



CAPTURING BRONZE IN ALASKA, B1

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2013 • hometownlife.com

New schools chief set for challenge

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

There may never have been any question what Mike Meissen was going to be when he grew up.

With a father who was first a teacher and then a school principal, and a mom who served as a school secretary in a special education department, Meissen's exposure to education came early and often.

So it shouldn't come as any big surprise that Meissen moved along an educational path that included teaching, coaching and then into administration. He is, after all, one of five siblings who've gone into education not only as a career, but as a lifestyle.

"It was important to be service-oriented," said Meissen, the new superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. "My father was a good role model and an exceptional leader. Learning was viewed as a way to advance."

All of the Meissen siblings advanced along the same sort of path. Brother Phil is a school superintendent, sister Terry is an assistant principal and sisters Annie and Tina are teachers. And, oddly, that path has led on many occasions through the same school.

LaFollette ties

Meissen's father moved the family from Illinois to the Madison, Wis., area to take a job at LaFollette High School, where he served as a principal



Dr. Michael Meissen, who replaces Dr. Jeremy Hughes as superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, has served as a teacher, coach, athletic director, building administrator and superintendent over his long career. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and, later, from which all of the Meissen siblings graduated. Even later, Meissen himself would return as principal.

"I try to make decisions based on a student-first philosophy."

DR. MICHAEL MEISSEN

New superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

LaFollette is the high school from which Meissen's wife, Karen, graduated (she passed away in 2009), and from which all three of Meissen's own children graduated.

"There was some kind of special draw and appeal to going back to my high school," Meissen said of taking the principal's job at LaFollette, where he stayed for 14 years.

"It had gone through a series of changes. There were a number of improvements that needed to be made. I ended up

being the longest-tenured principal in school history."

"That job was one of many along the educational path for Meissen. He's taught sixth grade, and he's done counseling. He coached football, basketball and track (he played football and ran the 880 in high school, and played football in college at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater).

He was the high school principal, and he's also previously

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The latest rail creation is the Jurassic Park train. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Riding the rails

Canton 'conductor' revels in garden railway

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

One of Greg Franko's favorite things to hear from his wife, Jane, is a request to expand the gorgeous garden the couple has cultivated in their Canton back yard.

That's because Franko, who retired from his job as a Tower Automotive planner three years ago, knows when his wife gets new plants, he gets a new piece for his garden railroad.

Thanks to Jane's love of gardening, Franko, who has loved trains since his dad gave him his first Lionel train in 1957, has built an impressive, nearly-200-foot garden railway that weaves its way among the plants.

"My dad gave me that train; I had it in the basement, and I've had it ever since," Franko said. "I've always liked the larger trains. When the G-scale came out, I thought, 'I have to have that.'"

The couple has lived in their Tyndall Drive home for some 38 years, but the train track is only about 10 years old. It started not long after Greg and Jane were married, when Jane got him the first train for the railway (which still runs today). The couple set up the track around just one tree in the back yard.

Bonding time

Over the years, the railway has grown. Franko and his son built much of the backyard, and he and Jane have planted everything in the garden. The 60x120-foot yard is filled with beautiful flowers and plants, and the railway. Tending the garden, and the railway,

See CONDUCTOR, Page A2



There goes the neighborhood: A T-Rex rolls into town aboard Greg Franko's Jurassic Park train.



Greg Franko runs trains in the back yard of his Canton home.

RAILWAY TOUR

What: 8th annual Garden Railway Open Tour
Who: Sponsored by the Lakeshore Garden Railway Club
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, July 21; admission is free
Why: Seven homes that feature garden railways displaying a variety of plants, trees

and water features that enhance train gardens.

Where: Homes are in Canton, Highland, Whitmore Lake, Bloomfield Hills (2), Brighton and Huntington Woods. Find a map of the locations at www.lakeshoregr.org
Contact: Rick and Shirley Breitzman, 248-887-5208

Police seek help IDing suspect

Credit card stolen, used at local retail outlet

The Canton Police Department is asking for assistance with identifying a male to whom they'd like to talk about credit card fraud.

The subject is wanted for questioning in regard to the theft and use of a stolen credit card. The theft occurred from a locker room at the Summit on the Park, and was used at the CVS Pharmacy and BP Gas Station, both on the corner of Cherry Hill and Canton Center roads.

The subject, captured in surveillance video, is approximately 5-feet-10-inches tall, weighs approximately 200 pounds, looks to be in his mid-20's, and is possibly cau-

See HELP, Page A2

Time for Christmas in July

Welcome to third annual Observer & Eccentric Media Christmas in July contest.

Look for the holiday icon (pictured at right) on the pages of the July edition of *Hometown Life INSPIRE* in print or online at hometownlife.com and then correctly identify all pages where the icon appears.

Submit an entry form via U.S. Postal Service or Facebook at hometownlife.com. Winners will be selected in a random drawing of all correct entries.

You could win a \$500 gift card (grand prize) to Showroom of Elegance in Canton, a \$100 gift certificate (second place) to the Rugby Grill in the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham, or a \$50 gift card (third place) to Meijer. In addition, up to 10 other winners will receive a pass for two to any area Emagine Theatre.

Mail your entry (see the form inside the July INSPIRE) to Christmas in July, O&E Media, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or go to

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CONDUCTOR

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is something Franko said he and his wife do together.

"That's our hobby together," he said. "Instead of watching television, we'll come out here and do some planting."

Jane Franko said the railway and the garden help bring "a lot of interest" to the back yard.

"I started as a cottage garden, but as the trees came in, it converted itself to what I call organized chaos," Jane Franko said with a chuckle.

"The trains really add something to it."

The railway hobby expanded a few years ago, when Franko read something about the Lakeshore Garden Railway Club on the Internet. He joined the club about three years ago, and is now getting ready for the eighth annual Garden Railway Open Tour, a seven-home traveling tour of garden railways, mostly in Oakland County.

"He likes being part of the crowd because his railway is a 'true garden' railway, because it borders a house," built around a garden."

Kids are fans

The railway also serves as an entertain-

ment venue of sorts for neighbors and friends.

Franko recalled a recent request from a neighbor to bring a couple of kids to see the railway during a graduation party. Franko said he went into the house to get the trains, which he keeps indoors during inclement weather and when they're not being used. When he came out, he said the yard was full of spectators.

"It's just fun," he said. "The kids just love it, and that's what we do it for."

The railway is also one of the biggest reasons the garden is as large as it is, rather than being just a few flowers and plants here and there.

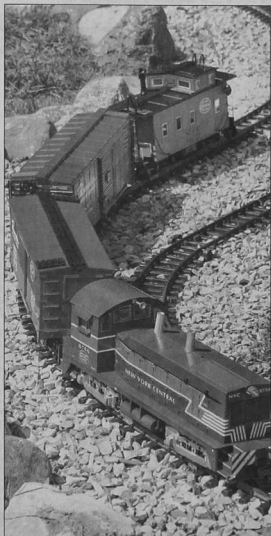
Jane Franko likes the way the railway and the garden combine for a pleasing effect.

"I think it brings a lot of interest to the back yard," she said. "Greg has a pretty good eye, and it's a fun hobby. I love my flowers."

Franko takes advantage of his wife's love of gardening when he can.

"(Jane) gave me one as a Christmas present," Franko said with a smile. "Now, any time she wants more garden, I get more trains."

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A New York Central locomotive pulls a train in Greg Franko's back yard. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MEISSEN

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been a superintendent. Meissen led the Glenbard Township High School District 987 in Glen Ellyn, Ill., a district of some 9,000 students in nine different municipalities.

Before coming to Plymouth-Canton, he was supervisor of school improvement and student achievement for Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee, Wis.

It's a varied career he feels has landed him in the right spot at the right time.

Good fit

"My sense is (Plymouth-Canton) is a good fit, given my philosophy of education and the fact Plymouth-Canton schools are built on strong community-mindedness," Meissen said. "The quality of the schools contributes to the vitality of the community."

That philosophy was shaped, he said, by both his experience as a parent and as an educator. Having his own children in the building where he was principal was a guiding force in decisions he faced.

"I try to make decisions based on a student-first philosophy," Meissen said. "When you're leading a school, you think 'This is what I want for my own kids,' and you want it for all kids. That's a pretty good standard to have."

His last years in Milwaukee were helpful, he said, because he spent the bulk of his time thinking about school improvement and student achievement, a huge focus for the Plymouth-Canton School board. When the board voted to hire Meissen, most of the discussion centered around his knowledge of curriculum.

"(Meissen) has the edge because of his experience, especially in the area of curriculum," board Treasurer Sheila Paton said at the time.

Eager to start

Meissen is eager to get started in Plymouth-



Dr. Michael Meissen comes from a family of educators. His dad was a teacher, his mom a school secretary, and his brother and sisters are all involved in education. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton, where he said the staff has "a real focus on doing what's best for kids," and the board and administration have put students in a position to succeed, particularly with new, rigorous programs like the STEM Academy and the international and arts academies.

"I think having those kinds of options available to students is really responsive to the needs of the kids," Meissen said. "By all measurables, they've really done that. The goal is to have a high quality of education at all levels. I think to have pathways of specialties for kids... I'm very committed to a comprehensive experience for students."

Meissen said he is ready globally in a big challenge, he said. He recounted a conversation he had with a new neighbor - Meissen has taken up residence in Canton - who will be moving to China.

"We need to position our students to be benchmarked with students around the world, literally," Meissen said.

Of course, preparing kids for what comes next - be it college or the workplace - is at the core of what education is all about, he said.

"They have a diploma that equips them to compete with students around the world," Meissen said. "They're prepared and equipped to be successful. That's the essence of what we do. You're filled with great joy."

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Large crowds greet annual art festival

By Matt Jachman

Staff Writer

Sunny skies, large crowds and exhibits by about 400 artists and crafters, plus participatory art for kids, made for a dynamic start to Art in the Park.

Thousands of people, from devoted festival fans to casual strollers, jammed Kellogg Park and surrounding streets Friday afternoon, browsing to artists, stopping in downtown restaurants and soaking up the rays and the atmosphere.

It was the second festival for Eastpointe resident Helen Dulchavsky, who was surprised by the size of the crowd.

"I'm so impressed with the town of Plymouth itself," said Dulchavsky as she rested on a bench on a Peninnan

Avenue sidewalk with daughter Sherri Dulchavsky. "I remember it 60 years ago, and it's so different... It's really a home town."

'Great event'

The Dulchavskys said they make the rounds of art fairs, and that Plymouth's is one of the best, better, perhaps, and more accessible than Ann Arbor's.

"Really beautiful show here," said Helen Dulchavsky, who favors the show's jewelry. ("That's usually the first thing we look at"), wall-hangings and sculpture.

Photographer Jan Kaulins, who lives in the Irish Hills area, said Art in the Park is usually a very good show for him; this year's, he said, is about his 15th.

"It's a great event," he said. "That's why I come back."



Kaulins was selling photographs of area landmarks, like Comerica Park, the Spirit of Detroit statue, the Bates' Hamburgers building in Livonia, and a faded Faygo sign painted on a wall. Some were limited-edition prints of hand-painted photos (he uses toothpicks to paint in fine details), while others were interpretive pieces based on multiple exposures of the same subject, like the marquee at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater.

Kaulins said he enjoys Plymouth during the shows.

"Plymouth's a beautiful little town. There are great restaurants - I try 'em all," he said.

Young people's art

Art in the Park featured an area, near the Kellogg Park fountain, for young artists, who were selling their own drawings, hand-painted trivets and coasters and decorated speakers, and offering face-painting.

Anita Michaud, Ellie Simon and Annie Bonds, all soon-to-be ninth-graders at Plymouth High School, were selling iPhone cases they had decorated, mainly with magazine clippings, with such varied themes as Bart Simpson, sunglasses, and Indian headdress.

The ephemeral art of sidewalk chalk, as practiced by Kyla Suchy, Erin Dillenbeck and Bethany Grysko, of D&M Art Studios in Canton.

They were also selling lemonade and opportunities for children to add to an in-progress painting of a sketch by Anita's father.

Proceeds are going to the Westland branch of the Michigan Humane Society.

Anita and Ellie said they grew up with Art in the Park, and that it was a natural venue for their artistic expression.

"We've been to Art in the Park for a long time," Ellie said.

"This is the best," said Alexandra Featherson, an incoming sophomore at Fr. Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, who was helping Friend Lauren Layden sell painted canvas shoes through her label, Inspirations by Lauren.

Art in the Park was to continue 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (today) Sunday.

Visitors driving to the festival are encouraged to use the free shuttle service between the parking lot at the ACH plant on Sheldon Road at M-14 and Plymouth City Hall, just outside the festival grounds.

For more information visit the Art in the Park website, www.artinthepark.com.

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HELP

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cession or of Arabic descent.

Police said the man is believed to be familiar with the Canton area.

Police are asking anyone with information on the identity of the suspect to contact the Canton Police Department at 734-394-5400.

Canton Police are looking for help identifying this man, wanted for questioning regarding the theft of a credit card at the Summit on the Park.

CHRISTMAS

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hometownlifec.com and see the Facebook information

All entries - mail and online - must be post-marked or submitted by midnight July 31.

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The fountain in Plymouth's Kellogg Park is a popular attraction, perhaps the most iconic landmark in the city.

Kellogg Park fountain popular place for visitors to make a special wish

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The song *Three Coins in the Fountain* was written for a 1954 movie, an American romantic comedy. Its writers might have had Plymouth's Kellogg Park in mind.

"It's probably one of the most iconic pieces of Plymouth," said Chris Porman, director of municipal services for the city of Plymouth, referring to Kellogg Park's fountain. "It is the focal point of downtown."

It's not a huge revenue producer for the city, but does boost coffers. "About \$1,000," Porman said of money collected from the fountain each year. "Last year was \$980 some odd dollars and change."

This year, as of July 9, visitors had tossed some \$235 in the Plymouth fountain.

When Livonia resident Porman started with Plymouth in 1999 as a part-timer, he was

responsible for coin collection and other duties. The fountain is usually drained for cleaning on a Thursday morning, with a hose and shovel used to clean it out.

"The labor-intensive part is actually to wash the change," said Porman, adding the city uses a commercial coin counter.

"It just goes back into the general fund, which it put into park maintenance," he said. "It helps defer the cost for park maintenance, that's for sure." He recalls visiting Westland Shopping Center as a child, and from fairy tales would toss a penny or so into the "wishing well, and hoping it comes true."

This year, a romantic young person during prom season spelled out "PROM" in the fountain. "We have seen countless wedding parties," either posing for photos in the park or tossing coins in the fountain for good luck, Porman said.

Porman recalled a family reunion some six years ago with participants around the fountain in their matching T-shirts.

"They were all throwing coins in," he said. "Those are probably some of the more memorable ones."

"Trash in the fountain isn't too bad, with screens on the filter. 'Usually it's not too bad,' said Porman, who has no problem with the coin tossers.

The fountain water is dyed pink for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day breast cancer benefit. It was also dyed purple recently for the Plymouth Relay for Life, Porman said.

By comparison, the Detroit Zoo's central Rackham Fountain collects an average of \$5,000 per year in coins. Funds are used to support the general operations of the zoo, said spokeswoman Patricia Janeway.

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Canton man charged in holdup attempt

Bridge card beef jerky purchase leads to arrest

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer



Tyler Robinson



Matthew Scott Ross

A deliveryman's appearance at a Plymouth Township gas station scared off a would-be robber on a recent Sunday morning, and police arrested a suspect the next day after tracing him through the Bridge card used to buy a package of beef jerky just before the attempt.

Now, Tyler Robinson, 20, of Canton Township, and Matthew Ross, 21, of Taylor, are charged with armed robbery in the June 30 attempted holdup of the Shell station at Five Mile and Beck, and also charged with armed robbery in the holdup of a Mobil station at Merriman and Schoolcraft Road in Livonia, which happened shortly after the township incident.

The two were scheduled for a preliminary hearing in the township case in 35th District Court on Friday, but Judge Ron Lowe postponed the hearing until Friday, Aug. 2, partially because defense attorneys asked for more time to review evidence. Likewise, their preliminary hearing in the Livonia holdup, which was to take place Thursday in 16th District Court, was postponed until Thursday, July 18, for evidence discovery.

Robinson was arrested by township officers July 1 at a local Walmart, after police traced the Bridge card—a debit card for Michigan cash assistance and food-stamp recipients—used at the Shell station to him, said Officer Charlie Rozum, the township detective in charge of the case. Further investigation, Rozum said, led to Ross, who had outstanding traffic warrants and was arrested July 3 after a traffic stop in Taylor. Police found a silver-colored toy pistol in the car he was driving, Rozum said.

Both men were being held

in the Wayne County Jail on Friday.

In the incident at the Shell station, Rozum said, two men walked in some time after 1 a.m., and one of them bought a package of beef jerky with a Bridge card.

They left, Rozum said, and the man who had bought the beef jerky returned a short time later and announced a holdup. He lifted his shirt to show the clerk what appeared to be a silver-colored semiautomatic pistol, Rozum said.

But a man delivering Krispy Kreme doughnuts then walked in, Rozum said, and apparently scared off the would-be robber, who left.

No one saw him leave in a vehicle, but the deliveryman said he thought he had seen a green pickup truck parked along Five Mile.

"You announce a robbery, that's sufficient for the crime," said Rozum. "He got scared. It would've been completed had the delivery person not come."

Rozum said the delivery man didn't see the gun the would-be robber had shown the clerk.

The Livonia holdup occurred a short time later; a man with what was described as a silver pistol left the Mobil station with an undisclosed amount of cash and a package of beef jerky, said Livonia Lt. Tom Goral-ski. No vehicle was seen.

Rozum said the man who announced the holdup in each case was wearing the same kind of T-shirt: black, with a white eagle design on it.

Staff writer David Veselensk contributed to this story.

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John Zaccone, a 2006 Plymouth High School graduate, helped his mom develop a fitness tracking phone application.



Former Canton resident and Schoolcraft College professor Lisa Zaccone had the idea for the walking app, and approached her software-engineer son to help develop it.

Plymouth grad, mom develop fitness app

Walking routes provide motivation to exercise regularly

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Lisa Zaccone was doing a lot of walking – and not really going anywhere, at least nowhere all that interesting.

That's when the idea of putting all that walking – she was trying to do 10,000 steps a day – to good use came to her. She and a friend had been plotting their walking on a wall map of the United States, trying to figure out how long it would take them to go trans-continental.

Then the idea struck her: Why not have actual destinations available? She approached her son, 2006 Plymouth High School graduate John Zaccone, about developing a phone application that could take walkers to distant lands – and landmarks.

The result: The free phone app "Virtual Walk," a fitness tracker named Best Walking App for 2013 in the About.com Reader's Choice Awards.

"It just adds interest to the walking, and gives walkers something to look forward to at the end," said Lisa Zaccone, an associate professor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and a former longtime Canton resident now living in Hamburg Township.

How far is far?

The idea really came about when Zaccone and a friend were plotting their mileage. They originally had the idea to determine how many steps it would take to get to Zingerman's Deli in Ann Arbor, when they had walked enough, they drove to Zingerman's.

When she got the idea for a phone app, she approached her son, a Virginia Tech University graduate and software engineering now living in Richmond, Va. It took him about eight months to develop two variations of the app – one for a Droid, the other for the Apple phones.

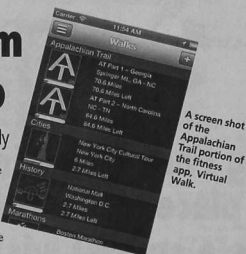
Developing the app was right up his alley.

"I have an engineering mindset, so I like solving problems," said John, whose first experience at programming came in the high school classroom of teacher Ron Carlson. "The whole engineering-solving problems is interesting to me. When you think about technology you think about computers, and my whole line of work and education is centered around that."

Virtual Walk counts the user's steps over time and helps set fitness goals. Users can choose GPS or treadmill mode to complete walking routes virtually all over the U.S., without ever leaving their neighborhoods. Virtual Walk's available landmarks include the Appalachian Trail, a tour of the memorials in Washington D.C., national parks and other historic routes.

There is also an educational component to the application. Walkers can unlock historical data and photos detailing the various routes. For instance, points along the virtual Appalachian Trail unlock facts about the trail as well as photos of various people have taken along it.

The same is true of landmarks in New York City, the route of the Boston Marathon and the Arches National Park in



A screen shot of the Appalachian Trail portion of the fitness app, Virtual Walk.

Utah, which concludes with a video of people rope-jumping from the arches.

Motivating uses

The application can be "very motivational," John said.

"(Walkers) keep track of their miles over time, and day-to-day you don't really get to see that much progress," he said. "But as you accumulate more miles, people like to look at it as a bigger accomplishment. 'I walked the length of the Appalachian Trail in the last year.' That's a concrete way of measuring your walking over a longer period of time."

The application has five free walks available; the others are \$1 apiece. Virtual Walk can be downloaded for free from the Google Play Store or the Apple app store.

While the pair had other ideas, Virtual Walk was what they came up with. That doesn't mean more apps aren't in the offing.

"We had tons of directions we thought of going," Lisa Zaccone said. "There are more ideas than time."

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Locals dance in national competition

The Dance Masters of America Competition, which started Thursday in New Orleans, has a distinctly Plymouth-Canton flavor.

The competition features a pair of local dancers, 8-year-old Emily Popa and 16-year-old Olivia Lovsin, both of whom study at Joanne's Dance Extension in Canton.

Popa, a fourth grader at Gallimore Elementary School, was named Petite Miss Dance at the Great Lakes Regional Dance Masters earlier this year in Grosse Ile.

Olivia Lovsin is the reigning Miss Dance 2014, and has been a student at Joanne's Dance Extension since age 3. She studies

Acro, Ballet, Cecchetti, Contemporary, Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Musical Theater, Pointe and Tap.

Olivia, who won Teen Miss Dance in 2012, has performed in the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company's Nutcracker Ballet along with the Michigan Philharmonic for 10 years with roles including a mouse, Clara and the Snow Queen.

She will be attending Dance Masters of America's Student Honor Intensive Program at the University of Buffalo in New York following the competition, and will also be attending Jeffrey Ballet School's New York City Jazz and Contemporary Summer Intensives for two weeks in August.

In New Orleans, Emily and Olivia are competing against some of the most talented dancers around the country. They will perform in an opening number to be judged in tap, ballet, jazz and acrobatics classes along with an interview and a performance. She will also take several dance workshops.



Emily Popa



Olivia Lovsin

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Rain no problem for Autos for Autism

50 cars show and \$8,000 raised for Burger Center

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Rain didn't deter a committed group of people who annually want to help raise money to support the Burger Center for Students with Autism in Garden City.

"Rain or shine," said rain poncho-clad volunteers who greeted guests and directed them where to park.

Autos for Autism was held Monday, July 8, on the grounds of Garden City High School despite the rain.

In 2000, a small group of parents had an idea. Hold a custom car show to raise money for the Burger Center. Thirteen years later, the group has grown to a larger committee and the show has gone from 75 cars to 250 cars and motorcycles in good weather.

The group raised \$8,000 this year and 50 cars were in the show.

"We raise money to supply the children with items not supplied through the school system," said Cecelia Nesbitt who formerly co-chaired the show and currently serves on the committee. "We are supplying the iPads."

Her last show

This was chairwoman Debbie Cross's last year

having served in that position for 13 years. Her son just graduated from the Burger program.

"We haven't had a show like this where we had this much rain," Cross said. "We are so grateful for the people who have showed up."

Lisa Clark will chair the show next year.

"This is my first year and they asked to chair it," Clark said. She has a son in the program.

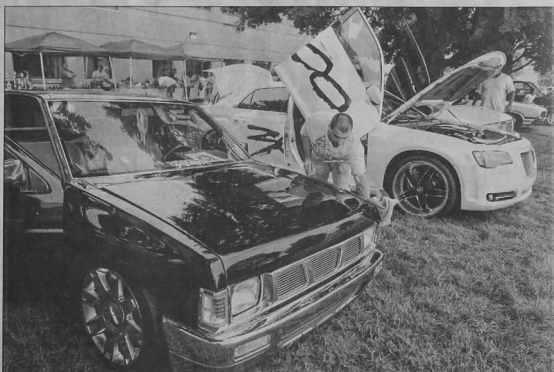
The rainy weather Monday showed that there is a deep-seated commitment by a lot of people out there who like cars and like helping kids.

"This is the rainiest that I have ever been to but this is only my fifth one," said Garden City Schools Superintendent Michelle Cline. "This is a very large fundraiser and the money is used to support our students in a variety of ways."

"Usually by now (about 6 p.m.), the grass would be all the way (with cars)," she said.

Helping program

The car show benefits the Autistic School Association Inc., which raises money for the Burger Center where students range in age from 3 to 26 and come from throughout Wayne County.



Jason Balish from Dearborn polishes his 1990 Nissan Hardbody at the Autos for Autism event. PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Burger relies a lot on its own funding for special programs. The money goes towards activities throughout the year like field trips, outings in the community and playground equipment upgrades.

School board member Darlene Jablonowski, who is a volunteer, kept smiling though she was soaked.

"We will do whatever it takes for these kids," Jablonowski said. "This is the rainiest one (show)

we've had but we still have some diehards coming out. More than half of these cars gave me more than the entry fee."

Guests included State Rep. David Knezek, D-Deerborn Heights, Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-12th District, and recently retired Garden City Middle School assistant principal Larry Conn.

The Garden City football team, parents and Conn were on site all

afternoon setting up.

The event also included a color guard, Star Wars characters and Ronald McDonald.

Jared Glasel, 12 years old in a few days, opened the show. The Westland resident, who attends Marshall Upper Elementary School in Westland, sang the National Anthem. He said that he wasn't nervous.

stuck @hometownlife.com
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Keegan Glasel of Westland enjoyed the train display set up by Chris Leach of Wayne.



Garden City residents Scott Doak and Darrel Bowlin check out a 1978 Model A at the car show at Garden City High School. STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cars were parked under the trees to keep them dry during the rain soaked Autos for Autism event July 8. STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cody Kirkpatrick of Garden City brought his umbrella to keep dry during the car show. STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Arthritis Today

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TECHNOLOGY AND ARTHRITIS

Like other aspects of medicine, the field of arthritis has entered the twenty-first century. For medicine, the outstanding feature of the last 100 years is the increasing pace for applied technology.

In arthritis the best example is the development of musculoskeletal MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). MRI makes use of the effect of high powered magnets to change the position of hydrogen ions in muscle, bone, and ligaments. Computers can detect these changes and make them the basis of imaging that brings human anatomy, in detail, to the physician in his office. Both doctor and patient are able to see the basis for change, variations, abnormalities or breaks in normal body function.

Possibly within the next 5-7 years, physicians will have office MRI, not as powerful as the machines in hospitals, but good enough to provide excellent hand, shoulder, knee and ankle images. MRI examinations that now require a hospital appointment will be done at the time of an appointment. Just as chest x-rays are done today.

The second breakthrough advancement is the application of ultrasound to arthritic conditions. Ultrasound works on the principle of sending sound waves into the body, capturing the returning wave, and changing that shape into a picture that a trained person can recognize as muscle, bone, nerve, blood vessel and ligament. With the ultrasound image in front of him, a physician can determine if a rotator cuff tear is present, or if excess fluid is the reason for a swollen knee or ankle.

Ultrasound guided needle placement makes it possible to reach any joint or bursa with precision. My guess work on injecting a joint is at an end.

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An unspoken language

Leon gives pawful of love to hospice patients



Leon sits patiently as Arbor Hospice's Sue Norton instructs new volunteers with a list of commands.



Art Burd of Livonia walks Leon around parking lot at Arbor Hospice. (JOHN STORMZAND) STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

He's young and sensitive, affable and has a spring in his step. Those qualities will serve Leon well in his new job as he provides companionship, compassion and good hugs for patients of Arbor Hospice.

Leon starts his work day by being dropped off at the Plymouth Arbor Hospice office on Ann Arbor Road by Cindy Palmer of Farmington Hills. "My kids have very much wanted a dog," said Palmer, Arbor Hospice bereavement counselor who works in Ann Arbor. "I thought, 'Wow! This is an opportunity for us, especially with my 10-year-old son.'"

When news spread that Arbor Hospice was getting Leon, Palmer said she told hospice supervisors she and her family would be happy to take the 18-month-old dog. "We were interviewed and we got Leon."

Definitely a loving pet, Leon is nonetheless a working dog so Palmer's family, including her son and 17-year-old daughter were also trained. "We have to keep it in mind. We have to be consistent with him. But we love him like a pet."

Sociable and trained

It seems everyone at Arbor Hospice have melting hearts for Leon, who was donated by Leader Dogs for the Blind, where he was initially trained. But Leon had anxiety when approaching steps and was offered to Arbor Hospice as a therapy dog.

"When the dogs have issues, other alternatives are sought," said Arbor Hospice staff mem-

ber Sue Norton, Leon's lead trainer.

By the end of last week, Leon—who is playful and full of slursps and licks—was to have started work visiting hospice patients. There is something not only heartwarming, but calming for patients when a dog visits, Norton said.

"You have to remember that people in facilities probably had to leave behind their own pets. Leon gives them an opportunity to reminisce," Norton said.

Leon will actually be sort of like a traveling working dog. Arbor Hospice serves patients in a seven county area that includes Wayne and Oakland. Arbor has an inpatient facility in Ann Arbor, but also cares for patients in their own homes.

"We will take Leon wherever the patient is," Norton said.

Arbor Hospice has plenty of experience using therapy dogs to help patients. Leon joins the organization's first dog, Alpine, who has such a busy schedule that taking Leon just made sense to accommodate all the needs.

How long Leon and Alpine stay with patients and what they do with them depends on the patient. A patient with Alzheimer's disease was delighted when the therapy dog visited recently. "She was as happy as a clam," Norton said. "She felt the dog was taking her for a walk."

Unspoken connection

The truth is, dogs and humans share a universal language. "It's beyond language. It's an unspoken thing," said Livonia resident Art Burd, who

has volunteered to take Leon to see patients.

Burd's daughter, Alysha has also joined as a volunteer. And with her and a number of other volunteers, including Jacob and Christian Little of Garden City.

In the past week, the volunteers have also trained with Leon. "I wanted to do it to make people's passing and their families more comfortable," said Alysha Burd, who wants to study psychology in college.

The Little brothers have volunteered because health care is the field both have chosen to enter. "It's a good field," Christian said. Jacob, who wants to work in health care administration said that volunteering is good job experience for his future.

As long as there are patients to see, Leon will go to work every day—as does Alpine. But at the end of a long day of work, Leon will return to his Farmington Hills family.

"He is actually very quiet," Palmer said. "The only time we heard him bark was when we got out the Hula Hoop."

Ooops. The Palmers had no idea Leon would so love the Hula Hoop. But he is a therapy dog, so training had to kick in and the Hula Hoop is no longer one of the dog's toys.

"We really have to keep in mind that Leon is a working dog," Palmer said. "He really loves people and we love him."

Arbor Hospice is seeking volunteers. If interested, contact the organization at 888-992-2273.

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Dated: 7/10/2013

Published: July 14, 2013

07/08/13 - 3:24

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Four seats are open to students entering 7th grade in fall 2013
Limited Registration window: July 8 - 31, 2013

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to limited schools of choice for the 2013-14 school year. This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will open from July 8 - 31, 2013

Application materials and program information is available at

the Livonia Public Schools Administration building at

15125 Farmington Road, Livonia MI 48154 (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M - Th)

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Digital Roots CEO Jason Wolcott (far left) and Northville Mayor Chris Johnson cut the ribbon at the technology company's new home inside the old Ford Plant.

Tech company plants roots

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

A growing technology company has put down roots in Northville.

Michigan-based Digital Roots, a social media and CRM software company, has relocated its headquarters to the historic Ford Plant in Northville's Waterwheel building. The firm, which is rapidly expanding in terms of its clients and team members, wants to add to the vibrancy of downtown.

"I am humbled, proud and excited to announce the expansion of our offerings and growth as an organization," said Jason Wolcott, Digital Roots founder and CEO, who grew the organization into a multimillion-dollar, international enterprise in just five years. "As more businesses leverage social media to improve their customer experience and brand consideration, the need for efficient, effective social CRM products and services is increasing. We're happy to be servicing that demand from our new headquarters in Michigan."

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held June 28 with Northville Mayor Chris Johnson, state Rep. Kurt Heise, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck as well as other governmental officials on hand along with the staff of Digital

Roots and their friends and family.

Johnson said there have been other ideas for the old Ford building, but some were not right. He referenced one idea to make the old plant into condos. Digital Roots is what Johnson said he had more in mind when thinking about the future of the historic plant at Main and Griswold streets.

In 1995, the Ford Valve Plant was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"You can really say historic things and you can really go forward in historical places, you just have to use your own imagination," Johnson said. "We're only limited by our imaginations. Anything and everything is possible. We just have to get there and these folks (Digital Roots) are some of the people that will get us there."

The building was home to the Ford plant that created engine valves for many of its premier automobiles, including the Model T. Digital Roots is the first company that has been granted access to the penthouse area of the suite, which Henry Ford used as his personal office.

"We're excited to be part of this Northville community," Wolcott said.

The community atmosphere and downtown experience is attractive to their staff, he added.

Digital Roots said its changing the way Fortune 100 companies utilize social media in their customer relationship management practices with proprietary software and a simple objective — to help brands establish roots in a digital world.

Solutions available through Digital Roots enable brands to easily manage relationships, enhance their reputation, improve revenue and retain customers. The company currently services 25 brands, 80 percent of which are listed as Fortune 500.

As the tech community in the greater Detroit area continues to flourish, Digital Roots said it's dedicated to becoming a job hub for local talent and is proud of its Michigan roots.

The company is passionate about sticking to its mantra, "our roots run deep", whether by engaging in community events or by being an advocate for the region.

Digital Roots is located at 235 E Main Street, Suite 104, and to learn more about them go to digitalroots.com.

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Madonna University students honored at Michigan's Emmy Awards

Students and alumni from Madonna University's broadcast and cinema arts program garnered three awards at this year's Emmy Awards of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Michigan Chapter. Madonna student projects earned five of the 15 statewide nominations.

The first Emmy was in the Music Video Category for "Get Back on Your Feet," a video shot and produced for Detroit-based country musician Paulina Jayne. Kyle Frances McNiff of Novi, Ashley Benton of Canton, Cory Davis of Dearborn, and Luke LaBenne of Dearborn Heights created the winning video.

Madonna students also won in the Editor Category for "Detroit Derby Girls," a commercial for a Detroit based roller-derby team. The winning video was created by Ashley Benton of Canton, Alyse Paquin of Whitmore Lake, Kyle



Madonna University students and their instructors pose together at the Emmy Awards celebration. Back Row: Jennifer Champagne, Detroit; Chelsea Jenkins, Westland; Alyse Paquin, Whitmore Lake; Charles Derry, Dexter; Ashley Benton, Canton; Angela Keller, Dearborn; Front Row: Jon Gray, Garden City; Cory Davis, Wixom; Mark Radwan, Livonia, and Adam Woloszyk, Plymouth.

Frances McNiff of Novi, Jonathan Gray of Livonia, Luke LaBenne of Dearborn Heights, and Christopher Paddock of Dexter.

The final award in the Public Affairs/Community Service Category went to Chelsea Jenkins of Westland, for her video "Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO)," about the NSO Bell Building, which the local nonprofit renovated to provide apartments for the homeless

in Detroit. In addition to the Emmy awards, the Dr. Lynne Boyle-John Schimpf scholarship was awarded to Madonna University's Ashley De'La McClendon of Detroit, a broadcast and cinema arts and sign language studies student.

Madonna students have been nominated for an Emmy each year since 2007, and at least one Emmy was awarded every year but one.

Great-grandmother pens book of poems about ups and downs of life

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Nancy and Robert Jones of Livonia have been through a lot during their 59 years of marriage, raising eight children and even losing one to a violent death.

Nancy, 76, sometimes had trouble sleeping because of the emotions and feelings she kept inside.

Then one night about 40 years ago, while wide awake and praying for help to go to sleep, God came to her in a vision and told her, "Get up and write," she said.

She did what she was instructed, but what she wrote didn't make sense to her so she took it to a Catholic priest. He told her, "You know something happened to you," and she said, "I don't have to tell me; I was there."

Shortly after that, Nancy started writing poetry and she was able to let her emotions flow through her pen. She had never written poetry before.

Nancy's daughter, Laura Robertson of Brighton, recently had a book containing 190 of her mother's poems published. Titled "Moods and Emotions," it's available for \$15 on lulu.com. A second book of poems is in the works.

"Each one has meant something to me," Nancy said of her poems, sum-



Nancy Jones published a book of poetry that includes work of the last 40 years. BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

marizing their topics as "the moods and emotions of my life."
Some are light-hearted like the one about a pet fly in the attic; others are more serious like the one about a red rose pin she lost that her deceased son had given her.

Family members and friends who have read them said some make them laugh while others make them cry. And, they can relate to the ups and downs of a decades-long marriage and the feelings of grief over the loss of a loved one. People tell her, "I can understand that situation; I've been there," she said.

Local fan club

Delphine Whitesock, 84, one of Nancy's neighbors at the McManara Towers, said the residents there enjoy reading Nancy's poems, which are occasionally posted up on the bulletin board. Some residents have purchased her book. Whitesock has a signed copy.

"She writes from life, from love," Whitesock said, describing Nancy as a down-to-earth, kind and loving person who's very devoted to her husband.

"Having a big family like she has and comes from I can see where she gets all of her material," Whitesock said.

Many of the poems are about Nancy and Robert's marriage. Grade-school sweethearts in Detroit, they married when she was 17 and he was 18.

"I saw him and fell in love and he saw me and all of a sudden we were a couple," Nancy said of their first meeting.

Robert worked as a roofer. Nancy mostly as a homemaker. Nancy struggled with bipolar disorder until about 20 years ago when she was prescribed the right medication.

"He had to put up a lot with me," she said.

Menopause put a strain on their marriage, and both have had their share of health issues. Nancy has had open-heart surgery. Robert, back, hip and hernia surgery.

"We're very happy, but we went through an awful lot together," Nancy said. Today, they have 20 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Other poems are about their son Greg, who was shot to death during a fight in the park at age 26.

"Letting it out has helped," she said. "He (Greg) still comes in my dreams," she said.

Nancy said writing poetry cured her insomnia. Now, she said, she's asleep "before Jeopardy's over and I don't get up until 5 or 6 in the morning."

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Be sure to look for a story on resale shops and your favorite finds in the August edition of Hometown Life Woman.

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0 3D RESPONSIBLE ME 2 (PG-13)
11:45, 2:15, 4:30, 6:50

Retirees, plan ahead before gifting children

Q: Dear Rick: Earlier this year, I retired and began collecting Social Security. My wife retired a few years ago and she began collecting Social Security at that time. We get a little over \$3,000 a month from Social Security. We figure it costs us about \$5,000 a month to live. We have no pensions and our current portfolio is about \$300,000. We're in our late 60s. We figure we have enough to last us the rest of our lives. We have four kids and my wife would like to help them out now if we can. She would like to gift about \$50,000 to each. If we gift the money would we still be in good shape for our needs?

A: I think it's great that you want to help your kids and make their life easier. However, in your situation I would not recommend the \$200,000 in gifts. An \$800,000 portfolio gives



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

you much more flexibility than a \$600,000 one. This is particularly true since it is possible that you and your wife can be around another 30 years.

We know that Social Security is not going to increase as much as your cost of living. Therefore, it is important to have a portion of your portfolio continuously reinvested for the future.

As a general rule, when you're in retirement the most you want to withdraw from your portfolio is 4 percent. I generally prefer a 3.5 percent rate based upon the fact that people are living longer and the

cost of living is rising much faster than the stated inflation rate. I believe the \$800,000 in your portfolio provides you a little cushion while if you only had \$600,000 you could have difficulties down the road.

The hardest aspect of deciding how much money is enough is knowing how long someone will live. In today's world, living 30-plus years in retirement is not uncommon and before long that will be the norm.

Reduce gifts

In the majority of situations I'm not in favor of large gifts. I recognize that there is a difference between leaving someone an inheritance and giving them a gift. When you leave an inheritance you don't get to see how that money improves someone's life as you would with a gift.

That being said, I don't want anyone having to be put in the position of having to ask their kids for money. I'd rather be safe than sorry and that is why I don't recommend the \$50,000 gifts.

There potentially is an alternative. As opposed to making \$50,000 in gifts, you can cut it down to \$10,000. Down the road, depending upon your financial situation, you can consider additional gifts. However, at this point \$50,000 per

child is excessive.

Many parents want to help their children who are experiencing financial difficulty. The problem is giving them money may not solve their problems. The reality may be that your child is living above his/her means and needs to cut back. Giving them money may be putting a Band-Aid on the problem. Unless they change their spending habits, making a gift may only be a temporary fix.

Before you gift money make sure you have the resources to protect yourself and make sure that whomever you gift money to will spend that money wisely. 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, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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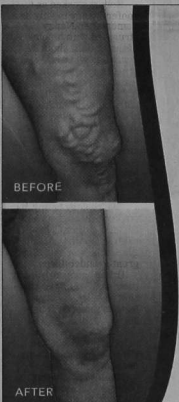
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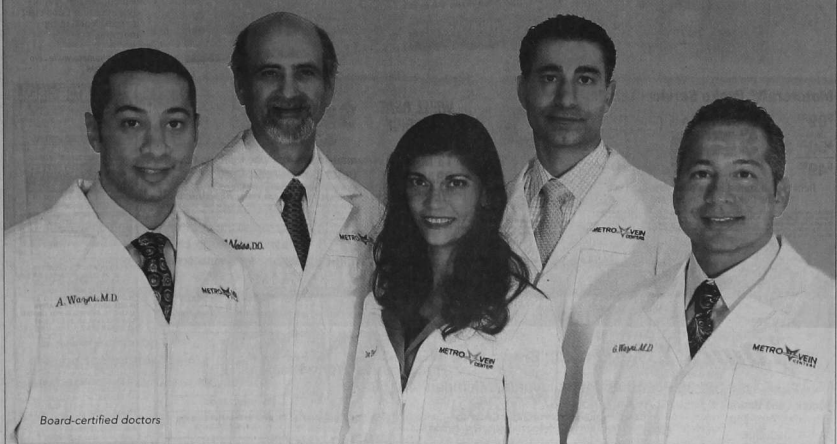
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Owner Caleb Bond of Westland is organizing a game festival Saturday, July 20, at his Gamers Ave in Garden City. STEPHEN CONTRELL, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Festival offers video gamers chance to play

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Caleb Bond is hoping for a big crowd at the first game festival he's holding at Gamers Ave in Garden City Saturday.

There will be plenty to moon to 8 p.m. Food, music, free raffles and game tournaments featuring Call to Duty, Halo 4 and Super Smash Bros. Brawl and prizes and instruction using modified controllers are planned. There also will be small tournaments featuring retro games from the 1980s and 1990s and a big game sale, too.

"I have a radio station coming and costumed characters. I'm trying to put on a small video convention here," said the Westland resident. "I'm trying to bring a big city convention feeling to Garden City. I try to do that on a daily basis or a weekend, but it's hard to do, so I decided to do an event and get gamers together so that they can meet each other."

Plenty of TVs

For the tournaments, Bond will use the 20 flat screen TVs he has

in the game area of the store as well as have at least eight more TVs outside provided by vendors. He estimates there should be at least 30 setups for the event.

The entry is free for the tournaments, all gamers have to do is show up — "The earlier the better," Bond said.

"Everybody will be a winner, and if too many show up for the tournaments, I can hold a raffle to determine slots and speed rounds to have more players involved," he said. "I'm hoping to get people who want to run other tournaments the day of. This is my first big event. I'll see how it goes."

Bond got into the game business in 2009. Four years ago, he partnered with Chris Allers, opening his retail business inside what was then the Game Yard. Allers had opened the gaming place in the storefront off the Kmart parking lot at Ford and Middlebelt in 2007 after taking a buyout from one of the Big 3 automakers. When he was called back to work last year, Bond took over.

"I wanted to start a business where my family could be in-

involved," he said. "I wanted a place where gamers would feel welcome. As a kid I was a gamer and I still play."

Making changes

The gaming area dominated the Game Yard, but Bond has reversed it. The playing area with the 20 TVs is set up in an area away from the front door. Playing time costs \$4 for an hour, \$10 for three hours, \$15 for five hours and \$25 for all day.

Business has been "pretty good," with retail sales carrying it. Bond hopes that by holding the game festival, he will "cement in the minds of kids" that Gamers Ave is a place to go and hang out.

"The whole point is to meet others kids who share the same interest," he said. "Everything is going smoothly so far."

More information about Gamers Ave can be found online at www.GamersAve.com or by calling 734-466-9020. Gamers Ave is at 29532 Ford, Garden City.

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'Mud, mud, glorious mud'

Kids, adults wallow away at annual parks event

Emily Cunningham already has a plan for next year. She's coming back to the Wayne County Parks' Mud Day and repeat as the Queen of Mud.

Tuesday, the Riverview youngster won the crown as the muddiest girl at the 26th annual Mud Day. She was covered from head to toe in mud with flower, grass and leaf accents provided by her sister, Autumn Boyd and cousins Sophia Nikonowicz and Georgia Browning.

"I'm excited, I started getting ready for this when I got here," said Emily of her muddy honor.

"We've been planning it out since last night," added her sister.

Joining her on the Mud Day throne was Victor Epton of Southfield who opted to put his face in the water and lie in the goopy muck.

"It feels great to be king," he said. "I think I won because I was really muddy."

A smaller than usual crowds of mud-loving youngsters and adults turned out to romp in the 75-foot by 150-foot mud pit, created by Wayne County Parks crews, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano was on hand to lead the countdown to the mad dash to the mud.

"We had it perfect yesterday and the rain came," said Ray Glenn, maintenance

supervisor. "It's a little souper now."

Kellie Laskey of Canton and her husband Brian brought three-year-old Jayla to her first Mud Day. Laskey had seen her playing in the mud a few months ago and thought about Mud Day. After seeing a piece on YouTube, they were convinced they should go.

"We're definitely coming back next year," she said.

Logan Sibel of Redford, and Sarah and Ben Rojewski of Livonia acted like movie stars, posing for the paparazzi. Sarah has been doing Mud Day since she was 4 and her brother was 2, and according to Julie Sibel, it was their mother Nikki Rojewski-Sharples who dragged her into it.

"I don't care what people think, it's fun," said Logan Sibel.

"I love it," added Sarah Sharples.

The last time Mikaela Buresch and Autumn Strong got really muddy was playing soccer. But Tuesday, the two teens admitted they went way beyond game muddy as they sloshed around in the mud pit.

"I feel like a pig," said Strong who was covered from head to toe in mud.

"I feel like I'm in a barn ... and it definitely smells like one," added Buresch who was in similar condition.



Joshua Laskey of Canton takes a mud bath.



Children splash in the mud during Wayne County's Mud Day in Hines Park on Tuesday afternoon. PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Canton residents Chole Kemp, mom Shannon and brother Brevin have a snack before the Mud Day event begins.



Zach Miller gets a mud bath from Gabe Molitor. Both are Livonia residents.

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Barbara Strong of Livonia helps get mud out of the eye of Mikaela Buresch of Howell.



Western Wayne County Hazmat Team technician James Uritti hoses down Mike Grona of Garden City.

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"Wild Summer Day Trip" Win prizes from O&E for day at the Toledo Zoo

Hippos, polar bears, reptiles and a host of other interesting creatures await visitors to the Toledo Zoo.

The *Observer & Eccentric Media* in cooperation with the Toledo Zoo is sponsoring a "Wild Summer Day Trip" on Saturday, July 27.

Readers can win special admission passes and prizes as part of a special O&E Media and Toledo Zoo promotion. Go to hometownlife.com and enter our Facebook contest to win:

► **Grand Prize:** Four Toledo Zoo admission passes and four Behind the Scenes tour passes and a \$25 gas card.

► **Runner-up:** Four Toledo Zoo admission passes and a year membership to the zoo.

► **Third prize:** Four Toledo Zoo admission passes. Entries must be submitted by midnight July 18. Other special events planned on the Wild Summer Day Trip (July 27):

A giant "Wish You Were Here" poster will be at the zoo so O&E Media visitors can take photos (along with having their O&E newspaper) for publication in print and online.

Youngsters who submit stories/reports about "My Day at the Zoo" will be featured in the August Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page.

The Toledo Zoo covers 74 acres and is home to more than 9,000 animals representing over 800 species. It's one of the world's most complete zoos — it's also a top family destination.

Special exhibits

The zoo has introduced many innovative exhibits. The African Savanna offers a re-creation of the plains and jungles of Africa. The Savanna is home to the world-famous Hippoquarium®, the first of its kind in the world.

The Kingdom of the Apes exhibit, Primate Forest, Arctic Encounter® and multi-species Arctic exhibit give visitors an amazing up-close experience while at the same time ensuring the well-being of the animals.

Two special exhibits include "Wild Walkabout: Wonders from Down Under" which brings the natural world of Australia to zoo visitors and the Arctic Encounter®, one of the nation's top polar bear exhibits.

In Arctic Encounter, visitors can see male/female twin cubs born Nov. 21, 2012, and named through a community naming contest. The male cub is Sakari. His name means "sweet" in Inuit language. The female cub (Suka), her name means "fast" in Inuit language.



Zoo visitors get an underwater viewing of polar bears. PHOTO BY ANDI NORMAN



The Toledo Zoo is a popular family destination. It is home to more than 9,000 animals. PHOTO BY TJ IRWIN

Polar bears delight

This is the fourth litter of polar bears the Toledo Zoo has had since 2006, said Randi Meyerson, assistant director of animal programs.

"I credit our success to high-quality animal care, the staff's relationship with the animals, the bears' good temperaments and an outstanding facility."

The exhibit, opened in 2000, is one of the top polar bear exhibits in the U.S. It features a 90,000-gallon pool and 6,000-square-foot land exhibit. Creative design enables bears to see and smell the seals (which would be their prey in the wild) while on exhibit.

An interactive center enables visitors to enjoy close-up, clear, underwater viewing of both polar bears and seals, as they learn more about these remarkable animals.

The cubs' public exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join other residents from *Observer & Eccentric Media* communities on Saturday, July 27, for a Wild Summer Day Trip at the Toledo Zoo. Look for a coupon for a free child admission with purchase of an adult ticket in the *Observer* or visit toledo.zoo.org/ daytrip.



The wallaby is featured as part of Wild Walkabout—an Australian adventure at the Toledo Zoo this summer. PHOTO BY KANDACE YORK

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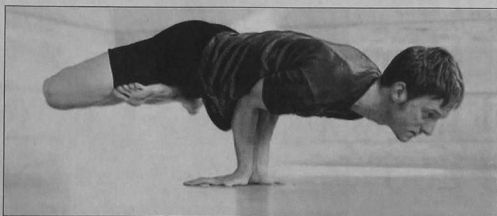
Detroit yoga group hosts teaching weekend

The Yoga Association of Detroit has planned a teaching weekend July 26-28, featuring an emerging star in yoga practice, Jason Crandell of California.

His four presentations will be at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill in Farmington Hills.

"We are excited to bring Jason Crandell back to present another workshop for us," said Lynda Herman of Garden City, YAGD president. "I met Jason two years ago and was very impressed with his method and style of teaching. One thing that really stands out was his ability to relate and share with all levels of our students."

Crandell was recently named "one of the next generation of teachers shaping yoga's future" by *Yoga Journal* for his



Jason Crandell, a California resident, is considered an emerging star in yoga practice.

approach to Vinyasa yoga. In the past 10 years, his "knack for explaining subtle body movements in a way that anyone can understand," (*Yoga Journal*) has opened many doors to yoga devotees. He is a contributing editor for *Yoga Journal* and has written many articles for the magazine

and its website. "I was impressed with his wisdom at his young age, clarity of his instructions to yoga practitioners of any level, and his modesty in spite of his depth of knowledge," said Doris Sheikh of Farmington Hills, a longtime YAGD member and former president.

Another Farmington Hills resident, Charlene Vokomic, agrees. "I attended the full workshop with Jason Crandell two years ago and found his approach to be refreshing and interesting," she said. "He has an easy manner about himself."

The teaching weekend will include four sessions:
 • Movement and meditation in Vinyasa yoga 7-9 p.m. Friday, July 27. Vinyasa is often seen as power yoga or classical Indian yoga.
 • Awakening, strengthening and integrating your core, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 27.
 • Balance your hips and free your spine, 1:30-4 p.m. Saturday, July 27.
 • The art of sequencing, general principles, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 28.
 Preregister for \$35 for each session of \$120 for all four sessions by July 19. After that day, it is \$45 per session or \$160 for four sessions.
 YAGD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and improving the practice and teaching of yoga. The YAGD website has more information and a downloadable registration form for the event. Or call 313-204-1509 to register.



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Thousands expected at Festival of Chariots

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

For the fifth year, Novi will host a Festival of Chariots – one of India's most ancient and popular festivals that is celebrated in hundreds of cities throughout the world – on Saturday, July 20.

It'll begin at 11 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center with a colorful, three-mile parade through the city's major streets and culminating at Fuerst Park. There, more than 20 tents will be set up with various forms of entertainment, a free lunch, dancing, yoga, more live music, shopping, cooking demonstrations, activities for children and much more to celebrate India's spirituality and culture.

"The 28th annual Festival of Chariots ... is the most unique and broad reaching festival hitting the streets of Michigan," said Ganesh Kathiresan, media coordinator. "We're expecting over 7,000 people this year, including the mayor of Novi, to pull a 40-foot chariot through the streets of Novi."

Novi is home to more than 1,500 Indians, and Kathiresan said the event organizers' core strategic mission this year is to broaden the reach of this festival to match what is taking place in New York, San Francisco and Toronto.

"More than 10,000 people walk down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan to pull the chariot," Kathiresan said. "We'd like to bring thousands of people in



The chariot of the Festival of Chariots rolls south on Taft Road in Novi last year.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

our state to come and enjoy a unique cultural experience."

Some of her marketing efforts include placing 1,000 fliers in various coffee shops and stores and individually inviting more than 7,000 Michigan residents using business cards/fliers at various summer festivals in the area.

The event's first-ever Kirtan Yoga Fest, from 2-6 p.m., will feature artists from New York, India and around the world. Kirtan is a form of devotional singing and chanting originating from India and accompanied by musical instruments and rhythmic drumming. The audience is encouraged to participate by singing/chanting, clapping and dancing. In its heartfelt expression, Kirtan is



Sidharth Chhabra (left) and another parader enjoy a twirling dance during the July 21, 2012, Festival of Chariots in Novi

to induce profound states of meditation, bliss and ecstasy.

The festival – free and open to the public – wraps up around

HISTORY

The "Festival of Chariots," known throughout India as the Rath Yatra festival, has been celebrated since ancient times as one of the most important yearly events in the Vaishnav-Hindu faith. The festival celebrates Lord Krishna's return to Vrindaban. Every year, over one million people from around the world descend upon of Jagannath Puri (India) to celebrate. Huge processions accompany the chariots playing songs with drums, tambourines, and trumpets. Children line the streets through which the chariot will pass and add to the mass chorus. It is also telecasted live on many Indian channels and international channels. The Festival of Chariots was first performed outside of India on July 9, 1967 in San Francisco, under the supervision of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada-da. Srila Prabhupada, as he is more affectionately known, is the founder of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. Today, the Festival of the Chariots is performed around the world. Detroit held its first event in 1985 and has become one of the largest celebrations outside of India.

6 p.m. There will be plenty of free parking at the Novi High School and the Civic Center, and restrooms will be available at the Novi Public Library.

Community Opportunity Center holds Italian Night Monday

Community Opportunity Center will hold its ninth annual Italian Night Monday, July 15, at Eastside Mario's, 31630 Plymouth Road, west of Merriman in Livonia.

This is the ninth year Eastside Mario's has partnered with COC to host the Italian Night fundraiser with all proceeds being used to meet the housing and personal needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are affiliated with COC.

Anyone who dines at the

restaurant 4-8 p.m. on July 15 will be treated to Eastside Mario's celebrated spaghetti, salad and bread for just \$10.

Drinks, tips and tax are extra. The restaurant will donate the entire \$10 to Community Opportunity Center, a nonprofit housing corporation supporting adults with developmental disabilities in Wayne County.

Last year, some 400 diners attended the festive affair raising \$5,000 for COC. Some of the wait staff donated tips they earned during the four-

hour period, and some diners made direct donations to COC that night.

"We so much enjoy working with the wonderful people at Eastside Mario's who have been so supportive of our cause over the years," said Denise King, executive director of Community Opportunity Center. "Our family members, friends and supporters have a great time each year at this event, and we are pleased to work with Eastside Mario's to bring this event back for the

community."

"The wait staff at Eastside Mario's has been very kind and professional in making sure our guests received top service and enjoyed a memorable evening," she added.

The first event was held in 2005 and was so popular that COC and Eastside Mario have repeated the event each July.

In 2006, Eastside Mario's manager Joe Hibbert was honored with an Award of Special Achievement by COC for his leadership in helping

stage the now annual Italian Night.

Community Opportunity Center, based in Livonia, is a nonprofit management corporation that provides leadership and oversight to nearly 100 people with developmental disabilities who live among 23 homes and apartment settings in western Wayne County.

Homes and apartments are in Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City, Westland and Redford.

For more information, call Denise King at 734-422-1020.

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Look for this holiday icon hidden on the pages of the July edition of Hometown Life INSPIRE either in print or online and follow the instructions. Correctly identify all of the pages where the icon is hidden and simply submit the entry form or enter contest on Facebook.

Grand Prize: \$500 Showroom of Elegance Gift Card

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All entries must be received by midnight, July 31, 2013

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My A1C level was 8.8 and my fasting glucose numbers were over 200. After completing Dr. Boechler's program, my A1C is now 5.8 and my fasting glucose numbers are right around 100. The best part is that I did this naturally without any medications. I'm 60 years old and I never dreamed it would be possible to lose weight and feel this good again. I wish I had learned about this program years ago.
 - Stacy, Royal Oak

After just 3 weeks on Dr. Boechler's program my blood sugar is lower and I am taking less insulin. My joint and muscle aches are completely gone, I've lost 13lbs, and I can finally sleep through the night. I feel great!
 - Barbara, Northville

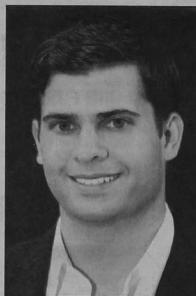
I was taking several medications for my diabetes and it seemed like the list was growing longer every year. I learned about Dr. Boechler's program and decided to give it a try. In just 6 weeks I've gone from taking 30 units of insulin to taking 0 units. After 10 weeks my A1C has gone from 7.9 to 6.1 and I did it without any medication!
 - Steve, Wixom

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 - Robert, Novi

I suffered from type 2 diabetes for years and the only answer I ever got from my doctors was more medication. I was scared, my health was rapidly deteriorating and there seemed to be no end in sight. I found out about Dr. Boechler's program through a mutual friend. I am happy to report that after 6 weeks I am completely off all my diabetes medication, I've lost 12 lbs., and I feel younger and more energetic. I can't thank Dr. Boechler enough for finding me the answers I needed.
 - Cindy, Birmingham

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Professor Wlodek Fuchs, Sara Morrison - Counsel General of Florence Italy, Mayor of Volterra and Dean Wittig at the ceremony held in the Palazzo Dei Priori.

The University of Detroit Mercy and Volterra, Italy team up with Anthony Rugiero to help students

The day began in Volterra at the Palazzo Dei Priori, the oldest town hall in Tuscany. The scene was joyous as many people gathered to celebrate the union between the University of Detroit Mercy and the city of Volterra, Italy. For over 20 years, a program has been available to students of the University of Detroit that allows them to study in the town of Volterra, a town known for its architectural influence and, most of all, the art of alabaster. However, when the students studied abroad they did not have facilities to accommodate their housing, and their resources were limited. But the city of Volterra was determined to build a partnership with the university, so they donated a building to Detroit with the understanding that they would take on the responsibility of restoring this historical building that once housed a museum for the art of alabaster.

The project began when Professor Wlodek Fuchs and Dean Vogel approached Sharon Gioia to contact Anthony Rugiero in their search for a leader to support the project in Detroit. Anthony Rugiero happily took on the project. Fundraising was kicked off with the benefit concert by IL VOLO in 2011, which many in the Italian community supported with their attendance. A sold out concert for the 3 young tenors raised money for three charities: University of Detroit Volterra, ILICA and Boys town of Italy. The concert not only brought money to the project, but also great awareness - allowing many others in

the community to get on board. Within a year and a half, funds were raised and the building was constructed. On May 15, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place, followed by a parade through the streets leading to the front door of the New University of Detroit Volterra. You could hear and feel the excitement from the citizens as they spoke amongst themselves, so proud to have a partnership with the United States.

Anthony Rugiero was in attendance with many dignitaries who came in from the universities of Perugia, Siena and Florence to support the Mayor of Volterra, the University of Detroit Mercy and the city of Volterra in this very memorable and historical event. They received a private tour of the new school. Wineries and restaurants in Volterra provided complementary hors d'oeuvres and wine in appreciation and to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Of course, a day like this isn't complete without a formal dinner to follow; where those from the city of Detroit gathered to break bread. It took approximately one and a half years, from start to completion, which is warp speed in Italian time. And that was largely due to the dedication from those involved at the university and the town. Together they utilized the resources of Volterra; labor, materials, architects, engineers and more, to transform the old, abandoned building. Today it stands like a 5-star accommodation, with modern rooms, including private baths, a study hall and a state of the art dining hall for

the students. In honor of his participation in this massive project, the dining hall was named after Antonio Rugiero. Rugiero said "I'm very honored to be a part of this wonderful project that I believe will enhance the students



Dean Wittig (School of Architecture, U of D Mercy), Professor Wlodek Fuchs, Anthony Rugiero and Dean Vogel.



Foreign exchange students at the University of Detroit, Volterra Design School.

from the University of Detroit Mercy allowing them the opportunities to study abroad and experience the culture and art of Italy"

When touring the school, visitors can view the memorial wall which displays the names of all those who contributed to accomplishing this project, including their partners in the city of Detroit.

Thank you, from all of us at Antonio's Restaurants, to those who contributed their time, energy and funds.

- Stephen J. Labatolano, Andrew and Christy Mark Palmer
- Janice Beasly, Paul Britten, James Chastain
- Mano Bruchi, Rose Mary Sargenta, Comune di Volte
- Anna Community Foundation, Andrea A. Smith, Greg Jurek
- Rakish Peter Henry Herzog, Lawrence DiVita
- Jim Pasqua, Italia Tognazzi, US
- Rugiero Promise Foundation
- Brian Veverka, Nicholas D. Juhász, Flavio Neri
- Matthew Lytle, George Diddis, Frank Pappas, Thomas Robb
- Michelle Ritting, Stephen and Anita Vogel
- Henry Club of Volterra, William Wally, Brian K. Zetter, Matthew B. Qiv
- Christopher Albar, Thomas K. Nalrick, Kirk Frey
- Haiph & Pia-Rita Klein, Robert Gaudes
- Jeffrey M. Freund, Thomas A. Black, Roberto Guarnieri
- Rafaelita R. Allen, Ronald J. Battaglia, Jeffrey Albert Hammond

ABOVE PHOTO: Anthony points to the memorial wall with the Rugiero Promise Foundation engraving.



PHOTO TO RIGHT: The new dining hall named after Anthony Rugiero.

It's never too late to help by contributing to the scholarship fund. Legacy or Tribute scholarships are available. Recognition benefits apply. Visit www.volterra-detroit.org for details.

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SPORTS

COOL RUNNINGS

Canton alum steers canine pals to IFSS bronze medal

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's nothing like a trip to North Pole, Alaska, for Amy Cooper to feel she's on top of the world.

That was definitely the case in March, when the former Plymouth resident and her four favorite pals – sled dogs by the names of Thule, Toko, Sisu and Siri – teamed up to win a bronze medal at the International Federation of Sled Dog Sports' Winter World Championships.

And yes, the competition took place in North Pole, a small city near Fairbanks and approximately 1,700 miles south of Earth's geographic North Pole.

With the 48-year-old Cooper at the reins of a lightweight sled, she and her mates mused their way to third place in the sprint class after successfully maneuvering through a fleet, 5 1/2-mile course that for all intents and purposes might have been a frozen highway.

They averaged 20 miles per hour along the way, with Cooper delivering verbal commands such as "gee" and "haw" when wanting her speedy teammates to turn away or towards the driver, respectively.

Just amazing

"Oh, it was just amazing, amazing," said Cooper, who successfully juggles being a wife and veterinary technician in Wisconsin with her worldly, dog-sled racing pursuits. "I was there for just over a week. The best of the best was there. I had never actually raced against anybody from Alaska because it was so far to travel."

"So it was fun to see how I stepped up against them. Quite a few international competitors were there."

Two of her dogs – including team-leader Thule – are just over two years old with the others merely yearlings. Each weighs between 53-73 pounds.

"It really was their first season for both pairs," she explained. "Conditions were so poor last year they only got one fun race in with the one pair. I was reluctant to go to the (IFSS Winter World Championships) because of inexperience."

Cooper emphasized that things in Alaska weren't necessarily seamless, however.

"We actually did have some problems," Cooper said. "These races are usually two days, they take their times and add them together, that's how they figure out who wins."

"We had a problem on the first day with one of the young dogs, which cost me a ton of time. So I could have placed higher. But she was young and she didn't know better. I wasn't at all disappointed because it was an



Former Plymouth resident Amy Cooper celebrates with her lead dog Thule after winning bronze at the IFSS Winter World Championships in Alaska. JANET SAXON

honest mistake."

They love it

For Cooper, although winning a bronze medal was a rush, going to Alaska was all about sharing a big moment with her sled dogs.

"Probably the biggest thing is just love of my dogs, being able to travel with them and be with them all the time," she said.

"These aren't just working animals. They're my best buddies, my family. And it's (for the dogs) to be able to do a sport like this, which they absolutely love."



Amy Cooper trained her sled dogs from last October. Casey February to gear up for the March race. CASEY THOMPSON

See SLED DOGS, Page B3

Cagers eye Showcase

The fifth annual Reaching Higher showcases of Michigan's top high school basketball players will return to South Lyon High School beginning Wednesday with the boys' event and followed by the state's top girls prospects taking the floor July 25. More than 220 athletes with aspirations to play at the college level will train and scrimmage under the tutelage of high school coaches from across the state and in front of college coaches.

Coaches from 42 college basketball programs attended during the 2012 Reaching Higher events, including 12 from Division I schools.

The Reaching Higher experience includes classroom sessions for student-athletes and their parents as well as on-court drills and scrimmaging.

The events aim to give athletes a vision of what it takes to become a college basketball player and also succeed in college life.

Among the area boys players selected include: Isaac Everette, Mike Edwards and James Pruitt, all of Westland; John Glenn; Jordan Nobles and Greg Williams, Canton; John Rexroth, Farmington; Harrison, Jeron Rogers, North Farmington; and Rayvon Croon, Redford Thurston.

Among the area girls invitees include Alanna Brown, Canton; Kylie Robb, Plymouth; Rylee Blair (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child).

Bucks lose showdown

The showdown Wednesday night for first place in the United Soccer League's Premier Development League (PDL) Great Lakes Division between powerhouse clubs FC London and the Michigan Bucks lived up to its billing ... and then some at Ulimin Soccer Arena in Pontiac.

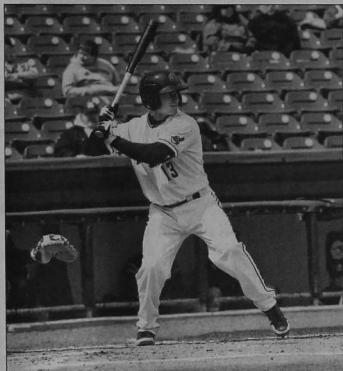
Aaron Boyd scored twice and added one assist as visiting FC London came away with a 4-3 victory and took over sole possession of first place with an 8-2-1 record (25 points).

Martin Lange and Jordan Ayris also added goals for FC London, which led 3-1 at halftime.

Stev Givens paced the Bucks (7-2-3, 24 points) with a goal and two assists, while Kevin Cope (Salem/Michigan State) and Dion Peters also added goals.

See HAASE, Page B3

Local player catching on in the minors



Eric Haase, a Westland native and former Mr. Baseball from Dearborn Divine Child, was a seventh-round pick of the Cleveland Indians. LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS

Westland's Haase climbing the MLB Indians' ladder

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Eric Haase has settled into the routine of a minor league baseball player and he knows all too well that it's a long journey.

The 20-year-old Westland native, the 2011 Michigan Mr. Baseball from Dearborn Divine Child High, is making the arduous climb through the Cleveland Indians' farm system.

His current landing spot is with the Class A Midwest League's Lake County Captains, who happen to play in Eastlake, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland.

But how ironic that the 5-foot-10, 180-pound catcher, who turned down a scholarship offer from Ohio State after being drafted by Indians in the seventh round, is so close, but remains so far from the ultimate mountain top – Progressive Field – just a 25-minute drive down I-90.

"I haven't been there this year, but I got to go there (Progressive Field), when I was drafted, for a couple of games,"



Haase

said Haase, who is currently hitting .242 and leads the Captains with 10 homers. "I definitely want to move as fast as possible, but at the same time I don't want to make a big jump and start struggling a whole lot and doubting what I can do with my abilities. I think I'm in a pretty good spot right now. I'm learning at a good rate. Hopefully I'll just keep this rate going and one day I'll end up in Cleveland."

Decent numbers

Haase has been the Captains' No. 1 catcher this season after appearing in 68 games (through Thursday). He has 15 doubles, two triples and 32 RBI. His slugging percentage (.440) ranks second overall.

"Overall it's been pretty good, but definitely it's been up and down, which is kind of expected being my first full year," Haase said. "I'm definitely learning a whole lot and kind of making adjustments on the move."

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Glove stories: Players embrace their mitts

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

'You absolutely develop a type of bond with your glove.'

CHUCK RUSSO,
Canton resident

you forget one or the other," he quipped.

Family heirloom

The Ken Griffey, Jr. model that Canton's Mohamed Hamed used to vacuum up ground balls Wednesday night comes equipped with plenty of sentimental value.

"This is my dad's glove," revealed Hamed, pumping his right hand into the leather pocket. "He was using it long before I was even born, now we share it, which is pretty awesome. I've been playing four or five years, and he still plays. "Hopefully it holds up so I can pass it down to my kids someday."

Plymouth resident Mark Brown returned to the slow-pitch diamonds this summer following a six-year hiatus.

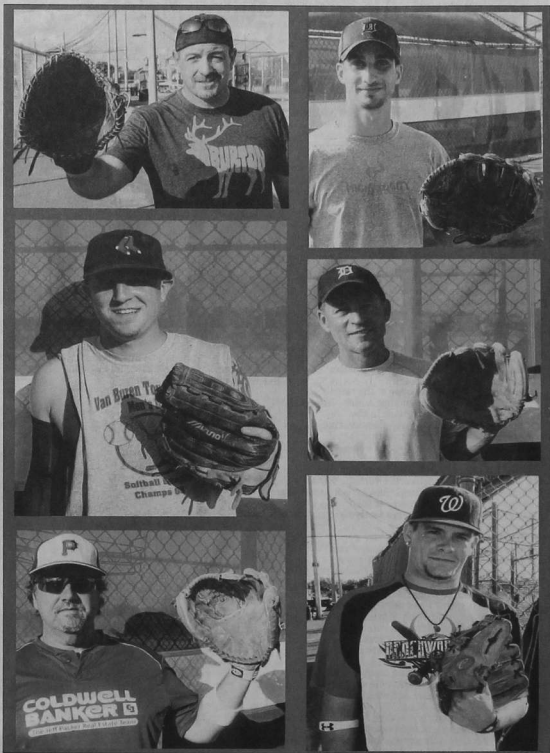
He didn't miss a beat thanks in part to the 20-year-old black first-baseman's glove he first started scooping out low throws with in the early-90s at Dearborn's Rotunda fields.

"It's perfectly broken in and I've hardly ever had to oil it," said Brown. "When you use a glove for several years like I have, you trust it, you're more confident with it. There have been times when I've misplaced it, and I was pretty worried about it."

Good feeling

Mike Barnett, who uses the same glove for both baseball and softball, speaks for most players when he talks about the comfort zone he's settled into with his six-year-old model.

"If you're not comfortable with your mitt, you're not going to be confident with your fielding — it's as simple as that," Barnett said. "I have this broken in just where I want it. I'm go-



Pictured with their gloves (clockwise from top left) are Mark Brown, Mohamed Hamed, Chuck Russo, Mike Barnett, Jim Talbott and Billy Johnston. ED WRIGHT PHOTOS

ing to keep using it until the wheels fall off." Billy Johnston took the affection he has for his glove one step further.

"For guys like me who play four or five times a week, six months a year, it's a relationship you have with your glove," said Johnston, who has

owned his current defensive weapon for close to seven years. "You put me out there with a different mitt than this one and I'm a totally different

player. "This one would have to have a hole burned through it before I'll replace it."

Gabe Award winner



Livonia Stevenson track and cross country runner Jacob Colley (second, from left) recently received the Gabe Scholarship Award, in honor of former Stevenson student-athlete Stephen Gabriel, who passed away in October of 2003. Colley won the award based on being an exceptional leader who has displayed courage and perseverance in dealing with challenges. Also on hand for the presentation was Gabe Award committee member (from left) Bill Wilkin, Jacob's father David, Stevenson cross country coach Chris Inch and Stevenson track and field coach Scott Shaw.

SANDBLOT BASEBALL

Ram bats club Knights, 12-2

The Michigan Rams used the 10-run rule Wednesday to even their record Livonia Collegiate Baseball League to 10-10-2 with a 12-2 victory in five innings over the Michigan Knights at Ford Field.

The Rams collected a total of 13 hits led by J.P. Maracani and Tyler Baker, each going 2-2 with an RBI and two runs.

Trent Drumbeller and Chris McDonald (Livonia Stevenson/Hillsdale College) each went 2-for-3

with a combined two RBI and five runs scored.

Brett Ramirez (Salem/Madonna University) and Ben Yax each contributed two RBI, while Griffin Harms, Matt Avromov, Justin Sherman and Miles Sorise contributing one RBI apiece as the Rams scored four times in the first, one in the second, two in the third and five in the fourth inning.

Winning pitcher Donnie Eaton went the first 3½ innings allowing two

runs on three hits and three walks. He struck out four before handing over the reins to Jake Gardner, who pitched 1½ scoreless innings of relief.

Matt Chema, who gave up 11 runs on 10 hits and five walks in three innings. Connor Reid finishing up.

Jeff Gertley went 3-for-3, while Brian Mulen and Spencer Frazier each added an RBI for the Knights, who slipped to 7-13-1 overall.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Whalers signee

Plymouth Whalers general manager and coach Mike Vellucci announced the commitment of 17-year-old forward Connor Chatham to sign a Standard Ontario Hockey League player's agreement.

Chatham, a 6-2, 210-pounder from Belleville, Ill., was Plymouth's pick in the fifth round of the 2011 OHL draft.

Hole-in-one club

On July 5, Greg Blases, 52, of Livonia, used a 7-iron to card his first ace on the 152-yard, No. 2 hole at Westland Municipal Golf Course.

Witnesses included Ralph Perez and Gary Cornelier.

O&E golf tournaments

It's not too late to mark a couple of more dates on your summer golf calendar.

That's because the annual Observer & Eclectic men's and women's golf tournaments will headline in the months of August and September.

The O&E women's

tournament, an 18-hole medal play event, will start at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh.

The cost is \$50 with a \$14 additional fee for a power cart. The tourney will be fought by USGA handicap (maximum of 40). Prizes will be awarded for low gross and net.

Meanwhile, the O&E men's tournament, a 36-hole, two-day medal play event, will be Sunday, Sept. 1, at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, and Monday, Sept. 2, at Whispering Willows. Tee times will start at 8 a.m.

The cost is \$95 for two days (power cart extra) with four different flights offered including championship, first, senior (55-and-over) and junior (17-and-under). You must have a current USGA index to participate (maximum handicap of 20).

There will be \$2,500 in guaranteed prizes including both low gross and net winners.

Entries open at the first 120, will close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.

To download a registration form for both the men's and women's tournaments, visit www.golf.livonia.com.

For pairings and starting times, call 248-476-4493 (Whispering Willows) or 248-471-3300 (Fox Creek).

Great Lakes Cardinals tryouts

The Great Lakes Cardinals 14U baseball team is looking for five new players for the 2014 season.

Tryouts will be 6 p.m. Monday, July 29 at the Wayne Ford Civic Baseball Field, on Wayne Road, just south of Ford Road. Please contact Bill Flohr at 248-761-9694 or Flohr at 248-761-9694 or 395-3355 with any questions.

Coaching jobs

Livonia Ladywood High School has coaching vacancies for a girls varsity pompon and varsity swimming for the fall 2013 season, along with a girls freshman basketball coach for the 2013-14 winter season.

Contact Sal Malek at 734-591-2386.

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Madonna men's basketball team signs All-State guard Malone

Stevenson graduate added to MU golf team

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Madonna University men's basketball coach Noel Erenheim announced another addition to his 2013-14 squad Friday with the signing of All-State selection Khalil Malone of Waterford Mott to an NIAA letter-of-intent.

A 5-foot-9 guard, Malone averaged 19 points, five assists and six rebounds as a senior for the Corsairs.

Malone, native of Pontiac, was ranked eighth among the top 50 players in Oakland County and led Mott to a Class A district and KLA A North Division title as a junior en route to All-Area honors.

A repeat All-Area honoree in 2013, Malone earned BCAM Best of the Best All-State along with All-County honors as a senior, capping his career with the most wins as a single player in school history (56).

"We are very excited to add Khalil to the program to help continue our tradition of excellent point guard play," said Erenheim, who guided the Crusaders to a school-best 25-9 record last season.

"The experience that he gained while playing for coach Jeff Jayson at Waterford Mott has certainly prepared him for his future here at Madonna. Khalil, in the model of all our players, is a great person and very dedicated student and athlete."

Malone joins four other new Crusaders for 2013-14 season including fellow guards Austin Johnson (Spring Lake) and Luke Short (South Lyon) along with forwards Chris Dierker (Salem) and Dan Hall (Trenton).

MU is coming off its most successful season in program history after capturing its first Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament championship and bid to the NIAA National Tournament.

MU lands Humitz
Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato an-

nounced Friday he has signed local product Connor Humitz (Livonia Stevenson) to an NIAA letter-of-intent.

"I am excited to add Connor to our program," Mato said. "We like to bring in local student-athletes who can help our team win. We think Connor can do that."

Humitz was a two-sport standout and three-year letter winner in both golf and hockey for the Spartans.

As a senior, Humitz was a second-team All-Observer pick in golf, averaging 39.8 strokes per nine holes and 79.5 per 18. He placed third in the Wayne County Invitational and finished 15th at both the Division I district and regional tournaments.

Humitz was also a first-team All-Observer selection in hockey as a goaltender helping Stevenson to the 2013 MHSAA Division 2 state championship last March, the school's first state title in school history.

The MU golf team opens its 2013-14 season on Aug. 26 with the Crusader Classic at Treetops in Gaylord.

Hat-trick of signings for Plymouth Whalers

Forwards, goalkeeper sign with local team

The signings keep on coming for the Plymouth Whalers.

Last week, team general manager/coach Mike Vellucci announced the commitment of forwards Cullen Mercer, Bryce Yetman and goalkeeper Zach Bowman to Standard Ontario Hockey League Player's Agreements.

All three players were taken by Plymouth in last spring's 2013 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection April.

Mercer, a 16-year-old center, was taken in the third round (57th overall) after scoring 37 goals with 36 assists for 73 points last season for the Huron-Perth Minor Midgets.

"Cullen's a good two-way center who plays an intelligent game," Vellucci said. "With experience, he should develop into a young man who can be used in all situations."

One of Mercer's future linemates could be right wing'er Yetman, 16, picked in the fourth round (73rd overall) after netting 15 goals with 8

assists for 23 points in 36 games last season for the Whitby Wildcats Minor Midgets.

"Bryce is a young man who is still growing and developing as a player," Vellucci said. "We see him maturing into a power forward. Bryce has an excellent offensive up-side."

Turning 16 later this month is Bowman, selected in the fourth round (76th overall) after playing for the Niagara North Stars Minor Midgets.

Like Yetman, Bowman received an invitation to the Ontario Hockey League Association's Under-16 Program of Excellence selection camp.

"Zach plays his position with good lateral movement and solid reflexes," Vellucci said. "We know he's committed to getting better and should improve within our system."

Mercer, Yetman and Bowman will attend high school at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park starting in late August and report to the Whalers' training camp during the same time frame in preparation for the upcoming season.

SLED DOGS

Continued from Page B1

"There's this misconception that we make these dogs run. And that's the farthest from the truth. These dogs absolutely love it, that's all they want to do."

With a hearty laugh, Cooper noted that memories of that shared experience probably will have to do as far as any medal-winning payoff goes.

"There's really no money in this sport," she chuckled. "I was supposed to get a check but I haven't yet. I don't think it was going to be much. But I got a bronze medal."

Cooper said her animals were transported to Alaska in small, plastic airline kennels — with a five-hour layover in Seattle, Wash., compounding matters.

When that happened, she did what any dog lover would have had to do.

"I was actually able to go to baggage, have them bring them out," Cooper said. "And then I could take them out on leashes outside to go potty and we played

fetch with a tennis ball. I just took them out for five hours and checked them back in."

Longtime passion

Working with animals has always been a passion of Amy's, going back to when she attended Canton High School and her last name was Thomas.

At Canton, where she graduated from in 1983, the daughter of Nancy and (now-deceased) Jim Thomas spearheaded an equestrian club team.

She went on to attend Henry Ford Community College and Siena Heights University, ultimately earning a bachelor's degree in veterinary technology from the latter.

Then in the mid-1990s, when she still lived in Plymouth, someone piqued her interest about dog-sled racing.

"A friend introduced me to join," Cooper recalled. "The human's on skis and the dog is in a harness and pulls you while you're on the skis. I did that for several years with my golden retriever just for fun."

"Things snowballed, if you will, after she moved to south-central Wisconsin — where she now



Amy Cooper and her race dogs take on Alaska during the IFSS Winter World Championships. NATALIE FORTNER

lives on a 20-acre spread with husband Scott Cooper and seven dogs (including a retired sled-dog racer and two house dogs).

"When I moved to Wisconsin there's quite a bit of dog sledding around," she explained. "I met some people and

got involved with the sport."

Free to run

As for getting her dogs prepped up for the IFSS Winter World Championships (which take place every two years), she gave them a varied training regimen

without overdoing it.

Because there wasn't a ton of snow near the Coopers' residence during the 2012-13 winter, Amy hooked the dogs to an ATV instead of dog sled.

"I do a lot of my training that was on a tressled. It's similar to

pulling a sled. I can do pretty fast. But I also have a lot of control that way, too."

Cooper also gave them the chance to run freely, albeit with her driving behind them to keep track.

"I ended up doing a lot of that, more than I've ever done before, because we had so much ice," she noted. "If I ran them in harness they'd have to run on the trail, which was really icy. If I ran them loose, they knew where they could run where it was safer."

"So they would just run to the side of the trail because it was softer."

"It didn't matter to Thule, Toko, Sisu and Siri because they can't wait to run as a pack."

"This particular team I have is probably the nicest foursome I've ever run," Cooper added. "They're the best of friends, they just love to run with each other."

And medals, money and accolades don't matter to their human pack leader because he's there with them whenever they do.

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HAASE

Continued from Page B1

And Captains manager Scooter Tucker, who enjoyed Major League stints with the Astros and Indians, likes what he sees so far in Haase.

"I think the first thing that kind of stood out — from a catching standpoint — he's a good athlete," Tucker said. "He's got some athletic ability that a lot of times you don't see with catchers. That's one of the first things I noticed. He has good arm strength and got some tools."

Haase, meanwhile, quickly figured out that he needs to be more disciplined at the plate.

Batting smarts

"When I first came out I was just trying to hit pretty much hit it every day, cover everything, and that's where a lot of my strikeouts added up early in the season," said Haase, who has had the dubious distinction of a team-high 78 Ks. "Now it's been a little bit better. I'm trying to refine my approach and drive the pitches that are in my zone."

Patience at the plate is a virtue.

"One of the things that probably surprised me ... I think he's got plus power," Tucker said. "I wouldn't have thought that initially. He's the show he's got some power, good bat speed, but the ball ability. He has the chance of being what I think is a really good hitter."

"The more bats you



Westland's Eric Haase, a catcher in the Cleveland Indians organization, has a team-best 10 homers this season for the Lake County Captains. LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS

get the more you progress in that area. I think he's shown that at times. Early on he was swinging more at pitchers' pitches than he is now. I think he's having some quality at-bats right now."

Haase, who signed late in the summer of 2011, made it first stop in the Arizona Rookie League where he appeared in just four games.

First season

He remained with the Goodyear Indians the following season (2012) where he hit .282 in 28 games while also appearing in three games with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers of the New York-Penn League.

Haase was a catcher by trade, but also had the versatility to play third base or even the outfield

coming out of high school.

But he's been exclusively a catcher since starting his pro career in the minors.

"Being an every day catcher is just a progression," Tucker said.

"There's a lot to learn as far as handling pitching and being a leader on the field. Obviously, the defensive part of the job he's improving and working hard on that."

Jumping from Rookie League to Class A in one year was also an adjustment for Haase.

"Down there everyone's got the tools, it's just a matter of refining them and doing it consistently," the catcher said. "At every level there are going to be more guys doing it more consistently day-in and day-out. That's just the biggest thing. Everyone has the

potential of being in the big leagues. It's a matter of putting in the work every day."

Heat index

Haase, however, had to get acclimated to the desert heat in his minor full year in the minors.

"It was definitely a huge adjustment," Haase said. "I've never really seen temperatures over 100 (degrees) consistently where you walk out each morning and it's 110 to 120. It makes it worse when you're out there every day with the gear on."

Although the Captains struggled during the first half of the Midwest League season going 2-4, they're rebounded with a 12-8 record to start the second half and he's enjoying his stay.

"It's a good area to play in," Haase said of

Lake County, which has a 7,000-seat stadium that was built in 2006. "Being on the road is pretty fun, too. I think it's a good little town to play in."

Minor league baseball is obviously less glamorous than that Majors, but Haase has accepted the routine, which includes long bus rides.

"Time management is huge," he said.

Daily grind

So what is a typical day in the life of a Lake County Captain player?

"Today, got up at 10 a.m., had to lift, then head back and get something to eat," Haase said. "Go out to the field at 2:30 p.m., and once you get there, it's just a matter of stretching, couple of hacks in the cage, take B.P., take infield, rest about an hour or so before the game. Go out, play the game, shower up, sleep on it, then do it all over again."

"That's just on the road. When we're back home we get to the park at 1:30 p.m., pretty much the same thing, just a little bit more of it. We have the resources at home where we can work in whatever we need to do."

Days off are usually once in the middle of the week and time off is treasured.

"You pretty much relax, try and get away from the game," Haase said. "We went to Cedar Point a couple of times. You just try and get away from the field as far as possible."

The Midwest League season ends Labor Day weekend, then the pro-

cess begins all over for Haase, who hopes his next destination is the Carolina Mudcats (Advanced A League). And off on the horizon are the Akron Aeros (AA) followed by the Columbus Clippers (AAA).

Down the road

And by then, Haase hopes Lake County is only a distant memory as opposed from Progressive Field.

The Midwest League season ends Labor Day weekend, but Haase can only stay focused on the moment.

"I'll probably go back to Arizona and play in professional league like I have the last couple of years, or a parallel league with a couple of more games and practices, trying to refine what they want me to accomplish in the off season," Haase said. "I'll probably take a couple of weeks off and get right back at working out hard and get ready for the next season."

Haase possesses many of the intangibles, but it's a little bit more of it.

"He's got some intensity to him," Tucker said. "Sometimes he's a little tough on himself — but it's a perfectionist. I like his make-up. He comes to work every day and works hard. As we kind of use the old phrase, 'He's had a strike.' The guy just does something to get better every day. He likes to play the game and those are real positives for me."

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SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Franklin girls hoop

The Livonia Franklin girls basketball clinic (grades five-eight) will be 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, July 23-25, at the high school fieldhouse.

The clinic is free. To register, visit livoniafranklingirlsbasketball.com or email coach Jim Mihalic at jimihalic@livoniapublicschools.org.

Salem soccer

Boys entering high school at Salem this fall are eligible to take part in the Rocks' boys soccer camp.

The sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday through Friday, July 24-26, at the corner of Joy and Canton Center roads.

Head coach Scott Duhl at eduhl@yahoo.com.

GC volleyball

The Garden City High School volleyball program will host a pair of camps in July.

A beginner camp will be held July 15-19. This camp is designed for beginner to intermediate volleyball players ages 8-14. The camp will run 5-7 p.m. each night. The cost is \$60, which in-

cludes a T-shirt. An advanced camp will be held 5-8 p.m. July 22-26.

This camp is designed for advanced players. The cost is \$100 and includes a T-shirt.

For more information, send an email to gardencityvb@yahoo.com.

Cabrera baseball

Triple Crown batting champion Miguel Cabrera will be the attraction at a baseball camp from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Lake Orion High School.

The Detroit Tigers slugger will be joined by former Phillies minor league pitcher Mark Rutledge and Detroit Tigers pitcher Miguel Cabrera (Eastern Michigan University).

The camp is open to boys and girls ages 6-14. Groups will be small and Cabrera will talk about the finer points of the game.

Participants receive an autograph, a photo with Cabrera and a ProCamp T-shirt, among other items. The camp fee is \$99 and space will be limited.

Visit www.MiguelCabreraCamp.com.

Churchill girls hoops

The 2013 Livonia Churchill girls basketball

camp for incoming grades five-nine will be 3-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, July 16-19, at the gym.

Cost is \$50. Call Churchill coach Matt McConway at 248-761-9201 or email mmco@wan54@gmail.com.

Churchill football

The Livonia Churchill Offensive and Defensive Skills youth football camp for incoming grades nine-12 will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday through Friday, July 24-26, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, July 29, at the high school.

The cost is \$100 (if registered by July 19) or \$125 (sibling discount available).

For more information, call Allen Fiegel at 734-718-4987.

Tennis clinic

The Jack Kingsbury Tennis Clinic for Livonia Franklin players (in-

coming grades nine-12) will be 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday during the summer at the high school tennis courts.

The USA Pro, a Franklin grad, will offer instruction on serve, forehand, backhand, volleys and court strategy for singles and doubles.

The cost is \$15 per session.

For more information, call 734-945-5762.

Canton camps

Canton Leisure Services will be hosting several youth basketball and baseball camps during July and early August for boys and girls ages 7-14.

Basketball camps will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 22-26 and July 29-Aug. 2 at Summit on the Park, 4600 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Cost is \$140 for residents and \$150 for non-residents. There will be a

pre-camp shoot around 8:30 a.m.

The camp will focus on drills and skills for offensive strategies and defensive plays in game situations.

Head coach Pat Watson brings more than 16 years of high school experience.

The baseball camp is slated to run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 15-19 at Canton Sports Center, 46555 W. Michigan Ave. Cost is \$140 for residents and \$150 for non-residents.

For more information, call 734-483-5600.

MU basketball

The Madonna University All-Star Boys Basketball Camp will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 22-26, and July 29 through Aug. 2, at the MU Activities Center.

The cost is \$215 per week. For more information, visit www.mu.edu/sports.

or to register online, visit www.AllStarBasketballCamps.com.

The Crusader Nation Girls Basketball Camp will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 15-18, at the Madonna University Activities Center.

The cost is \$130. For more information, visit www.madonna.edu/sports.com or call 734-432-5606.

Mini-soccer camp A soccer mini-camp for boys and girls ages 5-12 (all skill levels) will be from 6:30-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, Aug. 5-8, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

The cost is \$15 (includes instruction, snacks and a soccer ball to take home).

To register, visit www.christsavior.org. For more information, call 734-522-6830.

Salem Rockettes roll!



The Salem Rockettes' varsity and junior varsity pom teams excelled June 16-19 at the Oakland University-hosted Universal Dance Association Pom Camp. The varsity team qualified for UDA Nationals set for next February in Orlando, Fla. Members of the Rockettes include (top row, from left) Olivia Benintendi, Cassie Berlin, Maddie Harvath, Brianna Dotson, Laura Lachovsky, Jillian Pirtler, Raven Reynolds, Hannah Parent, Emily Gates, Kara Rocheau, Tiffany Crotte and Basia Bonkiewicz; (bottom row, from left) Meghan Grossman, Kayla Stokfys, Taylor Harvath, Vanessa Bank, Olivia Ozeranic, Becky DeWATER, Erica Garczynski, Kelcie Rocheau, Sarah O'Donnell and Morgan Poulos. Not pictured are varsity coach Kaitlin Fettes, JV coaches Jessica Kubin and Kyra Boprie and JV Rockette Madeline Martinsky.

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Local psychic hopes you'll learn lessons from her life struggles

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Kristy Robinett hopes her new memoir will learn help readers stay strong as they work through life's challenges. "My whole premise of the book wasn't to have it be, 'Oh, woe is me.' It was that we all have our own unique identities, our own unique issues, whether it's a dysfunctional family or we grew up without knowing what we wanted to be when we grew up," said Robinett, a Livonia resident. "Everyone has their own quirks and I wanted to show that you can overcome and keep a confident attitude while going through the crap of life that gets thrown our way."

Robinett has survived plenty of painful experiences including a difficult childhood, two failed marriages, physical and mental abuse, health problems, job loss and the inability to accept herself and come to terms with her psychic abilities. She details it all in her book, *Messenger between Worlds, True Stories from a Psychic Medium*, published by Llewellyn and released last month.

For years, Robinett, who was raised in a strict religious family, viewed her paranormal encounters with spirit guides and ghosts as a curse. She kept her abilities a secret and disguised her true self, until her "masks" became too heavy to handle. Today, she combines life coaching and psychic sensitivity to help others, offers ghost-hunting events, is working on a television pilot, has authored two other books due for release by Llewellyn in 2014, and manages a happy household that includes her third husband, Chuck, her father, her son, who's in high school —



Robinett has overcome many obstacles in her life.

her daughter is in college — and family pets.

Meeting her husband marked a major turnaround in her life and she credits him for helping her to openly embrace her psychic gifts.

"I had never had anyone who supported me. There was no question that there was no judgment from him at all. It

was flat-out acceptance," she said. "It let me flourish and show my wings, who I was, not even just as a psychic medium, but in general."

Take a number

Robinett doesn't regret being psychic, but said she sometimes resents its demands. She has communicated



The cover of Kristy Robinett's new book

with spirits at all hours of the day and in many unexpected places, including her bedroom and kitchen.

"I rarely get a good night sleep. I am grateful that all the physicians I've had have always understood or they've been a client of mine, so they haven't put me in a funny farm," she said, with a laugh. "I'm a people pleaser, whether it's this side or the other and I want to help everyone. But like I said in the book, sometimes it's like the Secretary of State's office, like the DMV, take a number, there is a long line of (deceased) people."

She said she rarely gets spooked by apparitions and sometimes feels more afraid of the living, whom she counsels in her office, than the dead, who seek her out without an appointment.

"I've heard everything in that office. Some people have confessed to me things that others wouldn't believe. So, I'm more afraid of that."

Boosting intuition

Robinett's appointment book is filled almost a year out and her ghost-hunting and psychic events tend to fill quickly. She incorporates lessons in each session, encouraging clients to hone their own intuition and sensitivity to spirits.

"Everyone has the ability. I don't think it's a super power," she said, pointing out that intuitiveness takes practice and quiet time. "You've got laptops and smartphones and television and noise. We're so ADD (attention deficit disorder) now that half the time we don't even listen to our kids."

"How are you supposed to listen to someone on the other side that is quiet as a whisper or pick up on the signs they give off that can be as subtle as a butterfly that flits by, or a squirrel that runs up to the porch, or a license plate number? People hear but aren't paying attention."

She stresses to clients that her readings aren't written in stone, telling them they have the choice to change their lives, fulfill dreams and take the necessary steps to achieve goals.

"There is an action step that needs to be taken."

Robinett will lead a session in the use of her new "Higher Intentions Oracle Cards," 7-9 p.m. Friday, July 19, at the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriam, Garden City. The whimsical cards focus on "animal energy" to help in decision-making. The workshop is \$30. Tickets are available at www.kristyrobinett.com

Her book is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

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Consulting with Dr. Shields, doing the in-depth health analysis, and submitting blood work for his **requested profiles revealed I have Hashimoto's thyroiditis** on top of significant food allergies. Discovering for the first time there was a biological and chemical basis for my "normalcy" was incredibly relieving. Following the program's schedule of supplements and diet not only had me avoiding foods that were attacking me, the result has been a rebalancing of my systems and the feeling for the first time in my life that I was in control of my health.

Within the first few weeks of the program, my periods became lighter and regular and have remained so. **Headaches, allergies, temperature imbalances, and cravings are things of the past. My energy and outlook are up, and I lost 50 pounds in the process.** This program has given me a whole new outlook on life and a firm foundation for keeping things improving.

— Chris Chalmers

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It's shameful: Dehumidifiers don't last long these days

She writes: I am in the market for a new dehumidifier for the basement. From research so far, it appears the major issue seems to be that most fail within one and a half and two years. Any suggestions? Know of any not built in China?

Reply: The subject of dehumidifiers came up just a few weeks ago when my neighbor placed one on the street ready for garbage pickup. I asked him for permission to take it and why he was throwing it away. He said that it has performed well for the past four years but that now it is not producing any water and the cabinet is extremely hot, so I



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

took it apart. He was right in throwing it away because the sealed system has a leak in it and is just about impossible to repair. He spent near \$200 for this product and had to buy a new one and I hope he gets more than four years of life out of his recent acquisition. I looked up the model number of his old one and couldn't find where any of the parts are listed. A conversation I had with the owner of an appliance store told me that today,

dehumidifiers are a throwaway item. How sad that is! In the 1970s, I worked for the Amana Refrigerator Co. and they manufactured a dehumidifier that had an expected life span of 25-30 years. The coils were all copper, but all others had coils made of aluminum.

This product was built like a tank and Amana sold them by the millions. I understand that there no longer are dehumidifiers produced in the U.S.A. They are all made overseas.

Alice writes: I have a Whirlpool refrigerator/freezer model ed25dw. The door will not close (stick) on the refrigerator. Do I need to replace

the rubber? Reply: This is a problem that occurs on many refrigerators (top mounts) where the freezer is located above the refrigerator section. It is easy to understand why this happens and let me explain.

The large refrigerator door is a big piece of sheet metal and what makes the door rigid is the inner plastic liner which is attached on the inside. This adds to the strength of the door and keeps it straight. Why the door sometimes goes out of alignment is also easy to understand. When you open the door sometimes your leg or foot gets in the way and while you stopped the bottom from

opening you pulled on the top part of the door. This slight accident caused the door to warp, leaving a gap at the top portion which will not allow the door to hit the frame of the refrigerator.

The fix is easy and you don't have to purchase a new rubber door seal. Open the door 12 inches, hold the crook of your foot under the bottom edge and twist the top of the door very slightly.

Do it in stages until you get the door to meet the frame. Be careful that you twist ever so slightly or you will break the inner plastic liner on the door. Now here is a service secret to prevent a door seal falling apart.

Along the bottom edge of the refrigerator door is where any spillage on the shelves of the refrigerator will travel to. That spillage will deteriorate the rubber material and allow warm air to enter the refrigerator. In most of these cases consumers may end spending a few hundred dollars in repair costs.

Take warm wet cloths and wipe clean the bottom section of the rubber door seal. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAW 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to apldr@twmlr.com.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, sdargay@hometownlife.com, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Butterflies

Brenda Dziedzic, author and owner of Brenda's Butterfly Habitat, will give an up-close view of native butterfly species and their host plants, at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, (SEMBA), 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at Barton's Greenhouse, 6414 Meridian, Westland. Questions? Call 734-223-5510 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

English Gardens

English Gardens stores in metro Detroit offer a variety of programs and workshops for gardeners.

- Get tips on selection and care of hydrangeas at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20.
- Experts offer a list of what should be done in the summer garden to keep it looking great, at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27.
- The store will supply every-

thing needed to make a fairy garden to take home at a workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 27. Cost is \$49.99. Sign up online at englishgardens.com.

Learn about plants that thrive in summer heat at a free presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3.

Get tips on creating a beautiful shade garden, 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 10 at a free presentation. Area English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900, 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433, 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500, and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield, 248-451-7506.

Kids and nature, a winning combo

Free summer nature programs are designed for kids of all ages through Aug. 23 at Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills. Programs include a nature movie, 2 p.m. Monday; story and a craft, 2 p.m. Tuesday; a scavenger hunt, 2 p.m. Wednesday; nature hike, 2 p.m. Thursday; and family campfire, 7-9 p.m. Friday.

In the moonlight

Listen for nocturnal animals,

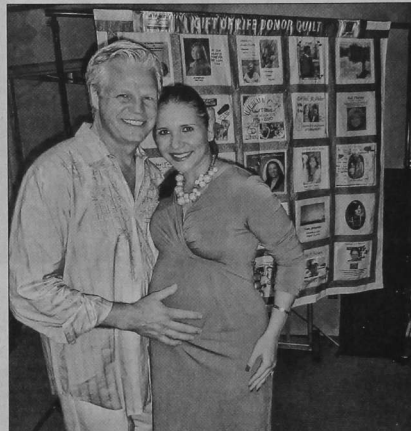
observe the night sky, and heighten your senses during a Full Moon Friday Night Hike in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The hikes are from 9:30-10:30 p.m. July 19 and 9-10 p.m. Aug. 23. Hikes are designed for families and children, 5 and up. No flashlights are needed. Hikes will meet at the Nature Center in the park.

Cost is \$3 per person. Pre-register for the hike at cresciphog.com. You also can pay at the event, however space is limited. In case of inclement weather, the hike will be canceled and refunds given. The Nature Center also will offer a campfire from 7-9 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 23. Marshmallows, s'mores and beverages will be sold. Call the Nature Center at 248-477-1135.

Master Gardener

Interested in becoming a master gardener? Classes will run 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3 to Dec. 3, at the Wayne RESA Auditorium, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Cost for the training is \$300. To register, visit msae.anr.msu.edu and click on events to navigate to the master gardener program.



Lyn's Dogs Band lead singer Dave Parr and his wife, Miyali, of Farmington Hills. This was the fourth year that Parr and the Lyn's Dogs Band donated their talents to making the 10th Annual ALIVE fundraiser a great success. PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES



Farmington Hills residents Dr. Darla Granger, transplant surgeon, St. John Providence Health System; pharmacist Luke Ponder; and Donate Life Coalition of Michigan Fundraising PR/Marketing chair Peggy Burkhard

Take a **WILD Summer Day Trip** to the **TOLEDO ZOO**. **Saturday, July 27**. Explore from the Arctic to Australia all in one great day at the Toledo Zoo!

FREE child's admission ticket with the purchase of an adult ticket on Saturday, July 27.

Cannot be used for special events or in conjunction with other discounts or other ticket offers. See www.toledozoo.org/daytrip for complete terms and conditions.

TOLEDO ZOO

Valid only July 27, 2013 through Aug. 3, 2013. ©2013



Don't miss the **WILD Summer Day Trip contest**. Fill out the form below for a chance to win these great prizes:

- Grand Prize: 4 Toledo Zoo admission passes, 4 Behind-the-Scenes Tour passes and a fuel gift card
- Runner-up: 4 Toledo Zoo admission passes and a year's membership to the Toledo Zoo
- Third Prize: 4 Toledo Zoo admission passes

ENTER TO WIN OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA hometownlife.com A SHANNETT COMPANY

WILD Summer Day Trip contest

Entries must be submitted by July 18, 2013 at toledozoo.org/daytrip, hometownlife.com, or Don't Miss module or by completing this form and sending to Observer & Eccentric Media, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Official rules at hometownlife.com

One entry per person

Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Media and the Toledo Zoo.

Gala boosts organ gift awareness

The 10th Annual ALIVE fundraiser, attended by more than 300 supporters, was held at the Michigan Design Center and benefited the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan. The Coalition, an affiliate of Donate Life America, raises awareness about organ and tissue donation through education and outreach activities like this one. The event raised \$26,000.



The Coalition works closely with Gift of Life Michigan, the state's only federally-designated organ and tissue recovery organization. Nearly 3,000 Michigan residents are waiting for organ transplants.

On Thursday, Aug. 15, the Detroit Tigers will once again host Organ Donor Awareness Day at Comerica Park. Tickets to the game — Tigers vs. Kansas City Royals — can be purchased by calling 248-770-5172 or 248-770-2323. For more information, visit www.donatelifemichigan.org or go to www.giftoflifemichigan.org to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

Make it a Hawaiian night at Longacre House

Put on your favorite Hawaiian shirt and "hanga ten" at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. The festivities will include classic Hawaiian

fare, a pig roast, and hula dancing. The Hawaiian Luau costs \$17 per person with pre-registration and \$22 at the door. A cash bar will be available with a featured tropical drink. Ages 21+ only.

The Longacre House is located at 24705 Farmington Road. Tickets to the game — Tigers vs. Kansas City Royals — can be purchased by calling 248-770-5172 or 248-770-2323. For more information, call 248-477-8404 or visit www.longacrehouse.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

JULY FILM

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 17
Location: St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Screening of "The Hunger Games" with a Q and A afterward and refreshments provided. RSVP requested
Contact: 734-425-5950; www.mtaweb.org

LECTURE SERIES

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon, for six Sunday mornings
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Each session consists of two 30-minute lectures by David B. Ruderman, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, on DVD
Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931 or nycanle@earthlink.net

MIME WORKSHOP

Time/Date: Workshops, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 26-27; worship and mime ministry, 10 a.m. Sunday, July 28
Location: Way of Life Christian Church, 115 Executive Plaza, 9401 General Drive, Suite 100, Plymouth
Details: James and Clarice Green, with 17 years together in ministry, will lead the workshop. They use mime as a way of ministering to individuals who may need need "to see to get what God is saying." Cost is \$30 for adults, \$55 for couples, and \$20 for children and teens, 10 and above
Contact: Dorothy at 313-412-5917 or e-mail to dnburnum@yahoo.com

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, July 14-Aug. 18
Location: Grounds at Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse, located at Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads, Canton
Details: St. Michael Lutheran Church offers a worship service in a casual atmosphere. Bring your own lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, service will be held at the church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Contact: 734-459-3333

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 26 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 27
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
Details: The sale will be in the lower level of the church
Contact: 734-425-3062

SINGLE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, July 18-Aug. 15
Location: First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: A cookout will be held July 18; cards and games night planned for July 25. Ice cream is available July 11 and 25 for \$5. The cookout is at
Contact: www.singleplace.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. July 29 through Aug. 2
Location: Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Details: "Kingdom Rock" is the theme. \$15 fee includes a T-shirt
Contact: 734-425-7280

WOW JAM

Time/Date: 4-8 p.m. July 19
Location: Goudy Recreational Park, 2355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne
Details: Cornerstone City Church offers this event that will include free groceries, free haircuts and manicures, free family photos, free bike repair, free potted plants, free hot meals and a singing contest
Contact: denishunt7@gmail.com or info@cornerstonecitychurch.us

AUGUST CAR SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24
Location: Livonia Church of Christ, 1581 Merriam, Livonia
Details: 12th annual Charity Car Show will benefit Angela Hospice. All makes of cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome. There are class trophies plus best of show, a club participation award, goodie bags for the first 75 cars, door prizes, a live DJ, and food and drinks available for purchase. The entry fee to show a vehicle is \$15. No charge to view the entries. Organizers also are seeking sponsors for the show
Contact: 734-427-8743

CHOIR DIRECTOR WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Aug. 12
Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: The three-day workshop at Holy Cross Lutheran Church is designed for choir directors and music educators, led by Mark Kurkjian, director
Contact: www.hearthshades.com

C.L.E.A.P. FROG

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Aug. 5-21
Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriam, Livonia
Details: This learning program in a Christ-centered environment is designed to sharpen a child's skills and give them a "leap" into the coming school year. C.L.E.A.P. FROG — which is not a VBS program — will offer the basics, including math, reading, music, science and more. This free program is for children entering grades 1-6. A class for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten also is offered. All children must be pre-registered
Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322 or Melissa at 734-466-8694 to register

SOCCER CAMP

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Aug. 5-12
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Soccer mini-camp is for boys and girls, 5-12. Students may bring their own soccer ball or shin guards if desired. Items not required to enroll. Cost is \$15 per student and includes instruction, snacks, and a soccer ball to take home
Contact: www.christsavior.org; 734-522-6830

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 12-15
Location: Fellowship hall at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Designed for children, 3 through those entering fifth grade in the fall. Cost is \$10 per child and \$25 for families with three or more children. Each child will receive a free CD with all of the music from the week. Registration forms are available in the church office
Contact: Pam Gunderson at rgunderson@lutheran.org or 734-422-0494, Ext. 14

WORSHIP & MUSIC CAMP

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 12-15
Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: "Hearts, Hands and Voices," is designed to help students in grades two-seven grow spiritually and musically. **Contact:** Register at www.hearthshades.com; 734-427-1414

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. July 18-19 and 8 a.m.-noon, July 20
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34527 Seven Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-442-8822

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Cone Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville
Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays
Location: 42200 Turley, Belleville
Contact: 734-846-8415

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Day, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 733-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday
Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.stmichaels.org

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL
Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawanawee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Rainy Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528

MOMS
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, MOPS; 7:30 p.m. First and Third Thursday

MOPS/NET: Both programs run September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPS/NET supports mothers of school-aged children
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at 734-333-6830 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at 248-478-3643 for MOPS/NET details

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. Meet with other women for companionship and support
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as nondenominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs
Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15088 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church.
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Location: 7000 Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud through prayer requests welcomed
Contact: 734-459-3333

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicanos Road, Redford Room 304
Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who have recently separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome
Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200, led@wdo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7:30-7:45 p.m. social time; 7:45-8 p.m., opening; 8 p.m., program Thursdays
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 14 miles north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others
Contact: 313-534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship.
Contact: 248-374-5920

Song Circle

Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen79@aatt.net

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church
Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily
Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia
Details: Adult day care at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding from TSA, AAA-1 Older Americans Act.
Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago Road, Redford, room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

MILESTONES

Celebrating 60 years

Victor A. and Clare A. Bianchi of Garden City, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 20. They were married in 1953 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Detroit. They have four children, Robert, Judith, Charles, and Mary Ellen (Edward) Proffitt. Their grandchildren are, Niccolò (Ryan) Schmidt, Vanessa Bianchi, Robert Bianchi, Jr., and Kyle Proffitt. They also have one great-grandson, Logan Schmidt. The family celebrated their anniversary at a local restaurant.

ANNIVERSARY



Victor and Clare Bianchi on their wedding day



Victor and Clare Bianchi

Jacovetti-Tuckfield

William and Karen Jacovetti of Livonia are honored to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Nicole, to William James Tuckfield III, son of Jacqueline Johnson of Commerce and William Tuckfield II of Sterling Heights. Amy is a graduate of Central Michigan University and Loyola University, Chicago, Ill. She is employed by Oakland University in Rochester Hills. William is a graduate of Western Michigan University and is employed by Campbell-Ewald in Warren. They will be married in July 2014.

ENGAGEMENT

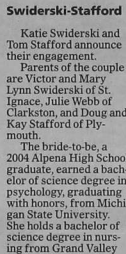


Jacovetti-Tuckfield

Swiderski-Stafford

Katie Swiderski and Tom Stafford announce their engagement. Parents of the couple are Victor and Mary Lynn Swiderski of St. Ignace, Julie Webb of Clarkston, and Doug and Kay Stafford of Plymouth. The bride-to-be, a 2004 Alpena High School graduate, earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology, graduated with honors, from Michigan State University. She holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Grand Valley State University and is employed as a registered nurse with the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. Her fiancé graduated in 2004 from Plymouth Salem High School. He graduated with honors from Michigan State University in 2008 with a bachelor of science degree in construction management, and is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University. An August 2013 wedding is planned at Light-house Point in St. Ignace.

ENGAGEMENT



Swiderski-Stafford

Joshua Mario VanWashenova

Joshua Mario VanWashenova was born May 24, 2013, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. Joshua joined his parents, Dale and Andrea VanWashenova, and his siblings, Avery, 4, and Drew, 2, at home in Canton. Proud grandparents are Mario and Joyce Galindo of Livonia and Lorna VanWashenova of South Rockwood.

BIRTH



Joshua Mario VanWashenova

Messages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances | View Online www.hometowlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • eoebits@hometowlife.com

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

HOWELL GRACE E. (NEE HALL)

Age 87 of Milford, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away July 7, 2013. Preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas, brother, Bill and Robert Hall; sister, Ruth Wert. Survived by her loving daughters, Kathy (Glen) Lindsay, Debbie (the late Doug) Aulbach, Kim (Jim) Dye, Cindy (David) Hage, grandchildren, Megan (Ron) Ralko, Beth (Tom) Tariff, Nate Aulbach, Andrew (Stephanie), KYLE, Collin and Ian Lindsay; T.J. (Val), Courtney and Ashliid Dye, Sarah and Erin Hage. Also survived by her 8 great grandchildren, sister, Betty Leosand, many extended family members and dear friends. Funeral from Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, Thursday, July 11th, 12 P.M. Burial Milford Memorial Cemetery. Friends may wish to join on Wednesday 3-9 P.M. and on Thursday 10 A.M. until time of service. Memorials encouraged to the Charach Cancer Treatment Center at Huron Valley Sinai Hospital. For further information please contact Lynch & Sons 248-684-6645. LynchFuneralDirect.com

EIGHT-FOUR GRAVE PRIVATE FAMILY ESTATES

Only at Glen Eden will you find "Family Estates"; private areas just for your family. It offers premium quality ambiance where your family stays together.



GLEN EDEN 15607 West Lakeville Rd., Livonia www.glenedenmemorialpark.org 248.477.4460

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

July

Joint replacement

Jeffrey Mendelson, M.D., will answer questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures and available implant options 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, in Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy's Center for Joint Replacement, located on the hospital campus at Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. To register for the program or for information, call 734-655-2345.

Walk with a Doc

Dr. Annette Carron, geriatrics specialist, will talk about understanding and improving memory to sharpen your mind and boost your brainpower, during Botsford Hospital's monthly Walk with a Doc, noon Thursday, July 18, at Heritage Park Nature Center, located on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Meets rain or shine. Call 877-477-3621, option 1, to register.

Women's health

Dr. Paul Makela, M.D., director of Gynecological Robotic Surgery, will present a series on women's health topics 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18, in Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Pelvic pain is this month's topic, followed by bladder dysfunction in August and pelvic prolapse in September. Light refreshments will be provided. Presentations are free but registration is required. Call 734-655-1980 to register or for information.

August

Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers

free monthly educational seminars about laparoscopic bariatric surgery by Tallal Zeni, M.D., Director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery. Presentations will be offered from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1 and Sept. 12 in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. For more information, call the Institute at 877-949-9344.

Controlling joint pain

Henry Ford Health System's Joint Preservation Program offers free classes on ways to slow down the progression of joint pain without surgery. The focus is on the knee and hip joints. Participants learn how the joints work, self-management of pain, medical treatments, physical therapy, how and exercises to strengthen joints. Classes run 1-3 p.m. Aug. 15 at Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane, 19401 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn, and 1-3 p.m. Aug. 22 at Henry Ford Medical Center-Columbus, 39450 W. 12 Mile, Novi.

Ongoing

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch, 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. All of classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadeloitroit.org.

Dinner planned to raise money for teen's oxygen treatment

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Elizabeth West needs \$6,500 to buy 60 sessions of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for her 13-year-old daughter, Ariana. The teen suffered a lack of oxygen to the brain after sustaining a collapsed lung and cardiac arrest during an asthma attack in March. The youngster, a former student at Pace Academy in Southfield, has been on a ventilator ever since.

West's co-workers at St. Mary Mercy Hospital collected \$4,600 in donations through a bowling event last month and hope to raise the rest of the treatment funds through a spaghetti dinner Thursday, July 18, at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

The dinner, which runs 5-9 p.m., will include spaghetti, salad, rolls, dessert and drinks for \$10. Several items also will be raffled during the event. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling Pam Laszyca at 248-987-6713. The church is located at 16700 Newburgh.



Ariana West, 13, will undergo hyperbaric oxygen therapy if her family can raise \$6,500. An upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser will help.

Laszyca, a Livonia resident who works in the lab at St. Mary Mercy, said she sought out West after learning about the bowling fundraiser.

"I just had to help. She seemed so... like her world had collapsed. I told her, 'You can't give up hope,'" Laszyca said. "This (hyperbaric oxygen) is their last option."

The therapy involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized, sealed chamber. It is used to treat several health problems such as decompression sickness, carbon

monoxide poisoning, brain abscess, and tissues that have been oxygen deprived. Laszyca said her own daughter, who is autistic, benefited from hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

"It did help her. I've seen positive effects."

All options

West and her husband, Sam, hope the treatment will help their only child, too.

"It's not always 100 percent, but it's an option, something to try. I want to exhaust all my

options," West said. She described her daughter as a computer whiz who loved reading and never missed school.

"She was an excellent student, loved life and had high spirits. I hope I get that back. She's in there, trying to find a way out. They said she was brain dead, but I don't believe that."

West said her daughter responds to a variety of stimuli. She jerks her foot back if her toe is pinched, turns her head toward the direction of certain sounds, such as a door opening, and opens and closes her eyes.

Sam, a carpenter by trade, stays home to care for their daughter, who needs 24-hour assistance. The family recently moved from Southfield into a relative's home.

"I'm blessed with so many beautiful people in my life. I thank God for all my co-workers. Whatever we make from the spaghetti dinner will be a blessing," West said.

"Whatever people can contribute is a blessing. Even if it's \$5, it's \$5 more than I had."

Local nurse awarded for people, clinical skills

Max Punnoose of Farmington Hills is among several nurses who recently were recognized by Henry Ford Health System with a Clara Ford Nursing Excellence Award.

Punnoose, an R.N., works in the intensive care unit at Henry Ford West Bloomfield, where he has been employed for 2 1/2 years.

He was honored for embodying the "people pillar," one of the seven

pillars of performance excellence at Henry Ford.

The award is given to the nurse who strives for excellence in every encounter with patients, co-workers, volunteers and employers.

The recipient communicates well, gives excellent clinical care, superior customer ser-

vice, displays a positive attitude and is a role model for all.

Punnoose was nominated by another nurse who said "Max consistently goes above and beyond. Not only does he take excellent care of his patients but he spends considerable time with the patient's family."

Other nurses who won awards were:
 » Service pillar — Tonya Kaminski
 » Quality & Safety

pillar — Shawn Bennis

» Growth pillar — Linda Zolnowski
 » Research & Education pillar — Carolyn Fascetti

» Community pillar — Tracy Pearson
 » Finance pillar — Jeffrey Brinkman
 The Clara Ford Nursing Excellence Award is named after Clara Bryant Ford, wife of Henry Ford, who was an advocate of Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing.



Punnoose

Advertisement

Don't Spoil the Fun!
 Keep Your BBQ or Picnic Fresh this Summer
 Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Linda Main Food & Nutrition

Family reunions, company picnics, block parties...who doesn't love a big summer gathering with friends and family? There's laughter, beautiful weather and of course, plenty of good food. Health Expert and Garden City Hospital Dietitian, Linda Main, serves up a healthy portion of summer food safety advice.

Q: We're hosting a potluck party in a few weeks and I want to make sure all the food is just as safe to eat, as it is delicious. What can I do to ensure our good time isn't derailed by foodborne illness?

A: It is important to always take precautions and practice safe food handling when preparing perishable foods such as meat, poultry, seafood and egg products, especially during warm weather. Conditions that are ideal for an outdoor get together provide the perfect environment for bacteria to multiply rapidly and cause foodborne illness.

Here are a few important tips to fight bacteria and reduce any risk for foodborne illness this summer.

1. KEEP RAW FOODS COLD AND SEPARATED. Don't let uncooked foods like chicken, beef or pork share the same space. Avoid cross contamination by refrigerating these items in separate, well sealed zip bags or containers. Use different knives and cutting boards for each and keep refrigerated until you're ready to cook. Transport uncooked meats in a separate cooler from ready to serve foods.
2. WASH AND WASH AGAIN. Always start with a clean kitchen and wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food. If you're handling multiple foods, wash every time you touch a new item. Also, wash all utensils used in preparation before using them to prepare another item.
3. GAUGE TEMPERATURES. Use a food thermometer to ensure foods reach the following safe internal temperatures.
 Ground Beef, Pork or Lamb 155°F
 Ground Turkey or Chicken 165°F
 Fresh Cuts of Beef, Pork or Lamb 145°F and let stand for 3 minutes
 Fresh Cuts of Poultry 165°F
 Seafood 145°F
4. KEEPS HOT FOODS HOT AND COLD FOODS COLD. Use chafing dishes and ice trays for serving. Keep your finger foods safe from flies and other pests, by serving in re-sealable containers with lids.
5. KEEP YOUR COOLER FULL. It will maintain a cold temperature longer than a half full cooler.
6. REMEMBER THE FOUR-HOUR RULE. Hot foods not held above 135°F and cold foods above 41°F should be discarded after four hours.

Join Garden City Hospital every month at Westland Mall, for our wellness lecture series. At 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, a GCH Health Expert will provide helpful and in depth information on a variety of issues that impact our health every day. The next lecture, "Back to School Health 101: What Parents Need to Know", is August 10.

Do you have a health or medical question for one of the GCH Health Experts? Visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

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Source: Frank N. Magid Associates Inc., 2012 Newspaper Multiplatform Usage Study; Scarborough Research

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Six ways to minimize conflict with co-workers

Robert Half International

"The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people."

— Theodore Roosevelt

Looking for ways to win over the boss? Here's an easy one: Play well with others. In a recent survey by Robert Half International, managers said they waste, on average, 18 percent of their time trying to resolve staff personality conflicts. That's more than seven hours a week, or nine weeks per year.

So, it's safe to say the boss wouldn't mind dealing with less discord. Beyond making your manager's life a little easier, honing your collaboration skills — and deftly dealing with conflict when it does arise — will aid you throughout your career.

Consider these tips:

1. Don't assume the work

Did a co-worker fail to get you a file on time with the specific intention of ruining your day? It's possible but not probable. It's much more likely poor planning, miscommunication or an overloaded schedule caused the person to miss the deadline.

Start with the assumption that it's not personal. Giving the other person the benefit of the doubt will help you address the matter in neutral and objective terms, rather than letting emotions dictate how the discussion goes.

2. Put yourself in the other person's shoes

Paying attention to your colleagues' work styles can help you collaborate with them more effectively. But in addition to learning about their communication preferences and pet peeves, try to get a sense of the competing priorities and pressures they face. Just as others would probably cut you some slack if they knew the full range of responsibilities on your plate, you'll likely be more empathetic and tolerant when you better understand their roles.

3. Start (and stay) on the same page

Simple misunderstandings are often the source of significant tension. There are few statements more maddening to hear toward the end of a project than, "Wait, I thought you were doing that."

Arrange a meeting at the outset of a group assignment to clarify who is responsible for what. Immediately afterward, follow up with an email recap of what was discussed. Continuing to check in periodically will also help you avoid last-minute scrambling and finger-pointing.

4. Accept people for who they are

Focusing on people's perceived shortcomings is a recipe for frustration and friction. If you're a perfectionist, you can easily find yourself annoyed by a less detail-oriented co-worker. He may not cost every "T," but keep in mind that he brings other valuable skills to the table. For instance, he might be



6. Nip problems in the bud

When you lock horns with someone, take steps to resolve the situation quickly. Molehills can grow into mountains if you falsely assume things will blow over or wait for the other person to make the first move.

5. Criticize with care

There's nothing wrong with respectful disagreements. In fact, going along with a bad idea just to keep the peace is in itself a bad idea. But always make sure your criticism is constructive.

Watch both what you say and how you say it. A perfectly logical opposing viewpoint will lose its impact and fuel resentment if it's delivered in the wrong way. Tactfully saying, "We might want to consider another approach for the following reasons ..." will be met with less resistance than a brusque barb about how "that plan will never work."

league. In these situations, you may have no choice but to reach out to your supervisor for advice or assistance.

That being said, there are many co-worker quarrels that can be avoided or easily deflated without managerial intervention. Don't underestimate the power of flexibility, diplomacy and empathy.

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Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8630	403245	4.5	0.35	0
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Challenging fun for ALL ages

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Goose egg
- Flare hastily
- Cobra toxin
- Retiring
- Ms. Lupino of "High Sierra"
- Site of the Taj Mahal
- Rhine nymph
- Ancient Tokyo
- Swayed as if dizzy
- Hewn
- Unisex wear
- Constellation
- Tonstone deputy
- Clean the pots
- Pair
- Like meringue
- Courtroom rituals
- Kind of tape
- Park feature

DOWN

- "The Prisoner of..."
- Finance
- King to monsieur
- Gen. Bradley
- Dozing
- Undivided
- Orpheus' harp
- Abner of comics
- Line cooler
- Ms. Zetterling
- Competes for
- School
- Faison d'...
- Brother's sons
- Compot
- Bring action
- Comic-strip prince
- Dry and Puccino
- Dry, as champagne
- Fold-up bed
- Dory's need
- Pass near Pikes Peak
- Lair's accent
- Deeper, as a can
- Not just some
- 39 Sky-colored
- 40 Cots' fathers
- 41 By love!
- 43 Two fives for...
- 44 Muslim mystic
- 46 Eliminate
- 47 Teahouse attire
- 48 DJ gear
- 50 Was in possession of

SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12			13	
14					15			16	
17			18	19					
20		21		22		23	24	25	
27		28				29			
30	31	32			33				
34					35				
36					37		38	39	40
41					42	43		44	45
46	47	48					49	50	
51					52			53	
54					55			56	

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

7	9	6	8	1	
6	2	1	4	7	3
1	8	9	4	5	2
		3			
5	7	8	1		
2	5		9	1	
8	7				
		1		2	6

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

BARBECUE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

K B T P W S M O K E Y O I I U U I T O L
C R I S P P Y U A R A D R E G R U B M A H
T P N E H C T I K L D S N M W M M N M
E P A R C R C F G K D K N E R T F P Y
M S M L R I M G G G J B L B R C L M H
P E E G R E T M N R I G P I N O U B M Y
E M A L U S T I A G I C M E C G B C D Y
R A T B B U A R T P S O L Y I P A E A
A R S F Y A G F U B Y L S T Z O I K S
U R O C T T E F A P N I T O U L L D
R A U H A I A R G P Y N B T G M A G F
E D Y G V T U E A E P Y A R K G V U E
R E V O C L W J H P V O R R C Y T L B J
Y R O K C I H R R A R J P G F U J U B
O F K Y G N I I A T R E T N E E V L A
E T S A B B Y M D T B U R N T O U V M Y A
W E S A B B Y D L F B E F G U V S H Y H N
N E K G N I M I T U N L C W A T C H K A
T C I C C B A C K A Y A R D R N H K A C

BACKYARD JUICY
BARBECUE KABOB
BUNS KETCHEN
BURNT MARINADE
COVER MEATS
CRISPY MUSIC
DELICIOUS PARTY
DINDING POPPING
ENTERTAINING SAFETY
FLIP SCRAP
FRANKFURTER SMOKE
GRILLING SPATULA
HAMBURGER TEMPERATURE
HEAT TIMING
HISTORY VEGETABLES
HUNGRY WATCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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Sudoku

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

6	9	2	8	1	2	6
6	9	9	2	4	7	1
4	8	1	6	7	9	2
9	6	1	7	8	2	5
1	8	2	9	6	7	5
2	9	7	6	9	8	1
6	2	9	1	6	2	9
5	7	6	8	2	1	9
1	2	8	9	5	6	4

Word Search

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Car Report

Advertising Feature

Mercedes-Benz, BMW Keep Jockeying for Lead in U.S. Luxury Sales



By Dale Buss

Don't peek at that blind spot now, Mercedes-Benz, but BMW is playing a serious game of catch-up in the continuing entertaining battle between German brands for US luxury-sales supremacy.

BMW has placed No. 1 for each of the last two years after supplanting Lexus, but Mercedes-Benz has held a slim lead so far in 2013. Brand executives pretend it doesn't really matter which of them can claim the unofficial title of best-selling premium-car brand in America each year, but their actions every month belie their true sentiments.

In June, for example, BMW offered some aggressive deals to narrow Mercedes-Benz's lead to just 1,519 vehicles for the year. Overall BMW deliveries last year rose by 25 percent over a year earlier while Mercedes reported just a 10 percent gain. Through May, BMW had trailed Mercedes by 4,178 vehicles.

Mercedes sales through June in the US gained 10 percent to push 142,000 while BMW deliveries rose by 11 percent over the period to more than 140,000. Lexus now badly trails both, at just 118,000 vehicles for the year through June.

Last month, BMW's weapon of choice was to boost its 3 Series lower-end brand, selling 63 percent more of them than in June 2012. Promotions got 3 Series customers into the car for leases as inexpensive as the low \$300s per month, Alec Gutierrez, a Kelley Blue Book analyst, told Automotive News Europe. Even the

loaded 335 version can be had for \$400 a month. "That's a lot of car for \$400 a month," Gutierrez told the magazine.

"There is nothing like an abundance of new and popular models to drive sales," said Ludwig Willisch, President and CEO, BMW of North America. "We started this year with confidence and optimism; the sales results have verified our viewpoint and we are very much looking forward to the second half with more new models on the way including the new X5."

Of course, Mercedes-Benz also has used special deals to gain the edge it has enjoyed so far this year in the US market. Both brands also continue to broaden their product lineups and moderate prices overall, Gutierrez pointed out. And Mercedes hasn't even yet made available its much-ballyhooed, entry-level CLA sedan that is due out this fall.

For Mercedes-Benz, June marked the best second-quarter finish in the company's history and the sixth consecutive month of best-ever sales for 2013.

"We're on record to pass through June hitting the highest first-half sales in our 48-year history and we're not slowing down," said Steve Cannon, president and CEO of MBUSA. "Consumer confidence is on the rise, our product portfolio is expanding



BMW made a big promotional push behind its 3 Series sedan in June.

from top to bottom, and our dealer relations are at an all-time high. This is a set of ingredients that will allow us to really accelerate our market momentum into another banner year."

Impressive gains were made in both the Mercedes-Benz passenger car and light-truck categories. Volume leaders for the month were the C-, E- and M-Class model lines. The sporty C-Class—the current gateway to the brand for younger and first-time Mercedes-Benz buyers—took the top spot at 7,639 units, up 17.4 percent from June 2012.

Expect the jockeying to continue and even to intensify through the rest of the year, especially with the margin between the two brands narrowing again.

But meanwhile, the other German luxury brand in the US market is indicating that it is not playing ball with BMW and Mercedes-Benz—at least not in terms of sales volume. Audi sales in June were nearly 14,000 units, the brand's second-month ever in the US market. But Audi sales for the year to date through

June still totaled only about 74,000 units, or little more than half of the level of BMW or Mercedes.

Yet Audi of America executives profess huge advantages for their brand in how Audi is growing volume significantly in the US tier without pushing into the first volume tier in the market—unlike its standing globally, where Audi is in tight race with BMW for the luxury-sales lead.

"While the competition will continue to be focused on discount and sell-down messages," Matt Carpenter, general manager of vehicle sales for Audi of America, said on the company blog, "we'll be talking about new models—and, particularly, about diesels," which Audi will be expanding significantly over the rest of the year with introduction of new diesel versions of several core models.

BMW and Mercedes "sell-down programs need to be more aggressive than good," Carpenter said, "and their messaging in the market has had to emphasize price rather than product and value propositions."



The C-Class has been leading Mercedes-Benz sales surge in the U.S. market.

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37 Year Anniversary Sale

2013 Chevy 2010 Chevy
2015 Corgo Van
19,000 miles
\$19,995

2003 GMC Yukon
2003 GMC Yukon
\$7,995

2001 Jeep Wrangler
2001 Jeep Wrangler
\$10,995

2007 Chevy Avalanche LT 4x4
2007 Chevy Avalanche LT 4x4
Black, must see
\$17,995

2003 Nissan Altima
2003 Nissan Altima
\$5,995

1991 Classic Firebird
1991 Classic Firebird
Red, must see
\$4,995

2004 Pontiac Grand Am GT Silver
2004 Pontiac Grand Am GT Silver
\$4,995

2012 Ford 12 Passenger Van Low Miles
2012 Ford 12 Passenger Van Low Miles
\$19,995

2010 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 4X4 Blue, 47,000 miles
2010 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 4X4 Blue, 47,000 miles
\$23,495

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Handicapped Vans, Used Bought & Sold
Must. M & P-6

14949 SHELDON (bet. M-14 & 5 Mile)
14949 SHELDON (bet. M-14 & 5 Mile)
PLYMOUTH 734-453-2500

SEA 000 11 1995 SP4
SEA 000 11 1995 SP4
2000/94, 1.8 liter motor, 23000/94, at 2004-5165

YAMAHA 2007 Majesty 500
YAMAHA 2007 Majesty 500
2007/07, 1.8 liter motor, 23000/07, at 2004-5165

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TRUCKS FOR SALE

CHEVY SILVERADO 2006
Chevy Silverado 2006
2006/06, 4.8 liter motor, 132000/06, at 2004-5165

CHEVY SILVERADO 2006
Chevy Silverado 2006
2006/06, 4.8 liter motor, 132000/06, at 2004-5165

FORD F150 1984
Ford F150 1984
1984/04, 5.0 liter motor, 10000/04, at 2004-5165

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SPORTS TRUCK

CHEVROLET EQUINOX 2013
Chevrolet Equinox 2013
2013/13, 2.4 liter motor, 10000/13, at 2004-5165

CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER 2007
Chevrolet Trailblazer 2007
2007/07, 4.8 liter motor, 10000/07, at 2004-5165

CHEVROLET MALIBU 2009
Chevrolet Malibu 2009
2009/09, 2.4 liter motor, 10000/09, at 2004-5165

CHEVROLET MALIBU 2011
Chevrolet Malibu 2011
2011/11, 2.4 liter motor, 10000/11, at 2004-5165

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FORD FOCUS SE 2001
Ford Focus SE 2001
2001/01, 1.8 liter motor, 10000/01, at 2004-5165

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NISSAN SENTRA SE-R 2005
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2005/05, 2.0 liter motor, 10000/05, at 2004-5165

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