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CANTON OBSERVER

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Trailblazing public safety women look to the future



CANTON PUBLIC SAFETY
Battalion Chief Wendy Murphy-Stevens in full gear next to a fire truck.

Chipotle confirms opening for Canton eatery

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Chipotle Mexican Grill is expected to open its Canton restaurant next Friday, culminating an announcement made last fall.

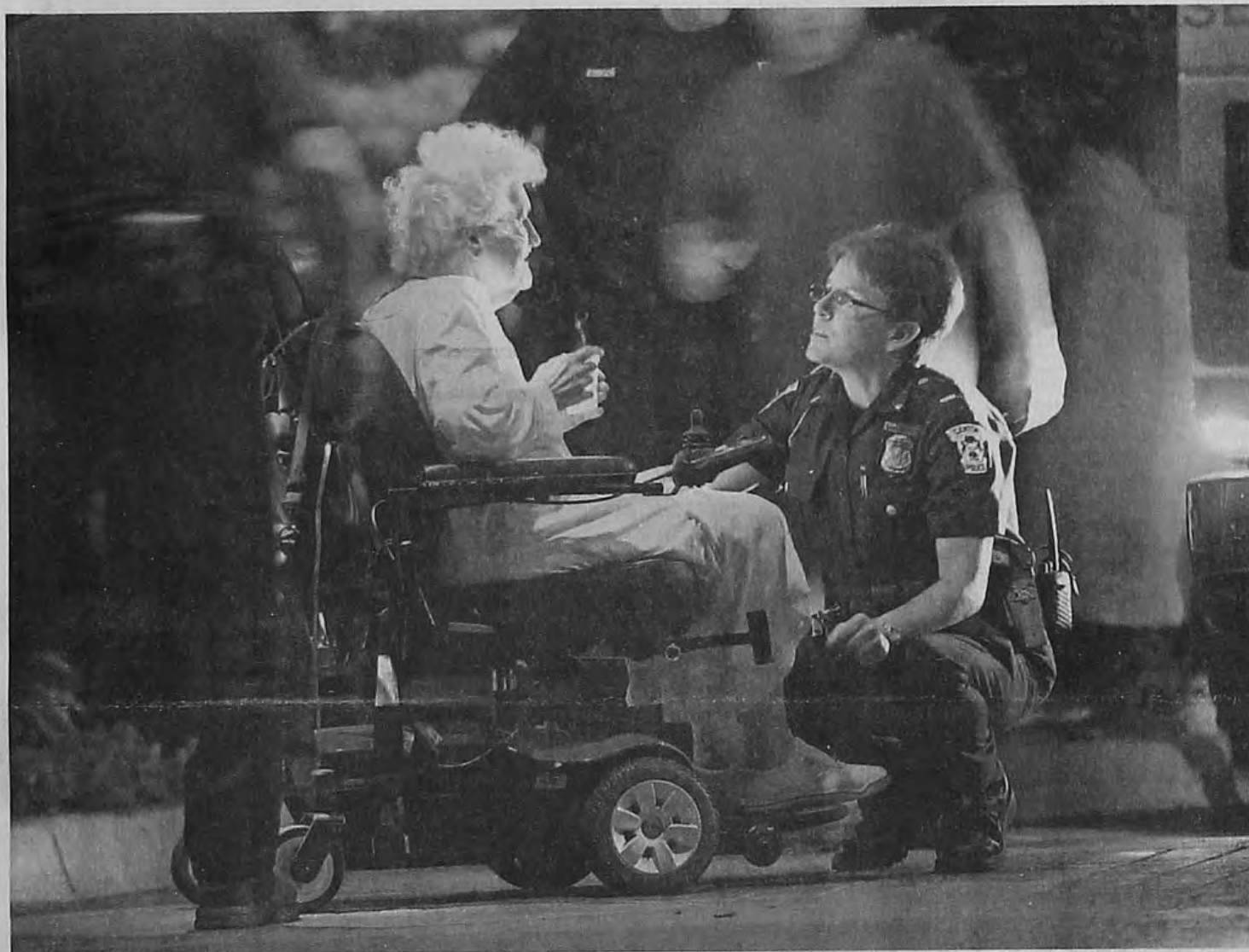
"We're very excited about opening in the community and we're looking forward to meeting our friends and neighbors in Canton," said Danielle Moore, Chipotle public relations manager.

Chipotle is opening in a small but busy shopping center on the northwest corner of Ford and Lilley roads, along Canton's main business corridor. Moore said it will employ 25-30 workers.

The next few days will be spent training employees and putting the finishing touches on the eatery, she said.

Chipotle comes to town after another Mexican grill, Qdoba, already opened just one mile away on the northwest corner of Ford and Haggerty roads. Chipotle renovated what had been a coney island eatery and, before that, Alex's Family Dining.

See CHIPOTLE, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retiring Deputy Police Chief Debra Newsome comforts an elderly resident displaced by a fire at a senior residence.

Deputy police chief hangs up her badge after 38 years

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Debra Newsome knew early in life she wanted to become a police officer.

"I was playing cops and robbers from the time I can remember," she said.

Newsome not only achieved her goal, but became one of only two women, along with Laura Golles, to reach the rank of deputy chief in the Canton Police Department's 38-year history.

Ending a 27-year career, Newsome chose to hang up her badge Friday and spend more time with her family, including 12-year-old son Wyatt — as in Wyatt Earp, law man of the old American frontier.

After 25 years in Canton, preceded by two years as a Detroit police officer, Newsome called her decision "bittersweet" as she ends a decorated career, including being named Canton Police Officer of the Year in 2002.



Newsome



Murphy-Stevens

Wendy Murphy-Stevens made history in 1992, when she became the first woman ever hired as a Canton firefighter.

She blazed that trail 20 years after Canton got a full-time fire department. She scored another first in 2013, when she became the first — and only — woman ever to achieve the rank of battalion chief in Canton.

Murphy-Stevens, who also racked up Canton Firefighter of the Year honors, took her accomplishments in stride.

"I was accepted for what I did," she said. "I just did my job and did what was expected of me. The other firefighters accepted me as one of them. It was a huge testament to the guys I worked with, even back then."

Murphy-Stevens reflected on a decorated career that came to an end Thursday, when she retired from the

See STEVENS, Page A2

First woman hired as Canton firefighter retires after 24 years

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kids dance to the tunes of The Music Lady, Beverly Meyer.

Park concerts entertain Plymouth crowds

Beverly Meyer, known as The Music Lady, brought her high-energy children's show Wednesday to Kellogg Park.

It was the fourth event in the family-friendly 2016 Music in the Park series, which is organized by the Plymouth Community Arts Council and paid for by many PCAC sponsors. The free shows are at noon each Wednesday in the park and typically draw hundreds of children, parents and grandparents.

Next up are the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic on Wednesday, July 20, followed by the Fairground Band (July 27), folksinger Matt Watroba (Aug. 3), the acoustic group Gemini (twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits, Aug. 10), folk artist Barbara Bailey Hutchison (Aug. 17) and magician/comedian Joel Tacey (Aug. 24).



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CHIPOTLE

Continued from Page A1

Kristen Thomas, Canton's economic development manager, has said Chipotle sought a Ford Road location because of heavy traffic flow that can bring a built-in customer base.

"They will definitely get the traffic counts there," Thomas has said.

Chipotle, with headquarters in Denver, Colo., has been trying to mount a comeback after customers in some locations last year reported food-borne illnesses. Company officials have taken steps to address the problem and improve food-handling procedures amid efforts to win back customers.

Chipotle earlier sought to reassure customers by providing details on its website about its food-

handling procedures.

Thomas has said the timing of the Canton restaurant opening could be good, in that the company already has taken corrective measures.

Currently, the closest Chipotle restaurants to Canton are in Northville and Ann Arbor. Moore said Canton seemed a desirable location with its high-traffic Ford Road business corridor.

"We typically look for busy intersections around shopping centers, schools, hospitals and business parks where we can see customers both in the daytime and the evening," she has said.

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NEWSOME

Continued from Page A1

"It's going to be hard to let it go," she said.

Police Lt. Scott Hugheson has watched Newsome's climb through the ranks. He said her time in the detective bureau was impressive.

"That's where she really hit her stride," he said. "Deb was an excellent investigator and an excellent interviewer."

Later as a command officer, Hugheson said Newsome "handled her duties very diligently" and, when she needed to discipline an officer, she was tough but fair. He said Newsome has been a strong advocate for domestic violence victims, helping to form a solid partnership with the advocacy organization First Step.

"She has a great sense of humor, too," he said. "When it's appropriate, she makes it a fun environment. Deb is just a great person overall."

Newsome started as a

"Law enforcement is a family. As long as you do the job, the guys don't care. It was never an issue for me. I have worked with some of the finest human beings in law enforcement."

DEBRA NEWSOME, retiring Canton deputy police chief

Canton patrol officer in 1991, climbing the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant and, in 2013, deputy chief. She has investigated crimes ranging from petty thefts to homicides. She served as a bicycle officer, a department instructor and community relations coordinator, among other positions.

Newsome is credited with forming the department's sex offender tracking initiative and its child abuse task force. One of her close friends, Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, said Newsome worked with every municipal department to make Canton better and paid special attention to crime victims such as

children and the elderly.

"She was always very compassionate about the fragile populations," Bilbrey-Honsowetz said. "I think she has been a tremendous asset to the Canton community throughout her entire career."

Newsome came from a law enforcement family. Her father served as a command lieutenant in Trenton and her two brothers also chose police careers. Still, her parents didn't immediately embrace her ambitions to enter a dangerous profession.

"Nobody wants to see their baby girl become a cop," she said, though they were later "proud as they could be."

Newsome has faced life-threatening situations. As a Detroit officer, she chased one of three suspects involved in a party store shooting. She found him on a porch, hiding behind a low-rise brick wall. It was a moment she believed she could be killed as she drew her gun and ordered him to surrender.

"I believe the only reason I'm alive today is because he didn't want to shoot a cop," she said.

Newsome has won more than 30 awards during her Canton career. She said she has been treated like one of the team, despite her decision to enter a male-dominated profession.

"You just prove yourself," she said. "Law enforcement is a family. As long as you do the job, the guys don't care. It was never an issue for me. I have worked with some of the finest human beings in law enforcement."

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STEVENS

Continued from Page A1

Canton Fire Department after 24 years.

"Wendy was a hard-charging firefighter," Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said. "She never backed down from a challenge."

Meier said Murphy-Stevens was a stellar trainer and helped to improve Canton's emergency dispatch efforts.

"She worked very closely with her subordinates and tried to set an example for them to follow," he said.

Firefighter Rick Stone worked with Murphy-Stevens for 10 years, including the time when she drove a fire engine. He said he always felt comfortable with her in charge.

"I never had to worry about Wendy driving

when I was in the back of an ambulance working on a critical patient," he said. "She's on the money. She's intelligent and dependable. She was a firefighter through and through."

"She loved the job and, I hope when I'm at that point in my career, I still have the enjoyment she had," Stone said. "I'm going to miss her."

Murphy-Stevens had worked two years as an on-call firefighter in Flat Rock before she was hired in Canton.

"I wanted to be full time. I was blessed to get Canton," she said.

She said she wasn't treated differently as a woman.

"Canton is a progressive community and has been forever," she said. "Hiring a woman into the fire department was no different than hiring a man. We all had the same expectations."

Murphy-Stevens chose her career as a firefight-

er after studies in computer programming left her uninspired. She has battled fires, plucked crash victims from cars, saved lives as a paramedic and responded to hazardous material spills.

"Delivering a baby is pretty exciting, as well," she said.

Murphy-Stevens earned her paramedic license as the fire department in 1999 converted its emergency medical service from basic to advanced life support.

"Performing CPR on someone and watching their eyes open as they try to talk to you is rewarding," she said. "You know you've made that difference."

She also has been involved in projects such as getting the newly formed firefighter honor guard in place.

As battalion chief, Murphy-Stevens ran the daily operation of a shift that included 18 firefighter-paramedics re-

sponding to emergency calls for service from all three Canton fire stations. She also was responsible for firefighter training and development.

"My favorite moments aren't really fire-related. My favorite moments were watching other firefighters succeed," she said. "I like to watch people grow into their potential."

Murphy-Stevens said she decided to retire partly to spend more time with husband Greg and children Ty, 21, Tristan, 13, and Taryn, 8. Looking back, she has no regrets choosing her career.

"It's different every day. It's challenging, it's physical and it's not a desk job," she said. "Every moment is an opportunity to change somebody's life."

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Village Theater features works of artist Tim Péwé

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is presenting the works by artist Tim Péwé in the special exhibit, "Literally Figurative," through July 31 in the Gallery@VT, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton.

This mostly self-taught artist works in a variety of materials, such as wood, metal, stone, marble and concrete, mainly utilizing reclaimed materials. Péwé's innovative and unique works include a variety of large-scale works of art, ceramics, sculptures, marionettes, pen and ink drawings and paintings. More than 25 works of mostly wood and metal sculptures will be on display, including several paintings.

"I'm interested in making objects that function in some way, but have no prosaic or practical purpose," Péwé said. "In my work, I'm trying to practice some sort of 'low level alchemy,' transforming reclaimed materials into something new, but nebulous at the same time."

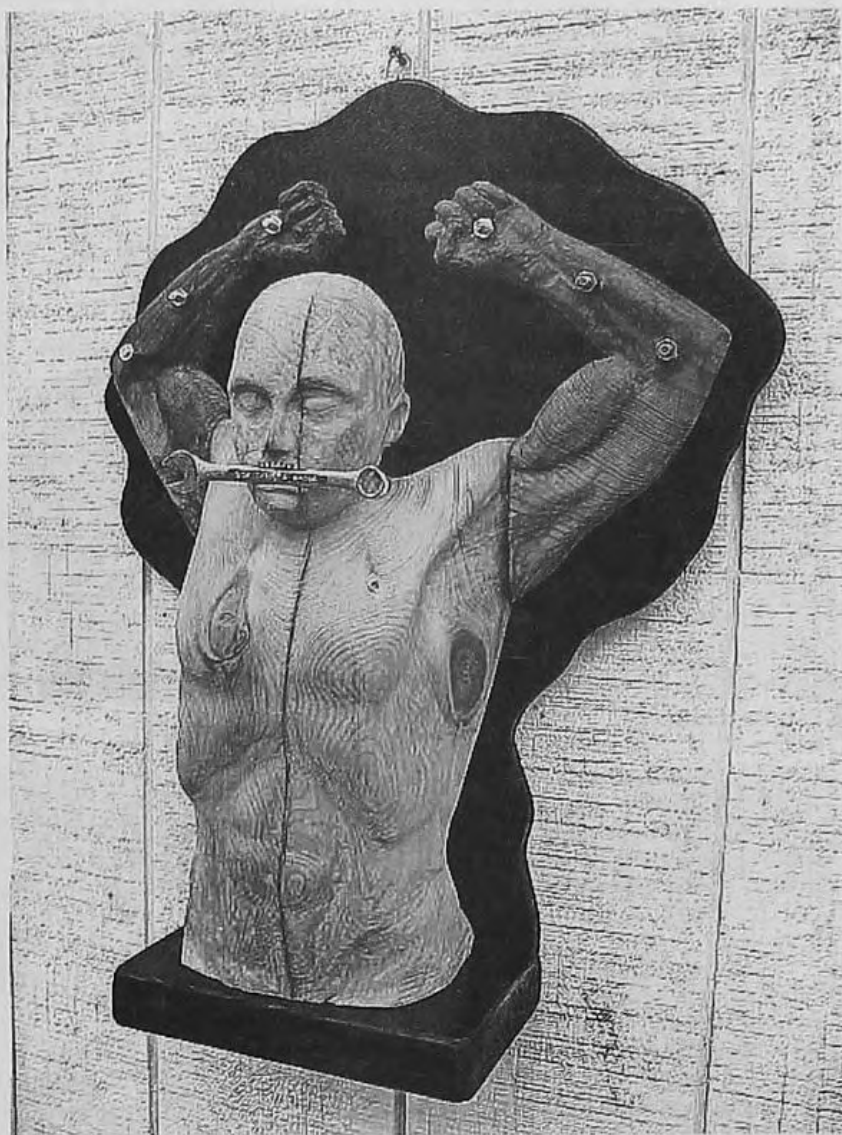
Originally from New Mexico, Péwé has lived in Oregon, Florida and Michigan. As a young boy growing up in Michigan, Péwé would often haul salvaged materials home to create things out of it. This inventive artist continues to draw and create items out of a variety of mixed media.

Through the years, Péwé has been commissioned to create such works as kinetic art installations, inlaid marble works, furniture and concrete sculptures.

Péwé holds a bachelor's degree in business and sociology. His works are shown regionally and has appeared in the books such as "Strange Michigan" and "Shed Working, the alternative workspace revolution."



This work, titled "Neander," is part of the Village Theater exhibit.



Titled "SevenSixteenths," this is among the works of artist Tim Péwé.



"Now it can be told" by artist Tim Péwé.



"Nordic Visage" is among artist Tim Péwé's work.

The Gallery@VT is open for viewing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, during

public performances at the theater and by appointment. It is closed holidays.

For more information, call 734-394-5308 or go to www.canton.villagetheater.org.

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Academic All-Stars honorees win scholarships

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

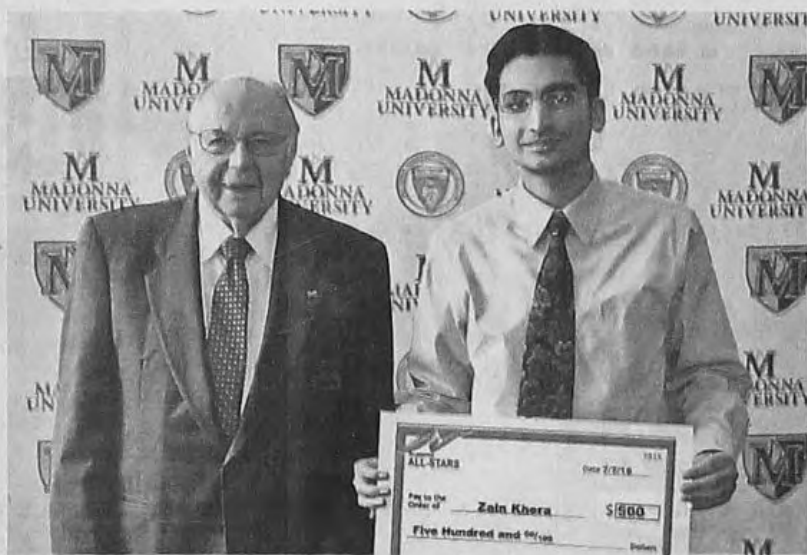
What's better than awarding one of the area's top students an academic scholarship? Awarding nine of them.

That's what Ray Okonski thought when he saw the special section published in May by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

The Observer & Eccentric Academic All-Star Team annually recognizes the brightest and best in Oakland and western Wayne counties and represents the most accomplished students from public, private and parochial schools.

For the past five years, one of the all-stars has been awarded a \$500 scholarship awarded by Parkside Credit Union for an essay on financial responsibility. Paul Chamberlain, a graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy, was this year's recipient.

"I saw one kid got a \$500 scholarship. The others got a pat on the back," Okonski said last week. He was so impressed by the talent represented in this year's all-star team, he contacted Madonna University, which partnered with the Observer & Eccentric in the all-stars program, to see what he could do to honor these students even more. So another eight graduates were



Ray Okonski and Zain Khera.



Ray Okonski and Ean Maloney.

awarded \$500 scholarships by Okonski himself. The all-star members met Okonski and representatives from Madonna University and the Observer & Eccentric July 7 for a second awards ceremony to receive their scholarship.

At the ceremony, Madonna President Dr. Michael A. Grandillo encouraged the award winners to remember their roots and return to southeast Michigan once their post-secondary studies are complete to make a difference in the region where they grew up.

The award winners are:

Ean Maloney of Canton is a Catholic Central High School graduate. Maloney will attend the University of Notre Dame this fall. His essay was on saving and growing sources of income.

Shriharimurthi Bhaskaramurthi of Farmington Hills is a Farmington High School graduate. Bhaskaramurthi will attend the University of Michigan this fall. His essay was on managing expenses.

Jhuree Hong of Bloomfield Hills is a Bloomfield Hills High School graduate. She will attend the University of Michi-

gan this fall. Her essay was on being financially responsible in college.

John Dolan of Beverly Hills is a Groves High School graduate. He will be attending the University of Michigan this fall. His essay was on self-awareness: saving and spending wisely.

Maggie Kondak of Farmington Hills is a graduate of Harrison High School. She will be attending the University of Michigan this fall. She wrote her essay on earning and saving money.

Zain Khera of Canton Town-

ship is a Canton High School graduate. He will be attending Vanderbilt University this fall. He wrote his essay on cautionary finances: saving and spending advice.

Claire Wang of Farmington Hills graduated from Country Day School. She will be attending Stanford University. She wrote her essay on financial management: tips and tricks

Daniel Evans of Birmingham graduated from Seaholm High School. He will be attending the University of Michigan. He wrote an essay on avoiding college's financial pitfalls.

Schoolcraft listed as one of best value two-year colleges

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

When it comes to value at a community college, a national list has bestowed Schoolcraft College with the honor of one of the best in the country.

A list published by College Values recently names the school with campuses in Livonia and Garden City as the sixth-best community college in the nation for value. The

criteria used to determine the list comes from graduation and transfer rates; the mid-level salary for graduates; and cost of tuition.

"We're very pleased," said Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College. "Anytime you can get recognized nationally for excellence, you're pleased."

Schoolcraft College was the highest-rated Michigan two-year college on the list. The

only other school in the Great Lakes State was Muskegon Community College, which was listed at 27th.

Jeffress said the college found out about the listing after it was posted and said those criteria used are what they hear from students are important.

"We look at all of those items, because that's what students ultimately look at. They want to get it someplace

that isn't going to cost them an arm and a leg," he said. "Those are probably the three highest priorities for students."

The listing cites Schoolcraft College's programs such as the culinary department, as well as other services.

"Schoolcraft also operates a highly-regarded Business Development Center which aids local businesses in employee training, finances and market analysis," the report reads. "Schoolcraft is not just a school - it's a part of the community and an entryway into a brighter future."

This ranking comes even after Schoolcraft College voted to increase tuition about 6 percent earlier this spring after a failed millage request last year. Despite that increase, Jeffress said, students are still getting a solid value with the support they receive from staff and other services.

"You know there's a lot of support that goes on behind the scenes. They're not seeing all those costs," he said. "They're seeing a tuition that, if you're a resident, is about \$100."

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Calamari Rings \$5.99/lb

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Wild Caught Salmon \$9.99/per lb.

Frank's Red Hot 2/\$5.12 oz. **PRODUCE**

Uncle Ray's Chips 5/\$5

Sweet Baby Ray's Barbecue Sauce 18 oz 2/\$3.00 **DELI**

Aunt Millie's Hot Dog or Hamburger Buns 2/\$4.00

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Fresh Sweet Corn 5/\$1.99

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The Nissan Sentra is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave.

Check out well-equipped 2015 Nissan Sentra

cars.com

The Nissan Sentra compact sedan comes with four-cylinder power and a manual or automatic transmission. It is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave. Competitors include the Chevrolet Cruze, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra and Toyota Corolla.

New for 2015

New standard features include automatic headlights, a USB port, cruise control, Bluetooth connectivity and steering-wheel audio controls.

Exterior highlights
 » 16-inch wheels; 16- or 17-inch alloy wheels available

» Available fog lights
 » Available spoiler
 » Available power moonroof

Interior highlights

» Seats five
 » Fabric upholstery; leather with front seat heaters available
 » 60/40-split folding rear seat
 » Tilt/telescoping steering wheel
 » Two 12-volt power outlets
 » Remote keyless entry
 » Bluetooth connectivity

» Available Nissan-Connect multimedia system with 5-inch screen
 » Available navigation system

» Available Easy-Fill Tire Alert system that honks the horn when tire is filled to correct pressure
 » Available Bose premium stereo

Under the hood
 » 130-horsepower,



The Nissan Sentra features a tilt/telescoping steering wheel.

1.8-liter four-cylinder engine
 » Six-speed manual transmission
 » Available continuously variable automatic transmission

Safety features

» Required in every new car: front airbags, anti-lock brakes and an electronic stability system
 » Six airbags
 » Available backup camera



The Nissan Sentra has six airbags and an available backup camera.



Bose premium stereo sound is available.

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\$0 Down Payment

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AWD, Stock #160103; MSRP \$25,635;

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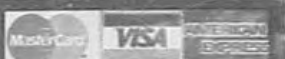
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Livonia
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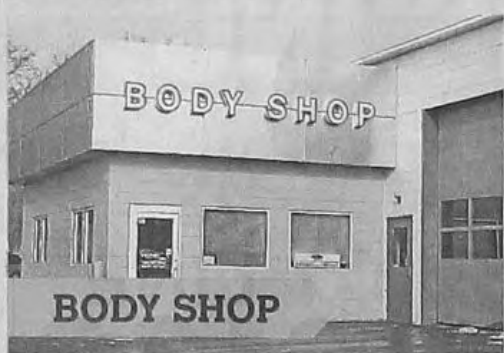
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Plan Price \$41,015

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Plan Price \$30,136

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\$1660 DOWN!
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2017 ESCAPE SE FWD



MSRP \$25,995
Plan Price \$24,044

\$169 PER MONTH LEASE
\$1330 DOWN!
\$1499 Due at Signing!
With 24 Month Lease for A/Z plan customers.

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Plan Price \$33,101

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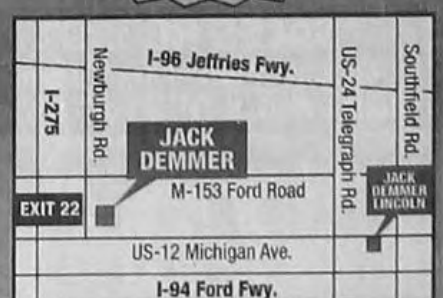
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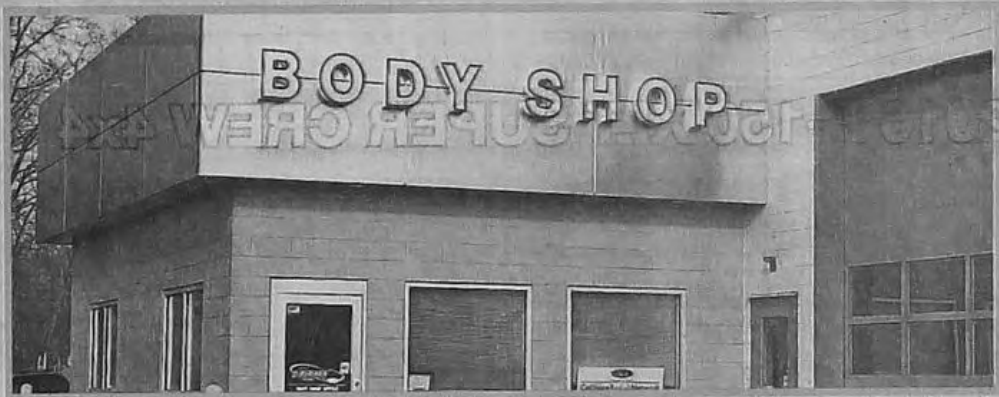
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Offer Expires 8-31-16

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A look at Plymouth Township Board of Trustees candidates

There are 10 Republican candidates, including three incumbents, in this year's race for the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees.

The 10 are running in the Republican primary for nominations in the board race. The top four finishers will move on to the November election, where they will face one announced opponent, Libertarian Joseph H.

LeBlanc, who was nominated through a convention process. There are no Democratic candidates in the board race.

All 10 primary hopefuls recently answered questions from the Plymouth Observer and we are publishing their answers here, starting today with Chuck Curmi, an incumbent, and challenger Jack Dempsey. The other candidates

are incumbent Bob Dorschewitz, Gary Heitman, incumbent Mike Kelly, Michael Oliansky, Thomas Parelly, Alexander Roehl, Don Schnetter and Theresa Somercik. The Observer will print their answers to its questionnaire in the coming days.

The primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Curmi: 'I'll listen, collaborate and provide leadership'

Chuck Curmi, 61, is a Board of Trustees incumbent seeking a sixth term, having served four terms between 1992 and 2008 and returning to the board for a fifth in 2012. He works in sales and program management in the automotive industry and has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration.

Q: What skills have you gained from your career and personal experience that would help you as a trustee, and how would you apply those skills to working in township government?

A: I am an engineer with a financial background and training in problem-solving. My tenure on the board demonstrates my willingness to adopt new ideas and listen to citizens, staff and board members. My broad knowledge base allows me to collaborate with and provide leadership to the board and staff on many systems and topics.

Q: Much has been said about the current board's relationship with some elements of the community, and about poor relationships between some

board members. How would you, as a trustee, work toward being able to disagree more agreeably, and toward gaining the respect of all voters, even those who speak up to oppose board actions?

A: My style at board meeting encourages discussion among the board and citizens. I will revert to the former longstanding practice of permitting citizen comments/questions at the beginning of the meeting, during agenda items and at the close of the meeting. Citizen input opportunity has been severely restricted by the supervisor in recent years and has diminished citizen trust of the board. I support answering questions from citizens in real time during the meeting.

Q: What is your view of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex becoming a public, taxpayer-supported entity for Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents? What is your view of recent improve-



Curmi

ments to township recreation facilities, especially Plymouth Township Park?

A: PARC will require much discussion and debate to ensure that all issues have a resolution plan before a referendum is placed on a township ballot. The resolution to halt cooperation with the city of Plymouth has caused the township to miss the opportunity to engage in early PARC discussions and planning. The outcome of this discussion/debate will determine the level of financial support by township residents.

Recent township recreation facility improvements were expensive and poorly managed. I voted not to borrow/spend for these non-essential projects. All township capital projects should be ranked by necessity to allocate funding in the future. This ranking and planning should consider survey data and direct citizen input.

Q: Name your top two priorities for Plymouth Township and briefly describe how, as a trustee, you would go about addressing those priorities.

See CURMI, Page A11

Dempsey: 'My vow is to be honest, accountable'

John "Jack" Dempsey, 64, a lawyer and partner at Dickinson, Wright in Ann Arbor, is making his first run for elected office. A historian and published writer, Dempsey is also president of the Michigan Historical Commission, to which he was appointed in June 2007.

Q: What skills have you gained from your career and personal experience that would help you as a trustee, and how would you apply those skills to working in township government?

A: For 30 years my law practice has centered on improving government and restoring power to the people. I've long advocated for streamlined, transparent, and responsive government. As historian and published writer, I've developed research, analysis, and presentation skills for effective, accurate public communications. As church trustee/elder, I understand how to respect diverse opinions and focus on priority needs of individuals in group settings. Key for a township trustee is commitment to acting as a fiduciary: how to plan and care for someone else's property. I've exercised this responsibility on various statewide governing boards; I've been chair and president of several, for multiple years. I offer voters a combina-

tion of experience and character that would improve how the board deals with the public and amongst itself.

Q: Much has been said about the current board's relationship with some elements of the community, and about poor relationships between some board members. How would you, as a trustee, work toward being able to disagree more agreeably, and toward gaining the respect of all voters, even those who speak up to oppose board actions?

A: My campaign pledge to follow a personal ethics code if elected, and advocate a strong code for the board, includes a commitment to respecting others' viewpoints and listening positively to the public's input in all forums. My campaign has centered on positive ideas without personal attacks. That leadership example would help foster a board culture that is not defensive about concerns or evidence that contradicts official positions, but rather is receptive and open-minded. Informed opinions - even if critical of township government - are an opportunity for re-assessing those positions, rather than a



Dempsey

threat. My vow is to be honest, transparent, accountable, and respectful of the people's will.

Q: What is your view of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex becoming a public, taxpayer-supported entity for Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents? What is your view of recent improvements to township recreation facilities, especially Plymouth Township Park?

A: I'm against raising taxes; government needs to live within its means. A trustee must be tenacious on efficiency, open to creative ideas, and laser-focused on ensuring every tax dollar is spent carefully - it is the public's money, not the board's. I'm for historic preservation and support PARC's publicly stated mission. The facility has potential to become a beneficial community asset. One of its leaders states "there are many ways to obtain financial support without raising local taxes." But recreation decisions must be based on actively seeking the input of all residents. The proposed amphitheater fails this test, and it ignored the approved 2010 recreation plan. The board needs to make public safety, recreation, and budget decisions in accord with the will of the people.

Q: Name your top two

See DEMPSEY, Page A11



Day on the Town!

Saturday, July 23

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The Premier Shopping Event of the Summer



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Kids Bike Parade
8:30 a.m. City Hall

Awesome Deals • Big Sales

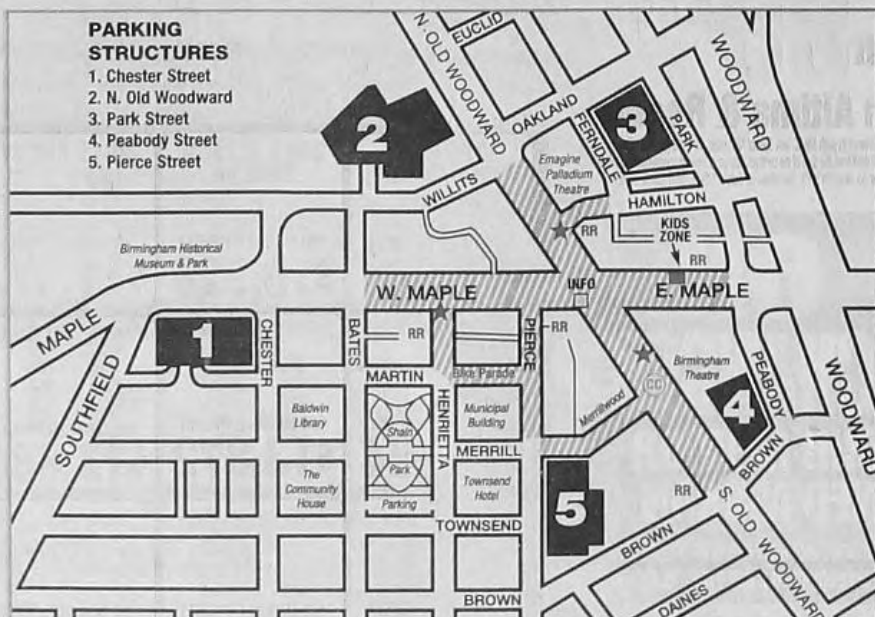
Live Entertainment

Corvette Show 'til 4 p.m.

Children's Activities

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Downtown Birmingham streets will be closed to traffic



Streets closed to traffic & parking, DAY ON THE TOWN, Saturday, July 23, 2016 • 9 am - 7 pm

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Wanted on warrant, man follows Pokémon Go right into police custody

Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

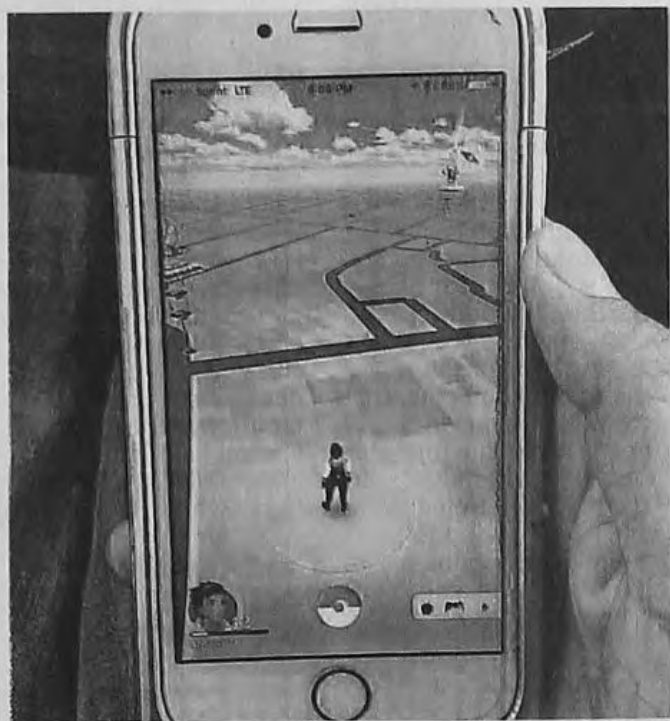
Instead of fighting monsters Thursday morning when he arrived at a Pokémon gym, a 26-year-old Milford man instead found himself in handcuffs.

Police said the village resident was riding his bike about 10:30 a.m., looking at his smart phone while following a map in the wildly popular new Pokémon Go game when he – perhaps unknowingly – arrived at the police station on Atlantic Street.

The Milford Police Station, like many others, is designated by the game as a gym, where users' virtual monsters fight against other users' virtual monsters.

But the game's maps don't list street names for gym-seekers, making it difficult for users to know exactly where they're headed – until they actually arrive.

And the man who rode up to the Milford Police Station this morning hoping to battle virtual monsters just happened



Pokémon Go user Mark Rudd shows off the wildly popular new location-based mobile game, which uses GPS to guide users through real life surroundings in search of virtual images

was headed; the location-based mobile game uses GPS to guide users as they explore real life surroundings in search of virtual images, requiring users to look at their phone while not paying attention to surroundings.

"When I first learned about this game, I was very concerned it was taking young adults into places they shouldn't necessarily be – and could get hurt, if they're not paying attention to what's going on around them," Lindberg said. "But I never thought someone with a warrant would be so driven by the game that they'd walk right up to the police station."

The man, he added, was wanted on a misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear in court on a breaking and entering charge. He was arraigned following his arrest and released on personal bond.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com
248-390-7396
Twitter: @MilfordReporter

to have a warrant for his arrest out.

"A couple of our officers looked out the window and saw him standing out by the flagpole," Police Chief Tom Lindberg said, noting, after

numerous run-ins, police recognized the individual immediately and went out to greet – and arrest – the man.

Lindberg said he wasn't sure the man even realized where he

CURMI

Continued from Page A10

A: Strengthen fire/police services – allocate more capital/labor for fire service and develop cooperative high efficiency relationships with neighboring communities and private

sector. Review fire/police service for gaps and develop plans to close the gaps with safety as the top priority.

Maintain township tax rate – improve financial analysis, budgeting and reporting. Develop plans for unfunded medical/retirement legacy costs.

DEMPSEY

Continued from Page A10

priorities for Plymouth Township and briefly describe how, as a trustee, you would go about addressing those priorities.

A: Public trust in the board and public safety must be improved. The current board has shown a tendency to put itself at odds with the public and each other. We need a township government that listens to and resembles the great community it is to

serve. I would assertively take government to the people, holding open sessions, seeking input through all means available, and shaping board policy accordingly. I would not accept anything less than complete openness and transparency in all board activities. We must not waste tax dollars on non-essentials and provide the highest quality of emergency response to our residents, especially seniors and the disabled. Efficiencies will enable reopening of Station 2 for the benefit of the entire populace.

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GARDEN AND NATURE CALENDAR

Butterflies

Carol Sohoza, president of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will talk about raising butterflies in the garden at 7 p.m. July 20 at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Cost is \$3 for non-members. For more information, call 734-223-5510 or go to www.sembabutterfly.org.

English Gardens

Learn about hydrangeas at a free seminar at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 16, at all stores.

» Becky Menger of English Gardens will explain how to make smart gardening choices that will save garden plants from becoming a deer buffet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, at the Royal Oak store, located on Coolidge Highway, just north of 14 Mile.

» Create a fairy garden for \$34.99. Sign up in any store or online

» Learn trends in landscape design that could help increase the value of your home at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 23, at all stores.

For store locations

and to sign up for the fairy garden workshop, go to englishgardens.com.

MSU Tollgate Farm

Cheryl English, an advanced master gardener of Wane County, presents "Pollinator Preservation Strategies for the Home Garden: Native Plants and Their Unique Relationship with Beneficial Insects," 6:30-8:30 p.m. July 19 at the farm, 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi. She'll explain how to help native pollinators and other beneficial insects through

plant selection, garden design and maintenance protocols. Cost is \$25. RSVP by emailing newtons5@msu.edu or call 248-327-0269, ext. 229.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Robert Grese, director, leads a tour of the medicinal garden and talks about the connection between plants and wellness at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19. The tour is free. Matthaei Botanical Gardens is located at 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Call 734-647-7600.



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Bad advice can lead to expensive tax lesson

Q: In 2013, I lost my job. I had worked for the company for a number of years and, when I left, they gave me severance pay. The severance pay was equivalent to six months of earnings. In 2014, I couldn't find a full-time job, so I worked a number of jobs on a part-time basis. When I filed my 2013 tax return, I was told by a friend that you do not have to pay taxes on severance pay. He suggested that I attach a schedule to my



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

return, which I did. The schedule basically was my W-2, less the severance pay. The net amount is what I reported as income. I recently received a notice from the IRS saying that I owe money. In addition to the amount of the tax, they've also

hit me with interest and penalties. I want to know the best way to contest the amount. In 2014, as I mentioned, I worked a number of part-time jobs. They claim that I did not report income from one of my jobs. I've also been told that I should not be taxed on the money since I did not receive a W-2. I did receive IRS Form 1099, but not a W-2.

A: Unfortunately, in both cases, the IRS is right and you are liable

for the taxes.

First, with regard to the severance pay, there is a general misconception that the money is not taxed; it is. In addition, the IRS was correct with the assessment of interest. The issue, however, is the penalties.

Penalties are meant to punish a taxpayer for not following the law. The IRS has flexibility with penalties that it doesn't have in other places. It is very difficult or nearly impossible to have the IRS waive interest. It is

possible to waive the penalties, particularly if this is the first time you've had issues with the IRS. You can either petition the IRS on your own or you can hire a professional who has experience in trying to get the penalty waived. There are no guarantees it will waive the penalty.

With regard to your 2014 return, you received bad advice. Whether you should have received a W-2 or a 1099 is a different issue. Either way, that money is subject to

taxes and should have been reported.

If the person you're seeking tax advice from is not in the business, which probably means they don't have a commitment to continuing education and staying current on the tax laws, it's probably a good idea to seek advice elsewhere.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Don't leave kids, pets in a hot closed car

Did you know the surface of the sun is 10,000°F? The center of the sun is 27,000,000°F. That is pretty hot.

OK, let's move away from the sun and toward our planet. Mercury is 800°F during the day and Venus is approximately 860°F — hot enough to melt lead if you could stand on the surface.

Now, stay with me: That brings us to Earth. Earth's average temperature, remember average temperature, is 61°F. Not so bad right? There is a place that can feel like the center of the sun — your car.

Did you know that the interior of your car is probably the hottest place most people will visit in their lifetime (unless you are into sau-



Sgt. Michael Sura
ASK A TROOPER

nas). The average temperature inside your car can increase within the first 10 minutes anywhere from 10-20 degrees. Over 30 minutes, the temperature increases by an average of over one degree per minute. If you park and go inside a store for 30 minutes on a 90-degree day, your car will be over 120°F when you return to it. After an hour, the vehicle will be 43 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.

The reason a car gets hotter than the air around it and a house or office is because it's a



If you see an animal or person left in the vehicle, gather information: Note the make and model and write down the license plate of the vehicle.

greenhouse on wheels. The glass allows sunlight to pass through freely. Once inside the vehicle, much of the light is absorbed by the interior and turned into heat. Heat does not easily pass back through the glass. One last thing: Temperatures in a vehicle can get hot even on cool days.

Why do I tell you all this about temperatures, planets and greenhouse effects? Simple: It is never a good idea to leave your child or pet in a vehicle when "running into a store." It is just not safe for the child or pet. I know, "I'll crack the window," right? Although this would allow some air inside the vehicle, researchers have found that the vehicle still heats faster than it cools.

The temperature will still rise to a dangerous level given time.

If you see an animal or person left in the vehicle, gather information: Note the make and model, and write down the license plate of the vehicle. Contact the police and monitor the vehicle. Do not confront anyone yourself, let the police talk with the individual: You want to be safe as well. There are a lot of hot places in the universe, the inside of your car can be one as well.

If you have questions or comments, email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com, or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

REUNIONS

DEARBORN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1976

40th class reunion and golf outing is Sunday, Aug. 13. For more information, go to <http://www.dhs1976.myevent.com>.

DETROIT CODY CLASS OF 1966

50-year reunion, 6-11:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. For more information, call Gary Berriman at 313-300-4470 or Barbara (Doherty) Kalinski at 734-320-6545.

DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASSES OF 1950-1969

The fifth annual picnic runs noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at Nankin Mills Pavilion in Hines Park, at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, near Farmington Road, in Westland. Bring your own picnic or buy from a vendor, who will sell hot dogs, chips, pop, water and ice cream. T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, coolers, glasses, coffee mugs, hats, all with the Mackenzie logo, will be available for purchase. Seating will be available under the shelter or bring your own chairs and pop-ups. For more information, call Janet Cable at 734-377-4009, email mackenzie50s-60s@hotmail.com or go to classcreator.com/Detroit-MI-Mackenzie-1960.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST & WEST CLASS OF 1966

The 50th reunion will be held Sept. 10. Find more event information on the G.C.H.S. class of 1966 East & West Facebook page.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL WEST CLASS OF 1976

40th reunion Motown Dinner Dance Cruise on the Princess Riverboat. Boarding 6-7 p.m., cruise 7-9:30 p.m. Aug. 27. \$65 per person. Call 877-338-2628.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

50th reunion will be held Aug. 25-28. Contact Larry Ruzsas at 810-599-3509 or lruzsas187264mi@comcast.com.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

50-year reunion dinner and celebration set for 5-11 p.m. Sept. 17, at the Summit in Canton. For more details, check the Plymouth High School Class of 1966 Facebook page or email jerrynorquist@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1967

50-year reunion planned. Go to Class Creator - Plymouth-mi67.com for information or call Lynette Thayer at 419-726-2088.

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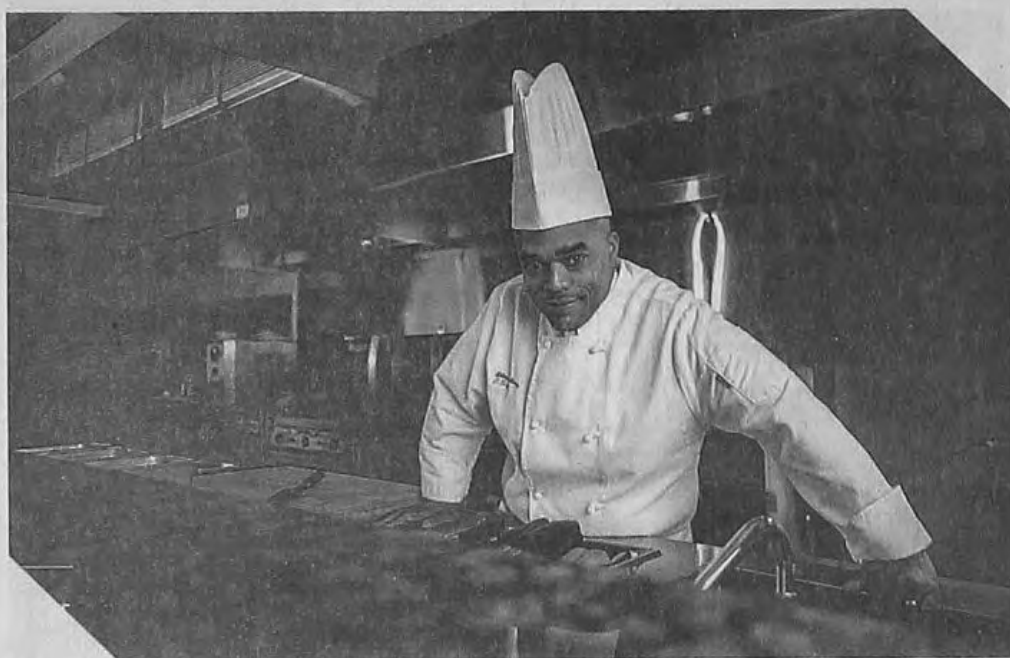
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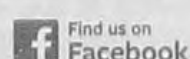
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PLYMOUTH ELKS JAZZ

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 26

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks hosts its Jazz @ the Elks, featuring for the first time, Jerry McKenzie's "Just Jazz" featuring Lori LeFevre. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers. Lori LeFevre will do vocals, Tad Weed on piano, Ray Tini on bass and Jerry McKenzie on drums. McKenzie played with the Stan Kenton Band and is a great promoter of jazz in the Detroit area.

Cost: There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers.

Contact: 734-453-1780, go to www.plymouthannarborelks325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

JAZZ FEST

Time/Date: Noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, July 17

Location: Schoolcraft College in Livonia; Most bands will perform inside the VisTaTech Center and one stage will be set under a tent outdoors

Details: Hear eight new acts, a diversity of jazz styles and more than 30 bands on six stages at the upcoming 22nd annual Michigan Jazz Festival

Cost: Admission is free, although donations will be accepted. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the college.

Contact: michiganjazzfestival.org

ANNUAL MARKET RALLY

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 26

Location: Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge, Canton

Details: Area residents are invited to attend the third annual Rally on Ridge at Preservation Park for a festive evening of food, fun, music and more to benefit the Canton Farmers Market. Local eats with friends, family and neighbors and enjoy activities for all ages, including live acoustic music, gourmet food trucks, games for the kids and more. For event-goers who plan to stay for the music, bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket. This year's event promises to be bigger and better as the number of food vendors and the overall footprint of the event will nearly double.

Cost: Free

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Time/Date: 11 a.m. each Sunday through Aug. 21

Location: Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse, corner of Ridge and Cherry Hills roads, across from the Village Theater

Details: St. John Michael Lutheran hosts worship services in a casual atmosphere. Professionally managed child care will be provided

Contact: Church office at 734-459-3333 or go to www.connectingwithGod.org

CANTON CONCERTS

Time/Date/Location: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, Westland Farmers Market pavilion and noon Saturday, Aug. 27, Canton Lions Club corn roast, Cady-Boyer Barn

Details: The Canton Concert Band performs its series, The Spirit of America.

SHAKESPEARE FEST

Time/Date: July 29 through Aug. 14

Location: Village Theater, Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: The Village Theater at

Cherry Hill is once again teaming with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival to present a three-week run of performances in Canton. This year's 22nd festival season will feature productions of William Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and "Richard II," as well as Karen Tarjan's "The Killer Angels," based on the novel by Michael Shaara

Cost: Tickets are on sale now, including season flex passes, at www.cantonvillagetheater.org. A flex pass will include one ticket to each production and show dates and times can be chosen at the time of purchase or at a later date. Ticket prices range from \$16 to \$40, depending on patron's age

Contact: www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call 734-394-5300

FASHION SETTERS EXHIBIT

Time/Date: Museum hours, through Nov. 6

Location: Plymouth Historical Museum

Details: The First Ladies Fashion Setters exhibit features more than a dozen dresses of the first ladies throughout history. Other memorabilia highlighting elections, the presidents and the first ladies will also be displayed

SUMMER ARTS COUNCIL CAMPS

Time/Date: Through Aug. 19

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, at Junction, south of M-14 in Plymouth

Details: The PCAC will offer 40 camps in painting, filmmaking, photography, cartooning, graphic design, theater, music and more, with the emphasis on getting campers to "think outside the box" and not follow preconceived notions of art.

Costs: Camp prices range from \$55 to \$145, with discounts for PCAC members.

Contact: View a complete schedule and register online at www.plymoutharts.com or register by calling the PCAC at 734-416-4278 or stopping in during business hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 30

Location: First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: The church will host a classic car show to raise money to help the youth group

Cost: Visitors are asked to make a \$5 donation; Classic car owners can simply show up and pay a \$10 entry fee to become part of the show

Contact: www.FBCCantonCarShow.com or call 734-776-8892

Michigan State Fair

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 1-4; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (interior exhibition hall closes at 5 p.m.) Monday, Sept. 5

Details: 2016 Fifth Third Michigan State Fair returns to Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. This year's State Fair will include expanded midway rides, an interior exhibition hall, the ever-popular racing pigs, an expanded Equestrian Pavilion, a larger Michigan Made Pavilion, tasty carnival treats, a parade on Monday at 10 a.m., and more.

Cost: General admission \$8, parking \$5. Go to michiganstatefairllc.com for additional pricing information.

SEEKING COMPASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS



FILE PHOTO

Jazz drummer Jerry McKenzie will perform July 26 at the Plymouth Elks.



Vocalist Lori LeFevre will join Jerry McKenzie's "Just Jazz" at the Plymouth Elks.

Time/Date: Until September
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice, 5820 N Lilley Road, Canton,

Details: Compassionate Care Hospice seeks caring, compassionate volunteers with big hearts to help with patient care and companionship, office support, group activities and more. Volunteer training sessions will cover mission and values, confidentially, communication and listening skills, grief, loss, the dying process and information pertinent to serving the needs of the patients. Interested volunteers may also choose to receive additional training and serve as specialized spiritual or bereavement volunteer. Interested volunteers must complete the online application process prior to training. Early registration is encouraged, as several steps are to be completed prior to the start of the training sessions. Next new volunteer orientation is Sept. 13 in the hospice office.

Contact: Jeanne Edwards, volunteer coordinator, at 888-983-9050.

GRUB CRAWL

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 19

Details: Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts annual Grub

Crawl with food samples, sweet treats and craft beer from 18 eateries and the Canton Brew Works microbrewery.

Cost: \$35 per person for tickets

(T-shirts) and include transportation. They are on sale now and can be purchased at the chamber office, 45525 Hanford, online at www.cantonchamber.com or by calling 734-453-4040.

DIVERSITY EXHIBIT

Time/Date: Exhibit runs through July 30. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Location: Canton Historical Museum, on Canton Center, south of Cherry Hill.

Details: Wood carvings of Filipino dancers, Muslim prayer beads known as tasbeeh, a Buddhist monk's brass bowl and a Brazilian special-occasion dress are on display as a Canton Historical Museum exhibit pays tribute to this community's cultural diversity. Muslims, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Brazilians and the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, are represented in the exhibit — "A Diverse Township: Looking at Canton's Cultural Community."

Cost: Free.

CANCER SUPPORT

Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month

Details: Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the

Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-4828.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Ladies Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Connor's Restaurant on Haggerty/Five Mile Road, Northville. To save a seat, contact Carol at 313-562-3080.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting Co-Ed Breakfast at Richard's Restaurant on Plymouth Road at Eckles Road. Contact Jerry at 734-455-2651.

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Burger School benefits from annual auto show

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Moving from Garden City High School to Garden City Middle School turned out to be a boon for the annual Autos for Autism car show to benefit the Burger Center School for Students with Autism.

Organizers reported nearly 300 participants in the 16th annual show, up dramatically from last year, after the move to the middle school.

"It was phenomenal," Autos for Autism committee member (and former co-chair) Cecilia Nesbitt said. "There's a lot more space there and we didn't have to turn anyone away."

The show had been held the last 15 years at the high school, but construction on the school's parking lot forced the relocation. Turns out, it was a great idea.

Except for a few glitches — for instance, there's no ice machine at the middle school — the show went off without a hitch.

"It went very well," said this year's chair, Lisa Clark. "I had people telling me all day how great it was. The biggest problem was for our parking volunteers. They had to run all over the place."

"We'll definitely be on the lookout for more parking volunteers next year," she added with a chuckle.

Clark said figures weren't yet available for how much money was raised, but she's confident the event topped last year's \$15,700 total.

The program is sponsored by Burger Autistic School Association, which is made up of parents, students and teachers. The money raised will go toward buying iPads and other materials and equipment at Burger School for Students with

"It was phenomenal. There's a lot more space there and we didn't have to turn anyone away."

CECILIA NESBITT
Autos for Autism committee member

Autism, as well as other school activities, like dances, talent shows, family pizza parties, staff appreciation meals and sports programs.

"A lot of the kids aren't vocal, but they can communicate using iPads," Clark said. "Over the years, we've nurtured a strong relationship with a very loyal and dedicated group of car owners who make every effort to attend each show in support of our students with autism. They were part of a very strong turnout at our phenomenally successful 2015 show."

This year's event featured a few highlights:

» State Sen. David Knezek and Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc stood in as judges for the late Julie Plawecki, a state representative who died recently.

» The first Rick Nesbitt Spirit Award was handed out, in honor of Cecilia's husband, a long-time volunteer and car buff. The award, Cecilia Nesbitt said, was designed to go to someone who "shows the same love and enthusiasm for cars and doing charity work at the same time."

The winner was Mike Small, for his 1940 Ford Coupe.

"(Participants) are having a good time doing what they love and they're raising money for the Burger School at the same time," Nesbitt said.



Finding a spot for all of the cars is a big job.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A Porsche Speedster.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The hood ornament of Carl Chen's 1931 Packard.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



This Ford Model T wagon is 102 years old.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

» The Burger Transition Center "Off Broadway Broncos" gave a stunning performance of "Grease," directed by Amy Swarouth and Tracey Sharay.

The four-hour event also featured raffle prizes, music, Baby Drew's BBQ, clowns, face painting and kids' activities. Burger School for

Students with Autism is one of the largest public school programs in the nation specializing in the education of students affected by this disorder. "We've got wonderful volunteers and a great committee," Clark said. "It went very well."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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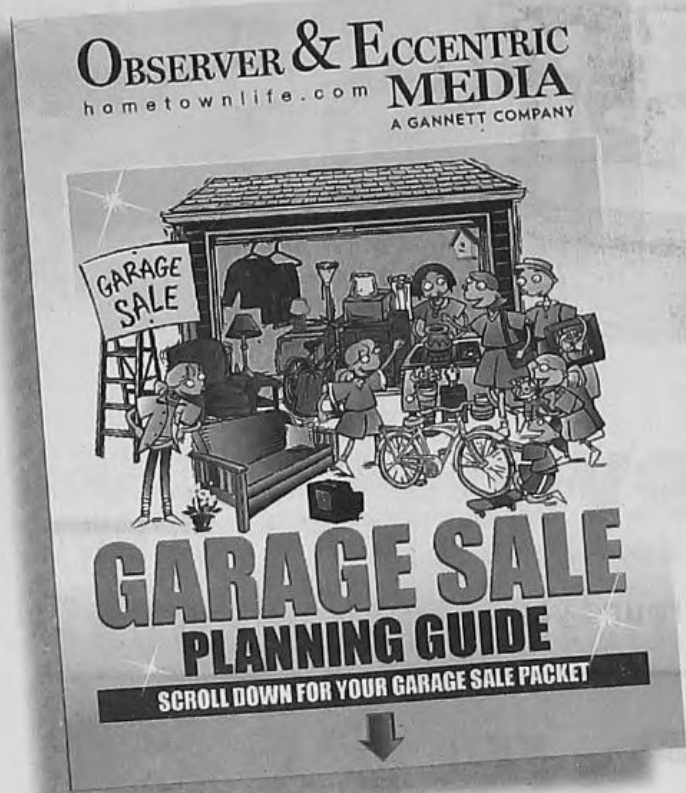
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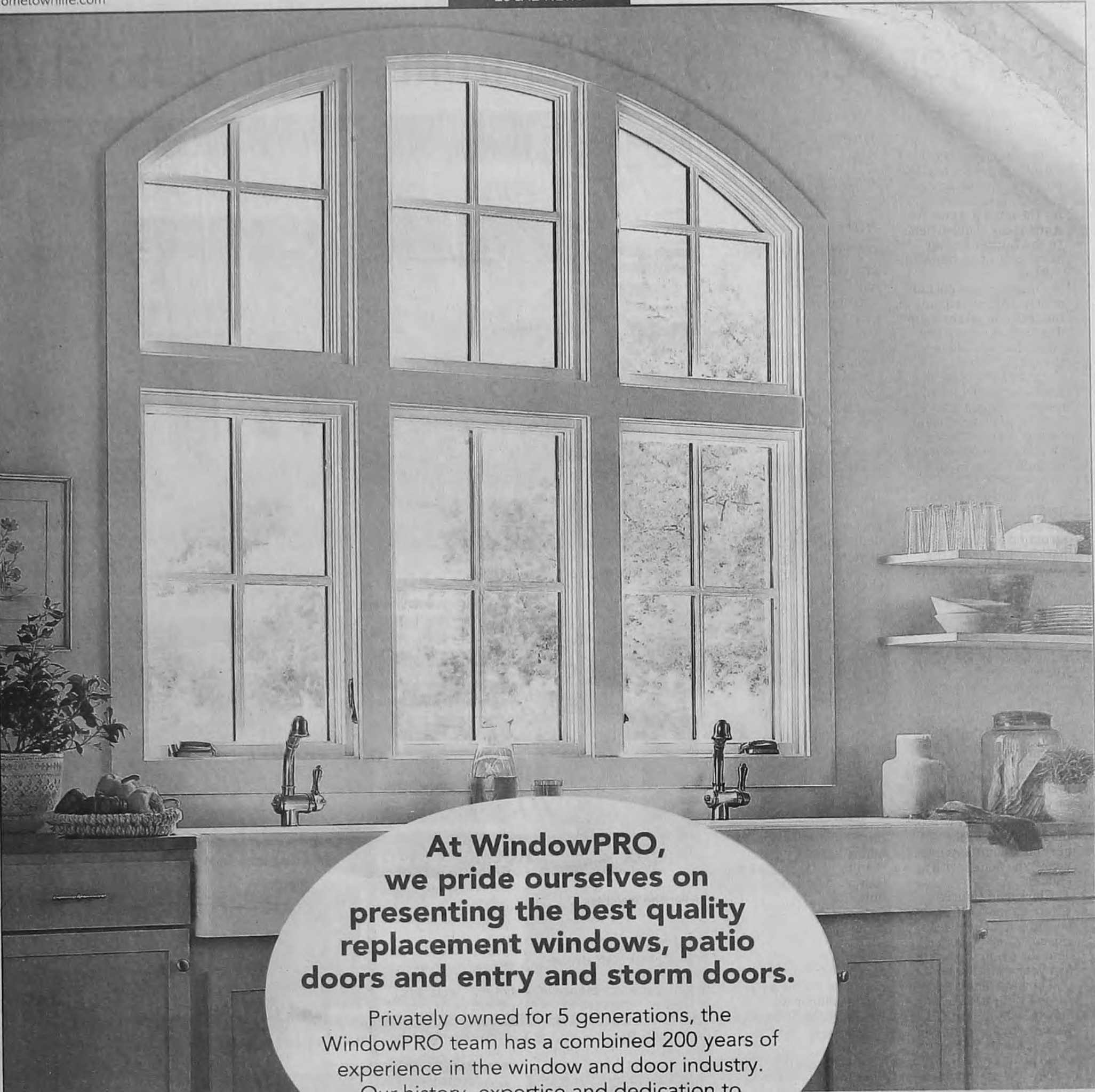
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U-M's Howell back on right track

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Former Farmington High star and heptathlete rebounds from knee injury

Aaron Howell is well along the road to recovery and once again being an accomplished athlete in track and field.

After missing the entire 2015 outdoor season with an ACL injury, the University of Michigan sophomore made a big comeback this year.

Howell capped the season with a bronze-medal performance in the heptathlon at the Big Ten Championships in Lincoln, Neb.

Furthermore, the former Farmington High School all-stater set a personal record with 5,538 points and helped the Wolverines win the women's title.

"I was very proud of myself because I wasn't expecting to do that well," Howell said. "Now that I know I can do it, I'm truly excited for next season. I think I can do a lot better and improve in a lot of events."



Howell

Howell had an outstanding freshman year at U-M and made the All-America second team in 2014 after finishing 16th in the heptathlon at the NCAA meet.

She was progressing nicely in her collegiate career when the injury occurred during the 2015 indoor season. Following surgery on the knee, she

spent the rest of that year doing rehab and working her way back to competitive health.

Howell, who was the New Balance Outdoor national champion in 2012, received a redshirt year and will have junior eligibility next year.

"I didn't realize how long the recovery process was," she said. "That was really tough. I was spending two to three hours at a time, four or five days a week, in the training room."

See HOWELL, Page B2

SUNSHINE'S FOOTBALL CLINIC PRIMER



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

One of the enduring features of the Sunshine's Football Clinic is a buddy system between Plymouth football players and kids with special needs. Here, Matt Barno (left) works with Reid Fox during last year's program.

LIVIN' THE DREAM

Livonia Stevenson grads savoring unexpected twist in baseball careers

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Like a tight-spinning, knee-buckling curve ball, the lives of former Livonia Stevenson baseball stars Evan Piechota and Chris McDonald took a dramatic turn earlier this month.

Just hours before they were set to take the field for their respective United Shore Professional Baseball League teams — McDonald pitched for the East Side Hoppers while Piechota hurled for the Utica Unicorns — the longtime friends found out from USPBL Executive Director of Baseball Operations Brian Berryman that their professional baseball contracts had been purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates organization.

The sudden and striking development was the culmination of a lifelong dream for the former Spartans, whose current residence is Bradenton, Fla., the home of the Gulf Coast League Pittsburgh Pirates.

"It is like baseball heaven down here," admitted Piechota, during a Monday night phone interview that unfolded a short time after his ultra-successful debut with the Pirates — a two-inning, no-runs-allowed stint against the GCL Detroit Tigers that earned him his first Rookie League win.

"Ever since I started playing baseball when I was a young kid, and especially when I played in high school, I've dreamed about playing professional baseball, so for this to happen so quickly and kind of out of the blue has been an amazing experience."

McDonald and Piechota met for the first time when they were 12 while playing for Livonia Travel. Skyrocketing to the next level

See PIRATES, Page B2

SUNSHINE'S COMING AGAIN

Young quarterback's brainchild keeps bearing fruit as third annual clinic set for July 29

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When then-fifth grader Connor Sherman came up with the idea to put on a football clinic for kids with special needs, it was perhaps thought of as an inspirational one-of-a-kind event.

Two years later, there seems to be no end in sight to the Sunshine's Football Clinic, slated 6-8 p.m. Friday, July 29, on the varsity turf field at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

And that's like a Super Bowl championship for Connor, his family, the fully engaged Plymouth Football program and families and kids who had a blast at the 2014 and 2015 clinics.

"I love getting feedback from the kids and their families about how much fun they had at the clinic," Connor, entering seventh grade at Pioneer Middle School, noted in an e-mail to the Observer. "I have received letters in the mail, e-mails, and seen posts on social media that describe what the football clinic means to the children and their families."

"It is very rewarding to see the positive impact the high school football players have on children with special needs in our community. The majority of the participants have been coming to the clinic since 2014. I think that says a lot about the clinic that participants keep coming back every year."

See SUNSHINE, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Sunshine's Football Clinic founder Connor Sherman (left), poses with Plymouth alum Kyle Brindza during the 2015 event.



SUBMITTED

Chris McDonald (left) and Evan Piechota are pictured with Livonia Stevenson head baseball coach Rick Berryman.

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COLLEGIATE SPORTS

Kennell named new AD at Madonna University

Crusaders' new administrator has wealth of experience

Scott Kennell, a 16-year veteran of athletic department leadership, including the previous five years as the head of Penn College athletics, has been named director of athletics at Madonna University following a national search.

Kennell, who steps in as the leader of Madonna University athletics following the departure of longtime athletic director Bryan Rizzo, will be responsible for the overall development and general management of the Crusaders' expanding intercollegiate athletics program, effective July 25, Madonna University President Michael A. Grandillo, announced July 13.

"Intercollegiate athletics plays an integral role in fulfilling the mission of Madonna University," Grandillo said. "During the interview process, it was clear Scott understood the impact athletics can have on the quality of campus

life and community as a whole.

"Furthermore, he understands the athletic department's commitment to increasing enrollment while striving to continually improve the student-athlete experience. I am excited Scott and his family have decided to join the Madonna University community and I look forward to working with him soon."

Kennell joins an ever-expanding athletics department at Madonna University, which now boasts 19 intercollegiate sports competing in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

During his five-plus years serving Penn College, Kennell was able to champion a host of expansion efforts and various other ventures, including the program's acceptance into National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III status.

"My family and I are excited and honored to be joining the Madonna University family," Kennell said. "I am



Kennell

truly grateful to Dr. Grandillo and the entire search committee for trusting me to serve in this position.

"Madonna has a strong commitment to its athletics program and that is what attracted me to the job. Intercollegiate athletics plays a vibrant and positive role in the makeup of the university, and the program is on very solid ground. I am honored to have been chosen for this position, and I am eager to join 'Crusader Nation' and meet the Madonna University and Livonia community soon."

After initiating and guiding the move to NCAA Division III status, Kennell also coordinated Penn College's efforts to join the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC), a league that accepted the program as a member in 2014. The push to make Penn College a premier athletic department also led to the launching of the new athletics website in 2013.

In 2011, he started the Penn College

Male and Female Athlete of the Year awards, honoring the top athletic performers in the program. He then went on to establish the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012.

Prior to his appointment at Penn College, Kennell served as director of athletics at Lycoming College (Pa.), a NCAA Division III program, from 2008-2011. In addition to overseeing Lycoming's 17 sports, Kennell also served as the head men's soccer coach. He left Lycoming as the winningest coach in program history with a 110-87-12 record and took his program to five Commonwealth Conference playoff berths.

Kennell graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education. After a standout career as a men's soccer student-athlete at North Carolina Wesleyan, Kennell was drafted by the EISL Savannah Rugaratz as the eighth overall pick. From 1998-99, he played with the United Soccer League's Eastern Shore Sharks.

Rams split pair of LCBL contests

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Jared Tobey and Zack Schmidtke combined on a five-hitter Wednesday night to lead the Michigan Rams to a 4-1 victory over A. Green in a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League game played at Ford Field in Livonia.

Starting pitcher Tobey earned the win by scattering three hits and four walks over the first four-and-two-thirds innings. He struck out 12 and hit two.

Schmidtke picked up the save after retiring seven of the nine batters he faced.

The Rams led 3-0 after two frames before tacking on an insurance marker in the fourth.

James Hall was the lone Ram to rip a pair of hits, going 2-for-4 with a double and run scored. Anthony DiPonio chipped in with a clutch two-run single and Danny Kerr's only plate appearance resulted in a run-scoring double.

Jake Rhodes went 2-for-2 for A. Green, whose lone RBI was generated by Max Cadman's third-inning single.

Andrew Fabry suffered the mound setback and yielding four runs and eight hits in four innings.

On Monday, the Rams were stymied 9-2 by the Southfield Lightning, which



Michigan Ram infielder James Hall fires a runner out at first during a game earlier this summer.

outhit its hosts, 13-8.

Brendan Neevy was the winning pitcher thanks to six solid innings during which he struck out five and walked five.

DiPonio and Crain Wilson were the only Rams to collect two hits. Ryan James went 3-for-3 for the winners. The Rams are now 19-7-1.

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PIRATES

Continued from Page B1

with his good friend by his side has added a bonus layer of coolness to the situation, McDonald said.

"We were teammates and friends from the time we were 12 through high school, and then we played against one another in college (McDonald starred at Hillsdale College while Piechota excelled at Madonna University), so we've kind of come full circle," McDonald said.

"There were times when I'd go to a (Detroit) Tigers game when I was young and I'd imagine how it would feel to be out there, on the mound, and how I'd do. I still have some strides to make, obviously, to get to that point, but I'm going to work extremely hard to make the best out of this opportunity."

The first call McDonald made after soaking in the reality of his promotion was to his parents, Brian and Julie.

"It was the Fourth of July weekend, so they were at our cottage in Harrison, which is in northern Michigan," McDonald recounted. "The reception is pretty bad up there, so it took me a while to get a hold of them, so they were a little late to the party."

"But once I did get through, they put me on speaker phone and I told them the big news together. It was pretty exciting."

The 6-foot-1, 220-pound Piechota, who is the son of David and Helen Piechota, enjoyed a spectacular career at Madonna, where he compiled a 25-9 record. A mound mainstay during the Crusaders' sterling 41-17 2016 season, he finished with a 2.66 earned run average, striking out 78 batters and walking just 16 in 91 innings.

After excelling during a tryout for the USPBL, the hard-throwing right-hander immersed himself in the league's Delivery Value System program, a workout regimen that vastly improved his already-fearsome pitching arsenal.

"At Madonna, I was probably maxing out at about 87 (miles per hour) on my fast ball," he said. "Now, my fast ball is touching 92 and I'm hitting 88, 89 on a consistent basis."

"The DVS program includes strength-and-conditioning workouts and the guys who run it — Justin and Will — fix mechanical flaws in a pitcher's delivery."

The 6-foot-6 McDonald was a multifaceted standout at Hillsdale, hitting .348 with 14 home runs and 62 RBI his senior season, while setting the school record for saves in a season with 11.

Like Piechota, McDonald turned in a strong debut performance for the Pirates, scattering four hits without yielding a walk in three innings of relief on July 7.

"I'm kind of a late bloomer — I won't be 22 until October — so I think that's one of the reasons I was a little under the radar coming out of college," McDonald said. "I've put on about 40 pounds since high school, which has really helped my velocity."

"I pride myself on being focused on the mound, regardless of the situation. My college coaches worked a lot on the mental side of pitching."

SUNSHINE

Continued from Page B1

The big picture

As much as Connor, now 12, is thrilled about how his concept has exceeded original expectations, so are Plymouth football coaches and players — instrumental in Sunshines in that they are paired up as "buddies" with the special needs participants.

Connor's mom, Jen Sherman of Canton, also is over the moon about the reception his son and Sunshine's have received in the couple years since the youngster hatched his idea working on a school project.

"We are absolutely thrilled with how the clinic has progressed since 2014," she noted. "It has become an event that our family and the Plymouth football program really look forward to every summer."

According to Plymouth varsity assistant coach Brian Rochon, who has worked with Connor all three years of the clinic, the Sunshine's clinic helps teach players a rare opportunity to "see the larger picture of society and realize that no matter their (own) struggles there are always those less fortunate."

"The clinic has been awesome reinforcement of our program's message of selflessness, commitment and service and we have seen tangible benefits in our kids. It's something that we're extremely proud of and hope we can continue to be involved for years to come."

When Connor came up with his com-

munity project in 2014, Rochon and others with the football program "thought it sounded like a cool idea brought forth by a kid ... and we'd probably be able to help out with the football side of things."

"We had no idea it would grow to what it has become only three years later, with breathtaking benefits not only for the special needs kids who join us for a day, but the athletes at Plymouth as well."

Stepping up

Both Connor and Jen Sherman credited the Wildcats coaches and players for their unwavering time and support. Others in the community, including sponsors, also have stepped up to the philanthropic plate.

"The biggest motivator for me, though, is being able to provide a fun evening of football for children with special needs," said Connor, who also is a quarterback at Our Lady of Good Counsel. "Watching the participants and their buddies have a great time on the field is very rewarding."

Jen Sherman noted that Rochon and company "created an awesome structure in 2014 to ensure every participant is successful at each station at the clinic."

After working together with their football buddies at various stations for non-contact football drills (throwing, catching), Sunshine's participants "end the evening by running through the inflatable Wildcats head, tearing through a paper banner, and receiving a trophy," she continued.

Also rewarding is the feedback from parents, which is taken from "very

detailed registration forms," Jen Sherman explained.

"One of the questions we ask is to explain what their child is most looking forward about the clinic," she noted. "We share these responses with each child's high school football buddy. For example, last year a parent indicated that her child was most looking forward to kicking the football. Kicking is not a station at the clinic so we made sure his buddy worked with him on his kicking skills."

"Another parent shared with us that her child was most looking forward to climbing the bleachers at the clinic. Sure enough, the child and his buddy spent a good portion of the evening walking up and down the bleachers."

Certainly there will be more great moments and memories for all parties on July 29, a growing legacy that the Shermans and football team continue to nurture.

"Sunshine's Football Clinic has taught me that anyone can do anything if you have a dream and work hard to achieve it," Connor emphasized. "As I prepare to enter the seventh grade, I recognize firsthand the importance of being kind and showing compassion to others."

Sunshine's Football Clinic for Children with Special Needs will take place on Friday, July 29 from 6-8 p.m. on the varsity (turf) field at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. For additional information or to register, please visit www.sunshinesfootballclinic.org.

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HOWELL

Continued from Page B1

"Most of my rehab was during the summer. From May to September, when everybody else was home or taking classes, I was spending time rehabbing."

"Once we got to September, I had partial clearance to run with the team, but I still couldn't do everything."

The U-M coaches decided to withhold Howell from the 2016 indoor season and not rush her return to competition.

"I was still doing rehab and couldn't practice with the team fully," she said. "But watching the team indoors and seeing how great it was to win the championship got me excited for when I was able to compete again outdoors. It just carried through to the end of the Big Ten season."

Gradual rebuild

The seven events in the heptathlon are the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200 dash, long jump, javelin throw and 800 run.

Doing so many events, Howell had to work her way back into competitive form slowly.

"I could only focus on certain events," she said. "There were no jumps or throws until really late. I couldn't practice as much as I wanted but — the fact I was able to do it at all — I was happy."

"I focused a lot on trying to get my technique back with my running. A lot of times when you're coming back from an ACL injury, you run differently, so I had to focus on running properly. Early in the season, I did a lot of hurdling."

"I guess I had doubts, but I was confident I'd be able to come back stronger than I was before. I just tried to keep my head up the entire time."

Howell's collegiate bests in the heptathlon events are: hurdles, 13.70; high jump, 5-8½; shot put, 41-7¼; 200 dash, 26.19; long jump, 19-1½; javelin, 134-4; and 800, 2:20.79.

"I definitely made the most progress in my hurdles time," she said. "I think I can do a lot better in the high jump. I did 5-7 this year, which I don't think is too bad, coming off the injury and not having a lot of practice time. I know I can do better, and I'm expecting it this upcoming season."

Can be better yet

What makes Howell's Big Ten performance even more impressive is she's not yet 100 percent recovered. She continues to have other issues with her knees.

If not for that, a foul in the long jump and sub-par results in the high jump and 800, Howell might have qualified again for the NCAA meet, she said.

"I was super shocked and really

happy," she said about winning the Big Ten bronze. "I was shocked because I didn't think I competed my best in those three events."

"The fact I made it over 5,500 points shows I have a lot of potential and the ability to score a lot of points if I just get my performances all into one."

Stars in class, too

Howell also has a solid academic record and is a two-time selection for the All-Big Ten academic team.

She is working on a double major in international studies and sociology. She has studied Japanese for three years and is considering a minor in Asian languages.

If the next two years go well in track and field, Howell might think seriously about trying to make the 2020 U.S. Olympic team.

"I would love to do something like that," she said. "I think I have a bunch of potential. I just haven't been able to show it on the track just yet."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Familiar face takes reins of GC program

New coach Baker set to continue winning tradition

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Continuity shouldn't be an issue for the Garden City High School football program this fall in the wake of an abrupt head-coaching change.

Longtime assistant coach Jim Baker, who played football at Garden City and has coached there for over two decades, has succeeded Scott Murray, who resigned earlier this spring.

According to several sources, Taylor Kennedy head coach Paul Nappo was initially hired to replace Murray, however, he had a change of heart after meeting with the downriver-based team he has coached since 2013.

Baker emphasized that his familiarity with the current roster of players can only help the Cougars going forward.

"I've known most of these kids and



ED WRIGHT

Longtime assistant coach Jim Baker was named head coach for Garden City's varsity football program earlier this summer.

their families since they came in as freshmen," Baker said. "So, me knowing

them and vice versa helps because I got hired so late in the summer.

"I'm excited about this opportunity. I love working with kids and I love the district. I've had a great experience coaching in Garden City, and I'm honored to be able to continue.

"I've been coaching at some level in the program for 21 years. I've been the JV head coach, an assistant coach on the varsity; pretty much wherever they needed me. It's never easy changing coaches this close to the start of the season, but the kids have done a good job of making the most of the situation."

Baker, who coached the Cougars in a seven-on-seven tournament just a few days after he was named head coach, said he doesn't plan to change much as far as the offense goes, at least not right away.

"We're still going to run the veer like we did under Scott, and I'm going to add some spread elements to the offense as well," he said. "We have a returning starting quarterback, Kyle Becker, which helps. I didn't want to make

things too disruptive."

The cloud of uncertainty that developed over the program between the time Murray resigned and Baker was hired created a low level of anxiety, Baker said, but that has since evaporated.

"I think the returning players and their families were a little worried when there wasn't a head coach in place," Baker said. "You always want stability in place as the season approaches."

"People like Teddy Rize helped keep the weight-lifting program going during the past few months, so that was a tremendous help."

A network engineer for Hewlett-Packard, Baker praised his employer for allowing him to work the flexible hours that coaching high school football demand.

Baker's wife, Anne, is the Garden City varsity cheerleading coach. The Bakers have two daughters: Sydney and Mia.

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YOUTH SPORTS

Local golfers go low at Kensington Jr. Tour event

M.B. Dillon
Correspondent

John Reece Miller, 16, of Linden was the talk of the Kensington Junior Tour's Hudson Mills Open after scoring a hole-in-one on the 192-yard fourth hole in Dexter on Thursday.

No one was more surprised than Miller himself.

"Right off the tee, I knew I hit a great shot. I watched it roll. It just rolled. I thought it disappeared off the green," said Miller, an incoming junior at Lake Fenton High School. "It turned out to be in the hole. It feels pretty great, honestly."

Miller went on to shoot 88 for the round.

"It was really difficult to stay focused after that," he added. "I've been dealing with back problems; so I was really happy about today."

Kensington, now in its 11th year, is the leading affordable junior golf in southeast Michigan, hosting 27 tournaments in Livingston, Washtenaw, Oakland and, as of this summer, Wayne County. For a full tournament schedule, visit kensingtonjuniortour.com.

In an effort to support junior golf, the Livonia-based Dinan Foundation is offering five \$1,000 academic scholarships to 2016 high school graduates. Aug. 1 is the deadline for high school coaches to nominate their male/female student-athletes.

"The courses like having us, and the kids," Kensington Tour director Ethan Hawker said. "It's an introduction to entry-level competitive golf. The tour has expanded, and it's great for kids who want to play golf that's local, affordable and fun."

Shooting 79 and deadlocked for first in the boys' 15-18-year-old division at eight over par were George Rodopoulos of Taylor; Lucas DeRosia of Grass Lake, and Andrew Lack of Northville. Lack, who will be a junior at Novi Detroit Catholic Central, parred the playoff hole to capture the victory.

"I had a tough start today, but I picked it up on the back nine," said Lack, 16. "I had a couple of birdies on the back nine." Sudden death went like clockwork. "I hit a good drive, a good second shot and two-putted."

DeRosia said, "My first five holes were a little rough, but I finished pretty strong with a 40. On the back nine, I started with a bogey, birdie, bogey. I had a double (bogey) on one of the last holes and ended with two pars for a boring 79, but it felt good."

Rodopoulos said his strong suits were



SUBMITTED

Livonia residents Kendall Payne (left) and Madison Maurier finished 1-2 in their age division at Thursday's Kensington Junior Tour's Hudson Mills Open.



SUBMITTED

John Reece Miller registered a hole-in-one during Thursday's Kensington Junior Tour's Hudson Mills Open.

his putting and chipping. "I need to work on consistency and getting the ball out there. The playoff was brutal."

Kendall Payne, a 2016 graduate of Livonia Franklin, won the girls' 15-18-year-old division with an 86, followed by Madison Maurier, also of Livonia, who shot 90.

"I hit the ball pretty solid. I had a few unlucky breaks with trees and with hazards, but had a pretty good day," said Payne, who will compete for University of Detroit Mercy in the fall.

Payne was happy to win after placing second, despite shooting 79, at Kensington's recent Coyote Junior Open in South Lyon.

"I'm glad I won today. I like the Kensington Tour; there are a lot of great people," Payne said. "It's run very well. I like the pairings and how they run the tour. And I like the courses we play on."

Maurier, who will be a senior at Livonia Stevenson in the fall, said she started off okay, but a few mental mistakes off the tee hurt her.

"It didn't go super great, but I had some good shots," said Maurier, who shot 44 on the front nine and 46 on the back.

"I really like this course. It's easy to make mistakes and still have good shots to the green."

Vimal Alokam of Ypsilanti shot 81 to capture the boys' 12-14-year-old age division. A.J. Mitchell of Chelsea was runner-up with an 85.

Brian Tillman of Gregory celebrated his 10th birthday in sudden death with Vibhav Alokam, 9, of Ypsilanti, after the two tied for first in the 9-hole division with scores of 48. Alokam parred the playoff hole for the victory.

Tillman, with two playoffs already this season, was happy with his mid-range iron shots. "On the second hole, I hit my 8-iron and it went 6-7 feet away from the hole," Tillman said. "This course is cool. The greens are really fast."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wildcards softball

The 14-and-under South Farmington Wildcards softball team has tryouts planned for early August at Shiawassee Park, 32340 Shiawassee Road, Farmington.

The tryouts will be 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13 and 14.

Players should arrive 30 minutes beforehand to register. The team website is www.south-farmington-wildcards.com.

The Wildcards plan to start 10U and 12U teams, too. Anyone interested in coaching or helping should email sfbwildcards@gmail.com.

Clarenceville sale

The Clarenceville High School varsity cheer program's first Mom 2 Mom Sale is set for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at the high school.

The event is an opportunity to sell used infant and children's clothing, toys and equipment, as well as arts and crafts.

The proceeds will benefit the varsity cheer program. Sellers will keep 100 percent of their sales, however.

The cost of an 8-foot table is \$45 if registered by July 22. If you bring your own table, the fee is \$35 by that date. There is a limit of two adults per table.

For more information, contact Alexa Bean at 313-415-5041 or clarenceville-cheer@gmail.com.

Marlins need coach

Mercy High School is searching for a girls varsity ice hockey coach. Previous coaching experience is preferred.

Applicants should email a letter of intent and resume to Nancy Malinowski, athletic director, at nmmalinowski@mhsmi.org.

The Marlins are the defending Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 champions. Mercy is a member of the Catholic High School League, too.

St. Edith soccer sign-up

The St. Edith CYO soccer program is accepting registrations for the upcoming fall season.

The program is for girls and boys entering the fourth through eighth grades this fall and are members of the following Catholic parishes: St. Edith, St. Colette, St. Kenneth and St. Aidan.

To register, visit stedithcyo.com, click on the home tab, then the sports registration link and then choose soccer.

St. Edith also offers the little eagles freshman soccer program for boys and girls entering K through third grades on Saturday mornings for six weeks starting Sept. 10.

You can register for this program at stedithcyo.com, following the instructions listed above.

CYO practices and home games and all freshman events will take place at Ladywood High School.

Contact either Rich Field at 248-914-8620 or Ron Wollenweber at 248-444-2256 regarding either program. Questions can be emailed to stedithsoccer@gmail.com, too.

Blues hit all the right notes



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 14-and-under South Farmington Blues baseball team has compiled a remarkable record of 32-0 this season. The Blues have won every tournament attended and are in first place in the Kensington Valley Baseball Softball Association. They are listed 12th in the USSSA Michigan AA power rankings. The team members are (kneeling, left to right) Tommy Walsh, Nick Pearen, Jake Swirple, Jake Kelbert, Eric Johnson, Jake Powers, (standing, left to right) manager Chris Kelbert, Parker Kent, Jake Szumlanski, Gunnar Lombard, Nolan Mohr, Ben Ward, Greg Wiacek, coach Eric Johnson and coach Jim Pearen.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Email event information for this calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

JULY CAR SHOW

Time/Date: Noon-5 p.m., Sunday, July 17

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, off 12 Mile near Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills

Details: Free admission for those viewing the cars. Event will include music, 50/50 raffle and refreshments will be available. Proceeds will benefit Another Way Pregnancy Center

Contact: Ron Donoghue at 248-892-7201 or email at rondonoghue@yahoo.com

COMMONGROUND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, July 22

Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Women and girls, 12 and over, from more than 30 churches will gather for worship to live music and an after party with appetizers, a coffee and cocoa bar and giveaways. The outreach focus for the event is Grace's Table, an organization that works with teen mothers and their children. Lisa Anderson, founder, will be the guest speaker. CommonGround will collect diapers, sizes 2-6, refill packages of moist wipes, \$10 Meijer gas cards and \$10 Starbucks gift cards, for donation to Grace's Table

Contact: 734-397-1777

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Saturday, July 30

Location: Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Road, Highland

Details: The Paradise Band, Elvis Lives and The Soulmen perform in an outdoor concert. \$15 advance tickets; \$20 at the door

Contact: 248-887-5364; holyspiritconcert.ezevent.com

FILM

Time/Date: 6:45 p.m. Friday, July 29

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: See the movie, "Field of Dreams" and have a dinner of ballpark food

Contact: 248-553-3380

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 23

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Laverne, Redford

Details: Free Christian music festival with Wise 4 Salvation, 11 a.m.; REIGN, noon; Reggie Williams, 1 p.m.; Redemption Road, 2 p.m.; Krymsyn Grayce, 3 p.m.; Second Day Story, 4 p.m.; The Well House Band, 5 p.m.; and Veracity, 6 p.m. Crafters and vendors will be on site from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift drawings will be held at 3 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket

Contact: 313-937-2424; hosannatabor.org

OLYMPICS

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. July 25-28

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: A mini-Olympics camp aimed at boys and girls, ages 5-12, will include volleyball, relays, field hockey and water games. \$15 per student includes instruction, equipment and

snacks

Contact: christoursavior.org; 734-522-6830

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Monday, July 25, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, July 26-27

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Admission to Monday sale is \$2; bag sale on cloth items and half-off all other items on Wednesday

Contact: 734-427-2290

SCHOOL TOURS

Time/Date: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., July 20 and July 27

Location: St. Michael Catholic School, 11311 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: The tours, led by students and teachers, are for prospective new students and their families

Contact: 734-261-1455, xt. 225; livoniastmichael.org

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Time/Date: 6 p.m. July 20

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Menu includes spaghetti, salad, rolls and dessert. Donations will be accepted at the door and will benefit a Livonia family in need

Contact: Melissa at 734-765-1827 or Angela at 313-377-0840

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-noon, July 25-29

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: "Barnyard Roundup" is open to children in preschool (potty-trained) through fifth grade. There is a fee with family discount available

Contact: mrslizparrott@yahoo.com or 248-553-3380

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 17

Location: St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: The peer support group will attend Mass and gather for a potluck luncheon

Contact: 734-895-6246 or 734-452-9149

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, through Aug. 21

Location: Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse grounds, located at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads, Canton

Details: St. Michael Lutheran Church holds outdoor services with childcare provided

Contact: 734-459-3333, connectingwithGod.org

AUGUST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 1-5

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: "Surf Shack - Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love," is the theme for the program, which is for youngsters in preschool through sixth grade. Preschoolers must be potty trained. Includes songs, crafts, games, science, Bible stories, snacks and more. Cost is \$10 per child with a \$25 maximum per family

Contact: Judy Cook at 248-442-8822; judy@emmanuel-livonia.org

YOUTH SOCCER

Time/Date: 1:30-3 p.m., Aug. 15-19

Location: Crossroads Church/Trinity Church Grounds, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Soccer camp for boys and girls ages 5 and up, any skill level. \$25 per student; non-refundable. Includes water bottle, instruction, snacks. Register at www.crossroad-snow.org

Contact: info@crossroad-snow.org, or Pastor Steve at 248-890-5718

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: "Drop In & Learn," which runs year-round, features lectures on DVD on Jewish history, culture, philosophy, and related topics, followed by brief informal discussion. No charge, no reservations required

Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931; nancyelen879@att.net

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

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.

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.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile 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

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibromyalgia.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A twice-monthly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts), Thursday

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.

Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month

Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit

Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five

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Be prepared for a tough work evaluation

BY MARY LORENZ
 CAREERBUILDER

If there's one thing most people can agree on, it's this: Performance reviews are the worst. But much like taxes and death, performance reviews are unavoidable. As stressful as they can be, they're even more anxiety-inducing if you think you're going to receive a negative one.

When that's the case, take comfort in knowing that almost everyone has had a bad performance review at some point. But it doesn't have to be your undoing. The key to survival is preparing yourself well ahead of time. Use these expert tips to go into your next performance review confident and ready.

Try to stay objective. Ask yourself why you're expecting a bad review. "Often, perfectionists and high achievers are more critical of their own work than their managers are, which sets them up to be unnecessarily stressed and anxious about the conversation," says Jared Simmons of Outlast Consulting. He recommends asking peers for feedback beforehand to see if they've noticed any behaviors worthy of a poor evaluation.

Stick to the facts. During the discussion, try to keep the



THINKSTOCK

conversation as fact-based as possible on both sides, Simmons says. If your boss brings up the subject of poor performance, ask for specific situations when he or she observed such behavior. If you disagree with your boss's assessment, have examples ready to show why.

Own your mistakes. If you know you performed poorly, avoid making excuses or

denying it, says Nancy Cattle, a consultant and career coach with 30 years of experience. Instead, try to explain, which will show that you are self-aware and know what it takes to move forward. "The manager wants you to see why the work was poor and wants to hear that you are committed to improve," Cattle says.

Have a plan. "The single most important tool you can

bring (to a review) is a plan for improvement," says Erica McCurdy, a certified business coach and managing member of McCurdy Life Coach. If you know you made mistakes or were less productive than normal during the evaluation period, come armed with solutions to help you do better. "This shows that you recognize that there are issues and are actively working to make positive changes."

Ask for regular feedback. Make performance part of an ongoing dialogue with your manager. Start having regular check-ins that are independent of the formal review. "That way, there are no surprises, and you can get the feedback you need to demonstrate improvement before the manager has to begin the formal review process," Simmons says. Not only will that ensure a better review the next time around, it will establish trust and build a stronger relationship with your boss overall.

Don't take it personally. Remember that nobody is perfect. "We all have items that we need to work on, so don't take it personally when yours surface during a review," says Mike Solow, CEO of Idea Harvest, which helps entrepreneurs build their businesses. Instead of viewing a bad evaluation as a setback, look at it as an opportunity to regroup and start fresh. "Own your mistakes and opportunities to improve just as you would own your victories. Then focus on how to improve," he says.

Mary Lorenz is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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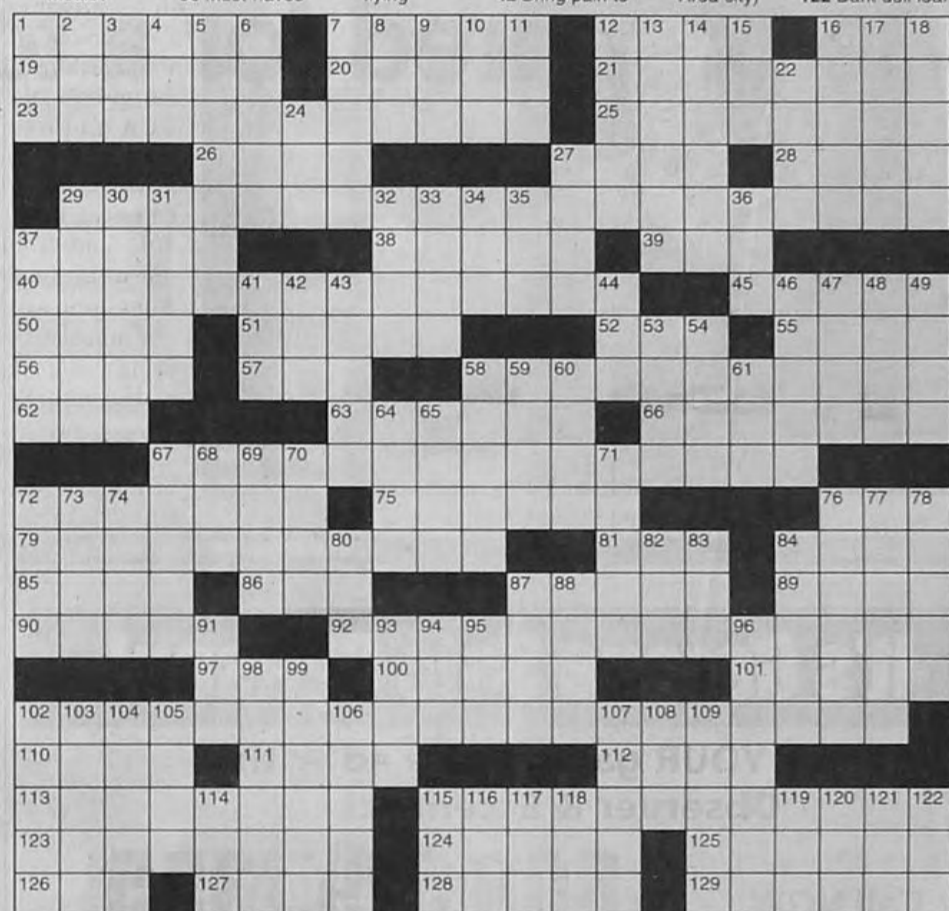
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 - 7 Slyly spiteful
 - 12 The "E" of NEA; Abbr.
 - 16 "Huik" director — Lee
 - 19 R&B singer Keys
 - 20 Degrade
 - 21 Bite-size Nabisco treat
 - 23 Actress Swank comes next?
 - 25 "That's been canceled"
 - 26 Large truck
 - 27 Singer — James
 - 28 Sign of good or ill
 - 29 Disobeys established rules on how to make and serve meat sauce?
 - 37 Shaped like a bagel
 - 38 "What —!" ("How dull!")
 - 39 Ship locale
 - 40 Donkey serving morning meals?
 - 45 Biblical land with a queen
 - 50 "Say it — so, Joel!"
 - 51 Cuts into small cubes
 - 52 Chi preceder
 - 55 Landfill woe
 - 56 Classic autos
 - 57 Made in the manner of
 - 58 Hairdo for folks going after prey?
 - 62 Detroit-to-Nashville dir.
 - 63 "Mr. —" (1983 hit for Styx)
 - 66 Ropy
 - 67 Sun blockers worn while on vacation?
 - 72 Ireland's longest river
 - 75 Events for bulldoggers
 - 76 Cut grass
 - 79 Business that makes flag holders?
 - 81 Join together
 - 84 Lion growth
 - 85 "— further review ..."
 - 86 Grassy area
 - 87 In harmony
 - 89 Met solo
 - 90 Must-haves
 - 92 Positively charged atom moving very quickly?
 - 97 One may shout "Out!"
 - 100 British types
 - 101 Is defined as
 - 102 Groups with no university teachers as members?
 - 110 Sector
 - 111 Hipsters' talk
 - 112 Roman poet
 - 113 Shrink
 - 115 Thing influencing the decision to use whitewash?
 - 123 Aardvark lookalike
 - 124 Bring to mind
 - 125 Bit of ado
 - 126 Part of UCLA
 - 127 Ship's left
 - 128 Keyed in
 - 129 Biting writing
- DOWN**
- 1 Rally cheer
 - 2 — Lilly
 - 3 Wheaton of TV and film
 - 4 Blu-ray player brand
 - 5 Ill from flying
 - 6 Check endorser
 - 7 "Pipe down!"
 - 8 Crunchable muscles
 - 9 Upsilon preceder
 - 10 Mao — tung
 - 11 "It's true"
 - 12 Gives forth
 - 13 Quaint paper copies
 - 14 Hazardous
 - 15 Org. in "Homeland"
 - 16 Eatery lure
 - 17 Israeli desert
 - 18 Stupid or thuggish
 - 22 — about (circa)
 - 24 Mime duo?
 - 27 Fancy jug
 - 29 Fishing rowboats
 - 30 Before this time, to bards
 - 31 Royal decrees
 - 32 Abhorrence
 - 33 Fades away
 - 34 Coach Holtz
 - 35 Part of ETA; Abbr.
 - 36 Sedan liquid
 - 37 Some ski lifts
 - 41 Rx org.
 - 42 Bring pain to
 - 43 Neck cover
 - 44 Make a pick
 - 46 Neighbors of Navajos
 - 47 Ideal garden
 - 48 Tennis' Björn
 - 49 Military force
 - 53 Cat sound
 - 54 Really liking
 - 58 "Hiya"
 - 59 — Reader (alternative magazine)
 - 60 De — (anew)
 - 61 Cur's sound
 - 64 Other, to Tomás
 - 65 Great asset
 - 67 Sideways up
 - 68 Dad's bro
 - 69 Wrench, e.g.
 - 70 "This one's —" ("I'll buy")
 - 71 "The battle —"
 - 72 Related
 - 73 Expect
 - 74 Emollient plant
 - 76 "Maid" of Robin Hood
 - 77 Kin of leeks
 - 78 Gets off the bottle
 - 80 Faux follower
 - 82 H.S. class
 - 83 Winter mo.
 - 84 San — (Bay Area city)
 - 87 Yemen city
 - 88 "Of course, Señor!"
 - 91 Spanish for "south"
 - 93 Skin feature
 - 94 Grade A item
 - 95 Slice of history
 - 96 "Star Wars" queen
 - 98 Rum cocktail
 - 99 Xanax maker
 - 102 Tennis' Rafael
 - 103 Maine university city
 - 104 Pond creatures
 - 105 Window part
 - 106 Open to view
 - 107 Divided into districts
 - 108 Batting stat
 - 109 Slight fights
 - 114 Enervate
 - 115 "— me go!"
 - 116 It climbs walls
 - 117 Do a floor job
 - 118 "I Like —" (50s slogan)
 - 119 Abridge
 - 120 Angle lead-in
 - 121 Bobby of the rink
 - 122 Dark deli loaf



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

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. 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 provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE WORD SEARCH

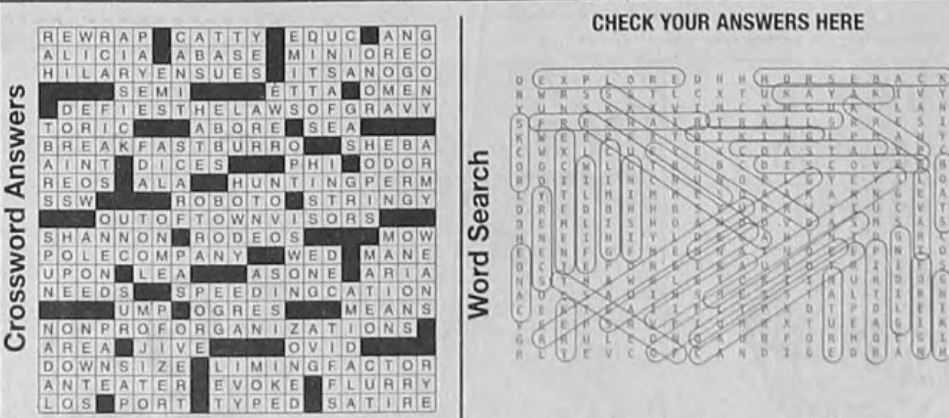
O E X P L O R E D H H H O R S E B A C K
 R W R S S S T L C X T U K A Y A K I V Y
 Y U N S K H X V I M C Y M G U K L L A N
 S F R E S H A I R T R A I L S R R E S I
 K W E E R F X T B I K I N G L P M A W Y
 C W X L C U F Y E X C O A S T A L V P C
 O G C W L G T R S B C D I S C O V E R B
 R D I I I N C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

WORDS

- ADVENTURE
- BIKING
- BOATS
- CAMPSITE
- CANOE
- CLIMBING
- COASTAL
- DISCOVER
- EXCITEMENT
- EXPLORE
- FISHING
- FOREIGN
- FOREST
- FRESH AIR
- GARDEN
- GLIDING
- HIKING
- HORSEBACK
- KAYAK
- MOUNTAINS
- NATURE
- OUTSIDE
- PARK
- ROAD TRIP
- ROCKS
- SAILING
- SCENERY
- SKATEBOARD
- SNORKELING
- SURF
- TRAILS
- TRAVEL
- TREK
- UNDERWATER
- VISTA
- WILDLIFE

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Crossword Answers

Word Search



Car Report

So Far, So Good: Americans Buy New Chrysler Pacifica As They Embrace "Dad Brand" Campaign That Hits the Mark



By Dale Buss

If Olivier Francois weren't so good at deciphering American pop culture even though he's a Frenchman working for an Italian company, Fiat Chrysler, Louis C.K. may have been flacking the new Pacifica minivan instead of fellow comic Jim Gaffigan. And that wouldn't have been a good thing.

Instead of Gaffigan and his wholesome reputation highlighting some of the 100-plus new features in the crucial Chrysler people mover -- with his actual wife and five children as good-natured sidekicks to his family-centered humor -- Francois considered other comics to become the "Pacifica

dad." C.K. is "another guy I really loved" after Francois auditioned a series of comedians via their videos on YouTube to select a spokesman for the model, the FCA chief marketing officer told me.

But after watching one or two of the Pacifica commercials starring Gaffigan and his brood, it's easy to see that Francois made the right choice. Gaffigan cleverly advances his "Dad Brand" in the ads that show him taking advantage of Pacifica offerings such as self-parking and HD video screens for the kids.

Yet Gaffigan wears his ego on his heart, and there are no hard edges to the man who rose to B-list fame with routines about Hot Pockets and with a persona as "the clean comic," before his career took off recently with his own sitcom on TV Land and a star turn as Colonel Sanders in the KFC ads.

With Louis C.K., who similarly starred in an eponymous show, Louie on FX, viewers of Pacifica commercials would have been distracted by trying to figure out why FCA hired the ribald and often raunchy standup artist to pitch a minivan to them, and by wondering whether they were going to witness a C.K. putdown of the soccer moms who legendarily drive the vehicles that created this segment.

"I wasn't really familiar" with Gaffigan in the beginning, Francois said. But after his YouTube viewing binge, "I said, 'Gaffigan is my man.'"

"And that was before I realized he happened to be the father of five kids, all of whom are young, from three to 12 years old, which is typical of minivan buyers. He and his wife are partners in life and in business, and if you count them that's seven seats. They have to have a minivan even if they don't buy mine."

Of course, it's not the first time Francois's reading of the American zeitgeist has paid dividends for FCA and its brands. It was his idea, for example, to feature in the now-iconic "Born of Fire" ad by Chrysler during the Super Bowl in 2011; and Bob Dylan appeared in one of the company's subsequent Big Game ads.

Francois also blessed the idea of using an old recording of legendary radio man Paul Harvey in yet another successful Super Bowl ad, "The Farmer," for Ram trucks, and he nodded to harnessing the zany comedic talents of Will Ferrell in



The all-new Chrysler Pacific minivan.

a series of ads for a new version of the Dodge Durango a couple of years ago.

But marketing Pacifica posed a unique challenge. "Americans have a lot of temptations these days when it comes to vehicles with three rows," Francois observed. "And we realized that we were not going to sell our new minivan based just on emotions or on timeless truths about families. We were going to win the pitch based on features. We needed a twist and to be engaging, as well as credible and relevant."

So Francois concluded that FCA needed to "be real, using real live language, real families, and a real dad or mom -- but maybe a dad, because he would be more intriguing by challenging the old paradigm of the soccer mom and the minivan."

When FCA's agency suggested recruiting Gaffigan for the role, Francois "wasn't really familiar

with him." But then the CMO did his YouTube homework and came away believing that "there's nothing more real than the Gaffigan family."

In fact, Gaffigan offered up the idea of using his own family in the commercials "before we even had to ask," Francois said.

Authenticity would be crucial to positioning Pacifica as a new kind of minivan that should be considered even by those who otherwise would be inclined to turn up their noses at the entire segment.

It was important for Francois to have a wide variety of winning moments from Gaffigan in part, he said, because FCA has been flooding the airwaves with ads for the model. "This is a really important launch," the CMO said.

So far, so good: Pacifica notched 7,200 sales in June, beating out the Town & Country model that it soon will replace.



Jim Gaffigan doing standup.

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