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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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ATVs interfere with remediation work

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Money has been budgeted to install fencing around a former airport site to keep out trespassers during ongoing environmental remediation but Westland Mayor William Wild is hopeful it won't be needed.

"A lot of people have been going in there on ATVs. The fix (remediation) is 24 inches of soil, and the ATVs tear it

up," said Wild, who budgeted more than \$30,000 for the fencing.

Most of that 28-acre parcel was used as a general and industrial landfill from 1958-1965 and remnants of drums were removed in 1994. There is concern about direct contact exposure to lead and arsenic in the soil, and methane gas



Wild

needs to be monitored.

The remediation effort is similar to the project that was completed at Central City Park with a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality-approved plan for remediation that includes removing existing trees, regrading, installation of a geotextile barrier that will be covered with topsoil and grass, along with methane gas monitoring.

"We're going to hold off on the fence-

ing. The remediation is to be done this summer, then they will turn the property over to us," Wild said. "There are only two sides for the ATV access."

Ford Motor Company and 3M are handling remediation on the 28-acre parcel, which is part of the 180-acre National Airport property. Located south of Ford and west of Hix, the property is owned by the city through an

See PROPERTY, Page A2

AS BIG AS LIFE



Children's librarian Tamie Bird leads Molly Bukis to Candy Land.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CANDY LAND KICKS OFF SUMMER FUN AT WESTLAND LIBRARY

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Sophia Valdez readily admits she's not a great cook. The Westland resident brought granddaughter Samiya Grayes, 7, to Westland's library Monday.

In looking through books at the library, Samiya, an Edison Elementary second-grader, said, "Grandma, you could probably use some of these," Valdez said with a chuckle. "She loves to read," Valdez said, noting Samiya likes "animals and kids' books, I would say. Riddles and rhymes." Samiya got restaurant and frozen yogurt certificates at school this year for her reading prowess.

Some 75 children enjoyed "Life Size Candy Land" Monday afternoon indoors at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Said Kyler Calma, 7, a Westland resident and second-grader at P.D. Graham Elementary, "I really like this game. It's so fun."

Noted Samiya of the game, in which a wheel was spun to have kids move forward or back, "It's very unique. We were the real people" as game pieces.

Kyler was joined by brothers Kaylem, 4, who'll start kindergarten at P.D. Graham this fall, and Kee-lan, 3. Mom Lisa Calma of Westland said, "I thought it'd be something fun for them to do. Get them out."

See CANDY LAND, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four-year-old Molly Bukis waits for her next turn.

Central City road work begins

The orange barrels are up as work will be getting underway on Central City Parkway from Ford to Warren Road.

Unlike an earlier project replacing concrete sections on Central City Parkway between Warren and Wayne roads, this project will be an asphalt pavement reconstruction.

The total project cost is \$1.5 million, with the Michigan Department of Transportation Department funding \$1.19 million of the tab.

The city reports that access to all properties along Central City Parkway will be maintained during the project through at least one driveway. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times. Drivers should expect intermittent delays and potential stoppage of traffic during certain construction activities with flaggers.

Here is a list of tentative key construction dates:

» Stage 1 — Northbound Central City Parkway — closed with a tentative completion date of July 21.

The posted detour: eastbound Ford to northbound Wayne Road to westbound Warren Road.

See ROAD, Page A2

School work a highlight for officer

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Having grown up in Wayne, Robert Puckett knew which police department he wanted to join when he decided on a career in law enforcement.

"The Wayne Police Department was my number one choice on where to work," said Puckett, who is retiring as a lieutenant after 21 years with the Wayne Police Department.

Puckett's parents moved to Wayne when he was a small child. He attended Taft Elementary School, Franklin Junior High School and graduated from Wayne Memorial. He met his wife Nicole when they were seventh-graders.

"I always said this sounds corny but it's true — the City of Wayne has given



Puckett

See OFFICER, Page A2



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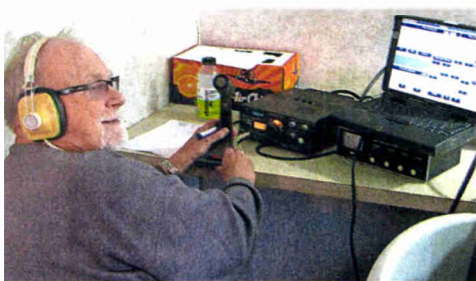
Amateur radio operators to show their skills

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Amateur radios can be overlooked among an explosion of communication devices, but a program in Garden City will give them center stage later this month.

The Garden City Amateur Radio Club will demonstrate the value of amateur radios and their effectiveness to work reliably in any condition and from almost any location in setting up a remote emergency communications network.

GCAR members will be among ham operators across the country and Canada operating non-stop during the radio



SUBMITTED

An amateur radio operator during last year's Field Day in Garden City.

marathon June 25-26.

Come see

The local program is open to the public at the Ford-Drake Memorial

Society's scout cabin, 1524 Middlebelt Road in Garden City. It begins at 2 p.m. Saturday and ends at noon Sunday.

The group will use

Federal Communications Commission-allocated frequencies to send signals, said Richard Zarczynski, Garden City Amateur Radio Club media coordinator.

"All currently licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to join our club members in operating from multiple stations," Zarczynski said. "We will be making as many contacts as possible with other operators over different bands on the airwaves."

"It will exemplify what can be done during an emergency with volunteers," he said adding that ham radio operators provide "a necessary service to the community

when other means of communications fail. Lately, during hurricanes, there are teams of operators who set up communication in very remote islands to get information back about first aid and what's needed in that area."

GCAR has about 50 members, there are 21,000 operators in Michigan, 738,000 in the United States and 2.5 million worldwide. They range in age from 6-100, Zarczynski said, adding that 50 is the average age.

Field Day is designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions and in cases when elec-

tricity is lost. Radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible.

Radio clubs across Michigan will start setting up their antennas and equipment Friday evening and Saturday morning to be ready when the contest begins at 2 p.m.

Potential new members and guests are welcome to attend meetings. More information can be found at www.gcarc.net and www.arrl.org. A Field Day Site Locator is at www.arrl.org/field-day-locator.

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OFFICER

Continued from Page A1

me so much," Puckett said. "I met my wife, my kids got an education, it gave me my career. I wanted to give back."

Before going into law enforcement, Puckett was attending Siena Heights University in Adrian to become a teacher. While playing on the baseball team at Henry Ford Community College, Puckett had heard lots of cop stories from his coach, Craig Sylvester, a Garden City Police officer and himself a former teacher.

A career highlight for Puckett was his time as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer and additional time as a school resource officer.

"I was lucky enough to teach D.A.R.E. That was probably the most rewarding time of my career. I met so many people — administrators, teachers, students and parents," Puckett said. "A lot of good friendships developed."

Having grown up in Wayne, Puckett said peo-



LEANNE ROGERS
Retired dispatcher Carol Tackett said she came back to work as a part-time police service aide so she could be on Lt. Robert Puckett's shift.

Carol Tackett, who now works as a part-time police service aide, is more personal in her comments about Puckett.

"I wish he was my son. I came back from retirement as PSA to work on his shift," said Tackett, whose actual son Michael is retiring this month as Garden City Police lieutenant. "He's the best. If he gets another job, I'll be his secretary."

Puckett describes wife Nicole as his biggest supporter. The couple has two children, ages 9 and 13. "I really appreciate all of her support. When I'm gone, she picks up the slack. I appreciate all her sacrifices," he said.

Puckett's mother Donna still lives in Wayne but his father Roy died last year of cancer. "I'm working an extra month to honor my dad, so my last work day will be his birthday on June 22," he said. "I'm going to take it easy and spend time with the family. I'll miss the guys and seeing everybody. I'll miss the friendships."

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ple knew him and if they need police assistance, would often ask for him by name.

"Law enforcement is everything I thought it would be. I was able to make a difference," Puckett said. "I thought being a police officer was not just about arresting people — it's serving the community. I think I was able to do that with D.A.R.E. and as a school resource officer."

Over the years, Puckett was promoted to sergeant and worked in the Detective Bureau, which

he headed as a lieutenant before moving back to road patrol as a shift supervisor.

"Lt. Puckett served the citizens of this great city for 21 years. He was truly devoted to his job and positively influenced so many people along the way," Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag said. "Lt. Puckett was well known in the community and everyone spoke highly of him. I wish Lt. Puckett nothing but the best in his retirement and he will be missed."

Retired dispatcher

CANDY LAND

Continued from Page A1

'Want him to be a good reader'

Monday was the first day of the summer reading program at the library. "I want him to be a good reader," Calma said of her eldest, who reads 20 minutes a day before other activities.

"He just started doing some chapter books like Captain Underpants," said Calma, noting Kyler also likes the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series.

Her children play Candy Land the board game at home, as do many of those at Monday's program. "This is so unique how they did it," Valdez said of the decorations, including large lollipops and an ice cream cone. "I thought it was really creative," she said.

Youth librarian Tamie Bird said, "I just thought it would be a lot of fun. It's really all ages," she said to encourage adults to give the game a try, with the children braver than the adults. Bird got



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candy-striped socks for Candy Land, worn by Zoey Bukis.

help from co-workers on the decorations.

This was the first time the game was played at the Westland library. Teens will play it later this summer for their reading program, and decorations will also be used for at least one hole of mini-golf.

Children walked along the colored tiles on the floor based on each spin, with candy at the end. "Kids really young can play as long as they can identify their colors. And it's fun," Bird noted.

There was a giant tree bigger than her arm span, along with gumdrop mountains. "Has everyone here played

Candy Land before?" Bird asked the kids. "You get to move all the way ahead to the ice cream cone, which is right here," she told one child.

Parents and grandparents watched with smiles, some taking photos. "We come up here all the time," said Valdez of the library. "They have such a good selection here."

'Everybody had a good time'

Of the candy treats, Bird said, "That way, that would kind of encourage them to get to the end. And it's called Candy Land. I think everybody had a good time."

Added Scott Clark, an IT staffer who helped, "Plus there's no reason you couldn't do it again in the future." Clark said, "I just like all the fun activities. I like to be a part of them."

The library is online at www.westlandlibrary.org, located on Central City Parkway between Warren and Ford roads, and has a phone of 734-326-6123.

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ROAD

Continued from Page A1

» Stage 2 — southbound Central City Parkway will be closed with a July 22 tentative start date. Work is to be completed by Aug. 19.

The posted detour:

eastbound Warren Road to southbound Wayne Road to westbound Ford.

» Stage 3 — Project restoration. There is a tentative start date of Aug. 20 with a projected Sept. 9 completion date.

For specific questions on the road construction, such as scheduling or

access to property, call Craig Dashner, Field Project Manager for OHM Advisors, at 248-568-9610.

For general questions, contact Westland Deputy Department of Public Services Director Hassan Saab at 734-467-7951 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PROPERTY

Continued from Page A1

agreement that requires the companies to restore the land to a standard that would allow recreation use.

The property was used as a private airport prior to 1949. This airport became known as National Airport around 1967 and operated until about

1980.

A 26.9-acre portion of the 180-acre parcel was used as a municipal and industrial landfill. That includes 8.5 acres that was later part of the Imagine Theater property in Canton. The landfill site was closed in 1965, the year before Nankin Township became the City of Westland.

When the airport closed in 1980, a development company pur-

chased the property. In 1992, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources designated a 26.9-acre portion of the property as the former landfill, which allows unrestricted development of the remaining approximately 155 acres of the original 180-acre parcel.

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Kids Without Cancer mother: 'We're going to make it happen'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Sue Sargent of Livonia lost daughter Chrissy to cancer in 1993 at age 12. She got involved in efforts to fight childhood cancers, and was out Saturday, June 18, at the Canton Liberty Fest's Kids Without Cancer booth.

"We're funding childhood cancer research," Sargent explained to a passer-by. She was with Chard'ey Woolfolk of Garden City, a Henry Ford Community College student who was also volunteering for the day. "We envision a world of kids without cancer. Our organization is Kids Without Cancer," Sargent said. "We're going to make it happen."

The women were offering small rubber ducks for \$2 or larger ones for \$5 for "adoption." The ducks will be raced Sept. 10 at the Red Oaks Waterpark in Madison Heights to support Kids Without Cancer.

Woolfolk, 25, has a good friend whose grandma battles the disease. Woolfolk will transfer next year to the University of Michigan-Dearborn and is studying business administration



Sue Sargent of Livonia (left) and Chard'ey Woolfolk of Garden City were happy to volunteer June 18 for Kids Without Cancer during Canton's Liberty Fest. Sargent lost a daughter, Chrissy, to cancer at age 12 in 1993.

and biology.

"I just wanted to give back," Woolfolk said. "I volunteer in my spare time." In addition to her studies, she works at MGM Grand Casino in Detroit.

Sargent explained the organization began with parents of children who were patients at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. It was then known as Leukemia Research Life, and later changed its name and

focuses on all childhood cancers.

It's been around for 35 years with more information at www.kidswithoutcancer.org and Facebook.com/kidswithoutcancer.

There are student chapters at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan (both Ann Arbor and Dearborn) and Wayne State University that provide volunteers, Sargent said. She also has a

daughter, Jill, almost 30.

"It's a little slow, but it's OK," Sargent said of business Saturday at Liberty Fest in Heritage Park. "We pop up at different events throughout southeast Michigan" to raise money for the cause.

Their goal is about \$25,000 for the Saturday, Sept. 10, Motor City Quack Attack race, the second such annual event. It is hosted by Oakland County Parks and will run 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 10 with a grand prize of \$1,000.

Sargent also noted the organization's "Duck Lip Challenge" for people willing to pucker up for the cause. The Duck Lip Challenge is a social media campaign to bring awareness and funding to the research.

Participants are encouraged to post their best duck lip photo on their Facebook page and make a donation. Information is on the website.

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Watch program starting in Wayne

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

There wasn't any particular incident that got Bernadette Brock interested in getting a Neighborhood Watch program going in Wayne — her neighborhood is quiet.

"It's more of an overall feeling — it's more preventative. Neighborhood Watch has been proven if you have one and organize it correctly, it is a big crime deterrent," Brock said.

The resurrecting of a Neighborhood Watch program will be a topic at the monthly meeting hosted by Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at the Wayne Police Department on Michigan Avenue east of Howe. This month the meeting is Thursday, June 30.

"We want to engage with anyone who has an existing Neighborhood Watch (in their neighborhood) or is interested in setting one up," Maciag said.

It's likely that a revived Neighborhood Watch program would move forward with a combination of communication efforts, Maciag said, including meetings

and monthly crime information.

"We will try to expand the program. We'll talk about the structure and how to get the information out effectively," Maciag said. "The majority of people are online. It does really need to be citizen-driven. They (citizens) need to take on the majority of it."

One issue is that people need to report crimes to police, even if they seem minor like thefts from vehicles, Brock said.

"If you report the crime to police, they can see a trend. If you don't report it, there might be one of ten (crimes) reported," she said.

That's also an issue when people go on Facebook to complain about incidents without having called police — an issue that Maciag has addressed in the past.

Neighborhood Watch can also help people become more aware and less likely to create opportunities for crime.

For Brock, it's also a matter of developing relationships and trust between police and community members.

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Learn financial literacy skills at Camp Enterprise

New Detroit is seeking students who will be high school juniors or seniors to participate in Camp Enterprise, its annual summer business camp.

The camp, which holds two separate but identical sessions, will convene July 6-10 and July 20-24 on the campuses of Wayne State

University and Michigan State University. There is no cost to the selected participants who can live in any community.

The camp started in 2003 as a one-day gathering, has grown into a five-day session. Camp Enterprise aims to instill leadership skills in its participants while teaching financial literacy,

business practices and teamwork through its business plan competition. It also provides many of the students with their first look at living on a college campus.

"Camp Enterprise gives young people the confidence and effective study skills needed to achieve academic suc-

cess while gaining exposure to college at two of the state's top universities," New Detroit President and CEO Shirley Stancato said.

"Students have an opportunity to come together to develop business acumen and professional training from seasoned professionals," said David Gamlin, director of youth development

at New Detroit. "More importantly, our hands-on business competition trains students to be both entrepreneurs and understand the dynamics of teamwork in the workplace."

Camp Enterprise helps better prepare students to apply for college and provides students with scholarships and financial aid

resources. New Detroit has trained more than 1,500 participants since starting in 2003.

Students wishing to apply to Camp Enterprise should go to the New Detroit website www.newdetroit.org for more information and to download the camp application or apply online; or contact Monica Martin at 313-664-2010.

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Trio of suspects wanted for Dollar General theft

Westland Police are looking for three suspects who are wanted for a shoplifting turned armed robbery at a local dollar store.

An employee at Dollar General, 1615 S. Merriman, told police that when three suspects were confronted about the shoplifting, a male suspect made threats and lifted his shirt to expose a handgun.

The male suspect and two females suspects all left in a silver Mercury Mariner. The incident happened just before

12:30 p.m. Friday, June 17.

» Suspect one, shown in a security video, is described as a black female, 22-23 years old, thin build, wearing a blue tank top, dark glasses, with curly/full hair, possibly a weave.

» Suspect two is described as a black female 22-23 years old, heavier build than suspect one, wearing a black tank top, faded blue jean leggings, white flip flops and wearing her hair in a ponytail.

» Suspect three, also shown in the video, is described as a

black male approximately 25 years old, thin build, short afro, thin mustache and hair his chin. He described as wearing a dark colored V-neck shirt, long shorts and dark colored gym shoes. He was wearing a dark colored, possibly Detroit Pistons, baseball hat with a sticker on top of the bill.

Anyone with information on the suspects is asked to contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600, or Sgt. Jerry Farrar at 734-467-7912.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
Westland Police are looking for this suspect in a retail fraud turned armed robbery.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
This man is wanted by Westland Police as a suspect in an armed robbery at a local dollar store.

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

On June 13, a resident in the 34000 block of Algonquin told police that a leaf blower, weed whip and lawn mower were missing from her garage. She had last seen the equipment June 11 in her unlocked garage.

Larceny

A resident at the Forest Lane Apartments, 6200 N. Wayne Road, told police June 20 that she was getting ready to go the zoo when she noticed her two-seat stroller valued at \$400 was missing. She had last seen it two days earlier. It was stored in an unsecured hallway with assorted toys.

Larceny

A resident at the Birch Hill Apartments, 332 S. Hubbard, told police June 17 that she purchased two money orders totaling \$610 on June 5. She said she went directly to the apartment complex office and placed the money orders into the drop box.

She subsequently received notice from the apartment management that her rent had not been paid. The money orders had been cashed June 7. She told police she believed someone stole the money orders.

LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Dog scares thief

A 49-year-old Garden City woman told police she believes her dog scared away would-be thieves.

The woman reported her home, in the 32000 block of Donnelly Avenue, was broken into June 17, but she didn't believe anything was missing.

She said her husband left a living room window, facing northwest, open in the morning. The screen, however, was down.

The woman said when she returned home she discovered the screen was open. After checking inside the house, the woman said, she discovered an overturned foot rest and picture frames knocked over.

She told Garden City police she believes the suspect or suspects entered through the window and immediately left when they were confronted by her dog. She said she believes they fled through the same window they entered.

The woman said she checked the home and doesn't believe anything was stolen, a police report said.

Police interviewed nearby neighbors; however, no one reported seeing anything suspicious.

There was no mention of the dog's breed or whether or not it got extra special doggy treats that night.

Personal vendetta

A 17-year-old Garden City resident told police he believes the front door of his home in the 31000 block of Rosslyn Avenue was broken because his uncle is part of a citizen's patrol group.

The front door was reportedly smashed in during broad daylight about 2:20 p.m. June 20. Damage was estimated at about \$200, a police report said.

The young man said he heard a loud noise at the front door. When he opened the inner door, he saw the outer front glass storm door was shattered. He said he did not see anyone who looked suspicious in the area.

Garden City police didn't find an object that might have been used to break the storm door.

The 17-year-old did, however, say he saw two juveniles lingering on the side of the house three nights before the door was smashed, a police report said.

Stolen prescriptions

A 22-year-old Garden City woman reported multiple prescription drugs were taken from her 2005 Ford 500 on June 20.

The car was parked on the curb of a residence in the 30000 block of Pierce Avenue from 12:01 a.m. to 1 p.m.

She told police five Norco pills and 18 ibuprofen pills, as well as other drugs that included antidepressants and tranquilizers were taken.

The woman said her license, credit card, Social Security card and debit card were in a zebra print wallet that was also reportedly taken.

She told police the car was unlocked.

Kroger thief

A 30-year-old Indianapolis woman was arrested for shoplifting at Kroger in Garden City about 3:50 p.m. June 16.

She reportedly tried to steal about \$60 worth of merchandise, including lemonade, pens and flea and tick medicine.

A Kroger loss-prevention officer said the woman hid the items in her purse, a police report said. He said he watched her exit the store without paying for the concealed items. He stopped her outside and she agreed to return to the store without any resistance. Garden City police were called and she was arrested.

She said she was stealing to support her drug habit, police said.

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WAYNE COP CALLS

Suspicious circumstances

On June 20, police were called to the Valero gas station, 2910 Venoy, on a complaint that two women and a man were in a vehicle parked next to the building using narcotics. The vehicle was gone when police arrived.

Disorderly person

Police were called to Michigan Avenue and the viaduct June 19 about a disorderly conduct with a woman on the railroad tracks. Officers talked to the woman, who wasn't on the tracks.

Suspicious people

On June 20, a resident called to report a vehicle containing three people parked for nearly an hour on Niagara and Forest. The caller reported never having seen the vehicle previously. The car was gone when police arrived.

Disorderly conduct

Police were called to Taco Bell, 32940 Michigan Ave., around 11 p.m. about a woman yelling and threatening employees. The woman was gone when officers arrived.

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'I HAVE FRIENDS HERE'

WAYNE-WESTLAND SALVATION ARMY'S DAY CAMP FUN BEGINS

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Jacson Spencer, 8, was having great fun Tuesday morning.

"I like when we have field trips," Jacson said of summer day camp at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army. "We go to a water park" and lake. "And I like when we get to have free time. I have friends here," added Jacson, a West Charter Academy third-grader in his third year at camp at the corps on Venoy.

Also having fun Tuesday was Makayla Headen, 8, a Metro Charter Academy third-grader. "This is my first year," said Makayla of camp. "The counselors" are what she likes, as well as Bible study and making friends.

Her advice for another 8-year-old? "I would say if you don't have nowhere to go in the summer, come to the Salvation Army," she said.

Some 95 kids ages 6-13 were busy in rooms throughout the corps building that day, with counselors encouraging them along the way. One room had two teams of 8-year-olds move a balloon along a string course without using their hands.

A child demonstrated by pinning the balloon under his chin and walking. The kids were allowed to use their hands for the trip back across the course.

"It's going great," Andrew Barylski, director of youth and community ministries, said of the second day of camp. Some 133 kids are signed up for this summer, with registration closed for this year.

"The kids are participating in classes today," Westland resident Barylski said. Arts and crafts, gym activities, board games, computer use, Bible lessons and music are featured.

The theme is Cave Quest, with the Bible lessons and a lot of music focused on that. Camp's held "to provide kids a chance to meet new friends," he said. "To have fun and provide families with a safe environment during workday hours," he said.

"It's the funnest time of year for me," said Barylski, who was playing with the kids that day. "When we're having fun, the kids are having fun."

The kids eat lunch daily, as part of the Wayne County Summer Food Program, he noted.

Counselor Alexis Benefield, 23, is a Schoolcraft College student in child development/early education. This is her third year as a counselor.

"I do the after-school program (at the corps) in the winter," Benefield said. Of the children, she said with a smile, "They make me feel like I'm old" with their energy.

"They're funny. I like being with the kids and teaching them about God, that he loves them," she said. "And playing games with them and just teaching them. I want to work with littler kids."

She agreed her Salvation Army work will help her career. Benefield noted with a chuckle the children often misplace items, such as a bathing suit on a field trip.

"At the end of the year, we look like we have a clothing store," she said of items, which are then donated. "By Week Nine, it's really like a little thrift store."

Field trips are plentiful, Barylski said. They include: bowling, roller skating, the Detroit Zoo, Michigan Science Center, Rolling Hills Water Park in Ypsilanti, the Hype Recreation Center and Attwood Park, both of which are in Wayne, and the Salvation Army's Camp Echo Grove in Leonard, Michigan.

Wayne-Westland camp kids also see movies at a Canton theater, go to see the Detroit Tigers play, visit the Romulus Athletic Center and enjoy Kensington Metropark's beach.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Demetrice Brantley and De'vonte Bigham play Happy Wheels in the computer class.



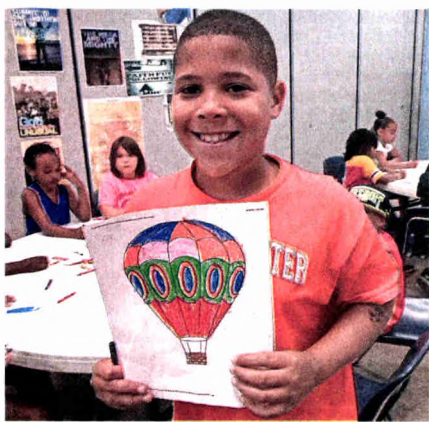
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Music class counselor Shoshana Bandford helps 8-year-old Jenasis Bolding decide her preferences for learning a musical instrument.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Camper Shauna Hoskins has a big hug for counselor Shoshana Bandford.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rhianna Parker, Adrionna Whitsett and Lily Ann Newby work on art projects. They are 8 years old.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Josh Dennis, 8 years old, shows his art project.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Twelve-year-old Kaden Chambers works on a Spider-Man puzzle. Other campers work in groups.

Westland man gives House invocation

A Westland resident recently performed the invocation prior to the Michigan House of Representatives legislative session.

House Democratic Whip and State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, hosted Steven Thomas and his wife Deborah, who are both trained minis-

ters. "It was an honor to have the Thomas and his wife Deb-

orah come to Lansing and perform the invocation," Kosowski said. "I have known both Mr. and Mrs. Thomas for many years, and appreciate everything they do in our community. To have them as my guests during House session was truly a privilege."

The Thomases co-founded Forever Blessed, a non-denominational Christian ministry in Westland.



SUBMITTED
Stephen and Deborah Thomas of Westland with State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, on the floor at the Michigan House of Representatives.

Bariatric surgical suites open at Beaumont Hospital-Wayne

Designed with the specific needs of the bariatric patient in mind, the newly appointed surgical suites at Beaumont Hospital-Wayne are now open to local patients seeking personalized, medical weight loss solutions.

Bariatric surgical suite amenities include spacious rooms, warm, modern, home-like surroundings, comfortably sized furnishings and safety support features in the bath and shower.

Patients will work with a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, nutritionists, exercise physiologists and psychologists at the new Weight Control Center in Canton, scheduled to open this September.

According to Edward Mavashev, M.D., director of ba-

riatric Surgery, Beaumont Hospital-Wayne, the two-pronged approach — surgery in tandem with education and support for healthy lifestyle changes — is essential for long-term success.

"From support group meetings to follow-up appointments with our experts, we provide patients with comprehensive resources to manage their weight for life," Mavashev said.

Those who wish to begin the process now can access education and support via the Weight Control Center in Royal Oak, 4949 Coolidge Highway.

"Bariatric surgery has been shown to be a safe and effective way to put in remission major medical problems plaguing our patients, including diabetes, hypertension,

sleep apnea and dozens of other medical conditions," Mavashev said. "We are able to cut the risk of stroke, heart attack and even cancer by almost half."

As might be expected, these outcomes inherently extend lives, improve self-esteem, social functioning, economic outlook and overall quality of life, Dr. Mavashev stressed.

At present, one-third of Americans are obese and 20 million are morbidly obese.

"With this in mind, it is exciting to be able to offer this invaluable service to our own community," Mavashev said.

Beaumont Hospital-Wayne is located at 33155 Annapolis St. in Wayne. For more information, visit www.beaumont.org/services/weight-management



Wayne Chamber of Commerce representatives Gillian Mashni and Don Nicholson share a laugh with Dan Spatafora, director of local government relations for Beaumont Health, while touring the newly appointed bariatric surgical suites at Beaumont Hospital-Wayne.

Alcohol, drug testing business locates in Westland

What began as a passion for serving individuals and families suffering from the effects of substance abuse through her church resulted in Constance Harvey starting Alpha Screening LLC in Westland.

Harvey's daughter (studying to be an registered nurse), encouraged her to turn her passion into her livelihood and so in March 2016, Alpha Screening opened its doors for business.

Alpha Screening an alcohol and drug testing facility located in the Apex Medical Center building at 2096 S. Wayne Road in Westland. The clinic is certified for DOT and non-DOT alcohol breath testing and urine specimen collections. It offers on-site drug screening, substance abuse counseling programs, observed collections, mobile collections, student drug testing and more.

Services include:
» DNA testing
» Hair samples for testing of abusing substances
» Oral collections
» Background checks
» Fingerprinting, among others.

The City of Westland and Westland Chamber of Commerce will officially welcome Alpha Screening LLC to Westland on Wednesday, June 29, at 11 a.m. with a ribbon cutting at a grand opening reception. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit www.alphascreening.org or email info@alphascreening.org.



William Murphy wants you to wear a bow tie.

Be bold, look good, wear a bow tie made in Canton

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

William Murphy started wearing a bow tie as a middle school student, a fashion choice other kids thought "was weird."

"It is such an underrated accessory. When you think of men's accessories, you think wallets and watches and neck ties," said Murphy, 19, of Canton. "But when you see a man with a bow tie, there's this confidence that vibes off of him."

He had the self-assurance to wear a bow tie with casual clothes and the drive to turn his signature look into a business during his senior year at Wayne Memorial High School. Students became accustomed to seeing the "bow tie guy" in class and even began buying his handmade creations.

A year later, Murphy now manages product sales through the e-commerce websites Etsy and Shopify. His mom Sherrie took over bow tie assembly, cutting patterns and sewing fabric, while he was at Michigan State University for his freshman year. He has big plans for their business, Reign

Bow Ties, which he runs out of his family's home.

"We want to reign over the accessories business. We want to be the No. 1 accessories business. To do that, you need to expand. Eventually, I plan on being an all-around accessories company, wallets, hats, belts," he said, adding that his bow ties are for women, too. "You can still look very feminine and wear a bow tie. I plan on having a campaign, women and bow ties."

A new skill

His product has come a long way since he started making it in summer 2014 as a way to keep busy while recuperating with a broken foot.

"I decided to learn how to sew," he said. "I like creating things, so I started creating basic things. I made a hat out of spare fabric. I thought it would be cool to have a denim bow tie. I cut up some jeans. I wore that around for a bit. I was just doing it for myself, because I like wearing them."

"My doctor at the time really liked it and said, 'You could go somewhere with this.' Then, I

was like, maybe I could make this."

He hot-glued fabric into shape and fastened a hair clip on the back to create his first bow ties. He sold some in Wayne Memorial's school colors at pep rallies for \$5 each. But the hair clip kept slipping off shirt collars, forcing Murphy back to the drawing board.

"I realized I needed to sew it up so I could keep it around my neck with a neck strap," he said. "Every month, I found something different I could add on to it to make it into something I'd want to wear. Eventually, it became a full-fledged product."

He initially made the bow ties from materials bought at Joanne Fabrics that he sewed together on a home sewing machine. Last year, he and his mother met with fabric suppliers in New York and now buy their goods wholesale. They also bought an industrial sewing machine.

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Co-signing a loan can be risky



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

I saw the results of a survey the other day that didn't surprise me, but may surprise you. The study found that four out of 10 people who co-signed a loan got burned. Thirty-eight percent of the co-signers had to pay off the loan or the credit card bill. The reason: The primary borrower did not meet their obligations. Twenty-eight percent saw their credit scores decline because the primary borrower was either late in their payments or did not pay at all, while 26 percent said their relationship with the person they co-signed for had been hurt. The bottom line — co-signing can be dangerous.

I am frequently asked by clients and others about whether they should co-sign a loan. Whenever I'm asked that, the first thing I remind people of is their legal obligation. When you co-sign a loan, you are as responsible for the loan as the person you are co-signing for. Therefore, if they don't make the payment, you are responsible for it. If they are late on a payment, it could impact your credit scores and future borrowing ability. What sometimes confuses people is they assume if the primary borrower defaults on the loan, the lender is going to go after that person first. It doesn't work that way. The lender can choose to come after you. Remember, from the lender's standpoint, you are both responsible for the loan. In fact, if the primary borrower ends up in bankruptcy, that may relieve their obligation to the lender; it doesn't relieve yours. You are the co-signer and you are ultimately responsible.

Whenever someone asks you to co-sign a loan, it's obviously a difficult position to be put in. After all, more likely than not the person who is asking you to co-sign the loan is a very good friend, a child or a relative. Therefore, you're initial instincts are always to say yes. However, it is important to consider your legal and financial obligations before you get involved. My general rule is that if someone asks you to co-sign a loan, you should make the assumption that, ultimately, you will be responsible for that loan. Therefore, if repaying that loan is going to put you in financial difficulty, you probably should decline. I know that is difficult to do; however, it is the responsible thing to do.

If you co-sign on a loan, my recommendation is that you sit down with the primary borrower to make sure they understand their obligation, what impact late payments and non-payment will have on you and what you expect from them. In addition, I would work with the lender to make sure if there is any kind of default, you are immediately notified. I would also make sure you have access to the loan account online so you can independently verify that the loan is being repaid on time.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com

Garden City tax professional: Don't ignore the IRS

There are two certainties in life — death and taxes — and regardless of how hard you try, both will at some point catch up to you. So eat right, exercise and see your doctor regularly. But what about your taxes?

Many people at some point in their lives will run into some type of tax trouble. Good folks who just get in trouble. Perhaps they've received a lump sum that's taxable, perhaps they haven't had enough tax withheld or maybe there has been a change in their lives that's affected their financially. Whatever the reason, it's an all too common occurrence to have to write that check on April 15. It can be intimidating and even embarrassing, but it's not the end of the world and you can overcome it.

The biggest mistake many taxpayers make is "ignoring" the IRS and thinking they'll go away (because they won't). The IRS generally works pretty slow, budget cuts have reduced their resources so enforcement has slowed down, but by all means not eliminated.

The first rule (if you owe taxes) is to file your tax return

on time, regardless if you can pay or not by the due date (usually April 15). The IRS will penalize you twice, once for not filing on time and secondly for not "paying" on time. So it's to your advantage to at least file your taxes, even if you can't pay them.

Secondly, send them "something," even if you can't pay the full amount, send what you can. The IRS will then send you a "bill" (of course adding penalty and interest). With that bill they will generally send a payment plan application, asking you "What can you afford?" The application is fairly basic and easy to file. The IRS will work with you as long as you work with them. Typically they'll give you up to five years to make payments and pay off your tax debt.

It's difficult to catch up once you get behind, but not impossible, just don't make the mistake of ignoring them. You may not hear from them for years, but they will at some point get in touch with you. Keep in mind the IRS will not call you and demand money, they send out letters and offer



Joe Bartley of J&J Taxes and More in Garden City.

assistance. They're not going to show up at your door and haul you to jail. They can garnish wages, social security and bank accounts or put a lien on property if they feel you're not cooperating and working with them. This is why it's so important to keep the lines of communication open. The IRS is tough but not unreasonable, but the taxpayer needs to do their part, to help themselves and not run and hide.

Keep in mind, no two situations are the same and you should always seek the advice of a tax professional. We here at J & J Taxes and More are available year-round for your questions, concerns and issues (and of course prepare your taxes).

J & J Taxes and More is located at 29217 Ford Road (at Middlebelt) in Garden City (next to Orin Jewelers). Locally owned and operated by Joe Bartley and wife Jennene, they've been preparing taxes for 20 years in Garden City.

A proud member of the Garden City Business Alliance and the National Association of Tax Professionals they have lived/worked in Garden City for nearly 50 years. They love the community and have sponsored and participated in events such as the Garden City TasteFest, The Chili Cook Off After Burn, the Halloween Trunk or Treat and Garden City High School sports.

For more information, visit jandtjtaxesandmore.com or call 734-523-8291

Local attorney running for circuit court judge

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Touring a courthouse while in high school led Livonia resident Suzette Samuels toward a career in law.

Several decades later, she's running to serve as a judge in such a courtroom.

"With 22 years, I think I can give the best public service," Samuels said. "This is a natural transition for me. It's that time in my career because I have the experience to do it."

Samuels, who moved

to Livonia from her native Detroit 11 years ago, is one of 21 candidates seeking one of four six-year non-incumbent positions in Wayne County's Third Circuit Court. Voters will

pare the number of candidates in that race down to eight in the Aug. 7 primary, with those eight moving on to the Nov. 8 general election where voters will then select four from those eight



Samuels

candidates for seats on the bench.

Currently a Wayne County assistant prosecutor who has prosecuted carjacking cases and headed the sexual assault team that prosecuted those accused of sexual crimes, Samuels went to Wayne State University and the Detroit College of Law before starting her private practice. She's worked in public service the last few decades, first working as an assistant city attorney for the City of Dearborn before joining the county.

She said she'd like to

implement some new ideas when it comes to sentencing criminal cases, especially with the high docket of cases the court sees each year. Seeing that those people convicted eventually become upstanding members of society is important to her, possibly through initiatives such as job training programs or apprenticeships for those on probation.

"So many people are put on probation in that courthouse every day," she said. "We are not social workers, but we do have a responsibility to

the public. I take it very seriously."

Moving to Livonia 11 years ago was a decision she's happy with: it's a great town with access to downtown Detroit and a place where she does live in a quiet neighborhood.

"I was just looking for a good community," she said.

She's received endorsements from several area individuals and groups, including Mayor Dennis Wright, Judge Timothy Kenny, who presides over the circuit court's criminal division; and the Livonia Police

Officer's Association, among others.

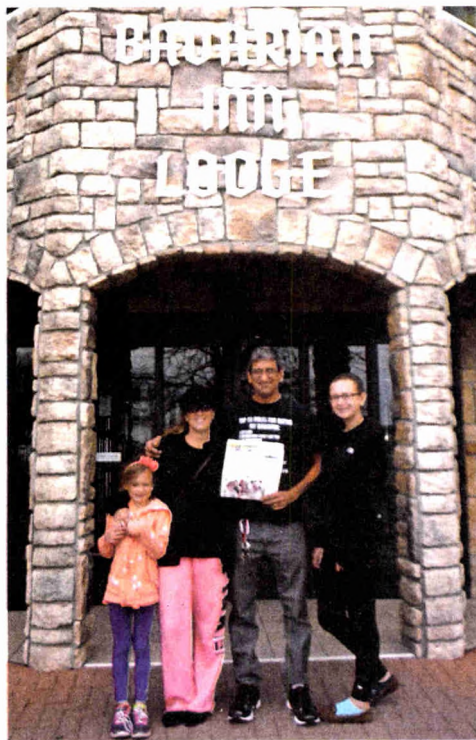
The race for a judicial seat, Samuels said, tends to be more grassroots, something she's been campaigning across the county. She said she hopes voters look at her track record as a public servant and elect her in the fall.

"I think there's a certain climate of change," she said. "I'm hoping that people will not result to the usual, check-the-box names."

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wish you were here



SUBMITTED

The Kinney family — Madalynn, Gwen, Michael and Mary — recently visited The Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. Of course they took their Livonia Observer with them.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

SS. Simon & Jude Church, 32500 Palmer in Westland, hosts its Mom 2 Mom sale 10 a.m. to noon (9-10 a.m. for early bird) on Saturday, Aug. 6.

Cost is \$15 per 8-foot table; racks and card tables are extra.

For more information, call Carolyn at 734-728-1559 or Sandy at 734-721-4867.

Scavenger hunt

Beginning Friday, July 8, and running through Friday, July 22, the Garden City Business Alliance and the Downtown Development Authority will be hosting a city-wide scavenger hunt.

Pick up your clue packet at the DDA any time between June 27 and July 22. The DDA is at 29213 Ford Road and is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beginning June 27, the clue packet will also be available on the GCBA website www.gcdada.com/clues.

Solve all the clues correctly and return your packet to the DDA by 3 p.m. July 22 and

you'll be entered into a drawing for cash prizes. The first-place prize is \$500. Winners will be drawn at the Music in the Park event July 28 in Garden City Park.

For more information, call 734-261-0380 or email theresa@downtowngardencity.com.

Park performances

Parks, Performances, and Play! is a new summer concert series with performances designed just for kids. The series, sponsored by The Livonia Arts Commission and Leo's Coney Island (Six Mile and Haggerty), kicks off at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, June 29, with Randy Kaplan, followed by Guy Louis at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 20. The series concludes with Mr. Seley at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17. All concerts take place at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard.

Park It! family fun nights return this summer. Enjoy live music, kids activities and a movie under the stars. The event starts at 6 p.m. with live music at 6:30 p.m. followed by a family friendly movie at 8:20 p.m. Park It! takes place on Tuesday, July 12 at Ford Field (Farmington and Lyndon) and Tuesday, Aug. 9 at the Kirksey Recreation Center (Five Mile and Hubbard).

For more information, call 734-466-2900 or visit www.ci.livonia.mi.us

Taste of Spree

More than 20 participants will take part in the annual Taste of Spree event, which is set for 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 23, during Livonia Spree.

Taste of Spree takes

place at the Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. Tickets (\$10) are available at the Livonia Community Recreation Center at Hubbard and Five Mile and at the treasurer's office at Livonia City Hall and Community Choice Credit Union.

Meet up and eat up

Redford Union Schools announced the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for children. Free meals will be made available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a state or local public educational agency.

The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at:

» Hilbert Middle School: Monday through Friday from June 20-Aug. 11. Breakfast will be served from 8-9 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

» Redford Union High School: Monday through Friday from June 20-Aug. 12. Lunch will be 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. (No meals served July 4 or Aug. 2).

Adult meals will be \$2.

Greenmead garden walk

The Friends for the Development of Greenmead host Livonia's 27th annual Garden Walk from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children

Free meals will be made available to any child under the age of 18 or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency.

Meals will be provided at the sites listed below:

Hicks Elementary
100 Helen
Inkster, MI 48141

Hamilton Elementary
1031 Schuman
Westland, MI 48186

Taft Elementary
4035 Gloria
Wayne, MI 48186

Marshall Upper Elementary
35100 Bayview
Westland, MI 48186

Schweitzer Elementary
2601 Treadwell
Westland, MI 48186

Hoover Elementary
5400 Fourth
Wayne, MI 48184

Wayne Memorial High School
3001 Fourth Street
Wayne, MI 48184

Adams Upper Elementary
33475 Palmer
Westland, MI 48186

Meal Service will start on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at all locations*

*Days and hours vary by location

For hours, program end dates, and meals provided, please call the school

For more information, please call 734-419-2118

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at <http://www.usda.gov/complaint>, fill in, and mail it to the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at <http://www.usda.gov/complaint>, fill in, and mail it to the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. 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OUR VIEW

Addressing hate: Kindness begins at home

The motives of the shooter in the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, Fla., are still being investigated. One thing is clear — it's time to stop the hate and parents can help by teaching empathy at home.

The website www.thebullyproject.com urges parents to:

1. Talk with and listen to your kids — every day. Research shows that adults are often the last to know when children are bullied or bully others. You can encourage your children to buck that trend by engaging in frequent conversations about their social lives. Spend a few minutes every day asking open-ended questions about who they spend time with at school and in the neighborhood, what they do in between classes and at recess, who they have lunch with or what happens on the way to and from school.

2. Spend time at school and recess. Research shows that 67 percent of bullying happens when adults are not present. Schools don't have the resources to do it all and need the help of parents to reduce bullying. Whether you can volunteer once a week or once a month, you can make a real difference just by being present. Be sure to coordinate your on-campus volunteer time with your child's teacher and/or principal.

3. Be a good example of kindness and leadership. Your kids learn a lot about power relationships from watching you. When you get angry at a waiter, a sales clerk, another driver on the road or even your child, you have a great opportunity to model effective communication techniques. Any time you speak to another person in a mean or abusive way, you're teaching your child that bullying is OK.

4. Learn the signs. Most children don't tell anyone (especially adults) that they've been bullied. It is

therefore important for parents and teachers to learn to recognize possible signs of being victimized, such as frequent loss of personal belongings, complaints of headaches or stomach aches, avoiding recess or school activities and getting to school very late or very early. If you suspect that a child might be being bullied, talk with the child's teacher or find ways to observe his peer interactions to determine whether your suspicions might be correct. Talk directly to your child about what is going on at school.

5. Create healthy anti-bullying habits early. Help develop anti-bullying and anti-victimization habits early in your children — as early as preschool and kindergarten. Coach your children on what not to do — hitting, pushing, teasing, saying, 'na-na-na-na-na,' or being mean to others. Help your child to focus on how such actions might feel to the child on the receiving end (e.g., "How do you think you would feel if that happened to you?") Such strategies can enhance empathy for others. Equally if not more important, teach your child what to do — kindness, empathy, fair play and turn-taking are critical skills for good peer relations. Children also need to learn how to say "No" firmly if they experience or witness bullying behavior.

6. Help your child's school address bullying effectively. Whether your children have been bullied or not, you should know what their school is doing to address bullying. Research shows that "zero-tolerance" policies aren't effective. What works better are ongoing educational programs that help create a healthy social climate in the school. This means teaching kids at every grade level how to be inclusive leaders and how to be empathic toward others and teaching victims effective resistance techniques.

7. Establish household rules about bullying. Your children need to hear from you explicitly that it's not OK or tolerable for them to bully, to be bullied, or to stand by and just watch other kids be bullied. Make sure they know that if they are bullied physically, verbally, or socially (at school, by a sibling, in your neighborhood, or online) it's safe and important for them to tell you about it — and that you will help. They also need to know just what bullying is (many children do not know that they are bullying others), and that such behavior is harmful to others and not acceptable.

8. Teach your child how to be a good witness or positive bystander. Research shows that kids who witness bullying feel powerless and seldom intervene. However, kids who take action can have a powerful and positive effect on the situation. Although it's never a child's responsibility to put himself or herself in danger, kids can often effectively defuse a bullying situation by yelling "Stop! You're bullying" or "Hey, that's not cool." Kids can also help each other by providing support to the victim, not giving extra attention to the bully, and/or reporting what they witnessed to an adult.

9. Teach your child about cyberbullying. Cyberbullying includes sending mean, rude, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; and intentionally excluding someone from an online group. These acts are as harmful as physical violence and must not be tolerated. We know from research that the more time a teen spends online, the more likely they are to be cyberbullied — so limit online time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correcting assertions

In response to "Plenty of Blame" by Leo Weber, I agree that there is plenty of blame and embarrassment to go around but it should fall squarely on the shoulders of the ownership and management

of Ashley Court.

Additionally, I would like to correct Mr. Weber's assertion that Livonia Fire & Rescue cited Ashley Court on several occasions. Livonia was not the investigating agency, nor does the department have enforcement power as it relates

to code violations within that facility.

This facility, along with thousands of other state licensed healthcare facilities, are regulated and inspected by the State of Michigan. These inspections are completed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Fire Services (BFS), and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Under the law, Livonia Fire & Rescue has no jurisdiction in terms of annual inspections, licens-

ing or enforcement at any state licensed healthcare facility. Although state fire inspectors are under no obligation to share the results of completed inspections at these licensed facilities, they commonly forward these results to local fire departments as a matter of courtesy.

In this case, our department did receive summary reviews of previous inspections at Ashley Court from the state fire inspectors, but at no time was the department notified of any grave safety conditions

that would trigger an imminent "suspension" and subsequent closure of the facility.

Livonia Fire & Rescue has responded to this facility on numerous occasions for false fire alarms, water flow alarms and other system malfunctions. We have always responded to these calls and work to mitigate the issue while on scene. If responding units are unable to correct the problem, we would then follow up with the facility at a later date to make sure they have the issue corrected. If we see a

pattern of issues based on multiple responses to a state licensed facility, our department will correspond with the State Fire Inspector regarding any repeated issues as a courtesy as well.

You can be assured that had our department been given notice of an impending closure to Ashley Court based on health and safety concerns by the State Fire Inspectors, the Mayor would have been updated immediately regarding such action.

Dan Lee, Fire Marshal
Livonia Fire and Rescue

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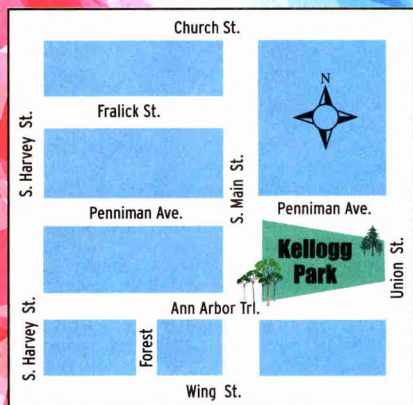
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Family time at fire department? 'It just ended up that way'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Capt. Jim Davison of the Northville City Fire Department's Plymouth station is proud of his firefighter sons.

"Very, very proud," Davison said. "The decisions were theirs." He pulls out a phone photo of son Matt Davison, 24, a Salem resident, with the Northville City department at a nearby training burn. Also in the photo with dad is a 44-year-old son (and brother) who hails from Tennessee.

"He got bitten by the bug," said Jim Davison of his older son, Bryan Swanson, training for firefighting and EMT work, which he now does paid-on call for a Tennessee fire service. "He's an auto mechanic by trade." His older son's decision "kind of made me feel good."

Matt Davison is now in Huron Valley's EMT course, and finished the fire academy at Van Buren late last year. He came on board with the NCFD in May.

Families are common in the Northville City

Fire Department Plymouth station ranks. Husband and wife Kevin and Rachel Allen are both firefighters and emergency medical technicians, and have a teenage son in Fire Explorers.

The Plymouth station also has three father-son teams, including the Davisons. Dave Tabaka is a firefighter/emergency first responder who works with firefighter son Kyle Tabaka.

Lt. Scott Rice is a firefighter/emergency first responder based in Plymouth with son Adam Rice, an emergency medical technician. In addition, the Northville City department's Northville station has another husband and wife team, Capt. Greg Westfall and wife Karen Westfall. Both are firefighters and EMTs.

Jim Davison, who spent 34 years with the Canton Fire Department where he started in 1971, handles administrative support for the downtown Plymouth station during weekday business hours.

Jim Davison noted firefighters often worked with family, an historic occurrence. "Today it's a little different," he said. "It's more technical, more requirements to hold a job in the fire service. You've got to do firefighting and EMS."

Scheduling vacations is no big deal with all those families. "This kind of operation, it doesn't matter," said Davison, noting some 30 people on the station roster. "That's not a problem."

Families weren't actively recruited. "It just ended up that way," said Davison, noting the Westfalls have been on the firefighting circuit in the region, with Greg Westfall a 41-year firefighting veteran. Their son was in the fire service, and has moved on to other career options, Davison said of the couple.

jbrown@hometownlife.com
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TOM BEAUDOIN
Karen Westfall and husband Capt. Greg Westfall have a combined 56 years in serving the community.



TOM BEAUDOIN
It's a family affair as husband and wife team, FF/EMTs Kevin and Rachel Allen of Livonia along with son Zach Willey (front) who is a Fire Explorer and wants to follow in his family's footsteps serving the community. Zach Willey will be a sophomore at Livonia Churchill High School in the fall and is 15.



TOM BEAUDOIN
Families are common at the Plymouth Fire Station/Northville City Fire Department, both husband-and-wife teams and fathers and sons.

So happy together: Fire service a family service at the Plymouth Fire Station

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Rachel and Kevin Allen of Livonia are veterans of the fire service. They work together at the Plymouth Fire Station, part of the Northville City Fire Department.

"I grew up in a firehouse," said Kevin, whose retired dad was a firefighter. "I'm second generation." Their son Zach Willey, 15, who'll be a sophomore this fall at Livonia Churchill High School, is in the Fire Explorers program.

The couple has children ages 9 and 1, too, and Kevin said, "It's an interesting dynamic, to say the least. Sometimes it's a changing of the guard, so to speak." Rachel added, "We're always on the go."

Zach wants a fire service career. "He hasn't really known anything else. Fire trucks and ambulances, that's mom's office," Karen said.

She's also a stay-at-home mom to their youngest; many of the paid, on-call department's firefighters have day jobs, Capt. Jim Davison said.

"Pretty much all of them" have day jobs, noted Davison, who works with son Matt Davison, 24, of Salem at the station in downtown Plymouth. "And then there's us retired guys who are here all the time." The department serves the cities of Northville and Plymouth.

Teamwork at work, home

Firefighting's truly in the family with the Allens, along with three father-son teams of firefighters based at the Plymouth station. Another husband-and-wife team, Capt. Greg and Karen Westfall, is based at the Northville station. Karen joined around 2000, Greg has 11 years in. "She has seniority over me but I have the rank," said a smiling Greg Westfall, who has 41 years in the fire service. He jokes, "There's a different boss at home."

The Westfalls of Plymouth have been married nearly 36 years and



TOM BEAUDOIN
Firefighter Matt Davison follows in the footsteps of his father, longtime firefighter/EMT, Capt. Jim Davison. The elder Davison also has another son in Tennessee in the fire service.

have three grown children and two grandkids. "I don't have to call him sir," Karen said with a smile. "It's his job. Just listen to what he says and trust in his judgment."

Kevin Allen said of his family, "We make sure we have that family time." He appreciates flexibility on vacations, "especially with this being a paid, on-call department."

Adam Rice, 23, of Canton works with dad Capt. Scott Rice. Adam's a senior studying psychology at Wayne State University and an EMT. He hopes to become a physician's assistant.

"He keeps me on my toes a little extra," Adam said of his dad. "It's really good to work with him." Of being an EMT, Adam said, "I like it a lot. It's a great opportunity to serve the community. I get to make a difference," added Adam, who started with the department in May.

Dad Lt. Scott Rice of Canton said, "Oh, I love it. It's exciting. We commute to work together. This was all his decision; very proud."

Dad Dave Tabaka works at the station with son Kyle Tabaka, 31, of Plymouth. "It's kind of neat," Dave said. "It's really a nice thing to have my son doing the same thing I've enjoyed for so many years."

Kyle noted his dad had recently retired from his own business where they'd worked together, so being on the job together isn't entirely new.

"He's been doing it my whole life," Kyle said of his firefighter dad. "I have the passion to do it. I like helping people," added Kyle, on the job about two and a half years.

Jim Davison also has an older son, Bryan Swanson, in Tennessee who became a fireman later in life. He's proud of Matt and Bryan.

Matt's in school for basic EMT and is a firefighter. "I like it," said Matt, a Salem resident. "It's been my dream ever since a kid to work alongside him. I get to go on runs at my leisure. When I'm not working my day job, I generally respond to anything I can."

Women on the job, too

Karen Westfall and Rachel Allen agree more women are choosing the fire service. Karen joked about the time she responded to a fire call and had to suit up — in a dress.

"I always lift with my legs," said Rachel Allen. "God gave us hips for a reason" beyond childbirth.

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Twitter: @248Julie

CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016

To the Qualified Electors of the CITY OF WAYNE - WAYNE COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tuesday, July 5, 2016 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

The following will be voted upon in the State of Michigan, County of Wayne:

Representative in Congress – 13th District
Representative in State Legislature – 16th District
Prosecuting Attorney
Sheriff
Clerk
Treasurer
Register of Deeds
County Commissioner
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit
Delegate to County Convention

PROPOSALS: WAYNE COUNTY

PROPOSAL P
Parks Millage Continuation

To continue the millage authorized in 2010, shall Wayne County levy this millage at the estimated 2015 rollback rate of .2459 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2016 through 2020) to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park, and improvements to municipal parks in the 43 communities as provided in an implementing ordinance through an annual allocation by commission district of the greater of \$50,000 or 15% of the total funds generated from that district, on the condition that, for any year for which this continued levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-1996 fiscal year appropriation for parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$9,865,514 in 2016.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes _____
No _____

WAYNE COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITY RENEWAL MILLAGE

The Wayne County Zoological Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 49 of 2008 and formed to allow for continuing zoological services for the students, residents and visitors of Wayne County. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax on real and personal property to provide revenue to an accredited zoological institution for this purpose. Accordingly, as a renewal of the previously approved millage authorization which expires with the 2017 tax levy, to continue providing zoological services to benefit the residents of the County, shall the 0.1 mill (10 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on all of the taxable property located within the County continue to be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2018 through 2027? It is estimated that if approved and levied, this millage would generate approximately \$3,940,066.55 in 2018.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes _____
No _____

CITY OF WAYNE PROPOSAL S

"Shall the Authority, presently comprising the Cities of Eastpointe and Hazel Park, also include the City of Wayne, and levy up to 14 mills on the taxable value of applicable real and personal property located within the limits of the Authority for the remainder of the 20-year term, 2016 through 2034 inclusive, and should the vote not pass by a majority then the Authority's district will continue to include only the corporate boundaries of the Cities of Eastpointe and Hazel Park? If approved and levied in its entirety, this millage would raise an estimated amount of \$6,046,684.00 in the City of Eastpointe, an estimated amount of \$2,373,756.00 in the City of Hazel Park, and an estimated amount of \$4,914,158.00 in the City of Wayne, for emergency services in the first year."

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes _____
No _____

A sample of the ballot may be obtained at the City of Wayne City Clerk's Office or on the City website at <http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us/>.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

In Person:

- At the City Clerk's office or at the office of any County Clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

CITY OF WAYNE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
3355 SOUTH WAYNE ROAD
WAYNE, MI 48184
Telephone number: 734.722.2204

Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of City of Wayne for at least 30 days.
3. Citizens of the United States.

Note: A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 2, 2016 Election is Saturday, July 30, 2016 until 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

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Save \$1.50

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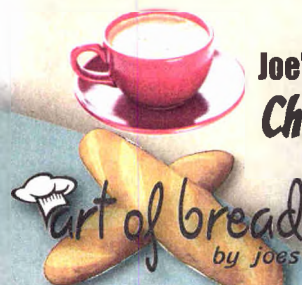
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SUMMER SPORTS PROFILE

Garden City grad DeHetre enjoys Michigan softball gig

Former Cougar a student manager for powerful Wolverines

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Jarrett DeHetre's "job" at the University of Michigan includes everything from sending out Tweets to polishing up cleats — and a lot in between.

The Garden City native is one of three student managers for U-M's nationally-ranked softball team, which relies on the former high school football star to juggle a smorgasbord of behind-the-scenes tasks that help the Wolverines' collective engine run smoothly.

In addition to distributing in-game road game updates on Twitter, DeHetre prepares the Wolverines' field before practices, makes sure uniforms are looking spiffy and preps both dugouts in the hours leading up to home games.



Garden City graduate Jarrett DeHetre (yellow shirt) cheers on the University of Michigan softball team, for which he is a student manager.

And the list goes on. "And, believe it or not, they've even let me hit infield a couple times," DeHetre said, smiling, noting that he never played a day of high school

baseball.

"When it's time to head to the facility for practice or a game, I never tell people I'm going to my job, I tell them I'm going to softball, because,

while I know it's a job, it doesn't seem like it because I enjoy it so much."

Among the priceless perks that are attached to DeHetre's employment are annual trips to the College Softball World Series in Oklahoma City (and a one-second cameo on ESPN), forging friendships with some of the best softball players in the world, and working with legendary U-M head coach Carol Hutchins.

"I was a little nervous when I found out my first job interview was going to be with Carol Hutchins, because, well, she's one of the best coaches of all time," DeHetre admitted. "When I walked out of the interview, I wasn't sure exactly how I did, but I figured it went pretty good because she was joking around with me and smiling."

"One of the best things about this job is that before games, when coach Hutchins talks to the team, I get to listen in. Some of the things I've

See MANAGER, Page B2

SIDELINES

Clarenceville coaching vacancy

Livonia Clarenceville High School is searching for a boys basketball coach.

The new coach's responsibilities will be providing leadership and direction for the program's players (both varsity, junior varsity, freshmen and middle school) and assistant coaches; establishing the cooperation and coordination of all levels of the program; and establishing a high level of self discipline and self confidence in all the participants of the program.

To apply for the position, email a letter of interest, your coaching resume and references to kevin.murphy@clarencevilleschools.org.

MU athletes excelling in class

Madonna University student-athletes continued their commitment to excellence in the classroom by posting a 3.39 GPA over the winter semester, led by men's cross country with a 3.62 mark.

The successful semester maintains a cumulative GPA at 3.40 for all of Madonna's 11 active teams following the 2015-16 academic year.

Women's golf and women's cross country followed men's cross country with winter semester GPA's of 3.59 and 3.57, respectively, while volleyball checked in with a 3.52 average. Baseball, men's soccer and women's soccer tied with a semester GPA of 3.45 and were followed closely by softball, women's basketball and men's basketball with averages north of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Over the course of the 2015-16 academic year, women's golf was able to take the highest team GPA with a 3.64 mark while women's cross country chimed in with a 3.54 average. The top men's team was baseball with a 3.52 GPA during 2015-16. Baseball also led the NAIA with 13 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes at season's end.

All Crusader teams posted 2.90 or higher team GPA's throughout 2015-16, paced by 10 programs with yearly averages better than 3.10. During the winter 2016 semester, MU student-athletes were enrolled in 2,304 credit hours and amassed 7,802.89 quality points.

All told, the current cast of MU student-athletes has completed 10,493 credit hours, earning 35,660.13 quality points along the way.

Summer fitness

All Livonia Public School students in grades seventh through 12th are invited to participate in a free physical education program (PEP) this summer.

Beginning Tuesday, June 28, middle and high school students from LPS will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of health and fitness activities at Churchill and Stevenson high schools.

The program will run every Tuesday and Thursday from June 28 through Aug. 11. No activities will be held on July 5 and 7.

Activities offered include yoga, pilates, basketball, CrossFit, and access to the fitness center, weight rooms, and track. All participating students must submit a permission slip on their first day of attendance.

DIVISION 1 SOFTBALL



Farmington Hills Mercy softball players erupt with joy following Thursday's semifinal victory.

ED WRIGHT

MERCY MAKES A STATE-MENT

Marlins ride clutch performances to achieve ultimate crown

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Farmington Hills Mercy played the perfect game at the perfect time and place Saturday to win the Division 1 state softball championship.

The Marlins used outstanding pitching and timely hitting to defeat top-ranked Macomb Dakota in the final game at Michigan State University, 4-0.

Senior Andrea Elmore's final game for Mercy was a five-hit shutout in which she kept a potent offensive lineup off balance with her sharp pitching. She struck out five and walked one.

"The heat definitely helped me," Elmore said of the 90-degree temperature. "My pitches were working, and I felt really confident. Having my teammates around me and thinking, 'This is our last game,' it definitely pumped me up to do well."

Mercy (43-2) wasted no time getting on the scoreboard and establishing an early lead



Mercy pitcher Andrea Elmore was brilliant throughout the semifinal and final games in East Lansing.

ED WRIGHT

with junior Sophie VanAcker's RBI triple in the first inning.

Following a leadoff walk to Anna Dixon, the left-handed-hitting VanAcker drove the ball to the opposite field, over the left fielder's head for a 1-0 score.

"I went down in the count and was thinking, 'I really need to come through here,'" VanAcker said. "I was think-

ing, 'Just feel the ball off the bat.' When I hit it, I thought, 'Yep, I hit that pretty good.'"

"When I was rounding second base, I said, 'I'm going to keep going,' because I had some speed out of the box and it just felt good off my hands. I knew it was going pretty far."

"It felt good to come out on top there and get a run in the first inning. It was really im-

portant and gave us some energy going into the rest of the innings."

Close for six innings

It stayed that way through the next five as Elmore dueling with Dakota ace Kendahl Dunford, who was injured in the seventh inning and didn't finish the game.

The Marlins had eight hits off Dunford, who posted four strikeouts and walked one, but they didn't score again until the seventh.

With the game still very much in doubt, Mercy clinched the victory and state title with a three-run rally in the last inning.

Very timely solo shot

Junior second baseman Nicole Belans began the Mercy seventh with a home run over the left-field fence for an insurance run.

"It was super exciting," Belans said. "I think I ran those bases so fast, because I just wanted to get home and celebrate."

"It was nerve-wracking (to that point in the game). We knew we had to hold them

See MERCY, Page B2

TRACK & FIELD

Intensity runners churn out more gold

Several area athletes among club's standouts

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The national stage wasn't too big for members of the Wayne-based Intensity Track Club this past weekend.

In a meet that attracted the fastest and strongest high school athletes in the country, recent Wayne Memorial graduate Montel Hood was the most prominent headline-grabber for Intensity at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals held in Greensboro, N.C.

Hood, who last week set a state high school record in the 400-meter dash, placed third in the country in the 400 at the New Balance meet with a time of 46.66 seconds.

Hood is now the owner of

the fastest and fourth-fastest 400 times in the state.

Hood's sister, Anavia Battle, placed sixth in the meet's Emerging Elite 100-meter dash with a personal-best time of 11.90 seconds. Battle will be a senior at Wayne throughout the 2016-17 school year.

Battle joined Chanel Khan, Reanna Brown-Deacon and Erica Robinson on Intensity's fourth-place Emerging Elite 800 sprint medley relay team.

Intensity's boys 800 sprint medley relay foursome of Danny Delleh, Tyrese Billingslea, Andrew Chant and Hood earned all-American honors by placing third in its event.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Pictured are members of the Intensity Track Club who competed in the New Balance National Meet.

SUBMITTED

Michalak to soar with Cardinals



Recent Garden City graduate and Cougars basketball standout Lindsey Michalak (seated) was joined by members of her family, Garden City basketball coach Michele Tyree (standing at left) and Concordia University basketball coach Thad Sankey (seated) as she officially committed to play collegiate hoops for the Cardinals. Michalak was a rare four-year varsity player for the Cougars, who earned multiple all-conference accolades.

SUBMITTED

MANAGER

Continued from Page B1

heard in those pre-game speeches I'll carry with me for the rest of my life. I've learned so much more than I ever thought I would when I accepted this position."

A psychology major entering his final year at U-M, DeHetre said a typical game day consists of arriving at the program's softball facility close to three hours before the first pitch.

"We set up both dugouts, help the coaches with whatever needs done as far as preparation goes, and we set up the tagging software for the video-taping," he said. "I do the live Tweeting for some of the road games when our sports information director isn't there."

"A typical non-game day includes going to class, then heading over here to set up for practice. We load balls into the machines, shag balls during batting practice, things like that."

DeHetre has learned during the past two seasons — both of which ended in Oklahoma City — that the Wolverines are dominant because they're talented and cohesive.



Jarrett DeHetre is pictured just to the right of University of Michigan softball coach Carol Hutchins.

SUBMITTED

"When you're just watching them play on ESPN, it's hard to tell how close this team really is," he said. "It's just a very cool family culture."

An outstanding student both at Garden City and at U-M, DeHetre applied to 22 schools during his senior year in high school.

"I got recruited for football by a few Division 3 teams, but

going to school at Michigan was always a dream of mine," he said. "I originally applied for this position because I needed a job to help pay for school and bills, but the money I've earned from it is secondary to all of the amazing experiences I've had with the team."

ewright@hometownlife.com

SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

Michigan Rams rolling through summer slate

Local wooden-bat team registers a pair of doubleheader sweeps

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Michigan Rams' collegiate summer baseball team has been busier than an air-conditioner installer during a heat wave the past few days.

On Monday in a Michigan Collegiate Baseball League doubleheader played at Bicentennial Park in Livonia, Rick Berryman's diamond squad out-slugged the Cubs, 8-3, before silencing the Sting, 2-0.

The superb sweep boosted the Rams' record to 9-3-1. The Cubs slipped to 3-8-1 while the Sting tumbled to 3-6-1.

Nolan Page was the star of the game-one triumph over the Cubbies. Page ripped three doubles, knocked in a run and scored once in five at-bats. Other key contributors were Zack Schmidtke (2-for-2, two RBI, two runs), James Hall (2-for-4, RBI) and Tyler Lowe, who added a run-scoring double and a run.

Garret Edgell led the Cubs with one hit and two ribbies.

Layne Gusler earned the mound win for the Rams, holding his foes to two earned runs and four hits, while striking out eight, over six innings. Jake Rogers didn't allow a hit or a walk in his one inning of work.

Trailing 3-1, the Rams knotted the game at 3-3 with a two-spot in the third. They ran away from their hosts with two runs in both the fifth and sixth frames before adding an insurance marker in the seventh.

Rams' starting pitcher Jared Tobey silenced the Sting's bats in the night-cap, yielding just two hits and one walk over five innings. Schmidtke earned the save with a scoreless seventh.

Jesse Rometly suffered the loss after a decent outing. Livonia Stevenson grad Jack Ferguson joined teammate Page in the two-hit club. Josh Arndt added a run-scoring single.

Jake Vandivelt, Ben Hart, JT Conti and Matt Cox all had a single for the Sting.

Saturday twinbill

The Rams had way too much thunder for the Southfield Lightning during a Saturday doubleheader at Ford Field.

The hosts swept the Lightning, 2-0 and 15-3, behind timely hitting from a host of players, and clutch starting pitching from Brendan Wetmore (game one) and Mike Kanitra.

Wetmore (Westland John Glenn) scattered four hits to earn the game-one win. He struck out two and didn't issue a walk. Schmidtke was perfect over the final two frames, striking out four of the six batters he faced.

Nick Montroy (Garden City) took the loss despite giving up just four hits.

Schmidtke and Tyler Lowe collected the only RBI for the winners. Brent Kline went 2-for-2 for Southfield.

Kanitra tossed three scoreless innings in the game-two triumph. Justin Steele closed out the game with three solid innings of relief work.

Alex Peczynski was a beast at the dish for the Rams, going 3-for-4 with a double, three RBI and three runs. Ferguson was also a tough out, chipping in with two hits, three RBI and a run.

The Rams outthit the Lightning, 17-5.

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MERCY

Continued from Page B1

every inning, because we were only up by one.

"I was really happy I could contribute for my team and give us the extra energy that we needed to win."

Mercy adds to lead

But the Marlins didn't stop there as Elmore followed with a double, and junior shortstop Shannon Gibbons' bunt single put runners at the corners with no outs.

Sophomore Megan Satawa and junior Mary Reeber, the Nos. 8 and 9 batters who contributed greatly during the tournament, hit consecutive sacrifice flies to make it 4-0.

Sophomore Julia Kleismit, the courtesy runner for Elmore, scored easily on Satawa's fly ball to right field.

Gibbons, who went to third on that play, was in position to score the fourth run when Reeber drove the ball into left field.

'A lot of excitement'

For much of the game, it looked as if it would go into the book as a 1-0 score with VanAcker's triple being the one big hit.

"I had a feeling that wasn't going to be the only one," VanAcker said. "I have a lot of confidence in our players."

"Nicole hit a bomb that really triggered a lot of excitement for everyone. This is just an exciting feeling. It's overwhelming, all of this."

Countdown to victory

With the additional run support, Elmore quickly retired the side in the bottom of the seventh.

The first two batters swung at the first pitch for a popout to Elmore and a flyout to VanAcker in center field.

Elmore struck out the last batter to finish the game and complete Mercy's championship season.

A trophy for Falvo

It's the first state title in softball for the Marlins, who were runners-up in 2002 under

the late coach Jack Falvo.

"Jack was a great friend of mine back when I was coaching at Trenton High School," Mercy coach Alec Lesko said. "We feel his presence all the time."

"He built the program to what it is. The coaching staff said: 'We have to do this for Jack and dedicate it to him,' so we're happy we did it."

Belans and Elmore were 2-for-3. Dakota leadoff batter Corbin Hinson went 3-for-3.

Miss Softball winner

Senior first baseman Abby Krzywiecki, who was named the winner of the Miss Softball Award for position players after the game, and Satawa had the other Mercy hits.

"I did this for my school," Krzywiecki said. "I never did it for my individual stats. I never wanted to become Miss Softball. I wanted to win a state championship."

"There's a difference between winning things for yourself and winning things for your friends and your teammates."

"I did this with 17 other

people. My hard work was for them, and they motivated me."

Dakota bats stymied

The Cougars (38-3) threatened in the fourth inning when they put runners at second and third with one out. Elmore got the Marlins out of it with a strikeout and a flyout to Gibbons at short.

"We pitched well enough and played good defense for the most part," Dakota coach Rick Fontaine said. "We average eight or nine runs a game and were kept off balance today."

"We didn't get our best swings. Maybe we were trying too hard. Girls who've been great hitters all year long didn't have their best days."

He had good things to say about Elmore's pitching, praising her effectiveness at moving the ball around and keeping the Cougars off balance.

"She got a first strike in a lot of situations and put us with two-strike counts," Fontaine said. "She had us making defensive swings."

"What she did was what you have to do in big games. I give

her a lot of credit. She did a great job today."

Pitcher aces final test

After high-scoring games in the previous two tournament wins, Elmore was on her game and played well in the biggest game of her career.

"It's so amazing that I did well today," she said. "In the past couple games, it's mainly been our offense, but I was happy to help today in such an important game."

"If it was to come at all, I'm happy it was in a state championship game."

Lesko was thrilled with Elmore's performance and the overall play of the Marlins, which included error-free defense.

"I thought we'd have to score a lot of runs to outscore that team, because they put a lot of runs on the board," he said.

"It's an old recipe, and we all know it. Good pitching, good defense and timely hitting wins ballgames, and we had it today."

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ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Daniel Mullen, 200 free, Canton: The sophomore made a versatile performer for the KLAA South Division champion Chiefs.

Mullen was conference champ in the 200 freestyle and finished seventh at the Division 1 state meet, earning all-state honors and setting a new school record in the process with his time of 1:42.51 — tops among Observerland performers.

In addition, Mullen, was one-fourth of Canton's stellar freestyle relays.

"He set his goals early in the season and achieved them," coach Dave Le said. "He will be exciting to watch over the next two years."

Garrett Beauprez, 200 IM, Plymouth: When Beauprez started his Wildcats career as a freshman, he earned top rookie honors. That merely started a four-year run of accolades and accomplishments.

As a senior, the team captain qualified for the state meet for his fourth consecutive year, setting Plymouth records in the 200 IM, 200 free, 500 free, 100 back, 200 medley relay and 400 free relay.

He placed 16th at state finals in the 200 IM with a time of 1:57.79.

"Garrett has had a stellar career with me at Plymouth," coach Kenn Forbes said. "He earned Rookie of the Year his freshman year and was an alternate on the state team."

"As a sophomore he earned the team MVP award and went to states again. Junior year he helped set two South Division records, and several varsity records and was a division champion. This past season he outdid himself several times over."

Beauprez plans to swim in college for Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind., where he will study engineering.

Jackson O'Dowd, 50 free, Stevenson: O'Dowd, a multiple-time all-state swimmer, out-performed the fastest swimmers in the state in March by stroking to a time of 20.70 seconds in the Division 1 state meet to nip runner-up Henry Schutte of Forest Hills Central by a quarter of a second in the 50-yard freestyle.

The speedy Spartan also earned all-state accolades in the 100 freestyle with a fourth-place time of 46.12 seconds.

O'Dowd wrapped up his high school career as one of the most-decorated swimmers in Stevenson history. An outstanding student as well as swimmer, O'Dowd will compete for the University of Pennsylvania beginning later this summer.

Ethan Burke, diving, Churchill: Burke closed out a spectacular diving career at Churchill by placing an all-state-worthy sixth place at the Division 2 state meet in March. It was the second consecutive year the senior Charger earned all-state status. He is also a high-performing pole vaulter for the Churchill track-and-field team.

Burke's season was jam-packed with accolades prior to the state meet, as he placed first in every Charger dual meet; won the Wayne Invitational with a school, meet and pool record point total; and placed second in the Wayne County meet. He also won the KLAA South Division title and the KLAA Kensington Conference championship. On a national scale, he is a two-time all-American.

"Ethan is successful because he works extremely hard and makes it fun," Churchill head coach Jim Sells said. "He

finished his high school career undefeated in dual meets in the one-meter diving event."

Nathan Budnick, 100 fly, Salem: The freshman made a quick impression, showing talent and versatility in individual events and relays.

In the 100 butterfly, Budnick had the second fastest time among Observerland swimmers with a time of 53.87. "Nate came into the team with plenty of swimming experience and leadership skills," coach Eric Lynn said. "As a freshman, he has a great future in front of him."

Gerard Niermann, 100 free, Canton: Niermann's senior season was outstanding, demonstrating his ability to swim fast under pressure.

"He was Canton's top sprinter this year," Le said. "He has improved over the last four years and set the tone for all future Canton sprinters. With his work ethic, he will continue to do well at the next level."

Not only was he stellar in the 100 free, posting a season's best of 47.41, he was strong in the 200 IM (1:58.92) and in sprint relays. At the state meet, he registered a time of 48.50 in the finals, good for 20th overall.

Niermann will swim for the University of Findlay and pursue a degree in graphic design.

Ben Rojewski, 500 free, Stevenson: Rojewski made a name for himself at the state meet, placing seventh in the 500 freestyle with a time of 4:40.60. Zeeland's Micah DeJonge won the race in 4:29.73.

Parker Wasielewski, 100 back, Stevenson: Wasielewski placed 14th in the state in the 100 backstroke. He also just missed finishing in the top-16 in the 50 freestyle. Wasielewski tied for 16th in the preliminaries before getting nipped in a swim-off by a third of a second.

Eugene Li, 100 breast, Salem: Yet another ninth-grader who burst onto the scene with the Rocks, the versatile Li established a varsity school record in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 59.93 (No. 1 in the Observerland area). At the state meet, he tallied a time of 1:00.77 to finish 22nd overall.

Li also was among area leaders in the 100 free (second, 47.37), 200 free (second, 1:45.51), 200 IM (third, 1:58.81) and 100 back (fifth, 55.17).

Another plus was displaying immediate leadership skills.

"He is very well rounded in all of his events and has tons of potential to continue to improve," Lynn said. "He took on the task of leading workouts from Day 1."

SECOND TEAM

Derek Goderis, 200 free, Canton: Goderis was a key member off Canton freestyle relay teams, but also was a strong performer in individual events. At the Kensington Conference meet, the sophomore finished 10th overall with a time of 1:48.70. That was his best time of the season and fourth best among Observerland performers. "Derek went from being interested in swimming to committed to swimming this year," Le said. "He is a competitor and loves to race. ... He is willing to do whatever necessary to help the team succeed."

For his efforts and positive attitude, Goderis was named Canton's Team-mate of the Year.

David Schmall, 200 IM, N. Farmington: The sophomore won the OAA Blue Division championship in the IM while swimming his best time of

2:02.50. He was tied for third in the breaststroke with teammate Max Greenbaum.

Schmall was a Division 2 state qualifier and is among the area's top 10 in both events. He ranks fourth in the breast-stroke at 1:01.15.

"David put in a lot of work in his breaststroke, and his IM really took off in the process," coach Mike Harfoot said. "He had a lifetime best by quite a margin in the IM, and he had a really good swim at the league meet to get his time."

"I think David is just starting to realize his potential. He has the drive to go from good to great, which is hard to coach. He's going to be one to watch as a junior and senior for sure."

Mike Wischer, 50 free, Plymouth: Wischer had an excellent senior season for the Wildcats, capped off by qualifying for the Division 1 meet.

At the state meet, he finished 28th overall in prelims with a time of 22.19 seconds, his season's best.

He placed fourth at the Kensington Conference meet, registering a mark of 22.43.

Jordan Groves, diving, Plymouth: The junior continued to impress, qualifying for the D1 state meet, where he finished 25th in prelims with 145.25 points.

At the conference meet, Groves registered 341.90 points, earning him fourth place overall.

Groves' best showing of the season was 375.70 points, second among Observerland performers.

Seth Fleming, 100 fly, Harrison-Farmington: A repeat member of the all-area second team, Fleming excels in the butterfly and the backstroke.

He is the OAA White Division champion in the backstroke (54.37) and was third in the butterfly (55.01).

Fleming helped the Phoenix win the division championship as a member of the first-place 200 medley and second-place 400 freestyle relays.

In the backstroke, he was 16th in the Division 1 state meet, swimming his best time (53.82) in the prelims and was 12th (55.80) at the Oakland County meet. His best butterfly time is 55.01.

"Seth is a great worker and represents Phoenix pride," coach Drew Hansz said, adding Fleming was elected captain for next season.

Kyle Amick, 100 free, Canton: It was a stellar season for the versatile Amick, who qualified for the state meet as part of two freestyle relays and came close in the 100 freestyle.

At the Kensington Conference meet, the junior registered a time of 49.56, good for fifth place. His season's best time of 49.48 was fifth overall in the Observerland coverage area.

"Kyle is a competitor and loves to race," Le said. "He focused more on the sprint free this season and it paid off in the form of being apart of the state relays and almost making a individual state cut."

"He was elected as a captain for next season and his leadership will help the team's success."

Phillip Collingwood, 500 free, Salem: It was another solid season for the hard-working junior.

He made his presence felt by qualifying for the D1 state meet, where he placed 19th overall with a time of 4:49.75 in the preliminaries.

Collingwood's time of 4:47.55 earned him second place at the Kensington Conference meet. That was his best

time of the season, second among Observerland performers to Livonia Stevenson's Ben Rojewski (4:40.60).

Tristen Shao, 100 back, Canton: Shao was strong throughout the season for the Chiefs.

The sophomore qualified and finished 21st at the state meet with a season's best time of 54.51.

"Tristen is very dedicated to swimming," Le said. "This season he was very focused on achieving (and qualifying for the state meet). I look forward to seeing what he will be able to accomplish next season."

Kevin Taylor, 100 breast, Churchill: Taylor finished 14th in the 100-yard breaststroke at the Division 2 state meet in March with a finals time of 1:00.95. He earned a berth in the "B" finals race after covering the distance in 1:01.08 in the preliminary round.

FIRST RELAYS

200 medley, Salem: The quartet of Eugene Li, Nick Landon, Nathan Budnick and Phillip Collingwood topped the Observerland competition, with a season's best mark of 1:39.67.

At the state meet, the relay team finished 23rd overall with a time of 1:39.84. They registered a time of 1:39.67 at the Kensington Conference (fourth place), an indication of season-long consistency.

"These guys came together and tried a bunch of different combinations looking for which one would be the fastest," Lynn said. "I think they surprised themselves with how much they were able to accomplish."

200 free, Canton: Dan Mullen, Derek Goderis, Kyle Amick and Gerard Niermann were a strong 1-2-3-4 combo for the Chiefs.

They finished in the top four at the Kensington Conference meet and followed that up by placing 13th at the state meet. With a season's best time off 1:28.26, the quartet had the fastest time among area schools.

"It took time to figure out the right combination for this relay but once we did this group just kept getting faster every time they swam," Le said. "Three out of four will be returning next year and a return to state meet is most likely for them."

400 free, Canton: Another relay juggernaut for the Chiefs was this one, comprised of Dan Mullen, Derek Goderis, Kyle Amick and Gerard Niermann.

The unit placed second at conference meet and 13th at the state meet (3:13.80). It posted the area's best time with a mark of 3:12.56.

"As with the 200 free relay it took time to find the right combination," Le said. "This group narrowly missed the Canton school record. This group was fun to watch all season long."

"As they started to see some success, their competitiveness really started to take over and they wanted to go fast. Not only for each other but the team as well."

SECOND RELAYS

200 medley, Plymouth: Seniors Garrett Beauprez, Bronson Knowles, Aniketh Visai and Mike Wischer finished 22nd at the state meet with a time of 1:39.75.

The quartet qualified at the KLAA Kensington Conference meet, tallying a time of 1:40.49, good for fifth place overall.

200 freestyle, Stevenson: Stevenson's 200 freestyle relay team of Wasielewski, Connor Beck, Luke Santi and O'Dowd touched 14th with a 1:28.48 clocking in the Division 1 state meet.

ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SWIM AND DIVE TEAM

200 freestyle: 1. Daniel Mullen, soph., Canton; 2. Derek Goderis, soph., Canton.

200 individual medley: 1. Garrett Beauprez, sr., Plymouth; 2. David Schmall, soph., N. Farmington.

50 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd, sr., Stevenson; 2. Mike Wischer, sr., Plymouth.

One-meter diving: 1. Ethan Burke, sr., Churchill; 2. Jordan Groves, jr., Plymouth.

100 butterfly: 1. Nathan Budnick, fr., Salem; 2. Seth Fleming, jr., Harrison-Farmington.

100 freestyle: 1. Gerard Niermann, sr., Canton; 2. Kyle Amick, jr., Canton.

500 freestyle: 1. Ben Rojewski, jr., Stevenson; 2. Phillip Collingwood, jr., Salem.

100 backstroke: 1. Parker Wasielewski, soph., Stevenson; 2. Tristen Shao, soph., Canton.

100 breaststroke: 1. Eugene Li, fr., Salem; 2. Kevin Taylor, jr., Churchill.

RELAY TEAMS

200 medley: 1. Salem (fr. Eugene Li, sr. Nick Landon, fr. Nathan Budnick, jr. Phillip Collingwood), 2. Plymouth (sr. Garrett Beauprez, sr. Bronson Knowles, sr. Aniketh Visai, sr. Mike Wischer).

200 freestyle: 1. Canton (jr. Dan Mullen, soph. Derek Goderis, jr. Kyle Amick, sr. Gerard Niermann), 2. Stevenson (soph. Parker Wasielewski, soph. Connor Beck, fr. Luke Santi, sr. Jackson O'Dowd).

400 freestyle: 1. Canton (jr. Kyle Amick, soph. Derek Goderis, jr. Dan Mullen, sr. Gerard Niermann), 2. Stevenson (soph. Parker Wasielewski, soph. Connor Beck, fr. Ben Rojewski, sr. Jackson O'Dowd).

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Salem 1:39.67
Plymouth 1:39.73
Canton 1:40.56

North Farmington 1:41.00
Harrison-Farmington 1:41.46

200 FREESTYLE

Daniel Mullen (Canton) 1:42.51
Eugene Li (Salem) 1:45.51

Ben Rojewski (Stevenson) 1:46.88
Derek Goderis (Canton) 1:48.70

Colin Foley (Farm. Unified) 1:49.18
Drew Hoeselcher (Farm. Unified) 1:50.83

Dillon Hess (Farm. Unified) 1:51.01
Luke Santi (Stevenson) 1:51.41

Kevin Taylor (Churchill) 1:51.88
Gerard Niermann (Canton) 1:52.94

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Garrett Beauprez (Plymouth) 1:57.05
Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 1:58.80

Eugene Li (Salem) 1:58.81
Gerard Niermann (Canton) 1:58.92

Kevin Taylor (Churchill) 2:01.76
Nathan Budnick (Salem) 2:02.01

David Schmall (N. Farmington) 2:02.50
Tristen Shao (Canton) 2:05.89

Daniel Mullen (Canton) 2:05.99
Bronson Knowles (Plymouth) 2:06.82

50 FREESTYLE

Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 20.70
Parker Wasielewski (Stevenson) 21.68

Mike Wischer (Plymouth) 22.49
Trevor Franklin (Farm. Unified) 22.43

Daniel Mullen (Canton) 22.55
Phillip Collingwood (Salem) 22.56

Austin Abro (N. Farmington) 22.60
Drew Hinkley (Farm. Unified) 22.67

Aniketh Visai (Plymouth) 22.71
Kyle Amick (Canton) 22.73

ONE-METER DIVING

Ethan Burke (Churchill) 462.25
Jordan Groves (Plymouth) 375.70

Ben Kirchhoff (Plymouth) 309.55
Patrick Holton (Churchill) 279.75

John Vary (Salem) 279.70
Matt Natolie (Farm. Unified) 277.85

Eli Weil (N. Farmington) 271.25
Kevin Tarta (Churchill) 269.75

Nate Lawler (N. Farmington) 248.85
Charles Carey (Canton) 248.15

100 BUTTERFLY

Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 52.97
Nathan Budnick (Salem) 53.87

Gerard Niermann (Canton) 53.88
Parker Wasielewski (Stevenson) 54.36

Seth Fleming (Farm. Unified) 55.01
Austin Abro (N. Farmington) 55.23

Tristen Shao (Canton) 55.30
Drew Hoeselcher (Farm. Unified) 55.67

Richard Ling (Canton) 55.75
Ryan Morgott (N. Farmington) 55.82

100 FREESTYLE

Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 45.73
Eugene Li (Salem) 47.37

Daniel Mullen (Canton) 47.41
Gerard Niermann (Canton) 48.05

Kyle Amick (Canton) 49.48
Dillon Hess (Farm. Unified) 49.79

Derek Goderis (Canton) 50.00
Trevor Franklin (Farm. Unified) 50.04

Drew Hinkley (Farm. Unified) 50.46
Mike Wischer (Plymouth) 50.68

500 FREESTYLE

Ben Rojewski (Stevenson) 4:40.60
Phillip Collingwood (Salem) 4:47.55

Garrett Beauprez (Plymouth) 4:51.57
Daniel Mullen (Canton) 4:52.49

Kevin Taylor (Churchill) 4:57.08
Benjamin LaPorte (Stevenson) 5:01.55

Tristen Shao (Canton) 5:01.78
Nathan Sutton (Churchill) 5:02.01

Colin Foley (Farm. Unified) 5:03.58
Charlie Jones (Farm. Unified) 5:07.58

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

Canton 1:28.26
Livonia Stevenson 1:28.38

Harrison-Farmington 1:29.95
Salem 1:30.07

100 BACKSTROKE

Parker Wasielewski (Stevenson) 53.56
Seth Fleming (Farm. Unified) 53.82

Tristen Shao (Canton) 54.51
Garrett Beauprez (Plymouth) 54.69

Eugene Li (Salem) 55.17
Kyle Amick (Canton) 57.26

Logan Kendall (Plymouth) 57.57
Bryan Reppenhausen (Stevenson) 58.20

Justin Woodcock (Farm. Unified) 59.04
Keegan Kendall (Plymouth) 59.13

100 BREASTSTROKE

Eugene Li (Salem) 59.93
Gerard Niermann (Canton) 1:00.90

Kevin Taylor (Churchill) 1:00.95
David Schmall (N. Farmington) 1:01.15

Max Greenbaum (N. Farmington) 1:01.32
Aniketh Visai (Plymouth) 1:01.69

Garrett Beauprez (Plymouth) 1:03.34
Bronson Knowles (Plymouth) 1:04.29

Nick Landon (Salem) 1:04.80
Richard Ling (Canton) 1:05.07

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Canton 3:12.56
Livonia Stevenson 3:15.43

Plymouth 3:18.59
Harrison-Farmington 3:20.14

Salem 3:21.14



Daniel Mullen



Ethan Burke



Derek Goderis



Aniketh Visai



Jordan Groves



Nick Landon



Parker Wasielewski



Mike Wischer



Garrett Beauprez



Tristen Shao



David Schmall



Eugene Li



Bronson Knowles



Jackson O'Dowd



Kevin Taylor



Gerard Niermann



Phillip Collingwood



Seth Fleming



Nathan Budnick



Kyle Amick

NHL DRAFT PREVIEW

NTDP alums in high demand on eve of the NHL Entry Draft

Keller, Bellows slated to be picked in first round

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When the National Hockey League Entry Draft unfolds beginning Friday night in Buffalo, count Scott Monaghan among those who will be glued to his TV or computer.

Monaghan, senior director of operations for USA Hockey's Plymouth-based National Team Development Program, expects a steady march of NTDP alums to the podium after being picked by NHL teams

PRO GOLF

Bronkema seizes 99th Michigan Open

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Even though he bogeyed the 18th hole in the late afternoon at Prestwick Village Golf Club, Jeff Bronkema walked off the course June 16 with a satisfying grin on his face.

Last year's runner-up, Bronkema picked up the \$8,000 first-place check and a two-year free lease on a Cadillac this time by winning the Michigan Open by three strokes in the 99th event sponsored by LaFontaine Automotive.

The 27-year-old Bronkema carded a final round 2-under 70 to finish with a four-round total of 276 (12-under) to beat co-runners-up Andy Ruthoski of Muskegon and Eric Lilleboe of Okemos by three strokes.

"It feels great, unbelievable," said Bronkema, a native of Plainwell who resides in Wayland. "I wanted to win this tournament so bad for so long. It feels great to finally do it."

Bronkema made two birdies and one bogey on the front nine and finished with an identical two birdies and one bogey on the back side.

Despite a misty rain, Bronkema was able to navigate 7,000-yard layout in Highland.

"I actually think it played into my favor, because it brought everyone back and I was playing really solid," Bronkema said. "I hit two bad shots on the back nine, but scrambled well. I think it really kind of helped me separate myself."

"I just controlled the ball into the greens so well. I rarely put myself in a bad spot and I didn't get above the holes often. My irons coming into the greens were really good."

Prestwick Village, which hosted the tourney for the



Jake Kneen hits an approach shot during the 99th Michigan Open at Prestwick Village.

third straight year, was definitely to Bronkema's liking.

"I love it," the journeyman pro said. "I've played really well here every year. I'm not real comfortable on the front nine, for some reason. I can't seem to make any birdies, but I don't make a lot of bogeys, either. Once I get through No. 11 there on the back nine, I just seem to play those holes really well. I love playing here."

Bronkema, who never played collegiate golf and was lightly recruited, is trying to move up in the professional golf ranks.

"I'll just keep moving on," He said. "I'll play the mini-tours, some web.com on Monday qualifiers and probably play Latino America Q School (PGA Tour Latin America) coming up next month. We'll see ... just trying to get bigger status on a bigger tour and keep moving up."

Defending champion Jeff Cuzzort of Grosse Ile finished fourth with 280 (8-under), while four others, 2009 North-

ville High grad Wes Gates, Tom Werkmeister (Kentwood), Evan Bowser (Dearborn) and Matthew Thompson (Royal Oak), were all tied for fifth with 282 (6-under).

Gates, who played four seasons (2009-13) at Bowling Green State University, came in June 13 after an 11-hour drive from Quebec. He shot an opening-round 73 before going 70-66-73 over the final three days.

Gates birdied three of his first four holes and was only one shot back of Bronkema and the lead at the turn. But after a birdie on No. 10, Gates bogeyed Nos. 13, 16 and 17 to finish 2-over on the back nine.

"That's why you play 18 holes or 72 holes; it's a marathon. It's not really a nine-hole sprint or a one-hole sprint," said Gates, who resides in Novi. "You just got to keep playing."

"Roller-coaster, a lot of good, a lot of bad. To be honest, I struggled all week, but just found a way to get the ball in the hole. Unfortunately,

things kind of fell apart a little bit on my last nine holes, but that's golf."

Conditions changed dramatically June 16 after the first three rounds.

"The first couple of days, it was really firm and fast and then it rained," Gates said. "Then it was soft and windy. And today, obviously, it was raining a little bit and pretty windy, so it got really difficult."

Gates is playing this summer on the Great Lakes Tour and the Circuit Canada tour in Ontario and Quebec. He is headed next to a mini-tour event near Toronto.

"It's in Paris, Ontario, a two-day event, so the grind never stops," said Gates, who was an all-state hockey player at Northville and the 2009 MHSAA Division 1 medalist. "The crazy thing about golf is that it's just really one day at a time. To be honest, coming into this week, I didn't necessarily think I was going to be in contention on the last day. I was kind of fighting my golf game a little bit."

"But like I said, I just kind of found a way to get the ball in the hole and that's why you, hopefully, learn something handling the emotions, handling the pressure and, hopefully, next time I'm in that position then it's a little more comfortable and I play better."

Bowser and Werkmeister were the low amateurs, while Gaylord's Alex Dombrowski (Princeton University) and White Lake's Jake Kneen were the next low amateurs in ninth and 12th, place, respectively.

Kneen, a Lakeland High grad, finished with 285 (3-under) on rounds of 71-73-69-72.

"It's playing pretty tough," Kneen said. "The rough, with especially a little bit of rain,

was very wet and thick. The greens were quick. Anyone will tell you that, so it was a tough combination."

"I got caught in the rain at the end. The combination of the rain and the 20 mph wind gusts was pretty tough coming down the stretch. Luckily, I still managed to save par and I chipped in on 18 for birdie, so that was a good way to end it."

Kneen, who qualified for last year's U.S. Amateur, will play the Michigan Amateur next in Bath.

"I'm looking forward to that," he said. "I really like Eagle Eye, where the course is at."

Steady improvement has been Kneen's calling card after two seasons playing for Oakland University.

"Went pretty well," Kneen said of his sophomore season. "I ended up getting second team (Horizon League) all-conference and got the all-tournament team with a top five on our conference championship. I've just kept improving every year, so that's my goal. And, hopefully, I can continue to improve going into next year."

Other area finishers

Among the other area golfers making the cut were Grand Valley State's Domenic Mancinelli (Northville), tied for 16th (288); Chris Cunningham (Milford), tied for 22nd (290); and Garret Buckley (Novi), tied for 40th (295).

Among those missing the cut were Tom Harding (South Lyon), plus-7; Justin LaFrance (Milford), plus-11; Christopher Sidor (Novi), plus-13; Doug Sophia (Highland), plus-15; and Andrew Sarokin (Novi), plus-19.

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PREP SOFTBALL

Marlins dedicate state title to Falvo

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

For many years, Jack Falvo was the face of the Mercy High School softball program and the driving force behind its rise to prominence.

Though he never coached any of the current players, Falvo would have been overjoyed and thrilled by their performance Saturday.

In winning the Division 1 state championship, the 2016 Marlins accomplished what Falvo's teams came so close to achieving but never did.

The head coach for 17 seasons, Falvo guided Mercy to the state semifinals in Battle Creek four straight years (2000-03) and got to the final game once.

Mercy was the runner-up to No. 1-ranked Portage Northern in 2002, losing by a 4-0 score under the lights at Bailey Park.

Coincidentally, that's the same score by which the Marlins defeated top-ranked Macomb Dakota in this year's final game at Michigan State University.

Mercy was so close to playing for a championship the

other years, too, losing in the semifinals by one run each time.

In their first trip to the final four in 2000, the Marlins lost to Portage Northern, 1-0.



Jack Falvo

There were heartbreaking losses to Waterford Kettering and Escanaba in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

Each game went eight innings

and ended in 2-1 defeats. But it was a credit to Falvo, who retired after the 2011 season with a record of 410-200-1, and his players to get there as often as they did.

Unfortunately, Falvo was not able to witness the Mercy triumph in person. He passed away two years ago this month after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

While he had the microphone Saturday after the post-game awards presentation, Mercy coach Alec Lesko paid tribute to his former coaching rival.

"Jack was a great friend of

mine back when I was coaching at Trenton High School," he said. "We feel his presence all the time. He built the program to what it is."

"The coaching staff said: 'We have to do this for Jack and dedicate it to him,' so we're very happy we did it."

Nancy Malinowski, who is also the Mercy athletic director, and Jerry Ashe are long-time assistant coaches who were on Falvo's staff, too.

Lesko was sure Falvo knew of the Mercy success and was sharing in the afterglow of victory.

"He's smiling," Lesko said. "That little firey Italian is smiling right now."

Mission achieved

The Marlins returned seven starters from last year's team that lost in the state semis. They had been on a mission ever since to get back to MSU and have another shot at the title.

"They never lost the vision of what could be," Lesko said. "They kept working. Everyone became a family."

"Practices were a riot. The

music was playing all the time. They never doubted themselves any step of the way."

Early run was key

Junior Sophie VanAcker's RBI triple in the first inning was a huge boost for the Marlins as they faced Dakota ace Kendahl Dunford.

"Everybody told us how good the pitcher was and they were on a roll," Lesko said. "My thought was, 'We have to break the egg early. We have to get a run as soon as we can and give us some confidence to know we can hit her.'"

"When Sophie put that one over the left fielder's head, it just seemed to change our mindset. They went up there playing offense, not swinging defensively."

Seventh seals deal

The Marlins clung to the 1-0 lead through six tension-filled Dakota at-bats until they put the game away with a three-run seventh.

"That seventh inning was more of what we're accustomed to," Lesko said. "I'm surprised we got it against such

a good team.

"That's how we've done things. We've been able to post some pretty good numbers offensively all year."

It started with junior Nicole Belans' third home run of the season, a solo shot over the left-field fence.

"It seems every time she gets one it's in a huge game, in a huge situation," Lesko said. "Right after that, you could feel the energy in our dugout and across the team."

Melancholy ending

While thrilled with the way the season ended, Lesko was a little disappointed to see it end.

"My biggest reward are those 18 kids over there," he said. "I've seen them every day for three months. It's going to seem weird to wake up tomorrow and not have to go to practice. I'll be missing them; I'll miss my seniors like crazy."

Lesko's daughter, assistant coach Sara McGavin, put the ending in perspective, however.

"She said: 'Dad, we're the only team that ends with a win.' We couldn't be happier," Lesko said.

PREP SOFTBALL

Mercy's Abby Krzywiecki wins state's top award

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, the Miss Softball Award for position players goes to a member of the Farmington Hills Mercy team.

Abby Krzywiecki received the honor at the end of an outstanding senior season in which she set a state record for home runs with 20.

Tom Calnen, president of the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association, made the announcement Saturday in the wake of Mercy's 4-0 win over Macomb Dakota in the Division 1 state final.

Alex Sobczak, a former Mercy standout who now plays for the University of Michigan, won the award last year.

"To be able to do it back-to-back with her, that's unreal," Krzywiecki said. "She's one of my good friends. It's great to have the award, but I think the win is better, truthfully."

Krzywiecki said her selection as Miss Softball shows all of her hard work and passion for the game paid off, but she

always put the team first.

"I did this for my school," she said. "I never did it for my individual stats. I never wanted to become Miss Softball. I wanted to win a state championship."

"There's a difference between winning things for yourself and winning things for your friends and your teammates. I did this with 17 other people. I think my hard work was for them and they motivated me. My coaches, my teachers and my classmates wanted me to succeed so badly that it was motivation for me."

The first baseman and pitcher finished the season with a team-best .558 batting average and 94 RBIs. Her 82 hits included 18 doubles and two triples.

Krzywiecki, who will play college ball at NCAA Division I South Alabama, was 1-for-3 in the final game with a sixth-inning single.

"It was such a positive day," she said. "I think we'll spend the whole day celebrating. It wasn't a one-person show at all. Everyone contributed; every-



John Stormzand | Staff Photographer
Mercy first baseman Abby Krzywiecki.

one did her part for the win."

Krzywiecki was happy to see her teammates make big plays, such as the solo homer by junior Nicole Belans for a 2-0 lead to start the seventh inning.

"When she hit it, I jumped over the (dugout) fence, because I knew it was out," she said. "That was huge. We were stopping them, but they were

getting on base. To have another run was reassuring."

"We had good defense and they had good offense. But I think we had a lot more energy. I think our passion to win today was very strong. It was very obvious how we had each others backs."

The Marlins also have a little ritual in which they sing the old spiritual song "Kumbaya." It got started after a bad game last year, according to Krzywiecki.

"I said: 'That's OK. We'll just sing 'Kumbaya,'" she said. "In the morning announcements, Sophie VanAcker and I play 'Kumbaya' and then we say, 'Hey, we have a softball game tonight!'"

"It's catchy; it's different. You know who it is when you hear us singing 'Kumbaya.'"

Mercy's journey to the championship game began a year ago, when it lost to Caledonia in a state semifinal game, 5-2.

Krzywiecki was one of seven returning starters from that game. The others were VanAcker, Belans, Andrea El-

more, Cari Padula, Shannon Gibbons and Anna Dixon.

"I think it fueled the fire," Krzywiecki said. "We were a confident team already. To add the loss last year, you kind of just want to do it for last year's team."

"To show what Mercy High School can do as a program, I think, is incredible. Last year, helped our energy and motivation today."

The Marlins had a little extra motivation in that they had been ranked second all season in the coaches poll behind No. 1 Dakota.

"It's a great feeling to prove other people wrong," Krzywiecki said. "To be the underdog and have the most energy and come out with so much fire and passion, we were unstoppable."

"These are my best friends in the world. Although the season ended, it's nice to know it ended on a good note and we did everything we wanted this year," Krzywiecki said.

"We came out with the win today. That's all that matters, right?"



Nearly three-quarters of non-homeowners polled in the survey believe their student loan debt is delaying them from buying a home.

Survey: Student loan debt major obstacle for millennials buying a home

Seventy-one percent of non-homeowners repaying their student loans on time believe their debt is stymieing their ability to purchase a home, and slightly over half of all borrowers say they expect to be delayed from buying by more than five years.

This is according to a new joint survey on student loan debt and housing released June 13 by the National Association of Realtors and SALT, a consumer literacy program provided by nonprofit American Student Assistance. The results also revealed that student debt postponed four in 10 borrowers from moving out of a family member's household after graduating from college.

Nearly three-quarters of non-homeowners polled in the survey believe their student loan debt is delaying them from buying a home. Broken down by each generation and debt amount, the percent share is the highest among older millennials approximately aged 26 to 35 (79 percent) and those with \$70,000 to \$100,000 in total debt. Regardless of the outright amount of student debt, more than half of non-homeowners in each generation report that it's postponing their ability to buy.

The survey, which only polled student debt holders current in their repayment, yielded responses from borrowers with varying amounts of debt from mostly a four-year public or private college. Forty-three percent of those polled had between \$10,001 and \$40,000 in student debt, while 38 percent had \$50,000 or more. The most common debt amount was \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says the survey findings bring to light the magnitude student debt is having on the housing market and the budget of even those financial-

ly able to make on-time payments. While obtaining a college degree increases the likelihood of stable employment and earning enough to buy a home, many graduating with this debt are putting homeownership on the back burner in part because of the multiple years it takes to pay off their student loans at an interest rate that's oftentimes nearly double current mortgage rates.

"A majority of non-homeowners in the survey earning over \$50,000 a year — which is above the median U.S. qualifying income needed to buy a single-family home — reported that student debt is hurting their ability to save for a down payment," he said. "Along with rent, a car payment and other large monthly expenses that can squeeze a household's budget, paying a few hundred dollars every month on a student loan equates to thousands of dollars over several years that could otherwise go towards saving for a home purchase."

Among non-homeowners who believe student debt is delaying their ability to buy, over three-quarters — including over 80 percent of millennials — said their delay is because they can't save for a down payment. Additionally, 69 percent don't feel financially secure enough to buy, and 63 percent can't qualify for a mortgage because of high debt-to-income ratios.

A little over a majority of those polled (52 percent) expect to be delayed by more than five years from purchasing a home because of repaying their student debt. One in five anticipates being held back 3-5 years as well as over 60 percent of baby boomers. Not surprisingly, those with higher amounts of student loan debt and those with lower incomes expect to be delayed the long-

est.

"Realtors work closely with our clients and consumers every day; we understand the severity of the problem. This is not an abstract issue for us. This is why Realtors are leading the real estate industry in the discussion of student loan debt and its impact on housing by generating the most encompassing research on this topic," said NAR Vice President Sherri Meadows, a Realtor from Ocala, Florida.

Student debt preventing many young adults from leaving the nest

Mirroring other recent data on young Americans being more likely to live with their parents than in any other living situations, almost half (46 percent) of young millennials polled currently live with family (both paying and not paying rent).

Furthermore, 42 percent of respondents indicated student debt delayed their decision to move out of their family member's home after college.

Highlighting the difficulty many college graduates faced finding employment either before or immediately after the Great Recession, those who graduated 6-10 years ago had the longest delay, with 33 percent saying it took more than two years to move out of a family home.

"Nearly three-quarters of older millennials, many of whom graduated at the peak or immediately after the downturn, said their ability to purchase a home is affected by student debt," added Yun. "Add in the detrimental effects of low inventory as well as rents and home price growth outpacing wages and it's mainly why the share of first-time buyers remains at its lowest point in nearly three decades."

Student debt holding back some would-be sellers

The survey also found that student debt is affecting overall housing supply by holding back some current homeowners who otherwise would like to sell. Nearly a third of current homeowners (31 percent) said their student debt is postponing them from selling their home and purchasing a new one. Of those, 18 percent believe it is too expensive to move and upgrade to a new home, 7 percent have problems with their credit caused by student loan debt, and 6 percent are underwater because student debt has limited their ability to pay more than the minimum payment on their mortgage.

"It is imperative to the nation's economy that we find immediate and practical solutions to financially empower the 43 million Americans with student debt," said SALT President John Zurick. "SALT is committed to demystifying the college financing process by giving consumers information, instruction and individualized advice. No one should fail to realize the full potential of their formal education simply because of finances. We invite the higher education community, the U.S. government, the private sector and others to join with us in this movement."

In April, SALT distributed a 33-question survey co-written with NAR to 75,000 student loan borrowers who are current in repayment. A total of 3,230 student loan borrowers completed the survey. The survey had a response rate of 4.3 percent.

'Limited liability' protection exists; heed advice of attorney, CPA

Q: I am listed as a corporate officer in our Condominium Association's Articles of Incorporation. Being a non-profit organization, the association has not paid any taxes in past years. However, it is still required to file state and federal tax returns every year with the IRS and the State of Michigan. If taxes were owed for some reason by the association, would I have any personal liability if the association failed to pay?

A: As non-profit corporations, Michigan Condominium Associations are indeed required to file state and federal tax returns on an annual basis just like any other corporation. However, under Michigan's latest tax liability provisions enacted in 2013, similar to federal regulations, only a truly responsible person should bear liability. This "limited liability" protection means that generally an officer of a corporation cannot be held personally liable for the corporation's debts. There are exceptions to the statutory rules which include, but are not limited to: the business first failing to pay the taxes owed; the tax department determining personal tax liability based upon an audit or investigation; and the taxes being considered "trust fund taxes" (i.e., taxes that a business is required to collect from customers or employees and hold for the benefit of the government such as sales tax, use tax, etc.). Of course, if this situation ever arises, you should first consult with a CPA or a tax attorney to seek professional advice before doing anything further.

Q: There is a fast developing residential area of Italy called Puglia. They have estates or homes that can be developed. What do you know about it?

A: You are talking about their masseria, which is what we would refer to as villas, homes or other structures that were built hundreds of years ago, but have been converted to hotels, large estates, commercial properties and the like. These properties can cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and are being developed throughout the Puglia area. Many say it will be the Tuscany of the East having over six million "registered" olive trees, some hundreds of years old. As in any other situation, you are best to contact at least two or three Realtors in the area in which you may be interested to get a wide range evaluation of the properties available and the reasonable cost of them. Lecce is one of the most beautiful cities in the area and still offers good residential opportunities.

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 rbmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvalue-realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

High-tech tools changing way homes are marketed

Not long ago, searching for a new home meant jumping in the car with your real estate agent and driving through neighborhoods, looking at house after house until you find "the one." While people still look at several houses before deciding which one is home, the chances are that they clicked from web page to web page to find it.

According to the National Association of Realtors, 89 percent of all home buyers used online tools and resources in their home search. This means for home sellers that embracing new technology when working with an agent to advertise their property is no longer just a good idea, it's a necessity.

"Technology has changed nearly every aspect of the way we live, so it is only natural that it affects the way sellers and their agents market and sell homes," said Debbie Z., president of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, for southeast Michigan. "Most potential buyers make their first impression of a

home online, and with so much high-quality media online, the bar has been raised for online real estate listings to really 'wow' buyers."

Here are a few high-tech resources and gadgets that can help you and your agent sell your home:

» **Social media.** These days, nearly everyone is on at least one social media platform, whether it be Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest, so including a social media strategy in your home's marketing plan is becoming par for the course. "A well-placed post on Facebook or a properly timed tweet can place your listing in front of hundreds, possibly thousands, of potential buyers and usually costs the seller nothing," said GMAR's president.

» **Virtual staging.** If a seller has already moved out and left a home empty, visual effects software can let you fill the empty house with different styles of furniture, add art and light fixtures or even change the wall color with the click of a mouse. "This can help prospective buyers visualize a

home's potential and see what the home looks like when it's tailored to their taste," she said. "A seller can't know what every buyer's taste is, and this allows the home to be staged in any style at a fraction of the cost."

» **Drones.** Unmanned aerial vehicles, more commonly known as drones, are aircrafts without a human pilot aboard and can be used to take aerial photos of your home and the surrounding property. "New drone technologies can help you and your agent to market your home in a way that may have been cost-prohibitive in the past," the GMAR president said in a press release. "If your home has beautiful mountain views or sits on a large piece of property, drone photography can highlight these features." However, GMAR reminds sellers that rules for commercial drone use have not yet been put into place by the FAA, so it is important that sellers either hire a professional drone operator or an agent with a Federal Aviation Administration waiver.

NAR expects the rules to be finalized this summer.

By using a few of these tools, you can make your home's listing more appealing to buyers and hopefully help sell it more quickly this summer.

For more information, go to gmaronline.com and click "Find a REALTOR®" at the top-right of the screen.

The Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors (GMAR), based in Southfield, provides services and support to the real estate profession and the communities they serve. With over 6,500 members, GMAR is the largest local Realtor association in the state. GMAR provides its members access to the MLS, over 220 quality continuing education and designation courses per year, the largest Realtor-specific store in the area, the ToolShop™, Metropolitan Minute weekly newsletter and Metropolitan REALTOR monthly electronic magazine.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Email event information for this calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

JUNE
FILM

Time/Date: 7:30-9:02 p.m. Tuesday, June 28

Location: AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: One-night screening of "Alison's Choice," a story about a young pregnant woman who meets Jesus Christ in the guise of a friendly janitor while waiting for her name to be called at an abortion clinic. She must decide if she will go through with the abortion. Tickets are \$13 and must be reserved by June 21. Order tickets at <https://www.tugg.com/events/106414>

Contact: Donna Gonzalez at 313-247-3108

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. June 26-30

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church & School Wayne, located two miles east of I-275 and one mile north of Michigan Avenue, at Hannan and Glenwood

Details: "Cave Quest Following Jesus The Light of the World" will include Bible adventures, songs, snacks and hands-on explorations for children, 3 through those entering sixth grade. Pre-register by calling the church at 734-728-1950 or email r.barta@att.net.

Contact: 734-728-1950; stmichael.lutheran.org

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon, June 27-July 1

Location: Berean Baptist Church, 38303 Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: "Submerged" is the theme

Contact: 248-477-6365

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. June 27-July 1

Location: Bethel Baptist Temple, 29475 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Bible adventures, singing, snack, craft. Family Fun Night is 6 p.m. July 1 with food, games and inflatables

Contact: 734-525-3664; bbt-livonia.com

JULY

COMMONGROUND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, July 22

Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Women and girls, 12 and over, from more than 30 churches will gather for worship to live music and an after party with appetizers, a coffee and cocoa bar and giveaways. The outreach focus for the event is Grace's Table, an organization that works with teen mothers and their children. Lisa Anderson, founder, will be the guest speaker. CommonGround will collect diapers, sizes 2-6, refill packages of moist wipes, \$10 Meijer gas cards and \$10 Starbucks gift cards, for donation to Grace's Table

Contact: 734-397-1777

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Saturday, July 30

Location: Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Road, Highland

Details: The Paradise Band, Elvis Lives and The Soulmen perform in an outdoor concert. \$15 advance tickets; \$20 at the door

Contact: 248-887-5364; holyspiritconcert.ezevent.com

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 23

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverne, Redford

Details: Free Christian music festival with Wise 4 Salvation, 11 a.m.; REIGN, noon; Reggie Williams, 1 p.m.; Redemption Road, 2 p.m.; Krymsyn Grayce, 3 p.m.; Second Day Story, 4 p.m.; The Well House Band, 5 p.m.; and Veracity, 6 p.m. Crafters and

vendors will be on site from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift drawings will be held at 3 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket

Contact: 313-937-2424; hosan-natabor.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

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livonia-st-michael.org

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

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 Shiawassee, 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@tbosm.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. Thurs-

day

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

RECYCLING

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

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

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 translation as well as the original Hebrew.

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

SUPPORT

» Apostolic Christian Church

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

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care 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: 10-11 a.m. Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A twice-monthly 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

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Estate Sales

Farmington Hills Estate Sale
37828 Avon Lane, N of 12 Mile, en-
ter on Halsted, Friday & Satur-
day, 10am-4pm. Everything! Music,
Go! Furniture, some antique furni-
ture, Western collectibles, artwork,
ladies clothes, holiday decor, house-
hold misc. Follow balloons!!!

Garden City Moving Sale Furn
Household, collectibles, lighting,
waterproof crystal lamp, odds & ends,
Thurs, Sat June 23-25th 9a-5p

Livonia 36259 Pickford, Saturday,
June 25th, 9am-5pm. Furniture,
Mikasa China, Westwood house-
hold, air compressor, yard tools.

Northville Huge Estate Sale Thurs-
day Sun 10a-626 Antiques, jewelry,
collectibles & dolls. 9563 Currie Rd.

ESTATE SALE

Plymouth 42163 Mill Race Circle,
Fri. 6-24, 9-5 pm. Sat. 6-25, 9-5 pm.
Henredon Sofa/Loveseat, Beveled
Glass Coffee Table, dining room
table, 2 chairs, 2 side chairs, din-
ing room table and server, Kitchen-
ette Set, Bedroom Set, Entertainment
Center, small tv, file cabinets,
assorted household goods,
odds and ends

ESTATE SALE

REDFORD 425 & 626 10am-4pm
9620 Arnold Furn, tools, electronics &
MORE! No early birds please!

Southfield-20930 West Hampton, 2 bks
N of 8 Mile W of Evergreen, June 23-25,
9-5 am. Craftsman power tools, tools,
2x4 refinished wood, electrical &
plumbing supplies, garden tools, craft
supplies, 30 yrs of great stuff, china
& some antiques and sewing machine.

Garage-Tag Sale

ANN ARBOR ESTATE SALE
3066 Aliso Craig Dr.
Friday 6/24 only 8am-5pm

Bloomfield - FIV E FAMILY
SALE - 1833 ARGOSY CT June 22nd-
24th 9-5pm Lots of Everything!

Canton Moving Sale Fri. 6/24 & Sat
6/25 9am-5pm Furn household
quitting & craft, dishes & many new
items! 2161 Stonebridge Way

CANTON Subdiv Garage Sale!
Forest Brook Sub, corner of Sheldon
& Palmer, Th-Fri, June 23-25th, 9-4pm

Farmington Hills, Garage Sale (G-
giant multi-media), 6/22-6/25 9-5,
28845 Raleigh E of Middlebelt S of 11
Mile. Clothes, teen, women 3-14
(some petite), men, evening wear,
women's shoes 7-8, books, holiday,
purses, kitchen, bar, frames, office,
teacher's items, linens, vases.

Farmington Hills - Green Hill Annual
Sub Garage Sale: June 23-25th, 8:30-
4:30, 9 MI near Halsted 7+ Homes.

Farmington Hills HUGE Moving Sale
28900 Hidden Trail, June 23-26th,
Thurs-Fri: 9-7pm, Sat: 9-4pm, Sun:
9-5pm. Furniture, household items,
wall art, appliances, kitchen, MORE

Farmington Hills Moving Sale-7123
Centerline Lane, just N Rhinewood,
June 24-26th, 9-5pm. Household, furni-
ture, office furniture, books, exercise,
bikes, kids stuff, antiques and more.

Farmington Hills Thurs, 6/23, Sat, 6/25
8-4pm Household, electronics, WW
clothing & more! 25716 Ridgewood

Farmington Hills TIMBER CREEK
Sub Sale - Thurs-Sun June 23rd-26th
9-5p off Orchard lake rd S. of 11 mi.

Farmington Hills - Woodland Pines
Condos Sale - Orchard lake rd S. of 11
mile Fri-Sat June 24th-25th 9a-4p

YARD SALE

Farmington - HUGE Yard Sale,
21527 Chestnut Lane, Thursday
June 23 - Saturday June 25, 9:30 a.m.
- 5:00 p.m. Countless items to choose
from! Many items new! Household,
small appliances, collectibles and
much, much more. Come discover your
next treasure!

Farmington - Moving Sale June 23-25th
9-4p Furn, 500+ memorabilia
household, clothing 31973 LAMAR

Garage Sale

Livonia 5 Family Sale 6/23-6/25 Qual-
ity household appliances, lighting,
clothing, kids, 19010 Woodring, 9a-5p
S. of 7 mile. E of Farmington rd.

Livonia - Sale 29925 Greenland St
June 23th-25th 9-3p. Furn. Clothes,
tools, Appliances & much more.

Garage-Tag Sale

2 DAYS ONLY
Novi - Whispering Meadows Sub. June
24-25th 9-4pm 9 mi E of 365th & 24th
Meadowbrook rd. Variety of items.

PLYMOUTH: 8800957 Corinne,
June 23-24th 200+ Perennials, landscap-
ing goodies & so much more. 9-5

GARAGE SALE

PLYMOUTH: Huntington Park Sub-
division Garage Sale, 11831
Chandler Drive, Sun 23, 24 & 25
9am - 4pm. Household goods. Furni-
ture, Light Fixtures, Baby Gear,
Clothes, Toys and so much more.
Subdivision is North off Powell
Road, East of Napier Road

Plymouth We're Back! Estate (pre)
Moving & Garage Sale - Furniture,
area rugs, kitchen houseware, kids,
women's men's clothing, linens,
party deco, vintage items, June 22-24
9am 9275 McCallumh

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Novi - Oakland Hills Memorial
Garden- Sec. Victory Gardens 2 plots
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Bdrm Set: Walnut 5 piece w/ triple
mirror, full bed size headboard, very
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Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

WAYNE Quarter Acre
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doorways to deck, P.R. w/linenplace,
bsmt, 2 car att/GA in Glenwood
Heights \$162,000
Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

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1,169 sq ft ranch, LR w/unique trav
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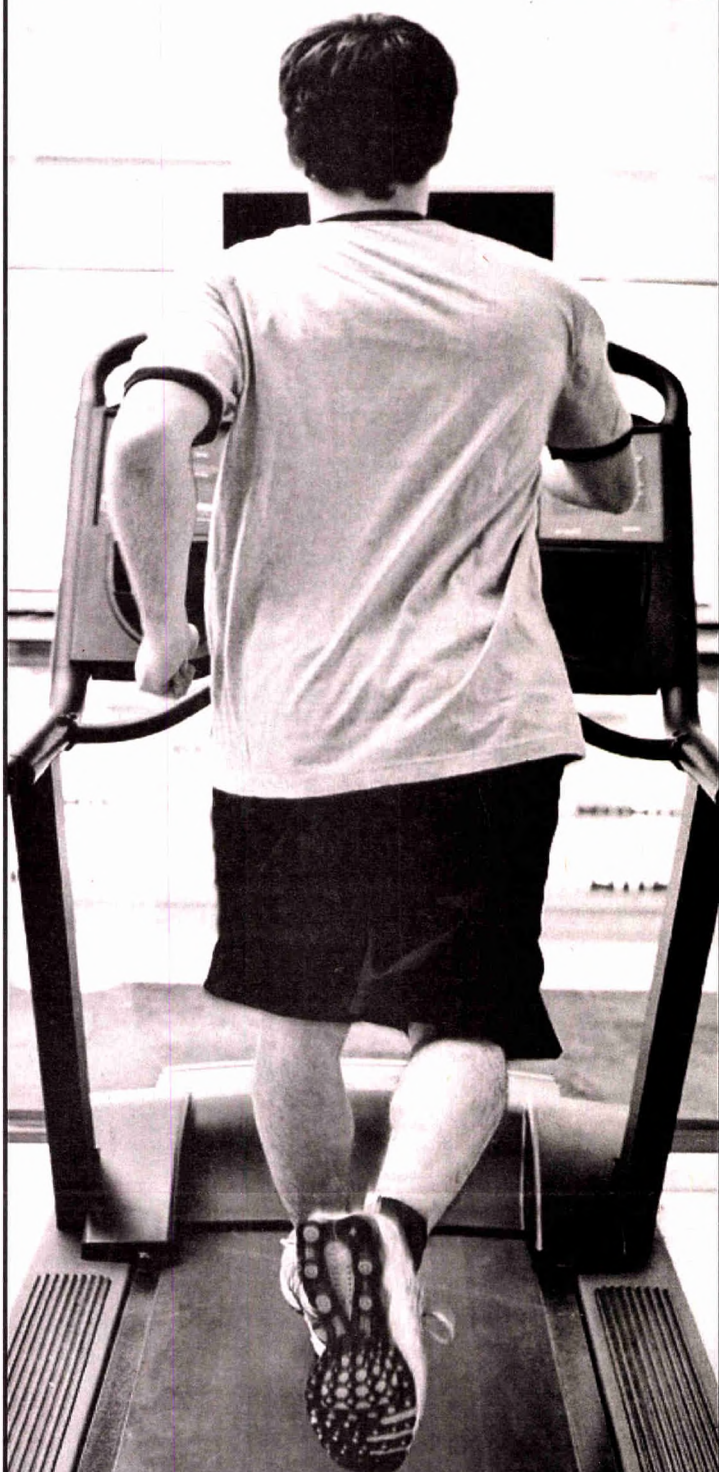
| | NMLS# | 30 Yr. | Pts. | 15 Yr. | Pts. |
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| Accurate Mortgage Solutions | 164511 | (800) 593-1912 | 3.375 | 0 | 2.625 |
| AFI Financial | 2431 | (877) 234-0600 | 3.25 | 0 | 2.625 |
| Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. | 127931 | (248) 740-2323 | 3.5 | 0 | 2.625 |
| Dearborn Federal Savings Bank | 399721 | (313) 565-3100 | 3.625 | 0 | 2.875 |
| Fifth Third Bank | 403245 | (800) 792-8830 | 3.5 | 0 | 2.875 |
| Ross Mortgage | 107716 | (248) 282-1602 | 3.625 | 0 | 2.875 |
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ACROSS

1 Muslim holy city
6 Krishna, e.g.
12 Judges' gp.
15 Shower item
19 Car rods
20 Juan's shawl
22 As far as
23 Very stripped-down rendition?
26 Acne, slangily
27 Legal injury
28 Devoid of joy
29 "Pee—Big Holiday" (2016 film)
30 Curriculum segment
31 "Jingle Bells" vehicle
33 Hoosiers stuffing suitcases?
39 Italian automaker
41 Does a pressing job
42 Fly smoothly
43 Muslim ascetic's caution?
47 "—didn't!" (denier's cry)
48 Vine-covered, as a wall
49 Horn's honk

50 Blasting stuff
52 New Zealand aborigine
57 Actor Foxx
58 "Alice" waitress
59 Country singer Hill soaked up the sun?
62 Joule division
63 Furious state
64 —rod (biblical staff)
66 "We have approval"
67 What a curmudgeon has?
71 Chews (on)
73 Northern French port
74 Doting affection, briefly
75 Cave hanger
78 Sitcom
80 Some Greek letters
81 Lamb-in-pita sandwich
82 Keats' "—a Nightingale"
83 Bladed tool
84 Alevi target
86 Intended

87 Abbr. on a brandy label
89 Loaf coated with glaze?
92 Crooked
95 Put in office
96 Window or door part
97 Primate buying things?
101 Harbor ill will toward
105 Big name in mowers
106 Waluku site
107 Corrode
108 Be too sweet
110 Landed (on)
111 Thick board to be used only in an emergency?
117 Bed board
118 Pal, in Paris
119 Signify
120 One-on-one pupil
121 Devout
122 Peach part
123 Hot spots in spas
124 Helps pull off a crime

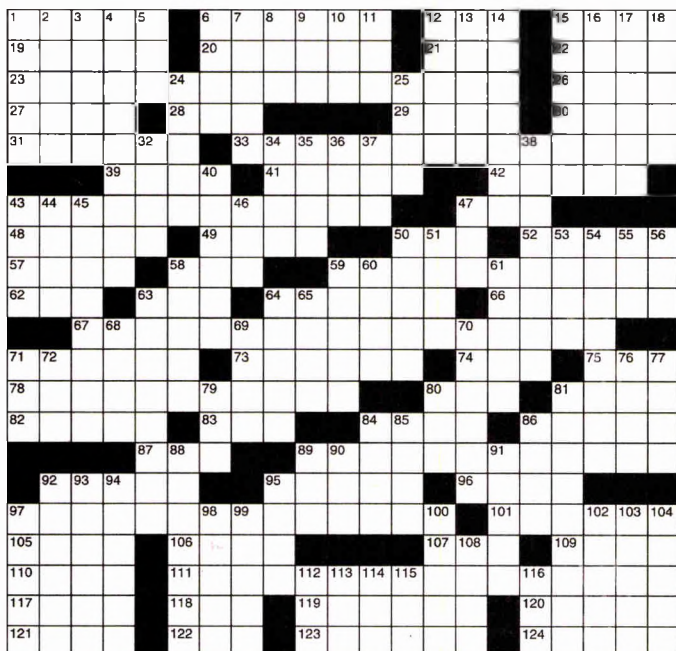
DOWN

1 Ship spars
2 Really praise
3 Writer-Boothe
4 Part of CPA

5 Require (of)
6 Off land
7 "Falsstaff" composer
8 Dog's cry
9 Wu's "way"
10 Tax Day mo.
11 Sleep lab concern
12 Sleep lab concern
13 Arm muscle, informally
14 Way back
15 Japanese automaker
16 Offered views
17 Fine apparel
18 Blog entries
24 "Baloney!"
25 Wheat
32 Encircle with a band
34 IX
35 IV hookup
36 Tiny thing with a charge
37 "Life of Pi" director Lee
38 Of weather conditions
40 iPad, e.g.
43 Passion
44 Say to be so
45 Careful and delicate, as treatment
46 Vintage Olds
47 High degree

50 Turner and Fey
51 Crash-probing agcy.
53 Off. aide
54 "Fine, as far as I'm concerned"
55 Rule, briefly
56 Altar answer
58 Pat down
59 Monastery title
60 Golf Hall of Famer Isao
61 Invoices
63 Got better
64 Set — (choose the wedding day)
65 Everyone, to Hans
68 "How — Your Mother?"
69 Outer: Prefix
70 Big online music store
71 —Magnon man
72 Veiled
76 Region
77 Figure skater
Eldredge
79 "So that's the trick!"

80 Suffix with no-good
81 After-school youth program, perhaps
84 Choose
85 Entr—
86 Skillful
88 Pool
89 —-mo
90 Carious of Broadway
91 Not clean
92 God of music
93 Daytime drama, e.g.
94 Intricate
95 Put out
97 Squirrel away
98 Country singer Judd
99 Hit the gas
100 Gossipy sort
102 Happy
103 Tripled trio
104 Little 'uns
108 Top pilots
112 Checkpoint demands
113 Pro-learning org.
114 Bearded antelope
115 Myriad eras
116 Pro-learning org.



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ROSE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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

ANTIQUE
ARBORETUM
BALLING
BARE ROOT
BLACK SPOT
BUD
CALYX
CANES
CLIMBING
CONSERVATORY
CULTIVAR
DEADHEAD
DOUBLE
ENGLISH
EXHIBITION
FLORIBUNDA
FUNGICIDE
HIPS
HYBRID
LANDSCAPE
MILDEW
MITES
MULCH
PATTO
PERPETUAL
PISTIL
POLLEN
POLYANTHA
PROPAGATION
ROSE
RUST
SPECIES
STAMEN
STIGMA
TEA
WILD

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Word Search Answers

