

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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HUMOR AND A SPIRITUAL QUEST

ENTERTAINMENT, B8

Event on gay Catholics draws protest

Group urges church to soften views on homosexuality

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Protesters calling for the Catholic church to soften its stance on homosexuality picketed and sang hymns Tuesday morning outside a church-sponsored international conference on gay and lesbian Catholics.

Some 25 people stood outside the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township for about 90 minutes as people arrived for the second day of "Welcoming and Accompanying Our Brothers and Sisters with Same-Sex Attractions," a three-

day conference organized by Courage, a church ministry for gays and lesbians.

The conference, which began Monday, featured talks on ministering to those with same-sex attraction, the psychology of homosexuality, and homosexuality and the family; speakers included priests, ethicists, psychologist Timothy Lock, philosophy professor Deborah Savage and lesbian Catholic author Eve Tushnet.

Protesters outside the church should go further in accepting lesbian and gay Catholics by accepting homosexual relationships. The

church teaches that homosexual acts – homosexuals themselves – are sinful, but protester Janice Laesser of Macomb Township said not all Catholic parents of gays and lesbians agree that sexual abstinence is "right or natural for our kids or loved ones" and that it "shouldn't be the only alternative."

'Jesus would'

"I don't expect the church to accept gay marriage as a sacrament," said a man who declined to give his name, "but I expect the church to accept gay people as Jesus would."

Tuesday's protest was orga-

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

George and Kit Belvitch are from Plymouth Township. George is president of the local chapter of PFLAG.



Michele Matuszewski, who signed up in Plymouth for the Senior Olympics, celebrates making a shot.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Athletes take their best shot at Senior Olympics

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Beverly Powell, 66, clutched the basketball, eyed the rim and fired her best shot.

Swish. Powell made five of 10 shots, enough to earn her the

women's gold medal in the 60-69 age bracket Monday afternoon during the week-long, 11th annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics.

She earned her medal in Canton's Summit on the Park gymnasium mere hours after she clinched gold among her

age group during a Frisbee-tossing contest in Westland.

"I enjoy socializing with the people. We laugh and have a lot of fun," Powell, a Sumpter Township resident, said. "It keeps us young."

Canton's basketball shoot

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hassan Darouie of Canton makes a shot, even though he recently had shoulder surgery.

Plymouth parent appointed to P-CCS board

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Plymouth resident Patrick Kehoe has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the seven-member Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

Kehoe and retired Plymouth-Canton educator and administrator George Belvitch were the two finalists seeking to fill a vacancy on the board left by longtime trustee Mark Horvath, who resigned in July. Following a series of the same seven questions — asked of both finalists — Kehoe was selected, based on total scores awarded each candidate.

The Board of Education made their choice official in a 5-0 vote. Trustee Mike Maloney was absent.

Kehoe, a solutions engineer with Hewlett Packard, will serve the remainder of Horvath's term, which expires in 2018. All board members serve six-year terms. Kehoe, who with his wife, Jennifer, has two children in the school district.

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Kehoe

Pink party: Plymouth welcomes 3-Day walkers

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Veterans of the Susan G. Komen 3-Day agree: Plymouth offers the biggest, warmest welcome of any stop on their route.

That was the consensus again Saturday as about 950 walkers, raising money to help fight breast cancer, passed through downtown Plymouth to cheers of hundreds of well-wishers. Walkers, many from other states, were in the sec-

ond day of an event that took them from the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi to the Ford Motor Co. world headquarters in Dearborn.

"We love Plymouth the best," said Priscilla Shay of Garden City, walking the Michigan 3-Day for the eighth time. "We look forward to our Plymouth."

"Definitely puts a big smile on our faces," Carrie Douros of Danville, Calif., said of walkers' reception in Plymouth. "It keeps us going," said

Becky Sumner, also of Danville, Douros' walking partner.

Douros and Sumner had just stopped on the "pink carpet," a new 3-Day feature in Kellogg Park sponsored by Graph-X Signs in Plymouth Township. Walkers and their supporters were invited to stop on the carpet — pink is the color adopted by the Susan G. Komen Foundation in its breast cancer fight — for celebrity photos, taken by Downtown

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MATT JACHMAN
Cheerleaders calling themselves pink fairies dressed up to encourage walkers traveling Ann Arbor Trail near Kellogg Park.



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PROTEST

Continued from Page A1

nized by Fortunate Families Detroit, an organization of Catholic parents and allies of LGBTQ — for lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning — people. The local chapter of PFLAG, an organization for family members and friends of gay and lesbian people, and Dignity Detroit, an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics, were also represented.

Protesters Tuesday carried signs that said, "God created our kids gay," "God speaks in our life experiences," and "We love our gay kids," and sang the church hymns *All Are Welcome* and *Let There Be Peace on Earth*.

Protester Kit Blevitch of Plymouth Township, who has a gay son, said the church needs to take a softer tone with its

language on homosexuality. Homosexual acts are called "disordered" and "contrary to the natural law" in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

"They've already kicked our kids out," said Blevitch.

"Just tired of the right-wingers in the church," said Larry Parks, a member of Dignity Detroit. "I'm not inherently disordered, as they say."

Parks said he attends different churches in the Flint area, where he lives, but that "it's never a place where I feel welcome." Parks converted to Catholicism in 1990 because his partner was Catholic, he said.

Church spokesman: Welcoming is goal

Joe Kohn, a spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, a sponsor of the Courage conference, said the event's title, "Welcoming and Accompanying Our Brothers and Sisters with Same-Sex Attractions,"

speaks to its goal.

"We want people to know that the church is there to support and to minister to those with same-sex attraction," said Kohn. "We believe we can do so in a way that is true to nature and true to God's revelation."

Kohn said the archdiocese appreciated that protesters were courteous and prayerful. He suggested conference organizers and protesters have much in common.

"We want the same thing. We want them to know that the church loves and embraces their loved ones with same-sex attraction," Kohn said.

However, Kohn said, church teaching is that any couple outside of marriage should remain celibate.

About 400 people had signed up for the Courage conference, Kohn said, representing 38 U.S. states and several countries around the world. Archbishop Allen Vigneron, leader of the Detroit archdiocese, was to celebrate the conference's closing Mass on Wednesday afternoon.

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BOARD

Continued from Page A1

"Both of you are outstanding candidates," board President John Barrett said, as he announced Kehoe's selection, followed by his swearing in. Kehoe shook hands with each trustee before taking his seat on the board for the regular Tuesday meeting.

The two-meeting appointment process began with the interviews of eight candidates Aug. 4. Based on scoring that night, Belvitch and Kehoe were selected for final interviews Tuesday. Barrett congratulated the eight candidates who sought appointment. He suggested any or all seek school district committee appointments or election to the Board of Education.

"I would like to thank the board for giving me this opportunity," Kehoe said.

Trustee Kate Borniski thanked Belvitch for his participation. "I wish we had two spots (on board)."

The seven questions asked by trustees ranged from the candidates' approaches to decision making to working with people



JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
Plymouth-Canton Board of Education President John Barrett swears in new Trustee Patrick Kehoe.

with whom they may disagree, their assessment of a board member's role, and being offered a multiple choice of what they might cut to balance a budget.

Trustee Sheila Paton — making clear the question was not based on facts — gave each candidate a choice of cutting: 12 elementary school teachers, which would increase class size from 28 to 30 kids; or eliminating 12 reading intervention support staff; or 12 media specialists.

Belvitch told the board that as a retired educator — with friends who are educators — he felt it was unfair to make that choice for the interview. His decision, however, would be based on what would be best for

students, he added.

Kehoe answered with a question. "Can we cut four of each?" That way, he said, a smaller reduction in each category might minimize the impact on students.

The new board member — in response to questions — said that when faced with someone whose opinion he doesn't immediately support, "I try to put myself in their shoes."

Doing that, Kehoe continued, in some cases has led him to change his opinion. "It is always important to be respectful and understand these (opposing) positions."

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3-DAY

Continued from Page A1

Development Authority director Tony Bruscatto and Department of Municipal Services director Chris Porman.

Pink was the color of the day Saturday: Spectators wore pink (some dressed in pink fairy outfits) and waved pink balloons, dance team members from Dexter High School cheered with pink pom poms and the water in the Kellogg Park fountain was colored pink.

"It's our favorite. It's a beautiful town. We feel like rock stars here," said Jona Maranian of Taylor, Shay's walking partner. Maranian, doing her seventh 3-Day, and Shay



MATT JACHMAN
Tim Robbins (middle) of Vernon Hills, Ill., offered high-fives and hugs Saturday to walkers crossing Main Street at Ann Arbor Trail. Robbins was a route safety volunteer for the Michigan 3-Day and his wife Laurie was a walker.

had also stopped on the pink carpet.

Komen's Michigan 3-Day, one of

seven such walks around the country, raised more than \$1.9 million for research and community-based health and education programs focused on breast cancer, according to the Komen Foundation.

Ellen Banta of Phoenix was walking in her 15th 3-Day and plans to do all seven of the 2015 Komen 3-Day walks around the country. The Michigan 3-Day was the first of 2015.

Banta said she was originally motivated by her background in public health and that, since she started walking in 2006, loved ones have been diagnosed with cancer.

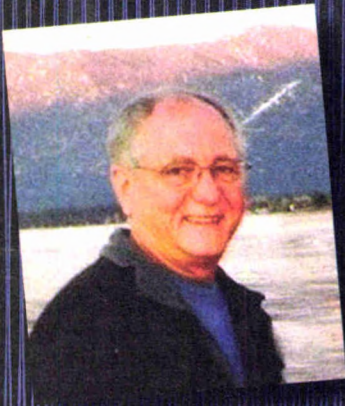
"It's the least I can do," she said.

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Get your dose of music in Plymouth's Kellogg Park

It's not too late to try out the variety of musical programs in downtown Plymouth this summer. Take a peek and check your calendar.

Plymouth Community Band

All concerts are in Kellogg Park. The last date is Sept. 3.

The Plymouth Community Band will also sponsor the following group at 7:30 p.m. in Kellogg Park:

Aug. 13: Toot Sweet Brass.

Music in the Air

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. in Kellogg Park and are free. Alcohol is not permitted in the park.

The following concerts are scheduled:

Aug. 14: The Phoenix Theory

Aug. 21: Randy Brock Group

Aug. 28: Magic Bus

Sept. 4: Steve King and the Dittilies

Music in the Park Children's Concerts

The Plymouth Community Arts Council hosts its 31st season at noon each Wednesday.

Upcoming concerts include:

Aug. 19: Barbara Bailey Hutchinson

Aug. 26: Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic

Performances are free thanks to program sponsors: The Wilcox Foundation, DJL Builders, Monroe Bank & Trust, Plymouth-Canton Montessori School, Kona Ice, Genuine Toy Co. and Huron Valley Ambulance.

Concerts are held rain (with no lightning) or shine. The rain location is under the roof at The Gathering, adjacent to the park.



Bring the kids out for Music in the Park at noon each Wednesday.

Salvation Army looking for back-to-school donations

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, in partnership with the Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren school districts, the Wilcox Foundation, the Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, the Plymouth Rotary Foundation and Payless Shoe Stores, has launched a school supply drive now through the Aug. 31.

The drive seeks to collect new school supplies and backpacks for students K-12 for the upcoming school year for students in Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville.

Families who are struggling with school supplies this year can call the week of Aug. 17 for an appointment to apply for assistance. All families will need to provide proof of residency, as well as Social Security cards for each member of their home and picture ID for those over 18.

This year, the Salvation Army is urging the public to show teachers they are appreciated. Teachers spend a great deal of their personal monies to help stock their classroom. It is the organization's goal to help them by making sure there are school supplies in each classroom so all kids are equipped to learn, said Laurie Aren, director of Family and Community Ministries.

Since its inception in 2008, The Back 2 School Blitz has sent 1,854 students back to school with grade-appropriate school supplies. Noting the need for classroom supplies, as well as individual student supplies, we want to support teachers by collecting loose leaf paper, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, glue sticks, dry erase markers and red pens.

Needed supplies include new backpacks (particularly for older students), binders, markers, wide-ruled paper and one-subject notebooks, pens (red, black and blue), No. 2 pencils, rulers, protractors, compasses, composition books and folders.

In addition to school supplies, the Army will accept donations of new socks and underwear and gently used clothing that will be distributed through the Plymouth Canton Community Clothing Bank, a partner of The Salvation Army throughout the year.

Monetary gifts will be used to purchase Payless gift cards and miscellaneous school supplies that will be distributed to each child. Following the distribution to registered families, the remaining school supplies will be divided between the Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren Schools to be shared where the need is greatest.

Donations will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. For more information, contact Aren at 734-453-5464, ext 29, or by email at laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Get out hogs and helmets for first 'Ride for Red Shield'

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Sandy Kollinger will be on her Honda Shadow on Saturday, Aug. 22, in the Plymouth Salvation Army's inaugural "Ride for the Red Shield."

She will be joined by her husband and dad, as well as at least 11 other motorcyclists — so far — and a minimum of four Wayne County Sheriff's deputies, members of the department's motorcycle unit, as the procession begins in Plymouth and heads to Wyandotte for this first-time fundraising event.

"It's exciting and nervous and everything in between," said Kollinger, Salvation Army volunteer and special events coordinator.

Kollinger, who began motorcycling about five years ago, had been thinking of a ride to help



The Plymouth Salvation Army's Sandy Kollinger is ready for the inaugural "Ride for the Red Shield," Aug. 22.

raise money for the Salvation Army. She finally took pen to paper and planned it this year.

The ride has a number of purposes. The first is fun. The second is a fundraiser. Thirdly, Kollinger and other Salvation Army officials want to get new groups of people — such as motorcyclists — familiar with the Army and its programs. "Anything the Salva-

tion Army does is about awareness," she said. "We want to get the community to see what we do."

Kollinger has quite a ride planned for participants. When she asks folks to get their hogs out, she's not talking farm animals. By the way, it's still open for more riders — right up to the morning they gather at the Plymouth Salva-

tion Army, 9451 S. Main Street.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast for all riders and their passengers. Tours of the corps community center and information about the Salvation Army's programs and services will be offered prior to the ride. Registered riders will depart from Plymouth at 11 a.m., escorted by the Wayne County Sheriff's Motorcycle Unit.

Motorcyclists will start down Ann Arbor Trail and take a break with refreshments at the Dearborn Public Schools Career Center in Dearborn Heights and then head down Outer Drive, a bit of the Southfield Freeway, to Biddle and, finally, Wyandotte and the Salvation Army's community center there. A barbecue lunch will be

served in Exchange Park right behind the Salvation Army.

"When the barbecue is over, everyone is free to go on their way," Kollinger said.

The event is \$25 for motorcyclists and \$15 for passengers. Each rider and passenger will receive an event T-shirt. "Ride for the Red Shield" proceeds will support programs and services offered at the Salvation Army of Plymouth and the Salvation Army of Wyandotte corps community center.

Thunder Valley Powersports, Inc. in Plymouth is a supporter of this event.

For more information about the event or to register, contact Kollinger at 734-453-5464, ext. 24, or Janice Quick at 734-282-0930, ext. 100.

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Northville man arraigned on child pornography charges

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A Northville Township man faces serious prison time after being arraigned Tuesday on a dozen felony counts involving child pornography.

James Ciccarelli was arraigned Tuesday before Judge James Plakas in 35th District Court in Plymouth on

12 felony counts, including three charges of child sexually abusive activity—distributing or promotion, a seven-year felony; three counts of using the computer or Internet to communicate with another to commit a crime, a 10-year felony; three counts of possession of child sexually abusive material, a four-year felony; and three counts of using a computer to com-

mit a crime, a 10-year felony.

A not-guilty plea was entered on Ciccarelli's behalf and Plakas set bond at \$100,000 (or 10 percent). Ciccarelli was also ordered not to access the Internet or have contact with children.

In court Tuesday, Northville Township Detective John Huerta testified Ciccarelli was found with several images he'd taken using his

cellphone camera.

Huerta, along with state, local and federal officers, conducted an ongoing investigation associated with Ciccarelli. Over the course of this investigation, a large volume of suspected child sexually abusive material was seized. These items consisted of images and videos.

The Northville Township Police Department has had an

ongoing partnership as a member of the Michigan State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This task force is responsible for conducting investigations which focus on children who are exploited via the internet involving sexually based crimes.

Ciccarelli is due back in 35th District Court for an Aug. 28 preliminary hearing.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Teen: Father threatened to kill me

A Canton man accused of brandishing a gun and threatening to kill his 18-year-old daughter was taken into custody after the young woman escaped the home and went to the police station with her mother.

No shots were fired and no injuries reported.

The incident unfolded shortly before 6 p.m. Aug. 5 in the 41700 block of Wild Turkey Lane, near Palmer and Haggerty.

The teen told police she had sent texts to her father at work asking if she could go to a friend's house and then to her mother's house.

The teen said the father arrived home, took her cellphone away and went to the basement. She said she followed him and he yelled at her, telling her not to return to his residence if she went to her mother's.

She began to pack and said he began yelling. She closed her bedroom door and propped a chair in front of it, saying she was frightened. She said he began kicking the door and threatened to assault her.

The teen said her father damaged the door, then threatened to kill her and went downstairs to get what she described as a black semiautomatic handgun. She said he pointed it at her and she ran into a bathroom and

locked the door. She said he knocked on the door and threatened her before going back downstairs. The teen then went to her room, grabbed her bag and fled the house, calling her mother from a neighbor's house.

Police took the father into custody and continued their investigation.

Weapons arrest

A 29-year-old Canton man wanted by Michigan State Police for a weapons offense was arrested Saturday by Canton police during a routine traffic stop.

Police noticed a Mercury Tracer with a loud muffler about 1:45 a.m. Saturday and pulled the driver over near his home at the Sherwood Village mobile home community, near Haggerty and Michigan Avenue.

Police ran a background check on the man and learned he was wanted for a weapons offense. The report didn't elaborate on the offense.

Canton police arranged to turn the man over to Michigan State Police and also issued him a citation for defective equipment.

Canine pot busts

A Canton police officer and his canine companion helped conduct a search warrant where federal authorities already had found mari-

See CRIME, Page A8

Here's how to aid a choking victim

My partner and I were sitting in our patrol vehicle working traffic along Interstate 96. It was around 11 p.m. A dispatch came out of a small child choking, requiring emergency response.

Although we were not the closest vehicle, we started to respond all the same. Another unit closer also was en route. As we drove, the dispatcher continued to keep us apprised of the situation. I remember my partner driving the car and repeating in a low voice, "Come on ... get there ... get there." We were both waiting and wanting to hear the other unit check in on-scene.

Choking is when someone is having a difficult time breathing because food, a toy or other object is blocking the throat or windpipe. A choking person's airway may be blocked so that not enough oxygen reaches the lungs. Without oxygen, brain damage can occur in as little as four to six minutes. Rapid first aid for choking can save a person's life.

Abdominal thrusts are an emergency technique to help clear someone's airway. The procedure is done on someone



GETTY IMAGES

Abdominal thrusts are an emergency technique to help clear someone's airway.

who is choking and also conscious. Most experts do not recommend abdominal thrusts for infants less than 1 year old. You can also perform the maneuver on yourself. First ask, "Are you choking? Can you speak?" Do not perform first aid if the person is coughing forcefully and is able to speak. A strong cough can often dislodge the object. If the person is choking, perform abdominal thrusts as follows:

» First, call 9-1-1 or send someone to call 9-1-1. Get help on the way. It is better to have them coming and not need them than not have them coming and need them.

» If the person is sitting or standing, position yourself behind the person and reach

your arms around his or her waist. For a child, you may have to kneel.

» Place your fist, thumb side in, just above the person's navel. Grasp the fist tightly with your other hand. Make quick, upward and inward thrusts with your fist.

» If the person is lying on his or her back, straddle the person facing the head. Push your grasped fist upward and inward in a movement similar to the one above. You may need to repeat the procedure several times before the object is dislodged.

» If the person loses consciousness, start CPR. If you are not comfortable performing abdominal thrusts, you can perform back blows instead on a person who is choking.

The radio seemed to be quiet for a long time. Finally, we heard the other unit check in at the scene. A few more moments passed as my partner and I kept staring at the radio waiting for good news. A few more minutes passed before a voice, filled with relief, responded the object had been dislodged and the child was breathing.

At that point, I think anyone listening to the radio that night took a deep breath.

If you have questions or comments, email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com, or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police Brighton post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

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SATURDAY 9am - 6pm

Sweet corn is waiting at annual Canton Lions roast

Don't forget the annual Canton Lions Club corn roast from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, near the Cady-Boyer Barn in Preservation Park, off Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill, on Canton's west side.

This is a big fundraiser for the Lions, who use the proceeds to buy eyeglasses, hearing aids and other devices for hearing- and vision-impaired people who can't afford the price tag.

For some, the corn roast stirs memories of a time when Canton had many more cornfields, before large subdivisions and shopping centers changed the landscape.

Local historians say Canton was once touted as the Sweet Corn Capital of Michigan. Dave Curtis, one of those historians, said the title was earned for the amount of corn grown and sold from about 1950-70.

Canton Lions Club is charging no admission for its all-you-can-eat roasted corn, served along with hot dogs, baked beans, watermelon, ice cream, cotton candy, snow cones and beverages, during the annual event.

The club does, however, ask for donations so it can support its charitable efforts. Gift baskets and a 50/50 raffle also are slated that day.

Among the highlights: » The Canton Concert Band, the resident ensemble of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, will perform.

» The Canton Historical Society will show what life was like in



Canton Lions Club members are expecting hundreds to attend the annual corn roast. But there's always room for more.

Canton's past.

» Canton-based Ear Center Audiology will offer hearing tests for those attending.

» Eversight, formerly the Michigan Eye Bank, is expected to attend. It assists donors who want to provide the gift of sight.

» Face-painting and balloon-twisting for children, along with a bounce house, will be available.

» Leader dog school representatives will be hand to explain the services they provide.

» A petting farm has been organized.

» Project Kids Sight will be there to help identify potential vision problems in children.

» Seedling Braille

Books, which provides books for the blind, is expected to join the corn roast.

» A group called Sisters of the Union are set to wear Victorian-era attire while they cook.

» Village Wellness Center is set to provide massages for those with tired backs.

» Wood carvers are expected to create sculptures from wood.

The 45-member Canton Lions Club serves Canton and Belleville. It meets once a month at Rose's Restaurant in Canton. For more information on becoming involved, call Van Winkle at 734-254-9404, send an email to govbill@wow-way.com or go to www.cantonlions.org.

Sign up for Bowling for Bark event

Bark for Life of Canton will hold Bowling for Bark 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, to help take the bite out of cancer.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
BARK FOR LIFE
A CANINE EVENT TO FIGHT CANCER

Sign-in begins at 6 p.m. at Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. The cost is \$22 per person and can be paid at check-in (fee includes two games, shoes, pizza and pop). There will be drawings, auctions and more fun.

Bark For Life adds a twist to the American Cancer Society's traditional Relay For Life, serving as a fundraising activity to honor the care-giving qualities of canine companions while supporting the mission of the society.

In 2014, the Bark for Life of Canton welcomed more than 90 canine participants and more than \$10,000 was raised toward the American Cancer Society's mission.

A major fundraising event will take place Saturday, Sept. 19, at Heritage Park in Canton. It will include registration at 10 a.m. and an opening ceremony at 11 a.m., survivor ceremony, music provided by Metro Entertainment DJ Services, Burger Spot (the official food vendor), photography provided by Eye 4 One photography, children's activities provided by Home Depot, shopping, best costume contest, musical sit and other fun on-site activities.

Event organizers are continuing to recruit dogs and their owners to take part in this year's Bark For Life. To regis-

ter online, go to the Bark For Life website at www.relayforlife.org/barkcantonmi

Funds raised through Bark For Life support the American Cancer Society's comprehensive cancer-fighting mission to help people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early, to help people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis, to find cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery and to fight back against cancer by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight.

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DIRECT FROM
LAS VEGAS

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Tribute

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Surf's Up

THE BEACH BOYS' TRIBUTE FROM LAS VEGAS
Village Theatre • 50400 Cherry Hill Road • Canton, MI 48187
Saturday • August 22, 2015 • 4pm & 7pm

Tickets: \$31.00 For detailed information & to order tickets visit
www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call 734-394-5300

SAT. OCT 17, 2015
THE FRANK SINATRA & DEAN MARTIN DINNER SHOW FROM LAS VEGAS
DINNER & SHOW ONLY \$35.00 CALL 248.473.7777 AT CORSI'S RESTAURANT IN LIVONIA

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Anniversary Sale!

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Janet Brady of Canton has reached the 100-medal mark.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OLYMPICS

Continued from Page A1

was among scores of competitions as hundreds of seniors touted their skills in a softball throw, soccer, euchre, volleyball, baking, bocce ball, photography, billiards, horseshoes and other events.

Hassan Darouie, a 71-year-old Canton man who has accumulated 36 medals over eight years in bocce ball, volleyball, tennis, basketball and soccer, didn't let shoulder surgery in April keep him from Senior Olympics, even though he is still healing.

Darouie said it's important to stay healthy mentally and physically and "be positive about life."

Michele Matuszewski, who signed up in Plymouth for Senior Olympics, won a silver medal in basketball in the age 70-79 age bracket, as did her husband, Rich, in the men's division. She was competing for the first time.

"Last year I was watching all the other ladies and they were having so much fun, I decided to try it," she said.

Seniors from Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Livonia, Wayne, Westland, Redford, Garden City, Northville, Northville Township and other communities participated.

Even before this week's contests, Canton resident Janet Brady, 57,

already had won 100 medals in Senior Olympics, most recently earning silver for her horseshoe talents during a national competition in Bloomington, Minn.

"It's a good feeling," she said. "It's a lot of work."

Pam Cameron, Canton senior sports coordinator, said the senior games help keep the athletes healthy and active "while they enjoy the camaraderie" that the events bring.

And make no mistake, they are competitive.

"They are very serious about their games," said Susan Doughty, Canton senior specialist.

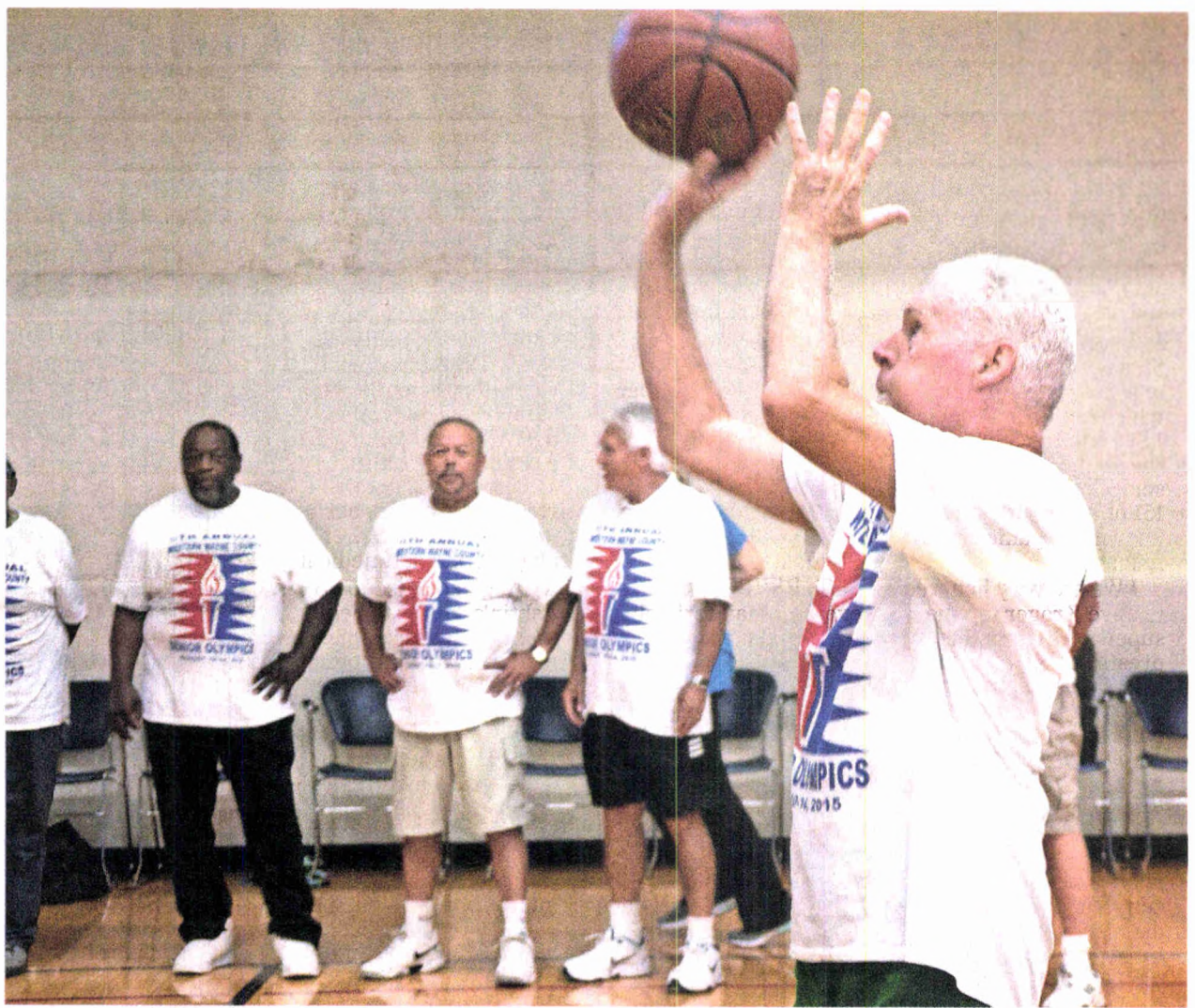
Harold Shanks Sr., 69, clinched the bronze medal Monday in men's basketball in the 60-69 age group. He said he also competes in events such as bowling and billiards. "I used to play a little basketball with my son," he said, noting that his son, Harold Shanks Jr. used to play for Salem High School.

Shanks said it's important to stay physically fit and mentally alert while interacting with others. So, he not only competes in Senior Olympics but is a regular at Summit on the Park's fitness center.

"It's a nice place here," he said. Seniors are expected to wrap up their Olympics competitions Thursday. They are set to receive their medals during a luncheon Friday at Burton Manor in Livonia.

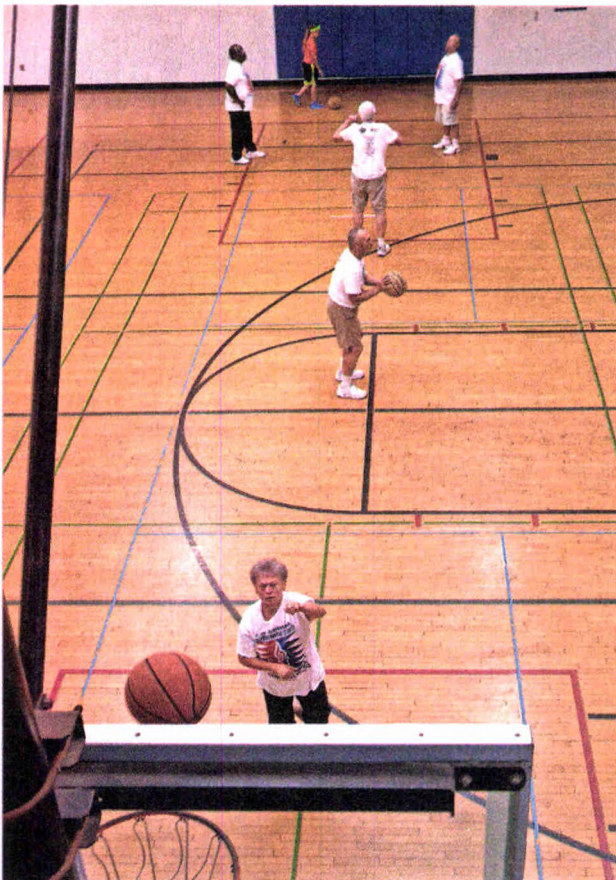
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Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919



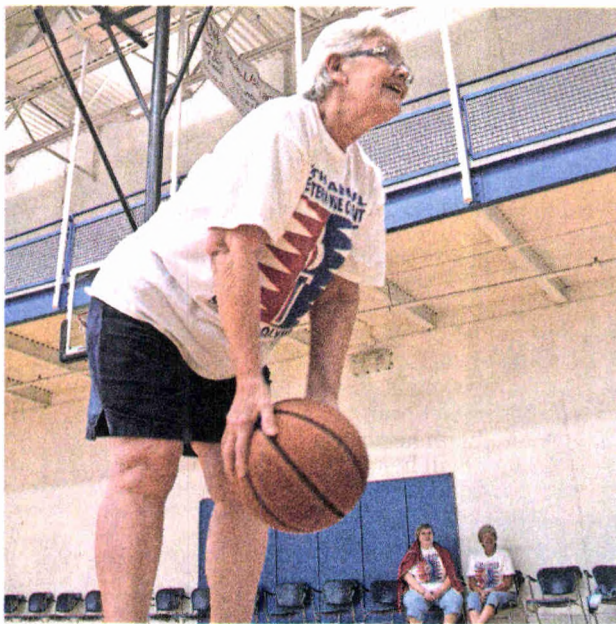
Dave Merry makes a shot. He is from Sumpter Township.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



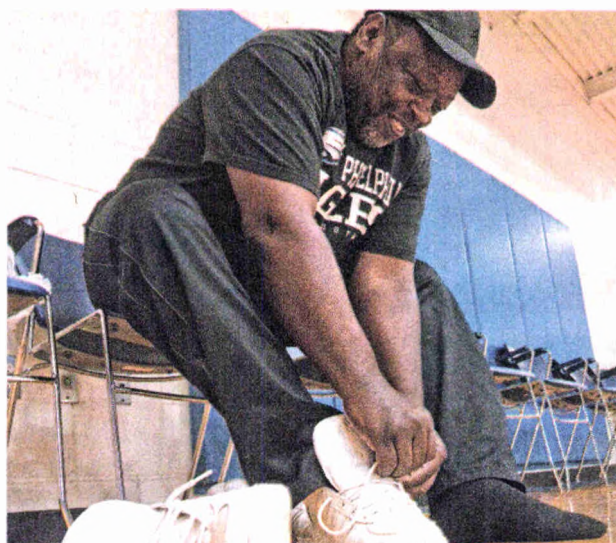
The competition won't start for 20 minutes, but athletes are practicing their shots.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Dee Patterson warms up. She is from Belleville.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



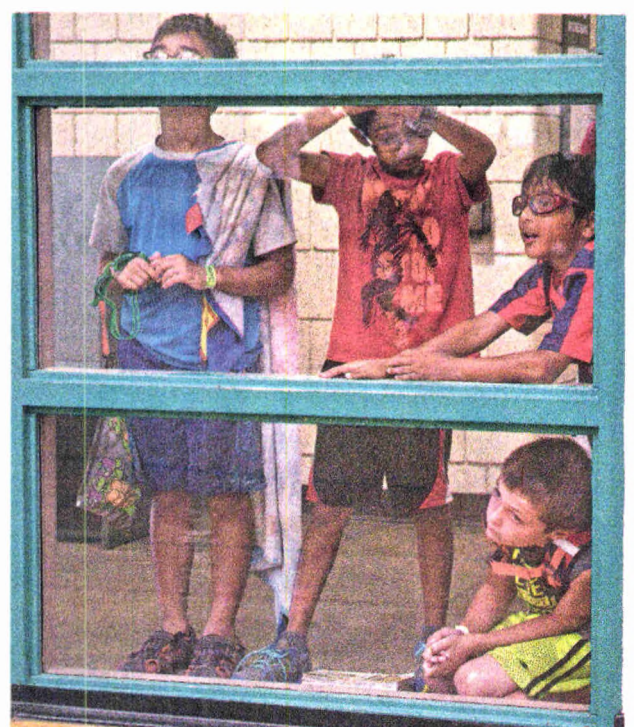
James Horne of Inkster laces up his basketball shoes.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Clark Bishop of Inkster watches another athlete's shot bounce off the rim.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A bunch of young guys watch and learn how it's done.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

How to maximize your wireless Internet connection speed

Are you paying for premium Internet service, but not receiving premium Internet speeds?

Poor performing wireless Internet doesn't mean your provider is giving you less than you are paying for. It could be you aren't following best practices when it comes to equipment and network set-up. Follow these tips to ensure you are getting the most out of your Internet.

1. Remove old devices from Wi-Fi.

An old phone, tablet or computer might be a nice toy for your kids, but it could be slowing down your entire network. Older hardware could be using an extra amount of



“juice,” so to speak. If you have an old smart phone or original iPad, for instance, it might be time to disconnect it from your Wi-Fi to benefit your other devices.

2. Have a proper router.

Online gaming, streaming movies and recording HDTV shows on your DVR are just a few ways you are clogging up bandwidth via your router. If it is an older model, it could be having trouble keeping up. You have two options here.

First, you can buy your own router online or in a local big box store. A solid router can meet just about anyone's needs for about \$50 or less – unless, of course, you are running a business.

The second option is to call your service provider and see that you have the most up-to-date equipment. It might be willing to upgrade you to new equipment for free. Often times, service providers will charge you to rent a router from them. This is more costly than purchasing your own (in the long run), but by renting through a provider, you get the benefit of new equipment, installation and troubleshooting. For

some people, the peace of mind is worth the extra couple of bucks a month.

3. Lock your network.

Are neighbors or passersby mooching off your wireless Internet? You should password protect your wireless network to keep your hard-earned Internet for you. Locking down your wireless network also prevents people from accessing your passwords or financial documents.

4. Manage your home logistics.

There are many other ways to quickly boost your wireless speeds. Putting your router in the proper location (center of the home) is key. Or, if you have a large home, multiple routers may be

the best way to get a signal in far reaching corners of your basement, the attic or outside.

Surprisingly, buying the right router will help get less interference from your appliances. A dual-band router for instance, should help you avoid interference from your microwave. Meanwhile, you can coordinate your router with cordless phones that are on different bands.

Even simple fixes like restarting your router occasionally can help improve the signal that you are paying so much to receive. There are also throngs of articles and DIY videos dedicated to Wi-Fi extenders that can improve range, but typi-

cally your issues can be fixed by implementing one or all of the aforementioned tricks.

If after trying all of these tips, your wireless still isn't working as advertised, you may want to consider upgrading your plan. One last tip: If you want to measure your Internet speed versus what you are paying for, go to Google and type in “Internet speed test.” In a few seconds, you will have real-time results that you can compare to what your plan offers.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based marketing and PR agency. He can be reached at Jonathan.Gunnells@gmail.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kroger recognized

The Kroger Co., with two stores in Canton and one in Plymouth, gained first-place recognition among supermarkets and fifth place overall in 24/7 Wall St.'s annual 2015 Customer Service Hall of Fame. Kroger made its debut on the list this year, placing with such notable names as Amazon, Chick-fil-A, Apple and Marriott. The Customer Service Hall of Fame list recently appeared on *USA Today* online.

According to Jayne Homco, president, Kroger Co. of Michigan, the Customer Service Hall of Fame recognizes companies that truly stand out by creating a positive experience for their customers. Results were based on a collaborative effort between 24/7 Wall St. and research survey group Zogby Analytics, which polled more than 1,500 adults regarding the quality of customer service they received at 151 of America's best-known companies in 15 industries.

“We are very honored to have Kroger top the supermarkets on this prestigious list,” Homco said. “Customer service is not just a philosophy, but a commitment we emphasize every day.”

Research participants were asked to rate each company's service as excellent, good, fair or poor. More than 77 percent of survey respondents reported a good or excellent experience with Kroger.

Survey respondents provided various reasons as to why they ranked a company's customer service at a certain level, but most responses directly related to the person's interaction with a company employee.

“Customer service continues to be our focus as we strive to deliver an in-store experience that exceeds customer expectations during every visit,” Homco said. “We invest in our great people and provide the training and resources necessary to help associates provide world-class yet personal service that encourages customers to choose Kroger.”

Canton chamber activities

» After-Hours Mixer: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at Hampton Inn & Suites, 1950 N. Haggerty Road. No charge for chamber members, all others \$10.

» Golf outing: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, Pheasant Run Golf Course. Major sponsors are Bovitz CPA, P.C. and Jack Demmer Ford, Inc.

SEND US YOUR BUSINESS NEWS

The *Observer* accepts news items for our Business Briefs column. Email information to editor Joanne Maliszewski at jmaliszewski@hometownlife.com. Include contact information. Photos are welcome.

Sponsorships are still available.

» Ribbon-cutting: Plymouth-Canton Fit Body Boot Camp, 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at 8008 Sheldon Center Road.

Contact the chamber for more information at 734-453-4040.

Plymouth chamber activities

» Business Development Workshop “How to Keep the Revenue Rolling No Matter What Happens” 8:30-9:30 a.m. Aug. 25 at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth.

» After Hours with Livonia Chamber, 5-7:30 p.m. Aug. 26 at Post Local Bistro, 844 Penniman, Plymouth.

To RSVP to any events, email teri@plymouthmich.org.

Genisys gives

Genisys Credit Union, with a Canton branch, was a supporter of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in its “Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation” campaign. Contributions raised included \$9,064.80, plus 35 pounds of canned food. This equates to 81,618 pounds of food, which will provide 54,412 meals for people who are served by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan through local community food centers, food pantries, etc.

The campaign, a month-long friendly competition between local credit unions, began June 15 and concluded July 11. Genisys Credit Union was the overall first-place winner in the competition, bringing in the most contributions to help local communities.

Changes at JB Ashtin

The JB Ashtin Group, Inc. of Plymouth announces two key promotions in its Scientific Services department and a new member of its business development team.



Shrode

Lamara D. Shrode, PhD, CMPP, has been promoted to vice president, Scientific Services. Since joining JB Ashtin in 2005,

Shrode has served as the agency's director of medical communications, senior scientific director and, most recently, executive scientific director. In addition to managing JB Ashtin's staff of scientific directors, writers and editors, Shrode will play a key role in providing medical insight and control over all intellectual products produced by the agency and generating strategically sound project ideas for existing and prospective clients.



Asiala-Heckner

Shelly Asiala-Heckner, PharmD, has been promoted to associate scientific director in the agency's Scientific Services department. She had six years' experience as a laboratory scientist in the pharmaceutical industry before joining JB Ashtin as a scientific writer in 2012. Asiala-Heckner provides her in-depth knowledge of pharma and her medical writing expertise to JB Ashtin's clients to help them to distill complex medical data and communicate their scientific and health care information. In addition to her writing responsibilities, she will develop scientific content for assigned projects and assist in strategic consultation. Asiala-Heckner will continue interacting with clients and key thought leaders, assisting in the implementation of scientific strategies and tactics.



Feller

Jaime Feller, JB Ashtin's new client relationship manager, brings more than 12 years industry experience in peer-to-peer marketing for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, creating comprehensive communication strategies and plans for health care professionals. Her passion for communication along with her can-do attitude will help JB Ashtin expand its business with current clients and foster new client relationships.

JB Ashtin is a blended team of scientific writers, client service professionals and marketers who help clients achieve their communications goals by providing publications planning, scientific content development and digital communications solutions to engage and educate healthcare providers.

State fair will honor Michigan's elders

The Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair, along with the Oakland County Department of Parks and Recreation and St. John Providence Health Systems, will debut a new special day honoring the elders of this state.

The inaugural Michigan State Fair Honored Citizens Day will be Friday, Sept. 4, at the fair venue, the Suburban Collection Showplace (46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi). Honored Citizens Day will recognize and celebrate grand Michigan traditions, including those established at the original Michigan State Fair, one of the nation's oldest state fairs.

There will also be a special award ceremony honoring the distinguished Michigan Senior Citizen of the Year. Nominations are due by Friday, Aug. 21.

“We cherish the elder members of the community and wish for them to enjoy a wonderful time at the State Fair,” Fair executive director Steve Masters said. “We observe so many heartwarming, multi-generational family gatherings each year at the fair, so we've decided to dedicate this special day with signature attractions for those who have the most and longest Michigan State Fair memories to share.”

Seniors age 62 and older will enjoy free admission to the fair; ages 50-61 may enter for \$6 with a registered group or senior center, or \$8 for an individual. Kroger of Michigan will provide a free continental breakfast for the first 500 guests and a boxed lunch (limited to the first 500 luncheon guests) will be offered

in conjunction with MediLodge, Epoch Catering Group and U.S. Foods. There will be door prizes and drawings, special contests and entertainment, plus air-conditioned seating for elders at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair. Discounted upgrade tickets to enjoy the Detroit Shrine Circus will also be available for \$17.

Fair organizers are also seeking treasured Michigan State Fair memories from citizens 50 years and older. An essay contest is underway with entries due by Friday, Aug. 21.

Complete information about the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair, Honored Citizens Day and the essay contest is available at www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com or by calling 248-348-5600, ext. 246.

5TH ANNUAL
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and **Bikes too!**

August 14-15
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Thomas H. Brown Central City Park
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The SoulMen
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THROWDOWN!
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CROWNED?
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Kellogg Park murder mystery helps Tail Wagger's spay/neuter program

Tail Wagger's 1990, a local nonprofit organization, is inviting the community to join it for a Murder Mystery fundraiser at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

The Broken Time Machine is a benefit to help prevent pet overpopulation and support the spay/neuter pro-

gram. This "completely different, truly entertaining" event will have teams of four people racing through downtown Plymouth.

Founder Laura Zain said that, according to Quizzo Detroit, the organizers of the event, "intelligence is telling us that a time machine is going to crash land in Plymouth and qualified

members will work together to find the missing 'out-of-towners' and help get them back home to whatever century they came from. Help us solve this extraordinary problem before we alter the course of history or the future or the universe!"

Taking place entirely on foot, the night will feature real actors, rid-

dles, scavenger hunting and problem solving.

Grab a team of four — individuals are also welcome — and be part of the fun. This event is only open to 25 teams or 100 people and features prizes for the winning team and a rockin' after-party at the Box Bar in downtown Plymouth.

The cost is \$25 per person. Register at

www.tailwaggers1990.org or contact the office at 734-855-4077 and include the names of the participants. All registrations must be paid and received by Sept. 15 or contact Tail Wagger's to make special arrangements. Team members' names and checks made payable to Tail Wagger's 1990 can also be mailed

to Tail Wagger's 1990, 28402 Five Mile, Livonia, MI 48154.

Tail Wagger's 1990 is committed to helping people help animals. It is their ultimate goal to be able to support dedicated pet owners who are in need of assistance along with providing necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

Canton Leisure Services hosts fall open house

Canton Leisure Services will help families kick off fall and the back-to-school season by hosting an open house 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, at Summit on the Park recreation center, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Families will also find plenty of free fun at the open house, as Summit on the Park will celebrate Bartlett T. Beaver's second birthday with birthday games, treats and activities. The first 50 kids in attendance will get to decorate a birthday cupcake and make a free craft. Plus, the first 75 kids to attend will receive a back-to-school goodie bag.

Kids can test their strength as they take on Bartlett the Beaver in a special fitness challenge. Cheer him on during a crazy new Mascot Race at 6 p.m. Families can also stick around for free community open swimming time and the Summer Beach Bash 7-9 p.m. at the Summit Aquatic Center, where the first 100 participants to enter the Aquatic Center will receive a free Summit Swim School beach ball and swim lesson registration coupon.

Attendees will also learn about upcoming Canton Leisure Services fall classes, programs and events. Plus, they can also take part in special offers and discounts and enjoy an evening of fun at Canton's premier fitness and community recreation destination.

"This event offers a perfect opportunity for anyone interested in a Canton Leisure Services program or activity to come and see what we have to offer, ask questions and meet many of



Celebrate Bartlett T. Beaver's second birthday at the Canton Leisure Service's fall open house.

the Leisure Services staff," said Jennifer Provenzano, recreation coordinator. "Join us for some family-friendly fun as you explore the variety of opportunities we have available for classes and programs for all ages this fall and winter."

In addition to the opportunity to meet instructors and register for programs, families and individuals can take advantage of a variety of deals just by stopping by the open house, including:

- » Special back-to-school membership pricing: new Summit on the Park members that register between Aug. 16 and Sept. 6 will have their one-time application fee

waived (a \$30 value).

- » Discounted early-bird registration pricing on fall recreation programs and classes.

- » Entry into drawings for Family Prize packs, including family passes to upcoming Canton events, like the Trick-or-Treat Parade, annual Tree Lighting, Santa Breakfast and Butterfly Ball.

- » Health and wellness information regarding Pathway to a Healthier Michigan Grant opportunities.

- » Face painting; bounce house provided by Awesome Bounce; light refreshments.

For more information, call 734-394-5460 or go to www.cantonfun.org.

Hazardous waste disposal set for Aug. 15

The Wayne County Department of Public Service will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, Aug. 15, in the parking lot of the Westland Shopping Center at Warren Road and Nankin Boulevard.

This free event is open to Wayne County residents only and is an excellent opportunity to make your home and environment safe by properly disposing of waste that is considered toxic, flammable or corrosive.

Only household gen-

erated products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. Items that will not be accepted include; commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, shock sensitive materials, household trash, 55-gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936. To obtain a complete list of

what will be accepted, call 734-326-3936 or go to waynecounty.com.

If you can't make it Aug. 15, Canton's annual Hazardous Household Waste Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Canton's Division of Public Works Building, 4847 Sheldon Road. This event is open to Canton residents only and ID will be required. To obtain a complete list of what will and will not be accepted at Canton's collection, go to cantonmi.org or call Public Works at 734-397-1011.

CRIME

Continued from Page A4

juana and \$96,000 in cash in Romulus.

The incident unfolded Aug. 6, when Canton police met with federal authorities to conduct a search warrant in the 8400 block of Hannan. Canton's canine helped authorities find additional marijuana in a dresser and a chest after officials already had uncovered the larger amount of cash.

In a similar incident, an officer and canine companion went to Detroit about 6:30 a.m. Aug. 6 to help conduct a search warrant and look for narcotics in a home on Newport, a police report said.

The Canton officer met with Detroit police and deployed a Canton canine, who helped authorities find marijuana and cash near a pile of clothing. All evidence was retained by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Domestic dispute

Canton police cited a 45-year-old Taylor woman for trespassing after she apparently caused a stir while trying to pick up her son, 16, at a residence where he lives with his father and grandfather.

The incident unfolded about 4:15 a.m. Aug. 6 on Orhan, near Joy Road and I-275.

Police were sent to the residence for a reported child custody dispute. A woman said she came to pick up her son and said her ex-husband refused to turn him over, punched her and

threatened to kill her, a police report said.

The woman told police she doesn't see her son often. Her ex-husband said she hadn't been to see their son since Christmas. He said she caused a scene when she arrived, yelling while standing on the porch.

Everyone in the home denied that threats had been made against her. A neighbor also reported seeing the woman banging on the door and yelling. She was cited for trespassing.

Medical card lost

A 60-year-old Canton man notified police after he found a woman's health insurance card in front of his house in the 41400 block of Ayrshire, near Haggerty and Palmer.

He found the card about noon Sunday and said he didn't know the woman whose name was on the card.

Police tracked down a Canton woman who had the same name as the one that appeared on the card, but she said it wasn't hers.

\$300 bike stolen

An 18-year-old Canton woman told police her Schwinn bicycle, silver with blue graphics, was stolen from outside her residence in Stoneybrooke Apartments, near Joy Road and I-275.

The woman notified police about 10:40 a.m. Sunday. She said she had parked her bike, valued at \$300, outside her apartment and learned it was later missing.

Police checked the apartment complex, but didn't see the bike.

— By Darrell Clem

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthtwp.org under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2015: August 18, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 17 and December 15.

Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Published: August 13, 2015

LC-000253338 3x2

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SECTION 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Construction Bid Package 5D, consisting of:

East Middle School Power Upgrades

will be received at the office of Mr. Patrick Briggs, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 10:00 A.M., local time on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

143: Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 6, 2015 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 6, 2015, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. at the East Middle School Cafeteria, located at 1042 S. Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit. The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

END OF SECTION

00 11 13-1

Published: August 9 & 13, 2015

LC-000252950 3x3

OUR VIEWS

Protect yourself from becoming crime victim

There's nothing worse than going on a nice long summer vacation — or even taking a quick weekend trip up north — and returning home to find your house had been broken into or your vehicle on blocks.

Unfortunately, those instances are far too common in the summer months as criminals seek to prey on victims when they are away.

Many communities, including Canton and Plymouth townships and the city of Plymouth, have had their fair share of home invasions and larceny from automobiles the past few months, putting a damper on summer for many people.

And while there is no sure-

fire way to prevent these crimes from happening, there is a lot residents can do to protect themselves.

Livonia-based H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts), Michigan's statewide auto theft prevention program, offers the following tips for keeping your vehicle safe:

» **Tire and Rim Thefts:** H.E.A.T. recommends that drivers consider investing in locking lug nuts and park in a garage whenever possible or in a parking lot with an attendant.

» **"Push" Steals:** Since thieves need keys to steal newer vehicles, they get around it by using a second vehicle to push your vehicle away after

forcing entry to release the gears. H.E.A.T. recommends arming your vehicle with extra security to help prevent criminals from "pushing" your car. Try to park in a driveway or lot rather than on the street and turn your wheels toward the curb to prevent theft.

» **Older Vehicle Component theft:** As technology in newer vehicles improves, criminals are turning to older models and stripping the vehicles for their parts. H.E.A.T. recommends increasing security options with visual and physical deterrents such as steering wheel locks, steering column collars or kill switches meant to disable the starter.

For home security, make sure doors and windows are secure, don't let the mail and newspapers pile up when you head out of town, install timed lights inside and outside, make sure the landscaping is kept up and don't leave the garage door open — even when you are home.

The smart criminal (if there really is such a thing) tends to keep an eye out for these things, especially the open garage door that tends to serve as a showroom for a later visit.

A lot of the items on the checklist are common sense but, if followed, can go a long way to ensure your safety.

The key is not being a tar-

get. Another helpful tactic is enlisting the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. There tends to be success in numbers, so having a group of people looking out for each other is a critical element of having a safe neighborhood.

And most importantly, be vigilant. If you see someone or something suspicious, do not hesitate to call the police. That is what they are there for, so let them be the ones to determine whether the suspicious person or scenario warrants action.

Summer is one of the best times of the year in this state. Don't let it be ruined by not doing your part to protect against crime.

OUR VIEW

When oversight becomes busy work

Finding the balance between responsible oversight and wasteful micromanagement can be a challenge. Yet putting oversight on auto pilot is no path to success.

Unfortunately, many will think that's what the Michigan Legislature has done over time as lawmakers mandate hundreds of reports from state agencies, yet apparently pay little attention to what many of those reports say.

Case in point: 20 years after the Michigan School for the Blind closed, the Michigan Department of Education is still required by law to send not one, but two reports, on the school to the Legislature. Has no one noticed for 20 years that a report comes in saying there is nothing to report because the school has closed?

Fortunately, the act of

(The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (has) studied the impact of the many mandated reports and found many unneeded ... it takes the equivalent of one full-time employee working more than eight months to ... prepare ... unnecessary reports.

equivalent of one full-time employee working more than eight months to gather data and prepare just those unnecessary reports. Example: A report on Canadian trash exported to Michigan, a problem fixed years ago by legislation.

Michigan.com state government/investigative reporter Justin Hinkley surveyed every state department to learn how many mandatory reports there are and what, exactly, they achieve. Officials say some have produced beneficial results. Monitoring bovine tuberculosis, for example, raised awareness of that problem.

Better news for taxpayers, though, is awareness that the unneeded reports must be addressed. The state's Office of Regulatory Reinvention is looking into the matter and lawmakers say they are open to change.

Start by writing sunset provisions into laws requiring such reports. Then if lawmakers don't vote to renew the report, it dies. Another option is just making more data available online so interested lawmakers — or members of the public — can look it up. And since some data is requested by both lawmakers and the federal government, aligning state requests with federal reports would add efficiency.

No one is suggesting that lawmakers abandon their oversight role. But requiring reports that have no useful purpose is not meaningful oversight.

reporting nothing doesn't waste much in staff time or tax dollars. It does, however, push the ridiculous factor to record heights. And it doesn't stop there, because there are two additional reports that MDE must regularly file about other discontinued programs.

Over at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, folks have studied the impact of the many mandated reports and found many unneeded. They calculate that it takes the

A yummy, good cause



The Canton Lions Club's annual roast honors Canton's former title as the Sweet Corn Capital of Michigan and raises money for the club to help those in need of glasses, hearing aides and other devices.

Join the Canton Lions Club to raise money to buy eyeglasses, hearing aids and other devices for hearing- and vision-impaired people who can't afford the price tag. Just bring your hunger pangs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, near the Cady-Boyer Barn in Preservation Park, off Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill on Canton's west side, for the club's annual corn roast.

LETTERS

Competent leader

In response to "Detroit water chief draws Canton support" (Aug. 2, 2015), as a professional engineer, I've worked on big projects for DWSD and for its customers for over 30 years, worked with knowledgeable people who go back even further with DWSD and was a member of The Engineering Society of Detroit's Blue Ribbon Panel that examined DWSD's problems a few years back.

I can say that Sue McCormick is the best and most competent leader DWSD has had since the 1960s, if not longer, especially considering today's tough political dimension. Plus, she's not politically driven and after three years at the helm, she knows the system and its challenges. It would be a shame if a misguided search for "perfection" or political squabbles get in the way of retaining her as DWSD leader at this critical time.

Thomas M. Doran (ESD College of Fellows, LTU adjunct professor)
Plymouth

Perfect 'Dream Team'

After my grandson watched an online political rally from Denver, he joked that I should sue Bernie Sanders for plagiarism. I knew very little about the man other than he was an independent U.S. senator from Vermont.

After viewing the video, I found a new respect for Sen. Sanders. He spoke about practically every issue I have railed against, most notably NAFTA and the new Asian Pacific Free Trade deal. He and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts have been the most vocal opponents of these job-killing deals. They have both called out President Obama (rightly so) for siding with the right wing to get this Asian deal passed.

Why our president would align with the very people who, for over six years, have attempted to thwart ever honorable thing he has proposed and called him everything but a human being is beyond my reasoning. But he is wrong, wrong, wrong.

Speaking of Sanders and Warren, if we could get one in the White House and the other as leader of the Senate, that would truly be a Dream Team.

Perhaps with those two at the top, we could finally see some positive effect of the false "trickle down" economics President Reagan boasted of. But alas, with the new breed of Republican in D.C. and Lansing, the only trickle down is when a fat cat urinates on a poor person.

James Huddleston
Canton

Excessive parking costs

The cost for additional parking at Plymouth Township Park seems excessive at \$6,500/added space (\$712,000 and 109 added spaces). It sounds like these spaces are being built over a road bed better than usually built for Michigan highways.

Larry Schultz
Plymouth

Hypocrites are comical

Let see if we understand this correctly. State Republican Rep. Todd Courser, married with four children, has an affair with Republican Rep. Cindy Gamrat, married with three children. That is seven children by different spouses. Both are Tea Bag darlings and profess to be strong social conservatives.

Rep. Courser then hatches a bizarre plot to hide this adulterous affair, which reportedly involves a Courser affair with a male prostitute. When aides of these representatives refuse to go along with the cover up, both were fired.

Both Courser and Gamrat profess to be strong social conservatives while touting traditional marriage, opposition to gay marriage, supporters of guns, God and the ever present anti-abortion. Courser wears God on his sleeve, both professionally and personally. He never misses an opportunity to preach his morals and values to any and all others. Evoking God into his politics is a routine effort by Courser.

The behavior of these two hypocrites would be comical and

fit for a made-for-TV comedy. The sad part is these two Republican representatives carried on their affair on the taxpayers' dime. We are subsidizing these role models and this behavior.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

Sour effects of GOP

For those voters who hope and pray that the GOP will control both Houses of Congress, it is time to look at some GOP history and take a good look at the sour effects created by the Republican Party.

For those voters who praise the era of Ronald Reagan, let us face the facts that Reagan increased the bureaucracy, increased government deficits, and presented a so-called "plan" to cut taxes, cut spending, to create a smaller government. Reagan said he would cut the Departments of Energy and Education. It did not happen. In fact, Reagan added a Department of Veteran's Affairs. Reagan increased the size of government from 1981-89. When he entered office, the U.S. deficit was \$79 billion. When he left office the budget deficit was \$155 billion. Is that GOP progress?

In 1994, the GOP took control of the House and Senate. Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich pelted Bill Clinton to no avail until Gingrich softened and they passed a budget and welfare reform.

So if the American voter wants to see the U.S. government grind to a halt, then let the GOP takeover and we can say goodbye to the EPA, goodbye to Pell Grants for college kids, goodbye to food stamps, goodbye to Consumer Finance Protection. Of course, a GOP Congress and GOP president would spend money and time investigating the Benghazi Affair which is just another Republican mindless witch hunt where there is no witch except in the minds of people like Donald Trump.

Robert Keselowski
retired Livonia teacher



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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SAFETY

Tech bolsters concussion battle

New tools added to help recognize head injuries

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In the ongoing war against sports-related concussions, high school athletic trainers like Garden City's Brandi Hildreth are on the front lines.

Thanks to a recently implemented Michigan High School Athletic Association pilot pro-

gram, Hildreth and her colleagues across the state will be armed this season with new, head injury-detecting weapons: the King-Devick Test and MHSAA-issued computer tablets.

Beginning with the fast-approaching fall sports season, athletes at Garden City and several other schools across Michigan will be asked to complete the King-Devick Test, which is a rapid-eye movement screening evaluation that re-

quires them to read single-digit numbers displayed on a tablet computer.

The test takes just two to three minutes for each athlete, Hildreth said.

"The athletes read the numbers as quickly as possible and a baseline is created that we store, along with their name, birth date and other information," Hildreth said. "If, for instance in football, I see a player involved in a hard hit, I will bring them over to the

sideline and have them re-take the test. If the time it takes them is even one second longer than their baseline or if they skip a line or miss a number, there's a chance they may have suffered a concussion."

Hildreth said the athletes she's worked with so far this summer haven't had a problem with taking the baseline-establishing test.

"It's quick and easy and

See SAFETY, Page B3

Ace golfers

» Livonia resident Christine Murphy registered a hole-in-one Friday, Aug. 7, on the 95-yard seventh hole at the Lower Huron Par 3 Golf Course.

Murphy, who has been playing golf for 15 years, used a 7-iron on her memorable shot and carded an 18-hole score of 65.

It was her second career ace. The shot was witnessed by Thom Bales.

» Renee DiPonio of Livonia recorded her first hole-in-one Monday at Farmington Hills Golf Club. She used a 9-wood to ace the 97-yard 13th hole.

DiPonio has been playing golf for 10 years. Her feat was witnessed by Susan Prasali and Peggy Raymond.

Soccer referee training

The United Federation of Officials is offering a soccer referee training class Thursday, Aug. 20, at the Southgate Public Library, located at 14680 Dix Toledo Rd.

The target audience for the class includes high school juniors and seniors, who will be a part of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Officials Legacy Mentoring Program. Interested adults can also take the class.

The fees for the class consist solely of MHSAA registration fees.

Those who complete the course will be eligible for officiating high school, junior high and CYO soccer matches beginning with the fall 2015 season.

For more information, contact Byron Beattie at 734-281-3461.

Churchill 'Meet the Team' night

Livonia Churchill will host its annual "Meet the Team" night Wednesday, Aug. 19, for all students who will be participating in the Chargers' 2015-16 athletic programs.

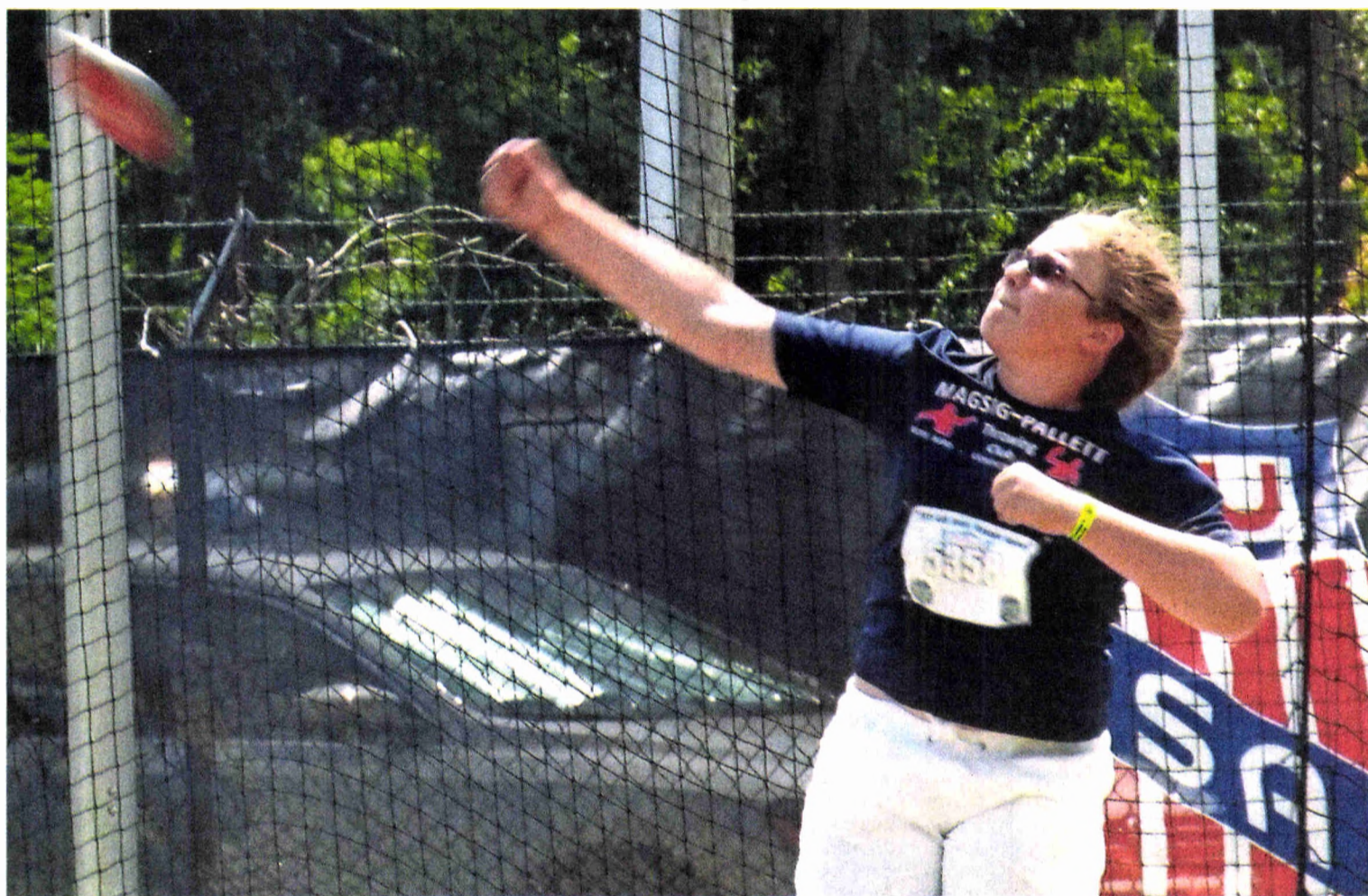
The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Churchill's James P. Carli Auditorium.

The event is for all fall, winter and spring athletes and their parents.

Several topics will be covered that are pertinent to both Churchill High School and MHSAA athletics.

For more information, call the Churchill athletic department at 734-744-2650, ext. 46117.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS



Valadian Pallett of Farmington is the 12-year-old AAU national champion in the discus.

Farmington girl is AAU national champ



Valadian Pallett proudly displays the AAU medals and badge she won at the national meet.

Valadian Pallett wins discus competition in 12-year-old age bracket

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Valadian Pallett knew her goal was within her reach and made it a reality at the AAU Junior Olympics last week in Norfolk, Va.

The 12-year-old Farmington girl won the national championship in her age group with a career-best discus throw of

103 feet, 2 inches.

"I'm really excited, because I've been working on it for six years," Pallett said. "I've taken second place in the past, so it's always been my dream to get that gold medal."

It was the fifth consecutive AAU national competition for Pallett, who will enter the seventh grade at East Middle School in a few weeks. With the benefit of those previous competitions, she knew how to approach the event and had the mental discipline to stay cool throughout it.

Every one of her six throws with the one-kilogram discus

exceeded 92 feet. Her winning throw ranks second in the nation for 12-year-olds, according to eliteyouth.net.

Pallett has been the top seed at previous AAU national meets and was ready for this one.

"I knew I had some really good competition, so I didn't want to get my hopes too high," she said. "I've seen some girls get overly confident and get crushed when they didn't win."

"I think some of the girls would get distracted. I felt like

See PALLETT, Page B3

COMPETITIVE SKATING

Livonia teen rolls to impressive medal haul

Smyser's willingness to work at sport fuels her success

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Just a couple of years after learning how to roller skate backward, Livonia's Amanda Smyser is skating circles around many of the top competitors in her sport.

A senior-to-be at Livonia Franklin High School, Smyser returned from last month's USA Rollersports Champi-

onships in Albuquerque, N.M., with three medals – one gold and two bronze – that reflect a diligent work ethic and deep love of the challenging activity.

"I'm not exactly sure why, but I have a deep passion for artistic roller skating," the personable 17-year-old said, minutes before a three-hour practice session with hall of fame coach Vickie Hudson was about to begin at Canton's Skatin' Station II. "I want to do this for the rest of my life. After I'm done competing, I'd like to coach."

Smyser's golden perfor-

mance at last month's national event came in the no-room-for-error figures competition, which requires participants to meticulously skate around a circle with three incredibly-observant judges watching your every move.

"Figures is all about edge quality, posture and how you look," said Hudson, a longtime coach who lives in South Lyon. "If you go off the line even a little, you're out of the game. There were six figures Amanda had to do and she won them all."

Smyser out-skated approximately 35 competitors from

across the United States. All of the participants at the national competition were required to qualify at one of nine regional events.

"The only thing that is really hard for me when it comes to roller skating are the nerves I get before I compete," Smyser said. "It can be super nerve-racking, but I take a few deep breathes before I go out there and I focus on what I have to do."

Smyser practices up to four hours every day, a regimen Hudson said is instrumental in

See SMYSER, Page B3



Livonia resident Amanda Smyser practices her figures form during a Monday afternoon practice at Canton's Skatin' Station II.

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AAU TRACK AND FIELD

Intensity Track Club athletes get it done

Five members of area track club win medals at AAU Junior Olympics

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

They went, they conquered, they returned with medals.

So it went for the Wayne Memorial-based Intensity Track Club at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics Aug. 2-8 at Norfolk State University in Virginia.

Five of nine Intensity athletes who competed in the age 17-18 division found their way onto the podium. Montel Hood (Wayne Memorial) and the 3,200-meter relay team of Hood, newcomer Zach Gray, Andrew

Chant (Wayne) and Will Jackson (Hartland) garnered silver medals.

Intensity head coach Jamal Johnson, who also coaches the varsity boys track and field team at Wayne (where the AAU club practices), said Hood and the relay team missed winning gold medals by less than a second.

Hood clocked in at 1:54.71 in the 800 (the first-place winner finished in 1:54.11) while the 3,200-meter relay team finished with a mark of 8:01.92 — topped by Willingboro Track Club's time of 8:00.96. Westland John Glenn's Caroline Mahalak placed seventh in the racewalk.

"This is a huge step for us as a team, seeing as we walked away empty handed in our first year last summer," Johnson said. "For the people



Intensity Track Club's 3,200-meter relay team of (from left) Zach Gray, Montel Hood, Andrew Chant and Will Jackson narrowly missed winning a national championship at the AAU Junior Olympics.

who didn't medal, they still competed very well and had some great PRs. I was extremely proud of the entire team."

Other team members included Anavia Battle (Wayne), Ledell O'Bryant (Wayne), Shiann Proffitt

(John Glenn), Alyssa Johnson (Wayne) and assistant coach Jana Hughes.

The team made the trek to Virginia with the help of a bowling fundraiser at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia.



Intensity Track Club members enjoy the atmosphere at Norfolk State University, where the AAU Junior Olympics took place.

UPCOMING TRYOUTS

Garden City Gators

The Garden City Gators fast-pitch softball program offers fall ball, indoor winter training, spring/summer leagues and tournaments, along with hitting, pitching and catching camps for four age levels: 10U, 12U, 14U and 16U.

Tryouts will be held Aug. 22-23 and 25-26 at Garden City High School's "Lighted Field," which is located at the intersection of Maplewood and Hartel.

The times of the tryouts Aug. 22-23 are 9-11 a.m. for 10U and 12U; and 12:30-2:30 p.m. for 14U and 16U.

The Aug. 25 tryout day will feature a 6-8 p.m. slot for 10U and 12U, while the Aug. 26 day will feature a 6-8 p.m. time block for 14U and 16U.

Players are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled start of each tryout.

For more information, contact Barry Patterson at 734-635-2388 or gcsoft-

ball@mi.rr.com. You can also check out the program's Facebook page by searching for "Garden City Gators Fastpitch Softball."

RU soccer tryouts

The Redford Union boys soccer team will be holding tryouts 5-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at MacGowan Elementary School, just north of the high school.

All student-athletes trying out for the team must bring their own water.

For more information, contact coach Jim Gibbs at 313-995-4234.

GC tennis tryouts

Tryouts for the Garden City boys varsity tennis team will start 9-11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17.

All student-athletes will need a racquet and a physical in order to try out. The tryouts will be held rain or shine.

Patriots roll to title



The Livonia Patriots 16U travel baseball team won the End of Summer Classic that was held July 25-26 at Eastern Michigan University. The Patriots, who also captured another tournament crown earlier this summer, are made up exclusively of student-athletes who attend Livonia Franklin High School. The Patriots upended Northville twice (6-2 and 7-1) and Brighton once (12-1) in pool play before taking down Brighton, 12-2, in the championship game. Team members include (front row, from left) Ben Raisch, Trey Gorman, Johnny DiPonio, Alec Gorman, Jake Giacobbi, Chris Berrelez and Nick Hoyer and (back row, from left) coach Metzler, Riley Flaherty, coach Merrill, Colin Metzler, Ryan Celmer, Jon Montie, Harrison Merrill, coach Celmer, Keegan Flaherty and coach Raisch. Also on the team is Jacob Mass.



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9th Annual
5K Run/Walk
for Cancer

Sunday, September 13, 2015
9 a.m.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital grounds
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We celebrate and Embrace LifeSM for cancer awareness. Proceeds support St. Mary Mercy Cancer Services.

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- Schoolcraft College

LC-000253554

COMPETITIVE ROLLER SKATING

RASCals roll out championship performances

Riverside
Arena-based team
shines in New Mexico

The RASCals, a team representing the Riverside Arena Skating Club in Livonia, brought home six top placements at the USA Roller Figure Skating Championships held in July in Albuquerque, N.M.

The top Riverside skater, Ian Heersink of Livonia, earned a spot on the team that will represent the United States at the upcoming World Roller Skating Championships in Cali, Colombia.

The Riverside club members, who practice up to three hours a day, four to five days a week, perform in a variety of disciplines, including compulsory team and solo dance; creative dance; figures; freestyle; pairs; and precision skating.

Thirteen club members participated at the championships, with four receiving medals.

Leading the way with three placements was Heersink, who earned a gold medal with partner



Members of the Riverside RASCals brought home several medals from the USA Roller Figure Skating Championships held last month in Albuquerque, N.M.

Anna Cao of Waterford in the Sophomore A Team Dance Division. Heersink also won the World Class Men's Figures and placed third in Junior

World Class Men's Figures.

As a result of his qualification, Heersink will compete in the Junior World Class Figure cate-

gory at the World Championships in September.

Also winning multiple awards was Joshua Stadler of Livonia, who, with partner Miranda Esser of Dear-



Plymouth's Chloe LaMay won a bronze medal in Open A Inline Creative Solo Free Dance.



Miranda Esser of Northville and Joshua Stadler of Livonia won a pair of medals in the pairs competition.

Northville, won gold in the Juvenile/Elementary B Pairs event, as well as a bronze medal in Juvenile/Elementary B Singles.

Closing out the top placements was Chloe LaMay of Plymouth, who captured a bronze medal in Open A Inline Creative Solo Free Dance.

Also participating in the championships were Livonia residents Christine Asai and Ryan Heersink; Northville's Tina Stadnik and Andrew Esser; Chloe King of Garden City; Arianna Stokes of Dear-

born Heights; Tanvi Karkare of Canton; and Kiera Trinity of Redford.

The Riverside team is led by coaches Lawaun Modrich and Jillian Heersink.

Riverside, which has a 75-year history of supporting competitive roller skating, is owned and operated by Lionel and Debbie LaMay.

The Riverside RASCals Skating Club has been active for six years. It started with five club members and grown to more than 30 at its peak.

For more information about the Riverside Arena Skating Club, go to riversidearena.com or riversiderascals.org.

SAFETY

Continued from Page B1

there's no memorization, so I think they like it," she said.

Garden City football head coach Scott Murray said he's all for any additional tool that can help trainers and coaches recognize concussion symptoms.

"Ideally, we never have to use it, but if we do need it, the test is a good gauge of where a kid's at in terms of thinking," Murray said. "It seems like every year they're coming up with new ways to prevent and recognize concussions, so that's a positive sign."

The King-Devick Test was developed by doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

"The first and most critical step in managing concussion in the youth athlete is to recognize when one has occurred, which is not always a simple task," said Dr. David Dodick, professor of neurology and director of sports concussion services at the Mayo Clinic. "The King-Devick Test helps take the guesswork and subjectivity out of the sideline evaluation in a rapid, accurate and objective way."

The MHSAA supplied each of the participating schools with five tablet computers to distribute among their coaches.



Garden City athletic trainer Brandi Hildreth holds the MHSAA-provided tablet she will use throughout the upcoming school year to help detect when an athlete has suffered a concussion.

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RECREATION SOFTBALL

'Dream' season



Greater Dream Church recently won the Women's Christian Softball League for the second consecutive season. Team members include (front row) Brody Perez; (second row, from left) Justine Woodard, Julene Pummill, Rachel Perez, Joye Clenney and Kathy Stella; (third row, from left) Justine Pummill, Jaclyn Williams, Maresy Vesley, Rebekah Pummill and Amanda Caudill; and (fourth row) Ron Pummill and Chad Williams.

PALLETT

Continued from Page B1

I was focused in during the competition and trying my best and not talking to friends."

Pallett owes a great deal of her success to her father and coach, Toby, a former collegiate thrower who runs the Magsig-Pallett Throwing Club.

"I like having my dad as my coach," Valadian said. "That way he knows more about me and how I work. Sometimes, I do need to be pushed a little harder; otherwise, I might not go to practice."

"He got me into track and field, where most girls my age don't know what a shot put, discus or javelin is. He's inspired me to do it. I've seen him throwing and seen how far the shot and discus go for him. He has inspired me and I want to impress him."

Pallett's older brother Vonn was a two-time all-Observer thrower at Farmington High School and will continue in the sport at Grand Valley State University.

"He juggles multiple sports and still keeps his grades up," Valadian said. "I want to do the same in high school."

Pallett earned three medals at the Junior Olympics for the second year in a row, pushing her total over five years to 10. Including districts and regionals, she has close to 30.

She also was fourth in



Valadian Pallett was center stage on the awards platform with runner-up Sarah Mavin (left) and third-place finisher Johtavia Shaw.

the six-pound shot put at 35-10½ and fifth in the turbo javelin with a throw of 90-7.

Pallett's throws with the discus and javelin are personal records. In the shot put, it remains 37-8. Her previous best in the discus was 100-9.

Not surprisingly, Pallett's favorite event is the discus, because she does the best in that one, she said.

"Since I'm 5-foot-9 at age 12, I'm taller and have longer arms than most girls, so there's an advantage in your height," she said.

Pallett also won the AAU regional but, ironically, not the district. The defending national champion, Sarah Mavin of Gaines, Mich., also was in those meets.

She was the runner-up to Pallett at the next two levels. Mavin won the

national title in the shot put.

"The district meet was one of my first meets of the season and I was a little more nervous," Pallett said, knowing Mavin would be there, too.

As for the near future, Pallett's goal is to set the East record in the shot put. She'll have to be content with that since there is no discus competition in middle school.

In addition to Pallett, Joe Ghafari of Farmington Hills placed fourth in the discus in the 17-18 division with throw of 164-12 and also was 10th in shot put.

Ghafari, a 2014 graduate of Farmington High and a former all-Observer thrower, was all-state and owns the school record in the discus.

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SMYSER

Continued from Page B1

her success.

"She wants to be a world-class skater someday, so she does what it takes to get there," Hudson said. "Plus, she is lucky enough to have a mom (Brenda) who is 100 percent behind her."

"To be good in this sport, you have to practice enough so that as nervous as you get, your practice habits take over and Amanda definitely puts in the time it takes to achieve this."

Smyser started skating recreationally at the age of 13 at Riverside Arena in Livonia.

"A couple years ago, I took lessons to learn how to skate backward and it went from there," she said, discussing her introduction to competitive roller skating.

"Somebody told me about artistic roller skating and I thought it sounded like fun."

Smyser's path to multiple medals hasn't always been easy. She thrives despite dealing with the effects of epilepsy - she suffered a seizure just two days before her gold medal-winning effort - and Chiari malformation, a rare neurological condition that required Smyser to undergo brain surgery in 2009.

"Neither her neurolo-



Multiple medal winner Amanda Smyser is pictured with her coach, Vickie Hudson, prior to Monday's practice at Skatin' Station II in Canton.

"A couple years ago, I took lessons to learn how to skate backward and it went from there. Somebody told me about artistic roller skating and I thought it sounded like fun."

AMANDA SMYSER
competitive roller skater

gist nor her neurosurgeon like her to skate and it has been suggested more than once that she quit," Brenda Smyser said. "This just

makes her more determined to show them otherwise.

"She is my hero."

ewright@hometownlife.com



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fire safety advice is key for students headed off to college, says veteran firefighter Tom Kiurski, a lieutenant with the Brighton Area Fire Authority who's retired from the Livonia Fire Department.

Sending kids off to college? Practice, heed fire safety tips

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

When Tom Kiurski and his wife sent their daughter off to Central Michigan University, they had the usual advice about studying, personal conduct and more. Kiurski, who's been in the fire service since 1981, had additional fire safety advice he also shares with other college-bound students.

"I made sure she had a smoke alarm," said Kiurski, who's retired from the Livonia Fire Department and a lieutenant with the Brighton Area Fire Authority. She also took along a carbon monoxide detector.

"We talked about fire safety exits," he recalled. He acknowledged, "It's going to be crazy when you move in."

The couple's daughter just graduated from CMU with

her bachelor's degree in education, and her firefighter dad is glad to share his knowledge with all students and their families.

"It is improving and that's a good thing. Dorms are being built with sprinklers now," Livonia resident Kiurski said, referencing past tragedies in which students have died in college/university housing. Some other schools are retrofitting their older housing, he said, with federal grants available to help with installing sprinklers there.

"Many times, it's their first taste of freedom," he said of students away from home. The young adults may have relied on parents for knowledge of using a fire extinguisher or testing a smoke alarm.

"We can't forget safety because that's No. 1," Kiurski

said.

The university's resident adviser, or RA, can help with pointing out where alarms are, conducting fire drills, and locations of extinguishers.

"You're probably not going to be able to have a hot plate," he said, noting schools provide a list of what's allowed for cooking. Candles are likely also a no-no for dorms.

"Some are better than others," he said of the orientations done by resident advisers. "They're going to be able to show you the exits."

On campus, housing will have alarms, but in off-campus and Greek housing, "the college might not have much say there," Kiurski said. When his daughter lived on a second floor off campus, he showed her the safe route to a lower roof and way out.

"I think you run the gamut," he said of off-campus housing. "Some do a good job. You kind of have to check it out yourself."

Some students will disable an alarm, he noted. "Sometimes, it just happens," and isn't the fault of a management company, Kiurski said.

"Once humans are out, everything can be replaced," he said of a fire. "It might not be easy."

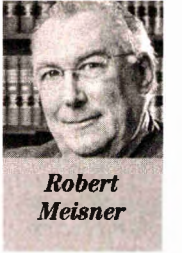
He hopes college instructors and professors would be understanding of students in such circumstances who've lost term papers with their other valuables.

"Not worth the risk. If you get out, stay out," Kiurski emphasized, both as a firefighter and dad.

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Consult your attorney on disability question

Q: I live in a condominium and suffer from a medical condition that causes muscle spasms in my back. My association declined to allow me to install a hot tub on my outside deck to address the issue, but I put one in anyway. Even though I provided a letter to the association from my doctor indicating that hydrotherapy helps my condition, I still received a letter telling me to remove the hot tub. Do you think I have to remove it?



Robert Meisner

A: The association must consider whether declining your request violates Fair Housing Act (FHA) provisions that allow a resident full enjoyment of a unit to accommodate a disability by making necessary structural modifications to a common area. Your doctor may be able to provide certification that you are indeed legally disabled and that, as a result, you require the hot tub on your outside deck as a reasonable accommodation. However, before you speak to your doctor, I would suggest that you first seek the advice of a qualified attorney to determine your eligibility in regard to these factors and, how the letter from the doctor should be framed to accomplish the result intended.

Q: Do you know anything about privacy laws as they relate to the use of drones? Most companies offering insurance policies for commercial drone use exclude privacy claims due to lack of data, uncertainty over how drones work, and how legislation protecting privacy from drone surveillance will behave towards violators.

A: These are all legitimate questions, but I can tell you that in Florida, the newly minted Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act went into effect on July 1, 2015. The law prohibits a person, state agency or political subdivision from using a drone to capture the image of a privately owned property or anyone on the property with the intent to conduct surveillance. Those who wish to use drone technology in this manner must have written consent from people on the property. While the law allows an exception for drone use by a business licensed by the state, it does not apply to professions that regularly obtain information about a person's identity, whereabouts, what habits are or associations. Those who feel their privacy has been violated under these terms may sue for civil damages and injunctive relief. It is obviously something that Michigan and other states should consider undertaking.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

— Family Features

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 23-27, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Sales Price
BEVERLY HILLS	22719 N Nottingham Dr	\$573,000
	20155 W 13 Mile Rd	\$365,000
BIRMINGHAM	651 Davis Ave	\$685,000
	997 E 14 Mile Rd	\$325,000
BIRMINGHAM	269 E Southlawn Blvd	\$297,000
	640 Henley St	\$815,000
BIRMINGHAM	1661 Maryland Blvd	\$445,000
	1842 Maryland Blvd	\$340,000
BIRMINGHAM	1133 Westwood Dr	\$900,000
	1455 Lochridge	\$1,150,000

2786 Hunters Way	\$577,000
4568 Kirkcaldy	\$160,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
2852 Courville Dr	\$281,000
2735 Middlebury Ln	\$300,000
3975 Oakhills Dr	\$475,000
COMMERCETOWNSHIP	
5624 Lancaster Ln	\$375,000
3061 Massena	\$85,000
FARMINGTON	
22746 Powder Rd	\$138,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
29625 Briardoor Ct	\$635,000
30158 Briarton St	\$207,000
34634 Bunker Hill Dr	\$226,000
29510 Eastford	\$168,000
38917 Holsworth Ct	\$265,000
21400 Jacksonville St	\$54,000
20820 Middlebelt Rd	\$144,000
30241 Mirlon Dr	\$280,000
22271 Ontaga St	\$119,000
39066 Plumbrook Dr	\$310,000

29307 Regents Pointe	\$190,000
30982 Westwood Rd	\$365,000
25260 Wykeshire Rd	\$262,000
FRANKLIN	
27190 W 14 Mile Rd	\$364,000
HIGHLAND	
2097 Addaleen Rd	\$490,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18800 San Diego Blvd	\$135,000
MILFORD	
31220 Rainove	\$43,000
910 Duke	\$135,000
939 S Duck Lake Rd	\$318,000
1312 Yosemite Valley Dr	\$309,000
NORTHVILLE	
21204 E Glen Haven Cir	\$85,000
46875 Elmshire Dr	\$370,000
52177 Pierce Dr	\$125,000
20922 W Glen Haven Cir	\$124,000
NOVI	
44578 Ellery Ln	\$234,000
44767 Ellery Ln	\$138,000

40438 Guilford	\$226,000
22473 Moorgate St	\$375,000
23615 N Rockledge	\$99,000
24823 Portsmouth Ave	\$343,000
21702 Siegal Dr	\$237,000
41351 Todd Ln	\$244,000
23218 W Le Best	\$180,000
24045 Wintergreen Cir	\$510,000
SOUTH LYON	
61662 Fairland Dr	\$209,000
SOUTHFIELD	
23200 Evergreen Rd	\$135,000
15803 Fairfax St	\$167,000
WHITE LAKE	
21440 Glenmorra St	\$200,000
27401 Red Leaf Ln	\$132,000
25582 Saint James	\$110,000
24340 Sunnypoint Dr	\$25,000
49 Glandon St	\$149,000
1245 Park Dr	\$190,000
9104 Sussex	\$210,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 13-17, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
2322 Arcadia Dr	\$139,000
42942 Arlington Rd	\$194,000
46119 Bartlett Dr	\$280,000
44112 Brandywyne Rd	\$175,000
284 Dartmouth Ct	\$228,000
49691 Division St	\$60,000
43703 Fredericksburg St	\$150,000
817 Glenulline Dr	\$189,000
47063 Hidden River Cir S	\$295,000
45585 Holmes Dr	\$230,000
1319 Kensington Dr	\$340,000
43487 Laurelwood Ct	\$170,000
41342 N Maplewood Dr	\$177,000
252 N Village Way	\$181,000
47478 Parkgate Ct	\$410,000
2120 Pinecroft Dr	\$140,000
46853 Polo Dr	\$263,000
795 Queens Way	\$215,000
1886 Rector Ct	\$173,000
6158 Stonetree Dr	\$202,000
576 Tyler Ln	\$179,000

2131 Vine Way Dr	\$115,000
GARDEN CITY	
32615 Alvin St	\$104,000
28644 Beechwood St	\$25,000
6861 Bumly St	\$112,000
32154 Cambridge St	\$75,000
151 Clair St	\$115,000
6163 Gilman St	\$85,000
6906 Helen St	\$70,000
6906 Helen St	\$75,000
33495 Pierce St	\$60,000
29851 Windsor St	\$100,000
LIVONIA	
36645 E Mile Rd	\$166,000
14605 Arden St	\$115,000
28672 Bayberry Ct E	\$140,000
11027 Blackburn St	\$145,000
32056 Bretton St	\$220,000
37754 Bristol St	\$296,000
20521 Chestnut Cir	\$400,000
10047 Deering St	\$108,000
15524 Deering St	\$92,000
17639 Dolores St	\$135,000
11842 Farmington Rd	\$123,000
28606 Jacquelyn Dr	\$138,000
31222 Kendall St	\$170,000
36730 Kingsbury St	\$185,000
20079 Maplewood St	\$158,000
38351 Mason St	\$176,000
16948 N Stanmoor Dr	\$146,000

29571 Nottingham Cir	\$112,000
9338 Patton St	\$215,000
11684 Roselinda Dr	\$245,000
19962 Sunbury St	\$119,000
31140 Westfield St	\$115,000
NORTHVILLE	
41201 Aldea Dr	\$413,000
16585 Cottonwood Ct	\$390,000
46401 Crystal Downs W	\$573,000
16539 Mulberry Way	\$409,000
19687 Northridge Dr	\$109,000
20149 Silver Spring Dr	\$122,000
16938 Sycamore Ct	\$398,000
39477 Village Run Dr	\$315,000
44494 White Pine Cir E	\$556,000
PLYMOUTH	
13124 Andover Dr	\$300,000
13500 Cambridge Ct	\$130,000
41340 Crabtree Ln	\$193,000
42111 E Ann Arbor Trl	\$220,000
44960 Joy Rd	\$220,000
498 Maria Dr	\$140,000
42145 Mill Race Cir	\$125,000
156 N Holbrook St	\$153,000
1127 Palmer St	\$376,000
10030 Spies Ct	\$185,000
585 Virginia St	\$244,000
REDFORD	
20114 Centralia	\$60,000
9578 Hazelton	\$84,000

9906 Inkster Rd	\$60,000
26740 Joy Rd	\$30,000
18432 Kinloch	\$40,000
8994 Rockland	\$65,000
9310 San Jose	\$91,000
14133 Sarasota	\$77,000
9630 Virgil	\$64,000
WAYNE	
38681 Meadowlawn St	\$137,000
37480 Whitney Dr	\$248,000
35201 Winslow St	\$80,000
WESTLAND	
2352 2nd St	\$25,000
7671 August Ave	\$118,000
37530 Barkridge Cir	\$45,000
35058 Barton St	\$43,000
6518 Chirewa St	\$117,000
7750 Crabtree St	\$117,000
38633 Deer Creek Blvd	\$120,000
33832 Lacrosse St	\$113,000
38551 Lawrence Ct	\$77,000
305 Marigold Cir	\$110,000
5900 N Parent St	\$78,000
38242 Palmateer Rd	\$139,000
614 S Christine	\$100,000
329 Surrey Hts	\$97,000
1457 Zorn St	\$125,000

A cool way to reduce energy costs

It's the time of year when even a dip in the local lake won't cool you down for long. What you really need is effective, efficient air conditioning that provides constant and reliable comfort.

Ductless technology, an all-in-one cooling and heating system without ductwork is one option that is gaining a great deal of attention in the U.S. This technology has been commonplace in Europe and Asia for decades. The system is designed to ensure that energy is not wasted while keeping you cool and dry.

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2. Comfort at your fingertips. You can operate your system from any place at any time. With a few swipes on your smartphone, you'll ensure that comfortable, cool –

and not sticky, hot air – greets you as you step in the door.

3. The sweet sound of silence. Summer has long been synonymous with noisy air conditioners, but ductless cooling and heating systems operate quieter than a human whisper. Whispers come in at 35 decibels, ductless systems at 19 to 34 decibels.

4. Space: a precious commodity. With traditional cooling and heating systems, space is eaten up by bulky ductwork or unsightly window air-conditioning units.

5. Healthier environment; healthier globe. Ductless

offers a triple-action filtration system that may reduce allergens, viruses and bacteria circulating in your home's air. The systems benefit the environment, as well. They are made of mostly recyclable parts and use an environmentally friendly refrigerant that won't pollute the environment.

Learn more about how a new cooling and heating system may be your solution for a more comfortable summer at www.MitsubishiComfort.com.

HOMES

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Email resumes to: plymouthjob@yahoo.com
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Concrete Finishers & Laborers. Canton area. dennybye@wowway.com 734-397-9200/734-216-3885

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
Delta Products Corporation looking for Electrical Engineer to develop automotive power electronics related products in Livonia, MI.
Visit: partner.delta-corp.com/Careers for details.
Reply: HR, DPC 4405 Cushing Parkway Fremont, CA 94538

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Needed one day a week. Companies need not apply. N Livonia area. 248-939-2224

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Livonia ESTATE SALE - Fri & Sat, 10a-4p. 33448 Six Mile - House Packed. Nice quality items. Go to estatesales.net for pics/info.

NOVI HUMONGOUS ESTATE SALE

39930 Grosswinds Dr 9 mile, btw Haggerty & Meadowbrook Household, Furniture, Lanox, collectibles. Fri-Sun Aug 14-16th, 9-5pm

Garage/Moving Sales

CANTON MOVING SALE
3479 Wall Street. Tues-Thurs. 8-4pm Furniture, Household, Yard & Garden, clothing, DVDs, books, Golf & Scuba gear.

Farmington Hills: Don't Miss It

Fri/Sat 8/14-8/15 9 to 4 29579 Kings Pointe Ct. Collectibles, sports gear, household goods furniture and more

Farmington Hills: Estate/ Moving Sale

Sat. 8/15, 9-5 Sun. 8/16, 9-2 Piano, furniture, freezer, etc. 30110 Fernhill Dr., Farmington Hills.

GARDEN CITY: GARAGE SALE

back to school stuff, seasonal things, baby clothes, lots of stuff. 3 2 2 3 5 MAPLEWOOD, Fri/Sat, 9-5 VETTE355@AOL.COM

Garden City Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage Sale

1841 Middlebelt Rd. 1 blk. E. of Ford Rd. Aug. 20-22. Thur. & Fri. 9-4. Sat. 9-2. Food will be served.

GARDEN CITY - TOO MUCH STUFF SALE!

6856 LATHERS Street Saturday August 15th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Livonia - 2 Family garage sale

- Thurs- Fri Aug 13-14 9am-5pm and Sat. Aug 15th 9am-12pm 6 mi and Farmington rd. Books Household items, clothing. 33434 VARGO DR

Livonia - Clearing the attic,

Beanie Babies, Lamps, Coffee & end table, camping equip, winter toys, & lots more. Thursday & Friday, 8am-? 39175 PARKHURST ST.

LIVONIA Huge Garage Sale

4 Families. 9113 W. Bassett Court. Ann Arbor Rd & I275. Thur-Sat. 9-5pm Some collectibles, household, misc.

Mayflower Townhomes Coop Yard Sale!

400 Plymouth Road Plymouth, MI 48170 Sat. August 15 & Sun. August 16, 10-5pm.

Northville: Multi-Family

Aug. 13-15 from 9-2 pm. Woods of Edensway Sub. 17845 Cranbrook Drive. Twin bed and mattress set, furniture, clothing, games, toys, home accents and furnishings, collectibles, golf clubs, and so much more!!

Novi - Silver and Gold misc.

Household items. Aug 15th 8am-4pm 25450 Wixom rd.

Plymouth: Country Club Village Estate/Moving Sale!

Furniture, household goods, tools, toys & more. Fri/Sat 8/14 & 8/15. 9-1. 50344 E. Fellows Creek Ct.

Wayne-MOVING SALE Tools,

Avon collectible and household items. 4240 Eastlawn Ave. S of Michigan Ave. btw Venoy & Howe Rds. Fri-Sun. 8a-6p

WEST BLOOMFIELD Thurs.

8/13- Sat. 8/15 9-4pm Clothing, household, small furniture & appliances, jewelry, purses & etc. Something for everyone! 4868 Fairway Ridge S.

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1054 Calpernia. Thurs. Sat. Aug 13-15th. 9am-6pm. Wide Variety of Items!

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Misc. For Sale

Party store Equipment for sale. Freezers, 3 door cooler. Two door freezer, ice cream freezer 80 Gondola store rack, Wall Board, 3 full sheets of bullet proof glass, two slushy machines, Register merchandise counter/cabinets, package deal, or a la carte. MUST SELL! 248-342-4000

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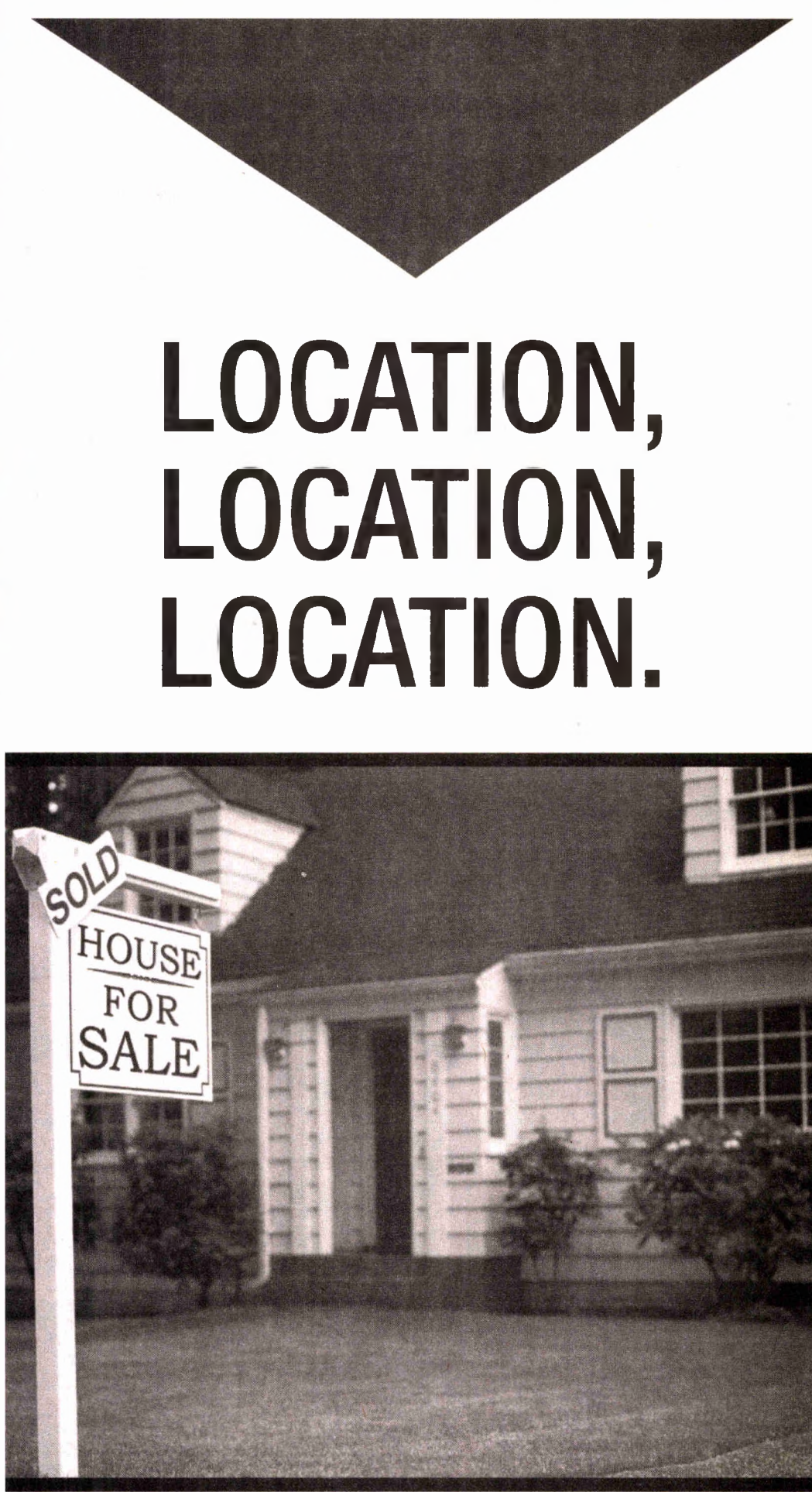
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RELIGION CALENDAR

AUGUST

BACK TO SCHOOL DAY

Time/Date: Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29

Location: Garden City Park, at the northeast corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: InsideOut Church will offer free lunch, face painting, hair cuts, an inflatable obstacle course, and backpacks full of school supplies.

Contact: 734-983-8376

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 22

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

Details: Backpacks with basic school supplies will be available to those in need

Contact: 734-522-6830

DEMENTIA SERIES

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26

Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: Fourth session on dementia in a series of educational meetings sponsored by the Northwest Wayne Vicariate, focuses on ending the social stigma and isolation of someone with dementia and empowering the person who still is there

Contact: Sue Massey at 734-455-5910; smassey@sjncanton.org

FREE STUFF

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15

Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Clothes, home and yard goods, pictures, jewelry, toys and more. Take what you need. No charge

Contact: 734-421-1760

MOTORCYCLE RIDING

Time/Date: Building tours at 9:30 a.m., ride departs at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 22

Location: The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: Ride for the Red Shield is a motorcycle ride to benefit the Salvation Army of Plymouth and Downriver. The group will depart from Plymouth and ride to the Downriver Corps in Wyandotte. Cost is \$25 per rider, and \$15 per passenger. Includes a T-shirt

Contact: Sandy Kollinger at 734-453-5464, Ext. 24

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, through Aug. 23

Location: Grounds of the Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse, at Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads, Canton

Details: St. Michael Lutheran Church holds worship services in a casual, outdoor setting. In case of inclement weather, service will be held at the church, 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton

Contact: 734-459-3333

SHABBAT DINNER

Time/Date: Follows 6 p.m. services, Friday, Aug. 28

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Havurah-style dinner will be prepared by Beth Ahm volunteers in the Sisterhood's dairy kitchen. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, 5-12. Maximum cost per household is \$36. Reservations by Aug. 26

Contact: 248-851-6880; ablau@cbahm.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Aug. 24-28

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Open to children of all ages. Dinner is included. No charge, although registration is required by Aug. 19

Contact: 734-453-0190; stjohnsplymouth.org

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shilawasee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbsm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

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

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket

Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous

Contact: 248-559-7722; www.oa.org for additional information

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts), Thursday

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.

Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month

Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit

Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five or more. No cost for the tour, although donations are accepted.

Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149; www.solanuscenter.org

WORSHIP

Adat Shalom Synagogue

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays

Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-851-5100

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia

Contact: 734-522-6830

Congregation Bet Chaverim

Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m. the third Friday of the month

Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Reformed Jewish Congregation with Rabbi Peter Gluck and Cantorial soloist Robin Liberatore

Contact: www.Facebook.com/betchaverim or email to betchaverim@yahoo.com

Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m. Tuesday Bible study

Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia

Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services.

Contact: 248-960-8063 or visit

www.DueSeason.org

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship; 9 a.m. Bible study

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi

Actress Susan Isaacs brings humor, wit to spiritual quest

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

In 2003, Susan Isaacs took God to couples counseling. It had been a tough year for the film and television actress. Her father had died and her mother had suffered a stroke. Her acting career had fizzled in New York and subsequently tanked in her native California, just as four of her best friends got big acting breaks. Her boyfriend of three years had left her with a broken heart, and to make matters worse, her four friends had all gotten married.



Isaacs

Isaacs, who was raised a "Bible-believing, Jesus-loving Lutheran," was angry and blamed God for her troubles. So, when a church friend suggested that relationships with God were like marriages, Isaacs couldn't wait to get the Almighty on the therapist's couch.

The imagined counseling sessions are sprinkled throughout her humorous spiritual memoir, *Angry Conversations With God*, published by FaithWords in 2009. Isaacs will perform selections of the story, Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 15-16, at the Penn Theater in Plymouth as a part of the annual Heartbeat of Plymouth festival. The program, which will start at 12:30 p.m., also will include Brian Hardin, who podcasts daily Bible excerpts. Tickets are \$10 and available through the festival's sponsoring churches. Visit heartbeatofplymouth.com.

Isaacs, who "divorced" God a few years after considering couples therapy, re-connected when she traded her false gods — the God in her mind, the kindly Jesus in the painting on the wall — for the real thing. Her spiritual quest, chronicled from childhood to midlife crisis, included anorexia, an alcohol problem, and recovery. She also explored a variety of churches, from Pentecostals to Slackers for Jesus.

Healing time

"I got led to a church and was counseled by a woman there (for anorexia) for two years," Isaacs said, in a phone interview with *The Observer*. "For two years I had to write down all the food I ate, and give her information about my finances." Isaacs became embittered by the authoritarian approach and with advice from a roommate, a graduate student in counseling, she severed ties with the counselor and began to make her own decisions. The move enraged the counselor.

"She gave out Biblical curses. She said, 'God will



Susan Isaacs will perform at the Penn Theatre during the Heartbeat of Plymouth festival.

HEARTBEAT OF PLYMOUTH

What: Five churches present Christian music, guest speakers, children's activities and community service projects

When: 1-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 and 1-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16

Where: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth; guest speakers at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

At the Penn: Actress and author, Susan E. Isaacs presents portions of her one-woman show, "Angry Conversations With God," and Brian Hardin, founder of the daily audio Bible, will talk about assumptions, spiritual hearsay, and Biblical misconceptions, 12:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and available through First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 734-453-6464; Our Lady of Good Counsel, 734-453-0326; Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, 734-453-1525; Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 734-453-5280; and Praise Baptist Church, 734-455-2300

Kellogg Park Main Stage: You Shine Through, 3 p.m., James & June, 4:15 p.m., Saltz & Beck, 5:45 p.m., and I Am They, 7:15 p.m., Saturday; Chosen, 3 p.m., Kingdom Come Alive, 4:30 p.m., and 6th Day Made, 6 p.m. Sunday

Acoustic Music Tent: Sarah Dalton, 4 p.m., and Timbre of Cedar, 5:30 p.m. Sunday

Other activities: Children's activities include face painting, origami, science experiments and more, 1-6 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Teen activities include Nine Square in the Air, Gaga Pit, Velcro wall, board games, 1-8 p.m. Saturday, and 1-6 p.m. Sunday. Teens also can make greeting cards for Children's Hospital of Michigan, rubber band bracelets and origami, 1-6 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Community service: Participants will package food for Kids Against Hunger on Saturday, and will make fringed fleece blankets for patients at Mott's Children's Hospital on Sunday. Both activities run 3-5 p.m. at The Gathering, 736 Penniman.

Contact: heartbeatofplymouth.com

curse your career.' I was so traumatized. I felt God had betrayed me. God led me to her and then she controlled me. It wasn't until I was in the process of writing about it that I felt God spoke and said 'I knew you'd blame me, but at least you'd be alive to blame me.' There was so little in the conversation about eating

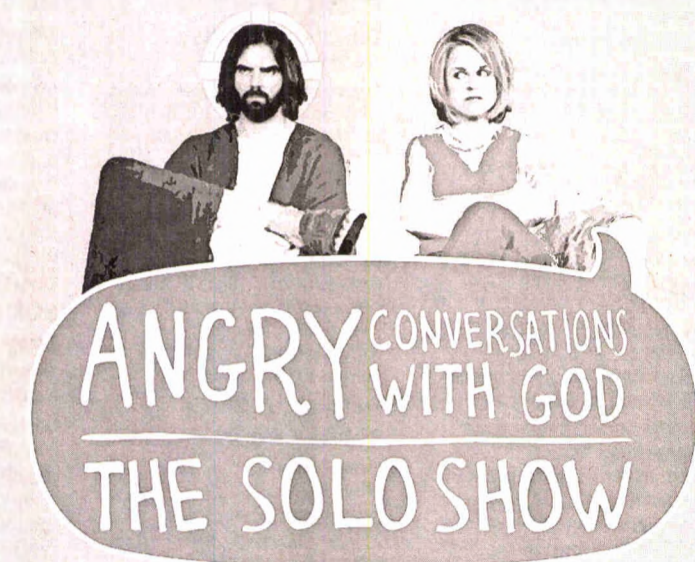
disorders at the time. God was willing to take the fall for that."

At another church, she found congregants "barking in the spirit."

"Even in how weird that was, God used that as a time to heal," she said.

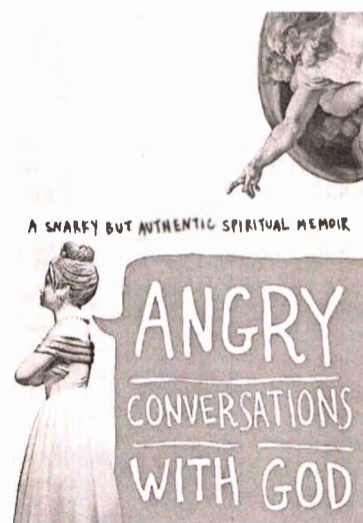
In Plymouth, Isaacs will perform an abridged version

What if you could take God to a therapist?



SUBMITTED

Susan E. Isaacs takes God to couples counseling in her one-woman show. She'll perform an abridged version at Heartbeat of Plymouth.



"Angry Conversations With God," was published in hardcover in 2009 and as a paperback (shown) in 2011. Writer/actress Susan Isaacs also tells her story on stage.

of the 120-minute stage show that she has staged for both secular and church-going audiences. She'll take the show to a major theater festival in New York City, N.Y., and to several other venues across the country this fall.

"I think everyone is spiritual. Everyone is trying to connect with God," she said. "This is my specific journey. I'm telling you what happened to me. But the thing that is most satisfying is when people walk in off the street and say they grew up (in the church) and left it and the show made them rethink their connection with God."

Shaping the story

Isaacs workshopped her story in a writers group as a stage performance before writing it as a book, and then creating a one-woman show.

"I had to learn how to make

it honest and vivid so people would say, wow, I've never thought of that. If I can get someone to rethink or reopen or reconnect to God — and get them to laugh — I've done my job. God is working everywhere. It makes me happy that someone who would in no way darken the door of a church would go to the show, laugh and reconsider."

Isaacs was cast in roles on *Seinfeld*, *My Name Is Earl*, *Scrooged*, *Parks and Recreation*, *Trains, Planes and Automobiles*, and other television shows and films. She was a member of the improvisation theater, *The Groundlings*, and earned a master of fine arts degree in screenwriting from the University of Southern California. She teaches at Azusa Pacific University and lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Larry Wilson, their two dogs and a cat.

From October through January she enjoys turning old sweaters into brooches, tea cozies, and hot sleeves for coffee cups. She calls her passion for felting a "seasonal craft disorder."

"At the last show, I sold as much felt as I did books."

She's working on her next book, which will focus on her last few years of being single — including crazy dating experiences — and her first few years of marriage.

In the meantime, she hopes church-goers, especially those with anger, tension and wounded feelings, will find their way to the Penn Theatre this weekend and discover "they are not alone."

"For people who call themselves spiritual but not religious, I hope they'll know it will be a safe place. That it's a 'yes and ...' thing," she said, "and not a 'no, but ...' thing."

Canton engineer portrays quirky DJ in 'Memphis' musical

Dan Clair of Canton will play the central character in the musical, *Memphis*, Aug. 14-16 and 21-23 at the Crowell Opera House in Adrian.

Clair, an engineer by trade, "fell in love with the music and then the story-line itself," when the musical's first national tour came through Detroit.

"It's a piece of iconic history showing what music has done for American society when it comes to racial segregation, and the impact that music has had," Clair said.

Clair's character, Huey Calhoun, is based on Dewey Phillips, the first radio DJ to play Elvis Presley's music. Calhoun loves the rhythm and blues that he hears in the nightclubs of Beale Street in the heart of Memphis' African American community, where he falls in love with a talented

young singer.

Calhoun is eccentric, quirky and a loudmouth, but he also has heart.

"Even though he can be big and obnoxious, there's always an opportunity in the script to pull him back to the love story or to the things he's passionate about," Clair said.

Although *Memphis* is Clair's first show at the Crowell, he's been cast in many plays throughout southeast Michigan, including as Clyde in Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's *Bonnie and Clyde*, in the title role of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, at Monroe Community Players, as Claude in *Hair*, at St. Dunstan's Theatre in Bloomfield Hills, and as Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*, at Avon Players in Rochester Hills.

Memphis is at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, at the Crowell, 129 E. Maumee Street in downtown Adrian. Tickets are \$15-\$35. Call 517-264-7469 or visit crowell.org.



Clair

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Wild Summer Nights: Concerts run 6:30-8 p.m. and include Detroit Children's Choir, Aug. 19; Candy Band, Aug. 26

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through August

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "New Horizons," a solo exhibit by painter Barbara White

Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through September

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Tell Me, Berenice Abbott," is a fine art digital photography exhibit by Tim Ruane

Accepting entries: Deadline to enter the 23rd annual Canton Fine Arts

Exhibition is Aug. 24. The exhibition will run Oct. 2-31. Prizes are \$750 for Best of Show, \$500 for second place, \$300 for third place, \$100 each for honorable mentions, and \$50 each for merit awards. Interested artists can visit CantonVillageTheater.org or call 734-394-5300, Ext. 8

Contact: 734-394-5300

AUDITIONS FARMINGTON PLAYERS

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. start, Aug. 19-20

Location: Farmington Players Barn, 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Auditions for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* are Aug. 19 for youth, ages 12-16, and Aug. 20 for ages 16 and over. Participants will sing a short excerpt from one of the songs from the play. They'll learn a short dance combination and will audition the dance moves in a small group. They'll also read a monologue from the show

Contact: farmingtonplayers.org

OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Time/Date: By appointment, Sept. 1

Location: Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester

Details: For instrumentalists, ages 7-18. Current openings include violin, viola, and bass in the Studio String Orchestra and the String Orchestra; trumpet, french horn, and trombone in the Philharmonia; and violin, viola, bassoon, french horn and trumpet in

the Symphony. Sign up for audition time online

Contact: oyomi.org

BOOK SIGNING GREEN BRAIN COMICS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15

Location: 13936 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

Details: Multimedia artist Steven Cerio signs his new book, *Sunbeam On The Astronaut*

Contact: greenbrain.biz

COMEDY EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 9:30 p.m. Aug. 15

Location: The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron, Ann Arbor

Details: The Laugh Riot Dolls present all-female cabaret-style comedy show; \$10

Contact: 734-985-0875; emergentarts.com

FILM PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 14-15; and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 16

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "Inside Out," \$3

Coming up: "Me And Earl And The Dying Girl," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 21-22 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23

Summer Cinema: "Willy Wonka and

GET OUT!

Continued from Page B8

the Chocolate Factory," Aug. 13; "The Goonies," Aug. 20; "The Muppets Take Manhattan," Aug. 27

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

POPCORN TUESDAY

Time/Date: Tuesday through Aug. 25

Location: MJR Digital Cinemas, including Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Any size popcorn is free; includes one refill

Contact: mjrtheatres.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 11 p.m. Aug. 15

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: "Pulp Fiction," \$5

Coming up: "Forrest Gump," 8 p.m. Aug. 21 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 22

Contact: 313-898-1481

SUMMER DRIVE-IN

Time/Date: Films screen at dusk, nightly through Sept. 6

Location: USA Hockey Arena, 14900 Beck, Plymouth

Details: Double features on three screens. Visit summerdrivein.com weekly for updated film list. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children, 4-12 and free for children, 3 and under.

Contact: 734-927-3284

HISTORY

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17. Free museum admission for active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families, from Memorial Day through Labor Day

Exhibit: The Fair That Changed America runs to Nov. 1, and focuses on the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, Ill. Many contemporary, commonplace objects were introduced at this World's Fair, including the Ferris wheel.

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor



Maika Van Oosterhout and David Kiley perform a scene from "Urinetown." Penny Seats Theatre Company stages the play Aug. 13-15 in Ann Arbor.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

See Rick Eva of Canton in the Michigan Shakespeare Festival's productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Aug. 15-16, and "Henry IV" Aug. 13 and 15, at the Village Theater in Canton.

Road, Plymouth

Details: Bring your dancing shoes. \$5 donation

Contact: 734-453-1780

CANTON COLOR TOUR

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Friday, through Aug. 21

Location: A different parking lot each week along Ford Road in Canton

Details: Charles & Gwen Scales

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Ramona Collins Quartet performs Aug. 25. \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

JAZZ IN THE PARK

Time/Date: 4-7 p.m. Sunday, through August

Location: Band shell at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: Three different jazz acts perform each week at this free concert

Contact: jazzinthepark.org

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 6:15 p.m. Aug. 29

Location: Grand Circus Park in Detroit in August

Details: Mowtown, Mamma Mia and More! will celebrate the music of the 1960s-'70s by such artists as The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, The Rolling Stones and The Temptations. Local vocalists, Kathryn Calzone, Lauren Norris and Taylor Wallis, will join the Michigan Philharmonic on the "Mamma Mia" finale. Concerts are free.

Contact: 734-451-2112; michiganphil.org

MUSIC FROM THE HEART

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, through Aug. 27

Location: Livonia Civic Center grounds, Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies, Aug. 13; Cosmic Groove Band, Aug. 20; Thomas & Kentucky Strait, Aug. 27

Contact: ci.livonia.mi.us

MUSIC IN THE AIR

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. Friday through Sept. 4

Location: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: Phoenix Theory, Aug. 14; The Randy Brock Band, Aug. 21; Magic Bus, Aug. 28; Steve King & The Ditties, Sept. 4

Contact: plymouthmich.org

MUSIC IN THE PARK CHILDREN'S SERIES

Time/Date: Noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, through Aug. 26

Location: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth

Details: Barbara Bailey Hutchison, Aug. 19; Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, Aug. 26

Contact: plymoutharts.com

RHYTHMS IN RILEY PARK

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, through Aug. 28

Location: Downtown Farming-

ton

Details: Hullabaloo, Aug. 14; Twisted Root Revival, Aug. 21; Thurd Coast Kings, Aug. 28

Contact: downtownfarmington.org

STARS IN THE PARK

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday through Aug. 27

Location: Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Farmington Community Chorus, Aug. 13; Kathy Kosins, Aug. 20; L'USA, Aug. 27

Contact: 248-473-1848

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Open Stage, Aug. 18; Martyn Joseph with Jan Krist, Aug. 14. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted

Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

THEATER

BETTER THAN EVER PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 27-29 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30

Location: Enter through door #13 at Plymouth Parks and Recreation Complex, 650 Church, Plymouth

Details: The group performs "Palliser Suite," a comedy by Caroline Russell-King. Tickets are \$15

Contact: betterthaneverprod.wix.com/btep or call Jeanne Pruett at 734-306-7883

MICHIGAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Time/Date: Aug. 13-16

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Final weekend of the season includes "A Midsummer Night's Dream," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16; "Henry IV," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15; "The Rivals," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14. Tickets from \$16-\$40

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org; 734-394-5300

PENNY SEATS THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Aug. 13-15

Location: The West Park band shell, 215 Chapin, Ann Arbor

Details: Tickets are \$7 and \$10 for *Urinetown, the Musical*.

Contact: pennyseats.org

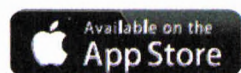


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BRISKET

GRILLED LEFTOVERS MAKE TASTY BREAKFAST, LUNCH

Although brisket is generally regarded as a cool weather dish, you may be surprised how this ultimate comfort food works in delicious recipes that help you hang on to the fading days of summer.

A traditional Barbecued Beef Brisket prepared low and slow over a charcoal grill is sure to be a crowd pleaser for a backyard tailgate or a casual gathering with friends. Leftovers can help warm up a cool morning with a decadent serving of Barbecue Benedict, and you can look forward to a Grilled Greek Salad Pita with Beef Brisket for a tasty midday meal. All recipes are by Chris Lilly, world champion pitmaster.

For more great grilling ideas, visit Kingsford Charcoal's website at www.kingsford.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



BARBECUE BENEDICT

Makes: 6 servings
Prep time: 45 minutes
Cook time: 7 minutes

1 white onion cut into ½-inch-thick strips

Onion Marinade

Barbecue Benedict Sauce

3 English muffins cut in half

1 pound leftover beef brisket

6 poached eggs

Onion Marinade:

9 tablespoons soy sauce

3 tablespoons lemon juice

6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

6 tablespoons water

6 teaspoons dark brown sugar

¼ teaspoon garlic powder

¼ teaspoon black pepper

Barbecue Benedict Sauce:

3 egg yolks

1 teaspoon vinegar

1 teaspoon water

1 cup butter, melted

¼ teaspoon salt

Pinch of cayenne pepper

3 tablespoons of your favorite KC

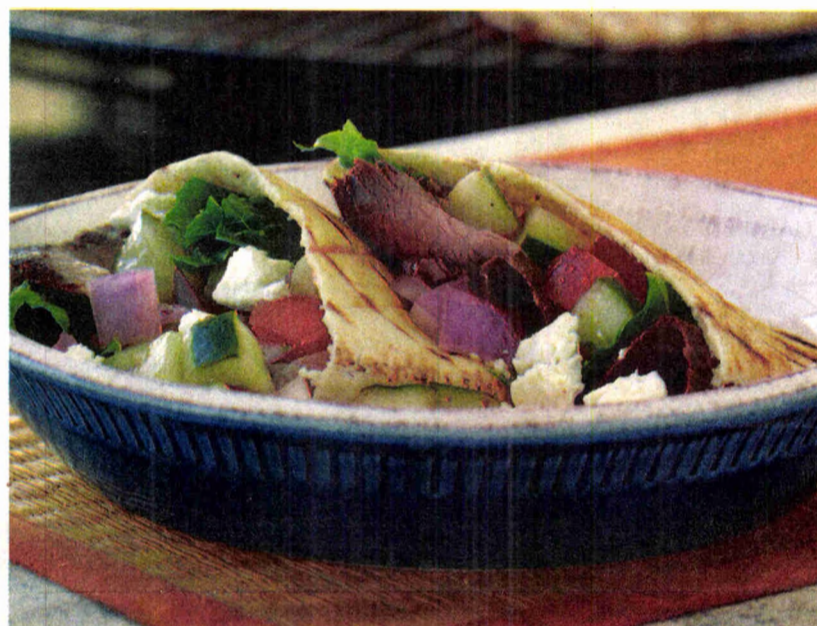
Masterpiece barbecue sauce

In small bowl, mix onion marinade ingredients. Pour marinade into resealable plastic bag and add onion strips. Let marinate for 30 minutes.

For sauce, place egg yolks, vinegar and water into stainless steel bowl and vigorously whip until mixture is thickened and doubled in volume. Place bowl over sauce pan containing barely simmering water (just below boil), making sure bottom of bowl does not touch water. Whisk continuously, making sure eggs don't get too hot or they will scramble. Very slowly drizzle melted butter into mixture while whisking rapidly until mixture thickens and dou-

bles in volume. Remove from heat and stir in remaining sauce ingredients. Build charcoal fire for direct grilling. Place onion strips in grill basket and cook directly over hot coals (approximately 450°F), stirring often for 5 minutes or until onions brown and start to soften. Remove onions from grill and set aside.

Place English muffin halves directly over hot coals for 2 minutes or until toasted. Remove each from grill and top with leftover beef brisket, grilled onions and a poached egg. Drizzle with Barbecue Benedict Sauce.



GRILLED GREEK SALAD PITA WITH BEEF BRISKET

Makes: 8 stuffed pitas
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 6 minutes

Greek Dressing:

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 ½ tablespoons Kalamata olives,

minced

4 ½ teaspoons lemon juice

½ teaspoon dried oregano

¼ teaspoon black pepper

4 pita bread rounds, cut in half

forming 8 pockets

1 cucumber, cut into ½-inch slices

1 tomato

½ red onion, cut into ½-inch slices

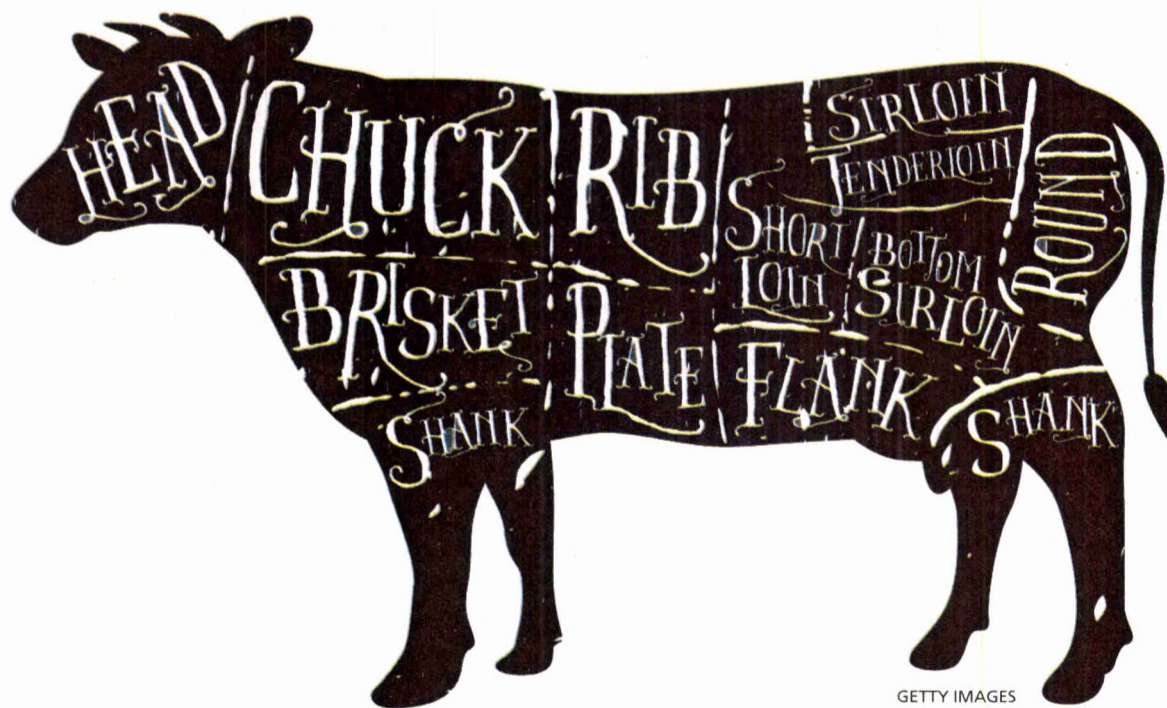
2 cups romaine lettuce, cut into

1-inch pieces

¼ cup feta cheese

1 pound leftover beef brisket

In small bowl combine all Greek dressing ingredients. Set aside. Build charcoal fire for direct grilling. Place pita bread directly over hot coals (approximately 450°F) and cook for 1 minute on each side or until grill marks are visible. Place cucumbers, whole tomato and onion directly over hot coals (approximately 450°F) and cook, turning once, for 4 minutes or until they brown and start to soften. Remove vegetables from grill and dice. Place vegetables into medium bowl and stir in dressing. Let mixture stand for 5 minutes before adding romaine lettuce and feta cheese. Fill each pita pocket with leftover beef brisket and grilled Greek salad.



GETTY IMAGES

BARBECUE BEEF BRISKET

Makes: 8-10 servings
Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 5-6 hours

1 beef brisket flat (5-6 pounds)

1 tablespoon beef bouillon base

Dry Rub

1 cup beef broth

Dry Rub:

½ tablespoon salt

½ tablespoon paprika

½ tablespoon black pepper

½ tablespoon sugar

¼ teaspoon garlic powder

¼ teaspoon onion powder

¼ teaspoon oregano

¼ teaspoon ground coriander

Build a charcoal fire for indirect cooking by situating coals on only one side of grill, leaving other side void.

Cover entire brisket with beef bouillon base. In small bowl, mix dry rub ingredients and coat brisket with rub. When cooker reaches 225°F, place brisket on void side of grill and close lid. Cook for 4 hours, until internal temperature reaches 160-170°F. Remove brisket from grill and place in shallow baking dish or disposable

aluminum pan. Pour beef broth over brisket and cover pan with aluminum foil. Place baking pan with aluminum foil in cooker for an additional 1-2 hours, until internal temperature reaches 185°F. Remove baking dish from grill and let meat rest undisturbed for 20-30 minutes. Slice brisket across grain and serve.