



Friday,
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Currents

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Martha Erickson says
goodbye in her last column

DEAR ABBY, PAGE C3

Sister fears teen may suffer from
anorexia, afraid to tell mother

THE SIDEBAR

In style

Dive back in to retro with new swimsuit styles

There's a definite retro flair to swimsuits this season — a little flavor of the 1940s and '50s that evokes screen goddesses and fresh-faced girls next door. Think "South Pacific." Maybe even rent it, get inspired and then head to the store.



Bonnaroo opens amid summer festival revival

Tens of thousands of music-crazy fans will gather in the Tennessee countryside this weekend for Bonnaroo, and they'll be part of not



just one of the summer's biggest music festival, but a nationwide revival.

Just 10 years ago, after the disastrous 1999 Woodstock and the temporary petering out of Lollapalooza, festivals appeared dead. But in recent years, they've emerged as one of the music industry's few cash cows in an otherwise tumultuous environment.

Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival launched in 2002. Others include the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., a nine-year old summer behemoth that in many ways originated the festival revival; the seven-year-old Austin City Limits Music Festival in Texas; and the now Chicago-based Lollapalooza.

Born on this day

- Magician Siegfried of Siegfried and Roy is 69.
- Singer Bobby Freeman is 68.
- Comedian Tim Allen ("Home Improvement") is 55.
- Actress Ally Sheedy is 46.
- Bassist Paul DeLisle of Smash Mouth is 45.
- Singer David Gray is 40.
- Actor-singer Jamie Walters is 39.
- Singer-guitarist Rivers Cuomo of Weezer is 38.
- Actor Steve-O ("Jackass") is 34.
- Singer Raz B (B2K) is 23.
- Actresses Ashley and Mary-Kate Olsen are 22.



David Gray

Out on DVD

Here are a few movies coming out to rent Tuesday.

- "Burn Notice: Season 1"
- "Californication: Season One"
- "Er: The Complete Ninth Season"
- "Fool's Gold"
- "Jericho: The Second Season"

— Free Press Staff and news services



From surfing the Caribbean to chick flicks in a cabin, it's about the people, not the place

By Cathy Jones
Special to The Free Press

Whether a woman carries the titles of wife, mother, grandmother, professional career woman or any number of others, there's always that girl inside who just wants to have fun, especially with the people who arguably know her best — her girlfriends.

A few decades ago it would have been odd for a woman to vacation without her family. Now, with greater independence and spending power, staying in touch with old friends isn't just for phone calls anymore. "Girlfriend getaways" and "women only" travel businesses are booming, according to the Associated Press. That includes southern Minnesota women.

Northern retreat

Since 2001, Tracy Malm and five of her high school girlfriends have looked forward to the first weekend in August, when they go to Garrison "to relax in a cabin by some peaceful water for a three-day 'girls weekend,'" Malm said.

"Our intentions are simple. Relax, eat and have fun. It is a time when we don't have to be a mom, a wife, a sister or a daughter — just ourselves and to enjoy our friendship,"

she said.

The women started the trips because of a family tragedy in Malm's life, and her girlfriends came to help out. They decided they needed more "girls mental health breaks."

All the women have diverse personality types, from frugal to lavish, from punctual to perpetually late, and from adventurous eaters to those with food allergies, "but I think because we have been friends for so long, we have



Submitted photos

Back row, left to right: Katie Stace of Wyoming, Minn.; Karen Grill of Saint Anne, Ill.; and Jenni Stangret and Kelly Nekola of Andover. Front row, left to right: Cady Wickman of Brainerd and Tracy Malm of North Mankato.

just accepted the individual quirks," Malm said.

They have traveled to Chicago a couple of times, as one friend is from Illinois, but they also try to get together for local shopping weekends as well. Still in the works is a big vacation for their 40th birthdays.

Reconnecting

Rochelle Koberoski's trips

began similarly in 2005 as a way to reconnect with long-time friends.

"We went to high school together in Madelia in the '70s and took two trips to northern Minnesota the summer before our senior year of high school and the summer after we graduated," Koberoski said.

Spread across Minnesota, Illinois and Colorado, they visited when possible over the years.

"The illness and death of a husband in our group brought us closer, and we vowed to spend more time together," Koberoski said.

Their first trip was Napa Valley and the second trip was Chicago. They're looking at the Colorado Foothills, the Kentucky Derby and Boston as possibilities for upcoming trips.

"No matter how long it's been since we've seen each other, we're able to enjoy each other's company and feel comfortable," Koberoski said. "We can laugh, cry, whine, splurge, make mistakes, and we still know we'll be accepted and cared for. ... These women are 'sisters' of the heart."

Please see GETAWAYS, Page C3



Back row, from left: Deidre Hruby of Madelia and Rachel McAuliffe of Ft. Collins, Colo. Front row, from left: Rochelle Koberoski of Mankato; Mary Jo Kelsey of Madelia and Tammy Molander of Leaf River, Ill., at a game where the Twins beat the White Sox.



McClatchy-Tribune News Service

A sign on CR44 warns residents about household pets falling prey to coyotes in Eustis, Fla.

House cats: For coyotes, they're what's for dinner

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

ORLANDO, FLA. — House cats are disappearing in a Lake County, Fla., neighborhood, and clues point to four-legged suspects:

Ravenous coyotes. Marie Baker's fears for her treasured white ragdoll cat, Stanlee, intensified when her husband, Roy, 55, spotted a big yellow tabby cat trapped in the

jaws of a coyote — "that could have been our cat."

The 54-year-old real-estate legal secretary is one of several Eustis, Fla.-area residents worried about a growing number of missing felines.

"These cats are disappearing right now," Baker said Thursday. "They're probably looking for food, and now they're just getting people's cats."

It's not unusual for coyotes to find house cats appetizing, said Sara Sillars, wildlife assistant biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. As development spreads into rural areas, coyotes adapt to their new habitat. They also create new eating habits away from their typical meals of small predators and rodents. If a hungry coyote encounters a house cat or small

dog, the pets may look like a scrumptious meal.

"If they're hungry and they see an easy meal," Sillars said, "they're going to go for it."

Some pet owners are quickly learning how coyotes prey.

Eustis, Fla., resident Deborah Reischmann, 55, made a startling discovery about three months ago in her backyard

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