



Urban coyotes don't pose a threat to humans

We read an article in a newspaper last Friday on coyotes in Oakland County which provided good information but then we saw a Channel 4 story the same day that called our urban coyotes a threat which left me feeling a bit uneasy. Should we be worried about these animals?

No, all the information that I've read over the years does not consider the coyote a threat to people. Homeowners in California have been coexisting with these urban survivors for years. As far as I know, there is no documented coyote attack on humans in the state of Michigan.

Your chances of being attacked by a neighborhood dog are far greater. As I've said before, loose pets allowed to roam may end up as a happy meal. I spoke to an irresponsible pet owner a couple of years ago whose two cats were always allowed to roam in city parkland. One night neither cat returned. They were in parkland where coyotes were known to hunt. Please remember, good pet owners who care about their pets never allow their dogs or cats to run free. Coyotes have expanded their range to southeast Michigan. They are a part of nature and

belong here. Just as raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, possums, crows, gulls and whitetail deer have learned to survive in suburban, coyotes are learning to do the same.

As a naturalist, I found the television story calling coyotes a threat to be sensational. Farmington Hills was highlighted in the story. I was interviewed for that story but they chose to not use any of the information I supplied to them plus the caption under my picture referred to me as being Tim Payne from the Department of Natural Resources. And you wonder why people don't like the media. They read the newspaper article, which was well written and factual, and tried to sensationalize an item which caused unnecessary concern to some people. In my opinion, that was poor reporting.

As far as wildlife being a threat to us, all you need to do is take a good look around at the way we live. We have locks and alarms on our homes, cars and businesses. We worry about being robbed and raped. We have metal detectors in some schools. We have met the greatest threat of all and it is us.

Joe Derek is the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. Leave him a message at 248-473-9574.

Music clubs offer free concerts

National Music Week at Tel-Twelve Mall is co-sponsored by Farmington Musicals. It is part of a nationwide celebration coordinated by the National Federation of Music Clubs. Performances are free and open to everyone.

■ Sunday, May 7
3:30-5 p.m. - Sheila Stephenson, pianist

4-5 p.m. - Sweet Sounds-Lee Thume, piano; Elaine Green, vocalist

■ Monday, May 8
11 a.m.-noon - Stephen Becker, composer and pianist

12:30-2 p.m. - Joseph Walker-Williams Gospel Choir; the Strutters, senior dance group

2-3 p.m. Marjorie Van Hoy, composer and pianist

3-4:30 p.m. - Harrison High School Jazz Band, Mark Phillips, director

4:30-5 p.m. - VanHoozen Show Choir, Betsy March, director & accompanist

5:45-6:30 p.m. - Ruth Kileen, viola, Ellen Nustad, piano

6:30-7:15 p.m. - Angelina Pashmakova, pianist

■ Tuesday, May 9
10-11 a.m. - Women's Handbell Choir, First United Methodist Church of Birmingham; Chris Hall, director

11-11:30 a.m. - Berkshire Middle School Ensembles, Kathy Chapman, director

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. - Stephen Becker, composer and pianist

1-1:30 p.m. - Pembroke Elementary Elton Street Singers, Terri Cudnochovsky, director

4:30-5 p.m. - Harlan Elementary Honors Choir, Jay Smith, director

6:30-6:15 - May Arvo, soprano; Marjorie VanHoy, piano

7:30-8:30 p.m. - Sweet Sounds-Lee Thume, piano, Nancy Hutchinson, trumpet

■ Wednesday, May 10
11-11:30 a.m. - Derby Middle School Singers & Eighth Grade Choir, Karen Weasles

11:30 a.m.-noon - Derby Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra, Tona Krempa, director

12:30-1 p.m. - Farmington Musicals Chorus, Judy Reger, director

New Children's Book by WDIV Anchor, Devin Scillian



"I dreamed again of Fibblestax, sitting among his books, peering into the candlelight with a calm, thoughtful look."

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OCC sponsors wine tasting May 10

The 6th annual Great Lakes Great Wine Walk Around Tasting featuring over 400 wines, including Canada's famous ice wines, and Great Lakes food prepared by top area restaurants including Diamond Jim Brady's.

Steve and Rocky's, Golden Mushroom, Travis Pointe Country Club, Orchard Lake Country Club and more will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 10 at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund for future culinarians. The tasting costs \$40 and will be held in Building J, 3rd floor. To order tickets, call Lynne at 248-522-3700.

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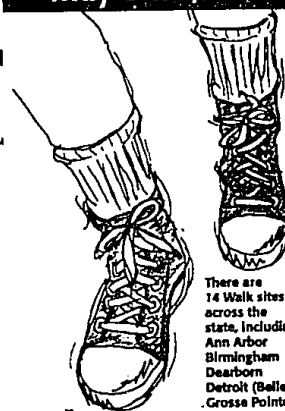
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