

CANTON OBSERVER

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STATE RECORD IN SIGHT FOR HERRINGTON

SPORTS, B1

Police, fire top brass face restructuring

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

In his biggest initiative since he became Canton's highest-ranking law enforcement officer in April, Public Safety Director Joshua Meier is leading a reorganization of top-brass positions.

Meier seized the opportunity to put his leadership stamp on the department after his former job as fire chief became vacant and after Deputy Police

Chief Debra Newsome retired in July.

"Canton is a growing community and the police and fire departments are growing with the community," Meier said.

That said, he hasn't proposed adding new top-brass positions but, rather, he is realigning duties and changing job titles — all without increasing the



Meier

amount taxpayers shell out for police and fire services.

"We're not adding positions. We are realigning positions for more efficient and effective operations," Meier said.

His plan won unanimous support Tuesday evening in a 7-0 vote of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, one day after the Canton Merit Commission, which oversees non-union hiring, approved it.

"This has been a well thought-out plan that involves quite a few people,"

township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "I think it positions the department well going forward."

The key changes:

» The position of fire chief will be eliminated and replaced by a fire department deputy director, who will report to Meier.

» The position of deputy police chief that Newsome left will be eliminated and replaced by a police depart-

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Amy Godwin of Dallas, Texas, and Beverly Baum of Niceville, Fla., leave the Hines Park part of the walk and begin the climb through Old Village in Plymouth.

'Walk for a world without breast cancer'

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

It's not every day that you get to literally walk a mile in someone else's shoes.

For April Ellenburg of Roseville, last weekend's Susan G. Komen 3-Day walk for breast cancer was an opportunity to do just that. She's done most of her walking in a pair of Chacos sandals, given to her by a total stranger cheering from the sidelines.

Stopping for a break, Ellenburg had struck up a conversation with a friendly onlooker and happened to comment on how much she loved the woman's sandals. She'd once had a pair herself and mentioned they were the comfiest she'd ever worn.

The two traded shoes on the spot. "It's not often that you find a stranger who's willing to give you their shoes, straight off their feet," she said. "We're like a family. It's three days of the world as it should be."

This year's Michigan event is Ellenburg's 16th walk: a three-day, 60-mile hike stretching from Walled Lake to Plymouth over the weekend of Aug. 5-7. It also marks the 150th Komen 3-Day walk, one of seven annual fundraisers held in cities across the coun-

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Shawn Swaim of Clarkston chalks a message for walkers along the route through Kellogg Park. She's watched by her daughter, Marissa Clark.

Charges dismissed in gun incident

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Criminal charges have been dismissed against a Canton man accused of brandishing a handgun when his estranged wife showed up with another man to pick up her children.

A 35th District Court prosecutor moved to dismiss charges against 30-year-old defendant Lawrence Evans after the key witness — the man he was accused of threatening at gunpoint — failed to show for a hearing to testify, a court clerk said Monday.



Evans

The latest developments averted a potential six-year prison term if Evans had been convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon and felony fire-arm charges.

Evans, allegedly upset that his estranged wife came to his apartment with a 19-year-old man, was accused of pointing a handgun at him, but no shots were fired and no one was injured.

Evans' wife, 28, had told police the teen wasn't a love interest but, rath-

See CHARGES, Page A2

Timber! Canton's biggest tree topples on trail

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Timber!

Canton parks maintenance workers were scrambling Tuesday to clear a giant bur oak tree that partially toppled and blocked the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail.

The tree, along a stretch of trail between Sheldon and Canton Center, is most likely the community's oldest and largest tree, Public Works Manager Bob Belair said.

"It's the biggest tree I've seen in Canton," he said.

The last time Belair measured the tree, in 2005, it was nearly 8 feet in diameter and the circumference was almost 24 feet. Its height isn't known, but its size helped dictate the path the trail would take as Canton plotted it out years ago.

Only half the tree split off and fell, so it's not a total loss.

"It was a true giant and one of the focal points that determined where we placed the trail," Belair said. "Only half of the tree split off. The split was con-

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CHARGES

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er, was her cousin, according to police reports.

Police had gone to Canton Garden Apartments, near Joy Road and I-275 on Canton's north side, amid reports of a gun incident about 9:40 p.m. July 5. Evans was taken into custody, but later released on a personal bond.

The teen reportedly told police that he got a

crowbar out of the trunk of his car to defend himself after Evans allegedly approached him and threatened to "smack him up," the report said.

Witnesses told police Evans then went inside his apartment and returned with a silver handgun, before his brother emerged from the residence and intervened.

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Christmas in July winners announced

With the weather reaching the sweltering stage lately, it's difficult to think of Christmas.

But lucky winners of the O&E and Hometown newspapers' Christmas in July contest might think differently.

We published a special Christmas in July section late that month and invited readers to hunt for the hidden Santa icons like the one pictured here. All those with the correct answer were entered into a drawing for one of many fabulous prizes donated by section sponsors. There was a total of 13

icons hidden throughout the section. They were found on Page 1 (cover), Page 4 (contest form, two), Page 5, Page 6, Page 9, Page 12, Page 13, Page 14, Page 15, Page 17, Page 18 and Page 19.

There were 309 entries, of which 46 correctly identified the pages for all 13 hidden icons. That means only 15 percent of entries found all the icons.

The winners of the prizes include:

Farmington — gift card from Medals in Time
» Jennifer Christensen of South Lyon — gift certificate from Kramar Jewelry



» Kathleen Ward of Redford — gift basket from Tranquili-Tea

» Paula Sukanek of Livonia — gift certificate from Michael's lamp shop

» Michelle Hutchison of Canton — gift certificate from Dolores Barran, DDS, PC

» Ronald Kumon of

Novi — gift card from Premier Pet Supply

Also, 10 others won a coupon for a free pizza from Buddy's: Pam Fons of Birmingham, Marlo Sharpe of Plymouth, Kathy Tindall of Northville, Karen Glab of Livonia, Lonnie Kendricks of Westland, Holly Scott of Highland, Nancy Dunningan of Garden City, David Maaske of Livonia, K. Cronin of Madison Heights and D. Beck of Westland.

Thank to all those who entered and, remember, it won't be long before the real Christmas season is upon us.

CANTON OBSERVER

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CANTON TOWNSHIP

What is believed to be Canton's largest tree has partially fallen on a recreation trail.

TREE

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tinuing to grow over the years and it was only a matter of time before

gravity won."

Based on research he did on the Internet, Belair said it's possible the tree is as old as 450 years.

Over the years, Belair said, the weight just

became too much for the tree: "It finally just gave way."

Parks maintenance workers were busy Tuesday sawing up the tree and placing the sections along the side of the trail

to clear the path.

"We'll just leave it there for the habitat," Belair said.

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BRASS

Continued from Page A1

ment deputy director, who also will report to Meier. A second deputy police job will remain in place.

"This gives us an effective structure in which to manage the police and fire departments," Meier said.

The two deputy directors will fall within a salary range of \$94,628 and \$123,016. Meier's first-year salary was set at \$127,846 when he became public safety director.

Meier said the deputy director jobs will be filled by internal applicants. The positions will be posted within a couple of weeks, with the goal of filling them by the end of September. He already has met with union leaders and command officers and said he believes the changes have been well-received.

Canton residents can expect to continue receiving a high level of service, Meier said, adding that "we're focused on continual improvement."

Canton currently has 83 sworn police officers, but is budgeted for 91, as efforts to fill vacant positions continue. The fire department has 63 sworn firefighters and is budgeted for 65.

Local officials have said Canton has fewer police officers and firefighters compared to most area communities with comparable populations.

Meier said one of his goals is to ramp up recruitment and retention of police officers and firefighters. He said his aim is to hire top-notch people while boosting diversity among the public safety ranks to make the department more reflective of the diverse community it serves.

Township Clerk Terry Bennett said she believes Meier's initiative to realign the Canton Public Safety Department's leadership is a good one.

"It's building a strong home team for the future," she said.

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Bands mix faith and rock music at Heartbeat of Plymouth event

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Ken Fader, Brian Welton and their bands will rock Kellogg Park during the third annual Heartbeat of Plymouth festival Aug. 13.

The former two-day festival has been scaled back to just one day this year, but Fader and Welton hope listeners will attend a repeat music performance the following day by trading their picnic blankets and lawn chairs for church pews.

"I love being in a park setting in the public, reaching out to people who normally would not come to church," said Welton, who plays guitar, sings and writes songs for Kingdom Come Alive. The band has its roots at Friendship Church in Canton, where members serve as worship leaders, playing music at Sunday services.

"The music we play sounds like rock," he added. "People come over and hear the lyrics. To be in public, in a secular setting singing the word of God is a special thing."

Fader agrees. He leads You Shine Through, the praise band for Plymouth First United Methodist Church's contemporary worship service. He'll have eight of the group's members with him for a performance during Heartbeat of Plymouth, but also encourages listeners to worship with the group Sunday.

"We have been called to bring the best modern worship music so others, especially those who are new to seeking to know and understand God, can join with us in worship," said Fader, who plays guitar, the lute-like Irish bouzouki, as well as mandolin and banjo.

"We bring a lot of energy every Sunday morning, but you can't mimic being out in the open air, knowing you're playing for the whole community," he said, describing the experience in Kellogg Park. "I'm not there — and this is why we don't do a lot of concerts — to make other Christians feel good about being Christians. I want an environment where we can evangelize."

Chosen, a Lansing-area Christian music band, will join You Shine Through and Kingdom Come Alive in the park. Bands will perform 3-7 p.m.

More than music

The festival, which is promoted by Plymouth First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene and Praise Baptist Church, will include speakers, activities for teens and children and a community service project, in addition to music.

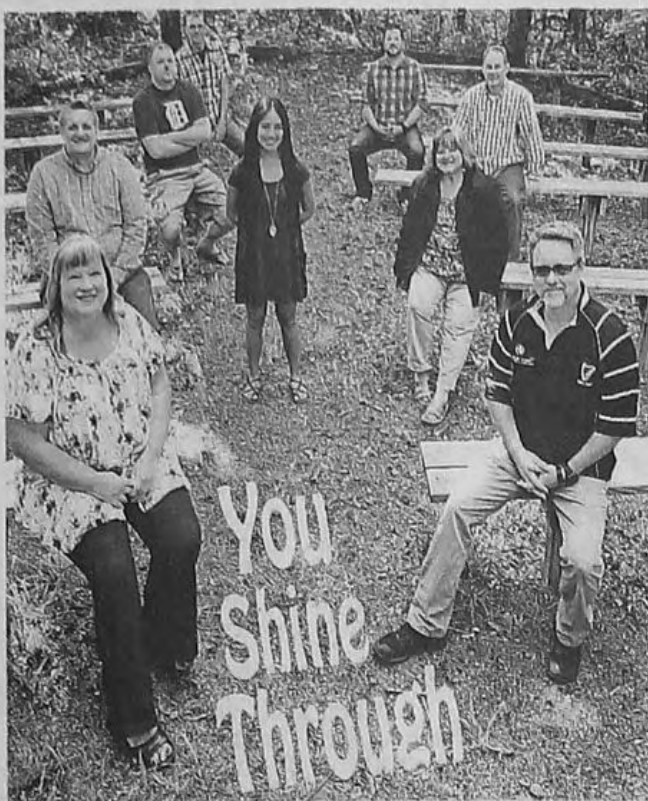
"What we're trying to do is attract people who may not be going to church," said Roger Cromwell, festival chairman. "Maybe their friends will invite them or they'll come in from the park or the market on Saturday. We're hoping people will wander around, hear the message and give church a try."

Kingdom Come Alive has been a regular at the festival and will perform original and established praise and worship songs. Welton writes most of the original material, often finding inspiration in the ways his faith has touched his life.

Self-taught musicians

Fader said You Shine Through likely will be the largest band on stage at Heartbeat of Plymouth.

"Most of us are self-taught and come from a history of being in band or choir in high school," Fader said. "We are doing some original music, but mostly covers." The



You Shine Through, a contemporary Christian music band from Plymouth First United Methodist Church, will play Aug. 13 in Kellogg Park, in downtown Plymouth.

group performs songs by such Christian music artists as Big Daddy Weave, Third Day, Mercy Me and Chris Tomlin.

In addition to the free concerts, the festival will include presentations by Christian radio talk show host Bob Dutko and Joseph Solomon, a Texas native who started chase-Godtv in his living room. Tickets are \$10 and are available from the festival's sponsoring churches. The program starts at 12:30 p.m. at the Penn Theater, 760 Penniman.

Children can make

bracelets and greeting cards, get a Christian tattoo, try face painting and science experiments and play midway games 12:30-5:30 p.m.

The community service project this year will benefit Clair's Home, a planned sanctuary for victims of human trafficking. Participants will paint tiles that will hang in the dining room at the facility.

For more about the festival, go to heartbeatofplymouth.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Forgotten Harvest: 'We recognize that hunger is everywhere'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

In its approximately 26 years, Forgotten Harvest has helped feed a lot of metro Detroit residents.

"We get the food nobody wants," said Jessica Ayoub, community engagement coordinator for Forgotten Harvest, based in Oak Park. "We recognize that hunger is everywhere. We don't know why people need food, we just know that they need it."

Forgotten Harvest rescues prepared and packaged food, working with its more than 800 food donors, including restaurants. Its refrigerated trucks cross the region six days a week, serving homeless shelters, food pantries, churches, schools and more.

"It's lack of access to food," she said Aug. 4 to a group of Westland Rotarians and guests.

"We know it's not lack of (overall) food. There are a lot of issues with transportation."

She noted about one in five people face hunger and food insecurity. Forgotten Harvest provides food free of charge to its agency partners.

"We want to make sure people are getting as quality of a product as possible," Ayoub said. About three years ago, Forgotten Harvest launched Forgotten Harvest Farms to work with farmer partners. Forgotten Harvest



JULIE BROWN

Jessica Ayoub of Canton is community engagement coordinator for Forgotten Harvest, an anti-hunger organization out of Oak Park.

Farms runs April through October, with the farm manager staggering crops. "We know we are always going to have this fresh produce on hand," she said. "It is actually a really fun experience, even though Fenton (its location) is a bit of a drive."

Forgotten Harvest has a long waiting list for agency partners, although she said, "It is always worth a conversation now."

Of the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan organization, she called it the "pantry" compared to Forgotten Harvest as "refrigerator and freezer" in feeding the region's hungry people. Her organization gets cooked food from restaurants, as well as farm produce that doesn't look good enough to sell in stores.

"There are still more

people who need it," she said of the service. "We are doing what we can with what we have."

Added Westland Rotarian Paul Motz, who is Westland Youth Assistance director, "Nutrition at an early age is imperative," and continues beyond that. Poor nutrition is a factor in many problems later in life, Motz said.

Forgotten Harvest has a couple major events coming up:

» "Cruisin' To Drive Out Hunger," Friday, Aug. 19, a preview party celebrating the Woodward Dream Cruise at Westborn Market, 27659 Woodward Ave., Berkley.

» The third annual Women's Harvest Lunch, 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at Eastern Market, Shed 5, 2934 Russell St., Detroit. Go to www.forgottenharvest.org to learn more.



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Angioplasty saves lives, but prevention is key to heart health

The leading cause of death in the United States is heart disease. Yet, many Americans are unfamiliar with the most common type of heart disease, coronary artery disease, and how to prevent it.

Coronary artery disease causes more than 370,000 deaths per year and occurs when the heart's arteries become blocked or narrowed due to a buildup of cholesterol or plaque, reducing blood flow. Over time, coronary artery disease can lead to the sudden formation of a blood clot, which can completely block blood flow and may lead to a heart attack.

When coronary artery disease causes chest discomfort or the blockage increases the risk of a heart attack, angioplasty may be recommended by a physician to open the blocked arteries and restore normal blood flow. Angioplasty is a minimally invasive surgery in which a doctor numbs a spot in the groin or arm and inserts a small tube called a catheter into an artery. Watching on a special X-ray screen, the doctor moves the catheter with a small balloon on a wire into the artery. By inflating the



Mansoor Qureshi
GUEST COLUMNIST

tiny balloon, the blocked artery is opened and allows blood to flow more easily. In many patients, a collapsed wire mesh tube, called a stent, is mounted on a special balloon and, as the balloon inflates, the stent opens against the artery walls. The stent locks in position and helps keep the artery open. Angioplasty causes very little pain and patients may only feel some pressure when the catheter is inserted.

An emergency angioplasty may be necessary when someone needs immediate intervention to save their life; however, it is better to catch coronary artery disease earlier in order to undergo elective angioplasty before a health crisis occurs.

The St. Mary Mercy Livonia Heart & Vascular Center has been performing emergency angioplasty since 2005 and is now performing elective angioplasty. Prior to April, the elective angioplasty procedure

was not approved for Michigan hospitals without an on-site open heart surgery program. Proving that this procedure can be done safely and with high-quality outcomes, St. Mary Mercy was the first Michigan hospital of its kind to receive certification to perform elective angioplasty from the State of Michigan and from Accreditation for Cardiovascular Excellence, an accreditation program ensuring facilities meets the highest standards of care.

Prevention is key

Some patients with coronary artery disease, as well as other forms of heart disease, may be able to control the disease with heart-healthy lifestyle changes. High blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking are three of the major risk factors for heart disease. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly half of Americans have at least one of these three risk factors.

By following the advice below, individuals can lead healthier lives and minimize the risk of heart disease.

- » Eat healthy. Choose fruits

and vegetables. Avoid processed foods and sugars.

» Maintain a healthy weight. The more you weigh, the harder the heart has to work.

» Manage stress. Researchers have discovered a relationship between cardiovascular disease and stress. Manage stress by practicing relaxation techniques, managing time and setting realistic goals.

» Engage in physical activity. Regular exercise helps make the heart stronger and decreases the risk of heart disease.

» Quit smoking. Nicotine raises blood pressure, causing blood vessels to constrict and the heart to beat faster. Cigarette, pipe and cigar smokers have more than double the risk of a heart attack than non-smokers.

» Control blood pressure. Blood pressure is an indication of the force applied in the arteries as the heart beats. High blood pressure increases the workload of the heart, escalating the risk of heart attack, heart failure and stroke.

» Consider vitamin supplements or a daily dose of aspirin. Aspirin has shown to pre-

vent coronary artery disease, but may come with risks. Vitamin E and beta-carotene are natural ways to help reduce cardiovascular risk. Talk with your doctor before beginning any vitamin supplements or aspirin.

» Raise your level of HDL cholesterol. HDL or "good" cholesterol carries LDL or "bad" cholesterol from the arteries back to the liver to be removed from the bloodstream. High levels of HDL protect against cardiovascular disease. HDL can be increased by eating a diet rich in whole grain, legumes and nuts.

» Lower LDL cholesterol and triglycerides. Fatty substances, such as LDL cholesterol and triglycerides, cause fatty deposits to build up in the arteries. Diets high in saturated and trans fats increase LDL cholesterol.

Mansoor Ahmed Qureshi, M.D. is an interventional cardiologist at St. Mary Mercy Livonia and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor. He specializes in cardiovascular disease and is board certified in interventional cardiology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Boobalicious Babes Team members Paula Nelson of Mesa, Ariz., and Kathy Welch of Sarnia, Ontario, are supporting their niece, Nancy Nelson.



The brother and sister team of Mike Blair and Cindy Nanasi, both of Baltimore, Md., on the second day of the event. Mike has completed six 3-day events.

3-DAY

Continued from Page A1

try, including Seattle, Atlanta and Philadelphia.

"Everyone has a very personal story," Ellenburg said as she and her two walking partners, Michele Maksout of Macomb and Terry Covill of Roseville, stopped Saturday for a lunch break in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. As the walkers made their way back to camp at the Suburban Showplace Collection in Novi, they made a pit stop in Northville — just in time for the Buy Michigan Festival in downtown.

Ellenburg's first walk was in honor of her mother, who died of breast cancer in 2002, and she didn't originally plan on doing another. But she changed her mind. "It lifts you up," she said. "It's like childbirth. It might hurt in the process — your feet are sore, we've had people on crutches and in wheelchairs — but in the end, I can't imagine not doing it."

Since then, she's walked in cities nationwide, from Tampa to D.C. to San Diego this fall. She's done the Michigan event every year. "It's overwhelmingly inspirational, the stories we share along the way," she said. "The love and support is amazing — not just the walkers, also the people who stand by the sidelines and cheer us on."

Ellenburg is youth director at Unity Church of Royal Oak and serves as route director for the Detroit Heart Walk. She's also part of the Chemo Angels program, where she writes to people going through chemotherapy.

This year, she's walking in honor of her friend Grace, who died in June.

Grace didn't go to the doctor until it was too late. By then, she had a tumor the size of a grapefruit under her arm. "So many people are unaware of the resources out there, even if you don't have medical insurance," Ellenburg said. "I'm walking to raise awareness of that. Until there's a cure, (this is) something I can do about it. I'm going to keep going as long as I can."

This weekend, that meant logging 20 miles a day on foot. Friday and Saturday nights, she and her fellow walkers camped out in a "little tent city," with showers in semi-



The 3-Day walkers are cheered as they enter Kellogg Park.

trucks, a mini-mail station to pick up postcards and a massage tent for those aching legs. Participants slept in pink two-person pup tents, spread out by the hundreds across their home base at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Evenings at the camp were a chance to catch up on the latest stats from the event, listen to stories from survivors and visit the big white "memory tent." Inside, framed photos honored former participants who have died. Walkers covered the walls with names, mementos to friends who've been lost.

In 2016 alone, more than 240,000 women are expected to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, along with 2,600 men, according to Chrissy Mathews, program manager of the Susan G. Komen 3-Day. And this year in the U.S., at least 40,000 breast cancer

victims will die.

"We walk for a world without breast cancer," Mathews said. "We want to live in a world where nobody else has to die from this disease."

For participants at the Michigan 3-Day, it's an emotional experience, but it's also a celebration of survival and the spirit to carry on. "Tonight, we're having a dance party, because that's what we do after walking 40 miles," Ellenburg said. "We dance."

Dressing up is part of the fun, too. Saturday afternoon, Kellogg Park was a sea of pink shirts, pink hats and leis. Even the fountain splashed pink. Two or three brave fellows wore pink-and-purple tutus and bedazzled bras over their shorts and T-shirts. They were part of a team of six called "Jeeping for Jugs" — Derek and Heather Roberts of Clarkston, their kids Laura and

David and two fellow Jeep enthusiasts, Ryan Kimler and Becca VanHorn.

"The whole family was big into off-roading, so I thought that would be a good name," Derek said. Earlier this year, they held a fundraiser rally with more than 300 Jeeps. All participants are required to raise at least \$2,300 in order to walk; they've hit \$16,000.

Derek is in his sixth year at the Michigan 3-Day, walking through neighborhoods like Novi, Walled Lake, Hines Park, Northville, Plymouth, Livonia and Dearborn. "Plymouth was especially great — lots of signs, lots of balloons and people out cheering," he said.

This year's Michigan 3-Day saw about 600 walkers and 300 volunteer crew members — on par with last year's numbers, according to Mathews.

Ashley Flintoff of Detroit

was one of about 10-15 crew members at the Kellogg Park pit stop. As the afternoon sun beamed down, Flintoff and a few of her co-workers gathered by the fountain to take a break, their pink hard hats dotting the crowd in a nod to this year's theme: demolishing cancer.

It's Flintoff's fifth year participating, twice as a walker and the last three times as a crew member. For her, like so many others, the cause hits close to home. "I knew too many people who had breast cancer and I wanted to do something about it," she said. That included both her grandmothers, her friend's grandmother and another friend's daughter.

It's four solid days of work for the volunteers, but Flintoff kept it all in perspective: "Compared with going through chemo, this is nothing."

Plymouth architect helps with design of HGTV Urban Oasis

Studio Z Architecture, a Plymouth-based residential architecture firm, will serve as the architect for HGTV's "Urban Oasis@ 2016" home in Ann Arbor. The announcement was made by Studio Z owner and the project's architect, Dawn Zuber, and HGTV.

Each year, HGTV selects a home in a trendy, vibrant, up-and-coming urban area, partnering with design and professionals to renovate the home with modern-day style for a modern-day family. This marks the seventh year for the home giveaway sweepstakes. Past HGTV Urban Oasis homes have been located in New York City, Boston, Atlanta, Miami, Chicago and Asheville, N.C.

"I am thrilled to have been chosen as the architect for this year's HGTV Urban Oasis, which has been one of the most interesting and challenging projects of my career," Zuber said. "Throughout the entire process, HGTV and the talented project team made this a highly successful collaboration and, together, we transformed the house into a really special home I



Dawn Zuber, owner of Studio Z, will serve as the architect for HGTV's "Urban Oasis@ 2016."

think viewers will love."

The interior designer for Urban Oasis 2016 is Bryan Patrick Flynn. His portfolio includes a number of high-profile residential projects, including HGTV Urban Oasis 2015 and HGTV Dream Home 2016. Ann Arbor-based Maven Development serves as general contractor for the project.

Established in 1997 by Zuber, Studio Z is a residential architecture firm which specializes in custom homes and home renovations that fit client's lifestyles. A licensed architect in Michigan and Ohio and member of the American Institute of Architects, Zuber is currently

serving as chair of the AIA's Custom Residential Architects Network.

She earned her bachelor of architecture degree at the University of Cincinnati and completed an independent study program at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, England.

During the giveaway period from Oct. 4 to Nov. 22, viewers can enter for a chance to win the grand prize package, including this approximately 1,500-square-foot residence and all its furnishings, along with \$50,000 provided by national mortgage lender Quicken Loans. For more information, go to HGTV.com/UrbanOasis.



Maple Leaf was welcomed by the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Ribbon-cuttings herald three new businesses in Canton

The Canton Chamber of Commerce led three recent ribbon-cuttings for new businesses.

The businesses include Maple Leaf at 51000 Mott Road; It's GO time! - Gwen O'Donnell Training at 5860 N. Canton Center, No. 340; and Experimac at 42114 Ford Road.

Customers, employees, chamber members and residents were among the attendees at the ribbon-cuttings in July.



Experimac was welcomed to Canton.



Gwen O'Donnell Training gathered at the new studio on Canton Center Road.

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American Girl store now open at Novi's Twelve Oaks mall

Georga Kovanis
Detroit Free Press

Good news for fans of American Girl dolls: The brand's only Michigan store has opened at Twelve Oaks in Novi.

More good news: Melody Ellison, the new doll representing Detroit, will be released early — Aug. 20 — at the store. She won't be available at the rest of the nation's stores until Aug. 25.

Now, some not-so-good news: The point of the 6,000-square-foot store is to test the viability of the local American Girl market. When its lease expires at the end of January, there's no guarantee it will open a permanent store in metro Detroit, a spokeswoman said.

All this comes at a time when sales of American Girl dolls — owned by Mattel — have been slumping. According to published reports, the brand's sales topped out at \$632.5 million in 2013. Last year, sales were \$572 million. Meanwhile, second-quarter sales released last month were down 19 percent.

The "Frozen" phenomenon and its Elsa and Anna dolls have been responsible in part for a decline in sales of all types of dolls, including Barbie. But the truth is, American Girl dolls are pretty expensive. The 18-inch dolls, geared to girls ages 8-12, are \$115. Smaller WellieWishers dolls — which were introduced last month — and baby dolls for young-



Kei Ogiso, 8, with mom Akiko Ogiso, 40, of Novi tries glasses on a doll at the new American Girl store inside Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. The dolls are known for their variety of styles, ethnicities and time periods.

er girls are \$60.

Still, many American Girl fans are super-loyal. Four-year-old Taylor Eschmann of Canton was all eyes during the store's soft opening Friday. She hopes to get an American Girl doll very soon.

"This," said her mother, Julie Eschmann, who had her own American Girl doll as a child, "is a big deal."

American Girl has a reputation for being inclusive — dolls are available in a variety of ethnicities and parents say their children like the idea of having a doll that looks like them. The store also sells dolls from a variety of eras — Melody Ellison, for example, represents an African-American girl growing up in Detroit in 1964.

On the mall's upper level near Nordstrom, the store features 49 of the most popular dolls from the American Girl collection. The store has a salon for dolls — facials (which basically means washing the dirt off a well-loved doll's face) are \$5; hairstyles range from \$10 to \$20; ear piercing is \$16. The store sells glasses for dolls and braces, too. Clothing for dolls starts at about \$10. Pajamas can run into the \$24 range, depending on the doll's size.

Before the opening of this temporary store, the closest American Girl store was in Columbus, Ohio. A flagship store is in Chicago.

For more information, go to www.americangirl.com.

Thousands attend annual Highland Games

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

It was a day of reigning champions keeping their crowns Saturday at Livonia's Greenmead Historical Village.

The 167th annual Highland Games attracted about 12,000 people to Livonia this past weekend to see athletes compete in a wide array of events, including the coveted tug-of-war event.

This year saw last year's champions repeat: the men's division was won by the St. Andrew's Highlanders for the fourth year in a row, while the women's division was conquered by the team from the Wayne County sheriff's office.

"Two years in a row, they held on to their women's title," said Peg Dunlop, co-chairwoman

of the games. "Our tug of war is always a huge hit."

She said it appeared the games didn't suffer because of all the surrounding construction, especially along I-275 in Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Overall, she said, with the nice weather, solid entertainment and exciting competition, the games went off without a hitch. It's a match-up, she said, organizers hope to have for next year's games during the first weekend of August.

"It was an excellent day with perfect weather. We had a good crowd," she said. "We'd love to have that weather every day."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



The winning tug-of-war team is the St. Andrew's Society Highlanders.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In the professional athlete division, Andy Vincent tosses the caber.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Drum major Christy Haradean, one of three leading the massed bands performance, is from Canton.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Highland dancers Amanda Atkinson of White Lake and Jacqueline Ferrante of Macomb compete.

Day camp offers look at old farm life

Ever wonder what farm life was like 100 years ago in Michigan?

The Canton Historical Society is asking visitors to go to Preservation Park, on Canton's west side, to learn how a Canton family long ago would have spent a summer on the farm.

It all happens 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at the park, 500

N. Ridge Road, in Cherry Hill Village.

Activities will include a tour of the historic Bartlett-Travis House, pole barn and other property, along with corn shelling and laundry activity, fun crafts and a scavenger hunt.

The event is especially appropriate for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Parents are

required to stay at the event with their children.

A snack and bottled water will be provided.

Space is limited, so sign up by Aug. 12 by sending an email to info.chsday-camp@gmail.com, then more information will be received. Please include the number of children and their names and ages.



FILE PHOTO

Tours of the historical Bartlett-Travis House, shown here during a Canton Farmers Market day, will be one of the activities during a day camp offered by the Canton Historical Society.

Detroit 67 Oral History Project to visit Plymouth library

The Plymouth District Library is partnering with the Detroit Historical Society for an oral history project that will record the stories of people who witnessed, remembered or were a part of the civil unrest that struck Detroit in summer 1967.

Representatives from

the historical society will be at the library at 2 p.m. Friday to provide more information about the Detroit 67 Oral History Project and to conduct a how-to workshop about recording oral histories. The workshop is a drop-in event with no registration required.

In addition, historical

society staffers will return to the library 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, to record oral and written histories from people who lived or worked in Detroit during the 1967 riot and are willing to share their stories. To register for an interview, call Detroit 67 at 313-833-7912 or send an email to

detroit1967@detroit-historical.org.

The historical society's goal is to collect 350 oral and written histories in order to add to the collective narrative of what happened in Detroit in July 1967.

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Garden City man killed in Bloomfield Township crash

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

A 37-year-old motorcyclist from Garden City was killed Monday after colliding with a vehicle in Bloomfield Township.

Investigators say it appears the 2003 Suzuki motorcycle was traveling westbound on Hickory Grove when it crashed into a 2013 Ford Fiesta that was crossing Hicco-

ry Grove from Chickerling Lane. Police say the crash occurred at about 3:30 p.m. and that alcohol does not appear to be a factor in the incident.

The driver of the Fiesta, a 25-year-old Waterford Township man, was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The motorcyclist was pronounced dead at the scene. He was wearing a

helmet.

Police are withholding the motorcyclist's name pending notification of his family. Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to contact the township traffic investigations unit at 248-433-7749.

jgrossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
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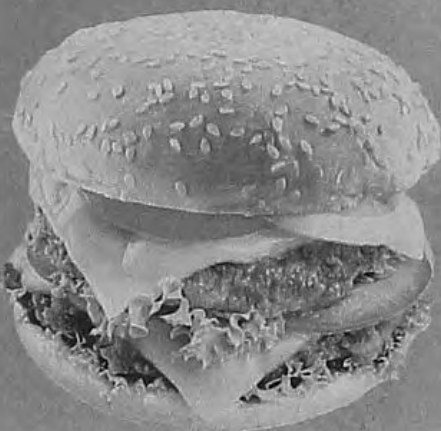
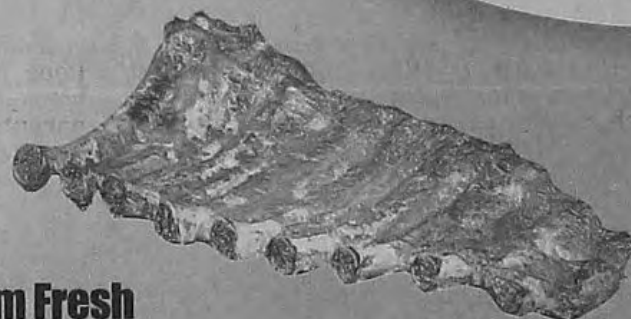


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PREP HOCKEY

'Sad day for high school hockey world'

Bill Newton, who led Farmington to 2014 state championship, loses fight with cancer

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Former players and fellow coaches remember Bill Newton as being a great person, friend and mentor, someone who was much more than just a good hockey coach.

Newton, who guided the Farmington High School team to the Division 3 state championship in 2014, died Saturday after a long battle with colon cancer.

Joe Majoros, who played three years on the varsity for Newton, said his coach remained upbeat and presented a positive outlook through a difficult time.

"He was a very unselfish person in the sense that he was fighting this horrible battle," Majoros said. "He wasn't

necessarily hiding it from us, but he was making light of it just so we wouldn't have to worry about him. He always put others before himself."

Jason Petras, another former player and senior captain on the 2016 team with Majoros, Cam Noseworthy and Jordan Hoke, had a special bond with Newton.

His mother, Kim, succumbed to cancer prior to the 2013-14 season, and the Falcons dedicated that campaign to her memory.

Newton revealed he had been battling cancer, too, in the post-game press conference after Farmington won the state title. Petras scored both goals in the 2-1 win over Sault Ste. Marie.

"He was like a dad to me," Petras said. "He was always there when I

needed him. When my mom passed away, he was the first person I called, and he was the first person to come over and make sure I was OK.

"All the guys were super close with coach Bill. The state championship was one of the great things he did for our program. The only thing bigger than the banner he got us was his heart."

Newton, who was a day shy of his 56th birthday, resigned at the end of last season to deal with his health and to devote more time to his family.

In three seasons as the varsity coach, Newton's teams compiled a 44-33-4 record and won the school's only state title in his first year.

With a senior-dominated team in

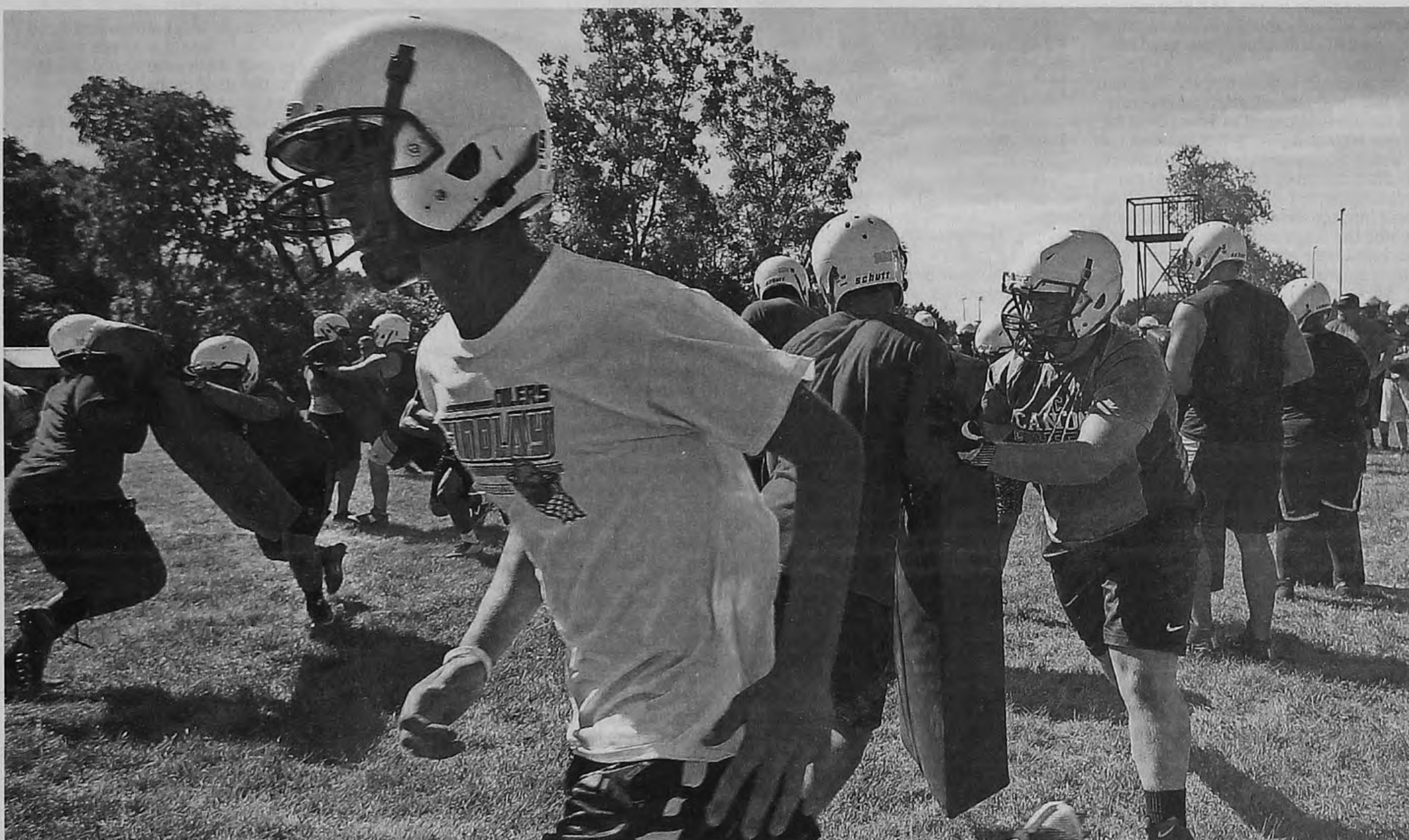
See NEWTON, Page B3



FILE PHOTO
Bill Newton is the only Farmington High School coach to win a state championship. He led the Falcons to the Division 3 hockey crown in 2014.

PREP FOOTBALL

THEY'RE BACK AT IT ON GRIDIRON



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tuesday morning's heat didn't keep Canton football players from running through drills.

Canton players fired up as they begin to prepare for 2016 grid campaign

Evan Paputa
Correspondent

The Canton football team began its quest to defend district and regional crowns with a grueling, conditioning-heavy practice in the 90-degree heat Monday.

The eagerness to finally hit the gridiron spread like wildfire to the players, who are preparing for their season opener Aug. 26 against Dearborn Fordson in the annual Prep Kick-off Classic held at Wayne State University.

"I just love playing with my team, seeing my coaches. Everyone is working hard and having fun," senior Julian Thornton said.

According to head coach Tim Baechler, this year's team brought energy

See CHIEFS, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting in some snaps during Tuesday morning's practice are Canton quarterback Joel Foster and center Max Mulvaney.

State record for wins next for Herrington

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

John Herrington begins his 47th season as head coach of the Harrison High School football team on the verge of a Michigan milestone.

He needs 11 more victories to eclipse former Brother Rice coach Al Fracassa as the winningest coach in state history.

Herrington, who is 75 and the only head coach the Hawks have had, has 420 career victories. Fracassa retired after the 2013 season with 430.

"All I know is, when they gave me three more years, they probably

See HERRINGTON, Page B2



FILE PHOTO

John Herrington's football teams have won 420 games and 13 state titles in 46 seasons.

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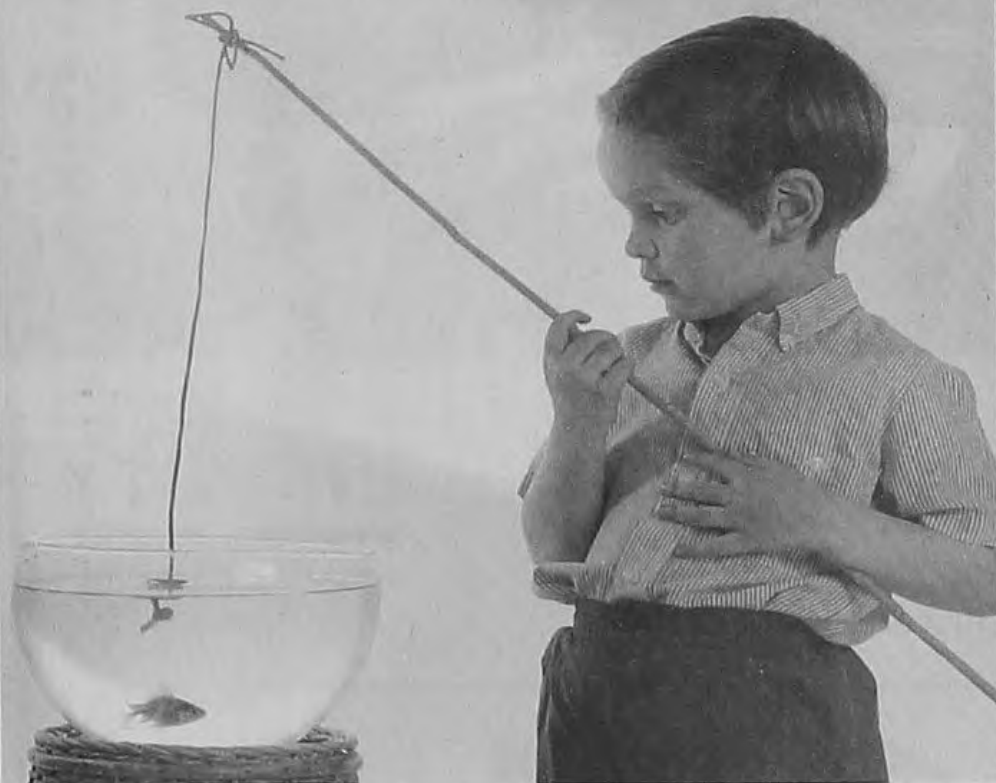
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box.

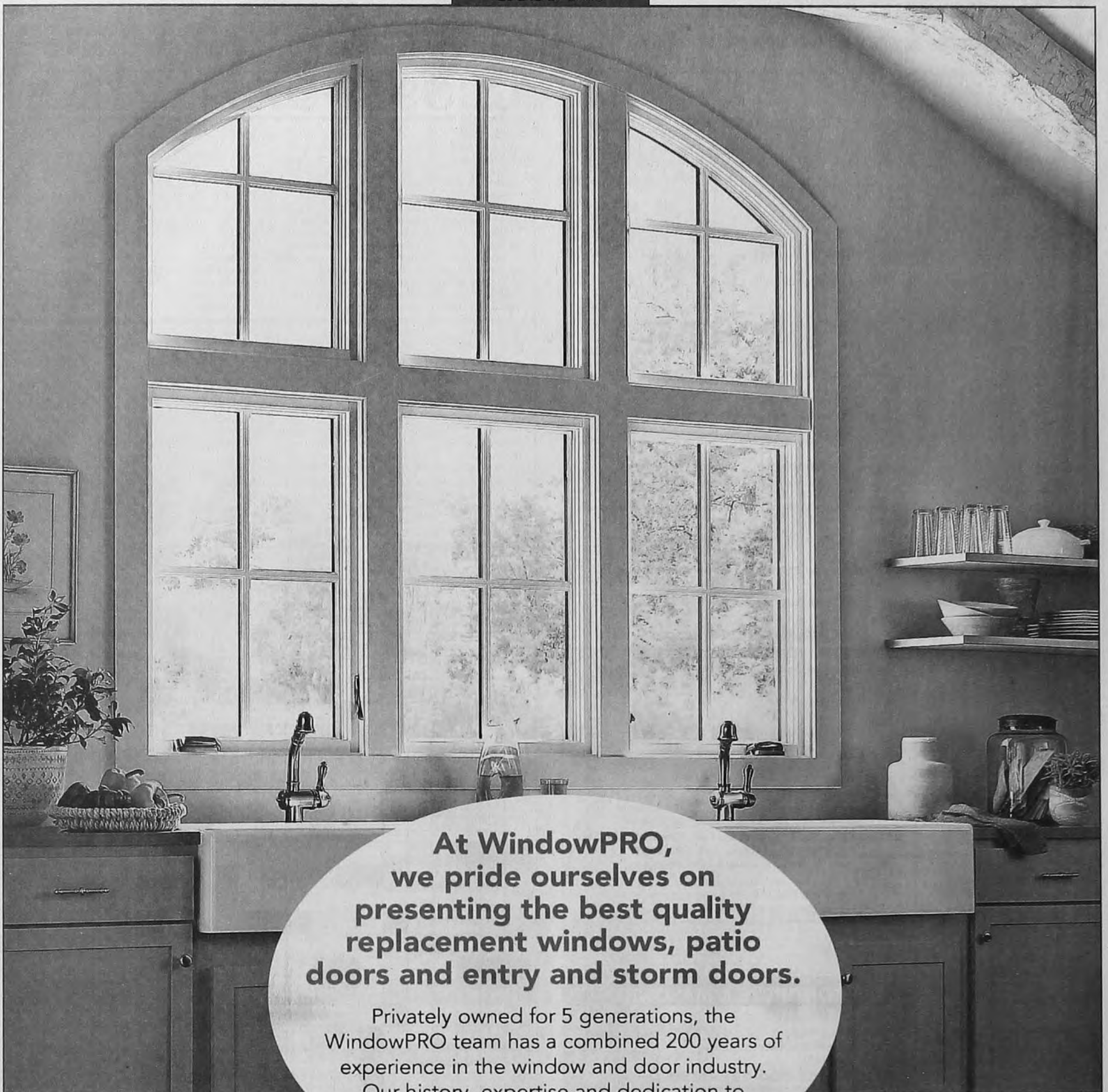
Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

BABY WORD SEARCH

Word search grid with words listed on the right: BABY, BATHING, BIRTH, BLANKET, BOTTLE, BOUNCER, BUNDLE, BURPING, CARRIER, COO, CRADLE, CRIB, CRIES, DECORATE, DIAPERS, FEEDING, FOOD, FORMULA, GROWTH, GUIDANCE, HOSPITAL, INFANT, LABOR, NURSERY, PACIFIER, PEDIATRICIAN, PREGNANCY, REGISTRY, SEAT, SHOWER, SLEEPING, SLING, STRAIN, STROLLER, SWADDLE, TODDLER.

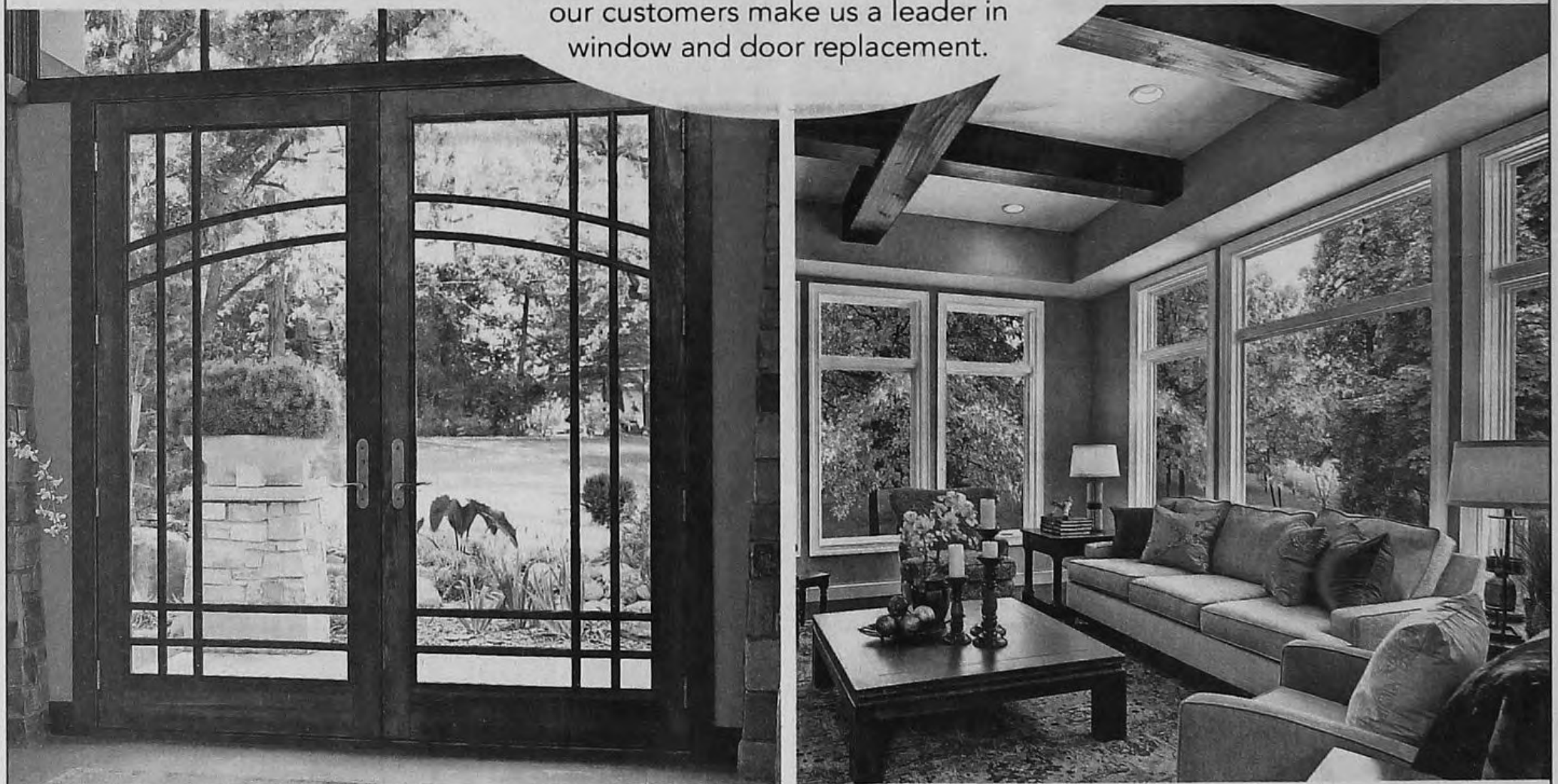
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword and Word Search answers grid.



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