Those who spoke in favor of the School of Choice Resolution felt that including these 200 or so youngsters can bring added revenue and possibly increase diversity in the district. Some reminded the audience that P-CCS already has instituted limited School of Choice here in the past with no detrimental effects, in fact property values continue to rise in our communities.

Board member Adrienne Davis reiterated this point in her comments following the citizen sharing time. She reported that P-CCS has previously opened its doors to students outside the district for the Talented and Gifted Program, Young Fives, the Starkweather Program and International Baccalaureate.

This was a difficult decision for our school board members and several of them spoke of their thoughtful and disquieting deliberations. Some felt this decision was the only one possible to have the finances to keep our valuable media specialists and interventionists. I applaud their efforts to make tough decisions about finances.

This decision can give us the breathing room to look closely at where the district should go from here. We should also take the advice of Tim Roraback, who spoke in favor of the resolution, and become more involved in voicing our opinions to our state legislators who have done so much to devastate our district finances.

P-CCS is a top quality district and we need to highlight the amazing teachers, administrators and staff we have here. Our students receive an excellent education that we can showcase to a better advantage.

Klotylda Phillippi
Plymouth

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LETTERS

Continued from Page A10

Back to work

Recently, I received a robo-call from the Americans for Prosperity (prosperity for the Koch Brothers). The message urged me to thank Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, for his efforts on the roads.

What has Patrick Colbeck done to fix our roads? He claims to have an alternative "plan," but infighting between him and his Republican colleagues held up any long-term solutions to provide real relief for our roads. In fact, Colbeck is one of the biggest opponents holding up any comprehensive, common-sense solutions to fixing our roads.

Adding insult to injury, Colbeck and Senate Republicans then took a month-long vacation. Another construction season is being wasted because Patrick Colbeck thinks that doing nothing is an option for our roads. It is not and it is time for him to get back to work.

Thomas M. Hartnett
Canton

'Outrageous' opinions

I see where a writer in the opinion page of this paper (June 26) was recalling the good old 1950s while blasting our president. I, too, can recall that era where any able-bodied man could get a well-paying factory job, thanks to our strong unions. But, alas, that faded away after Nixon's celebrated trip to China and our greedy corporate leaders decided to ship those jobs out of our country.

That was also a time before the Civil Rights Act and Medicare. When President Lyndon Johnson proposed those two laws, he was just as roundly attacked by the right as President Obama was, and still is, for the Affordable Care Act, or as the ignorant call it, Obamacare.

However, I am sure FDR would have been flattered to have the Social Security Act called Roosevelt Security. I hope you noticed that all four of the actions taken above were by presidents from the Democratic party.

Back to the original writer. I have not problem with anyone, me included, voicing their opinion in this forum. But, come on, there should be some rationality to it, not just outrageous BS.

James Huddleston
Canton

Same old stuff

Here we go again with another alleged Republican whiz bang business candidate either demonstrating total ignorance of U.S. finances and their impact upon the economy or fear-mongering by outright lying or misrepresenting the facts.

An ad that is fully endorsed by foreclosure king Republican David Trott makes the claims that U.S. spending is out of control and debt and deficit levels are costing millions of jobs and threatening economic ruin.

According to the CBO the budget deficit inherited by the Obama administration has been cut over 60 percent, the fastest reduction in 60 years. If Trott's claim that cutting spending creates jobs, it would follow that employment would be rising rapidly. No one can legitimately make that claim.

The ad tells us economic and financial Armageddon awaits if we don't change our evil borrowing ways. As a nation we have never been debt free, not since our inception in 1776. Since I am sure that Dave is on the bandwagon for "American Exceptionalism," I wonder why he thinks something we have done (carry public debt) since day one as a nation, that has no doubt contributed to our raging success, is no longer acceptable?

We are then told we need to pass a balanced budget amendment, I suppose so our government behaves like us poor

little old citizens who spend only what we make. Well, we really don't as a rule "live within our means" by Trott's definition. Most of us borrow large sums to purchase homes, cars and pay for educations. As a mortgage professional Dave also knows that debt is our friend as long we can pay the payments when due, and without debt the economy as we know it would collapse. So any righteous indignation about debt from him would be disingenuous.

A BB amendment is a very stupid idea in that it would make responding to an unanticipated emergency impossible. Does Trott think we could have answered a Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor, responded to the Soviet launch of Sputnik by winning the race for space in little more than a decade or been able to render adequate aid to the victims of Katrina or Sandy without the ability to borrow?

And was the subsequent generation, mine, devastated by debt incurred from World War II that exceeded the current debt/GDP ratio by 25 percentage points? Certainly not!

Future generations likewise will not be crippled by current debt levels as conservative often warn, and are more at risk from a long-term under-performing economy operating below potential contributed to by Republican obstructionism in Congress.

Hopefully the electorate of the 11th will choose jobs over Republican myths embraced by the likes of Trott and Bentivolio in upcoming elections.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Growing bio-based manufacturing jobs

Michigan farmers are known for the tremendous diversity of crops our state grows — cherries, apples, blueberries, soybeans, corn and sugar beets, to name just a few. But here's a crop you might not think about: Michigan farmers are growing manufacturing jobs every single day.

Agriculture and manufacturing are at the heart of our economy and are the foundation for our middle class. It's simple: When we make things here and grow things here, we create jobs here. And when we make things here with the things we grow here, it's even better.

Bio-based manufacturing, using home-grown agricultural crops instead of petroleum-based chemicals to make products, is an industry poised to grow and create jobs right here in America.

At the same time our bio-based manufacturers are creating jobs, they are helping the environment and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

This is truly a win-win-win for Michigan. That's why we strengthened support for bio-based manufacturing in the bipartisan Farm Bill that passed earlier this year.

Long history

In fact, bio-based manufacturing has a long history in Michigan and helped in our first manufacturing revolution in the early 20th century. Henry Ford was

one of the first to recognize the potential of using plant materials in manufacturing. Having grown up on a farm, Ford experimented with ways that soy-based products could be used in automobiles.

By the 1940s, there were two bushels of soybeans in every single Ford car that came off the line. Soybeans were used for everything from the paint on the outside of the car to the plastic buttons inside.

Today, Ford is continuing the legacy of its founder, and in every single new Ford car and truck built in North America, you're sitting on seats made of soybeans.

But Ford is not alone. Chrysler is using coconut fibers to produce seat back cushions and seat bottoms, while GM is using wood fiber to make flooring and flax to make door panel inserts.

Other Michigan companies are helping to lead the way in this 21st century manufacturing revolution and some of them were highlighted at my Grow It Here, Make It Here showcase at the U.S. Senate last week.

KTM Industries of Lansing is creating foam packaging made of cornstarch. Instead of taking up space in your trash can like regular Styrofoam, you can compost it in your backyard or run



U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and representatives from several Michigan companies attended the recent Make It Here, Grow It Here showcase. Stabenow convened the showcase at the U.S. Senate to highlight innovative bio-based products from Michigan and across the country

it under water in the sink and it melts away down the drain. It's safe for the environment, it protects your packages during transport and it doesn't take up space in the landfill. Even better, it creates jobs here in Michigan. In fact, KTM has doubled its number of employees in the last 12 months.

Foam made of soy

Lear Corp. in Southfield is using a foam material made of soy to create cushioning for car seats. It uses renewable soy oil as an environmentally friendly replacement for petroleum, reducing the carbon footprint and improving product price stability, while still meeting strict automotive performance standards.

And Fabri-Kal from Kalamazoo uses a 100-percent plant-based material to make renewable cups, lids, portion containers and on-the-go boxes. Fabri-Kal is a family-owned business and makes its renewable serving products right here in Michigan.

This is a win-win-win for Michigan: Farmers sell more of their crops, businesses create jobs and it is good for the environment.

Bio-based manufacturing is the next jobs revolution in our country and one that Michigan is ready to lead. It brings together Michigan's top two industries — manufacturing and agriculture — and it creates new opportunities for companies and farmers to partner to continue growing an essential crop right here at home: manufacturing jobs.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, is chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and authored the bipartisan 2014 Farm Bill that was signed into law by President Obama at Michigan State University earlier this year.

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NHL's Hurricanes snag Nedeljkovic

Plymouth netminder taken 37th overall, one of five Whalers drafted



Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (second from left) and family members anticipate hearing his name called during the NHL draft at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Mike Vellucci saw goalie Alex Nedeljkovic play enough with his old team — the Plymouth Whalers — to make sure he gets to see him in the future with his new one, the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes.

Vellucci, the longtime coach and general manager of the Whalers from Farmington Hills who recently was hired as assistant GM and director of hockey operations by the Hurricanes, undoubtedly was a catalyst behind the team selecting Nedeljkovic early in

Saturday's second round (37th overall) at the NHL Entry Draft in Philadelphia.

"It's very surreal right now," said the 18-year-old Nedeljkovic during a Saturday afternoon telephone call. "You grow up, you dream of getting drafted and getting an opportunity to play on an NHL team."

"It's still kicking in right now that my dreams are just starting to become reality." Nedeljkovic added that it



Alex Nedeljkovic

was thrilling to pull a red Hurricanes jersey over his head and "amazing and incredible that Coach Mike thinks so highly of me that he tried to push as much as he did to get me drafted by Carolina."

The native of Parma, Ohio, heard his name called at Wells Fargo Center one pick after the Vancouver Canucks selected netminder Thatcher Demko of Boston College.

Both Nedeljkovic and Demko are clients of Stan Matwijiw, who is goaltending coach for the Ontario Hockey

See WHALERS, Page B3



Aaron Scheidies (left) and guide Colin Riley won the PATCO Paratriathlon championship June 1 in Dallas, beginning the Road to Rio 2016. CDIFFERENT WITH AARON

Scheidies going for THE GOLD

World champion triathlete overcomes disability, pursues medal at 2016 Paralympics in Brazil

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Aaron Scheidies has never allowed his disability to discourage him or stop him from achieving what he wanted to do in athletics.

Despite being nearly blind, the 32-year-old former Farmington resident has become a world champion triathlete and an inspiration to people worldwide.

Scheidies, who now lives in

Seattle, is training and hoping to qualify for the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

It will be the first time the triathlon is included in the competition, which will follow the Olympics Games in early September.



Aaron Scheidies

Scheidies competed recently in the Dallas and Chicago triathlons for impaired athletes, both of which afforded him major points toward his qualification.

See SCHEIDIES, Page B2

Clarenceville hires new hoops coach

Kelsey Irwin is former three-point specialist for Calvin College

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Kelsey Irwin was accustomed to winning as a basketball player, and she plans to continue that tradition in her new role as a coach.

The Fraser resident and former Calvin College standout was hired recently to lead

the Livonia Clarenceville varsity girls team.

"I played on some great teams," Irwin said. "I had some great coaches along the way. That definitely helped prepare me."

"I'm very competitive; I like to win, which I've done my whole life, and I'm hoping I can bring that to Clarenceville."

The 23-year-old Irwin was a four-year varsity player at Fraser High School and Calvin.



Irwin

She played guard and specialized in shooting the three-point shot.

Irwin helped the Ramblers win four straight district championships, and she was a sophomore starter in the Class A final against Detroit King in December, 2006.

During her college career, the Calvin Knights compiled a 100-16 record and qualified for the NCAA Division III tournament all four years.

Irwin finished her playing career in 2013 and was a varsity assistant at Fraser last season.

See IRWIN, Page B3



Kelsey Irwin advances the ball for the Calvin Knights as a college player. CALVIN.EDU

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Hurricanes rain runs on Rams

Jerrid Terrill pitched a two-hit, complete game Friday as the Michigan Hurricanes dominated the first-place Michigan Rams in a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League game, 9-1.

Terrill, who walked six and struck out two, had an 8-0 lead following a four-run fourth inning by the Hurricanes at Ford Field. Alex Oleszkowicz went 2-for-2 and drove in three runs; Ben Matigian had two RBI. Dan Cameron and Jose Salinas had two hits and scored two runs apiece.

Jake Weshalek and Jake Makowski added one RBI each as the Hur-

ricanes mustered nine hits and improved to 7-9-1. Kyle Jusik and Nick Harris had the only hits for the Rams (14-3). Randy Kuzdak scored their lone run in the top of the fifth inning; Johnny Slater had an RBI.

Jake Semak pitched four innings and took the loss. Jeff Sorenson threw two innings of one-hit relief.

RAMS 2, LIGHTNING 0: Pitchers Jacob Gardner and Hunter VanMaele combined on the June 25 shutout as the Michigan Rams edged the Southfield Lightning, 2-0, in collegiate action at Ford Field.

Gardner, the starter and winner, allowed just three hits with a wild pitch and two walks over the first four innings, while VanMaele gave up three hits and walked three. The pair combined for seven strikeouts as the Rams improved to 14-2 in the LCBL.

Offensively, Mark Weist went 2-for-3 with a solo homer. Randy Kuzdak also chipped in two hits for the Rams, who scored one in the second and one in the fourth.

Jack Doyle went 2-for-2 with a double for the Lightning, which slipped to 2-14. Starter Brent Marzion, who lasted three innings, gave up both runs on six hits, two walks and a hit batter. He struck out four before Kevin Reck and Christian Bilkovic finished up while combining for three scoreless innings.

HURRICANES 8, BULLS 6: Jake Weshalek went 2-for-4 with four RBI as the Michigan Hurricanes (8-6-1) rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning June 25 to beat the Michigan Bulls (6-9-1) in Collegiate action. Weshalek's two-run double broke a 6-6 deadlock after Jake Makowski, who also went 2-for-4 and scored twice, tied it with an RBI single scoring Christian Holder.

Kevin Conway went 2-for-4 and Todd Wright knocked in three runs for the Bulls. Kyle Roberts, who pitched the final two innings in relief of starter Josh Lockwood, got the victory.

Losing pitcher Dalton Boslooper went all seven for the Bulls, allowing five earned runs on eight hits. He walked five and struck out two.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

First hole-in-one

Linda Adams of Farmington Hills recorded her first hole-in-one after "many years" of playing golf June 10 at Farmington Hills Golf Club.

Adams, 66, used a 9-wood to ace the 97-yard 13th hole. Her feat was witnessed by Carol Horr, Sue Gore and Sharon Jenkins.

Franklin grid outing

The Livonia Franklin football benefit golf outing will be Saturday, July 26, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

There will be a shotgun start for the four-person scramble at 8 a.m. The cost is \$65 (includes prizes, contests, dinner and afterglow at the 1 Under Bar & Grill).

Checks should payable to Franklin football and mailed to: 9623 Westmore, Livonia, MI 48150.

For more information, call Chuck Roth at 734-637-6719 or Dan Cline at 734-748-5283. You can also email chuckrothcarpentry@gmail.com or dan.cline@trw.com.

Coaches wanted

» Livonia Churchill is seeking a boys swim head coach. Livonia Red (Churchill and Franklin) needs an assistant gymnastics coach.

Contact Churchill athletic director Marc Hage at 734-744-2650, ext. 46117, or fax resume and letter of interest to 734-744-2824.

» Mercy High needs a jayvee field hockey coach and a freshman volleyball coach. Contact the school at 248-893-3510 or send a resume to mmalinowski@mhsmi.org.

Bash champions



The Livonia City Thunder, an under-13 travel baseball team, captured its third summer tourney by winning the End of June Bash at Eastern Michigan University. Beginning Friday, the Thunder, ranked in the top 20, is headed to Louisville, Ky., for the Youth Nationals World Series. Team members include (front row, from left): Andrew Lack, Brian Wendt, Marco Genrich, Joe Hardenbergh, Cole Bushart, Tommy Wells, Brandon Unger, Allen Woodward, Ethan Sandusky, Nick Rood; (back row, from left) assistant coach Joe Lack, head co-coaches Greg Wendt and Dennis Bushart. (Not pictured is Evan Yokie, Justin Reynolds and assistant coach Rick Genrich.)

SCHEIDIES

Continued from Page B1

ing goal.

He also had taken to doing marathons. He has run the Boston and California marathons the last three years and could possibly qualify in that event for the Paralympics.

Scheidies will do five more triathlons this year and the New York City Marathon in November as part of his two-year "Road to Rio" effort.

In addition to winning a gold medal in 2016, Scheidies' other great ambition is to win an ESPY Award. He came close in 2011 when he was a finalist.

"An ESPY is like the academy award of sport," he said. "Anybody can be nominated. I was up for Best Male Athlete with a Disability. It's a world type of thing."

"It was pretty much the experience of a lifetime. I went to the ceremony in Los Angeles. I'd like to win it next time."

Scheidies, who graduated from Farmington High School in 2000, earned an undergraduate degree from Michigan State and then a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Washington in 2008.

Broadens horizons

While he still works in that field with geriatric patients, his success as an impaired triathlete has spawned another career in public speaking.

With the help of a manager, Scheidies has traveled the country to give inspirational talks, including appearances at NASA and with the Young Presidents, an organization of young entrepreneurs.

"I talk about how I live my life and have gotten to where I am, about having a good attitude," he said. "It filters to being an inspirational and motivational type speech."

"I get a lot of emails from people who found out they were losing their vision, or they're a blind, impaired individual who wants to get into athletics and they reach out to me because I've had a lot of success."

"It's nice to be able to impact people and help them figure out ways to get through it and not look at it as a death sentence or something negative but find the good things in it."

"It's one of the things I like most about being an athlete, being a role model for people and inspiring people."

He's a writer, too

Scheidies also is active in social media. He maintains a website (cdifferentwithaaron.com) and writes a blog that was picked up by the Huffington Post and can be accessed via his web page (throughmyeyes).

"My website is my movement to change society's perception of the blind and impaired community - what they can do and how they live their lives," he said.

"I've substantially



Aaron Scheidies (right) and guide Colin Riley compete in the Dallas bike competition. (DIFFERENT WITH AARON)

increased what I do. I'm moving toward writing a book here at some point when I can get some time.

"The subject will be about living life as a blind person and finding ways to succeed and be resilient. I haven't outlined it yet; I've just thought about it in my head."

When his vision was last classified, it was 20/600, but it has gotten worse, Scheidies said, adding he sees mostly blurry blocks. He can see the 'E' on an eye chart from a foot away.

When he does triathlons or runs marathons, Scheidies does so with the help of a guide, as do the other visually impaired athletes.

He and the guide are tethered at the waist for the swimming and running portions, and the guide takes the front seat on a tandem bicycle for the biking competition.

Ben Collins was his guide in the Chicago triathlon. "He's pretty much like my eyes on the course," Scheidies said. "He swims the course like he's swimming on his own. I feel a tug on the bungy-chord tether to nudge me to go the other way."

Changes in the sport

The sports is evolving, however, and Scheidies is trying to keep up with the changes and increased competition.

A handicap system was introduced this year. Partially but legally blind athletes start 3 minutes and 43 seconds after completely blind individuals.

"The Paralympics are becoming a more elite level type of competition around the world," Scheidies said. "They're trying to make it as fair as possible."

"It's not exactly accurate. Three-forty-three is way too much. It's not a good statistic. They'll change it before the Paralympics."

"The sport is really growing and they want it to be a headline event in the Paralympics. They see a lot of promise in triathlon as a spotlight event, and they want people to watch it."

Consequently, the length of a race has been cut in half. Swimming is now 750 meters; the biking and running elements are 20 and five kilometers, respectively.

Scheidies, who began doing triathlons in 2000 and was president of the triathlon club at MSU, has won four world championships. Four were won at the short-course distance, four at the half-ironman dis-

tance.

"They've made it a sprint event," he said. "It's more spectator friendly. It's real close competition, that type of stuff. It's all about what the media and TV want."

"It's going to a shorter, faster race and I'm getting older. I'm really having to get back to training my anaerobic system more than (was necessary for) the longer stuff I was doing."

Big accomplishment

Scheidies achieved a major career objective in 2008 when he became the first para-triathlete to break two hours in an Olympic distance race.

"That was a cool experience," he said. "It was special because it was breaking down barriers and showing even someone with vision impairment could compete on an elite level."

His best time at that distance is 1:57:24. That was double the distance he does now. His times on the shorter course are around one hour.

"I have broken an hour in the sprint distance triathlon," he said. "It depends how long the transitions are, how far I have to run from the water to the transition area."

Swimming is still the favorite and best event for Scheidies, who was a swimmer and runner in high school. Running is his strongest event.

"I'm still better than the average triathlete at swimming," he said.

"Triathletes tend not to be good swimmers. That's what makes me a pretty good triathlete. I'm pretty well rounded in all three."

Tries to stay on top

Scheidies said he continued to get faster until a couple years ago, but age and injuries have made it difficult to continue performing at the same level.

"I've done pretty well because I was already at a really high level with respect to the competition," he said, adding the biggest challenge nowadays is the recovery time between races and not getting injured.

"They're easier because I've done so many of them. They're not easier because I'm still pushing myself to the limit."

"A lot of times it can be a challenge finding a guide, finding people to train with and ride a tandem with, because I can't just go out and ride on my own."

In the big scheme of things, Scheidies has done very well on his own, however.

Gabe Award winner



Livonia Blue gymnast and diver Alexandria Zukowski (middle) is the 2014 scholarship recipient of Stevenson High's annual Gabe Award, dedicated to the memory of the late Stevenson basketball player Steve Gabrian, who died in 2003 after his fight with brain cancer. On hand recently to present the \$250 award was Gabe committee member Colleen Pobur (left) along with Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman. Zukowski, a senior gymnastics captain, was also an MHSAA Scholar-Athlete nominee.

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WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

League's Whalers as well as founder and director of Bandits Goalie School.

"I'm having a wonderful day," Matwijiw said. "I had back-to-back, 36 and 37. Thatcher Demko is also one of my guys, so it was a pretty special day for me, pretty emotional."

"I can't even put it into words how proud I am of Ned and of Thatcher and all the hard work they put in over the years toward their game. To see them get called this early is extremely, extremely special and I can't even begin to tell you how proud I am of both of them."

Both Matwijiw and new Plymouth GM Mark Craig praised Vellucci's hockey acumen and noted that Vellucci's influence from watching Nedeljkovic with the Whalers had a definite impact on the choice.

"I'm sure Mike had influence," said Craig, who also attended the draft. "But certainly, Ned in the second round, we pretty much knew that if he was available in the second, we were pretty sure that Carolina was going to grab him. I mean, that's really a good pick. That's a great pick."

"Especially after Thatcher Demko went, it didn't surprise me at all. I'm sure Mike had influence, but he (Nedeljkovic) is just such a great kid. He's just got everything. That's the nice part."

No doubt

Chiming in about Nedeljkovic going to Vellucci's new team was Matwijiw. The Hurricanes and Whalers both are owned by Peter Karmanos.

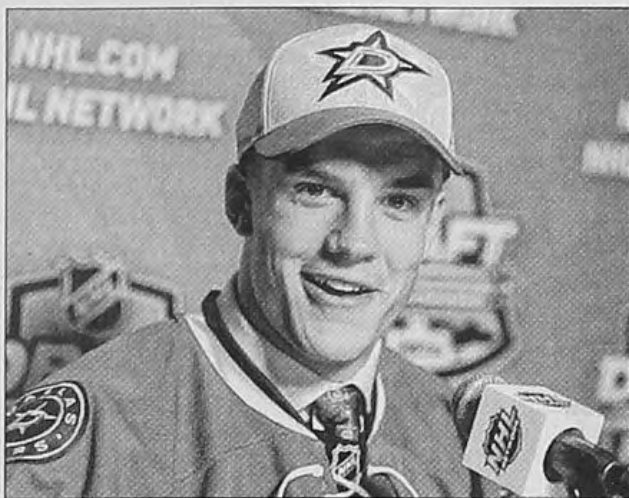
"Look, Mike is a very smart hockey man," Matwijiw said. "Obviously, he was the one that played Ned the 65 games this year (2013-14) and gave him that workload. He knew that boy could play."

"And I think there was no choice that if Alex was around at 37 that they weren't going to draft him."

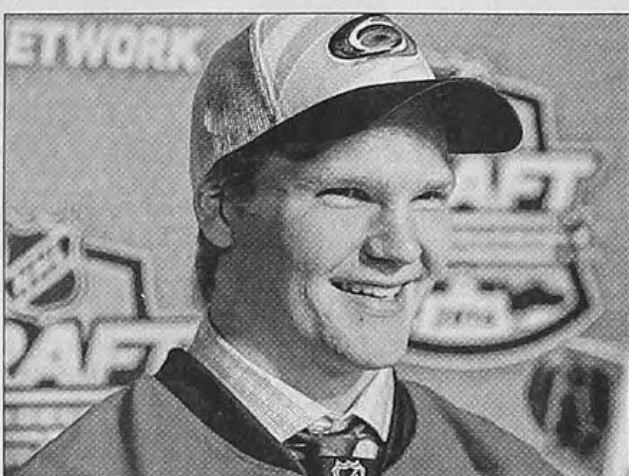
The first goalie picked in the seven-



Whalers forward Connor Chatham was picked by the New Jersey Devils. PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS



The Dallas Stars drafted Plymouth blueliner Alex Peters in the third round.



Also drafted by Carolina was Whalers defenseman Josh Wesley.

round draft was Mason McDonald by the Calgary Flames, with the 34th selection. Then came Demko and Nedeljkovic in rapid fashion.

But Matwijiw said the goalie nicknamed "Ned" definitely would still have been picked by Vellucci and new Carolina GM Ron Francis even if the other two goalies were still available.

"Hats off to Mike, he's already starting to make his mark with the Carolina Hurricanes, and what a mark it is," Matwijiw said. "Because he (Nedeljkovic) is a very, very, very, very

special talent.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Alex Nedeljkovic will be an NHL goalie."

Nedeljkovic, the 2013 Ontario Hockey League Goaltender of the Year and the fourth-rated goalie overall by NHL Central Scouting entering the draft, has two full seasons left with the Whalers.

That means Whalers fans will still have the chance to go to Compuware Arena to catch a glimpse of Nedeljkovic's netminding brilliance.

He stopped over 2,000 shots last season, post-

ing a 2.88 goals-against average and .925 save percentage while almost single-handedly leading the Whalers into the playoffs for a league-record 23rd consecutive year.

"We'd better get the fans out there watching him, for sure," Matwijiw said. "Otherwise, they're going to be missing out on a whole lot of special talent that we've got coming back to the Whalers this year, for sure."

Four others picked

The Nedeljkovic pick wasn't the only good news to come out of Wells Fargo Center for the Whalers.

Also drafted by Vellucci's Hurricanes was Plymouth Whalers defenseman Josh Wesley (fourth round, 96th overall).

Taken in the third round were Whalers right wing Connor Chatham (71st overall, New Jersey) and defenseman Alex Peters (75th overall, Dallas).

A fifth Whalers player selected was left wing Matt Mistele, taken by the Los Angeles Kings with the 180th pick overall (last pick of the sixth round). Plymouth defenseman Yannick Rathgeb was not drafted.

Wesley's dad is Glen Wesley, a former NHL star for the Hurricanes who is that team's director of defensemen development.

"On Wesley, I think the improvement he made last year really showed through," Craig said. "... You know what, you really got to credit Mike Vellucci on his development of those kids and what he's done over all those years he was here. Pretty impressive."

"Yeah, it's a good day for all the Whalers. Connor Chatham really brings size and strength. They all developed well, it's a pretty neat day."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Canton's McDougall 2nd at Junior State Amateur golf event

Elle Nichols of Okemos shook off the struggles of the first nine holes and finally shook off Kelsey McDougall of Canton to win the 36th Michigan Girls Junior State Amateur on Friday at Forest Akers in East Lansing.

"We both struggled early, and I realized when we got to the back nine that we were running out of holes to struggle on and I had better do something," Nichols said.

A recent graduate of Okemos High School who will play golf for Oakland University, Nichols won holes 13 and 14 on the East course with pars to go 2-up in the match.

She matched birdies with McDougall at No. 15 and made pars the rest of the way to win the match 2 and 1 and take home the Mina L. Wright Memorial Trophy.

The championship match was moved to the East course Friday because a day of play on the West course was lost to heavy rain and lightning earlier in the week.

That didn't bother Nichols, who has won three state high school individual titles on the East course.

"The high school championships were very exciting, but this is a tournament I knew had golfers from all of the divisions in high school," she said. "I think this is my biggest win. It's really exciting."

McDougall, who is headed to Butler University in Indianapolis in the fall, said she couldn't make a birdie.

"I hit it above the hole

a few times and three-putted too many times," she said. "It was just a struggle all day. I couldn't get anything going, and I was never in the lead."

Nichols beat Pader Her of Holt 2 and 1 in a Friday afternoon semifinal to get to the championship match.

McDougall topped Anna Kramer of Spring Lake 4 and 2 in the other semifinal. Kramer was the golfer who earlier knocked out qualifying medalist Sarah White of Kentwood in match play.

McDougall said the runner-up finish is a highlight of her young golf career.

"I really had a great week, so I'm pleased overall," she said. "It gives me confidence going ahead."

Nichols, who has twice made it to the "Sweet 16" in the Michigan Women's Amateur Championship, said she had picked out this event as one she had a great chance to win.

"This was going to be the last one of these I could play in, so I really wanted to make the most of it," she said.

"This will be great for my confidence. This is the kind of competition I will have to face in college golf, so this is great for me."

A champion was also crowned in a 15-and-under age tournament bracket. Abbey Pierce of Bloomfield Hills topped Jordan Michalak of Birmingham 4 and 2 in the title match Thursday at the West course.

For more information, visit www.gam.org and follow the Golf Association of Michigan on Facebook and Twitter.



McDougall

IRWIN

Continued from Page B1

son on the staff of her former high school coach, Dave Kuppe.

"I've been playing basketball since I can walk, and it's probably the thing I know best in life," Irwin said. "Having gotten it done in college and been a varsity assistant, I felt I was ready to take that next step."

Irwin owns the Fraser High, Macomb County and Calvin College records for career three-pointers. She made 183 in high school and 187 in college.

Shooting the three won't necessarily be a dominant tactic in her approach to coaching the Trojans, however.

"I have to see what talent I have to work with and what our strengths are going to be," Irwin said. "We'll work around what our strengths are. I'm not looking to force anything."

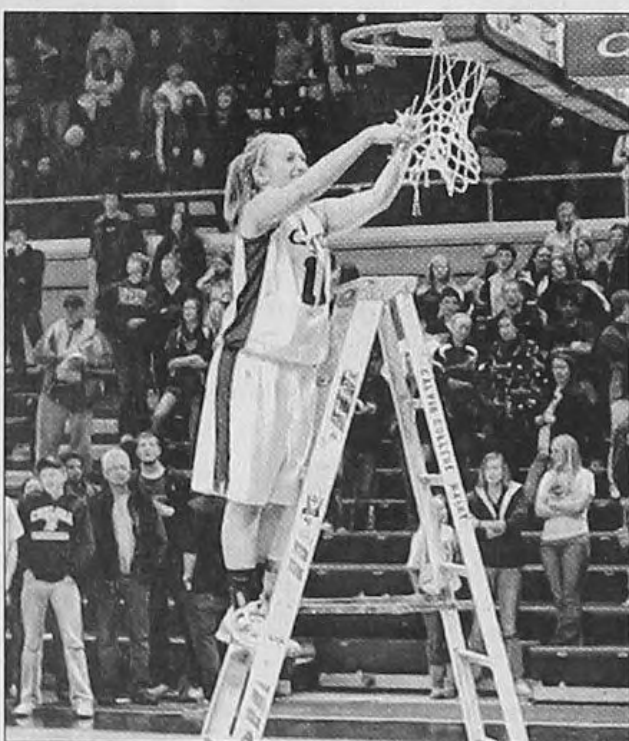
Irwin added she is comfortable with a lot of different playing styles and will do what is best for the team.

"In AAU, we always played a pressing style, up in your face," she said. "In high school, we played a lot of zone and, basically, we played man to man in college."

"I've had a lot of experience with a lot of different styles."

Irwin, who was hired two weeks ago and replaces Brady Gustafson, has had an opportunity to meet the team.

Clarenceville was 9-11 last season, including a



Kelsey Irwin helps cut down the net after Calvin won the MIAA championship.

7-5 finish in the Red Division of the Western Wayne Athletic Conference.

"We've had a couple open gyms so far and an introductory meeting," she said. "I'm just starting to get to know everybody. We're still in the very early stage of assessing talent."

"We had a pretty good turnout at a meeting for girls who want to play next year. The girls seem excited. Hopefully, we're going to have a good year."

Between 25 and 30 girls attended the combined meeting for jayvee and varsity players, according to Irwin, who is trying to find a school job as a social worker.

She earned degrees in social work and business

while at Calvin, and she has a master's degree in social work from Michigan State.

Irwin spotted the Clarenceville job opening online and was sold on it during her interview with athletic director Kevin Murphy.

"He's a great guy, and you can tell he really cares about his job and his programs," Irwin said. "It seems like a great school environment and caring community."

She was unable to get the Trojans into a team camp or summer league, but they will have open gyms and skill development sessions, she said.

"I'm excited for the opportunity and to see what we can do this year," Irwin said.

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Area's baseball talent has banner year in 2014

FIRST TEAM

Brent Mattson, Canton:

After missing most of his junior year due to a knee injury, the lanky right-hander bounced back with a 6-1 record and 1.13 ERA, recording 75 strikeouts in just under 50 innings of work.

Mattson touched the lower 90s with his fastball, encouraging his future coaches at D-I Eastern Michigan University.



Brent Mattson

"Brent has worked very hard along the way to improve his craft on the mound and still hasn't reached his full potential," coach Mark Blomshield said.

"This will happen over the next few seasons at the collegiate level and possibly the professional level. The sky is the limit for Brent."

Tyler Brooks, Salem: The hard-throwing Brooks was as dominant as any pitcher in the conference, posting a 9-1 record (including two shutouts) and 0.63 earned run average while striking out 33 batters and only walking seven in 67 innings.



Tyler Brooks Salem

"Tyler Brooks plain and simple is a strike-throwing machine," said coach Dale Rumberger, who retired following the season. "Only seven walks in 67 innings is unheard of."

"If Brooksie stays healthy and continues to develop he will be pitching at the next (collegiate) level."

Patrick Wierimaa, Redford Union: The senior right-hander pitcher led the Panthers to their first division title since 1999. Wierimaa finished with a 4-2 record after striking out 73 batters in 37 innings.



Patrick Wierimaa

He allowed just two earned runs and finished with an earned run average of 0.37. Offensively, the Madonna University-bound standout hit .340 with 12 RBI.

"Patrick gave us a chance to win every time he stepped on the mound," coach Bob Miller said. "He's really improved his off-speed stuff over the off-season to go with a great fastball, and he's an outstanding competitor who hates to lose."

Daniel Jipping, Ply. Christian: Major League scouts kept closing tabs on the power-hitting PCA catcher, and with good reason.

Jipping tallied four homers, 18 runs, 13 RBI and 25 stolen bases while batting .500 with a .970 slugging percentage. Opposing pitchers didn't give him much to hit all season, either, walking him 16 times (about one-third of all plate appearances).



Daniel Jipping

The fourth-year standout, who will play Division I baseball next year at Central Michigan University, will take part in the Michigan High School Coaches All-Star Game July 10 at Comerica Park.

He earned all-state first-team honors as well as being named an all-state scholar-athlete.

"I've never coached a player that works as hard as Daniel, and he has been a pleasure to coach for the last four

years," coach Joe Bottorff said. "His growth as a leader has been remarkable, and he sets a tremendous example for his younger teammates."

"The Chippewas are getting a fantastic player and an even better person."

Brooks Reno, N. Farmington: Reno was a four-year varsity player and a three-year starter at catcher and sometimes designated hitter.

As the cleanup hitter, he helped the Raiders win a second straight OAA White Division title, batting .344 with 33 RBI.

Reno had 16 doubles and a home run among his 33 hits. His on-base and slugging percentages were .511 and .542, respectively. He was disciplined at the plate, drawing 31 walks.

"He's the hardest working player I've ever known," coach Mike O'Connell said. "He spends his offseason at a training facility — three days a week, three hours a day."

"His ability to call a game is just fantastic. He's aware of what the batter did in the previous at-bat and how to pitch him. He was great at blocking the ball and holding runners in place."

"He's a power hitter with the ability to get the timely hit. He had just as many doubles as he did singles. In the last half of the season, he always seemed to have the key hit at the key moment."

Nick Hazergian, Canton: An all-around standout throughout his Canton career, Hazergian won team MVP honors for the second time in his four years with the Chiefs.

Hazergian earned those honors thanks to a .367 average with six doubles and 25 RBI at the plate and going 5-4 with 70 strikeouts in 47 innings and a 2.30 earned run average on the mound.

The lefty accumulated 15 wins and 200 strikeouts during his career while being a consistent offensive performer with 135 career hits along with seven homers and 85 RBI.

He was named to the all-KLAA and all-district teams and will play in the Michigan High School Senior All-Star Game July 10 at Comerica Park.

Next year he will begin his baseball career at Saginaw Valley State University.

"Nick is a very hard worker and was the backbone of much of our team's success the past four seasons," Blomshield said.

David Lett, N. Farmington: The senior shortstop was a four-year starter and is one of the school's all-time best players. He will play July 10 in the Coaches All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

Lett batted .433 from the leadoff position this year and .420 for his career. He had 11 walks, was hit by a pitch 11 times, was 37-of-40 stealing bases and scored 49 runs. He also had eight doubles, 11 RBI and an on-base percentage of .521.

"David was the best player on the team for at least three years," O'Connell said. "He has all the tools. His baseball IQ is like 180; he's Mensa in baseball. He's the best base runner I've coached and ever seen on any team."

"He scored from second on a ground ball to first base last year. The first baseman had to field the ball and run back to the bag. By the time he did that, David was crossing the plate."

"His awareness during the game of the offense and the defense is just incredible. I've been coaching 20-plus years and never had a kid be that

name, age and grade when registering.

Stevenson hockey

The Livonia Stevenson summer boys hockey camp begins Monday, July 7. For dates, times, application forms and other information, email coach David Mitchell at dmitchel@livoniapublicschools.org.

ALL-OBSERVER BASEBALL FIRST TEAM

Brent Mattson, Sr. P, Canton
Tyler Brooks, Jr. P, Salem
Patrick Wierimaa, Sr. P, Redford Union
Daniel Jipping, Sr. C, Ply. Christian
Brooks Reno, Sr. C, N. Farmington
Nick Hazergian, Sr. 1B/P, Canton
David Lett, Sr. SS, N. Farmington
Jack Driscoll, Sr. SS, Salem
Bryan Widmer, Sr. SS, Garden City
Steven Marowski, Sr. 3B, Harrison
Mike Carty, Sr. 3B, Farmington
Weston Price, Sr. OF, Canton
Cameron Stella, Soph. OF, Plymouth
Chris Scheffer, Sr. OF, John Glenn
Nick Flanery, Sr. OF, Luth. Westland
Jared Merandi, Jr. OF, Plymouth

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike O'Connell, North Farmington

SECOND TEAM

Mike Hanford, Jr. P, N. Farmington
Zach Devon, Sr. P, Clarenceville
Ryan Schaffer, Sr. P, Huron Valley Luth.
Jack Ferguson, Sr. P/OF, Stevenson
Adam Carver, Sr. P/OF, Franklin
Robert Seton, Sr. C, Thurston
Jon Evans, Sr. C, Garden City
Alex Darden, Soph. 1B/P, N. Farmington
Travis Kidd, Jr. 3B, Garden City
Corey Davis, Sr. SS, Redford Union
Ryan Wheeler, Sr. INF, John Glenn
CJ Breen, Fr. INF, Stevenson
Josh Penn, Jr. INF, Salem
Andrew Hejka, Soph. INF, Plymouth
Nick Misiak, Sr. OF, Churchill
David Vinsky, Soph. OF, Harrison
James Hall, Sr. OF, Canton
Brandon Gillen, Jr. OF, Salem
Jon Hovermale, Soph. UTL, Churchill

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Churchill: Austin Hovernalle; Franklin: Ryan Prohaska; Stevenson: Billy Bonanno, Chris Tanderis, Rodney Bees; John Glenn: Brandon Smeltzer, Clark Boston, Jacob Damiani; Wayne: Tyler Harms; Clarenceville: Ryan Menifee, Mitch Kubiak; Huron Valley Lutheran: Jordan Rundstadler; Lutheran Westland: Mark Mika, P.J. Gusé, Jordan Williams; Canton: Jake Boucher, Nick Schnur; Plymouth: Seth Hubbard, Kevin Anthony, Patrick Downing, Cameron Jones; Salem: Nick Minichiello, Mike Vernon, Brenden Bird, Colin Pietron, Justin Sydlowski; Plymouth Christian: John Lauch, Michael Slater, Jared Cobb; Farmington: Dan Carty, Dan Harris, Alex Manasa, Ravi Mahanti; Harrison: Jared Char, Dan Sanders, Nico Janigan, Patrick Williams; N. Farmington: Rob Chapke, Brett Kramer, Joe Gignac, Garrett Center; Thurston: Jake Paulsin, Bobby Snell; Redford Union: Brendan McGurk, Alex Shimmons, Vince Diaz, Jacob Gagnon; Garden City: Jon Evans, Zak Maszatics, Chad Ford.

attune to what was going on and take advantage of every miscue by the other team."

Jack Driscoll, Salem: The smooth-as-silk senior shortstop did everything and more that was asked of him in sparking the Rocks to a stellar 28-10 record.

Driscoll earned Salem team MVP honors while also capturing defensive and offensive player of the year awards. He batted .415 with 41 runs, 30 RBIs and 54 hits — the latter tying the Rocks' team record held by



Jack Driscoll Sam Ott.

He was named to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams for his consistently stellar efforts.

"Jack has developed into one of the top three shortstops in Salem history," Rumberger said. "He is an outstanding player and leader and an even better young man."

"Salem Baseball will miss Jack a lot more next season than they will miss me."

Bryan Widmer, Garden City: On the mound, the senior right-hander went 7-1 with a 2.06 earned run average. He yielded just six walks in 47.6 innings and struck out 30 batters.

Widmer hit .370 with a sterling .500 on-base percentage.

He scored 22 runs in 21 games and had 12 RBI. Widmer was all-WWAC and a top-five selection on the all-district squad.

"Bryan was our rock this year," coach

Steve Herman said. "When he was on the mound, our team was supremely confident that we were going to win."

"He pitched very well for us for the last two years and was a tremendous asset offensively as well. He had a great year and will be sorely missed next season."

Steven Marowski, Harrison: Marowski was a four-year starter at third base. He hit .380, had 22 RBI and set a single-season school record with 14 doubles.

He also hit one home run and scored 15 runs. His slugging percentage was .565, and

he made just two errors in the field.

Marowski pitched 45 innings and was 3-5 in nine games with a 1.24 ERA. He



Steven Marowski

struck out 32 and only walked two all season.

"Steven had a great year for us in all phases of the game," coach

Pete Lamerato said. "He led us offensively, de-

fensively and on the mound. He is one of my all-time favorite players."

"Steven was always the first to arrive and last to leave the field. He's a tireless worker who is a throwback kind of player. He does just about everything well."

"He pitched in every big game we played and gave us a chance to win. He's a player every coach would love to have."

Mike Carty, Farmington: Carty was a four-year varsity player, capping his prep career with an outstanding senior season.

The third baseman and pitcher batted .396 and registered a .604 slugging percentage. Carty's 40 hits

included a dozen doubles, three triples and a home run.

He also drove in 19 runs and scored 16. His on-base percentage was .500. Carty, who will attend the University of Michigan, led the team in innings pitched with 49. He struck out 31 and walked 13.

"Mike has been a very strong player for us for four years," coach Pete Finn said. "He exhibits a professionalism that is not seen very often in young players."

"His senior year was his best year in all categories. He will be sorely missed in our program."

Weston Price, Canton: The third-year starter always was in the middle of things on offense and defense for the Chiefs, batting .370 with three homers, 19 RBIs and 22 stolen bases and capturing team



Weston Price

co-MVP and all-conference honors. Meanwhile, there were few if any fly balls that Price could not chase down in center field.

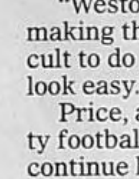
"Weston racked up over

75 stolen bases in his career and is one of the most athletic players I've ever had the pleasure of coaching," Blomshield said.

"Weston has the knack of making things that are difficult to do on the baseball field look easy."

Price, also a standout varsity football player, is set to continue his baseball career at Muscatine (Iowa) Community College.

Cameron Stella, Plymouth: The sophomore did it all for the Wildcats, whether at the plate, on the mound or in center field.



Cameron Stella

Stella batted .362 and stole 16 bases, providing an offensive spark all season long. In the pitching department, he chipped in with a 6-2 record, three saves and 1.24 ERA, striking out 59 batters in 56 innings.

"Cameron Stella was key to our team this past season," coach Jason Crain said. "He played a stellar center field, tracking down balls all over the outfield. He mainly batted third, getting many clutch hits."

He was named the team MVP and also was an all-KLAA and all-district selection.

Chris Scheffer, John Glenn: The senior outfielder, bound for St. Clair County Community College, batted .402, in-

cluding six doubles, en route to all-district and all-KLAA honors.

Scheffer, who was Glenn's starting quarterback for two seasons, also went 2-2 on the mound.

"Chris was a great leader and a hard worker on-and-off the field," said coach Lawrence Scheffer, who

also happens to be Chris' uncle. "He was the captain of the team and led us in batting. He was also a great relief pitcher."

Nick Flanery, Lutheran Westland: The senior center fielder batted .508, including seven doubles, five triples and 18 RBI, while drawing 19 walks.

Defensively, Flanery played flawless, handling all 33 chances for a .1000 fielding percentage while earning all-district and all-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference honors.

"Nick was a four-year starter and was invaluable," coach Kevin Wade said. "He never played the outfield until this

year and did an outstanding job as our lead-off batter."

"He only struck out six teams all year. He was more than willing to go the extra mile and was a true team leader. He'll be missed."

Jared Merandi, Plymouth: A key cog in Plymouth's offense, Merandi batted .425 from the No. 2 hole with a OPS of 1.022. He also was a strong outfielder, playing flawlessly.

Named the team's offensive MVP, the junior earned all-conference and all-district

honors while also being recognized as a KLAA scholar-athlete.

"Jared rarely struck out and always put the bat on the ball in key situations," Crain said. "Jared played a great left field, committing only one error the whole season."

"Jared is an intelligent player who understands many intricacies that are key to continued success. I am excited to have Jared back next year so he can build on what he started this season."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike O'Connell, N. Farmington: Despite losing some top talent last year, O'Connell led the Raiders to a second straight OAA White Division championship and another winning season (25-8).

North nearly repeated as district champion, too, defeating Catholic Central and losing to Novi in 11 innings in the final game, 3-2.

Following the best season in school history (30-9), this year's team probably over-achieved, he said.

"I think we got more out of less this year than last year," he said. "I have to give the kids a lot of credit. We weren't as offensively blessed or even as good pitching."

"The (team) batting average went down almost a hundred points and we still won 25 games. That's a tribute to the boys working hard, getting key hits and making contributions."

"I thought they did a great job of coming together as a team and playing hard and never giving up."

The Raiders are 55-17 the last two years and 75-29 the last three.

"To me the gold standard in high school baseball is winning more than 20 games," O'Connell said. "If you can do that, you have a successful program."

Churchill hockey

The Livonia Churchill summer hockey camp will be held from 10-11:20 a.m. Monday through Friday, July 7-11 and July 14-18, at Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

The cost is \$175 (checks should be made payable to Churchill H.S.).

SPORTS CAMPS

Churchill hockey

The Livonia Churchill summer hockey camp will be held from 10-11:20 a.m. Monday through Friday, July 7-11 and July 14-18, at Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

The cost is \$175 (checks should be made payable to Churchill H.S.).

For more information, email Churchill coach Jason Reynolds at Jayrey48152@gmail.com or call 734-788-0447.

Madonna volleyball

Madonna University will have a series of volleyball camps for middle and high school players.

The remaining camps are: hitters (session II), from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday, July 7-10; and defenders, from 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 7-10.

The cost for each camp is \$135. For more information, call MU coach Jerry Abraham at 734-432-5612 or email jabraham@madonna.edu.

Franklin girls hoop

The Livonia Franklin girls summer basketball camp (grades 5-8 as of this fall) will be held from 4-7 p.m. July 29-31 at Franklin High School.

The camp is free to all. To register, email coach James Milican at jmilican@livoniapublicschools.org. Please give



Smoke alarm use focus of fire prevention effort

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) June 9 announced "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2014, Oct. 5-11. As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA announced the theme at its 2014 Conference and Expo in Las Vegas.

"Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire, but they need to be working," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Unfortunately, many home fire deaths result from fires where a smoke alarm is present but does not operate. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme focuses on motivating people to test their smoke alarms each month to make sure they're working properly."

According to NFPA statistics:

» Having a working smoke alarm in the home cuts the risk of dying in a fire in half.

» On average each year, three out of five home fire deaths result in fires where there are either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire, but they need to be working."

LORRAINE CARLI

National Fire Protection Association's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy

» In one-quarter (23 percent) of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.

"Nearly 3,000 people continue to die in fires each year, with most of those deaths occurring in homes," said Carli. "The vast majority of home fire deaths are preventable, and working smoke alarms play a big role in helping reduce those numbers."

NFPA recommends:

» Installing smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

» Testing all smoke alarms every month by using the test button.

» Replacing all smoke alarms every

10 years or sooner if they don't respond properly when tested.

Fire Prevention Week occurs annually in October during the week in which Oct. 9 falls, commemorating the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Each year, NFPA works in coordination with partnering companies, organizations and fire departments to promote Fire Prevention Week and its fire safety messages throughout North America.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week and this year's campaign theme, "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!", visit www.fpw.org.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international non-profit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

Tax or real estate lawyer can explain exemption changes

Q: I have heard that Michigan has amended its general property tax as it relates to additional exemptions. Do you have any information?

A: Yes, the amendments discontinue a short-term exemption from school operating taxes for new construction on development property, replacing it with an exemption for both the underlying real property and the structure. They exempt from school operating taxes the development property on which a formerly exempt new construction was located, for limited periods, to the same extent as provided for a principal residence under other state statutes. "Development" property means real property on which rests a residential dwelling, condominium, or other residential structure that has never been occupied, has been available for sale, has never been leased, and has never been used for any business or commercial purpose (except as an onsite office in a specified development). You are best advised to consult with your tax or real estate lawyer in connection with this new legislation.

Q: I am selling my condo for a substantial gain, but I have concerns about the taxes I will have to pay. The association has made substantial improvements to the condominium since I have owned my unit. Is there any way to incorporate those improvements to reduce my tax liability?

A: Yes. As a condominium owner, you have a percentage ownership interest in the entire condominium. Correspondingly, you have a percentage interest in the capital improvements to the condominium. The dollar amount of that percentage interest can be added to the tax basis of the unit when calculating the gains attributable to the sale of the unit, reducing your tax liability.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95, plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95, plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

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

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

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

Investors

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

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

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

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

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

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 18-21, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

22880 Shagbark Dr \$465,000
31125 Sheridan Dr \$160,000
19489 Waltham Rd \$330,000

BIRMINGHAM

1772 Dorchester Rd \$499,000
1230 Holland St \$495,000
582 Townsend St \$935,000
448 Willits St \$616,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

5180 Woodlands Trl \$270,000
2007 E Hammond Lake Dr \$285,000

4025 Telegraph Rd \$400,000
801 W Long Lake Rd # B6 \$44,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

6975 Cathedral Dr \$375,000
6600 Valley Spring Dr \$545,000
6681 Woodbank Dr \$250,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

234 Arabelle St \$76,000
6166 Borowy Dr \$117,000
4151 Mcalpine Dr \$153,000
5585 Paradise St \$192,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

27784 Cheswick Dr \$904,000
29701 Deer Run \$270,000
29297 Glen Oaks Blvd E \$115,000
21221 Hamilton Ave \$80,000
30947 Hunters Whip Ln \$265,000
32487 Olde Franklin Dr \$228,000
33215 Raphael Rd \$160,000

MILFORD

768 Forestberry Ct \$220,000
737 Panorama Dr \$145,000

NORTHVILLE

41733 Broquet Dr \$120,000
21129 Westfarm Ct \$280,000

NOVI

23084 Balcombe \$295,000
27649 Cromwell Rd \$292,000
26276 Fieldstone Dr \$350,000
24446 Jamestowne Rd \$226,000
51219 Luke Ln \$275,000
26545 Mandalay Cir \$549,000
23534 Stonehenge Blvd \$86,000
25877 Terra Del Mar Dr \$265,000

SOUTH LYON

817 Deerfield Ct \$180,000
23030 Fremont Dr N \$425,000
873 Hearthside St \$145,000
23874 Maple Ct \$401,000

1142 Paddock Dr \$254,000
24656 Padstone Dr \$72,000
455 Wellington Dr \$193,000
605 Woodland Dr \$214,000

SOUTHFIELD

17191 Edwards Ave \$153,000
29670 Everett St \$32,000
29135 Evergreen Rd # 9 \$56,000
18559 Jeanette St \$152,000
19710 Jeanette St \$115,000
18501 Mount Vernon St \$30,000
3-1
20065 N Greenway St \$164,000
19637 W 12 Mile Rd # 104 \$50,000

WHITE LAKE

10105 Elizabeth Lake Rd \$135,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 10-14, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

46501 Bartlett Dr \$230,000
7925 Charrington Ct \$175,000
46058 Gainsborough Dr \$193,000
46023 Graystone Ln \$171,000
624 McKinley Cir \$386,000
44114 Somerset Sq \$191,000
1269 W Crystal Cir \$210,000
48557 Woodson Way \$307,000

GARDEN CITY

698 Arcola St \$70,000
920 Douglas St \$98,000

5937 Inkster Rd \$49,000
29635 Rosslyn Ave \$150,000

LIVONIA

36026 Ann Arbor Trl \$50,000
9900 Blackburn St \$191,000
56639 Elmira St \$165,000
8940 Georgia St \$131,000
29136 Grandon St \$125,000
9758 Houghton St \$145,000
15042 Houghton St \$130,000
11799 Hunters Park Ct \$285,000
9901 Ingram St \$133,000
27702 Long St \$131,000
37908 N Laurel Park Dr \$155,000
9073 Newport Way \$130,000
29675 Nottingham Cir \$111,000
11075 Sunset St \$120,000
18635 Susanna Dr \$250,000

NORTHVILLE

16005 Pine Valley Dr \$665,000
42914 Pond Ct \$111,000
18098 Wildflower Dr \$620,000
41342 Windsor Ct \$110,000

PLYMOUTH

9294 Ball St \$219,000
41102 Greenbrook Ln \$170,000
157 Hamilton Ave \$267,000
44870 Joy Rd \$150,000
9194 Manton Ave \$170,000
48487 Meadow Ct \$369,000
45138 Pinetree Dr \$325,000
11146 Terry St \$210,000
45293 Woodleigh Way \$225,000

REDFORD

9129 Appleton \$45,000
9592 Arnold \$60,000
17301 Brady \$22,000
17629 Five Points St \$22,000

18239 Gaylord \$36,000
11348 Lenore \$80,000
13532 Lenore \$45,000
19955 Negaunee \$14,000
19997 Negaunee \$22,000
20044 Poinciana \$33,000
9995 San Jose \$90,000
11302 Seminole \$57,000
13120 Sioux \$86,000
19941 Woodworth \$23,000

WAYNE

4420 Adams Cir \$65,000
33947 Winslow St \$36,000

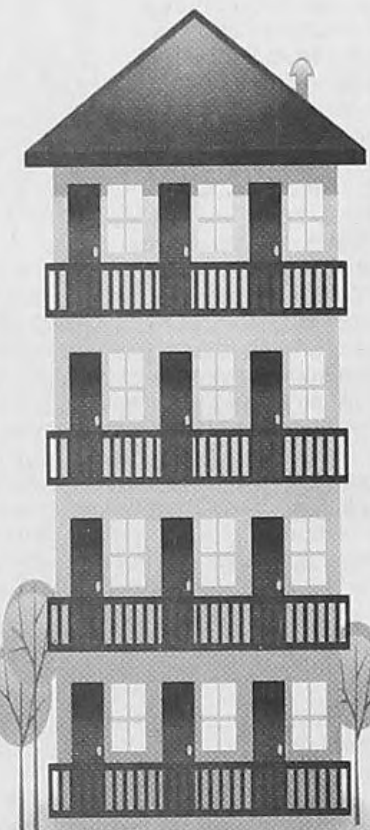
WESTLAND

6610 Central City Pkwy \$95,000
32607 Hiveley St \$98,000
5633 N Newburgh Rd \$210,000
698 Ravencrest Ln \$115,000
7395 Woodview St \$45,000

APARTMENT & REAL ESTATE GUIDE

Find the perfect place to call home in the Observer & Eccentric Media classified advertising section. We have apartment and real estate listings every week in the following communities:

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Farmington • Garden City
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Milford • Northville • Novi
Pleasant Ridge • Plymouth
Redford • Royal Oak
Southfield • South Lyon
Westland



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Effective July 14, 2014 -
August 29, 2014, the waitlist
at Lincolnshire Village
Apartments, located at 44908
Trails Court, Canton, MI 48187,
will be open from 9am - 12
pm. After that time, we will no
longer be accepting applica-
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during this time. Another notice
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RELIGION CALENDAR

JULY

CAR WASH

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, July 12

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City
Contact: 734-427-3660

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Branches Band will perform sacred and secular music
Contact: 734-968-3523 or 313-532-8655

CROONING IN THE COURTYARD

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. July 9 and 31

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Sing-along and karaoke event; bring your own chair, instruments
Contact: 734-427-3660

DVD SERIES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, begin July 2
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: View a 36-part series, "Holy Land Revealed" on biblical archeology by Jodi Magness, a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Free
Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931 or email nancylelen879@att.net

FILM

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 and 16

Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Free movies are *The NeverEnding Story*, on July 9 and *Gravity* on July 16. Refreshments provided and a brief discussion will follow the screenings.

Contact: RSVP to 734-425-5950

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 26

Location: Hosanna Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverne, Redford

Details: Free festival with Christian music performances by This Fire Within, The Repeat Offenders, Bekah Greenman, Aaron Lucas and Co., Connor Roy, Heavenly Embers and more. Crafters and vendors will be on site 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: 313-937-2424; www.HosannaTabor.org

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 16

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Bag sale, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday; scrap metal collection runs July 14-18

Contact: 734-427-2290

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Time/Date: 7 p.m. July 15-17

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: An ice cream social will be held in conjunction with the sale on July 16. Cost for ice cream is a goodwill offering

Contact: 734-427-3660

SERMON SERIES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday through summer

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Sermon series on The Lord's Prayer
Contact: 734-968-3523 or 313-532-8655

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon, July 7-11

Location: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The "Workshop of Wonders" is open for potty-trained 3-year-olds through students entering sixth grade. Includes songs, crafts, snacks, science, recreation and interactive Bible stories. Cost is \$10 per child; \$30 for families of 4 or more.
Contact: 734-422-6038

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mideathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers • Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

AVERY, KEITH W.

Born December 6, 1934 passed away on June 27, 2014 in Cebu the Philippines. He leaves behind a brother, Lyle (Jenni) of South Lyon and a sister Carol (Bill), of Cleveland, Georgia. Keith graduated from Plymouth High School, also attended Northville High School. He loved the Philippines and had been living there for the past twenty five years.



BOTHWELL, WALTER

Who would've turned 86 on July 17th, departed this life on June 27, 2014. He was a beloved teacher at Cody High School for 35 years, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother. A graduate of Wayne State, Walter began his teaching career after serving in the Navy, and spent his entire career at Cody. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, with whom he shared 59 years of marriage, one daughter, Lynn Koenig of Farmington Hills, one son, Jamie Bothwell, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. A memorial service celebrating Walter's life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, on Saturday, July 5, 2014. Time to reminisce will begin at 10:30 a.m., with the service starting at 12 Noon, followed by a light lunch. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Compassionate Care Hospice, or the charity of your choice.



KASSEL, GLEN (nee LEONARD KOZLOWSKI)

Died Sunday, June 29, 2014 at John Dingell Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Detroit. He was 89. Glen was born in Hamtramck and raised in Detroit. He married Winifred Fern Sherman in 1949. They settled in the Wayne-Westland area where they raised seven children: Cheryl (Tom) Tervo of Pelkie, Michigan, Alexander (Urszula) of Grand Rapids MI, Glen "Joe" Kassel (Debbie) of Marquette MI, Anthony Kassel of Hilo, Hawaii, Michael (Michele) Kassel of Benton, Arkansas, Kevin Kassel of Adelanto, California and Tom (Geertje Daelman) Kassel of Ghent, Belgium. Descendants include 10 grandchildren (Joey, Krista, Nicki, Matt, Bart, Courtney, Jessica, Stephanie, Jasper and Maude) and their families including three great-grandchildren (Braxton, Brantley and Brennan). Preceding Glen in death is his wife of 51 years, Winifred Fern (Sherman), who died in 2000. Also preceding him in death: parents Alexander and Sophia (Dorau) Kozlowski and siblings Joseph Kozlowski, Sophie Cargas Antonov, Genevieve Burnett, Ted Kassel and a special sister Mary who died as a child before Glen was born. Surviving relatives include "baby brother" Richard (Maryann) Kassel of Arizona, sister-in-law Burdena Lorraine (Clyde) Straub of California, Lisa Boustead of MI, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and their families. As a young teenager, Glen sold newspapers on the corner of 32nd Street and Michigan Ave. He later served as an MP in the US Army and later worked as a draftsman for Chrysler Corporation. In the 1950s, he started his own business. Glen owned/operated Sims Real Estate Agency in Wayne for over 50 years. Throughout his life, he participated in community activities including Boy Scouts of America (as a child and as an adult) and the American Legion (former Commander of Post 251 in Westland). Glen had a passion for politics and encouraging people to do their best in life. He is remembered for his super smile and those sparkling blue eyes that would light up a room and touch your heart. A Memorial Service at SS Simon and Jude Church (32500 Palmer Road, Westland) will be held Tuesday, July 29 at 10 a.m. Friends and family will meet/gather in the greeting room at 9 a.m. Food and fellowship will follow. Private burial beside Winifred will occur on a later date at the Glenwood Cemetery. In lieu of gifts, please donate funds to American Legion Post 251 c/o Post Commander Bill Acton (734-326-2607) or Adjutant Ron Nickels (734-455-3415).



MOORE, AUDREY A.

Passed peacefully on June 28, 2014. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry E. Moore, and is survived by sister Patricia Martin, brother-in-law David Moore and sister-in-law Nancy Moore, and nieces Djana Martin, Sara Moore, and Lauren Steele. Born in Detroit to parents Reinhold and Anne Frickel, she attended Cooley High School in Detroit and completed a degree in mathematics at Michigan State University in 1958. She married Henry E. Moore in May, 1958. After several positions in the manufacturing industry, she began a 26-year career with International Business Machines as administrative specialist and budget analyst, retiring with honors in 1993. She was a life-long lover of books, gardening, and cats. She enjoyed airplane excursions over Michigan and the U.S. with her private pilot husband. She loved volunteering at the Canton Public Library as well as card playing and outings with her friends. Her ashes will be interred in her grandparents' plot in Hastings, Nebraska. A Memorial Service will be held at Griffin Funeral Home on Ford Road on August 2, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. with visitation beginning at 12:00 p.m.



NICKAMIN, BUNNY

May 7, 1942 - May 18, 2014, Scottsdale, Arizona. Born to "Smiling" Sammy and Ann Woolf of Detroit, Michigan, Bunny, was the youngest of three. Bunny's spirit lives on through her sister Margo "Sissy" Cohen-Feinberg, brother Roy and sister-in-law Jackie Woolf, children David, Angie, Aaron, Adam, Anne and Andy, and grandchildren Emma Rose, Simon, Graham, Hayden, Eli, Bella and Milo. Bunny joins husband Alan and daughter Leah, who both passed in 2003. Throughout her life Bunny touched so many people with her kindness, integrity, beautiful smile and positive attitude. She had a love and talent for modern dance which found expression with The Festival Dancers of the Jewish Community Center. As a beautician for 50 years she offered quick witted humor and therapy to thousands who sat in her chair. When she wasn't cutting hair, she enjoyed endless hikes in nature, her place of solace and connection. Love is the legacy that Bunny leaves behind, for there was nothing more important to her than her family and friends. In May, following her courageous battle with Leukemia, there was a beautiful Memorial Service in Scottsdale, AZ where she lived for 30 years. In July there will be two gatherings in Charlevoix, MI, a place Bunny loved so very much: Meet and greet, July 12, 4-8 p.m. at 205 E. Dixon, and on July 19, a Ceremony offering her ashes into Lake Michigan. Please gather 4 p.m. at stairs, west end of Dixon, just north of the Charlevoix bridge. There is no better way to honor the passing of a loved one than to reflect upon our own lives. Do we accept and forgive to those closest to us? Have we made amends for and learned from our mistakes? Are we cultivating our gifts, living our passions and sharing our love? The family asks that charitable donations in honor of Bunny be sent to The Sierra Club and The Bear Hug Foundation (Camp Tanuga). Please contact Angie (nickamin22@gmail.com) for information about the Michigan events.



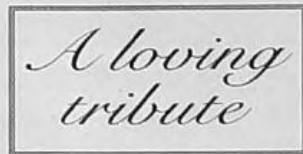
OBERTI, SHIRLEY F.

Age 84, June 29, 2014. Beloved wife of Lawrence of 64 years. Loving mother of Lawrence, Jr. (Anna), Rebecca (Mike Schmidt) Million and Rehne (Steven) Myers. Dear grandmother of Claudia, Marco, Thomas, Donald, James, Nicole and Nathan. Great grandmother of 13. Sister of Joyce (George) Morary. No service planned at this time. Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Heart Association. Please share a memory by signing Shirley's guestbook at www.rgrgharris.com.



PERRY, HARVEY W.

Age 90, passed away Tuesday, June 24th, 2014, at Emerald Meadows Assisted Living Community, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Barbara Anne (Welly), and his eldest son, Michael. Surviving and lovingly remembering him are sons, Timothy (Jacqueline), Thomas (Mary), daughter, Patrice (Dennis Knapp), daughter-in-law Maril, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandsons. Harvey was born May 21, 1924 in Pittsburgh, PA and was adopted by Marie and Roy G. Perry. He was a mechanical engineer by trade and earned his degree at Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, Ohio. He later lived and worked in Pittsburgh, PA; Ballwin, MO; and the Detroit, MI area. Harvey was blessed with the wonderful ability to play the organ and piano by ear, and especially enjoyed theatre organ music. He was also a model train enthusiast and Civil War buff. Affectionately known as "The Cap'n," he was a big fan of boating as well. In commemoration and celebration of Harvey's life, a memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, July 19, at 9:00 a.m., Calvary Church, 707 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI. Following the service, family and friends are invited to cross the state for a graveside service and interment at 1:00 p.m., White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery, 621 West Long Lake Road, Troy, MI. The Perry family requests in lieu of flowers that any memorial donations be made on behalf of Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Michigan. www.mihospice.org. Memorial service details at www.mkdfuneralhome.com



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



May you find comfort in family & friends

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Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
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(734) 422-0494
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Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
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WORSHIP SERVICES
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THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulsivonia.org AT150643

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Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
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NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
(734) 455-3196 AT150602

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Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Services held at: **Saint Andrews Episcopal Church**
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org AT150603

For Information regarding this Directory,
please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247
or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Oh, baby! Artist keeps children's feet warm, dry and trendy

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The first time Annie Boyer used a sewing machine she broke it.

And when she and her seamstress sister started making baby shoes in 2005, Boyer only knew how to sew in a straight line. She left the detail work for her sibling.

"I was a nervous wreck," said Boyer, a Redford resident, recalling her initial experience sewing for their business, Mini-Mocs. Her skill with needle and thread steadily improved over the following year and when her sister retired from the business in 2007, Boyer was designing and sewing on her own.

"It's come a long way since then. I can say my shoes are where I want them to be. I sew every pair myself," she said. "I've designed one-of-a-kind clothing and a small toy line, but I mainly focus on Mini-Mocs. I love my shoes."

She'll bring 200 pairs of her handmade baby and toddler shoes to Plymouth's Art in the Park, Friday-Sunday, July 11-13, held around Kellogg Park and surrounding streets in downtown Plymouth. Boyer is among 15 artists who will sell wearable, useable art made specifically for children at the festival, which draws thousands of visitors and more than 400 artists who exhibit jewelry, sculpture, painting, artisan foods, wood-working, fiber art, paper creations, metal items, furniture, wearable art, garden art, candles, glass, pottery, pet items, bath and body products and photography. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 11, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 12 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 13. Shuttle buses are available at ACH, 14425 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. Or call 734-453-1234 for automated directions.

Art designed for children will include soft-sculpture toys, doll clothing, kids' clothing, hair ornaments, personalized music, woodworking, personalized signs, edible sand art, frames, lamps and shelving for kids' rooms, along with Boyer's baby shoes.

Returning artist

Boyer was a vendor at the show last year for the first time. It was so successful for her, she decided to return this summer and added several other shows to her schedule. Upcoming festivals include Millford Memories and Northville's Buy Michigan Now, both in August.

"It was wonderful. The people who organize (Art in the Park) and the people who attend the show are so kind. I'm looking forward to it," she said. "Shows are one of the most rewarding parts of what I do. I get instant feedback. It



Annie Boyer says she couldn't attend art festivals, like Art in the Park, without the help and support of her husband, Tony. Her brother, Paul Rochon, also helps with setup.



Annie Boyer makes Mini-Mocs baby shoes in all colors and motifs, including sports-themed pairs.

validates what I'm doing, in a way. When I see babies try on the shoes, it's the cherry on top for me."

Although Boyer and her husband, Tony, aren't parents, together they have 32 nieces and nephews. Boyer started Mini-Mocs because a few of those youngsters needed shoes.

"My sister has six kids and could not find the soft moccasins, which she loves because



Mini-Mocs are constructed of suede and leather, with fanciful fabric accents.

they are so good for a baby's foot development and health. She couldn't even find any from overseas," Boyer said. "I said, let's make something. We made a pair of shoes for her youngest daughter and started getting compliments."

They formed a business, began designing and sewing, and then sold their shoes at baby goods shows. In addition to exhibiting at art festivals, like Art in the Park, Boyer now also sells online and at a maternity gift shop at St. John Hospital in Detroit.

Artistic family

Business know-how and artistic ability are in her blood. Her late father, Richard Rochon, was an architectural illustrator who also painted

for pleasure. Boyer worked for her father for 30 years, helping with accounts and eventually managing the gallery that he opened, in 2000. The gallery closed when he retired in 2008 and Boyer took on the Mini-Mocs business alone, full time, after her sister retired from it.

Mini-Mocs come in four sizes, have soft suede soles and leather uppers. Boyer said she buys leather, suede and other materials from U.S. suppliers that have met or exceeded safety standards. The soft shoes are machine washable and "pediatrician recommended."

"For a long period of time, hard soles and stiff ankles was the best offered for baby's feet. But as time has gone by, they've learned and the experts out there say the more flexibility and movement a baby has at infancy, the better it is for development of bones, muscle and tendons."

Mini-Mocs cost \$28 per pair; with embroidery or other custom work, they're \$32. Visit Boyer's website at mymimocs.com

For more about Art in the Park, visit artinthepark.com.

Music, theater, live art demos enhance festival

Take a break from browsing Art in the Park's more than 400 artist booths to enjoy the entertainment it offers.

Music this year includes a returning favorite, One Love Reggae Band, which will perform Friday-Sunday, at Ann Arbor Trail and Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth. John Melhado, known as Jon Mel-O, is new to the art festival but has played his vibraphone throughout metro Detroit, including at Bakers Keyboard Lounge, Eastern Market and Bert's Place. The Jamaica native, now living in Southfield, will perform throughout the weekend.

Local artist Erin Dillenbeck and D & M Art Studio, will create a chalk masterpiece at the intersection of Main and Penniman. The street art demonstration will be sketched with chalk onto the pavement and will be a work in progress all weekend.

Kristen Dillenbeck-Anderson of New York City, formerly of Canton, will create a living art mural by combining canvas, paint and live human figures, at Main and Ann Arbor Trail.

George Tait will portray a living statue from noon to 4 p.m. each day and My Adventure Theater will keep youngsters entertained with shows at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. July 12 and noon, 2 p.m. 3 p.m. July 13. During the theater's interactive show, characters are chosen from the audience and costumed on the spot.

Princess Caroline will be on hand during the festival to share stories and songs with youngsters. Kids and adults alike can try their hand at making art. Children can leave their mark on an interactive canvas mural that will be donated to Providence Park Hospital in Novi and adults can learn to make their own masterpiece at Wine and Canvas' mobile painting class, near Main and Ann Arbor Trail.

For more information, visit artinthepark.com



Vibraphonist Jon Mel-O will perform at Plymouth's Art in the Park.

Bring your dancing shoes to Blues@The Elks July 8

Doug Deming & the Jewell Tones perform Tuesday, July 8, at the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, #325.

This concert marks a rare return to the Detroit area for Deming, who is a Detroit native, now living on Florida's Gulf Coast. He has garnered widespread attention for his deft guitar work and memorable songwriting. While playing the local Detroit scene in the early 1990s, major players began to take notice, and Deming spent much of the following years backing many of the day's top touring blues artists, including Fabulous Thunderbirds front man Kim Wilson, legendary Louisiana swamp bluesman Lazy Lester, Gary Primich, Chicago greats Johnny "Yard Dog" Jones and A.C. Reed, as well as Detroit's own Queen of the Blues, Alberta Adams.

The concert, part of the Jazz @ The Elks series, runs 7-10 p.m. and includes pizza and a cash bar and room for dancing. Admission is \$5 at the door. The lodge is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.



Doug Deming plays guitar while Jewell Tones member Dennis Gruenling belts it out on harmonica.

Call 734-453-1780 for more information.

The concert is a joint production of the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge and the non-profit Detroit Blues Society.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day, with closing time at 8 p.m. Wednesdays in July and August

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking.

Wild Summer Nights: Concerts run 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, through Aug. 27, in the Main Picnic Grove and are free with zoo admission, which is reduced to \$6 after 6 p.m. on concert nights. Performers are The Sun Messengers, Motown, R&B, July 9; Mr. Seley and the Troublemakers, children's, July 16; The Verve Pipe, children's, July 23

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, through July 18

Location: The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Clay and bronze sculptures by Bernadette Marcos

Contact: 248-473-1859

JANICE CHARACH GALLERY

Time/Date: Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 17 through Sept. 11

Location: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: "Daily Gratuities: Art, Sport and Cupcakes," features the work of Jessica Kovan. Also opening July 17 are exhibits by glass artists and Teresa Petersen

Contact: 248-432-5448

AUDITIONS EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. July 8-9

Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti

Details: Auditions for the drama *Adopt A Sailor* by Charles Evered, will be by cold reading from the script, which is online at http://www.broadwayplaypubl.com/ADOPT_A_SAILOR.pdf.

Contact: 734-408-1592

COMEDY EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Sunday

Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti

Details: Comedian Chili Challis coaches new and experienced standup comics at weekly workshops. An open mic show follows the class

Contact: info@emergentarts.com; www.chilichallis.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Red, White & Blue show features Darnell Anderson, Bill Bushart, Rick Lane, Esther Navarez, Justin Sullivan, with Brad Rambo as host.

Contact: joeyscomedyclub.net; 734-261-0555

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, July 3

Location: Fourth and Troy Streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Open mic; tickets are \$3

Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

FILM PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, July 5-6

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Rio 2, admission \$3

Coming up: *Million Dollar Arm*, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 10, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 11-12, and 4:20 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 13; *The Amazing Spider-man 2*, 7 p.m. Friday, July 18 and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, July 19-20; *Belle*, 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 25-26, 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, July 27

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

SHRIMP FOR DINNER

Introduce a protein your family will love

The easiest way to get the family together for a meal is with a delicious, homemade dish with tasty ingredients, such as protein-packed shrimp.

There are many scrumptious reasons for including shrimp into your family's diet. The American Heart Association and other experts recommend eating seafood at least twice a week, and the FDA recently announced that pregnant women should consume between 8-12 ounces of seafood that is lower in mercury — which includes shrimp — each week to aid fetal development. It's easy to work toward this dietary goal by introducing Gulf shrimp into your diet. This versatile protein is easy to prepare, has a wonderfully salty and fresh flavor from the nutrient-rich environment in which it is caught, and is also widely available fresh and frozen at your local grocery.

Better-for-you benefits

Flavorful Gulf shrimp contains high-quality protein and a variety of essential nutrients, such as vitamins B-6 and B-12. It's also a natural source of vitamin D, low in saturated fat and offers healthy omega-3 fatty acids that have been shown to help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Simple substitutions

Add flair and flavor to your family's meal routine (and keep the kids happy) with these easy meal ideas that incorporate Gulf shrimp:

» Breakfast: Dice it up and add to omelets with fresh vegetables, such as sautéed spinach and tomatoes.

» Lunch: Perk up your mid-day meal by adding it to salads and tortilla soups.

» Appetizer or snack: Serve with simple cocktail sauce for a no-fuss crowd pleaser, or a light stick-with-you snack.

» Dinner: Mix it into spaghetti sauce and serve on a bed of whole wheat pasta.

For more great Gulf shrimp recipe ideas, visit www.eatgulf-seafood.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

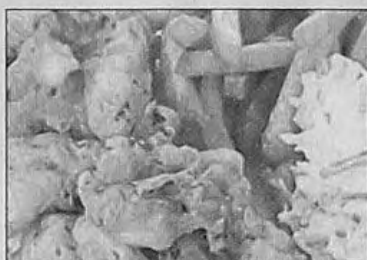


GULF SHRIMP SPRING ROLLS

Recipe from Fresh from Florida Gulf Seafood

1 pound Gulf shrimp medium, peeled and deveined
14 teaspoons cornstarch
8 tablespoons soy sauce
8 tablespoons canola oil
1 cup green onion, chopped
½ cup carrot, grated
3 cup cabbage, chopped
Sprouts, chopped
2 teaspoons fresh ginger root, grated
12 egg roll wrappers
Sweet and sour sauce (optional)

Cut raw shrimp into small pieces. In a medium bowl, combine cornstarch and 4 tablespoons soy sauce; then add shrimp. Mix well and set aside. In a wok or large sauté pan, heat 4 tablespoons oil over high heat; stir-fry the shrimp, bean sprouts, cabbage, onion and carrot in oil until crisp-tender; and cool slightly. Transfer mixture to colander or pan to drain and cool. When cooled, spoon ¼ cup of shrimp mixture on the bottom third of each wrapper. Fold bottom edge over filling; fold sides over filling toward center overlapping slightly. Moisten top edge with water; roll up tightly to seal. Repeat with the remaining wrappers and filling. Deep fry in 3 inches of 375°F oil until golden brown; drain on paper towels. Serve with sweet and sour sauce.



BEER-BATTERED ROCK SHRIMP WITH HONEY MUSTARD

Recipe from Fresh from Florida Gulf Seafood

6 tablespoons honey
¼ cup Dijon mustard
¼ teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons cayenne
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoons baking powder
8 ounces beer, room temperature
1 ½ pounds rock shrimp (or pink shrimp, brown shrimp, white shrimp) peeled and deveined
Canola oil for frying
Lemon wedges for garnish

Combine honey, mustard and pepper sauce in a small bowl and set aside. Stir together flour, cayenne, salt, baking powder and sugar in a medium bowl. Add beer and whisk until smooth. Set aside to rest uncovered for an hour. Heat oil in a deep fryer to 350 degrees F. Dust shrimp with flour then dip shrimp in batter thoroughly coating shrimp. Fry 2 to 3 minutes until crisp and golden. Remove shrimp with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Serve immediately with lemon wedges and honey mustard sauce.



BAKED SHRIMP SCAMPI

Recipe from Fresh from Florida Gulf Seafood

½ cup butter
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 tablespoon shallots, chopped
1 tablespoon capers
1 tablespoon lemon rind, grated
½ teaspoon parsley, chopped
1 dash hot pepper sauce
1 dash Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon white pepper
1 pound shrimp medium sized, peeled and deveined
½ cup panko bread crumbs
Lemon wedges

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat until foaming. Add the next nine ingredients and sauté over medium heat 1 to 2 minutes. Set aside and keep warm. Place shrimp in a single layer in a greased baking dish; spoon butter mixture over all and top with a light layer of bread crumbs. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until shrimp are opaque and cooked through. Serve with lemon wedges.

QUICK-AND-EASY CHEESY GULF SHRIMP NACHOS

Recipe by chef Justin Timineri of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, for Gulf Seafood Marketing Coalition
Total time: 10 minutes
Servings: 2-4

½ pound tortilla chips
1 cup low-sodium black beans, cooked, rinsed and drained
1 ½ cup shredded low-fat cheese
½ pounds small fresh or frozen Gulf shrimp (or large shrimp cut into bite-sized pieces), boiled and peeled
1 large tomato, finely diced
¼ cup scallions, diced
Low-fat or fat-free sour cream (optional)
Salsa (optional)
Fresh guacamole (optional)

Preheat oven to broil. In large, oven-proof platter, place tortilla chips in single layer. Sprinkle black beans and half of cheese on top of chips, then evenly distribute shrimp on top. Add diced tomato as next layer, then cover with remaining cheese. Cook under broiler for roughly 2 minutes or until cheese is melted. Remove from oven and let cool slightly. Garnish nachos with sliced scallions, and top with sour cream, salsa and guacamole.

GULF SHRIMP AND SWEET PEPPER STIR FRY WITH HONEY-CITRUS GLAZE

Recipe from Fresh from Florida Gulf Seafood

1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
3 bell peppers in assorted colors, sliced
1 large onion, sliced
1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds
1 tablespoon honey
1 cup orange juice
¼ cup cornstarch
¼ cup low sodium soy sauce
Oil for cooking
Sea salt to taste
Ground pepper to taste

Lightly coat the shrimp with the cornstarch. Preheat a large sauté pan over medium high heat. Add 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the preheated sauté pan. Carefully add the coated shrimp to the sauté pan and cook until almost done, about 3 minutes. Remove the shrimp from the pan and add the peppers and onions. Cook the peppers for 4 minutes. Add the honey, orange juice and soy sauce to the pan. Turn the heat up slightly. Bring the liquid ingredients up to a boil. Turn the heat back down to medium high and add the shrimp back to the sauté pan. The sauce should thicken and the shrimp will be cooked after three minutes. Serve over brown rice. Garnish with sesame seeds.

GULF SHRIMP NEWBURG

Recipe from Fresh from Florida Gulf Seafood

4 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons shallots diced
½ pound fresh mushrooms, sliced (optional)
10 ounces cream of shrimp soup
1 cup half & half
½ cup dry sherry
1 teaspoon dry mustard
4 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, grated
Salt and pepper to taste
1 ½ pounds Gulf shrimp cooked, peeled and deveined
4 puff pastry shells, baked

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add shallots and mushrooms (optional); sauté for 3 minutes until soft. Stir in soup, half & half, sherry, mustard, Parmesan cheese and salt and pepper to taste. Reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes to blend flavors. Add shrimp and simmer over low heat for 5 minutes, stirring often. To serve, spoon shrimp and sauce into pastry shells.