

SPREE 2011

FIREWORKS SHOW DRAWS AN ESTIMATED 200,000 TO LIVONIA
PAGE A8

ALL-AREA BASEBALL

TEAM PACKS A PUNCH AT THE PLATE
SPORTS, B2

DISNEY STAR A HIT, A6

THURSDAY 6130
June 30, 2011

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WESTLAND
OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF

Appointments

The Westland City Council has approved four mayoral appointments to the Library Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission.

Approved at the council's June 20 meeting was the appointment of Hector Lebert to the ZBA. Lebert has served as an alternate since May 2011. His term is to fill the remainder of a three-year term that expires May 6, 2012.



Tremper



Robinson



Semborski

The council also confirmed the appointments of Sheri Robinson to the Westland Library Board to fill a term that expires July 2, 2016, and William Tremper to the Westland Planning Commission to fill the remainder of a term that expires May 6, 2012.

Mayor William Wild is also reappointed Evelyn Semborski to the Westland Housing Commission for a five-year term, which expires June 17, 2016.

Ring the bell

It's a sound associated with Christmas, but the ring-a-ling of the Salvation Army bells will be heard around Warren and Wayne roads Saturdays during July.

Wayne-Westland Salvation Army volunteers will be taking to the streets, bell ringing for the annual Christmas in July fund-raiser. Bell ringers will be out between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, July 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Christmas in July

Look inside this month's edition of Hometown Life Inspire for a chance to win a holiday shopping spree. Three lucky winners will win \$250, \$125 or \$75 to celebrate Christmas in July.

Find this holiday beach ball on the pages of INSPIRE and enter to win. See more details in the July INSPIRE in print and online at hometownlife.com.

Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop held 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey east of Venoy.

Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.

Free workshop

The city of Westland is working with developers to assist residents that lose their home to foreclosure to try to remain in the same neighborhood.

To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to lindamiller@nationalfaith.org.



Student Tiffany Harris is comforted by Wayne Memorial Principal Valerie Orr while expressing her thanks to all the staff for all their help.

It pays to be a Wayne Memorial High Champion

BY MAGGIE WUNDERLICH
CORRESPONDENT

Emily Everett set a goal to raise her 1.7 grade point average. A junior at Wayne Memorial High School, she said, "my mentor encouraged me and kept me on my feet, if I was slipping."

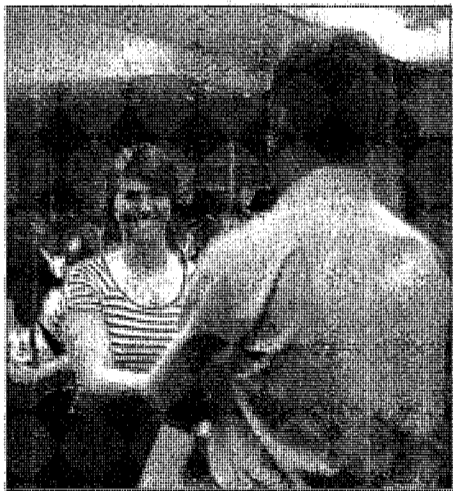
Everett's hard work and perseverance paid off with an impressive 3.5 GPA. She felt deeply satisfied, but that's not all. She was awarded \$200 for reaching her GPA goal.

Everett took part in Champions, a mentoring and incentive program at Wayne Memorial. Now in its third year, Champions has changed the lives of 700 students and their families.

Recently, 42 Wayne Memorial students were celebrated as Champions at an awards banquet. Principal Valerie Orr congratulated the "outstanding Champions" and expressed genuine appreciation to the mentors. She looked on proudly as she handed out the monetary awards.

The idea behind Champions originated with Bill Gray, the school's psychologist. Adult mentors partner with students and help them set an academic goal. They meet regularly and the students who reach their goals receive \$200, have their names engraved on a massive trophy and are proclaimed Champions.

"That view isn't so pleasant this summer — about six months after the Westland golf course and banquet



Alexa Girouard is congratulated by school psychologist Bill Gray for being a Wayne Memorial champion.

easy since it takes many volunteers and funds. Luckily, 102 teachers and staff embraced the program. Also, Richard and Leslie Helppie of Bloomfield Hills graciously stepped up to provide the money.

"I am happy to support this," said Richard Helppie, who is a Wayne Memorial Distinguished Alumni graduate and managing partner at Vineyard Capital Group. The Helppie Family Charitable Foundation's primary focus is to help medically and educationally challenged children.

"High school is hard enough," Helppie

MAKING IT WORK

Implementing the program was not as

Please see **CHAMPIONS, A2**

City contracts out building inspections

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Now that Westland has a contractor handling building inspection services, the first noticeable change will be location.

When city offices reopen for business Tuesday, July 5, the Building Department will have relocated from its current offices in the Westland Economic Development Building into space at the Department of Public Services, 37137 Marquette.

"We're remodeling the lobby. Citizens will notice how much more customer friendly it is. They will have more access to the employees," said Mayor William Wild. "The other thing people will notice is that it will be more efficient and timely with more access to inspectors."

The council recently approved a contract with

McKenna Associates Inc. of Northville for professional services including inspections, enforcement and plan review of codes for electrical, mechanical, building, plumbing, the City's Residential Rental Housing Inspection Program, Home Certification Program and Community Development Block Grant Program.

"It will all be done through scheduling, we will have access to nine inspectors and more could be added as the volume increases when the economy does better," said Wild. "We were trying to cover it with two or three inspectors."

In the past, that could have meant two-three-week delays in getting inspections for city certifications required before a house is sold.

"The real estate agents and sellers will see quicker inspections," said Wild.

Please see **INSPECTIONS, A2**

Fire believed set to cover up break-in

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A fire, apparently set early Sunday to destroy evidence of a break-in at a local restaurant, is under investigation by Westland firefighters and police.

The Golden Skillet restaurant, 8275 N. Wayne Road, was closed when the fire was reported around 1 a.m.

"It's still under investigation. It looks like they had a possible break-in that was being covered up by an intentionally set fire," said Westland Fire Capt. John Adams, an arson investigator. "There were multiple areas of fire."

The fire appears to have been started in the rear storage room and in a cooking-food prep area, Adams said.

"We took samples to be tested for accelerants. There was

a heavy smell of gasoline and a container left on the scene," he said.

A broken window was found on a door on the south side of the building. The security alarm keypad was found smashed and the cash register had been taken from the building to the rear of the property.

The restaurant is closed pending the investigation of the fire, which Adams said caused smoke damage throughout the building.

"About 85 percent of the damage is smoke. There was charring in the food prep area and the back storage area that had heavy charring," Adams said. "The guys (firefighters) had to take a 5-foot by 10-foot section of the flat roof down (making sure the fire hadn't spread)."

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City takes on tall grass at closed Hawthorne Valley Golf Course

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Kim Rowe and her husband, Jason, moved into their home just over a year ago, there was a nice view of the Hawthorne Valley Golf Course which butts up to their back yard on Ledgecliff.

Her neighbors used a weed wacker to take down some of the tall grass close

to the backyard fences, said Rowe, who worried about insects and other undesirable critters attracted by the high grass.

That area near the fence has also been the focus of Westland Department of Public Services crews who have been out to help try to keep the golf course under control as much as possible. DPS workers used heavy equipment to try to tackle the tall grass closest to residents.

"The grass was at least three feet

tall and the neighbors started calling with the warm weather," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "There are 200 homes that back up or are across from the golf course. They were telling us about the taller grass and standing water."

The nine-hole golf course runs east from Merriman between Warren Road and Hines Drive following along the

Please see **GRASS, A2**



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INDEX

APARTMENTS ... B11
AUTOMOTIVE ... B12
CAREER BUILDER ... B11

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... B10
HOME & SERVICE ... B10
OBITUARIES ... B5

REAL ESTATE ... B10
SPORTS ... B1
STRICTLY BUSINESS ... A9

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Evans repeats as Westland Festival queen

Miss Westland Summer Festival has been crowned and the carnival is in town - that means it's time for the 41st Annual Westland Summer Festival.

The fun begins today (Thursday) at 5 p.m. and continues through the holiday weekend culminating with a fireworks display shortly after 10 p.m. Monday, July 4.

Schoolcraft College student Janell Evans, 18, was crowned Miss Westland Summer Festival following a competition Saturday at the Friendship Center. Evans also was the winner of the title in 2010 and became first contest to repeat as Miss Westland Summer Festival.

Evans hopes to earn a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and eventually become a special education teacher. After being selected as Miss Westland Summer Festival, Evans

tearfully thanked the judges noting the \$1,200 in scholarship money was a blessing in particular since her father was recently diagnosed with cancer.

The first runner-up is Caitlin Burns, 20, a senior studying communications art and political science at Eastern Michigan University. She plans to attend law school, practice criminal law and hopes one day to represent Westland in Lansing as a state representative or senator. She received \$800 in scholarship money.

Second runner-up Bailey Begley, 16, is 10th-grader at Livonia Churchill High School. Her future plans include college, preferably the University of Michigan, and eventually becoming a doctor. She was awarded \$500 in scholarship money.

The 10 contestants were judged on their applicants, essays and GPA in advance

of the pageant. On Saturday, they were rated by the judges on their poise, personality, appearance in formal wear and responses to questions.

This year the judges included state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, Wayne-Westland school board Vice-President Shawna Walker, attorney Melissa Cox of city attorney Fausone and Bohn, Westland Observer staff writer LeAnne Rogers and Pam Prough of My Lady's Florist.

Festival committee chairman Ken Mehl noted that the Westland Summer Festival was the only community festival in Michigan to host a scholarship pageant in conjunction with their event.

All 10 pageant participants have agreed to be involved in various activities during the festival. The pageant is open to female Westland residents 16-22 years old who have never been married.



Janell Evans (center) was crowned Miss Westland Summer Festival 2011 Saturday. It was the first time a contestant was a repeat winner. With Evans are second runner up Bailey Begley (left) and first runner-up Caitlin Burns.

GRASS

FROM PAGE A1

path of the Rouge River. Like Hines Drive, the low-laying golf course also had a lot of standing water after heavy spring rains.

"We learned that the because of the low land, they were pumping water daily (when the golf course operated)," said Wild. "They had to use heavy equipment — backhoes and a

ditch hog."

The entire Hawthorne Valley property is listed for sale with Simon Property Disposition. The company website describes Hawthorne Valley, offered for \$1.5 million, as a golf country club with large banquet/bar area, lower level restaurant, dinner theatre room and pro shop. Constructed in 1947, the structure housing the banquet facility is 24,126 square feet.

"We are mowing along the residential area and staying

on them for compliance. If we need a lawsuit to do it, we will do that," said Wild. "We plan on sending them the bill."

When golfers were on the course, Rowe said golf balls would end up in her backyard but that wasn't a big deal — her father and father-in-law are both golfers who can use the free balls.

"The golfers didn't really bother us at all. Now, it's kind of an eyesore," said Rowe.

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CHAMPIONS

FROM PAGE A1

said. "Then students may have challenges like home situations or other issues. This program says to those students, you are worth it."

Like most of the Champions, Tiffany Harris, a junior, gave a heartfelt thanks to Helleppie and her mentor. She also conveyed a tearful thanks to her mother, Renée Harris, and her neighbors, Sophie Selewski, Marge Ross and Georgeen Kirk "for keeping an eye on me." Renée Harris said Tiffany's father died last year, yet she used his memory to inspire her.

Alex Driessche, a junior, aspires to be an orthopedic doctor and raised his GPA in order to improve his chances of getting into the University of Michigan. The money incentive gave him an extra motivation to meet his goal.

Another junior, Michelle Robinson, raised her grades from D's and E's to A's and B's. At first, the money inspired her to begin the program, but once she started, she learned about time management and grew closer to her teachers.

Danny Lees, a junior, plans to buy kickboxing gloves with his money. He said his mentor encouraged him to get better grades by promising to make him a butter cream cake. Kidding aside, Danny's mother, Jennifer Lees, was proud of him and wants to help him achieve whatever else he wants to do.

PROUD OF DAUGHTER
Juanita Francis was proud



Jason Martin receives a check for \$200 and congratulations from Richard Helleppie (center) and school psychologist Bill Gray.



Wayne Memorial student Emily Everett talks about the help her mentor provided in getting to achieve her goal of improving her grade point average.

of her daughter, Ashé Lewis, a sophomore who achieved her 4.0 GPA goal.

"We've been in a hotel for about four weeks because our basement flooded. Despite all that, Ashé was very focused and maintained her grades," Francis said.

Another sophomore, Jordan Buford, had to give up some video game time in order to attain his GPA goal. He attributes his success to his men-

tor, who "was always on me to do my work."

This was Jazzietta Turner's third attempt. The junior almost gave up, but then reached a turning point and persevered because her mentor "got on me about it and made me study."

In order to reach even more students, Helleppie founded Champions of Wayne and recently hired Sean Galvin of Plymouth as the executive director. Galvin is enthusiastic over his new position and said, "I look forward to expanding it and making it better — to make an impact on as many lives as possible." Galvin previously ran the EMU Bright Futures after-school program at Franklin Middle School in Wayne.

Gray said next year's goal is to have 400 students in the Champions of Wayne program.

For more information about Champions of Wayne, go online to www.championsofwayne.org or contact Bill Gray at grayb@wwcs.k12.mi.us.

INSPECTIONS

FROM PAGE A1

Under the agreement, McKenna will be paid by inspection fees receiving 70 percent with 30 percent going to the city to cover clerical and administrative costs. City staff will process permits and schedule inspections with Planning Director Bruce Thompson serving as the department head.

The effective elimination of the city-staffed Building Department resulted in three inspector positions being eliminated and the inspec-

tors allowed to bump into other positions within their American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees bargaining unit.

"I was against outsourcing the jobs and I need to remain consistent," said Councilman Bill Johnson, who cast the only vote against the McKenna contract.

Johnson was also the only opposing vote on a second contract to hire Patrick Ostrosky, employed by a McKenna subcontractor, to work 20 hours per week serving as the city's building director for inspections and handling plan reviews.

Contracting the build-

ing inspection services was spurred by finances. Wild noted the decreased demand for building permits and inspections due to the slow economy but the city inspectors still had to be paid full-time wages and benefits.

"Under this contract, there are no costs to the city if there are no inspections," said Wild, who estimated a \$1.5 million savings over five years.

Additionally, Wild said the relocation to the DPS building will make the building clerical staff person able to work with two existing DPS clerical workers as needed.

"McKenna has an exceptional, award-winning reputation for helping Michigan communities reach their full potential," said Wild. Recently named Small Business of the Year by *Crain's Detroit Business* magazine, McKenna specializes in community planning and zoning, urban design, landscape architecture and economic development.

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Garden City resident deals with adult onset hydrocephalus

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Garden City resident Debra Likeric knew that something was wrong four years ago. She was ascending stairs and her foot just seemed to "stick" and miss a step.

She also suffered from fatigue and incontinence. "I couldn't figure out what the problem was," she said. "I was falling into walls, walking and losing my balance."

She was diagnosed at age 48 with adult onset hydrocephalus.

Sometimes people are misdiagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia because they forget things. Likeric had to stop working as a lunch room employee for Garden City Public Schools. The doctors couldn't find a specific reason why she acquired the condition.

Her husband, J.B., a mail carrier with a route in Dearborn Heights, handles all of her medication by putting them into separate pill containers.

"My brain doesn't work as good as it should," Likeric said.

She has severe head pain that has endured. A cough or a sneeze can set it off.

"She was having trouble with her memory and her balance," he said.



Debra Likeric, a Garden City resident, talks about her struggle with adult onset hydrocephalus four years ago while her husband, known best as J.B., looks on. She plans to participate in the Hydrocephalus Walk on Saturday.

J.B. said that he also helps by providing as much comfort as he can give his wife.

Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of fluid — cerebrospinal fluid — within cavities called ventricles inside the brain. This condition can occur at any age.

CSF is produced in the ventricles, circulates through the ventricular system in the brain, and is absorbed into the bloodstream. CSF is in constant circulation and has

many functions. It surrounds the brain and spinal cord and acts as a protective cushion against injury. It contains nutrients and proteins that are needed for the nourishment and normal function of the brain. It carries waste products away from surrounding tissues.

Hydrocephalus occurs when there is an imbalance between the amount of CSF that is produced and the rate at which it is absorbed. As the

More than 500 people expected to walk the WALK

More than 500 walkers representing local families, schools, corporations and organizations are expected to mobilize for the Hydrocephalus Association's Detroit WALK.

The event will take place Saturday, July 2, at the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. The money will support the HA's national goal to raise more than \$750,000 for critical hydrocephalus research and education.

"There's no cure for hydrocephalus and the current treatment was developed in the 1950s. We need to raise money for research to find a cure and improve treatment options," said Jennifer Bechard, chair for the local WALK. "Anyone can develop hydrocephalus at any age and

it's more prevalent than most people think. It's time to find a cure."

Bechard has had 91 surgeries so far due to shunt complications as a result of hydrocephalus. Her 91st surgery occurred as the ribbon was cut at the opening ceremonies at last year's WALK.

More than 70 of them have occurred in just the last five years. Getting through the shock and the periods of uncertainty following every surgery would not have been possible without the support provided by the Hydrocephalus Association, she said.

"We are very excited about our event," said Jenna Ellis, the other chair for the local WALK. "The WALK Logistics and Organizing Committee, which is responsible for the event's planning and execu-

tion, is currently seeking additional volunteers."

People interested in assisting can call Ellis at (734) 788-1077.

Last year, the Hydrocephalus Association WALKs raised more than \$640,000 from 25 sites. This year fundraising is expected to top \$750,000. All Hydrocephalus Association WALKs are coordinated and run solely by volunteers with all of the proceeds used to eliminate the challenges of hydrocephalus by funding critical research and education.

Sponsors for the Hydrocephalus Association Detroit WALK 2011 include John E. Green Company, Detroit Medical Center, Sweet P's Organic Pet, Carlson Catering and Eastside Mario's.

CSF builds up, it causes the ventricles to enlarge and the pressure inside the head to increase.

There is no known way to prevent or cure hydrocephalus. To date, the most effective treatment is surgical insertion of a shunt which diverts

the flow of CSF into another region of the body, most often the abdominal cavity, where it can be absorbed. A valve within the shunt maintains the CSF at normal pressure within the ventricles.

Debra Likeric had a shunt put in with a tube that goes

into her stomach. She hasn't had to have a repeat surgery since August 2007 but has had to have reprogramming about 13 times. A special box helps with the reprogramming process.

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Traxler directs McKenna's community development service

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A familiar Garden City planner has earned a new title and promotion with her company.

Michigan's largest community planning and design firm, McKenna Associates, has promoted Ann Arbor native Sarah Traxler to director of Community Development.



Traxler

Traxler, who in six years at McKenna has provided planning and redevelopment services to several Michigan communities, will oversee the company's expansion of helping municipalities maximize the benefits of federal

programs while continuing to provide community planning and design services to dozens of community clients.

"Sarah Traxler is the force behind major successful redevelopment projects that are changing the future of communities by replacing blight and obsolescence with hope and opportunity," said Phillip C. McKenna, president and owner of McKenna

Associates. "Her work in Saginaw and Wayne County has made Sarah one of the state's preeminent community development specialists, with a gift for navigating the sometimes complex world of state and federal programs to ensure communities see maximum value for their citizens."

Nothing will change in Garden City. "Sarah will be serving

Garden City as before, just with a different title," said Christina McKenna, communication director.

Traxler received a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan. She also is a board member of the Michigan Community Development Association.

McKenna Associates provides community planning, landscape architecture, urban design, zoning, economic development, community relations, public participation, and municipal wireless services to more than 150 cities, counties, townships, villages and select private firms across the Midwest.

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Resident finds Challenger missing from back yard

Break-in
Residents of a home in the 8000 block of North Hix told police they returned home June 26 to find the front door had been kicked open and the house ransacked. Reported missing were two laptop computers, a Wii game system and two games valued at \$2,180.

Witnesses described three suspects as teenage black males with short nearly bald haircuts carrying backpacks or gym bags. The thieves also ate a couple packs of fruit snacks and took 75 packs of the snacks with them.

Stolen vehicles

2 On June 25, a resident in the 36000 block of Fernwood told police that someone had stolen a rental vehicle from the rear yard of his home. He said he believed the key was in the cup holder as the vehicle has a push button start. The 2011 Dodge Challenger is valued at \$30,000.

A resident of the Wilderness Park Apartments, 7281 Wilderness Park Drive, told police early June 28 that someone had stolen his car which had been parked under the canopy for less than three hours. The man said he had the keys to his 1999 Chrysler which was valued at \$3,000.

The vehicle was described

as having the driver door lock partially pried open, four new tires and work tools inside. The man said the vehicle was paid for and he had lost a second set of keys about nine months ago.

A 1996 GMC Dodge Savana conversion van, valued at \$500, was reported stolen from a home in the 32000 block of Cowan. The owner said the vehicle was unlocked, had no license plate and hadn't been driven for some time.

Attempted vehicle theft

3 A Dearborn woman told police that someone tried to steal her 1999 Buick LeSabre while she was working at Heartland Market, 34414 Ford, June 24. The steering column was reported broken open exposing the ignition mechanism. The officer noted the electrical system was on but the ignition key would not turn the engine on or the electrical system off.

Attempted break-in

4 The owner of Tobacco Route, 6616 N. Wayne Road, told police June 25 that he arrived at the business to find the rear door had been pried open. A security bar kept the door from opening enough to allow someone to enter. The officer noted the door handle/lock was destroyed and the telephone lines had been cut.

-By LeAnne Rogers

Drugs, go-cart stolen in break-ins

Break-in

5 A homeowner in the 1100 block of Lathers returned home to find a bedroom window screen on the ground underneath an open window about noon June 27.

Nothing was missing except her prescription pills which included 90 Vicodin pills and six Lexan pills.

GARDEN CITY

Home invasions

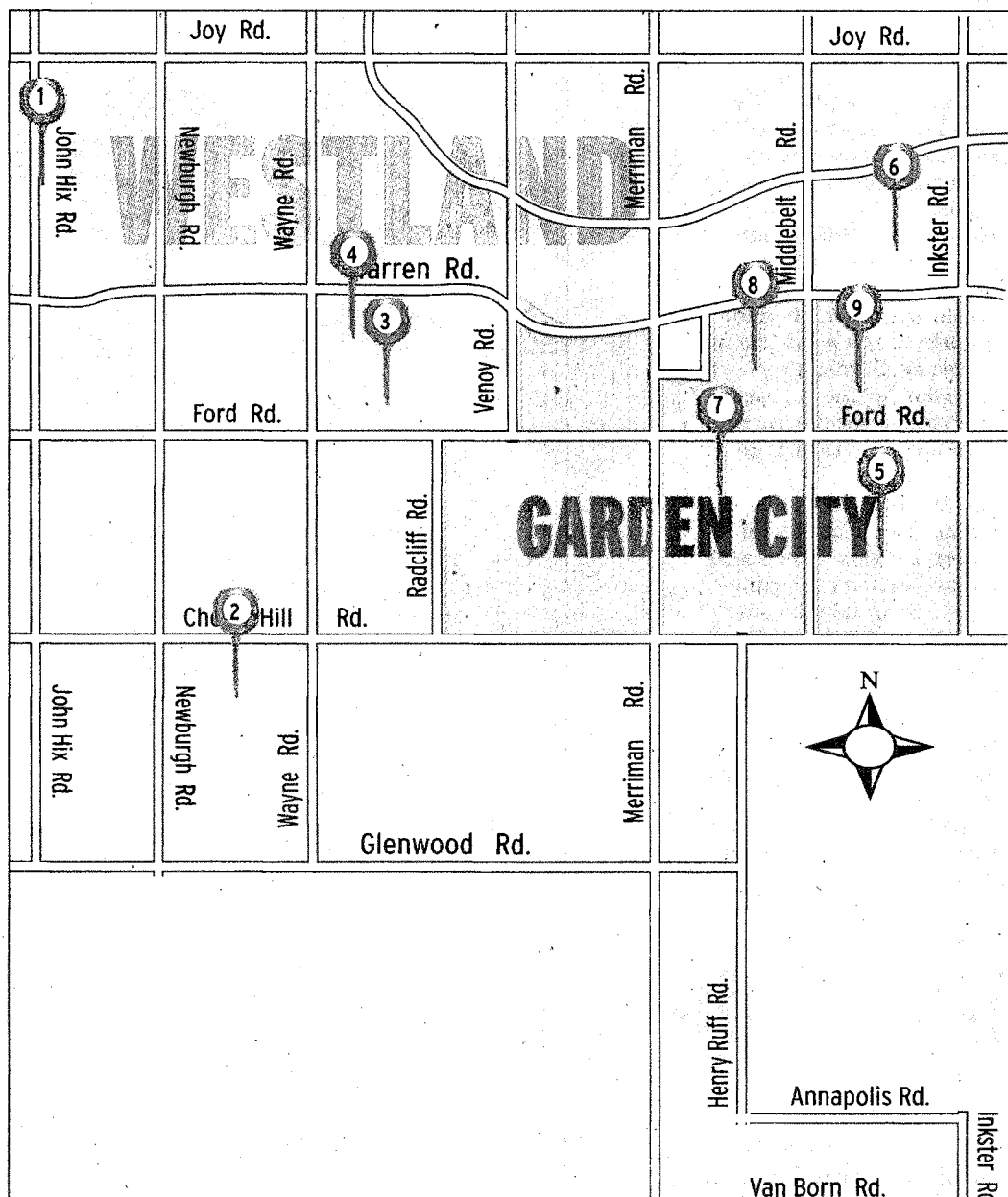
6 A resident in the 6800 block of Lathers reported that he came home about 3 p.m. June 25 and found his back door open. He told police the thief emptied out a pill bottle containing 99 Hydrocodone pills and stole \$100.

Someone entered an unlocked garage in the 6800 block of Hartel and stole a go-cart June 25. The Yerf Dog go-cart was valued at \$1,000.

A homeowner in the 5800 block of Belton reported a variety of items stolen after his home was broken into June 24. Taken were a variety of plastic containers, a laptop computer and cash.

The owner said that he was only away from his home for a few hours that morning when he returned home to find his back door open.

A homeowner in the 800 block of Cardwell reported June 21 that someone entered his home by dragging a lawn chair to beneath his bathroom window. A jewelry box and jewelry valued at more than \$4,000 was stolen.



Attempted home invasion

7 A homeowner in the 2900 block of Bock reported that at about 8:30 a.m. June 25 someone tried to break

into his home by prying open the storm door and interior. The intruder didn't gain entry because the door was padlocked.

Stolen cars

8 The owner of a 1996 Buick Century who lives in the 30200 block of Dawson reported that her car was stolen sometime before 5:30 a.m. June 27. She later found her car in the area of Pardo and Merriman.

The owner said that this was the second time that the car was stolen this year.

The owner of a 1995 Buick Century who lives in the 1800 block of Arcola reported that sometime before 4 a.m. June 26 his car was stolen from his driveway.

Stolen car attempt

Someone tried to steal a vehicle parked in the 28000 block of Bock June 23-24 by damaging the steering column.

Someone tried to steal a GMC vehicle June 23-24 in the 29000 block of Bock. The ignition was broken off and the steering column was damaged. The owner had installed an aftermarket column lock which prevented the vehicle from being stolen.

Disorderly conduct

9 The police arrested a 58-year-old Garden City man at Joe D's Bar, 29242 Ford, about 2 a.m. June 25 after they were dispatched on the report of a large fight.

The police observed the man trying to throw punches.


They learned that the ruckus began when the man inappropriately touched women inside the bar. That led others to try to stop him from doing so.

-By Sue Buck



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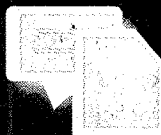
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Population trends impact future of region

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER
STAFF WRITER

Kurt Metzger plays the numbers, but what he is betting on has nothing to do with personal gain.

Metzger, who started Data Driven Detroit for the Kresge Skillman Foundation, is betting that his numbers will help everyone from health care organizations to government units and retailers provide the appropriate services for their target audiences.

The statistics were anything but dry when Metzger spoke Monday at the Schoolcraft College VisITaTech Center in Livonia, before a group of about 40 stakeholders at a board meeting of St. John Providence Health System. That health organization has five hospitals in the metropolitan area, including in Southfield and Novi.

One didn't need to see the numbers while looking at one of Metzger's maps showing population trends. A broad expanse of green covered the far western areas of Oakland County and all of Livingston County, depicting the areas with growing population.

The map made sense to Lou Martin, who handles marketing and communications for Providence Park in Novi.

"We have a terrific number of births at our hospital," he said. "The (I-)96 corridor, it seems like there's something in the water."

For instance, according to statistics provided by the South Lyon School District, the number of students enrolled increased 2,654 students over 19 years, starting from the 1991-92 school year. But a look at the yearly figures show that the enrollment dipped slightly in the 2008-09 school year, which is considered to be the beginning of the economic collapse in the area. The next three years showed an increase of only 23 students.

Those figures fit with Metzger's contention, based on data from the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey, a substitute for the long form of the Census, that sprawl is continuing and having a serious impact on service delivery throughout the nine county region he studies.

Following along the I-96 corridor, after its split west of I-275, are towns like Novi, South Lyon and Brighton, followed by Howell at M-59 and I-96. Without the use of a map, a drive along the corridor shows proof of population growth through major shopping developments at Novi, at Brighton just south of the intersection with US-23, and a major outlet shopping development in Howell.

The impact of that growth means, however, that more land is consumed and that the demands for transportation are growing. "We keep abandoning areas in our core," he said. "Seventy-six percent of the jobs (in the area) are 10 miles or more" from where people live.

"The whole idea is that we operate on a regional economy," something that Metzger adds is the key to the future of the nine-county area. "We have got to talk about how we can work more together."

If Metzger had one common theme, it was "live local, hire local."

THE YOUNG LEAVE
Some areas have seen significant declines. "Michigan had



Kurt Metzger of Data Driven Detroit, shown in this file photo, said population trends will impact services in the area.

more than a 540,000 net loss from 2000-2009," Metzger said. The greatest drop came in the 25-44 age group, he said.

"Young people are leaving the state," he said. Young couples are the most impacted by the last hired, first fired policy of employers, he said. Since many do not own homes, they are better able to move. A lot of those couples, he said, have young children.

Like with the growth of shopping centers, local school officials wouldn't need to see a map to know that the number of local births has dropped for the area and for Michigan. School officials carefully track such numbers, since the state aid to education is awarded on a per student basis.

Some of those young couples who leave also are encouraging their parents to follow them, he added.

At the other end of the age spectrum, "The number of deaths is stable," Metzger said. That means the area's population is growing older and needing different kinds of services. "The baby boomers are here, and they are aging in place," he said.

"This is reflected in an older workforce," Metzger said. That workforce frequently doesn't have the education and skills that will induce businesses to locate in Michigan, Metzger said.

"Opportunity and education are key to the state of Michigan," he said. "...Michigan ranks 37th in the percentage of college-educated residents."

Metzger's stress on the need for education comes at a time when the state Legislature just passed a budget from Gov. Snyder that reduces the amount of state aid to education.

Significant changes also have occurred in the movement of ethnic and racial groups, he said. That's important, Metzger said, for attracting international business and investment.

A NOTE OF OPTIMISM
Metzger expressed optimism on the future.

"The economy really hit this area, but we're about as far down as we're going to get," he said. Still, he cautioned that "we dropped much faster than it is going take to get back." He estimates that it will be five years before the area's economy fully recovers.

There are other ways that Metzger's statistics have an impact on lives in Southeastern Michigan, including the redistricting procedure for congressional and state officeholders now going on in Lansing.

Metzger calls congressional

districts 13 and 14 interesting because, for the first time, they cross the Eight Mile Road border that separated Oakland County from Wayne County and from Detroit. Those districts are currently represented by Hansen Clarke and John Conyers.

Once said to be the most segregated area of the country, Metzger said that is no longer true.

"We're now the fourth," he said.

Metzger cautions that the data only can be interpreted so far. The sample size of the American Community Survey is small, reducing its reliability, he said. And while data for larger towns like Farmington Hills and Southfield will be updated every three years, smaller towns like Ferndale and Royal Oak will have demographics updated every five years.

George Blaty, a business consultant with the Southfield Chamber of Commerce, said the most important statistic to him was the one that said that the 25-44 age group declined. He asked Metzger what the "trigger point" would be for an economic turnaround that would bring people back.

Young people want diversity and a viable urban area, Metzger said. However, "they want the

suburbs, like Royal Oak," when it comes time to buy a house and raise a family. That means that Detroit, Ann Arbor, Saginaw and Bay City all need to be revitalized, he added.

"A city has to have a kind of buzz to it" to attract young people, Metzger said. There was general agreement, though, that no one understood former governor Jennifer Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative.

Revitalizing those cities will take improved housing, because much of the housing there "was not meant to last," Metzger said.

While "single family homes are the strength of the region," Metzger also said that population trends will dictate what regional transportation is needed. That some communities have been allowed to opt out of regional transportation systems "makes no sense at all," he said.

Improved transportation systems could carry people from the core cities right out to that I-96 corridor, where "Novi is an employment center," Metzger said. And it will take that improved housing and access to jobs to repopulate core cities in the area, or, as Metzger said, "Where you live shouldn't determine how you live."

sarmbruster@hometownlife.com

Clean-up effort targets more of I-275 trail

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mere weeks after hundreds of bicyclists from across western Wayne County and beyond celebrated the official unveiling of a newly rebuilt stretch of the I-275 Metro Trail, a volunteer group has announced an effort to clean up another section of the pathway.

The 40-mile trail — coupled with the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail that carves a pristine path across Canton — has drawn increasing attention since June 4, when supporters marked River Day by inviting bike riders and other outdoor enthusiasts to see a rebuilt section of the paved pathway between Michigan Avenue and Hines Drive.

In the latest effort, a volunteer group, Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail, has announced plans to clean up a section that parallels M-14 by removing overgrown vegetation along the pathway.

"We want to keep the path clear and safe for those who use it," Dave Duffield, the group's maintenance coordinator, said. "It's an ongoing effort."

Duffield and other trail supporters say the Michigan Department of Transportation has done its part by improving areas of the I-275 path that had

deteriorated and become potentially unsafe for those who ride or walk along the trail.

"MDOT was nice enough to fix it up, and they frankly do not have the money for the upkeep," Duffield said. "That's where we, as volunteers, can step in and do that."

The summer season's first cleanup along M-14 has been scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 9. Volunteers will meet on Schoolcraft west of Haggerty, in an area where Duffield said helpers are allowed to park in a grassy area along the fence.

Volunteers are asked to give an hour or two of their time. The effort is expected to continue until noon or so, though Duffield said volunteers potentially could finish their work earlier if they have a large turnout such as scout troops.

Volunteers are urged to bring work gloves, long-bladed shrub clippers, hand-trimmers, metal rakes and brooms. Organizers also said a gas-powered leaf blower would be helpful.

Water and a light snack will be available. For more information, call Duffield at (248) 994-3074 or visit Friends of the I-275 Metro Trail on Yahoo! Groups or Facebook.

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
July 14, 2011

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 14, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following:

- 11-006, Conditional Rezoning. An applicant is proposing to establish a child care center at 28482 Cherry Hill Road. The property is zoned O-1, Office. The applicant is requesting to Conditionally Rezone to a C-1 zoning district in order to allow a child care center that would only be allowed in a C-1, C-2 or C-3 zoning district. The property is located on the north side of Cherry Hill Road and west of Harrison St.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Posted: July 7, 2011.
Publish: June 30, 2011
EO08745267 24.5

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Disney star draws screaming crowd to mall

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

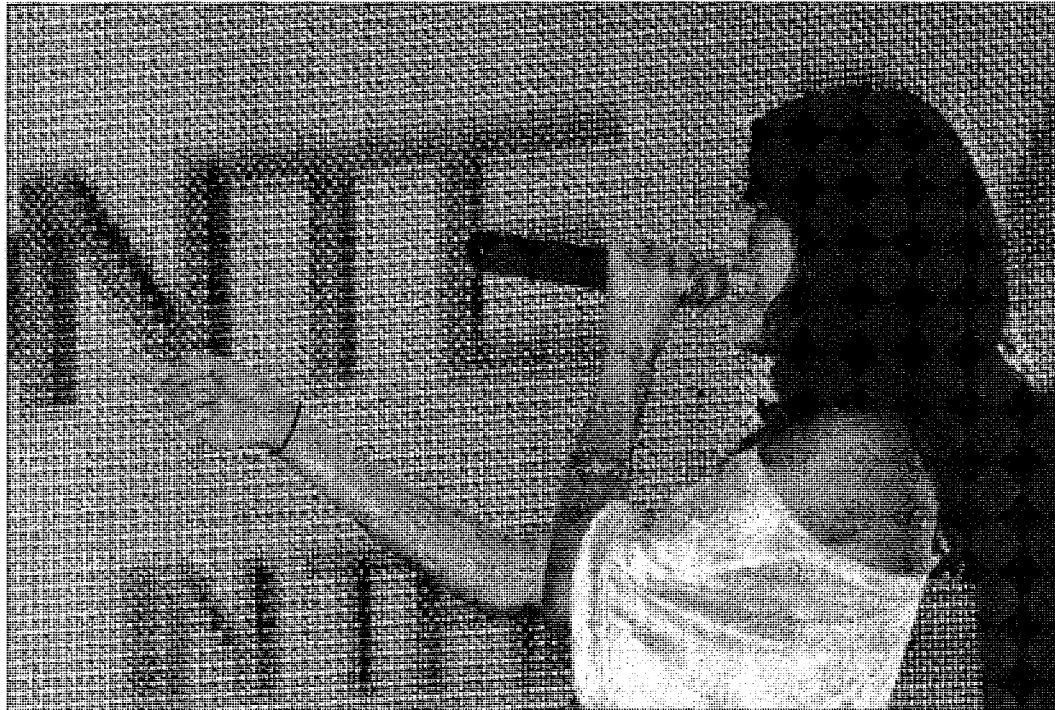
Alexsa Selitaj of Sterling Heights said she is Disney Channel actress/singer Selena Gomez's "biggest fan." Apparently, she's not alone. Selitaj was crammed into the hallway in front of Parisian at Livonia's Laurel Park Place mall Monday, screaming along with thousands of other "biggest fans" of Gomez, who was in Livonia promote her new movie, "Monte Carlo," which opens nationwide Friday. The visit put Selitaj, who came to see Gomez with her big sister, Rosa Palushi of Livonia, one step closer to a dream.

"I want to meet (Gomez) some day," the 12-year-old Selitaj said. "I love her songs, her personality."

The popular Gomez, star of the Disney Channel series *Wizards of Waverly Place*, came out on stage around 6:45 p.m., led the crowd in a capella version of her song *Who Knows?* and answered a few hand-picked questions from fans during about a 20-minute appearance.

Some 50 fans won tickets to do a meet-and-greet with Gomez, while about another 1,000 earned blue wrist bands that allowed them to get in the fenced-off section closest to the stage. The other gazillion fans who showed up had to crowd as close as they could get which, in most cases, wasn't all that close.

Still, it was enough for most of them. Amy Tucker of Plymouth brought her daughters, 10-year-old Erin and her 6-year-old sister,



Disney Channel star Selena Gomez excited thousands of fans with her appearance at Laurel Park Place Monday.

Erika. The family got in line around 1 p.m. and waited (as patiently as possible) for the appearance.

"She's pretty," 10-year-old Erin said of Gomez. "I like her music, I like the beat."

Apparently, it was too much for Tucker's neighbor, though. The neighbor, who initially climbed into line at 8:30 a.m., waited more than nine hours and actually left the mall around 5:15, 90 minutes before Gomez arrived. Tucker, however, stuck it out.

"My children are both huge fans," Tucker said. "They've got all her CDs, they've got her latest music in their iPods."

Not all of the fans were teenaged girls. Sarah



Cameras flashed and screams were rendered as Selena Gomez hit the stage during her Monday appearance at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Ostrander, 33, of Novi waited in line with her 29-year-old friend, Melanie Reid of

Canton. Both proclaimed themselves "huge" fans of the 18-year-old actress.



Selena Gomez made a short stop at Laurel Park to greet her fans.

"She's pretty cool and very popular," Ostrander said. "She's got lots of talent."

Having thousands of people jammed into the mall for that period of time can be a blessing and a curse, according to Claudia Frederick, the mall's public relations chief. While the throng did make getting to stores near Parisian difficult, the

food court, for instance, did booming business.

"It's an event that draws a lot of people," said Frederick. "Some of the stores see a drop-off, but hopefully some of those people come back. Our food court has been very busy. It's good PR."

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Plan ahead to eliminate family infighting

I was watching TV last week when a story popped up about the Michael Jackson estate. The story dealt with the fights within the family regarding how the estate is being administered.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

It's not a surprise to anyone that an estate like Michael Jackson's would have issues.

Obviously, our situations are a lot different than Michael Jackson's. However, what caught me by surprise was when the commentator of the story implied that family infighting was reserved for the rich and famous. I wish that were true, however, the reality of the situation is that family infighting happens across the board whether it's a large estate, small estate or even sometimes when there's no money involved.

Family infighting upon death goes across all lines of our society and is something

that everyone needs to be aware of.

It's not just death that causes family disagreements. Issues such as how to handle a family emergency or decisions regarding elderly parents can also cause tension within the family.

The reality is no matter what you do and no matter how well you plan, you cannot totally eliminate family disagreements. However, planning does allow you to do is minimize the likelihood that a family disagreement will result in lawyers and judges being involved.

Good planning provides the methodology to resolve disputes. For example, a durable power of attorney appoints an individual to make decisions in your absence. Without a durable power of attorney, if you are unable to make decisions for yourself, loved ones would have to go to court to seek that power.

Whenever courts get involved, there is no doubt it complicates matters and is more expensive and time-consuming. The goal of good planning is to reduce costs and make things as easy as possible

on your loved ones.

Most people don't do any planning. It is beyond me why they don't. After all, do they think they are going to escape the inevitable?

The reality is people don't plan because they're busy with other things and this is something that no one likes to think about. It's easy to find an excuse, but that doesn't diminish the need to plan.

As adults, we have responsibilities and one of those is to plan for the inevitable and for other bumps in the road.

Estate planning doesn't have to be expensive. There are free forms for medical powers of attorney, durable powers and wills, available on my website (www.bloomassetmanagement.com) under the Bloom University heading — click on Legal Forms. These forms are not for everyone, but they work for many families.

Doing things such as checking beneficiaries and creating a document locator, listing what your assets are and where they and your impor-

tant papers are located, does not have to cost a thing. On the other hand, if you need professional advice, hire an attorney that specializes in estate planning and don't be afraid to discuss costs and fees ahead of time.

An attorney who does not want to discuss costs and fees ahead of time is an attorney you don't want to deal with.

I assume Michael Jackson did not want to have his family fight and be in litigation for years after his death. I also assume that none of us would want our families to suffer because of us.

When we are no longer here, we want our family and friends to remember us fondly rather than as the cause of family strife. Therefore, to do the right thing, take time and plan. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money-matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Joshua Crockett of Redford Township is ready for the fireworks to begin.



Time for a conga line.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spree 61 fireworks start off with a bang.

Fireworks show draws an estimated 200,000 to Livonia



Daniel and Jen Sitarski, with sons Rylan and Jase, watch the fireworks. They're from Howell, but both Daniel and Jen grew up in the Livonia/Redford area.

The fireworks show in Livonia Sunday may have been one of the best-attended in the city's history.

The combination of perfect weather for viewing fireworks and a reduction in the number of cities offering fireworks because of the expense drew more than 125,000 people to Ford Field for the 30-minute display and grand finale of Livonia Spree.

"We were extremely packed," said Dan Spurling, president of the Livonia Anniversary Committee, which sponsors Livonia Spree, the city's weeklong birthday celebration.

"The breeze was minimal; there were no clouds. You couldn't have asked for a better evening," he said. "I think it brought out more people."

He said the Spree committee was getting calls from as far away as Waterford and Brighton from people asking about Livonia's fireworks. "People just love fireworks; they will drive miles to see them," he said. "A lot of these communities are cutting back."

He said in addition to the 125,000 at Ford Field and the immediate vicinity, there were an estimated 25,000 to 75,000 more spectators watching from homes and businesses and other locations throughout the city.

Spurling said the show, choreographed to music and put on by American Fireworks, keeps getting better each year. "There were more shells ... some new designs. Technology keeps advancing with fireworks."

The weather was certainly improved from the past two years. "Last year we fought the storms," he said. "We didn't even know if we were going to be able to shoot them."

Livonia Spree and the fireworks are free for people to attend, thanks in part to corporate sponsorships and numerous volunteers.

Spurling said the Spree committee plans to keep admission and parking for the city's annual celebration free again next year, just like the founders of Spree intended.

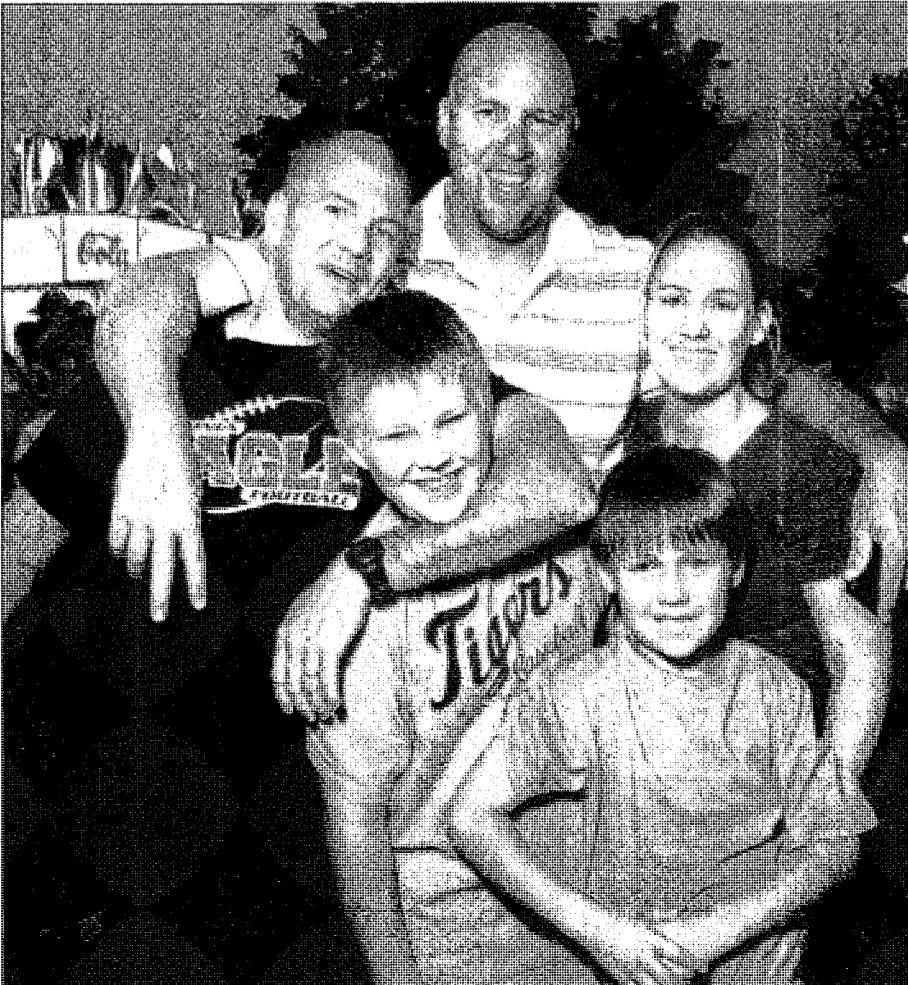
"We're planning Spree 62 as we speak," he said.

[VIEW A PHOTO GALLERY OF THIS STORY AT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM](#)



Good seats for the show are everywhere.

Ken Abraham, Dave Stokes, Julie Stokes and sons Andrew and Bryan Stokes enjoy Sunday night at Spree 61.



Lori and Don Carriere dance to the music of Steve King and the Dittiles.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, June 30, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com



The Fresenius Medical Care Garden City offers features seven dialysis treatment stations. It also offers home dialysis program that can offer patients greater independence.

Clinic provides dialysis services to patients with kidney failure

Fresenius Medical Care North America has opened the Fresenius Medical Care Garden City, a new dialysis clinic that will serve the area's growing population of patients with chronic kidney disease.

The clinic offers the latest in dialysis services, including home dialysis program that can offer patients greater independence, convenience and health benefits and a traditional in-center daytime hemodialysis, plus, a kidney transplant support program, anemia management, nutrition counseling, bone disease management and social worker support.

Dialysis is a life-sustaining process that cleans waste products from the blood, removes extra fluids and controls the body's chemistry when a person's kidneys fail. Dialysis patients typically require treatment on an ongoing basis unless they receive a kidney transplant.

The Fresenius clinic features seven dialysis treatment stations, CHAIRSIDE™ online charting and electronic health record system with touch-screen monitors at dialysis stations, for clinical staff to accurately enter and securely track critical patient information. It also has:

- Single use of dialyzers, unlike other facilities that may disinfect and reuse them.
- An emergency backup electrical generator to help continue critical patient care in the event of a power outage.
- Treatment stations designed for patient comfort and convenience that feature individual media systems.
- Wireless Internet access in the facility for patients who bring their own computers.



The new dialysis clinic has been opened to serve the area's growing population of patients with chronic kidney disease.

- Reclining, heated treatment chairs with massage features.

"At this new Fresenius Medical Care facility, patients will benefit from the latest treatment methods while receiving excellent, patient-centered care from our dedicated team," said Delicia McCullom, operations manager for Fresenius Medical Care. "Dialysis patients spend many hours receiving treatment each week, so we are pleased to offer this level of care in a more convenient location for people in the Detroit area."

Dr. Jason Biederman, a nephrologist (kidney specialist) with Hypertension Nephrology Associates in Livonia is providing medical director oversight at the new facility.

Fresenius Medical Care offers a Treatment Options Program (TOPs) at no cost to inform at-risk patients and their families about chronic kidney disease and all available treatments for kidney failure,

FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE

Location: 27201 W. Warren Road, Dearborn Heights

Details: The clinic offers the latest in dialysis services, including seven dialysis treatment stations, CHAIRSIDE™ online charting and electronic health record system with touch-screen monitors at dialysis stations, for clinical staff to accurately enter and securely track critical patient information.

Contact: For more information on the clinic, which is now accepting new patients, call (313) 274-5568 or 1-866-4-DIALYSIS (1-866-434-2597).

including dialysis and kidney transplants. Sessions are open to the public and are held regularly. Call toll free (877) TOPS-LIFE (877-867-7543) for more information.

Fresenius Medical Care is the world's leading company devoted to patient-oriented renal therapy. Through more than 2,700 clinics in North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa, it provide kidney dialysis treatments to approximately 210,000 patients worldwide. IT also is the world's leading maker of dialysis products, such as hemodialysis machines, dialyzers and related disposable products.

For more information about the company's more than 1,800 U.S. dialysis facilities, visit www.ultracare-dialysis.com (in English and Spanish). For more information about Fresenius Medical Care, visit www.fmc-ag.com or www.fmcna.com.

Cloud: A new way to compute

BY JON GUNNELLS
GUEST COLUMNIST

There's a relatively new type of cloud around and it's much easier to spell or pronounce than cumulonimbus. This cloud also doesn't store rain — instead, it stores massive amounts of data that you can access from any computer, tablet, or laptop that you use.



Tech Savvy
Jon Gunnells

The concept of storing all of your personal data: music, files, movies and applications in a central location called a cloud may seem simple, but it has already started to shift the way people use computers.

Cloud technology has been used by people and companies for a while but really became mainstream earlier this month when Apple announced its new file storage system called iCloud.

Apple isn't the first tech company to roll out cloud storage services — Amazon and Google had them first. But in classic Apple fashion, they turned cloud computing from a tech term, into a mainstream term in just a few days.

HOW IT WORKS

Instead of using piles of thumb drives or external hard drives to store data (like large music collections) users can store all of their music in their personal cloud.

Users can access their cloud from their desktop computer, work laptop, a friend's iPad or

any device they do use. This means users can access their data (like memory-hogging music files) from their work computer, or iPad, without downloading any files.

Just like a user can access their e-mail account from any device without downloading information, users can access any data they previously stored in a cloud because it is stored on a central server.

Cloud computing makes accessing data more convenient, makes backing up data more convenient and is also cheap. Amazon.com for example, offers 10 GB of free storage for users and if history has shown us anything, it's that storage space grows exponentially cheaper.

END OF OPERATING SYSTEMS?

Cloud computing has already changed the way computer users and tech companies look at computing. Recently, Google rolled out their Chromebook (mini-laptop) that has no operating system. That means there is no start menu, file folders, or registry files. Instead, the device is run on applications much like a tablet or smart phone.

It is likely Google's goal, to have every Chromebook user storing their information on a Google cloud. Cloud computing and app-based computing

may seem strange, but the prospect of those functions becoming more widespread is a strong possibility.

I don't think cloud computing and app-based computing will completely phase out traditional computer storage and operation completely because there are a need for both models.

While app-based and cloud-based computing have convenience factors, and help speed up your computer, who wants to store his/her sensitive information like tax documents on a cloud run in a server farm by a huge tech company?

If your cloud gets hacked your sensitive information could be stolen and worse yet, your account could get hacked. On the other hand, app-based computing means you can't get a Trojan virus on your computer that eats away at your computer hard drive and steals your passwords. Under each model you lose and gain safety in different places.

That's why cloud computing and app-based computing are so incredible. When combined with traditional systems and the right security precautions computer users can gain more flexibility and safety while computing, without spending a lot of coin.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media, driving and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Happy anniversary

Habib Rahman and his family want to thank customers of his deli sandwich shop for making their first year in business a success.

Located on Ford Road just west of Inkster Road in Garden City, Big Bites Deli is becoming a favorite with locals for quality sandwiches and great value. According to Rahman, you can find the locals in groups of co-workers, friends or by themselves in one of the comfortable clean booths or even getting a carry-out.

If you are a stickler for clean, they fit the bill because the restaurant was built from the ground up when they opened. It is nicely appointed yet simple and uncluttered, Rahman said.

Big Bites Deli prepare the sandwiches from fresh premium deli meats and cheeses and are reasonably priced.

The focused menu of sand-



Habib Rahman is offering a thank you to customers for a successful first year for Big Bites Deli in Garden City.

wiches, salads and drinks means Rahman also is able to turn his food inventory quickly to prepare his sandwiches with the freshest meats, cheeses and breads. The corned beef is the most popular followed

by the gyros. Customers can choose from a side salad or chips and drinks to accompany your sandwich.

Big Bites Deli is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and closed on Sundays.



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Walsh: Medical marijuana needs better regulation

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

House lawmakers are expected to study a package of bills introduced Tuesday that proponents hope will clarify ambiguities in the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, said he and a bipartisan group of state lawmakers have proposed bills that aim to ensure medical marijuana is "properly certified and acquired appropriately" by patients.

Walsh announced the legislation at a press conference in Lansing with Attorney General Bill Schuette, state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, and Berrien County Prosecutor Art Cotter.

Walsh said lawmakers wanted to "clear up the ambiguity involving the law and get the focus back to what people intended when they voted for this in 2008 to assure that medical marijuana is available for patients who truly need it."

"Voters approved the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, but they did not vote for legalization of marijuana," Walsh said.

The proposed legislation:

- Requires traditional doctor-patient relationships to end the current practice of some doctors certifying patients for medical marijuana without even seeing the patient or knowing the patient's medical



Pictured from left at the news conference are Berrien County Prosecuting Attorney Art Cotter; Rep. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan; Rep. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy; Rep. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth; Attorney General Bill Schuette; Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia; Rep. Gail Haines, R-Waterford; Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake; and Rep. Joseph Haveman, R-Holland.

history. Walsh said a recent *Detroit Free Press* article reported that just 55 doctors have certified about 45,000 — or 71 percent — of all medical marijuana registrants;

- Enhances public and patient safety by prohibiting patient-to-patient transactions and requiring growers to keep their plants in enclosed, locked facilities accessible only to the

registered caregiver or patient;

- Protects patients from unnecessary pursuit by law enforcement officials by giving law enforcement officials access to the medical marijuana patient registry during the course of their official duty; and
- Clarifies zoning guidelines as many city, village and township boards do not know how

to classify dispensaries opening within their boundaries. The bills will go to the House Judiciary Committee.

BETTER DEFINITIONS NEEDED

"The two biggest issues with the MMMA are the definitions," Walsh said. "The physician-patient relationship is poorly defined, and the caregiver-patient relationship is

poorly defined."

Attorney Michael Komorn, president of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Association, said Wednesday he was disappointed with the legislation. Komorn said that the proposed reforms fail to address the patients' need for protection and assist more with law enforcement, creating what he called a "new niche" for prosecutors.

"This (medical marijuana) is new to law enforcement and new to the communities," Komorn said. Some law enforcement agencies "are arresting first and asking questions later," Komorn said. Komorn said that patients often need to exchange marijuana because it can take four or five months to grow. "They may need it right now," Komorn said.

Prohibiting patient-to-patient or caregiver-to-caregiver transactions would reduce or eliminate access for many users, he said. "Where are they going to go?" Komorn asked.

The legislation is not realistic, Komorn said. "It doesn't consider the community's need." Komorn also noted that 63 percent of Michigan voters supported medical marijuana and that some claims of abuses of the law are "overblown and hyper-exaggerated."

Walsh said prosecutors have told lawmakers that caregivers will take care of their legiti-

mate patients, then sometimes sell any excess medical marijuana to other patients or on the open market. Prosecutors are also finding that doctors will conduct Internet consultations without actually seeing patients who seek medical marijuana and want the cards, Walsh said. Other doctors may set up storefronts, charging a flat fee, without an actual exam, Walsh said. Walsh said he has heard these complaints from prosecutors all over the state.

Walsh wants the definitions tightened and better zoning regulations in the new legislation. Walsh said lawmakers were working on regulations for dispensaries.

"We'll be reaching out to the medical marijuana community to get their input on the bills over the summer," Walsh said. Walsh doesn't expect a 100 percent "buy-in" on the bills, but wants a comprehensive discussion before public hearings are held in the fall on the legislation.

"Regulation will help the patient," Walsh said. "Better regulations on what is legal also will help police and prosecutors."

Komorn said the legislation and the attorney general's opinion are not the way to create dialogue on the topic. "You should contemplate both sides," Komorn said.

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

AROUND WESTLAND

For the Comets

Help the Westland Comets football and cheerleading teams raise money while earning a free beverage from Biggby Coffee in Westland.

The Comets are selling 200 Biggby travel mugs - 100 designated for football and 100 for cheerleaders - at \$10 each. The teams will earn \$5.65 for each travel mug sold. In addition, the

person buying the mug is entitled to one free drink of their choice at Biggby Coffee on Ford just west of Newburgh which could be up to a \$5 value.

Store owner Mo Alfakir is selling the travel mugs in the store throughout June.

Storm chaser

Teens can sign up now for the Mid-Michigan Storm Chasers Teen Program planned

for 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, at The William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford Road.

Teens will have the opportunity to meet a real-life tornado chaser and founder of the Mid-Michigan Storm Chasers. She will talk about her experiences as a storm chaser and show video from her epic chases.

Sign up online at www.westlandlibrary.org or by calling the

library at (734) 326-6123.

Wrestling camp

The Wrestling Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 1-4 p.m. July 25-29 in the Wrestling Room of John Glenn High School. The camp is open to high school students. The cost is \$100 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. Monday, July 25.

There will also be a Youth

Camp 4:30-6 p.m. July 25-29 for youngsters in kindergarten through eighth-grade in the Wrestling Room. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is at 4 p.m. Monday, July 25.

Registration forms are available at www.glennwrestling.com. If you have any questions, contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Free books

The Friends of the Westland Library have excess inventory available in their book shop in the two categories: Children's science books (about 100) and hardcover fiction with no dust jackets.

Interested organizations and teachers interested in the books can send inquiries to friends@westlandlibrary.org.

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ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-71

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT THE USE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES BY DIVIDING THE CITY OF WESTLAND INTO DISTRICTS AND ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES THEREOF BY ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP; TO SPECIFY THE DISTRICTS WITHIN WHICH LANDS MAY BE USED FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENCE AND OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES; TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS GOVERNING THE LOCATION, ERECTION, CONSTRUCTIONS, RECONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION AND USE OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND LAND WITHIN SUCH DISTRICTS; TO LIMIT THE HEIGHT AND BREADTH OF BUILDINGS, SIGNS AND OTHER STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE THE INTENSITY OF USE OF LOT AREAS AND TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF YARDS AND OTHER OPEN SPACES; TO ESTABLISH SITE DESIGN REGULATIONS AND TO PROVIDE SITE DESIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS; TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL LAND USE AND SPECIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT; TO LIMIT CONGESTION IN THE PUBLIC STREETS BY PROVIDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RESTRICTION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF NON-CONFORMING USES OF LAND, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE SIGNS BY ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS UPON THE SIZE, HEIGHT, LOCATION AND NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE SIGNS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN SIGNS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS, TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL THE PRIOR ZONING ORDINANCE.

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the zoning map of Ordinance No. 248 of the City of Westland be and the same is hereby amended to show I-1 district classification where CB-4 district classification are now shown in the area situated in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

THE NORTH 66.00 FEET AND THE EAST 10.00 FEET OF LOT 21 AND ALL OF LOT 22 "FOLKERS VENOY ROAD WOODS SUBDIVISION" ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 69 OF PLATS PAGE 95, WAYNE COUNTY RECORDS

Section 2. The other classifications in effect in all other areas of the zoning map shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Repeal. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 5. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication thereof.

ADOPTED: JUNE 20, 2011
EFFECTIVE: JUNE 30, 2011

Publish: June 30, 2011

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Local control

Trustee's actions make mockery of appointment process

In the realm of local governance, the school board and city council are where people can have their say. They have a say in who they want to represent them and then turn out at the meetings to speak out about those things they like or dislike about what their local officials are doing.

When a vacancy occurs, it falls on those elected officials to make the selection. Residents trust them to do the right thing and by and large, they do. That didn't happen last week when the Wayne-Westland school board failed to come to an agreement on filling the vacancy created by the resignation of William Gabriel. As a result, the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency board will make the decision.

Three of the four board members agreed on Scott Davis, the third highest vote getter in the May school election. The board has a history of appointing the next highest vote getter to fill a vacancy. However, Trustee Carol Middel chose to "err on the side of caution" and voted no. We respect her right to vote no, however, we are appalled her behavior and apparent reason for opposing the appointment.

It is a sorry state of affairs when an elected official plays games with such an important decision. Middel cited the potential of violating board policy of 1995, if the four board members eligible to vote acted on the appointment without absent board member John Goci. Middel then followed up with a proposal, which she said that an attorney for the Michigan Association of School Boards approved, to appoint one of incoming trustees Thomas Buckalew or Andrea Clawson to serve until July 1, giving the board another 30-day shot at filling the vacancy.

Her proposal, we believe, was ludicrous at best and a clear violation of the board policy requiring the appointee to be able to serve until the next election. Unfortunately, she was dead serious.

We can count and as of July 1, there will be four teacher union-supported trustees on the board - Middel, Clawson, Buckalew and Goci. It seems clear that Middel was working hard to buy time until the Wayne-Westland Education Association-backed majority could be present. It's a fact that former Wayne-Westland Education Association President Nancy Strachan boasted about in a message to union members on election night: "We now have the majority on the school board."

This is not the first time Middel has gone overboard. Last year, she turned the appointment of Mark Cesarz as co-principal of Adams Upper Elementary into a circus side show, questioning his salary and seeking individual wage concessions from a person whose employment was covered by union contract.

Middel did apologize, telling Cesarz that it wasn't about him. It's the same thing she said about Davis after her votes last week. But the first apology didn't stop the Wayne-Westland Building Administrators Association from drawing a line in the sand on how its members were to be treated by the board.

Middel owed it to her constituents to do the right thing and that meant filling the vacancy. She made a mockery of the appointment process and shirked her responsibility as a school board member, hiding behind her erring on the side of caution. It was a chance for her to do the right thing, and she didn't. Local control has now been turned over to the county where we hope the appointment can be resolved.

Put safety first on Fourth

In Michigan, any firework that flies, spins, twirls or explodes is illegal to purchase or use without a permit and for good reason:

- In the United States, on July 4, there are more fires reported than on any other day of the year.
- Fireworks account for more than 50 percent of July 4 fires. Fireworks caused an estimated 22,500 fires in 2008. These included 1,400 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires and 20,600 outdoor fires. These fires resulted in one civilian death, 40 civilian injuries and \$42 million in property damage.
- U.S. hospitals treated more than 7,000 people for fireworks-related injuries in 2008. Of that number, 53 percent were to the extremities and 37 percent were to the head. The age groups at highest risk were teens 15-19 years old and children 5-9 years old.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends residents leave fireworks to the experts and find a public fireworks display to enjoy this Fourth of July holiday.

However, if you purchase fireworks, follow these safety rules from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Adults should always supervise fireworks activities.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that fizzle and don't go off.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- After fireworks fully complete their functioning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you like best about the Fourth of July?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.



"I probably like the barbecue best and getting with the family - you never get to see them until a holiday and the children are happy."

Delores Perry
Inkster



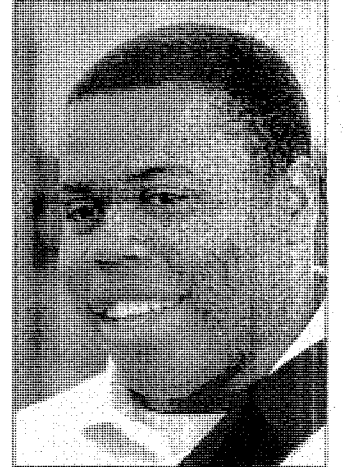
"I like the fireworks and all the celebrating they do."

Callie Hubbard
Wayne



"I like all the things that happen in the community. I don't have much family around and the things that give me joy are in the community, the things on TV and the permission to eat the things that aren't good for me like hot dogs."

Teresa Chase-Blujak
Westland



"First, it's a day off from work, then it's time to be with the family and have fun. There's always a good barbecue."

Chris Johnson
Westland

LETTERS

Technology has merit

I just read the article in the Westland Observer dated June 26, 2011, about elected officials physical presence during public meetings. My first reaction was, well, of course, they need to be present. Then I read that school board member, John Goci, was out of the country. What I have to say about Mr. Goci is this: he cared enough about the Wayne-Westland Community School system to make certain that he could attend that scheduled meeting by any means possible. If this means the use of technology, then I applaud his efforts.

Superintendent Baracy also went the extra mile by consulting the district's legal council and the Michigan Association of School Boards. Mr. Baracy did not make a unilateral decision to allow or ban the use of technology, rather he did some research and came to an informed decision.

Business use teleconferencing, Go To Meeting and a host of other technological formats. Instead of writing a policy to ban the use of technology, using Skype as an example, I think Mr. LeBlanc would be better advised to write policies establishing how the technology is to be used. Let the record show that if one does not wish to communicate with another and "Hangs up," the minutes of the meeting should reflect this.

Cindy Criseser
Westland

Concerned about redistricting

One of the most important decisions made in a democracy is determining the composition of legislative districts, since it establishes the constituencies that elect our representatives. The way districts are drawn has a significant impact on the outcome of elections.

There are legal guidelines that must be followed such as population, preserving local political boundaries, compactness, and compliance with the Voting Rights Act; however, it is easy to adjust lines to give an advantage to incumbent legislators or a political party.

With this understanding several members of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County attended the meetings of the Wayne County Apportionment Commission beginning April 12, 2011. We came to observe the process and report back to our membership.

Members of the Commission are Chairman, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Wayne County Treasurer; Vice-Chair, Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County Clerk; Kym L. Worthy, Wayne County Prosecutor; William J. Runco, Republican Party Representative; William M. Wolfson, Democratic Party Representative.

The Commission's responsibility was to revise the boundaries of the 15 districts based on the 2010 Census data and the criteria mentioned above. The Commission hired Data Driven Detroit, a business incubator to develop a number of options for the Commission to critique and then decide on one.

At each meeting there was a written agenda, but all of the information from Data Driven Detroit was projected on a screen with no paper copies available to the public. At the end of each meeting, Chairman Wojtowicz asked for public comment. It was difficult to study and prepare meaningful comments when the information was posted on the Wayne County Clerk's website only one or two days before the meeting.

On May 27, the Commission voted to accept

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

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Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

option six of Data Driven Detroit's various proposals. At this meeting it was announced that the public can submit alternatives between June 9-21. Option six was posted on the website of the Wayne County Clerk on June 1 as the finished product.

As a proponent of an informed and educated electorate and transparency in government, League members recommend that the public be given a substantial opportunity to critique and provide input to the plans submitted by individuals, groups, and Data Driven Detroit before a vote is taken by the Apportionment Commission.

In geographic areas that do not have to meet the rules of the Voting Rights Act, the district lines should be drawn so one party does not have a substantial advantage over another. In one new district in western Wayne County, it is an 80-20 percent split, creating a situation where the commissioner elected by the 80 percent can ignore the concerns of the 20 percent and still get re-elected. This is not what our founding fathers intended.

When young people say they don't vote because their vote doesn't count, they have a point. We need to change the re-districting process. We all have the right to make our elected officials more accountable, and we all have the right to fair representation at the county, state and federal levels of government.

Angela Ryan
President,
League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

Check vehicle before vacation

With millions of people hitting the road this summer, two things will be on their minds - getting to their destination safely and the high price of gas.

To avoid the inconvenience and potential safety hazards of breaking down miles away from home, the Car Care Council recommends a pre-trip vehicle inspection to make sure your vehicle is safe for travel and getting more miles to the gallon.

- Schedule a tune-up to help the engine deliver the best balance of power and fuel economy.
- Check the brake system and make sure the battery connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free.
- Check filters and fluids, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant. Dirty air filters can waste gas and cause the engine to lose power.
- Check the hoses and belts that can become

cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or show signs of excessive wear. These are critical to the proper functioning of the electrical system, air conditioning, power steering and the cooling system.

• Check the tires, including tire pressure and tread. Underinflated tires reduce a vehicle's fuel economy and uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.

• Check that the gas cap is not damaged, loose or missing to prevent gas from spilling or evaporating. Also, by avoiding aggressive driving, observing the speed limit and avoiding excessive idling, you will spend less on fuel and have more money for summer fun.

To help you drive smart and save money, visit www.carcare.org and check out the free digital Car Care Guide.

Rich White
executive director,
Car Care Council

Don't re-elect Obama

A reader wrote praising President Obama's courage in deciding to take out Osama bin Laden and saying that he will go down in history as our nation's first black president being responsible for the destruction of the terrorist of this decade.

This decision to take out Osama bin Laden was a "gutsy" call by the president, the letter writer said. Obviously the writer is not aware that members of the State Department, the CIA and the military were aware of where Osama was and informed the president. It took our fearless leader more than 90 hours to tell the team to take Osama out. But the Seal team had to videotape the whole process to make sure it wasn't in violation of Osama's civil rights.

I commend the writer on serving our country in Vietnam. I served with the 82nd during World War II, and I just don't have the same admiration for our president.

My parents and grandparents came from Poland to find a better life knowing that if you work hard, you can get ahead. It all changed Sept. 1, 1939, when Germany attacked Poland. My mother all during WWII asked our government to find out what happened to her cousins and uncles that were captured by the Germans. She did find out that Germany turned all the Polish soldiers over to Russia who was their ally at that time. Russia denied they had the prisoners and when my mother asked again because her relatives stated that the Russians had killed them in a place called Katyn Forest, we didn't want to antagonize our ally.

After WWII, Franklin D. Roosevelt played a role in Europe's painful division that helped cause "one of the greatest wrongs of history." Pope John Paul II said, "Poland had seven years of Nazi rule and thanks to America had 50 years of communism." My mother died in 1983 and it wasn't until 1993 that the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin admitted that the KGB did indeed slaughter the Polish prisoners.

It is my opinion that the liberals after WWII played a big part in turning Eastern and Central Europe to communist control and they have waited until they have a president to turn the United States into a socialist nation. They have found one and his name is our current leader President Barack Hussein Obama. I pray that he gets defeated in 2012.

Robert J. Siedlik
Livonia

Open Mic Night

Take the time to experience open mic night at Maxwell Art and Treasures Saturday, July 16.

The doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner is served at 7 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m., as usual, but without any intermission.

The prices are the same, but must be paid at the door. It's just \$5 per person to come experience open mic. If you want to eat, the cost is \$10 per person, for admission and dinner.

Maxwell's is at 32416 Industrial, north of Ford, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 427-5301.

Full-Day K signups

Parents of 5-year-olds can sign their youngsters up for the Garden City School's full-day kindergarten at its Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center for the 2011-12 school year.

The kindergarten program will be offered four days a week, with 12 "extra" Fridays.

For more information and to register, call 73 762-8300, Ext. 342.

Pickers Paradise Sale

Booth space is available for the Plymouth-Westland Grange 389's Pickers Paradise Sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at Maxwell's Art and Treasures, 32416 Industrial, north of Ford, Garden City. Rain date will be July 30.

The Grange is looking for people with items to sell, especially unique items. The booth size is eight feet by eight feet and costs \$15. A space will be assigned on the day of payment. Make checks payable to the Grange No. 389.

Food also will be available. Donations will help the community and Maxwell's. For more information, call Laura at (734) 427-5300, Ext. 7, or Sharon at (734) 722-4857.

Summer hours

Garden City Presbyterian Church is switching to its summer worship schedule.

The church will have one service on Sundays for the summer months at 9:30 a.m. The service will last approximately one hour.

From June through September, the format will be less formal, combining some of the best elements of traditional and contemporary worship. Child Care and youth Sunday school learning centers will be at the same time, and there will be refreshments and fellowship immediately after the service.

The church is located on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Golf outing

The Lyman Foundation is sponsoring the 32nd Annual Lyman Golf Outing benefiting Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City.

The outing will be held on Aug. 13 at Hickory Creek Golf Course. The Lyman Foundation is looking for hole sponsors and golfers for the event! Hole sponsors will be acknowledged in the golfing program and with the local media.

For more information regarding hole sponsors or registering to golf in the event,

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

contact Sharon Lundie at (734) 728-4919.

Past Forward

Learn about Karma along with Past Lives at a program, entitled Past Forward, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, Garden City.

Have you ever wondered if you were a peasant or a princess? Gayle Buchan, a certified hypnotist, and Kristy Robinett, a psychic medium, takes you on a journey of your past lives. Open the book to your past and learn how to heal to move on with the future.

Tickets are \$35 each and are available online at www.tangledwishes.com/events. Light Refreshments will be served.

Garden City Rotary

The Garden City Rotary Club is on the hunt for new members.

The local club was chartered in 1940 as part of the worldwide Rotary International organization and is guided by the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." Charitable involvement covers the spectrum from local activities, such as college scholarships, literacy training, coats for needy elementary children, to projects including school construction and orphanage support in Latin America, as well as pure water, polio vaccination, and other international humanitarian efforts.

Rotary offers a wonderful opportunity for people to provide service for others on many different levels and to the extent they feel comfortable doing so. At the same time, it offers the availability for weekly contact and socialization with other, like-minded, nice people.

The club meets at noon Thursdays at Amantea's Restaurant on Warren Road just east of Venoy in Garden City. Individuals interested in

more information about the club can call Steve Kelly at (734) 748-1345.

Community Chat

Catch up on what's happening in Garden City with GC Community Chat with Kerry Partin at 9 p.m. every Thursday night at talkshoe.com/tc/82757. Also check out his website at communitychat.weebly.com.

The talk show and website are dedicated to the residents and businesses of Garden City.

For more information, contact Kerry at gcommunitychat@gmail.com.

Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club of is recruiting new members to help provide assistance to the disadvantaged residents of our community — especially children — who are having a difficult time during this economic recession. Founded in 1948, the Kiwanis Club of Garden City provides many community service projects each year including a "Baby Shower" for the Garden City Family Resource Center, a continuing Food Pantry drive, the Trauma Doll Project for hospitalized children, and the Third Grade Dictionary Project.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Amantea's Restaurant on Warren Road at Venoy in Garden City.

Anyone who is interested in attending one of the luncheons or with questions about the club's community involvement can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101.

Recycle for cash

Drop off used ink jet cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras and similar items at City Hall. Garden City Charities, a group formed by city staff, sends the items off to be recycled by Cartridges for Kids and gets cash in return. Money raised by Garden City Charities benefits local organizations.

Golfers swing to benefit needy

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Former Detroit Red Wing Joe Kocur figures plenty of people helped him during his time as a player, so he's perfectly happy now to find ways to help others.

That's why Kocur was among some 50 "pros" who joined some 200 golfers taking part in the 14th annual St. Joe's Pro Am golf event Monday at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton.

The event aims to raise \$150,000 to support prescription co-pays, medications and supplies and transportation for the uninsured and underinsured patients receiving care at the St. Joseph Mercy Canton Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery.

"I was fortunate enough to play professional hockey," said Kocur, president of the Red Wing Alumni, pointing out he appears at an estimated 20 or more charitable events a year. "People helped me a lot along the way. Any way we can find to raise money for local charities, we want to do that."

Melissa Sheppard, director of special events and annual giving for St. Joe's, said some 50 teams registered for Monday's event. She said the event had already raised some \$143,000 by Monday morning, with a 35-item silent auction still to be counted.

Proceeds from Monday's event will go to help uninsured and the under-insured, a departure from previous events, which benefitted the St. Joe's Health Exploration Station at the Canton center. She said Pheasant Run is a "great venue" because of its 27-hole configuration and its proximity to the Canton center.

Pheasant Run has hosted all 14 events, and they've all been



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dave Petrie and Joe Kocur on the tee during Monday's St. Joe's pro-am charity event.

crucial to the success of the hospital, Sheppard said.

"It's critical, especially in these economic conditions," Sheppard said. "There's an increasing need for those who don't have insurance or don't have enough insurance. As the economy goes down, the need always goes up."

That's what Detroit Red Wing legend Ted Lindsay likes about the outing: It helps people who need help the most. Serving as the event's Chair

Emeritus, Lindsay praised the work St. Joe's does.

"They do an awful lot for a lot of people who need help," said Lindsay, who golfed with steering committee member Gil Ruicci and Marty Pavelich of Gil-Mar Manufacturing. "They take care of people who can't afford to pay. It's a wonderful event, and I look forward to many more years of being a part of it."

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Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth

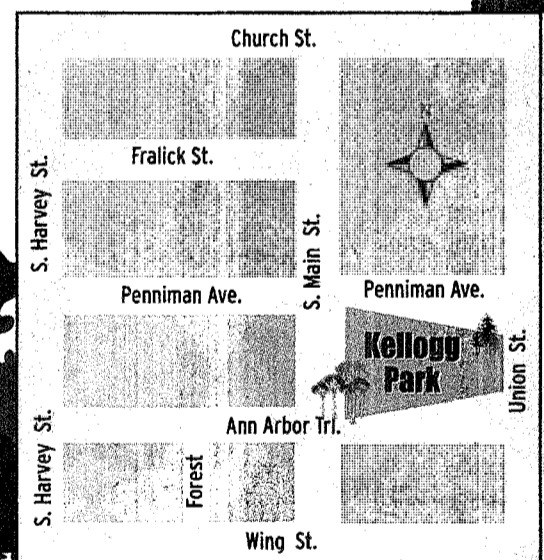
This fun, family-friendly concert showcases popular American composers and will conclude with the traditional classic, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

Concert is FREE in Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth!

Bring a blanket or lawn chair to beautiful downtown Plymouth and enjoy this not-to-be-missed concert in celebration of our nation's birthday.

Hear The Michigan Philharmonic at:

*Friday, June 24 at 8 p.m. Pops Plus at Kensington Metropark. Enjoy an evening of great music on the lake in a beautiful park setting. Concert is free. \$5 park entry fee is required to Kensington. I-96 Exit 153 at Milford Road.

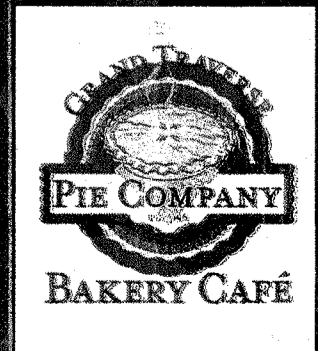
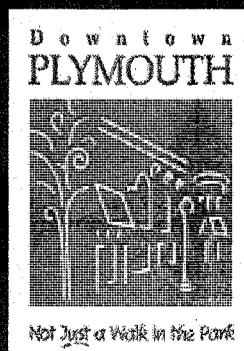


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Despite injuries, Moss flourishes with Calgary

Livonian completes fifth NHL season with Flames

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

David Moss has become an avid golfer, but the right winger from the Calgary Flames would prefer to keep his clubs in storage during the months of April, May and June.

The Livonia native and Detroit Catholic Central High grad just completed his fifth season for the Flames, who just missed the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the second straight year.

Moss, a member of the Flames' top line which includes Jarome Iginla and recently re-signed Alex Tanguay, went down with a freak ankle injury while skating in a practice during mid-March.

After scoring 17 goals and adding 13 assists with a career-best plus-9 rating, Moss' presence in the lineup was sorely missed.

"I was going to catch a pass and got caught in a rut," Moss said. "I missed the last 15 games and we were making a run. (Teammate) Brendan Morrison also got hurt and that didn't help."

The 6-foot-3, 205-pound forward was the Flames' seventh-round draft pick (220th overall) in 2003 and has appeared in 285 NHL games with 59 goals and 56 assists.

But his last playoff appearance was in the 2008-09 series against his hometown Detroit Red Wings.

"I don't know if it was one thing why we missed it," Moss said of the two-year playoff void. "We were definitely close both years. We had stretches — where you can't do in the NHL — when you're in a really bad funk. The first few months of last year we really put ourselves behind the eight-ball."

"After the All-Star break we were one of the better teams in the league. It's one of those things where you put yourself too far back, too early and you can't climb out of the hole. The teams are too good. You're close, but it's a matter of taking that next step, and in Calgary I think we have the team to do that."

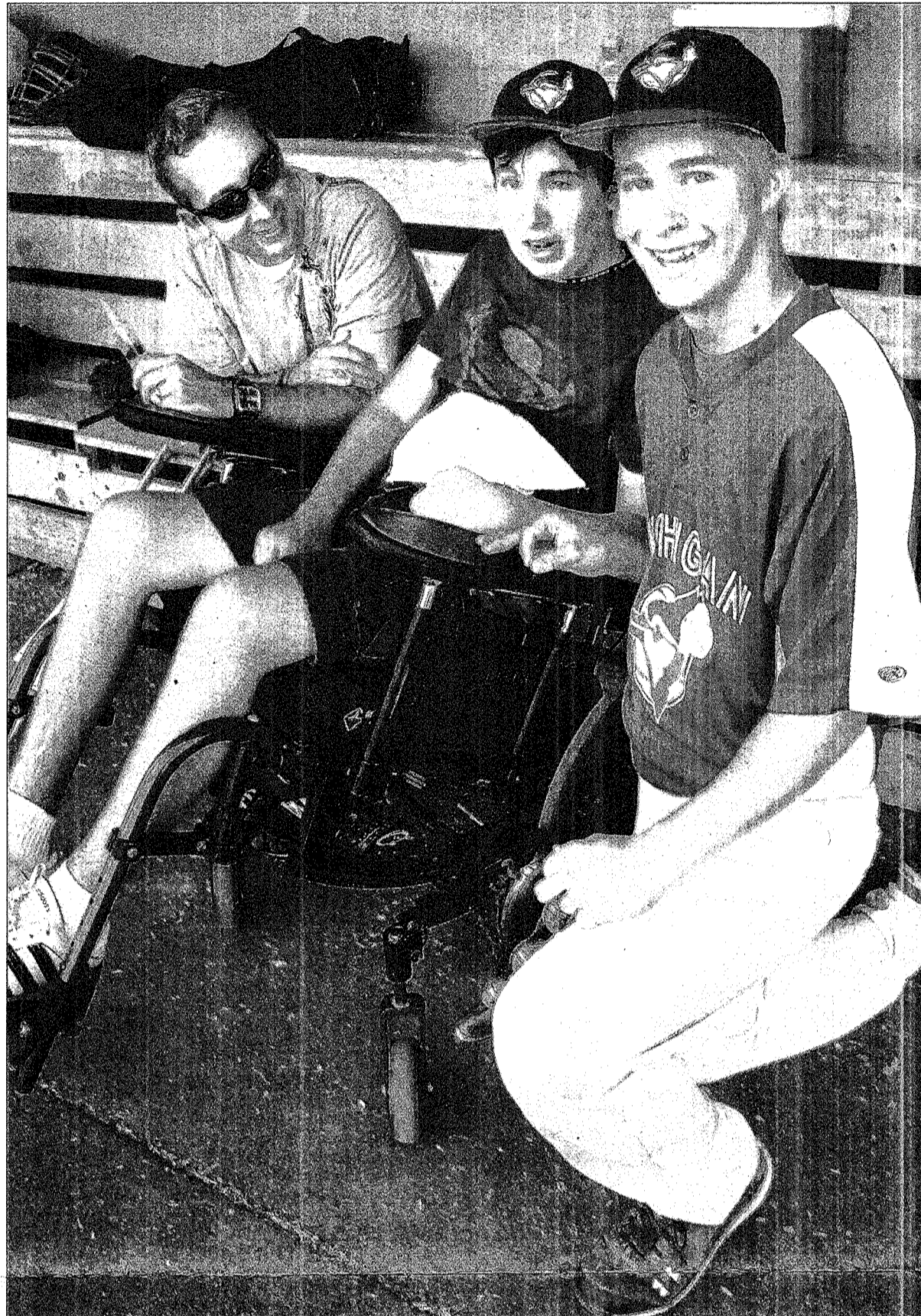
Moss hasn't been on skates since the March 15 practice injury, but was scheduled to be back on the ice Wednesday.

Please see **MOSS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia native David Moss just completed his fifth season with the NHL's Calgary Flames.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The man of the hour, Jesse 'SuperJess' Lindbauer, is flanked by his dad, David Lindbauer (left) and close friend John Etienne in the Michigan Blue Jays dugout Monday night.

'SuperJess' Classic a smash hit

Benefit baseball game supports Canton teenager

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There were no raindrops — finally — but plenty of happy tears Monday as two teams of Jesse Lindbauer's baseball buddies played the long-awaited "SuperJess" Baseball Classic at Plymouth High School's varsity field.

Postponed from June 22 due to rain, the first-annual classic pitted two U16 travel teams mostly comprised of players from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Whatever the Michigan Blue Jays and Plymouth Grizzlies could do on the baseball diamond paled in comparison to the reason everyone was there.

The star of the event was 16-year-

old Jesse, whose family wheeled him out to the pitcher's mound for the ceremonial first pitch — delivered by Jesse's younger brother Noah.

Jesse wore a smile and Blue Jays cap as waves of people made sure to greet him with smiles and encouraging words.

"They've been here every step of the way," said David Lindbauer, Jesse's dad. "Six months later they're still following us, following the progress."

"We certainly appreciate it because we can't let down. There's a little ways to go, so we're still pushing forward and we need the support, trust me."

Please see **SUPERJESS, B3**



Zach Bird of the Michigan Blue Jays happily displays the S and J letters painted on his face as a tribute to Jesse 'SuperJess' Lindbauer.

A victory for retired ballplayers

Area men win compensation for ex-major leaguers

BY DAN O'NEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If it was a baseball game, it would be the equivalent of a 22-inning marathon. Like the winning team, Al Moran and Jim Acho have been rewarded for their persistent efforts, too.

For the last eight years, the Farmington Hills men battled Major League Baseball in the courts, fighting on behalf of former players who were excluded from a 1980 change in the pension agreement.

The announcement this spring that MLB and the Players Association had worked out a deal to compensate those players is a victory for Acho and Moran.

Acho, the attorney for the Livonia-based law firm that represented the players, did all of the legal work on the case since the original lawsuit was filed in 2003.

Moran, a former shortstop who played for the Mets and Red Sox in the early 1960s, served as the Midwest representative in the class-action suit.

When Moran played, a minimum service of four years on a Major League roster was required to earn a pension. Under a new agreement in 1980, players needed only 45 days for a pension and one day for health insurance.

Moran and others like him were never included retroactively in the new

Please see **COMPENSATION, B3**



JOHN STORMZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attorney Jim Acho (left) lights a victory cigar as he and former major leaguer Al Moran celebrate the agreement awarding compensation to older retired players.

SIDELINES

All-star standout

The official end of Jason Wilson's high school football career merged nicely with the start of his college career Saturday.

The former Farmington High wide receiver caught two touchdown passes in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's 31st annual East-West All-Star game.

Wilson's first-half touchdowns sparked the East to a 16-7 halftime lead and an eventual, 30-13 victory at Central Michigan University.

Wilson, a two-time, All-Observer player, will play college football in the same Kelly-Shorts Stadium for the CMU Chippewas.

He finished with three receptions for 136 yards. His TD catches, both thrown by Detroit Cass Tech's Keith Moore, covered 61 and 68 yards.

Wilson just missed a third TD reception late in the game on a pass from Harrison quarterback Tommy Vento, who was 8-of-16 passing for 78 yards.

Michigan Amateur

Both of Madonna University's golf programs were represented in the final 64-player field with women's assistant coach Brian King (Livonia) and recent men's program graduate Brett Quitquit having advanced to the match play event at the 2011 Michigan Amateur Championship held at The Heather at Boyne Highlands Resort in northern Michigan.

Willie Mack III of Flint defeated Joey Garber of Petoskey, 4-and-3, for the coveted title.

In the stroke play portion of the championship, King shot rounds of 76 and 72 to tie for 13th in the field. He was ousted by Patrick Colburn, 1-up, in the first round of match play.

Quitquit, a Highland native who was the NAIA National Tournament runner-up medalist in 2010, shot an 80 in the first round of stroke play, but rebounded in round two to card a 71 and tie for 29th in the field.

He was eliminated by Canton's Mike Fedewa in the first round of match play, 2-and-1. Mike Fedewa then ousted Steve Fedewa of Howell, 3-and-2, before losing to Mack in the quarterfinals, 5-and-3.

Livonian Kevin Janasik also qualified in 47th with a 79-74-153. He was ousted by Jerry Gunthorpe in the first round, 2-up.

Hole-in-one club

Jim Ewald of St. Clair Shores used a 20-degree Orlimar to ace the 146-yard, No. 17 hole Saturday at Redford's Glenhurst Golf Course.

For the 64-year-old Ewald, it was his first hole-in-one in 34 years. He shot 87 for 18 holes.

MU guides lauded

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Sports Information Directors Association recently announced its 2010-11 publication awards and three guides produced by the Madonna University Sports Information Office took home top-10 honors.

The 2010 volleyball media guide placed second among the 22 entries while the 2011 baseball media guide took home seventh in the Walt McAlexander Baseball Brochure contest and the women's basketball guide ranked eighth.

All three guides were produced by Madonna University Sports Information Director an alumnus Patrick Moore, with assistance from assistant athletic director Noel Emenhiser, along with volleyball student-athlete Anna Gatt (Livonia Churchill) and former interns Erik Gruenewald and Jarrett Fenech.

Hard-luck Rams drop another close game

The Michigan Rams were looking for some momentum heading into the five-day Fourth of July holiday weekend.

But the 20-and-under Rams suffered their sixth, one-run loss of the season in Livonia Collegiate Baseball League action against the 22-and-under Michigan Pride, 2-1, Monday at Bicentennial Park.

Kevin Zak went 3-for-3 with an RBI and Garrett Green also drove in a run as the Pride improved to 12-6 in league play.

Winning pitcher Charlie Fisher went the first 6.2 innings allowing just one run on four hits and three walks. He struck out seven before giving way to closer Randall Stempek, who fanned the final Rams batter to earn the save.

Losing pitcher Tyler Owings allowed two runs, but only one earned, in five innings. He allowed five hits, walked four and hit one batter. Reliever

Zach Wedesky pitched a scoreless sixth.

Caleb Wick knocked in the lone run for the Rams, who slipped to 10-8 in the LCBL.

The Rams played their last game before the break Wednesday at Bicentennial Park against Advanced Baseball.

COBRAS 5-1, RAMS 4-2: In a battle Saturday of LCBL 20-and-under teams at White Lake Lakeland High School, the Rams (10-7) earned the split by beating the Michigan Cobras (9-9) in nightcap of twinbill.

Starter Mike Schypinski allowed just one runs on five hits and two walks in six innings as the Rams pulled out the Game Two, 2-1.

Schypinski, the winning pitcher, struck out seven before giving way to reliever Jay Perry, who pitched a scoreless seventh despite giving up a pair of hits.

Losing pitcher Aaron

Saarela (Madonna University) went all six innings, allowing two runs on six hits. He struck out five and walked three.

Miles Sorise had two hits and an RBI for the Rams, while Mike Carson drove in John DiLaura with the game-winning RBI in a two-run third.

Pat Lancaster also added two hits for the Rams, who scored both runs in the third inning.

Despite being out-hit 12-8, the Cobras won the opener in eight innings, 5-4, as MU's Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) drove home Jim Andrejewski with the game-winning run.

Wayne State's Jeff Sorenson (Livonia Stevenson) and Jake Moore each went 3-for-4 with an RBI for the Rams.

Colin Gerish also had two hits and an RBI, while Carson also collected two hits.

The Cobras used three pitchers with Dan Saier, who threw in the eighth, getting

the victory.

Rams middle reliever Jake Engels, who went 1.1 innings and allowed three runs on three hits, took the loss.

Starter Greg Spiess went 5.2 innings, allowing two runs on four hits and two walks. He struck out two.

COBRAS 3, RAMS 2: Madonna All-America Jeremy Gooding (Dearborn Divine Child) struck out 13 in going the distance as the Cobras (8-8) edged the Rams (9-6) Friday at Ford Field.

Gooding, the Livonia native, allowed just one earned run on four hits and two walks.

Jeff Sorenson had the lone RBI for the Rams, while Mark Zuchaib, Jim Andrejewski and Victor Barron (MU) knocked in runs for the Cobras.

Losing pitcher Alex Pierce gave up three runs on four hits and five walks in 5.1 innings. He struck out eight before giving way to reliever Jake Engels.



VERN WILLIAMS

Stephen Fedak, who will be a sophomore this fall, competed in the Boys 15-16 age division and cleared a personal best 10 feet, 6 inches Saturday in the Spree 61 pole vault competition.

Peterman leads Spree 61 Vault

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a Who's Who among area pole vaulters who competed Friday and Saturday in the Spree 61 Vault event held at Livonia's Ford Field.

Michigan State University's Derik Peterman, an NCAA Division 1 regional qualifier, posted the best mark of the two-day event on the portable 130-foot wooden runway by clearing 16 feet to capture the College/Open Men's Division.

Peterman's former Livonia Churchill High teammate Joe Tesner (Westland), a senior at Eastern Michigan University, was runner-up at 15-6.

In the College/Open Women's Division, Commerce Township's Kiley Tobel, an NCAA Division 1 qualifier from the University of

Michigan, captured the title at 12-6.

Katlyn Shelar (Novi) of the West Virginia University was runner-up at 12-0.

Masters age-group winners included: Matti Kilpelainen, Canton, 65-69 (11-0); John Large, Belding, 60-64 (11-6); Bob Schuster, Petersburg, 45-49 (12-0); and Jim Fast, Eaton Rapids, 40-44 (11-0).

Among the boys age-group champions were: Cory Miller, Adrian, 17-18 (15-6); Daniel Kndra, Warren, 15-16 (11-6); and Alex Fast, Eaton Rapids, 14-and-under (12-6).

Girls age-group winners included Claire Tewksbury, Dexter, 17-18 (12-3); and Alex Kitz, Livonia Stevenson, 15-16 (10-6).

Concealed captures Battle of the North

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Host Concealed Security proved to be the sole survivor among six teams in the Battle of the North 16-and-under baseball tournament held last weekend at Livonia Stevenson High School.

Concealed captured six-of-seven game over a four-day span including a 6-1 victory over the Portage Storm in Sunday's championship game as Alec Padilla (Romeo) went all seven innings, allowing just five hits and two walks while striking out seven.

Arizona transplant Hunter

Green, a switch hitting catcher and outfielder from West Bloomfield, went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI to pace Concealed's offensive attack.

Center fielder Kevin Nisun (Livonia Franklin) was named the tournament MVP after hitting .385 and posting an on-base percentage of .579.

Tom Daffron (Grand Blanc) went 3-for-3 and Alex DeYonker (Franklin) added two doubles and an RBI as Concealed advanced to the final with a 4-3 semifinal triumph Sunday over the Lincoln Park Rails.

Kenny Miller (White Lake Lakeland) was the winning

pitcher and Concealed got out of a jam in the bottom of the sixth inning by turning a double play on a wheel play with runners on first and second followed by a pick-off move two pitches later on a Rails runner at second base.

Miller also pitched a shutout in the tournament opener Thursday as Concealed downed the Macomb Inferno, 7-0, followed by an 8-6 victory over the Rails.

On Friday, Concealed rocked the Storm, 17-7, and edged the Grosse Pointe Elite, 11-10, as Nisun made a game-saving catch.

On Saturday, the Oakland

Thunder handed Concealed its first setback of the tourney, 10-5.

Rounding out the Concealed squad, now 12-7 on the season, are Rodney Bies and Austin Stevens, both of Livonia Stevenson; Brandon Waack, Plymouth; Nolan Clenney, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central; Anthony DiPonio and Zach Schmidtke, both of Dearborn Heights and Divine Child; Zach Tallman, Brownstown; and Kyle Squibb, South Lyon.

Concealed is coached by Lou Pironello, Steve Tallman, Jeff Richard and Bob Bies.

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Flash '03 wins soccer title

The Farmington Soccer Club's under-8 boys Flash '03 team is the Western Suburban Soccer League's Division 3 champion in the spring session with a record of 6-2. The team members are (front row, from left) Ty Blair, Diego Espinosa, Daniel Bass, Josef Bass, Daniel Hanus, (back row, from left) coach Eileen Monique, Maxim Wyrwa, Eli Bride, Aaron Percival, Samuel Monique, Joe Daniels and coach Paco Espinosa. Not picture is Nate Wygonik.



Silver spikers

The Livonia-based Triple-Threat Volleyball Organization captured first place in the 14-and-under Silver Division at the Asics Junior National Championships held June 21 in Chicago, Ill. Team members include: (top row, from left) Lauren Schornack, Sarah Allmacher, Jayci Forster, Kayla March, coach Jill Ruark; (bottom row, from left) Amanda Rybak, Alison Hige, Mikayla Seinkiewicz and Anika Mukherji.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wayne needs coaches

Wayne Memorial High School is accepting applications for girls varsity volleyball coach and boys varsity cross country coach for the fall season, along with a boys varsity track coach for the spring season (2011-12).

Interested applicants should contact Greg Ambrose at (734) 419-2201; or e-mail ambrose@wwcs.k12.mi.us.

Youth soccer academy

Plymouth United F.C. is launching a new academy program for under-8 players.

The Academy is competitively priced and designed to help players and their parents make the transition from recreational soccer to select soccer.

For more information, visit www.plymouth-united.com.

Food collection, cupcake baking sweeten Vacation Bible School

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Cupcakes and chefs, pandas and bamboo will keep Vacation Bible School lessons lively at local churches next month.

"Oh, it's food, so it's going to be fun," said Kim DeSantis, describing Vacation Bible School's "Shake it Up Cafe" theme at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia. DeSantis directs the Vacation Bible School at St. Matthew's, which is collaborating with two other churches, Faith Lutheran and Holy Cross Lutheran for the second summer.

Approximately 100 youngsters in preschool through sixth grade attended the joint school last year. DeSantis expects at least as many for the session that will run 9 a.m.-noon, July 18-22 at St. Matthew's, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Registration is \$10 and includes all food, supplies and a T-shirt. Advance registration isn't required, although it will help Vacation Bible School planners order the correct amount of supplies and T-shirts. Call (734) 422-6038.

"We have a recreation segment, games and snacks. There's a full music section. Everyday we're doing a mission. We're going to do a food theme."

Youngsters will donate a different food each day according to a theme. On "Prince of Peas" day they'll take canned vegetables to school. A Pasta Paul Day will round up pastas and grains. On the final day of school they'll make and decorate cupcakes to share during a joint Sunday church service on July 26.

"I went to Vacation Bible School in Kentucky," said DeSantis, recalling her own childhood experience. "It was nothing like this at all like this. We were all together sitting and hearing a lesson. It was more like a very long Sunday school class."

"This (Shake it Up Cafe) is very structured, but the curriculum gives us leeway about how much we want to put into it. If kids walk away from Vacation Bible School remembering even one thing, that's what's important to us."

TASTY LESSONS

At Berean Bible Church, 35375 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, volunteers are gearing up for "Pandamania," Vacation Bible School, where even the snacks will help reinforce Bible lessons.

"I know we're doing a Jonah story. The grapes will be the bubbles coming out of the fish's mouth," said Sue Endlein, who is co-directing the program. Fish-shaped crackers will represent the whale that swallowed Jonah.

Youngsters of different ages are grouped in small teams that move from activity to activity together. Endlein said the grouping creates a "family" in which "older kids rise to the occasion to help the younger ones."

Crafts, games and Bible stories, along with a daily video story, round out the curriculum. "The story in the cinema revolves around a character who goes to a panda refuge. There are all these panda bears involved and we decorate with bamboo and pandas."

The session is free and runs 9 a.m.-noon, July 11-15. Walk-ins are welcome. Pre-registration also is accepted at (734) 728-4028.

Here's a sampling of other Vacation Bible Schools

• Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, "Pandamania," 9 a.m. to noon, July 11-15; (734) 464-0211

• Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, "Shake it Up Cafe," 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., July 25-29; (734) 425-7280. Aimed at children age 4 through fifth grade. Will include games, music, skits, snacks, crafts, Bible stories, and more. Suggested donation is \$15 per child and includes a T-shirt. Registration is open until first day of event, but preregistered participants also receive a CD.

• Bell Creek Community Church, in McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia, "Shake it Up Cafe," 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., July 18-22; (734) 367-4632. For children entering kindergarten-fifth grade. \$10 per child/\$25 max per family; www.bellcreek.org

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

JUNE 30-JULY 6

Concert
Time/Date: Dessert at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, June 30
Location: St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Songs of the 1950s; dessert costs \$5 per person
Contact: (313) 534-7730
Guest speaker

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, July 3
Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: Bernard Gaulier takes over the pulpit for a sermon on "Churches, Patriotism and the American Flag" during Sunday service
Contact: (248) 354-4488
Lecture
Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, 13, 20 and 27
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Howard N. Lupovitch teaches a summer series called "Esther's Children: Persian Jews Under Emperor, Caliph,

Sultan, and Shah." Each lecture will be self-contained and can be attended independently. Tuition is \$50 for the series or \$15 per lecture. Advance registration is requested to help plan seating and photocopied handout materials, but walk-ins will be accommodated. Topics are "The World of Esther and Mordechai" on July 6; "Jews in Shi'ite Society," on July 13; "Under Sultans and Shahs" on July 20 and "Israel, Iran and the Persian Jews" on July 27. To sign up, send a check made payable to Congregation Beth Ahm, to 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield MI 48322 (Attention: Adult Ed). Also may pre-register by calling the office and pay at the door
Contact: (248) 737-1931

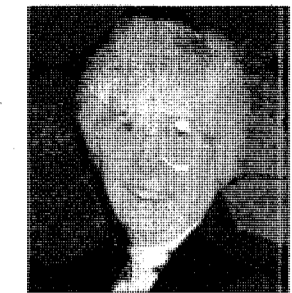
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BACK, RONALD SCOTT
Went to be with the Lord, June 23, 2011. Beloved father of Holly & Lisa. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Roberta and parents Marion and Gordon Back. Survived by many who loved him dearly. A memorial service will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Livonia at 11:00am on Saturday, July 2nd.



HARMON, MARYELLEN, RSCJ

Educator and race relations consultant, died Saturday, June 18 at the age of 87. She ministered in education for more than 50 years. Sister Harmon served as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit for a number of years. Following her tenure as Superintendent, Sister Harmon taught at the University of Detroit and Madonna University. A memorial service will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 1, at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, 1250 Kensington Road, Bloomfield Hills. For more information, please visit www.rscj.org/node/1644.



MAGEE, ELLIS L. JR. "FRED"

June 27, 2011 age 87 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Lucienne. Loving father of Robert (Jeanne), Carol McMichael, David (Lori), Sandra (Leo) Bitting, and Mark (Mary). Proud grandpa of eight and great-grandpa of four. Dear brother of Joyce Skoglund. Fred was retired from Ford Motor Company after 40 years of service. He also honorably served in the US Army during World War II. Long-time member of WWCCA (Western Wayne County Conservation Association). Visitation Friday 3 PM until the 7 PM funeral service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

FISHER, HELEN
Age 81 June 27, 2011 of Garden City. Arrangements by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland, 734-326-1300 vermeulenfuneralhome.com

GYDE, ONALEE
June 26, 2011, age 93, of Plymouth. Loving wife of the late Kenneth. Beloved mother of Patsy (George) Alver, David (Joyce), and the late Sally (Frank) Busha. Proud grandmother of Sue (Richard) Hoy, Jim (Lori) Busha, Pam (Dave) Pedlow, Julie (Greg) Flanders, Mike (Diana) Alver, and the late Janet Breland. Also survived by 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral service was held Wednesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Interment Kinyon Cemetery, Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

LITTLE, BEVERLY M.
Age 68, of Farmington, MI. Passed away June 24, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.

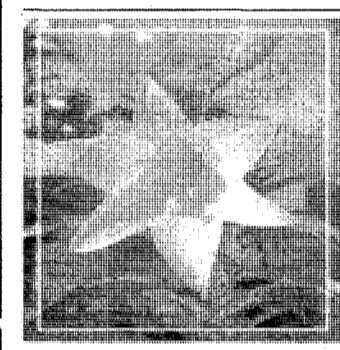
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SHELL, CLARENCE
Age 64, June 28, 2011 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Frances. Loving father of Robert (Theresa), Lowanda, Carlen Holbrook, Tina Wisniewski, Julian Shell and the late Jami Holbrook. 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Funeral Service Saturday 10 AM at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Friday 2-9 PM. Please share a memory of Clarence at www.rgharris.com

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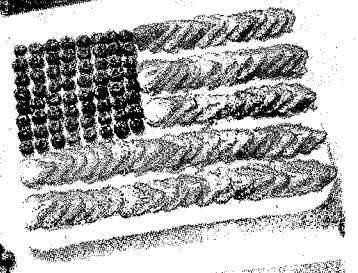
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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, June 30, 2011

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Food for the 4th
PAGE B8



Symphony in the park

Celebrate the nation's birthday with a star-spangled concert

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Pack a picnic, grab a blanket and head to Kellogg Park in Plymouth Saturday for an evening of patriotic tunes and music by American composers.

There's no better way to kick off the holiday weekend, says Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic Symphony.

"It's a great way to celebrate the Fourth, by having the symphony in the park. All over the country that's the big thing. People like to hear classical music in the park," Stewart said. "We hope it will be really big and that everyone comes down for it."

Free concerts will fill Kellogg Park with music for three days this week, beginning with Plymouth Community Band at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30, followed by Zap Toro's Latin sounds at 7 p.m. Friday, July 1, and culminating with the Michigan Philharmonic's An American Salute at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 2. The Observer, Sensors, Inc. and Biggy Coffee are sponsoring the An American Salute.

The Michigan Philharmonic's pops concert line-up includes selections from Broadway musicals, *Carousel* and *West Side Story*; a song from the epic film, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*; *The Star-Spangled Banner*, American favorites such as *Yankee Doodle*, *Stars and Stripes Forever*, *You're a Grand Old Flag*, favorites from George Gershwin and Aaron Copland, and the soul-stirring *1812 Overture* by Tchaikovsky.



The Michigan Philharmonic will play its first concert in Kellogg Park on Saturday, July 2. The last time it played in the park — nine years ago — the group was known as The Plymouth Symphony.

DRAWING THOUSANDS

The program will be similar to the symphony's recent concert at Kensington Metropark, with a few changes.

"It's all good stuff. People will get into it," Stewart said. "Even though it was a little chilly at Kensington, several thousand people were out there. It was so well received. The Detroit Symphony had been doing it the last 22 years and this year they didn't want to find the sponsorship to do it, so the parks hired us instead. We didn't disappoint."

Stewart said the last time the Michigan Philharmonic played in Kellogg Park, it was for the one-year anniversary of 9-11. At that time the group was called the Plymouth Symphony. It changed its name after 65 seasons, to reflect its broad scope and stature.

"The DSO is doing its thing at Greenfield Village, but if you want to come out to a free concert ... it's supposed to be a great night Saturday. Warm, but it will be a great kick off to fireworks and the Plymouth

parade," Stewart noted.

Fireworks will light up the sky at 10 p.m. Sunday, July 3, over Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail, east of Beck. The "Good Morning USA" parade was moved from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. this year. With more than 80 units, the parade takes approximately two hours to move along Main through downtown Plymouth. The celebration will continue afterward with entertainment, games, hot dogs, chips, drinks and ice cream at Township Park.

Spend four days of fun in Westland

Westland Summer Festival offers something for everyone, Thursday-Monday, July 1-4 on the Westland City Hall grounds, Ford Road at Carlson.

Visitors can listen to a different band every night, check out "muscle" cars, see exotic animals, browse arts and crafts, play horseshoes and take a spin on a Midway ride.

The festival opens at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at noon Saturday-Monday. Fireworks will cap the festivities at approximately 10:15 Monday.

Here's the schedule of musical performers: Jaded Soul, 8 p.m. Thursday; Impact 7, 8 p.m. Friday; Robots in the Garden, 8 p.m. Saturday; Steven Thomas on saxophone, 3 p.m. Sunday; Tony Phillips, 8 p.m. Sunday; Yankeeville, 1 p.m. Monday; and Second Wind, 7 p.m. Monday.

For more information call (734) 335-7943 or visit www.westlandfestival.org.

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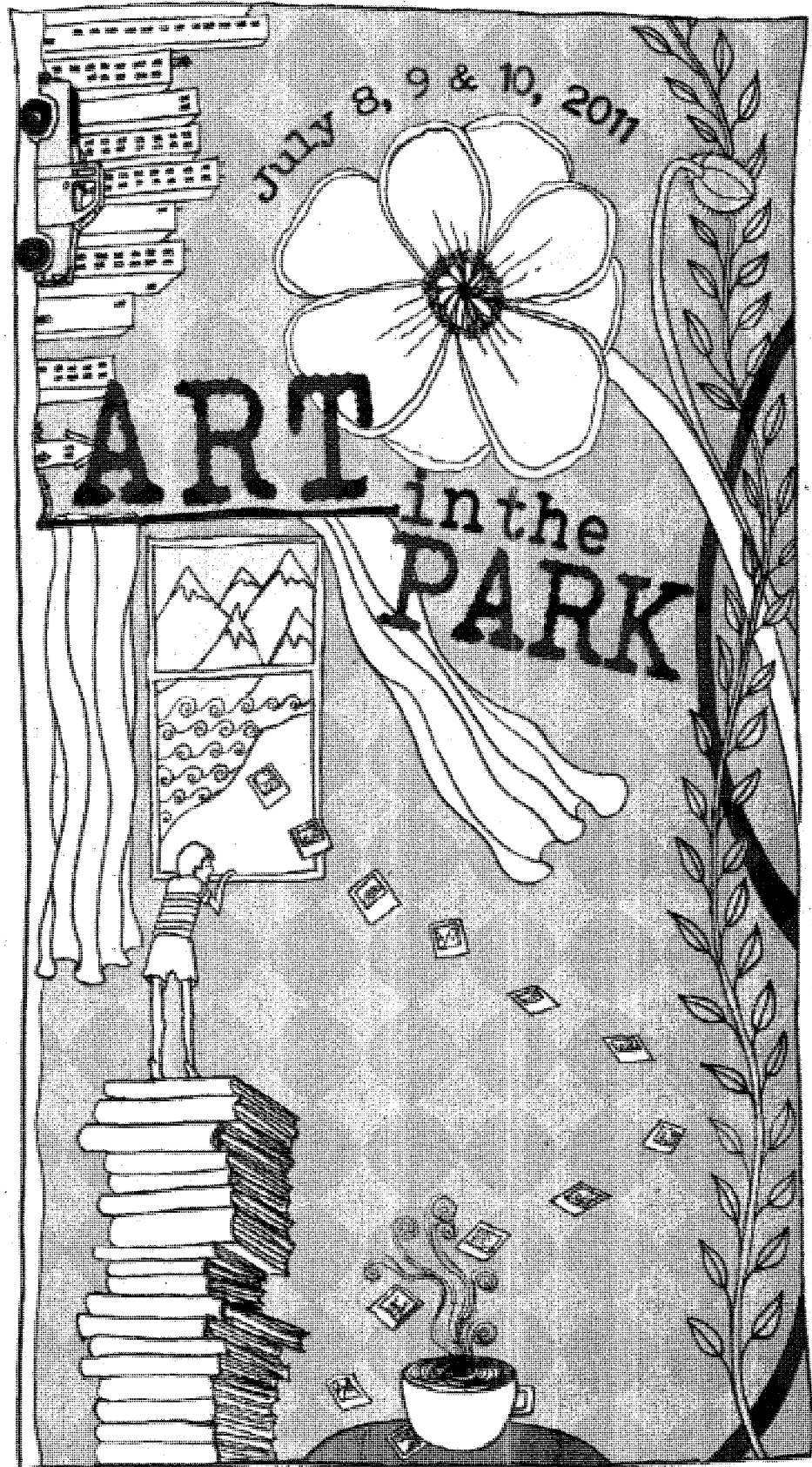
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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

Host a Star-Studded 4th

The Fourth of July calls for a carefree party, with good friends, fab food, fun and fireworks — a real star-studded holiday celebration.

The entertaining experts from Wilton have plenty of ideas to add star power to the occasion, beginning with the decorations. Festive stars and stripes napkin rings in red, white and blue dress up napkins and containers of colorful blossoms to brighten up the table.

Then, on to the main course. Serve an all-American favorite meal of grilled burgers and corn on the cob, appropriately topped with a star-shaped pat of butter.

The grand finale is always part of this all-American celebration. Patriotic Pops cut into star shapes definitely say "Happy Fourth of July." Decorated in red, white and blue icing, red licorice and colored candies, these easy-to-make crispy rice treats are a favorite for both youngsters and the grown-ups. The kids can lend a hand to help decorate by placing the candy pieces on the stars.

Add a taste of nostalgia for the child in all of us with Ice Cream Sandwiches — everybody loves 'em. Homemade brownies and buttery vanilla cookies, sandwiched with the ice cream flavor of your choice are a cut above ice cream truck offerings. Give them the flair of the Fourth by rolling the edges in patriotic sprinkles and sugars. Or, dip part of the sandwich into melted candy melts and decorate with sprinkles for a fun and festive finish.

Even beverages can boast the star treatment. Star-shaped ice cube kabobs in the colors of the day are a celebratory way to keep lemonade icy cold. Or, they're perfect for chilling the holiday cocktail.

Visit www.wilton.com for more celebration ideas, to order decorating supplies, an Ice Cream Sandwich Pan or the Silicone Star Ice Kabob Molds.



Star-shaped Patriotic Pops and Ice Cream Sandwiches decorated in red and blue sprinkles, are the finale to an all-American Independence Day dinner.

ICE CREAM SANDWICHES

Makes about 12 ice cream sandwiches

Brownies:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large microwave-safe bowl, melt butter with chocolate chips. Whisk in sugar, eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add flour mixture; stir until just combined. Spoon 2 tablespoons batter into each pan cavity, spreading evenly.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted at an angle toward center comes out clean. Immediately remove to cooling rack; cool completely. Repeat with remaining batter.

Vanilla Cookies:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup firmly-packed light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract, orange extract or
- Ground cinnamon (optional)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ice Cream Sandwich Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In large microwave-safe bowl, melt butter. Whisk in sugars, eggs, vanilla and, if desired, other extract or cinnamon; mix well. Add flour mixture; mix until blended. Spoon 2 tablespoons batter into each pan cavity, spreading evenly.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted at an angle toward center comes out clean. Immediately remove to cooling rack; cool completely. Repeat with remaining batter.

To Assemble:

- 1 quart ice cream, any flavor
- Assorted patriotic mix sprinkles and red and blue sugars
- White candy melts, melted (optional)

Scoop about 1/2 cup ice cream onto smooth side of half of the brownies. Top with remaining brownies, pressing gently. If desired, roll edge of sandwiches in sprinkles or sugars. Wrap and freeze immediately.

Or, dip a portion of the sandwich in melted candy melts; add sprinkles and sugars. Freeze 5 minutes to set, then wrap and freeze until ready to serve.

PATRIOTIC POPS

Makes about 2 dozen pops

- 1/2 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 4 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal
- 24 8-inch Cookie Treat Sticks
- Red, blue and white cookie icing
- Red and blue candy-coated chocolates
- Red licorice

Spray Star Cookie Treat Pan and rubber spatula or wooden spoon with vegetable pan spray.

In large saucepan, melt butter. Add marshmallows; cook and stir until melted. Remove from heat and add cereal; mix well. Press into prepared pan; insert cookie sticks. When cool to touch, remove from pan. Repeat with remaining cereal mixture. (If mixture becomes hard to work with, microwave at 50% power 30 to 60 seconds to soften.)

Outline treat as desired with Cookie Icing; add candy and licorice. Let dry at least 1 hour.

Courtesy of Family Features

Have a flag-waving Fourth of July

Potlucks are a popular way to celebrate just about anything — and July Fourth is a great reason to get the friends and neighbors together for a patriotic potluck.

I'm bringing a fantastic flag cake to this year's party. It serves a lot of people and it's easy to make. I'll let you in on two little secrets

that make this cake taste extra good — instant potato flakes keep the cake tender and moist, while mini chocolate chips give you little bursts of chocolate with every bite. The colorful fruit on top not only adds great flavor, but it turns this cake into a showstopper that has guests "oohing" and "ahhing" in delight! If you're going to a potluck party this year, I have some tips for being a good guest:

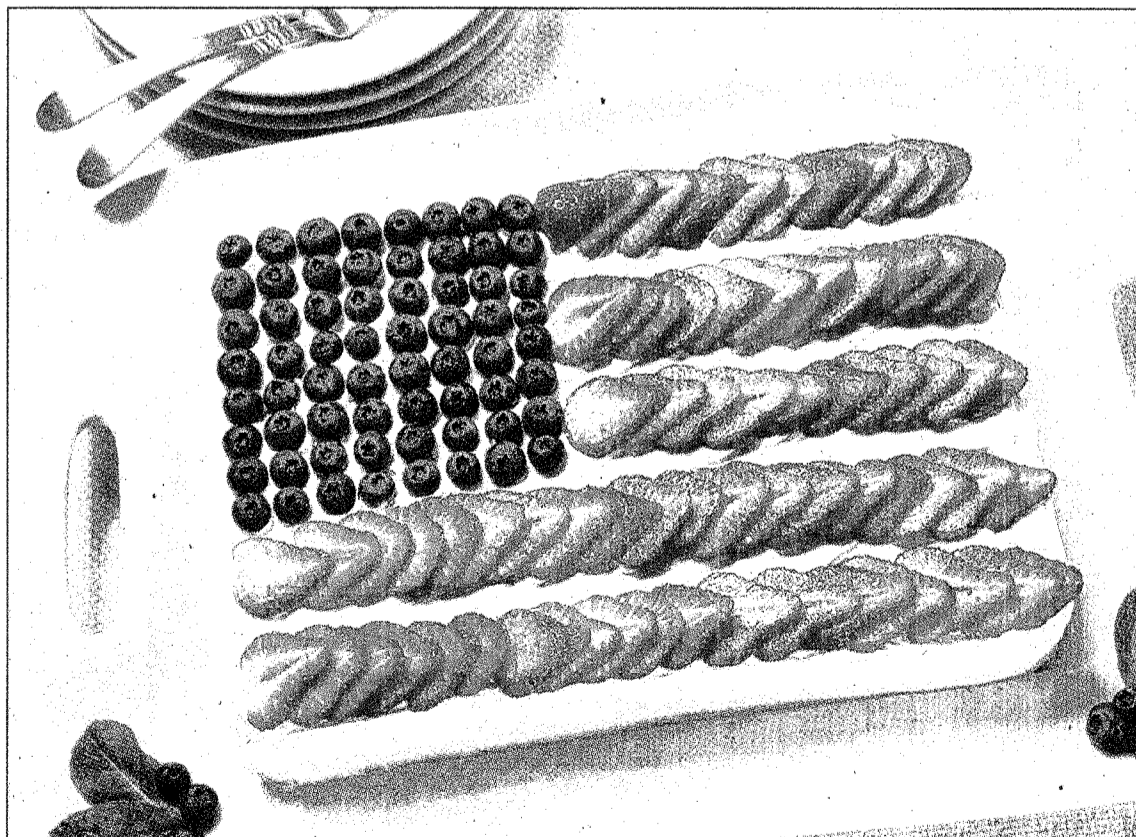
- Keep it safe: It's tricky to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold, so make sure the food you're bringing will be safe at room temperature. For example, on a hot summer day, vinegar-based salad dressings are a better choice than mayonnaise-based ones.

- Keep it simple: Bring dishes that are ready to serve. Asking to pop something into the host's oven for "just a few minutes" is inconvenient for the host and the guests waiting to eat.

- Keep it practical: Label your dish so that guests know what they're getting. It's also a big help if you bring your own serving utensils. The host won't be forced to hunt for something and the line won't get held up waiting.

- Keep it yours: If you need to take your serving dish home, be sure to label it. A bit of masking tape with your name on it can be discreetly placed on the dish so it doesn't get mixed up with someone else's.

For more Independence Day recipe ideas to help you celebrate, visit www.verybestbaking.com.



INDEPENDENCE CAKE

Makes 20 servings

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup instant mashed potato flakes
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup milk

- 2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Mini Morsels
- 1 container (8 ounces) frozen light whipped topping, thawed
- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1/2 cup blueberries

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease a 13-by-9-inch baking pan; line with wax paper.

Heat water to boiling in small saucepan; remove from heat. Stir in potato flakes until moistened. Cool to room temperature. Combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in a medium bowl.

Beat sugar and butter until crumbly. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition; beat in potatoes. Gradually beat in flour mixture alternately with milk. Stir in morsels. Spoon into prepared baking pan.

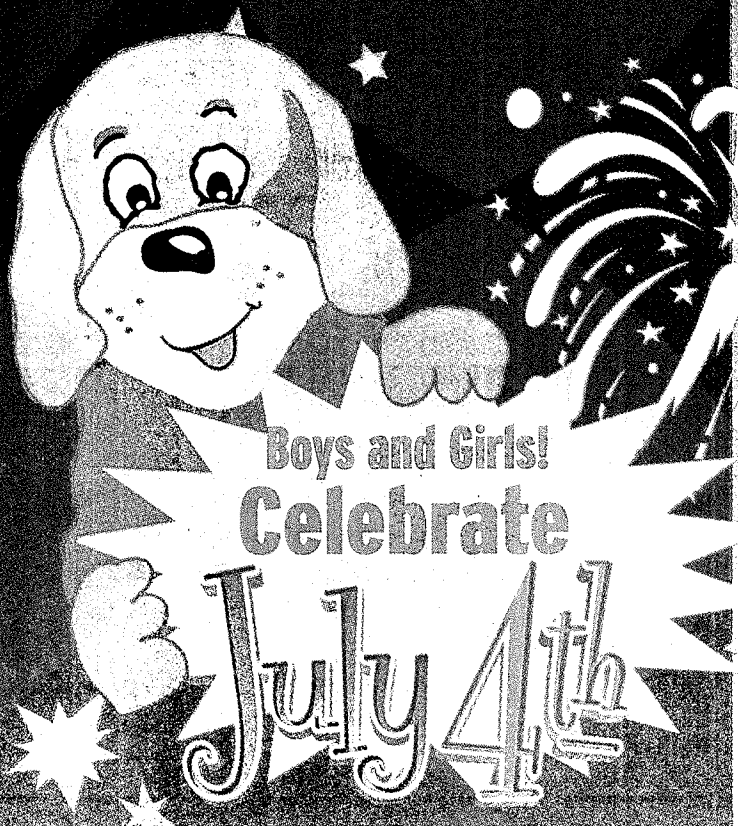
Bake for 45 to 55 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 15 minutes. Invert onto wire rack; remove wax paper. Cool completely. Transfer to serving platter.

Frost sides and top of cake with whipped topping. Just prior to serving, arrange strawberry slices and blueberries on top of cake to represent the American flag.

Nutrition Information per serving: 390 calories; 150 calories from fat; 17g total fat; 11g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 65mg cholesterol; 250mg sodium; 59g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 38g sugars; 4g protein; 8 percent DV vitamin A; 20 percent DV vitamin C; 6 percent DV calcium; 6 percent DV iron.

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen project manager for the Nestlé Test Kitchens and VeryBestBaking.com.

Her column is courtesy of Family Features.



Boys and Girls!
Celebrate

July 4th

Hey kids!

Unscramble the list
and mail into Scoop!

Win Fun
Prizes!

Scoop will pick 5
random winners

Send your unscrambled list
PLUS your photo for the
4th of July Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

All entries need to be received at the
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close
of the business day on July 29th. Winners
to be announced in the August Scoop's
Hound Dog Highlights.

Deadline for submissions: 7/29/11

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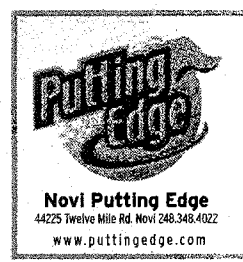


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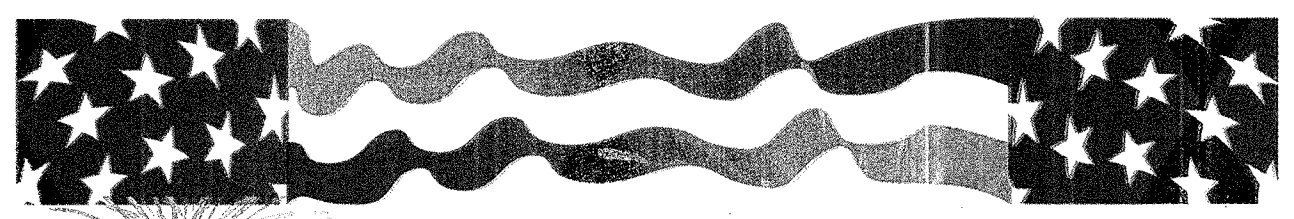


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**SCOOP'S
Hound Dog Highlights!**



JULY 4th Word Scrambler
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Put on your thinking caps and
unscramble all the patriotic words below!

- WESRIFOKR _____
- RATS NEPLAGSD NANERB _____
- GLAF _____
- DRE, HIETW, DAN LUBE _____
- REBACUBE _____
- TOONTC DANYC _____
- HACEB _____
- SARLEPSK _____
- LUCEN MAS _____
- CEPINEDENDNE YAD _____
- REYILBT LEBL _____
- BETAICERLON _____
- DRAPAE _____
- RTASS NAD PESRITS _____
- DALN FO HET REFE _____
- RIAAEMC THE FETBUAILU _____

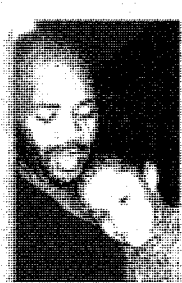
Youth Name: _____
 Youth Age: _____
 Youth Community: _____
 Parent's information to contact winning entry: _____
 (Phone, email, home address)

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the
next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight's.

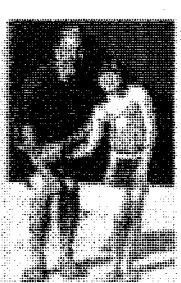
Lucky winners from last month's contest



Melissa
Beyrand
Age: 11
Community:
Milford



Vivian
Williams
Age: 7
Community:
Livonia



Lynnae
Fisher
Age: 9
Community:
Redford



Patrick
Schubert
Age: 8
Community:
Livonia