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SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Officials fight budget woes with public safety tax hike

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton property owners are likely facing a tax increase as township officials move to thwart a \$15.8 million deficit for the police and fire departments while chipping away at nearly \$100 million in legacy costs tied to health care and pensions for current employees and retirees.

Officials have hammered out a financial package that would cost the owner of a \$200,000 house an additional \$190 a year, or \$15.83 a month, starting with next winter's tax

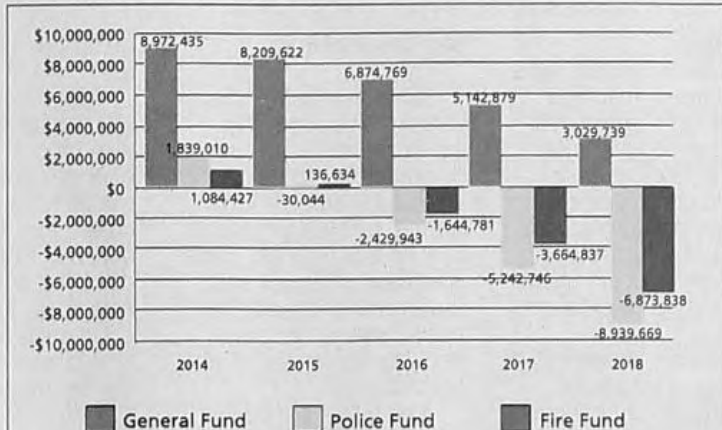
bill. It would generate about \$5 million a year.

"We've tried to use Band-aids, Scotch tape, glue," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said, adding later, "We have the best community in the state and we want to keep it that way."

Officials intend to publicly unveil the plan at 6 p.m. Monday, July 21, during a forum in the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center. LaJoy said the township board could potentially adopt the proposal as early as August.

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FUND BALANCE PROJECTIONS



Canton home invasion case ends in guilty plea

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Garden City man, nabbed by Canton police for a home invasion after two teens hid in a closet and called for help, faces sentencing after he pleaded guilty to two of nine charges arising from a string of break-ins.

Michael Steven Toth, 28, could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced later this month by Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Hathaway.



Toth

His sentencing comes after he pleaded guilty to one count each of first- and second-degree home invasion. In return, authorities agreed to dismiss a flurry of other charges involving home invasion, possession of burglary tools and larceny in a building.

His decision to plead guilty averts a trial that had been set for July 28 in Hathaway's courtroom. Toth remains jailed as he awaits sentencing.

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said charges against Toth came after a Canton boy, 17, and his sister, 16, hid in a closet and called 9-1-1 for help when they heard loud noises from an intruder using burglary tools to invade a home on Emerald Pines Drive, near Palmer and Lotz.

Toth, captured climbing out a window, was ultimately charged with three home invasions due to quick action by the teens and a swift response by Canton police, who had been patrolling the area due to the string of break-ins, Baugh said.

"It was very good work by everybody working together to solve the problem," he said. "Our patrol commanders had assigned officers to the area of concern and we had great witnesses who remained calm. This case sends a message that if you come to Canton and do something wrong, there's a good chance you'll go to jail."

Early on, Deputy Police Chief Debra Newsome said Toth was caught leaving the home with jewelry and jewelry boxes the morning of April 21.

During his preliminary examination in front of 35th District Judge Michael Gerou, Toth was described as a former U.S. Marine who was unemployed and living in Garden City with his girlfriend and their child.

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HOUSING THE HOMELESS

Program hopes to put needy families in homes

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Like most people, Canton residents Lorraine Zaksek and Joan Carr sympathize with the plight of homeless people everywhere.

They were just surprised to find so many of them in their own backyard.

So the two women – along with a team of volunteers representing St. Vincent de Paul conferences from nearly two dozen western Wayne County churches – are doing something about it.

Zaksek, who volunteers at the SVDP conference at Canton's St. John Neumann Catholic Church, chairs the committee that developed the Pathway to Housing program. The St. John Neumann conference started three years ago and Zaksek said calls for help started flowing in.

"I was surprised to find as many homeless cases as we did in Canton," she said. "There were people living in cars or in someone else's basement. The only thing we knew to do was put them up in a hotel. But we couldn't do that forever."

To study the issue, the Metro-West Exploratory Committee on Homelessness formed and met for the first time in February 2013. Several members reported an increase in the numbers of homeless individuals and families seeking assistance from SVDP.

Fight the fight

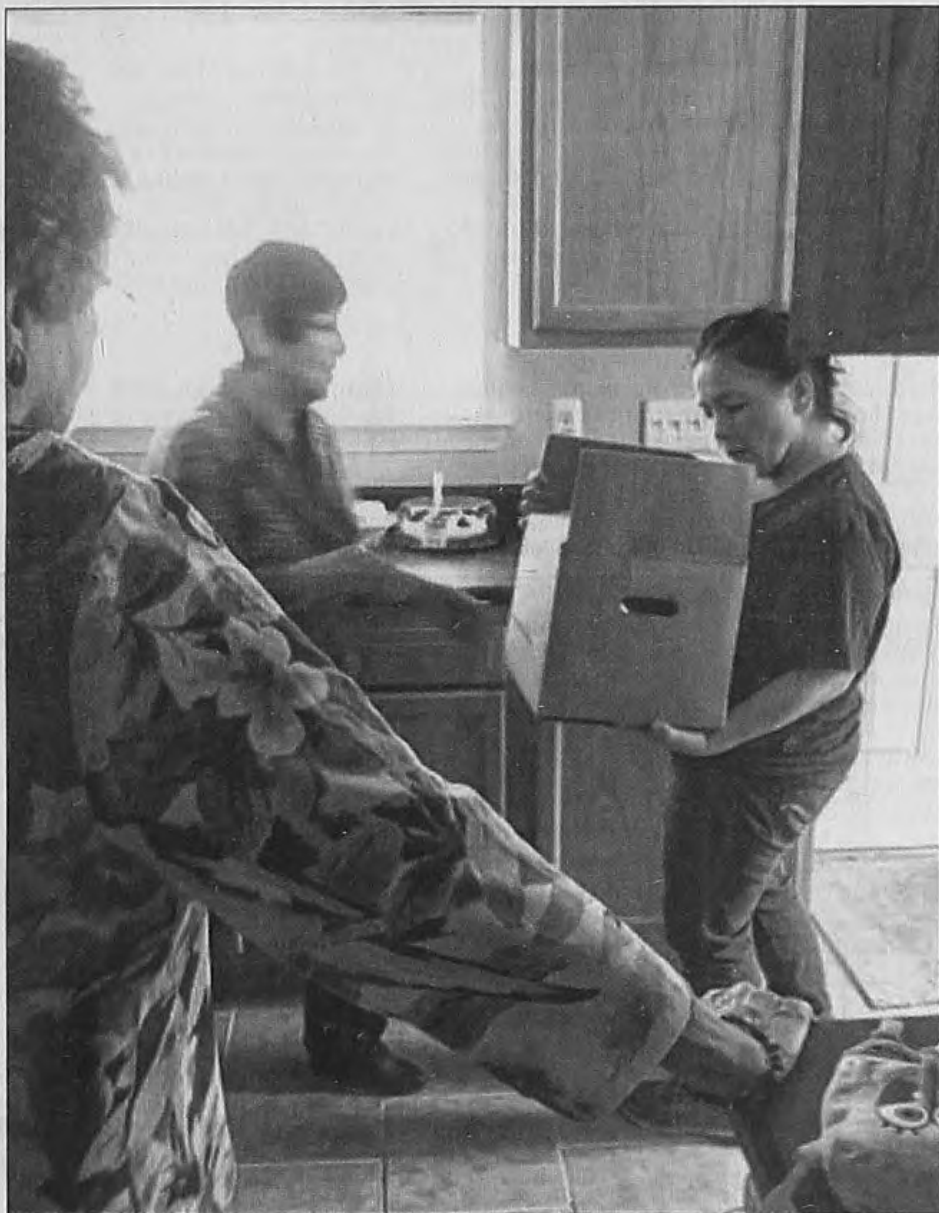
With only two homeless shelters (a First Step shelter in Canton and the Wayne County Family Center in Westland), a program was needed to help the rising caseload. The Pathway to Housing initiative was conceived to battle the problem.

The program has adopted a "housing first" mentality that hopes to put homeless people in homes as a necessary first step toward regaining their own independence.

"Research shows placing people in housing right away has a huge psychological benefit," Zaksek said. "It better equips them to move toward independence."

One of the things the committee did was determine the need. Their research showed:

» The National Law Center on



Tina V. (right), moving into her new home, gets some help from Joan Carr and Lorraine Zaksek.

Homelessness and Poverty determined there are some 3.5 million people, including 1.35 million children, likely to experience homelessness in a given year.

» The U.S. Department of Urban Development and Annual Homelessness Assessment showed Michigan ranked fifth in the country – and first in the Midwest – for number of homeless residents.

» The National Coalition for the Homeless showed there are some 86,000 homeless persons in Michigan, 50 percent of which are families.

Children the target

But the most disturbing part to committee members was the number of children affected. The SVDP Metro-West committee sent a survey to area churches, community agencies and schools. The most telling figures, in their minds, came from the schools, whose results come from the 2012-13 school year:

» Livonia schools reported 152 homeless children.
» Plymouth-Canton had 78 homeless

See HOMELESS, Page A2

Bank robbery case hits unexpected new snag

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

In an abrupt turnabout, a Canton bank robbery defendant has asked to withdraw a no-contest plea he made in June, throwing a new snag into a case that seemed resolved.

Nathan Michael Kuhn, 29, is expected to appear before Wayne County Circuit Judge

Richard Skutt in late August for a review of Kuhn's motion to withdraw his plea, court records show.

Kuhn's motion forestalls, for now, a prison sentence of 19 months to 15 years a court clerk said he was expected to receive amid



Kuhn

charges he robbed the Comerica branch inside the Kroger store near Canton Center and Ford roads last October.

Kuhn had pleaded no contest in June on the same day Skutt ruled he was competent to stand trial. Defense and prosecuting attorneys had earlier sparred on whether Kuhn was mentally competent to aid in his own defense and whether he should be held

criminally responsible for his actions.

Skutt in June ruled Kuhn could stand trial based on a competency evaluation. Kuhn remains jailed with a \$50,000 bond – or 10 percent of \$500,000 – as he now awaits the latest development in his case.

Canton police had described Kuhn as a drifter who had lived in Livonia and West-

land. He was arrested in a Wayne motel room after police tracked him down following the bank robbery.

Prior to this arrest, Kuhn had been paroled 11 months earlier for crimes involving uttering and publishing, or forging a check or other financial document.

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Old Village gears up for street festival

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth's Old Village neighborhood hosts its signature summer festival, Bumpers, Bikes and Bands, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

The event, on the heels of last weekend's better-known Art in the Park, is a lower-key but well-attended street fair that combines a car and motorcycle show, live music and a silent auction to benefit the Old Village Association.

There will be food vendors, a bounce house for children, a beer and barbecue tent and music by blues guitarist "The Rev." Marc Falconberry, who will be joined by saxophonist

Joe LaBeau, a longtime Old Village resident. Several other musicians will also be taking the stage.

Most of the action will take place on Starkweather between Spring and Division; Spring and Liberty streets will also be closed to traffic between Mill and Amelia. The beer and barbecue tent will be in a parking lot at Station 885 on Starkweather and Falconberry. LaBeau and others will be performing at the tent as well.

The car and motorcycle show is open to custom, vintage or specialty cars and trucks; past editions of Bumpers, Bikes and Bands (formerly Bumpers, Bikes and



Muscle cars and souped-up classics line Starkweather during a past Bumpers, Bikes and Bands in Plymouth's Old Village neighborhood. This year's edition is planned for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Blues) have drawn more than 100 vehicles.

Show registration is \$10 per car and \$5 per motorcycle

before Sunday and \$15 and \$10, respectively, the day of the event. Registration forms can be found online at

http://oldvillageplymouth.com/?attachment_id=286.

Show vehicles can enter the show area via Starkweather, either on the south side near Spring or on the north side near Division.

The silent auction will offer merchandise and services from local businesses, including a "car spa" worth \$225 from Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, gift certificates to the Old Village restaurant Crawford's Kitchen and a necklace from Plymouth Jewelry. There will also be a 50/50 drawing.

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TAX

Continued from Page A1

Our projections

Elected officials are expected to use their authority to impose a 1.5-mill tax increase to bolster

police and fire services. Otherwise, the police fund is projected to plummet from a \$1.8 million surplus this year to an \$8.9 million deficit within four years, while the fire fund would dive from a nearly \$1.1 million balance to a \$6.8 million shortfall.

With the tax hike, Finance Director Wendy Trumbull said, Canton should remain financially secure for the next four years, leaving the police fund with a projected \$1.3 million surplus in 2018 and the fire fund with



LaJoy

\$1.5 million.

The latest public safety tax comes just four years after Canton officials imposed a similar 1.75-mill tax increase, secured employee concessions and implemented broad budget-cutting measures to avert what LaJoy called "a catastrophe."

Township Trustee Pat Williams, a longtime watchdog of legacy costs, said he believes Canton has no choice but to adopt another tax hike.

"I believe it's the right thing to do in order to continue to stabilize the financial well-being of Canton on behalf of all stakeholders," he said. "We are continuing to look for the best possible solution and this is it today, given the information that we have. Dismantling public safety is not an option. Our residents have an expectation for the highest level of service. We will maintain that."

No tax ceiling

When township voters in the 1970s approved separate ballot measures to create Canton's own fire and police departments, neither proposal placed a cap on tax rates that local officials can unilaterally impose for public safety, without seeking voter approval, officials say.

The latest measures come after Canton lost more than \$20 million during the last five years amid plunging property tax revenues and declining statutory state-shared revenue.

"It's incredible what happened," LaJoy said, adding he wants to ensure Canton remains a vibrant, safe community.

And while officials say property values have begun a slow uptick, they aren't projected to rebound to 2007 levels until possibly 2020, partly due to a voter-approved measure, Proposal A, in 1994 that limits tax growth to 5 percent or the rate of

inflation, whichever is less.

Meanwhile, officials say the latest tax plan also incorporates changes in the way Canton pays for its trash collection. The township board is expected to reduce the general fund tax rate from 2.366 mills to 1.366 mills and replace it with a new \$140-a-year fee on households.

Officials say the decision to create a separate fee places Canton in line with how most area communities handle trash collection. Township Trustee Steven Sneiderman said he supports the change, though he is concerned the \$140 fee affects the owner of a \$40,000 house the same as the owner of \$400,000 home.

"We are one of the last communities to do this," he said, referring to shifting trash collection to a separate fee. "I would support going with the fee for now, but at some point I would like to see it switched to a millage by a

vote of the public."

Among other highlights of the financial plan:

» LaJoy said the new tax package could trim \$1 million a year off Canton's legacy costs, complementing savings from reduced pension and health care benefits. He said employee concessions already have saved Canton \$7.5 million since 2011.

» With 61 sworn firefighters and an \$11.4 million fire department budget, officials say Canton has the lowest fire services cost per person among communities with comparable populations such as Livonia, Wayne-Westland, Clinton Township, Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Shelby Township, Southfield and Waterford. Officials are hopeful the new public safety tax could add three additional firefighters and allow a fourth advanced life support ambulance to accommodate an aging population and an increase in calls for help,

including mutual aid with other communities.

» With a \$16.8 million budget and 86 police officers, the Canton Police Department also compares favorably to similar-size communities, with only Clinton Township having a lower per-person cost. Deputy Chief Scott Hilden is hopeful the new tax could add another five police officers and help to restore programs, such as a special enforcement unit and certain school-based programs, sidelined by budget cuts.

"We operate at efficiency levels that almost nobody can operate at," Hilden said.

Local officials are hopeful residents will understand the need to increase taxes to maintain the level of services the community has come to expect.

"We are good stewards of the people's money," LaJoy said.

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HOMELESS

Continued from Page A1

children.

» Redford reported 105 homeless children.
» Wayne-Westland reported a whopping 248 homeless children.

Those numbers were hard for Joan Carr to hear. Carr, an 85-year-old who has been a member of SVDP for 25 years at SS. Simon and Jude

Catholic Church in Westland, services the Nor-Wayne area of Westland and has seen her share of poverty.

"Every single person in Nor-Wayne qualifies as low-income," Carr said. "We're very busy there and often we get people who are homeless. It's heartbreaking, especially when there are children involved."

The Pathway to Housing program is two-pronged. First, SVDP

finds its clients a home. The first two families have already been placed under the new program, one in Nor-Wayne, the other in Romulus.

Homeless families with children get priority and SVDP also considers the living conditions - "Families living in someone's basement are safer than, say, families living in a car," Zaksek said - and the family's ability to achieve independence.

Talking helps

SVDP provides the financial assistance - helping with rent, utilities, food bills - while the family re-establishes itself. The financial assistance is provided on a reducing scale; as the family gains stronger footing, SVDP reduces its

share of those bills, until the family can survive on its own.

A third family is about to be placed, Zaksek said, and four others are on a waiting list. Referrals are coming from the 22 churches aligned with the Metro-West committee.

"The churches really get a feeling for their families," Zaksek said.

The other part of the program is counseling. SVDP is partnering with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan to provide what she said is "intense counseling."

Families being considered for the program have to agree to 12-18 months of counseling, which covers subjects such as budgeting, child care and taking care of a household.

HELPING THE HOMELESS

What: St. Vincent de Paul Wine and Cheese Tasting fundraiser; the event will also feature live and silent auctions

When: 7-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17

Where: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren, in Canton

Why: To benefit St. Vincent de Paul's Pathway to Housing program. According to organizers, costs range from \$5,000 to \$7,000 to house a family under the program.

Who: Super Fine Wines in Canton is providing the wines; several restaurants - including Palermo's, Three Brothers, Olympus Coney Island, Fat Chef in a Little Coat and Bamboo - will provide food.

Zaksek said the counseling is important because it helps families understand both the root of the problem and the way to fix it.

"Very often, there's an event that precedes the homelessness," she said. "But it's often precipitated over time. It helps to talk about that."

Carr, who put huge amounts of time and effort into placing the first family in Nor-Wayne, believes in the

program, but knows it will only be as successful as the families being helped by it.

"If the family is willing to put some time and effort into it, they can hopefully break that cycle of poverty they're in," she said. "If they can ... get their kids to get a good education, they can break that cycle. They have to be willing to put something into it, too. It's not a giveaway. They have to work at it also."

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Fundraising site created to help shooting victim

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer



Bryan Foley, 29, of Livonia was shot multiple times early Saturday morning. As of last week, he remained in critical condition. Family and friends have established a website to help raise money for his medical expenses.

times.

The information police were provided stated Foley appeared to have been walking down the street when an unknown sedan containing four males drove up. One of the men got out of the car and began shooting. Foley is being treated for multiple gunshot wounds.

The shooting is the first one to take place in Livonia this year; the last one took place in May 2013 on St. Francis. That incident involved a 21-year-old Livonia man who police say fired shots at a Canton man in a disagreement over a woman.

The suspect in that case, Gregory Ely, was convicted on felony firearm charges and is currently serving a prison sentence.

Police did not release any more details on the suspects, or if there was any kind of motive in the shooting. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the police department at 734-466-2470.

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Family and friends of the man shot multiple times earlier this month have begun a fundraising effort to help offset medical costs.

Bryan Foley, 29, of Livonia, was shot walking outside early July 12 in the 15000 block of Foch. As of last week, he remained in critical but stable condition.

Chris Dzbanski, a Canton resident and Foley's mother, said a fundraising site has been set up on GoFundMe to help raise money for his medical costs, which could skyrocket.

The site, "The Road to Bryan Foley's Recovery," can be found by going to the website gofundme.com/bhju40. It had raised more than \$11,000 since launching earlier this month.

"His friend started this to help him with medical bills and rehabilitation and anything he needs to get through this," she said. "I think a lot of (the money raised) is people sharing that through Facebook."

She said he remains in recovery and was scheduled for surgery this week.

"It's the hardest thing I've ever been through," she said.

Police still searching for suspects

Livonia police are still searching for the suspects involved in the shooting that left Foley injured.

Lt. Tom Goralski of the police department said the agency had no one in custody they believe was involved with the shooting.

Early July 12, police were called to an incident in the 15000 block of Foch, just west of Inkster and north of Five Mile. Officers discovered Foley had been shot multiple

Fundraisers set to benefit referee's family

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Support for the Westland man who died after being assaulted while refereeing a soccer match in Livonia last month continues to roll in, with additional fundraisers planned to help his family.

Three fundraisers are currently planned this month and next month to support the family of John Bieniewicz, the Westland man who died two days after a soccer match in Livonia late last month. Since his death, more than 2,200 people and groups have donated more than \$161,000 to help his wife and two children through an online fundraising petition at johnbieniewiczmemorial.com.

One of those fundraisers will take place at Bieniewicz's church, Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church. The annual Christian music festival titled "Hosanna Palooza" that takes place starting at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church, 9600 Laverne in Redford, will benefit the Bieniewicz family through donations and vendor proceeds, said Robyn Wiggins, the early childhood director at the church.

"Normally, the emphasis hasn't been on fundraising," she said. "This year, they're going to do kind of a pass-the-hat kind of thing between each band."

The festival, which will run until 9 p.m. that night, will feature 10 area Christian music groups, as well as a craft show and food vendors.

Wiggins said Bieniewicz's wife has helped at the festival in previous years and the church wanted to help in any way it could.

"We just want to do anything we can," she said. "(We want to) just kind of help them through a tough time."

Livonia restaurant holding dinner

Another fundraiser will run 6-10 p.m. July 30 at Doc's Sports Retreat, 19265 Victor Parkway, in Livonia. The restaurant will host an all-you-can-eat pasta buffet, complete with several types of pastas and sauces, as well as salad and bread sticks.



Bieniewicz

General manager Cheryl Stern said she felt compelled to host a fundraiser, as many soccer clubs come into the establishment after matches.

"It's so close to our community," she said. "Whenever there's tournament, we get filled. It's a popular place."

In addition to the dinner, several items will be given away through a silent raffle that will help benefit the family. Prizes in the raffle will include a golf bag, gift cards and sports ticket.

Tickets for the dinner are \$10 and can be purchased at Doc's Sports Retreat in advance or at the door.

Stern said she hopes the event raises about \$10,000. The fundraiser information has been passed around to several soccer clubs in the area and she's received good feedback.

"A lot of the coaches coming in, I've been emailing them a copy of the flier. It seems to be spreading pretty fast."

Golf outing

One other fundraiser will help kick off activities for a newly-formed foundation named for Bieniewicz. The John Bieniewicz Foundation, which was formed by members of the Canton Soccer Club, will host a memorial

golf scramble Aug. 22 at Cattails Golf Club, 57737 Nine Mile, in Lyon Township. Check-in begins at 9 a.m.

The golf outing, which costs \$75, includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a lunch at the turn and dinner. Those interested in just attending the dinner can do so for \$35.

Dan McEvelly, a club manager for the Canton Soccer Club, said the idea came together quickly for a foundation named after Bieniewicz and the golf outing, something he hopes turns into an annual event.

"We just kind of jumped on it," McEvelly said. "I've known (Bieniewicz) for 20-plus years. He's reffed a ton of my games. Just a super nice guy."

Contests during the event will include the longest drive and closest to the pin, among others. More information can be found at johnbieniewiczfoundation.org.

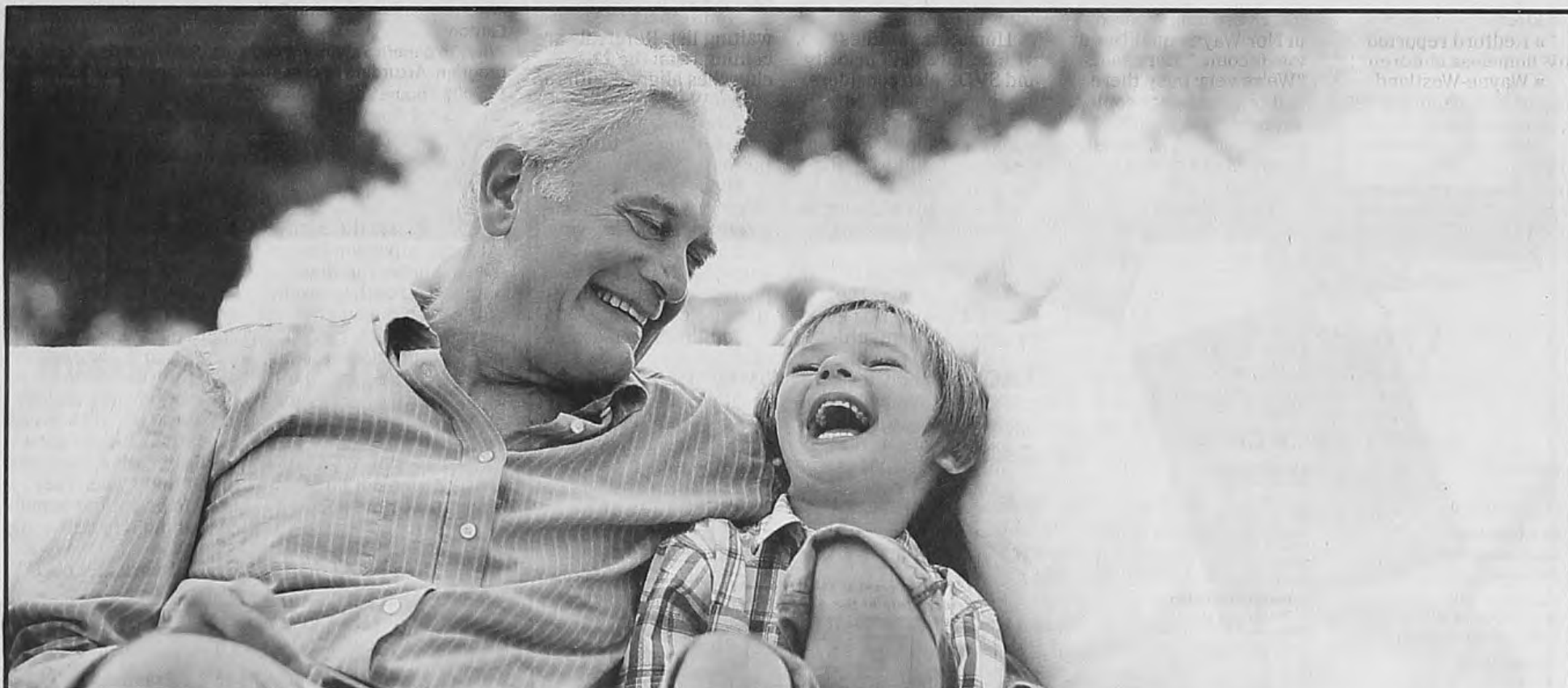
McEvelly said the long-term vision of the foundation is still being crafted, but said he hopes it becomes a lasting foundation to help others in the future.

The foundation is also selling red and yellow bracelets with the phrase "Respect the Game" through its website. They each cost \$10 and go to support the foundation.

McEvelly said several hundred have been ordered from across the country by soccer referees and others. It's gotten so big that he's had to spend more time on them than he originally thought.

"I'm sitting on 500 orders still to come out. I didn't expect that to become a full-time job," he said. "That's the main thing I wanted to do was to make a statement."

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Juniors top three-year scores on MME test

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools juniors outscored their predecessors on three of five areas in the Michigan Merit Exam and nearly doubled state averages in several of the subjects.

The test, administered to juniors in March, consists of the ACT and Michigan subject-specific exams based on the Michigan High School Content Expectations set forth in the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Plymouth-Canton juniors topped the district's own three-year averages in reading, science and social studies, while matching the three-year performance in both math and writing.

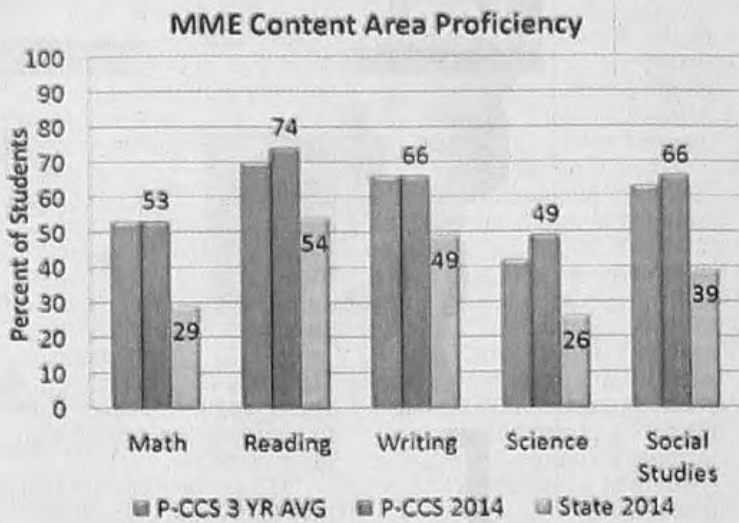
The Michigan Department of Education released results of the test scores, which showed statewide gains in all subjects.

"The continued improvements over time show the value of requiring Michigan students taking rigorous coursework," state Superintendent Mike Flanagan said. "Whether they learn the higher-level concepts in a traditional classroom or in a career-tech course, students are learning."

Plymouth-Canton's biggest gain was a gain of some 8 points in science, where 49 percent tested proficient (against some 41 percent in the three-year average).

P-CCS juniors posted smaller gains in both social studies and reading, while matching their three-year average in math and writing.

Statewide, student reading scores posted both short- and long-term increases of more than 5 percentage



points, while math, writing and science results continued to show progress, social studies broke new ground in reversing a downward trend of several years.

According to the MDE, much of the success is rooted in the continued implementation of the Michigan Merit Curriculum that has students learning rigorous math, science, social studies and English language arts concepts, as well as visual and performing arts and a world language.

Reading proficiency scores increased 5.2 points, from 53.5 percent to 58.7 percent, between 2013 and 2014 and 6 points in the four years since 2010, representing the largest long-term gain of all subjects and students tested.

Score reverses declines

Social studies scores gained more than 5 points from 2013 to 2014, reversing several years of declining scores. Science scores were up nearly 3 points this year, from 25.7 percent to 28.4

percent, and a similar amount during the past four years. Writing scores increased from 49.3 percent to 50.8 percent in the past year and almost 4 points since 2011.

Mathematics scores showed a four-year gain of 1.5 points and small increase of 0.2 points from 2013 to 2014.

"We still have heavy lifting to do, particularly on further reducing the achievement gap, but these results show that we now are headed in the right direction among high school students who are graduating soon," Flanagan said.

The MME is administered annually in the spring to high school juniors. It's composed of the ACT Plus Writing college entrance exam, WorkKeys job skills assessments in reading, mathematics and "locating information" and Michigan-developed assessments in mathematics, science and social studies.

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Twitter: @bkadrich



Board of Education President Judy Mardigian (right) won't seek re-election in the November election. Mardigian, first elected in 1996, is the board's longest-serving trustee.

Deadline nears for school board race

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

There will definitely be some change on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education when the Nov. 4 general election results are counted.

Board President Judy Mardigian – the longest-serving board member, first elected in 1998 – has announced she will not seek re-election, meaning at least one of the three seats up for grabs in the non-partisan election will be open.

The other two trustees whose positions are being contested are board Secretary Kim Crouch and board Vice President Adrienne Davis. Crouch filed her petition Friday; Davis said Thursday she was still undecided.

Potential candidates have until 4 p.m. Tuesday to file a petition; they have until 4 p.m. Friday, July 25, to withdraw. Candidates either have to gather 40-100 signatures on their petitions or pay a \$100 filing fee.

The seats belonging to Mardigian and Davis are six-year terms; Crouch's seat is a four-year term. Candidates have to declare which seat they're seeking.

As of Friday, residents seek-

ing the six-year term included:

» Kate Borninski of Canton. A member of Supporters of Academic Integrity for Plymouth-Canton, she was among those who argued in favor of the temporarily banned books *Waterland* and *Beloved* a couple of years ago. She has served on various district committees.

» Donald Turner of Canton. Turner was an applicant for the open seat created when former Trustee Barry Simescu resigned in January 2013.

» Drexel Morton of Canton. Morton is the former pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton.

» Michael Siegrist of Plymouth. Siegrist is a former board member at the Canton Public Library.

» Tom Kelly of Canton. Kelly, a firefighter, was vocal in the fight to keep Plymouth Township from making cuts to the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

» Amy Fava of Canton.

Residents still interested in running for the Board of Education have to turn in their petitions (or pay the filing fee) at the Plymouth City Clerk's office, 201 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call the clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234.

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- FREE** * To non-grads over age 20
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* Some restrictions/availability may apply.

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It is the policy of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education to prohibit any acts of unlawful discrimination in all matters dealing with students, employees or applicants for employment. The Wayne-Westland Schools reaffirms its policy of equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, weight, height, marital status, national origin, or disability and/or handicap which is unrelated to an individual's qualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's ability to utilize and benefit from the School District's educational opportunities, programs and facilities. Inquiries concerning the application of Section 504 legislation should be directed to the coordinator (734-419-2645). Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title VII or Title IX legislation should be directed to the Deputy Superintendent/Educational Services (734-419-2015).

Changing beneficiary requires some action

Q: Dear Rick: I am a widow. A few years ago after my husband's death, I did a living trust. The beneficiaries are my three children equally. I have an account at Fidelity and Vanguard and I changed the names on those accounts to my living trust. I also had my house switched into my trust. At the time of the trust, I also changed the beneficiary of a life insurance policy into the name of my trust. My problem is I want to leave money to someone other than my children and I don't want it to go through my trust. My kids do not get along with this person and I'm afraid if I left him something in my trust, it would cause all sorts of problems. How can I accomplish this?



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

policy would be paid directly to the beneficiary without having to go through the trust. Another alternative is to open a new brokerage account at Fidelity or Vanguard and, as opposed to titling that account in the name of the trust, you can title it in your name individually and name that person as your beneficiary. That would mean that upon your death the beneficiary would now own the account and, just like with the insurance policy, the monies would not go through your trust. Whether you change the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or establish a separate brokerage account, it is important to recognize that that money is still in your estate for estate tax purposes. The way our estate tax laws work is that upon your death, your assets are valued at their fair market value. If the

value of those assets is over the estate tax threshold, which is now a little over \$5 million, then there potentially would be an estate tax. There are some deductions and, like all tax laws, there are exceptions to the rules. With regard to estate taxes, the biggest is the marital exemption. Whatever you leave your surviving spouse is estate tax-free. We all recognize that in many situations family dynamics can be difficult. When you do your estate plan, it is important to recognize those challenges. After all, one of the goals of a good estate plan is to reduce or eliminate the chances of family disputes. The key is to recognize family issues and work through them as opposed to ignoring them. Good luck. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

ON CAMPUS

Kohl's scholars

The Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program honored nearly 200 deserving volunteers, including two from Canton, with \$1,000 scholarships toward higher education. The youths were chosen from more than 37,000 nominees nationwide for making a positive impact in their local communities.

Canton recipients of \$1,000 scholarships are:
» **Alexa Cichon**, 18. The desire to help hungry children motivated Alexa to raise money to host a Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack event. Together with 500 volunteers, the team was able to pack 112,000 meals for starving children across the globe.

» **Anna Sun**, 12. Wanting to make sure music lessons and stringed instruments were available to area school children, Anna started the Little Stars Foundation, a nonprofit committed to youth music education. Together with local high school music teachers,

the group offers free violin workshops and has raised more than \$1,500 to purchase five violins for children who could not afford them.

"Kohl's is proud to recognize the 182 regional winners nationwide for their dedication to making their communities a better place to live," said Bevin Bailis, Kohl's senior vice president, communications and public relations. "We commend these bright volunteers for being inspiring examples for others as they have made a difference in their own communities and touched the lives of others through their efforts."

Miami (Ohio) University

Miami University students who ranked in the top 20 percent of undergraduate students within each division for second semester 2013-14 have been named to the dean's list recognizing academic performance.

Two Plymouth students, **Leah Powers** and **John Dooley**, made the list.

Hope College

Recent Hope College graduates have been

awarded graduation honors for outstanding academic accomplishment during their four years of study.

Magna cum laude honors have been awarded to **Alyssa Silletti** of Canton.

Cum laude honors have been awarded to **Gina De Biasi** and **Riley Hoernschemeyer** of Plymouth.

Washington University

Kathy Crystal Young of Plymouth was named to the dean's list for the spring 2014 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Young is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

To qualify, students must earn a semester grade-point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

Grove City College

Jessica Heck graduated May 17 from Grove City (Pa.) College, earning a bachelor of science degree in business management and psychology. Heck is a 2010 graduate of Plymouth High School and is the daughter of Manfred and Debbie Heck of Canton.

How To Get Rid Of Knee Pain Once And For All...Without Drugs, Shots Or Surgery

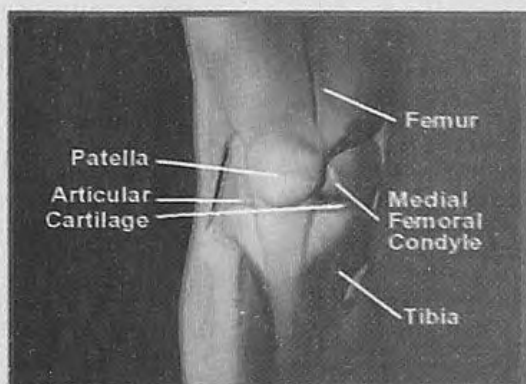
Now, in Livonia, Michigan, one doctor is helping local residents with knee pain live more active, pain-free lives.



Do You Have Any of the Following Conditions?

- Arthritis
- Tendonitis
- Knee Pain
- Bursitis
- Cartilage damage
- Crunching and Popping sounds
- 'Bone-on-bone'

Living with knee pain can feel like a crippling experience. Let's face it, your knees aren't as young as they used to be, and playing with the kids or grandkids isn't any easier either. Maybe your knee pain keeps you from walking short distances or playing golf like you used to. Nothing's worse than feeling great mentally, but physically feeling held back from life because your knee hurts and the pain just won't go away!



My name is Dr. Greg Kramer, owner of Kramer Chiropractic. Since we opened, we've seen many people with knee problems leave the office pain free. If you're suffering from these conditions, a new breakthrough in medical technology may completely eliminate your pain and help restore normal function to your knees.

Finally, An Option Other Than Drugs or Surgery

Cold Laser therapy has been tested for 40 years, had over 2000 papers published on it, and been shown to aid in damaged tissue regeneration, decrease inflammation, relieve pain and boost the immune system. This means that there is a good chance Cold Laser therapy could be your knee pain solution, allowing you to live a more active lifestyle.

Professional athletes like Tiger Woods and team members of the New England Patriots rely upon Cold Laser therapy to treat their sports related injuries. These guys use Cold Laser for one reason only...

It Promotes Rapid Healing of The Injured Tissues.

Before the FDA would clear Cold Laser for human use, they wanted to see proof that it worked. This led to two landmark studies. The first study showed that patients who had Cold Laser therapy had 53% better improvement than those who had a placebo. The second study showed patients who used the Laser Therapy had less pain and more range of motion days after treatment. If the Cold Laser can help these patients, it can help you too.

Could This Non-Invasive, Natural Treatment Be The Answer To Your Knee Pain?

For the First 25 Callers Only, I'm running a very special offer where you can find out if you are a candidate for Cold Laser therapy.

What does this offer include? Everything I normally do in my "Knee Pain Evaluation". Just call and here's what you'll get...

- An in-depth consultation about your problem where I will listen... really listen... to the details of your case.
- A complete neuromuscular examination.
- A full set of specialized x-rays to determine if arthritis is contributing to your pain.
- A thorough analysis of your exam and x-ray findings so we can start mapping out your plan to being pain free.
- You'll see everything first hand and find out if this amazing treatment will be your pain solution, like it has been for so many other patients.

The First 25 Callers Only can get everything I've listed here for only \$35. The normal price for this type of evaluation including x-rays is \$250, save a considerable amount by taking me up on this offer.

Here's what to do now:

Due to the expected demand for this special offer, I urge you to call our office at once. The phone number is **248-615-1533**.

Call today and we can get started with your consultation, exam and x-rays as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called Kramer Chiropractic and you can find us at 34441 W. Eight Mile Rd., Ste. 116, in Livonia, MI. Tell the receptionist you'd like to come in for the Knee Evaluation.

Sincerely, Greg Kramer, D.C.

P.S. Now you might be wondering...

"Is this safe? Are there any side effects or dangers to this?"

The FDA cleared the first Cold Laser in 2002. This was after their study found 76% improvement in patients with pain. Their only warning - don't shine it in your eyes. Of course at our office, the laser is never anywhere near your eyes and we'll give you a comfortable pair of goggles for safety.

Don't wait and let your knee problems get worse, disabling you for life. Take me up on my offer and call today: **248-615-1533**.

My 94 yr. old mother said, "Dr. Kramer helped me get around better with less pain." I noticed a big improvement in her walking after a month of care. - J. Sarns, Livonia, MI

"I was suffering for 12 years with knee pain, I noticed a difference after 1 week of care. Now my knee feels 100% better, I'm off Celebrex, have an increase in energy and a decrease in back pain, hip pain and knee pain." - M. Bennett

"I suffered for 10 years, taking Tyleno 3-5 times a week for pain. After the FIRST session I felt better and now I walk without pain, have increased energy. Dr. Kramer has shown me how to take care of myself." - C. Heiden

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Canton calls artists for fine arts exhibition

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is now accepting entries for the 22nd annual Canton Fine Arts Exhibition, which will be held Oct. 2 through Nov. 1.

Entries for the exhibition are currently being accepted through Aug. 25. Michigan artists are encouraged to enter online at Canton-VillageTheater.org. Interested artists may also request an entry form hard copy by calling the Village Theater at Cherry Hill at 734-394-5300, ext. 8.

"This juried art show has a rich, 22-year history that has included over 1,000 works being shown," said Jennifer Tobin, Canton arts coordinator. "I look forward to this exhibition each year because I enjoy seeing some of my favorite seasoned artists new work while being introduced to exciting

emerging artists and their view of the world.

"The jurors have made it their mission to select as many types of art forms as possible; we thoroughly love the variety of this exhibition," she added. "The opening reception is a wonderful, free event complete with a wine and cheese reception and a program that features the top winning artists speaking about their work – a treat, for sure!"

All media is accepted for this exhibition. Only digital image files on CDs will be accepted for review. No slides will be accepted for consideration.

Paintings and hangings should not exceed five feet wide or six feet high, 40 pounds in weight and must be properly framed and prepared for hanging.

Sculpture dimensions must not exceed 5 feet by 5 feet by 6 feet and 200 pounds in weight. Original works of art must have been completed in the last three years.

A non-refundable entry fee of \$15 for each submitted piece is required.

The competition will award \$1,950 in cash prizes: Best of Show \$750; Second Place \$500; Third Place \$300; two Honorable Mentions of \$100 each; and four Merit Awards of \$50 each. Juried result notification will be mailed by Sept. 10.

A reception will be held for the selected artists at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1, with a special program starting at 7:30 p.m. The Village Theater has exhibition hours throughout the year (except for major holidays) from 10 a.m. to 2



2013 Canton Fine Art Show Awards presentation featured (from left) Patrick Williams (township trustee), Donna Tribodeau (third-place winner), Gilda Snowden (juror), Nora Chapa Mendoza (second-place winner), John Wood (best of show winner) and Anthony Davis (Canton Cultural Commission chairperson).

p.m. Monday through Friday, also by appointment and during all public performances.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more additional information about the

exhibition, please visit CantonVillageTheater.org or call 734-394-5300.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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. Only a few spots remain for talented crafters. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouth-fallfestival.com.

Contact: For more information, contact Colleen Brown at craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com

ISSUES FORUM

Date/Time: Monday, July 21, 7 p.m.
Location: Summit on the Park, Canton

Details: The Canton Republican Caucus hosts the second Canton Township Issues Forum, which will consist of factual presentations of issues affecting the residents of Canton Township, the Plymouth-Canton School District and other local communities. The primary issues to be discussed are Personal Property Tax issue, Proposal 1; local education funding, the local school

district and Intermediate School District proposals; Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the possible transfer to the suburbs or to a private entity; roads; and questions, during which all questions submitted by attendees of the June 9 forum will be answered.

CROP WALK MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.

Location: Living Peace Church, 684 Deer St., Plymouth

Details: All area churches, temples and mosques in Canton and Plymouth are invited to send a representative to this meeting regarding the CROP walk to be held Sunday, Oct. 12, in Plymouth. CROP Hunger walks bring the whole community together in a common mission: helping hungry people at home and around the world.

Contact: For more information contact Gary or Becky Copenhagen at bgcopenhagen@yahoo.com or 734-981-6023.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates/Times: July 30 through Aug. 1, 6-8 p.m.

Location: West Wayne Free Will Baptist Church, 4040 John Hix Road, Wayne

Details: The West Wayne Free Will Baptist Church is now offering Vacation Bible School followed by Family Fun Day. The classes will be held Wednesday, July 30, through Friday, Aug. 1. Family Fun Day takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. The theme is "Jesus is the Reason." The classes will be provided for children up to the age of 18. There will be a nursery for the babies, along with the classes for the other children. Activities will include singing, snacks and crafts.

Contact: Call 734-728-6266 for directions or further information.

LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

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

Dates:
 » 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.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING

Date/Time: Aug. 6, 1-3 p.m.

Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste. 250, Canton

Details: United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor who will help you understand: Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, transitioning from employer

coverage to Medicare, plan options, assistance programs, drug insurance, and Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse identification and reporting. Medicare plan enrollment and subsidy application assistance also provided.

Contact: Heather Pinage, 734-727-2063. Specify you are requesting an appointment for the United Home Health location. For MMAP information visit www.mmappinc.org/pages/about.html

BLOOD DRIVES

Dates/Times/Locations:

» 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 debccortellini@comcast.net or 734-451-1525.

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

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July 25:
 8:00 pm

July 26:
 2:00 &
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Tickets:
 \$5.00

Starring:
 Cary Elwes
 Peter Falk &
 Robin Wright



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Starring:
 Sissy Spacek, Amy Irving & Piper Laurie

August 1: 11:00pm
 Doors Open at 10:00pm

Enjoy our 1928 Barton Theatre Organ played 30 min. before each show. Park in one of our FREE parking lots! 17360 Lahser Rd., Detroit, MI 48219 24-hour information phone number: (313) 537-2560

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Starring:
 Jack Lemmon, Marilyn Monroe & Tony Curtis
 Tickets: \$5.00

August 8: 8:00 pm August 9: 2:00 & 8:00 pm

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SEMCOG assembly elects new leadership slate

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, elected a new slate of leaders at its general assembly earlier this month.

Schoolcraft College Treasurer Joan Gebhardt of Livonia, outgoing chair, officially passed the gavel to incoming chair Kathy D. Vosburg, a Macomb County commissioner.

In addition to Vosburg, SEMCOG's slate of officers for 2014-2015 includes:

» Jeffrey Jenks, first vice chairperson; mayor pro tem of Huntington Woods. He will become the chairperson in 2015-16.

» Robert Clark, vice chairperson; mayor of Monroe.

» Rodrick Green, vice chairperson; trustee for Superior Charter Township.

» Jeffrey Jenks, vice chairperson; commissioner for Huntington Woods.

» Phil LaJoy, vice chairperson; Canton Township supervisor.

» Karl Tomion, vice chairperson; commissioner for St. Clair County.

» Joan Gebhardt, immediate past chairperson; Schoolcraft College treasurer.

Vosburg is currently serving her sixth two-year term as Macomb County commissioner, representing District 8 (Lenox and Chesterfield townships, the village of New Haven and the city of New Baltimore).

In her remarks at the General Assembly, Vosburg outlined her four priorities for the upcoming year — moving the Regional Transportation Plan forward, implementing the Regional Green Infrastructure Vision, adopting the region's first Nonmotorized Plan and setting



SEMCOG's 2014-15 officers are (from left) Jeff Jenks, first vice chair; Phil LaJoy, vice chair; Joan Gebhardt, immediate past chair; Kathy Vosburg, chairperson; Rodrick Green, vice chair; and Karl Tomion, vice chair. Also included is Robert Clark, vice chair.

SEMCOG's legislative priorities.

"I will be promoting the benefits of active membership during my year as chair," she said. "I look forward to a great year."

Also at the General Assembly, SEMCOG announced its Regional Ambassador Award winners. This is SEMCOG's highest honor for individuals and organizations who make unique contributions to the quality of life in southeast Michigan.

This year's recipients are:

» Bryan Barnett, Rochester Hills mayor, for his leadership on SEMCOG's Green Infrastructure Task Force, adopting southeast Michigan's first Green Infrastructure Vision and embracing this environmental work in his community. In a recent citizens' survey in Rochester Hills, residents said that the environment was the most important reason they chose to live in Rochester Hills.

» Dan O'Leary, Washington Township supervisor, for his leadership chairing SEMCOG's Transportation Advisory Council and adopting the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, which directs \$36 billion in transportation funding over the next 25 years to maintain and improve the region's transporta-

tion system. In his community, he embraces collaboration, and has worked with Bruce Township officials to assist with their assessing and water service, saving money for both communities.

» Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Formed in 2003, its mission is to develop public access to one of southeast Michigan's greatest assets — the Detroit River — while also fostering economic development. The vision is to develop 5.5 miles along the river from the Ambassador Bridge to Gabriel Richard Park, transforming it into a destination that is changing the image of Detroit.

» William Davidson Foundation. Named after William Davidson, the late former owner of the Detroit Pistons, chairman and CEO of Guardian Industries and a noted philanthropist. The foundation grants funds to support culture and the arts, education, health care and other projects in and around Detroit and southeast Michigan, all important elements to a thriving region.

SEMCOG is the only organization in southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of life for the seven-county region's 4.7 million people.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital golf outings raise \$280,000

St. Mary Mercy Hospital's annual "Tee it Up" Golf Classic on June 16 and its first nine-hole All-Women's Golf Classic on July 7 raised more than \$280,000 for the Livonia hospital's Comprehensive Breast Center and the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center. A combined 325 golfers participated in the outings held at Meadowbrook Country Club.

The All-Women's Golf outing included extras such as the "Pink Power" Shopping Spree, which gave golfers an opportunity to browse or purchase items from 15 vendors, with more than 20 shopping booths.

Proceeds benefit the St. Mary Mercy Comprehensive Breast Center which offers a full spectrum of care including prevention and education, diagnosis and treatment, access to research studies, support services and a nurse navigator who helps coordinate care every step of the way. Gifts will help purchase additional digital mammography equipment and support the MammoPlus® program, which combines screening services with a risk assessment developed by the National Cancer Institute to help determine a patient's lifetime risk for breast cancer.

Gifts will also support the certified Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center, which offers personalized services such as wig and prosthetics fittings, oncology massage therapy and hair styling and make-up tutorials that help enhance appearance, reduce pain and restore hope.

"We are thankful to be part of a community who supports our fundraising efforts to help our community stay healthy and offer specialty services to those who need it,"

said David Spivey, St. Mary Mercy president and CEO. "Thank you to our supporting partners for their contributions to this cause and their help in making these events successful. We look forward to being able to assist more women with the services offered in our new Comprehensive Breast Center and Image Recovery Center."

This year, more than 100 businesses provided sponsorship and in-kind gifts. The Lead Sponsor was Mendelson Kornblum Orthopedics & Spine Specialists and the Eagle Sponsors were Anesthesia Associates of Ann Arbor, Binson's Home Health Care Center, Concord EMS, Consultants in Cardiology, DTE Energy, Ferrantino Foundation, Heartland Healthcare Center, Hu-

ron Valley Radiology, Infinity Primary Care, St. Mary Mercy Hospital Medical Staff and Strategic Staffing Solutions. There were more than 60 volunteers. The event chairs were Tim Belanger of AIM Construction who has chaired the "Tee it Up" Golf Classic for the past six years and honorary chairs David Spivey and Julie Spivey, director of Mercy Cancer Network.

Since its inception, the "Tee it Up" Golf Classic has generated nearly \$2.3 million toward the care being provided every day at St. Mary Mercy.

To make a gift to support the Comprehensive Breast Center or Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center, contact the Development Office at 734-655-2980.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



ELBOW ARTHRITIS

The elbow joint is often overlooked when discussing arthritis, but people who experience elbow arthritis and physicians treating the problem soon learn that the elbow can be as troublesome as the hand, wrist, shoulder or knee.

The most common elbow area bone and joint conditions are olecranon bursitis and medial and lateral epicondylitis. Olecranon bursitis occurs because the individual has developed a habit of rubbing the elbow against a hard surface causing a blister like effect on the bursa.

Medial epicondylitis is popularly known as bowler's elbow and lateral epicondylitis as tennis elbow. In reality, few episodes of epicondylitis come out of those activities, most come from repetitive work.

Arthritis of the elbow joint itself results from osteo or rheumatoid arthritis. The first change from normal is pain in the elbow joint; the second deviation from normal comes with loss of the carrying angle. That is the name of the slight angle that we hold our elbows and forearms when walking. The person with elbow arthritis holds the arms at a greater angle; at the same time the elbow cannot straighten to 180 degrees. The person both looks awkward on walking and also finds difficulty in holding and lifting packages or items such as a suitcase.

In osteo and rheumatoid arthritis undertaking a joint injection is useful in stopping a sudden episode of pain. However, injection of the elbow joint is difficult because the joint has multiple parts separated by bone. Also, for unclear reasons, in rheumatoid arthritis of the elbow the joint lining has a tendency to herniate into surrounding tissue, making it difficult to reach by joint injection. As elbow replacement is not as successful as in the hip or knee, that alternative is not a practical choice for chronic elbow pain and impairment.

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Horsing around: Local woman, 21, starts riding biz

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Maria DeCapite spends most of her time in a place most other Livonia residents don't—a stable.

The 21-year-old Stevenson High School and Schoolcraft College graduate runs her own business teaching horseback riding lessons, something she's desired to do since she was little.

"I got horseback riding lessons when I was 7 years old as a Christmas present," she said. "I haven't stopped since. I started showing and getting into things like that. I always knew I wanted to be a horse trainer."

She began her own business two years ago after another horse barn she worked at on Seven Mile closed. That closing was DeCapite's opportunity to begin as a professional, something that's not common in the horseback-riding world for someone her age.

"It's not typical," she said. "Most of the time, it's not a bunch of 21-year-olds out there."

DeCapite currently leases a facility on Eight Mile in Northville Township, where she hosts lessons and keeps several clients' Arabian horses.

On a typical day, DeCapite will wake up and head to the stables to feed the horses, as well as do other prep work before her students come later in the afternoon. Her workday tends to stretch close to 12 hours during the



Trainer Maria DeCapite (right) helps Elyse Salmon of Northville prepare her horse for training. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

week, plus she'll make a stop at the stable to feed other days as well.

"Every day except for Thursday and Friday, I'm here feeding horses at about 8:30 a.m.," she said. "I teach lessons out here until 7 or 8 at night."

She still spends time as an employee elsewhere, working at a stable in Wixom a few days a week and finding time for her own riding lessons, something she said is crucial to her.

"You can never learn enough. That's some-

thing I'm really big on," she said. "I still go take lessons myself from other trainers."

Riders see success

In the past few years, her students have succeeded at multiple levels, including success at

the regional level.

One of those students, 15-year-old Northville Township resident Elyse Salmon, came to DeCapite after riding at another stable near Ann Arbor. When Salmon's family moved, she began taking lessons from

DeCapite at her former barn and moved with her as she began teaching on her own.

She and her horse, Bayou Boy, recently won a regional championship in a competition between many other riders from surrounding states. Her win came after changing the type of riding she does, going from jumping to hunter pleasure riding, which Salmon said is all about the showing of the horse.

"We were pretty new, just a few months," she said. "It was a great ride."

She attributed her success to the lessons taught by DeCapite and the dedication she puts in for her students.

Inside DeCapite's office space at the barn are photos all over the wall of competitions, as well as several sashes won by the horses from her barn at recent competitions.

A friend of Salmon's, 12-year-old Autumn Kern-Downey, and her mother, Susanne Kern, traveled to Northville from Dayton, Ohio, to visit and to receive help from DeCapite on purchasing a horse herself.

Kern said they have been back to Michigan several times and enjoy stopping in and working with DeCapite when visiting, especially as Kern-Downey has started taking lessons herself just a few months ago.

"We've gone with them to shows and seen what it's like," she said. "We come four times a year to visit with our friends and see Maria."

Not just horses

In addition to her love of equestrian work, DeCapite has also set her sights on another career field for her post-horse days—dentistry, a field her family has been involved with for many years.

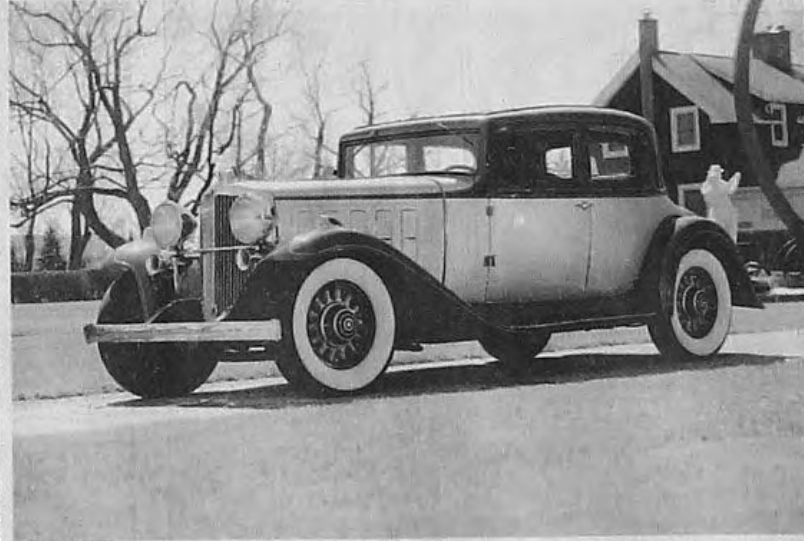
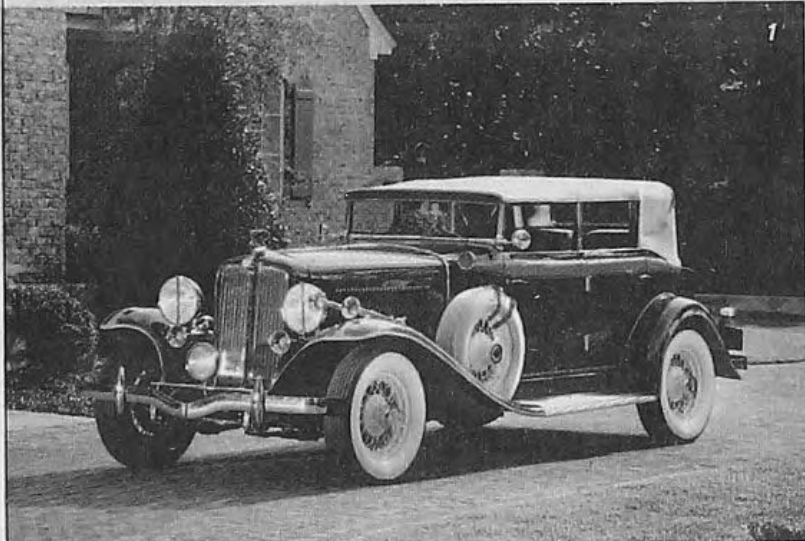
She's waiting to hear back from several four-year schools before knowing where she'll attend in the fall.

"It kind of made sense as something for me to do," she said. "God forbid, I get hurt badly. This isn't forever. You can't do it until you're 70 years old. You have to be smart about it."

But she is not eager to start filling cavities anytime soon. She plans on working with horses for many years to come.

"It's been a lot of hard work, don't get me wrong," she said. "But I have been very lucky to do it. I love it."

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Mom hopes for van with lift to help with disabled daughter

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

A Livonia woman has a severely disabled daughter and could really use some help paying for a wheelchair van with a lift.

Melissa Moore, who grew up in Redford, has a daughter named Ashley who has a rare genetic disorder. She's hoping to raise \$5,000 and has started a fundraising drive on youcaring.com.

"She's almost 12, but she's like having an infant, just bigger," Moore said.

And that is why she is seeking help. Lifting Ashley into and out of a car seat has become a real burden for Moore, a single mother of four.

"Getting her in and out of the car has been a struggle for a few years now and it's getting harder," Moore said on the youcaring.com fundraising website.

Seemed fine

Ashley was born Aug. 4, 2002, and everything seemed fine, but at about six weeks of age she had a seizure. Then at nine months of age she began to regress in her developmental skills.

Moore tells of the tons of medicines and countless tests and procedures and special diets Ashley has been through, but it was still years before they received a diagnosis.

"Ash went through some very, very rough times when she was younger. There were even a few times that I thought I would lose her," Moore wrote on youcaring.com.

The doctors at the University of Michigan finally diagnosed her with CDKL5 in July 2009, just before her seventh birthday.

CDKL5 stands for cyclin-dependent kinase-like 5 and is a rare neurological disorder which



Ashley is almost 12 and has a rare genetic disorder.

has caused Ashley to be unable to talk, hold her head up, sit, crawl or stand.

She uses a wheelchair and her hearing and vision are affected, according to Moore. She also has epilepsy.

She also continues to have seizures and that has kept Moore from being able to work a full-time job, as she doesn't have anyone else to help care for her.

"I can't really work a normal eight hours a day because of her," Moore said. Some days, Ashley is having seizures so she can't go to school and other days she has seizures at school and Moore has to go pick her up.

Part-time jobs

Ashley attends Northville's Cooke School. "She's got a really great teacher the last couple of years," Moore said, and that has allowed her to pick up an extra part-time job.

Currently she works three part-time jobs, including delivering the *Livonia Observer* and helping to care for the

elderly a few hours a week. She also attends school.

Medicaid and a children's special health care plan help with basic expenses, but not a van and lift.

"I can't afford one," she said. She also has three other children ages 14, 10 and 7 who don't have the disorder, but she needs a van so they can all ride together.

"I don't have an actual van in mind," she said, adding she hopes to find something used.

"I have given up so much of my life for her, but I would have it no other way," Moore wrote on the youcaring.com website. "I will do anything for my baby, including asking for donations."

Visit the page for Ashley's fundraiser at youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/ashley-s-wheelchair-van-fund/186457#sthash.HEyXTXdm.dpuf Moore's address is 30229 Minton, Livonia, MI 48150.

More information about CDKL5 is available at www.cdkl5.com.



Ashley has three siblings: Kylie, 7, Damien, 10, and Emily, 14.

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Autos for Autism delights the crowd

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

The weather was perfect for the 14th annual Autos for Autism this year.

Last year, organizers battled rain and struggled to keep dry. This year, though, the weather couldn't have been better.

Volunteer Darlene Jablonski was optimistic as early as 5 p.m. Monday, July 14, about the turnout.

"We have 60 cars," she said. "I think that we will have 200 cars. They started lining up at 2 p.m."

She was right. Event chairwoman Lisa Clark said that at least 216 registered cars took part.

Autos for Autism has become a tradition in Garden City. The Burger Autistic School Association annually holds the event on the front lawn of Garden City High School.

In addition to a variety of classic and custom vehicles, there was music, raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle, a kids table with face painting and crafts, Smiggins the Clown, Star Wars characters, and DJ support from Sweet Release. Shultz's Backyard BBQ was also on-site.

The first 200 cars received dash plaques and goody bags.

Participating auto owners chose the winners for each of the 10 categories and the best of show.

Area organizations and businesses supported the event for the Burger School, which accepts students from across the county.

Douglas Vaughn of Westland brought his 1968 Chevy Camaro to display. "This is my first time at the show," he said. "I like cars."

The results were positive. "We had a good year," Clark said. "We are blessed this year."

The winners included:

» **Original** – First, Richard Pinke, 1958 Chevy Corvette; Second, Mike Garrett, 1952 Ford Custom Line.

» **Restored** – First, Nick Gilbo, 1966 Pontiac GTO; Sec-



Erick Bedoun of Canton photographs sons Eddie, 6, and Patrick, 3, next to Tow Mater. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ond, Robert Nicholl, 1967 Ford Galaxie.

» **Street Rod** – First, Bob Nash, 1950 Jeep Pick-Up; Second, Dennis Peters, 1941 Willys Coupe.

» **Custom** – First, Jim Davis, 1940 Ford Coupe; Second, Gerald Moore, 1951 Ford Mercury.

» **Kit Car** – Don Paul, 1923 Ford T-Bucket; Second, Don McCormick, 1923 Ford T-Bucket.

» **Street Machine** – First, Adam Gallido, 1978 Ford Mustang; Second, Ed Sturm, 1957 Chevy Bellaire.

» **Sports** – First, Phil Reilly, 1956 Porsche Speedster; Second, Bob Bennett, 1958 Chevy Corvette.

» **Truck/Van** – First, Richard Pickens, 1929 Ford Truck; Second, Rob Gomez, 1951 Ford F-150.

» **Competition** – First, Richard Schlamp, 1965 Chevy II; Second, Matt and Karri Beebe 1968 Chevy Chevelle.

» **Motorcycle** – First, Frank Jablonski, 2012 Indian Chief; Second, Al McDermott, 2009 Big Dog Mastaff.

» **Best of Show** – Paul Coleman Sr., 1959 Chevy Bel-Air.

» **Kids Choice Best of Show** – Hanah Bolton- 2014 Custom Mini Chopper

» **Club Participation Award** – Motor State Street Rods

The organizers also praised the "Mater the Tow Truck" replica made by E&M Auto Parts owner Brain Johnson and friends for Brians grandson Kaiden who loved Mater from the movie "Cars."

sbuck@hometownlife.com
313-222-2249
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Jerry Schmidt of Detroit and his 1949 Chevy Fleetline Deluxe. He bought the car while serving in the Navy in 1964 and drove it back to Michigan in 1965. It sat in storage until 1995. The following year the car received new paint, chrome and a new interior. In 2010 the engine was rebuilt.

MEDICARE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Caring Connection Home Health Care, 5820 North Lilley Road, Suite 4, Canton, MI 48187 will no longer participate in the Medicare program (Title XVIII of the Social Security Act) effective May 2, 2014. The agreement between Caring Connection Home Health Care and the Secretary of Health and Human Services was terminated on May 2, 2014 in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act.

No payment will be made by the Medicare program under this agreement for covered services furnished to patients who are admitted on or after May 2, 2014.

Pam L. Thomas
Branch Manager
Non-Long Term Care Certification
& Enforcement Branch

Publish July 20, 2014

LO-000204988 3x2

MEDICARE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Advance Home Health Care Services, 5880 North Canton Road, Suite 462, Canton, MI 48187 will no longer participate in the Medicare program (Title XVIII of the Social Security Act) effective June 3, 2014. The agreement between Advance Home Health Care Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Services was terminated on June 3, 2014 in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act.

No payment will be made by the Medicare program under this agreement for covered services furnished to patients who are admitted on or after June 3, 2014.

Pam L. Thomas
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Publish: July 20, 2014

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for a **Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)** solution capable of supporting the computing needs of the District's Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) instructional program. Four (4) copies of the sealed bid (one original, two printed copies and one electronic) should be submitted to PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, Attn: Tech Director, **by 1:00 p.m., Local Time, July 28, 2014.** The bids will be publicly opened at this time and the proposals must contain the wording "**STEM Program Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Response**" on the envelope or package. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district. For a copy of the Request for Proposal, please visit: www.bid4michigan.com. For business related questions please contact Tiffany Brindza at tiffany.brindza@pccsmail.net or (734)416-2975.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Kimberley Crouch, Secretary

Published: July 17, 2014

LO-000204488 3x2.5

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 14-08 465 Pacific
Non-Use Variance Requested
Side Yd Setback & Detached Garage Setback from House
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: David & Holly Cotham
All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: Sunday, July 20, 2014

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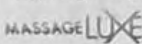
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No Moms Allowed Camping Trip celebrates its 25th anniversary

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

A group of area fathers will take their children next week on the 25th annual No Moms Allowed Camping Trip.

The group of about 30 will head July 24-30 to Pioneer Park in Muskegon County, continuing a tradition that has forged strong relationships between the dads and the children, created lasting memories and given the moms a little time to themselves.

Kristen Smith, 29, who is now married and a teacher for Hudsonville Public Schools, wouldn't dream of missing the trip with her dad, David Quenneville of Livonia. Her husband Steven, a financial analyst, has also been going along since they started dating.

"It's been a nice thing to look forward to every summer," Smith said, adding she enjoyed spending time with her dad, who sometimes worked long hours at Ford Motor Co., and with the other campers, some who were relatives and some who became as close as relatives over the years.

The trips, she said, engrained in her a love of camping and the outdoors.

Bonding time

Maureen Casey of Novi, who works at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, said she was the one who suggested 25 years ago that the dads take the kids camping without the moms.

The dads, all friends from high school and college, used to camp together and bring their wives along before any of the kids were born. But that changed after the babies started coming. "We thought it was really good bonding time (for the dads and kids); at least that's what we told ourselves," Casey said, laughing.

The moms, none of whom really liked to camp, would all get together for dinner while their families were away and tackle projects they couldn't otherwise get done.

"We all took advantage of that time our husbands and our kids were out of the house," Casey said. She would hold her annual garage sale and get rid of things she knew her kids and husband Mike would never miss. Another mom spent all her time gardening, without having to stop to make meals. "We all got to do things that we wanted to do and not feel guilty," she said.

Campers have come and gone over the years, but a core group of five dads and their kids have gone annually for at least 23 years — Richard Quenneville of Novi, his brother David Quenneville of Livonia, Richard's

brother-in-law Jeff Berry of Brownstown, friend Mike Casey of Novi and friend Dave Parker of Westland.

The first year, it was a dads and daughters only trip. But the second year, when Berry invited Richard Quenneville to attend for the first time, Quenneville told him: "I have to bring my son if I've coming."

That was when the trip officially became known as the "No Moms Allowed Camping Trip." The group posts a sign each year at its camp site saying so.

Richard Quenneville said he didn't think it was fair to leave his son home. "He liked the outdoors as well," he said.

New moms grandfathered in

Richard Quenneville's daughter, Michelle Vigna, 29, of Howell now has two little boys: Brayden, 2, and Tyler, born June 4. She was the first of the kids to get married and have children.

It was decided all of the daughters could continue attending, even after they became moms themselves. "They are all grandfathered in," Richard Quenneville said, adding, however, that the group still excludes the grandmothers. Asked why, he said, "It's just the tradition."

The group has camped all over the Lower Penin-



T-shirts and a sign make it clear no moms are allowed.

sula in tents, pop-ups and, on occasion, trailers. The dads prepare all the meals. "We eat like kings the entire trip, three to four meals a day, usually some fairly elaborate stuff," Richard Quenneville said. "We all take turns cooking; everybody also has to clean up."

The cooking has become more elaborate over the years; the group now uses a 20-foot by 10-foot portable pavilion as a mess hall.

The dads also share parenting responsibilities. "We agreed early on, they're all our kids," Richard Quenneville said. And rules about washing hands, brushing teeth and adhering to a strict bedtime are all enforced.

There is only one duty the dads don't share: changing diapers.

"When Leander Berry (Jeff's son) joined us, he was still in diapers," Richard Quenneville said. "That became a new rule: You can bring him if you want, but you're doing all the diapers. Last year there was a little one wearing diapers and the rules still applied."

One of the boys, a young teen at the time, came down with appendicitis, was taken to an area hospital for emergency surgery and returned to the camp site, not wanting to go home. "His mom was on the phone begging him," Richard Quenneville said. "He agreed he would stay out of the lake."

Another trip, it rained the entire week and the temperatures dropped into the 50s. Richard

Quenneville remembers wearing every piece of clothing he brought, just to try to stay warm.

The group was at popular Otsego Lake at the time and they insisted the horrible weather was not going to ruin their fun, which always includes sports like the annual bocce ball tournament. "We had 10 different tarps stretched over trees, the size of a small play field. After a day or so the place was empty besides us, but we had a riot," Richard Quenneville said. "We refer to that trip as tent city."

Extended family

Another year, someone invited along for the trip broke the cardinal rule and brought his wife. "He knew the whole story, he was told not to come back," Richard

Quenneville said. "The kids were livid that he had brought her. They were not at all happy; they complained the entire trip."

It turned out, the moms were right 25 years ago: The camping trips were good bonding time.

The dads shared their struggles with each other over campfires at night, Casey said: "There were divorces, businesses lost — it was like therapy for those guys."

The kids benefited from having an extended family, attending each other's weddings and baby showers when they grew up. "The kids had blood cousins, but these people are their families," Casey said.

And the kids and their dads each forged strong relationships. "As they got older, things went from, 'Dad read me a story' to 'We just don't know what mortgage lender to go through,'" Casey said.

As the 25th anniversary trip approaches, Richard Quenneville said the group's excitement is building for another memorable week of good times with good friends. Summer just wouldn't be the same without it.

"It's been a huge part of all of our lives," he said.

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11:15, 1:45, 4:35, 7:00, 9:20
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PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE (PG)
D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE
11:30, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

THE PURGE: ANARCHY (R)
12:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
FRI/SAT 11:55

DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13)
12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50, 9:10, 9:40
FRI/SAT 11:35

TAMMY (R)
FRI/SAT/MON 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45
FRI/SAT 12:00

SUN 11:45, 7:10, 9:45

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Farmers market ready for busy Sunday

Canton Farmers Market manager Tina Lloyd is promising a busy, fun-filled Sunday with large numbers of patrons expected in Preservation Park, on Ridge north of Cherry Hill, on Canton's west side.

Market hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Among this week's highlights:

» Musician Dan Mazur plays and sings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the porch of the Barlett-Travis House.

» Ms. Carissa leads a drum circle for percussion enthusiasts, with concerts set for 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

» Chef Paul cooks local produce from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

» Master gardeners provide information on lawn and garden diseases – and they'll answer questions from visitors.

» Biggy Coffee serves up coffee and drinks on the Barlett-Travis porch, near the Canton Leisure Services information table.

» Jen's gourmet dressings,

Woolsey's Wonders, SP Woodworking and JKM Soy Candles return this week. Crunch Granola and Michigan Garlic return a week later.

» Shimmy Shack offers lunch.

» Goods available include produce and plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, blueberries, cherries, raspberries, kale, broccoli, snap peas, beans, scallions, herbs, bok choy and other Asian produce, cabbage, greens, radishes, potatoes, chard, onions, turnip leeks, arugula, cut flowers and more.

» Vendors plan to bring honey, barbecue sauces, pasta, pasta sauces, dressings, marinades, meat, farm eggs, baked goods, frozen falafel mix, garlic sauce, artisan cheese and bread, soft pretzels, jams, pasties and sauce, chicken pot pies and more.

» Hand-crafted goods include soap, jewelry, wood work, hair accessories, tutus, soy candles and more.



Canton Farmers Market expects a busy day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.



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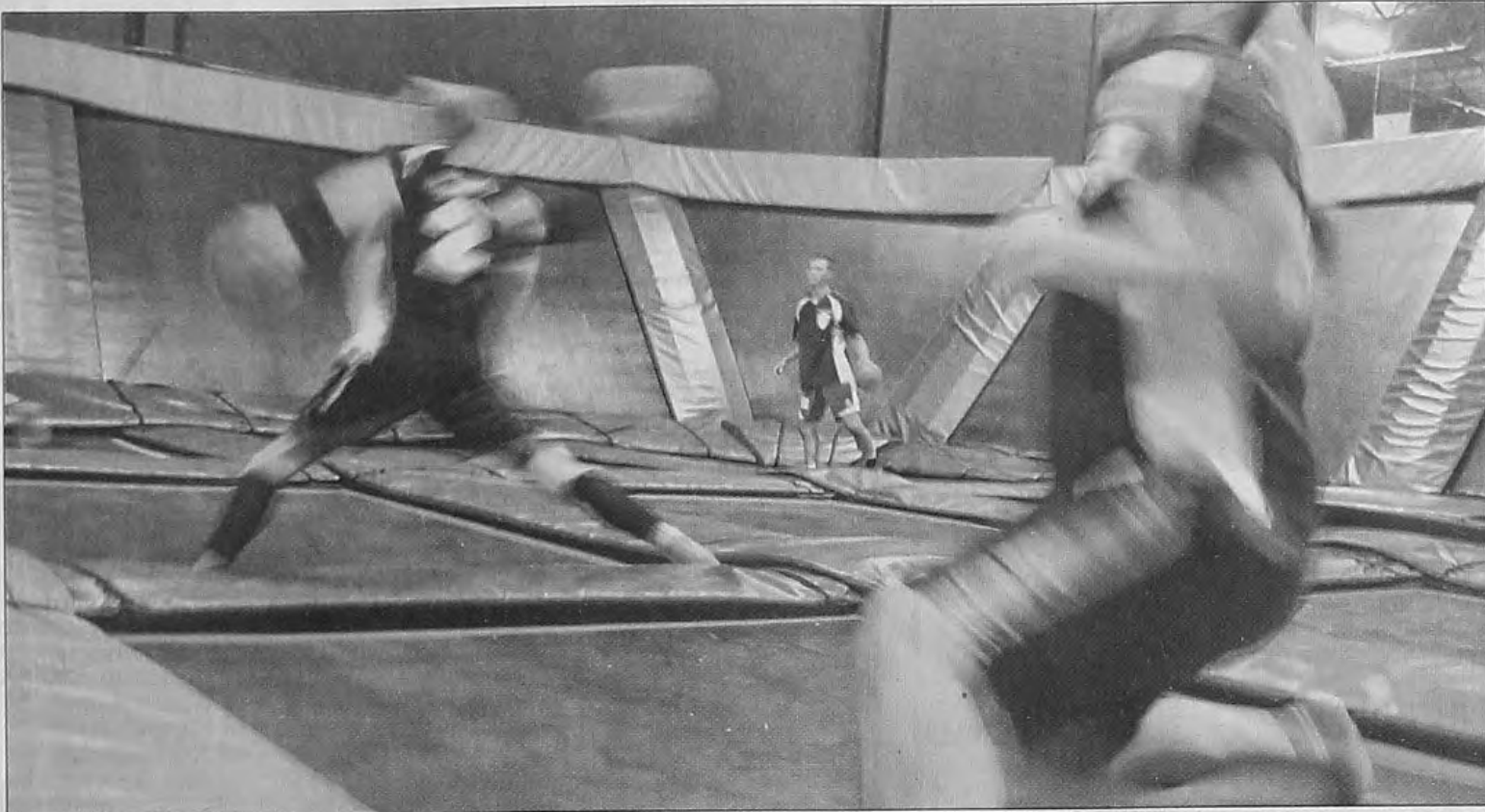
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HEADS UP!

Ultimate Dodgeball puts extreme twist on old-school sport



Action is a blur during the free-wheeling games of Ultimate Dodgeball, as demonstrated here by Free Headshots players during the recent state tourney at Sky Zone in Canton.

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Wow, how that good ol' school-yard staple called dodgeball has evolved — something worth rejoicing for new, prime-time players like Livonia's Simeon Kraft.

It used to be a game of dead-eye accuracy, where bigger kids slammed younger ones who couldn't react when a round, rubber sphere started zeroing in toward their heads.

In the 21st century, however, there is a version called Ultimate Dodgeball, where Kraft and other young athletes weaned on the X Games play inside a bowl-shaped trampoline — jumping, throwing and strategizing to their hearts' content while trying to remain the last one standing.

These days, they can't wait to go to battle.

Consider Kraft's team of twentysomethings called Free Headshots, who are glad to be part of the recreational sport's latest incarnation.

The team, featuring a number of members from Observer-area communities, won the Ultimate Dodgeball Challenge



Celebrating after winning the Ultimate Dodgeball Challenge June 29 in Canton are Free Headshots players (standing, from left) Jordan Hemingway, Jesse Jones, Mat Jones, Will Miller, Drew Jones, Matt Clunis, Billy Werthman and Simeon Kraft. Kneeling is Jon Long.

on June 29 at Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park in Canton. Due to financial reasons, however, the team will not compete Aug. 8-10 in Las Vegas, Nev., against Sky Zone qualifiers from around the country.

Frenetic fun

"I think the sport in general appeals to us, because everyone on our team is athletic," said Kraft, 22. "We all play soccer, football, volleyball. But

dodgeball as a sport appeals to us because it's very strategic and requires group synchronization.

"At the same time, it's very fast-paced. So it's a very rare combination that you got a game that's played at this speed, but with this much active strategy put into it. It's different than the dodgeball you play when you're in middle

See DODGEBALL, Page B3



GET IN THE ZONE

Info: For more information about Ultimate Dodgeball or other offerings at Sky Zone Trampoline Park in Canton, go to www.skyzone.com/canton or call 734-981-0007. Sky Zone also can be found on Facebook.

Location: Sky Zone Trampoline Park is located at 42550 Executive Drive, north of Michigan Avenue, between Lilley and Sheldon roads.

Upcoming: There will be an adult dodgeball tournament set for 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17, and a kids dodgeball tournament at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Facebook: Sky Zone and Free Headshots are all about using social media to communicate about what's going on. Like Sky Zone Trampoline Park and Free Headshots Dodgeball Team on their respective Facebook pages.



PCA grad Daniel Jipping (left) and Detroit Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler during Thursday's inaugural Muscle Milk Heavy Hitters Home Run Derby at Wayne State.

Muscle Man Dan

Plymouth Christian Academy graduate Daniel Jipping followed up his excellent performance at the July 10 Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game with another powerful performance.

Jipping, who will play Division I baseball next season at Central Michigan University, slammed 30 home runs Thursday night to win Wayne State University's inaugural Muscle Milk Heavy Hitters Home Run Derby.

He outslugged Walled Lake Northern's Brennan Williams in the final round.

Other participants at the event, hosted by Detroit Tigers all-star second baseman Ian Kinsler, included Atlanta Braves draft choice Dazon Cole (West Bloomfield), Will Salter (Orchard Lake St. Mary's), Randy Righter (Birmingham Brother Rice) and Ty Kiafoulis (Brother Rice).

Golf to help military vets

Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton will participate Monday, Aug. 11, in the World's Largest Golf Outing to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

The event will involve thousands of golfers and hundreds of courses throughout the country.

The cost is \$200 for a foursome, \$100 for a twosome and \$50 for a single golfer. The fee includes a hat and golf ball with the WLGO logo, greens fee, shared cart, lunch, prizes and awards.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. There will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m., followed by an awards ceremony at 3 p.m.

Golfers can register either at worldlargestgolfouting.com or fellowscreekgolf.com. For more information, call Fellows Creek at 734-728-1300.

Participants will have a chance to win a trip for four to the Nike Campus, which will include all fittings for custom-fit Nike irons and a Nike hat-and-shirt package.

She rides to make kids happy

Hills woman is major fundraiser in Make-A-Wish Michigan's annual bike tour

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Beth Brandvain of Farmington Hills is among the nearly 1,200 cyclists who are gearing up for one of the state's longest bike rides and biggest charitable events.

She will test her endurance while pushing the pedals July 24-27 in the Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour — a three-day, 300-mile journey traversing much of lower Michigan.

It's all for a good cause, however. The purpose is to raise money for Make-A-Wish Michigan, which grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

"If anybody is looking for a challenge

that is within reason but pushes the envelope a little, this is a great one," Brandvain said. "It's about far more than that. It's about connecting with a wonderful organization and granting wishes to kids who are very deserving."

It's the 27th year for the bike tour and the 16th for the 57-year-old Brandvain, who is one of Make-A-Wish's biggest fundraisers.

She has done most of those rides with her husband Avi on a recumbent tandem bicycle, but they decided to ride separate bikes this year for a change of pace.


The event begins in Traverse City and concludes at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. Along the way, there are overnight stops in Big Rapids and DeWitt.

It's the type of ride any fit rider can complete, save for an injury such as a swollen knee, according to Brandvain.

See BIKE TOUR, Page B4




Beth Brandvain takes a break from pedaling in last year's Wish-A-Mile bicycle tour. ANDREW KNAPIK



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Generals third in Summer Sizzler

The Michigan Generals finished third in the 12-and-under division of the Akron (Ohio) Summer Sizzler softball tournament July 13.

The Farmington Hills-based team posted a 5-1 record, losing its final game to the eventual champion, Ohio Ice Red. The Generals played three games at Firestone Stadium, home field for the Akron Racers, a professional women's softball team.

"They had the scoreboard going and they were announcing. It was pretty cool," Generals assistant coach Jeff Simpson said.

The Generals were one of three teams among the 12 that competed to win their first

five games, starting with a 7-3 win over the Ohio Diamondbacks.

Emma Curran scattered five hits and struck out five in a complete game. She was complemented by the play of Sarah Fish behind the plate.

Sydney Bernot and Curran led the offense with two hits each; Bernot also scored two runs.

Jordyn Taylor also pitched a five-hitter as the Generals won their next game, 9-2, over the Akron Grizzlies Fastpitch.

Kacey Noseworthy led the team with two singles and two runs. Allison Poremba, Curran and Alayna Mulford also had two hits and scored one run apiece.

Taylor's walk-off, RBI



The members of the Michigan Generals softball team are (from left to right) Jaden McLaury, Jordyn Taylor, Sarah Cassidy, Sydney Bernot, Molly Simpson, Maddie Armstrong, Sarah Fish, Emma Curran, Allison Poremba, Kacey Noseworthy, Olivia Kellems, Kelly McCullough and Alayna Mulford. The coaches are Jeff Simpson, Bob Fish and Dave Brubaker.

single gave the Generals a 5-4 win over Ohio Lightning Blue and a first-place finish in pool play.

The Generals rallied from a 4-1 deficit to tie the score with Poremba's three-run double in the third inning.

With runners at first and second in the bottom of the fifth, Taylor singled to right field, scoring Mulford.

Molly Simpson had two hits and scored a run;

Sarah Cassidy singled and scored, too. Curran was the winning pitcher.

In the first round of bracket play, Noseworthy had three hits and scored a run in the team's 8-2 rout of the Pittsburgh Riot.

Kelly McCullough had an RBI triple. Simpson and Taylor had two singles each and Maddie Armstrong one. All four of those girls and Olivia Kellems, who played

good defense in the outfield, scored a run.

Taylor and Mulford combined for a four-hit, five-strikeout pitching performance. The Generals scored six runs in the first inning to make Taylor the winner.

The Generals defeated the Grizzlies Fastpitch again for their fifth win, 5-1. Taylor earned another pitching victory, allowing four hits.

She helped her caused

with two hits and three RBIs. Curran had two hits and scored one run; Jaden McLaury had one of each.

Ice Red defeated the Generals, 13-1. It was only the second run Ice Red had allowed. McLaury had an RBI single that scored Curran.

The Generals earned a bid and will play July 23-27 in the ASA Eastern Regional in Marion, Ohio.

Mud Hens win fourth tournament



The Mud Hens baseball players are (kneeling, from left) Blake Bean, Brody Demunnik, Kyle Lockhart, Kevin Korte, Mitch Knedgen, Jack Budde, Dylan Parsons, Jack Downs, Dom Lanni and Tyler Holston; (sitting in front) Shane Saxton and Will McLellan; and (far right) Vic Mencotti. The coaches are (back row, from left) Roger Parsons, Steve Bean, Joe Mencotti and Mike Korte.

The 14-and-under Farmington Hills Mud Hens won their fourth baseball tournament championship of the season in the Commerce Fourth of July Classic.

The Mud Hens rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the championship game to defeat the Motor City Riversharks, 7-6.

Trailing 6-4 in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Mud Hens

loaded the bases and scored twice to tie the score.

With two outs and the bases still full, Dom Lanni laid down a perfect squeeze bunt to score the winning run.

"The team played great defensive baseball all weekend and the pitching and hitting made the difference," coach Roger Parsons said.

"It was a great effort by the entire team and everyone contributed to the win."

The Mud Hens won their first tournament at the EMU Early Bird Classic, defeating the Livonia Thunder in the championship game, 6-5.

They also won the Mother's Day Bash in North Ridgeville, Ohio, and the Kurt Demuth Memorial Tournament in Charlotte.

The Mud Hens were runners-up at the USSSA Baseball City Slugfest in Pontiac, losing to the Michigan Expos in the final, 9-7.

The Mud Hens are a Triple-A independent baseball team representing the Farmington Hills area. They have been together as a team for five years.

In a few weeks, the team will participate in the Ripken's Ocean Breeze Week Long Experience in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Rams rally, nip 'Canes after rout of Lightning

The Michigan Rams scored single runs in the fourth and fifth innings Wednesday to break a 1-1 tie and defeat the Hurricanes in a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League game, 3-1.

Nolan Page was 2-for-2 and scored two runs for the Rams, who improved their record to 18-8. Dominic Jamett hit a solo homer, accounting for the team's other run.

Randy Kuzdak was 2-for-3 with an RBI. The team's seven hits included one each by Travis Harvey, who also had an RBI, and P.J. Nowak.

Ben Matigian went 2-for-4 for the Hurricanes (11-12-1) and drove in their lone run, which was scored by Jake Makowski.

Jake Balicki pitched a complete game for the Rams, scattering six hits, striking out five and issuing two walks. He pitched six straight shutout innings after allowing a run in the first inning. The Rams tied the score in the bottom of the second.

Hurricanes starter Chase Keathley got the loss, allowing two runs on five hits and a walk over

four innings. Josh Lockwood pitched the last two.

In a game played Monday, the Rams jumped on the Southfield Lightning for four runs in their first at-bat and never trailed en route to an 11-5 victory.

Jake Semak pitched 4 2/3 innings and got the win despite giving up five runs on nine hits and three walks. He fanned five. Johnny Slater threw 2 2/3 innings of no-hit, scoreless relief.

The Rams supported Semak with 10 hits. They led 5-1 after three innings and 7-4 through four.

Kuzdak was 2-for-3 and drove in five runs. Kyle Jusick and Slater went 2-for-4 and Trent Drumheller 2-for-5.

Jusick knocked in two runs and Page, Nick Harris and Harvey had one RBI apiece. Page also scored three runs and Harris two.

For the Lightning (4-21), Mark Tooley was 2-for-3 and had two RBIs and Don Goodson was 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles.

Brad Jones also had two hits. Joe Killian had one RBI and Kevin Moore scored two runs.

Park to host USSSA World Series

Canton Sports Center at Victory Park will be the host site of the 2014 United States Specialty Sports Association Baseball AA World Series.

The July 24-27 tournament includes more than 90 teams from around the country, featuring boys ages 9-14.

The opening ceremony is at 8 a.m. Thursday, July 24, with the tournament continuing through Sunday, July 27.

Admission to the tournament is \$10 per person, per day. A tournament

pass is available for \$30. Children ages 6-12 and seniors 65 and older will be charged \$5 per day or \$20 for a tournament pass. Children 6 and under get in free.

For more information, contact Ann-Marie Carra-vallah, Canton Sports Center coordinator, at 734-483-5600 or visit csc.canton-mi.org. Additional information is available at www.michusssa.com.

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Simeon Kraft (foreground) is poised to make a play. He is flanked by teammates Matt Clunis (left) and Billy Werthman (right).

DODGEBALL

Continued from Page B1

school, where you just throw balls and try not to get hit."

Based on the fact Free Headshots came away with hardware following the June 29 state tourney final (a victory over a team called Our Ball, Your Face), Kraft and his teammates were successful enough in that regard.

One of his teammates, 24-year-old Will Miller of River-view, said it was quite a thrill to win last month's tournament. Free Headshots prevailed in a round-robin format, besting the 12-team field.

"I think it was pretty fantastic to win it," said Miller, who possesses a strong arm and the penchant for picking off opponents. "We won it two years ago and we got to go to (Los Angeles). But this year we're not able to go because of team funding."

Team captain Mat Jones, a 22-year-old from Farmington, said Free Headshots was guaranteed prize money for the 2012 regionals in California, regardless where the team finished in the competition. When no such guarantee was available this time around, the decision was made to skip the Las Vegas event.

"Last year they changed it and now you only are guaranteed money if you make the top eight out of 40 or 50," said Jones, a Farmington High School alum. "And since all of us but one or two are in high school or college, we can't really afford to make the trip out to Las Vegas on such short notice without being guaranteed prize money back."

Money matters aside, Miller said Ultimate Dodgeball is "a combination of two great things. It's dodgeball and you got trampoline, so everybody loves both of those. It just makes sense."

Sticking together

Just how team members came up with Free Headshots for a nickname was something that — pardon the expression — kind of smacked them in the face.

"We went to a tournament



Considering his next move is Matt Clunis (right). At left is Will Miller.

where you weren't allowed to hit people in the head," Miller said. "Like, they wouldn't be out, you'd be out. So we took the name Headshots Only."

"And then the next tournament we were Free Headshots, not sure exactly why. We're a pretty silly team, though."

Jones said many team members started playing the original version of dodgeball during youth group at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville when they were in middle school.

One tournament led to another and eventually took them to Sky Zone. They quickly adapted from gym floor to trampoline.

"Moving on into high school, we started hearing about a couple tournaments. We threw a team together for the Detroit Cup Tournament that comes around every March," Jones said. "And we kind of stuck as a team since then."

"As the years go by, we've been playing more and more tournaments. We've been to Canada several times, Chicago several times."

Other members of the state champions include Farmington's Jesse Jones, Drew Jones and Matt Clunis and Livonia's Jon Long, Phil Maessen, Ben Kraft, Ben Sweetman and Billy Werthman. Ferndale's Jordan Hemingway is assis-

tant captain.

New-school buzz

Canton Sky Zone manager Darian Luttrell said the facility, located in an industrial park at 42550 Executive Drive (near Michigan and Lilley roads), opened in 2012 and is becoming extremely popular with the younger set.

"I like that it's fun, it's a workout," said Luttrell, a 2011 graduate of Southfield-Lathrup who now attends Eastern Michigan University. "That's why a lot of people come here. It's just different elements, it's not the natural, traditional dodgeball — it provides that new-school element to it."

Other Sky Zones in Michigan are located in Grand Rapids and Shelby Township. At all three facilities, Luttrell stressed, people of all ages and both genders participate.

By and large, the essence of dodgeball remains unchanged from yesteryear.

There are five balls in circulation to start the action (two per team and one placed in the center of the court) and, once the whistle blows, anything goes.

Players keep firing balls (sometimes at a velocity of upwards of 70 mph) trying to nail opponents and force them to the sidelines. If a throw is caught by a player on the other side, the one who launched it takes a seat.

Adding insult to injury, the player who made that catch can wave a teammate back into the fray from the bench to gain an edge in the numbers game.

As always, the team with the last player standing wins. "Each team starts out with five people and it's just like regular dodgeball," Luttrell said. "As soon as you get hit with the ball, you're out."

Wild and crazy

Thanks to how players can soar high into the air and come at each other from crazy angles, players need to simultaneously be proficient in physical and mental gymnastics.

For Kraft and Miller, that challenging combo is what really makes Ultimate Dodgeball such a rush.

"I'm jumping higher than I could normally jump," Kraft said. "But also the structure of the arenas (there are 26 Sky Zone parks in North America) have the trampolines along the walls that angle; (it) definitely adds another dimension to the game. I just enjoy it."

According to Kraft, being able to react under pressure is integral to success, not to mention reading how a game is progressing.

"It's very fast-paced and so ... it's just doing the math," Kraft said. "I know I've got a ball and my teammate has one

and I think there's one behind me, so that I'm only looking for two on the other side.

"And that influences my decision on who to throw at or if I should be throwing at all."

Another strategy is feeding balls to teammates in better position to attack.

"I would get a ball and, let's say I kind of hyperextended my elbow and I'm not sure I'm going to get a good throw off," Kraft said. "It's better to feed it to one of my teammates who still has a strong arm. That's a legitimate strategy."

"And some of the more basic strategies that really pay off are just ball control, making sure you don't give them all away and controlling the pace of the game."

In position

Defensive positioning can't be ignored, either.

"It's one thing to just stand there and let them throw at you," Kraft said. "But it's another to have someone, if your team's only got like one ball and they've got three, to have people positioned so that as soon as the other team is throwing at you, you're in a position to counter-attack. "And so, it's little things like that, really tend to pay off."

Miller added that players on Free Headshots have great team chemistry and communication skills that often mean the difference between winning and losing.

"We don't necessarily have plays, but if we have more of the balls than them then we try to throw two at once," Miller said. "Or if we only have one more than them then we only throw one, just simple stuff."

"And covering people, trying to tip balls up so that you can try to catch them instead of getting hit."

So to that end, the basics of dodgeball haven't changed from generation to generation.

Still, Sky Zone's trampolines are helping to launch the current version of the sport higher than it's ever gone.

You might say it's becoming the ultimate.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

National judo champ



Nicholas Joseph of Livonia (middle) won a USA Judo junior national championship June 29 in Irving, Texas. Joseph competed in the Juvenile B 66-kilogram weight class of the 15-17 age group. He won all four of his matches to capture the gold medal. Joseph is a Shodan (first-degree black belt) and trains year round at the Birmingham YMCA under Olympic referee Noboru Saito. Joseph will be a junior at Catholic Central High School, where he is a varsity wrestler.

SUMMER CAMPS

Wildcats baseball

The Plymouth Wildcats summer baseball clinic will be Wednesday, July 23, at the Plymouth High School baseball field.

The first session is 9 a.m. to noon for boys and girls entering grades 1-4; the second is 1-4 p.m. for boys and girls entering grades 5-8.

The cost, which includes a snack and water, is \$25 before July 20, \$30 after that date. Participants need to bring a glove, cleats, bat and baseball hat.

To obtain a registration form, contact head coach Jason Crain at plymouthbaseball@pccsmail.net or plymouthbaseballboosters@gmail.com.

Lutheran soccer

A soccer mini-camp for beginning and intermediate players (boys and girls ages 5-12) will be 6:30-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 21-24, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

The cost is \$20 (includes T-shirt, snacks and soccer ball). To register, visit www.christsaviors.org; or call 734-522-6830.

Summer camps

On tap this summer through Canton Leisure Services are sports camps instructed by longtime coach Pat Watson.

The camps will emphasize drills and skills that cover offensive strategies and defensive

plays in game situations. Mornings will be spent on drills focused on improving fundamentals, while afternoons will be used for scrimmages. Participants should pack a sack lunch and a water bottle.

Basketball: There will be two more weekly basketball camps at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Those sessions (for ages 7-14) will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as follows: Session 2, July 21-25; Session 3, July 28 through Aug. 1. The fee is \$150 for residents and \$160 for non-residents.

To register, visit cantonfun.org, call Canton Sports Center at 734-483-5600 or visit either Canton Sports Center or Summit on the Park and inquire.

Waza track athletes capture AAU crowns

Waza Track Club performed exceptionally well at the AAU National Qualifier meet July 5-6, producing 14 champions, 10 runners-up and nine third-place finishers.

The Waza athletes joined others from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and several other states in the AAU Michigan Region Championship.

They were competing to qualify for the Junior Olympics, July 26 through Aug. 2 in Des Moines, Iowa. With the exception of one athlete who was injured during his event, every Waza athlete qualified for Junior Olympics.

Every athlete achieved at least one personal record and many achieved multiple personal records. The club collected 35 medals (places 1-3) and 26 rib-

bons (places 4-8).

Jordan Weekley (13) and James Weekley (15-16) of Farmington Hills and Taji Chappell (14) of Westland are Observerland athletes and national champions.

Chappell won the triple jump. He also was third in the 200-meter hurdles and high jump and fifth in the long jump.

James Weekley won the 1,500 and 3,000 runs, as well as the javelin, and was third in the 800 run. Jordan won the javelin, placed second in the discus and finished third in the shot put.

The national runners-up were Josh Momeyer (14), Livonia - 800 run, second; 400 run, fifth; Anna Nagelhout (14), Plymouth - 1,500 run, second; 800 run, fifth.

Other national qualifi-

ers were Allison Deep (8), Milford - 100 dash, 200 dash, 400 run; Zoe Morrow (8), Farmington Hills - 100 dash, 200 dash, long jump; and Lily Wilczewski (11), Northville - 400 run, 800 run, 1,500 run.

In the Michigan AAU District championship meet June 14-15, Waza had 15 state champions and 10 runners-up.

The team earned 36 medals (top three finishes) and 40 ribbons (places four through eight). Waza athletes competed in a total of 80 events and qualified for the regional championships in 77.

The area state champions were Jordan Weekley, javelin, shot put; James Weekley, 1,500 run, 3,000 run; and Taji Chappell, high jump, triple jump.



The Waza Track Club team includes (front row, from left) Kyle Samluk, Bo Anderson, Ava Rathwell, Mahi Khandelwal, Grace Hoover, Lily Wilczewski, Bella Haynes, Zoe Morrow-Adams, Amanda Nickell and Saanvi Reddy; (middle row, from left) Haley Rathwell, Mariah Belcher-Lamb, Anna Nagelhout, Marisa Sailus, Victoria Heiligenthal, Madison Swisher and assistant coach Cathy Momeyer; and (back row, from left) head coach Doug McDowell, assistant coach Colin Cashner, Akshay Reddy, James Weekley, Josh Momeyer, Taji Chappell, Josh Holcomb, Jordan Weekley, Melanie McDowell and Jordan Turner. Also on the team are Matthew and Michael Brown.

The state runners-up were Jordan Weekley, discus; Josh Momeyer, 800 run; and Taji Chappell, 200 hurdles.

Third-place medalists included Allison Deep,

200, 400; Zoe Morrow, long jump; Lily Wilczewski, 1,500; Anna Nagelhout, 1,500; James Weekley, javelin.

Athletes earning ribbons were Deep, 100;

Mahi Khandelwal (11), Northville, 400, 800; Jordan Weekley, long jump; Anna Nagelhout, 800; Josh Momeyer, 400; James Weekley, 800; Taji Chappell, long jump.



Beth Brandvain poses for a portrait for the Wish-A-Mile Hall of Fame.



Beth Brandvain (left) and her husband Avi ride their tandem bike along a secluded Michigan road in the Wish-A-Mile tour. PHOTOS BY ANDREW KNAPIK

BIKE TOUR

Continued from Page B1

"Other than that, it should be doable for somebody who is prepared," she said. "It's not as daunting as it sounds. All kinds of people do this ride.

"There are some who are unbelievably fit and could do it a hundred

times over and there are people who can surprise themselves and not believe they could do it."

Back on the bike

Brandvain had surgery in May and didn't ride for six weeks. She just started back recently, so her level of conditioning isn't what it ordinarily is.

"I'm not as prepared as I should be, so that will

be interesting, too," she said. "I don't have as many miles as I would like under my wheels, but I'm well-rested."

Brandvain rides her bike five days a week, normally. She logged nearly 6,000 miles last year.

Regarding the bike tour, she added some people come for the ride and get hooked on the cause, while some come

for the cause and become hooked on cycling.

"It's a nice little evolutionary process that happens and brings everybody together for a common cause," she said.

'Watch for that ...'

The cyclists, most of whom are over 50, must ride on regular roadways to cover so many miles, but most roads are not too busy and the route is

beautiful, according to Brandvain.

A big challenge for riders is the same one that has vexed Michigan motorists — poor condition of the roads.

"Sometimes, you'll see cyclists in the middle of the road and what they're doing is avoiding the potholes that could cause them to fall and hurt themselves," Brandvain said. "It is a concern this year with the roads being in such bad shape. I imagine this year's ride will be a little more challenging in that respect.

"Drivers don't always give cyclists the room they need, although they're legally entitled to that."

On the overnight stops, most riders camp on the high school grounds or sleep in the gym. Those who choose to stay in a hotel pay for it themselves.

"It's not advertised as a hotel ride," Brandvain said. "We don't want anybody to think (those riders who do are) staying in a hotel on the dime of the people that support them."

Why they ride

On the fundraising side, Brandvain is part of the 140-member Team Alex, which was organized in 1999 in memory of the late Alex Graham, a young girl from West Bloomfield and a wish child.

Her wish was to create a public service announcement to encourage kids to "just smile" when they see other kids with cancer.

Brandvain is on her way to raising \$25,000 this year and has a goal of \$30,000. Team Alex has contributed more than \$2.7 million since it became involved in the event.

This year's ride is expected to generate \$2 million. Make-A-Wish Michigan's objective is to grant a wish for every mile of the bike tour.

"Alex didn't want people to feel sorry for her," Brandvain said. "She wanted people to do

a good deed in her name.

"It's about way more than a trip to Disneyland or what the kids choose. For some people, it's a very important part of healing. If you think of it from that perspective, it's a lot more meaningful.

"People get a lot of hope, strength and joy from a wish. Sometime, kids rally enough to have their wish granted. If you put it on a personal level and see what you can do for a family, it's a very important thing."

Brandvain added the members of Team Alex made a giant family tree and have as their slogan, Family by Choice.

"What I like best are the friendships and meaningful connections people have made with each other," she said. "I think we really feel we are family. People do feel a special connection."

Grand finale at MIS

The bike tour ends with the Heroes Hurrah at MIS, in which the wish kids award the exhausted cyclists with medals as they cross the finish line.

"One year a girlfriend and I said, 'Enough of this,'" Brandvain said. "We said we weren't going to do this anymore. Then, we got to the end and tears were streaming down our faces and we said, 'Well, I guess we'll be back next year.'"

"It was very emotional. We were happy and sad, exhausted and exhilarated. You've been riding for three days, sometimes in all kinds of crazy weather. Those are long days.

"There's a beauty to a shared experience, whether you're doing it on a team with friends or with a friend in mind who's not even there.

"It's going to be my 16th time. Every time I complete something like that, it's unbelievable. It's a journey you take with friends."

For more information about the event or Make-A-Wish, go to wishamile.org or michigan.wish.org or call 800-622-9474.

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Musicians bring varied styles, single message to Redford festival

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If it weren't for their collective message, the 10 bands that will play in a Redford music festival next weekend likely wouldn't share the same stage.

"There's no reason we should be together. I've got a guy that does a smooth jazz thing coming and last year I had a rap group. I've got acoustic performers. We keep it incredibly diverse so if you don't like the hard rock music we play, if you wait a minute there is a jazz group playing. Then wait another minute and we've got blues," said Ben Mitchell, who arranges the music lineup for the annual Hosanna Palooza Christian music festival at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford. "Go to a regular concert venue and you're not going to see a jazz keyboard player opening for a rock band."

Mitchell, a Livonia resident, said the diverse musical lineup works because the musicians all include a Christian message in their music.

"Sometimes you've got to pay attention. The stuff we write is not necessarily 'go Jesus, yea Jesus,' but if you pay attention, you'll know," Mitchell said, describing the music that his band, This Fire Within, performs.

Award winners

Canton-based Sweet Crystal has played musical festivals throughout the country and has won multiple honors at the Detroit Music Awards, but will make its first appearance at Hosanna Palooza on Saturday, July 26.

"What we always try and do with one of our shows is leave the listener with a sense of hope and understanding that whatever they are going



This Fire Within plays at the annual Hosanna Palooza Christian Music Festival.

through, we have probably gone through it as well and we have a solution and a direction they can use to triumph," said Marq Speck, lead vocalist and guitarist, in an email to the *Observer*.

Speck said the festival setting gives listeners a chance to hear the band's music and message in a "nonthreatening atmosphere" and to enjoy other bands and activities at the event.

In addition to the 10 bands that will play an hour each from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., the festival will include food concessions, crafters, vendors, carnival games and gift drawings.

Mitchell suggested the festival to the Rev. Paul Undlin, Hosanna-Tabor pastor, after his band performed at the church. They fleshed out the idea together and recruited 10 bands for the first festival held

HOSANNA PALOOZA

What: A free Christian music festival

When: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 26

Where: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverage, east of Inkster Road, south of Plymouth Road, Redford

Details: 10 bands play in 10 hours. Crafters and vendors will be on hand from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift drawing will be held at 3 p.m. Food concessions will be on site

Schedule: » 11 a.m., Not Our Own — Acoustic

» Noon, Heavenly Embers — Worship

» 1 p.m., Wise Family — Rock

» 2 p.m., The Lively Pelts — Classic Rock

» 3 p.m., This Fire Within — Rock

» 4 p.m., The Transparent — Worship

» 5 p.m., Kindred Nation — World Jazz

» 6 p.m., Sweet Crystal — Rock

» 7 p.m., Aaron Lucas & Co. — Blues Rock

» 8 p.m., Connor Roy — Worship

Contact: 313-937-2424

the position of its outreach director. He said the festival is a "family reunion" for its performers.

"At this point, a lot of guys and I have been doing this for so long, we've become one giant family. It's great to get together and see each other," he said.

The bands play for free, but get a chance to sell their merchandise. Vendor fees and concession stand sales help pay for the festival. Some money also is set aside for charity.

This year, proceeds will benefit the family of John Bieniewicz, the soccer referee who was killed in Livonia this month.

"They are members here, active, vibrant members of the church," Undlin said. "We wanted to make sure we could support them in any way possible."

five years ago.

"That first year, we were struggling to find bands to play a festival they had never heard of," Undlin said. "But the past few years we've had people asking if we have room for

them. Fortunately (Mitchell) has remained well-connected in the music scene here."

One big family

Mitchell is a member of the church and recently took on

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'Baby brain' makes pregnancy forgettable

With pregnancy come side effects that some women, myself included, don't particularly like. Take the backache, swollen feet, and an enlarging abdomen that starts to get so tough that your ribs feel like they are being crushed. Not to mention the countless visits to the doctors office and the curiosity of trying to understand how that bowling ball size human is actually going to come out of your body. Most of these "symptom" are frustrating, irritating, and certainly not enjoyable. But the most aggravating part of pregnancy, for me, is the "baby brain."

Some people might tell you that the baby brain is a myth, but now that I am moving into my third trimester of my first pregnancy, I can tell you it's the truth. One day, you just wake up, and your brain doesn't work like it used to. I like to think that I am giving all my great memory to my daughter, sort of helping her to be the best person she can be, and maybe the smartest baby around. I figure she must be getting brilliant, collecting all the brain cells that I am losing so rapidly. I can't remember who I talked to earlier in the day anymore, nor can I remember if I folded my laundry, locked the door, or turned off the lights. You could quiz me on something as simple as naming all the people in my family, and



By Sarah Davies

THEN THERE WERE TWO

I'm probably going to mess up some of their names.

Sharp mind

I like to think that pre-pregnancy I was a pretty smart cookie. I don't think I would go so far as to say I had the memory of an elephant, but I could manage to pull off an A on an exam if I put my mind to it. I certainly could remember my address and phone number, and maybe even those of some friends. But now, as I move quickly through my sixth month of pregnancy, I might even forget my birthday if my mother didn't remind me. It's difficult to plan the life of someone new when you can't even remember what day of the week it is.

Sometimes my words don't come out right; I say things all messed up and backwards. I recently said I was trying to get all my eggs in a row when obviously I meant get my ducks in a row. I've been known to mispronounce words that maybe I haven't heard out loud before, but now I've been mispronouncing common words and phrases like chicken and procrastinate. I catch myself stumbling over the simplest of things, and repeating myself numerous times to the same

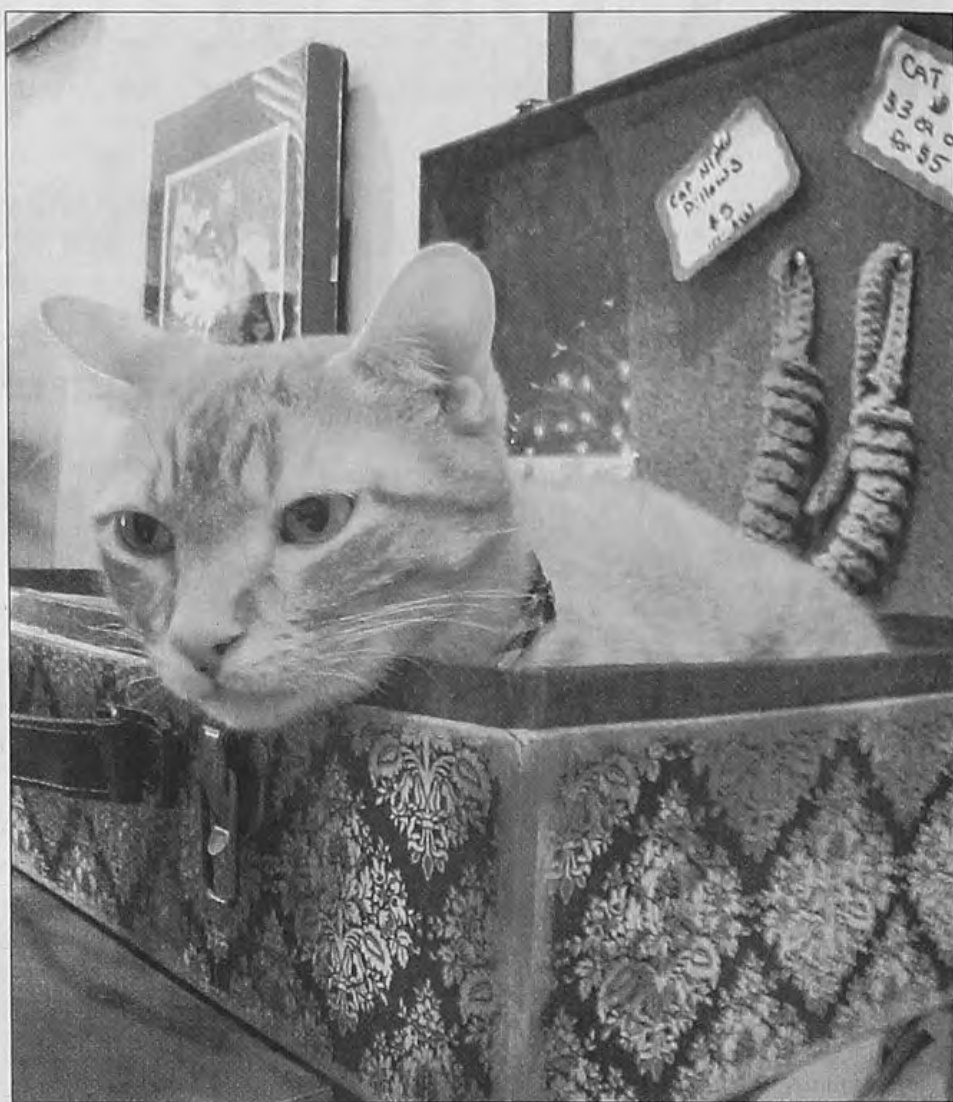
person, like a bad rerun of *Groundhog Day*.

Forever forgetful?

Supposedly, the baby brain will wear off once the baby is born, along with the backache, heartburn and swollen feet. People constantly tell me that the "cure" for that symptom is birth and that I just need to keep my eye on the prize and I will be pleasantly excited when my new arrival comes. I've heard that the pain from birth "isn't so bad," and "if it was people would stop having babies." But you want to know what I think? I think the baby brain continues, that once you start to become forgetful you can never go back to that fantastic memory you think you might have once had. And THAT is why people forget all about birth and the pain and symptoms of pregnancy ... simply because their brains don't work the way they used to, and all that is left is forgetfulness.

If you can't remember your own phone number, how in the world would you remember the crummy parts of delivering a baby? Who knows? Maybe I am right. I've got about 90 days or so until I will know for sure. Until then ... wait, what was I saying?

Sarah Davies lives in Livonia and grew up in Farmington Hills. She writes about her journey toward single motherhood.



Think you've got an award-winning household or pedigree cat? The International Cat Association is accepting applications for its show, Aug. 2-3 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Dogs visit food trucks, cats compete for awards

Food truck for dogs

Building on the massively popular Detroit food truck trend, Milo's Kitchen brand dog treats is launching the area's first mobile food experience for dogs and their pet parents.

The Milo's Kitchen Treat Truck will offer dogs a chance to taste chicken and beef home-style dog treats, such as Chicken Meatballs and Grilled Burger Bites. They'll also get a chance to take a free family photo or "doggie selfie" in a professional canine-ready photo booth, socialize with other four-legged friends in the backyard-style lapdog lounge, take a break with dog beds, drinking bowls and puppy toys, and bring home a doggie bag of tasty treats.

The Milo's Kitchen Treat Truck is free and will stop at the Canton Dog Park, starting at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, July 27, in Preservation Park, north of Cherry Hill Road and east of North Ridge Road



PET PROJECTS

and at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 27, at Heritage Park, 1010 S. Canton Center Road, in Canton.

Follow the treat truck's live location updates at <http://twitter.com/miloskitchen>.

Cats galore

Cats from all over the world will compete in six separate divisions for titles, regional, and international awards at The International Cat Association cat show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 2-3, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi.

Seven judging rings will run continuously each day. Visitors will see such breeds as the curly Cornish Rex, the wild-looking Bengals and Savannahs, the folded-eared Scottish Folds and more.

Vendors with cat-related products will be on hand and some cats will be available for adoption.

Anyone interested in showing a pedigreed or mixed breed cat may enter before July 27 at www.GLCatConsortium.com.

Admission is \$4 per person. Parking is \$5 per car.

Ann Grenier of The Country Cat and City Kitty Rescue in Livonia will be on hand with her award-winning felines. Her cat, "A Moment in Tyme," will receive an award for the top Household Pet Kitten in the region. Tyme also a No. 2 international winner. Grenier also will receive an award for having had the No. 4 Household Pet Kitten in the region.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County

Learn the proper way to save open-pollinated tomato seeds by the fermentation method. Paul Rodman, Master Gardener emeritus and longtime seed saver, will share his secrets, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at MSU Extension, 5454 Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Van Born, Wayne. For information, call 313-719-1181.

English Gardens

» Learn which of the more than 100 varieties of hydrangeas are best for your garden at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433;

Friends of the Rouge

Friends of the Rouge board president Mike Darga leads a walk, "Explore the Rouge: Newburgh Lake on Foot," 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 24. Meet at the comfort station on the south side of Hines Drive, west of Newburgh. RSVP at the-rouge.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY AUGUST 7, 2014 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 7, 2014 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- Application 1516, 10361 Trailwood, R-1-S zoning district: is requesting one variance to construct a sunroom. The required minimum rear yard setback is 50 feet; the proposed sunroom would reduce the rear yard setback to 40 feet. The variance requested is 10 feet of rear yard setback.
- Application 1517, 9410 Corinne, R-1 zoning district: is requesting one variance to construct a detached garage. The proposed garage is 14.6 feet in height; the maximum allowed is 12 feet in height. The variance requested is 2.6 feet in height.
- Application 1518, 14855 Sheldon RD, C-2 zoning district: is requesting three variances:
 - Wall sign not allowed to protrude more than 12" from wall. This wall sign would protrude 16" to 18" from wall. Variance requested 6" protrusion from wall.
 - Prohibited panel wall signs. This sign is a panel wall sign. Variance requested to allow 1 panel wall sign on the front of the building facing Sheldon Road.
 - Maximum allowed signable area for the wall sign is 90 square feet; this wall sign will be 111 square feet. Variance requested is 21 square feet of signable area.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734 354-3210.

Publish: July 20, 2014, Observer Newspaper

Let's PAWS to applaud extraordinary kids!

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Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.

PAIN 101

Understanding and finding relief for body pains

Whether it's sharp or dull, off and on or constant, pain can be a real pain at times. With the ability to interrupt time with family, lessen productivity at work and create many sleepless nights, understanding the source of your pain is essential for relief.

As a source of discomfort, it may be hard to view pain in a positive light. But this natural, protective tool is used by the body as an alert of present or potential harm to tissues. While pain usually ceases once the stimulus has been removed and the damage to tissue has healed, there are many different factors involved for the amount of time the process takes. One thing is certain — whether it takes an hour or several months, relief is the main focus for those who suffer from any type of pain.

According to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, approximately 100 million Americans deal with chronic pain, which is classified as discomfort lasting six months or longer. While this type of pain can range from minor to debilitating, it can disrupt the social and physical aspects of life in a major way. Those that suffer from this condition often experience headaches, backaches and neck pain, though it can aggravate other areas within the body. Due to its lengthy nature, chronic pain can often lead to emotional issues, such as depression and stress, which can exacerbate the healing process.

The best way to identify chronic pain is to be aware of its symptoms. This pain is persistent and can often be described as aching, burning or shooting. The area where



Hot or cold pack therapy can ease pain.



A comforting toy can help distract a youngster from focusing on pain.

the pain is located is often defined by patients as sore, tight or stiff. Because this type of pain can affect so many areas of life, many in the health community recommend a comprehensive mind and body approach for its management. This can include medication, injections, acupuncture and other holistic treatments.

Here are some of the common types of chronic pain and a few ways to end the discomfort, so you can

get back to enjoying life.

Back and neck pain

What causes nearly 40 percent of missed work days in the U.S. and is the fifth most common cause for doctor visits? Running from the top of the neck to the bottom of the spine, back pain is a common complaint among many people. While back pain is typically divided into the most common areas of neck, middle back, lower back and tailbone, its

symptoms can also be felt in other parts of the body, including arms, hands, legs and feet.

Some of the common remedies for back and neck pain include everything from massage therapy, acupuncture, acupuncture, back conditioning exercises, medication and hot and cold therapy to help eliminate swelling.

Headache pain

Though there are many factors that can trigger its unpleasant feeling, headaches can range from a minor sinus headache to a severe migraine. Though it may feel that your brain is the source for the pain, the discomfort is actually caused by a disturbance to the structures surrounding it, and not within the tissue itself.

Some headache symptoms can be as minor as sensitivity to light or noise to the extreme conditions of fever and vomiting. Treatment can range from over-

the-counter medications to natural treatments, such as the Thermal-Aid Headache Relief System.

Helping children through pain

Whether they're visiting a physician to receive a routine shot or undergoing treatment, it can be difficult for parents to watch their children experience pain. Here are some tips from the American Medical Association for helping your little ones cope:

» Stay close during the pain. Regardless of their age, your presence is comforting to your child.

» Make contact with your child. If you can, hold or touch your child throughout the process.

» Take notes from nature. Some animals, such as kangaroo mothers, carry their young close to them. If you have an infant in pain, hold your baby close to your chest wearing only a diaper. This tactic is used worldwide and research shows that it can reduce pain during a procedure.

» Offer distractions. Focus the attention on things your child enjoys to help them relax. Some helpful diversions include singing a song together, reading a book out loud or telling their favorite story.

» Be truthful. Tell your child up front the procedure will cause discomfort but you will be there for support.

If you suffer from persistent body and head pains, it's important to understand the source of the pain. For more ways to stop the pain, visit <http://thermalaidproducts.com>.

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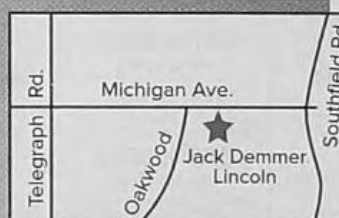
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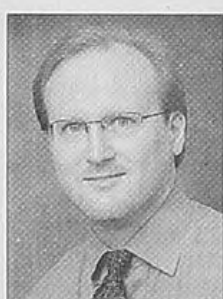
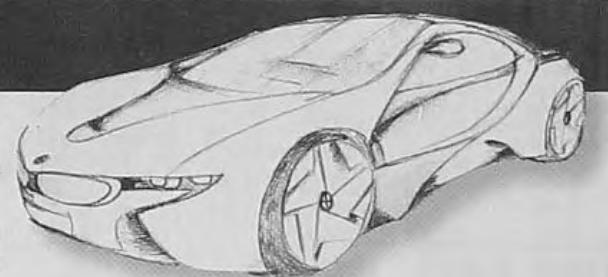
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Car Report

Toyota Sienna Exemplifies Why Minivans Are Still So Great



By Dale Buss

With minivan sales showing more perk than they have in a while, Toyota is introducing a refreshed 2015 Sienna minivan with a passel of strategic improvements in the vehicle itself – and a marketing campaign that breaks significantly more interesting ground.



The 2015 Toyota Sienna.

Toyota's just-breaking "Unexpected Adventures" campaign for the fall launch of the new Sienna is an internet-only campaign that uses fun videos that happen to be created by parents who already showed they were adept at exploiting the world of social media.

Meanwhile, the 2014 Toyota Sienna that it replaces showed me on a recent trip that it has absolutely everything families would need in an automotive platform. And so the improvements in the new model year – touches such as a feature that helps parents talk with kids in the rear of the vehicle without having to shout – only enhance what already is an outstanding package.

I've always been extremely partial to minivans in

the first place, having leased a couple of Chrysler Town & Country minivans sequentially as our kids were growing up. And from the beginning of the minivan phenomenon with Chrysler vehicles in the early Eighties until today, I defy anyone to come up with a category of vehicle that is so versatile and checks so many boxes for practical automotive ownership.

Decent gas mileage for a larger vehicle? Check.

Pretty good handling for something that's not a sports sedan? Check.

Complete and utter flexibility of the interior space for passengers and cargo? Double check.

Most comfortable and flexible seating options for the largest number and biggest variety of people? Double check as well.

Best driver and passenger visibility, especially in the front, for any type of vehicle on the American road? Triple check.

No matter so many soccer moms bought and are still buying minivans. And that, of course, is the only real rub against this mode of transportation: It's considered dowdy. And today's soccer moms and dads don't want to be seen as fuddy-duddies, so minivans aren't even on the consideration list for many, many families these days as they buy new vehicles.

They should put Sienna back on that list. Aesthetically on the outside, it's about as pleasing as a minivan can get. And inside – where vans do their business – it executes to the max on each one of those



Great visibility is one of the abiding features of Sienna and other minivans.

major advantages of minivans

The 2014 Sienna we drove on an iconic, Fourth of July road trip up the peninsula was powered by a 3.5-liter, 24-valve six-cylinder engine that yielded an EPA-rated 16 mpg in the city and 23 mpg on the highway. My mileage, mostly highway and country driving, was a little better than that in the latter measure.

In any event, Toyota's reliable 3.5-liter was a dependable power train, not only providing acceptable mileage, better than SUVs of its size, and also moving Sienna around briskly even over country hills and in passing lanes. Plus the driver's package in the XLE version I drove included brake-assist and smart-stop technology that came in handy more than once on the trip.

Sienna's highly comfortable interior demonstrated one of the best attributes of minivans versus SUVs: second-row seats that recline to a meaningful degree. In fact, Sienna's second-row captain's chairs had foot rests that turned them into "lounger" chairs and encouraged second-row occupants to sleep along the way, providing the driver with peace and quiet.

The vehicle's configurable interior seemed bottomless in accommodating luggage, as folded the rear seats back and piled suitcases, beach gear, groceries and all the other trip essentials into the deep well that opened up when we moved the seats. And when we got to our destination and wanted to use the rear seats for passengers, they simply folded back down into the well again.

In the 2015 version of Sienna, Toyota is adding LED daytime running lights, more soft-touch surfaces, optional black-leather seats with contrasting white stitching, and the cool new intercom feature. Called Driver Easy Speak, and also found on the Highlander SUV, it allows parents behind the wheel to talk through a microphone while they're driving so they don't have to yell back at their kids in the third row. It's an important safety feature that can really make a difference in a minivan.

Sienna sales actually were about flat through June compared with a year earlier. Some competing vans, such as Town & Country, have been posting sales increases over a year ago, and overall the minivans category seems to be getting more attention – and respect.

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