



SUMMER FESTIVAL ROUNDUP, B6

TOWNSHIP WOMAN LOOKS BACK AT 100 LOCAL NEWS, A2

VIBRANT AND BOLD TASTE FOOD, B8

Fireworks cookout

A Saturday cookout outside a Plymouth Township delicatessen will help raise money for the township's annual fireworks show and Fourth of July picnic.

The cookout, with bratwurst, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and pop, is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Picnic Basket Market, 49471 Ann Arbor Road at Ridge. There is no admission price, but donations will be welcomed. It will be the fourth annual fireworks and picnic fundraiser at the Picnic Basket; last year's cookout raised nearly \$3,200.

The fireworks are scheduled for Tuesday, July 3, at Township Park, beginning at about 10:15 p.m.

Half-day kindergarten

While one of two sections of half-day kindergarten being offered next year by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is filled, the other still has openings that need to be filled if the district is to offer it.

The half-day kindergarten, which district officials agreed to offer after a petition drive showed there was interest, will be offered at Hoben Elementary School. A letter sent to parents announced a scheduled orientation 1:30-2:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 5, for students accepted for the morning session.

According to a second letter sent the same day, the district was still five short of the 20 students deemed necessary to offer the second session. Parents interested in the program should visit Hoben's website at <http://hoben.pccs.k12.mi.us/> or call the school at (734) 981-8670.

Prom pics

Looking forward to prom? Why not share the magic with our readers? Send in your prom pics and we'll publish them on a special photo page and a photo gallery on hometownlife.com. Simply email your best shots to [Plymouth Observer Editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com) and be sure to include names and high school of those pictured. Please limit to two-three photos and send in JPEG format only.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Old complex set to meet wrecking ball

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The property on the northeast corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley in Plymouth Township is ready for its makeover.

The township Board of Trustees last week awarded a contract for the demolition of three buildings on about 2.8 acres at the former township municipal complex, and Supervisor Richard Reaume said the work could

begin as early as mid-June.

The demolition contract for \$62,000 was given to Walker Construction Inc., which offered the lowest price among the nine bids submitted, by a 5-0 vote. Reaume said the idea is to take down the outdated and dilapidated buildings and make the site more attractive for potential redevelopment.

"We're getting a sense of increased (economic) activity throughout the township.

We expect there will be some renewed interest," Reaume said. Two parties recently expressed interest in the site, but neither were too specific about their plans for it and township officials haven't heard from them for several months, Reaume said.

The three buildings — the former township hall and fire station, the former police station, and a building that housed assessing, information technol-

ogy and police detective bureau offices — have been vacant since those departments moved to the new township hall complex on Haggerty in late 2006.

In addition, Fifth Third Bank is proceeding with plans to tear down a fourth vacant building, a former Friendly's restaurant that later housed the township clerk's office, and put up a bank branch there. The bank

Please see COMPLEX, A3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carl Solak hangs on tight to his patriotism at Monday's parade.

Respect for the fallen

Plymouth honors military heroes

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Al Crowley knows a little about what Memorial Day means.

Crowley — a World War II veteran who joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 while still in high school, went on active duty the following year and saw duty on Okinawa after VJ Day — learned first-hand what "ultimate sacrifice" meant when his brother, shortly after celebrating his 21st birthday, was shot down over Germany.

Part of two sets of twin brothers, all of whom who fought in World War II, Crowley spent four years on active duty and

then more than 20 in the National Guard.

As the keynote speaker in Monday's Memorial Day observance in downtown Plymouth, Crowley, who retired as an Air Force major, celebrated the service not only of his fellow World War II veterans, but of all who've fought — and died — in service to their country.

"I'm humbled, and certainly no hero, to be here," the Boston native and now Plymouth resident said. "Memorial Day means something to all of us, and something special to some of us, especially. I want everyone to

Please see HEROES, A5



Local Vietnam Veterans were in their traditional leadoff spot at Plymouth's Memorial Day Parade Monday.



Former WSDP adviser, teacher and counselor John Seidelman (center) was on the air with sophomore students Joe Zylka and Archana Sondor during WSDP's recent auction fundraiser.

Station finding its financial footing

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

In saving WSDP from the budget ax in recent years, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education decreed the station must become self-sufficient in the next five years.

So far, the station is doing its part.

After a very successful auction — the student run radio station's biggest fundraiser of the year — management has raised some \$25,000 in funding this year. Nearly \$13,000 of that came from this month's auction. It's an increase over the last several years, when auction proceeds dipped to around the \$9,000 mark from a high-

water point of some \$14,000 several years ago.

"We did really well," station manager Bill Keith said this week. "The alumni committee told us we really needed to push (the total) back above the \$10,000 mark, and we were able to do that."

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Township woman reflects on century of memories

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Katherine Thompson remembers a Detroit now seen only in history books, newsreels and antique photographs: Gas lights, streetcars, and the field at McGraw and Grand River where Olympia Stadium, gone 25 years already, was built in the 1920s.

She's witnessed, and lived, many of the events that defined the U.S. during the last century — world wars, the Great Depression, jet travel, the space age and the growth of the suburbs.

"When the man walked on the moon, that was something," said Mrs. Thompson on Tuesday.

Mrs. Thompson, of Plymouth Township, will mark her 100th birthday on Sunday, June 10. As she eagerly anticipates a birthday luncheon with family members and friends — son George said she's had more energy in recent days than she's had in a long time — she paused Tuesday to reflect on her extraordinarily long life.

"I don't know what keeps you going," she said Tuesday on the backyard deck of the house she shares with her son. "There's got to be something — I have no clue."

"She's very, very tough," said George A. Thompson, 64, who also attributed his mother's



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katherine Thompson reflects on her life at her home in Plymouth Township on Tuesday. Born Katherine McNamara at her parents' house in Detroit, she will turn 100 on Sunday, June 10.

longevity in part to her Irish heritage. "She can be very stubborn."

Detroit, 1912

Mrs. Thompson was born to Daniel and Sarah McNamara at their house at 310 National, which is no longer on the Detroit map. Her father, who had immigrated from Ireland, was a widower with two young sons, Mervin and John, when he met her mother at the restaurant on Elizabeth Street where she worked; the former Sarah Batten had come from Canada to help an aunt with the restaurant. Daniel McNamara was a painter and decorator



Katherine Thompson and her son, George, in an undated photograph. Mrs. Thompson, who will turn 100 next month, and her son have lived in Plymouth Township for 35 years.

who worked at the Book Cadillac Hotel in its early days, at the former General Motors Corp. headquarters on Grand Boulevard, and for a builder putting up homes in Detroit.

She has some strong memories of her girlhood: the gas lights flickering at the house on National, spending time with her maternal grandparents in Port Carling, Ont., during the summers ("I had a lot of fun there."), attending sporting events at the field at Northwestern High School, just up the street from where Olympia was built. The family later moved to Hudson Avenue, in the area of Grand River and Grand Boulevard.

She distinctly recalls a streetcar ride she took with her mother when she was 5 or 6.

"She set me up on the streetcar and the conduc-

tor gave a signal to go. He didn't realize my mother wasn't on the car. ... Did my mother ever yell," she said.

Business career

Katherine McNamara graduated from Detroit's High School of Commerce in 1930, having completed a business program there, and went to work downtown at Provident Loan & Savings on Griswold. She was secretary to the general manager.

"I'm making out loans and everything too," she said. "I was only 18 and the (other) girls were in their 20s."

The Great Depression was taking root across the country. "It was hard times, but my dad was working," she said.

A classmate and friend, Margaret, "always talked about her two cousins" from Coldwater, Mich.,

and Katherine persuaded her to finally introduce them. She ended up marrying one, George L. Thompson, in 1941.

Her husband was also a painter and decorator, then worked as head of shipping for an automobile parts supplier and later as a maintenance man for a dental supply manufacturer.

Her memories of World War II aren't as clear as the earlier memories, but she does remember that staples like butter and sugar were rationed. "We had that book," she said. "You had stamps in this book and you had to go to the store with them."

She never got a driver's license, though her husband tried to teach her. "Throw out the clutch. Throw out the clutch," he urged her during a lesson, Mrs. Thompson said.

"I said, 'Foovy.' I gave up."

Their son was born in 1947, and the family moved to Mettetal Street, on the west side, in 1951.

Son George attended Wilbur Wright Cooperative High School, a technical school that offered internships that gave students real-world experience. His internship with Detroit Edison led to a 42-year career with the company (later DTE Energy); he retired in 2005.

Edison's headquarters was near the High School of Commerce, Katherine Thompson's alma mater, and her son marvels at the later serendipity: "She looked across

and saw Detroit Edison, and that's where I ended up working all my life," he said.

George L. Thompson died in 1969 at age 58, and Katherine Thompson and her son moved to their current home in the township in 1977.

Plymouth-bound

"I don't know what it is," she said of the Plymouth area. "It's something. I think most people are friendly."

Until her mobility became limited, the two would go out often to dinner, vacation regularly in Harbor Springs, Mich., and travel frequently for Kiwanis International conventions. George A. Thompson is an active Kiwanian.

"I've been very, very fortunate to be able to take care of her all these years," her son said.

Mrs. Thompson also liked to read a lot — English was her favorite subject in school, and history her favorite reading topic — and also liked to watch television until her eyesight deteriorated recently. She had long been active in her church, First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, until recently.

Though she has some trouble walking, she had a hip replaced just a year ago and made what many considered a quick recovery, given her age.

"She's a very remarkable person," said her son.

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McCotter falls short of signatures, acknowledges some duplications

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

The Secretary of State's office is investigating irregularities in duplicate signatures and photocopies turned in by campaign volunteers for U.S Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's re-election campaign.

As a result, the secretary of state's office informed McCotter, R-Livonia, Friday that he lacked enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. McCotter declared Tuesday morning he is running as a write-in candidate for the 11th District of the House of Representatives.

McCotter said Tuesday there were duplications of signatures turned in by a campaign volunteer, and a document turned in without a date, a photocopy of a 2010 petition. "That's why this is so mind-numbing," McCotter said. It was not a case where the signatures were disqualified because the signees lived outside the district, McCotter added.

Duplicate signatures are disqualified by the Secretary of State, so McCotter lacked the minimum 1,000 signatures necessary to declare his candidacy.



Thaddeus McCotter, here speaking at an event in Livonia earlier this year, said he'll run as a write-in candidate after irregularities were found in his nominating petitions.

Gisgic Gendreau, spokesperson for the Secretary of State's office, said 243 signatures out of 1,833 were valid. "There appears to be some election law violations involved," Gendreau said. Preliminary information has been submitted to the attorney general's office. "We'll be working with them in the coming days," Gendreau said.

The Bureau of Elections conducted a "face review" of the signatures when it discovered the duplications of signatures. "There may have been a cutting and pasting of a petition and we received multiple copies of originals," Gendreau

said. "Duplicate names do not count."

The Bureau of Elections will be finishing its review and making a recommendation to the State Board of Canvassers to certify the election; then the state board will vote to certify the election on June 6.

But McCotter has acknowledged the duplicate signatures and is preparing for a write-in campaign. McCotter said he never saw the signatures that were turned into the secretary of state on May 15, the deadline for candidates to declare, nor has he seen the materials yet that were turned in, but learned later from state officials about the

inconsistencies.

McCotter said he trusted the campaign volunteers, and that someone "lied" to him about the signatures. The procedure of volunteers collecting signatures for this campaign was no different than from any other campaign that McCotter has run in, he said. Prior to his five elected terms in Congress, McCotter won elections to the state Senate and Wayne County Commission.

"This isn't brain surgery," McCotter said. "You get the signatures and you sign off as a circulator." McCotter said the signatures were collected in February, and that he was told about a month before the May deadline that he had enough signatures.

"We really don't know who did what," McCotter said about the signatures. McCotter has informed the Secretary of State in a letter that he will "assist in any way they see fit" in their investigation, McCotter said.

"The buck stops with me," McCotter said. "That's why I urge the continued investigation into the petitions. Everyone deserves to know what happened regarding this filing."

McCotter said he doesn't review the campaign materials and leaves it to the campaign volunteers. "I said I was going to do my job," McCotter said. "You have to rely on people to do tasks. You didn't see Carl Pursell running around and putting up lawn signs." McCotter referred to the longtime Republican Congressman from Plymouth. "Voters trust you to do your job."

"For 10 years, I never had a problem," McCotter added. "Do you want me worrying about the economy or going through a Bresser's (a cross reference directory) or a phone book?"

McCotter has never run as a write-in candidate. He has declared his write-in candidacy as an opportunity to "clean up his mess" regarding the signatures and continue his efforts to restructure government.

"I'm not just running against opponents, you also run against the process," McCotter said of the write-in challenge. Kerry Bentivolio, a retired teacher from Milford, is running as a Republican and will be on the ballot. Democrats William Roberts of Redford Township and Syed

Taj of Canton will be running and are also listed on the ballot.

Bentivolio said in a prepared statement that he was "blessed to have a great team of grass-roots volunteers."

"We are the only team on the ballot and we are looking to our general election showdown in November," he said. "We have the strongest ground game in the district and we will win by taking our Reagan-conservative message directly to the people."

The 11th Congressional District includes Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Canton Township, a portion of Clawson, Commerce Township, Farmington, Highland Township, the city of Lake Angelus, Livonia, Lyon Township, the village of Milford, Milford Township, Northville, Northville Township, Novi, Novi Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, a portion of Rochester Hills, South Lyon, Troy, Walled Lake, Waterford Township, a portion of West Bloomfield Township, White Lake Township, Wixom and the village of Wolverine Lake.

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Democrats focus on their own primary

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Two Democrats hoping to claim U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's seat said Wednesday they are focused on their Aug. 7 primary battle rather than McCotter's failure to collect enough signatures to get his name on the Republican 11th District ballot.

Dr. Syed Taj, a Canton Township trustee, called Democrat opponent Bill Roberts of Redford a Democratic impoter who wants to impeach President Obama and steer the country to policies supported by political activist Lyndon LaRouche.

"I think he is a fake Democrat," Taj said. "It is time to elect a real Democrat from our district."

Roberts conceded he wants to oust Obama, usher in what he considers real economic reforms and begin to address the country's financial woes partly by restoring

the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act, creating what he called a separation of commercial banking from "largely fictitious banking debts of private banking houses" in places such as Wall Street and London.

"I think there is an attitude sometimes coming from the top echelons of the Democratic Party that they can decide who a Democrat is," Roberts said. "I think the people who vote can decide."

News of McCotter's dilemma and his decision to launch a write-in campaign didn't sway Taj and Roberts from what they have called a crucial Democratic vote in the Aug. 7 primary.

Democrats also didn't focus on Kerry Bentivolio, a retired teacher from Milford whose name will be on the Republican ballot.



Taj



Roberts

"I'm really more focused on my primary," Taj said Wednesday.

Taj has cited protecting Social Security, Medicare and veterans benefits as among the top priorities of his campaign.

Taj called Roberts a "fake Democrat" supported by LaRouche activists. Taj is campaigning for the 11th District Congressional seat in the last year of his first four-year term as the only Democrat sitting on the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Taj's campaign manager, Natalie Mosher, said she and others are fighting hard to get the word out about Roberts, considered by his critics as radical and out of touch with mainstream Democrats.

Roberts said he is focused less on McCotter's ordeal and more on issues such as pushing to

reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act, which he said was repealed in 1999.

"I'm committed to the same things I was before

this (McCotter snafu) happened," Roberts said.

For more on Taj's campaign, go to www.tajforcongress.com. Roberts'

website is www.billrobertsforcongress.com.

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COMPLEX

Continued from page A1

purchased the property, which sits on the very corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, from the township for \$2 million in 2006, but it has sat vacant ever since.

Reaume said Fifth Third is scheduled to bring a site plan for its proposed bank branch to the township's Planning Commission in June.

The demolition will be

paid by the township's general fund, Reaume said, which will reimburse itself through the township's Brownfield Authority, which has the ability to recapture property taxes when a site is redeveloped. Reaume said the concrete and the steel from the complex will be reused. He was uncertain how long the demolition would take.

The demolition contract, the supervisor said, includes the safe disposal of a limited amount of

material found at the site that is deemed hazardous: some asbestos pipe wrap, batteries used for lighted exit signs and fluorescent light bulbs.

Voting to award Walker Construction the contract were Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Kay Arnold, Bob Doroshewitz and Mike Kelly. Clerk Joe Bridgman and Trustee Steve Mann were absent.

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Amy Zinn was the Canton Idol 2011. Auditions for the 2012 Canton Idol competition are Sunday and Monday.

Canton Idol auditions near

Singers who want to be the next Canton Idol should be getting ready. The BeckRidge Chorale and Cherry Hill Singers will be holding auditions for the 2012 edition of Canton Idol 3-6 p.m. Sunday, June 3, and 6-9 p.m. Monday, June 4.

Auditions take place at the organization headquarters located at 47943 Michigan Avenue in Canton (located behind Devon Storage). The singing competition is open to all middle and high school students in Michigan.

This marks the third year of the competition. Performances include

a preliminary round on Aug. 27, with the final round of competition set for Aug. 29. Canton Idol is sponsored in part by the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities in Canton.

Performances of Canton Idol 2012 will be held at the Village Theater, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Students interested in participating in Canton Idol should go to www.beckridgechorale.org and download the audition packet prior to their audition.

For more information contact the BeckRidge Chorale at (888) 459-4887.

Avoid email scam artists

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I was sitting at my desk when an urgent, confidential e-mail came my way. The e-mail was from a woman in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She needed a U.S. bank account to send \$10.6 million. In return for the use of my bank account, I would get to keep a little over \$2 million. The letter provided a contact name, phone number and, of course, it also stated how reliable and trustworthy she was. I read the e-mail then deleted it just as everyone should do when they receive such an e-mail.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I can't tell you how many of these letters I've received over the years. I've received letters from Nigeria, Jor-

dan, and Lebanon as well as other countries. They all tell the same story; only the names and the dollar amounts are different. The bottom line, they are scams and the sole purpose is to swindle your money. Unfortunately, there are those who fall for these gimmicks and end up losing a substantial amount of money.

After reading the letter, the question you ask is how could anyone fall for this scam? I sometimes shake my head too, but the reality is people do. Some people are curious and they'll either return the e-mail or actually give them a call. That is a mistake. Remember, you're dealing with crooks that are good at what they do and there's no reason to give them an in-road. When you receive a solicitation like the one I received, the only prudent course of action is to delete it.

Scams have been around since the beginning of time. The reason for that is because they work. People are always

falling for get-rich-fast schemes and it's not just uninformed, naïve people. Even smart people fall for scams. After all, look at the Madoff situation. There were some very smart and sophisticated people that let their guard down and were ripped off. The bottom line is we can never afford to let our guard down; when we do, there is a good chance we will be separated from our hard-earned money.

One of the things that make detecting scams so difficult is the constant changing nature of them. That is why it is always important to never forget that if something sounds too good to be true, it is. When it comes to investing or turning your money over to someone, always make sure you do independent research. If you cannot check out an investment or anything, independently it's probably a good sign that you ought to avoid it. Probably some of the best investments I've ever

made are investments that I've walked away from.

I am sure the woman in the Congo will be disappointed that she doesn't hear from me — oh, well, that's life. However, I'm sure that she sent out thousands of these e-mails hoping that a handful of people will contact her. I feel sorry for those people because the result will be they won't receive 20 percent of \$10.6 million; rather, they will find that they will have a lot less money in their pocket.

Remember, take your time, ask questions and do your homework. By following these three rules, you will find that you have more money in your pocket; and that is exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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



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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The color guard marches to the Veteran's Memorial in Heritage Park as Canton's Memorial Day ceremony begins.

The respect they deserve

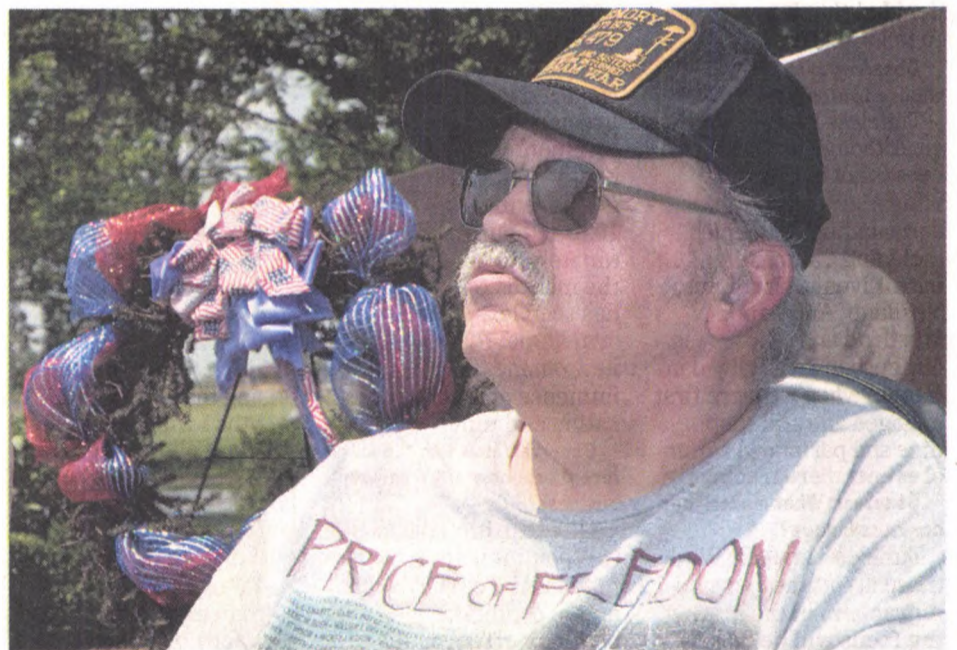


Memorial Day photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase, contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

Various scouting troops took part in Monday's Memorial Day parade down Main Street in Plymouth.



Plymouth's Memorial Day ceremony featured a flyover by the Yankee Warrior, a B-25 Mitchell bomber delivered to the USAAF in 1943.



Veteran Al Kerbyson of Westland served in Thailand during the Vietnam war.



Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park is full for the Memorial Day ceremony.



Amelia Fraser, 7 years old, Greg, 10 years, and Lydia, 5 years, can hear the parade coming. Mom and Dad, Amanda and John Fraser, and the kids are from Plymouth.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Susan Richardson gave up a 30-year retail career and started Timeless Images earlier this month. Her grand-opening promotion starts Friday.

Photographer shoots for studio success

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Timeless Images: I offer portrait sessions for Families, Kids, High School Seniors, Beauty, Executives and non-wedding events. Clients can choose from a studio session or we can shoot at a location of their choosing. I offer a wide variety of quality products to display their photographic art including mounted and framed prints, gallery wrapped canvases, leather albums, luxe wood frames and more specialty items.

Observer: How did you decide to open your business?

Timeless Images: I made the decision to leave my 30-year retail management career and open my business due to several reasons, but primarily a family crisis. I actually began considering starting my professional photography business several years ago. During that time my family urged me to do so, including my uncle, whom I was close to. In May 2010, we lost my uncle to cancer, and I began to rethink my career and my life and decided that it was time to make the change.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Timeless Images: Although my business is not in Canton, I will be serving the areas surrounding Belleville, including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Northville, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Westland and other areas. My husband and I lived in Canton when we were first engaged and still shop, dine and partake in cultural events there frequently.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Timeless Images: While there are numerous photographers in the market, my focus will be on service. Having 30 years in

TIMELESS IMAGES

Business name and address: Timeless Images by Susan, 13745 Milton Drive, Belleville

Your name: Susan Richardson, owner

Your hometown: Born in Detroit, raised in Livonia

Business opened: I conducted the soft opening May 2012; grand opening promotion kicks off June 1.

Number of employees: Just me for now

Hours of operation: The business is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., however appointments for sessions are available at any time that is convenient for my clients.

Your business specialty: I maintain a "Customer first" approach to my business. My goal is to ensure that we take our time together, enjoy the process, don't rush and ensure that we get it right. Not only do I want my clients to love their final images, but I want them to look back and have fond memories of the experience they had the day we captured the images.

Phone and email: (734) 391-8662 | www.timelessimagesbySusan.com

retail, management and human resources gives me an advantage. My personal customer service standards are extremely high. In addition, I too, am a mom. I have been to those commercial portrait studios where they herd you through like cattle, rush your session, fire off a few shots, take your money and then call "next!"

Observer: Do you have a story to share with readers about your experience as a small business owner?

Timeless Images: My previous job was very demanding and often required long days. When I resigned my husband commented that he was happy that I would no longer have to work so many 10 to 11 hour days. Unfortunately, to his dismay, in the months following he has seen less of me, in our own home! Starting up a new business requires an immense amount of dedication and time.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Timeless Images: At this point it is too soon to tell if the current economic conditions will bear any effect on my grand opening market-

ing efforts. I am doing everything I can to maximize my opportunities for brand awareness with the minimal budget that I have at this point. It is definitely challenging. I do know that an online presence is necessary and that is something I am working to develop.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Timeless Images: When it comes to starting a new business, planning and research is the key. I had been researching this potential venture for several years. I had taken a lot of notes and researched many aspects of my industry prior to making the decision to move forward. That was highly beneficial to me from a financial standpoint.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Timeless Images: I am hoping that within 18-24 months I will have established a solid base of new clientele in my market and be able to add at least one staff member. For now, I am very optimistic about the future and look forward to meeting new clients and doing my best to exceed their expectations.

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

Shred It Day

Community Financial will again sponsor a Shred Day for anyone who needs to have confidential shredding of documents. The event takes place 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at their branches in Canton (6355 N. Canton Center Rd.) and Novi (23890 Novi Rd.).

Father's Day Run

The Plymouth YMCA will hold their annual Father's Day Run on Sunday, June 17. The run has been a Community Father's Day tradition for 33 years. Join the Y for a morning of fun and fitness. There is an event for every age, 0-99: Kids Fun Runs, 1M Run/Walk, 5K Run/Walk, 10K and the Morse Dental Group Triple, 1M, 5K, 10K (10.3 M).

Register at www.active.com or for more information visit www.ymcadeloitroit.org/plymouth.

Volunteers are also needed. Contact

cmorency@ymcadeloitroit.org. Proceeds support the Strong Kids Financial Assistance Program.

Golf openings

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has openings available for the chamber's annual golf outing July 9 at Fox Hills.

The event will be on the championship level Golden Fox course and is a scramble that will include dinner and lunch. If you would like to participate or sponsor, call the chamber at (734) 453-1540.

The major sponsor of the outing is Victory Honda.

June events

- June 14 — 10-Member Connection, 8-9 a.m., Chamber Office
- June 26 — Workshop on "Website Maximization," 8:30-9:30 a.m., Chamber Office

Mobile payment systems gaining some traction

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Digital shoppers have been using online payment systems such as PayPal and Google payments for years to pay retailers, or reimburse friends for small everyday transactions.

Online payment systems have provided a convenient way of paying just about anyone in seconds. With online payment systems consumers no longer have to write checks or even find cash in their wallet to pay back the guy who spotted them \$10 for the office pool.

Now digital payments are about to get even easier for online shoppers and small business with the recent push by companies to offer mobile payment.

It started with PayPal Here®, a mobile device that small retailers such as taco trucks and street vendors can plug into their smartphone phone to accept credit cards, debit cards, checks and PayPal payments at any time. PayPal Here® charges retailers a small transaction fee similar to what's charged at brick and mortar retailers. Payments are tracked and managed using an accompanying Pay Pal Here® app.

Next, Square came along with an almost identical system. Retailers can plug the square reader into their smartphone and receive payments from card hold-



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

ers. A 2.75 percent fee applies, but it allows retailers to accept more types of payments which can

increase business.

If two mobile payment systems weren't enough, it was recently reported daily deal site, Groupon is working on a mobile payment system of their own. Groupon's operation will focus on providing lower fees than the competition.

If you are a vendor without complicated registers and card readers, Square, PayPal Here® and the unnamed Groupon system could offer a cost-effective, space-efficient way to accept more payments.

Lastly, if you are consumer, mobile payment options will give you more ways to pay digitally — a preference of those who don't like to carry a lot of cash or hit the ATM every few days.

Consumers can also sign up to receive PayPal Here or Square as I did. I don't know if I will ever use the system, but it certainly would be convenient for group functions or work lunches where some people only have credit cards. A person with a reader could just swipe their friend's card eliminating the awkwardness of an I

owe you.

For those who don't want to hassle with card readers and extra applications, they can still send payments to friends or pay people for services using PayPal or Google Offers.

Many banks also offer online payment systems. Chase, for example, allows person-to-person quick pay where Chase users can send money to one another instantly using the Chase website or mobile app.

Comerica Bank and other financial institutions also let you add your friends as payees and pay them like you would pay a bill. For example, if I owed a friend \$50 for widgets, I could pay them through the online bill pay center. A check would be sent to their address. The service is free and it makes the bank go through the process of cutting the check, finding an envelope, getting a stamp and remembering to mail.

Some of these processes may sound time consuming to set up, but in actuality they are easy. Each of these online and mobile payments can save consumers time and money — they also offer convenience and sometimes savings for retailers.

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

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OUR VIEWS

Safety first

Camera system makes students a priority

It's been a long time coming, and the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education did the right thing by approving the installation of security cameras through the three-school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The \$388,000 the board voted to spend will cover nearly all of the interior of Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools. Cafeteria areas have been covered the last few weeks by cameras already installed to quell year-end problems, and now all hallway intersections, common areas and gym areas will also be under the watchful eye of the system.

It's a project that's been talked about at length for at least the last couple of years, but paying for it had always been a stumbling block. A district that was struggling with projected deficits in the millions simply couldn't seem to pull the trigger on such a large expense, despite the fact everyone agreed it was a needed improvement at The Park.

But officials came up with a creative way to pay for the cameras — they'll use remaining proceeds from a Qualified School Construction Bond. The bond was created to perform work related to energy savings, but the district's bond attorney advised them since the cameras were being installed inside the buildings, where energy conservation work had already been done, the cameras were a related expense and therefore eligible for the QSCB funding.

However, it was too large a stretch to pay for exterior cameras, so that improvement will have to wait for general fund money to become available, or a decision made to borrow the money. When that decision is made, the system the district is buying will be ready: It's expandable to accommodate exterior cameras.

We hope the exterior system comes soon; with more than 6,000 students passing between the three buildings several times a day, the outdoor areas are ripe for problems, including potential drug sale and use, bullying, fighting and other incidents.

For now, though, the interior cameras, which will be installed over the summer and up and running when school starts again in September, are a good first step. District officials and board members have been saying for a long time that the safety of the students is a top priority.

This is a good way to back those words with action.

Buckle up on roads

Whether driving through town or jumping on the expressway for your morning commute, cars are a way of life for local residents.

And if the daily grind isn't enough, summer vacations are right around the corner and plenty of families will be heading to other parts of our state and beyond.

We hope everyone who sits behind the wheel reaches their destination. A great first step to do that is to fasten your seat belt whenever you get in a vehicle.

Michigan State Police officials say seat belts are the most effective way to save your life in a traffic crash.

It's also the law. Getting caught without your seat belt could cost you a \$65 ticket.

Utilizing federal funds, about 160 law enforcement agencies across the state ramped up enforcement of seat belt violations, including the metro Detroit counties, during the Click It or Ticket campaign that runs through June 3.

According to the Office of Highway Safety Planning, research shows when seat belts are used properly, the risk of being killed in a crash is reduced by nearly 50 percent.

Michigan law requires all drivers, front seat passengers and passengers 15 and younger in any position to be buckled up.

Most crash deaths occur within 25 miles of home and at speeds of less than 40 miles per hour, according to the Michigan State Police. Officials state that one out of three people will be seriously injured in a car crash some time during their lives.

During last year's Click It or Ticket enforcement, 9,013 seat belt and child seat violation tickets were written.

Don't be a statistic. Whether you're going to the corner market or heading out on a family vacation -- buckle up every time you get in your car.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Has the spring road-repair season affected your driving much so far?

We asked this question at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.



"Some, but not much. ... Recently retired."
Lynn Kibiloski
Coldwater



"No, not really. If I know about ... the problems, I go around. There are usually alternatives."
Debbie Seifert
Plymouth



"Yes and no. It's not unbearable, but, at the same time, could do without it. Being a Michigander, you get used to it."
Nilton Gjerci
Plymouth



"I live in New Jersey now, so it hasn't affected me at all."
Tyler Malm
Hoboken, N.J.

LETTERS

End deficit spending

Mitt Romney's first day as president, like that of Barack Obama's, will see Romney facing an inherited deficit in excess of \$1 trillion that will require massive change in current law and policy to ever be significantly reduced.

To eliminate deficit spending as Romney has promised beginning on day one, he must address the current drivers of deficit and debt. Among those identified by economists are the Bush tax cuts, Medicare Part D, two wars of dubious necessity and reduced tax revenues due to unemployment and a stagnant economy, curiously all products of the Bush administration.

To complete the picture, add the increased costs of "automatic stabilizers" brought on by the Bush recession; programs like TANF, UI, SNAP and Medicare, none of which was passed by Obama. Each of these has many more recipients now because the ravages of the Bush recession have caused many more to fall into or very near to poverty by losing income or seeing an increase in family size.

Addressing Obama spending within the deficit, however, will be only a tiny part of the entire puzzle, since a recent article in

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

the *Wall Street Journal-Market Watch* revealed President Obama has achieved the lowest increase in new spending over the last 60 years (1.4 percent over 3-plus years) for a presidential administration, laying to rest the Republican myth of an out-of-control "spending spree." To be clear, almost all of the deficit and much of the accrued corresponding debt have as their origin the legislation and policies of the Bush administration.

Romney's plans to deal with the deficits and the economy is increasing tax cuts for the wealthy by a whopping 20 percent and increasing already bloated defense spending. Neither has been shown to stimulate the economy, increase jobs or cut deficits as demonstrated during the Bush years.

Application of unspecified, nebulous cuts that Romney says he will make to offset costs won't be anywhere near enough to ward off a dramatic increase in the deficit and debt, many economists say. However, his proposed Draconian cuts in specific areas according to some experts may cost an additional two million jobs by further driving middle-class demand into the ditch.

For one who touts himself as an "expert" in business affairs, I certainly expected at least an upgrade in the quality of the debate but it appears, tragically, Mitt Romney thinks the solutions are the causes. Mitt's evaluation of the state of affairs and his proposed remedies demonstrate he is either incompetent and his Bain experiences did little to prepare him to run a national economy, or he is disingenuous, or both.

Mitch Smith
Canton

STAFF COLUMN

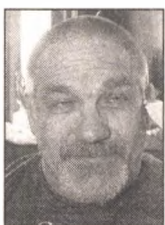
Ceremonies spark range of emotion

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

It's impossible to get through Memorial Day in Plymouth and Canton without being touched.

Touched by dedication, moved by sacrifice, impressed by pride — all emotions that ran through Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Plymouth and again at the Veterans Memorial in Canton's Heritage Park.

Both communities paid homage to veterans Monday — Plymouth with its expansive parade and ceremony, Canton with its classy, understated ceremony.



Brad Kadrich

Both ceremonies honored veterans who've given the ultimate sacrifice, who've died in the service of their country so we can revel in the freedoms we now enjoy.

I heard things you expect to hear at those ceremonies. I talked to Richard Kluk, swelling with pride after returning from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he watched his granddaughter, Gina Rotondo, be commissioned a second lieutenant after her graduation from the nation's best-known military academy.

But Gina's graduation wasn't the only thing about which Kluk could be proud. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, Kluk is also the son of a World War I soldier, and his brothers also served in World War II.

Al Crowley is a twin, and he had another set of brothers, also

twins. All four of them served in World War II, and one brother became one of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice when his plane was shot down over Germany. Crowley's voice quivered a little, understandably so, when he told the story as the keynote speaker at Plymouth's ceremony.

The Plymouth ceremony again featured Michael Gross' interpretation of the poem *In Flanders' Field*, and the melodious voices of the BeckRidge Chorale singing *God Bless America*. It featured the traditional firing of the salute by the Honor Guard of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, who repeated the salute at Canton's ceremony.

In Plymouth, they gave surviving World War II veterans a place on the dais, and it seemed like there might have been fewer, though that could be my imagination. If there are, that's sad, and worth stopping to ponder, all by itself.

As I always do, I placed my hand over my heart during the pledge and the National Anthem, rather than render the salute I'm entitled (obligated?) to render as a 15-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. People who know occasionally thank me for my service, though I'm often unsure what they're thanking me for. At any rate, this day is about them, not me, and I'm humbled and honored to stand among them.

I was honored to meet Al Kerbyson of Westland, who served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam. Kerbyson, a 1965 graduate of Thurston High School in Redford. Kerbyson went into the Air

Force as a security policeman and, after suffering a medical condition, was shifted to supply. He did three tours in Thailand, but never saw combat.

It was Kerbyson who delivered the most surprising, thought-provoking answer to any question I've asked in 12 years of covering these events. He said he often thinks of the group of veterans "who aren't here any more," including Thurston classmates whose names are now etched in the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

When I asked him what emotion ran through him when he thought of them, it was his one-word answer that threw me.

"Guilt."
Kerbyson, who never saw combat through no fault of his own, said he feels guilty, like he "never did enough." The emotion wrenched through him as he talked. It was as honest an answer to a question as you're likely to hear, and it made me a little sad, and a little proud.

Here's a veteran, sitting in a wheelchair now, with a guilt complex, largely because he didn't die, too. You run across characters in this job who sometimes affect your life, and Al Kerbyson will be one of them. My response to him — and to all veterans who survived and made it home — is this:

You did plenty.

Brad Kadrich, who spent 15 years in the U.S. Air Force, is editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via email at bkadrch@hometownlife.com or by phone at (313) 222-8899.

PLYMOUTH
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Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
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Artists earn Damaris scholarships

A pair of local artists will find paying for college a little easier after winning awards in the 2012 Damaris Fine Arts Award Scholarship program.

Kyle Slavin won the \$500 Starkweather Artist Award, given to a Starkweather senior whose artistic talent is matched by his/her dedication to art and the desire to continue education in this field.

Because Slavin is headed to Schoolcraft College, the scholarship will be matched by the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

Slavin is hoping to land a full-time job with interests including music, radio broadcasting and fine arts.

Juror Dennis Jones of Plymouth, an architect and artist who designed the Sandra Sagar Wall of Courage at Plymouth High School, said the decision was an easy one.

"I enjoyed the simplicity, directness, honesty, highly personal and expressive qualities of your pencil drawings," Jones said. "The copper piece is particularly well done, which displays sim-

ilar qualities."

This year's \$1,000 Damaris Fine Arts Award went to Alyssa Downs, whose focus on helping others includes a mission trip, tutoring, Mott's Children Hospital, assembling food packages and volunteering for the Miracle League of Plymouth.

Teacher Barrie Lincourt met Downs in a graphic arts course and was "immediately impressed."

"She immediately impressed me with her creativity and dedication she put into the projects I assigned," Lincourt said. "For each assignment the students wrote a self reflective analysis of their work. Alyssa was very articulate in the analysis of her own work. Her writings were very details specific and made me appreciate her work even more after reading what her intentions were with her work."

The Damaris Award was established in memory of Damaris (Dee) Schulte by her family: husband, Dick, sons, Philip and Mike, and grandson, Peter, along with Nan Cooper and Deb Madon-

Cruisers swim for Epilepsy research

Staff and supporters of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan stood poolside May 24 in Canton and accepted a generous donation from the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers competitive swim team, totaling more than \$7,000.

The team took part in a USA Swimming Swim-A-Thon on April 28 and decided to pledge the funds to the Foundation.

"We can't thank them enough," said Arlene Gorelick, President of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. "It's efforts like this one, where young people come together and raise both funding and awareness for epilepsy, that really drives home the message that we can provide programs and services to those in Michigan who continue to battle this condition."

Dan Kish, lead assistant coach of the Cruisers, said the Foundation was the obvious choice for the team.

"One of our swimmers,



Members of the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers and their coaches presented Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan President Arlene Gorelick with a \$7,000 donation from their swim fundraiser.

Laura Weisz, lives with epilepsy, and she has taught us all that you can achieve so much, despite obstacles," Kish said. "We all understand epilepsy and realize her struggles, but we also know that so much needs to be done so that others can live a full

life. We hope these funds will help the Epilepsy

Foundation of Michigan with their programming." Six swimmers on the team were honored as the top fundraisers.

PCC Swimming is a year-round competitive swim team affiliated with USA Swimming and Michigan Swimming. The goal of the team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at his or her level of ability, from novice to international competition.

For more information on the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, log onto www.epilepsymichigan.org or call (800) 377-6226. For more information on the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers, log onto www.cruiserswimming.com/Home.jsp?team=mipcc.

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The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

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Publish: May 31 and June 7, 2012

OE0877912 2x3 5



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2012. The bid opening will be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2012 for the following:

PURCHASE OF SOCCER EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2012/2013 BUDGET YEAR

Specifications and bid documents are available at the city hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk
City of Plymouth

Publish: May 31, 2012

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| 2001 Ford Explorer | 1FMYU60E61UA97443 |
| 1993 Ford Aerostar | 1FMCA11U1PZC12506 |
| 1998 Toyota Camry | 4T1BG22K7WU357722 |
| 1999 Ford Taurus | 1FAFP52U5XG160241 |
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She's back on track

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Just a few weeks after finishing a record-breaking freshman season in two sports at Salem, Kayla Kavulich collided with a player during a summer basketball game.

She abruptly stopped and her right knee buckled.

"I was trying to steal the ball, it was a collision," Kavulich said. "My foot was planted in front of a girl and she kept running and she ran through my knee."

The diagnosis: a torn right anterior cruciate ligament and lateral meniscus. Entering her sophomore year, the dynamite distance runner knew she'd miss cross country and basketball.

"I was disappointed at first, but at the same time you can't let that really hold you back," the 15-year-old said about missing the 2011 cross country season. "The more you have grief about it, it's



just going to make you feel worse."

Full-speed ahead

But nothing was going to keep her from returning for the track and field season and getting back to the Division 1 state meet.

On Saturday, Kavulich — who finished first in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs at the recent regionals — will shoot for a top-eight finish and the all-state designation that comes with it.

Completely healthy and

hungry for success, Kavulich said being an all-state runner is "one of my things."

In 2011, she placed 10th in the 1,600, two spots away from the coveted status. Her personal best was 5:07.8, the mark listed next to her name on the PCEP leader board.

She's almost all the way back. At the May 18 regionals, she won the 1,600 with a time of 5:10.01.

"Knowing that I've come back only (several) seconds slower than my PR last year," she said, "it's more of a mental boost, like I can come back. I'm going to be fine."

Of course, Kavulich probably would have been just as devoted to rehabbing without the lure of records and lofty plateaus. That's because the sheer joy of running tops it all.

Asked whether she enjoys cross country or track better, she tried to be diplomatic.

"Between those two, prob-

Please see KAVULICH, B3



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Salem sophomore Kayla Kavulich is smiling more than usual these days, thanks to coming back from a serious knee injury and qualifying for Saturday's state girls track and field meet.

BASEBALL-SOFTBALL PRE-DISTRICTS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Finishing a clutch at bat, Plymouth senior Tyler Goble (No. 14) connects on a sacrifice fly during Tuesday's pre-district baseball game. Northville's catcher is Brett MacDonald.

Pre-district defeat is cruel fate for 'Cats

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The shame of it all was one state-ranked softball team would be eliminated in Tuesday's Division 1 pre-district at Salem.

It turned out to be Plymouth, falling 5-3 to Northville thanks to a two-run seventh by the Mustangs.

As was the case all day, Northville senior Jen Buckingham proved a major thorn in the side of the Wildcats.

She led off the game with an inside-the-park home run down the right-field line and wound up

with a 4-for-4 day and four runs against Plymouth freshman pitcher Mikayela Marciniak.

"(Buckingham) did set the tone," Plymouth head coach Val Canfield said. "She set us back, but we rebounded. I knew it was going to be a nail-biter to the end. I told them it was anybody's game, a do-or-die situation."

With the game deadlocked 3-3 entering the seventh, the first four Mustangs singled, with RBI hits by Meredith Williams and Allie Chapekis (3-for-3, two RBI) providing the final two-run cushion.

And Buckingham was part of that surge, with a bunt single.

The KLAASouth Division and Kensington Conference champion Wildcats (29-8) went out in order in the bottom half against pitcher Laura Pond, although Bri Giordano made a bid to keep the game going.

Her drive to the fence in center was caught for the final out.

Starting point

"I told the girls we win

Please see SOFTBALL, B3

Victory slips away

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Two outstanding baseball teams met Tuesday in a Division 1 pre-district encounter at Salem.

One of those teams, Plymouth, could not overcome late miscues or extend a seventh-inning rally and Northville came away with a hard-fought 5-4 win.

The Mustangs now will face district host Salem at 1 p.m. Friday, while the Wildcats wonder what might have been.

"It's a tough spot to be in, but everybody's got the same opportunity to play in this game," Plymouth head coach Bryan Boyd said. "You've got two state-ranked teams playing in the pre-district game, but that's the chance you take."

A moment later, he talked about how the winningest team in school history (27-9) had its season prematurely end.

"We had a great season," Boyd said. "I'm disappointed it's over, but that's one of the difficulties with a one-and-done tournament."

For a while, it looked like the gutsy pitching effort of senior Justin Thompson might just help Plymouth fight to play another game. He blanked the Mustangs on no hits through five innings, helped by some stellar defense.

- A sliding grab by center fielder Jamarl Eiland in the second robbed Northville starting (and winning) pitcher Matt Stojkov of an extra-base hit.
- Senior catcher Rich Guglielmi threw out a would-be base stealer in

the first.

- A hot shot to third baseman Brian Schmid turned into an inning-ending double play in the fifth.

Spoiler alert

Plymouth finally broke a scoreless tie in the fifth, when senior first baseman Tyler Goble — who will play college football at Navy — showed some of his gridiron passion during a gritty, 11-pitch at-bat.

After walks to Brandon Waack and Matt Janke, an infield error loaded the bases.

Goble wasn't going to be denied, as he spoiled several two-strike pitches before lofting a sacrifice fly to center, scoring Waack.

"He (Goble) fouled out seven or eight pitches,"

Please see BASEBALL, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Cassidy Hewitt (No. 7) and Brooke Senkbeil encourage each other during Tuesday's pre-district softball game.

Salem's Katelynn Krause (right) goes to work against Plymouth's Madi Lewis (No. 14) during Tuesday's district contest.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth off to winning start

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

In 2010, strong team defense and the daring goalkeeping of Marissa Williams carried Plymouth to the Division 1 girls soccer finals.

Although this year's Wildcats potentially could go just as far, the recipe is much different — plenty of speed and offensive creativity in the mix.

Exhibit A was Tuesday's 5-2 victory over Salem in a D1 district opener at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Tallying two goals each were forward Madi Lewis and midfielder Jillian Aguirre, with forward Stephanie Sheridan also scoring.

Scoring for the Rocks (10-7-

GIRLS SOCCER DISTRICT

1) were Sarah Martin and Kylie Knight.

The Wildcats (14-2-3) now face Canton at 5 p.m. Thursday at Northville following the Chiefs' 2-1 victory Tuesday over Livonia Stevenson.

"It's nice to have a threat up there," Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich said following the match. "It makes teams play you honestly ... it allows you to play a different style and do a few different things."

Quick offense

Plymouth's primary threat is Lewis, but she has plenty of company in the way the Wildcats stretch the field and zip

through defenders toward opposing goalkeepers.

Her 23rd goal of the season was one of three scored by Plymouth in the first half, with Aguirre and Sheridan helping the Wildcats break out to a 3-0 lead.

"We had to show up and play hard and we did," Neschich said. "We got three quick goals and kind of took charge of the game, which was nice."

"We were able to play a lot of people, so we'll be fresh for the next game."

Before halftime, Salem answered when Martin converted a feed from Taylor Jaaska to make it 3-1.

Please see SOCCER, B4



Excelling at meets requires putting in extra work at practice, as shown here by Salem's Kayla Kavulich (left).

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

KAVULICH

Continued from page B1

ably cross country just because it's nice running in a forest instead of a circular track the whole time," she said.

Extra effort

Kavulich worked harder than anybody could imagine for a chance to get back to East Kentwood, where the D1 state meet is held.

She underwent surgery and embarked on six months of grueling physical therapy — including three sessions of up to two hours per week and regular trips to run in the Salem pool at 6 a.m. under the watch of cross country coach Dave Gerlach.

"It was difficult," Kavulich said. "I'd get up at 5:30 (a.m.), my mom would drag me out of bed and drive me to the pool."

During sessions at Plymouth Physical Therapy, the workouts included "weightlifting on my quads, a lot of jumping."

Out of 60 or so visits to the facility, she estimated there were only five times where she didn't have much in the tank.

"I had a few struggles, some of those days where I just wasn't there," Kavulich said. "PT didn't go the way I wanted. I didn't push myself as hard as I could have."

Times were sometimes tough for Kavulich during the cross country season, too. She worked as a team manager.

"It was hard," Kavulich said. "I mean, seeing all the girls run, it was kind of disappointing just because every day they'd go out to practice and I'd just sit in the room and do paperwork for the team."

Back at you

Watching others do what she loves motivated her, as did her ferocious competitive nature — something belied by her happy-go-lucky facade.

"After the surgery, a lot of people told me, 'Oh, you're probably not going to be as fast,' or, 'Oh, you won't be able to do all the cutting that you want,'" Kavulich said.

Then with a laugh, she added, "I just like proving people wrong. I've always kind of had that, 'I'll show you, I'm coming back.'"

Extra motivation might have been one factor in her quick recovery. But another was maintaining

THE KAVULICH FILE

Who: Kayla Kavulich, 15-year-old Salem sophomore three-sport varsity athlete. During her freshman year with the girls track and field team, she set a Park record in the 1,600-meter run and finished 10th in that event at the Division 1 state meet.

Setback: In 2011, Kavulich injured her right knee playing summer basketball. She tore her right ACL and lateral meniscus. Dr. Brian Borden of Ann Arbor St. Joseph Mercy performed surgery on the knee and Kavulich then spent six months of rigorous physical therapy.

Strong return: After missing Salem's cross country and basketball seasons, Kavulich recovered in time to enjoy an all-state season with the Rocks' varsity girls track and field team. She will compete Saturday at East Kentwood in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs and 3,200-meter relay team.

Family: She drew much encouragement during her recovery from parents Julie and Mike Kavulich and older sister Kara. Mike was a college runner at Michigan State.

Misc: Kavulich carries a 3.85 grade-point average, taking classes such as advanced math and honors biology. She and her family are active at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, where she participates in the giving tree at Christmas as well as shoe box ministries.

a keen sense of humor. "There was this funny sign that my dad and I saw in the doctor's office," Kavulich said. "We opened the doors and the first thing we saw at my new doctor's office was a place called 'Common Sense Primary Care' and we didn't know what to think. "Now whenever I'm running, or I'm tired, my dad will yell 'Common Sense Primary Care' and I'll start laughing." With Kayla Kavulich, the joke's on anyone who doubted she could come back from such a devastating injury even better than before.

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SOFTBALL

Continued from page B1

together we lose together," Canfield said. "We're just building character. We've got a young team. I told the seniors they have new horizons to see, and us being so young we're just going to build from where we left off. I think that's a win-win situation."

The loss ended Plymouth's anticipated post-season run barely after it started, ending the prep careers of Karen Rebain, Allison Raylean and Irene Poole.

"It's just somebody has to win and somebody has to lose," the veteran coach added.

After Northville (KLAA Central champ with a 14-2 record) went up 1-0 on Buckingham's first-inning homer, the Wildcats did take the lead for a while.

In the second, Rebain was hit by a pitch to force in a run and sophomore Brooke Senkbeil walked to score another and put the Wildcats up 2-1.

Northville made it 2-2 in the third, when Chapek singled home Buckingham, who led off the



A puff of dust means that Plymouth shortstop Lindsay Lutton caught the ball.

inning with a base hit. The Wildcats answered in the bottom half. Sophomore shortstop Lindsay Lutton drove a double to right-center and scored on Giordano's subsequent single to right. Giordano went 2-for-3 to

pace Plymouth's seven-hit attack.

That 3-2 lead held up until the fifth. Once again, Buckingham got it started with a single. One out later, Chapek doubled to score the run. Northville advanced to

Friday's 10 a.m. district contest against Salem. The winner of that game will face either Livonia Churchill or Canton at 4 p.m. in the final.

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Summer festivals offer unique shows, family fun

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

They run. They race. They jump hurdle after hurdle.

And with 28 shows planned for the six-day Livonia Spree next month, David Feimster's racing stars are among the hardest-working entertainers you'll find at a local festival this summer. At less than 18 weeks old, they also are the youngest.

"At six weeks old I take them and train them," said Feimster, whose New Jersey-based Hot Dog Pig Racing show will return to Livonia Spree Tuesday-Sunday, June 19-24, at Ford Field, corner of Farmington Road and Lyndon in Livonia.

The pigs learn to race around a track and jump tiny hurdles while sporting a costume. Each show consists of five races, including one with a twist involving hot dog attire.

Feimster, who created a niche entertainment business racing skunks before he got into training swine 17 years ago, will send three troupes of performing pigs on the road this summer. Most of their gigs will take them to fairs and festivals on the East Coast, although Feimster said the show travels extensively throughout the country.

Fame is short-lived for the show-biz piglets.



Fifty Amp Fuse will rock the Canton Liberty Fest Thursday, June 14.

Feimster sends them back to the farm when they are between 12-18 weeks old, weighing less than 50-60 pounds. An older, full-sized hog can weigh hundreds of pounds.

"At full size they do what THEY want," he said.

The retired performers enter a breeding program at a farm and because they have been trained "they are very friendly pigs at that point," Feimster said.

"It makes the breeding program easier."

Catch the Hot Dog Pig Racing show at 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 19 and five times daily Wednesday-

Sunday at the festival. The annual Livonia Spree also offers a battle of the bands; live country, rock, and tribute music; clowns and magicians; dancers; martial arts demonstrations; races, contests and games, including a pie-eating contest; a charity casino tent; arts and crafts; carnival rides and more. Fireworks wrap up the fun Sunday, June 24. Visit www.livoniaspree.com for a complete schedule.

Here's a sampling of other summer community, art and specialty festivals:

• **Michigan Fun Fest**, formerly known as the Sahara Fest, runs May

31-June 1 at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, located on Merriman Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia. Taste Middle Eastern food, play a carnival game or dance the night away to live music. The event benefits the church's proposed Mar-iam Center; www.michiganfunfest.com

• **Birmingham Village Fair**, May 31-June 3 in Shain Park, located in downtown Birmingham, includes carnival rides, games and food. Check the Birmingham Village Fair's Facebook page for more details.

• **Art on the Grand**, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday,

June 2 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, June 3, on Grand River Ave., near Farmington Road in downtown Farmington, features more than 100 booths with paintings, sculpture, photography, jewelry, pottery, fiber, mixed media. Entertainment, food, kids area; www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us

• **4th Annual Lyon Township Kite Festival**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, June 2, at James F. Atchison Memorial Park, 58000 Grand River Ave. Professional kite demonstrations, live entertainment, a classic car display, and plenty of activities for the children including inflatables, face painting, radio

control boat races and kite decorating. Admission is free and includes free kite kits for children, while supplies last. Kites for adults will also be available for purchase; <http://www.lyontwp.org>

• **Redford Township Festival** runs Thursday-Sunday, June 7-10, with fireworks on Saturday, June 9, at Bell Creek Park, located at Five Mile and Inkster Road. Saturday also is "Kids Day" and will offer lots of children's activities. Live music and entertainment, carnival games and midway rides offered throughout the festival; www.redfordtwp.com

• **18th Annual Clay, Glass & Metal Show** runs 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday, June 9 and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, June 10, on Washington Ave. between Lincoln and Fourth, in downtown Royal Oak. 125 juried artists, food, music, artists' demos, hands-on projects. www.royalokchamber.com. (248) 547-4000.

• **Seventh Annual Chaldean Festival**, June 8-10 on the Southfield Civic Center lawn, 26000 Evergreen, in Southfield. Live music, carnival rides, games, children's activities, food, merchant booths, family fun entertainment for all. Proceeds benefit Chaldean Community Foundation. Call (248) 996-8340.

Please see FESTIVALS, B7



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Tickets: \$4.00
Buy tickets online: redfordtheatre.com

This romantic comedy won five major Oscars!

Friday June 1 - 8:00 p.m. & Saturday June 2 - 2 & 8:00 p.m.

Park in one of our **FREE** supervised parking lots!

Located at 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, MI 48219. The theatre is on the east side of Lahser, just north of Grand River. 24-hour information phone number: (313) 537-2560

FESTIVALS

Continued from page B6

• **Canton Liberty Fest**, Thursday-Saturday, June 14-16 in Heritage Park, located adjacent to the Canton Administration Building, west of Canton Center Road between Cherry Hill Road and Summit Parkway in Canton offers carnival games, midway rides and a petting farm. Hear rock music, country tunes, children's songs, Beatles tribute and international performances on the entertainment stage throughout the festival. Catch *The Muppets* movie at dusk on June 15 and fireworks on June 16. Paddle around the pond in a rental from Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental and check out cars on display at America's Most Wanted Car Club Show. www.cantonlibertyfest.com.

• **Novi Heritage Festival** runs 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 16 at MSU Tollgate Farm, 28115 Meadowbrook, Novi. See demonstrations of many heritage crafts including bee-keeping, maple syrup making, horseshoeing, basket making, and sheep herding. Event includes music, puppet shows, food, hay rides and fishing in the Tollgate pond. Call Roy Prentice at (248) 347-3860 ext 251 or prentic1@msu.edu for more information.

• **Summer Beer Fest**, 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, June 23, at Roy-



Hot Dog Pig Racing returns to Livonia Spree next month. They'll perform several shows every day during the six-day community festival.

al Oak Farmers Market, 316 East 11 Mile, in Royal Oak, will include samplings of more than 100 different brews, plus beer-inspired food, music and more. Proceeds benefit Camp Casey. Tickets are \$40 at www.camp-casey.org. Call (248) 705-2780.

• **Westland Summer Festival** runs Friday-Wednesday, June 29-July 4 at Westland City Hall grounds, 36601 Ford Road. Fireworks cap six days of carnival fun, food, nightly entertainment and more; www.cityofwestland.com

• **Arts and Acts**, June 22-24, offers art by more

than 85 artists, film, food, music, literature and theater in downtown Northville. Art in the Sun, the art component of the festival, includes a children's art area, musical entertainment and food. The Reel Michigan Film Festival, Short on Words Literature Contest and Sandbox Play Festival take place at the Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady; (248) 344-0497.

• **Art in the Park**, July 13-15, in downtown Plymouth, features works by more than 400 artists, entertainment, kids activities and food. Visit www.artinthepark.com.

• **Farmington Founder's Festival**, Friday-Saturday, July 20-21 includes a parade at 10 a.m. Saturday, along Grand River Ave., from Power Road to Liberty. The festival offers a crafter's marketplace and book sale, along Farmington Road in downtown Farmington; a tavern in Riley Park; a movie on Friday in Shiawassee Park and more; www.foundersfestival.com

• **4th Annual Redford Parks & Arts Conservancy IART Festival**, runs noon-9 p.m. July 21 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. July 22 at the Redford Township



"Sunflowers" by Kathleen Spellman will be among the art works on exhibit at Art of the Grand, June 2-3 in downtown Farmington.

Marquee, located in the Town Hall complex at 15145 Beech Daly, one block south of the Five Mile. The Interactive Art festival is a chance to explore your creativity at free arts workshops and interactive art stations around the event site. Includes music, dance, drama, street performers, a kids' art zone, art demonstrations, food and arts and crafts for sale; www.rpaconservancy.org

• **South Lyon's inaugural Blues Brews and Brats** festival runs 4-11 p.m., July 28 in downtown South Lyon. Barbara Payton and the Instigators, Those Delta Rhythm Kings, and Billy Davis will perform. Admission to the beverage tent, which will feature suds from the local Witch's Hat Brewing Company, is \$3. For more information, visit http://www.southlyonchamber.com/1/123/blues_brews_and_brats.asp.

• **Concours D'Elegance**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, July 29, at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth, features classic cars from 1900-1970; www.concoursusa.org.

• **Fourth Annual Buy Michigan Now Festival**, Aug. 3-5, celebrates the state's annual Buy Michigan Week with sidewalk sales, street vendors, live music, and children's activities, in downtown Northville; (248) 349-0345; <http://www.buymichigannow.com/>

• **Berkley CruiseFest**, kicks off the Woodward Dream Cruise with a Classic Car Parade, music and a street dance, Friday, Aug. 17, in downtown Berkley; www.berkleymich.org.

• **15th Annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats**, Aug. 31-Sept. 3, in downtown Royal Oak, includes 200 performances on 10 stages, 135 artists, 65 food booths. www.artsbeatsandeats.com. Call (248) 334-4600.



Spotlight on Youth actors rehearse "Bye Bye Birdie." The musical runs for one weekend only, Thursday-Sunday, May 31-June 3 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Youth actors stage musical in Canton

Spotlight on Youth will stage the feel-good, light-hearted musical, *Bye Bye Birdie* this weekend at the Village Theater at Cherry Hills in Canton.

The show tells the story of Conrad Birdie, a singer similar to Elvis Presley, who is drafted into the army in the late 1950s. His agent, Albert and his secretary/sweetheart, Rose, come up with a plan to have Conrad kiss a loyal fan and launch a hit record. Full of well known songs, like *Put on a Happy Face* and *Kids, Bye Bye Birdie* takes the audience to a time when life was much simpler.

Novi resident and Director Barbara Bloom said the show was "a treat" to work on because the actors portrayed characters their same age.

"I have done the show several times

and this is the first time that so many of the roles are being played by the very talented youth of Spotlight on Youth who are the actual ages of the characters," she stated in a press release. "These are teen-agers playing teen-agers."

The show times are 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, May 31-June 3, with 2 p.m. matinees Saturday-Sunday. The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

Get tickets by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater or www.spotlightplayersmi.org or in person at The Summit on the Park or at the door. Box office opens one hour prior to the show. Tickets are \$15 each.

Comedy night benefits charity

Helping Hands Charity is selling tickets to the opening night performance of *Sylvia* at the Two Muses Theater, located at Barnes & Noble, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple in West Bloomfield.

Forty percent of the proceeds from the show at 8 p.m., June 9 will go to the organization to buy shoes and mosquito nets and to build classrooms for the Venda Tribe in Mutele, South Africa. The group will get an additional 10 percent of proceeds for selling 50 tickets or more by June 6.

Sylvia is a comedy about a man who finds a dog in a park and takes it home. His wife isn't happy with his find and the dog, who has an attitude, can talk.

Buy opening night charity tickets for \$18 each from Sidney Bonvallet, Helping Hands founder. Send a check, made out to Helping Hands Charity, to Bonvallet at 27565 Spring Valley Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Questions? Call Bonvallet at (248) 514-3022.

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Ripe vegetables, fresh herbs and fragrant spices all lend vibrant, bold flavors to mouthwatering meals that are worth lingering over with friends. This is what Mediterranean cooking is all about.

Add some Mediterranean inspiration to your everyday meals with these recipes using olive oils to help you turn an ordinary meal into a memorable one.

Use extra virgin olive oil to add a full-bodied flavor to salads, vegetables and meats. Pure olive oil offers a mild, subtle olive flavor with a hint of fruit to sautés and stir-fries. Light tasting olive oil is ideal as an all-purpose cooking oil that can be used for sautéing, roasting vegetables or in baked goods like muffins, cakes and brownies. For more recipes, visit www.crisco.com.

Roasted Lemon-Garlic Chicken

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour 40 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

Chicken:

Olive oil no-stick cooking spray

1 tablespoon pure olive oil or light tasting olive oil

½ teaspoon oregano

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 (4 to 5 pound) whole chicken, rinsed with neck and giblets removed

Salt and pepper

Gravy:

½ cup cold water

¼ cup milk

1 (0.87 to 1.2 ounces) package chicken gravy mix

½ teaspoon oregano

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1½ teaspoons fresh lemon juice

1. Heat oven to 400°F. Spray a shallow roasting pan with rack with no-stick cooking spray.

2. Mix oil, oregano and garlic. Brush mixture over entire chicken. Season chicken liberally with salt and pepper. Place in prepared pan, breast side down; let stand 30 minutes. Turn chicken breast side up.

3. Roast 65 to 70 minutes, basting occasionally. Chicken is done when meat thermometer registers 170°F or when juices run clear when thickest part of thigh is pricked. Transfer chicken to carving board; tent with aluminum foil. Allow to rest 10 minutes.

4. Skim grease from the pan drippings. Place ¼ cup skimmed pan drippings into small saucepan. Add water, milk, gravy mix, oregano, garlic and lemon juice to pan. Cook, stirring constantly until gravy thickens.

5. Carve chicken. Place on serving platter. Serve with warm lemon-garlic gravy.

transported by taste

Lavender Olive Oil Cake with Honeyed Ricotta

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 55 minutes

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

Pillsbury Baking Spray with Flour

1½ cups all purpose flour

1½ teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup sugar

1 tablespoon finely grated orange peel

1 tablespoon culinary lavender, crushed, plus additional 1 to 2 tablespoons for garnish

¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

½ cup plain yogurt

3 large eggs

½ cup pure olive oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ cup heavy cream

3 tablespoons honey

½ cup ricotta cheese, at room temperature

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Spray a 9- by 5-inch loaf pan generously with baking spray; set aside.

2. Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a small bowl. Whisk together sugar, orange peel, lavender and pepper in a large mixing bowl until evenly distributed. Add yogurt, eggs and olive oil; continue whisking until smooth. Whisk in vanilla. Add flour mixture and gently whisk in until just combined. Scrape batter into prepared pan.

3. Bake 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 5 minutes; remove from pan and cool completely.

4. Whip cream with an electric mixer until soft peaks form. Add honey and continue to whip until stiff. Add ricotta cheese, a dollop at a time, and beat until fluffy. Slice cake. Top slices with honeyed ricotta and sprinkle with lavender.

Mediterranean Linguine with Basil and Tomatoes

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Yield: 8 servings

1 1-pound box linguine pasta

1 tablespoon salt, or to taste

½ cup extra virgin olive oil

2 pints grape tomatoes (4 cups), cut in half

1 tablespoon minced garlic

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

Salt and pepper to taste

18 to 20 basil leaves, cut in thin strips

¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus additional for garnish

1. Heat 6 quarts water to boiling. Add pasta and salt. Cook for the minimum recommended time on package directions. While pasta cooks, prepare sauce.

2. Heat olive oil in large skillet on medium heat. Add tomatoes and garlic. Cook and stir 2 minutes or until tomatoes are soft. Remove from heat. Stir in vinegar and pepper flakes.

3. Drain cooked pasta. Add to skillet. Cook and stir 1 minute or until pasta is coated and hot. Remove from heat. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in basil and cheese. Serve with additional cheese, if desired.

— Courtesy of Family Features



MEDITERRANEAN ESSENTIALS

Fresh and flavorful ingredients are the key to great Mediterranean cooking, so keep some of these essential ingredients on hand:

- Vegetables — tomatoes, onions, shallots, peppers, carrots, spinach, eggplant
- Grains — pasta, couscous, oats, barley, corn, rice
- Dairy — yogurt, unsalted butter
- Beans and legumes — chickpeas, cannellini beans, lentils
- Fresh herbs and spices — cumin, garlic, rosemary, fennel, oregano, basil
- Cheese — Parmigiano-Reggiano, pecorino, ricotta, Manchego, feta
- Condiments — olive oil, balsamic vinegar, olives, capers, honey

Parade of Homes provides look at range of lifestyles in region



The Silverleaf in Lyon Township is from Healy Homes.

Parade of Homes 2012, the 23rd annual exhibition of new model homes located across southeastern Michigan, will open on June 1 and run through June 30. Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA), Bank of America Home Loans, DTE Energy and WindowPRO are the sponsors of this public event.

"Homebuyers have an excellent opportunity right now to take advantage of still low interest rates and competitive home prices that will certainly increase in the coming years," said Rich Kligman of Superb Custom Homes and president of BIA. "Today's buyers are in a unique position to take advantage of the buyer's market as we begin the climb into a better economy."

The Parade of Homes offers potential homebuyers a unique opportunity to visit the area's finest model and inventory homes, including condominiums and single-family homes, affordable housing and estate-sized homes. Visitors to the homes will have an opportunity to see first-hand the latest trends in energy efficiency and green building, architecture, interior design, amenities and materials. The 34 model, under construction and pre-construction homes and condominiums range in base price from \$171,000 to \$1,600,000.

Architects and industry experts will judge the homes and award blue ribbons in several categories. The judges will make their decisions based on the innovative use of space and design, aesthetic appeal of the home and value for the price. Judges for this year's program will be Lonny S. Zimmerman, AIA, NCARB of Siegal/Tuomaa-



The Cambridge V is in Northville Township, from Tremont Construction LLC by Cohen Homes.



The Torino II in Commerce Township is from Pinnacle Homes.

Associates; Benedetto Tiseo, FAIA, NCARB of Tiseo Architects, Inc.; Michael J. Gordon, RA of Moiseev/Gordon Associates and Paul Salloom, Regional Sales Manager, Bank of America Home Loans.

A Parade of Homes magazine containing renderings, features and location maps for all homes will be distributed with select home delivery of *The Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* on Sunday, June 3, available at Bank of America loca-

tions throughout southeastern Michigan, at select Kroger locations, at WindowPRO in Livonia and at all participating model homes beginning June 1.

For additional information on the Parade of Homes, visit www.BIAParadeofHomes.com beginning June 1. Also check this website for information on "Open House Parties" being held at some of the Parade models on June 9 and 10 featuring refreshments and special events. This is the only Parade



The Ellington (pre-construction) in Novi is from Superb Custom Homes/Evergreen Development LLC.

of Homes event BIA will sponsor this year.

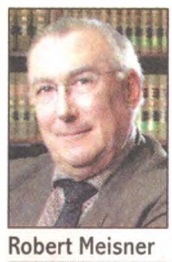
Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and Apartment Association of Michigan are trade associations representing nearly 600 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. BIA is affiliated with the Michigan Association of Home Builders in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. Membership nationwide includes more than 175,000 individuals and companies.

FHA nod big help with sales

By Robert Meisner
 Guest Columnist

Q: I am a new real estate agent and I am wondering what you think are the major complaints by Realtors regarding the association's failings in helping to sell condominium units.

A: Some agents say that associations contribute to the dysfunction with the real estate industry by restricting signs, charging hefty disclosure fees, failing to respond and



Robert Meisner

keeping sloppy records. However, one of the newest and biggest complaints that agents lodge is that the association doesn't get important approval from the Federal Housing Administration since the aftermath of the mortgage meltdown has not made FHA-insured loans a much more important source for buyers. The condominium buyers who want the cheaper FHA-backed loans are not limited to purchasing in an association that has been approved by the administration. Some associations do not want to bother getting that certification which, frankly, undermines the ability of people to readily liquidate their units.

Q: I have heard that some cities have passed no smoking laws which may affect condominiums and other community association common areas. Do you have any information?

A: I believe that the cities of Santa Monica and Pasadena, Calif., have passed no smoking laws which appear to affect common areas adjacent to the condominiums and at least Santa Monica's allows owners to designate theirs as a non-smoking unit for the future. It is possible to work with a multiple building condominium to pass rules wherein each building elects to go nonsmoking on an individual basis and that is something about which you should confer with a progressive community association lawyer.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit meisner@meisner-law.com.

This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 20-24, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON
 4278 Forest Bridge Dr \$208,000
 45929 Graystone Ln \$139,000
 45945 Graystone Ln \$129,000
 50117 Jackson Ln \$227,000
 1719 Orchard Dr \$25,000
 49732 Potomac Rd \$192,000
 3996 Sherwood Cir \$187,000

39686 Wales St \$125,000
 41299 Westfield Cir \$175,000
GARDEN CITY
 6845 Helen St \$73,000
 29911 Leona Ct \$50,000
 30834 Sheridan St \$41,000
LIVONIA
 20121 Antago St \$24,000
 11409 Blackburn St \$140,000
 38063 Donald St \$49,000
 35219 Lancashire Rd \$199,000
 32970 Martin St \$115,000
 19520 Parker St \$98,000
 20114 Saint Francis St \$25,000
 10031 Seltzer St \$43,000
NORTHVILLE

46665 Seven Mile Rd \$520,000
 15762 Johnson Creek Dr \$135,000
 47801 Lake View Ct \$223,000
 17322 Stonebrook Dr \$523,000
 48856 Stoneridge Dr \$793,000
PLYMOUTH
 356 Auburn St \$267,000
 1302 Maple St \$475,000
 498 N Evergreen St \$175,000
 45500 N Turtlehead Ct \$237,000
 40858 Newport Dr \$59,000
 10994 Pinehurst Rd \$225,000
 45227 Pinetree Dr \$296,000
REDFORD
 14041 Breakfast Dr \$143,000
 14163 Breakfast Dr \$110,000

17673 Centralia \$36,000
 25533 Elba \$38,000
 9335 Louis \$30,000
 12038 Marion \$60,000
 12208 Nathaline \$58,000
 9217 Sarasota \$28,000
 15424 Woodbine \$20,000
WESTLAND
 8198 August Ave \$55,000
 33540 Birchlawn \$140,000
 32787 Chaplain Cir \$90,000
 29810 Lacy Dr \$78,000
 814 S Wildwood St \$62,000
 7333 Sycamore Ln \$60,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Feb. 6-10, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS
 30395 Leemoor St \$143,000
BINGHAM FARMS
 23139 Old Orchard Trl \$160,000
BIRMINGHAM
 852 Davis Ave \$458,000
 635 Lake Park Dr \$1,900,000
 1665 Mansfield Rd \$164,000
 593 N Old Woodward Ave \$166,000

662 Purdy St \$156,000
 573 Smith Ave \$518,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
 4427 Barchester Dr \$295,000
 1283 Greenglen Ct \$197,000
 2290 Hunt Club Dr \$265,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
 6700 Oakhills Dr \$1,264,000
 2168 Somerset Rd \$82,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP
 1772 Applebrook Dr \$50,000
 1704 Lyka \$110,000
 9549 Volga Dr \$210,000
FARMINGTON
 21384 Birchwood St \$128,000
 22724 Power Rd \$162,000
FARMINGTON HILLS
 21232 Gill Rd \$186,000
 35165 Glengary Cir \$195,000

30115 Mayfair Dr \$315,000
 21930 Sheffield Dr \$230,000
 29726 White Hall Dr \$185,000
 35181 White Pine Trl \$100,000
 Lathrup Village
 27320 Goldengate Dr W \$135,000
MILFORD
 1599 Hunters Lake Ct \$406,000
NOVI
 29341 Douglas Dr \$185,000
 21149 Dundee Dr \$375,000
 44149 Durson St \$120,000
 45437 Irvine Dr \$378,000
 25790 Lochmoor Ln \$325,000
 27101 Maxwell Ct \$45,000
 27122 Maxwell Ct \$45,000
 22177 Pondview \$119,000
 24945 Sarah Flynn \$210,000
 21580 Trent Ct \$425,000

24062 Willowbrook \$94,000
SOUTH LYON
 815 Huntington Dr \$234,000
 425 Pettibone St # 427 \$200,000
 52815 Willowbrook Dr \$61,000
SOUTHFIELD
 27585 Arlington Ct \$123,000
 29721 Fall River Rd \$59,000
 23407 Grayson Dr \$40,000
 23407 Grayson Dr \$18,000
 18820 Jeanette St \$117,000
 30565 Nadora St \$99,000
 18164 Onyx St \$96,000
 20771 Southhome St \$10,000
WHITE LAKE
 585 Teggerdine Rd \$61,000
 1311 Waverly Dr \$160,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

New face

The multi-office Southeast Michigan real estate brokerage RE/MAX Classic welcomes aboard associate broker Betty Clark to the Novi location. The Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Realtor Institute member specializes in residential and condominium sales,



Betty Clark

with her over 20 years of experience. Her extended education offers

waterfront properties and relocation assistance throughout Oakland County. Clark brings

assistance to distressed property owners holding such highly distinguished designations as the SFR - Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource Specialist.

"Betty's experience in the real estate industry is legendary. Her education and experience have her poised for success in every endeavor of our real estate market," said Carol

Boji, broker/owner of RE/MAX Classic.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tues-

day of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. Any questions, call Wayne Koehler, (313) 277-4168.

Oakland Investors

Learn "Real Estate Basics for the Beginning

Investor." A three-hour class (9 a.m. to noon) in a series of 10 sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Saturday, June 1, at the Royal Oak Senior Center, 3500 Marias, Royal Oak (north off 13 Mile, between Crooks and Main). Cost \$49, plus materials. OREIAClass@AddedValueRealty.com; (248) 787-7325.

