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Local man OK after 60-foot fall

■ Benjamin Joseph Snapp credits the helmet he was wearing with saving his life in a rock-climbing accident.

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER
STAFF WRITER
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A 1995 graduate of Clarkston High School who fell 60-feet last Sunday while rock climbing in West Virginia is looking forward to returning to Michigan in a couple of weeks.

Benjamin Joseph Snapp, 22, is in Charleston Area Medical Center in

West Virginia, recovering from injuries suffered from landing on the rocky ground of the Endless Wall at New River Gorge National River near Lansing, West Virginia.

His injuries included a fractured rib, a deflated left lung, several left hip fractures and two compound breaks in his left arm.

"I didn't think I would make it," recalled Snapp from his hospital bed. "I

was in such severe pain waiting for help to arrive. If I hadn't had a helmet on, I know I would have had brain damage or died."

Snapp expects to stay in the West Virginia hospital about another two weeks. Then he'll be transferred to Saint Joseph Mercy-Oakland Hospital in Pontiac for at least 10 more days, he said. He'll undergo rehabilitation therapy and physical therapy for his left arm.

The accident occurred when Snapp and his friend, Andy Albosta from the Saginaw area, were starting their

climb up the Endless Wall. Snapp was the lead climber. That means he was starting the climb from the bottom of the wall and putting in his safety devices as he scaled the sheer wall, explained park ranger Rick Brown.

"The lead climber is the safety person. He puts in little pieces of protection into a crack or a place in a rock that will hold him. The further he goes up, the more protection he puts in."

Please see FALL, A2

Which one?
What a plethora
of books to read!
Librarians are
ready to help
people make
their choices.



Ripe for reading

Local librarians pick
best-bet page-turners for
hot, lazy summer days

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER
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Whether your taste runs to fiction or non-fiction, books on tape or traditional books, the public libraries are a good source for books to read this summer.

The libraries not only stock the newest and most popular book titles, the librarians are good sources for recommendations of books to read.

Right now the most-requested books for the season include both fiction and non-fiction titles, according to Independence Township Library Adult Services Librarian Patience Beer and Springfield Township Library Director Cathy Forst.

"If people are looking for the most anticipated books for the summer, we've got them," Beer said.

There also are lots of good books librarians recommend if the best sellers are checked out.

"People here read everything," Beer added. "When I select books for the library to buy, I sometimes wonder if people are going to read it. They do. I've learned the reading tastes here are very broad."

Forst said one advantage of using a smaller library is the librarians and clients get to know each other.

"We know what types of books different clients like to read," she said. "They know which librarian likes the same kinds of books, so they'll go to that librarian to ask for a recommendation. It makes it really nice."

Here are the books Forst and Beer said are popular reads for this summer (listed in no particular order):

"Hannibal" by Thomas Harris; an Oprah book "White Oleander" by Janet Fitch; "We'll Meet Again" by Mary Higgins Clark; "High Five" by Janet Evanovich; "A New Song" by Jan Karon; "East of the Mountains" by David Guterson; "Under the Tuscan Sun" and "Bella Tuscany" by Frances Mayes; the Left Behind series of books by Tim LaHaye; "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver; "Unspeakable" by Sandra

Please see READING, A4



Hockey fan: Independence Township Library Children's Librarian Anne Rose shows Jennifer Clark, 12, of Clarkston a selection of hockey books on display.

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AROUND



THE MILL POND

Attention, thespians

Think you can be a convincing actor in a fake murder story in front of an audience for nine performances? Think you might have some behind-the-scenes skills to bring to a theater production?

If so, the Clarkston Village Players wants you. It is holding auditions for "Murder by the Book," a two-act, light-hearted, mystery thriller.

Auditions are set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 11, at Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road, Independence Township.

For more information, call the theater at 625-8811. The play is scheduled for performance in September.

ATM or no ATM

Independence Township police came across a misplaced automated teller machine last weekend in an unlikely place — behind a Dixie Highway business.

It was emptied of cash, though the amount taken is unknown. Since the machine weighed an estimated 1,000 pounds, it looks like police are seeking some awfully muscular money-hungry perpetrators.

No skateboarding on the cars

Unfortunately for a car owner, sometimes people demonstrate why rules restricting skateboarding in the Clarkston area are necessary.

One incident on June 30 left a driver with a scratched automobile. As she walked out of a Dixie Highway business, the woman noticed excessive scratches on her automobile which, according to police reports, were caused by someone skateboarded across the vehicle's hood.

Don't people build skate parks to prevent such things?

This looks good: Anthony Konas, 5, peruses books on the Independence Township Library shelf.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DONNA MC LAUGHLIN

Driving instruction signals changing times

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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Fred Spain couldn't begin to count how many miles he's traveled by car.

Many of those miles are spent in the passenger seat teaching others the techniques of driving.

Spain opened Bestway Driving School in Clarkston in 1986, after teaching driver's education since the 1960s. Like a quick glance in the rear-view mirror of time, he recalls how driving has changed over the years.

"I think driver's education changes with the times we live in."

said Spain, who spends weekdays in Clarkston and weekends at his secluded chalet in Manistee National Forest. Spain was also an English teacher for 35 years.

Like Spain, Fred Clawson teaches driver's education in the area. He works for ABC Driving School, which holds classes in Clarkston, Clawson, a Royal Oak resident, sticks with it because he enjoys the response of students. He said he can tell what kind of driver a student will become by the way that student acts in the classroom. Those showing a true interest in



Getting ready:
Driver's education
students learn the
basics at ABC Driv-
ing School. Classes
are offered at Clinton-
wood Park's
Carriage House in
Independence
Township.

STAFF PHOTO
BY STEVE CANNELL

Please see DRIVING, A4





The winners: The Longo brothers Joel (left), 11, and Zachary, 7, display the book of riddles that helped them stump the ladies on a recent Battle of the Sexes on WNIC-100.3 FM's Breakfast Club.

Youthful riddle-makers stump radio personalities

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER
STAFF WRITER
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Don't try to trip up the Longo boys with riddles. Chances are, Joel, 11, and Zachary, 7, will stump you.

That's just what they did to the Breakfast Club's Battle of the Sexes participants on WNIC-100.3 FM Tuesday morning. The Independence Township boys submitted four riddles to use against the women in its morning competition, which embroils men versus ladies in a quest to correctly answer the most questions.

The Longos stumped the female team on all their riddles.

They got interested in trying to better the ladies after listening to the Breakfast Club almost every morning, according to their mother, Shannon Tobey.

"They like to try to answer the questions," she added. "I was driving in the car to work when I heard the Breakfast Club use their questions last Tuesday. I just screamed in the car. I was so excited. But I didn't have a phone to call them to tell them to be sure and listen."

They weren't listening that morning, as it turns out. Joel said he isn't too dis-

pointed he and his brother missed hearing their names and questions on the radio. One thing that helped alleviate their disappointment is their prize—four tickets to Cedar Point. They went last year but they are excited about going again.

The kids took their riddles from a favorite book.

"We looked for hard and funny ones," Joel said, who was the spokesman for the two brothers.

Want to try your luck at answering these riddles? (One hint to getting the answers—think like a child.)

■ Why should a horse never be hungry? Because it always has a bit in its mouth.

■ Why are hurricanes named after girls? Because if they were named after boys, they would be called "him-canies."

■ Why is Ireland rich? Because the capital is always Dublin.

And here's an extra riddle from Joel: What's a Mexican weather report? Chili today, hot tomorrow.

Joel and Zachary both attend schools in Waterford. Joel will be in the seventh grade at Mason Middle School. Zachary will start the second grade at Grayson Elementary.



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JULY 9, BOBBY LEWIS and the Crackerjacks (80's & 70's music)

JULY 16, PAUL VENTIMIGLIA (Smooth Jazz)

JULY 23, MOOSE and Da SHARKS (50's music)

Concerts
in the Park

7-9pm at Depot Park
Downtown Clarkston

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

July 2—Support Lighthouse Emergency Services of Clarkston by purchasing PIZZA, LEMONADE and ICE CREAM from the concession stands during the concert.

Mark items are subject to change.

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Clarkston
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Car collides with loose trailer on I-75

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
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Raymon Worgiss didn't have to think twice before he hopped out of his vehicle to help a woman in danger Thursday morning.

The Flint man was driving south on Interstate-75, near Sashabaw Road, when he witnessed a head-on collision. At 9:30 a.m., a trailer became detached from a pick-up truck traveling northbound on the expressway, crossed the median into southbound traffic, and was struck by an oncoming vehicle, according to Independence Township sheriff's deputies.

"A lady in a mini van, in the middle lane, had a head-on collision with the trailer," said Deputy Steve Meech, of the

Independence substation for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. "Her car jumped over the trailer, nose up, landed down on the wheels and off into a ditch where it caught on fire."

Darlene Moore, a 42-year-old Livonia woman, was the only occupant of the van.

Worgiss was driving behind her and thought he, too, would be caught in the crash. When Moore's car flipped over, Worgiss got out of his vehicle and ran through three lanes of morning rush hour traffic to help the woman. He also attempted to stop traffic, he said.

"I risked my life to save hers," said Worgiss.

Meech commended his efforts.

"The witness pulled her out of the rear driver's side window of the van," he said. "He was able to pull her out of the vehicle.

The vehicle increased in flames."

Worgiss said when he reached her vehicle, he "just ran over and had to rip a window off" to help her out.

When asked what made him risk his life to help a stranger, Worgiss said he "didn't want to see nobody burn to death."

"I was just afraid for the girl's life," he said.

Moore only suffered minor injuries to her ankle, according to police, but was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for evaluation.

"I thought she was hurt worse," said Worgiss. "I feel pretty good. Thank God I was there at the time."

Police considered it a preventable accident.

"The trailer was improperly secured to the truck," said Meech, adding that it was

empty.

The driver of the truck carrying the loose trailer was a 65-year-old Flushing man. His 35-year-old son was the only passenger. The incident is currently under investigation.

Deputy Thomas Cavalier said accidents of this sort show drivers how important it is to slow down when weather conditions are less than ideal. The van was traveling at the posted 70 mile per hour speed limit, but conditions were rainy and slick.

"When the weather gets bad, you gotta slow down," said Cavalier.

He said if the trailer had been properly attached to the truck, the accident "probably could've been avoided."

Meech added that surrounding traffic proceeded with caution after the accident occurred.

Taking the plunge



In the swim: Jacob Frailey, 4, gets used to the water with his Aqua Tots instructor Katie Deevy.



Moms, too: Mothers were ready to join their "Aqua Tots" in Davisburg's Mill Pond on a steamy, hot Monday afternoon last week. The program, offered by Springfield Township Parks and Recreation, introduces kids to water before they're ready for a full swim class.

Fall from page A1

Brown said.

Snapp had put three devices in the rock when he started to fall. The one just beneath him came out of the wall. If the next one had held, he would have fallen only about 15 feet.

"He fell, slammed against the side of the cliff, fell more, and

that pulled the other two devices out so he fell all the way to the ground," Brown said.

It was one of the worst falls Brown said he's encountered.

Snapp, who has been rock climbing for seven years, said he hopes his accident doesn't deter anyone from the sport.

"I just couldn't make the move I tried to make," he said. "I use everything that's required for safety. It's just something that happened."

Snapp hopes to return to Northern Michigan University in the fall, where he's majoring in environmental design.

"That's like interior design in terms of structural design," he

explained.

His father, Robert Snapp, of Clarkston and his brother Jacob, 26, flew to West Virginia to be with Snapp.

"I've had so many phone calls from people, including my friends moms, in Michigan," the rock climber said. Snapp asked people to include him in their prayers.

The Northern Michigan University student credits his climbing partner for his fast thinking in saving his life.

"He got people on the trail to come and stay with me while he got help," Snapp recalled.

Brown said it was an hour before rescuers could reach Snapp. Albosta ran almost a

mile-and-a-half to their vehicle, then drove about three or four miles before he reached a phone.

About 12 national park rangers responded. They had to put Snapp in a litter, raise him straight up 110-feet, walk him on the litter a mile where the ambulance met them. The ambulance drove Snapp two more miles to the helicopter, which took him to the hospital.

Snapp isn't retiring from rock climbing.

"It appeals to me so much," he remarked. "It's been a good thing for me. I've met a lot of good people through it and I love being able to climb in the national parks."

OBITUARIES

Edward J. Vratanina

Edward J. Vratanina of Clarkston; formerly of Croswell, died June 27, 1999, at age 80.

Mr. Vratanina had retired from both the Detroit Police Department and as a security guard at Children's Hospital.

Mr. Vratanina is preceded in death by his wife, Blanche. He is survived by three children, Bill (Marilyn) of Clarkston, Gerry (Micki) of Chicago, Illinois and Ellie of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Vratanina is the brother of Josie Stutzman of Charlevoix, Bob (Dot) of Glen Lake and Don (Mary) of Southfield. He is survived by seven grandchildren, Brian (Nina), Nicole, Amy, Tara (John) Tobar, Erin, Michael and

Michele. He is also survived by three great grandchildren.

The Rev. Michael Klaefeh officiated at the funeral service Wednesday, June 30 at St. Trinity Lutheran Church, Clarkston.

The family requests memorials be made to St. Trinity Lutheran Church.

Funeral arrangements were made by Lewis E. Wint & Son TRUST, 100 Funeral Home, Clarkston.

James L. Hoopingarner Sr.

James L. Hoopingarner Sr. of Clarkston died June 30, 1999, at age 77.

Mr. Hoopingarner was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church for 35 years, a member of the

Waterford Gem and Mineral Club and of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 16.

Mr. Hoopingarner is survived by his wife, Ina, of 60 years and his three children; Frances, Barbara (Robert) Dissmore and James, Jr. (Janice). He is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 3 with interment at Ottawa Park Cemetery, Independence Township.

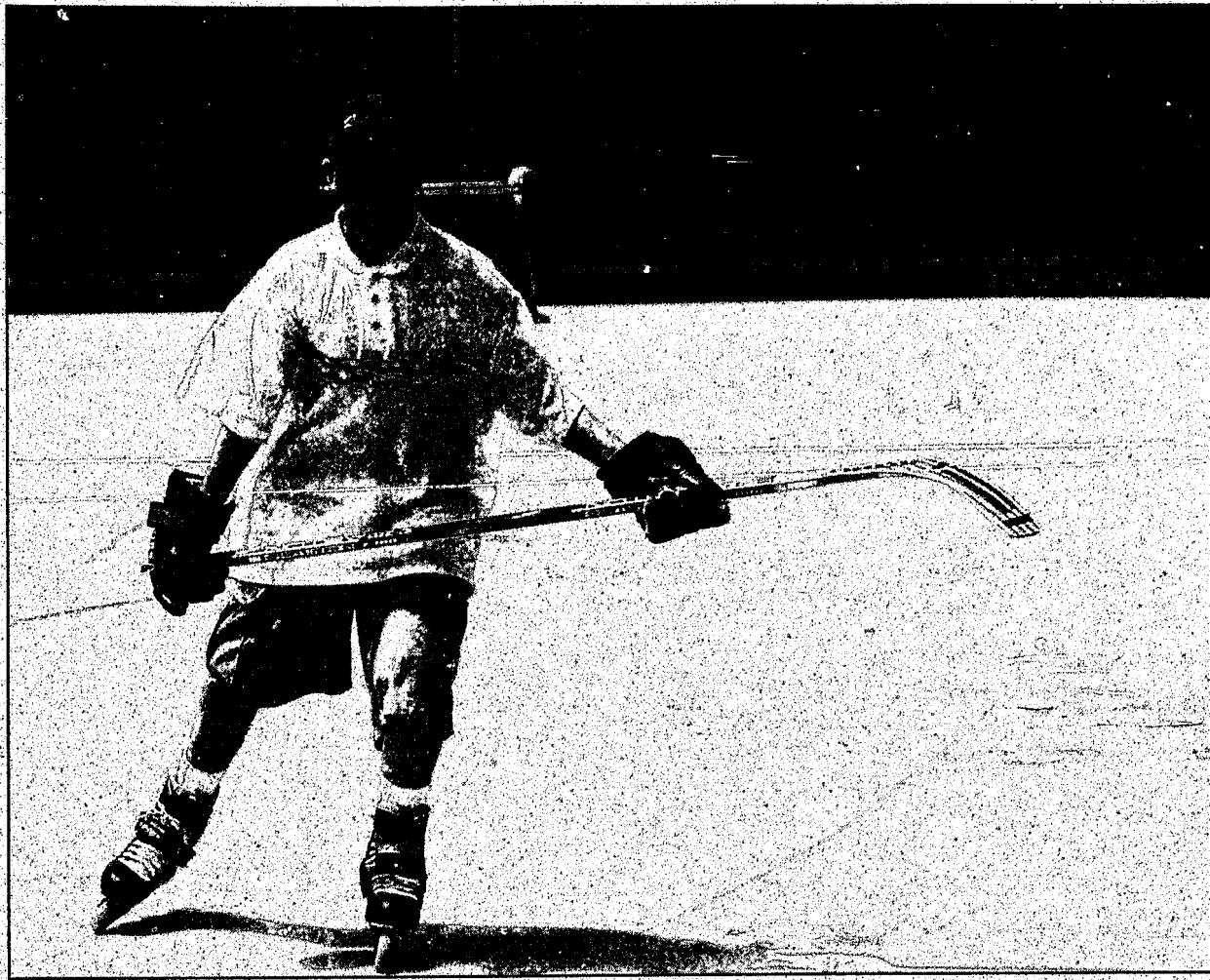
The family asks that memorials be made to American Cancer Society, Karmanos Cancer or Hospice of Michigan.

Funeral arrangements were made by Coats Funeral Home, Waterford.

Here We Grow Again!

Watch for details.

Clarkston State Bank



Skating in the park: Devin Gerowitz, 13, takes to the rink at Clintonwood Park.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DONNA McLAUGHLIN

In-line skating: Running full speed ahead in Clarkston

In-line skaters slipped into full gear this week to enjoy the rink at Clintonwood Park on Clarkston Road in Independence Township.

In-line skating has virtually replaced roller-skating as a popular form of low-impact exercise on wheels. According to The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, it's become the fastest growing sport in the United States over the past 10 years.

In-line skating is easy on the joints and easy to learn. It's a sport one can enjoy alone or with friends, and it can be incorporated

into other sports, like in-line hockey.

Competitive in-line hockey leagues begin July 12 and last until September 2 at Clintonwood Park. Registration ends July 11. The leagues are separated by age. Game times are 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call (248) 625-8223 for additional information.

Beginners should stick to flat surfaces when strapping on the skates, making sure the area is free of rocks or debris. Wait to tackle hills when you become confident of your ability to stop

quickly. And most importantly, skate safely, according to the National Safety Council.

The council, an Illinois-based organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health, released statistics showing that about 20 million in-line skaters roll down the streets every year, joining 57 million bike riders.

"As many as two-thirds of in-line skaters don't wear safety gear," according to the council's Web site. "In-line skaters should always wear safety gear and that includes wearing a helmet."

Skaters should consider pur-

chasing wrist, knee and elbow protection.

All safety gear is required for skaters at Clintonwood's in-line rink.

Avid skaters in the Clarkston area may be awaiting the opening of a second rink in the township, the Mark J. Miron Memorial Field in-line skating rink at Sashabaw Plains Township Park.

The rink, expected to cost \$15,000, is a memorial to Clarkston Middle School special education student Mark Miron who died this year at age 13. The seventh-grader was known for his love of sports. People can make donations to the rink fund at Clarkston State Bank, 15 South Main Street.

Board upholds wetlands permit for Premarc Corp.

BY SUSAN B. TAUBER
STAFF WRITER
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produces pre-stressed box beams and a product used in the construction of bridges.

"We're essentially an underground and bridge supply company of reinforced and pre-stressed concrete products," he explained.

The township board upheld the planning commission's approval of Premarc's request for a wetlands permit. The permit allows Premarc to construct a storm water outlet structure and a rock-level spreader, so water doesn't discharge at only one point on the property at 4950 White Lake Road.

Doug Burke,

a nine-year resi-

dent who lives on Hillcrest Drive across from Premarc's land, had appealed to the town-

ship to overturn the approval.

The township board, however, voted unanimously to uphold the planning commission's decision. It based much of its opinion on the township's engineering consultants and planning firms' reviews and on the fact that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality had issued Premarc a permit.

"Premarc has been in the neighborhood for a good many years," said township Clerk Joan McCrary. "They've always been cooperative in the neighborhood. They do correct problems if they've been pointed out to them."

*Joan McCrary
Independence Township Clerk*

"Premarc has been in the neighborhood for a good many years," said township Clerk Joan McCrary. "They've always been cooperative in the neighborhood. They do correct problems if they've been pointed out to them."

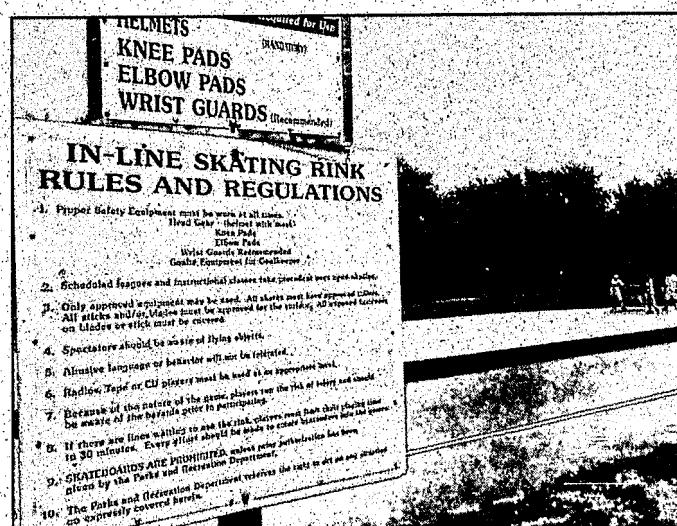
Beverly McElmeel, director of the Independence Township Building Department, explained that Premarc doesn't have to go before the planning commission another time and can now move forward with its site improvements.

Company officials still have to bring in construction plans for the building, which township inspectors will review for BOCA code compliance.

McCrary added that residents' complaints concerning Premarc should be resolved once the company finishes its site improvements.

The new 57,000-square-foot plant will produce reinforced concrete pipes and reinforced concrete manhole covers. It will add about 25 new jobs to the area.

Premarc's original 12,000-square-foot plant has about 25 workers, according to plant general manager John Colgrove. It



POLICE NEWS

The following incidents have been reported to police and fire agencies in Independence Township and the city of Clarkston June 27 to July 1.

Independence police

Vandalism

On June 28, a bicycle was reported stolen from an Upland Drive location.

On June 29, a wallet and knife were reported stolen from Clarkston High School on Flemings Lake Road.

On June 29, cash was reported stolen from a safe at Ottawa Park Cemetery.

On June 29, a cell phone was reported stolen from a Glenwood location.

On June 29, approximately 40 compact discs were reported stolen from a vehicle parked on Flemings Lake Road.

On June 30, obscenities were reportedly scratched onto the front hood of a vehicle parked on Main Road.

On June 30, a Fox Creek Apartments sign worth approximately \$3,000 was reported stolen from an East Road location.

Theft

On June 30, a wallet and credit cards were reported stolen from a vehicle parked on Maybee Road.

Possession of cocaine

On June 27, police confiscated a substance believed to be cocaine from a 38-year-old Mt. Pleasant man at Pine Knob Music Theater on Pine Knob Road.

Home Invasion

On June 28, jewelry, drinking glasses and a duffel bag were all reported stolen from a residence on Mann Road.

Independence fire

Between June 27 and July 1, firefighters responded to 22 calls. Among them were 16 medical calls, three personal injury accidents, and three incidents of fallen electrical wires.

Clarkston police

Accidents

On June 28, police investigated an injury accident on Washington, west of Main Street in which a 12-year-old Clarkston girl rode her bike into the side of a vehicle driven by a 91-year-old

Oxford woman. The girl suffered "fairly minor injuries," according to police, and was released.

On June 28, police investigated an accident on Main Street near Clarkston Road in which a vehicle driven by a Metamora man ran into the rear of a vehicle driven by a Seffner, Florida man.

The first driver was cited for failure to stop an assured, clear distance ahead.

Medical

On June 29, police and Independence Township firefighters responded to a North Holcomb address where a 64-year-old resident was found to be suffering mini-stroke episodes.

She was treated by Independence firefighters and later transported to North Oakland Medical Center for evaluation.

Civil matter

On June 30, police responded to a civil matter at Depot Park, on Depot Road, between two parents of a child.

The situation was mediated, police said, and the matter will be reviewed by protective services.

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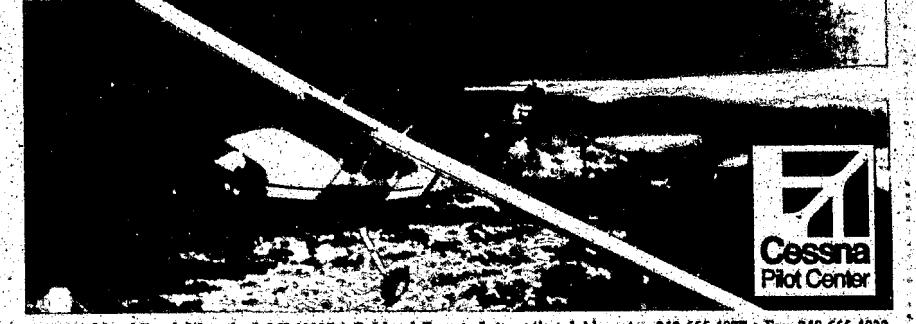
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Cessna
Pilot Center

Driving from page A1

classroom work tend to do better once they take to the road than others.

Leading the pack

"It is similar to any normal classroom," Spain said of teaching driver's education. "It was really a lot of fun. It was a learning experience."

One thing he's learned over the years is that Friday evening rush hour traffic is no place for an inexperienced 15-year-old driver. His instructors won't even attempt to take students on the road at that time. He prefers taking drives on Sundays, when traffic is not as heavy.

Spain has stuck with this work for so long because, he said, he truly likes it.

"You have to like what you're doing," he said. "You just have to be able to handle the stress. When the driver does panic, you cannot panic. Over the years, I should probably have been killed at least a dozen times."

Clawson has had his brushes with serious injury in this line of work as well.

"I've spent time in the hospital," said Clawson. "A student mistook the accelerator for the brake and smashed into a tree."

He spent five days in the hospital, suffering from a broken sternum and broken ribs.

"I'm always aware of the possibility of an accident," said Clawson.

Teaching is somewhat less dangerous in the classroom.

"Flexibility is more important," said Clawson of his role as teacher. "You're dealing with ideas." He teaches students about all the facets of driving, right down to the costs associated with owning and operating a vehicle.

Spain insists that staying "cool, calm and collected" is an important part of his work. Overall he considers it to be a "gratifying business."

All you can do is plant the seed. Driving is 90 percent instinct and 10 percent actual skill. It becomes natural, habitual, instinctive.'

—Fred Clawson
drivers education instructor

Driver's education is one class that allows students to learn, and then apply those skills to everyday life.

"It is something practical," said Clawson. But he doesn't take all the credit.

"All you can do is plant the seed," he said. "Driving is 90 percent instinct and 10 percent actual skill. It becomes natural, habitual, instinctive."

Spain understands that every student is different. He said: "If you have 30 students, you have 30 different skill levels."

License to freedom

A driver's license means more to a teenager than simply having the ability to drive a car. According to Clawson, all students associate it with the same thing — freedom.

Spain considers a license to be a rite of passage.

"This is a very crucial point in any 15-year-old's life," said Spain. "A driver's license means the difference from adolescence to young adulthood. It's very important."

But obtaining that freedom has become a more involved process.

Changing laws

Laws regarding young drivers changed two years ago.

"Youngsters can begin at 14 years 8 months," said Spain.

The young age is a point of contention for some instructors. Clawson said he'd like to see the age level raised.

"I think it's too young," he said. "They want to start as fast as they possibly can. They really

are immature."

Students are required to take two levels of classroom work. Level one incorporates 24 hours of class instruction and six hours of experience behind the wheel with a certified instructor. A written exam follows.

While the classroom instruction may only take one month, the driving time poses a challenge, said Spain, due to students' busy schedules.

"We work around — the best way we can — schedules, school programs," he said.

Clawson agreed that students' days are so planned, scheduling in time can be a challenge.

"They're primary concern is that they want their license now," he said.

The new driver may then go to the Secretary of State and request a level one driver's license. This requires a parent or guardian to accompany him or her on the road. Parents are required to keep a log. Students are required to obtain 30 hours of road experience.

After 30 days, the license expires and students return for level two instruction, which means six additional classroom hours. Students will then be able to obtain a level two license and must complete 20 additional hours of supervised driving.

If the student completes those requirements without receiving any violations, he or she is eligible to take a road exam with a certified instructor when he or she turns 16 years old. At 16, young drivers receive a restrict-

ed license, prohibiting them from being on the road between midnight and 5 a.m. At 17, drivers are eligible to apply for a regular license.

Parents' supervision

Spain said the new laws and protocol facing young drivers require more parental involvement, which is a positive change.

"It involves the parents," said Spain. "It's not up to me anymore."

Spain considers a parent's role in teaching driving to be a vital one. He said parents have 90 percent of the control regarding whether a student will become a safe, defensive driver.

But Clawson said he doubts most students get the 50 hours of supervised driving.

"I don't think it's realistic to suggest they actually get 50 hours with parents," he said. "It's really unsupervised driving."

He said parents may not be paying close attention to the way their child is driving, or may fail to give advice as to how to drive more safely. Improper instruction will only prolong the process of getting a driver's license.

The road ahead

Year after year, as Spain and Clawson watch students complete the course and head for the open road, they look forward to the faces of the next generation of drivers.

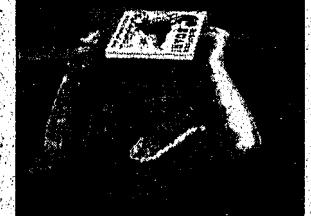
For Clawson, summer means another batch of his drivers will hit the road.

Spain said he will continue teaching driver's education until his wife retires from her position at General Motors. Then, the couple will permanently reside in their northwest Michigan home where he will devote his time to writing his children's novels.



Prepared: Emily Alli is ready with some favorite books for summer reading.

Reading from page A1



Like my hat?: Markus Rogers finds that books are versatile objects that can be used for more than just reading.

Library Children's Librarian Anne Rose said other requested books for kids are many of the series. These include the Bailey Schools Kids, Magic Tree House, Magic Attic and Animorphs series.

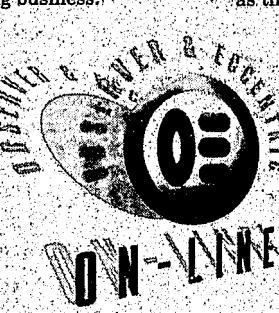
Regardless of what book you decide to check out to read this summer, here's a good piece of advice from Rose.

"We bought quite a few of the 'Star Wars' books for different age groups. Those stay out all the time," Forst said.

Independence Township

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Sweet mulberry colors youth's world

Red mulberries are ripe. Gray catbirds, crows and woodpeckers are feasting. Opossums and raccoons nibble on the spoils. Even the ground-dwelling wood-chuck, that obese garden raider you love to hate, will scramble up lower mulberry limbs to devour the berries and leaves.

And then there was barefoot 7-year-old Shane, perched confidently on a not-so-stout limb, fingers and lips stained purple-red. One happy kid.

Living is easy as we enter summer. And living can be great if you identify a red mulberry tree. Shane can. I did not teach him. One smart kid with a good teacher. This tale of abundance and joy of nature's way began before I was born. Way before.

Fifty thousand years ago the land - our land - was buried under great sheets of ice. Twelve thousand years ago the glaciers retreated, leaving behind the landscape of hills and lakes we call Oakland County. A landscape barren of trees, later to be dominated by oaks.

The ice sheets melted. The Great Lakes were born. Species moved north. Among those species, an understory tree (although some prefer to call it a big shrub) with the name red mulberry. Naturalists tend to have strong affinities for this tree that many foresters consider trashy. City dwellers with a passion for spotless driveways - maybe they need clean car tires - dream of chainsaws when the mulberries bear fruit. Shane loves that half of his tree that reaches over a property line. A tree that brings joy.

The red mulberry, currently in its deliciously abundant

OAKLAND...NATURALLY



JONATHAN SCHECHTER

fruiting season, draws wildlife from all around like an ancient Middle Eastern date palm oasis drew great camel caravans. Unfortunately, for most people red mulberry is just a name. Too bad.

I will not try and instruct you on how to identify the mulberry with printed words. (Do not eat any wild things you are not sure of.) Bring a twig with leaves attached into your nature center. Have it identified. Then go feast. Or if you can find me in the woods of Brandon or Bloomfield, I'll show you this great tree.

I first discovered the pure joy of feasting on these sweet succulent fruits about the same time I discovered the writings of Euell Gibbons, the great guru of wild edibles and author of the classic "Stalking the Wild Asparagus." Gibbons once wrote, "All children should know the pleasure of purpling their faces with sweet, ripe mulberries." So should you. Gibbons spoke the truth.

Perhaps it was the mix of warm days and substantial rains a few weeks back, or perhaps it is just an end of the millennium gift from Mother Nature, but we have a bumper crop of mulberries.

Although frequently cut by those who do not like berries

falling on their yards or drives, the red mulberry is abundant in Oakland County. A delicious secret for those who know.

Gathering is easy even if you do not have a handy barefooted 7 year old with a pail and a climbing instinct. Spread an old sheet under the limbs. Wait or shake.

I prefer my mulberries fresh from the tree, just like the birds that compete with me for the tastiest of wild treats. That is also Shane's way. But if your attention span is longer than mine, sample the tried-and-true recipe of Euell Gibbons. Gibbons devoted his life to living off the land and I do not think his estate would mind me sharing the recipe for mulberry jelly I acquired over 25 years ago in the mulberry-rich woods of Vermont.

Add 1/2 cup of water to two quarts of berries and simmer for five minutes. Then thoroughly crush the berries and simmer for at least 10 minutes. Strain out the juice through a cheesecloth jelly bag. To one quart of juice, add the juice of one lemon and one package of powdered pectin. Bring to a boil, add 5 1/2 cups of sugar. Bring to a boil again, hard for one minute. Skim, pour into jelly glasses and cover with paraffin.

Discover the joys of purpling your face. Celebrate summer. Be 7 again.

Jonathan Schechter is the park ranger and naturalist for West Bloomfield Parks and writes on nature's way for the Eccentric Newspapers. He still purples his face and fingers every summer. Write him at oaknature@aol.com.

NATURESCAPES

Special report - wolves make a comeback

The results of the 1998-99 winter wolf survey, conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, confirmed the presence of at least 174 wolves scattered across the Upper Peninsula. These wolves live in 30 separate packs. Last year's survey confirmed 140 wolves.

Although solid rumors persist, no wolves have been confirmed in the Lower Peninsula, but this year DNR biologists searched for wolf evidence south of the Mackinaw Bridge. (Wolves are capable of crossing the straits when ice forms. I predict wolves will be confirmed early in the year 2000.) No wolves have been trapped and relocated into Michigan since an attempt to translocate four wolves from Minnesota in the mid-1970s failed.

All wolves now living in Michigan arrived either the old-fashioned way, walking here from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario, or are descendants of wolves breeding in Michigan. Currently the U.S. Department of the Interior is considering a proposal to delist wolves as endangered in the Great Lakes states.

According to Ray Rustem, Natural Heritage Program supervisor, "The wolf represents what can be accomplished for endangered species when time and tolerance is provided." Major portions of Michigan's wolf recovery program are supported through citizen donations to the Noname Fish and Wildlife Fund on the state income tax form.

Bill cracks down on frivolous lawsuits

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mimalott@homecomm.net

Think long and hard before filing that lawsuit. Under legislation pending in Lansing, the "loser" in a legal case would be required to pick up the attorney fees for the prevailing side.

Proponents argue the bill would cut down on frivolous lawsuits.

As examples of such cases,

no-wolves have been confirmed in the Lower Peninsula, but this year DNR biologists searched for wolf evidence south of the Mackinaw Bridge. (Wolves are capable of crossing the straits when ice forms. I predict wolves will be confirmed early in the year 2000.) No wolves have been trapped and relocated into Michigan since an attempt to translocate four wolves from Minnesota in the mid-1970s failed.

Opponents include trial lawyers who contend the judicial system already has protections against frivolous cases. Currently, judges may award attorney fees as part of the judgment, but they are not required to.

"We may have a loser pays system in theory, but not in practice," Owens said.

Opponents however argue that not all cases that lose are necessarily frivolous. A

loser pays system, they believe, would discourage cases which have merit from being filed if the plaintiff could not afford the defendant's fees should the case fail to win.

The bill has been sent to the senate's judiciary committee for review. Action on the proposal is expected to come up in the fall.

CAPITOL BRIEFS

have discretion as to which party would pay the legal bills of the other. Judges could limit costs if they believed the amount was unfair.

Businesses are largely in favor of the legislation.

"The sad and unfair aspect of this abuse is that the system is weighted in favor of the one who sues. You can go broke in America proving that you are right," said Charles Owens, Director of Michigan's branch of the National Federal of Independent Business.

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Tax credits may spur comeback of apprentices

Apprenticeships, a common method of job training a century ago, may become a preferred method of training again in Michigan in the coming century.

Tax credits worth \$2,000, originally the brainchild of State Sen. Mike Rogers (R-Brighton) for businesses that provide apprenticeships to high school students are set to expire at the end of this year.

But Gov. John Engler is calling for the credit to be extended. And he said the extension should be coupled with "an aggressive marketing program" through the Department of Career Development to encourage employers to use the program.

Since the program took effect in 1997, "it's fallen short of expectations," Engler said. "In the first two years, only 463 students participated in apprenticeships offered by 253 Michigan companies."

The credit is available to businesses which sponsor a high school student in a formal apprenticeship registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. The employer may claim 50 percent of the wages and 100 percent of costs for classroom instruction.

The extension would be part of an effort by the governor to address labor shortages.

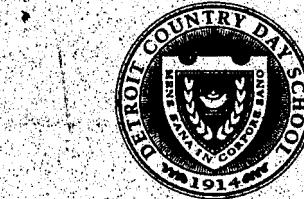
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Detroit Country Day School Class of 1999



Scholars

- 100% accepted to four-year colleges and universities, with an average of three acceptances each
- Matriculating at universities ranging from Harvard to Stanford, 44% in Michigan, 55% out of state and 1% internationally
- 16% named National Merit

Semifinalists, the largest percentage of Semifinalists at any public or private high school in Michigan

- 3rd in nation in biology, 4th in chemistry and 5th in physics in National Science Olympiad
- 2 perfect scores on SAT
- A United States Presidential Scholar
- 4 consecutive state championships in Quiz Bowl

and TEAMS (Test of Engineering Aptitude, Math and Science)

Citizens

- Founded "Toys for Children Fighting Cancer" and helped countless needy children through this project
- Demonstrated concern for others and a sense of social responsibility by giving

thousands of volunteer hours in support of community service programs such as:

- COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Red Cross
- SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk)

Athletes

- Led Country Day to four state

championships this year, in women's basketball and soccer and in men's tennis and lacrosse

- 2 earned All-American honors in women's basketball and in men's lacrosse
- 2 named All-Midwest in women's lacrosse
- 13 won All-State honors in five different women's sports and three men's sports

We Salute You, Class of '99

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Darren Patrick King
Channelle Kitz
Ryan Kennedy Gitterman
Andrew Michael Goldswig
Eric Seth Goodman
Arjun Krishna Gowda
Sanjay Narasingh Gupta
Sarika Gupta
Shilpa Gupta
Danielle Nicole Haggins
Katherine Anna Hanks
Rachel Ann Harrison
Jonas Bronee Henderson IV
Heidi Marie Herrgott
Jason Anthony Higginsbotham
Paul Daniel Hudson
Dania Lynn Inatome
Syed Mohammad Akbar Jafri
Syed Zain Mehtab Jafry
Sangeeta Jain
Samir Janvela
Aisha Jamila Jett
Janet Kandrevala
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Akay Knura
Mariam Khalife
Azam Brian Khan
Julie Lee Kim

Reeta Prakash
Akshat Chandralekha Pujara
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Datta Lakshmi Narasimha Raju
Veda Ramesh
Zubin Jehangir Rao
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Matthew John Lambert
Sean James Leahy
Stacey Michelle Leuliette
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Rajeev Mahajan
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Lena Michele Mass
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Jennifer McGrath
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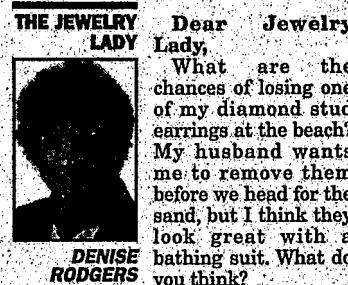
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Sunday, July 4, 1999

Nicole Stafford, Editor 248-901-2567 nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

on the web: <http://observer-eccentric.com>

Don't stop wearing old jewelry, just redesign it



THE JEWELRY LADY Dear Jewelry Lady,
What are the chances of losing one of my diamond stud earrings at the beach? My husband wants me to remove them before we head for the sand, but I think they look great with a bathing suit. What do you think?
DENISE RODGERS Bathing Beauty

Dear Beauty, Congratulations! You are married to a bona fide worry wart. Let your husband know that, if your earrings are properly adjusted and you check them before heading out to the sand and sun, it's unlikely you'll lose them.

However, as a precaution, consider checking your homeowner's insurance to make certain you're covered in case of loss. (Otherwise, that worry wart will never forgive you for losing those diamond studs!)

Another alternative: consider having your diamonds reset in Euronires, which clip more securely behind the ears. Even if you bury your head in the sand, there's no way you'll lose one of those babies!

Dear Jewelry Lady, I am very annoyed with my jeweler. I recently took my engagement ring in for a cleaning, and he told me I should have my prongs re-tipped. My jeweler also said I would eventually I need a new set of prongs for the ring. I thought diamonds were forever. I feel taken.

Feeling Cheated.

Dear Cheated, Diamonds are forever, but they are susceptible to cracks and chips. After all, diamonds don't come out of the ground fully faceted; they have to be cut and polished to bring out their beauty.

Furthermore, your jeweler isn't talking about your diamond, but the prongs of your ring, which are probably made of gold. Since gold wears over time, your jeweler is doing you a favor by suggesting you keep the mount in good condition. Otherwise, you might lose the diamond.

If you wish to avoid such maintenance, I suggest replacing the gold head (the set of prongs) for another one made of platinum. Platinum is tougher than gold and much less vulnerable to wear.

Dear Jewelry Lady, I am maybe what you'd call a "jewelry aholic." I regularly buy new rings and necklaces and then stop wearing older pieces in my jewelry box. It seems like a terrible waste. What should I do with my old jewelry?

Loaded with Baubles

Dear Baubles, You have a wonderful problem, and The Jewelry Lady knows numerous jewelers who would be more than happy to make your acquaintance.

But seriously, have you considered redesigning some of your older jewelry? Many independent jewelers also work as jewelry designers and would jump at the chance to sketch some designs that utilize the precious gems and metals you already have.

The beauty of gold, platinum and precious gemstones is that they can be reworked again and again into new and cutting-edge pieces.

Another option: leave your outdated pieces on consignment with a jeweler who sells estate pieces, and take the money and run. Just imagine the number of new pieces you'll be able to buy in coming years!

Also consider having your outdated jewelry professionally cleaned and polished, and then give them as gifts to special people in your life. What you see as old and outdated, might tickle another person's fancy. (After all, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.)

Finally, you can let your older pieces collect not only dust but also value in a safety deposit box until you pass them on to family, friends or a favorite charity.

Send your questions to the Jewelry Lady by e-mail, rodgers@mich.com, fax, (248) 582-9223 or mail, The Jewelry Lady, c/o Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Bonding mother and child

Retailers address motherhood today

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
SPECIAL EDITOR
nstafford@oe.homecomm.net

Twenty, even 10 years ago, Johnson & Johnson baby oil and talcum powder were enough to soothe and pamper soft bottoms and baby-soft skin. Likewise, little boys and girls were delighted by the addition of tear-free baby shampoo at bath time.

Today, products for mothers, babies and children seek to do more than show tenderness and pacify; they strive to help the parent-child bonding process.

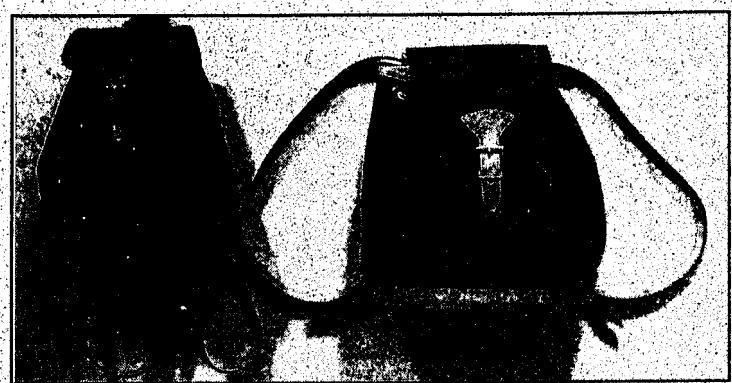
Recently introduced personal products aimed at mother and child include Bulgari's colorfully packaged Petits et Mamans line, Bobbi Brown's extra gentle, dye-free, baby essentials and a baby care line from Origins, a subsidiary of Estee Lauder.

The Petits et Mamans line includes an alcohol-free fragrance touted as a bonding agent when worn by mother and daughter. Origins' top selling baby care product is "Bear Hug," a massage cream said to promote bonding between parents and babies.

Of course, massage and other forms of sensory stimulation are always beneficial to newborns and help with bonding, but many of today's mothers, who hold down full-time jobs, have less time and energy to devote to such activities.



Like mother, like daughter: Matching cotton floral dresses by Cornelloki are priced at \$76 for mom and \$40 for daughter at April Cornell, the Somerset Collection in Troy.



Motherhood at a price: Matching leather backpacks for busy mothers and children, \$595 and \$535 at Louis Vuitton.

Arguably, baby massage cream not only acts as a vehicle for sensory stimulation but also as a reminder to take time out for bonding. When mother and daughter dot on fragrance from the same bottle before rushing out the door to work and school, they've had a shared — albeit brief — experience.

"Petits et Mamans has great relevance to the lives of today's mothers, who may not have as much time as they wish to bond with their children," says Connie Ruscio, vice president of sales for Bulgari's distributor. And when mothers do have extra time to spend with their daughters, luxury bath and beauty products enhance those "precious moments," says Ruscio.

Bath products aren't the only goods on store shelves aimed at uniting mother and child and mitigating working mothers' guilt over limited family time.

Sleepwear designer Karen Neuburger launched a line of nightgowns, pajamas and robes for mothers and daughters in March. Available at Jacobson's, Neuburger's women's pieces run \$35-60 and children's pieces retail at \$24-42.

Numerous stores at the Somerset Collection in Troy also carry goods for mother and child. William Sonoma sells appropriately sized cooking aprons for joint ventures in the kitchen.

Louis Vuitton offers matching leather backpacks priced at \$595 for mother and \$535 for child. And several retailers carry matching clothing for mothers and daughters, including Laura Ashley, April Cornell and Oihly, all at the Somerset Collection.

Another factor at work behind the trend is society's changing attitude towards motherhood and pregnancy. The prevalence of expectant mothers in the workplace, coupled with working women's increased discretionary income and a slew of stylish pregnant stars in the media, has encouraged high style among soon-to-be mothers.

"It's in style to be stylish when you're pregnant," says Karen Karzman, assistant manager at A Pea in the Pod maternity store in downtown Birmingham where body-hugging, "french-fit" maternity clothes have replaced oversized garments that conceal curves and bulges.

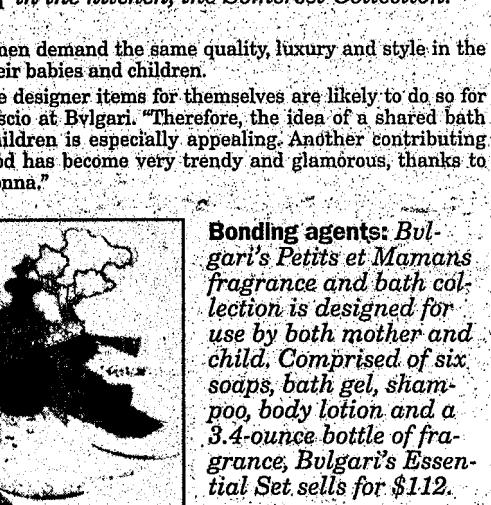
Diana Mahacek, store manager at Mimi Maternity at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, agrees, saying "women have really embraced the closer fit clothing... They're saying 'I'm proud. I'm pregnant.'"

As mothers, these women demand the same quality, luxury and style in the products they buy for their babies and children.

"Parents who purchase designer items for themselves are likely to do so for their children," says Ruscio at Bulgari. "Therefore, the idea of a shared bath line for mothers and children is especially appealing. Another contributing factor is that motherhood has become very trendy and glamorous, thanks to star moms such as Madonna."



Kitchen ventures: Williams-Sonoma carries cotton twill cooking aprons for mothers, \$19, and daughters, \$16, for bonding in the kitchen, the Somerset Collection.



Bonding agents: Bulgari's Petits et Mamans fragrance and bath collection is designed for use by both mother and child. Comprised of six soaps, bath gel, shampoo, body lotion and a 3.4-ounce bottle of fragrance, Bulgari's Essential Set sells for \$112.

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

TUESDAY, JULY 6

YO-YO CLASS FOR KIDS

Borders Books & Music in Farmington Hills hosts local yo-yo instructor Dennis Grzesiak for a yo-yo seminar for children of all ages, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

GEOFFREY BEENE FOR FALL

View the Fall 1999 special order collection of designer Geoffrey Beene through July 8 at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Designer Salon, second floor.

SIDEWALK SALE

The Boardwalk shopping center on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield holds its 15th Annual Side Walk Sale through July 10.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 8

SUZEN TRUNK SHOW

Roz & Sherm in Bloomfield Hills hosts a trunk show of Suzen for Fall 1999 through July 10 during regular store hours.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

ART IN THE PARK

Visit your favorite downtown Plymouth businesses and peruse the work of more than 400 artisans during Art in the Park, 7 p.m. downtown Plymouth.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

DINE & DANCE

Wonderland Mall in Livonia hosts the Steel Gratitude Band as part of the center's Dine & Dance series for families, 6-9 p.m., Food Court.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

CAROLINA HERRERA FALL SHOW

Saks Fifth Avenue presents the Fall 1999 collection of Carolina Herrera at a black tie benefit for the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). Tickets, at \$400 each,

include a cocktail reception and strolling supper at 5:30 p.m., a formal fashion show at 7 p.m. and attendance at the "Under the Stars Gala XX" on Nov. 13. For additional information and tickets, call the DIA at (313) 833-7969.

TUESDAY, JULY 13

BEANIE BABY SHOW

Plymouth hosts an All-Beanie Baby Show, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Plymouth Cultural Center at 525 Farmer Street. For more information and admission fees, call (734) 455-2110.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

CLASSIC CHRYSLER SHOW

Meadow Brook Village Mall in Rochester Hills overflows with antique and classic Chrysler, Plymouth and Dodge cars during the Classic Chrysler Show through July 11 during regular mall hours. Donations benefit the Rochester Lions Club. For more information, call (248) 375-9451.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Where can I find?

This feature is dedicated to helping readers locate merchandise that's difficult to find. If you've seen or are looking for an item, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We publish readers' requests for merchandise twice. If you don't hear from us or see information about the item within a few weeks, we were unable to locate it.

WHAT WE FOUND:

- Snap Straps for sheets are available at Bed Bath & Beyond and through the Miles Kimball catalog, (800) 546-2255, or the Domestication catalog, (800) 746-2555.

- We also found: a small kitchen cupboard, a Tupperware cake taker, a tape of "Eloise" by Kay Thompson, a boutonniere and buttons, a stem for a 6-cup Pyrex coffee pot and an organ grinder.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- A person who makes quilts with photographs on it for Nancy.

- A lipliner by Ultima II in "Tawny" for Carol.

- Rose Milk Skin Care lotion for Vivian.

- A stamped cross-stitch baby quilt (not pre-quilted) for Marie.

- A used baritone musical instrument case for Norma.

- A 1960 Highland Park High School yearbook for Carol.

- The video "The Great Mouse Detective" for Rachel.

- Avon's Natural Exfoliating Body bar soap for Pat.

- A cabinet that opens into a dining room table.

- Coty L'ESSLEUR cologne for Joanne in Southfield.

- Rockford socks with red heels and toes for Noreen of Livonia.

- A 1953 Central High School yearbook for Faye, who lives in West Bloomfield.

- A person who refinishes rocking chairs and Schleicher German cabinet white wine for Barbara.

- A Doubleday Cookbook, as seen on "Cooking Live," for Teresa of Livonia.

- Vietnam, WWI and WWII uniforms for Sheila, an American history teacher who wants to use the items in her classroom.

- Someone who makes graded wool rugs for Florence of Westland.

- Individual storage bins on wheels with brown/tan lids for Nancy.

- An instruction manual or company address for Springcrest drapery fixtures.

- A Lollipop undershirt worn by elderly women and Bill Blass cologne/perfume for Caroline, a Royal Oak resident.

- A telephone number for people who accept trophies for the Special Olympics for Vicki.

- A 1952 Fordson High School yearbook for Pat.

- A 1950 Central High School yearbook for Faith.

- A 1997 Adams High School yearbook for Brian.

- A denim handbag made from rayon-like material that was available at the Fossil Store at Birch Run for Jeannie.

- An English golf cart by Clubster for ladies in good condition for Mrs. Letro.

- A 1951 Central High School yearbook for Ellen, who lives in Westland.

- An instruction manual for the BMI Home Gym for John of Garden City.

- A stem for a Pyrex 9-cup coffee pot for Dorothy of Livonia.

- A hearing impaired group that is traveling on New Year's Eve and a picture or poster of assorted dogs playing poker or shooting pool for Leona.

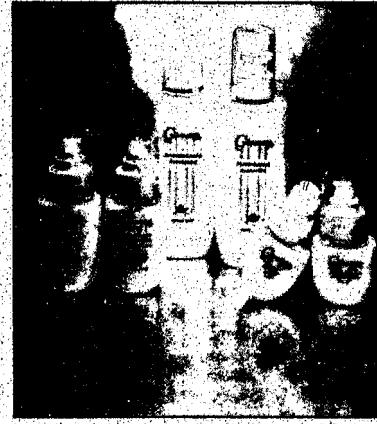
Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

a la carte

STUFF WE CRAVE



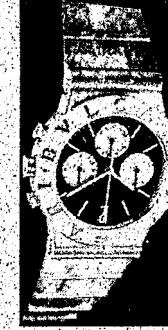
PHOTOGRAPHED
BY TOM CLAYTON
Summer
days:
Men's
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daisy
print cot-
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trunks,
\$84, and
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ing
swimsuit
for girls,
\$40, by
Lilly
Pulitzer,
Saks
Fifth
Avenue,
the Som-
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lection in
Troy.



Mediterranean beauty: New at Jacobson's, Giovanna-Italy skin care products contain virgin olive oil and complexes of botanic elements, herbs and minerals from the Mediterranean Sea, \$40-140, Jacobson's stores.



Slow burn:
Handmade
from pewter
and inspired by
nature's
designs, Felissimo's aromatherapy burner comes with a candle and two vials of essential oil, \$85 at Aetheria in Ferndale.



Casual and elegant: Bulgari's Chrono watch in steel with a white face has a sporty but refined look, \$5,300; at Schubot Jewelers and Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy.

Got Stuff?

Stuff you don't need anymore. Stuff that's been piling up in the garage, or the basement or attic.

Get rid of it with a classified ad in your hometown newspaper. We're so sure you'll be able to sell your stuff with three ads, that if you don't, we'll run your ad three more times free.

That's right—

Sell it in three or we'll run it for FREE—three more times!

How can you beat that?

You can't!

So, what you do is this:

Tell us you want our special three-ad deal, then if, heaven forbid!, your stuff is still sitting around after the first three have run, call us and let us know and we'll run your ad absolutely free in the next three editions of your



Observer & Eccentric
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*Offer does not apply to Real Estate, Apartments, Employment or Garage Sale ads.
Participants must purchase three ads although it may take only one or two ads to sell the item(s) advertised.

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Olde World Canterbury Village and Always Christmas Present The Precious Moments Care-A-Van

July 10, 1999 • 12 to 4 p.m.

Olde World Canterbury Village is Open
Mon. - Thurs.: 10AM - 8PM
Fri. - Sat.: 10 AM - 9PM • Sun.: 10AM - 7PM



Special Event Pieces,
Prize Drawings
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July 10 Only!

FREE TOURS!

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

now through Saturday, July 10 at
Olde World Canterbury Village

Support the
Food Bank of
Oakland County.

Donate a canned
food item. Then

enter to win

PRIZE DRAWINGS from

Always Christmas.

See store for details.

Located 3 miles off I-75, Exit 83, North, Joslyn Rd., just 3 miles north of Great Lakes Crossing Mall

Plus! With the purchase
of a Precious Moments
Membership Kit, receive a
FREE PASS FOR TWO
good at any Star Theatre.
Limited quantities while they last.
One pass per customer. See store for details.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL WEEKEND!



Automation Alley plan wins national award

Automation Alley, the marketing plan devised by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson to catapult Oakland County into the national spotlight, has been selected to receive a 1999 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The award will be presented during NACo's annual awards reception which will be held July 18 in St. Louis.

"It is very gratifying to receive this kind of national recognition because it makes all the hours of hard work invested in launching the Automation Alley project worthwhile," Patterson said. "The members of the Oakland County team and our partners in the private sector who expended their time and effort on this project should be very proud of what they've accomplished."

Patterson, who unveiled Automation Alley in his 1998 State of the County Address, hopes the strategy to market Oakland County's high-tech business cluster, which is situated in the proximity of I-75 and I-696 freeways, will help attract highly skilled talent and cutting edge companies to the area.

Patterson said he believes

■ The members of the Oakland County team and our partners in the private sector who expended their time and effort on this project should be very proud of what they've accomplished.

L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

that someday Automation Alley will be able to compete with the nation's other economic powerhouses like California's Silicon Valley and Boston's Route 128. A recent statistical survey found that Automation Alley enjoys a lower unemployment rate, lower housing prices, lower cost of living and higher per capita income than either Silicon Valley or Route 128.

High tech companies

Automation Alley was formed around a nucleus of 45 high-tech companies, but since the launch of the project in November 1998, four new members have been added which include

the Oakland Press, Lawrence Technological University, Pierberg Instruments and Excel Technical Solutions. In addition, 15 other new candidates are waiting to be approved for membership in the consortium.

The marketing focus is currently on overhauling the Automation Alley website and developing a CD-Rom that will be available in five languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Japanese.

For further information, please contact Bob Dustan, the county's media and communications officer, at (248) 858-1048.

Road commission posts jobs on net

Job openings at the Road Commission for Oakland County are now listed on the commission's Web site, located at www.rcoocweb.org.

"The Internet has become one of the most popular means of sharing information," explained RCOOC Managing Director Brent Bair, "so it was a logical progression to add job openings to our Web site."

He added that the site also includes information about current road projects, Road Commission meetings, a real time

traffic congestion map (showing actual congestion at more than 300 intersections), the latest RCOOC news, information about how and why the Road Commission does what it does, and much more.

"Adding job openings to the Web site means that potential employees can find out about available positions through one more means," Bair added. "It also means that more people will potentially see and respond to the postings, meaning we will have a larger pool of applicants

to select from and further enhance our ability to hire the best possible candidate for each position."

The available jobs are listed in the "Job Postings" section of the site. Included are descriptions of the jobs, pay ranges and education/experience requirements.

Anyone interested in applying for one of the positions posted can simply print an application, fill it out and fax or mail it to RCOOC.

Drivers take heed — Police watching for 'Give 'em a Brake'

The Traffic Improvement Association announced its third enforcement effort in the Drive Michigan Safely Campaign, "Give 'em a Brake Oakland County."

Running through July, six law enforcement agencies will patrol county construction zone areas in an effort to reduce crashes, injuries and deaths.

"Everyone is entitled to a safe workplace and the roadways are these workers' workplace," said Eileen Weisse, program director for the Traffic Improvement Association. "By slowing down when entering construction zones and following these simple tips, motorists can help keep workers and themselves safe and reduce crashes on our roads."

During 1997, Oakland

County had more than 700 construction zone crashes, resulting in one fatality and 239 injuries.

Driving tips

Following are tips for driving in construction zones:

■ Slow down and pay attention.

■ Avoid complacency. Don't become oblivious to work zone signs when the work is long term or widespread.

■ Calm down. Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you.

■ Heed the warning signs and symbols.

■ Merge as soon as possible. Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speed by moving to the appropriate lane at first

notice of an approaching work zone.

■ Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.

■ Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says, "End Road Work."

■ Pay attention to your surroundings. This is not the time to use the cellular phone, change the radio station or drink your coffee.

■ Try an alternate route.

■ Expect delays; plan for them and leave early to reach your destination on time.

■ Michigan law requires you to slow down in a work zone. Remember fines for moving violation within a work zone are doubled."

Leadership Oakland seeking new applicants for 10th program year

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit an application for Leadership Oakland, a community leadership development program.

The 1999-2000 program year marks the 10th year of continuing to prepare motivated leaders who are educated about Oakland County and the issues facing it now and in the future.

Participants expand their knowledge of the county by learning about the region's economy, political and governmental processes, health and human services, judicial system, arts and entertainment and the educational system. The Leadership Oakland experience gives partic-

ipants a chance to meet, listen and interact with experts in these areas.

Candidates are selected based on a written application submitted to the Leadership Oakland Board of Directors. A selection committee, comprised of board members who have graduated from the program and community representatives reviews all applications.

Participants must have the full support of the company or organization they represent. Attendance at each session is expected; those who fail to meet the attendance requirements will be asked to drop out of the program.

The year begins with a mandatory, three-day overnight retreat held in September, followed by nine full-day monthly sessions from October through May. A graduation dinner in June concludes the year.

Candidates must submit a completed application by July 15, 1999, with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Tuition for the one-year Leadership Oakland program is \$2,000.

For an application or more information, call Dawn Magretta, executive director of Leadership Oakland at (248) 952-6880.

Medicare Blue offers great benefits!

The Medicare Blue Enhanced Basic option includes prescription, vision and hearing care:

- Prescription drug coverage: small copayments for prescription drugs or refills (50% or \$10 generic, \$20 brand name). \$400 annual maximum (\$100 per quarter).
- Vision Care: an annual eye exam for a \$10 copayment plus an annual discount on frames and lenses for glasses.
- Hearing Care: an annual hearing exam with a \$10 copayment.

Medicare Blue covers everything Medicare does — and more — for no monthly premium!

Or, choose the Premier option and for \$30 a month* you get increased prescription coverage and an annual vision allowance.

If you live in Michigan,* and are eligible for Medicare, then Blue Care Network Medicare Blue is the health care plan for you! Medicare Blue's network of carefully screened medical professionals in your community includes more than 4,000 doctors and 41 hospitals. Chances are your doctor's already part of the plan!

To learn more about Medicare Blue, come to one of our free educational seminars. Call us to reserve your space:

1-888-333-3129 ext. 600 (toll free)

TDD 1-800-257-9980 (for hearing disabled)

Medicare Blue Educational Seminars

Auburn Hills

Wednesday, July 21
2:30 p.m.
at Big Boy

1615 Opdyke Rd.

Madison Heights

Wednesday, July 21
2 p.m.
at Big Boy

31270 John R Rd.

Berkley

Wednesday, July 7
2 p.m.
at Denny's

28939 Woodward Ave.

Novi

Tuesday, July 13
2 p.m.
at Novi-DMC

(lower level conference room)
41935 West 12 Mile Rd.

Birmingham

Wednesday, July 14
10 a.m.
at Birmingham Library

300 West Merrill

Oak Park

Wednesday, July 7
9:30 a.m.
at Baker's Square

26660 Greenfield

Clarkston

Tuesday, July 20
2 p.m.
at Big Boy

6440 Dixie Hwy.

Rochester Hills

Thursday, July 8
2 p.m.
at Bill Knapp's

3010 West Walton Rd.

Southfield

Thursday, June 22
2 p.m.
at Big Boy

29700 Southfield Rd.

Southfield

Tuesday, July 6
1:30 p.m.
at John Grace Community Center

21030 Indian

Farmington Hills

Wednesday, July 7
2 p.m.

at Providence Center

(lower level conference room)

30055 Northwestern Hwy.

Farmington Hills

Tuesday, July 20
10 a.m.

at Providence Center

(lower level conference room)

30055 Northwestern Hwy.

Madison Heights

Friday, July 2
9:30 a.m.

at Big Boy

31270 John R Rd.



**Blue Care Network
Medicare Blue**

* To become a Medicare Blue member, you must live in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb or Washtenaw County. You must be eligible for Medicare Parts A and B and continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. You must receive your care from a Medicare Blue provider, except for emergency or certain urgently needed care.

Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Taste

Keely Wygonik, Editor 734-953-2105, kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

on the web: <http://observer-eccentric.com>

Observer & Eccentric

Inside:

Living Better Sensibly

Page 1, Section B

Sunday, July 4, 1999

FOCUS ON WINE



RAY & ELEANOR HEALD

Sauvignon blanc pairs perfectly with food

Sauvignon blanc is the most versatile wine with food. Yet, only four percent of more than 300,000 vineyard acres in California produce it. With an increasing U.S. interest in pairing wine with food, this planting neglect is disappointing.

Despite this, no one is more enthusiastic about showcasing sauvignon blanc's versatility with food than chef Sunny Cristadoro at St. Supery Winery in the Napa Valley.

Versatile varietal

"Because sauvignon blanc is the most versatile varietal with food, some, even professional chefs, have taken that to mean they can put anything with this wine, and that's an overstatement," Cristadoro began as we chatted at Birmingham's Big Rock Chop & Brew House where she was an invited celebrity chef.

Cristadoro agrees that sauvignon blanc's freshness makes it an ideal aperitif: a sipper, even without food. But the freshness, coupled with clean flavors, matches the spiciness of Thai foods, all Asian cuisine and harmonizes well with Mexican dishes.

"Even with the broad range of sauvignon blanc wine styles, if the wine is balanced and so is the dish, the chances of the wine pairing with the food are quite good," she said. "Cajun and Creole cooking are popular, but sometimes with outrageous amounts of cayenne pepper. That's not authentic New Orleans cooking. Excessive amounts of cayenne put the dish out of balance and it will not match any wine."

To achieve the best harmony of sauvignon blanc with food, Cristadoro suggests assessing the style. Warm climate sauvignons yield grapefruit, lemon and slightly grassy characters.

"This directly relates to citrus qualities perceptible in food matches," she added. "Grassiness suggests cilantro, chives, basil and light green herbs. There's a direct correlation and a simple complement."

Saucing is another of Cristadoro's focal points. Chicken can pair with any wine from sauvignon blanc to a big red, she notes. But you have to ask, "what are you putting on the chicken as a sauce?" It's not just the main element you're working with, but also the flavors you're putting alongside it.

Fruit characters

Cristadoro likes to play on the fruit characters of sauvignon blanc. Sea bass with a salsa made from mango, kiwi, papaya, ginger, cilantro, and lemon juice is a winner. Sea bass can be poached in sauvignon blanc or seared if a crisp crunch is desired.

"The key is to let the buttery quality of the fish, particularly sea bass or halibut, add its own richness to the dish," she said. "Tropical fruits bring out the same elements in the wine."

Please see WINES, B2

Wine Picks

■ **Picks of the pack:** Two reds worth cellar for special occasions are 1996 Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$38 and 1996 Benziger Reserve Merlot \$33.

■ **Try the following delicious sauvignons using food pairing suggestions in the wine column:** 1998 Marquis de Chasse Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon blend from Bordeaux \$8.50; and 1998 Mason Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley \$14.

■ **Flavorful whites at purse-pleasing prices:** 1998 Santa Julia Torrontes \$6 is made from the little-known torrontes grape that has astounding aromas and flavors, matching it to Asian cuisine. The 1998 Marques de Caceres White Rioja \$6 makes a great aperitif or will pair with any crab preparation.

■ **Best buy chardonnays:** 1998 Caliterre Chardonnay, Chile \$8; and 1997 Tessa Chardonnay, California \$10.

LOOKING AHEAD

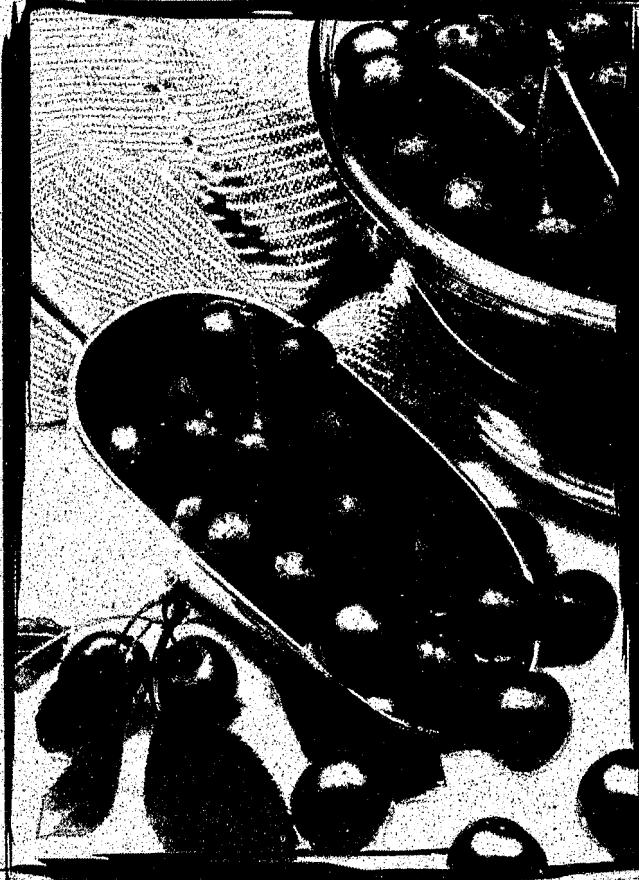
What to watch for in Taste next week:

■ 2 Unique

■ Main Dish Miracle

CHERRIES & BERRIES

BY RENEE SKOGLUND



CHERRY MARKETING INSTITUTE

Cherries, cherries tart and sweet now ripe enough to eat and eat

Once upon a time, along the sandy shores of Old Mission Peninsula, a Presbyterian minister named Peter Dougherty defied the advice of local Indians and planted a cherry orchard.

He prayed the waters of Grand Traverse Bay and nearby Lake Michigan would temper the cold Arctic winds and cool his orchard in the summer.

That was in 1852. Today, Michigan grows 70 to 75 percent of the nation's tart cherries and about 20 percent of the sweets. About 40 percent of the state's 36,000 acres of cherry trees are concentrated in the Grand Traverse Region, with Traverse City dubbed the "Cherry Capital of the World."

A spring ceremony known as the "Blessing of the Blossoms" was initiated in 1924 to honor the region's cherry-growing prowess. The event evolved into the National Cherry Festival, held in Traverse City this year July 10.

But you don't have to travel to Traverse City to get your fill of cherries. Local cherry growers say the tarts are ready for picking, and the sweets should follow in about

10 days.

Peter Blake, owner of Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill in Romeo, expects a medium-size crop this year due to spring frosts. He grows the tart Montmorency cherry (excellent for pies, preserves, jellies, and juices) and the popular Bing and Van sweets.

"I'm partial to tart cherry pie, warm with a scoop of cold ice cream," said Blake, who prefers his cherries bedded down between two flaky crusts. Others like their cherries au naturel.

Eaten plain, cherries are low in fat, calories and sodium and contain no cholesterol. They contain more vitamin A, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus and copper than apples, cranberries, strawberries and peaches. They have about the same amount of potassium as peaches and grapes.

Current medical research also suggests eating about 20 tart cherries per day could reduce inflammatory pain and provide antioxidant protection as well.

Both tart and sweet cherries freeze well. Just remember to pit

Please see CHERRIES, B2

Berries, berries plump and juicy save just one for Auntie Lucy

The berries are here! Let summer begin.

Produce sections of your local market already are dotted with boxes of these summer jewels — sapphire blueberries and ruby raspberries. If you want your berries very fresh, you can pick them at area farms.

Barb Middleton, owner of Middleton Berry Farm in Oakland County, loves her raspberries. "On cereal, ice cream, raspberry pie. I'll just eat them anyway I can."

Middleton grows both summer and fall raspberry crops. Summer varieties are available for approximately the next three weeks. Fall raspberries, ripening the first week in September, are smaller and sweeter than the summer variety. Middleton has no preference. "A true raspberry lover doesn't care. She loves them all."

Besides great taste, raspberries have the most bang for the caloric buck when it comes to dietary fiber. One cup of unsweetened raspberries offers 3.7 grams of dietary fiber at a cost of just 61

results in a tougher-skinned product. If freezing blueberries, place them one layer deep on sheet pans. Freeze, then place in freezer containers. Both frozen and fresh blueberries should be rinsed and drained just before serving.

Raspberries

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Please see BERRIES, B2

Exit 55, south of Brighton. Go east three miles, follow signs. U-pick: early blueberries and thornless red raspberries - both in July. Fall raspberries starting in September. Open daily 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ **Erwin Orchards U-Pick & Cider Mill**

South Lyon, (248) 437-4701 (recording) or

888-824-3377, www.erwinorchards.com or

888-436-1631, <a href

Wines from page B1

Looking at opposite flavors from the ones found in a wine is more challenging than simple complements, but it yields wonderful rewards.

Cristadore points to spicy food qualities as opposites which match well with sauvignon blanc and she kept coming back to Thai foods as a great pairing.

"It works because of sauvignon blanc's refreshing acidity," she remarked. "The wine cleanses the palate. That's why people like beer with spicy food. It's cooling and cleansing on the palate."

But sauvignon blanc also does the same thing for creamy components such as an Alfredo sauce. A buttery chardonnay bores the palate in this case because there are no textural differences. To my way of thinking, the same thing happens with sauvignon blancs that are barrel fermented in new oak and go through malolactic fermentation."

Sure-fire matches

Cristadore's sure-fire matches for sauvignon blanc include oysters, prawns, filet of sole, sea bass, mussels, clams, crawfish, shrimp, sushi, sashimi and scallops. Meat preferences are chicken, veal, sweetbreads, quail, turkey, pork and prosciutto.

Wine-friendly vegetables are

Among the best cheese matches for sauvignon blanc are: fresh goat cheese, Parmesan and feta.

asparagus, cucumber, spinach, green olives, bell peppers, endive, baby vegetables, celery, carrots, corn, zucchini, potatoes, hot peppers (anheim, jalapeno, poblano or serrano), green onions, onions, peanuts, parsnips, beets, mushrooms and veggie burgers.

Among the best cheese matches for sauvignon blanc are: fresh goat cheese, Parmesan, feta, pepper jack, cumin jack, Gruyere and Swiss.

Grains pairing well are pasta, rice, polenta and couscous. Condiment suggestions are: olive oil, wasabi, horseradish, balsamic vinegar, pickled ginger, soy sauce and garlic.

We've recommended St. Supery Sauvignon Blanc a number of times in this column because it is always one of our favorites. At \$12, the 1998 is drinking handsomely now.

Look for Focus on Wine on the first and third Sunday of the month in Taste. To leave a voice mail message for the Healds, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone; mailbox 1864.

Berries from page B1

calories.

Raspberries may also help fight cancer. Research at Hollings Cancer Center in Charleston, South Carolina, indicates red raspberries, the richest food source of ellagic acid, may inhibit the growth of cancer cells.

Be "berry" careful when selecting raspberries. The perfect raspberry is sweet and brilliant

red in color. Hold up that container and check bottom for juices or weeping. A raspberry should be just firm to the touch.

Like blueberries, raspberries freeze well. Pack unwashed berries into a container, leaving a half-inch head space or place a single layer on a pan, freeze, then put into a container. Rinse frozen or fresh berries just before serving.

Enjoy cherries, berries

See related story on Taste front.

DOUBLE CHERRY PIE

4 cups frozen unsweetened tart cherries
1 cup dried tart cherries
1 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
Pastry for 2-crust, 9-inch pie
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 tablespoon butter

Combine frozen cherries, dried cherries, sugar, tapioca and almond extract in a large mixing bowl; mix well. (It is not necessary to thaw cherries before using.) Let cherry mixture stand 15 minutes.

Line a 9-inch pie plate with pastry; fill with cherry mixture.

Sprinkle with nutmeg. Dot with butter. To make a lattice crust top, cut remaining pastry into 1/2-inch wide strips. Arrange strips on pie at 1-inch intervals. Fold back alternate strips to weave crosswise strips over and under. Fold bottom pastry over strips. Seal and flute edge. (If desired, a solid top crust can be used. Cut slits in pastry to allow steam to escape.)

Bake in preheated 375-degree oven about 1 hour, or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. If necessary, cover edge of crust with aluminum foil to prevent it from getting to brown. Makes 8 servings. Recipe compliments of the Cherry Marketing Institute.

This is a great sauce for poultry, beef, pork, ham and especially salmon.

EXTREME RASPBERRY SAUCE

12 oz. bag red raspberries
1 cup ketchup
1/2 cup water
5 tablespoons brown sugar
1 shake tabasco
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon liquid smoke
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
Dash of pepper

Mix all ingredients in blender until smooth. Pour into a saucepan. Simmer on low heat for 20 minutes. Recipe compliments of the Washington Red Raspberry Commission.

BLUEBERRY BUTTERMILK MUFFINS

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup buttermilk
1/4 lb. butter
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, beaten
1-1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, rinsed and drained

Sift ingredients together into a large bowl. Make a well, add buttermilk, eggs and butter which has been melted and browned slightly. Mix well. Fold in blueberries. Fill well-greased muffin tins half full and bake at 400F for 20 minutes. Serve warm. Yield: 24 small muffins. Recipe compliments of Michigan Blueberry Growers Association, MBG Marketing.

Pack healthy snacks

BY BEVERLY PRICE
SPECIAL WRITER

Combine all ingredients and blend well. Chill several hours. Serves 6.

BETSEY'S BEST OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES

6 tablespoons Wonderslim Fat & Egg Substitute
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup whole wheat pastry flour
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 cups rolled oats, uncooked
1 cup raisins

Heat oven to 350°F degrees. Coat cookie sheets with non-stick cooking spray. Combine Wonderslim, brown sugar, sugar, egg and vanilla; beat until well blended.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add to sugar mixture; mix well. Stir in oats and raisins. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto cookie sheets. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from cookie sheets; cool on wire racks. Store in tightly covered container. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

FRUIT SMOOTHIE

1 (10 ounce) package lite, silken tofu
1 cup frozen raspberries
1 banana
2 cups pineapple-orange juice

Blend until smooth. Serves 2.

Living Better Sensibly has a variety of fall educational classes, cooking programs for kids, and worksite wellness programs to meet your needs. Call (248) 539-9424 for more information or to be placed on our mailing list.

Beverly Price is a registered dietitian and exercise physiologist. She operates Living Better Sensibly, a private nutrition practice in Farmington Hills. She is the co-author of "Nutrition Secrets for Optimal Health," Tall Tree Publishing Company. Visit her Web site at www.nutritionsecrets.com. Look for her column on the first Sunday of each month in Taste.

Cherries from page B1

before you freeze. Blake said cherries freeze well up to a year. His orchard washes and pits cherries for its U-pick customers.

Besides loving the taste of cherries, I have fond memories of spending a cherry-picking season in Elk Rapids several years ago, while my then 16-year-old son, Chris, worked the night crew at a local cherry orchard.

Chris would pull huge tarps under the trees just before the cherry shaker, which resembled a lobster on wheels, wrapped its pinchers around a tree trunk and shook the cherries loose.

Sometimes a mouse would fall from the tree and bounce onto the tarp.

Afterward, Chris and another worker would hold the cherry-laden tarp taut as it wound its way toward a vat of icy cold water. The cherries were then transported by truck back to the processing plant.

It was backbreaking labor, my son said, but at times beautiful, especially when shooting stars arched across the black sky. For some of us, life can be just a bowl of cherries.

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Sunday, July 4, 1999

CONVERSATIONS



FRANK PROVENZANO

Round-up and some random summer thoughts

Before heading west to Chicago, then up to northern Michigan, a few things worth noting:

- The new paintings of Dennis Wojtkiewicz at Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham are wonderful examples of the depth and innovation of contemporary realism.

Also in the exhibit is the fascinating work, "Constructions: Shields" by Danielle Bodine of Bloomfield Hills.

In a few months, Elaine Gurian, the interim director at Cranbrook's Institute of Science, will be stepping aside.

In just a few years, Gurian has steered the institute into the 21st century, all while maintaining the utmost



Fund-raiser: Proceeds from the sale of art, such as Harold Cohn's "Watercolor," will benefit the Pontiac Art Center.

respect and legacy for her predecessor, the late Dan Appleman. Remarkable job.

Nominations are being accepted for the Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Arts Award. The award recognizes the individual who has had the greatest effect on the local cultural scene.

It might be a good opportunity to recognize the efforts of some generous patrons and behind-the-scene players.

Heartland Theatre Company's "Playscape '99" features the plays of David MacGregor of Livonia and Kitty Dubin of Birmingham, two of the most talented playwrights in the region.

Playscape will be Thursday-Sunday, July 15-18 at the Performance Network in Ann Arbor. Call (734) 663-0681 for ticket information.

Kudos to the Detroit Institute of Arts on the announcement of the March 2000 exhibit, "van Gogh: Face to Face."

Speaking of the DIA, when will the museum decide on how it will use the additional 30,000 square feet in exhibit space?

And when will Maurice Parrish be given the title "director," rather than "acting director"?

Why is it that the "arts" are widely viewed as helping to foster a student's emotional and intellectual development, yet aren't considered part of the core curriculum in public schools?

Are you wondering, too? Call Art-Serve of Michigan at (248) 557-8284 to find out what you can do to become an arts advocate.

Support a good cause.

The Creative Arts Center in Pontiac, 47 Williams St. presents an opening reception 7-10 p.m. Friday, July 9 for "Regional Art: A Legacy Acquire," an exhibit of works by Michigan artists. Sale proceeds benefit the center, which offers tours and classes to Pontiac students. Call (248) 333-7849 for more information. The exhibit continues until Aug. 28. The center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

So long to one of the area's favorite teachers and artists, Helen Febbo of Bloomfield Hills, who's heading to Massachusetts.

Please see CONVERSATIONS, B4

A CLASSIC TOUCH IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

DSO BRINGS FAMILY, CLASSICAL AND POPS CONCERTS TO MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL



Outdoor concert: Fans listen to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the stars at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University.

By FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
provenzano@oe.homecomm.net

Typically, around this time of year, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra would be getting ready for a trip to Vail, where they've performed for the last five years at the annual Bravo Colorado Summer Festival.

This year, the closest mountain range orchestra members can expect to see will be rolling suburban hills, as in Rochester Hills.

Beginning this Friday, the DSO will travel north on I-75 from their intimate acoustical gem, Orchestra Hall in Detroit, and embark on a five-week season of outdoor concerts at Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University.

By expanding its summer season from three to five weeks, the DSO will perform 15 concerts Friday-Sunday, through August 8.

Fitting in

"We looked for what would appeal to a broad audience, and what would also fit into the outdoor setting," said Charles Calmer, artistic administrator of the DSO.

"The audience is substantially different than the audiences at Orchestra Hall," he said. "Most live in Oakland County."

While it's important for the orchestra to "keep the faith" with the classical-musical form, Calmer said the upcoming season provides a way for the DSO to honor the past, stretch its repertoire and fit in with the interac-

tive age.

"The Planets," a multi-media concert on Saturday, July 31 offers a glimpse at perhaps the future direction for orchestral concerts.

The program includes images, ani-



Pinchas Zukerman

mation and film from NASA's unmanned spacecraft projected on giant video screens. The presentation will be set to John Adams' "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" and Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" Overture.

Friday fireworks

Don't expect wispy, light string music that dissipates with a passing summer breeze. Calmer is planning on fireworks, literally.

Displays of fireworks will be a regular feature every Friday, along with explosive soloists on Saturdays such as

violinist Pinchas Zukerman and pianist Per Tengstrand. Meanwhile, Sunday's line-up includes programs dedicated to the music of Gershwin, Broadway, Big Bands and Hollywood films.

One of the most celebrated American songwriters, Burt Bacharach, will perform with the DSO on Sunday, July 11. Dionne Warwick, Barbra Streisand, B.J. Thomas, The 5th Dimension, Neil Diamond and Elvis Costello are among the many artists who've recorded Bacharach's songs over the last 40 years.

Summer Institute

During the last two weeks of the summer season, members of the DSO will conduct classes for 100 high school music students from throughout Michigan. The intensive education program is part of the first annual Meadow Brook Summer Institute.

Of approximately 400 applications, one-quarter were selected to participate in master classes and rehearsals with the DSO.

"Music education is one of our primary responsibilities," said Jill Woodward, spokesperson for the DSO.

"As our endowment has grown, we've been able to expand our summer season and establish the institute."

In the last five years, the DSO endowment has grown from \$25 million to \$53 million. While the two-fold increase is impressive, Woodward noted that most major orchestras around the world have endowments two-to-three times as large.

The DSO performs a concert with Burt Bacharach.

Sunday Summer Pops

(Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.)

■ July 18 - "Gershwin Gala,"

featuring Maestro Jervi and the DSO along with soprano Geraldine McMillan, baritone Peter Lightfoot and the Brazeal Dennard Chorale. Selections include "An American in Paris" and "Rhapsody in Blue" performed by pianist Matt Herskowitz.

■ July 25 - "A Song of Broadway," features conductor David Alan Miller in a program featuring soprano Audra McDonald, winner of three Tony Awards for her roles in "Ragtime," "Carousel" and "Master Class."

■ August 1 - "Big Band Bash,"

features the hits of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

■ August 8 - "Hollywood by Starlight," features music from "Gone with the Wind," "Titanic," "Schindler's List," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and the latest "Star Wars."

Wilson sisters road-test new material

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Ann Wilson has watched her sister Nancy perform numerous times since they formed Heart in 1978. After all those years and performances, Nancy Wilson still gives her sister the chills.

"I went and saw her in a club and her singing just kind of blew me away. She's going to be amazing on this tour," she said.

The tour about which Ann Wilson is speaking is a series of acoustic shows — including Tuesday, July 6, at Pine Knob Music Theatre — they are doing to road-test new material. This is the first time the Wilson sisters have played as a duo.

On the tour, Nancy Wilson is playing electric and acoustic guitars, mandolin, dulcimer, dobro, blues harp, bass and piano. Her sister takes on bass, rhythm guitar, piano and flute.

"Nancy and I we've never really done it before. This is the first time we've ever gone out as a duo. We have been writing all this new stuff. We wanted to go out and develop it in front of people."

The new material includes "Having It All," a song they co-wrote with Burt Bacharach, a songwriter admired by the Wilson sisters.

"We finished it up together in his music room, which was really a thrill, in his big mansion in Hollywood. It's the mansion that hits built. You walk in there and it's so extreme. The song, it's very retro. It's a song for a woman to sing and he's gotta be the king of that. He really knows how to write melodies for women to sing. It was really a cool experience."

Hits like "Barracuda" and solo material from Nancy Wilson are also on the set list. Adapting hits to a two-person format has been a smooth transition, she explained.



Nancy and Ann Wilson

"We had to edit a little bit just because we don't have the big huge drum set, keyboards, and all that kind of stuff. The songs we've chosen to do are ones that translate really well to being played by two people. It's not only an acoustic thing. We're bringing electric stuff, too. It's going to be big and gentle at the same time."

"It's gonna be fun for us. Nancy's gonna be singing way more than she's ever sung. She's amazing."

An Acoustic Evening with Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart, with special guest Duke Daniels, is Tuesday, July 6, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets are \$24.50 pavilion and \$12.50 lawn. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacenet.com>.

ART IN THE PARK

Fair shows diversity of artists

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
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Diane Quinn is pushing the limits again — extending Art in the Park down Main Street so she can feature more artists. This year's 19th annual show in downtown Plymouth features more than 400 artists from 34 states displaying a variety of media ranging from lacquer painting to mouth stick art. There will also be entertainment, and children can paint a square in a nine-foot-long mural designed by 16-year-old Kristen Dillenbeck of Canton.

"I have the best job and can't think of anything else I would rather do," said Quinn who founded the show with 33 artists. "How rewarding it is to see so many people enjoying my work."

A new garden art center located on the lawn of Central Middle School is one of the highlights for Quinn because it exemplifies the overall diversity of the July 10-11 fair.

"Even though we have some great paintings, I still will have a show that every person attending should find some enjoyment and interest in," she said. "To buy a little snail created by a 7-year-old with his mom's leftover clay can be as

much fun as buying a \$5,000 painting."

Time-honored art

Elena Arnaoutova spends dozens of hours layering Rubens-like oil paints on top of each other to create the miniature, lacquer still life and florals she'll bring to Art in the Park. Born in Orsk, Russia, the Bloomfield Hills artist studied painting for years, first at the Youth Institution and then at the prestigious Moscow Institute of Art and Industry, before moving to the U.S. in 1995. During her five years at the Moscow institute, she interned summers at the art villages of Palekh, Kholui and Fedoskino thereby earning a degree as Master Artist.

"There is a month exam in painting, drawing, composition and history to get into the institute," said Arnaoutova, who teaches the time-honored skill at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. "If you do not go to all those schools when you're young, I was 10 when I started, you can not get in when you're older."

Arnaoutova can labor up to a year on a single painting so prices for the

Art in the Park

What: More than 400 artists and craftspeople display wares, including paintings, photography, wood block prints, ceramics, jewelry, garden art, wood and glass. Special booths in Kellogg Park offer art by children. When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 10, and until 5 p.m. Sunday, July 11. Where: In Kellogg Park and the surrounding streets — Main, Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth and Forrest in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 454-1314.

Please see FAIR, B4



Patience plus: Elena Arnaoutova painted dozens of layers of oil to achieve this lacquer miniature painting.

Fair from page B3

larger works top \$6,000. For the average person, the lacquer master paints brooches, barrettes and napkin rings starting at \$8.

"It's very unique, very rare, with 30 coats of oil and 16 coats of lacquer," said Aranaoutova. "When you start doing something Rubens would do hundreds of years ago, it's rewarding to get three dimension with layer after layer of paint."

Stimulating environments

Norris Hardeman jokes that his job for Ford Motor Co. takes him to Minnesota in January and Arizona in August, not exactly ideal months. The Canton photographer takes advantage of these harsh environments, where he oversees the testing of cars, by shooting landscapes. He's bringing a variety of his landscapes to Art in the Park.

Dramatic images of a lone, leafless tree in the snow or craggy old tree in the desert relay emotions for the viewer to decipher.

"At a test facility in Yucca, Ariz., there's no life during the day," said Hardeman. "The desert comes to life at night with owls and rabbits."

Hardeman's memories of being stuck in the snow may overshadow the Minnesota photographs but weather never detracts from his enjoyment of shooting Michigan scenes. He's shot over 50 images of lighthouses, one of his favorite subjects. To photograph them Hardeman must sometimes lug 50 pounds of equipment to a rocky site, but no matter, the destination

is worth the trek.

"I try to find that unique perspective, what is this saying to me," said Hardeman. "Anyone can document, I want to find meaning in the subject. 'Alpine Twist' is a tree that's a work of art. The wind weathers them and they become gnarly. I'm able to see the raw, rugged beauty, when altitude testing (cars) at 14,000 feet, that few people can."

Hardeman admits to "practically sleep walking" for the early morning shots. He prefers sunsets himself unless he's photographing the Grand Canyon.

"When I'm standing on the edge of a cliff, my wife gets nervous," quips Hardeman. "But it's the experience of the big outdoors and nature. I like seeing what the Creator has put out there."

From the mouth of the artist

Will Pardee's violent collision 18 years ago with the bottom of the Muskegon River left him a quadriplegic. After the diving accident, his wife Sarah suggested he try drawing with a pencil adapted for his mouth. Today, Pardee travels to 30 art shows a year throughout the state of Michigan. He's bringing a variety of pencil and color pencil drawings of lighthouses, wildlife, country scenes, and an old Model T pickup to Art in the Park.

"The Lord gave me the talent but I never took an interest until then," said Pardee. "Now I meet a lot of really nice people and I like to minister while I'm doing the shows."

Pardee usually begins by drawing the nose of an animal. Then he lays out the eyes and creates a general outline before beginning to shade. Larger works take three to four months to complete, the 9-by-12-inch pieces two to three months.

Quinn receives great satisfaction from giving artists like Pardee, who spend hundreds of hours creating their work, the opportunity to exhibit. The satisfaction of knowing that she's helping artists is all Quinn needs to continue the massive task of producing Art in the Park. It's taken her and daughter Rachel a year to set up exhibitors, entertainment, vendors, and a tent for the mural to benefit C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

When the task of jurying artists applications is completed in early spring, Quinn is "ready for the fun-part to begin." Coordinating the more than 60 volunteers, is gratifying, she said, "because every year there are more people who want to work."

Participating local artists

Among the local artists exhibiting in this year's Art in the Park are Tom LeGault, painting; Michael McCullough, wood block prints; Village Potters Guild; Ted Nelson, photography; Katherine Kidston Renberg, jewelry; Alicia Conger, ceramics; Joseph Wisniewski and Christine Fleischer, glass; Diane Dunn, tiles; Kathy Sandberg, ceramics; Sharon Dillenbeck, painting, and Robert Krasofski, custom hand-forged iron designs including pot racks, tables and ranch signs.



Mouth stick art: Will Pardee creates lighthouses and animal drawings with pencils adapted for his mouth.

Check out of reviews of books of local interest

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Conversations from page B3

Febbo taught at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. Her work was exhibited at the Posner Gallery. Her gentle soul and pursuit of honest expression touched many people in the community.

■ Despite the hype and commercial success, 13-year-old Alexandra Nechita is firmly rooted. She is unmistakably an adolescent who is refreshingly humble.

Nechita's exhibit at the Peleg Gallery in West Bloomfield is interesting because of the questions it raises about the marketing of the prodigy as well as the quality of her art.

■ Congratulations to Brandi Pritchett of Bloomfield Hills, currently on a European tour with the Birmingham/Bloom-

field Cantata Academy. Pritchett, 16, is a junior at Lahser High School. She is the youngest member of the group.

■ Special recognition to the Understudies, a group of 80 volunteers from throughout the area who raised more than \$2 million for the Wayne State Theatre Department since its inception 35 years ago.

In May, the Understudies received the Arts in Service Award from the state of Michigan.

■ Courage Awards: To Mary Klemic, Stewart Francke and Noah Provenzano.

Klemic, the At Home editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and

Francke, one of the area's most recognized songwriters, both battled serious health problems and have returned to work.

And, of course, to that remarkable 7 year old recovering from a vicious dog bite to his face for noting that "Things like this happen, dad, I'll get better."

Thanks for the inspiration. For now, a bonfire on the northern shore of Lake Michigan awaits. Time to focus on two thoughts: Is the sky actually closer and the stars brighter the farther north you go? And, why do people take "work" rather than "life" so seriously?

Frank Provenzano can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or fprovenzano@ohomecomm.net

Event to benefit Cranbrook

(PRNewswire) — More than 700 people are expected to attend Cranbrook Art Museum's fourth annual Serious Moonlight benefit celebration 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, July 10.

Tickets are \$85 per person if purchased in advance or \$90 at the door. Patron-level tickets are \$175 per person and include a special VIP champagne reception prior to the event, premier valet parking and recognition in the event's program. Call (248) 645-3361 for ticket information. A portion of each ticket is tax-deductible.

Serious Moonlight 1999 takes on a Caribbean flavor in conjunction with the museum's summer exhibition, "Contemporary Art From Cuba."

The evening will include dancing, complimentary food and libations as well as an enticing silent auction featuring fashion and design.

This outdoor event, which benefits the museum's expanding exhibition and education programs, is held on the Cranbrook campus. Blackman & Arnold, a nine-piece orchestra, will provide music with a Latin flair. Appropriate attire is festive eveningwear.

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Art Beat features information about events, individuals and groups involved in arts and entertainment.

Send Oakland County arts news leads to Art Beat, Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich., 48009, fax (248) 644-1314.

TRIP TO GERMANY

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center is leading a tour of the art and architecture of Cologne and Berlin, Germany, Nov. 9-17. — The new German Art and Architecture - Dynamic Future/Historical Past. Deposits for the trip are being taken now. Trip led by Russell and Nancy Thayer will concentrate on the renewal of building in the reunified Germany and include specially arranged artist studio and gallery visits, and trips to museums. Call (248) 644-0866 for more information.

Feast for your eyes

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center offers children an opportunity to "play with their food" in its summer art class, "A Feast for your Eyes," one of nearly 40 children's and teen art classes offered this summer at the center.

"A Feast for your Eyes," provides children in grades 1-3 the opportunity to work with a variety of materials as they create their interpretation of a yummy full-course meal made from papier-mâché, foam, fabric, plastic, paint and clay. The course runs 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 7 through Aug. 11 at the BBAC, 1516 S. Cranbrook (Evergreen) at the northwest corner of 14 Mile Road. Call (248) 644-0866 Ext. 102 for more information about "A Feast for your Eyes," and other summer art classes for children and teens. The cost for "A Feast for your Eyes" is \$55 for members, \$70 for non-members, plus \$18 materials fee.

Jess Collins, a freelance art director who earned her bachelor of fine arts at the Center for Creative Studies, will include instruction of the artist Claes Oldenburg whose work in the real of soft sculpture inspired the creation of the class. Oldenburg creates larger than life size imitations of every day objects.

In the course students will experiment with mixed media and learn about what materials will produce the ultimate effect they want for their artful meal. They will also learn how design makes a food presentation look delicious by using a variety of colors and textures.

After completing their meals, the children will send out dinner invitations for a gallery presentation.

New ceramics department

Under the direction of newly named department head and noted ceramic artist, Paul Young, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center is introducing a completely revamped ceramics



Yummy burger: Kids can have fun playing with their food during "A Feast for your Eyes!" a summer class for children starting July 5 at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. The hamburger and fries pictured here were created out of papier-mâché, foam and other materials.

department with six new teachers and nearly 20 new classes.

The summer session of classes begins Monday, July 5. Young earned his art degree from Alfred University, New York State College of Ceramics, and apprenticed with Michigan ceramic artist John Glick.

With the addition of six new teachers, the BBAC ceramics faculty now numbers eight. "We look forward to expanding involvement with the greater Michigan ceramics community including more active participation with the Michigan Potters Association and bringing in noted national artists for lecture demonstrations," Young said.

The ceramics department and its new classes are just part of a full roster of summer art classes for all ages from preschoolers to advanced artists. For more information, call (248) 644-0866, Ext. 102.

The Bohemians Club

Herbert Couf of Farmington Hills, president of the Bohemians Club (also known as the Musicians Club of Greater Detroit) recently announced the winners of the second annual Solo Concerto Competition.

For more information about the club or the Solo Concerto Competition, call Herbert Couf, (248) 489-4234.

American Ballet Theatre

Dance students, 160 to be exact, are enjoying four weeks of intense dance instruction and some fun metro Detroit adventures. The students range in age from 13 to 18, and have had intermediate to advanced dance training.

The four-week summer dance intensive is a collaborative project between American Ballet Theatre, the Detroit Opera House and Wayne State University. Thirty of the 160 students chosen to participate are from the metro Detroit area. Classes started June 28, and culminate in two final performances 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, July 23 at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway. Tickets are \$10, call (313) 961-3500 for more information.

CENTER FOR CREATIVE STUDIES

Through July 24 — "On the Verge of Abstraction," 301 Frederick Douglass, Detroit. (313) 664-7800.

CREATIVE RESOURCE GALLERY Through July 31 — "Promising Abstractions," Opening reception, 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, July 8, 162 North Old Woodward, Birmingham. (248) 647-3688.

JANICE CHARACH EPSTEIN MUSEUM/GALLERY

Through July 21 — "The Romance Collection" of oils by Jeremy Jarvis; sculptures by Martin Eichinger and glasswork by Laurel Fife. 33216 West 14 Mile Road, West Bloomfield. (248) 539-0262.

BIDDE GALLERY

Through July 16 — A photography exhibit, "Shot...at Mario's," 2840 Biddle Road, Wyandotte. (734) 284-4779.

BIEGAS GALLERY

Through July 31 — "Artists That Teach," exhibition and sale, 35 Grand River Ave., E., Detroit. (313) 961-0634.

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER

Through July 23 — The Palette and Brush Club's annual spring exhibition, "Point of View," 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham. (248) 644-0866.

CARY GALLERY

Through July 17 — "Beaches," acrylic and watercolor paintings of Ron Teachworth, 226 Walnut Boulevard, Rochester. (248) 651-433-3700.

Through July 17 — "Interiors," a solo show of Paris artist Kathleen Marshall within a group show of Roy Lichtenstein, Nicholas Marcelli and Kara Hammond. 163 Townsend, Birmingham. (248) 651-433-3700.

GALLERY EXHIBIT (OPENING)

CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

GALLERY EXHIBITS (ON-GOING)

A.C.T. GALLERY

GALLERY EXHIBITS (ON-GOING)

Sports & Outdoors

Brad Kadrich, Editor 248-693-4900

on the web: <http://observer-eccentric.com>

Clarkston
Eccentric®

INSIDE:

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Sunday, July 4, 1999

LINKS TO THE GAME



MICHAEL SHIELS

The Bear' plays host to Michigan Open

■ The Michigan Open, founded in 1916, was once again contested this week at The Bear, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa's fearsome golf test designed by Jack Nicklaus in 1985, and now at full maturity in esteem and form. The course was firm and fast despite an impressive and relentless downpour on Monday evening. The winds kicked up like a November clipper on Tuesday, driving up some of the scores and making The Bear even testier.

Some of the local professionals who made the cut include Jeff Stalcup of the Orchards GC, Brian Dice of Knollwood CC, Tom Harding of Meadowbrook CC, Steve Brady of Oakland Hills CC, Randy Erskine of Great Oaks GC, Jeff Coble of Oakland University GC, and Charlie Bowles of Novi. For more information, contact the Michigan PGA at (734) 522-2323.

■ A novel golf marketing concept used with success in Alabama has now come to America's new golf hotbed...Michigan. While those in the Southeast have experienced the popular "Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail," Michigan golfers can hit a golf trail without leaving home. "The Michigan Grand Golf Trail" was designed by Fenton golf course pioneer and former Eastern Michigan University Golf Team Captain Jim Dewling, who will become Michigan PGA President next year at age 63.

"Playing the trail" is to complete 18 holes on all eight of the courses on Dewling's tour, either as an individual or with your favorite foursome. The trail features diverse courses of comparable quality, which is to say that players will experience eight very pleasing golf experiences along the trail.

Golfers have all season to complete the trail at their leisure in any order, and all players who birdie, par and bogey their way through the courses will receive a free embroidered golf cap and special Michigan Golf Green Back coupons for return engagements on the trail. All players who complete the trail will also automatically register for the Trail's End Drawing in November, when golf clubs, golf bags, trips, and free golf passes will be given away.

Courses on the Michigan Grand Golf Trail are: Brentwood GC in White Lake, Mystic Creek GC in Milford, Beacon Hill GC in Commerce Township, Timber Trace GC in Pinckney, Highland Hills GC in DeWitt, The Golf Club at Thornapple Pointe in Grand Rapids, Winding Brook GC in Shepard, and Metamora GC in Metamora. Mystic Creek, Timber Trace, and Oxford's Boulder Pointe GC (which will be added to the trail next year), were designed by Dewling and Pat Conroy. Players can register and get more information by calling (248) 684-GOLF.

"I wanted to give Michigan golfers a reward for playing a number of various courses," said Dewling. Indeed, with the growing number of amateur and public golfers in Michigan, Dewling's "Michigan Grand Golf Trail" will be no "road less traveled."

■ Claiming that "Demographics indicate that there is a compatibility between those who enjoy golf and those who enjoy boxing," Kronk Sports Promotions President Ted Fields has scheduled "The Rumble in Rochester" inside Twin Lakes Golf Club's 40,000-square-foot clubhouse. Middleweight and Welterweight fighters will use their "punch shots" at an exclusive July 16 event. Marine City's "Battling" Beverly Szmanaski, the current International Women's Boxing Federation Featherweight champion will also be swinging her fists instead of her clubs. Phone (248) 650-4960 if you'd like to combine boxing and golf, which was last done with infamy by LPGA player Dottie Pepper, who reportedly trained for the Solheim Cup Matches by hitting a punching bag and visualizing her opponents.

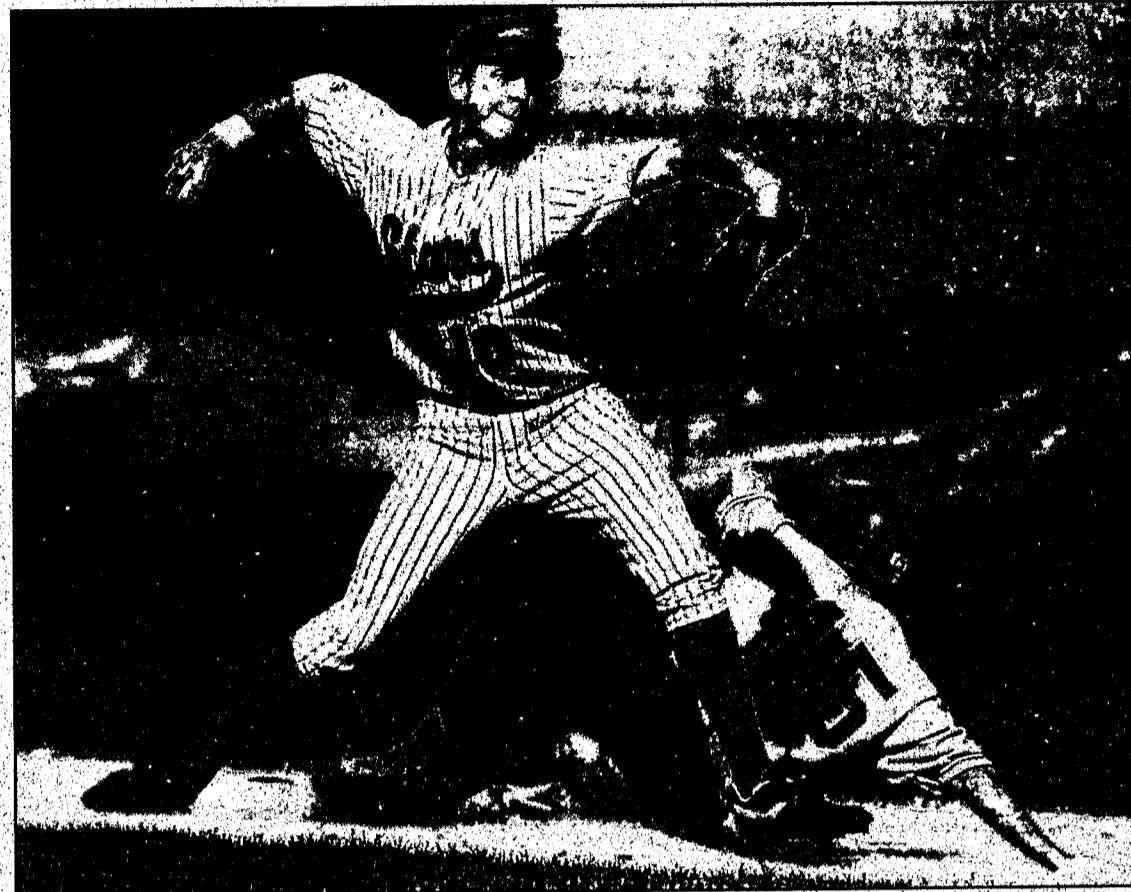


PHOTO BY BOB KNOSKA

Double trouble: North Oakland Stars
infielder Ryan Good (10) makes the pivot and completes a double play after forcing Sean Dobson of the Grosse Pointe Redbirds during action Wednesday night. The Redbirds swept the Stars, who have lost several players for a variety of reasons, including an appointment to the Air Force Academy, 9-5 and 12-2. The losses dropped North Oakland to 9-6 overall, 6-4 in the MABF North Division.

Undermanned Stars swept by Redbirds

BY DANIEL STICKRADT

STAFF WRITER
dstickrad@oe.homecomm.net

After a recent and uncharacteristic double-header loss, North Oakland Stars manager Dan LaNoue challenged his team to come together and face adversity right in the eye.

"With all of the injuries that we've had as of late, plus with a few kids leaving the team, I've never been in a position quite like this," said LaNoue. "I told the kids the other day that we can do more than just win or lose ballgames. We need to see if we can collectively deal with adversity."

The Stars, the three-time defending Macomb Amateur Baseball Federation league champions, have several pitchers on the disabled list, plus have lost a

combined four other players for various reasons — shortstop Jason Daniels has left for his appointment with the Air Force Academy and pitcher/first baseman Scot Murdoch is touring Europe — among them.

And with a depleted line-up, the Stars have found themselves in a mid-season funk.

North Oakland, which was swept Wednesday by the Grosse Pointe Redbirds 9-5, 12-2 at Rochester Adams High School, were dealt another crushing blow when ace pitcher Nick Tomczak (Fenton/Western Michigan) left the first inning of the nightcap with a sore elbow.

"That's just how things have been going for us — it's one thing after another," said LaNoue. "As I was talking with (Redbirds manager Dave)

Bergman the other day, there are life lessons that these kids can learn when they are in a situation like this. Facing adversity can help you later in life."

In the opener against the Redbirds, left-handed starter John Handley (Rochester/Glen Oaks CC) suffered the loss despite surrendering just one earned run in seven innings. In game two, seldom-used pitchers Brett Wattles (Rochester/Michigan State), Joe Ortiz (Rochester) and Chris Crowder (Troy/Michigan) each threw strikes in order to save arms for upcoming contests.

"Having injuries is a part of sports," said LaNoue. "In the first game, we just had a bunch of errors and didn't play well. But the past few weeks have been a struggle because we don't have that many arms right now. Last sea-

son, Bergman's team was in the same situation. That's the way the ball drops, sometimes."

"We're hitting the cover off the ball in a lot of our games. Now, we just need to get some of our pitchers healthy. We'll be all right eventually."

The Stars, who stand 9-6 overall and 6-4 in the MABF North Division, travel to Sterling Heights Stevenson at 3 p.m. Monday to take on the Michigan Tigers before facing TSI Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Utica Eisenhower.

"The parody in this league is unbelievable this year," added LaNoue. "Everybody is beating up on each other. There are 10 good teams in this league and there doesn't seem to be a clear-cut favorite. It should make for an interesting race down the stretch."

Toast of our towns

Players earn Eccentric baseball honors.

BY BRAD KADRICH

SPORTS EDITOR
bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net

He hits for average and power. He can run the bases, and he can play defense with the best of them.

"He" is the average member of the 1999 Eccentric All-North Oakland Baseball Team, which features the best talent in the area and some of the best in the state.

Here's a look at the 1999 team:

■ **Ryan Goleski, junior, Lake Orion, infield** — "Goo," as his teammates call him, is a 6-foot-4, 220-pound menace who strikes fear into the hearts of opposing pitchers.

Goleski, the Dragons' big first baseman, batted .439, slugged eight home runs (one in every 8-1/4 at-bats) and seven doubles. He tied for the team lead in RBI, despite missing several games, and put together a .939 slugging percentage.

"He's probably the hardest working kid we have, in the off-season and during the season," Lake Orion coach A. N. D. Y. Schramek said.

"He hits the ball on the nose just about every time. You can

strike him out, but it won't be because you fooled him.

He just won't allow himself to fail.

"He plays hard every day. His personal competitiveness is what drives him."

■ **Pat Jacobi, senior, Oxford, infield** — Jacobi spent most of his junior season as the Wildcats designated hitter and made all-league, all-district

Orion, infield — Clouse may have been personally disappointed in his senior campaign, but he had no real reason to be.

The Dragons shortstop hit .360 with a .484 on-base percentage and four doubles. But where he excelled, according to Schramek, was at the top of the lineup.

"I can't count the number of times he led a game off with a hit," the first-year coach said. "That means a lot to the lineup. When he gets a hit, we know we're going to score some runs."

Clouse, a stellar defensive player, didn't have quite the season he had as a junior, but it was still nothing to be disappointed in.

"He'd be the first to tell you he didn't have the defensive season he wanted to have," Schramek said. "(But) when it's a clutch situation, he made the play. He had a very good high school season. He just aspires to more."

■ **John Drallo, senior, Clarkston, infield** — One of the most improved players in the area, Drallo put together a solid senior campaign for the Wolves, who stayed in contention most of the season in the rugged Oakland Activities Association Division I.

Drallo, the Wolves' second baseman, hit .360 with four home runs, eight doubles and a couple of triples. He also drove in 21 runs, generally hitting out of the fourth or fifth spot in the order.

"He was a big improvement this year defensively," Clarkston first-year coach Phil Price said of Drallo, who was an all-district selection. "He realized what his weaknesses were and he worked at them. A lot of kids like to work at what they're already good at. John knew where he had to improve and he went out and did it."

"He plays hard every day. His personal competitiveness is what drives him."

■ **Tim Clouse, senior, Lake Orion, catcher** — Clouse, a laker

1999 ECCENTRIC ALL-NORTH OAKLAND BASEBALL

FIRST TEAM

Player	Position	School	Year
Ryan Goleski	INF	Lake Orion	Junior
John Drallo	INF	Clarkston	Senior
Pat Jacobi	INF	Oxford	Senior
Tim Clouse	INF	Lake Orion	Senior
Mike Crawford	OF	Lake Orion	Junior
Adam Eldridge	OF	Lake Orion	Senior
Spencer Hynes	OF	Clarkston	Senior
Derek Casper	C	Clarkston	Junior
Chris Mitchell	P	Clarkston	Junior
Sean Letsinger	P	Lake Orion	Junior

SECOND TEAM

Player	Position	School	Year
Steve Sergeant	INF	Lake Orion	Senior
Brad Nowacki	INF	Oxford	Senior
Mike Simko	INF	Clarkston	Senior
Bret Gove	INF	Clarkston	Junior
John Strauss	OF	Oxford	Junior
Adam Leech	OF	Clarkston	Senior
Eric Jenks	OF	Clarkston	Senior
Matt Lonteen	C	Spr. Christ.	Junior
Brett McCarty	P	Oxford	Senior
Ben Munce	P	Spr. Christ.	Fresh

HONORABLE MENTION

Oxford: Josh Jolly, Kendall Chudy, Dave Helm; Lake Orion: Eduardo Garcia, Kevin June, Jon Garcia; Clarkston: Francis Hodges, Jeff Oliver, Brett Crawford.

NORTH OAKLAND SPORTS SCENE

Volleyball camp

The first Oxford Wildcat Volleyball Camp takes place at Oxford High School July 26-Aug. 6.

The camp is open to boys and girls entering grades nine through 12.

The camp will be conducted under the direction of Wildcats varsity coach Lori Campbell.

Other members of the staff include junior varsity coach Nita Stevenson, eighth-grade coach Gayle Tucker and various Wildcats alumnae.

The camp runs from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. Campers are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m. on the first day.

Heavy emphasis will be placed on fundamentals. Tuition for the two-week camp is \$50, which includes a T-shirt.

For more information, call Lori Campbell at (810) 688-2289.

Kidney foundation benefit

AirTouch Cellular and the Detroit Tigers Alumni Association presents their 14th-annual Golf Classic July 12 at Indianwood Golf & Country Club in Lake Orion.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., with an 11 a.m. shotgun start.

All proceeds benefit the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

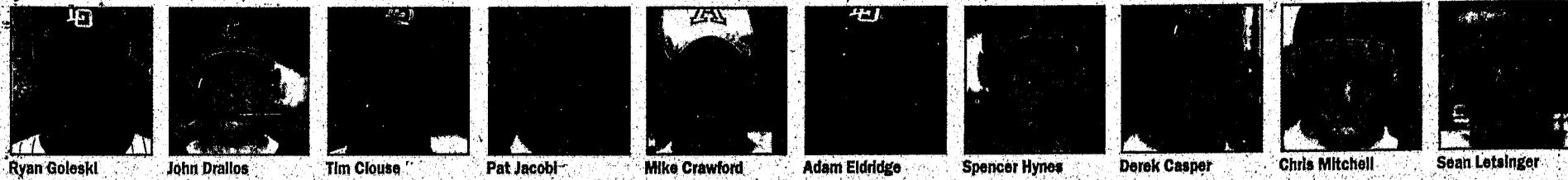
Entry fee is \$750 per person or \$3,000 per foursome. A portion of the cost is tax deductible.

The registration fee includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a celebrity golfer with each foursome, brunch, and a full-course dinner.

It also includes several participant gifts, fabulous auction items, raffle and door prizes and trophies for the winners.

For more information, call (734) 971-2800.

Please see ALL-AREA BASEBALL, C2



All-area baseball from page C1

district and all-region as the Wildcats won their first Flint Metro League title.

He didn't match those numbers as a senior, but he made the transition to second base smoothly and still led the team in most categories as the Wildcats slipped to 14-18 overall.

Jacobi hit .370, had a .536 on-base percentage, had five doubles and two home runs and drove in 19 runs.

"It was his first season as a second baseman, and he played well," Oxford coach Art Marcell said. "He made a couple of plays that could be ESPN highlights. (Offensively) I think he had a good year. I don't think it was up to his expectations. I think he felt he had to carry the team, and he put undue pressure on himself a little bit."

■ **Mike Crawford, junior, Lake Orion, outfield** — Crawford, one of the best all-around athletes in the area, missed several games and only got 38 at-

bats, but he made the most of them.

Crawford, who did a little bit of everything for the Dragons this year, hit .421 in 38 at-bats, with 17 RBI, five home runs, a triple and three doubles. He also pitched (2-3, 6.00 earned-run average), and played third when teammate Sean Letsinger was pitching.

"He plays everywhere," Schramek said of Crawford, who also starts both ways in football. "He's one of those guys you could put in any sport and he'd know exactly what to do."

■ **Spencer Hynes, senior, Clarkston, outfield** — Hynes, who spent much of the season in the fourth spot in the Wolves lineup, was the Wolves' leader while they tried to stay in the OAA race.

Hynes, who was an all-OAA and all-district selection, hit an even .400 with five home runs, seven doubles and a team-high 32 runs batted in.

He also made great strides defensively, putting in a great season in left field.

"He was by far our leader," Price said. "Everyone looked up to him. He was consistent all year, and he made huge strides defensively. He's just a great kid."

■ **Adam Eldridge, senior, Lake Orion, outfield** — Eldridge got off to a slow start, hitting in the .300s early in the season, but finished on a tear.

Eldridge, who will be a preferred walk-on in football at Central Michigan University in the fall, had 13 hits in 16 at-bats in back-to-back doubleheaders in the middle of the season on his way to a .515 batting average. He finished with two home runs, five triples, four doubles and an .818 slugging percentage. He drove in 19 runs.

More importantly, he didn't commit a single error while patrolling center field for the Dragons.

"With his competitiveness and the way he goes after the ball, I'd take him over every outfielder in Oakland County," Schramek said. "Defensively, he has the arm and he has the speed. He's as competitive as they come."

Eldridge played the last week of the season with his right arm in agony after hurting it diving for a ball. "You could see the pain on his face, but he never says anything," Schramek said. "He just says, 'let's play.'"

■ **Derek Casper, junior, Clarkston, catcher** — Clarkston coach Price puts a premium on the play of his pitcher and catcher, and Casper came through in spades.

With Price having his pitchers throw low, pressure was on Casper to block balls in the dirt, and he developed it into an art form. He hit .330 with three home runs, but his contributions are tough to measure just in numbers.

"We asked a lot of Derek as far

as being a defensive catcher, and he did a great job blocking and throwing runners out this year," Price said. "(Offensively) he struggled early in the year, but at the end he was on fire. Everyone either walked him or he got a hit. The last three games he only made one out."

His defensive presence was more important. "Everything starts with your pitchers and catchers," Price said. "I put a lot of pressure on my catcher to block the ball, because I want my pitchers to throw down low. If the catcher can't block them, you're in trouble."

■ **Chris Mitchell, junior, Clarkston, pitcher** — Mitchell, the Wolves' best pitcher, was double trouble to opponents in more ways than one.

The junior, an all-league, all-district, all-region and honorable mention all-state selection, went 5-3 with a 2.9 earned-run average as a pitcher. Hitting in the third spot in Clarkston's lineup, and he's got great control."

Mitchell spanked a team-high 10 doubles to go with three home runs and 30 runs batted in.

"Chris was our number three hitter and our ace pitcher," Price said. "He never went into a slump. He was our clutch player, and at times he carried us."

■ **Sean Letsinger, junior, Lake Orion, pitcher** — Letsinger's numbers on the mound are a little deceiving, but his contributions to the Dragons were not.

Letsinger was 2-1 with a 3.5 earned-run average after struggling from the mound early in the season.

He hit .364 with four home runs and seven doubles, and tied Goleski with a team-high 28 runs batted in.

"He played third base, he pitched, he was very valuable," Schramek said. "He struggled a little early with his pitching, but he really came on in the end. He throws three pitches for strikes, and he's got great control."

■ CORRECTION

The chart which accompanied last week's 1999 Eccentric All-North Oakland Softball Team

inadvertently listed sophomore Melissa Wilson, a second-team selection, as being from Clark-

ston. Wilson was actually the shortstop for Lake Orion.

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Shadows win



Tourney titlists: The Clarkston Shadows U-12 select soccer team won the U-12 division of the Canton Invitational Tournament. Their tough style of play, along with a balanced attack, helped the Shadows go undefeated in the two-day tournament. The Shadows are (bottom, l-r) Lauren Fuller, Michelle Zeile, Jenna Przybycie; (center, l-r) Brianna Funck, Lauren Smith, Jackie Back, Jessica Robinson, Raeanne Blaski, Emily Munchando; (back, l-r) Anne Ottman, Christa Koch, Amanda Hymas, Coach Carl Hosner, Taylor Hosner, Whitney Reppuhn, Jessica Stouffer. Not pictured are Lauren Moore and Caitlin Wollman.

■ INTRAMURAL UPDATE

The newly-formed Lake Orion High School Dragon Intramural Department has a busy summer planned for high school and middle school students.

Activity information and registration forms are available in the high school athletic office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

■ **Ultimate frisbee league.** Runs four weeks (July 12 through Aug. 4).

Registration deadline is July 9. Games played at Scripps Middle School Baseball Field Monday and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. No cost.

■ **Mountain biking club.**

Runs for seven weeks (July 12 through Aug. 18).

There is no registration deadline. Club will ride at various parks. Riders will have to pay park fees.

■ **Co-ed softball league.**

Runs five weeks (July 13 through Aug. 12). Registration deadline is July 9. Games will be played on the high school's junior varsity field Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. No cost.

■ **Water volleyball.** Runs four weeks (July 13-29). Registration deadline is July 9. Games played in the high school pool Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

■ **Sand volleyball league.** Runs five weeks (July 14 through Aug. 12). Registration deadline is July 12. Games played at the Orion Township Civic Center Park Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 1:30-3:30. Cost \$35 per team.

■ **Fitness walking club.** Runs July 14 through Aug. 23. No registration deadline. Carries an incentive: walk 100 miles and get a T-shirt. No cost.

■ **3-on-3 basketball tournament.** July 16, registration deadline is July 15. Games will be played at the community education building Field House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No cost.

**HomeTown
SAVINGS CARD**

Observer & Eccentric

(To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314 or send E-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net.)

ARCHERY

OCSC 3D SHOOT

Oakland County Sportsmen's Club will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 11, on its walk-through range in Clarkston. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

ROA 3D SHOOT

Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 18, on its walk-through course in Lake Orion. Call (248) 628-8354 or (248) 689-2480 for more information.

LIVONIA RANGE

The newly renovated Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The Oakland County Sportsmen Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

SHOOTING SPORTS

SPORTING CLAYS

Wings & Clays will host a sporting clays shoot on Sunday, Aug. 29, at the Bald Mountain range in Lake Orion. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

TOP BASS

Top Bass Tournament Trail, a series of open singles draw bass tournaments, continues on Sunday, July 11, on Lodiell Lake. Registration is \$60 and the

pay back is one place cash for every seven contestants. Boaters and non-boaters are welcome and there is no pre-registration. Call Elmer Daniels at (734) 729-1762 or Steve Randles at (734) 422-5813 for more information. Additional stops on the Top Bass Tournament Trail are July 17 on Wixom Lake, July 31 on Sanford Lake, and Aug. 14-15 on Wixom Lake.

OAKLAND BASS MASTERS

Oakland Bass Masters will hold its annual Tournament for Toys, a two-man team open charity bass tournament, beginning at 5:30 a.m. Sunday, July 18, on Lake St. Clair. Entry fee is \$80 per boat. To register and for more information call Roy Randolph at (248) 542-5254. Oakland Bass Masters will hold additional tournaments Aug. 8 on Orchard Lake, Aug. 29 on Lodiell Lake, and Sept. 26 on Lakeville Lake.

CLASSES/ SEMINARS

MOUNTAIN BIKE DESTINATIONS

Dan Harrison will present a clinic on mountain bike trails in Lower Michigan beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, at REI in Northville. Call (248) 347-2100 for more information.

FLY FISHING SCHOOL

The Riverbend Sports Shop in Southfield is sponsoring several fly fishing schools in the upcoming months. Held at the Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden and Hunters Creek Hunt Club in Metamora, the schools include lessons in basic fly fishing techniques including casting, knot tying, reading the water, playing, landing and releasing fish, entomology and fly selection and more. Classes are scheduled for July 11 and 25, August 15 and 29, and Sept. 12. Class size is limited. To register and for more information call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

FLY TYING

Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

MORE FLY TYING

River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tyers. Classes will be held at various times in July. For more information and to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

CLIMBING CLASS

An introductory climbing course for the novice and first-time climber is

offered at various times at REI in Northville. The class covers basic indoor climbing safety, technique, equipment and terminology. The course is free and available to adults and children. Call (248) 347-2100 for current schedules and additional information.

CLUBS

CLINTON VALLEY BASS

Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are invited and refreshments will be served. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for more information.

FISHING BUDDIES

Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills. Meetings are open to all anglers (boaters and non-boaters). Call (248) 656-0566 for more information.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Rd., Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information.

SOLAR

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the

Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

FLY TYING

The River Bend Sports Shop in Southfield. Call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

SHOOTING RANGES

Bald Mountain

Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Hours for archery and clay target shooting are noon to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Rifle range hours are 3 p.m. to sunset Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd., which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call (248) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION

Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours are 12-5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. Call (248) 693-6767 for more information.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

BUG OLYMPICS

Learn all about insects during this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 11, at Independence Oaks.

NATURE CLUB

Ages 8-12 will learn about the outdoors during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 31, at Independence Oaks. The club will also meet Aug. 28.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

SNEAKY SNAKES

Learn about the unique lifestyle of the snake during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 8, at Highland.

ENVIRONMENTAL KIDS

Learn the importance of recycling and other ways kids can help save the environment during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 13, at Highland.

SPECIAL SEEDS

Bring an old soup can for a special project and learn about seeds during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 15, at Highland.

CONSTELLATION HIKE

Explore the night sky and learn Native American folk lore during this program, which begins at 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 16, at Maybury.

CREEPY CRAWLIES

Take a look at the amazing world of insects and other small creatures during this program, which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 17, at Maybury.

SUMMER EVENINGS

Explore the park's natural and cultural history through a variety of weekly hikes and interpretive presentations during this class, which will be held at 7 p.m. each Thursday through the end of August at Maybury.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

THE DAWG POUND

The 11-year old Riverdawgs team had a great week of baseball, winning four in a row and improving their record to 9 wins and 5 losses.

On June 12, the Riverdawgs beat the Lake Orion Dragon 22-8 on a outstanding offensive day highlighted by Dominic Carino's home run.

Every player on the team reached base and scored. Eric Plourde and Dan McGregor provided the pitching for the win.

On June 15, the team beat the Troy Cardinals 14-6. Andy Friedline and Nick Potter pitched a strong game and Nick also hit a home run.

On June 16, the team beat the Rochester Wildcats 16-4. Frank Davis and Eric Plourde pitched a great game and the offense was awesome. Bobby Cadeau ripped three hits and has been playing a great third base all year. Matt Stanton also had great day on defense at second base where he had five put outs.

On June 19, the team beat the Troy Cardinals 29-3 with our best team performance of the year. Dominic Carino went the distance on the mound with a great pitching performance. Jason Sherman and Bobby Cadeau hit home runs.

Mike Powell had a awesome game behind the plate where he has shined all year throwing out runners and playing great defense. Mike got the 1st out of the game by throwing out a runner attempting to take third on him.

14-Year-Old Riverdawgs

The 14 year old Riverdawgs are continuing to improve and play exciting baseball. This past week saw Coach Doug Brady's Dawgs win three of five games with the only losses being by one run each.

The week started with an 11-6 victory over the Bandits. Matt Orris struck out nine over six innings for the victory with Nate Davis leading the offensive attack with three hits (including two triples). Nick Bokuniewicz, Chase Morris, Eric Plante and Chad Zelinski also contributed two hits apiece.

Next came a twi-night double

header with the Rochester Cougars. The Dawgs lost a hard fought opener 8-7 with Jayson Medlen, Brandon Rosengren and Orris all knocking out three hits. The Dawgs rallied for a 13-3 win in the nightcap behind Adam Jonson's complete game. Johnson struck out nine in addition to striking two hits at the plate.

The next game saw pitchers Bobby Slaughter and Erik Kammerer shut down Brandon Braves for a 12-1 victory. Davis had three hits while Matt Brady, Chris Webb, Bokuniewicz, Morris and Orris lashed out two apiece.

The week's final game saw the Dawgs battle the first place Oakland Sox to the final out before faltering by a 10-9 margin. Webb lead the offensive attack with two hits and three RBIs.

16-Year Old Riverdawgs

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JEEP 1996 Cherokee Limited, black, 4x4, fully loaded, Lojack, lumbar seats, excellent condition, tow package, 85K miles, \$16,500. (248) 479-5803

GRAND CHEROKEE 1995, V-8, Ovis Edition, excellent condition. \$16,995. (248) 476-0408

GEO TRACKER 1997 - 4WD, Black on black convertible, air, 75K ml. \$9500. 248-435-0859

GMC JIMMY 1997 - Loaded, CD, sunroof, air, great winter condition. \$20,500. (734) 478-6562

GMC 1994 Jimmy SLE - 4 dr, 4x4, power, auto start, new tires, brakes. \$8900. 734-542-1911

GMC JIMMY 1994 - 4WD, excellent condition. \$14,000. (248) 451-6662

GMC 1995 Jimmy - 4WD, loaded, mint, \$13,000/best. (248) 932-8129 / 248-698-9016

FORD 1991 Ram, Conversion, h-top, loaded, 5.2L, warranty, \$16,500/best. (734) 416-9772

FORD 1991 Conversion: Auto, full power, tow package, 80K, excellent. \$6900. 734-455-0596

JIMMY 1998 - black cherry, fed, fully loaded, 14,000 miles, \$26,000. Call between 4pm-10pm. (313) 928-5258

LEXUS 1998 ES300, excellent condition, loaded, 7500 miles, \$31,000. (248) 334-3180

MERCEDES BENZ, 1985 280GE Gelaendewagen - Very rare! Excellent condition. \$28,500 or best offer. Call for details. (248) 770-9764

TOYOTA 1997 Rav 4, Calif. excellent condition, low mileage, fully loaded w/sunroof. (734) 464-3829

TOYOTA 1997 Rrunner Limited 4WD, 26K, leather, loaded, only \$28,995.

PAGE TOYOTA 248-352-8580

TRACER 1998 - 4 dr, 4wd, auto, sun, cruise. Like new, owner, \$8750. (248) 334-5443

TOYOTA 1990 300E, 125k miles, excellent condition, within last yr. new tires, brakes, fenders, & \$650 tune up. (248) 593-5679.

MERKUR SCORPIO 1989: Black, loaded, new tires/brakes, \$2800/best. (248) 474-5750

MUSTANG COBRA 1997: Convertible, 60000, black, leather, \$24,900, or, lease 248-332-2355

PORSCHE 1997 Boxster, black/grey, leather/black, top, sport pkg CD, excellent condition. \$24,000/best. (248) 528-3937

PORSCHE 1983 928 - 105K miles, bumpers with white inter, \$8,000. (248) 661-0872

SAAB 1999 9-3: Convertible, blue, brand new - 100 miles, auto, loaded. MSRP \$42,000. \$37,500/best. (734) 207-1594

STEALTH 1995 R/T: 5 speed, 250K miles, stored winters. Excellent condition. \$10,000. (248) 593-6555

SUBARU 1992 Loyale 4dr, 90K miles, Great Reliable, 5 speed cd, \$2500/best. (248) 628-9334

VOLVO 1994 850 Turbo Sedan-champagne w/brown leather interior, fully loaded, moonroof, heated seats, traction locks, 38K miles, non-smoker, vehicle. \$17,500/best. (248) 593-5080

FERRARI MONDIAL T CABRIOLET 1989 - Red w/tan interior, black convertible top, like new, 98000 ml. \$33,000. (734) 478-6562

FIAT 1980 Spider Convertible, 63K. Excellent shape, Stored winters, \$3,995. (248) 476-4216, daytime. (810) 229-9581 ext. 248

JAGUAR 1994 XJ6 - light blue, camel interior, 78K miles. Very good condition. Asking \$15,500. Call Brian. (248) 738-1608

JAGUAR 1995 XJR, Loaded, perfect condition. Dark green, 53K miles. (248) 332-5377

JAGUAR 1989 XJS Coupe, white, beautiful, reasonable, Northville Twp. (734) 420-1220

LEXUS 1998 ES300, excellent condition, loaded, 7500 miles, \$31,000. (248) 334-3180

MERCEDES BENZ, 1985 280GE Gelaendewagen - Very rare! Excellent condition. \$28,500 or best offer. Call for details. (248) 770-9764

DODGE 1973 Challenger, Mint condition. Must See. 313-715-3500 or 734-414-3138

CORVETTE, 1978 L-48 Original, \$10,000. (248) 865-0454

CUTLASS 1969 350, V-8, 3 spd, 2 barrel, original manuals, Crager wheels, Alpine CD player. \$4400 (248) 544-3115

BUCICK 1940 4 dr, 6 Chevy Coupe 1947, needs restoring. \$1000 for both. (248) 334-7218

CHEVROLET 1931 - 6 cyl, 2 dr, sedan, excellent condition. \$6900. (248) 400-1919

CHEVROLET 1959 Pickup Red, 427 V8, ps, air, auto & more. Mint condition. 1 of a kind. (313-715-3500, or 734-414-2328

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BUICK 1940 - 4

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Chevy Express van great for big families

CAR Report



Anne Fracassa is on vacation. Her column returns next week.

By Marty Majchrzak
AvantiaFeatures

As far as full-size vans go, the Chevrolet Express is as long and bulky as they come. Body lines are few with long, flat sides all the way down to the wheel wells.

My Express had a dozen seats, including captain chairs for the driver and passenger and bench seats for everybody else. My son Jason found his way to last seat and we had a hard time seeing if he was back there or not. Talk about Home Alone and forgetting a child.

When my 16-year-old son Matt heard we were getting the Express van he told me that his friends call it "the mini bus." After taking a good hard look, I thought to myself, "they're right."

Anyway, my wife Donna's family was having one of those family functions, and she thought it would be nice if everyone could travel together. Now Donna comes from a large family and it would be really impossible to fit her family of 27 people into a 12-passenger van. Just her luck, not everyone would be able to attend.

As the story goes there were 12 of us who were going to a quaint little Polish restaurant. They serve nothing but Polish food and even the menu is written in Polish. It's one of my family's favorite places to eat.

Well, we had 12 people from Grandma to the children with us and had no problem fitting everyone in. Nobody was cramped. The Express gives you plenty



The Chevy Express van is durable and packed with power.

of room. It was at that moment that it occurred to me why Matt's friends call it "the mini bus."

Then a second thought happened. How funny it must look, all these people, one-by-one, coming out of the van. Remember when you would try to fit the most people into a phone booth or the VW Beetle? That's what we looked like.

My two brothers-in-law, Larry and Dave, drove with me on our dinner trip. Larry works for Ford Motor Co. so driving in a General Motors product doesn't knock his socks off. Dave, on the other hand is also a union worker but he doesn't work for the Big Three. He is a real car guy and having three boys of his own finds himself working on cars all the time.

Dave and I often talk about different cars and trucks and the Express is

no exception. He thinks this Chevy van has a lot of room inside and rides pretty good but we both think the cloth interior should be upgraded so it's less rough and more soft.

I told him that I think this material is more durable and anyone buying a 12-passenger van knows there's going to be a lot of traffic coming in and out of this baby.

When we got to the restaurant I took a little time and looked the Express over. It looks OK, except in the back it reminds me of a Greyhound bus.

The food was good. After we ate, we found driving through the streets of Detroit was a good test for the Express. To my surprise it handled very well. It was easy to maneuver through narrow city streets, and in a tight parking lot I had no problems.

The Express is powered by a 5.7-liter V8 engine with an optional heavy-duty towing package. I found that it packed plenty of power to get all that weight moving and with an average of 14 miles per gallon on a 200-mile test drive I was impressed.

The Express doesn't come cheap. It has a sticker of over \$30,000 but comes loaded with goodies like an AM/FM stereo with a CD player and six speakers for great sound. Other good stuff includes rear heat and air all the way to the back and rear passenger controls, power windows, speed control and tilt steering, power locks and keyless entry. Both driver and passenger seats are

See below for
Let's Talk Cars by
Art Cervi

Auto News

Continued from previous page

power, which is something you don't see often in a full-size van.

Air bags both driver and passenger with four wheel anti-lock brakes is just the start of the safety features on the Express. Steel side door beams that help in side impacts and daytime running lamps with child security locks round out the safety equipment.

The only drawback to this van is the fact that the front seat passenger can't have a conversation with a back seat passenger, because you can't hear each other.

Come to think of it, that may not always be a problem.

Write Marty Majchrzak at avanti1054@acl.com.

1999 Chevrolet Express Van
Vehicle class: Passenger van.
Power: Vortec 5.7-liter V8 engine.
Mileage: 12 city / 16 highway.
Where built: Wentzville, Mo.
Base price: \$25,480.
As tested: \$31,036.



Happy 4th! Let the summer begin! Yet as we speak, the next holiday that we will observe is Labor Day, the day that usually brings things to a close as we face autumn.

My question for the week is, "Is it the heat or the humidity that brings out the worst in drivers?" Everyone's in such a hurry. Few and far between are acts of courtesy...so sad. I'm reminded of a limerick I learned as a teenager:

Here lies the body of William Jay.

Who died maintaining his right of way?

He was right, dead right as he sped along.

But he's just as dead as if he'd been dead wrong!

Let's Talk Cars

Sounds all too familiar. For whatever reason we must always be right and how dare someone else try to take it away. When you have two people who feel the same way and neither will budge, you could end up in the same scenario as the vehicles on the 275 and 96 split. Only one driver came out of that one. frustrating? Yes, when someone is bound and determined to cut into traffic. Worth a fatality? Absolutely not!

Have you also noticed on holiday weekends the number of fatalities in one car accident? Someone wasn't in control. I still can't figure out why even though we know better some people don't use their seat belts. You'd rather be ejected? Speaking of seat restraints, have you noticed how the manufacturers are getting on the bandwagon? Some offer side airbags (front and rear), airbags

in the headliner for rollovers, and bags for knees and ankles. All great safety features, but remember one thing: nothing is free. They may be standard on certain vehicles, but you can bet that the cost is being passed on to you. Like any good business there is a margin of profit built in. If the costs increase, watch the price of the item go up. As simple as Business 101. It is not the "American way" to lose money.

I had a delightful conversation with Sue Mead and Tara Barkas Mello recently, two free-lance automotive journalists who were given the opportunity to duplicate a feat done ninety years ago (1909) by Alice Ramsey. Alice was given a Maxwell to drive coast to coast. She and three of her friends crossed our country in 59 days. One can only imagine what they had to contend with: flats, bro-

ken axles, getting lost, Indians! Alice was way ahead of her time, very mechanical minded and a strong-willed woman who liked to compete against men automotive-ly...she usually cleaned their clocks. Mead and Mello planned on following as much of the original route as possible. They left New York in a Maxwell (borrowed from Hemmings), drove it as much as they dared—not very far...then switched to an S class Mercedes for most of the trip. About a mile from the finish they switched to a Chrysler ESX2 to cross the line, 50 days shorter than Ramsey 'til next week...

Art Cervi of "Let's Talk Cars" can be heard each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon on WYUR, AM 1310.

856 Lincoln

CONTINENTAL 1994 - Executive Series, Green, tan leather, moonroof, tinted, original owner, under 50K mil. Excellent condition. \$11,500. (248) 249-203-0366

CONTINENTAL 1991 - leather, show quality, toupe, only 48K \$9000. (248) 420-2760

CONTINENTAL 1991, Signature series, 71K miles, top-of-the-line, \$7,800. (734) 397-2508

CONTINENTAL 1993, white, loaded, immaculate, \$8,000. after 4pm (248) 685-3749

GRAND MARQUIS LS 1994 - 82K miles, excellent condition. \$9500/best. (248) 420-2807

GRAND MARQUIS 1991, 21K, 21K, 21K miles, loaded. Like new, \$17,900/best. (248) 723-9888

GRAND MARQUIS 1992 LS, Highway miles, loaded, power. \$4500. (734) 343-2807

GRAND MARQUIS LS 1992 39K, digital dash, performance & handling packages, & alarm, \$7500/mile. (248) 737-0700

MIATA 1995 - 23K, excellent condition. \$11,400. (734) 425-9884

MIATA 1995, only 5900 miles, Mont. blue/black, DC, air, premium wheels, stored, \$14,900. (248) 643-8166

PROTEGE 1994, sedan 4 dr, black, low mileage, automatic, air, am/fm cassette, excellent car for teenager, \$8000. (248) 380-5445

PROTEGE 1994, sedan 4 dr, black, low mileage, automatic, air, am/fm cassette, excellent car for teenager, \$8000. (248) 380-5445

TOPAZ 1994, medium blue, 2 dr., excellent condition. Good lire, 60K. \$4200. (248) 682-1538

TOPAZ 1994, medium blue, 2 dr., excellent condition. Good lire, 60K. \$4200. (248) 682-1538

858 Mazda

MIATA 1995-23K, excellent condition. \$11,400. (734) 425-9884

MIATA 1995, only 5900 miles, Mont. blue/black, DC, air, premium wheels, stored, \$14,900. (248) 643-8166

PROTEGE 1994, sedan 4 dr, black, low mileage, automatic, air, am/fm cassette, excellent car for teenager, \$8000. (248) 380-5445

860 Mercury

COUGAR 1993 XR7, Gold Cat edition, Loaded. Excellent condition. \$4250. (734) 323-3528

GRAND MARQUIS LS 1990, excellent condition, loaded. \$3700. (248) 659-9868

GRAND MARQUIS GS 1994, 82K miles, excellent condition. \$9500/best. (248) 420-2807

GRAND MARQUIS 1991, 21K, 21K miles, loaded. Like new, \$17,900/best. (248) 723-9888

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GRAND MARQUIS 2001, 82K miles, loaded, power. \$9500/best. (248) 420-2807

GRAND MARQUIS 2002, 82K miles, loaded, power. \$9500/best. (248) 420-2807

GRAND MARQUIS 2003