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FOOD, B3

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ENTERTAINMENT, B6

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**New location for local club**

Due to the closing of the Bailey Center, Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club will hold its weekly meeting this evening (July 12) at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh.

The group meets 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Toastmasters is a world leader dedicated to helping people develop their public speaking and leadership skills, in a mutually helpful and friendly atmosphere. Toastmasters learn by doing tasks during meetings. There is no instructor in a Toastmasters meeting. Members give speeches focusing on assignments from a manual laid out by Toastmasters International. Each speech is evaluated by a peer member, so that the speaker will get instant feedback.

Speakers are also trained to give short impromptu speeches. Members also learn communication skills by conducting meetings, and perform duties such as timekeeping, grammar and parliamentary procedures. Leadership skills are developed by serving as offices of the club to keep the program working.

For information about the Westland Easytalkers, call Doug at (248) 417-0195 or Curt at (734) 525-8445 or visit the group's website at westland-easytalkers.toastmastersclubs.org.

**Spider-Man visiting mall**

Fresh off his box office success, the amazing Spider-Man will be coming Saturday, July 14, to Westland Shopping Center.

Spider-Man will be in the mall's East Court 1-4 p.m. His visit is sponsored by Westland Shopping Center and Parkside Credit Union and will kick off the celebration of Club Fun, a program for kids and families of all ages. Join Club Fun and receive a Parkside Credit Union/Spider-Man bag full of goodies, while supplies last.

Westland Shopping Center is at Warren and Wayne roads in Westland.

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**Clerk: Special election is 'absolutely stupid'**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Thaddeus McCotter may have run as a fiscal conservative but his recent abrupt resignation from his 11th Congressional District seat is expected to cost taxpayers \$650,000 to find a replacement.

"I think it's absolutely stupid. The person (elected in the special election) will be in Wash-

ington 2 1/2 weeks with their break for Christmas," said Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof. "A city election costs \$60,000. And the state hasn't said whether they will reimburse us. We're spending money we don't have on this."

The special primary will be Wednesday, Sept. 5. That allows for the special general election to fill the vacancy to be held in conjunction with the regularly

scheduled Nov. 6 general election.

In accordance with state law and the U.S. Constitution, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley called a special election in the 11th Congressional District to fill the vacancy.

However, the timing of McCotter's resignation made it impossible to hold a special primary election in conjunction with the Aug. 7 primary election.

Absentee ballots for the Aug. 7

primary have already been sent out and the paper ballots printed. Candidates running in the special election have until July 20 to file and July 23 to withdraw from the race but Schoof said military absentee ballots have to be mailed on July 24 leaving only 24 hours for printing.

"People are going to be confused. When they get their

Please see ELECTION, A2



It's mayhem in the mud as kids run into the mud pit at the 25th annual Mud Day celebration at the Nankin Mills picnic area of Hines Park.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Ready to play**

Kids get down and dirty at Mud Day

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Lydia Slim made no bones about it.

Her goal was to be the mud-diest girl at the Wayne County Parks' annual Mud Day. Turns out she didn't have as much mud piled on top of her head as some of the contestants, but she was the only one with grass sticking out of it.

"My mom decided to put it in my hair," said the 9-year-old Dearborn resident who was crowned Queen Mud.

"I tried to make it look like a crown," said her mother, Monic.

For Lydia, besting the 20 or so girls who had slathered their bodies with mud and piled it high on their heads in hopes of winning was a dream come true.

"I dreamed I would be queen," she said. "I told my mom I wanted to win Mud Day. I tried my best."

"I'm so happy she won," said her mother. "She was recently diagnosed with hemophilia. She's been through a lot, summer has been really hard on her until now."

Her counterpart was 7-year-old Daniel Werling of Southgate,

Please see MUD DAY, A6



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lydia Slim, 9 of Dearborn and Daniel Werling, 7, of Southgate wear capes and crowns as the king and queen of Mud Day.

**Wild About Youth teens go to work**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Unemployment among people 16-24 years old remains above 18 percent, but 24 Westland youths now have summer jobs.

Those hirings may not make a statistical difference, but it's hoped the jobs will have a big impact on the local youths who were connected to them through the Wild About Youth Works program.

Kevin Campbell, 17, has his first job working at the MJR Westland Grand Cinema.

"I heard about this program during announcements at school," said Campbell, who will be a senior at Westland John Glenn High School. "It's a pretty cool job. They showed me around before I started."

After his graduation next year, Campbell has plans to enter the U.S. Army, where he will focus on training in technical skills.

Tiara Jones, 17, a Glenn junior, also heard about the local job program during the school announcements.

"I signed up. I really wanted to do something this summer," said Jones, who was hired by the McDonald's restaurant on Merriman at Michigan Avenue.

The jobs are in the retail and food industries, but also in tooling and manufacturing. The students are hired to work about 16

Please see YOUTH WORK, A2

**Canton man charged in holdup at Game Play**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton man has been charged with robbing a Westland store on July 3 and is a suspect in robberies in neighboring communities, including Livonia and Redford.

Lee Allen Phillips, 20, is facing charges of armed robbery and receiving stolen property. His



Phillips

preliminary examination in 18th District Court is scheduled for Thursday, July 19. A not guilty plea was entered and bond set at \$50,000 cash/surety.

Police responded to a robbery at the Game Play store, 35607 Warren Road, at about 9:45 p.m. The sole employ-

ee working at the store told police that a man and a small child were the only customers when a man, dressed in black with a bandana over his lower face, entered.

Armed with a silver handgun, the man ordered all three to get on the ground, the employee said. As they complied, the employee said the gunman told him to get up and go to the cash

registers.

With the gun pointed at him, the employee said he put the cash register drawer on the counter. The gunman then asked for a second drawer and then followed the employee into a back room to get it.

The employee told police the gunman took \$500 from the busi-

Please see CHARGED, A2

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# Cruisers prepare to take over Michigan Ave.

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Four days before the fifth annual Michigan Avenue car cruise, promoter Don Nicholson was busy delivering 25,000 programs to businesses and sponsors along the more than 14-mile route. His goal was to get the information in the hands of car enthusiasts to participate in the cruise and frequent the businesses that are involved in it.

"The numbers we had last year was 20,000 to 25,000 cruisers. I'd be happy with that this year," the Westland resident said. "I've gotten word that people are coming from the west side of the state, from Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. There's even five car clubs coming from Canada."

The cruise will be from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and stretch from the city of Wayne on the west to Dearborn on the east and includes Westland, Inkster and Dearborn Heights. In between, it'll feature food and entertainment at businesses along the route, mini car shows and, of course, classic cars cruising along U.S. 12.

Village Ford, 23535 Michigan Avenue, in Dearborn will once again host the Southeast Michigan Mustang Car Club with 100 cars on display. Mark Chevrolet in Wayne will hold an open house with a concert and food. Jack Demmer Ford, also in Wayne, will have a band and food and do a fundraiser for the Wayne Recreation Department.



Cruisers take in the sights along Michigan Avenue in Wayne during the 2011 Cruisin' Michigan Avenue event.



Classic car buffs show off their rides on Michigan Avenue.

Polk's Auto Service and Sales, also in Wayne, is inviting customers back for a day of food, music

and inflatable bouncers for the kids. "It's just a fun day," Nicholson said. "They've

been a sponsor since day one, this is like an invitation for the whole family."

There also will be an Emergency Response Vehicle Show from noon to 5 p.m. at the Dearborn Heights Justice Center at 25637 Michigan Avenue.

Missing this year will be the Inkster Jazz Festival, which was cancelled due to a lack of funds. However, the Inkster Cruisers always have "a nice display and at a few other places along the route clubs and businesses are doing their own thing," Nicholson said.

"Inkster has always been a great city to work with," he added. "I found out a month ago there would be no jazz fest and tried to work with them in doing a concert or car show, but couldn't. There wasn't enough time."

While the cruise officially starts at noon, Nicholson fully expects cruisers to be out much earlier. Last year, people were out at 6:30 a.m.

A Cruisin' Michigan Kick-Off "Show & Shine" will be held 6-9 p.m. Friday at the Automotive Hall of Fame on Oakwood Boulevard, south of Michigan Avenue. The party is free and open to the public. The first 100 cruisers will receive goodie bags. The museum will have food available for sale and, according to Nicholson, the event offers the opportunity to "come down and talk to the folks."

Nicholson is hoping Cruisin' Michigan Avenue will eventually become Wayne County's answer to the Woodward Dream Cruise. That and his second annual Hines Park Cruise in August are his "big" cruise events.

The Hines Park Cruise will be Sunday, Aug. 26. Hines Drive will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to only classic cars and bicyclists.

Nicholson had hoped 4,000-5,000 would sign up for the inaugural event, but had 24,371 cars register the day of the event.

"Twenty-four thousand is just phenomenal and totally unexpected," Nicholson said.

For more information about Cruisin' Michigan Avenue, the Hines Park Cruise and other car shows events, go online to [www.crusinmichigan.com](http://www.crusinmichigan.com) or [www.donnicholson.net](http://www.donnicholson.net).

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## Salvation Army holding job fair

The Salvation Army Southeast Adult Rehabilitation Center will host a job fair in effort to fill a variety of open positions at its 33 Salvation Army Thrift Stores and three warehouses throughout southeast Michigan. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 17, and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday, July 18.

"As we continue to grow and open new thrift stores, the need for staff continues to increase," said Merle Miller, administrator of The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center, which operates the thrift stores. "Given the tight job market, we are pleased to be able to provide employment opportunities throughout the communities we serve."

The ARC will be conducting on-site interviews and hiring for the full and part-time positions available at the thrift stores and warehouses in Livingston,

Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. Available positions include dock workers, merchandise processors, cashiers and sales clerks, truck drivers and store managers.

Individuals interested in retail management positions must have two-five years of supervisory experience to qualify, while truck driving candidates need a valid chauffeur's licenses and DOT card to apply.

The job fair will be take place at the Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center, 1627 W. Fort St., Detroit, in the space known as Mother Pearl's Place at the corner of 10th Street and Fort Street.

Completely self-funded, the ARC draws its entire operating budget from the revenue of the 33 Salvation Army Thrift Stores located in southeast Michigan. For more information visit [www.salarmythrift.com](http://www.salarmythrift.com) or call (313) 965-7760.

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# Elite cheer team sets sights on national title

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

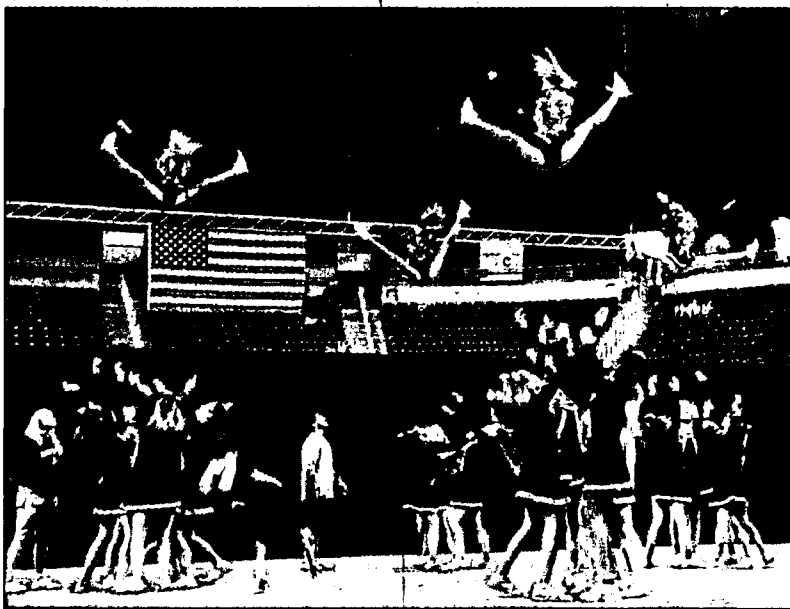
The first year Gail Clemons coached her Division 5 Westland Elite cheer team, it came home from Las Vegas, Nev., with a national title.

This year the team is on its way to Indianapolis, Ind., in hopes of capturing the national title for a second consecutive year.

"We're hoping to keep up our winning streak," Clemons said. "We won nationals last July and had first in state in January and June."

Part of Young Champions, the team, which includes 20 girls and one boy, had practiced at the Bailey Recreation Center until moving about a year ago to Downriver Gymnastics in Riverview.

"They were doing more tumbling and need an actual gymnastics floor," Clemons said.



The team practices one day a week for two hours and Clemons admits that members get mad at her sometimes for pushing them. That's when she reminds them of how often they practice. "Our slogan is 'One day

a week can make a difference,'" she said. "They push through it. They're hard little workers."

Close to three-quarters of the team has had experience performing at nationals. However, because of injuries and

girls who left, Clemons had to call up three girls a few weeks ago to keep the number consistent with what she registered for nationals. Those girls have been working hard to learn the routine.

"They've been looking

their little booties off and are doing pretty good," she said.

Stunting is the hardest part of what they do and the pyramid is their hardest stunt. The routine includes stunts, tumbling, dancing and jumping, but especially a lot of stunting. There's also a lot of transitions which are "hard for 8-year-olds, but they're doing it," she said.

Clemons did competitive cheer for 13 years. Unfortunately, the college she attended didn't offer cheer. While working as a nanny, she taught the youngsters everything she knew. One made the elite team and, when Clemons took her to practice, she hooked up with the coach and became an assistant. Last year, she was given her own team.

"I've only been doing this two years, and the first year they brought back the national title,"

she said.

The team has one "all kinds of fundraising" to finance to cover the expenses of going to nationals, including a bake sale during the recent Westland Summer Festival. She estimates that the trip, including hotel, meals, uniforms and accessories, costs about \$500-\$600 per member.

The team will compete at 5:50 p.m. Saturday, performing a three-minute routine. Clemons said the competition will be "extremely tough" this year and while she would like the team to take first, she wants them to have fun.

"First place isn't our top priority. I want them to be proud of what they can do," she said. "I want them to be proud of what they've done."

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## General Motors buyout offer still causing consternation

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

Over the last few weeks, I've held numerous meetings with existing clients and new clients, regarding the General Motors buyout. What has become clear is that there's still a lot of confusion over the General Motors offer. I thought I would take this time to clear up some of the misconceptions.

The first misconception is that General Motors is trying to take advantage of its retirees. I do not believe that is the case. I've looked at how General Motors has one the calculations with regards to the lump-sum buy-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

out and although it is not generous, it is certainly fair.

When General Motors offered employees buyouts in the past, some of those offers were very generous and it was almost a no-brainer for most of those people to accept the offer. Currently, that is not the case. There is no one right answer that applies to everyone.

Your individual situation is the key which gov-

erns this decision. People who accept the lump-sum buyout should recognize that they are receiving a fair offer for their pension.

A number of people believe that if they do not accept the buyout, somewhere down the line their pension will dry up. I see no evidence of this. For those who decide to retain their pension, the main difference will be that Prudential will manage. Prudential is a very good company and is financially strong. At this point, I see no evidence that Prudential will not be able to meet all of its obligations to General Motors pensioners. Therefore, I believe the

people who think they should take the lump sum because they feel their pension will dry up down the road are wrong. Of course, under the new pension, that amount will not be covered by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.

There has also been some confusion with regards to the tax consequences if you accept the lump-sum buyout. In that regard, if the money is directly transferred into a traditional IRA, there are no tax consequences. However, you cannot have the money directly transferred into a Roth IRA without tax consequences. If you transfer your lump-sum distribu-

tion into a Roth IRA, that money becomes immediately taxable to you. It would only be in a very rare case that anyone would want their lump-sum distribution directly transferred into a Roth IRA. The preferred method would be to transfer it into a traditional IRA and then later do a Roth conversion.

My view is you wouldn't want to do a Roth conversion in one year. You would spread it out over a number of years. The key point to keep is that if you have the money from the lump sum directly transferred into a traditional IRA, that transaction alone does not have any tax

implications.

In analyzing whether to accept the buyout or one of the other options, the key is to focus on your individual situation. What is good for your neighbor or best friend is not necessarily what is good for you. Yes, this is a financial decision. However, what allows you to sleep at night is also an extremely important factor.

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his website at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

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Underneath all that mud is Megan Blair of Westland.



John Melady and daughter Chloe, 5, of Livonia, head for the showers.



Wayne County Special Operations Team members Chris Mason and Phil Hall hose down muddy kids and parts, the first step of cleaning up. There also are portable showers for the more fastidious.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### MUD DAY

Continued from page A1

who said it felt "really good" to be King Mud. "It's the best ever being king," he said, pausing to take off his crown and dump the mound of mud on top of his head. "He was like, 'I want to win,'" said his father, Dan. "I tried to give him mud shoulder pads but they kept sliding off." "Where else can you play in the mud and not get in trouble," Daniel's mother, Jeanette, added. It was hard to say who had more fun as more than 1,000 adults and children flocked to the annual event held in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland. Toddlers to teens to grandparents went into the pit, created with thousands of bags of dirt mixed with a healthy dose of water. This was the second year Denise Shene of West Bloomfield brought her daughter Bridget to Mud Day. The 5-year-old wasn't into it last year, but this year was a different story, according to her mother. "I was going to be an observer until she splashed me, and I don't have other clothes," said the mud-soaked Shene.

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase, contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com for more information.



Ben Rojewski, 11, of Livonia, lays in the mud as his sister Sarah, 13, pours a little more mud on his head.

Michael Kirk of Northville didn't care that he was muddy because "dads have to have fun, too," he said. "I wanted to come," he said. "It's our first time coming, it just sounded like a whole lot of fun. I saw it on YouTube and it looked like fun. Only two out of the six kids are scared." Sam Gad didn't want anything to do with the mud, but his twin sister Hannah was more than willing to take the plunge, said their mother Amanda of Canton. "I grew up in Westland,

and I never knew about this," she said. Peggy Egan of Livonia was admittedly muddier than the kids. Another first timer, she was there with son Liam, her sister, Pamela Bar of Virginia Beach, Va., and Bar's seven children. "We have a mud run on the beach, it's like an obstacle course, but nothing like this," said Bar. "It was fun. I lived here for five years and have been away for 20. It would have been nice as a kid to have come. I'm glad my kids could do it." Betty Scofield was man-



Possible candidate for "Best Grandpa In the World," Don Myatt of Farmington Hill, gets into the mud with grandkids Joey and Charlotte Huggard.



A mom who's not afraid of a little mud. Sarah Richards and son Benjamin Johns, 2, of River Rouge enjoy the mud.

aging to keep herself clean. The Livonia resident was there with her great-grandchildren. "I think it's hilarious, but you won't catch me in the mud," said Scofield, watching the Western Wayne County HazMat

Team hose down the mud-caked crowd. "I grew up on a farm and had all kinds of mud." But that wasn't the case for grandmother Theresa Rutkowske of Polk City, Fla. She was as muddy as her daughter Jo Ann McBay of Canton and her grandchildren Breanna McBay, 8, and Gabriel McBay, 15. "I'm here on vacation and going home tomorrow," she said. "I think they took me out for a last hurrah. I never heard of anything like this, it's fantastic. I keep telling the kids once I get rid of the mud, I'll be beautiful." "We came last year and had a blast," said her daughter. "We just had to bring her." Barbi Hardoin of Redford had camped out on a spot in the shade at the showers to wait for her daughter.

"I figure she has to come out eventually," he said. "I told her when she was done I'd see her on the other side." She'd been waiting a half hour and there was no sign of her daughter Zoe — "She's still in the mud," she said — and she wasn't concerned about her getting lost. Zoe is 1 years old. "The first time we heard about it was three days ago, and it's been going on 25 years," she said. "I told my daughter we had to come." From veterans to newbies, participants had more than mud in common. They all planned to be back next year. "I like everything Wayne County does," said Jeanette Werling. "We try to do all the vents."

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# Jackson: Set goals and achieve them

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

When Shanelle Jackson looked at Michigan's Democratic congressional delegation, she noticed something missing.

"There is no woman in the delegation. I thought about my experience in the state House," said Jackson, a three-term state representative.



Jackson

"There are good-hearted men in the House. There isn't malice, but there isn't a diverse perspective."

Bringing a female perspective is important, but Jackson also cites her commitment to public service as a factor in deciding to run for the redistricted 13th U.S. House District.

"I always tell people that whatever I do for the rest of my life, it will be service. That doesn't necessarily mean elected (office)," Jackson said.

The new district — which includes part of Detroit, Westland, Garden City, Redford and several Downriver communities — officially doesn't have an incumbent. However, 47-year Rep. John Conyers has shifted from the 14th District into the new 13th District.

"I thought about Conyers and his age (83) with respect, he's not been in the room. I decided to step up," Jackson said. "And I wanted a voice for women at the table. There is a void right now."

While the new 13th District is very diverse, Jackson said there is much more similarity than people may want to acknowledge.

"The district is working-class families," she said. "They are happy if government at some level can be able to help their children with a better living than they have now. The number one issue facing the district at large is poverty. One in seven Wayne County families lives in poverty."

The way out of poverty is jobs, which requires education and retraining, for which she'd work to get federal funding. Residents also need some basic support like reliable public transportation and street lights that work.

"I understand what it's like for mom and dad needing street lights to work and SMART buses to run on time," said Jackson, who was raised by a single mother. "They can't take overtime which would help the family because they don't want their kids walking to school in the dark without street lights. They need to get to work so their livelihood can be better."

In her time as a state representative, Jackson cites bills she sponsored that were enacted to require mortgage companies to work with homeowners to modify loans before foreclosing — the first such law in the country — and requiring that mortgage officers be licensed.

Getting laws enacted is something lacking in opponents Conyers and state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, she said. "From a legislative per-

**13th Congressional District**

**ELECTION 2012**

**SHANELLE JACKSON**

**Age:** 32  
**Home:** Detroit  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, master's degree in social justice from Marygrove College in Detroit.  
**Work:** Completing third term in the Michigan House, serves on the House Appropriations Committee.  
**Other:** Co-founder of the Empowerment Fund, an organization that works with youth and serves as a tutor; member of executive board of the Detroit branch of the NAACP; Michigan Business and Professional Association and Michigan Food and Beverage Association 2011 first ever Distinguished Leadership Award; Marygrove College, 2011 Alumnae of the Year award; Michigan Chronicle 2011 Women of Excellence Award.

pective, there hasn't been much legislation moved or policy set by Conyers in the last 10 years," Jackson said. "Since Anderson has been in office, he has had an inability to cross the aisle to find support. I've had 14 or 15 laws passed with bipartisan support."

If elected to Congress, Jackson said she'd work hard to get programs and legislation that would benefit the state and, more specifically, her district. She said she sets goals and works to achieve them.

"There is no one from Michigan on the (U.S. House) appropriations committee. There is no one in the room to help us bring dollars back to Michigan and Wayne County," she said. "I can point to the kind of person I am. Serving in Congress isn't my life's goal. There are things I want to get accomplished for Wayne County and Michigan."

As member of Congress, Jackson said she will provide the common sense leadership needed to help reach a consensus and move legislation forward.

"I could be doing anything right now. I'm not being arrogant. I'm proud of my master's degree and I've had some law school," she said. "I have friends who have left the state. I love Michigan, I love Detroit, I love this area. If everyone does a bit more to help, in 10 to 15 years this (economic crisis) will be a distant memory."

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# Knezek: Wants to deliver resources to district

By Sue Buck  
Observer Staff Writer

Lifelong Dearborn Heights resident and Iraq War veteran David Knezek is a Democratic candidate for state representative in the new 11th District.



"It has been incredibly gratifying to see how my message of leadership, courage, and integrity is resonating with our state and local elected leaders," said Knezek, who has a large list of endorsements. "I believe that I have great leadership qualities and an undeniable work ethic." Knezek wants to be a "tireless advocate" for his constituency and said that he will be accountable.

In 2006, Knezek enlisted for six years of service in the United States Marine Corps. He decided to experience the world rather than just reading about it in college classes. Between 2007 and 2010, he served two tours of duty in Iraq as a mem-

**11th State Representative District**

The 11th District includes Garden City, Inkster and portions of Livonia, Westland and Dearborn Heights.

**ELECTION 2012**

ber of a Scout Sniper Platoon. He now serves as a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves. Using the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Knezek returned to the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2010 to complete his degree. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in political science in April. He served as president of the 9,000-member student body and was recently profiled in the univer-

sity's Fall 2011 Legacy Magazine as a "leader of tomorrow."

In addition to his service in the Marines and at the university, Knezek is a substitute teacher in Wayne County.

He believes that his home community of Dearborn Heights has been overlooked by Lansing in the past. He plans to use his leadership experience to deliver necessary resources to the communities of Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Westland and Livonia.

"Throughout my service as a U.S. Marine, education, and university leader, I have never shied away from doing whatever it took to get the job done for my country and my community," he said.

A major focus of Knezek's campaign is turning around the state's economy and putting Michigan workers back on the job.

According to Knezek, Michigan's economic woes are not the result of high business taxes or burdensome regulations, but decreasing consumer demand. Over the past two years, rather than invest in construction

## DAVID KNEZEK

**Age:** 25  
**Home:** Dearborn Heights  
**Employment:** Professional Educational Services Group  
**Family:** Single  
**Education:** Graduate of Crestwood High School and University of Michigan-Dearborn  
**Community Involvement:** Substitute teacher in Wayne County, member of Dearborn Heights Democratic Club.

and infrastructure projects that would have created paychecks for Michigan workers, state government officials opted instead for \$1.8 billion in tax giveaways to big business, he said. If elected, Knezek pledges to introduce a package of bills to tie state tax assistance for businesses to demonstrated job creation.

As a substitute teacher, Knezek said he brings an inside perspective to the issue of education.

He especially enjoys working with middle school students. "Those kids are cool,"

Knezek said. He advocates for a fundamental shift in the way Michigan approaches public education, and he would begin by taking control of the Michigan School Aid Fund out of politicians' and lobbyists' hands. For K-12, he said he would work to increase dual enrollment and access to vocational schools in order to better prepare Michigan students for the state's current employment opportunities.

Reforming education would also require a renewed emphasis on teacher training, he said. "The backbone of any great classroom is an educated, motivated and prepared teacher," he said.

For higher education, Knezek would use his experience as the UM-D Student Government president to continue to work with universities to keep college tuition affordable and stop the "brain drain" of Michigan college graduates leaving the state.

"Education is my passion," he said. He is also a strong supporter of early childhood

legislation. "A high quality education starts with a highly qualified teacher in front of the classroom," Knezek said. "I want the best and the brightest in front of the classroom so we can train the best and the brightest in K-12."

Senior citizen issues are also important to him. He is committed to repealing the recently passed pension tax. According to reports, the tax forces seniors to pay an average of \$1,400 more each year in taxes, he said.

"We have talked to more than 4,500 residents," he said. Jobs and the economy are key and "priority number one," according to Knezek.

"Nobody wants to take big steps to put Michigan back on track," he said. "Consumers drive the economy but they can't do anything if they don't have money in their pockets."

"We have to have teamwork in Lansing," he added.

sbuck@hometownlife.com  
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# Hoekstra: 'Put people back to work'

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

To his way of thinking, Pete Hoekstra thinks President Barack Obama is steering the U.S. down the wrong road in nearly every area, and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow is riding shotgun.

That's why the Holland Republican, who served in the House of Representatives from 1993-2010, is running in a four-way battle in the August primary for the right to

challenge Stabenow. He faces Clark Durant, Randy Heckman and Gary Glenn.

One of the keys to getting the country back on the right track, Hoekstra stressed Tuesday on a trip through Plymouth, is creating jobs.

"You need to put people back to work," Hoekstra said after visiting Sealant Equipment & Engineering, Inc., in Plymouth Township. "The stimulus didn't work, and Washington is block-

ing (job growth) right now, and the president is leading it. You have tremendous uncertainty in Washington now. Businesses see that and say, 'We're just going to sit on the sideline.'"

That was, at least in part, part of the message Hoekstra heard when he toured Sealant Equipment. Hoekstra toured the manufacturing facility, met with workers and listened to questions and answers during a brief visit.

## Reaching out

Nick Schultz, Sealant Equipment's president, said he was glad to see Hoekstra reaching out to the business community.

"I thought it was a good visit," Schultz said. "He saw we are a legitimate company that manufactures things sent around the world. We actually make things here."

Hoekstra said to accomplish economic growth, the country needs "to go back to the basic fundamentals we had when a Republican Congress worked with a Democratic president" to produce a balanced budget in the mid- to late 1990s: reform tax policy and reform entitlements.

Hoekstra said he thinks Gov. Rick Snyder is on the right track in Michigan, and he wants to be "a partner in Washington" that helps move the state forward.

"Too often, (Snyder) is running into barriers (in Washington) to getting the state moving," Hoekstra said. "(Snyder) wants less government intervention. I'm all for that. I'd rather put power in the hands of the people and not in the hands of Washington bureaucrats."

Schultz said Hoekstra is "able to understand" the expenses and pressures small businesses face. Schultz said "taxes are a burden, and the ramifications and the unknowns of Washington weighs heav-

ily," particularly on small businesses.

## Better understanding

"I think he understands there are certain forces that weigh heavily on our businesses as far as being profitable," Schultz said. "If jobs are priority one, we need to be a healthy entity so we can employ more people, and government regulations and the intrusiveness into the operating of any company ... (Hoekstra) understands that a little bit better, because he got it first-hand by coming out and meeting the people."

On other issues, Hoekstra believes:

- The Affordable Care Act, dubbed "Obamacare," needs to be repealed. While disagreeing with the Supreme Court's ruling, he said Chief Justice John Roberts got it right by calling it a matter of policy.

- Policy is one of the reasons we have elections," Hoekstra said. "Obamacare is now a key part of the November elections."

- Hoekstra has posted seven basic policies he believes could be the start of a solution to replacing Obamacare with an affordable, accessible substitute.

- "It's not the end-all list, but if you do something with them, it'll drive us toward affordability and accessibility," he said.
- Gridlock, he said, is



U.S. Senate hopeful Pete Hoekstra talks with James Britcher, technical service manager at Sealant Equipment & Engineering, during Hoekstra's tour Tuesday.

worse than ever in Washington, with both sides paralyzed by partisan bickering. He said the inability to get much done is driving business people "crazy."

"The uncertainty with taxes and health care ... (people) say, 'Get this done. We're ready to invest, we think we can compete globally,'" Hoekstra said. "They may not like what's coming, but if they at least know what it is, they can deal with it."

- President Obama's foreign policy has made the U.S. "more vulnerable," particularly in the Middle East. He said Obama has embraced policies as president — such as a military surge in Afghanistan — he criticized as a senator.

- "The Middle East is scary," Hoekstra said. "It's hard to quantify whether we're safer. I won't say as a country we're not safe, but the threats are very real. I think we're a country that's still vulnerable."

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## WSU Med School honors Oakwood-Westland Center



Dr. Scott Yaekle has received the Aesculapian Staff Award from the Wayne State University School of Medicine for his efforts to educate new doctors.

The Oakwood Healthcare Center-Westland has been recognized as one of the best places to learn and gain experience in family medicine.

The Wayne State University School of Medicine honored the facility with the Wayne State School of Medicine Family Medicine Clinical Campus Award for 2011-2012. It's the first time the university has given out the award.

"This tells a story of how students learn about more than just the scientific aspects of healthcare at Oakwood, but they learn how to treat patients with compassion, care and excel-

lence," said Dr. Mark Hannis, senior vice president and director of medical education for Oakwood Healthcare Inc. "This speaks to the ability of our faculty physicians, residents, nurses, and office staff to show care and compassion for their patients, while teaching at a very high level."

In their third year of medical education, WSU students are assigned to sites across southeastern Michigan. Between 40-60 students rotate at Oakwood from WSU during their third year alone and all of them come through the OHC-Westland site on a month-to-month basis. The

students selected the Oakwood Healthcare Center—Westland above clinical campuses sponsored by Beaumont, Henry Ford and other health systems.

"We are honored to receive such an award," said Dr. Scott Yaekle, one of the primary physicians at the Westland clinic. "We are proud to know that the students appreciate our high levels of teaching enough to recognize us in this way."

Yaekle was also recognized with the Aesculapian Staff Award for his efforts to educate new doctors. Named after the Greek god of health, the award is a type of lifetime achieve-

ment award presented to doctors whose teaching has significantly impact his or her students.

Yaekle, a family medicine doctor, who has been involved with teaching young doctors virtually since he graduated from the Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1992, certainly fits the bill, said Dr. Karen Weaver, director of the family practice at the Oakwood Healthcare Center—Westland.

"He's there every step of the way for them," she said. "He really mentors and models what patient care is, and what the patient relationship should be for these

medical students." Yaekle, who called his job "the greatest in the world," said he was humbled by the award.

"I couldn't think of any greater honor than to be recognized and appreciated in this manner by these bright young people I get the great opportunity to work with every day," he said.

The Oakwood Healthcare Center—Westland is located at 2001 S. Merriam Road. It has a staff of six physicians who specialize in family medicine and OB/GYN. To schedule an appointment, call (800) 543-WELL.

## Big Taste Grill makes stop at art fair

America's No. 1 sausage brand, Johnsonville Sausage, is bringing big taste to Plymouth Art in the Park with the great flavor of Johnsonville Brats.

The Johnsonville Big Taste Grill—the world's largest touring grill—will be rolling into town on Friday, July 13, firing up the grill. The semi-truck-sized grill weighs in at 53,000 pounds and measures 65 feet long, 20 feet high and 6 feet in diameter. It has the ability to hold up to 10 grillers, preparing 750 brats at a time—that's 2,500 brats an hour.

Event-goers will have the opportunity to enjoy a Johnsonville Brats, fresh off the Big Taste Grill, as well as make a donation to Bridgepointe,



The Johnsonville Big Taste Grill, the world's largest touring grill, has the ability to hold up to 10 grillers, preparing 750 brats at a time.

which is a non-profit charitable organization, whose mission is to bring together school children from city and suburb. For more information, visit [www.bridgepointenonprofit.org/](http://www.bridgepointenonprofit.org/). The Johnsonville Big

Taste Grill has a history of helping communities like Plymouth. Since it was first introduced in 1995, as part of Johnsonville Sausage's 50th anniversary celebration, the Big Taste Grill has helped raise more than \$3 million for charita-

ble groups and organizations throughout North America.

The Big Taste Grill travels year-round throughout North America, grilling brats and helping raise money for deserving organizations. In addition to countless

local events including state fairs, community festivals and air shows, the grills have also appeared at a number of major events, including several Super Bowls, the Daytona 500, the Kentucky Derby, the Pentagon and more.

"The Big Taste Grill is a great tool that gives Johnsonville another way to support the communities where we do business," said Ryan Pociask, Johnsonville senior brand manager. "We know Johnsonville Brats are a favorite among consumers, and we're glad they're also a great way we can help raise money for local organizations."

The Johnsonville Big Taste Grill will be located on Penniman across from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. It'll be open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the Johnsonville Big Taste Grill, visit [www.johnsonville.com/bigtastegrill](http://www.johnsonville.com/bigtastegrill).

### BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

#### Shared Savings participants

The Oakwood Accountable Care Organization and SEMAC (Southeast Michigan Affordable Care) announced Monday that they have been selected to participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) Accountable Care Organization (ACO), a multifaceted new program sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Through the Shared Savings Program, Oakwood ACO and SEMAC will work with CMS to provide Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries with high quality service and care, while reducing the growth in Medicare expenditures through enhanced care coordination.

For more information

about the Shared Savings Program, visit the CMS ACO website at [www.medicare.gov/acos.html](http://www.medicare.gov/acos.html).

#### Holiday submissions

Taste of Home magazine is looking for an official Holiday Ambassador who love cooking, decorating and entertaining, and who take celebrating the holidays to a whole new level.

The woman selected as "Mrs. Holiday" will receive \$50,000 and a spokesperson role with Taste of Home. Once crowned, Mrs. Holiday will have the opportunity to conduct interviews, participate in cooking segments and blog, as well as make appearances across the country at retailers and some of the more than 300 Taste of Home cooking schools.

Between now and Sept.

7, women age 18 and older are invited to log on to [Facebook.com/TasteofHome](http://Facebook.com/TasteofHome) to upload a short video and signature recipe that demonstrates how they bring the holidays to life for their family and friends.

Mrs. Holiday candidates can submit videos for Independence Day, New Years, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The winner will be selected from the top 100 entries that receive the most votes from the public, so every vote counts. One Mrs. Holiday Winner and 10 Holiday Standouts, will be selected by a combination of user voting and judging by a skilled panel of judges. In addition, one popular choice winner will be selected purely by popular vote.

### WESTLAND CHAMBER CHAT

Mark your calendar. The second annual of Blues, Brews and Barbecue has been expanded to two days - Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15-16 - on the grounds of Westland City Hall grounds at 36601 Ford. Making a special appearance is hometown country music sensation and *American Idol* finalist Josh Gracin at 7 p.m. Saturday.

And businesses can sign up now to be sponsor. A 2012 Sponsorship commitment form can be found on the event website at [www.cityofwestland.com/blues-brewsbbq](http://www.cityofwestland.com/blues-brewsbbq).

Sponsorship levels are \$20,000 for Most Wanted, \$10,000 for Chuck Wagon,

Classic Car Corral, Saloon and Songbird, \$5,000 for Sheriff, \$2,500 for Deputy, \$1,000 for Outlaw and \$500 for Cowboy. The sponsorships include a bill board ad, naming rights to 2013, VIP parking logo banner on main stage or car show, name mentioned on radio ads, VIP guest passes, VIP goodie bags, local cable exposure, name/logo on table tents and/or volunteer T-shirts, expo space, logo/mention on social networking and logo or

name on event web page with link, print promotions and on stage recognition, depending on level of sponsorship.

Sponsorships are limited so be sure to send your form back today. Call Lori Fodale at (734) 467-3264 or the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222 for additional information.

Brookellen Swope executive director Westland Chamber of Commerce

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## OUR VIEWS

### Library millage

#### Yes vote will restore staff and services

Eight months ago, the Westland Library Board was considering a 6,000-square-foot addition to the east side of the William P. Faust Public Library. Now the board is focusing on voter approval of a .99-mill tax request that's on the Aug. 7 primary ballot.

It is truly a reversal of fortune, but a very clear indication of the problems created by the state's economic woes and declining property values. Five years ago, the existing library tax generated some \$2.5 million, today, it brings in a little over \$1.5 million. The 2012-13 library budget is \$983,000 with funding from .87-mill, which is down from one mill due to the Headlee Amendment rollbacks.

The revenue shortfall has forced the library to lay off almost one-third of its employees, reduce its hours and cut programs and spending. Even the purchase of new books has been affected, down by more than one-third over the last five years.

According to board President Mark Neal, the library is at a "breaking point." The existing fund isn't enough to support the library and going lower will provide residents with "something different" than the library as it now exists. And if additional funding aren't obtained, further reductions in hours, staffing, programming and collection would be necessary in future year.

Westland residents spent many years fighting for a library for the city. When it opened 15 years ago, it was the toast of the town, a crown jewel that everyone was proud to call theirs. Over the years it has gone beyond being a source of books and periodicals, it has become a cultural hub, bringing in people for everything from movies and concerts to computer craft and exercise classes and special exhibits.

Those are things we believe are important to a community, and obviously the patrons - 900 to 1,600 a day - think so, too. The .99-mill being sought on Aug. 7 would generate about \$1.3 million the first year. Based on an average home valued at \$58,600, it would cost the homeowner \$24.75 annually or about 48 cents a week.

There's not much you can buy these days for 48 cents, but it could put a lot of information and services within the reach of all Westland residents.

There are several tax requests on the primary election ballot, but this is one Westland voters need to get behind. A library is an important asset and having one can attract people to the community. The cost will be small, but the rewards will be huge.

Westland needs its library more now than ever. That's why we recommend that Westland voters say YES to the .99 mill library tax request on Tuesday, Aug. 7. Do it for yourself, do it for the community.

### Thanks for keeping people cool

We'd like to send a shout out to Westland city officials who were proactive in dealing with last week's heat wave.

Late Tuesday afternoon the city announced that it was opening three cooling centers on Thursday and Friday in the light of predictions of temperatures at or near 100 degrees with heat indices even higher. The announcement allowed the word to get out to residents without air conditioning or those who lost power due to severe storms that swept through early Thursday morning that there was some place to go to keep cool.

The announcement came on the eve of the Fourth of July holiday. When most people were thinking about picnics and fireworks, Westland city officials were thinking about residents.

People may not have flocked to the cooling centers, but the fact that they were open is important. It shows that Westland cares and wants its residents to be safe. For that, we have to say thank you.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What did you do to survive the recent heat wave?

We asked this question at the Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"I did nothing. I sat in here with these guys and stayed cool."

**Brian Ferris**  
Northville



"I stayed indoors, except for this morning when the power went out."

**Ray Beghein**  
Englewood, Fla.



"I stayed in the house or went to the mall or the movies ... anywhere there's air-conditioning."

**Donna Bartanen**  
Garden City



"I went swimming. I have a pool, but I also went to other people's pools."

**Nikki Tolentino**  
Westland

## LETTERS

### Protect kids from toxic chemicals

I am a Dominican Sister of Adrian, and I have been working with people in Detroit for more than 25 years. I have a special kinship with Detroiters living in poverty who are trying to create a better life for themselves and their children. I currently serve as director of The Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

I have worked with many children over the years, and one young man will always hold a special place in my heart and memories. Roosevelt had an exceptional interest and skill in gardening, and he worked very hard to create a beautiful garden at the soup kitchen despite his asthma symptoms. Unfortunately, one severe attack took Roosevelt's life at age 14.

Asthma is common in children in Detroit. According to the Asthma Initiative of Michigan (AIM), the asthma prevalence rate for children in Detroit is 29 percent, three times higher than the national average. Asthma is the leading chronic condition causing school absenteeism and also the leading cause of preventable hospitalizations for children under 18 in Detroit.

Asthma is linked to air pollutants, some of which are caused by products in our homes. For example, a class of chemicals called phthalates, commonly found in children's toys, like rubber ducks, shower curtains, vinyl flooring, other bendable plastics and personal care products in the home are directly associated with asthma. These and many other chemicals that harm children are supposed to be monitored by the 1976 law, the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA).

Unfortunately phthalates and lead, mercury and BPA are still found in canned food, toys and baby bottles, and are often sold in dollar stores and second-hand stores. Reforming the 36-year-old Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA), which regulates industrial chemicals in our everyday lives, is a key way we can improve the health of the most vulnerable residents in Michigan, including low-income communities and children.

Chemicals are part of our everyday lives. We come in contact with them everywhere: in our homes, schools, churches, in our food, personal care products, tools, appliances, furniture and toys. There are now more than 84,000 chemicals in commerce, but TSCA misses many toxic chemicals found in a variety of products that are handled every day. Only 200 chemicals have been tested for safety, a number that can be increased, if TSCA is strengthened.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com

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**Fax:** (313) 223-3318

**E-mail:** smason@hometownlife.com

**Blog:** You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

**Deadline:** Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

**Elections:** We will not publish any political letters that raise new issues in the last edition before the election.

Our loving God provided us with the air, water and land we need to survive and thrive. We honor God's creation by protecting the air, water, land and our own bodies from toxic chemicals. We need to urge government agencies to inform people about the chemicals in our products. Manufacturers need to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. All this can happen if we strengthen TSCA.

The children in the Rosa Parks Children and Youth Center have created a beautiful garden, where they grow nutritious food and beautiful plants. We adults have the responsibility to protect all children from toxic chemicals in all of their environments, by removing toxic chemicals from the products they use.

**Sister Nancyann Turner**  
Dominican Sister of Adrian

### Insurance companies to blame

I was reading your article on Obamacare.

This is where the quote "you have to walk a mile in another man's shoes" comes into play

My son has Michigan Works medical insurance, which not many doctors take and the ones that do seem to be below par.

My grandson was having a problem with a tooth and the dentist wanted to do a root canal on 6-year-old. I told my son no way, take him to our family dentist and see what he has to say. My dentist just filled the tooth and I set up with our dentist to see my grandchildren and to charge us for it. Guess how much that cost?

We are in our late 60s and the money we save to spend on us is now being used for medical expenses for my grandchildren and my son.

May I suggest the following changes? I think the state can put a bill through for the following: All the doctors and

dentist must take all insurance and welfare insurance; however, the insurance companies must reimburse them the fair market value of their service.

As I see it, the government is being blamed for problems with medical coverage where the blame should be placed on the insurance companies and the drug companies for the high cost of medication.

There does not seem to be any government control on what they can and cannot charge people.

Every company has the right to have a big profit but not at the cost of people's health.

Do the lobbyists have so much control over medical and drugs that they are calling all the shots? If that's so, that is very, very wrong.

**Deanna DeMassa**  
Livonia

### Paying more, using less

In the interest of conserving energy, we've been educated and advised to invest in "Energy Star" labeled appliances. Likewise, when we consider a furnace, "High Efficiency" models are recommended, again, to lower our energy consumption.

We're lowering the temperature of the water in our water heaters. We're increasing the "R value" of our insulation and caulking all the little gaps that leak heat out of our homes. Not only are new and replacement windows manufactured with increased insulating quality, they're now tinted in a variety of colors and strengths to limit the heat of the summer sun. When we're away from home or sleeping, programmable thermostats save on the energy used to heat and cool our homes. Even our light bulbs have changed.

When we want to make changes or when it's necessary, and when we have the means, we're doing all we can to curb our consumption of "energy." It's working. We're using less.

It's no surprise that now, as a result of our efforts, our energy provider is experiencing a reduction in their profits, and they're not happy. They apparently have the same overhead and need to continue receiving the same revenue.

Has our energy provider been able to or considered downsizing? Have they looked into ways to become more efficient themselves, as we consumers have? Maybe not. Consumers Energy has taken the least complicated and simplest measure to insure their continued "profits." They've decided to raise our rates for the energy we're striving so hard to use less of.

In conclusion, our reward for being responsible consumers is to pay more for using less.

**Alice Dinan-Thimm**  
Birmingham

**WESTLAND**  
**OBSERVER**  
A GANNETT COMPANY

**Sue Mason,**  
Community Editor  
**Susan Rosiek,**  
Executive Editor

**Grace Perry,**  
Director of  
Advertising

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

Upcoming Events

WIDOWED FRIENDS

**Time/date:** 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 15  
**Location:** St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty Road in Plymouth  
**Details:** Widowed men and women are invited to celebrate Mass followed by fellowship and refreshments at St. Kenneth Church. Join us in a safe and friendly setting.  
**Contact:** For information regarding Mass, call Pat at (734) 895-6246.

MOM TO MOM SALE

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 28  
**Location:** Willow Creek Preschool, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland.  
**Details:** Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is holding a Mom 2 Mom sale and an open house. The preschool is currently enrolling for their Tot to Toddler class, 3-year class and 4-year class for the 2012-2013 school year. Contact: For more information, call (734) 326-0078 or visit the website at www.willowcreekpreschool.com

GOLF OUTING

**Time/Date:** 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12  
**Location:** Fox Hills Golf Club, 8768 North Territorial Road in Plymouth Township  
**Details:** The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Metro chapter will have two golf courses - the Strategic Fox or the Golden Fox - open for its annual skins and pins golf outing. It includes 18 holes with a cart, a gift bag for all golfers, closest to the pin on every hole, a hole in one contest to win a two-year lease on a new car, brunch in the Golden Fox Clubhouse immediately after golf, \$25 Skins on every hole and special contest holes. For those that are not golfers, but want to join in on the fun and have chances for the prizes, sign up for the brunch.  
**Contact:** For more information, call Tony Mitchell at (313) 550-2117, Vince Toia at (734) 455-2630, NAMI Metro at (248) 348-7197 or go online to www.skinsandpins.org.

CRAFTERS WANTED

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29  
**Location:** St. Mel's Church, 7506 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights  
**Details:** St. Mel's Women's Club is looking for crafters for its craft fair. More than 50 eight-foot tables available. They cost \$25 each. A table with electricity is \$30. Helpers provided.  
**Contact:** Call St. Mel's Church at (313) 274-0684 or send an e-mail to stmelcraftfair@yahoo.com for applications.  
**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13  
**Location:** Perrinville Early Childhood Center, 28201 Lyndon, Livonia  
**Details:** Crafters and vendors are wanted for the Perrinville Early Childhood Center fall craft show.  
**Contact:** Tami at holidaycraftfair@yahoo.com or Brenda at wjob2010@yahoo.com.

VOLUNTEERS

**FIRST STEP**  
**Details:** First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.  
**Contact:** (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

**VNA HOSPICE**  
**Details:** Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice



Wish You Were Here

The Mysterious Morph Men, also known as Tysean and Biggy, Class of 2013, chose a bench in downtown Garden City to say Wish You Were Here. Theirs wasn't quite a vacation photo, but if you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to her attention at 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.  
**Contact:** (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

SEASONS HOSPICE

**Details:** Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community.  
**Contact:** (800) 370-8592

LITERACY COUNCIL

**Details:** The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area.  
**Contact:** (734) 416-4906

HEARTLAND HOSPICE

**Details:** Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light house-keeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services.  
**Contact:** (888) 973-1145

**SUPPORT GROUP**  
**Time/date:** 7-8:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month  
**Location:** American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland  
**Details:** Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance is sponsoring a support group that provides support and guidance for families caring for an older person.  
**Contact:** Chris Goldberg at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm meeting, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. third Thursday of the month  
**Location:** American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland  
**Details:** - Westland  
**Details:** A support & education group for family caregivers is available for residents of southern and western Wayne County. The group, for people who are caring for family members 60 and older, or who are 60 years and older themselves, is offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.  
**Contact:** Call Helen Streett at (734) 629-5004 to confirm time and date, if attending for the first time.

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. second Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** Lower level Classroom 2 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road,

Garden City

**Details:** Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join the free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns.  
**Contact:** Call (734) 58-4330 for more information.

For Your Health

W-W NAMI

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month  
**Location:** St. Johns Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** The Wayne-Westland affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness

(NAMI) provides support and information for individuals and families dealing with mental illness.

SAFE PLACE

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. Thursdays  
**Location:** Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.  
**Details:** A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.  
**Contact:** Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

ADULT DAY SERVICES

**Time/Date:** 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays  
**Location:** 570 S. Main St., Plymouth MI  
**Detail:** A structured week-day alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals  
**Contact:** Laurie Krause at laurie.lifecareads@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

METRO FIBROMYALGIA

**Time/date:** 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month  
**Location:** Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City  
**Details:** The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.

**Contact:** Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

MENOPAUSE & MORE

**Time/date:** 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month  
**Location:** Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.  
**Contact:** (734) 655-1100

TOUGHLOVE

**Time/date:** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays  
**Location:** Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.  
**Details:** Support group, newcomers welcome.  
**Contact:** (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

LIFECARE

**Time/Date:** 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday  
**Location:** 570 S. Main St., Plymouth  
**Details:** LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.  
**Contact:** Lillian Easterly-Smith at info.lifecarecc@gmail.com or (734) 956-2109  
**Location:** Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
 STATE AND FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION  
 August 7, 2012**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that a State and Federal Primary Election will be held in the City of Westland on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time a select State and Federal offices will be voted upon; a millage question for the William P. Faust Public Library which shall read as follows: Shall the City of Westland levy new additional millage of .99 mill against all taxable real and tangible personal property for a 10 year period beginning with tax year 2012 and ending with tax year 2021, for the William P. Faust Public Library, for the purpose of providing funds for all Library purposes authorized by law? 0.99 mill are equal to \$0.99 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value. If approved, the additional millage levied will raise approximately \$1.35 million the first year it is levied. The millage will be levied on the Annual Winter Tax Bill. YES or NO; a millage question for residents in Precinct 31 residing in the Garden City Public School system which shall read as follows: Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 19.8320 mills (\$19.8320 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in the School District of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan be renewed for a period of 6 years, 2013 to 2018, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2013 is approximately \$2,600,000 (this is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2012 tax levy)? YES or NO; a Wayne County Jail millage question which shall read as follows: To renew the millage authorized in 2002, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the 2011 rollback rate of .9381 mills (about 94 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2012 through 2021) for any of the following previously authorized uses: To acquire, construct, and/or operate jail, misdemeanor, or juvenile incarceration or detention facilities, and for adult penalty options such as work release, home detention and community restitution, with at least one-tenth of the millage used to acquire, build and operate a juvenile offender work/training institution? This renewal is estimated to generate at least \$8,859,493 in property tax revenue in 2012. YES or NO and a Tri-County Detroit Institute of Arts millage question which shall read as follows: The Wayne County Art Institute Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 296 of 2010 and formed to allow for continuing support of art institute services for students, residents and visitors of Wayne County. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax or not more than 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real and personal property to provide revenue to an art institute service provider for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing art institute services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.2 mill on all of the taxable property located within the County be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2012 through 2021? It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage would generate approximately \$8,284,722 in 2012. YES or NO

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964  
 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of January 10, 2012 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Wayne County Wayne County, Michigan	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years In Effective
Taxing Authorities	12-2-2010	1 mill	2015
County of Wayne	8-6-2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Jail	11-2-2010	0.25 mill	2015
Wayne County Parks	11-6-2009	1.25 mills	2020
Wayne County Comm. Coll.	6-2002	18 mills	2012 (non-homestead)
Garden City Schools	8-2011	2 mills	2015
Garden City Schools	May, 2006	21 mills	2015 (non-homestead)
Inkster Schools	May, 2006	6 mills	2015
Inkster Schools	11-2009	18.4568 mills	2015 (non-homestead)
Livonia Schools	11-2009	1.12 mills	2014
Livonia Schools	Jan. 2008	18 mills	2013 (non-homestead)
Taylor Schools	May, 2010	18 mills	2025 (non-homestead)
Wayne-Westland Schools	2-2012	.9922 mills	2022
Wayne-Westland Schools	Operating	0.1 mill	2017
Detroit Zoological Park	Operating	6.4834 mills	
City of Westland	Pol. & Fire Ret.	4.50 mills	
City of Westland	Act 359	0.0302	
City of Westland	Sanitation	2.0 mills	
City of Westland	Other	6.5302 mills	
City of Westland	Gen. Fund	13.0136 mills	
City of Westland	Library	0.9477 mill	

Raymond Wojtowicz /s/  
Treasurer

The places of voting for the Presidential Primary Election and the Wayne-Westland School District proposal to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, will be as follows:

Precincts	Locations
1, 13, 18 & 19	Schweitzer School, 2601 Treadwell
2, 11, 23 & 32	Elliott School, 30800 Bennington
3 & 7	Stottlemeyer School, 34801 Marquette
4, 5, 8 & 29	Edison School, 34505 Hunter
6, 9 & 10	Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer
12, 25 & 35	Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail
14	Marshall Middle School, 35100 Bayview
15	Greenwood Villa, 7600 Nankin Ct
16	Holliday Park Club House, 34850 Fountain Blvd.
17 & 37	P. D. Graham School, 1255 S. John Hix
20	Wildwood School, 500 N. Wildwood
21 & 42	Johnson School, 8400 Hix
22	Westland Meadows Club House, 30600 Van Born
24	Lutheran High School Westland, 33300 Cowan
26 & 33	Hamilton School, 1031 Schuman
27 & 36	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
28	Church of Christ - Annapolis Park, 30355 Annapolis
30 & 31	Hayes School, 30600 Louise St.
34 & 38	Dyer Social Service Center, Senior Wing - 36745 Marquette
39	Landings Apartment Club House, 7000 Lakeview
40 & 41	Hellenic Cultural Center at St. Constantine Church, 36375 Joy

The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on said day of election. Every qualified elector present and in line at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote. Voting sites are ADA compliant.

Eileen DeHart, CMC  
Westland City Clerk

Publish: July 12, 2012

## Family loses pets in house fire

Garden City firefighters who arrived at a fire in the 31400 block of James found smoke coming from the front of the house.

They received a call about 3:30 p.m. July 5. A resident informed Lt. Scott Marinkovich that everyone was out of the home.

"This was a very important piece of information for us upon arrival," said Garden City Fire Chief Catherine Harman. "It allowed us to establish fire attack tactics immediately."

Automatic Aid departments from Inkster, Westland and Wayne were on their way and Mutual Aid arrived from Dearborn Heights. The fire crews were rotated more frequently in order to monitor for heat exhaustion and keep them hydrated.

"The extreme high heat that day exposed firefighters to further risks."



A candle has found as the cause of a fire in a home on James Street July 5.

she said.

The owner said that she had been burning a candle in the living room. That was determined to be the cause of the fire.

"One occupant sustained minor burns to both hands and there was evidence of possible inhalation burns," Harman said.

This occupant was later

transported to a local hospital for treatment.

The family, however, lost two pets which hid inside the house.

"The fire department will rescue family pets, but this is often challenging due to animals tending to hide," she said. "If fire conditions are such that a simultaneous attack and search cannot be conducted



Firefighters found smoke billowing from the James Street home when they arrived. No one was in the house at the time.

ed the outcome is poor."

The department has had many fires which started because of candles. Haman advises residents to purchase quality candles, use proper holders, and don't leave them unat-

tended.

"Should you discover a small fire, call 911 immediately, get out, and close the door on your way out," she said. "Often people leave windows and doors open to let smoke

out.' This feeds the fire and increases damage to the structure as well as endangering adjoining homes. It also makes the job much more dangerous when we arrive and fight the fire."

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Game Night

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland will hold its monthly game night 6-9 p.m. Thursday, July 12. The center also has euchre and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

For those who like to plan ahead, the center's spaghetti dinners will return on Sept. 28.

### Mom to Mom sale

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is holding a Mom 2 Mom sale and an open house 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 28.

Willow Creek Preschool is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. The preschool is currently enrolling for their Tot to Toddler class, 3-year class and 4-year class for the 2012-2013 school year. For more information, call (734) 326-0078 or visit the website at www.willowcreekpreschool.com

### Christian Concert

St. Michael Lutheran Church and School are hosting a Christian music concert, featuring the Spoke Folk, at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at the church at 3003 Hannan Road Wayne. The concert is free of charge, however, a free will donation

will be accepted.

The church also will hold a free vacation Bible school 5-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Aug. 6-9.

### Rocket Camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual Rocket Camp 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 23-27 in the Wrestling Room of John Glenn High School, on Marquette, west of Wayne Road.

The camp is open to high school students and costs \$100, including a T-shirt. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. Monday, July 23.

There will also be a Youth Camp 4:30-6 p.m. July 25-27 for kindergarten through eighth-grade students in the Wrestling Room. The cost is \$50 and

includes a T-shirt. Registration is at 4 p.m. Monday, July 25.

Registration forms are available at glennwrestling.com. For more information, contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

### Toastmasters

The Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club is now meeting at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford Road, Westland.

Toastmasters is a world leader dedicated to helping people develop their public speaking and leadership skills, in a mutually helpful and friendly atmosphere.

Westland Easytalkers meets 7-8:30 p.m. every

Thursday. For information please call Doug at (248) 417-0195 or Curt at 73 525-8445 or go online to westlandeasytalkers.toastmastersclubs.org/.

### Support groups

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency has formed a new support Caregiving Support Group for those people who care for someone with dementia, Alzheimer's Disease or other chronic conditions.

The group meets 6-7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Village of Westland, 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman.

Wayne Metro also facilitates a Caregiver Support Group on 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday each month at the Kay

Beard Building, 30712 Michigan Ave., in Westland.

Call Nancy Coman at (734) 955-6752 for more information.

### Book sale

There's bargains to be had at the summer book sale in the Friends Shop at the William P. Faust Public Library.

Stock up on hardcover fiction books only with the shop's buy two get one free. Hardcover books are \$1 each, so get three hardcover fictions for just \$2. Also on the sale are audio books on cassettes for 25 cents each.

The sale doesn't include hardcover biographies, nonfiction and large-print books.

# Meet Michigan! at WESTBORN MARKET

## Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup> 11am - 4pm

**Come sample food & wine from all over Michigan at this FREE event featuring more than 40 great Michigan companies and their products!**

**Live musical entertainment & a petting zoo for the kids on Saturday from 12-3 pm!**

**14925 Middlebelt Road • Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 524-1000**

# SPORTS



DAVE MCCAULEY | BUCKS PHOTO

Salem High grad and Michigan State captain Kevin Cope (far left) spent a week training with the MLS Sporting Kansas City and has been a standout defender this summer from the Premier Development League Michigan Bucks.

## Cope-ing with success

Possible pro career awaits former Salem soccer standout

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer



Cope

Kevin Cope spent a productive week as an apprentice last week in Kansas City.

The Salem High grad and 2008 Michigan Mr. Soccer, now a captain and standout center back for the Michigan State men's soccer team, got an and up-close and personal look at what could be his future life as a professional soccer player with Sporting KC of Major League Soccer.

Cope missed the Michigan Bucks' 5-1 victory Saturday night over the Cincinnati Kings, which locked up the Great Lakes Division title in Premier Development League's Central Conference.

But Cope was grateful the Bucks loaned him out for a week.

"I had my end-of-the-year meetings with my Michigan State coaches, and one of the big plans for the summer was to get an opportunity to go

train with a (MLS) team, gain some experience and kind of see it first hand," said Cope, who played only two games last fall for the Spartans after going down with a season-ending injury. "They (the Bucks) got me in touch with a couple of assistant coaches, and they said, 'Sure, come in for a week.' So this week worked best as far as the Bucks scheduling and just everything else that I planned. It worked out great for all of us."

The first day of Sporting KC's practice proved to be an eye-opener for Cope, who was the 2009 Big Ten Freshman of the Year and a second-team All-Big Ten selection in 2010.

"One of the biggest differences is the speed of play," said the 6-foot-2, 185-pound defender. "The first session I was

a little slow and I had to get used to it, but since then I think I've been playing pretty well.

"The other thing is just the professionalism of everybody. I came to the club and the first day I was kind of expecting to be off by myself a little bit, and not really interacting with the guys, but they went out of their way to make me feel comfortable. I just think that shows how the organization is set up and it's run very well, and the guys that they have in the clubhouse are good guys. They made me feel so comfortable and that's the reason I've played so well here."

Cope has been playing well this summer for the Bucks, too, who are riding a 12-match unbeaten streak, including an upset victory earlier in the season in the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup against the MLS Chicago Fire.

Cope was a member of the Bucks' squad in 2010, but opted to play for the

PDL's Chicago Fire in 2011.

"We didn't have him last year - he was with Chicago - we had him the year before, and he got hurt in the early part of the season," Bucks coach Gary Parsons said. "The difference between when we first had him and when we have him now is quite significant. He's matured, very good defensively in the air and also on the ground."

Cope was glad to be back playing for his hometown team for the summer.

"The reason I headed to Chicago was to get just another experience that I could put on my personal resume," Cope said. "I don't regret my decision at all going there. I think it was a beneficial summer for me, but when it came down to making a decision for this summer, I had to look at what my personal plans were and what would benefit me the most, and I

Please see COPE, B4

## Ex-gridiron star White court-bound

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Facing a three-count felony stemming from an arrest in April in Mount Pleasant, former Livonia Stevenson all-state running back Austin White will be getting his day in court soon.

The 20-year-old White, who never played a down for either the University of Michigan or Central Michigan University, returned Monday to Isabella County Trial Court when chief assistant prosecutor Risa Scully filed a motion to revoke White's bond because of an unrelated case following his arrest June 25 in Livonia on charges of home invasion and larceny.

"We're headed to trial. We don't have a trial date, but that's where we're going," said Lansing-based attorney and White family friend Mary Chartier. "He's out on bond on both cases. Two totally separate cases. One has really no effect on the other. He's out on bond and we're preparing for the Mount Pleasant case."

Chartier said White will appear next week in Livonia's 16th District Court and will face a preliminary exam after reportedly pleading not guilty to both charges.

On April 18, White was arrested by CMU Police, who alleged White was selling and growing hallucinogenic mushrooms in his terrace level dorm room in Celani Residence Hall.

White, along with former teammate Joe Sawicki, was alleged to have been growing and selling mushrooms containing the narcotic psilocybin. White pleaded not guilty to each count, while Sawicki pleaded

Please see WHITE, B4

## Locals shine in MWGA event

Several local golfers registered sizzling scores at the Michigan Women's Golf Association Individual Stroke Play Tournament held July 8 at Lake Forest Golf Club in Ann Arbor. The tournament was a United States Golf Association handicapped event.

Garden City resident Lisa Bishop won the Flight 1 low gross title by firing a four-over-par round of 76, three shots lower than runner-up Debra Horning of Bloomfield Hills. Plymouth's Jane Kersjes placed second in the Flight 1 low-net competition.

Farmington Hills resident Yvette Johnson took second in the Flight 2 low-net category after carding a 76.

The Flight 3 low-gross title went to Canton's Judy Petrere, who fired a 92. Plymouth's Barbara Coury was second in the third flight low-net standings with a 73.

Canton's Lu Stockton also took home some hardware and placing second in the Flight 4 low-gross competition with a 98.

For more information on the MWGA, visit [www.mwgolf.org](http://www.mwgolf.org).

## Free sports physicals

Lincoln Behavioral Services will be offering free high school sports physicals on Tuesday, July 17, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Marquee of Redford, located at 15145 Beech Daly Road in Redford.

Student-athletes under the age of 18 must have a signed permission slip. Student-athletes are must bring an official sports physical card.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Allen at (313) 937-9500.

## Garden City teen sparkles in national spotlight

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Asked to describe her recent five-day, mid-summer whirlwind that included shagging fly balls hit by future hall-of-famers, talking face-to-face with 2011 World Series hero David Freese and sitting in prime-time seats at the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star Game, Garden City teenager Hannah Vera-Burgos thought for a second before delivering a one-word home run. "Amazing," the 14-year-



old Garden City High School sophomore-to-be replied Tuesday afternoon during a rare 15-minute slice of down time in Kansas City.

While Vera-Burgos's Saturday-through-Wednesday trip to America's heartland — and every young baseball fan's dreamland — was all-expenses-paid, it didn't come easy.

The three-sport athlete used her sharply honed

softball/baseball skills to beat out close to 650,000 other participants in the nationwide Aquafina Pitch, Hit & Run competition.

The event's three-tiered skills challenge includes a pitching-accuracy test; a hitting stage that demands both power and accuracy; and a base-running phase that requires participants to complete a second-base-to-home-plate sprint.

Points were awarded based on accuracy, distance and speed.

Please see TRIP, B4



DAVE VERA-BURGOS

Garden City 14-year-old Hannah Vera-Burgos was all smiles earlier this week when she arrived in Kansas City for the 2012 Aquafina Pitch, Hit & Run finals. Of the 650,000 youngsters who registered for the competition, only 24 advanced to this week's national finals.

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**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**GC spike camp**

The Garden City High School volleyball program will host an advanced-skills camp July 16-20 in the high school gymnasium. The camp will run from 5-8 p.m. each day. Each participant will receive 15 hours of training as well as a camp T-shirt. The cost is \$100. For more information, send an e-mail to gardencityvb@yahoo.com.

**Hole-in-one club grows**

Someone scoring a hole-in-one at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth continues to be a regular occurrence this year, with the latest coming Monday. That's when 90-year-old Ray Martin of Northville used a 9-iron to ace the 112-yard 6th hole at the Hills course. Martin sank a Srixon.

It was the second time in two weeks that a hole-in-one took place at the Hills' No. 6. On June 26, Plymouth resident Kathy Ruggles, 58, sank a 99-yarder from the front of the tee box. Also on June 26, Ann Arbor's Fred Lewis, 55, aced the 162-yard 2nd hole at the Hills course. Lewis used a 5-iron to sink a Titleist for the first hole-in-one of his life.



Redford Township resident Jeremy Byrnes reaches into the cup on the ninth hole at Glenhurst Golf Course to pull out the ball that helped him record his second career hole-in-one.

**Pair of aces**

Redford golfer notches second career hole-in-one

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

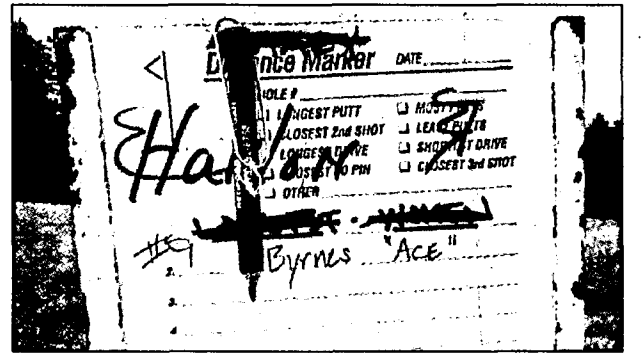
It happens every seven years or so, almost like clockwork: Redford Township resident Jeremy Byrnes tees up a golf ball on a par-3 hole at Glenhurst Golf Course, takes a couple of practice swings, then knocks the ball into the bottom of the cup, igniting a series of joyous high-fives from his playing partners.

Byrnes's latest odds-defying effort unfolded June 21 while playing in his weekly two-man Hanlon Engineering Golf League at Glenhurst.

Gripping an 8-iron, the 34-year-old Livonia native sent a high-arching shot on a perfect line toward the pin, 161 yards away.

"The pin was located in the left-center part of the green," Byrnes said. "The ball hit close to the front of the green, rolled about 20 feet over a hill and right into the cup."

"I was kind of in disbelief. I looked at my partner and said, 'Did that ball just go in?' Using a couple expletives, he joked, 'Where do you think it went?' Then we shared some high-fives and made a little noise."



With his ace, Jeremy Byrnes won that night's "closest-to-the-pin" competition in the Hanlon Engineering League at Glenhurst Golf Course.

According to a recent article in *Golf Digest*, the odds of a medium-handicap player recording a hole-in-one are roughly 12,000-to-1.

The amazing angle to Byrnes's story is that his most-recent ace was his second. His first one came on Glenhurst's 17th hole in 2005.

"This one came on my last hole of the night, which was a good thing because I don't know how I would have done if I would have had to keep playing," he said, chuckling, referring to the adrenaline rush the shot created.

Coincidentally, Byrnes's ace came on the league's weekly closest-to-the-pin hole.

"I won about \$40 for

winning the closest to the pin," he said. "And I spent about \$50 in the clubhouse buying drinks for the guys, so it worked out pretty well."

Byrnes, who became a father for the first time in September, said he had no desire to mount his most-recent hole-in-one ball for sentimental reasons.

"My friends said I should have kept it and put it on a plaque or something," he said. "But I kept playing with it and I've probably lost it by now."

No worries; there will probably be another one coming in, oh, about seven years or so.

ewright@hometownlife.com  
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**Great effort, great cause**

The Plymouth-Canton Chargers, a 9-and-under competitive baseball team, captured first place in the 2nd Annual Matthew Bittker Foundation Tournament held June 22-24 in Franklin. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Matthew Bittker Foundation, a charity that raises money for pediatric cancer research. Pictured are (bottom row from left) Joseph Locricchio, Tanner Locke, Nick Rockafellow, Andrew Iaquaniello, Logan Hill, Evan Berger, (middle row from left) Joe Godi, Ethan Krafft, Scott Harber, Owen Carapelloti, Kyle Demarco, Luke Nader, (back row from left) coach Dan Krafft and coach Don Harber.

**Area netters fare well at USTA event**

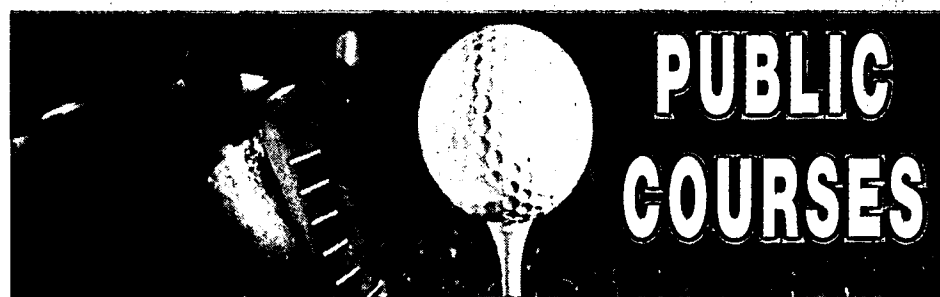
While Roger Federer was stroking his way to another Wimbledon tennis title on the other side of the Atlantic this week, several young area netters excelled at the 14th Annual Jud Kingsbury Junior Memorial USTA Tournament that was held July 6-8 at the Livonia Family YMCA and Livonia Stevenson High School.

The event featured 81 amateur tennis players between the ages of 10 and 18 from throughout the United States who were looking to compile points in the Southeast Michigan District Level 4 and a Midwest Section Level 6 standings.

The lone area champion was Plymouth resident Matthew Decker, who placed first in the Boys

14's division. Livonia's Jonathan Martin was the runner-up in the Boys 16's bracket, losing only to champion Jack Martin-Dyer of Ann Arbor.

Livonia's Aimee Moccia also performed well as she was the consolation champion in the Girls 18's division, which was captured by Bloomfield Hills resident Kerry Hu.



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**Rams fight off Cobras' comeback**

The Michigan Rams held off a final-inning rally from the Cobras on Sunday to register a 5-4 victory in a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League game played at Ford Field.

The victory improved the Rams' record to 12-12-1. The Cobras slipped to 13-12.

Donnie Eaton earned the mound triumph after relieving starter Mitch Patterson with two outs in the fifth. Josh Payzant

notched a save by recording the final out of the game with the tying run on base.

Eaton yielded two runs, a hit and four walks in two innings of work. Patterson struck out five during his 4.2-inning stint.

Starter Justin Hicks suffered the setback for the Cobras after giving up three runs, three hits and four walks in six innings. Jake Paulson finished up on the mound for

the Cobras, yielding two runs in the seventh.

J.P. Maracani had a solid night at the dish for the winners, going 1-for-4 with two RBI and a run. Garrett Gordon and Zach Zott also knocked in runs for the Rams.

Swinging potent sticks for the Cobras were Brett McDonald (2-for-4, two RBI) and Matt Priebe, who ripped two hits and knocked in a run. Christian Holder scored twice for the Cobras.



**Cards BPA champs**

The Canton Cardinals, a 13-and-under travel team, are headed to the Baseball Players Association World Series, July 25-29, in Owensboro, Ky. after capturing the state championship recently in Pottersville with a 6-0 record allowing just nine runs thanks to stellar pitching and defense. The Cardinals also took a state qualifier in Davison with a 4-0 record. Team members include (first row, from left): Evan Voyles, Jacob MacBrien; (middle row, from left) Branden Knorr, Andrew Napolitano, Justin Dolney, Jason Arnold, Cody Zidzik, Luke Hirshman, Jimmy Walkinshaw; (back row, from left) coach Alan Zidzik, coach Greg Voyles, Brennan Brooks, coach Rob Hirshman and coach John Knorr. (Not pictured is Noah Spencer.)

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# Wade looks to future in track and field

By Dan O'Meara  
Observer Staff Writer



Wade

In the aftermath of the U.S. Olympic Trials, Bettie Wade will assess her performance, begin to regroup and go back to work.

The former Farmington High School and University of Michigan standout just missed making the team in the women's heptathlon June 30.

Wade finished fourth with 6,018 points. She trailed third-place Chante McMillan by 170 and was 132 off the Olympic A standard.

"My coach (Cliff Rovetto) and I planned on me

making the team," she said. "Unfortunately, that didn't happen. My technical events were not too off,

but the running — that's where I really took a hit.

"At the end of the day, my coach and I were a little confused, because the training was so good and everything was supposed to be on point. It was a little disheartening to come out below our expectations."

Wade, who has resumed training and will attempt to win her third straight

Thorpe Cup July 21-22 in Germany, has begun to put the Olympic disappointment behind her.

"Everybody will have an off meet, and it happened to be an off meet for me," she said. "It is what is. I'm looking to the future."

"I had a lot of fun competing with the other girls. The three who made it (Hyleas Fountain won; Sharon Day was second) had good meets, and it would have been hard to beat them even if I had been on."

"It would have been nice to be a part of (the Olympic team), but it was not meant to be; so

I guess I have to be fine with that."

In technical events, Wade was second in the shot put and long jump, and she was fourth in the high jump. But her performances were less than what she expected of herself.

Wade finished 10th in the 100-meter hurdles; she was between 14th and 18th in the javelin, 200 dash and 800 run.

"The long jump was a little above average; the high jump was average if not a little below," she said. "Nothing was by any means good or spectacular."

"At the Olympic Tri-

als, when you're trying to make the U.S. team, you want things to be spectacular, and that was just not the case for me."

Being on the same stage with other elite athletes at the Olympic Trials was a great experience in itself, according to Wade.

"They treat the athletes well," she said. "Eugene (Ore.) is a phenomenal place to go and compete. The spectators appreciate you and they're well informed about the sport. It's exciting to compete in front of that kind of crowd."

"I made sure I had fun the entire time. That's

one thing I've learned through competing is to have fun, because that's where the memories come from."

Wade, 25, will return to Kansas State University and train in Rovelto's post-grad program. She plans to take things a year at a time and, hopefully, make another Olympic run in 2016.

"I'm so much stronger mentally, spiritually and physically than I was before this year," Wade said. "I'm going to maintain all those progressions, and they're going to fuel me to continue to train hard and just get better."

# Metro West icers win silver at Meijer games

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

There's no denying that the Metro West team of high school hockey players had an unforgettable experience late last month at Meijer State Games of Michigan in Grand Rapids.

But the squad comprised of players from 11 area high schools came within one period June 24 of winning the gold medal a second consecutive year.

Instead, a silver medal will have to do.

Metro West and Metro East — both teams from metropolitan Detroit — were deadlocked 2-2 after two frames, but Metro West gave up three unanswered goals in the third to lose 5-2 in the gold medal game at Griff's Ice House. One of those goals was an empty netter.

"We kind of ran out of steam," Metro West head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "I thought we played pretty well up to that point."

"Metro East is a pretty good team, they were probably the quickest team we played."

### Solid showing

That loss gave Metro West an overall record of 3-2 over four days at the Meijer State Games of Michigan's High School Hockey Showcase, an Olympic-style round-robin tournament involving eight teams from around the state.

"It was a good weekend," said Ossenmacher, Salem's head coach. "We played some pretty good hockey. All in all, we only had what I would consider to be two subpar periods through the whole tournament."

Leading the squad

offensively was the top forward line of Livonia Stevenson's Dominic Lutz (team-leading nine goals), Salem's Jake Sealy (two goals, five assists) and Orchard Lake St. Mary's freshman Cooper Marody.

"For the most part when those three were together they played pretty well," said Ossenmacher, noting that he reworked lines on occasion during the tourney mostly due to injuries.

A poor first period cost Metro West in the June 21 opener (a 7-6 loss to Metro North at Grand Rapids Edge Arena). Metro West trailed 4-0 early before making a comeback bid.

But the team bounced back the next day with a 6-2 thumping of Team West (also at Grand Rapids Edge). Then came a 4-3 victory over Team South on June 23, in the

final game of pool play.

That advanced Metro West to a semi-final cross-divisional game later that day.

### Offensive spark

In the latter contest, at Grand Rapids Edge, Ossenmacher's team won 5-3 over Team North to make it to the medal round. The game was 1-1 entering the third, when Metro West built a 5-1 edge.

"We kind of jumped on them, especially in the third period when we scored four of our five," he said. "... That was a good game, pretty good pace."

Sparking that win was the top line. Lutz scored a goal and assisted on two while Sealy (two assists) and Marody (one goal, one assist) also tallied multiple points.

Earning the win in net was Lakeland goaltender

Trevor Kalinowski, who went 2-1 in the tourney (including the gold medal game). Novi's Patrick Carney split his two decisions.

Ossenmacher praised his team for following the puck-possession script.

"Our guys really did a nice job the whole weekend," he said. "We took a group of guys that we all thought had the ability to hang on to the puck and move the puck."

"I could probably count on one hand the number of times we dumped the puck in over the weekend."

Another plus was being able to use his entire roster with no worries.

"We were happy with anybody, it didn't matter who we put on the ice," Ossenmacher continued. "They all played well, everybody assumed a role and did it."

Observerland teams

were well represented on Metro West. Other local players included Plymouth's Mitch Claggett and Kyle Bauer; Salem's Kyle Downey and Evan Patton; Livonia Churchill's Drew Pishes and Matt Sinclair; North Farmington's Reede Burnett, Steven Coulter and TJ Zak.

Assisting Ossenmacher behind the bench were coaches Ken Anderson of Farmington Unified and Dan Whitener of Waterford Kettering.

The veteran Salem coach added that the four-day trek wasn't just about hockey.

"I've been involved all three years with the state games and I don't think there's any question that this group of guys was the closest-knit group of guys off the ice," Ossenmacher said.

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# 'All-Park' girls lacrosse team boasts top talent

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Girls lacrosse at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is still in its relative infancy, but the rise of individual talent continues to rise as underscored by the 2012 All-Park Girls Lacrosse Team.

Coaches from the Canton Chiefs, Salem Rocks and Plymouth Wildcats got together following a collective 23-29 record to choose deserving players for the squad.

All three programs are still growing. After several seasons as a unified team, the 2012 season marked just the second as independent varsity teams for the Chiefs, Rocks and 'Cats.

Plymouth — spearheaded by senior midfielder and All-State first teamer Katie Hill's 89-goal output — enjoyed the most success this spring, posting a 10-6 record. And off the field, the Wildcats received All-State Academic Team honors with a 3.52 grade point average with nine players qualifying for individual honors.

"One of our goals was to have a strong showing in our conference and challenge some of the more elite teams in the state," Plymouth coach Bob Hill said. "And I felt the girls continued to get better as the season wore on."

Canton improved by two victories over the 2011

inaugural season, finishing with a 8-12 record.

All-state players Stephanie Bower and Cassidy Tucker led the way, while the team set or tied 16 records and advanced to the second round of the state playoffs for the first time.

The Chiefs also boasted six MHSAA Scholar-Athletes while 12 earned academic honors from the KLAAs.

Although Salem went just 5-11, the record was an improvement over the first season.

Earning all-state honorable mention were Jenna Carter, Lauren Harber and Kiersten Vala.

Meanwhile, like their counterparts from the two other Park teams, a number of Salem players were honored for academic excellence (13 KLAAs scholastic awards).

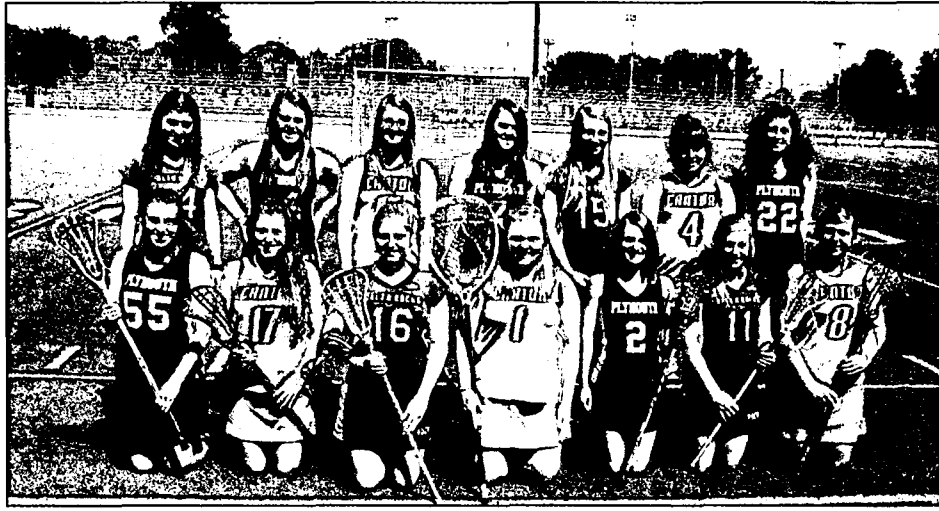
### At a glimpse

Following is a look at the members of the All-Park team as selected by coaches Bob Hill (Plymouth), Dave Bowers (Canton) and Dave Medley (Salem):

**Melissa Neal, G, Canton:** The sophomore and team MVP set team records for most saves in a game (16), most saves in a season (194), and save percentage (45.8 percent).

She also won the Chiefs' award for toughness and looks to keep improving on her way to a hoped-for career in college lacrosse.

**Jamie Dottavio, D, Plymouth:** The junior was outstanding in her first season with the team, among team leaders in



The 2012 All-Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls lacrosse team includes: (front row, from left) Jamie Dottavio, Plymouth; Kaitlyn Allard, Canton; Lauren Harber, Salem; Melissa Neal, Canton; Shannon Lubin, Plymouth; Jenna Carter, Salem; Cassidy Tucker, Canton; (back row, from left) Leah Schrauben, Salem; Haley Swanson, Plymouth; Annelise Niemann, Canton; Kaitlyn Hill, Plymouth; Kiersten Vala, Salem; Stephanie Bower, Canton; Janie Roberts, Plymouth. The players were chosen by the three Park coaches.

ground balls (29) and draw controls (11). She received academic honors for All-State and KLAAs Scholar Athlete.

**Lauren Harber, D, Salem:** The senior earned All-State Honorable Mention and first-team All-KLAAs honors with a strong all-around season — highlighted by 23 draws, 32 ground balls and eight goals.

She will attend Bowling Green University, where she will play lacrosse.

**Janie Roberts, D, Plymouth:** Roberts had a splendid senior year, with 33 ground balls and 26 draw controls (second in each category).

She received a conference scholar-athlete award and plans to attend Lawrence Technological University in the fall.

**Leah Schrauben, D, Salem:** The Rocks' reliable junior co-captain led on D but also helped out when needed as a center (to earn draw control) or on the attack.

She took 60 draws, caused eight turnovers and collected 21 ground balls.

Schrauben also earned academic and athletic honors from the KLAAs.

**Kaitlyn Hill, MF, Plymouth:** When the Wildcats needed goals, senior co-captain Hill obliged with 89 of them along with 123 draw controls, 75 ground balls and 48 forced turnovers.

Her efforts were rewarded big-time with selection to the All-State first team along with all-conference, team MVP and KLAAs Scholar Athlete honors.

She will continue playing lacrosse at Tiffin University where she plans to study Forensic Psychology.

**Shannon Lubin, MF, Plymouth:** Lubin also excelled in her senior season, voted the squad's best offensive player while collecting All-KLAAs honors.

The co-captain also received all-state and conference

academic awards and will continue her lacrosse career at Tiffin. Like Hill, she plans to study Forensic Psychology.

**Annelise Niemann, MF, Canton:** The junior led the Chiefs in takeaways (18) and was named the squad's top midfielder despite missing nine games due to injury.

She won all-state and conference academic honors (3.5 GPA) and plans on pursuing a college degree in medicine or business.

**Cassidy Tucker, MF, Canton:** Tucker's junior season was strong enough to be chosen the Chiefs top midfielder. She led the team with 46 ground balls, and was second with 26 goals.

She won all-state and conference academic honors (3.9 GPA).

"Cassidy is considering multiple offers to play Division 1 hockey after she graduates next year," Bower said.

**Kaitlyn Allard, A, Canton:**

The senior attacker and co-captain led the Chiefs with a team-record 13 assists.

Allard won all-state and conference academic honors for her 3.60 GPA.

She signed a scholarship to play lacrosse at Robert Morris University in Chicago, where she plans to study for a business degree.

**Stephanie Bower, A, Canton:** Bower scored 40 goals and six assists to lead the team in scoring, despite missing six games of her senior season due to injury.

Those efforts earned the senior co-captain the team award for best attacker, along with second-team all-state and first-team conference honors.

She also represented Canton in the MWLCA Senior Hall of Fame Game.

Her plans are to attend Wayne State University in the fall, where she will study pre-med.

**Jenna Carter, A, Salem:** Only a sophomore, Carter provided spark and poise as an attack player with 39 draw controls, 27 ground balls and 35 goals.

She earned all-state honorable mention and first-team all-conference honors.

"Jenna looks forward to adding to her lacrosse career over the next two seasons," Medley said.

**Haley Swanson, A, Plymouth:** The junior led the Wildcats with 22 assists and was second in goals with 46. She led the team in scoring percentage.

Swanson received the Wildcat Award for best team spirit and also received all-state honorable mention honors as well as recognition as a KLAAs Scholar-Athlete.

**Kiersten Vala, A, Salem:** The sophomore attacker led the Rocks with 36 goals and chipped in with 19 ground balls.

She was named to the All-KLAAs first team and also was an all-state honorable mention selection.

## TRIP

Continued from page B1

### Leading off

Vera-Burgos's incredible journey started in — of all places — Holt, a city located just south of Lansing that hosted one of several statewide opening-round PH&R qualifiers.

"Hannah was so busy with softball (the ninth-grader played short-stop and catcher for GC's junior varsity squad), we missed the local competition near us, so we drove to the one in Holt," said Dave Vera-Burgos, Hannah's dad. "We're very

proud of her. She's done an outstanding job under some pretty pressure-packed circumstances."

The first-place finisher in each of the pitching, hitting and running competitions at each local event advanced to sectional competitions.

Vera-Burgos placed first in all three events in Holt, a performance that propelled her into the sectional round that was held May 19 — again in Holt.

Competing against other local champions from the mid-Michigan area, she posted another clean sweep in all three events to earn a spot in the "team" finals at Comer-

ca Park.

### K.C. masterpiece

Needing another sterling effort to move on to the coveted national finals (only the top three "team" champions in each age group advanced to K.C.), Vera-Burgos racked up 1,074 points on the field that Verlander, Cabrera and Fielder call home to punch her hard-earned ticket to Kansas City.

Shrugging off the intense pressure, she aced the pitching-accuracy event by hitting a target from 35 feet away on all six of her attempts.

Accompanied by her dad, mom Sherri and old-

er brother Jeremiah, Vera-Burgos received royal treatment Saturday when she reached Kansas City.

"Everything about this experience has been fun," she said. "Being on the field for the home run derby was great and seeing all the major leaguers has been amazing."

"I'd have to say the best part so far was getting to talk to (St. Louis Cardinals third baseman) David Freese. He was really nice. He told me he wished they would have had something like this when he was a kid."

On Monday, Vera-Burgos sparkled on the big-

gest stage when she placed second nationally in the girls 13-14 age group. Her prize: a slick baseball-themed trophy and enough golden memories to last a lifetime.

"The pitching event is usually my best one, but I only got two out of six (in the national finals)," she said. "I was kind of nervous at first; they had an announcer and everything. But it's been a lot of fun."

On Monday night, Vera-Burgos and the other 23 finalists got to take turns chasing down baseballs during the Major League Baseball All-Star Game Home Run Derby, which was televised nationally

by ESPN.

"I caught two balls," she said. "I could have gotten a few more, but I let a couple of the younger kids get some."

Hannah was the second member of her family to reach the national finals. Her older brother Zach made it to the 2007 All-Star Game in San Francisco.

"He just told me to relax and do my best," she said, referring to Zach's pre-Kansas City advice. "He told me just getting to the All-Star Game was the hardest part."

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## WHITE

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guilty and is serving 12 months probation.

On Monday, Isabella County Judge William T. Ervin denied Scully's motion to revoke White's bond following his arrest late last month in Livonia.

In lieu of the charges against him in Isabella County, another judge (Mark Duthie) denied a motion by White's attorney June 29 which would have allowed him — while on bond — to leave the state with his family.

CM Life also reported

during Monday's motion by the prosecutor to revoke White's bond that Livonia police Detective Tim Chalk had taken the stand. Chalk reportedly said a neighbor took a photo of White leaving the Livonia home which he is alleged to have entered June 14 and stole the prescription drug Adderall from a residence in the 16000 block of Golfview.

Chartier refuted the charges after Chalk said White did not have the drug in his possession when he was arrested 11 days later, while also pointing out that a witness failed to identify

White in a suspect lineup, according to the CM Life.

"This flies in the face of the presumption of innocence," Chartier told the campus newspaper. "Wayne County gave him bond, and he has made every court appearance."

Meanwhile, White's father Michael recently retired as principal at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School and accepted a similar job as principal at Bolingbrook (Ill.) H.S. in suburban Chicago.

"Right now our focus, and I believe the family's focus as well, is just on resolving these criminal matters," Chartier said. "And then he (Austin)

definitely wants to continue his education and he's certainly planning on doing that. But I think getting this behind him is the most important thing, and I believe he agrees with that."

"Right now Austin is staying in Michigan to resolve these cases, so his mom is staying here as well. And I know his brothers (Myles and Mitchell) were visiting recently. Once the cases are resolved, I definitely believe he'll be moving out of state and go to school probably out of state, and just getting a fresh start."

White, who along with

his twin brothers Myles (a wide receiver with Louisiana Tech) and Mitchell (a defensive back at Michigan State), helped Stevenson reach the 2007 MHSAA Division 1 state finals before losing 41-21 to Macomb Dakota.

Austin White, who rushed for more than 4,700 yards and scored 79 touchdowns in his final three prep seasons, was a highly prized recruit who was signed by Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez. But White left the U-M program during the preseason of August 2010 after graduating from Stevenson a semes-

ter early and enrolling in January of the same year.

White then transferred to play for CMU, but had to sit out the 2011 season under NCAA rules. While sitting out that season, White was "suspended indefinitely" from the program that October for undisclosed reasons by head coach Dan Enos.

White was later reinstated before being suspended again prior to CMU's 2011 spring game. White was then dismissed from the team by Enos following his April 18 arrest.

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## COPE

Continued from page B1

thought Dan (Duggan) runs Bucks organization very well.

"It was option for me and the team — what players were coming in and what I could do for the team — and as it turns out, it was a great decision by me. I think it will pay off in the long run."

The Bucks are currently 11-0-2 in the Great Lakes Division with three regular season matches remaining before the playoffs start. They are currently fighting for home field advantage against the Heartland Division-leading Thunder Bay (Ontario) Chill.

"I would say we click on all cylinders," Cope said of his current Bucks team. "We have a solid backline that's been pret-

ty consistent throughout. We've had a number of shutouts and the goal-keeping (from Michigan's Adam Grinwis) has been outstanding when they have been able to break through our backline.

"The midfield has youth, it has experience, the combination of all that. It makes for a fun midfield to watch and our forwards have been doing their job all year. They finish the ball when they're supposed to ... which is scoring early. And our defenders have done an excellent job of holding that early lead. Our game plan has been working thus far and I hope it works throughout the playoffs."

Parsons believes Cope brings the total package to the table.

"I just think he's a tough defender, and that's what's going to get you to the next level," the for-

mer Oakland University coach said. "And he does a real good job when he doesn't have the ball. Too many defenders now worry about being offensive players, but he's a good one."

And Parsons said Cope brings many intangibles to the club.

"Just a lovely guy," the Bucks coach said. "He can have a good time, but he's level-headed and takes it seriously, it's so easy to have him. No issues."

Cope, however, has some unfinished business left at MSU, which finished a disappointing 7-8-4 last season. Although he is a senior academically, Cope picked up a medical redshirt year after going down in the second game of the 2011 season against UConn when he broke an orbital bone, while also shattering a sinus bone and fracturing

another.

He is eligible to play for MSU two more seasons — unless the MLS comes calling.

"The expectations are definitely high," Cope said. "We have a good core group of guys that are coming back and we've got some good transfers coming in as well as a great freshman class from what I hear. I'm really looking forward to the guys coming in."

"I'm actually started contacting everybody — just kinda to see what everybody is doing over the summer — and from what it sounds like everyone is ready to go for the fall and everyone is excited as am I. I'm really looking forward to it and hopefully the Bucks can make a run in the playoffs. I'm excited for that, but I'm especially excited for the fall."

Cope played several club seasons for both the Michigan Wolves — where he won a 2007 youth national title — along with the highly competitive Under-18 Derby County Academy Wolves before heading MSU.

He credits his parents, Doug and Cindy, for getting him to the next level along with his longtime club coach.

"My parents have been more supportive than influential," Cope said. "But as far (soccer) influence goes, my coach with the Michigan Wolves, Lars Richters (also the longtime Livonia Stevenson High boys coach), who has been my (club) coach six or seven years. My family and his family grew a personal relationship on the field as well as off. We have a great deal of trust for each other. I've always looked up to him and he's been a

great role model for me to look at. I've been doing it for awhile and it's gotten me here. I definitely want to thank him for everything he's done for me."

Cope admits he often thought about becoming a pro as a youth, and now he's on the precipice.

"I was hoping one day it would come about, but I really never knew how much a reality it would be and the chance it would actually be happening," he said. "And now that I'm here, I think it's another step on where I want to be eventually. It's a good learning experience. I'm using this week as a personal benchmark more than anything and so far I've exceeded my expectations. It's definitely been a beneficial week."

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## Popular chalk art returns to downtown Plymouth

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

You'll find Manet underfoot, Monet on a life-sized canvass and unique works in more than 400 artist booths at Art in the Park this weekend in downtown Plymouth.

Artists from across the United States and Canada will sell glass, ceramics, metal sculpture and jewelry, art wear, fiber creations, photography, calligraphy, paintings, mixed media works and more. Youngsters with a flair for art will peddle their works near the fountain in Kellogg Park.

Young festival visitors will get a chance to paint portions of a children's mural, get glittery tattoos and henna body art, and watch a performance by My Adventure Theatre.

One Love will play reggae music throughout the weekend. George Tait will be on hand to portray a "living" statue and a photo booth will be open for picture-taking, with free download from the Internet.

Canton artist Sharon Dillenbeck and her two daughters, Kristin and Erin, will return to the art fair with their signature performance art pieces. Kristen Dillenbeck-Anderson, of New York City, will paint a "living mural" on canvass, with portions of the scene also painted on model Amy Ladenberger. Erin Dillenbeck will supervise the chalk version of Édouard Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, that depicts a Victorian-era woman at a club in Paris.

Sharon Dillenbeck said teachers Bethany Grysko

### ART IN THE PARK

**Show hours:** 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, July 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 14, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 15

**Location:** Downtown Plymouth

**Shuttle:** Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Board a shuttle at ACH, 13325 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. Drop off is at Plymouth City Hall

**Details:** More than 400 artists sell their works; food, music by One Love reggae band from noon-4 p.m. Friday, 1-6 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday; children's shows by My Adventure Theatre, a children's mural, photo booth and more

**Contact:** (734) 454-1314; www.artinthepark.com

and Rachel Bissonnette, from her D&M Art Studio in Canton, will sketch the piece on the ground. Daughter, Erin, is expecting and won't get down on hands and knees to help chalk the scene.

Dillenbeck said Picasso works initially were planned for both the living mural and the chalk piece.

"My chalk artists were antsy. They thought Picasso chalk art isn't enough," she said. "They wanted to showcase their talent. Picasso, a lot of his paintings are flat colors. These guys want to shade and shadow and show what they can do. That's what performance



Here's how the chalk art appeared at last year's Art in the Park. This year, look for — but don't step on — a recreation of the 1882 masterpiece, "A Bar at the Folies-Bergère" by Édouard Manet.



Kristen Dillenbeck-Anderson's living mural last year incorporated a model into a Van Gogh scene.

art is — making a masterpiece come alive on the ground."

She sent the art fair organizers pictures from

Manet and Degas.

"They chose the final Manet piece. Not that there is anything wrong with Picasso. It just

doesn't showcase the talent of my teachers."

Dillenbeck said the pair took art classes at her studio for years and now teach.

"I've had both girls since they were young. Now they are running my camps."

#### Chalking at parties

Dillenbeck, her daughter and teachers began working on the fair's chalk project six years ago when an out-of-state artist was hired to create the street art. Eventually, Dillenbeck and her crew took over the work. They regularly get commissions for chalk art at graduation parties and baby showers.

At Art in the Park, they'll use a grid to guide

their sketching.

"We don't do patterns. For us to draw a pattern and trace around it would take longer. We grid it out and we free-hand in it."

Dillenbeck said her artists will work with a soft, bright chalk, sometimes spraying on water to turn the medium into liquid. "It's hot," Dillenbeck described the process. "The black asphalt will be like canvass, hot textured canvass. At night we will cover it."

Dillenbeck said the Manet scene "is a good one" that she hopes passersby will recognize.

"That's what performance art is all about, letting people know art is not just in a museum. Art can be anywhere."

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# Playing with your food can be good for you

Summer time means plenty of play time — so why not play with your food? Finding creative ways to enjoy healthy foods like watermelon is a great way to encourage the whole family to eat well — and have fun while doing it.

Here are three ways you can get the whole family in on some fun and healthy eating:

- **The wetter, the better** — Playing hard on a hot summer day can take a lot out of you. In addition to drinking plenty of water, look for foods that can help you keep hydrated. Watermelon is 92 percent water, so keep some slices or cubes in the refrigerator for a handy, hydrating snack. For a fun, kid-friendly twist, use cookie cutters to cut watermelon into fun shapes.

- **Get colorful** — For a real nutritional boost, serve plenty of colorful, deeply pigmented produce. For example, red peppers, carrots, broccoli and grapes are packed with minerals, vitamins and antioxidants. In addition to vitamins A and C, watermelon has a higher level of the antioxidant lycopene than any other fresh fruit or vegetable. Let the kids use an ice cream scooper or melon baller to scoop out watermelon, cantaloupe and honeydew to make a colorful and nutritious dessert.

- **Think outside the recipe box** — Look for fun and unusual ways to serve healthy foods. These recipes from the National Watermelon Promotion Board, for example, are creative enough to appeal to kids and grownups, and easy enough for just about anyone to make.

Healthy eating doesn't have to be boring at all. It just takes a little creative thinking to get everyone in the family playing with their food.

You can find more deliciously fun ways to enjoy watermelon, and sign up for a free newsletter, at [www.watermelon.org](http://www.watermelon.org).



## PICKING A GOOD WATERMELON

1. Look the watermelon over.

You are looking for a firm, symmetrical watermelon that is free from bruises, cuts or dents.

2. Lift it up.

The watermelon should be heavy for its size. Watermelon is 92 percent water.

3. Turn it over.

The underside of the watermelon should have a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun.



Ice Cream Cone Sundaes

## Watermelon Strawberry Shake and Frozen Smoothie Pops

Makes 4

**Strawberry Shake:**  
1 container (8 ounces) lemon nonfat yogurt  
2 cups cubed, seeded watermelon  
1 pint fresh strawberries, cleaned and hulled  
1 medium banana, peeled and sliced

In blender or food processor, process yogurt, watermelon, strawberries and banana until smooth and frothy. Serve immediately.

**Frozen Smoothie Pops:**  
Strawberry Shake  
Small paper cups  
Popsicle sticks  
Pour prepared Watermelon Strawberry Shake into small paper cups. Freeze, inserting popsicle sticks or plastic spoons when mixture is partially frozen. Or, pour Watermelon Strawberry Shake into ice cream machine. Set and enjoy.

## Surf Wave

Oval or round shaped watermelon  
Kitchen and paring knives  
Cutting board  
Green dry-erase marker (preferably washable)  
Large bowl and spoon  
Brown sugar or raw sugar  
Small dolls or beach themed toys

1. Wash watermelon under cool running water and pat dry.
2. On a cutting board, place watermelon on its side and cut off ¼ to ½ inch from the stem end, being careful not to cut too deep into the white part of the rind. This will provide a sturdy base.
3. Using the dry-erase marker, draw a wave from the top of the watermelon halfway down, similar to a backwards C. Repeat on the other side to form a wave.
4. Use the knife to carefully cut away the parts of the watermelon that you will not be using. Use the spoon to hollow out the inside watermelon, reserving the inside watermelon to cut up and serve.
5. Place the carving on a serving platter covered with brown sugar. Decorate with toys and shells and fill your carving with fruit.

## Watermelon Pizza Supreme

Serves 6

1 slice watermelon (8 to 10 inches around and 1 inch thick), drained to remove excess moisture  
1 cup strawberry preserves  
½ cup white chocolate chips  
½ cup raisins  
½ cup chopped walnuts  
1 cup sweetened shredded coconut

Place watermelon slice on a serving platter and cut into 6 wedges, leaving them in the shape of a pizza. Spread preserves over watermelon and sprinkle toppings over the top.

## Ice Cream Cone Sundaes

Serves 8

8 ice cream cones of choice  
8 tablespoons pineapple cream cheese frosting  
½ cup dried Craisins  
½ cup vanilla yogurt  
8 scoops seedless watermelon (use an ice cream scooper)

Additional toppings of your choice: sprinkles, pineapple chunks, chocolate chips or coconut flakes

Pipe a tablespoon of the frosting into the bottom of each cone. Divide Craisins over frosting. Top Craisins with yogurt. Place an ice cream scoop of watermelon on top of each cone. Top with additional toppings as desired and serve.



## Helpful Carving Hints

- Read through the directions before you start.
- Have the watermelon at room temperature when you carve. That makes it easier to cut.
- Drain cut watermelon and other fruit before placing it in the carving.
- When removing excess flesh, try to leave it in big pieces. It's easier for making melon balls or cubes.
- Use a green dry erase marker, then wipe off excess marker after making cuts.







