

Congrats!

The "MotorWeek" team at Maryland Public Television has been recognized for excellence by three prominent organizations.



Davis

John Davis received the Board of Governors Emmy Award from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Region Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his role as creator, host and executive producer of "MotorWeek," as well as senior executive producer of "Wall Street Week" with Louis Rukeyser.



Vazquez

Reporter and producer Yolanda Vazquez scored a triple play, winning three 2008 International Wheel Awards from the Detroit Press Club Foundation, which recognizes the best in automotive journalism. Vazquez swept first, second and third place in the Television News Story or Subject-related Series category. She also won a Bronze Telly Award for a story highlighting the dangers of texting while driving.

SEND IT IN: Does your fundraising soiree draw a fun crowd? Did you spot a notable somebody generating buzz at lunch? Or a celebrity in our midst? Send photos and news tips to Scene & Seen: seen@baltimoreexaminer.com.

Say it ain't so, Tom!

"Take off the tarp, it's time to play some serious ball!" might be the very words spoken by longtime Baltimore sportscaster Tom Davis. But alas, not this time. It's he who must remove the tarp.

I am told that Davis, whose Brooklandville home was damaged several years ago, is still sporting a tarp instead of a roof — or maybe it's a wall. Seems neighbors held a community meeting about the unsightly addition, and that blue tarp has to go. I hear others took the opportunity to complain about all the cars he has — sort of like a used-car lot for Caddies.

Let the wine flow

No better way to spend a hot and humid Sunday than in the beautiful Tremont Grand in Baltimore. That's where the Downtown Partnership — a nonprofit that works with both public and private sectors to make downtown a great place for everyone — held its recent Chefs & Wine Experience.

Reliable Churchill Distributors made sure no one lacked any libations, and Icon Estates' Michelle Desrosiers and Fosters Group's Connie Shillman made sure we all knew about the grape thing that was going on. It was great seeing former B'more media gal Sandra Pinkney, who is now with the Food Network, and Style Magazine Editor Brian Lawrence and Director of Marketing Cindy Plackmeyer.

Also spotted were Trey and Angie Lewis, owners of the Gunpowder Bison and Trading Company, Laurie Forster-The Wine Coach and cooking guru Ted Allen. It was also great to see my favorite local chefs Jerry Edwards (Chefs Expressions) and Jerry Pellegrino (Cork's Restaurant).

This culinary extravaganza was a perfect way to get the word out on Baltimore's Restaurant Week,



COURTESY PHOTO

Enjoying the annual Chefs & Wine Experience are, from left, Mary Stack, Connie Shillman and Laurie Forster.



Anne Boone Simanski

which runs from July 26 to Aug. 3. For information on this, go to www.BaltimoreRestaurantWeek.com.

Heading to Beijing

Swimming sensations Michael Phelps and Katie Hoff aren't the only Baltimoreans in Beijing for next month's Olympics.

Soon, Cockeysville resident Steve Shaw, 25, will pack his bags and heading to China as well, to spend three weeks working as a commentary control-room operator — a freelance assignment with the Beijing Olympic Broad-

casters group.

His employer, Erickson Retirement Communities, understands this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and has allowed him to take leave from his duties as a community manager.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity, which is only offered to a select group of TV production people," said Shaw. "I am also very grateful to Erickson for their flexibility."

Shaw will be working solely at the weight-lifting venue, which is located in the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He'll be back Aug. 21 and promises to share with us lots of pictures.

Words to live by

Following up last week's item on Olympia Dukakis, who stopped in Charm City recently for a Myerberg Senior Center fundraiser.

The acclaimed actress, 77, told the Pikesville guests that it had

Anne's top pick

» **What:** National Federation of The Blind of Maryland's annual crab feast to benefit the John T. McCraw Scholarship Fund.

» **When:** Aug. 8, 7 p.m.

» **Where:** Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Ave. in Baltimore

» **Tickets:** \$45

» **Info:** 443-570-5285; nfbmd.org

always been her dream to be an actress, even when she was a physical therapist during the 1950s polio epidemic. When asked during a lively Q&A session what she tells aspiring actors, Olympia quipped, "Do something else."

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JENNA WATCH

For those who care, first daughter Jenna Bush, who moved to South Baltimore after her May wedding to Henry Hager, was recently spotted at the downtown Whole Foods on Fleet Street. Poor thing was just trying to get some groceries, but she turned into the main attraction, as the gawkers wouldn't let up.



COURTESY PHOTO

DEAD MAN WAVING?

A few weeks ago, Leonard Homer, a lawyer for Ober-Kaler, took a different route to his 70th birthday. Homer organized his own wake tribute, complete with horse-drawn carriage and coffin. The procession rolled up South Charles Street in Federal Hill to Junior's Wine Bar for food, drink and a "lively" celebration.