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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 • hometownlife.com



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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

Wayne to replace outdated water meters

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

It's not the kind of thing you'd brag about but Wayne has a tremendously outdated water meter reading system. "We have one of the oldest, if not the oldest, meter reader system in southeast Michigan," said Wayne-Westland Depart-

ment of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib. "It's from the 1980s. It needed to be replaced five or 10 years ago."

Last week, the council approved a contract with Etna Supply Company of Grand Rapids to replace all of the city's approximately 6,000 commercial and residential water meters. The cost of the

project, spread over 18 months and two fiscal years, is \$2.5 million — \$300,000 less than estimated.

New water meters will be installed along with exterior readers that will send water-use readings digitally to a tower, which then sends the data to the city water department. The goal is more efficient and ac-

curate water billing.

"It's a state-of-the-art system. It's an advanced reader," said El-Gharib, adding that Westland is in process of changing to the same system, one already installed in Livonia and Canton.

With the current obsolete system, El-Gharib said it takes a lot of staff time to go out and

manually read meters with faulty readers. And that doesn't include the difficulty in getting parts needed for repairs, he said.

As in Westland, El-Gharib said the plan is to replace the approximately 1,000 commercial meters first, followed by

See METERS, Page A2



Marshall Upper Elementary student Lydia Marcum has the answer to a question asked on the first day of school.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

W-W's Harmala heads back to school with students

Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Michele Harmala isn't quite sure how long it's been since she rode a school bus, possibly 10 years ago as a chaperone on a school trip. But on Tuesday, the Wayne-Westland school superintendent hopped on school buses to ride with students on their first day of school.

Harmala crisscrossed portions of the district, riding buses that were picking

up students headed to Stevenson Middle, Marshall Upper Elementary and Hicks Elementary schools. She chatted with students and got a bird's eye view of what bus drivers do.

She came away with a new appreciation of what the district's bus drivers do.

"I'm glad I don't drive a bus; you don't realize how large they are until they go down a subdivision street," she said.

The ride-along was a way

for Harmala to connect with the drivers. During the school year, she visits classrooms and in the summer stops by schools to talk with custodians as they get the buildings ready for a new year. But meeting with bus drivers wasn't as easy as dropping by the bus yard in Wayne.

"By riding, I got to see the bus drivers, I got to see the kids and I got to thank

See SCHOOL, Page A2

Inspire Theatre ready to show off its new venue

Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The countdown is on. Come Friday, the curtain goes up on Inspire Theatre's presentation of Larry Shue's *The Foreigner*.

It will be a milestone for the theater. On opening night, it will welcome theatergoers into its new home on Warren Road in Westland, only a few hundred yards from where it gave its very first performance.

The theater troupe is renting the former WLND cable television studios for \$1 a year with a hope it will be in a position to buy the building from the City of Westland at the end of the five-year agreement.

"We started out as gypsies," said founder and director Len Fisher of Wayne. "Our very first performance was at the Warren Road Light and Life Church next door; we did *Godspell*. We've also rented space in Grace Moravian Church and did shows in the warehouse district."

The theater group agreed to do maintenance and repairs as part of the lease. According to Fisher, the building needed a lot of repairs and every room was filled with old equipment. With the help of Vic Barra, who "took us under his wing," the rooms have been cleaned out. Now paper signs hang beside doors, indicating them as the men's dressing room, a make-up room and work room. The front counter is being transformed into a combination will-call ticket counter and concession stand.

Volunteers have been working to get the building ready for the grand opening, scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday, turning two cable studios into a theater with seating for 100. Painters were in last week to spruce up the building, and tile was put down to cover the area where a wall once stood.

"We turned the old stage into risers for the audience and kept the stage floor level."

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Director Len Fisher, on the set of Inspire Theater's production, "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue. At left is John Donnelly, playing Ellard.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vendor Fair at W-W Salvation Army boosts youth Jamboree

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Like to shop and support a worthy cause at the same time? The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army's got your number.

The corps, on Venoy south of Palmer, will host a Vendor Fair/Sell A Bration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. The goal is around 25 ven-

dors, said Envoy Jim Hulett, with many already on board.

Vendors signed up include Avon, Jamberry Nails, Connie's Hats Around Town, Premier Designs, Stampin' Up!, Pampered Chef, Mary Kay and Silpada Designs.

"Last year, we did that 25th anniversary thing," Hulett said of a fall dinner that

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Sister Mary Giovanni retires from Angela Hospice in Livonia

After nearly 30 years of dedicated service, Sister Mary Giovanni has retired from her work with Angela Hospice in Livonia.

"In a way it is the end of an era," Angela Hospice President and CEO Margot Parr said. "But Sister's compassion and commitment to caring for the terminally ill continues to inspire us all."

It was in 1985 that Sister Giovanni founded Angela Hospice with the help of the Felician Sisters. She had already spent 11 years researching holistic pain and symptom management, and was a registered nurse with a specialty in gerontology.

Under her leadership, Angela Hospice grew as a pioneer in the hospice movement, developing specialized programs for pediatric and prenatal hospice, and opening the first freestanding hospice facility in Michigan. Her compassionate approach as a Felician Sister formed a caring organizational culture that permeates all levels of Angela Hospice's programs and administration to this day.

Sister Giovanni addressed the staff and volunteers at her departure, saying, "There truly are no words to express to all of you how grateful I am for your dedicated service to our patients and fam-

ilies these past 30 years ... I have no doubt that Angela Hospice will continue to be the great program of care that it is."

Angela Hospice has recently seen growth in its programs, just as hospice use has grown nationally. About 43 percent of Americans now use hospice services at the end of life, according to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Sister Giovanni's long career in hospice care earned her the title of *Visionary* from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, as they recognized the 30 most influential leaders in hospice and palliative medicine; as well as a spot in the National Association for Home Care and Hospice's Home Care and Hospice Hall of Fame.

"Sister Giovanni will always be the foundress of Angela Hospice. She has changed the landscape of hospice, and we will continue her legacy going forward," Parr said.

Sister Giovanni left with a familiar word of encouragement for Angela Hospice's 220 employees and 443 volunteers: "As I would always say at the end of our monthly staff meetings, 'Go out and do something beautiful for God.'"



Angela Hospice foundress Sister Mary Giovanni holds two Monarch butterflies, emblems embraced by the hospice community and incorporated into Angela Hospice's logo, symbolizing transformation into new life.

Conference of Western Wayne announces new executive director

The Conference of Western Wayne, an association of 18 western Wayne County local governments, has announced a transition in its leadership as Executive Director Marsha Bianconi retires Oct. 1 and current CWW Assistant Director Jordyn D. Salmon becomes the new CWW executive director.

Bianconi has served CWW for 27 years, working on key issues for local communities such as public safety, work-force development, revenue sharing, transportation funding and substance abuse and youth services. She currently serves as chair of the Westland TIFA Board, a member of the Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Board and has served on the Growth Works Board of Directors, SEMCOG, SEMCA and other agencies.



Bianconi



Salmon

Salmon has served as assistant director since 2013. Prior to joining CWW, Salmon worked for a decade in local, county and state government, including the state House of Representatives, state Senate and Wayne County Commission. Salmon serves on the Growth Works Board of Directors and the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee. She plays a key role in coordinating efforts on policy initiatives affecting local governments such as public safety, revenue sharing, juvenile justice, tax policy and road funding.

A celebration of Bianconi's service will take place at the next CWW board meeting at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 11, in the Inkster City Hall building. For more information, contact CWW at 734-953-8834.

Volunteers needed for annual Rouge fall bug hunt

Friends of the Rouge needs volunteers to help look for stoneflies, mayflies and other aquatic insects at the annual Fall Bug Hunt on Oct. 17.

Interested volunteers must pre-register by Oct. 2. Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at Schoolcraft College in the

VisTaTech Center. Volunteers are assigned to teams of 4-8 people that each travel to two sites to look for living things in samples collected from the river under the direction of a trained team leader.

The number and types of bugs found are used to assess each site and data are submitted to the state and Rouge communities.

The Fall Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program that was created in 1998 to train local residents to collect information about the health of Rouge streams. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and supported by the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.



Stoneflies are among the insects being researched during the Rouge fall bug hunt.

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Brothers earn rank of Eagle Scout with projects for visually impaired



Riles, left, and Dash Dobar of Livonia each earned the rank of Eagle Scout on July 27.

Riles and Dash Dobar, two brothers from Livonia, each earned the rank of Eagle Scout on July 27 after completing projects that benefit the visually impaired. The brothers are from Troop 889 in Livonia.

Riles will be a senior at Livonia Churchill High School. For his Eagle Project, Riles led volunteers who organized, assembled and distributed therapeutic kits for children with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. This disease is one of the only vision diseases that improve with therapy. Educating and making therapy tools available to the people affected by and directly helping children with this disease are key to improvement.

Dash will be a junior at Churchill. Being already involved with

volunteering for the Visually Impaired Program in Livonia Public Schools, Dash wanted to continue to give back to that community. His Eagle Project involved coordinating and leading an event that helped teach independent living skills to the visually impaired students in the district. Students were able to use hand tools, screwdrivers and painting supplies to build and paint birdhouses.

Mom Danielle Dobar said her boys didn't intentionally pick projects that both benefited the visually impaired. The family has always volunteered for the Visually Impaired Program in Livonia Public Schools and has donated books to Seedlings Braille Books for Children. "Dash knew he wanted to do some-

thing with them for a couple of years now," she said.

Riles was thinking of helping The Miracle League of Plymouth, where the family also volunteers often, she said. "Then a doctor/professor at Wayne State University reached out asking for help with the therapy kits and asked if Riles would be willing to make it his project. He really enjoyed it," she said.

Both boys are members of Churchill's National Honor Society. Riles earned his varsity letter in soccer and serves as one of the captains on his team. Dash has earned varsity letters in cross country, swimming and track.

The boys started their scout journey with Troop 1539 in Plymouth/Canton.

Bova VFW hosts lunch to honor veterans

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

For veterans who served during World War II and the Korean Conflict, lunch is on the Bova VFW Post on Saturday, Sept. 19.

And the veterans are welcome to bring a family member for the annual luncheon at the Westland post.

"This is in appreciation for their service, to honor the veterans," said Beverly Scott, a member of the Bova Ladies Auxiliary which hosts the luncheon.

This is the fourth year Scott has worked on luncheon, which was initially aimed at World War II veterans. It's from 2-4 p.m. at the post, 6440 N. Hix, south of Warren Road in Westland.

"We added the Korean war veterans. We've lost

three of our World War II veterans," Scott said. "The Korean war veterans are getting up there, too. We wanted to add them."

Despite the age of World War II veterans — the war officially ended 70 years ago — the luncheon last year drew 17 veterans last year.

"I don't know how many of the World War II veterans we will have this year," said Scott, who put the word out in surrounding communities and senior residences like Marquette House.

World War II and Korean era veterans are all welcome. There is no restriction based on residency or whether the veteran saw combat.

Bova does ask the veterans or family members on their behalf reserve a spot by name.

"We like to know who

is coming so we can put their name on a certificate of appreciation," Scott said.

Call Dorothy at 904-625-4689. Along with the auxiliary, the post's junior auxiliary helps with the lunch.

An auxiliary member for years due the military service of her father, brother and nephew, Scott was inspired to get involved four years ago by her nephew, who has spent his career in the Air Force.

"He had his going-away party at the post. Anytime he was here, he would spend a little time at the post," Scott said. "We (the auxiliary) don't have a lot of money but we try to do as much as we can for veterans and veterans' families."

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Three Cities Art Club issues call for artists

Three Cities Art Club is seeking artists participating in its fifth annual Festival of the Arts at Westland Shopping Center Mall Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25.

The non-juried show with requirements include an annual membership fee of \$25, an entry fee of \$25 for up to three pieces plus \$5 for each additional entry, \$5 for bin work, box of note cards, table display of up to three-by-four feet.

Participants also must be at least 18 years old and work at least one four-hour shift during the show but more shifts, if possible, with special consideration for those with health restrictions. Go to threecitiesartclub.org to download the specific requirements, a membership form and entry form.

Hundreds of visitors attend the festival to enjoy the art, take a free class and to take in the sights and sounds of a variety of musical acts on the Rotary Club of Michigan stage. Guest judges select their favorite piece of art with prizes awarded to the artists at 1 p.m. Oct. 24. Visitors also vote for their favorites for a chance to win prizes, too.

Currently 50 members strong, Three Cities Art Club was founded in Plymouth almost 60 years ago — the cities don't matter as residency is not a restriction. Adults are welcome to join, no matter the skill level. There are a few artists who have been members over 50 years and some are just now tapping into their creative nature.

The monthly events are usually the first Monday of the month in Canton and feature free workshops, demonstrations and informative presentations plus members bring new art for attendees, see and vote



Soprano soloist wows the crowd at Westland Shopping Center during the 2014 Festival of the Arts presented by Three Cities Art Club.

on with winning artists collecting points for a chance to win cash at the end of the season.

Attend up to three meetings free. The minimal \$25 annual membership fee includes a full color monthly newsletter by mail (and email which anyone can sign up for), art supply discounts plus opportunities to exhibit

in at least two art shows a year.

The Festival of the Arts is free and runs from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 23-24 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 25. For more information, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939. To learn more about the art club, visit www.threecitiesartclub.org.



Artist Nancy Poat of Plymouth poses with her painting chosen by guest judge Mayor William Wild at the 2014 show garnering Poat the "Wild About Art" \$100 cash prize.

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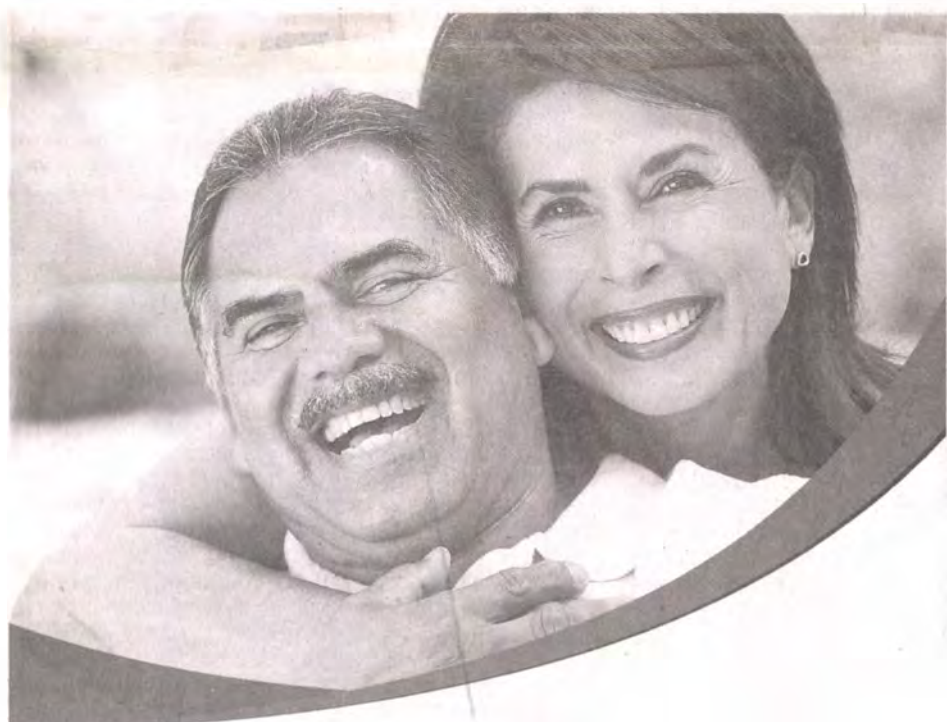
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SECTION B (WGRL)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Shingledecker set to lead Spartan girls

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

On the morning after Labor Day, it was revealed that Ken Shingledecker has agreed to double his workload for the Livonia Stevenson soccer programs.

Already the head coach of the Spartans' boys soccer program, Shingledecker will take over the reins of the girls' team beginning with the 2016 season.

Shingledecker will take



Shingledecker

over for Chris Grodzicki, who resigned last month.

The director of operations for the AC Milan Detroit Soccer Club, Shingledecker stepped down from his head-coaching position at Livonia Ladywood in June.

"This was completely unexpected," admitted Shingledecker. "Chris told me he had decided to step down, so he

gave me a call. I talked to (Stevenson athletic director) Lori (Hyman) and told her I was interested. I went through the interview process and was offered the job. It all happened very quickly.

"It's a super-appealing job and the time frame - with Stevenson playing most of its games at 7 p.m. - made it easier to work into my schedule."

Shingledecker said he is excited about the opportunity to coach in the talent-packed KLAACentral Division, which

includes state powerhouses Novi, Northville and Salem.

"The challenge of coaching against that kind of competition was part of the appeal," Shingledecker said.

Although he hasn't officially met with members of his first Stevenson girls team, he has already reached out to a few players and their families.

Shingledecker got a chance to watch the Spartans first hand this past spring when Ladywood and Stevenson met in a tournament.

Langford shines in preseason

Former Westland John Glenn football stand-out Jeremy Langford had a highly-productive preseason for the Chicago Bears, who selected the



Langford

ex-Rocket in the fourth round of the 2015 NFL Draft.

Langford led the Bears in rushing, picking up 153 yards on 28 carries (5.5 yards per carry). He scored one touchdown and his longest run was 46 yards.

The former Michigan State Spartan also proved he is a receiving threat coming out of the backfield as he hauled in three passes for 30 yards.

Langford will start the regular season as the primary back-up to Bears' all-pro Matt Forte.

Warrior spikers triumphant

Lutheran Westland's volleyball team improved to 2-1 Tuesday night with a 25-22, 25-10, 25-16 victory over University of Liggett.

Outside hitter Emily Fairbairn paced the winners' balanced offensive attack with seven kills.

Libero Cailyn Hinde contributed four kills from the back row.

"Individually, we're working on a lot of things, and many individuals did them well tonight, which added up to a very solid all-around match," said Lutheran Westland head coach Tom Lange.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's games to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

The Lung Run

A trio of high school cross country runners have organized The Lung Run 2015 - a 5k run/walk benefiting the American Cancer Society.

The Lung Run is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, and will begin at Birmingham Seaholm High School.

The course will travel throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. The fee is \$25.

For more information, to register or to donate, visit The Lung Run website at main.acsevents.org/goto/lungrun.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Churchill heads past Glenn

Second-half strike gives Chargers 1-0 win

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A spot-on crossing pass by Riles Dobar and a textbook header by Kyle Benedict turned out to be the game-deciding one-two punch for Livonia Churchill's boys soccer team Tuesday afternoon against host Westland John Glenn.

Following a scoreless first half, the Chargers ramped up the tempo during the outset of the second stanza before being rewarded when Dobar's perfect left-footed centering pass found the forehead of Benedict, who directed the sphere into the top-right section of the twine for the game's lone goal.

The victory improved Churchill's record to 3-2-1 while John Glenn slipped to 2-3, according to KLAACentral.com.

Senior keeper Brandon Dix picked up the shut-out for the Chargers, who were bolstered by strong defensive play from Conner McCarthy, Conner Rash, Benedict and Michael Hudock, among others.

John Glenn goal-keeper Andrew Frendo displayed flashes of brilliance, especially late in the first half

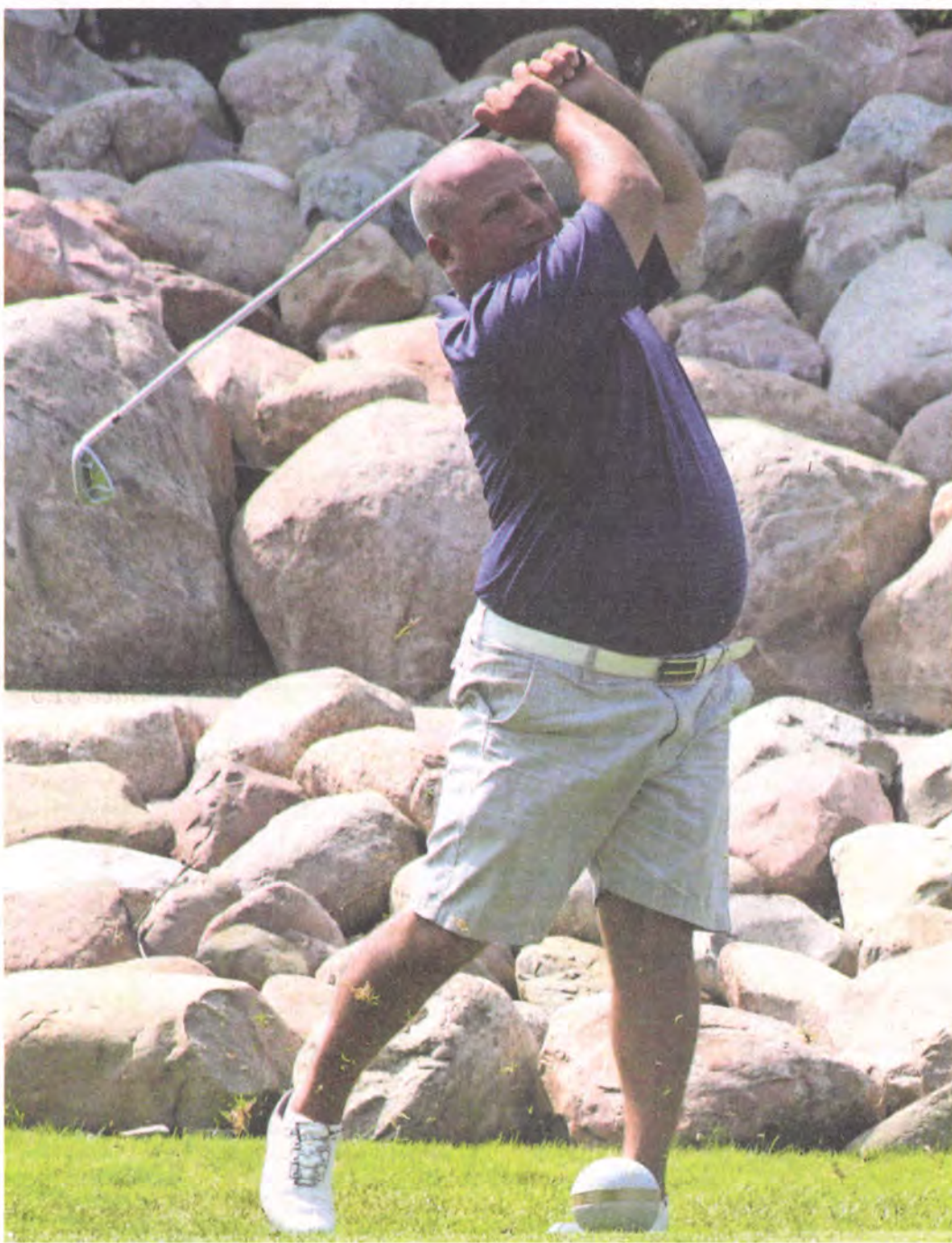
See **SOCCER**, Page B2



ED WRIGHT

Westland John Glenn's Alfredo Vivar (13) and Churchill's Conner Rash arrive at the ball simultaneously Tuesday afternoon.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEN'S GOLF TOURNEY



ED WRIGHT

Raz Boghikian outlasted Matt Wiley and Christopher Treadwell to win his second straight Observer & Eccentric golf title Monday afternoon.

ROCK SOLID

Boghikian defends title with strong finish

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Monday's final round of the *Observer & Eccentric* men's golf tournament was a three-horse race down the stretch - until Raz Boghikian made like Secretariat and ran away with his second straight title.

Heading into the 26th hole of the 36-hole event - Sunday's opening round was played at

Fox Creek Golf Course, while the final round was hosted by Whispering Willows - Boghikian was all even with playing partners Matt Wiley and Christopher Treadwell.

But the West Bloomfield resident proved he was the horse for the course by playing par golf over the final 10 holes while his closest competitors faded in the 90-degree heat.

See **O&E TOURNEY**, Page B2

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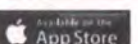
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New home construction on upswing in metro Detroit

Julie Brown Staff Writer

New home permit activity shows strong signs in our region. Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the HBA Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report, a total of 455 single-family permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in July 2015.

Activity in July rose slightly compared to a revised June 2015 total of 453 permits but fell by 8 percent compared to July 2014 (494). July's results mark the fourth consecutive month above the 400-permit threshold during this year's construction season, which traditionally begins in April.

Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the HBA of Southeastern Michigan, noted, "When you have people working, it creates that opportunity" to build a home. "There are some other things going along with it. The existing home market continues to look up. They generally parallel," he said of new and existing home markets.

In the last couple of years, Stoskopf said, there's been a return to the normal ratio of six existing homes sold for each new one built. "Obviously, there are some homes that are 200 years old," he said. "It sort of makes sense once you think about it." At four consecutive months, 2015 is already the third best streak dating back to 2006, the HBA reports. Full-year totals for 2013 and 2014 saw the 400-permit threshold exceeded for seven consecutive months and five consecutive months, respectively.

In July, Oakland County continued to lead the way with 209 single-family home permits issued. Macomb County was in second place with 163 single-family home permits. For the region, the rapid pace of multi-family construction slowed in July with only 82 permits issued in July. However, from a trailing 12-month total, multi-family permits reached 1,007 marking its highest point since July 2005 (1,159).

"It boosts the economy," Stoskopf, a Williamston, Mich., resident, said of new homes going up. Materials are



JULIE BROWN

The Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan is pleased with its latest report on new home permits. Michael Stoskopf, its CEO, said new and existing home markets generally parallel.

purchased and subcontractors hired.

Once the homeowners move in, they buy such items as a new couch, drapes and more. "When a new home is built, there's quite a bit of retail that goes on," Stoskopf said.

Lyon Township and Novi continue to dominate with new homes in Oakland County, while Canton is strong still in Wayne County. Macomb County's Macomb Township also dominates locally.

"All of these areas got off to a good start at the beginning of the year and continue to lead the way," he said. Birmingham and Royal Oak also

have some residential building although it's more infill lots or tearing down of existing homes.

"It's not as easy to do," he said.

Stoskopf agreed career opportunities exist in the skilled trades. His association, others in Michigan and those nationwide are working to address subcontractor shortages. Industry leaders encourage high schoolers to train in two-year and four-year construction management programs, "and hone those skills a little more."

As the HBA also observed last month, July 2015 saw a continued acceleration in

existing home sales, declining inventories and sales price appreciation - all trends that typically translate into increased new home permit activity.

The HBA/ASA New Housing Permit Forecast projects a total of 2,268 permits will be issued in the six-month, August-to-January time frame, an increase of 27 percent over the same period in 2014.

"The weather continues to be good through the fall," added Stoskopf, noting residential construction will continue to be strong.

jbrown@hometownlife.com Twitter: @248Julie

Lawyer can advise on ATV use, rights

Q: I am disabled and requested that my condominium association allow me to use my motorized vehicle (ATV) to get around the complex to pick up my mail, visit neighbors, etc. My unit is located in a large-scale complex and ATVs are prohibited on the unpaved roads within the community. My request was denied and I was advised by the association that there is concern about incurring liability in the event that an accident occurs if they allow unlicensed and uninsured vehicles to be driven within the neighborhood. What are your thoughts in this regard?



Robert Meisner

A: The roads within the complex are intended to be used by everyone that enters the community, subject to proper restrictions. Indeed, the streets also most likely qualify as a "public accommodation" provided by the privately held association under the provisions of the Federal Fair Housing Act. As such, the assumption would be that the association has a duty under the FFHA statute to provide a reasonable accommodation to you as a disabled person to drive your unlicensed vehicle on the roadways. However, in a recent case, Scoggins v. Lee's Crossing Homeowner's Association, 718 F.3d 262 (2013), the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a resident could not operate his ATV on the community roadways. The court focused on whether the proposed accommodation was reasonable, under the circumstances, and concluded that the threat to the health and safety of other individuals on the roads outweighed the request for accommodation by the resident. It should be noted that the court's decision was fact specific. Therefore, it is possible that, if challenged, a different outcome could be the result in your particular situation. A lawyer may give you an even handed perspective on your rights.

Q: My company is planning on investing in Germany for commercial and/or residential construction opportunities. I am wondering whether you have any personal knowledge of what cities would be best suited for that type of development, i.e., a mixed use commercial/residential development?

A: Having recently visited Germany, I can tell you that there is much construction going on in the major cities, and even the bombed-out areas of Berlin, Dresden and Munich have been restored in a condition which looks like they were, in some instances, hundreds of years old when they are only 10 to 20 years old. Berlin is very busy with commercial construction and would, in the right location, be an excellent opportunity. Perhaps even better is Munich because the relative sociopolitical and economic composition of the residents is greater and generally it is a more affluent city with more amenities. Dresden is also a place where major reconstruction has occurred. Much new development is needed because of the thriving population. Frankfurt is, of course, the business capital of Europe, and is growing at astronomical levels. However, the price of housing and land in all of these cities has gone up appreciably, although the U.S. dollar is much more favorable than was the case even ten months ago.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 20-24, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table listing home sales in Oakland County including cities like BEVERLY HILLS, BIRMGHAM, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, and BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP with addresses and prices.

Table listing home sales in Oakland County including cities like COMMERCER TOWNSHIP, FARMINGTON, FARMINGTON HILLS, and LIVONIA with addresses and prices.

Table listing home sales in Oakland County including cities like FRANKLIN, HIGHLAND, LATHRUP VILLAGE, MILFORD, NORTHVILLE, and NORTHVILLE with addresses and prices.

Table listing home sales in Oakland County including cities like SOUTH LYON, SOUTHFIELD, WESTLAND, and WHITE LAKE with addresses and prices.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of May 11-15, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table listing home sales in Wayne County including cities like CANTON, GARDEN CITY, LIVONIA, PLYMOUTH, REDFORD, and WYANDTOWN with addresses and prices.

Table listing home sales in Wayne County including cities like GARDEN CITY, LIVONIA, PLYMOUTH, REDFORD, and WYANDTOWN with addresses and prices.

Table listing home sales in Wayne County including cities like NORTHVILLE, PLYMOUTH, REDFORD, and WYANDTOWN with addresses and prices.

Table listing home sales in Wayne County including cities like WESTLAND, WYANDTOWN, and WYANDTOWN with addresses and prices.



GETTY IMAGES

A FRESH TAKE

Gluten-free flour an easy way to upgrade kids' favorites

As the kids head back to school, there's no better time to make a fresh start in the kitchen, too. Substituting nutritious ingredients such as sorghum in your favorite grain-based foods is an easy way to upgrade your family's menu this fall.

Some of the traditional snacks kids love most — such as cakes, cookies and doughnuts — can all be prepared using sorghum, a gluten-free cereal grain grown throughout the world. This highly versatile ingredient is naturally high in fiber, iron and protein, and can be used in a wide range of preparations. In fact, white food-grade sorghum can be milled directly into whole grain flour to produce foods such as brownies, breads, pizza dough, pastas, cereals, pancakes and waffles.

Whether it's a power breakfast to fuel the day, a sweet lunchbox treat or a tasty after-school snack, these recipes showcase how simple it can be to give your kids' favorite treats a nutritious makeover they'll be thrilled to sample.

For more nutritious back to school recipes and tips for cooking with sorghum, visit www.HealthySorghum.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



CHEWY OATMEAL TOFFEE COOKIES

Recipe provided by Kate Lange

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup sorghum flour
- ¾ cup unbleached white flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon cloves
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1 cup coconut flakes
- 1 (10-ounce) package almond toffee bits

Heat oven to 375°F. Lightly grease cookie sheet. Cream butter, eggs, brown sugar and vanilla in large bowl until light and fluffy. Mix flour, salt, soda, allspice, cinnamon and cloves; add to butter mixture. Beat until well blended. Stir in oatmeal, coconut and toffee bits with spoon. Drop by rounded teaspoons about 2 inches apart onto prepared sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool 1 minute; remove to wire rack.



SORGHUM PANCAKES

Recipe provided by Barbara Klimont

- 1 ¼ cups sorghum flour
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup powdered buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 ½ cups water

Heat oven to 200°F.

Combine dry ingredients. In separate bowl, beat together eggs, melted butter and water; add to dry ingredients and mix just until well blended. Heat large skillet or griddle over medium-low heat. Spray pan with cooking oil. Wet fingertips under faucet and shake them over hot griddle. If water droplets "sizzle," heat is right to begin making pancakes.

For large cakes pour ¼ cup of batter into pan; for small use 2 tablespoons of batter. Cook until bubbles form on top; flip and cook until golden brown on bottom. Transfer to baking sheet and keep warm in oven while making rest of pancakes. Serve warm with butter and syrup.



MILK DOUGHNUTS

Recipe provided by Karla Lubben

- 1 egg
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 2 tablespoons melted shortening or lard
- ½ cup sifted sorghum flour
- 1 ½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- Dash of cinnamon
- Dash of salt
- 8 cups vegetable oil
- Glaze:
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons warm milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla

In large bowl, beat together egg and sugar. Stir in milk and shortening. Sift together all dry ingredients. Add dry ingredients to egg mixture and stir to combine. Chill dough for 30 minutes. On lightly floured surface, flatten dough to ½-inch thickness with your finger-tips or rolling pin. Cut out doughnuts using a doughnut cutter or two sizes of round cookie cutters. Transfer doughnuts to waxed paper and allow to dry for 10 minutes. In deep heavy pot or electric fryer, heat oil to 375°F. Using wire spatula dipped in hot oil, carefully transfer doughnuts into hot oil. Cook 2-3 doughnuts at a time turning them when brown on one side. Remove to paper towel or racks to drain.

For glazed doughnuts, combine powdered sugar, milk and vanilla flavoring. Drizzle on doughnuts or sprinkle doughnuts with powdered sugar or mixture of cinnamon and sugar.

CELIAC-FRIENDLY SUBSTITUTIONS

- » 2 teaspoons vanilla extract: Use 2 teaspoons X-Tra Touch vanilla or any other gluten-free vanilla.
- » ¾ cup unbleached white flour: Replace with 6 tablespoons chickpea (garbanzo bean) flour and 6 tablespoons sweet rice flour, or use ¾ cup commercial gluten-free flour.
- » 3 cups oatmeal: Replace with 3-4 cups of any gluten-free, ready-to-eat flake cereal slightly crushed, or gluten-free crispy rice cereal.
- » 1 (10-ounce) package almond toffee bits: Verify product is gluten-free or use 1 ¾ cups chopped almonds or walnuts.

Culinary Extravaganza serves up something for everyone

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The list of area restaurants, beverage vendors and pastry shops and bakeries confirmed for this year's Culinary Extravaganza continues to grow.

The event, a celebration of food and wine that benefits student scholarships at Schoolcraft College, runs 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, in the VisTaTech Center on the Livonia campus, 18600 Haggerty, just north of Seven Mile.

What's on the menu? "I think we're going to be serving some kind of seafood soup from the Sardine Room, maybe a chowder and from Compari's we will feature our lasagna. It's my grandmoth-

er's recipe. Nana's recipe," said chef Tony Yaquinto, of Compari's On the Park in downtown Plymouth.

Brown Dog Creamery in Northville plans to serve a selection of its house made ice cream and three extravagant treats.

"Sweet Potato Gnocchi with a toasted rice crispy treat and bourbon caramel sauce," said co-owner Paul Gabriel, describing one of the desserts. The others are a spiced beignet with pumpkin filling and hard cider sauce, and a candied banana chip with mousse and candied bacon.

Compari's and Brown Dog Creamery are among the more than 25 participating restaurants, food and beverage vendors that will serve

unique, signature dishes and drinks at the event.

Other confirmed participants include:

- » Birmingham — Big Rock Chophouse, Birdie's Something Chocolate, and The Stand Bistro
- » Chelsea — Ugly Dog Distillery
- » Detroit — Coach Insignia, Cuisine Restaurant, MGM Grand Detroit, and The Detroit Athletic Club
- » Grosse Pointe Park — Atwater in the Park
- » Livonia — American Harvest, Main Street Cafe, and Henry's restaurants at Schoolcraft College, Elite Catering Company, and Mitchell's Fish Market
- » Monroe — McCormick Distilling Company

» Northville — Granite City, and Guernsey Farms Dairy

- » Novi — Novi Chophouse
 - » Plymouth — Sive Restaurant - The Inn at St. John's, Coffee Express Roasting Company, Karl's Cabin, Old World Olive Company, and The Sardine Room
 - » Royal Oak — 2 Unique Caterers & Event Planners
 - » Southfield — Bacco Ristorante
 - » Troy — Cadillac Coffee Company
 - » White Lake — The Root
- Tickets are \$60 per person. For ticket information, contact Mary Holaly at 734-462-4518.

For event or sponsor information, contact Sheri Frader at 734-462-4463.



FILE PHOTO
Christina Tacoma and Brandon Long serve carrot cake from Mitchell's Fish Market at a previous Culinary Extravaganza.