



CAPTURING BRONZE IN ALASKA, B1

Fire's cause still not identified

No accelerants found at Marvaso's scene

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

No evidence of accelerants has been found at the scene of the May 8 fire that killed a Wayne-Westland firefighter.

"I can say there were no accelerants — gasoline or kerosene. We've had two accelerant-trained dogs out there. Based on their track record, I can say there were no accelerants," Wayne-Westland Fire Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal John Adams said.

The exact cause of the fire

in which Wayne-Westland firefighter Brian Woehlke died and destroyed Marvaso's Italian Grille/the Electric Stick on North Wayne Road is still under investigation. Woehlke, 29, died of smoke and soot inhalation.

Other than ruling out accelerants, Adams said he is still waiting for another engineering report before completing his investigation.

The charred rubble and twisted metal that remained after the fire may soon be cleared away.

Still investigating

"It is still under investigation. I have released the scene to the insurance company so

they can mitigate it," said Adams. "In the next couple of weeks, I will have the cause."

Since the fire, restaurant owner George Marvaso said his plans to rebuild his business, including the charity poker room in the former billiards hall Electric Stick, have been on hold.

"We are definitely going to rebuild. We're negotiating on a couple of locations," said Marvaso, who wants to keep his business in Westland.

The first phase would be an approximately 8,000-square-foot charity poker room.

"I'm trying to make it nice with more of a food menu — not just burgers to eat while you play poker. I think we are

No. 1 in the state among charity poker rooms and now I'm looking at improving the product," Marvaso said. "It will still be called the Electric Stick although I do understand the question."

Along with charity poker room, Marvaso said he plans to rebuild the Italian Grille and also wants to add a room for private parties.

Permanent site

Soon after the fire, Marvaso had talked about getting a temporary location for the charity poker room but decided to focus on getting a permanent location.

"I want to make a good solid business. Possibly we could

have a building of our own with our own sign," he said.

The tragic loss of Woehlke's life continues to impact many people in other ways.

"No one can replace a life. I have 100 employees out of work. The (strip) mall lost three tenants," Marvaso said. "We were under-insured. Our gross had tripled in two years. We were starting to pay back money (owed). We were pulling out of it."

Marvaso expressed appreciation for the support received from his family, employees, city staff and the community.

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

Festival offers gamers CHANCE TO PLAY

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

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

There will be plenty to

do inside and outside the store noon to 8 p.m. Food, music, free raffles and game tournaments featuring Call to Duty, Halo 4 and Super Smash Bros. Brawl and prizes and instruction on using modified controllers are planned. There also

will be small tournaments featuring retro games from the 1980s and 1990s and a big game sale, too.

"I have a radio station coming and costumed characters, I'm trying to put on a small video convention here," said the Westland

resident. "I'm trying to bring a big city convention feeling to Garden City. I try to do that on a daily basis or a weekend, but it's hard to do, so I decided to do an event and get gamers to-

See FESTIVAL, Page A2

Area restaurant construction delayed

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

New McDonald's restaurants in Wayne and Garden City aren't expected to get under construction until 2014.

"We were supposed to be having hamburgers by Memorial Day," Wayne City Manager Robert English said. "I'm told there was a change in the Michigan supervision (for McDonald's)."

Representatives from the fast food chain couldn't be reached for comment.

Responding to a question, English said that he had heard that McDonald's would go ahead with demolition of the former Rex's House of Pancakes despite the construction being delayed.

Some residents were unhappy that the McDonald's was allowed to build at the southwest corner of Wayne Road and westbound Michigan Avenue.

"Can we at least see about getting the Christmas decorations taken down?" Wayne Councilman John Rhaesa said

"Is the landlord responsible for the grass?"

Rex's shut down around the Christmas holidays and still is decorated for the holidays.

In Garden City, a gas station at the southwest corner of Ford and Middlebelt will be replaced with a new McDonald's. There is an existing McDonald's immediately south of the site.

There were preliminary plans to replace the Middlebelt McDonald's about 20 years ago when it was supposed to move to a new build-

ing immediately to the south where there had been an American Legion hall. That project never went forward but American Legion Post 396 moved north on Middlebelt and their former building was demolished.

The former American Legion property was subsequently developed as a strip center with a laundry mat, dry cleaners and other businesses.

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Revenue loss

How Wayne's financial situation developed was illustrated by graphs provided by Ghedotte which showed a steady decline in property values and other general fund revenues beginning after a \$22.2 million high in 2009. Revenues for 2013-14 are projected at \$16.9 million.

"Even though our taxable rate has had a 14.37 percent increase, our taxable property value is down 43 percent," said Ghedotte. "That's an awful big decline in a short time. Virtually every graph (of city revenues) is the same."

The other issue for the city, Ghedotte said, is paying for legacy costs — pensions and medical coverage for 160 current retirees.

City staffing has been reduced from a high of 171 full-time workers in 2006 to the

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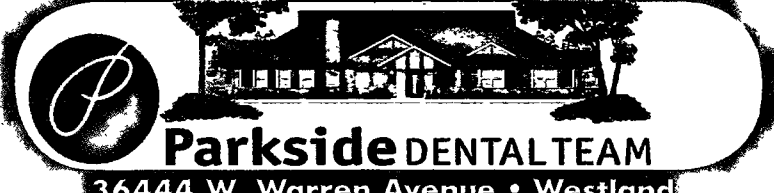
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Wayne DDA also feels financial pressure

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Like the city's general fund revenues, a graph chart of revenues for the Wayne Downtown Development Authority show a steady downward trend since 2007.

In fact, Wayne Finance Director James Ghedotte provided a chart showing the DDA is expected to end the current fiscal year on June 30, 2014, with a fund balance of \$3.

"That's virtually nothing," Ghedotte said.

Established in 1981, the DDA is funded by capturing property tax increases from the level when it was created. In Wayne's case, that means diverting money that otherwise would have gone to Wayne County to be used for infrastructure improvements, facade improvement loans and other work to help

revitalize the downtown.

Wayne's DDA covers about 1.9 squares or 32 percent of the city's 6-square mile area. The DDA district runs along Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road extending to the city limits in each direction.

Due to Wayne's declining property tax values, the DDA annual tax recapture has gone from \$6.3 million in 2007 to nearly \$1.2 million in 2014.

Cost of services

The city general fund receives \$459,000 from the DDA to cover the costs of city services to the district, including police, fire and maintenance.

The city also will transfer nearly \$700,000 from the general fund back to the DDA or more than 58 percent of the DDA budget.

"What we spend in the

DDA is more than what we recapture," said Wayne Mayor Al Haidous, who chairs the DDA board.

Councilman John Rhaesa, a DDA board member, commented several times that he was confused about the DDA.

"Why do we have a DDA, just to get more money for ourselves?" he said. "I don't understand why we have a DDA but it has no plan to do anything."

Different cities do different things with their DDAs, Rhaesa said, trying to stop deterioration of property values.

"We spend a lot of money in the DDA district. We used it to pay for the library (construction) — there is no debt on it," said Councilman Albert Damitio, also a DDA board member. "We helped repave Michigan Avenue and did the streetscape. We maintain

the streetscape."

The DDA is also paying for the construction of what is now the Wayne-Westland Fire Administration building.

Acquisition of foreclosed properties and some building demolitions have also been funded by the DDA. That has been part of the strategy of putting together parcels for future development.

"I thought the DDA board was supposed to have a plan to fix and make the downtown better. It's supposed to be money separate from the city," said Rhaesa, a member of the Ripple Effect which has been critical of the city's handling of downtown revitalization.

Damitio questioned the timing of the discussion during what was a study session on the city's budget which included the DDA budget.

Different vision

Haidous commented that a different vision for the city was fine but the general fund needed to recoup expenses for services provided to the DDA. He also objected to comments that nothing was being done in the DDA district.

"A lot has been done. Other people have different priorities," Haidous said.

Unlike other communities, Rhaesa said the DDA doesn't provide a report on its projects and hasn't updated its development plan since 2000.

"Other cities' DDAs are more actively involved. Look at other cities. The Garden City DDA gave out a list of goals. I haven't seen that from us," he said.

The steep decline in revenues, previous projects and debt payments hamper the DDA's ability

to take on new projects, City Manager Robert English said.

"If we had a \$6 million recapture, I'm sure you'd see a lot more projects," English said.

Resident Ron Roberts was concerned about the lack of a downtown turnaround and that no plan for that had been made public.

"You bought property, so there is some kind of plan in the background," Roberts said. "When the city manager says you are wanting to buy a key piece of property, it means there is a puzzle and we don't know what it is."

Responding, Haidous said there is no secret plan and that anything done by the city is done in public and requires four council votes.

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BUDGET

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current 88 employees.

"That's about half the employees we had. We've tried to cut the budget to balance it. We've been economical," said Ghedotte. "We are hand-

cuffed with so many dollars going to legacy costs. Promises were made to past employees. The pension costs chart is the opposite of the revenue graphs — it keeps going up."

Legacy costs

For the current fiscal year, Ghedotte presented

a chart showing 27.58 percent of the \$16.8 million general fund budget is spent on pension and retiree health care.

"You should start looking at how to fund the legacy costs. At the next meeting, you should try to look ahead," said Ghedotte. "Sound decisions were made at the time —

no one expected a 43 percent drop in revenues."

The millage question, if approved, would partially address that question.

With voter approval, state law allows a city to establish what is called a 345 plan to provide separate funding for police

and firefighter pensions and retirement medical coverage.

As a result, that expense no longer would come from the city's strapped general fund.

Westland has a 345 plan, which was established when the city incorporated and has no cap except actuarial

funding needs or a sunset date.

The council has scheduled another budget study session at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Wayne City Hall.

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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page A1

gether so that they can meet each other."

Plenty of TVs

For the tournaments, Bond will use the 20 flat screen TVs he has in the game area of the store as well as have at least eight more TVs outside provided by vendors. He estimates there should be at least 30 setups for the event.

The entry is free for the tournaments, all

gamers have to do is show up — "The earlier the better," Bond said.

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

Bond got into the game business in 2009. Four years ago, he partnered with Chris Allers, opening his retail busi-

ness inside what was then the Game Yard. Allers had opened the gaming place in the storefront off the Kmart parking lot at Ford and Middlebelt in 2007 after taking a buyout from one of the Big 3 automakers. When he was called back to work last year, Bond took over.

"I wanted to start a business where my family could be involved," he said.

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

Making changes

The gaming area dominated the Game Yard, but Bond has reversed it. The playing area with the 20 TVs is set up in an area away from the front

door. Playing time costs \$4 for an hour, \$10 for three hours, \$15 for five hours and \$25 for all day.

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

"The whole point is to meet other kids who share the same interest," he said.

"Everything is going smoothly so far."

Visit Gamers Ave online at www.GamersAve.com or call 734-466-9020. Gamers Ave is at 29552 Ford, Garden City.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Teen Programs

The Westland Youth Assistance Program and the Taylor Teen Health Center are hosting a "Be Proud! Be Responsible!" workshops for youth.

"Be Proud, Be Responsible!" is a pregnancy and HIV/AIDS prevention program for adolescent youth ages 12-18. The workshops will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 27, and Aug. 24, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland.

All participants will get a free snack in the morning, free lunch and prizes. For more information or to register, call the Westland Youth Assistance Program at (734) 467-7904.

Preschool signup

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is now enrolling for the 2013-14 preschool year. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee, a \$25 savings value. The preschool is a tuition-based Christian program that offer classes for 3-4-year-old children.

It offers a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and includes all the basic preschool academic skills as well as a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.

For more information, to schedule a tour or enroll, call 734-728-3559, visit the website at www.preschool.livesarechanging.com or send an email to wfmpreschool@yahoo.com.

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TECHNOLOGY AND ARTHRITIS

Like other aspects of medicine, the field of arthritis has entered the twenty first century. For medicine, the outstanding feature of the last 10 years is the increasing place for applied technology.

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

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

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

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Leon gives pawful of love to hospice patients

AN UNSPOKEN LANGUAGE

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

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

Leon starts his work day by being dropped off at the Plymouth Arbor Hospice office on Ann Arbor Road by Cindy Palmer of Farmington Hills.

"My kids have very much wanted a dog," said Palmer, Arbor Hospice bereavement counselor who works in Ann Arbor. "I thought, 'Wow!' This is an opportunity for us, especially with my 10-year-old son."

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

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

him like a pet."

Sociable and trained

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

"When the dogs have issues, other alternatives are sought," said Arbor Hospice staff member Sue Norton, Leon's lead trainer.

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

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

Leon will actually be sort of like a traveling working dog. Arbor Hospice serves patients in a seven county area that includes Wayne and Oakland. Arbor has an in-



Leon is petted by Arbor Hospice instructor Sue Norton. Volunteers include Gerry Gold, Christian Little and twin brother, Jacob, 18, of Garden City, Art Burd and daughter, Alysha, 16, of Livonia. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

patient facility in Ann Arbor, but also cares for patients in their own homes.

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

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

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

Unspoken connection

The truth is, dogs and humans share a universal language. "It's beyond language. It's an unspo-

ken thing," said Livonia resident Art Burd, who has volunteered to take Leon to see patients.

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

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

The Little brothers have volunteered because health care is the field both have chosen to enter. "It's a good field," Christian said.

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

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

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Detroit yoga group hosts teaching weekend

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

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

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

to relate and share with all levels of our students."

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

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

"I was impressed with

his wisdom at his young age, clarity of his instructions to yoga practitioners of any level, and his modesty in spite of his depth of knowledge," said Doris Sheikh of Farmington Hills, a long-time YAGD member and former president.

Another Farmington Hills resident, Charlene Vokonich, agrees.

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

The teaching weekend will include four ses-



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

sions:
 » Movement and meditation in Vinyasa yoga 7-9 p.m. Friday, July 27. Vinyasa is often seen as power yoga or classical Indian yoga.
 » Awakening, strengthening and integrating your core, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 27.

» Balance your hips and free your spine, 1:30-4 p.m. Saturday, July 27.

» The art of sequencing, general principles, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 28.

Preregister for \$35 for each session of \$120 for all four sessions by July 19. After that day, it is

\$45 per session or \$160 for four sessions.

YAGD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and improving the practice and teaching of yoga. The YAGD website has more information and a registration form for the event. Or call 313-204-1509 to register.

Anderson appointed to Medicaid work group

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has been appointed to a new Medicaid expansion work group of six Republican and two Democratic state senators charged with reaching an agreement between Senate Democrats and Republicans on Medicaid expansion legislation pending before the state Senate, which would provide 470,000 low-income working Michigan citizens with affordable medical insurance.

The expansion is a critical part of a federal program that would pro-

vide substantial federal matching dollars to expand state Medicaid programs to include working individuals above 100 percent of the federal poverty level, currently at \$11,490 for an individual, but below 138 percent of the federal poverty level. It will also include numerous reforms from the current program in areas of delivery of services, preventative care and efficiencies.

Legislation to expand Medicaid was passed with bi-partisan support by a comfortable margin



Anderson

in the Michigan House of Representatives in June after extensive negotiations between

House Republicans and Democrats. But Senate Republicans refused to bring the legislation to the floor for a vote.

Gov. Rick Snyder has established Medicaid expansion legislation as a priority for his administration and the Senate work group was established as a final attempt

to work toward a bill that Senate Republicans and Democrats can support.

"This legislation will provide affordable insurance to nearly half a million working Michigan residents who are currently uninsured and whose emergency medical costs are currently shouldered entirely by Michigan tax payers," Anderson said. "The work group probably represents the last and best chance to do the right thing and develop a version of this bill that both the Senate and the House can pass."

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Schoolcraft College launches website

Schoolcraft College launched a new website last week that is designed to help students and community members take advantage of all the institution has to offer. Redesigned navigation makes it easier for visitors to find what they are looking for. The site features less text and more pictures and video that better explains the college and gives visitors the feel of campus life. Residents are encouraged to visit www.schoolcraft.edu out

try new website. It features easy step-by-step instructions for those interested in taking academic courses for credit in dozens of areas. Just click on the "Students Start Here" button at the top of the homepage. If you are looking for arts and cultural events, such as the upcoming Michigan Jazz Festival, that's easy to find, too. Interested in being a police officer, firefighter or a chef? Maybe you just want to improve your skills in a particular

area? All of this is just a click away on Schoolcraft's new website. "First and foremost, we tried to design a new site that was focused on student recruitment," said Cheryl Hagen, Schoolcraft vice president for student services. "Our team did its homework and I think we created an attractive but highly functional design that showcases all the resources we have for the community." Schoolcraft College's site was created so that

users will find their desired information within three mouse clicks or less on multiple devices and platforms. Tutorial videos also are abundant, especially in the academic sections of the site. Current and future students can learn about the registration process, financial aid or even view a welcome message from Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress. Schoolcraft College's nonacademic offerings also are prominent. Make

a reservation at the American Harvest Restaurant (Schoolcraft's culinary school restaurant) or scan a variety of Continuing and Professional Development classes — just one click off the homepage. Even renting rooms for meetings and conferences at the VisTaTech Center can be accomplished with a couple of quick clicks. "Our old website certainly served us well, but it had outlived its usefulness," Hagen said. "Schoolcraft College

prides itself on its service for students and the community. It's one reason why nearly 50 percent of our students come from beyond our community college district boundaries. We take the 'great service' approach seriously, and the new website is absolutely customer friendly." Schoolcraft College is a public two-year college, offering classes at the main campus in Livonia, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City, and online at www.schoolcraft.edu.

Stress can affect functioning of family

By Stanley Szcotka
 Guest Columnist

In the wake of economic uncertainty, rising costs of living, tenuous job security, mortgage and bankruptcy prevalence, families gird their resources and in a word, cope. Families have been coping through failed economic prospects in the state of Michigan more than any other state in the union and this coping does have an effect on the environment in which we live and raise children. One might argue that the children are most affected by these experiences in that they may only be partly aware of the circumstance, and certainly have no control over them, and therefore have no way to defend themselves from these stressors. For adults, it is stress that allows us to mobilize our resources to over-

come obstacles, take control of challenges, in short — put this energy to work for us. But stress that is persistent, enduring and recurring is unhealthy and erodes our physical and emotional abilities; this type of stress diminishes or interferes with our ability to be successful in our roles as members of families and community. We become less effective mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts/uncles, sisters/brothers, friends, and neighbors. Conflict events seem to spring up everywhere, we become less tolerant of others, and our ability to resolve these conflicts is significantly diminished. This inability to be successful in resolving these conflicts further erodes at our sense of well-being and can lead to a downward spiral of diminishing returns. As adults we are charged with the responsibility to "keep on, keeping on,"

and as parents we are charged with the responsibility to teach our children survival — and life-skills that will serve them through over a lifetime. **Chance for success** Where there is challenge there is opportunity for success. Stress and coping are inherent to life. Being aware and open to speak about these challenges is a tremendous step forward in inoculating families from illnesses that can result from prolonged stress; these include, but are not limited to: depression/anxiety, abuse of alcohol/drugs, irritability/destructive/abusive behavior, damage relationships and physical illness. In an effort to overcome, avoid, and successfully cope with stress, let's move toward inoculating ourselves from these maladies and support family well-being. A first and funda-

mental step, as noted previously, is awareness and openness about stress and its effect on family functioning. Too often, we deny feelings and vulnerabilities, fail to admit insecurities, or simply act out our stress at the detriment to those closest to us. A basic conversation with a spouse or supportive friend about our fears and insecurities, recognizing risks and vulnerabilities, is a rewarding experience in and of itself. This action alone can offer the grounding necessary to move forward. This action also defeats a tendency for us to interpret regional economic fluctuations as personal shame or shortcoming. From this point of honest disclosure, we can begin taking control of our planning for future success. And from this awareness, we can begin to share with our children how we want

them to interpret these experiences. A child, too often, wrongly interprets an irritable or depressed parent as a measure of their own self-worth, a failure to be a good child, or even internalize a parent's modeling of failed coping only repeat struggle themselves. A successfully coping parent matches a level of disclosure to a child's awareness and ability to interpret stress. **Explanations** While not all children are small adults, we often underestimate our children's exposure to information gleaned from TV, adult conversation, or other sources. They often benefit greatly from parental explanations of family stress and coping, offering assurances of well-being and possibly giving them a role or duty within the family through which they can experience, in

small part, a personal success in support of the family. For instance, giving a child even a small task or responsibility, such as turning off a light, or picking up a toy or a pet can often ground a child's sense of success and control, thereby inoculating themselves from some of the harmful aspects of stress. Coping beyond this first step can take a variety of forms, but is dependent on this base awareness and honest disclosure. Families are microcosms of the community and as families advance a sense of control, coping and well-being, communities too will strengthen, evolve and prosper. Stanley Szcotka is a clinical psychologist, licensed counselor and school counselor currently working as director of Student Services for the Garden City Public Schools.

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It's the 100th anniversary of Gerald Ford's birth

On July 14, 1913, Leslie Lynch King Jr. was born in Omaha, Neb. After his mother married Gerald R. Ford in 1916, the young boy was being called Gerald Ford Jr., the name by which most people would know the future 38th president of the United States. He didn't change his name legally to Gerald Ford until 1935.

Ford graduated from Grand Rapids South High School in 1927 and the University of Michigan in 1935. While at U-M, he played football on two national championship teams. He attended Yale Law School while serving as boxing coach and assistant football coach. He earned his law degree in 1941. He also achieved the status of Eagle Scout and was a lifelong supporter of Scouting.

When World War II broke out, he joined the Navy and was discharged in 1946 as a lieutenant commander. Ford married Elizabeth "Betty" Bloomer Warren in 1948 and had three sons and one daughter.

His political career got started when he worked on Wendell Wilkie's presidential campaign in 1940. Ford first ran for U.S. House of Representatives in 1948 and was re-elected 12 times, getting more than 60 percent of the vote each time.

His biggest political ambition was to be Speaker of the House which he never attained because of the Democratic majority.

Ford was appointed to vice president by President Nixon when Spiro

Agnew resigned because of income tax evasion charges. The Watergate scandal and cover-up led to the unprecedented resignation of President Nixon. Gerald Ford took the oath of office on Aug. 9, 1974. One of Ford's first acts as president was to pardon Nixon to "do the right thing for the country." Ford died Dec. 26, 2006.

Titles the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland owns regarding the life and political career of Gerald Ford include Stansfield Turner's *Burn Before Reading*; Douglas Brinkley's *Gerald R. Ford*; Thomas DeFrank's *Write It When I'm Gone*; and Richard Reeves' *A Ford, Not a Lincoln*. John Robert Greene's *Betty Ford* chronicles the life of the former First Lady.

To learn more about Gerald and Betty Ford's lives, both in and out of political life, visits to the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum are a must. The Gerald R. Ford Library is located on the North Campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is in Grand Rapids. Both facilities can be accessed through www.fordlibrary-museum.gov.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sunday.

Highlighted Activities

Chalk the Walk, 6 p.m. July 15 - Kids who love to draw! Summer Reading Fun continues as we decorate our library sidewalks. Join us for an evening of fun as we "Dig into Reading" with chalk.

Writers Club, 7 p.m. July 15 - Have you written stories or poems that you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a

casual atmosphere? Looking to get back into writing but could some support and/or exercises? Join Cheryl Catcher-Martin as she leads the Westland Library Writer's Club.

Roots of the Music, 7 p.m. July 16 - Detroit is known the world over for the music that came out of a small studio on West Grand Boulevard during the 1960s and 1970s. But the Motown Sound wasn't born from thin air. It had its roots in other music that was being made in Detroit and around the country in the years before the company's founding in 1959. Joel Stone, curator at Detroit Historical Society, delves into the city's history of music making, and the elements that contributed to the unique stylings of Motown and Tamla Records. You can sign up online at westlandlibrary.org/events or call 734-326-6123 to save your seat.

Adult Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m. July 17 - *Lorrie Moore's A Gate at the Stairs* explores the coming of age of 20-year-old Tassie Keltjin, which is played out against the backdrop of America in the years following the Sept. 11 attacks. Tassie arrives at college fresh off the family farm, eager to learn and absorb all she can in this exciting new scholastic culture. As the world changes dramatically, Tassie must make some tough decisions on her road to adulthood.

Introduction to the Ancient Art of Face Reading, 7 p.m. July 17 - This program features Lin Klaassen who has been lecturing internationally for over 22 years. Lin has presented at workshops and serves as a jury, business, relationship, and poker consultant. Lin will take questions and read random faces from the audi-

ence. Bring a mirror for your personal observations. You can sign up online or call 734-326-6123 to save your seat.

TEENS - Bleach Pen T-shirts, 2 p.m. July 17, Grades 7-12 - Reveal your inner fashion designer as we embellish T-shirts using bleach pens. We'll have the bleach pens and some T-shirts, but feel free to bring your own items to bleach as well. Drop in. No registration.

e-Reader and Tablet Support Group, 2 p.m. July 18 - Do you have an eReader or Tablet? Want to learn more about it? Stop in to meet with other e-users, share your expertise, or learn some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device. An eReader/Tablet expert will be on hand to answer the difficult questions. No registration is required.

Tween Make-it, Take-it Craft, 2:20 p.m. July 18, 5th-8th graders - Tweens are welcome to join us for an open-ended art activity. Use adhesive foam pieces, boxes and duct tape to create your own robot, monster or any other imaginative creation! No registration required.

Mammals are Marvelous, July 19 - Children will enjoy learning what features make Michigan mammals unique in the Huron-Clinton Metro parks Mobile Learning Center. Preschoolers 10:30-11:30 a.m. One parent or caregiver must remain with child throughout the program. Children 5-12 - 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., children 5-12 - 1-2 p.m. Registration required. Preschooler guardians can only sign up in person all else can also sign up online.

Friday Night Movie, 6:30 p.m. July 19 - Friday night movies roll on into the summer months with a variety of concert

movies, summer blockbusters (of the Spielberg variety), and great foreign films. Tonight's movie is *3 Idiots*, a Bollywood favorite about "[T]wo friends [who] are searching for their long lost companion. They revisit their college days and recall the memories of their friend who inspired them to think differently, even as the rest of the world called them "idiots" (170 minutes). This movie is rated PG. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the movie starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. Snacks, refreshments.


Crop Mob @ the DTE Gardens, 8 a.m. to noon July 20 - Calling all green thumbs and all those who like to help! Join library staff and other community volunteers as we help the DTE Energy Farm in Westland harvest this year's fruit and veggies (the farm is located behind the DTE building at 38155 Cherry Hill. All food will be collected by Gleaners Community Food Bank and distributed to families in need. Free coffee (supplied by Biggby Coffee in Westland), water, and snacks for participants. Sign-up on our website at westlandlibrary.org/ events if you'd like a cup of Joe or some snacks (otherwise, meet us at the DTE Building).

Chess Group, 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 pm Saturdays - Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No signup required.

Information Central was compiled by Susan Hanson, Technical Services librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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Thousands expected for Rathyatra

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

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

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

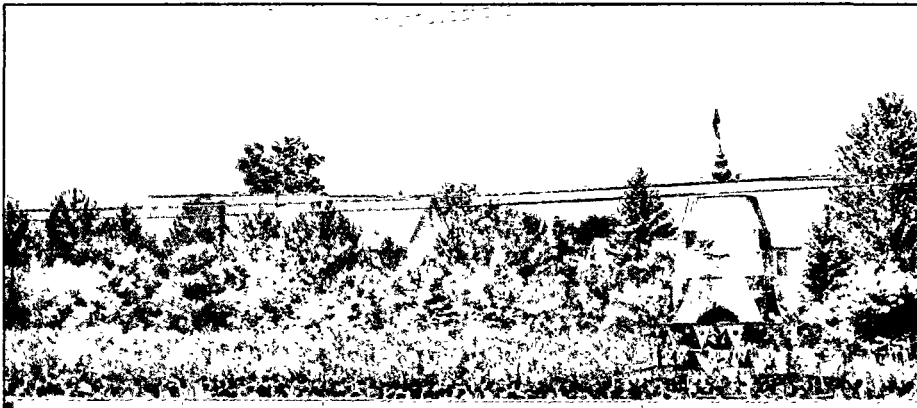
"The 28th annual Festival of Chariots ... is the most unique and broad reaching festival hitting the streets of Michigan," said Ganesh Kathiresan, media coordinator. "We're expecting over 7,000 people this year, including the mayor of Novi, to pull a 40-foot chariot through the streets of Novi."

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

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



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



The chariot of the Festival of Chariots rolls south on Taft Road in Novi last year. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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

The event's first-ever Kirtan Yoga Fest, from 2-6 p.m., will feature artists from New York, India and around the world. Kirtan is a form of devotional singing

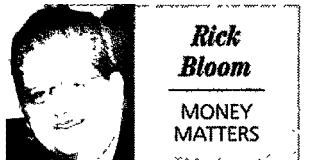
and chanting originating from India and accompanied by musical instruments and rhythmic drumming. The audience is encouraged to participate by singing/chanting, clapping and dancing. In its heartfelt expression, Kirtan is to

induce profound states of meditation, bliss and ecstasy.

The festival – free and open to the public – wraps up around 6 p.m. There will be plenty of free parking at the Novi High School and the Civic Center.

HISTORY

The "Festival of Chariots," known throughout India as the Ratha Yatra festival, has been celebrated since ancient times as one of the most important yearly events in the Vaish-nava-Hindu faith. The festival celebrates Lord Krishna's return to Vrindaban. Every year, over one million people from around the world descend upon Jagannath Puri (India) to celebrate. Huge processions accompany the chariots playing songs with drums, tambourines, and trumpets. Children line the streets through which the chariot will pass and add to the mass chorus. It is also telecasted live on many Indian channels and International channels. Today, the Festival of the Chariots is performed around the world.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Plan before gifting children

Q: Dear Rick: Earlier this year, I retired and began collecting Social Security. My wife retired a few years ago and she began collecting Social Security at that time. We get a little over \$3,000 a month from Social Security. We figure it costs us about \$5,000 a month to live. We have no pensions and our current portfolio is about \$800,000. We're in our late 60s. We figure we have enough to last us the rest of our lives. We have four kids and my wife would like to help them out now if we can. She would like to gift about \$50,000 to each. If we gift the money would we still be in good shape for our needs?

A: I think it's great that you want to help your kids and make their life easier. However, in your situation I would not recommend the \$200,000 in gifts. An \$800,000 portfolio gives you much more flexibility than a \$600,000 one. This is particularly true since it is possible that you and your wife can be around another 30 years..

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

As a general rule, when you're in retirement the most you want to withdraw from your portfolio is 4 percent. I generally prefer a 3.5 percent rate based upon the fact that people are living longer and the cost of living is rising much faster than the stated inflation rate. I believe the \$800,000 in your portfolio provides you a little cushion while if you only had \$600,000 you could have difficulties down the road.

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

Reduce gifts

In the majority of situations I'm not in favor of large gifts. I recognize that there is a difference between leaving someone an inheritance and giving them a gift. When you leave an inheritance you don't get to see how that money improves someone's life as you would with a gift. That being said, I don't want anyone having to be put in the position of having to ask their kids for money. I'd rather be safe than sorry and that is why I don't recommend the \$50,000 gifts.

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

Many parents want to help their children who are experiencing financial difficulty. The problem is giving them money may not solve their problems. The reality may be that your child is living above his/her means.

Before you gift money make sure you have the resources to protect yourself and make sure that whomever you gift money to will spend that money wisely.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Email questions to rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Next to Bill Brown Ford across from Saint Michael's Church

Livonia Marine throwing out first pitch

Active duty Marine and combat veteran Staff Sgt. Dominic James Freda is scheduled to throw out the first pitch in Comerica Park at 7 p.m. for the July 26 Tigers game against the Philadelphia Phillies. As a Livonia resident and Tigers enthusiast, this is a dream come true for the 31-year-old Marine. After serving five combat tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, Freda lives in his hometown of Livonia and works as a recruiter for the Marine Corps in Ypsilanti.

Christopher Brochert of Lormax Stern Development Co. has made the first-pitch experience possible for Freda. Brochert donated the tickets along with the Pepsi 1st Pitch Experi-



Marine Staff Sgt. Dominic James Freda of Livonia will throw out the first pitch in Comerica Park at 7 p.m. July 26 for the Tigers game against the Philadelphia Phillies.

ence after bidding on and winning the item at a live auction during a local charity event for Boys Hope Girls Hope.

Freda's wife, Lindsay Freda, and her business partner Kristin Falconer own Trailer Events, an event company that ca-

ters to corporations and individuals. They plan on throwing a private Tigers-themed tailgate in his honor. The tailgate will be prior to the game in the United Methodist Church parking lot across from Comerica Park.

Red Cross puts out call for blood donors

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Garden City residents who want to answer the American Red Cross's urgent plea for blood donors this week will need to travel to another community to do so.

"I don't know of any blood drives in Garden City within the next few days," said Martha Kurtz, American Red Cross communication program manager.

But she said that residents can visit redcrossblood.org/south-easternmichigan, enter their zip code and find blood drives in nearby communities.

A check showed there are 212 blood drives planned before January 2014 which are within 10 miles of Garden City.

Kurtz sent out a press release this week asking for urgently needed blood donations.

"The American Red Cross urgently needs donors to help boost the blood supply following the Independence Day holiday," she said.

The organization has

issued an emergency appeal for blood donors of all blood types.

Those with O negative, B negative and a negative blood are especially encouraged to give. There is a critical need for platelet donors as well.

Type O negative is the universal blood type and can be transfused to anyone who needs blood.

Types A negative and B negative can be transfused to Rh positive or negative patients.

Platelets, which are a key clotting component of blood often needed by cancer patients, must be transfused within five days of donation, so it's important to have a steady supply of platelets on hand.

"It's the blood on the shelves that can save lives when a disaster strikes," she said.

Nationwide, donations through the Red Cross were down about 10 percent in June, resulting in about 50,000 fewer donations than expected.

The shortfall is similar to what the Red Cross experienced in

June 2012.

Red Cross officials say that June can be among the most challenging months of the year for blood and platelet donations because regular donors delay giving while they adjust to summer schedules.

High school and college blood drives account for as much as 20 percent of Red Cross donations during the school year. Donations from those who usually give at these drives drop by more than 80 percent when school is out for the summer.

Also, a mid-week Independence Day holiday reduced the number of blood drives scheduled in early July.

Many sponsors, especially businesses, were unable to host drives because employees took extended vacations, they said.

For more information about donating, call 1-800-RED CROSS or 1-800-733-2767.

Call Kurtz at 313-530-6040.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
313-222-2249
Twitter: @SueSBuck

AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Model T Cruise

The Friends of Nankin Mills are hosting a historic car cruise 4-6 p.m. Saturday, July 20, from the Henry Ford Retirement Village on Ford Road in Dearborn to Nankin Mills at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view more than 100 Model A, Model T and older cars and enjoy a great dinner prepared by chef Tony Paquette of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Show-only dinner tickets are \$10 for adults,

\$5 for children 10-17 years of age and 9 years and under are free. Car show and dinner tickets are \$20 per adult, \$15 for those 10-17 years of age and \$6 for those 9 years old and under.

For more information, call 734-261-1990.

Suite raffle

Are you a Detroit Tigers fan? Would you like to win a suite for 20 people at Comerica Park to see the Tigers play the White Sox at 1:05 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4?

The Westland Rotary Club is offering you a chance to do just that and help your community at

the same time! The suite also includes a \$300 Food Credit, three parking passes and your name on the scoreboard.

Tickets are \$10 each and available from the Westland Chamber of Commerce, Jueneemann Insurance Agency or from any Westland Rotarian. The drawing will be held at 1 p.m. July 18, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, Westland. Proceeds will go to the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, Westland Rotary Scholarships and Charities and the Westland Rotary Club.

For more information, call Jeff at 734-261-5010.

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

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

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

Registration will open from July 8 - 31, 2013
Application materials and program information is available at the Livonia Public Schools Administration building at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia MI 48154 (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M - Th)
All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

Contact Steve Archibald, Director of Secondary Programs at 734-744-2520 with any questions.

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Observer

Clip this coupon or visit
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Don't miss the **WILD Summer Day Trip** contest,

Fill out the form below for a chance to win these great prizes:

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

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WILD Summer Day Trip contest

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

One entry per person Official rules at hometownlife.com

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

Former GC resident 'pursued her dreams'

According to John Lacy, his mother, Janice Glimm-Lacy, was "an example of the woman who had it all as a Navy wife and a mother and yet was able to pursue her dreams and goals to achieve many things."

"My mother wasn't a CEO or a political leader, but she was a good example of never giving up on reaching your personal goals," he said. "She was a loving wife and mother with several careers that served her

creative and intellectual needs."

"She was a mentor and friend to many of the people she touched in her life," he said.

A former Garden City resident, Mrs. Lacy died June 21 in Indianapolis, Ind., due to pulmonary fibrosis. She was 78.

Born in Grand Rapids, Mrs. Lacy attend several schools, including Findlay (Ohio) High School, where she received the top biology award from the State Junior Acad-

emy of Science of Ohio. She graduated from Dearborn High School in 1953 and enrolled in the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan, later transferring to the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

Research work

In 1957, she married John D. Lacy of Bloomfield Hills and dropped out of college. However, while at U-M, she used paper electrophoresis to study cerebrospinal fluid

proteins and was a co-author of a report published in the U-M Medical School Bulletin. And while working as a research assistant in the U-M Medical School's Anatomy Department, she developed and published the techniques for electron microscopy and taught the procedure to graduate students.

In 1959, her husband reported to the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, where she worked as an operating room technician at Newport Hospital and developed the nursing technique for the handling of radium in the OR which was incorporated into the School of Nursing Syllabus.

There were many Navy relocations and in 1967 post-Navy, the family moved from Fountain Valley, Calif., to Garden City. In 1970, with their two sons in grade school,



Janice Glimm Lacy had several careers that served her creative and intellectual needs.

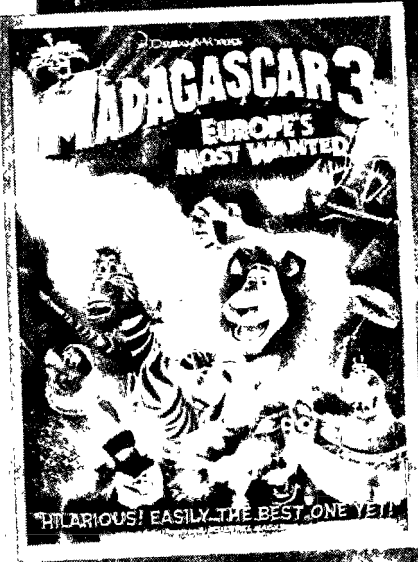
Mrs. Lacy re-enrolled at the U-M and graduated in 1973 with a bachelor of science degree in botany. She worked as a senior research assistant in the Department of Botany and also illustrated doctoral theses and articles. She co-wrote and illustrated botanical texts - *Practical Botany* (1983) and *Botany Illustrated* (in print since 1984). She also illustrated *Michigan Trees* (1981) and *Plants: Their Biology and Significance* (1989) and also taught botanical illustra-

tion in the adult education program at the U-M.

In 1985, with their sons in college, the Lacys moved to Indianapolis, and for several years she taught courses at the Indianapolis Art Center and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. After working as an independent landscape designer in Indianapolis for many years, she wrote and published a horticultural book, *What flowers when: With hints on home landscaping* (1995).

In 2002, at age 67, she transferred credits from U-M School of Art to the Herron School of Art and Design and graduated with high distinction in 2008 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in drawing. She co-authored a second edition of *Botany Illustrated*, published in 2006, then wrote and illustrated *Growing Green, Plants for Food & Wildlife in the Midwest, a Personal Story* (2011).

FREE Outdoor Movie Night!



Movie starts at Dusk

Thursday, July 18

Fountain area at Crescent Blvd. & Ingersol Dr.

FREE Popcorn plus beverages for sale during the movie.

For complete details on Novi Town Center movie, visit www.novitowncenter.com



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Win gifts from O&E Christmas in July contest

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

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

Submit an entry form via U.S. Postal Service or Facebook at hometownlife.com.

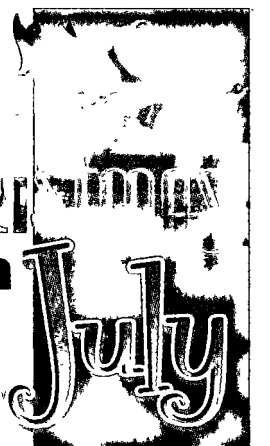
Winners will be selected in a random drawing of all correct entries.

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

Mail your entry (see the form inside the July *INSPIRE*) to Christmas in July, O&E Media, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or go to hometownlife.com and see the Facebook information

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

Happy Christmas in July and good luck finding the holiday icons.



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Plymouth High graduate, mom develop fitness app

Walking routes provide motivation to exercise regularly

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

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

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

Then the idea struck her: Why not have actual destinations available? She approached her son, 2006 Plymouth High School graduate John Zaccone, about devel-

oping a phone application that could take walkers to distant lands - and landmarks.

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

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

How far is far?

The idea really came about when Zaccone and a friend were plotting their mileage. They origi-

nally had the idea to determine how many steps it would take to get to Zingerman's Deli in Ann Arbor; when they had walked enough, they drove to Zingerman's.

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

Developing the app was right up his alley.

"I have an engineering mindset, so I like solving problems," said John, whose first experience at programming came in the high school classroom of teacher Ron Carlson.

"The whole engineering-solving problems is interesting to me. When



John Zaccone



Lisa Zaccone

you think about technology you think about computers, and my whole line of work and education is centered around that."

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

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

The same is true of landmarks in New York City, the route of the Boston Marathon and the Arches National Park in Utah, which concludes with a video of people rope-jumping from the arches.

Motivating uses

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

"(Walkers) keep track of their miles over time, and day-to-day you don't really get to see that much progress," he said. "But as you accumulate

more miles, people like to look at it as a bigger accomplishment. 'I walked the length of the Appalachian Trail in the last year.' That's a concrete way of measuring your walking over a longer period of time."

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

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

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

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
313-222-8899
Twitter: @bkadrich

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Golf outings

The Lyman Foundation will hold its 34th annual golf outing benefiting Burger School for Students with Autism on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Hickory Creek Golf Club, 3625 Napier, Superior Township.

The foundation was named in honor of the late Garden City police officer Gary Lyman who became associated with Burger School students and staff through his visits to the program. He held the first golf outing to raise money to provide community experiences for the students.

Golf is \$100, including meal and drink tickets. There will be two starts at 7:15 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. Golf registration information can be obtained by contacting Sharon Lundie at 734-728-4919 or 734-788-1290 or visit lymanfoundation.org.

Garden City Hospital will host its 21st Annual Golf Outing Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Western Golf and Country Club in Redford.

Registration and continental breakfast will be at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. There will be lunch and cocktail reception following play. Golfers should bring extra business cards for the door prize drawing.

The cost is \$225 per player or \$900 per foursome. Sponsorship opportunities also are available. Player and sponsorship registrations must be sent to Garden City Hospital no later than Friday, Aug. 9.

Funds raised for this year's golf outing will go towards the \$1 million complete renovation of Garden City Hospital's Family Birthing Center. For more information, contact Lynn Giovannini

at 734-458-4259 or by email at LGiovannini@gchosp.org.

Museum fundraising

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are continuing their fundraising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande Parlour for social and business occasions.

The bricks are \$50 for the 4-inch by 8-inch size that has up to three lines. The 8-inch by 8-inch bricks are \$75 and have room for up to six lines of text.

The Lathers General Store is open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering a variety of collectibles and gift items.

The museum is in the Straight Farmhouse at 6221 Merriman, north of Ford Road, Garden City. Call 734-838-0650 or visit www.sfnonline.org.

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Throughout my life, I have spent significant time and effort dealing with the following issues: **fatigue, irregular and heavy periods (leading to lengthy, in-depth fertility treatments when trying to have children), severe sinus headaches and allergies, being too hot or too cold, and gaining hard-to-lose weight.** Without exception even when requesting thyroid tests or alternative treatments, my doctors told me I was in some range of normal (even being told I was "normal for being abnormal") and simply advised me to eat less, move more, and be on my way.

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

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

- Chris Chalmers

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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Dearborn
(Between Miller & Lonyo)
313.842.2100

COOL RUNNINGS

Canton alum steers canine pals to IFSS bronze medal

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

Just amazing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

honest mistake."

They love it

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

"Probably the biggest thing is just love of my dogs, being able to travel with them and be with them all the time," she said. "These aren't just working animals. They're my best buddies, my family. And it's (for the dogs) to be able to do a sport like this, which they absolutely love."

See SLED DOGS, Page B3

Cagers eye Showcase

The fifth annual Reaching Higher showcases of Michigan's top high school basketball players will return to South Lyon High School beginning Wednesday with the boys event and followed by the state's top girls prospects taking the floor July 25.

More than 220 athletes with aspirations to play at the college level will train and scrimmage under the tutelage of high school coaches from across the state and in front of college coaches.

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

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

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

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

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

Bucks lose showdown

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

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

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

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

Local player catching on in the minors



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

Westland's Haase climbing the MLB Indians' ladder

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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



Haase

said Haase, who is currently hitting .242 and leads the Captains with 10 homers. "I definitely want to move as fast as possible, but at the same time I don't

want to make a big jump and start struggling a whole lot and doubting what I can do with my abilities. I think I'm in a pretty good spot right now. I'm learning at a good rate. Hopefully I'll just keep this rate going and one day I'll end up in Cleveland."

Decent numbers

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

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

See HAASE, Page B3

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Glove stories: Players embrace their mitts

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

If the sun-faded, ground-ball-battered softball glove that accompanied Coldwell Banker pitcher Jim Talbott to the mound Wednesday night was a car, the Belleville resident hates to think what the odometer might read. "Oh, my gosh," Talbott said, chuckling, during a mid-inning break at the Canton Softball Center. "I bought this in 1987 when I was 20 years old, so it would probably have at least 350,000 or 400,000 miles on it."

"But I wouldn't trade it for anything. It's broken in just right and it feels good on my hand. It's been a good glove for me. I had to restring it one time, but that's it. Unless I see a really, really good deal, I'll wear it as long as I play."

While a slew of slow-pitch softball players opt for costly leather trade-ins every year or two — forever in search of an upgraded model that may be the difference between snagging that game-changing line drive or barely missing it — many more echo Talbott's sentiment that familiarity breeds success.

"You absolutely develop a type of bond with your glove," said Canton resident Chuck Russo, who purchased his Dwight Gooden model sometime in the mid-'80s. "Mine came up missing the first two weeks of this season, and I was going crazy without it. It turned out my daughter was using it in the league she plays in."

"I own two other mitts, but I always revert back to using this one, especially when I'm playing infield. It just feels right."

Russo, a retired firefighter who makes sure to pack his glove when he travels south in the winter, joked about having his last name and phone number written on his mitt.

"Everybody does that in Florida just in case

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

CHUCK RUSSO,
Canton resident

you forget one or the other," he quipped.

Family heirloom

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

"This is my dad's glove," revealed Hamed, pumping his right hand into the leather pocket.

"He was using it long before I was even born; now we share it, which is pretty awesome. I've been playing four or five years, and he still plays."

"Hopefully it holds up so I can pass it down to my kids someday."

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

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

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

Good feeling

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

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



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

ing to keep using it until the wheels fall off."

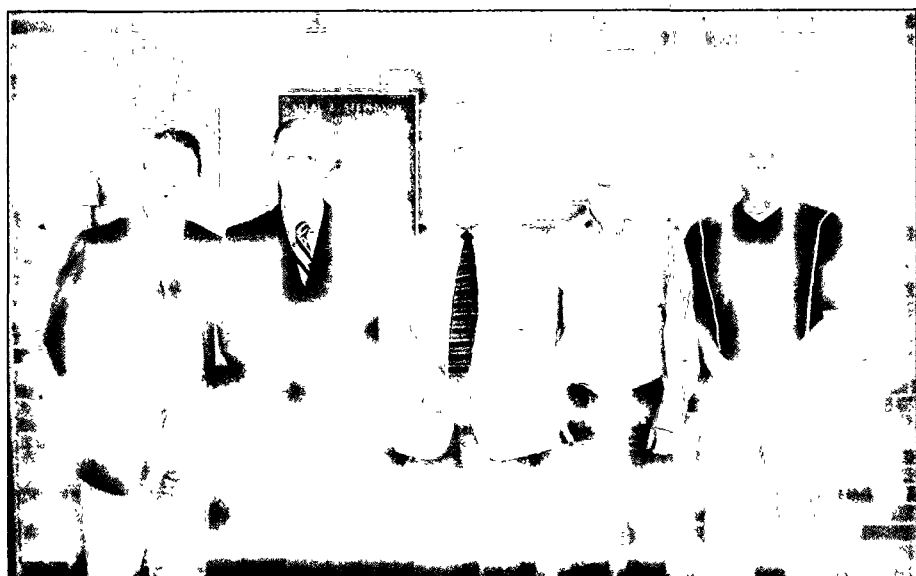
Billy Johnston took the affection he has for his glove one step further.

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

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

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

Gabe Award winner



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

SANDLOT BASEBALL

Ram bats club Knights, 12-2

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

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

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

with a combined two RBI and five runs scored.

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

Winning pitcher Donnie Eaton went the first 3½ innings allowing two

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

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

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

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Whalers signee

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

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

Hole-in-one club

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

Witnesses included Ralph Perez and Gary Cornellier.

O&E golf tournaments

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

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

The O&E women's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For pairings and starting times, call 248-476-4493 (Whispering Willows) or 248-471-3400 (Fox Creek).

Great Lakes Cardinals tryouts

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

Tryouts will be 6 p.m. Monday, July 29 at the Wayne Ford Civic Baseball Field, on Wayne Road, just south of Ford Road. Please contact Bill Flohr at 248-761-9694 or Angelo Lanava at 734-395-3355 with any questions.


Coaching jobs

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

Contact Sal Malek at 734-591-2386.

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

Stevenson graduate added to MU golf team

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MU lands Humitz

Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced Friday he has signed local product Connor Humitz (Livonia Stevenson) to an NAIA letter-of-intent.

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

Humitz was a two-sport standout and three-year letter winner in both golf and hockey for the Spartans. As a senior, Humitz was a second-team All-Observer pick in golf, averaging 39.8 strokes per nine holes and 79.5 per 18. He placed third in the Wayne County Invitational and finished 15th at both the Division 1 district and regional tournaments.

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

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

Hat-trick of signings for Plymouth Whalers

Forwards, goalkeeper sign with local team

The signings keep on coming for the Plymouth Whalers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SLED DOGS

Continued from Page B1

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

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

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

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

When that happened, she did what any dog lover would have at least tried to do.

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

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

Longtime passion

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

got involved with the sport."

Free to run

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

without overdoing it.

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

"I do a lot of my training that way," Cooper stressed. "It's similar to

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

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

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

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

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

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

And medals, money and accolades don't matter to their human pack leader as much as being there with them whenever they do.

smith@hometownlife.com

HAASE

Continued from Page B1

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

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

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

Batting smarts

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

Patience at the plate is a virtue.

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

"The more bats you



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

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

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

First season

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

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

coming out of high school.

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

"Being an every day catcher is just a progression," Tucker said. "There's a lot to learn as far as handling pitching and being a leader on the field. Obviously, the defensive part of the job he's improving and working hard on that."

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

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

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

Heat index

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

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

Although the Captains struggled during the first half of the Midwest League season going 23-44, they've rebounded with a 12-8 record to start the second half and he's enjoyed his stay.

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

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

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

"Time management is huge," he said.

Daily grind

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Down the road

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

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

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

Haase possesses many of the intangibles, but it's a process for sure.

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

bemons@hometownlife.com
313-222-6851

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Franklin girls hoop

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

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

Salem soccer

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

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

For more information, email coach Scott Duhl at elduhl@yahoo.com.

GC volleyball

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

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

An advanced camp will be held 5-8 p.m. July 22-26.

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

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

Cabrera baseball

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

The Detroit Tigers slugger will be joined by former Phillies minor

league pitcher Mark Rutherford (Livonia Churchill/Eastern Michigan University).

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

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

Visit www.Miguel-CabreraCamp.com.

Churchill girls hoops

The 2013 Livonia Churchill girls basketball camp for incoming grades five-nine will be 3-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, July 16-19, at the gym.

Cost is \$50. Call Churchill coach Matt McCowan at 248-761-9201 or email Mmccowan54@gmail.com

Churchill football

The Livonia Churchill Offensive and Defensive Skills youth football camp for incoming grades nine-12 will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, July 24-26, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, July 29, at the high school.

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

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

Tennis clinic

The Jack Kingsbury Tennis Clinic for Livonia Franklin players (incoming grades nine-12) will be 9-11 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday during the summer at the high school tennis courts.

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

The cost is \$15 per session. For more information, call 734-945-5762

Canton camps

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

Basketball camps will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 22-26 and July 29-Aug. 2 at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Cost is \$140 for residents and \$150 for non-residents. There will be a pre-camp shoot around 8-9 a.m.

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

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

The baseball camp is

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

For more information, call 734-483-5600.

MU basketball

The Madonna University All-Star Boys Basketball camps will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 22-26, and July 29 through Aug. 2, at the MU Activities Center. The cost is \$215 per week. For more information or to register online, visit www.AllStarBasketballCamps.com.

The Crusader Nation Girls Basketball Camp will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 15-18, at the Madonna University Activities Center. The cost is \$130. For more information, visit www.madonnacrusaders.com or call 734-432-5606.

For more information, call 734-432-5606.

Mini-soccer camp

A soccer mini-camp for boys and girls ages 5-12 (all skill levels) will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 5-8, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. The cost is \$15 (includes instruction, snacks and a soccer ball to take home).

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

MU cross country

The Madonna University Summer Cross Country base camps (incoming grades seven-12) will be 8-9:45 a.m. Monday through Friday, July 29 through Aug. 2, at Cass Benton Park in Northville. The cost is \$75 (includes camp T-shirt). MU will also stage long runs 7:30-9 a.m.

Saturdays, July 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3, at Cass Benton. Donation is \$2 for each run. For more information, email MU coach Pat Daugherty at pdaugherty@madonna.edu. You can also call 734-432-5634 (office) or 734-658-0226 (evenings).

Volleyball camps

The 2013 Wayne State University volleyball camps, directed by WSU women's coach Phil Nickel, are set for July 15-20.

The Intermediate Camp (9 a.m. to noon) and Advanced Camp (1-4 p.m.) take place July 15-18 with a \$100 fee. The Elite Camp will be July 19-20 and is designed for the more highly skilled player with varsity and club experience.

For more information or to register, call 313-577-7541, email at phil.nickel@wayne.edu or visit waynestatevolleyballcamps.com.

Salem Rockettes roll!



The Salem Rockettes' varsity and junior varsity pom teams excelled June 16-19 at the Oakland University-hosted Universal Dance Association Pom Camp. The varsity team qualified for UDA Nationals set for next February in Orlando, Fla. Members of the Rockettes include: (top row, from left) Olivia Benintende, Cassie Berlin, Maddie Harvath, Brianna Dotson, Lauren Lachowski, Jillian Pertler, Raven Reynolds, Hannah Parent, Emily Bates, Kara Rocheleau, Tiffney Cicotte and Basia Bokuniewicz; (bottom row, from left) Meghan Grossmann, Kayla Stokfisz, Taylor Harvath, Vanessa Bank, Olivia Ozeranic, Becky DeWater, Erica Garczynski, Kelcie Rocheleau, Sarah O'Donnell and Morgan Poulos. Not pictured are varsity coach Kaitlin Fettes, JV coaches Jessica Kubin and Kyra Boprie and JV Rockette Madeline Martinsky.

Guide to Employment. To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355. Check out these exciting career opportunities! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

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Check Out Today's Jobs & Careers Classified Section.

CARPET CLEANING ASSISTANTS. For Westland & Brighton locations. Exp. preferred, but not necessary.

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DIRECT CARE: Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to!

TECHNICIAN for OVERHEAD CRANES. Wolverine Crane & Service, Inc. is looking for a qualified person to service and repair overhead cranes.

Line Cooks. Apply in person at Canton Applebees 43500 Ford Rd or online www.applebees.jobs

Must have vehicle, valid driver's license & insurance. Please call 734-582-8890 for more information.

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

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Kristy Robinett hopes her new memoir will learn help readers stay strong as they work through life's challenges.

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

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

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



Robinett has overcome many obstacles in her life.

her daughter is in college — and family pets.

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

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

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

Take a number

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



The cover of Kristy Robinett's new book

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

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

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

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

Boosting intuition

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

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

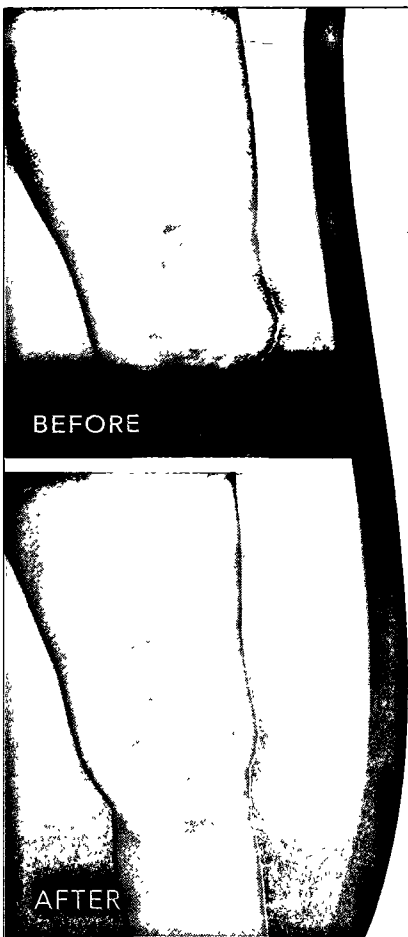
"How are you supposed to listen to someone on the other side that is quiet as a whisper or pick up on the signs they give off that can be as subtle as a butterfly that flies by, or a squirrel that runs up to the porch, or a license plate number? People hear but aren't paying attention."

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

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

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

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



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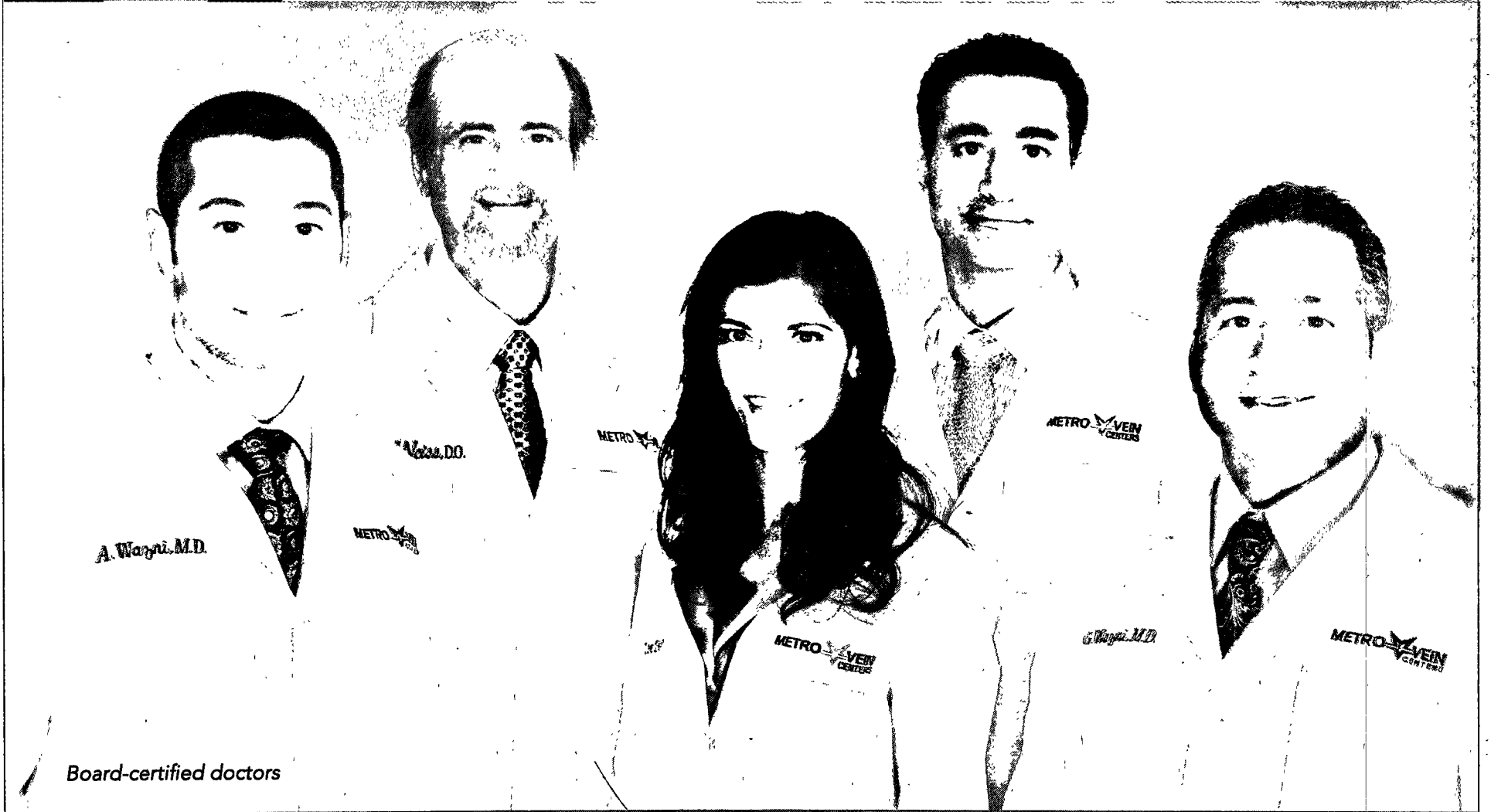
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It's shameful: Dehumidifiers don't last long these days

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

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



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

took it apart.

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

dehumidifiers are a throwaway item. How sad that is!

In the 1970s, I worked for the Amana Refrigeration Co. and they manufactured a dehumidifier that had an expected life span of 25-30 years. The coils were all copper, but all others had coils made of aluminum.

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

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

the rubber?

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

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

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

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

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

Along the bottom edge of the refrigerator door is where any spillage on the shelves of the refrigerator will travel to.

That spillage will deteriorate the rubber material and allow warm air to enter the refrigerator. In most of these cases consumers may end spending a few hundred dollars in repair costs.

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

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twml.com.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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

Butterflies

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

English Gardens

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

» Get tips on selection and care of hydrangeas at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20.

» Experts offer a list of what should be done in the summer garden to keep it looking great, at a free presentation, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27.

» The store will supply every-

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

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

» Get tips on creating a beautiful shade garden, 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 10 at a free presentation.

Area English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

Kids and nature, a winning combo

Free summer nature programs are designed for kids of all ages through Aug. 23 at Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills.

Programs include a nature movie, 2 p.m. Monday; story and a craft, 2 p.m. Tuesday; a scavenger hunt, 2 p.m. Wednesday; nature hike, 2 p.m. Thursday; and family campfire, 7-9 p.m. Friday.

In the moonlight

Listen for nocturnal animals,

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

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

Cost is \$3 per person. Pre-register for the hike at creg.fhgov.com.

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

Master Gardener

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



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



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

Gala boosts organ gift awareness

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



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

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

On Thursday, Aug. 15, the Detroit Tigers will once again host Organ Donor Awareness Day at Comerica Park. Tickets to the game — Tigers vs. Kansas City Royals — can be purchased by calling 248-770-5172 or 248-701-2323. For more information, visit www.donatelifemichigan.org or go to www.giftoflifemichigan.org to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

Make it a Hawaiian night at Longacre House

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

The festivities will include classic Hawaiian

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

The Longacre House is located at 24705 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. For more information, call 248-477-8404 or visit www.longacrehouse.org.

It's CHRISTMAS TIME in July

See Hometown Life INSPIRE in print or on line beginning July 25th

You could win a \$500 gift card to Showroom of Elegance and other great prizes.

Create your own backyard

Publication Dates:
July 25 in Observers, Northville Record, South Lyon Herald, Novi News and Milford Times and July 28 in the Eccentrics.

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

- **Grand Prize:** \$500 Showroom of Elegance Gift Card
 - **2nd Place:** \$100 Rugby Grill Gift Certificate (located in the Townsend Hotel)
 - **3rd Place:** \$50 Meijer Gift Card
 - **4th Place:** Emagine Theatre Movie Pass for 2 (up to 10 winners)
- Holiday Icon**
- All entries must be received by midnight, July 31, 2013

Mail: Attn: Christmas in July/Hometown Life Inspire, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or Facebook.com/OEHometown

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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RELIGION CALENDAR

JULY FILM

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 17
Location: St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Screening of "The Hunger Games" with a Q and A afterward and refreshments provided. RSVP requested
Contact: 734-425-5950; www.staidanlivonia.org

LECTURE SERIES

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon, for six Sunday mornings.
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Each session consists of two 30-minute lectures by David B. Ruderman, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, on DVD.
Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931 or nancyellen879@att.net

MIME WORKSHOP

Time/Date: Workshops, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 26-27; worship and mime ministry, 10 a.m. Sunday, July 28
Location: Way of Life Christian Church, Lilly Executive Plaza, 9401 General Drive, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: James and Clarice Green, with 17 years together in ministry, will lead the workshop. They use mime as a way of ministering to individuals who may need need "to see it to get what God is saying." Cost is \$30 for adults, \$55 for couples, and \$20 for children and teens, 10 and above
Contact: Dorothy at 313-412-5917 or e-mail to dnborum@yahoo.com

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, July 14-Aug. 18
Location: Grounds at Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse, located at Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads, Canton

Details: St. Michael Lutheran Church offers a worship service in a casual atmosphere. Bring your own lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, service will be held at the church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Contact: 734-459-3333

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 26 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 27
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: The sale will be in the lower level of the church
Contact: 734-425-3062

SINGLE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, July 18-25
Location: First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: A cookout will be held July 18; cards and games night is planned for July 25. Ice cream is available July 11 and 25 for \$5. The cookout is \$7
Contact: www.singleplace.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. July 29 through Aug. 2
Location: Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Details: "Kingdom Rock" is the theme; \$15 fee includes a T-shirt
Contact: 734-425-7280

WOW JAM

Time/Date: 4-8 p.m. July 19
Location: Goudy Recreational Park, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

Details: Cornerstone City Church offers this event that will include free groceries, free haircuts and manicures, free family photos, free bike repair, free potted plants, free hot meals and a singing contest.
Contact: denise-hunt17@gmail.com or info@cornerstonecitychurch.us.

AUGUST CAR SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24
Location: Livonia Church of Christ, 15431 Merriman, Livonia

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Aug. 12
Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The three-day workshop at Holy Cross Lutheran Church is designed for choir directors and music educators, led by Michael Burkhardt
Contact: www.heartshands-voices.org; 734-427-1414 for more information.

C.L.E.A.P. FROG

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Aug. 5-21

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

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

SOCCER CAMP

Time/Date: 6-30-8 p.m., Aug. 5-8

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

Details: Soccer mini-camp is for boys and girls, 5-12. Students may bring their own soccer ball or shin guards if desired. Items not required to enroll. Cost is \$15 per student and includes instruction, snacks, and a soccer ball to take home.
Contact: www.christsaviors.org; 734-522-6830

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 5-8

Location: Fellowship hall at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Designed for children, 3, through those entering fifth grade in the fall. Cost is \$10 per child and \$25 for families with three or more children. Each child will receive a free CD with all of the music from the week. Registration forms are available in the church office.
Contact: Pam Gunderson at rgpc.children@yahoo.com or 734-422-0494, Ext. 14

WORSHIP & MUSIC CAMP

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 12-15

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: "Hearts, Hands and Voices," is designed to help students in grades two-seven grow spiritually and musically.
Contact: Register at www.heartshandsvoices.org; 734-427-1414

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. July 18-19 and 8 a.m.-noon, July 20

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "Hearts, Hands and Voices," is designed to help students in grades two-seven grow spiritually and musically.
Contact: Register at www.heartshandsvoices.org; 734-427-1414

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: 734-846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.
Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of the Gospel of St. Luke. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: 248-374-5920

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

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

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

FOOD BANK

New Hope Church

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton

Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at 734-270-2528.

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m. first and third Thursday,

MOPNext. Both programs run September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children.
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at 734-522-6830 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at 248-478-3643 for MOPNext details.

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. Meet with other women for companionship and support.
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as nondenominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs
Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.
Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church.

Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Location: 7000 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.
Contact: 734-459-3333

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Occasionally includes guest speakers; open to the public and visitors are welcome.
Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7:30-7:45 p.m., social time; 7:45-8 p.m., opening; 8-9 p.m., program Thursdays.
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.
Contact: 313-534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship.
Contact: 248-374-5920

Song Circle

Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily
Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.
Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202

Details: Addition No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling.
Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

MILESTONES

ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 60 years

Victor A. and Clare A. Bianchi of Garden City, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 20. They were married in 1953 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Detroit.

They have four children, Robert, Judith, Charles, and Mary Ellen (Edward) Proffitt. Their grandchildren are, Nicole (Ryan) Schmidt, Vanessa Bianchi, Robert Bianchi, Jr., and Kyle Proffitt. They also have one great-grandson, Logan Schmidt.

The family celebrated their anniversary at a local restaurant.



Victor and Clare Bianchi on their wedding day



Victor and Clare Bianchi

ENGAGEMENT

Jacovetti-Tuckfield

William and Karen Jacovetti of Livonia are honored to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Nicole, to William James Tuckfield III, son of Jacqueline Johnston of Commerce and William Tuckfield II of Sterling Heights.

Amy is a graduate of Central Michigan University and Loyola University, Chicago, Ill. She is employed by Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

William is a graduate of Western Michigan University and is employed by Campbell-Ewald in Warren.

They will be married in July 2014.



Jacovetti-Tuckfield

ENGAGEMENT

Swiderski-Stafford

Katie Swiderski and Tom Stafford announce their engagement.

Parents of the couple are Victor and Mary Lynn Swiderski of St. Ignace, Julie Webb of Clarkston, and Doug and Kay Stafford of Plymouth.

The bride-to-be, a 2004 Alpena High School graduate, earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology, graduating with honors, from Michigan State University. She holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Grand Valley

State University and is employed as a registered nurse with the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor.

Her fiancé graduated in 2004 from Plymouth Salem High School. He graduated with honors from Michigan State University in 2008 with a bachelor of science degree in construction management, and is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University.

An August 2013 wedding is planned at Light-house Point in St. Ignace.



Swiderski-Stafford

BIRTH

Joshua Mario VanWashenova

Joshua Mario VanWashenova was born May 24, 2013, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Joshua joined his parents, Dale and Andrea VanWashenova, and his siblings, Avery, 4, and Drew, 2, at home in Canton.

Proud grandparents are Mario and Joyce Galindo of Livonia and Lorna VanWashenova of South Rockwood.



Joshua Mario VanWashenova

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

HOWELL GRACE E. (NEE HALL)

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

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JULY

JOINT REPLACEMENT

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

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

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

BARIATRIC SURGERY

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers free monthly educational seminars about lapa-

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

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

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday at the Birmingham branch. All of these classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim in order to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadowetroit.org.

Dinner planned to raise money for teen's oxygen treatment

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Elizabeth West needs \$6,500 to buy 60 sessions of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for her 13-year-old daughter, Ariana.

The teen suffered a lack of oxygen to the brain after sustaining a collapsed lung and cardiac arrest during an asthma attack in March. The youngster, a former student at Pace Academy in Southfield, has been on a ventilator ever since.

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

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



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

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

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

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

monoxide poisoning, brain abscess, and tissues that have been oxygen deprived.

Laszyca said her own daughter, who is autistic, benefited from hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

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

All options

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

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

options," West said.

She described her daughter as a computer whiz who loved reading and never missed school.

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

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

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

"I'm blessed with so many beautiful people in my life. I thank God for all my co-workers. Whatever we make from the spaghetti dinner will be a blessing," West said. "Whatever people can contribute is a blessing. Even if it's \$5, it's \$5 more than I had."

Local nurse awarded for people, clinical skills

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

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

He was honored for embodying the "people pillar," one of the seven pillars of performance excellence at Henry Ford. The award is given

to the nurse who strives for excellence in every encounter with patients, co-workers, volunteers and employers. The recipient communicates well, gives excellent clinical care, superior customer service, displays a positive attitude and is a role model for



Punnoose

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

Other nurses who won awards were:

- » Service pillar — Tonya Kaminski
- » Quality & Safety pillar — Shawn Bennis
- » Growth pillar —

Linda Ziolkowski
» Research & Education pillar — Carolyn Fascetti

» Community pillar — Tracy Pearson

» Finance pillar — Jeffrey Brinkman

The Clara Ford Nursing Excellence Award is named after Clara Bryant Ford, wife of Henry Ford, who was an advocate of Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing, which she helped open in 1925.

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Don't Spoil the Fun!
Keep Your BBQ or Picnic Fresh this Summer

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert

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

Linda Main
Food & Nutrition

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

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

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

1. **KEEP RAW FOODS COLD AND SEPARATED.** Don't let uncooked foods like chicken, beef or pork share the same space. Avoid cross contamination by refrigerating these items in separate, well sealed zip bags or containers. Use different knives and cutting boards for each and keep refrigerated until you're ready to cook. Transport uncooked meats in a separate cooler from ready to serve foods.
2. **WASH AND WASH AGAIN.** Always start with a clean kitchen and wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food. If you're handling multiple foods, wash every time you touch a new item. Also, wash all utensils used in preparation before using them to prepare another item.
3. **GAUGE TEMPERATURES.** Use a food thermometer to ensure foods reach the following safe internal temperatures.

Ground Beef, Pork or Lamb	155 °F
Ground Turkey or Chicken	165 °F
Fresh Cuts of Beef, Pork or Lamb	145 °F and let stand for 3 minutes
Fresh Cuts of Poultry	165 °F
Seafood	145 °F
4. **KEEP HOT FOODS HOT AND COLD FOODS COLD.** Use chafing dishes and ice trays for serving. Keep you finger foods safe from flies and other pests, by serving in re-sealable containers with lids.
5. **KEEP YOUR COOLER FULL.** It will maintain a cold temperature longer than a half full cooler.
6. **REMEMBER THE FOUR-HOUR RULE.** Hot foods not held above 135 °F and cold foods above 41 °F should be discarded after four hours.

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

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

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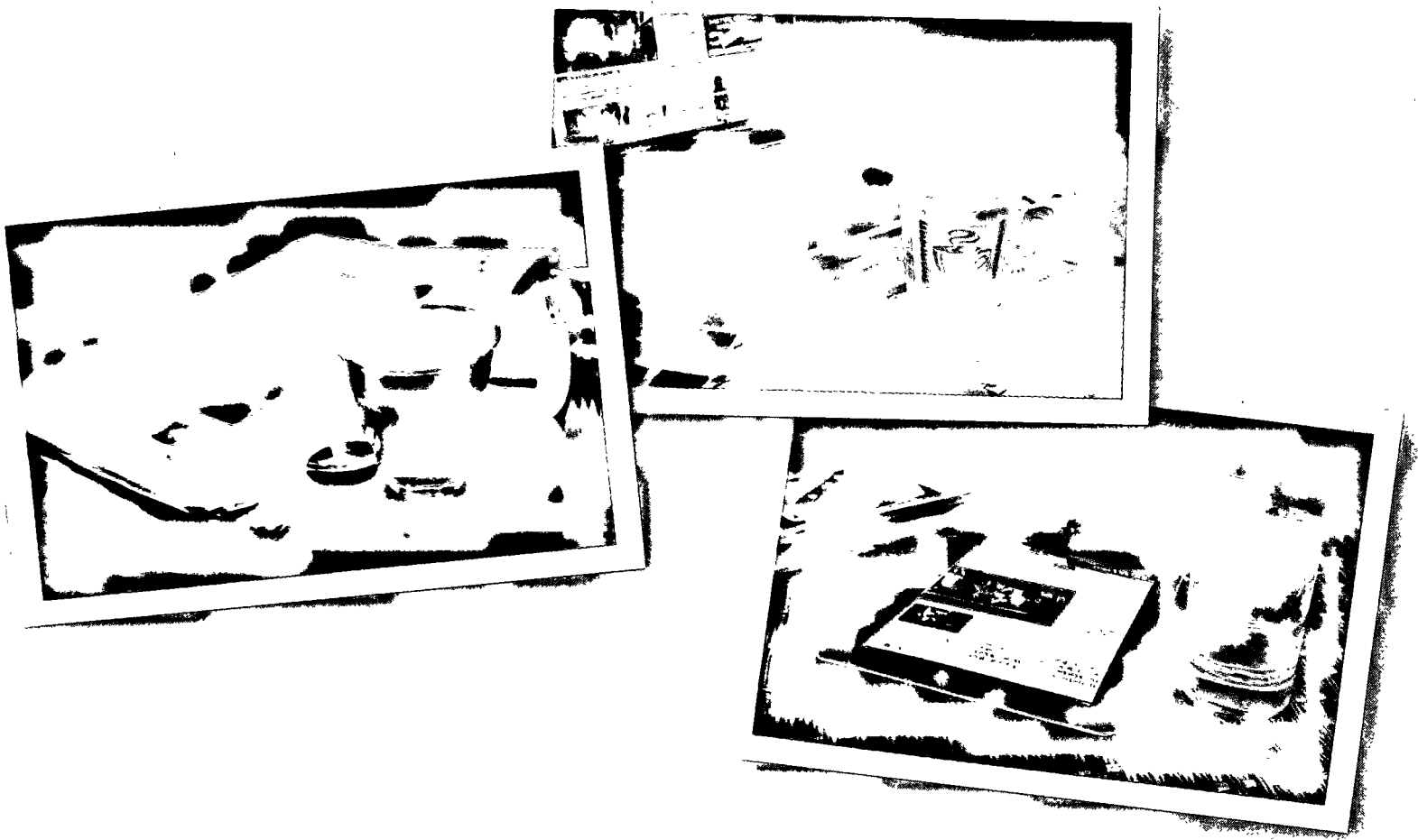
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EPA-estimated rating of 19 city / 29 highway MPG²



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Six ways to minimize conflict with co-workers

Robert Half International

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

— Theodore Roosevelt

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

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

Consider these tips:

1. Don't assume the worst

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

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

2. Put yourself in the other person's shoes

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

3. Start (and stay) on the same page

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

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

4. Accept people for who they are

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



adept at generating big-picture ideas and selling them to management. When you work together, strive to make the collaboration more about complementing your respective strengths and less about your differences.

5. Criticize with care

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

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

6. Nip problems in the bud

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

Once you've cooled down, request a brief meeting to clear the air. Keep your comments professional and solution-oriented. If being forgiving or apologetic will repair the rift, take the high road and move on. You don't have to be best friends; you just need to be able to work together in the future.

Finally, it would be naïve to think you'll interact smoothly with every fellow employee. Difficult, rude and uncompromising people exist in every workplace. And despite your best efforts to work together harmoniously, problems may persist with a particular col-

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

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

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12 Retiring
13 Ms. Lupino of "High Sierra"
14 Site of the Taj Mahal
15 Rhine nymph
17 Ancient Tokyo
18 Swayed as if dizzy
20 Hewn
22 Unisex wear
23 Bear constellation
27 Tombstone deputy
29 Clean the pots
30 Pair
33 Like meringue
34 Courtroom rituals
35 Kind of tape
36 Park feature

DOWN
37 Be off base
38 Proficiency
42 Falter
45 Turn sharply
46 Cooked with dry heat
49 "Star Trek" lieutenant
51 Deep Blue computer company
52 Joule fraction
53 Ate
54 Quick swim
55 PBS "Science Guy"
56 Dangerous March dates

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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7 Orpheus' harp
8 — Abner of comics
9 Lime cooler
10 Ms. Zetterling
11 Competes for

16 School
19 Raison d' —
21 Brother's sons
24 Compost
25 Bring action
26 Comic-strip prince
28 Hirt and Pacino
29 Dry, as champagne
30 Fold-up bed
31 Dory's need
32 Pass near Pikes Peak
33 Laird's accent
35 Deepen, as a canal
37 Not just some
39 Sky-colored
40 Colts' fathers
41 By Jove!
43 Two fives for —
44 Muslim mystic
46 Eliminate
47 Teahouse attire
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50 Was in possession of

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

Level: Beginner

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

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BURNT
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FRANKFURTER
GRILLING
HAMBURGER
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HICKORY
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

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



By Dale Buss

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

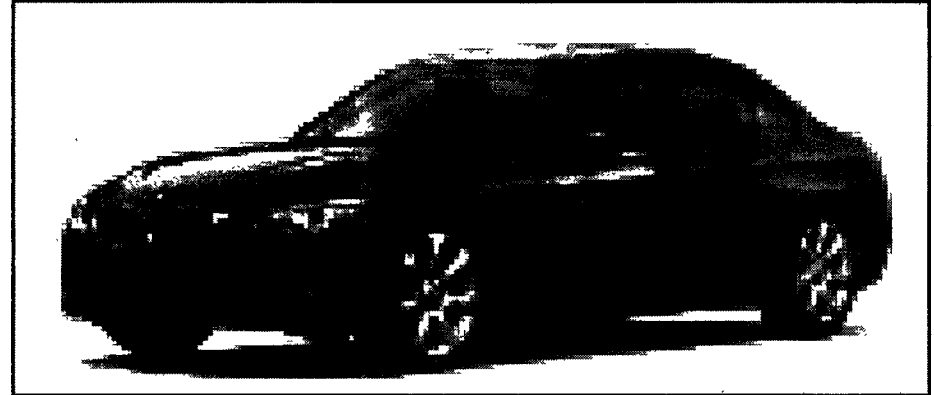
Of course, Mercedes-Benz also has used special deals to gain the edge it has enjoyed so far this year in the US market. Both brands also continue to broaden their product lineups and moderate prices overall, Gutierrez pointed out. And Mercedes hasn't even yet made available its much-ballyhooed, entry-level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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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