

CANTON OBSERVER

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Charcuterie: 'Heart and soul' of cooking
Food, A4

Bridge inspection results due in May

Lilley Road remains closed due to deteriorating span

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Wayne County is expected by mid-May to have inspection results of a deteriorating Canton bridge that was closed

abruptly April 20 amid safety concerns.

As officials await those findings, the 84-year-old bridge, on Lilley Road north of Michigan Avenue, remains closed with no estimate of

when it might reopen, county spokeswoman Kaye Byrd said.

The closure has disrupted traffic patterns for Canton residents who live in subdivisions such as Canton Hills, immediately north of the bridge. The county shut down the bridge after a routine inspection found potential safety

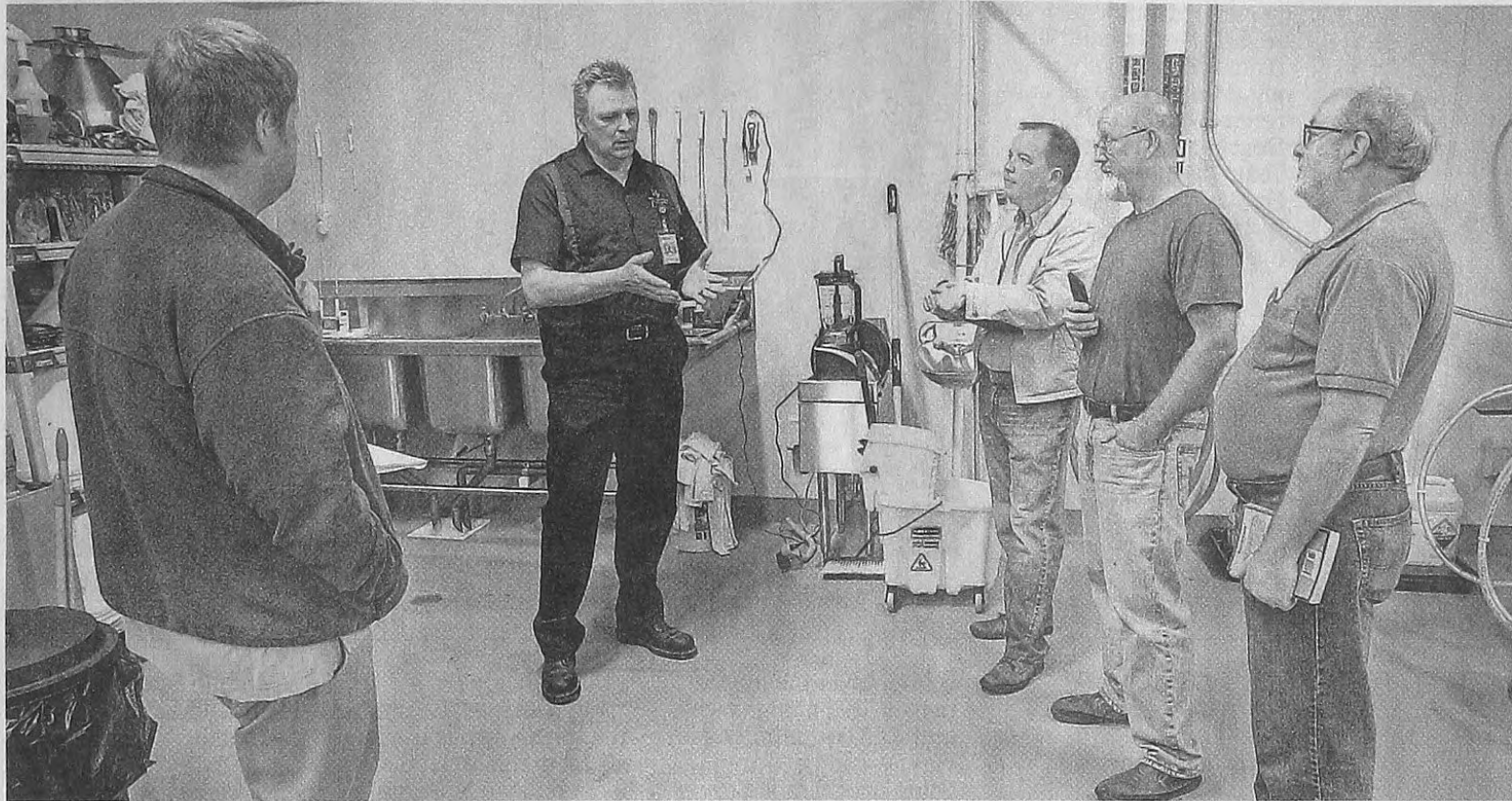
hazards.

"We close bridges as needed for further inspection to ensure safety and always err on the side of caution," Wayne County Public Services Director Beverly Watts said in a statement released Monday. "Sometimes that action results in weight restrictions, other

times it results in partial closures and, in some cases, we need to completely close the road or bridge to traffic for repairs.

"In any scenario," she added, "we do our best to open the road to motorists as soon as

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brewing and Distillation Technology faculty member Rich Weinkauff offers advice to team members David Veselenak, Phil Allmen, Dan Dean and Bill Emerick.

Score one for the alliance

P-CEP team captures robotics world title

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

In battle, it's all about who's fighting by your side.

Over the weekend in St. Louis, Mo., Plymouth-Canton's FIRST Lightning Robotics Team 862's foxhole was filled with winners.

Team 862, making its 15th trip to the FIRST Robotics world championships, combined with three other teams in its alliance and captured its first career world championship, topping a field of more than 400 teams.

With Team 862's robot, Valkyrie, running gears like a champ and the other three alliances doing what they do best, the four-team alliance — Team 862, Team 2767-Stryke Force from Kalamazoo, Team 254-The Cheesy Poofs from San Jose, Calif., and Team 1676-The Pascack Pioneers of Montvale, N.J. — the alliance was able to capture gold.

The Cheesy Poofs have won the world title before; it was a first for the other three alliance members.

"We have one of the best gear running robots ... so we were very good at delivering gears to the Air Ship," said Jay Obsniuk, faculty adviser to the robotics team. "We were fast and dependable. For the end game, we never missed climbing the rope, which was a 50-point score. There were a lot of teams that struggled at this. We were a very dependable robot, doing what we could do 100 percent of the time and very reliable."

It would have been easy for the team to falter. After all, it had lost in the semifinals in three previous competitions, including the Michigan state competition. Then, at the Michigan state championships, Valkyrie lost its bell pan. Competition rules say teams can't work on their robots except in competition, so Team 862 had to wait until it got to St. Louis to make repairs.

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BIG EVENT A TOAST TO HOME BREWING

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Get out those hops.

The annual Big Brew for National Homebrew Day returns Saturday to downtown Milford, with dozens expected to come out and brew hundreds of gallons of beer. The event is one of many local sites for the event, which is taking place across 48 states. The event had more than 12,000 participants nationwide in 2016.

Teams will gather beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot at River's Edge Brewing Co., 125 S. Main, Suite 400. There, teams will begin brewing beer that will be tasted June 28 and judged in several categories by judges from the Beer Judge Certification Program, as well as a People's Choice award.

The event is free for those looking to come and chat with participants and there will be live music and food available from Barlowe's BBQ.

Isaac Perry said the event

IF YOU GO

What: Big Brew for National Homebrew Day

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

Where: River's Edge Brewing Co., 125 S. Main St., Suite 400, Milford

INSIDE

Get the Scoop on worts at Big Brew, A3

has grown substantially in recent years, beginning with only seven home brewers. This year, the event is expected to draw almost three times that.

"I'm super-excited. I think we're going to be over 20 brewers," said Perry, a teacher at Lakeland High School in White Lake and contributor to the Michigan Beer Guide. "I think on top of that, we've got a food truck, we've got live music."

One team that will be a part of the event will be several members of the Observer & Eccentric's editorial depart-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill Emerick, wearing the brew team shirt.

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Volume 42 • Number 92

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ROBOTICS

Continued from Page A1

The team missed a practice match Thursday night, then lost four close matches Friday — “The robot was fine, but things just didn’t go our way,” Obsniuk said — but managed enough qualifying points to continue. It won four matches (though it lost a replay of one of them) and, with a robot in good shape and showing what it could do, Team 862 was chosen for the finals alliance.

Team leaders agreed being picked by the right alliance was a key.

“I just think altogether we were just a really good robot and we were picked by an amazing alliance,” said Canton High School senior Jerry Nicklas, who was part of

the team’s electrical subgroup. “We had great chemistry. Cheesy Poofs and Stryke Force were really good shooters and we were primarily a gear robot, so that expanded our chances.”

With all the trials and adversity, it would have been easy for the students to fold. But a funny thing happened on the way to the title: they bonded.

“You could tell they were frustrated, but with some motivational speeches and the fact that they are great kids, they never got down,” Obsniuk said. “They tried harder, were even more determined, full of spirit, dancing, cheering and getting to know the over 30,000 other students there, learning from other teams and becoming a very solid team.”

“It showed on Sat-

urday, during the subdivision matches. The robot preformed great and the students even preformed better,” he added. “Leading cheers, firing up the drive team and working with the other students on the other teams to help win the matches.”

Salem High School senior Josh Markey, a member of the fabrication subgroup, was experiencing the world championship competition for the first time.

He called the frenetic pace — the team competed 12 times in two days — “amazing.”

“The three or four days went by in a blur ... everyday was fun,” Markey said. “It was insane to watch us plan 12 matches in two days. It was awesome.”

Not only did the competition yield a world championship for Team 862, but several of its members won individual honors. Obsniuk said seniors won scholarships from schools like Kettering, Michigan Tech, Lawrence Tech and UM-Dearborn, among others. Team president Allison Hurley won scholarships from Kettering and from the Bosch Corp.

“The students never got down, they worked hard on strategy, kept the robot in top condition and talked to the other teams. And they did it on maybe four or five hours of sleep every night,” Obsniuk said. “The kids were fantastic.”

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TEAM 862

The smiles — and the really large banner — say it all as Team 862 members Vivian Clements, Tyler Harris, Nick Stovevich, Luke Fenstermacher and Abby Morningstar celebrate winning the world championship over the weekend in St. Louis, Mo.



TEAM 862

Lighting Team 862 from Plymouth-Canton with Valkyrie.

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates

Newsstand price: \$1.50 Sunday
\$5.00 EZ pay per month
\$32.50 six months
\$65.00 per year
\$45.50 six months mail delivery
\$91.00 per year mail delivery

Home Delivery

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
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BRIDGE

Continued from Page A1

possible once any potential issues have been addressed.”
County road crews

conduct routine inspections of 232 bridges within the 43 communities in Wayne County. That ongoing program led to the Lilley Road bridge closure.

Canton Public Works Manager Bob Belair has

said the bridge is in “rough shape.” He said the township has used social media to help alert local residents and motorists of the situation.

For now, motorists still can access places along Lilley Road from

Michigan Avenue to the south and Palmer Road to the north.


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Phil Allmen, Bill Emerick, Bill Bresler, David Veselenak, adviser Rich Weinkauff and Dan Dean.

Get the Scoop on worts at Big Brew

Dan Dean
hometownlife.com

Have you ever wondered how to chill a wort or pitch yeast?

We are not talking ugly growths or fantasy baseball, but beer brewing.

The surge in craft breweries is a boon for beer lovers and it has also fueled a spike in home brewing. And this Saturday, home brewers take center stage as thousands participate in the worldwide celebration of National Homebrew Day.

If you have ever thought of making your own beer or just want to grow your understanding of all the choices available at your local beer store of brewpub, come join us at River's Edge Brewing Co. in Milford.

A team from hometownlife.com (photographer Bill Bresler, consumer audience manager, Phil Allmen, reporter David Veselenak and copy editor Bill Emerick)

will be firing up a batch of NewsHound Ale.

Don't know what NewsHound Ale is? Well — neither do we. But we liked the name and the logo. We are hoping our "coach" (ringer) Jeff Rankert will come up with something really tasty. Rankert definitely knows his way around a glass carboy and fermenter, having brewed his first batch some 25 years ago. He is also a Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) national judge and American Homebrewers Association (AHA) governing committee member.

From pros to complete amateurs like us, Big Brew Day at River's Edge is a celebration of the art of beer brewing. Held each year the first Saturday in May, Big Brew was created by the AHA as an annual, worldwide celebration of National Homebrew Day.

If you need more incentive than either brewing or simply walking

around and talking beer with talented brewers (not us — we are talented, just not at beer brewing, yet), participants will stop at 1 p.m. to take part in a nationwide toast, designed to happen at the same time across the country with other Big Brew events. If you can't make it to River's Edge at 1 p.m., look for our live feed on Facebook to join in the toast from where ever you are at that time.

This just in: Rumor has it NewsHound Ale could be a cream ale, possibly with a hint of coffee flavoring. But the only way to get the Scoop is to come join us.

Dan Dean is not head brew master of anything, but leader of this ragtag group. Send him your thoughts at ddean@hometownlife.com. Follow our beer making story on Instagram and Twitter and look for our Facebook live feed during the event.

BEER

Continued from Page A1

ment. Milford resident Jeff Rankert, a member of the American Homebrewers Association, will serve as the O&E's coach.

Rankert, an avid home brewer for several decades, said the hobby has seen some big growth in recent years, especially from those in the millennial generation.

"The state of home brewing went through explosive growth within the last four or five years," he said. "What

(the Big Brew event) does is it gives a venue where people who don't brew can come and view and observe."

In addition to the brewing throughout the day, participants will stop at 1 p.m. to take part in a nationwide toast, designed to happen at the same time across the country with other Big Brew events.

Brewers who are participating in Milford's event will receive items such as 2-row base malt and PB Toast specialty malt, donated by Pilot Malt House of Byron Center, as well as Cascade, Chinook and Tahoe

ma hops provided by Top Hops Farms of Goodrich. A new part of the event this year is the addition of a "secret box" of ingredients that several professional brewers will be able to use in their brews that day. Representatives from breweries such as River's Edge, Draught Horse Brewery in New Hudson, Drafting Table Brewery in Wixom, Kickstand Brewing Co. in Commerce Township and soon-to-open Hop Buds of Flint are expected to participate.

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Canton resident earns national volunteer award from Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of South-eastern Michigan announced a Canton resident received a national volunteer award at its National Volunteer Awards banquet held this month at the San Marino Club in Troy. Individuals who earn these awards demonstrate exceptional dedication and service as Girl Scouts volunteers.

Barbara Smith received the Volunteer of Excellence Award and is a dedicated member of her Girl Scout community with a passion for making Girl Scouting available to more girls. As a troop organizer, she established multiple troops at St Mary's of Wayne. As a troop organizer coach, Smith supports other volunteers and expands opportunities to girls throughout



Smith

her district.

"I am so excited to have honored more than 100 of our dedicated volunteers this year," said Denise Dalrymple, CEO of GSSEM. "Without our volunteers' commitment of their time and talents, we would not be able to help nearly as many girls

discover new interests, abilities and passions that help to build girls' leadership skills and prepare them to positively impact their communities. Volunteers really are the life's blood of a girl's Scouting experience."

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Charcuterie: 'Heart and soul' of cooking

Joanne Maliszewski
hometownlife.com

Charcuterie. You certainly won't find it on all restaurant menus. And you may have never ordered it as a charcuterie plate. But it's likely nothing boosts the craft of cooking more.

The dictionary has a simple definition: the salting, smoking and curing of meats — a craft developed long before refrigeration.

But nationally renowned and award-winning chef Brian Polcyn calls charcuterie the "heart and soul" of cooking.

"It is the deepest, most soulful (thing) in a kitchen," added the certified executive chef and instructor at Schoolcraft College. "It is the craft of preserving food."

To better understand, think of salami, prosciutto, ham, pate and sausage. "I use everything but the sink," he said. "We take the less-expensive and underutilized meats and make charcuterie."

Last Friday, Polcyn stood watch as his charcuterie students completed their hands-on final exam. He pointed to one student and said he had told her he was taking home her creation for dinner. It was that good. "We respect food," he said. "We don't waste anything. We do whole animal butchery."

Charcuterie is one of the rotations students participate in during Schoolcraft's culinary program. And by far, it is not the easiest. "This level of cooking is science," Polcyn said. "We teach critical thinking skills here. We don't teach recipes."

Charcuterie requires knowledge of the uses of bacteria to cure meat, so it does not have to be refrigerated. Time and temperature are paramount in preparing charcuterie. But salt is king. Salami, for example, requires low temperature cooking and needs to cure, losing all water in the meat. Salt does that job. "It is the powerful ingredient in the kitchen," Polcyn said.

When you order charcuterie at a restaurant, you will receive a plate full of cured, salted meats, including cured sausages and salamis, cured poke and beef, as well as pate and, likely, cheeses. On average, a charcuterie board will cost about \$14 for two people. It is usually served as an appetizer.

A master charcuterie chef, Polcyn said he never stops learning. "I always practice charcuterie," he said. "You



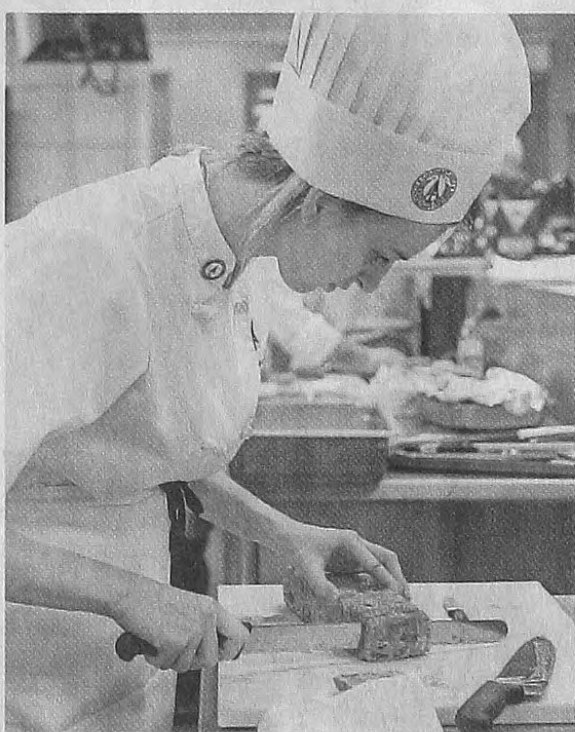
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's the last day of class and students work on their final assignment, watched by chef Brian Polcyn.



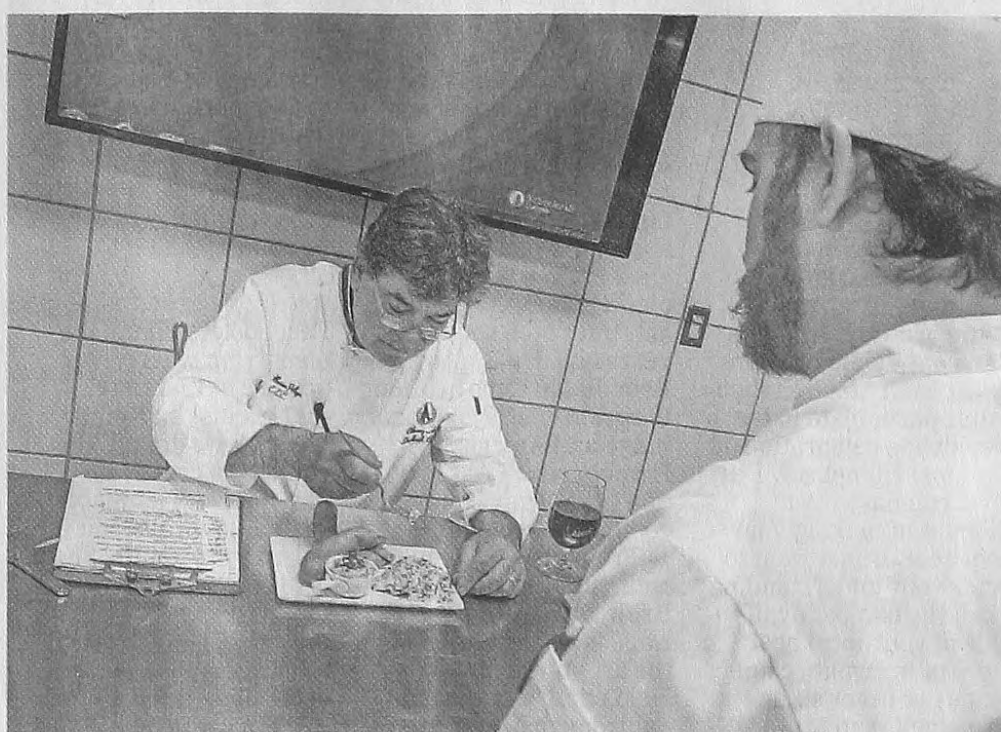
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeffrey Adams prepared smoked bratwurst, shrimp pate and potato salad for the final exam in chef Brian Polcyn's class.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kelsey Bylski slices her pork terrine.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Polcyn critiques Jeffrey Adams's smoked bratwurst, potato salad, salmon and shrimp pate.

always have to be evolving."

Evolving describes Polcyn, The father of five children with his wife Julie, Polcyn has owned six restaurants — all award-winning — including Pike Street and Chimayo in Pontiac; the Acadia in Auburn Hills; Five Lakes Grille in Milford, which he later turned into Cinco Lagos; and Forest Grill in Birmingham.

"The restaurant business is volatile," Polcyn said, adding he sold them all. It's true: the

restaurant business is day and night seven days a week and then you start all over again for the coming week.

"It's like being a star athlete," Polcyn said, adding that the 20-year-old athlete has a tougher time when he becomes the 40-year-old athlete.

His culinary resume includes the now-closed Golden Mushroom and the Lark in West Bloomfield. Then came his restaurants, before he joined Schoolcraft College full

time.

Whether you are a charcuterie lover or not, Polcyn's name is likely familiar: He was a focus in journalist Michael Ruhlman's "The Soul of a Chef: The Journey Toward Perfection" and co-authored, with Ruhlman, "charcuterie: The Craft of Salting, Smoking and Curing." The book was nominated for a James Beard Foundation Book Award in 2006.

The James Beard Foundation made Polcyn one of five

nominees for Best Chef in the Midwest in 2006, one of many accolades received in his career. Meanwhile, Polcyn has also launched a seminar series on charcuterie, which draws chefs worldwide.

Two well-known French chefs arrived in New York City for his class. "They wanted validation," he said.

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For self-taught Mary Spencer, it's about home cooking

Joanne Maliszewski
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Mary Spencer doesn't call herself a chef. She is a self-taught cook and loves it so much she has spent the last couple of decades teaching others.

"I have been cooking for 35-plus years. I just love it. I was actually a legal secretary for 15 years," said Spencer, owner of Taste: A Cook's Place in the Village Workshop in Northville.

The move to cooking and teaching began about 20 years ago, when Northville Parks and Recreation had her teach a cooking class as a fundraiser. "I realized then that is what I love to do," she said. "I wanted to be a full-time instructor."

That desire led her to a variety of stops along her cooking career. They included Kitchen Witch, Kitchen Glamour and Scotty's Kitchen in Northville. For almost two years, Spencer also taught at Epiphany Kitchens. Finally, she decided to master her own place — Taste: A Cook's Place.

So far, so good. Still in the process of establishing a cafe within her new space at the Village Workshop, Spencer offers a plethora of classes, each with a theme. A recent Monday, Spencer's class bore the theme, Meatless Monday: Sheet Pan Suppers. The meal included sheet pan fried rice,

roasted corn, asparagus and spring onion salad with fresh mozzarella, portobello mushroom Parmesan with herbed summer squash — for starters.

Wednesday's meal this week was Korean fare: kimchi pancakes, broccoli, mushroom and sesame salad, potato noodles and beef bulgogi.

Ask Spencer what's instrumental to a good kitchen and she'll say no doubt it is knives. Spencer has a class devoted just to learning hands-on how to cut food, whether meat or vegetables.

Her students in each class gather around what will become the cafe. Students sit on the cafe stools surrounding the heart of the cafe, the kitchen, and learn through Spencer. She also has a television screen so students have a closer view of the cooking process.

"This makes me more accessible to people," said Spencer, who always dons an apron. "First and foremost, I am a home cook."

When the class of the day is complete, students dig in and finish the meal, which always consists of five to seven courses. "You get a lot of food," she said. "I try to give a history of the meal and where to get the ingredients. It is demonstration-style."

Spencer avoids packaged and processed foods and will shop daily. She believes that as packaged foods arrived on



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Spencer lights some brandy ablaze to go with some melting cheese during her April 27 dinner at Northville's Village Workshop. Spencer runs the instructional meals through her business Taste: A Cook's Place.

grocery shelves years ago, many people have abandoned or forgotten the art of cooking for a family.

She also teaches proper cooking and kitchen techniques for home cooking. "You don't need to go to culinary school to feed your family," she said.

Spencer covers the vast array of foods, whether it's meat, fish or vegetables and

fruits, not to mention desserts. And she helps her students overcome their quirks — like those who hate vegetables or shellfish.

Her classes also cover all ethnicities and cultures in food and meals.

And she reminds students that "we eat with our eyes, ears and noses. The important thing is, how does it taste and how does it look?"

Students also learn the basics of stocking a pantry. That would include spices, especially salt, and flour and sugar. Her repertoire also includes two basic knives — a paring and chef knife. "I teach how to hold a knife," she said. "It takes practice."

Her classes include how to safely use a pressure cooker — the newer models are safer — and the stove and the need to start every meal with good, fresh ingredients, preferably organic without pesticides or fertilizers.

There's also instruction on how to use a Cuisinart to make dough and other items, such as pesto and cheese cake batter. Other techniques include how not to burn food. The trick is to get a pan hot and then add the oil and then the food.

"This is almost like having entertainment with your meal," Spencer said of her classes.

Her classes hold 13 students at the cafe counter, with plenty of other seating with high tables for folks to gather round. Older people, as well as kids, sign up for her classes. And she has repeat customers, such as a gentleman who has taken her classes for eight years. "He does not miss a class," she said.

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Seven families to benefit from this year's Plymouth-Canton's Super Jess 5K event

Lizzy Verdugo
Guest Columnist

I am a freshman at Canton High School and one of the seven recipients of this year's Super Jess 5K run.

A year ago, I was diagnosed with a pituitary germinoma, a brain tumor which suppresses the pituitary gland. As a result, I stopped growing, developed hydrocephalus and diabetes insipidus. In April 2016, I had brain surgery to biopsy the mass, followed by four cycles of chemotherapy and 20 sessions of radiation. From my MRI in March, I am cancer-free.

My next step is to start growth hormone therapy, which awaits the results of my MRI in June. I have two sisters: Izzy is a sophomore at Canton High School and Jordan is a seventh-grader at West Middle School. They both have been an amazing source of strength for me. I was so lucky to be nominated for the SJ5K. The SJ5K is a wonderful organization that I feel so honored to be a part of this year. The love and support from everyone is overwhelming. I know I couldn't have gotten through this without my family and friends, especially my mom, sisters and grandparents.

This year will be the seventh annual charity run, where we will support seven families: Michelle Wilson, Regina Wilburn, Lynn Walkuski, Fin GorgEffen, Courtney Todd, Ray Barnes and myself.

When all the recipients were chosen, I knew their names, but had not formally met each of them yet. It wasn't until the SJ5K spaghetti dinner, meant for the recipients to get to know one



The student organizers of the SJ5K had one final fundraiser last week. The race is set for Sunday, May 7.

another, where we became more than acquaintances. We were able to learn more about what each recipient and their families were going through. We pray for and support one another, always checking on how each other is doing. I love how we have become a family.

Michelle Wilson suffers from carcinoid/neuroendocrine Tumor, a rare form of liver cancer. She seeks treatment that is currently only available in Europe. She is a mother of three, who all attend Discovery Middle School.

Regina Wilburn was diagnosed with stage 4 lobular breast cancer in April 2016. She had a double mastectomy and reconstruction in November and anticipates surgery this year to remove part of her liver. She is a former P-CEP teacher, who currently teaches at Starkweather Academy. Regina has two daughters and one son.

Lynn Walkuski was diagnosed with breast

cancer, has had three surgeries since September 2016 and 18 weeks of chemotherapy. She may possibly need four more surgeries later in the year. Lynn is a mother of two daughters and a Plymouth-Canton teacher who juggles her own health while caring for two ill relatives as well.

Fin GorgEffen is a 10-year-old who suffers from spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and intractable epilepsy. He is non-verbal, non-ambulatory and is required to be fed through a G-tube due to dysphagia and potential risk of aspiration pneumonia. He requires intense physical therapy and a voice-output device. Fin has a younger brother and his mom works at Smith and Allen Elementary.

Courtney Todd was diagnosed with soft-tissue sarcoma in her neck, chest and around one kidney in fall 2016. She has gone through three months of radiation and will require surgery to remove the tumors.

Courtney is a graduate of Canton High School and the University of Michigan, with degrees in communications and marketing.

Ray Barnes suffers from kidney failure, which led to his diagnosis of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood. He must go through dialysis for his kidney three times a week and chemotherapy once a week to treat the myeloma. Unfortunately, his wife is unable to care for him as she suffers from multiple sclerosis. Ray is a coach for the Thunderbirds and Compuware softball in Canton.

It has been wonderful to meet the other recipients and work with this year's SJ5K team. Each year, the SJ5K team is composed of NHS P-CEP seniors. They do not get as much credit as they should. Throughout this year, they have held fundraiser dinners and an SJ5K spirit week at P-CEP. The team also made personalized blankets for each recipient.



Lizzy Verdugo (right) is one of seven beneficiaries of this year's SJ5K.

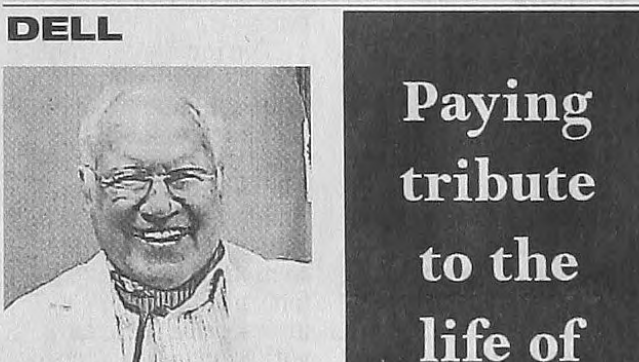
The team has done a marvelous job of promoting the race, as members gave up their time to go talk to the middle schools about this great event. This race would not be happening without the hard work of the SJ5K team. I would like to thank each and every person on the SJ5K team. Thank you, Abbey Jensen, Anu Tuladhar, Kirsti Beaudoin, Lauren Bowling, Elizabeth Fichtner, Emily Bozich, Brielle Catrinar, Rebecca John, Kelsey Postler, Dhaval Gandhi, Marissa Ernst

and Krishangi Kaushik. I hope you come out to support me and the six other families. This will be a wonderfully fun day for which I am very excited. The charity run is a perfect way to support your community while getting in a good exercise. You can choose to run or walk the 5K (3.1 miles) or one-mile route. The SJ5K Charity Run will be at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 7, starting at the P-CEP varsity stadium, a.k.a. Canton High School's varsity field. Hope to see you there.

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



THOMAS ARTHUR, M.D., J.D., of Plymouth, Michigan passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on April 13, 2017. The son of Everett and Dorothy Dell, Tom was born in June of 1932 and grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan. Tom was Valedictorian of the 1950 Royal Oak High School class. He married his high school sweetheart, Carole Ann Merrell, and they had four children. Tom completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan, followed by a degree in Medicine from Case Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio in 1958. He then entered the US Army and began serving his country as a military physician. Tom interned at Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, served on staff at the US Army Hospital, Okinawa, 1962-1965, and was Chief of Medicine at US Army Hospital, Fort Sill, OK, from May 1965-Dec 1966. In 1967, Major Dell and his family returned to Ann Arbor, MI where he established his private practice in internal medicine. Tom was one of the first physicians to graduate in 1972, from the University of Michigan Law School with a Juris Doctor, practicing in both the medical and legal professions. In 1974, Tom married Bonnie Molnar who began working with him in the office for many years. Dr. Dell retired in July 2013, at the age of 81 with 46 years on staff at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He is fondly remembered by the many whose lives he touched, for his caring and dedicated doctoring, counseling, and support. Tom is survived by his wife Bonnie; his sister Lynne (Jim) Skripka, brother Howard (Jen) Humphreys; his children and their spouses Diane (Carter) Clark, Ruth (Buck) Skinner, Linda (Alex) Prisajni, Thomas (Patty) Dell, Paul (Libby) Molnar, Dan (Anna) Molnar; his fourteen grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and his good friend Isiah (Lois) Harrison. Tom's life will be celebrated at the NorthRidge Church Chapel, 12401 Ridge Road, Plymouth, Michigan, on May 7th, 2017. Visitation will be at 6pm followed by a memorial service at 7pm. In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for any memorial contributions made to the Huron Valley Humane Society (3100 Cherry Hill Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105), where Tom and Bonnie have been enthusiastic supporters with their time and gifts.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



May the memory of your loved one...

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Firefighter of the Year enjoys 'helping people'

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Michael Thoms decided in high school he wanted to become a firefighter.

A baseball and football player at Dearborn's Edsel Ford High School, he wanted a career that was physically demanding while allowing him to help people.

Thoms's peers say he chose the right path — and he has achieved a milestone by earning the title of Canton Firefighter of the Year.

"I wasn't expecting it," he said April 27, one day after he accepted his award during a ceremony at Canton's Summit on the Park. "It's definitely an accomplishment in my career. There's a lot of hard work that gets done in Canton. For me to get recognized this year is appreciated."

The day after he accepted his award, Thoms, 34, marked his 13th year as a Canton firefighter. He previously worked two years for a private emergency medical services company.

"Firefighter Thoms is an intelligent, courteous and open communicator, which is essential in this profession," said Christopher Stoecklein, Canton deputy director of fire. "When interacting with the community, fellow firefighters, other departments within Canton



FILE PHOTO
Firefighter Michael Thoms helps a child pick out Christmas gifts during a charity program by Canton firefighters.

Township or consoling distraught families, Firefighter Thoms does it all with the utmost skill, tact, patience and professionalism."

Thoms won his award as relatives, including wife Kara and daughters Aria, 4, and Peyton, 2, were among a crowd attending the fire department's annual awards event. He didn't know he was Firefighter of the Year until he arrived at the Summit and his wife saw his name in the ceremony program.

"It was surprising," he said. "I work with a lot of great people I can learn from every day. It's a great family connection there at work."

Thoms is ready for what the day brings, whether it's using his paramedic skills or fighting a fire. "Every day, you're going into someone's life," he said. "It's a new house, a new person's life. I have always been interested in people's

stories." Thoms also has participated in a department program in which firefighters take local children to retail stores to buy presents at Christmastime.

Stoecklein said Thoms has had "a considerable impact" on the department.

"An important quality of leadership is the ability to motivate people around you and to lead by example," Stoecklein said. "As a firefighter and the union president, Firefighter Thoms demonstrates these characteristics. Whether he's on-duty or off-duty, he goes above and beyond his normal responsibilities to enhance the department's commitment to providing the highest level of service."

Thoms is currently completing a lengthy process of becoming a department instructor coordinator, who is responsible for continuing education for every Can-

ton firefighter. It's a critical component of the 65-firefighter department keeping its license as an advanced life support provider.

Stoecklein said Thoms "has a natural propensity to help others and willingly mentors probationary firefighters, understanding the importance of this task and how it may impact the future of the department."

Thoms has been in the spotlight before. He twice won the department's former Ironman Award for racking up the most 9-1-1 runs among all Canton firefighters. He last won that award for 2011, when he responded to 687 medical emergencies and fires in one year.

"I have a heart for helping people," he said then. "I just feel like I had a calling for it."

Some things don't change with time.

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734-972-0919

Teams bring momentum to annual Relay

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

The merger of cancer-fighting Relay for Life events in Canton and Plymouth appears to have spurred renewed interest in forming teams to raise money, officials say.

More than 50 teams aiming to raise \$200,000 have surpassed the \$80,000 mark. They are ahead of their collective fundraising efforts compared to last year, when Canton and Plymouth had separate events.

"They are tracking ahead, year over year," said Megan Schaper, Relay for Life community manager. "The fundraising is going really well. Things feel really good. There's a lot of energy we haven't felt in a long time. We have momentum."

Teams hope to raise as much money as possible by the time Relay for Life happens 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday, May 20, in Canton's Heritage Park. However, Schaper said fundraising will continue through fall, when the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has its event.

Hundreds of area residents are expected to attend Relay and raise money for the American Cancer Society. It is free to attend and open to the public.



Cancer survivors follow the path through Heritage Park during a Relay for Life event.

"Relay For Life is a chance to make the greatest impact in the fight to end cancer," said Denise Staffeld, co-chair of Relay for Life of Canton and Plymouth. "Many participants are loved ones who have faced cancer themselves, as well as groups coming together to fight back in memory of those they have lost."

"Each new team brings us one step closer to saving more lives and we simply cannot finish the fight without every dedicated cancer fighter," she added.

Relay, founded in 1985 by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Washington, is the

world's largest fundraising event to save lives from cancer. Organizers say it unites communities across the globe, celebrating survivors, remembering lost loved ones and spurring action for change.

On May 20, Relay participants will take turns walking around the pond in Heritage Park. They already had begun their fundraising months leading up to the event. The local Relay is sponsored by Adient, Canton Township and Meijer.

The money helps the American Cancer Society provide free information and support for people facing the disease and

also helps to pay for cancer research. The ACS has invested more than \$4.3 billion in research since 1946 and funded more than 20,000 scientists at more than 1,000 institutions nationwide, officials say.

Organizers are inviting cancer survivors, their families and caregivers to kick off the Canton-based Relay with an opening lap at 10 a.m. May 20. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Afterward, cancer survivors and one guest are invited to a complimentary luncheon by Outback Steakhouse of Canton.

Event parking is available at nearby locations,



FILE PHOTO

Luminaria during Relay for Life allow participants to honor those who have died.

including St. Joseph Mercy Health System's cancer center in Canton, the Canton Public Library, Summit on the Park and the Canton Administration Building. A shuttle service for survivors who need assistance will be provided by St. Joseph at 1600 S. Canton Center.

Relay will include family friendly entertainment, activities and food. A "kids zone" will be happening from noon to 3 p.m., with a tinkering workshop by Home De-

pot, photo opportunities with fire trucks and police cars and trick-or-treating 2-3 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superhero.

For more information, go to RelayForLife.org/CantonPlymouthMI or contact Megan Schaper at 248-663-3417 or by email at Megan.Schaper@cancer.org.

dclem@hometownlife.com
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734-972-0919

AREA CRIME WATCH

CANTON

Toddler found walking alone near intersection

A 3-year-old girl was found walking alone in a residential neighborhood near Ford and Lilley roads, one of Canton's most dangerous intersections for crashes.

Police located the girl's mother, who said she had been sleeping when the child found her way outside the home. A police report indicated the toddler was left unattended more than two hours.

Police turned the girl over to Child Protective Services and issued a child neglect citation to the 37-year-old mother, after learning their home was in deplorable condition. The report referred to the home as "filthy" and said the girl was at potential risk from a bathtub containing her

toys and 8 inches of water.

The incident unfolded about 3:45 p.m. April 26, after a neighbor notified police after seeing the child walking alone near Addison and Fairview. That's southeast of the busy Ford-Lilley intersection, which was Canton's most crash-prone intersection last year with 85 crashes, according to the Michigan Auto Law firm.

The police report said the child's father was at work when the incident occurred.

Gun drawn

A domestic dispute involving suspects armed with a 9 mm handgun and a knife has led to the arrest of two women, a police report said.

No one was seriously injured during an incident that police say happened about 11 a.m. April 25 at College Park Estates, a mobile home

community off Mott Road, east of Ridge.

It began when a 24-year-old man confronted his sister, 35, over rent she owed for their residence, the report said. The dispute escalated and the man's girlfriend, 22, brandished a 9 mm handgun, pointed it at the sister and threatened to shoot her, police said.

In turn, the man's sister got a knife from the kitchen. The man intervened by yelling and the two women put down their weapons, the report said. However, the sister then got a broom and swung it at her brother, then bit him when he tried to restrain her.

The man's girlfriend then got a piece of wood and hit the sister on the head. At one point, the siblings fell onto an ottoman and broke it. Soon afterward, the girlfriend called 9-1-1 to summon police.

Police also learned the brother had taken his sister's video games and said he would give them back after she paid her share of the rent.

Police took both wom-

en into custody, arresting the girlfriend for felonious assault and the man's sister for domestic violence.

Angry customer

A 60-year-old man who caused a ruckus at a Canton fast food restaurant was cited by police for disorderly conduct.

Police went to McDonald's on Michigan Avenue, near Lotz, amid reports the suspect banged on one drive-through window, honked his horn and backed up to the previous window where he had placed his order, a police report said.

The man was reportedly upset that his order was wrong and wanted a refund. He initially said a manager returned his money by throwing it at him, but he later retracted that statement, the report said.

The man was accused of causing a disturbance for about 15 minutes before police arrived and ticketed him for disorderly conduct.

Pit bull incident

A 9-year-old boy escaped serious injury when a neighbor's pit bull crawled under a fence and went toward him, prompting the dog owner to jump the fence and grab it, a police report said.

The boy suffered only a small scratch on his left cheek as the owner pulled the dog away, the report said.

The incident happened about 2:30 p.m. Saturday in the 46800 block of Larchmont, near Beck and Ford roads. The boy's father told police there have been ongoing issues with the dog owner, whose pit bull sometimes gets outside the owner's yard.

After police intervened, the two men agreed to install a privacy fence between their properties.

Illegal peddling

Police cited a window company employee for soliciting business in a neighborhood without seeking a permit from Canton Township, a report said.

Police spotted the man about 10:35 a.m. Saturday on Arbor Way, near Palmer and Sheldon. A police report indicated an officer stopped to talk with the man after seeing him emerge from an area of trees in a residential neighborhood.

Police learned he was soliciting work even though he didn't have a license to do it. He told police he didn't know he needed one.

Police learned he had a similar incident last year in Farmington. Police cited him for peddling without a license and warned him to halt his activities.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Illegal fire

Police patrolling near Beck and Powell roads stopped to investigate after noticing a large fire burning on a resident's property. A report said the fire was about 8 feet tall and similarly wide, in violation of a local ordi-

nance that prohibits open burning.

The incident unfolded about 8:30 p.m. Saturday and police learned it was the third time the same man had been known to start a fire on his property. This time, he told police he was just trying to have a small fire on his property and it got out of hand.

Police issued the man a citation for violating a local ordinance.

Drunken driver

A suspected drunken driver leaving a Taco Bell drive-through window was stopped by police early Monday after an officer noticed his car was weaving in its lane, a report said.

Police noticed the driver just after midnight and stopped him near Beck and Ann Arbor roads. He had an open bottle of Fireball Cinnamon Whisky in his car and told police he had just left Taco Bell and was on his way home.

He landed in jail rather than getting home after police arrested him for driving drunk, a report said. He also had a prior offense.

Unruly driver

A Canton man became agitated, uncooperative and was using vulgar language when police stopped his vehicle near Ann Arbor Road and Tavistock Drive, after seeing him driving erratically after exiting I-275, a report said.

The man told police he was on his way home. The report said he was fumbling with his wallet and dropping its contents on the floor of his vehicle.

The incident happened about 12:45 a.m. Saturday.

The man told police he had consumed two beers and some marijuana, adding he would prefer just to walk home. Police arrested him for operating his vehicle while impaired and for having marijuana. The report indicated he had a medical marijuana card, but was carrying more than he was allowed.

— By Darrell Clem

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Touch-less Bus Wash System. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, for Plymouth Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before **Friday, May 12, 2017 at 12 p.m.** Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed- "Touch-less Bus Wash System." The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Published: May 4, 2017

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PREP TRACK

Changes on the fly for prep track meet

Observerland has new sponsor, larger field

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

For the second straight year, the Observerland track and field meet has undergone a significant change.

Last year, officials restructured the annual event from a relays competition to a regional-style format. It had been

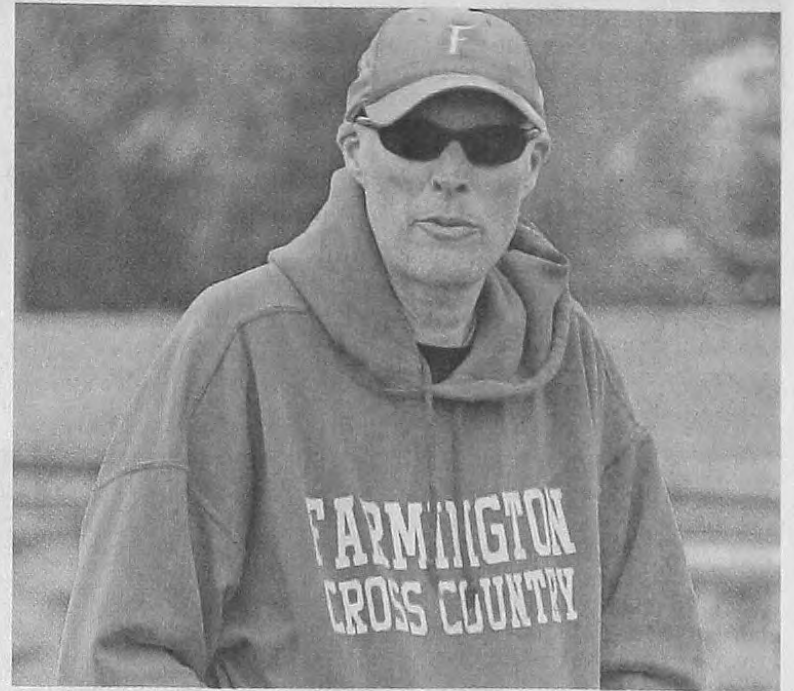
known as the Observerland Relays for the previous 45 seasons before changing to the Observerland Invitational in 2106. Last year also included female teams for the first time.

The 2017 meet — scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at Farmington High School — features another name change.

It now will be known as the New Balance Invitational. While the Observer Newspapers will continue to sponsor

three running events, New Balance, under the leadership of Playmakers, takes over as the lead sponsor. Playmakers, located in Lansing, owns the southeast Michigan New Balance stores.

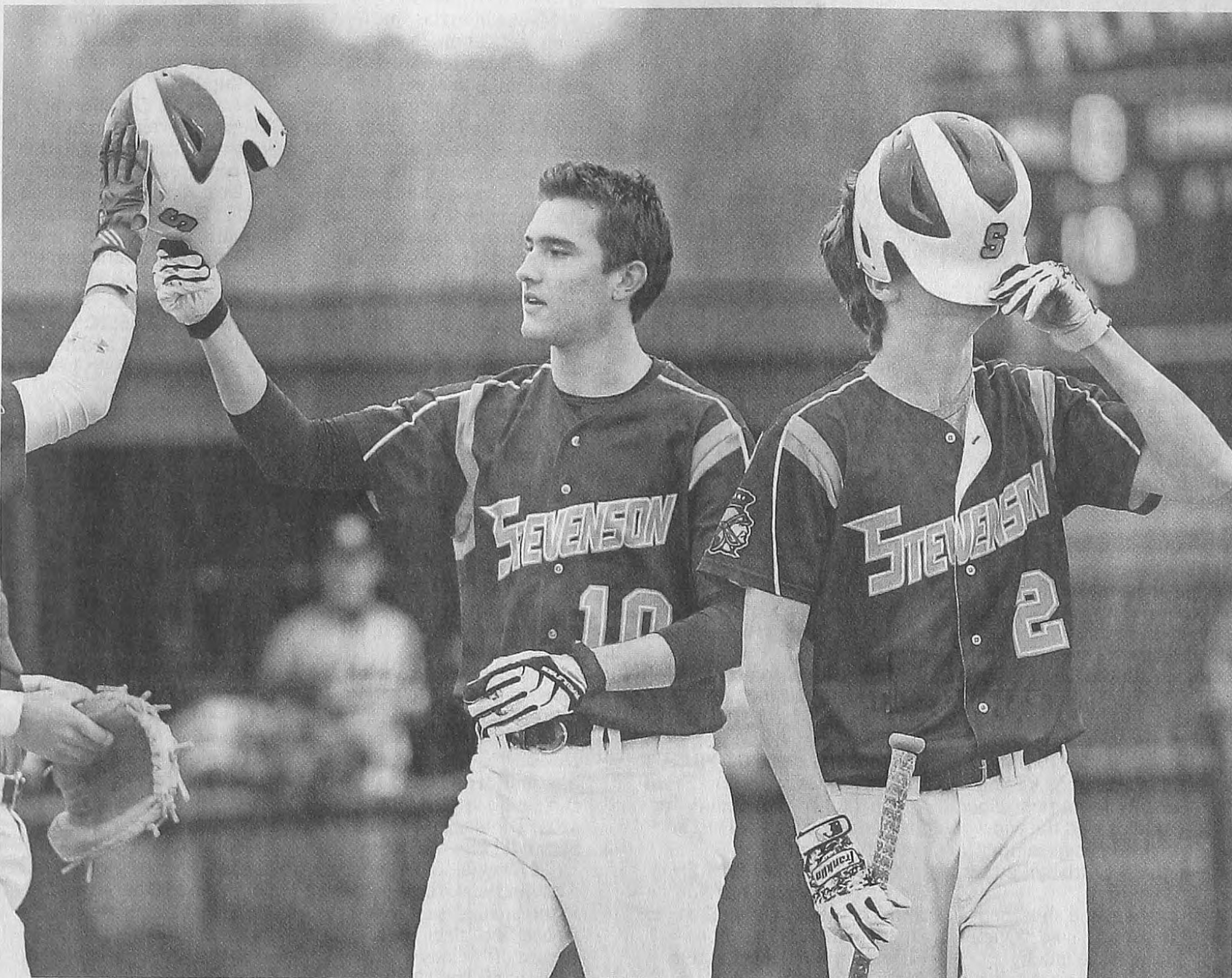
The New Balance Invitational will feature coaches gifts, meet apparel, custom medals through eight places, Athlete of the Meet recognition in track and field events for



MARTY BUDNER

See MEET, Page B2 Chip Bridges

PREP BASEBALL



Livonia Stevenson's Devin Dunn (left) is congratulated after homering Monday against Plymouth. At right is George Ferguson.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLYMOUTH SLIPS ON SEESAW

Stevenson comes back late to tie Wildcats, win in seventh on slide at the plate

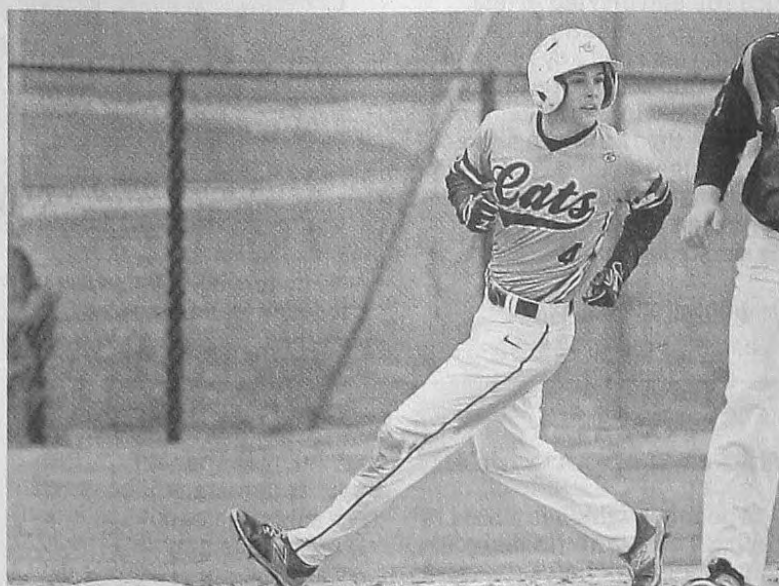
Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Wild and crazy action on the baseball field Monday matched the strange weather at Plymouth High School.

But on a day featuring wind-blown home runs, a mid-game rainstorm and both teams losing the lead, Livonia Stevenson eked out a 10-9 KLAAs win over Plymouth.

The winning run, in the top of the seventh, came home on a nifty slide by Mark Pettersson — who charged home on Devin Dunn's chopper to shortstop and reached back to slap his hand on home plate ahead of Wildcats catcher Zach Beadle's attempted tag.

"We wanted to do the fake steal. I said if (Dunn) hits it



Reaching third base for Plymouth is Michael Wischer during Monday's game against Livonia Stevenson.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

hard, since we're doing the fake squeeze, then just keep going and he did and he made an unbelievable slide," Stevenson veteran head coach Rick Berryman said. "(Pettersson) sold it with the slide."

Plymouth head coach Jason Crain gave credit to the hard-hitting Spartans, but lamented some plays on defense that his team didn't make.

One of those was the play that broke the 9-9 tie.

"The go-ahead run, play at the plate, (shortstop) Nik (Patel) made a good play and just double-clutched," Crain said. "Maybe didn't have the ball quite right."

Crain acknowledged that the rain that soaked the field in

See BASEBALL, Page B2

PREP SOFTBALL

Bressler does it all for 'Cats

Pitcher gives up just two Stevenson hits, goes 4-for-4 at the plate

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Apparently, there isn't much that Jenny Bressler can't do for the Plymouth varsity softball team.

Proof of that was Monday's 11-1 five-inning win over Livonia Stevenson. Bressler went the distance (the game ended early due to the 10-run mercy rule), giving up just two hits.

At the plate, Bressler was a menace to the Spartans with four hits (including a double) in four times to the dish. She drove in three runs as Plymouth — ranked No. 3 in the state in Class A — improved to 10-2 overall.

The Spartans (4-8) did get off to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Leading off with a double was Abby Zwicker and she scored on a wild pitch.

But the Wildcats came right back and took a 2-1 lead that they never relinquished.

Of course, Bressler set the tone with her lead-off double to right-center and she scored on Jessica Tucci's single up the middle to tie the game.

Three batters later, a bloop to shallow right by Gina Barber scored Tucci for the lead run.

"Stevenson got out to the

See SOFTBALL, Page B2



Plymouth pitcher Jenny Bressler sizes up a Stevenson batter during Monday's 11-1 win.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Prep grid meetings

» Plymouth's football program is holding its 2017 Meet the Coaches informational meeting for incoming ninth-graders 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, in the Plymouth High School cafeteria.

The meeting is to give incoming freshmen and their parents a jump on what expectations are for the upcoming season.

Also, a mandatory parent/player meeting is set for 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23, also in the Plymouth cafeteria. The session is for players entering grades 10-12 in 2017-18.

"We will talk about player and parent expectations, as well as booster club information and responsibilities," Plymouth football coach Mike Sawchuk said. He can be reached at michael.sawchuk@pccsk12.com for those with any questions about either meeting.

» Canton's football program will have a mandatory meeting for the 2017 season Thursday, May 4 in the gymnasium (North Building).

Players new to the program and their parents should meet in the gym at 6

p.m.; returning players and their parents should meet at 6:30 p.m. Canton Chiefs spirit wear will be available for purchase.

Opening day set for May 11

The United Shore Professional Baseball League is scheduled to begin its second season of play May 11.

The Birmingham Beavers face the hometown favorite Utica Unicorns in the 7:05 p.m. opener, which will be a rematch of last year's championship game. The Unicorns defeated the Beavers and enter the 2017 season as the reigning USPBL champs.

This season, the USPBL has added a fourth team to the mix — the Westside Woolly Mammoths. The Mammoths will join the USPBL's three charter teams — the Unicorns, the Beavers and the Eastside Diamond Hoppers.

The USPBL is the Detroit area's first independent professional baseball league. The expanded USPBL schedule includes games every Thursday through Sunday at Jimmy John's Field in downtown Utica.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

the middle innings might have contributed to Patel not getting a good grip on the ball before firing it to Beadle.

Dunn's infield chopper was one of several ways he contributed to the Stevenson win, which upped the Spartans' record to 16-4 overall and 8-3 in the KLAA Central. In the second inning, he lofted a fly ball to left that carried over the outstretched arms of Plymouth left fielder Chase Every for a three-run homer, to make it 4-1.

"It (homer) was more of a pop up, but the wind helped it, a lot actually," said Dunn, who went 2-for-4 with five RBIs. "I also had a bases-loaded single, (it) went off the end of my bat and hurt my hand, but that helped a lot, too.

"That gave us energy to come back in that game."

Dunn was referring to a three-run rally to tie the game right after the Wildcats hung an eight-spot on the scoreboard during a rain-soaked bottom of the fourth.

Raining runs

In the Plymouth fourth, against Spartans starting pitcher Branden Posky, with rain and wind wreaking havoc all over the diamond, Every walked and Logan Dziadzio singled.

Both scored on Brandan Lacorato's liner over the head of Spartans right fielder Chris Tanderys, slicing the deficit to 6-3.

Courtesy runner Kyle Aniol scored on a delayed double steal and, two batters later, Evan Good boomed a two-run double to center to knot the score at 6-6.

Berryman then took out Posky in favor of lefty George Ferguson, with the rain still falling.

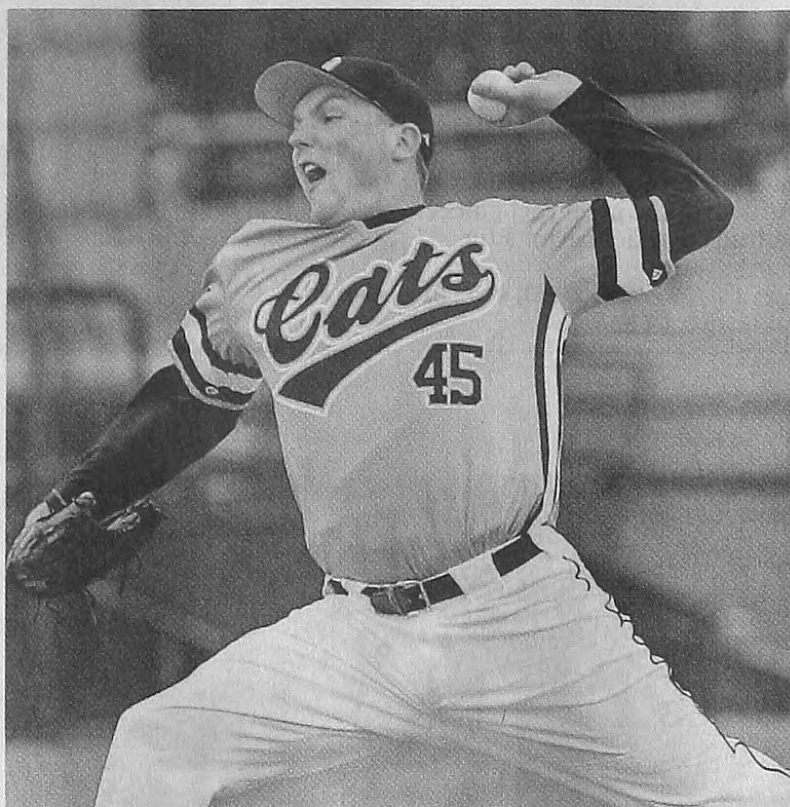
Michael Wischer walked and Every skied a fly ball to left for the game's second three-run homer — putting Plymouth up, 9-6. A mob scene greeted Every as he trotted down the base path from third to home.

"The wind's blowing out, the ball's carrying," Berryman said about the Plymouth surge. "I guess my only thing is the base umpire wants to call it (briefly stop the game). My pitcher had to pitch through that deluge and the home plate umpire wouldn't call it.

"That was difficult. But kudos to my players, they battled back. They didn't complain, they battled back, tied it up and we scored the final run."

Answering fast

Stevenson didn't waste any time answering back, with a hit



Sending the baseball on its way Monday is Plymouth starting pitcher Josh Janovski.

and a walk to open the top of the fifth against Plymouth starting pitcher Josh Janovski.

With Parker Graham at the plate, Crain brought in Mitch Harber in relief and Harber got the first batter he saw with a strikeout before Dunn singled to make it 9-7.

A hot shot smoked by Tanderys (2-for-5, two runs) resulted in another run scoring and a wild pitch by reliever Kai St. Germaine allowed Pettersson (2-for-2, two runs) to score the equalizer.

Ferguson, with a dry mound for a change, settled down in his final three innings, giving up just an infield single to Good (3-for-4) and earned the win thanks to the daring scamper home in the seventh by Pettersson.

"He came in and shut them down," Berryman said. "Once he got through the mucky mound situation, he got a dry mound he threw very well.

"He kept them off-balance, moved the ball around and did an excellent job. Plus, he got a big hit late in the game, too."

Crain, whose team dropped to 10-6 overall and 8-2 in the league, tipped his cap to the Spartans, but noted his team needs to play better when all is said and done.

"Obviously, they put the bat on the ball pretty consistently the whole game and good hits, powerful hits," Crain said. "We need to find a way to make plays early in the game. I think we made probably three or four mistakes that snowballed into a five-run inning or a three-run inning."

"We have to play cleaner. We hit the ball, but it was in one

inning. We have to be more consistent at the plate. We can't score eight in one inning and be done."

Patel went 2-for-4 with two runs for Plymouth, while Jacob MacBrien, Dziadzio and Lacorato each tallied a hit and a run scored.

Danny Morris went 2-for-3 with an RBI for Stevenson, while Dan Bos was 3-for-4 and scored twice.

Other Stevenson contributors on offense included Parker Graham (1-for-4, RBI, run) and Jacob Way (RBI).

SALEM 4, JOHN GLENN 2: In a KLAA contest Monday, Erich Payne pitched five innings for the win while Danny Diaz homered.

CHARGERS WIN THREE: On Saturday, Livonia Churchill won a triple-header against Southfield (4-2), Dearborn Edsel Ford (5-3) and Lincoln Park (10-2).

Against Southfield, Tim Ohtake earned the win, giving up just two runs and one hit. Brendan Lowry, in his first varsity game, went 2-for-3, scored and drove in a run. Connor Burnette collected two hits and a run.

Drew Alsobrooks was the big gun for Churchill against Edsel Ford, going 2-for-3, scoring a run and driving in one. Luke Jaroszewicz and Chris Sergison also had key hits and Noah Campbell started and earned the win (with Connor Burnette throwing two scoreless innings of relief).

Against Lincoln Park, Jaroszewicz got the win after throwing six strong innings.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page B1

lead and we answered back when Jenny Bressler got a double and then Tucci got a single to score her," Plymouth head coach Lauren Evans said. "It was nice we were able to answer back right away and then take the lead on a single by Gina Barber."

Plymouth tacked on two runs in the second, when Tucci (3-for-3) tripled to right.

Meanwhile, the Spartans could not get much going against Bressler. After the first inning, the lone hit by Stevenson was a single in the fifth by Elisabet McCann, who pitched for the Spartans.

"Our main thing is we knew we were going against Bressler, great pitcher," Stevenson head coach Kevin Hannigan said. "We did get some people on, we just couldn't get that hit to get the next run to get through.

"But I'm proud of our pitcher, Elisabet McCann. She did well all the way up to the fifth inning. We just couldn't back her up, but you got to give credit to their team. Their top four hitters were hitting line drives right to the fence. There's no way to defend that."

Plymouth turned the game into a rout in the fourth with four more runs, including a two-run homer to right by Haley Gagnon.

The Wildcats added three more in the fifth to end the contest due to the mercy rule. Kiersten Metz and Sophia Dibbles hit successive doubles and Bressler hit a two-run single up the middle to score Dibbles and Angela Schmidt (who walked).

"Every game, we're getting contributions from everyone in the lineup," said Evans, whose first-place team will square off Friday against Canton in a key rivalry matchup. "We had 13 hits. On aver-



Plymouth's Haley Gagnon watches the ball after she puts a charge into it during Monday's game.

age, we're getting eight to nine to 10 hits a game and that's definitely huge for us."

SALEM 24, JOHN GLENN 2: On Monday in a game moved to Salem from Westland John Glenn due to poor field conditions, the Rocks were in complete control from the start.

Kristin Mihalic homered and had two singles, while Jordan Hazel also homered. Other big hitters for Salem included Grace Hokett (three singles), Caroline Miller, Morgan Overaitis and Audrey Whipple (two hits each).

Chipping in a double was Sophia Smock, while Rae Campbell singled for the Rocks (11-4).

SALEM 11, CHELSEA 6: A seven-run seventh inning Saturday lifted Salem to this non-conference win against Chelsea. Kristin Mihalic and Jordan Hazel both tallied a double and a single in the win.

Morgan Overaitis earned the win for the Rocks and also chipped in two hits.

LIVONIA CLASSIC: Livonia Franklin went 2-1 at Saturday's Livonia Classic, held at Rotary Park.

The Patriots lost 15-0 to Howell, but bounced back with 12-5 and 13-8 wins over Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard and Berkley, respectively.

Brooke Garbarino went 7-for-11 during the tourney, with a double and two triples for Franklin. Other Patriots of note included Haley Bennett (6-for-10, two triples), Olivia Napier, Alanah Kirwan, Maddy Reynolds (each with four hits), Tara Trujillo and Emily Johnson (each with three hits).

Franklin pitchers Ashley Couch and Jordan Berger both earned a victory for the Patriots.

PLYMOUTH 7, SALEM 0: On Friday, Whitney Holden went 2-for-3 and homered as the Wildcats blanked Salem. Haley Gagnon had two hits to back the shutout pitching of Jenny Bressler.

MEET

Continued from Page B1

both males and females, awards for event champions and teams from outside the traditional Observerland area. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams.

In addition, Farmington High School, under a partnership formed by the coaches from Farmington and Plymouth Salem high schools, plus officials from Playmakers, will be the meet's permanent site. It will be continued to be co-hosted by Salem, with all revenues split evenly between the schools.

"It's a nice situation for us," Farmington head coach Charles "Chip" Bridges said. "The Observerland was great

for so many years with a lot of great memories, so we are continuing to have the Observer sponsor some of the races.

"Last year, we made the change (to a regional from a relays format) and it was positive. We got great positive feedback, for the most part. And this year, the opportunity came about to partner with New Balance and the people at Playmakers. They have been very gracious and wonderful and helpful.

"Playmakers does a lot in the Lansing area as far as sponsoring events. They know what they're doing," he added. "They've been great and they are trying to increase their name through New Balance in this area. So this was a good fit for them."

Wild card opportunities

The meet, which is slated to begin 10 a.m. with field events competition, includes the traditional five field events and 12 running events. Prelims begin at 2 p.m. and finals at 4:30 p.m.

The field events include pole vault, long jump, high jump, discus and shot put. The running events will be the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, the 800-, 1,600- and 3,200-meter distance races, the two hurdle events (110- and 300-meter for boys and 100 and 300 for girls) and the four relays (400, 800, 1,600 and 3,200).

The Observerland-sponsored events will be the 100-meter dash, the 100-meter hurdles (girls) and 110-meter hurdles (boys) and the 1,600-meter run.

Each school will be allowed to enter two athletes per event

and one team per relay. However, each team will be given five wild card entries to individual events only.

"It's a regional-style meet, although we've added some tweaks," Bridges said. "You can enter up to two people in any event and we can be very efficient where there won't be too many heats. But then, we also give each team five wild cards. They can use them any which way they want.

"Say a team has four really good milers, they can use two of their wild cards to run in the mile," he added. "And say another team has three really great throwers, they can use one more in the throwing events. That allows teams that are loaded in an area or two to still bring those kids and have them involved in the meet."

The participating teams are

Auburn Hills Avondale, Berkley, Birmingham Groves, Bloomfield Hills Marian, Birmingham Brother Rice, Canton, Clarkston Everest Collegiate, Clinton Township Chipewa Valley, Hartland, Highland Milford, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Livonia Stevenson, Marine City Cardinal Mooney, Oxford, Plymouth, Dearborn Fordson, Detroit Catholic Central, Detroit Cody, Detroit U-D Jesuit, Farmington, Ferndale, Garden City, Grosse Pointe South, Plymouth Christian Academy, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Redford Thurston, Rochester, Salem, Southfield, Warren Cousino and Wayne Memorial.

Livonia Churchill won both the boys and girls crowns last year.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Opening day is 'grand' for P-CLL

Hundreds of players start 2017 season

Plymouth-Canton Little League opened its 2017 season with a Grand Opening Day Celebration April 22 at Plymouth's McClumpha Park.

More than 400 kids and families attended, as the P-CLL welcomed in its season with a parade of teams along with VIP guests, including local business leaders such as Dan Higgins from Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern in Canton and Scott LaRiche from Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth.

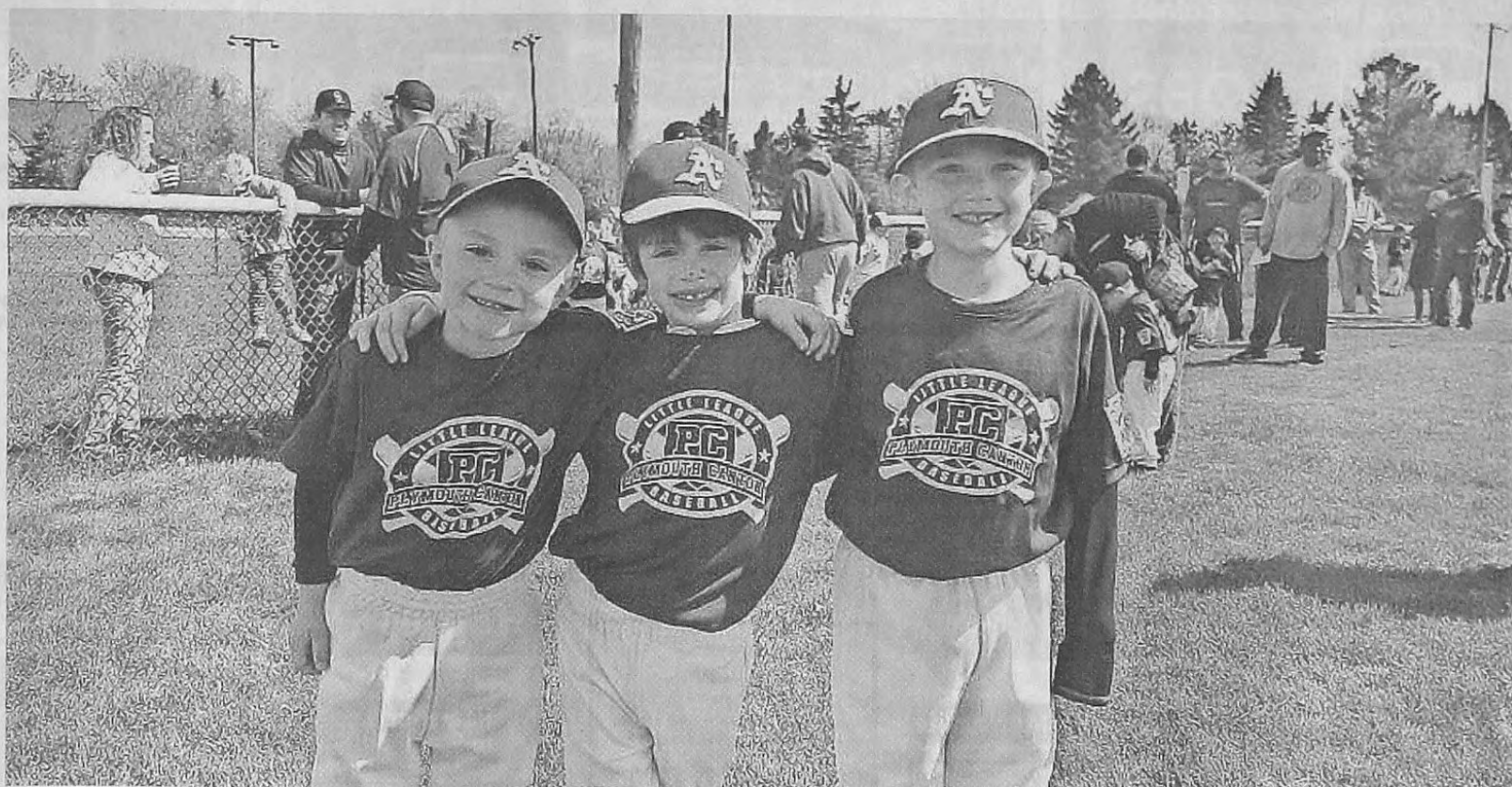
Delivering the ceremonial first pitch was Evan Parker from the Plymouth Miracle League.

The day started early, with T-ball games beginning at 8 a.m. on Fields 2, 3 and 4 (Field 1 is temporarily closed, due to a downed light pole from the recent severe windstorm). Mid-day featured a home run derby for Juniors, the Grand Opening Day Celebration event and the annual Parade of Teams.

Colors were presented by Chapter 528, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the national anthem was performed by Plymouth's Fife & Drum Corps. Play re-commenced in the afternoon and ran well into the evening, with the last game finally wrapping up around 9 p.m.

Perhaps the best summary of the day came from 11-year-old Majors Division Pirates ballplayer, Nathan Kuechler. On the drive home from a last-inning, one-run loss that featured a little bit of everything, including a home run by teammate Cameron Laidlaw, young Nathan spontaneously blurted out, "Opening Day is the most awesome day!"

Submitted by Jeff Holt, president of Plymouth-Canton Little League.



Smiling faces were everywhere April 22 at McClumpha Park in Plymouth as the 2017 season of the Plymouth-Canton Little League got underway.



Plymouth-Canton Little League teams line up along the edge of the infield at McClumpha Park.



SCHOOLCRAFT SOFTBALL

On sophomore day, Schoolcraft College's (from left) Kelsie Powell, Alaina DeFrain, Rosie Garvin, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Kerry Prowse and Kassidy Lipinski enjoy their final games at Ford Field in Livonia.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Lady Ocelots narrowly miss twinbill sweep in home finale

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

For several key players on Schoolcraft College's women's softball team, the April 26 twinbill against Macomb Community College was their last chance to play in front of the home fans at Ford Field.

And for a while, sophomore day looked like a winner on all counts as the Lady Ocelots defeated the Monarchs 2-0 in Game 1 of a MCCA doubleheader and enjoyed a 4-1 lead until the seventh inning of the nightcap.

But Macomb spoiled things with a four-run surge to earn a 5-4 victory.

One of the six sophomores, co-captain and third baseman Kelsie Powell (Garden City), led off the home seventh with her second hit of Game 2 and was poised to at least force

extra innings.

Unfortunately, Powell (two hits, two RBIs) was left stranded as Monarchs sophomore ace pitcher Miranda Hebert struck out the next three batters.

Another sophomore co-captain, Livonia Stevenson alum Kassidy Lipinski, doubled in Powell in the first to get Schoolcraft's hopes of a sweep off to a good start. Powell opened the frame with a walk and moved to second on a single by freshman Victoria Porter (Canton).

After Macomb tied the game, Schoolcraft got it back in the second when freshman first baseman Maddi Haas (Livonia Ladywood) singled and came around to score.

The Lady Ocelots tacked on two runs in the fourth on an RBI single by Powell. Opening the inning with hits were Lauren Sandie and Autmn Dobrick.

In the opener, Schoolcraft

sophomore pitcher Kerry Prowse threw a complete-game shutout while Dobrick and Mikaela Smolar (Garden City) each delivered two hits and a stolen base. Also with RBIs were Cori Wilson and Porter.

The six sophomores capping off the home portion of their Schoolcraft careers included Powell, Lipinski, Prowse, Alaina DeFrain (Livonia Franklin), Rosie Garvin (Livonia Churchill) and Caitlin Fitzpatrick.

Schoolcraft head coach Rey Linares said Lipinski will play softball next year at St. Francis University in Chicago while Powell is being recruited by Madonna University. Prowse also is receiving looks from NAIA recruiters.

Schoolcraft (10-12 overall, 9-11 in the MCCA) closes out the regular season with road doubleheaders against Mott, St. Clair County and Alpena.

GOLF

Record 19 aces made at Glenhurst in 2016

After a big year for holes-in-one at Redford's Glenhurst Golf Club on Six Mile in Redford — 19 golfers recorded aces during 2016 — the course's first couple aces of 2017 recently were scored.

On April 5, 68-year-old Richard Dawson of Detroit aced the 101-yard 4th hole using a wedge. It was his third hole-in-one in 20 years of golfing.

Following up on April 17 was 65-year-old Charlie Guder of Detroit. A golfing veteran of 30 years, he used a pitching wedge on the 119-yard 4th hole to tally his second hole-in-one. He scored a round of 82.

Here is the who's who of the 19 golfers who sank aces during 2016 at Glenhurst:

» **D.J. Archer**, 78, from Livonia used a No. 3 Hybrid on the 132-yard 17th Hole on April 28 for his fifth hole-in-one in 65 years of golfing.

» **Harvey Wayne**, 56, from Redford used a pitching wedge on the 128-yard 4th hole, April 12 to recorded his second ace in 17 years of golfing.

» **Michael Alonzi**, 25, from Livonia used a wedge on the 125-yard 13th Hole on May 11 for first ace in 17 years of golfing.

» **Wendy Ranta**, 66, from Redford used a 6-iron on the 101-yard 13th hole on May 21 to record her first ace in 40 years of golfing.

» **Larry Jessen**, 66, from Newport used a 3-wood on the 165-yard 9th hole on May 22 for his first hole-in-one in 47 years of golfing.

» **Jim Strange**, 50, from Livonia used an 8-iron on the 119-yard 4th hole on May 30 for his first ace in 50 years

of golfing.

» **Tom Hughes**, 54, from Dearborn used an 8-iron on the 136-yard 13th hole on May 31 to record his first ace in 40 years.

» **Doug Miller**, 58, from Garden City used a 9-iron on the 113-yard 13th hole on June 10 for his first ace in 20 years of golfing.

» **James Bertling**, 52, from Franklin used a 7-iron on the 171-yard 15th hole on June 15 to record his first ace in 35 years of golfing.

» **David Bazner**, 54, from Redford used 6-iron on the 158-yard 15th hole on July 4 for his first ace in 24 years of golfing.

» **Gary Owen**, 64, used a 4-wood on the 158-yard 15th hole on July 16 to record his third ace in 45 years.

» **Edward "Sonny" Johnson**, 66, from Detroit used a 5-iron on the 173-yard 15th hole July 22 to score his first ace in 15 years of golfing.

» **Bob Foley**, 50, from Redford used a 9-iron on the 142-yard 17th hole on Aug. 28 to record his second ace in 35 years of golfing.

» **Ron Gordon**, 69, from Redford used a 6-iron on the 121-yard 13th hole on October 3 for his first ace.

» **Pete Owens**, 50, from Livonia used a 9-iron on the 120-yard 4th hole on Oct. 6 for his ninth hole-in-one in 50 years.

» **Pete Russo**, 56, from Plymouth used a 9-iron on the 146-yard 17th hole on Oct. 8 to record his first ace in 43 years of golfing.

» **Jim Howland**, 60, from Redford used a pitching wedge on the 111-yard 4th hole on Jan. 21 for his first ace in 40 years.

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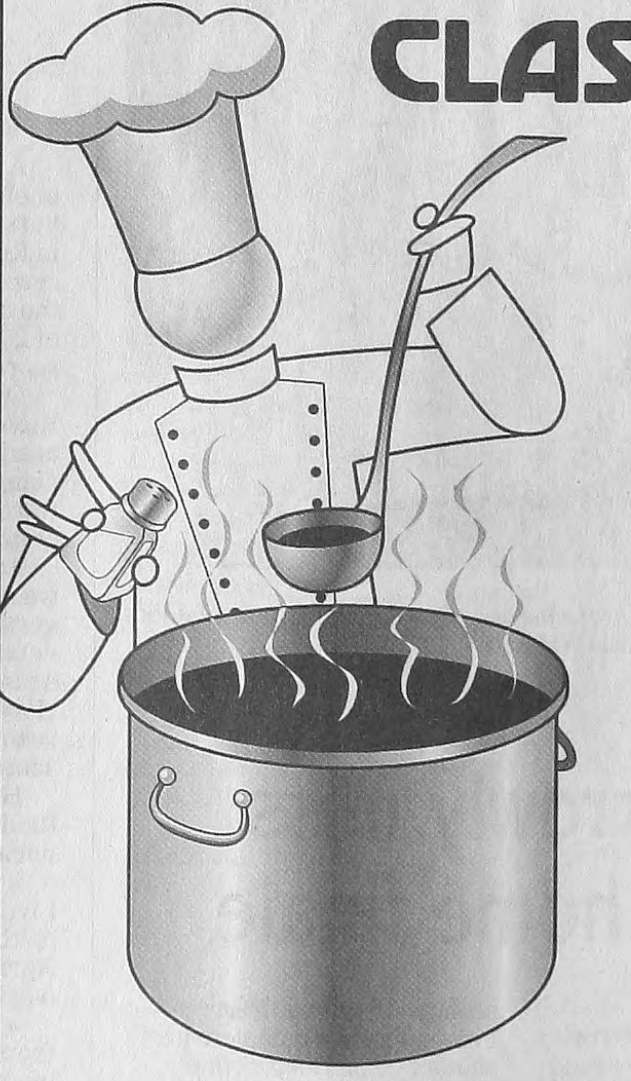
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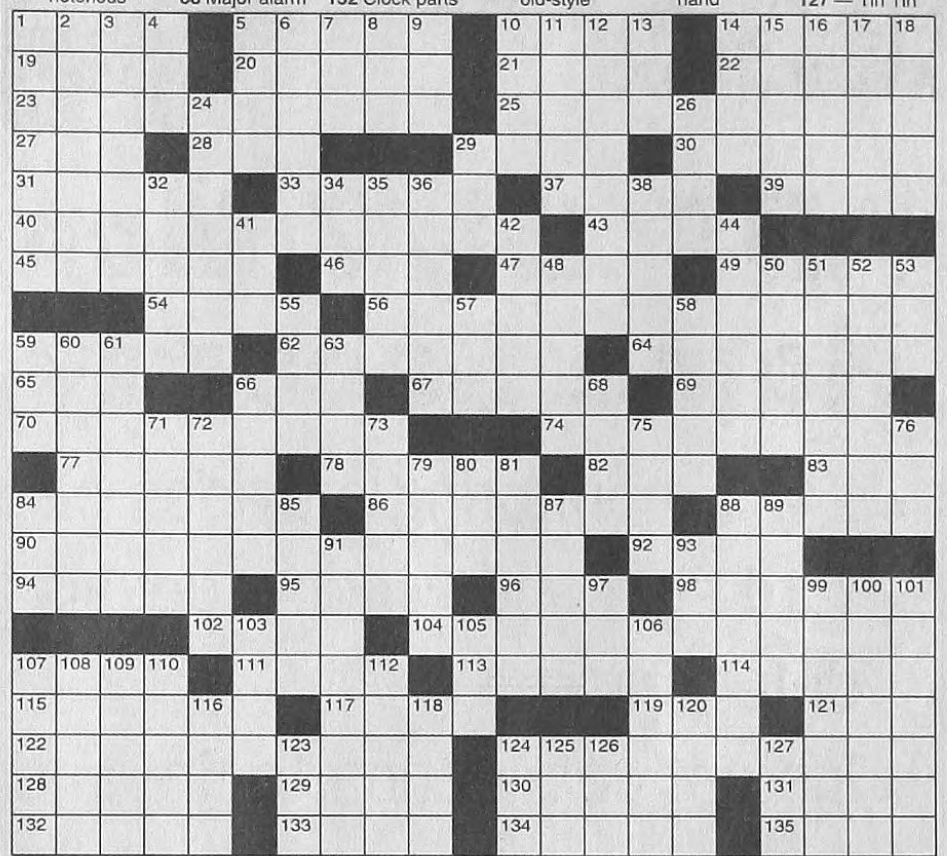
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 - 5 Huge chasm
 - 10 Nile serpents
 - 14 Navajo neighbors
 - 19 "Oh, gotcha"
 - 20 Flip (out)
 - 21 Mets' old home
 - 22 Blue color of the clear 9-Down
 - 23 Eau de vie applied to a head injury to reduce swelling?
 - 25 Having the same figure as Sheriff Wyatt?
 - 27 Verb suffix in London
 - 28 Vast age
 - 29 Average golf scores
 - 30 Kindhearted
 - 31 Clutch, e.g.
 - 33 Sets of two
 - 37 Gyro holder
 - 39 "Fish Magic" painter Paul
 - 40 Drink you can only get by contacting someone by beeper?
 - 43 See 8-Down
 - 45 Her cow was notorious
 - 46 Bite slightly
 - 47 O-V linkup
 - 49 Designer Schiaparelli and others
 - 54 Jethro — (rock band)
 - 56 Strong Dutch gin that's inexpensive?
 - 59 "The gloves are off!"
 - 62 Like alfresco events
 - 64 Obedient dogs, maybe
 - 65 Rival of HBO
 - 66 Male bud
 - 67 Bert's bud
 - 69 14th-century Russian ruler
 - 70 Golf club for extremely long shots?
 - 74 Unit for measuring the force of some PC picture files?
 - 77 "I pass," in cards
 - 78 Cantina cooking pots
 - 82 Chast of cartoons
 - 83 The sun, e.g.
 - 84 Negatively charged, as an atom
 - 86 Banned diet-drug combo
 - 88 Major alarm
 - 90 Pie topping that originated in Edison's lab?
 - 92 Base for poi
 - 94 Lung, for one
 - 95 Mail, e.g.
 - 96 Lacerate
 - 98 Taking the middle out of
 - 102 Santa — (some hot winds)
 - 104 Surrounded by a spicy Indian condiment?
 - 107 Grungy sort
 - 111 Fierce whale
 - 113 Tatum with an Oscar
 - 114 Post office gizmo
 - 115 Sushi condiment
 - 117 Like hand-me-downs
 - 119 Altar vow
 - 121 Vitamin no.
 - 122 Gusto shown by a wild Asian ass?
 - 124 Apt alternate title for this puzzle
 - 128 Did a fall yard chore
 - 129 "I concur!"
 - 130 Circus site
 - 131 Concept, in Soissons
 - 132 Clock parts
 - 133 Org. against dogfights
 - 134 Shindig
 - 135 Unhip type
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Painter Fra — Lippi
 - 2 Predictably
 - 3 Split up, as a corporation
 - 4 Summer and fall mo.
 - 5 "Hair" hairdo
 - 6 Marion of movies
 - 7 Appetite
 - 8 With
 - 9 Pilot's milieu
 - 10 Far offshore
 - 11 On the ball
 - 12 Soldiers on
 - 13 Undermine
 - 14 Taunting cry
 - 15 County in Missouri
 - 16 Iris part
 - 17 Dunne of old Hollywood
 - 18 Bog plant
 - 24 Trip during a kegger, say
 - 26 Eye carefully
 - 29 Chi-omega link
 - 32 1954-77 treaty gp.
 - 34 Over there, old-style
 - 35 Wonderland visitor
 - 36 Wife of Niles on "Frasier"
 - 38 Feel
 - 41 1995-2013 Arizona senator Jon
 - 42 Free of fluid
 - 44 Capital of Suisse
 - 48 Bit of parsley
 - 50 Onetime TV legal drama
 - 51 Shelled out for
 - 52 Deduced, not observed
 - 53 Mil. draft
 - 55 British noble
 - 57 Stirrup site
 - 58 Big name in ketchup
 - 59 Suffix with capital
 - 60 Paint diluter
 - 61 Going it alone
 - 63 — stick
 - 66 Obfuscate
 - 68 St. Pat's isle
 - 71 Virus in 2014 news
 - 72 Ryder of "Black Swan"
 - 73 Puckish
 - 75 Courier, e.g.
 - 76 "Grimm" network
 - 79 — helping hand
 - 80 Film director Lee
 - 81 Goad
 - 84 "Ti —" (Italian "I love you")
 - 85 French film award
 - 87 Poet Heinrich
 - 88 Bragging about
 - 89 Yema cava neighbor
 - 91 Cry for help
 - 93 Wilhelm's "Woe is me!"
 - 97 Links org. since 1916
 - 99 Trespass
 - 100 Less well-off
 - 101 Whirled
 - 103 Film genre
 - 105 In vogue, in the '60s
 - 106 Customer
 - 107 Fencing tool
 - 108 Oahu porch
 - 109 Port in Japan
 - 110 Deli nosh
 - 112 Good thing
 - 116 Nap spots
 - 118 Peak
 - 120 Attack time in WWII
 - 123 Tase, e.g.
 - 124 Road guide
 - 125 Nest egg
 - 126 Reagan-era teen, e.g.
 - 127 — Tin Tin



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

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

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!

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

JOINT HEALTH WORD SEARCH

WORDS	WORDS
I N F L A M M A T I O N I T B G K U T T	ACUPUNCTURE
A N O D N E T E R U P X S Y R R O C G E	ARTHRITIS
Y P A R E H T V A D N D O S M O S U K E N	ASPIRATION
L M T S G L O K B H E W M E O E P D T D	BENDING
P Y G I W L L X M J L V E G T L K P E E	CARPAL
G R N A R A U H X L A T A I H L G U R	CARTILAGE
N T I R I A N C L H O N R L O E M K S	DEGENERATIVE
F P H T S C J S O P W N I I N N M E N D	DISEASE
I A C H T U B F A S S O C T E L C D D E	ENDORPHINS
B S T R R P E D E I A S S A R H M J I R N	EXERCISE
R T E I M U N J S P D M A A E O C C E O	FIBROMYALGIA
O I R T N N D E S V O T I C I V A A G S	FINGER
M F T I E C I G E N I P S N M E R T N I	GLUCOSAMINE
Y F S S N T N A R V H P T N G E P I I N	GOUT
A N D H U U G S E V P S U U S N A O F D	HYDROTHERAPY
L E L D M R P S O R I A T I C K L N U E	IMMUNE
G S T W M E G A G N O I T A R I P S A R	INFLAMMATION
I S G J I J K M T E X E R C I S E T V P	ISOMETRICS
A Y A X R Y P A R E H T O R D Y H R M O	JOINTS
D I S E A S E S S N I H P R O D N E S F	KNEE
	LUMBAR
	MASSAGE
	MEDICATION
	MOTION
	NSAID
	PSORIATIC
	SPINE
	STIFFNESS
	STRETCHING
	SUPPORT
	SWOLLEN
	TENDER
	TENDON
	THERAPY
	WRIST

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers	Word Search Answers
FADS	ACUPUNCTURE
ISEEK	ARTHRITIS
LUMPB	ASPIRATION
ISEE	BENDING
PURSE	CARPAL
PAGERK	CARTILAGE
OLEARY	DEGENERATIVE
TULL	DISEASE
ITSON	ENDORPHINS
SHO	EXERCISE
MILEWED	FIBROMYALGIA
NOBID	FINGER
ANTONIO	GLUCOSAMINE
MENLO	GOUT
ORGAN	HYDROTHERAPY
ANAS	IMMUNE
SLOB	INFLAMMATION
WASABI	ISOMETRICS
ONAGER	JOINTS
RAKED	KNEE
DIALS	LUMBAR
	MASSAGE
	MEDICATION
	MOTION
	NSAID
	PSORIATIC
	SPINE
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	THERAPY
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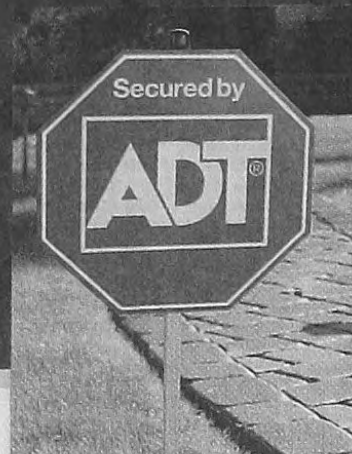


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