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MLK ceremony

Westland residents are invited to attend the city's 15th annual Martin Luther King ceremony, planned for 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21, at the Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church in Westland.

Kevin Buford, director of public service, will be master of ceremony for the program that will have Anthony Lucas, from Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, present excerpts from Dr. King's most famous speeches. The program will include musical selections by the Christ Temple Church Choir.

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church is at 29124 Eton St., off of Middlebelt Road, just south of Ann Arbor.

Holiday closings

Westland city offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 21, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Police and fire services and trash pickup will not be affected. The William P. Faust Public Library also will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 22.

All divisions of the Wayne County Clerk's Office, including its office in Westland, will be closed Monday. Additionally, the Vital Statistics Division will remain closed Tuesday, Jan. 22, because of a mandatory furlough day. However, the Elections Division will resume regular hours that day.

Homebuyer classes

The first of two homebuyer assistance orientation classes will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Dorsey Center.

The city of Westland Home Buyer Program strengthens neighborhoods by providing assistance to low- and moderate-income families to purchase a home in Westland. A second session, hosted by the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31.

The Dorsey Center is at 32715 Dorsey, just east of Venoy.

For more information about the program, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development at (734) 595-0288, ext. 2630.

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W-W budget looks good now, but future shaky

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The good news is that the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district is projected to finish the current budget year with a better than anticipated fund balance, but the bad news is that there won't be enough money to make ends meet in fiscal 2013-14.

That was the message Jim Larson-Shidler, deputy superintendent of admin-

istrative and business services, delivered to the school board in presenting midyear adjustments to the 2012-13 budget.

"It's pretty much even, we lost as much in revenue as we reduced in expenditures," he said. "We won't see any new revenue unless we see an increase in state aid and that revenue projection doesn't look good."

The budget approved in June 2012 had project-

ed revenues of \$99.8 million and expenditures of \$108.2 million. Those figures have been adjusted to \$98.7 million and \$107.1 million, respectively, with the difference being covered with \$8 million of the fund balance. That leaves the district with a \$3.4 million surplus.

Since 2007-08, Wayne-Westland has seen its revenue steadily drop from

Please see **BUDGET, A2**



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rita Pate is working as literacy tutor with a young man who is interested in improving his reading and comprehension skills so that he could go back to school.

Literacy tutor makes difference in someone's life

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Reading is important to Rita Pate — she earned a master's degree in reading, but so far hasn't found a full-time job in her field.

"I spent a lot of money on my education. I didn't want to waste it, especially when I could work with someone who wanted to learn to read," said Pate, a Westland resident who is a volunteer literacy tutor at the William P. Faust Public Library.

Nearly a year ago, Pate completed a three-day training session at the library, provided by the Washtenaw County Literacy Council. Another training session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays, March 2, 9 and 16. The library is hosting an informational meeting for would-be tutors 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23.

"I read about the literacy training in the *Observer* — it was in my own backyard," Pate said. "The training was very thorough."

It's a chance to make a difference in someone's

life. Last fall, Pate was paired with a man who was going through rehabilitation from an injury and was interested in improving his reading and comprehension skills so that he could go back to school.

"He's done really well and he works really hard. We read everything from *A Purpose Driven Life* to *Code Talking*," said Pate, a substitute teacher. "Whatever we're working on, he works really hard. I don't plan — we read whatever he is interested in."

Pate works two hours a week with her student, who also wanted some help with his note-taking skills. Working with her adult student is different than working with classes of young students, she said.

"It's easier than I expected. I knew from the training it was very different from working in the classroom," Pate said. "You work on what the person wants. The one-on-one really makes it easier."

Please see **TUTOR, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Let the show begin

The Gutierrez family; dad and mom David and Laura Gutierrez with sons John Paul and Philip, gather in the new atrium of Cobo Center for the opening ceremonies for the 2013 North American International Auto Show Charity Preview. Laura works for St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. The brothers hail from Berkley where their business, Gutierrez Brothers Racing builds and races a 200+ mph alcohol-fueled dragster. See page B8 for more auto show coverage and view photo galleries of the Charity Preview at www.hometownlife.com.

Governor's address gets mixed response

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

While agreeing that Michigan's roads need to be improved and jobs should be a top priority, local officials had mixed response to Gov. Rick Snyder's State of the State address.

"The governor believes that Michigan is at a crossroads, a statement I agree with," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "But if our state is going to continue to thrive, we must focus on rebuilding our economic engines, our cities, something I have not only said in past speeches, but a conviction that I have focused

"While I agree there is a need to improve our roads, I also believe education and job creation should have had a more prominent role in his speech."

REP. ROBERT KOSOWSKI,
D-Westland

on in Westland since taking office."

If we make our cities stronger and more attractive to businesses and families, Wild said, perhaps we can one day make No. 1 on the fastest-growing economy list, rather than the current sixth ranking.

"I was pleased to hear the governor place a

stronger focus on the human capital side, creating programs to help our children's futures and providing veterans with jobs and much needed services," said Wild. "We must invest in our future and as a father of three, I understand that starting our children off on the right path early on is critical to their success long-

term."

Freshman state Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, said he came away from the speech with many questions.

"Evidently, solutions were not the primary attribute of the governor's address," Kosowski said. "While I agree there is a need to improve our roads, I also believe education and job creation should have had a more prominent role in his speech."

Also, Kosowski said he had hoped to hear a greater commitment to bipartisanship through addressing the actions taken by the governor and the previous Legis-

lature on controversial issues, such as right to work legislation. In addition, a greater focus on the issues of most importance to Michiganders was lacking, Kosowski said.

"Middle-class families are yearning to hear solutions that will ensure that they can provide for their families," Kosowski said.

Despite a lack of attention paid to restoring relationships after the divisive actions taken by the governor last year, Kosowski said he is hopeful that some legislation proposed by the governor can be accomplished

Please see **SPEECH, A2**

INDEX

Community Life..... B5
Crossword Puzzle..... C3
Education..... A4
Health..... B11
Homes..... C2
Jobs..... C1
Obituaries..... B10
Services..... C3
Sports..... B1
Wheels..... C4

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BUDGET

Continued from page A1

\$117 million to \$98.7 million as well as a more than \$800 million decline in property values. Enrollment also has taken a toll with a steady decline from 13,481 students in 2007-08 to the current 12,188 students.

Expenditures also have trended downward from \$120.2 million in 2007-2008

to \$107.1 million this year. "We were fortunate to have a \$12 million fund balance," said Larson-Shidler. "A loss of 300 students represents \$2-\$2.5 million in revenue. A loss of \$800 million in taxable value affects our debt and sinking fund collections."

School officials are working with lawmakers in hopes of recovering the \$6 million the district had received to offset a loss of millage used in figuring per pupil aid under Pro-

posal A, but as it currently stands, tough decisions will have to be made to keep the district from going into deficit.

The information isn't new news. School officials have been talking about a deficit for several years and have been lobbying the state to restore its funding levels. However, a combination of funding cuts and the loss of the enhanced revenue has reduced the per pupil amount to \$7,013, just \$47 above the low-

est funded districts in the state.

"That's borders on criminal," said Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin. "We're one of the largest districts in the state and we are being penalized. That's not fair."

Griffin added that some tough decisions will need to be made based on revenue.

"I don't have faith in the Legislature, so that means to get to a balanced budget, we will have to make tough decisions on cuts," he said.

"We'll need to make the tough cuts rather than live on the other side."

"I agree with Mr. Griffin that a balanced budget is needed and necessary, but we need to look at the cuts with some humanity," said Trustee Frederick Weaver. "We have to look at our teachers and our staff. We can cut programs, but that increases the number of students leaving the district. I'm still holding on to a miracle happening."

Board Secretary John

Goci questioned why Wayne-Westland students are considered less than students in other districts and called on residents and school officials to "roll up our sleeves and fight Lansing."

Board Vice President Thomas Buckalew noted that while the district "is obligated to provide a first rate education, it's doing it with second rate funding."

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SPEECH

Continued from page A1

across party lines.

"I believe that the governor's proposed plan to increase the hiring of Michigan veterans and to crack down on slumlords in our cities could

be of great benefit to those throughout Michigan and in the communities of Wayne and Westland," said Kosowski.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, said everyone could agree that job creation and talent retention should be top priorities but added Michigan's residents and

economy have suffered due to the governor letting the Republican legislature set the agenda.

"From passing archaic policies that push a right wing social agenda and alienate current and future job-seekers, I think the governor should realize that the first rule of retaining talent is not giving them a reason to leave," said Anderson.

Michigan needs to foster an inclusive environment and stop driving wedges between the people of Michigan, he said.

"I hope we can close the book on last year's polar-

izing agenda and start this year anew with a focus on cooperation and job creation," said Anderson.

Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy zeroed in on the governor's comments on education reform and a new emphasis on early childhood education.

The school district has been hard hit financially during Snyder's first two years in office, losing some \$14 million in per pupil aid. So while hearing the governor talk about an emphasis on early childhood edu-

cation was refreshing, Baracy is waiting to see how that will be accomplished.

"Early childhood education absolutely needs to expand in Michigan to get those students prepared for kindergarten but the devil will be in the details," he said. "We don't want the state to rob Peter to pay Paul."

Baracy also is closely watching the talk about educational reforms, including the revision of the State School Aid Act. He believes the revisions must be based on research.

"There must be a way to rewrite it to provide equity in school funding," he said. "There's a huge disparity in funding and that gap must be closed. Every cut the state has imposed on us carries on to the next year. In three years, we've lost \$14 million. We've been pushed over the fiscal cliff through no fault of our own."

Staff Writer Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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TUTOR

Continued from page A1

It's estimated that in the U.S. there are 30 million adults who can't read well

enough to understand a newspaper article at the eighth-grade level or fill out a job application.

The library has been increasing the number of adult literacy tutors in recent years, going from

16 active tutors in 2011 to 25 tutors in 2012.

Anyone interested in getting more information on being an adult literacy tutor can come to the informational meeting. To get information, call the

library at (734) 326-6123 or stop by the Reference desk and ask for Liz Waun or Tara Scott.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

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.

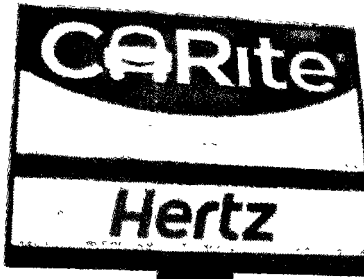
Westland Easytalkers meets 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. For information call Luddie at (734) 414-0034 or Curt at (734) 525-8445 or visit westlandeasytalkers.toastmas-

tersclubs.org.


Railroadiana

Ss. Simon and Jude Usher's Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, in Westland. Admission is \$2 per



person, or \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available and parking is free. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10 each. To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327. Dealer setup is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.



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Don and Leslie Rohraff of Westland join their daughter Dallas on stage after she was selected the 2013 Wayne-Westland Distinguished Young Woman of the Year. She will compete for the state honor Jan. 26.



Westland teen vies for state's Distinguished Young Woman

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Dallas Rohraff started doing some dancing during her Christmas break from school. It wasn't a case of not having anything to do, but to get ready for next weekend's Distinguished Young Women of Michigan Scholarship Program.

A senior at Livonia Churchill High School, Rohraff will represent Wayne-Westland in the 55th annual program being held at Saline High School at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. She won the title Distinguished Young Woman of Wayne-Westland in the local competition held in November, walking away with awards for fitness, talent, self-expression, scholastics (she has a 4.3 grade-point average), community service, Be Your Best and an interview with the judges.

"I started getting flowers and they were almost too much to hold, that's when I started thinking I might win," she said. "If not, I had a lot of awards. It was so many that I thought, 'This could be good,' but when they called my name as the winner, I was surprised and excited."

Rohraff, a Westland resident, will spend this week in the Ann Arbor area, doing community service and preparing for the program. Twelve girls from around the state are vying for more than \$10,000 in college scholarships and the chance to represent Michigan at the national finals in Mobile, Ala., in June.

"I'm really excited about doing a lot of community service and staying with the girls who won in their local programs," she said.

At the state program, contestants will perform onstage in an open-

DISTINGUISHED EVENT

What: 55th annual Distinguished Young Women of Michigan Scholarship Program
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26
Location: Saline High School, 1300 Campus Parkway, Saline
Tickets: \$15 presale by contacting the Michigan State Committee at Michigan@distinguished-yw.org and \$18 at the door

ing number and compete in a performing arts talent routine, a physical fitness routine and self-expression. Contestants are also evaluated in based on academic scholastics and interview.

The Distinguished Young Woman of America Christina Maxwell will be a special guest performer at this year's event, and Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan, twirler Christy Houle, will do a final performance. Houle was the second runner-up to the 2012 Distinguished Young Woman of America at the national program.

Rohraff will perform a lyrical dance to Christina Aguilera's *Beautiful*. She also has been boning up on politics in preparation for the onstage question.

"When you go to the state level, they ask a lot of political questions, and since it was an election year last year, there will probably be a lot," she said. "I know something about politics, but not enough to talk about it."

The daughter of Don and Leslie Rohraff, the teen has plans to attend college. She already has been offered a full-ride scholarship to the University of Michigan-Dearborn and has been

accepted to Grand Valley State and Michigan State universities. She's looking into studying biology and going into research.

"They all have good research programs. I've got time to figure out what's best for me," she said.

Rohraff found the local program a good experience. With the other contestants from John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools, she knew no one going in, but came out having met "a lot of great girls."

"The local program was such a great experience," she said. "For me to win and go nationals in Alabama, that would be a life-changing experience."

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Help 4 Healing Hearts holding free workshop

Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken? Does your mind stir with unanswered questions? Are you embarrassed to talk about it - to anyone?

For people who answered yes to any or all of these questions, Hope 4 Healing Hearts can help. The group can't make what has happened go away, nor can it help get them out of jail. It can, however, provide individuals with a safe place to talk, where no one else will judge them or their loved one or just a place

to listen to others and know that they're no longer alone.

Hope 4 Healing Hearts will be presenting a workshop in which participants will learn about emotions: grief, anger, love, etc.; things people can or cannot do; where to turn for different needs; the value and need of a support group; how your life and theirs will change; what happens when you visit them; what happens when they come home, and many other topics.

Many of those in the on-going support group

will be there to help show the way to heal a broken heart.

The free workshop will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. on four consecutive Mondays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 23, at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Donations will be accepted and appreciated.

While it is a free workshop, space is limited, so call by Feb. 1 to reserve a seat and to insure getting an informational packet.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Program helps improve family relationships

The Strengthening Families Program at the Garden City Family Resource Center has been postponed a few weeks due to low enrollment.

The center is currently enrolling for the program which originally was set to start on Tuesday, Jan. 15. The next session begins on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

The Strengthening

Families Program is a family skills program designed to improve family relationships, parenting skills and improve youth social and life skills. The program is open to residents of Western Wayne County with children ages 7-11.

The organizers ask key questions like:

- Do you wish life at home was less stressful?
- Are your children act-

ing out at home or school?

• Do you feel your child needs extra help controlling anger?

The program is free, but space is limited. The Strengthening Families program will be held at the Family Resource Center at 31735 Maplewood, just west of Merriman, in Garden City.

For more information or to register, call (734) 793-1860.

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MORE OR LESS?

If someone asked physicians what is the most common cause for aching joints and muscles in elderly people, the physicians' answer would not be osteoarthritis or wear and tear on joints. Probably the most common reason for an elderly person's difficulty in arising from a chair or walking upstairs is being out of shape. In medical jargon the phrase is de-conditioning.

Part of the lore of aging is that when one retires it means the start of doing less. That perspective is ill advised. As a person ages, the need is to do more, not gracefully cut back. Doing more takes the form of being increasingly active, that is physically moving as occurs in walking, swimming, biking, using treadmills, or hiking.

The feature of these exercises is that they are sustained. The walking, swimming and biking should continue without stopping for at least 30 minutes. Of course when starting, one must begin at a pace and for a time that the body can accept. The goal is 30 minutes, or more.

In keeping with the idea that in retirement one does more not less, one should do exercise not four or five days a week, but every day. Events such as illness, travel, bad weather and emergencies will occur with sufficient regularity so that the body will find opportunities to rest muscles and enjoy a day off of schedule.

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ACHIEVERS

Kimberly Kersey, Iwona Laskowski, James Little and Melanie Mullin, all of Garden City, have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2012 semester at Davenport University.

To achieve the Dean's List, they had to maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

Named to the President's List for the fall 2012 semester were Clifton Adams and Lindsay Kemppainen, both of Garden City. The President's List recognizes Davenport University's top students who excel with outstanding academic performance.

To achieve the President's List, a student must maintain a minimum 3.8 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

Eleven band and orchestra students from Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne will compete in the State Solo/Ensemble Festival at Chelsea High School in March.

Julie Bancroft, Matt Colaianne, Revah Herman, Noah Karson, Colin Malcolm, Kevin Martin, Carol May, Brandon Moore, Jessica Porath, Oscar Silvera and Nathan VanMeter qualified for the state competition by earning a First Division rating at the district Solo/Ensemble Festival.

tival at Livonia Franklin High School on Jan. 12. Out of 39 events performed, 35 earned medals were awarded at the district competition.

Laura Gisondi of Westland has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2012-13 academic year at Illinois Wesleyan University.

To be on the Dean's List, Gisondi had to have a grade-point average of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight A's.

Richard Holloway and Peter Raub, both of Garden City, have been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall 2012 term at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

Holloway is majoring in biomedical engineering; Raub is majoring in electrical engineering. To be named to the honor roll, they had to maintain at least a 3.5 average for the term.

John Bohanon of Garden City has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester, which ended in December, at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla. They are:

To be included on the Dean's List, Bohanon had to complete 12 or more graded credits in a semester with a semester grade point average of at least 3.4. He is majoring in aerospace engineering.

Glenn instructor named VFW District 4 Teacher of Year

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Michele Anderson's enthusiasm for a project she is doing with students at John Glenn High School comes through when she talks about interviewing World War II veterans and the planning of a USO-style dance this spring, so much so that she has been recognized by the VFW.

Anderson is in the running for the state VFW Teacher of the Year honor, which will be announced Saturday at the organization's mid-winter conference in Kalamazoo. Chair of the high school's social studies department, Anderson moved on to the state competition after winning District 4 honors. She was sponsored for the award by Detroit VFW Post 4553 and its auxiliaries.

"I'm excited to win at this level, it's really a neat honor," Anderson said. "I was surprised I won. There were a couple other teachers at the high school level nominated who were very deserving."

Anderson was nominated for the post contest by Sandra Borio of Westland. Borio, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, contacted Anderson after seeing an *Observer* story last year about a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council she had received to do oral histories of World War II veterans and hold a World War II-style USO dance for them.

Borio had the names of several veterans interested in being interviewed and, after talking to Anderson, asked if



John Glenn High School history teacher Michele Anderson (center) is honored as the 4th District VFW Teacher of the Year by John Kowalczyk (from left), 4th District commander; James Galen, Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy chairman; Lorianne Swails, Michigan Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship chairman, and Beverly Burton, 4th District Ladies Auxiliary president.

she could nominate her for the award. Anderson was grateful to have the opportunity to speak to the organization in interviewing for the award. It was a chance to discuss the project and distribute information about the interviews and the dance.

Anderson and her students have been interviewing members of the country's "Greatest Generation" for the Veterans Oral History Project. The recordings will be sent to the Library of Congress. Participants also will receive a DVD of the interviews.

She's also been working on the dance which, will be held May 8 in the high school cafeteria. She's expecting between 300 and 1,000 veterans and guests to attend. She's

lined up former radio personality Jim Harper to be the emcee and has crooner Matt Walsh coming to perform some of the songs of the era. The Arsenal of Democracy Museum also will have a display of vintage vehicles at the school.

But she also has students involved. They've been helping with the interview process and are creating poster boards of veterans who have died that will be displayed in the hallway outside of the cafeteria the night of the dance. The vocal and instrumental music students will perform, and Anderson is hoping to find a dance instructor to teach students some of the dance styles of the era "in case they want to get up and dance."

Even the high school's JROTC unit will be involved.

"What's so cool is the students' response, it's been so positive," she said. "I think once we're done with this, the next round we'll interview the Korean veterans. If we just do the interviews, we'll only need DVDs, but I'll definitely need another grant if we do another dance."

For now, Anderson is waiting to see how she does at the state level. If she wins there, she'll go on to national competition. "I think you get some money with that for professional development," she said. "I could use it to continue the project."

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Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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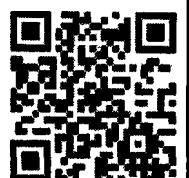
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Parents face trial on charge of murdering infant son

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Covered with bruises and having multiple broken bones, 3-month-old Joshua Wilson Jr. died from blunt force trauma that caused abdominal hemorrhaging.

That was the testimony of Dr. Jeffrey Jentzen, a Washtenaw medical examiner, Thursday in Westland's 18th District Court at the preliminary examination for Joshua Wilson and Kelli Worth-McBride, the baby's parents.

The Westland couple, both 21, have been ordered to stand trial on charges of murdering and abusing their son, who died Dec. 19.

During his testimony, Jentzen described about 30 separate bruises on the baby, including both knees, multiple broken ribs, previous breaks in both collarbones and a broken tibia, in addition to the fatal injuries.

"In my opinion, the bruises are so unique that they are not consistent with falls by a toddler who could walk. This child couldn't walk," said Jentzen. "These bruises were intentionally inflicted injuries, in my opinion."

Some of the broken bones were about two weeks old and in the process of healing, Jentzen said, while others occurred near the time the baby was fatally injured. That included multiple fractures of the baby's ribs near the spine, which he said could have resulted in conjunction with other injuries — for instance, if the baby had been struck in the chest while prone on a hard surface.

"The chest bruise was caused by a blunt object. It could have been a hand or a closed fist," said Jentzen. "It takes a large amount of force to cause a bruise in that area. The bruises around the ribs could be consistent with adult hands around the chest area."

Charged with felony murder and first-degree child abuse, Wilson and McBride-Worth both made statements to police that described the baby being struck, thrown into a bed or car seat and "bear hugged" so that he would stop crying.

In his statement, Wilson detailed striking and throwing the baby on the day that he died after being taken to the University of Michigan Hospital.

For her part, McBride-Worth initially denied being in the couple's apartment on Venoy, said Westland Police Sgt. David Dinsmore. After police interviewed a third person who had been in the apartment, Dinsmore said he confronted her.

"I yelled at her that she was lying. She said Josh didn't know she saw him punching Junior in the chest," said Dinsmore. "She said she yelled at him and told him to stop."

Using a stuffed animal, Dinsmore said McBride-Worth demonstrated the "bear hug" used to stop the crying baby from breathing. He said she cradled the stuffed animal in her arm, then bent her arm towards her

body, crushing it towards her body.

There was little argument as Judge Mark McConnell ordered Wilson bound over for trial as charged.

Defense attorney William Winters, representing McBride-Worth, argued the charges against his client weren't supported by the testimony. Without the required element of intentionally or knowingly causing harm, he said only a lesser charge of second-degree child abuse would be applicable.

McBride-Worth aided and abetted the murder and abuse of the child, having taken no action despite witnessing the abuse, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden said.

"She breached her duty to her child. She might as well have said, 'I'll leave him here — do whatever you want to the baby,'" Weingarden said. "She didn't call Protective Services. She didn't call the police. She didn't throw him out or move out with the baby."

Agreeing that the testimony didn't show McBride-Worth had caused significant injury to the baby, McConnell found the aiding and abetting theory applicable.

"She had a special duty as the child's mother to insure the child was safe.

Nothing was done," said McConnell.

Both Wilson and McBride-Worth are jailed in lieu of bond. They are scheduled for circuit court arraignment on Jan. 24.

A second Westland couple, Antonio Brandon, 23, and Nicole Roberts, 19, are scheduled for trial Jan. 30 in Wayne County Circuit Court, charged with killing their 2 1/2-month-old son Kayden Brandon, on Dec. 5, 2011. The pair are also charged with abusing Kayden's twin brother Cameron.

Brandon is charged with first-degree murder and child abuse. Roberts is charged with involuntary manslaughter and child abuse — that she was aware of the abuse and allowed it to continue. Both have been jailed since their arrest a year ago.

The death of Kayden, who weighed 10 pounds, was ruled a homicide with asphyxiation and blunt force trauma as the causes. Testimony from the Wayne County medical examiner found the infant had a range of fresh and healing injuries, including deep tissue bleeding in his arms and neck muscles, broken ribs and bleeding in his chest cavity.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Open House

St. Damian Catholic School is hosting an open house for prospective students and their families noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27.

Interested families are invited to tour the school and meet the teachers and staff. Light refreshments provided. St. Damian Catholic School has a rigorous academic program, with opportunities for children to develop their intellectual, artistic and physical abilities through innovative academic studies, art, vocal music, computer, sports programs, drama, K-8 Spanish, student government and more.

After school programs provide further enrichment opportunities. Students participate in community-service projects and are instructed in Scripture and Catholic religious education. The average class size of 20 allows children individual attention that is centered in Christian values.

Registrations for 2013-2014 will be accepted at the open house. They will be date and time stamped and considered in the order of receipt.

St. Damian Catholic School is located at 29891 Joy Road, Westland. Call the school at (734) 427-1680 or visit the website at www.stdamian.com for

more information.

All About Tea

Join the Friends of the Wayne Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, for an evening of delectable delights when they host Vicky O'Neily, owner of Victoria's Tea Salon, for "All About Tea." O'Neily will be introduce guests to a variety of teas and explain the difference between "high tea" and "afternoon tea." Participants will enjoy tea samples.

For more information, call the library at (734) 721-7832. The library is at 3737 S. Wayne Road, south of West Michigan Avenue, in Wayne.

'University' provides financial peace

"Normal is broke — be weird."

That's what the headline reads to promote Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.

The class will be offered at the Garden City Family Resource Center, beginning 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and running through April 30.

The program, developed by nationally syndicated radio host and *New York Times* best-selling author Dave Ramsey, features video seminar sessions, discussion groups, individualized attention plus additional online resources for class members.

Financial Peace Uni-

versity is a "life-changing" class that teaches the nuts and bolts of getting out of debt and how to make a plan for the future. Topics covered include Savings, Relating with Money, Cash Flow Planning, Debt, Credit, Investments, Real Estate and Mortgages and more.

Each week will feature a short review of the previous week's lesson, a video session taught by Ramsey, small group discussion and a time to share weekly victory stories. The discussion groups provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions.

Groups are able to form a camaraderie and typi-

cally become each other's greatest supporters and cheerleaders — encouraging each other through every step of the process.

The facilitator is Martha Griggs. Weekly classes will be held at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood.

The community discounted registration fee is \$50 per couple, and the senior citizen discounted registration fee for those age 55 and up is \$25.

Those interested in registering for the class can do so at the Maplewood Center Balmoral Desk. Payment can be made by check only.

For more information, call (734) 793-1860.

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Ministry turns 10, sets another record

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry, has marked its 10th year by helping yet another record number of area families fight hunger.

"Families are still hurting," Director Steve Darr said Monday afternoon, inside the vast warehouse on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue.

Open Door Ministry, a nonprofit offshoot of Canton-based Connection Church, ended 2012 by helping an average 459 families each week keep food on the table. That amounted to feeding nearly 1,400 mouths every week in homes

where jobs have been lost, work remains elusive and scarce dollars force choices between paying for shelter or groceries.

That compared to an average of 407 families the previous year.

"That's a pretty big jump," said Darr, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer.

Amid help from Gleaners Community Food Bank, Forgotten Harvest, grocery retailers, churches and area residents, Open Door distributed a record-shattering 1.61 million pounds of food in 2012, compared to 1.55 million pounds in 2011. Recipients line up in cars every Thursday outside the warehouse for help.

Food and jobs

Rather than just provide food, Open Door also has a jobs bank it uses to help clients find work. Michele Yoder, a University of Michigan-Dearborn assistant professor, volunteers her time to help those in need get the resumes and job-hunting skills they need in hopes they can find work.

The goal, Darr said, is to fight hunger until Open Door's clients can hopefully return to self-sufficiency, and the organization has a small army of volunteers to carry out its mission. One-on-one counseling also is offered.

Monday afternoon, Forgotten Harvest truck driver Larry Moore of

Inkster delivered 5,000 pounds of meat, baked goods and other items to Open Door after collecting food that was close to being discarded by Walmart stores in Canton, Livonia and Belleville and the Kroger store on Michigan Avenue in Canton.

"I love helping everyone I can help," Moore said. "That's what motivates me."

Open Door volunteer Doug Finan of Taylor helped Moore get pallets of food moved into the warehouse. Finan has been helping since the food pantry opened a decade ago, and he shops for sharply price-discounted foods to complement what is donated. On average, Open Door



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doug Finan moves pallets of food for Open Door Ministry, which distributed a record-shattering 1.61 million pounds of food in 2012.

spends only 2 cents a pound for food.

"I get the satisfaction of helping people," Finan said.

Open Door helps families in communities such as Canton, Westland, Livonia, Plymouth, Garden City, Redford, Bel-

leville, Inkster and Ypsilanti. It started seeing an uptick in need several years ago when the economy tanked, costing many wage earners their jobs and forcing them to choose between paying

Please see MINISTRY, A7

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² Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 1/5/2013. See branch for details.

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Veterans parade organizers seek fresh ideas

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

When it comes to the Wayne-Westland Memorial Day parade, organizers have a pretty simple goal.

"Our idea is to make it better than in the past," said Dan Stachow of the Wayne-Westland Veterans Parade Council. "We're trying to bring in some new blood and fresh ideas. There are really only six of us now that do the parade."

To that end, the parade council is looking for volunteers to help organize and run the parade, which is held the Sunday before Memorial Day — this year, May 26.

The parade council meets at 7:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of the month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 at 1055 S. Wayne Road in Westland.

"We (also) need people to help us stage units, direct traffic in park-

ing lots," said Stachow, who has been involved in the parade for about five years.

While various veterans groups support and participate in the annual parade, which dates back decades, being a veteran or involved with a veterans group is required for participation in the parade.

Featuring five or six bands, veterans group, Scouts and other participants, the parade alternates routes between Wayne and Westland. This year, the parade will form at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, head north on Wayne Road and then go west on Ford to the Westland municipal complex at Carlson.

Parade council members do a little fundraiser by soliciting businesses, largely to provide water and other refreshments to parade participants and buy American flags to pass out during the parade.

"We have some older and disabled veterans, so we're trying to get them a vehicle, maybe a trailer, for the parade," Stachow said.

Despite being held Memorial Day weekend, Stachow said the parade is intended to honor all veterans — not just those who died in service.

Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day originated to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. Today, the holiday has expanded to honor all Americans who have died in all wars.

Anyone interested in participating in the parade can come to the monthly meeting or call parade coordinator Heather Robertson-Mitchell at (313) 576-7268.

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MINISTRY

Continued from page A6

for mortgages, rent, cars, prescription medication and other needs.

One man alone has sent out 4,000 resumes, Darr said. Many people still are looking for jobs, and they rely on Open Door as a safety net for food.

"GMAC will call up and ask where's the car payment," Darr said, "but Kroger won't call people to tell them they haven't been in for food."

Extending help

Typically, Open Door sets a four-month goal to try to help people return to self-sufficiency, and clients are expected to use the job bank to try to find work. After the initial food-assistance period has ended, the help can be extended if families are trying to help themselves but are facing obstacles.

Last year marked the fourth consecutive year Open Door's food distribution surpassed the one-million-pound mark.

Open Door Ministry used to lease its warehouse, but decided to stay put and buy it with no end in sight for hunger. Connection Church bought the 48,000-square-foot building for \$290,000 — far less than the previous owners had originally asked — and Open Door already has repaid about \$80,000.

Donors who want to help pay for the building through Open Door's "Heart of Caring" campaign may go to www.opendoorfoodministry.org. Those who want to send personal checks — either for food or for the warehouse — may mail them to Open Door Ministry, 4301 S. Lilley Road, Canton, MI 48188. Donors are asked to note on their checks which

effort they are supporting.

As Open Door's outreach has grown, so has its support. Darr said some 40 different organizations are involved in helping.

"The support has been overwhelming," he said. "Sometimes it brings tears to our eyes."

Monday afternoon, after truck driver Larry Moore made his delivery, Jackie Darr, who runs Open Door with husband Steve, began sorting out food for this week's program. It has been a decade of hard volunteer work, but she said she and others don't mind because they are doing what Jesus Christ would want.

"That makes it a lot easier," she said. "This is our life. This is what we do."

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Jackie Darr and Larry Moore of Forgotten Harvest sort the food.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Open Door Ministry Director Steve Darr said of his ministry's record-setting year: "Families are still hurting."

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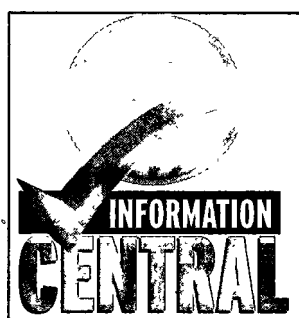
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Handwriting analysis can tell a lot about people

Although writing by hand is gradually becoming a thing of the past with the rise of computers, Internet, and tools, such as email, penmanship used to be a very important art, and some still believe that handwriting can tell a lot about a person.

Handwriting analysis, also called graphology, is not the same as forensic document examination, but it can be used in medical and legal applications. In the medical profession, handwriting can be used to help diagnose whether an individual has a disease affecting the brain or nervous system.

Analysis of handwriting can be used to detect fraud and identify anonymous writers, and has been used in the process of jury selection and to screen potential employees. These and other uses for handwriting analysis all rely on the belief that a trained eye can



ascertain things about an individual's personality, ambition, intellect, and emotional well-being by examining aspects of an individual's handwriting.

Although it has not been empirically confirmed, and there are many skeptics, handwriting analysts can determine personality traits by studying aspects of handwriting, including details like the direction that the text slopes, which way letters slant, how wide or narrow letters are, whether letters are connected, and how much pressure is applied while writing.

The library has several books about handwriting and handwriting analysis including *Signature for Success: How to Analyze Handwriting and Improve Your Career, Your Relationships and Your Life, Better Handwriting, Sex, Lies, and Handwriting: A Top Expert Reveals the Secrets Hidden in Your Handwriting* and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Handwriting Analysis*.

Check it out and make up your own mind about handwriting analysis in celebration of National Handwriting Analysis Week, this coming week, Jan. 20-26.

If you'd like to learn more about handwriting or handwriting analysis visit the library's website at www.westlandlibrary.org give us a call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the reference desk. The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and closed Sunday-Monday.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Writers Workshop: 7 p.m. Jan. 23

The Writers Workshop critiques an individual's writing in a workshop setting. All genres accepted (fiction, poetry, memoir, etc.). We will tell you what is working with your piece, as well as what needs improvement. The goal of our group is to help writer's get published. You must attend one session before your

writing will be reviewed. To register, visit or call the Reference Desk (734) 326-6123 or contact andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org To read about our

workshops, check out our blog at: www.westlandlibrary.org.

Adult Literacy Tutor Information Night: 7 p.m. Jan. 23

In the United States there are 30 million adults who can't read well enough to understand a newspaper article at the eighth grade level or fill out a job application. Currently more than 100,000 adults are on waitlists to get paired with a literacy tutor at this time. Find out how you can get involved and share your love of reading with an adult in need.

This is a fantastic volunteer opportunity that will make a great difference in someone's life. We will go over how tutor training works (15 hours on March 2nd, 9 and 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and what's necessary to become a tutor — just two hours a week. No formal training in education is required and you don't have to make any commitments right away. Just show up and find out what adult literacy is all about. If you are unable to attend this information session and are still interested in adult literacy tutoring opportunities, call or stop by the Reference desk and ask for Kristy or Tara.

eReader and Tablet Support Group: 2 p.m. Jan. 24

Do you have an eReader or tablet? Want to learn more about it? Stop in to meet with other e-users, share your expertise, or learn some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device. An eReader/Tablet expert will be on hand to answer the difficult questions.

Getting Healthy After

the Holidays: 7 p.m. Jan. 24, Tonight: *Managing Stress*

The last of a three-part series led by Dessi Tzankova, health fitness professional. The focus will be on helping you make the right decisions to get (and stay) healthy.

I have an Android Tablet, now what?: 7 p.m. Jan. 24

You received (or bought) an Android tablet for the holidays, but it's not as easy to use as you thought. Join tech guru, Lindsay Wiczorek, to learn how to get the most use out of the season's hottest technology.

Friday Night Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Jan. 25

Friday Night Movies continue through the winter with a selection of recently run favorites and Oscar nominees. *Beast of the Southern Wild* is at the center of a lot of Oscar buzz for Best Picture nominations. It is about an intrepid 6-year-old in a rural community that is on the verge of being flooded. Snacks and refreshments served. Rated PG-13. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Starts at 7 p.m. No sign-up required.

Noontime Book Club: noon Jan. 29, *The Expats* by Chris Patone

A move to Luxembourg promises new opportunities for Americans Kate and Dexter Moore in this suspense novel from Chris Pavone. Washington, D.C., wife and mother Kate sees Dexter's job offer in Luxembourg as a means of escaping the CIA career she has kept secret from her husband. She quits the agency, moves to Europe, and watches her hopes for a normal life quickly fade. Dexter's mysterious job keeps him away from home,

and something about their new American friends just doesn't seem right. With her espionage instincts triggered, Kate embarks on an investigation that grows more and more dangerous. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No signup required.

Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library to find out more. The library offers One-on-one computer classes. Call (734) 326-6123.

The library will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 22, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and will resume its regular hours Wednesday, Jan. 23.

Information Central was compiled by Tara Scott. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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DECA members bring home district honors

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

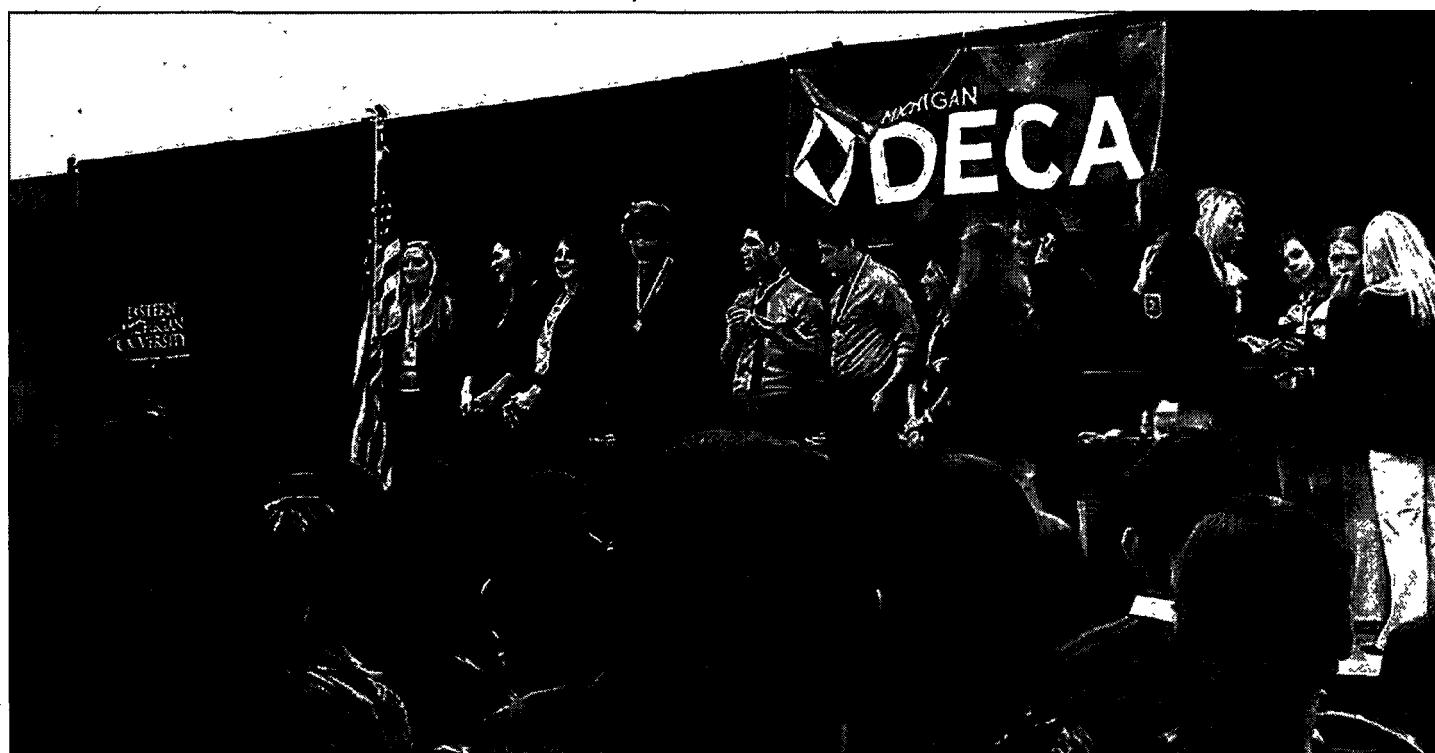
Students in Garden City High Schools' DECA program are gearing up for state competition, following a successful showing at district competition.

Sixty-four DECA members participated in the one-day district conference, held Jan. 11 at Eastern Michigan University, and brought home 56 medals. The Garden City program also had 40 members qualify for the State Career Development Conference in Grand Rapids in March.

"We're very happy with the results," said Teresa A. Millican, a marketing and business teacher at the high school. "We had some students come home with three medals."

Millican and Lynda Bommarito are advisers for DECA at the high school. Millican handles the written events, while Bommarito focuses on role-playing. They expect the number of students going to the state conference to go up as alternate selections are announced. Last year, 45 Garden City students competed in DECA at the state level. Millican is expecting to have at least 43 students this year.

DECA prepares students to be leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and



Garden City DECA members Vinnie Meiers, Wyatt Giangrande and Andrew Burek, who The Glass Slipper - Fashion Promotion Project, receive their medals at the district conference.

management. The Garden City chapter has 73 members, down from previous years due to a change in requirements. According to Millican, the requirements for being in DECA are up, as more students are focusing on volunteerism. As a result, participation in community events is at a record high for Garden City DECA, she said.

Among the projects DECA members will present at the state conference are:

- The Cougar's Den, which focuses on those students who can not

afford spirit wear. Donated clothing was separated, with orange, blue, white and black clothes printed with leftover imprints to make them into spirit-related clothing that was given to students who couldn't afford to buy spirit wear.

"The students donated their time to do the project and then gave out the spirit wear," Millican said. "We took stats at our last Spirit Day, which was homecoming, and 95 percent of students were wearing spirit wear. It was amazing to see all the stu-

dents dressed at the homecoming assembly. Some seniors said they had never dressed for a spirit day and this was a first for them.

"It was all about spreading spirit here and in the community," she added.

• Dress for Success, a room at Henry Ruff that DECA students have set up to offer free professional clothing for interviews. Clothes were collected from the Garden City staff and community members. The students also put together resume and interviewing tips to help those in need become more financially literate.

• The Learn and Earn Project, the HeMan Volleyball game raised more than \$800 that was donated to the Robby Spellman DECA Scholarship Fund as well as Limbs for Life.

The students also participated in an Entrepreneurship Promotional Project showcasing local entrepreneurs and a Public Relations Project focusing on spreading the word about the community services

offered at Henry Ruff.

Garden City DECA will be entering eight written events this year at the State Conference. Five of the projects include a 30-page written report and three are shorter 11-page reports.

One of the smaller reports is about The Glass Slipper, a storefront filled with formal and semi-formal dresses for the prom, homecoming and winter semi-formals. More than 18 students have gotten dresses through this process to date. Young women needing a dress and accessories to be able to go to these events are referred to Millican by staff, counselors or community members. She meets them at Henry Ruff for a confidential appointment to find a dress.

The Glass Slipper was started by several parents last year, and DECA has developed a promotional plan. The staff and community members have donated more than 30 new dresses in the past few months.

Millican and Bommarito said that they received plenty of many compliments about the Garden City DECA members about their approach to an interview and in basic verbal communication skills — eye contact, handshakes and manners. In reporting on the results of the district competitions, they reported that "they looked awesome and we were very proud."

DECA's international conference will be in Anaheim, Calif., in April, and Millican believes the Garden City program could have at least 10 students, maybe more, qualify. The students who make it there will have their work cut out for them, fundraising to pay for the trip in a short period of time.

For now, their advisers are proud of the job they did at districts.

"We're proud of their dedication," Millican said.

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THE WINNERS ARE ...

Receiving all three medals for testing, role-play and overall state qualifier presented at the district conference were Ben Arent, Alicia Himmel, Bailey Terrell and Heaven Kayal.

Receiving two medals for role-play and overall state qualifier were Rachel Bommarito, Katelyn Hallup, Amanda Himmel, Kelly McDermott, Renee Metcalf, Julene Pummill, Loren Thrun and Katiyn Zaorski.

Awarded two medals for testing and overall state qualifier were Savannah Childress, Sadie Crunk, Redion Hasimllari, Kristina Huber, Zach Laubernds, Robert Lucas and Ashley Wilamowski.

Awarded one medal for overall state qualifier were Grace Cook, Sarah Dropsey, Kennedy Gos-

sett, Chanz Harris, Deona Hasimllari, Jasemin Mance and Rachel Spellman. Students completing 11-page written campaigns and receiving the state qualifier medal were:

- The Glass Slipper (Semi-formal and Formal Dress Storefront Fashion Promotion) — Andrew Burek, Wyatt Giangrande and Vinnie Meiers.
 - Wings on Fire (Hockey Game Sports Promotion) — Samantha Burlingame, Rikki Keene and Brittney Szabo.
 - Rattle Snake Auto (Advertising Campaign) — Ryan Taft and Kyle Wait.
- Kelsey Bain was awarded a medal for her role-play. Those going to the state conference after completing a 30-page written event were:
- Creative Marketing —

The Cougar's Den (Operation Spirit wear) — Alaian Kastl and Katelyn Hallup.

- Entrepreneurship Promotion, Seven Skills of an Entrepreneur — Laura Rhodes, Loren Thrun and Rachel Bommarito.
 - Financial Literacy Project, Dress for Success — Kayla Jakel and Maggie Logan.
 - Learn and Earn, HeMan Volleyball Promotion — Julene Pummill, Kennedy Gossett and Addison Borlace.
 - Public Relations Project, Henry Ruff Community Center — Ashley Wilamowski and Sadie Crunk.
- Bailey Terrell and Ashley Moyers will be going to the state conference to present the School-Based Enterprise, Cougar's Corner School Store.

WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WAITING LIST

The Westland Housing Commission will open the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) waiting list for applications on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, commencing at 9:00am. Applications for the waiting list are available on-line **ONLY** at:

westlandhousingapplication.cityofwestland.com.

No paper applications will be available or accepted. All applications must be through the City of Westland web site. The Westland Housing Commission will accept 1000 applications, and preference will be given to Westland residents (those living or working in the City of Westland.) Application *Frequently Asked Questions* (information and instructions) are now posted on the City of Westland web site: www.cityofwestland.com (click on "Choose Service" and "Westland Housing Commission"). Applications received through the web site will be entered on the waiting list in the order received. Applicants will receive an email confirmation if their application is accepted.

Joanne Campbell, Director
Westland Housing Commission

Publish: January 20, 2013

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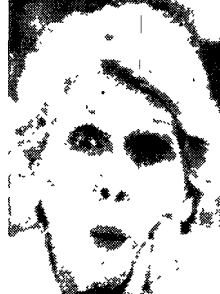
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Alberts: 'My excitement ... people loving the show'

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Sunglasses may be needed indoors at the North American International Auto Show this year as the automakers spared little expense to showcase their best and most innovative vehicles and products.

The \$250-million worth of displays on the show-room floor at the Cobo Center are different for every company, but one thing is constant — the vehicles all shine.

Rod Alberts, Bloomfield Hills resident and executive director of the NAIAS for the last 20 years, said the public is going to be taken aback by not only the displays, but the positive energy being exuded by auto companies throughout the world.

"(I hope) they say 'Oh my gosh, I cannot believe we have Vegas right here on the show floor,'" Alberts said.

And while the lights and sounds may make it seem like Vegas, there is something missing — gambling. The auto companies are no longer gambling on their futures, instead making calculated decisions and putting products in the market that consumers want and need.

As the executive director of the NAIAS, Alberts manages all aspects of auto show operations.

Alberts also serves as executive director of the Detroit Auto Dealers



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rod Alberts is Executive Director of the North American International Auto Show. He's next to the Cadillac ATS, the #013 North American Car Of The Year.

Association and said better quality products and the economic turnaround have brought a "new sense of excitement" to the market.

In his role as DADA executive director, Alberts represents dealers' business interests at the state and federal levels, industry representation, communications, community relations, and

educational and charitable endeavors and more.

He remembers in 2008 struggling to secure commitments from automakers to show off their vehicles at the show, and now the show is as strong as it has ever been.

"There's nothing like a comeback," he said.

The public show starts Saturday and Alberts is optimistic that attendance



Rod Alberts is Executive Director of the North American International Auto Show.

could approach 800,000 people. The media contingent approached nearly 5,000 people from upwards of 60 counties, and they were treated to more than 50 worldwide premieres.

"The feedback we received is that this is one of the best shows they have ever seen," Alberts said.

For Alberts, his "excitement comes from people loving the show" and he is off to a good start. He also wants those who come to Cobo, whether from the

suburbs or out of state, to have a sense of pride in Detroit and the progress being made.

"I love being a small part of the change makers who can see the difference in the city and help with the turnaround," he said.

In addition to his duties at the DADA, Alberts is a member of the executive committee of the Metro Detroit Visitors and Convention Bureau; is a member of the board of directors of the Motor Cities Automobile Nation-

al Heritage Area; serves on the board of directors for The Parade Company; serves on the Steering Committee of the Harold E. LeMay Museum and; serves on the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference Committee. In 2002, he served as president of the Automotive Trade Association Executives, an affiliate of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

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Judge dismisses felony counts against McCotter staffers

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

A Wayne County Circuit judge dismissed felony conspiracy charges Friday against two former staffers of former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter and sentenced them to probation in the petition fraud case involving the

former congressman's re-election bid last year.

Judge Margie Braxton sentenced Don Yowchuang, 33, to three years probation and 200 hours of community service. If he violates probation, he will spend the last year in jail. Yowchuang must pay approximately \$1,500 in court costs and fees.

Braxton sentenced Paul Seewald, 48, to two years probation and 100 hours community service, and he also must pay a total of \$937 in court costs and fees.

Both must report any contact with police or loss of employment to probation officers.

On Aug. 9, Attorney

General Bill Schuette announced the results of an investigation into the alleged fraud surrounding nominating petitions filed in May 2012 on behalf of McCotter. Schuette alleged that members of McCotter's staff were involved in a deliberate fraud involving a pattern of copying and altering

petitions in order to qualify the five-term congressman for the 2012 Michigan ballot.

On Friday, Braxton said she didn't believe Yowchuang and Seewald conspired to commit election fraud since the signatures were collected at "the last minute," that is just prior to the mid-May deadline last year.

Braxton added that she didn't take the petition process lightly. "Things should be done the way they should be done," she said.

She quickly added that she was "somewhat impressed that they (Yowchuang and Seewald) have stepped up to the plate and assumed their responsibilities."

"It's an unfortunate incident," Braxton said of the petition fraud.

Yowchuang of Farmington Hills, who worked as deputy district director for the former congressman, had pleaded no contest to 10 counts of forgery, a five-year felony, and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Seewald of Livonia, who worked as district director for the former congressman, pleaded guilty to nine misdemeanor counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator. The misdemeanor is punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Joy Yearout, spokeswoman for Schuette, said the attorney general's office is reviewing options for an appeal on Braxton's ruling to dismiss the charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner.

"The message here is very clear — if you break the law, there are consequences," she said in a prepared statement. "We'll review the dismissal of the conspiracy charge and make a decision about appeal."

After Friday's hearing, Seewald's attorney, Mark Mandell, said Seewald "took responsibility for what he did" and could begin to "put his life back together."

Seewald said he was thankful for the commu-

nity support. He took a leave of absence from the Livonia Junior Athletic League in which he volunteered as president and coached football, and looked forward to continuing with his involvement with the league.

"I will be looking forward to rebuilding what's been damaged in my life," Seewald said. "I can't say enough about how much I appreciate the support I received from family members, the community, the league and kids that I've coached."

Yowchuang left the courtroom and the outside hallway area without speaking to reporters.

Mandell criticized the attorney general. "I think the attorney general overreached by charging low-level staffers with felonies to look tough on election law," he said. "The fact is, as we know now, Mr. Seewald isn't guilty of a felony."

Mandell believes the case has not been thoroughly investigated by Schuette's office. Mandell believes that investigators have not found the source of 80 percent, or about 900, of the invalid signatures that were cut and pasted.

McCotter's staff turned in more than 2,000 signatures, but only 244 were found to be valid ones. Candidates are required to turn in a minimum of 1,000.

Other McCotter staffers faced charges in the petition fraud. In October, Lorraine O'Brady, a former scheduler for McCotter, was sentenced to 20 days in jail or 20 days in a work program, then received 18 months probation after pleading no contest to misdemeanor charges.

The fourth staffer, Mary Melissa Turnbull of Howell, faces one count of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator and one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner. She was bound over for trial Nov. 1 on both charges by Judge Dennis Drury of Troy's 52-4 District Court. She faces a pretrial in February.

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Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: Congratulations on achieving the American dream. It appears to me that you can retire when you want and maintain your lifestyle throughout your lifetime.

I agree with you that you should accept the buyout. Taking the lump sum gives you lots of flexibility and opportunities. Since you will not need the money, you can have the money directly deposited into your IRA, where it will grow tax-deferred until required minimum distributions begin at 70½. You will have nearly 10 years to let this money grow tax-deferred. During that period, it can grow substantially for the benefit of your family. After all, you have sufficient reserves between your current IRA and your other assets to cover any expenses that you may have.

You should consider doing a Roth IRA conversion. You can convert some money each year from your traditional IRA into a Roth and that money would grow tax-free and would not be subject to the minimum required distributions rules. I would not convert the entire amount in one year, but would recommend converting some money each year. The key is to convert enough so it doesn't throw you into a different tax bracket.

The downside of this transaction is that you will have to pay some taxes. However, you can use some of your money that you are saving from your wife's salary each year to pay the taxes. By having

money in a Roth IRA, it would give you great flexibility down the road.

For those of you facing a decision as to whether to accept the Ford buyout or, in fact, any company buyout, one of the issues that you need to consider is how you will invest the money. If you're an ultra-conservative investor and are only going to invest the money in CDs or U.S. treasuries, to me that generally means that you should keep the pension. On the other hand, for an individual who understands the markets and is willing to accept some short-term pain for long-term gain, I would lean toward accepting the buyout. The key is to be honest with yourself and to know what type of investor you are.

If you're a Ford retiree and have received an offer for a pension buyout, it is one of the most important decisions you can make. This decision is too important to leave to salespeople. Unfortunately, too many people are falling prey to salespeople who are using this as an opportunity to sell their low-paying, inflexible investment products to unsuspecting individuals. All too often in the financial world, the only goal of a salesperson is to sell. The key in making this decision is to make the right decision for you.

I am holding another free Ford Pension Buy-

Out Seminar on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Laurel Manor Conference Center located at 39000 Schoolcraft Road (between Newburgh and Haggerty) in Livonia. The seminar begins at 10 a.m. (continental breakfast served at 9:30 a.m.). Register via email at seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com or call at (248) 932-1379. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

LeBlanc appointed to chair special commission panel

Newly-elected Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, has been appointed by Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak to chair the Commission's Special Committee on Efficiency and Accountability.

The committee was recently formed by Chairman Woronchak in an effort to solve the county's financial challenges.

Commissioner Kevin McNamara, D-Belleville, will serve as vice chair of the committee and will be

joined by commissioners Shannon Price, R-Canton, Martha Scott, D-Detroit, and Ilona Varga, D-Lincoln Park.

Woronchak said LeBlanc, who was elected to the Wayne County Commission in November after serving six years as a state representative, as well as nearly 13 years as a locally-elected official, is a strong choice to chair the special committee.

Having experience from the House Appropriations Committee, along with being able to look at

the county's finances with fresh eyes and a new viewpoint, will be an asset, Woronchak said.

"I am honored to be appointed by Chairman Woronchak to chair this newly-created committee," LeBlanc said. "The intent of this committee is to review thoroughly county operations and determine whether cost-effective improvements can be made and to learn whether certain areas need additional funding to perform basic, necessary functions."

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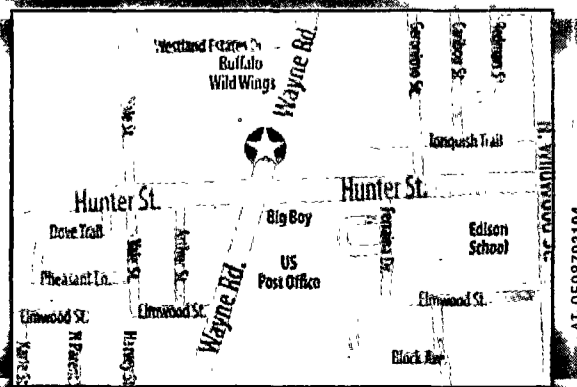
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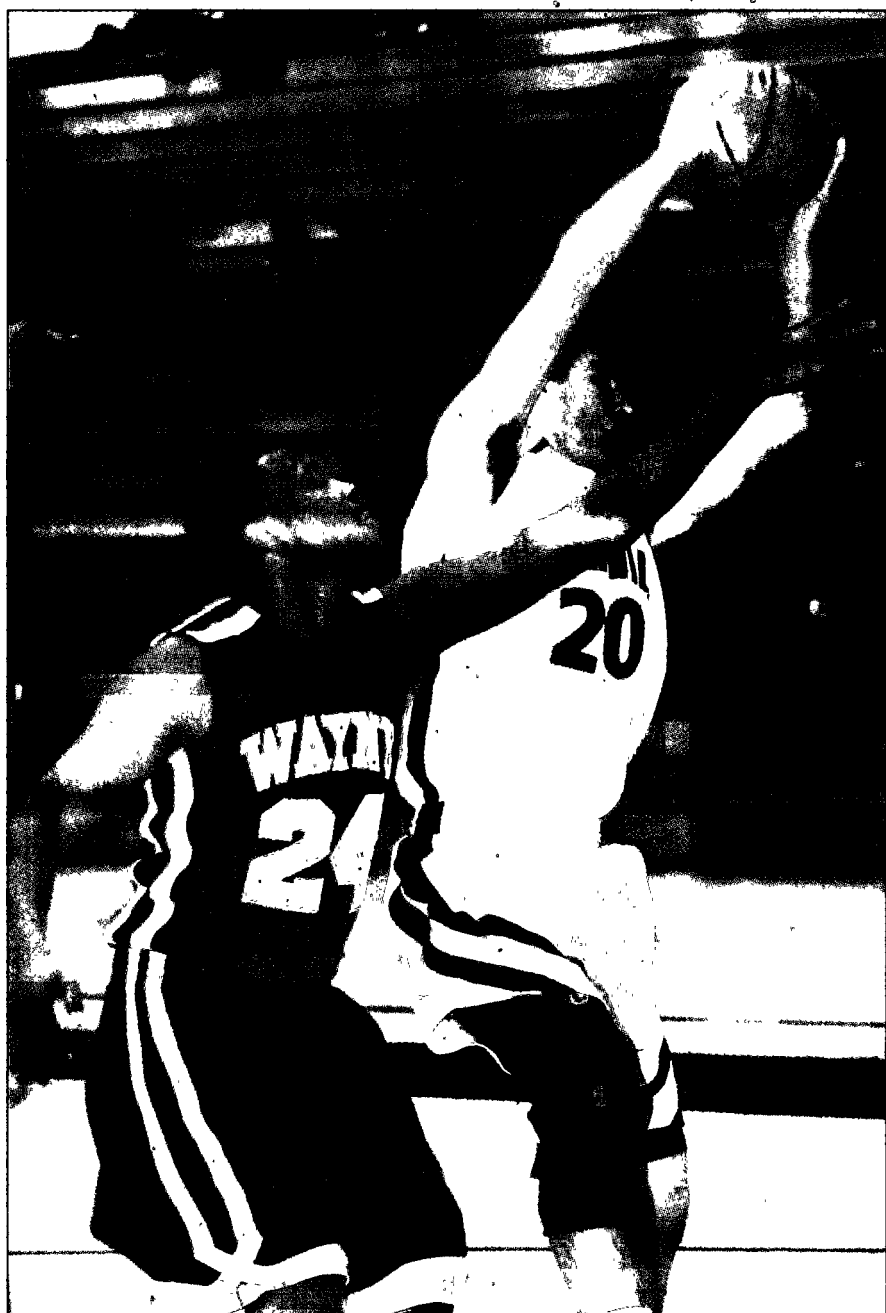
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Board game



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Churchill's Colton Robison (20) fights for the rebound with Wayne's Carlos Pernel during Friday's KLAAs South Division encounter. For a roundup of boys basketball games, see page B4.

BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth ices Spartans, 2-1 Claggett scores GW goal

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The 'C' on Mitch Claggett's sweater stands for clutch and the Plymouth Wildcats varsity boys hockey team has an important victory because of it.

Plymouth defeated Livonia Stevenson 2-1 Wednesday night at Arctic Edge Arena thanks to Claggett's unassisted goal with 6:12 left in the second period — just 31 seconds after the Spartans' Dominic Lutz tied the intense KLAAs Kensington Conference matchup.

The crisp, hard-hitting tilt had all the ingredients of a postseason game. Unfortunately, that can't happen now because of Stevenson's move to Division 2. Plymouth remains a D1 team.

"It's a great feeling," said Claggett, a senior forward. "Being able to put the puck in against a really good team means a lot, especially in tight games like this. It's just an unbelievable feeling, knowing our team can really battle through hard times and come out with a win."

The Wildcats won their ninth straight game and improved to 14-1-1 on the season while Stevenson (No. 3 in Division 2) dropped to 10-4-1.

"We're disappointed, but that's a good hockey club over there," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "They did the things necessary to win."

'Signature' response

On the go-ahead play, Claggett took advantage of a Spartans' turnover.

He wheeled and drove a hard shot from below the right face-off dot that slid under the pad of Stevenson senior goalie Connor Humitz.

"That's huge," said Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento, following the win against his former team. "That's just got to become the signature of our team. We respond well to adversity. Up in the Soo we did the same thing. Our boys just don't know when to quit."

Claggett's goal doused any momentum the Spartans had going in the wake of Lutz' goal with 6:43

Please see HOCKEY, B4

NJCAA honor for SC's Dyer

Schoolcraft College sophomore guard Courtney Dyer (Warren) has been named NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Player of the Week (ending Jan. 12) after scoring 77 points in three conference games.

Dyer started the week scoring 27 points, grabbing eight rebounds, with two steals and five assists in a 75-60 loss to Delta College.

She followed that up another 27-point performance in a 77-62 win over Oakland Community College. In that game, she grabbed four rebounds, had three assists and two steals.

On Saturday, Dyer stalled 23 points, had three assists, three steals and two rebounds in a 71-65 loss to Henry Ford Community College.

For the week, she shot 43.9 percent from the floor (25-of-57) and 48.3 percent from beyond the arc, hitting 14-of-29 3-point attempts. She was 13-of-16 from the foul line (81.3 percent).

Dyer also collected 14 rebounds, 11 assists and seven steals in 103 minutes of play.

Churchill RB an All-Star

Livonia Churchill senior running back-linebacker Romello Brown has been selected to play in the 33rd annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game Saturday, June 22, at Grand Valley State University.

The 5-foot-10, 246-pound Brown, who will be a member of the 44-man East squad, rushed for 1,843 yards and scored 31 touchdowns this season for the 10-1 Chargers.

Tickets in advance are \$5 and will be available beginning May 13.

CAP dinner at Coaches

The Churchill Athletic Patrons will stage their annual fundraiser dinner 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at Coaches Corner, located at Seven Mile and Farmington roads.

The benefit for Churchill athletics features an hourly 50-50 drawing, food and fun.

Rod Hawrany and Mario D'Herin of Roger and Rod's Barbershop will serve as guest bartenders.

For more information, call (734) 744-2650, ext. 46177, or email Churchill athletic director Marc Hage at mhage@livoniapublicschools.org.

WYAA hoops

Registration is under way for Westland Youth Athletic Association basketball for the following age groups: Right Start (6-8), Freshman (9-10), JV (11-12) and Varsity (13-14). Registration will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the WYAA's Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford); or online at www.wyaa.org. Call Keith DeMolay at (734) 722-1251.

Heart Team

Stevenson, Chargers play hoop benefit

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Two Livonia rivals will join forces to benefit the Wes Leonard Heart Team in a boys and girls basketball triple-header Tuesday, Jan. 22 when Churchill plays at Stevenson.

The freshman girls teams square off at 4 p.m. followed by a varsity girls game at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity boys at 7 p.m.

All proceeds will go toward purchasing defibrillator devices that are donated to schools, as well as funding research for sudden cardiac death.

Leonard was a 16-year-old athlete from Fennville who lost his life after making the game-winning shot on the basketball court from sudden cardiac arrest in 2011.

"It's the second year for this great charity event and we hope this year is better than our first," said Stevenson varsity boys coach Brandon Sinawi. "It's another opportunity for our program to try and give back to the community. Our ultimate goal is to raise money for our charity and at the same time, teach our players what it means to give back."

Last year, only the boys teams participated, but the girls teams will be joining in the fun this year.

"My girls are very excited to play in front of a large, energetic crowd," said Stevenson coach Jen Knoph, whose team fell 13-1 to Churchill's stall tactics on Dec. 14. "My team has something to prove to Churchill, so it should

Please see HEART, B2

Clarenceville-Franklin girls cagers 'Go Pink'

Breast cancer awareness will be the focal point in Tuesday's girls basketball game when Livonia Franklin travels to Livonia Clarenceville.

The JV game will start at 5:30 p.m., followed by the varsity matchup at 7 p.m., as players from both teams will wear pink accessories will all proceeds going to the Michigan Cancer Research Fund.

Spectators are encouraged to wear pink to the game in support of breast cancer awareness.

"Livonia Goes Pink" T-shirts are available at the Clarenceville main office and also at the door on game night. Spectators wearing this logo T-shirt will be admitted for free.

Prior to the varsity game, breast cancer survivors and fighters will be recognized at half court, along with remembering those who have lost their lives to breast cancer.

For more information, email Clarenceville athletic director Kevin Murphy at kmurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us or call (248) 919-0217.

Churchill names Gatt new coach

Takes over volleyball job

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The torch has been passed in the Livonia Churchill girls volleyball program.

Former Charger player Anna Gatt takes over for Mark Grenier, who stepped down after 10 seasons in December citing increased family obligations.

Grenier will be a tough act to follow after going 466-72-14 overall, including a Class A state championship in 2007 and two other Final Fours.

But 23-year-old Anna Gatt, who becomes one of the youngest varsity volleyball coaches in the



Anna Gatt

state, certainly has the Churchill pedigree.

She played for the Chargers followed by four seasons at Madonna University (2007-2010) as a defensive specialist under NAIA Hall of Fame coach Jerry Abraham.

Her sister, Jacqui, also played at Churchill and Madonna (2004-2007) and now serves as head women's volleyball coach at Illinois Tech.

"That was one of the concerns I brought up myself during the interview is that I'm young and just a few short years ago I was at Churchill," Gatt said. "But I think I can use that to my advantage, because as a student-athlete, I've been through it, just like they have. I know what they're going through."

Grenier was involved in selection process to pick a

Please see GATT, B2

Dribble drive



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Churchill's Sydney Anderson (22) scored 14 points as the Chargers downed host Wayne Memorial, 49-38, in a KLAAs South Division girls basketball. For a roundup of KLAAs action, see page B3.

GATT

Continued from page B1

successor.

"It would be foolish not to have his expertise," Churchill A.D. Marc Hage said. "We didn't have a bunch of candidates, but we had some good quality candidates."

And Gatt emerged as the ultimate choice.

"I liked that Anna Gatt played for Mark and that she played on a state championship team," Hage said. "I liked obviously that she had collegiate experience and that's she's a Churchill kid."

"I watched her come back to the program. She coached with Mark last year as an assistant and gained some valuable experience there. Yes, she's a little bit on the young side, but I love her enthusiasm. Her interview was great and she has a lot of good ideas. I'm happy to have her in the program. She'll have to grow into the position a little bit."

After accepting the position, Gatt met with the players last week to set up off-season training program.

"I'm trying to keep how Mark (Grenier) ran it, how he did it with my only little twist on it," said Gatt, who

works as a customer rep for EPI Marketing Services in Livonia. "I focus more on the defense and I know 'G' did, too. We have a similar way of coaching, 'G' and I. I learned that through last year and we agree on a lot of things for the game."

"And there are some things I learned at Madonna that I'll bring on. They would do some of that jump-physometrics training. So I really want to bring that into the Churchill program - some kind of conditioning of that nature."

"We did graduate eight, but we will still be competitive. 'G' left me with a good base to work with."

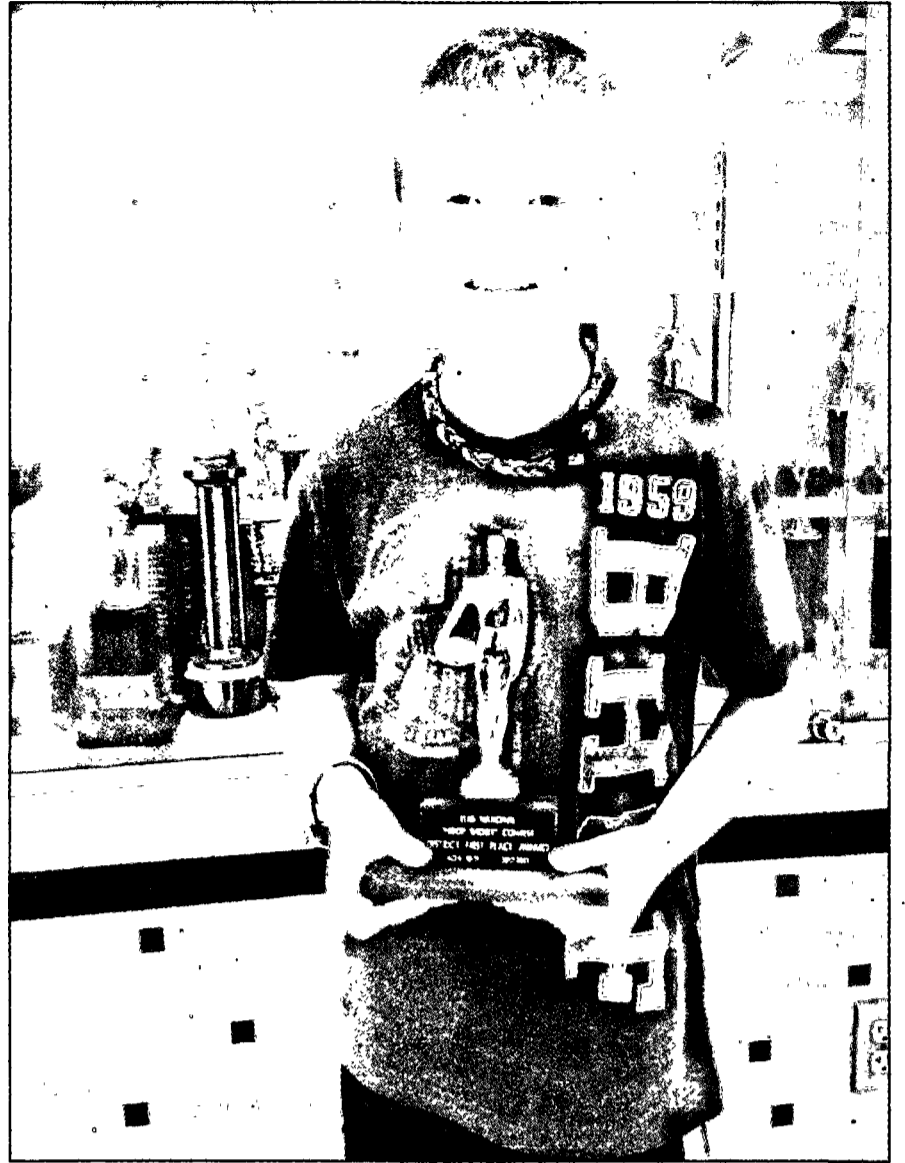
The Churchill A.D. also said Grenier will remain a part of the program.

"Mark is not going to be a coach anymore, but he'll be a consultant and stay on and help her as much as he can," Hage said. "He wants to stay involved as much as he's able to with his family obligations, and I'll keep him around as much as he wants to be around."

And Hage is confident one of the area's most successful volleyball programs will not miss a beat.

"She's going to hit the ground running, she's ready to go," the Churchill A.D. said.

Sharp shooter



Livonia Elks Lodge No. 2246 will be sending four Southeast Michigan District winners to state Hoop Shoot finals next month in Grand Rapids. Among the winners include Gabe Nazelli (pictured with trophy), Boys 10-11; Nathan Micallef, Boys 12-13; Kimberly Freed, Girls 10-11; and Shannon Butki, Girls 8-9.

HEART

Continued from page B1

be an exciting game. But the most thrilling part of the evening will be knowing that we are all playing a part in something really special. We will be able to use basketball as a vehicle to truly help others. We hope the gym is packed."

The triple-header will feature the Stevenson choir singing the national anthem before the boys varsity game, while cheerleaders from both schools will be on hand.

Pep bands and pom pon squads from both schools will also perform. The

event also includes a raffle drawing and shootout contest between the faculty staffs of each school.

Admission is \$5.

"The game itself will be important because it's a rivalry game," Sinawi said. "We won the first game against Churchill this season by one point (53-52 on Dec. 14) with a last second basket, so we know it's going to be a great basketball game."

"Both teams will want to win, but for one night of the season, everyone will win if we can raise money for the Wes Leonard Heart Team. We would love for the community to come out and show their support."

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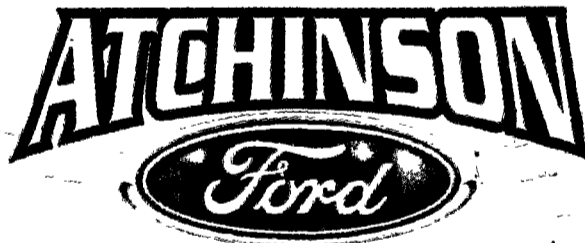
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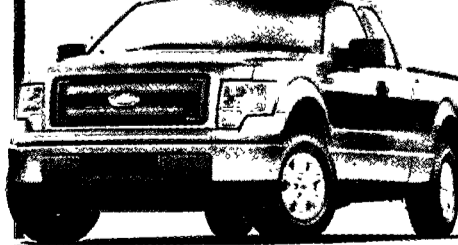
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Rocket subs help key win; Blazers struggle to win

Chargers stave off Wayne

With key two starters out with injuries, Westland John Glenn girls basketball coach Eric Kovatch went into Friday's KLA South Division encounter at home against Plymouth with some trepidation.

But despite a slow start, the first-place Rockets got rolling and posted a 60-37 victory over the Wildcats.

Senior guard Raven Bankston scored a game-high 21 points for state-ranked Glenn, which led 12-10 after one quarter and 27-14 at halftime.

Senior guard ShaKeya Graves and junior guard Kaira Barnes chipped in with 16 and 13, respectively, as the first-place improved to 10-1 overall and 5-0 in the division.

Shelby Cheston tallied 14 for the Wildcats (4-7, 3-2), who were outscored 33-23 in the second half.

"I was a little concerned because Plymouth has talent despite their record," said Kovatch, who was missing starting forward Kierra Jordan and starting guard Raine Bankston. "But I thought India Gliespie (a junior) and Jade Herring (a sophomore) really stepped up. I'm excited about the win."

Both teams struggled from the foul line with Glenn going 7-for-15 and Plymouth 4-of-8.

CHURCHILL 49, WAYNE 38: Senior guard Julia Szuba scored 15 points and senior forward Sydney Anderson chipped in with 14 to spur Livonia Churchill (5-5, 1-4) to a KLA South Division win Friday at Wayne Memorial (1-9, 0-5).

Ashley Bland and Quay Nichols scored 12 and 11, respectively, for the Zebras, who couldn't overcome a 23-16 halftime deficit.

"We played very frantic and came out slow again," Churchill coach Matt McCowan said. "But I'm really proud of the girls who came off the bench and gave us good minutes that haven't played much. They played well."

Churchill made 10-of-14 free throws, while Wayne hit 4-of-9.

CANTON 59, FRANKLIN 19: On Friday, the host Chiefs (8-3, 4-1) sprinted out to an 18-0 first-quarter lead and never looked back to earn a KLA South Division victory over Livonia Franklin (5-5, 2-3).

Rachel Winters paced a balance Canton scoring attack with 14 points, while Taylor Hunley and Paige Aresco chipped in with 13 and 12, respectively.

The Patriots, who trailed 39-3 at intermission, got 10 points from Katelynn Devers.

"I have no idea where my team was at tonight," Franklin first-year coach Jim Millcan said. "We were not physically or mentally ready, but don't take anything away from Canton. They played a great game."

NOVI 29, STEVENSON 16: Amanda Geiger picked up



Wayne's Ashley Bland (24) is chased by Churchill defender Michelle Azar (2) in Friday's KLA South Division encounter.

the slack for injured point-guard Kerri McMahan scoring 10 of her game-high 17 points in the first half Friday to lead the Wildcats (10-1, 5-0) to a KLA Central Division triumph over visiting Livonia Stevenson (4-6, 1-4).

Stevenson led 6-5 after one quarter before Novi went on an 18-6 second-period run to take control.

Kyra Johnson scored all six of her points in the second half and grabbed six rebounds to provide a spark for the Spartans.

Stevenson was 2-of-5 from the foul line, while Novi was 8-of-15.

It was a less than artistic win Friday for the Livonia Ladywood basketball team, but coach Anthony Coratti will take it.

The Blazers struggled shooting the ball, but were able to pull out a 36-33 victory Friday night at Allen Park Cabrini.

"We did not play badly, but did not shoot well," said Coratti, whose team improved to 7-4 overall. "Our kids played hard, but Cabrini did a good job defensively, give them credit. We missed shots and were not comfortable shooting."

Andie Anastos, a senior point-guard, led the victorious Blazers with 18 points and 15 rebounds. Senior guard Shelby Walsh contributed eight.

Emily Zgoda paced the Monarchs (3-7) with 17 points.

Ladywood was 7-of-13 from the foul stripe, while Cabrini hit 8-of-10.

EDSEL FORD 42, CVILLE 31: Marisa Sauve tallied 16 points and Kennedy Ranking added 11 Friday to lead Dearborn Edsel Ford (6-3) to a non-conference win over host Livonia Clarenceville (5-8).

The Thunderbirds led 20-14 at halftime and 30-25 after three quarters.

Junior center Ayanna Buckley had 13 points and 11 rebounds in a losing cause, while Ashley Murphy contributed six points and 14 boards.

Mikala Kielsing added five points as the Trojans struggled at the foul line going 9-for-21.

Edsel Ford hit 14-of-27 free throws.

GREENHILLS 56, LUTH. WESTLAND 42: Jackie Oestreich scored 18 points to lead three players in double figures Friday as host Ann Arbor Greenhills (5-4,

4-1) rolled to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division triumph over Lutheran High Westland (3-8, 2-2).

Elisia Ceballos and Zainab Bhurgri chipped in with 15 and 12 points, respectively, for the Gryphons, who outscored the Warriors 27-17 in the second half after leading 29-25 at intermission.

Chandler Davenport paced Lutheran Westland with 13 points, while Leah Refenes and Shannon Abbott added nine.

The Warriors were 5-of-10 from the foul line, while Greenhills made 15-of-22.

PARKWAY 38, HVL 33: On Friday, Angelica Weidman's 12 points enabled host Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (7-4, 4-2) to beat Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (5-4, 2-4) in a MIAC Red Division matchup.

Junior Sarah Setian led the Hawks with eight points, while Dayna Schroeder, Julie St. John and Megan Priessorn each added seven.

The Hawks made only 5-of-12 free throws, while Parkway connected on 9-of-16.

PARKWAY 38, LUTH. WESTLAND 37: A fourth-quarter comeback came up just short Thursday as Lutheran High Westland (3-7, 2-1) had its three-game winning streak snapped against host Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (7-4, 3-2) in a MIAC Red Division game.

Paige Paoletti paced the victorious Eagles with 17 points, while Taylor Swartz added 11.

The Warriors, who outscored Parkway 15-7 in the final period, got 16 points from Chandler Davenport and eight from Alissa Flury.

Aldreanna Fikes and Julia Yancy also combined for 18 rebounds.

"We had a great come back in the fourth quarter," said Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade, whose team trailed 31-22 after three quarters. "We showed a lot of heart and pride. We had an untimely turnover in the fourth quarter, but even with a tough loss, I'm very proud of my girls tonight."

Significant win

Stover leads Wayne tankers by Canton

John Stover figured in four first-place finishes Thursday as the Wayne Memorial boys swim team continues to raise eyebrows following a 93-30 dual meet victory over visiting Canton.

Stover, a junior, captured the 200- and 500-yard freestyles in 2:00.56 and 5:27.88, respectively.

He also anchored two victorious relays teaming up with Devin Gibson, Mike Gibson and Zack Williams for a first in the 200 freestyle (1:40.44), along with Williams, Jacob Griffith and Mack Beene for a victory in the 400 freestyle (3:51.44).

Stover also paced a pivotal one-two-three sweep in the 500 freestyle as Williams and Beene took second and third in 5:56.23 and 6:00.81, respectively.

Sophomore Devin Gibson was also a double individual winner sweeping the 50- and 100 freestyles in 24.63 and 54.45,

respectively. Sophomore Ethan Drouillard also garnered a first in the 100 backstroke (1:12.23) as the Zebras improved to 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the KLA's South Division.

"It was a very exciting meet between two equally matched teams," Wayne coach Mike Greuber said. "We were fortunate to come up with a win. This is a big win for our program. Canton's kids and their coaching staff are class acts."

Individual winners for Canton (0-4, 0-2) included Alex Bourdreau, 200 individual medley (2:22.23); Nick Osann, 1-meter diving (142.30 points); Gerard Niermann, 100 butterfly (1:02.48); and Jack Chaney, 100 breaststroke (1:25.12).

The Chiefs also captured the 200 medley relay as Kyle Bindas, Bourdreau, Trevis Majtara and Josh Joy were clocked in 1:55.61.

State champion Brighton ends Charger streak, 4-1

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's eight-game unbeaten streak came to a halt Wednesday courtesy of defending Division 1 boys hockey champion Brighton, 4-1, at Edgar Arena.

And it was also a costly loss for the Chargers when junior defenseman Drew Puihes went down early in the third period with a broken forearm and is expected to be out six weeks.

"It was a clean hit, nothing intentional," said Churchill coach Jason Reynolds, whose team is 8-5-1 overall and 4-3-1 in the KLA's South Division. "Drew just took a bad fall and just went the wrong way into the Brighton bench area."

Brighton, now 14-1-1 overall and 6-0-1 in the KLA's Central Division, led 2-1 after one period getting a pair of goals in the first 6:01 as Danny Bofio scored from Brian Dowd followed by Dowd's goal at 14:39 of the same period when Nick Misiak scored from Riley Brown.

The Bulldogs increased

their lead to 3-1 at 7:57 of the second on Michael Yuhasz's goal from Joe Borst and Zach Morgan.

Troy Marrett's unassisted goal at 7:18 of the third completed the Brighton scoring.

The Bulldogs outshot Churchill in the tight-checking game, 22-11.

The Chargers' freshman netminder Alec Calvaruso made 18 saves, while Jimmy Miletics had 10 stops for Brighton.

"It was a real battle in the neutral zone," Reynolds said. "Brighton's great team, very good defensively. This game was a challenge for us, a game we need to play as we head into the postseason."

FRANKLIN 4, SKYLINE 2: On Friday, host Livonia Franklin (5-8-1) outscored Ann Arbor Skyline (4-10) by a 3-1 margin in the decisive third period to pick up the non-conference win at Edgar Arena.

It was 1-1 after two periods as Josh Dudek scored from Dylan Smith and Daniel Pedersen in the first stanza for the Patriots, while Patrick Dahlmann countered with a goal for the Eagles in the second.

Just 24 seconds into the third period Pedersen put Franklin ahead for good with an unassisted goal followed by Mike Diaz's goal at 4:59 from Adam Stadler and Andrew Golem.

But Skyline, despite being outshot 49-18, pulled to within a goal at 5:34 when Yshai Ribon scored.

Stadler then scored on an empty-netter from Diaz and C.J. Cromie to seal the victory with 10 seconds left.

Netminder Sean Reeves-Carson made 16 saves for Franklin, while Ethan Hiltner made 46 stops for Skyline.

FRANKLIN 5, FRASER 2: Junior C.J. Cromie tallied a pair of goals Wednesday as host Livonia Franklin (4-8-1) snapped a six-game losing streak with a non-conference boys hockey win over the Ramblers (6-8) Edgar Arena.

The Patriots led 1-0 after one period and 2-1 after two before putting it away with three third-period goals.

Daniel Pedersen also chipped in with a goal and two assists, while Adam Stadler and freshman Jack Engel also added goals.

Other assists went to Mike Diaz (two), Richie Wleczorek, Matt Van Hulle, Joshua Dudek and Dylan Smith.

Fraser got goals from Warren Goemaere and J.R. Bellies. Franklin sophomore goaltender Matt Monendo turned away 17-of-19 shots, while the Ramblers' John Goemaere made 36 saves.

"We only had one penalty and it was nice to get back into the win column," Franklin first-year coach Dennis Gagnon said. "It was nice to see the guys keep their composure, and when we do that, we can compete with any team."

"Fraser had only 12 skaters, but they played hard and gave us a battle."

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS WAYNE MEMORIAL 93 CANTON 90 Jan. 17 at Wayne

200-yard medley relay: 1. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Alex Bourdreau, Trevis Majtara, Josh Joy), 1:55.61; 2. Wayne (Ethan Drouillard, Alec Gibson, Noah Karson, Jacob Griffith), 2:08.89; 2. Canton (Anthony Garbarino, Jack Chaney, Nathan Benjamin, Grant Kurill), 2:14.24.
200 freestyle: 1. John Stover (WM), 2:00.56; 2. Michael Wilyard (C), 2:08.3; 3. Michael Gibson (WM), 2:09.09.
200 individual medley: 1. Bourdreau (C), 2:22.23; 2. Karson (WM), 2:28.25; 3. Zack Williams (WM), 2:33.38.
50 freestyle: 1. Devin Gibson (WM), 24.63; 2. Bindas (C), 25.05; 3. Joy (C), 26.17.
1-meter diving: 1. Nick Osann (C), 142.30 points; 2. Austin Tetlow (C), 140.35; 3. Uriel Figueroa (WM), 86.70.
100 butterfly: 1. Gerard Niermann (C), 1:02.48; 2. Karson (WM), 1:06.76; 3. Bourdreau (C), 1:09.49.
100 freestyle: 1. D. Gibson (WM), 54.45; 2. M. Gibson (WM), 56.99; 3. Joy (C), 59.13.
500 freestyle: 1. Stover (WM), 5:27.88; 2. Williams (WM), 5:56.23; 3. Mack Beene (WM), 6:00.81.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (D. Gibson, M. Gibson, Williams, Stover), 1:40.44; 2. Canton (Majtara, Joy, Bindas, Niermann), 1:40.84; 3. Canton (Chris Jenner, Alex Sogge, Kyle Spence, Travis Alber), 1:48.87.
100 backstroke: 1. Drouillard (WM), 1:12.23; 2. Nathan Albin (C), 1:13.8; 3. Benjamin (C), 1:14.79.
100 breaststroke: 1. Jack Chaney (C), 1:25.12; 2. Nick Lach (C), 1:25.63; 3. A. Gibson (WM), 1:26.72.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Williams, Griffith, Beene, Stover), 3:51.44; 2. Canton (Alber, Bindas, Sogge, Benjamin), 3:53.92; 3. Wayne (M. Gibson, Karson, D. Gibson, Collin Malcolm), 3:58.01.
Dual meet records: Wayne, 4-1 overall, 2-0 KLA South Division; Canton, 0-4 overall, 0-2

KLA South WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 98 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 74 Jan. 17 at John Glenn

200-yard medley relay: 1. Franklin (Justin Larkins, Ryan Crossin, Alex Herrick, Austin Klotz), 2:00.76; 2. John Glenn (Josh Wakeford, Derek Sweet, Josh Eddings, Rory Kemp), 2:03.43; 3. John Glenn (Josh Ferguson, Petr Orzech, Steve LeBlanc, Alex Nagy), 2:15.78.
200 freestyle: 1. Aaron Alholinna (WJG), 2:02.2; 2. Brad Alholinna (WJG), 2:04.56; 3. Jacob Forgacs (LF), 2:06.62.
200 individual medley: 1. Larkins (LF), 2:17.46; 2. Crossin (LF), 2:13.71; 3. Jacob Burdick (WJG), 2:32.09.
50 freestyle: 1. John Kukulka (WJG), 24.46; 2. Cody Hodges (WJG), 24.65; 3. Kemp (WJG), 26.59.
1-meter diving: 1. Dave Cunningham (WJG), 154.90 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Wakeford (WJG), 59.18; 2. Herrick (LF), 1:06.03; 3. Klotz (LF), 1:06.34.
100 freestyle: 1. Larkins (LF), 53.4; 2. Kukulka (WJG), 54.21; 3. A. Alholinna (WJG), 56.15.
500 freestyle: 1. Jacob Deering (WJG), 5:38.64; 2. B. Alholinna (WJG), 5:44.1; 3. Forgacs (LF), 5:48.08.
200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Kemp, Steve LeBlanc, Chris Sabal, A. Alholinna), 1:48.4; 2. Franklin (Herrick, Danny Cebula, Noah Verellen, Forgacs), 1:51.6; 3. John Glenn (Jason Burdick, Nagy, B. Alholinna, Jacob Bucicki), 1:52.58.
100 backstroke: 1. Wakeford (WJG), 1:02.67; 2. Klotz (LF), 1:12.0; 3. Ferguson (WJG), 1:17.99.
100 breaststroke: 1. Herrick (LF), 1:16.72; 2. Crossin (LF), 1:17.74; 3. Orzech (WJG), 1:22.21.
400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Jacob Burdick, Deering, A. Alholinna, B. Alholinna), 3:56.86; 2. John Glenn (Hodges, Kemp, Sabal, Kukulka), 3:57.99.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 4-0 overall, 2-0 KLA South Division; Franklin, 0-2 overall, 0-2 KLA South.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND GLENN 48 WAYNE MEMORIAL 24 Jan. 16 at John Glenn

135 pounds: DeAndre Moore (WJG) won by injury default over Michael Nicholson; **140:** Marcus Jordan (WM) decisioned Tunde Alawode, 8-3; **145:** Kevin Marz (WM) pinned Rich Lawrence, 5-32; **152:** Travis Mann (WJG) p. Aaron Heinonen, 3-41; **160:** Andre Brown (WJG) p. James Hietness, 4-37; **171:** Sam Ekanem (WM) won by void; **189:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Eduardo Sanchez, 3-31; **215:** Dylan Morantes (WJG) dec. Aaron Mauldin, 4-2; **103:** Chase Spanos (WJG) p. Jack DeJack, 1-08; **112:** Kyle Gillies (WJG) p. Dominick Sanders, 1-02; **119:** Kevin Huynh (WJG) dec. Tyler Mulligan, 6-2; **125:** Tim Way (WM) dec. Quinn Dupraw, 9-6; **130:** Brett Quinn (WJG) p. Gabriel Ramirez, 1-57.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 12-4 overall, 3-0 KLA South Division; Wayne, 13-2 overall, 3-1 KLA South Division.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 35 CANTON 25 Jan. 16 at John Glenn

130 pounds: Ryan Siegler (C) decisioned Tim Way, 7-1; **135:** Michael Nicholson (WM) dec. Jacob Thornston, 5-2; **140:** Marc Przybylski (C) won by major dec. over Marcus Jordan, 11-2; **145:** Kevin Marz (WM) won by major dec. over Paul Tracy, 12-2; **152:** Ty Jasmann (C) dec. Aaron Heinonen, 4-3; **160:** Shamen Hall (WM) dec. Jacob Lorenz, 9-8; **171:** Sam Ekanem (WM) p. Dylan DeClue, 2-57; **189:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Allan Beckman, 1-00; **215:** Ken Wooley (C) dec. Tyler Casteels, 3-2; **285:** Aaron Mauldin (WM) won by major dec. over Maxwell Wilkinson, 10-0; **103:** Jack DeJack (WM) dec. Harrison Samoy, 12-9; **112:** Dominick Sanders (WM) p. Ryan Apley, 1-17; **119:** Richard DeMarois (C) p. Tyler Mulligan, 5-35; **125:** Benjamin Griffin (C) p. Gabriel Ramirez, 0-13.
Dual meet records: Wayne, 13-1 overall, 3-0 KLA South Division; Canton, 12-8 overall, 0-3 KLA South.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 25 Jan. 16 at Northville

103 pounds: Jim Rehe (N) pinned Kyle Schema, 0-30; **112:** Marco Lytwyn (LS) decisioned Kevin Charara, 12-5; **119:** Emmanuel Austin (LS) p. Joey Nelson, 1-49; **125:** Shunhe Wang (N) dec. Trevor Demers, 9-2; **130:** Spencer Compo (N) p. Sandro Lytwyn, 3-52; **135:** Tyler Statham (LS) dec. Phil Kamm, 14-12; **140:** Sean Wagner (N) p. Jacob Tennis, 0-26; **145:** Kody Roy (LS) dec. Max Mudar, 5-2; **152:** Alex Coe (N) p. Kyle Giampaola, 1-11; **160:** Connor Vaughan (LS) won by major dec. over Chris Koumariot, 10-1; **171:** Jacob Kelley (LS) p. Jon Michalowski, 4-38; **189:** D. Borthwick (N) p. Chase Woolen, 3-25; **215:** Aie Justice (N) p. Matthew Spohr, 4-21; **285:** Jon Wines (N) p. Zach Saleh, 3-43.

SOUTH LYON 48 LIVONIA STEVENSON 33 Jan. 16 at Northville

103 pounds: Kyle Schema (LS) won by void; **112:** Marco Lytwyn (LS) pinned Travis Starr, 3-08; **119:** Cody Sickels (SL) p. Emmanuel Austin, 1-20; **125:** Trevor Demers (LS) won by disqualification over Jake Race; **130:** Jared Avoin (SL) p. Sandro Lytwyn, 0-52; **135:** J. Davison (SL) p. Tyler Statham, 1-43; **140:** D. Sprinkles (SL) p. Jacob Tennis, 5-36; **145:** Kody Roy (LS) p. Kane Ruffin, 1-43; **152:** Tim McPhee (SL) p. Kyle Giampaola, 2-43; **160:** Jacob Kelley (LS) decisioned Justin Mielick; **171:** Connor Vaughan (LS) won by void; **189:** Travis Toak (SL) p. Matthew Spohr, 0-18; **215:** Jamison Donohue (SL) p. Chase Woolen, 0-53; **285:** John Dixon (SL) p. Zach Saleh, 2-20.
Stevenson's dual meet record: 6-8 overall, 2-2 KLA South Division.

CLARENCEVILLE QUAD Jan. 16 at Clarenceville

TEAM SCORES: Livonia Clarenceville 48, Redford Thurston 27, Garden City 44, Clarenceville 30.
Clarenceville double winners: Domanick Slagle (145), Cameron Fyffe (152), Alec Jones (171).
Clarenceville's dual meet record: 7-7 overall.

Ice in his veins: Frosh hits clutch '3' as Chargers win

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

It took a freshman to save for the day for the Livonia Churchill boys basketball team. Jon Hovermale hit a clutch three-pointer at the buzzer to send the game into overtime and the Chargers were able to pull out a 63-61 KLA South Division victory Friday over visiting Wayne Memorial. Churchill, now 4-6 overall and 2-3 in the division, ended regulation tied at 55-all after Hovermale took a rebound, dribbled the length of the floor and nailed a shot from the top of the key to cap a 10-2 run. The Chargers then outscored Wayne 8-6 in the four-minute extra session. The freshman guard finished with a team-high 18 points - all coming in the second half and OT.

"I don't use the word incredible often, but that was one of biggest shots I've ever seen," Churchill coach Jim Solak said of the ninth-grader. "I'm glad he didn't pass the ball." Senior guard Dwayne Scott added 17 points, while Dante Jackson chipped in with 11 points and 10 rebounds for Churchill. Wayne (2-8, 0-5), which led by as many as 10 points in the second half, got 17 points from Josh Lowry and 13 from Brian Williams. Churchill was 23-of-59 from the floor (38.9 percent) and 9-of-21 from the free throw line (42.8 percent), while Wayne hit 22-of-60 shots from the field (36.6 percent) and 6-of-14 free throws (42.8 percent). **JOHN GLENN 57, PLYMOUTH 41:** Nick Daniels scored 21 points and Richard Roberts added 13 Friday to lead Westland John Glenn (10-1, 5-0) to a KLA South Division triumph over the host Wildcats (4-7, 2-3).

James Pruitt chipped in with nine points for the Rockets, who led 24-16 at halftime and 43-28 after three quarters. Josh Priebe and Ryan Carr scored 14 and nine, respectively, for Plymouth. **STEVENSON 52, NOVI 50:** Senior Joe Mirns sparked a fourth-quarter surge to lift Livonia Stevenson (5-4, 2-3) to a KLA Central Division win Friday at home over the Wildcats (5-5, 3-2). Mims, saddled with three fouls in the first quarter while picking up his fourth in the third period, scored all five of his points in the fourth as the Spartans rallied from a 14-point third-quarter deficit. "He ignited the comeback and flipped the switch," Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said. "And Devin Kelly (10 points) got four offensive rebounds in the fourth quarter which was key for us." Josh Campbell and Jailen Webber also scored in double figures for the Spartans with 14 and 12 points, respectively. Tre Cadwell and Nelson Cagle paced Novi with 17 and 10, respectively. Stevenson was 14-of-26 from the foul line, while Novi hit 16-of-24. **CANTON 67, FRANKLIN 33:** Three players scored in double figures Friday leading the Chiefs (6-5, 4-1) to a KLA South Division win over host Livonia

Franklin (4-7, 2-3). Greg Williams led the way with 13 points, while Jordan Nobles and Josh Mayberry chipped in with 11 and 10, respectively. The Patriots, who could not overcome a 34-11 halftime deficit, got nine points apiece from Tyrone Rayford and Michael Gluth. Olushakin Cole grabbed a team-high eight rebounds. **C'VILLE 59, EDEL FORD 54:** Juwan Nelson's 18 points propelled Livonia Clarenceville (1-12) to its first win of the season at the expense Friday of host Dearborn Edsel Ford (1-9). Kimani Dooley added 12 points, while Jermell Johnson came off the bench to add nine for the Trojans. Austin Douglass also contributed eight. "It was a great defensive effort that set the tone for the victory," Clarenceville coach Justin Johnson said. **GREENHILLS 52, LUTH. WESTLAND 50:** Andrew Diehl scored a game-high 19 points and hit the game-winning three-pointer from 26 feet out with only five seconds to play Friday to give host Ann Arbor Greenhills (6-1, 6-0) the MIAC Red Division victory over Lutheran High Westland (3-4, 2-2). "We had a defender right there,

hands up, but what can you say?" Lutheran Westland coach Jim Hoeft. "He hit the shot. We'll remember this one for sure...it was a heartbreaker! However, that's the beautiful thing about conference play. We will see them again. It was a hostile environment, but they come to us next time and we'll be ready." Emmet Kulka added 10 for the Gryphons, who rallied from a 37-34 third-quarter deficit. A.J. Seltz led the Warriors with 14 points, while Nick Andrzejewski added 11 points and six rebounds. P.J. Gusé and Ernie Babon added nine and eight points, respectively. The Warriors made 12-of-21 free throws (57.1 percent) and 19-of-48 shots from the floor (40 percent). **HVL 58, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 34:** Junior Ryan Schaffer poured in 19 points Friday as visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-5, 1-3) earned the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division victory over winless Warren Macomb Christian. Justin Howell and Alex Harris added 14 and 11, respectively, for the Hawks, who led 26-11 at halftime. Matt Hurst and Romero Hardy each tallied 10 for the Crusaders, who made only 6-of-16 free throws.

COLLEGE HOOPS

MU guard duo too much for Tech

The Madonna University men's basketball team maintained its grip on first place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference with a come-from-behind 78-58 victory Wednesday night against host Indiana Tech at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne. Once again the dynamic junior backcourt duo of Travis Schuba and Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) led the way with 21 and 20 points, respectively, as the 19th-ranked Crusaders improved to 15-5 overall and 10-2 in the WHAC (one game up on Davenport). Naubert, the four-time

WHAC Player of the Week, made 9-of-10 free throws, grabbed eight rebounds and dished out nine assists, while Schuba, who recently joined MU's 1,000-point club, hit 7-of-14 shots from the floor including 4-of-7 from three-point range. Senior forward Eoghann Stephens and junior forward Fred Williams each chipped in with 11 points. The two combined for 18 rebounds with 10 and eight, respectively, and shot a combined 9-of-12 from the floor. As a team, the Crusaders shot 51.9 percent from the field (27-of-52)

and outrebounded Indiana Tech by a wide margin, 42-25. Melvin Brooks led the Warriors (14-6, 7-5) with a game-high 28 points and 14 rebounds, while Antonio Cannon added 15 points. MU trailed 19-9 midway through the first half, but took a 33-29 halftime lead. The Crusaders led by as many as 11 in the second half before Indiana Tech cut the deficit to 63-61 on a pair of free throws by Brooks. But Williams answered with a basket 19 seconds later and MU would never let the Warriors get any closer.

ALPENA 74, SCHOOLCRAFT 72: Khari Dailey's jumper with nine seconds remaining proved to be the difference Wednesday as host Alpena Community College (4-11, 1-4) defeated Schoolcraft College (3-11, 0-5) in an MCCA Eastern Conference game. The Ocelots tied it at 72-all when Mathew King (Redford Thurston) split a pair of free throws with 38 seconds left, then missed a jumper by Jonathan Campbell (Livonia Stevenson) with two seconds remaining. Schoolcraft's Richmond Jackson finished with a game-high 25 points to go along with six rebounds. King added 15 points and Terrance Coles chipped in with 10 points and nine boards. Dailey led the Lumberjacks with 19 points, while Williams Gates, Jr. and Logan Wickert added 16 and 10, respectively.

Lady Ocelots earn conference victory Indiana Tech downs MU

NJCAA Division II Player of the Week Courtney Dyer continued her hot shooting Wednesday night scoring a game-high 25 points to carry Schoolcraft College to a 70-60 women's basketball win over host Alpena Community College. Dyer, a 5-foot-4 guard from Warren Fitzgerald, made 9-of-18 shots from the floor, including four 3-pointers, as the Lady Ocelots improved to 5-10 overall and 2-3 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference. Brittani Hamlin added 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Ajai Meeks came off the bench to add 12 points and nine boards as Schoolcraft overcame a 32-30 halftime deficit. Sherri Smith led the Lady Lumberjacks (3-12, 0-5) with 18 points. Schoolcraft overcame

27 turnovers by hitting 29-of-68 shots from the floor (42.6 percent). **MADONNA TECH 79, MADONNA 70:** Rachel Kruse burned the nets for a game-high 28 points and Ulyssia Richmond chipped in with 22 Wednesday to spark host Indiana Tech (8-12, 6-6) to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference triumph over Madonna University (11-8, 7-5) in Fort Wayne. Chelsea Carradine (Redford Thurston) also contributed 11 points and 13 rebounds, while Kaneisha Bass also tallied 11 points for the Warriors. Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) paced the Crusaders with a team-high 18 points, while Shantelle Herring added 13. Michelle Lindsey and Rachel Melcher each contributed 10 for MU, which trailed 36-32 at halftime. MU scored more points in the paint (38-24) and had a wide edge in bench scoring (18-2) thanks for eight more points from Chelsea Williams (Livonia Franklin), but was outrebounded 46-28 and committed 18 turnovers to Tech's 12.

Rutenbar sparks C'ville bowlers

Ricky Rutenbar rolled a season-high 243 en route to a 430 series as Livonia Clarenceville downed visiting Romulus, 17-13, in a boys bowling match last Tuesday at Merri Bowl. The Trojans, who lost both Baker games, also got a 213 from Kyle Kissandi and a 204 from Kay-lup Richards. Despite losing the first Baker game, 231-169, Westland John roared back to win the next 24 points in a 24-6 win Monday over the Trojans at Super Bowl in Canton. Richards and Ricky Rutenbar rolled games of 204 and 203, respectively, in the setback. Meanwhile, Erin Walters rolled a 190, but it wasn't enough as the Clarenceville girls fell to Glenn, 29-1. Sarah Estep and Anna Greenwald rolled season high games of 150 and 138, respectively, in the setback.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

DUAL MEET RESULTS
CANTON 144.575
LIVONIA RED 136.50
Jan. 16 at Canton
Vault: 1. Melissa Green (C), 9.4; 2. Maggie McGowan (Red), 9.25; 3. Jocelyn Moraw (C), 8.45; 4. Halley Hodgson (C), 8.7; 5. Sydney Grenier (Red), 8.6.
Uneven bars: 1. Moraw (C), 9.1; 2. Green, 8.825; 3. Katie Kretschmar (Red), 8.75; 4. Nicole Lasecki (C), 8.625; 5. Erica Lucas (C), 8.6.
Balance beam: 1. Green (C), 9.575; 2. Maddie Toal (C), 9.25; 3. Lasecki (C), 9.0; 4. Moraw (C), 8.95; 5. Marissa McVey (Red), 8.875.
Floor exercise: 1. Moraw (C), 9.6; 2. Green (C), 9.325; 3. Lasecki (C), 9.35; 4. McGowan (Red), 9.15; 5. (tie) Hodgson (C) and Toal (C), 9.0 each.
All-around: 1. Green (C), 37.125; 2. Moraw (C), 36.575; 3. Lasecki (C), 35.025; 4. Toal (C), 34.60; 5. McVey (Red), 34.475.
Dual meet records: Canton, 5-0 overall, 3-0 KLA Kensington Division; Livonia Red, 3-4 overall, 1-1 Kensington Division.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Girls softball

The Livonia Storm is starting a new developmental machine pitch, spring softball league for 8- and 10-and-under girls with walk-in registration from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Storm's Washington practice facility, located at 9449 Hix Road, Livonia. Eight-and-under is an infield-only league open to the first 36 registrants. The 10-and-under is full field and limited to the first 44 that apply. The cost is \$75 and mail-in registration is currently ongoing. For more information, visit www.livoniastorm.com.

Baseball clinic

The seventh annual Livonia Franklin Future Stars spring baseball clinic (grades 2-6) will be 9-11:30 a.m. (Session 1) and 12:15-2:45 p.m. (Session 2) Saturday, Feb. 23, at the high school fieldhouse, located at 31000 Joy Road. The first session consists of hitting, base running and infield skills, while the second includes pitching, defense and outfield approach. The cost for both sessions is \$50 (includes camp T-shirt) or \$30 per session. Bring a sack lunch between sessions from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For more information, email Franklin

varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

Softball camps

Madonna University will hold a winter softball fundamentals camp (ages 7-18) from noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. The cost is \$125. For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com. The Livonia Churchill Chargers Fundamental Camp for girls in grades 3-8 will be from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, March 2 at the high school fieldhouse. The cost is \$35 (pre-registration required). For more information, call or email Churchill head coach Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716; or churchillsoftball@gmail.com.

Baseball coach

Livonia Clarenceville is seeking a varsity baseball coach for the 2013 season. Interested candidates should send a resume, letter of recommendation and references via mail to: Kevin Murphy, Athletic Director, Clarenceville H.S., 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI 48152; or via e-mail to kmurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

remaining in the second. "They took the momentum right back," Mitchell said. "They didn't give us a chance to feed off of that." Lutz briefly made it a 1-1 game when he took a feed through the neutral zone from senior defenseman Chris Catalano, skated down the right wing and cut into the slot before sending a high shot past Plymouth sophomore goalie Jared Maddock. Plymouth clamped down in the third, outshooting Stevenson 11-6 (and 27-26 for the game) with the Wildcats' team defense keeping premium scoring chances to a minimum. The Spartans still were relentless trying for the equalizer.

Protecting the lead

With Stevenson pressing in the Plymouth end, the Wildcats benefited from solid, physical play from their defensemen to help get pucks out of danger. In the final minute, with Humitz (25 saves) pulled for the extra attacker, Plymouth junior defenseman Kyle Bauer's poke check against Lutz prevented a dangerous shot from the left circle. Then with 7.1 seconds left, junior forward Michael Schultz won a face-off and senior D-man Dean Gunther cleared the zone to end the game. "I knew they'd be coming," Vento said. "With Lutz on the ice you always got to be

aware, the kid's so dangerous. I thought we played a great third period." Whenever they had chances Maddock (25 saves) was there. He played with the poise of a senior, calmly positioning himself to stop tips and deflections. With 12 minutes left, Lutz redirected a right-point slapper by junior blueliner Ray Chartier that Maddock corralled. The Plymouth goalie later robbed junior forward Ryan Frazer on the doorstep following a centering pass from sophomore forward Michael Sinclair. Vento praised the netminder for his play, adding it is getting to be a tough decision picking between Maddock and sophomore Erik VandenBosch from game to game. "I thought by this point we'd have a clear No. 1 (goalie)," Vento said. "But they're both playing outstanding." Plymouth opened the scoring at 11:58 of the first period on a goal by senior forward Joe Burke. He pounced on the rebound of a shot by senior forward Nick Schultz and sent a low shot from between the circles past the partially screened Humitz, who played well in defeat. Drawing the second assist was Michael Schultz. According to Mitchell, the contest provided another example that the KLA "has improved dramatically, the Plymouth teams have improved dramatically. There's no nights off in our league anymore."

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (734) 469-4128

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
C'ville at Hazel Park, 7 p.m.
Luth. W'sld at Macomb, 7 p.m.
A.A. Greenhills at HVL, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
Baptist Park at HVL, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
L. W'sld at Luth. South, 6 p.m.
Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Church. at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
C'ville at Franklin, 7 p.m.
HVL at A.A. Greenhills, 7 p.m.
Régina at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
South Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at Mercy, 7:30 p.m.
L. W'sld at L. South, 7:30 p.m.
Baptist Park at HVL, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 23
Stevenson vs. Trenton at Kennedy Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. W.L. Central at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
Ladywood vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
Churchill vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Compuware, 2 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Mercy at Edgar Arena, 5 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Novi at Novi Ice Arena, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. Avordale at Onyx Arena, 7:45 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Jan. 23
Plymouth Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Wayne Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
Clarenceville, Harper Woods at Luth. Westland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
Observerland Invitational at Churchill H.S., 9 a.m.
Annapolis Tourney, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Livonia City Meet at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
Franklin at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Wayne at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Novi at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
- Sunday, Jan. 20**
Oakland County Tournament at Thunderbird Lanes, TBA.
Monday, Jan. 21
John Glenn vs. Wayne at Novi Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Lady. at U-D High, 3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 23
Clarenceville vs. Wayne Super Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
John Glenn vs. Novi at Super Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
C'ville vs. Taylor Kennedy at Woodhaven Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Ladywood at Mercy, 3:45 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
Clarenceville Doubles Tourney at Merri-Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Livonia Red vs. Plymouth at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
Livonia Blue vs. Salem at Plymouth H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
Troy Athens Inv., 10 a.m.
PREP SKIING
Wednesday, Jan. 23
Ladywood vs. W.L. Northern at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Wednesday, Jan. 23
Churchill Quad, 6 p.m.
Franklin Quad, 6 p.m.
Wayne Quad, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
Northville Invitational, 1 p.m.
Lake Orion Invitational, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 23
St. Clair at S'craft, 7:30 p.m.
Lourdes at Madonna, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
MU at Marygrove, 3 p.m.
S'craft at Flint Mott, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Jan. 23
St. Clair at S'craft, 5:30 p.m.
Lourdes at Madonna, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
MU at Marygrove, 1 p.m.
S'craft at Flint Mott, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Monday, Jan. 21
Erie vs. Ply. Whalers at Compuware, 2 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 24
Ply. Whalers at Windsor, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25
Ply. Whalers at Sarnia, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26
Sarnia vs. Ply. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

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Genealogy journey

Woman finds family roots, relatives in Guatemala

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Dianna Neckel has grown her family tree from sapling to towering timber over the past three years — and all it took was a little curiosity, a lot of determination, unwavering faith and a passion for adventure.

The Livonia woman, who is married and has two children, has returned to Guatemala every year for the past three years to learn about her ancestors first-hand from newly-discovered relatives.

Neckel's continuing journey in genealogy began five years ago, when she decided to search the history of her mother's father, Florintin Castillo, and his brother, Alejandro "Hector" Castillo. Her grandfather had emigrated from Guatemala as a young man, leaving behind his parents and siblings, including his brother. He lived in Cuba and Louisiana before hopping trains north to Michigan for a job with Ford Motor Company and to settle into family life.

"I felt bad because I only knew one story of my grandfather. He spoke broken English and was a very old man when I was young, so I never asked him for stories about his parents, his siblings. I just knew he had a brother named Hector. No one wanted to pursue my grandfather's part of the genealogy because it was in Guatemala," said Neckel, one of five siblings.

"My older sister does a lot of genealogy, but she couldn't track anything down. She said, if anyone is going to get grandfather's genealogy, it's going to be you."

Neckel accepted the challenge and spent two years researching online, including in the ancestry data base, FamilySearch.org, developed and maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which Neckel is a member. At Family History Centers, located in Church of Jesus Christ branches throughout the world, history-seekers can get one-on-one help or take how-to classes in accessing genealogical records. The service is open to the public.

"It was a huge help, but I didn't know at the time that they didn't have records before the 1900s. My grandfather was born in 1898," said Neckel, who knew her father died in 1981. "I was looking for birth information and I should have been looking for death information."

She also didn't realize at the time that her great-uncle, Hector, was formally known as Alejandro.

Heading south

With just a few photos of her grandfather and his brother in hand, along with a letter about Hector's death in the late 1970s, and an old address on a postcard, Neckel headed to Guatemala in August 2010 to search for clues. Because she doesn't speak Spanish, Neckel recruited her friend, Mimi Edwards, a



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mimi Edwards, (left) who speaks Spanish, accompanied Dianna Ross Neckel on two trips to Guatemala. The women are good friends and attend the same church. The skirt on the table is from Guatemala and the sculpture is Mayan.

native Argentinian, to go with her on the eight-day trip.

"My husband thought I was crazy because all I knew was 'hola' for 'hello' We didn't know any place there. We didn't have a contact person. But we did it. I guess if you have a strong desire and you have faith, doors will open for you," Neckel said. "All I kept thinking was that I knew Hector Castillo had 14 children

and if I could just find one of them and make the connection, it would help me go further."

Researching

The pair arrived in Guatemala City and took a five-hour bus ride to Quetzaltenango, where they searched local records in churches, post offices and government agencies. They also visited cemeteries. They bought a cell phone

and called all the "Castillo" names they could find. On their third day in Guatemala, they were granted permission to search records at a city hall.

"We looked page by page at books that were like old torn cookbooks," Neckel recalled. When she finally asked for death records, she hit pay dirt. Puzzle pieces were beginning to fit.

"We went to the local post office and spoke



Photos of Dianna Ross Neckel's grandfather. Neckel found his brother's children and grandchildren in Guatemala.

with the mailman, it was a long shot. My uncle had been dead for 33 years. I hoped that someone would know of him. Or maybe one of his children were still in the town. The mailman knew the area and went with us in the bus and we located my uncles home."

A long-time neighbor knew one of Hector's children, a daughter named Sandra. With the neighbor's help, they found her home. She wasn't there, but her phone number was posted on the house, which doubled as a propane store. Edwards dialed the number and

told the woman that her second cousin — Florentin's granddaughter — wanted to meet her. "She couldn't believe it and said it was an answer to her prayers," Neckel recalled.

Uniting families

By the end of the trip, Neckel met many other cousins — and their children — and collected their statistics to input on FamilySearch.org. But she also detected a rift among some relatives. Their father, Hector, had been married twice. Half

Please see ROOTS, B7

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Wednesday, January 23
6:00 p.m.

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RSVP by January 21.

History of the Underground Railroads
Wednesday, January 30
1:30 p.m.

Keep us on the track as we take a look at how the railroads came about! Presented by Author/Historian: Carol Mull.

RSVP by January 28.



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Prevent sports and recreation injury by raising awareness

By L.J. McCulloch
Guest columnist

Our winter season is upon us! The season brings with it many sporting recreational opportunities. The National Hockey League (NHL) is officially back on the ice, including our Detroit Red Wings. The Super Bowl is also around the corner. Basketball at the professional, collegiate and high school levels is in full swing. Snowmobiling, skiing, sledding, and ice skating activities, in our community are readily available for family fun.

While these activities provide sources of enjoyment, competition, and socialization, they also carry risks of injury. That is why it is extremely important that we arm ourselves with awareness of potential dangers, so we can reduce risks by prevention.

More prevalent than one would think is the specific risk for traumatic brain injuries also often referred to as concussions. An estimated one million children alone, in this country, sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year. And, research informs us that every 21 seconds, a head injury

occurs to someone of any age in the U.S., according to the American Brain Injury Association (ABIA).

Myths and facts

It was previously thought that the head had to hit something for there to be a concussion-like injury to the brain. This myth has been proven wrong. A whiplash-like motion of the head can cause damage to the brain. Also, a loss of consciousness is not necessary for the brain to be hurt. This has been repeatedly proven. Technically, a disruption in consciousness, no matter how brief — such as mildly dazed to a full coma — constitutes a concussion. And, repeated concussions of the brain can have a cumulative effect as often seen in boxing (pugilistic dementia). Recently, we are hearing more and more reports of professional sports figures disclosing that they have sustained significant concussions which influence decisions to retire early from their career. Furthermore, the premature development of Alzheimer's-like disorders is being reported by the media, the players themselves, their families and league officials raising awareness, which is tremendously important to all of us.

It is becoming public knowledge that an NFL football player, for example, can sustain a multitude of brain concussions within a 10-year career while it takes

only three seconds to permanently damage a child's brain in the so-called shaken baby syndrome (SBS).

Now, if we imagine the head as a container (the skull) and within the container, 95 percent Jello-like material (the brain) and we shake or strike the container (the skull), we see cracks and indentations and various irregularities (lesions) within the Jello-like material (the brain). These represent injuries of brain tissue that can be small or large, localized or diffuse. They can be seen or they can be missed on CT Scans. They can cause mild, moderate or severe disruption in thinking, memory, emotion and behavior. Sometimes these problems don't appear immediately after injury because of a gradual change in brain chemistry which can have a cascading affect in the months following the injury. Additional symptoms such as irritability, frustration, depression, slower learning, inattention, sleep problems, and being "quick tempered" also are commonly reported.

It can be a good idea to have a person who has experienced a head injury to be examined by a neuropsychologist and neurologist. Tests can be conducted, problems identified and treatment/rehabilitation strategies implemented. A big concern after a sports injury often revolves around the decision of

when to allow the athlete "back in the game."

What can be done

Many resources now are available for children, teens and adults, as well as their families, teachers and coaches about brain injuries. In the end, it seems that the best treatment is going to be prevention. There are many sports medicine and physical therapy professionals trained in concussion recognition and treatment. For example, The Plymouth Physical Therapy Center has numerous offices near in our community. It utilizes state-of-the-art assessment tools, many of which were developed by our own Wayne State University scientists and are used by organizations such as the NFL, NHL, and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). They have in-office and on-site (side-line) professionals for students in many nearby high schools covering all the major sports. Some school districts now have one or more trained persons identified as "safety coaches," who attend practices and games. Their job is to demonstrate safe ways of engaging in contact sports, such as safer ways to tackle, block, fall down, etc. This is reportedly giving parents and the athletes themselves reassurance that safety awareness is a priority, and thus prevention of trauma is the goal. The importance of prevention

cannot be overstated. And, prevention is only possible through increased awareness by all involved. The Brain Injury Association of Michigan estimates that 90 percent of TBI/Concussion's could be prevented if people took more precautions in sports and recreation. The efforts being made towards this at the professional, amateur, college, high school, and lower school levels are a good start and need to be given as much priority as possible.

Resources

- Brain Injury Association of America, www.biausa.org; contact director of Sports Concussion Education
- Brain Injury Association of Michigan, www.biami.org; contact president, Michael Dabbs
- Plymouth Physical Therapy, www.plymouthpts.com; contact Ben Wallace
- Catholic Youth Organization (CYO Detroit/Archdiocese of Detroit), www.aod.org; contact John Fenbert
- Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), www.mhsaa.com; contact director of Sports Concussion Education.

Leonard J. McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is also credentialed in brain injury, mental health, addictions and social work. He can be reached at (248) 474-2763, Ext. 22.

Heart campaign kicks off with casting call

Celebrate 10 years of fighting cardiovascular disease by responding to the Go Red for Women Casting Call, 3-6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1 at Beaumont Hospital's Ministrelli Women's Heart Center, 3601 W. 13 Mile, in Royal Oak.

Local women may share their personal stories on-camera for a chance to become a national spokesperson in the Go Red for Women campaign, presented by the American Heart Association. Annette Jamison of FOX 2 News

and Tracey McCaskill of MIX 92.3 will kick off the search for the next Go Red for Women spokesperson who will represent the campaign in marketing materials, at events, and on the official web site. Other highlights include free health screenings, health speakers, fitness demos and give-a-ways. Attendees also will have the chance to enter to win Go Red for Women packages and other prizes.

"The Go Red for Women Casting Call inspires women to serve as health advo-

cates and contribute to a cause that encourages long-term healthy behaviors," stated Pamela Marcovitz, M.D., director, Beaumont's Ministrelli Women's Heart Center, in a press release.

According to the American Heart Association, an estimated 43 million women in the U.S. are affected by heart disease and 90 percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease. Statistics suggest that women, who Go Red are more likely to make healthy choices like improving their diets and talking with their doc-

tors about developing heart health plans.

To RSVP for the Go Red For Women Casting Call, call (248) 936-5828 or e-mail amy.figot@heart.org. For more information visit www.heart.org/semi.

"America Goes Red Challenge" also kicks off Feb. 1 on National Wear Red Day. The American Heart Association encourages cities, businesses, organizations, hospitals, individuals and home owners to "go red." Suggestions include:

churches, hospitals and businesses with red decorations

- Use red lighting, wreaths or ribbons
 - Cover mailbox in red paint or fabric
 - Illuminate pathways with red luminaries
 - Display the iconic red dress on windows or in store fronts
 - Wear an article of red clothing or the Go Red for Women red dress pin
- Aside from "going red," individuals can participate in the celebration by attending the Go Red for Women Luncheon, learn

more about their risk for heart disease and register for a free red dress pin at GoRedForWomen.org. The Luncheon begins with registration at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15 at the MGM Grand in Detroit. The event includes health screenings, educational exhibits, along with a silent auction, a program and lunch. Cost is \$175 per person.

Visit GoRedForWomen.org or call (888) MY-HEART for more information. Register for the Go Red Luncheon at www.detroitgoredforwomen.org.



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Dianna Neckel (center) poses with her relatives, including her great-uncle's daughter, (left) in Guatemala.



Dianna Neckel visited many churches, including this one, during her first trip to Guatemala.

ROOTS

Continued from page B5

of the cousins were from one marriage and the other from his second marriage.

She was determined to "soften their hearts" and unite the families. When she returned home, she created calendars with their photos and birthdays and sent them to everyone she had met. She also planned a reunion for her next visit, in July 2011.

"I realized my mission wasn't just to unite the ancestors, it was to unite the families," she said. During the two-week visit, she met her grandfather's one remaining sister, searched for her great-grandfather's farm, and brought more than 65 relatives together for a family reunion. Edwards again served as interpreter.

"I felt like everyone has a little piece of the puzzle and once you find all of those pieces and put it together in a big picture, it helps you to understand where your family has been and their struggles and all the things they've had to overcome in their lives," she said.

Neckel returned to Guatemala on her own last Christmas to spend five days with her cousin, Sandra, and her family. The pair communicated through sign language, gestures and the few words they know in each other's native



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A colorful box Dianna Neckel brought home from her trips to Guatemala, where she searched for information about her ancestors.

tongues.

"We danced in the kitchen. They had a parade down the street. Their Christmas is like Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July and New Year's combined. I wanted to see what it was all about."

She hopes her story will compel other families to look into their roots. She suggests they start with FamilySearch.org or find help through a Family History Center at a the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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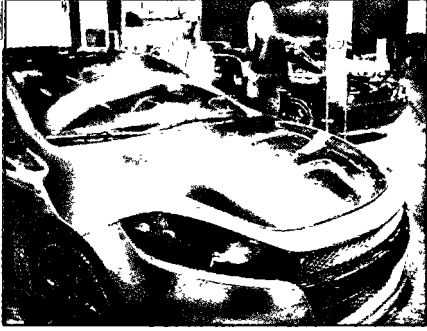
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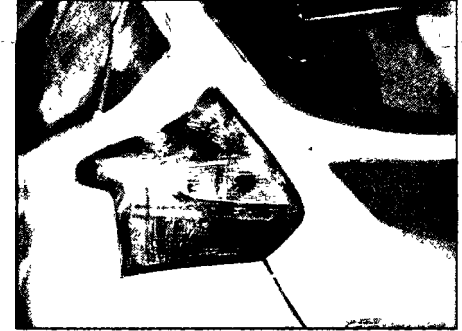
The new and revived Dodge Dart on display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PUBLIC SHOW OPEN

The auto show opened to the public Saturday, Jan. 19, and continues through Sunday, Jan. 27. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (no admittance after 9 p.m.) Jan. 19-26. The show ends Jan. 27 and hours that day are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (no admittance after 6 p.m.). Tickets are \$12 per person and \$6 for seniors (65 and older) and children (7-12 years old). Children ages 6 and under are free with parent or guardian.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2013 Ford Shelby Focus at the North American Auto Show in Detroit.

Cooper Standard energized by future vision

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

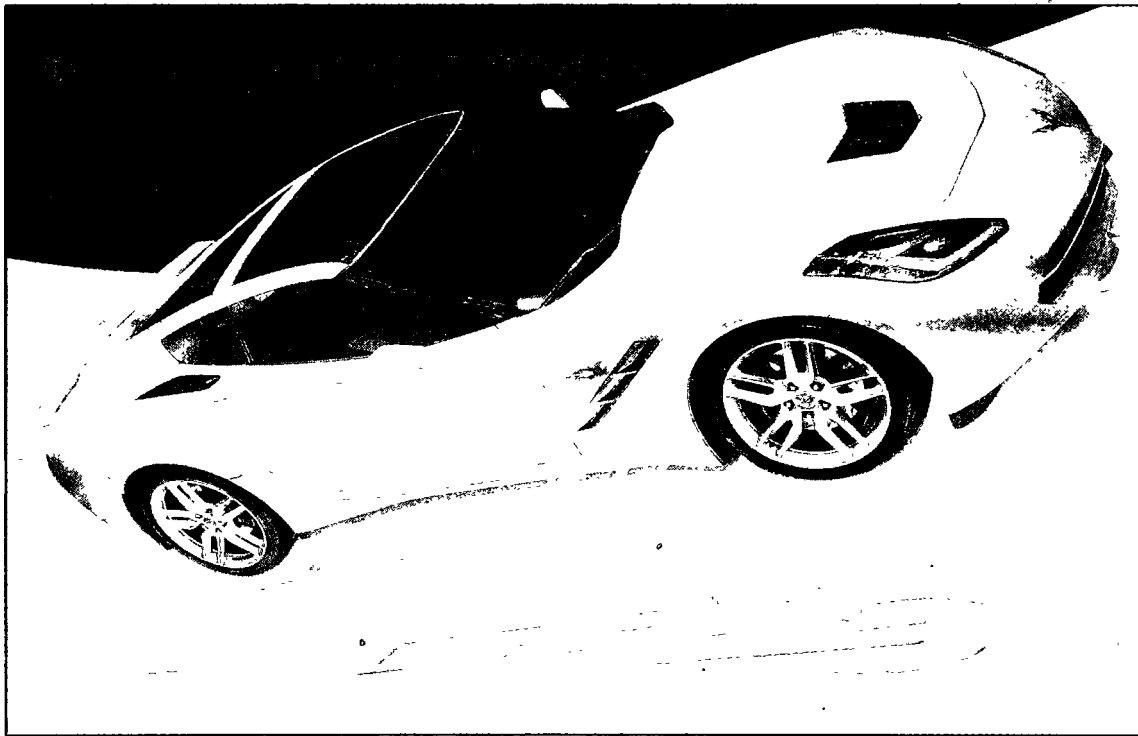
There is an energy permeating through the North American headquarters of Cooper Standard in Novi these days as the company has a renewed focus on being the leader in its field.

Lyle Otremba, vice president of innovation and advanced product strategy, is sporting a new title that goes with a new vision on how the company plans to grow.

Otremba, a Bloomfield Hills resident, said a separate team has been created to focus on game-changing ideas and products, and instead of a short-term vision on where the company wants to go, it is now looking at plans five and 10 years out.

"Our success has been very good," Otremba said while at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Tuesday. "We had a great year and expect to have an even better year this year. The North American market has really been helping us out."

The company is a leading global supplier of systems and components for the auto industry, including body sealing, thermal and emissions,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new Corvette Stingray.

fluid and anti-vibration systems. It has more than 21,000 employees around the world and operates in 19 countries.

The Novi headquarters houses 300 employees and is "approaching a pretty full house," Otremba said.

Three years ago, the com-

pany's focus was on recovery after emerging from bankruptcy protection and cutting \$650 million in debt.

But those times are now in the rearview mirror.

"We were dealing with survival as opposed to successful growth," Otremba said.

One of the things that helped the company pick itself back up was that two of its largest customers — General Motors and Chrysler — also were going through a similar situation.

And as a result it appears all entities are enjoying a revival.

The Cadillac ATS won North American Car of the Year on Monday featuring Cooper Standard's multi-state mount, and Chevrolet's 2014 Corvette Stingray that Cooper Standard did the ceiling system for was a popular attraction.

"We regrouped together," Otremba said. "It helped us and it helped them."

Novi resident Sharon Wenzel, who also serves as the vice president of corporate communications for Cooper Standard, said one area that hasn't changed over the years is the employee's commitment to helping others.

At the annual holiday party this year, the employees chose to forgo raffle items and gifts and instead asked that the money be donated to five charities — The Salvation Army, Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners, Northville Civic Concern and Haven.

Wenzel said giving back is "very much part of our culture."

"It's very important for the generations coming into the work force," she said. "They want to work for a corporation that does those things."

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New message: Automakers market to millennials

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Targeting cars toward younger drivers can be challenge for many domestic automakers. Berkley resident Annalisa Bluhm, who works as a communications representative for General Motors, said it's tricky attempting to market new vehicles to "Millennials," those born in the 1980s and 1990s, because their lifestyles choices may not include a car.

"Most Millennials are delaying car purchases or even getting their license," she said. "It's not that they're never going to buy a car, it's just due to economic factors that they're staying in school longer, many are moving to cities with good public transportation and don't necessarily have a need beyond a vehicle-sharing service, like ZipCar."

As those Millennials find they need to purchase their own car, they've already established a good rapport with GM vehicles such as the Chevy Cruze and Sonic, smaller vehicles with a higher fuel efficiency.

That's one reason Bluhm said GM has teamed up with car-sharing services such as Enterprise to reach a younger customer base.

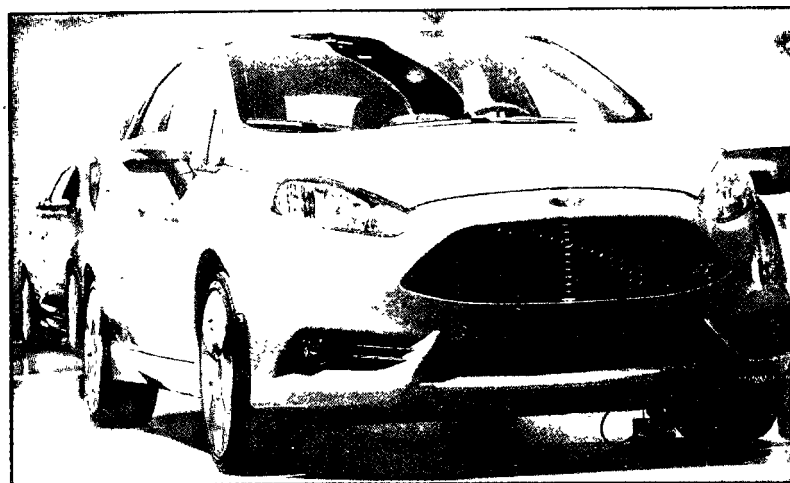
"We embrace that. It's not a threat," Bluhm said. "As the time comes when you can afford the parking spot in front of your apartment or you finally move out of your mom's house and want your own car, you had a great experience with a Chevy, you're comfortable with a Chevy, you saw the value and hopefully you buy one."

Many of the vehicles being marketed by the domestic automakers to younger people are available to see at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chevrolet Sonic RS Turbo and LT models are two models available aimed at younger buyers.



Ford Fiesta ST offers what younger buyers want including technology and fuel efficiency said Northville resident Mike Murphy, the Ford Global C-Car marketing manager.

this week.

Smaller cars aren't only seeing success at GM. Those who are buying vehicles are starting small, opting for cars such as the Ford Fiesta, Ford Focus and the newly released Dodge Dart.

Northville resident Mike Murphy said Ford has seen a lot of success selling compact cars, such as the Fiesta and Focus, to younger buyers. The Ford

Global C-Car marketing manager said the company couples what younger drivers want, including smaller vehicles, technology and fuel efficiency, with a string of good financing and the customer base has begun to increase.

Financing issues

"The ability to finance that product over a reasonable amount of time, that's definitely brought us a higher conquest rate," he said. "It's our highest amount of new customers coming into the Ford portfolio."

Joe Veltri, vice president of product planning for Chrysler in Auburn Hills, said the company has begun offering customization on popular cars such as the Dodge Dart, which came with a heavy marketing campaign targeted at younger drivers.

Customizable interior colors allow for younger drivers to show off their style in an age where phone cases and display screens are changed to match the owner, he said.

"The Dart comes with two or three main interior colors, but the accent color in the interior, you can put a lime green or red or black or gray," he said. "We're giving you that kind of personalization that it's kind of yours."

For the automakers, it's about trying to stay in the market and keep drivers loyal. Bluhm said GM is seeing growth in young people, including around Wayne and Oakland counties.

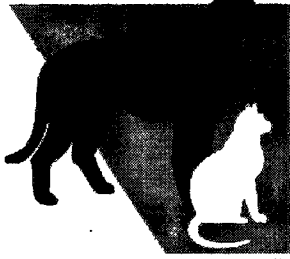
"Our rate of people new to the brand is 63 percent. Of people that bought the Sonic, 63 percent are trading in a car, or have never been with Chevrolet," she said. "And of that 63 percent, about 40 percent of them are 18-to-34 year-olds. So that's a perfect place we want to be."

Puppy Mill Awareness group shows ice dog

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you're heading to the Plymouth Ice Festival Sunday, Jan. 20, in downtown Plymouth, stop by and see Steve.

He's the Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup's fifth annual festival ice sculpture, designed to help the group spread the word about the cruelty of puppy mills — large-scale factory-type breeding facilities that supply pet stores with dogs for sale. The group encourages families and individuals to adopt dogs from shelters and rescues, rather than to buy them from stores. They'll be on hand at the festival with leaflets about their mission.



PET PROJECTS

Ice dog, Steve, will be, too. He's sculpted in the image of Steve, a mixed breed from Plymouth, who lives with Kristen and Tom Grube and their son, Jackson. Real Steve is the perfect spokesdog for shelter adoption. "Steve was our first foster dog when we volun-

teered with MHS (Michigan Humane Society) Detroit," said Kristen Grube. "He came to us with a leg injury about 10 years ago. After he was healed, my brother, Dave, was lucky enough to adopt him. Recently, my brother and his family needed our help and we agreed to take Steve in for about a year due to a change in his family's living situation. "We all love Steve and he has adapted well to our family which includes our 6-year-old, Jackson, and several other pets." Grube, who volunteered with Puppy Mill Awareness in the past, described Steve as "a great dog" and likely a mix of Labrador retriever and chow. He has the

chow's signature blue coloring on his tongue and the smooth coat and friendly temperament of a Lab. "He's very arthritic, but tolerant of everyone." She said Pam Sordyl, Puppy Mill Awareness founder, used Steve as a model for the ice dog because he had been rescued from a shelter. Sordyl also described the family's willingness to take in Steve temporarily is "a perfect example of how families members should help keep animals safe and in forever homes." Grube said she'd do the same for any other relative or close friend in need. She doesn't plan to take Steve to meet his icy

likeness — he'd be too nervous in the crowd — but she intends to help the group leaflet. "I agree with their cause 100 percent," Grube said. **Popular attraction** Sordyl said the group gets a good response from festival goers. "Most of Saturday and Sunday members actually speak with people and pass out literature. We never have a problem getting volunteers out for this activity. It is a lot of fun just being at the show," she said. "We know that there are many families who support adoption. They love to tell us their dog was adopted. Lots of people bring their pets to the

festival, too. "People tend to gravitate to our ice dog, maybe because we have accessories like hats, scarves, collars, dog tags, that make the ice sculpture more personal and interesting. Our ice dog shows enthusiasm for the show and our excitement over how great shelter dogs are." Previous ice dogs have included two bull dogs, a dachshund and a shelter dog wearing glasses and perched on a stack of books. The three-day festival ends Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information about Puppy Mill Awareness, go to meet-up.com/pupymilla-wareness/.

GARDEN & NATURE



Learn about Cattleya and other orchids Feb. 2 and 9 at English Gardens stores.

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

English Gardens

- Get tips on attracting birds to the garden in a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26.
- Youngsters, 3-12, can make a pine cone bird feeder for \$5 at a workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Register at www.englishgardens.com.
- Learn about growing orchids at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2. Then at 2:30 p.m. find out how to "re-pot orchids."
- "More About Orchids" runs 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, with a free re-potting session following at 2:30 p.m. that same day.
- Find out the basics of landscape design, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at a

free presentation. • Learn about fresh flower arranging at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23. • Make a spring flower arrangement for \$29.99, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23. Register at www.englishgardens.com.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

60-minute classes Master Gardeners Western Wayne County (MGWWC) will offer a series of hour-long seminars in February at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, in Wayne. Classes start at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$10 each or \$30 for all four classes if registered in advance. All proceeds fund gardening grants and scholarships. To register, e-mail to mgwwcorg@gmail.com. • Pat Mann of Greenfield Village Herb Associates will talk about fairy gardens, including history and popularity, Tuesday, Feb. 5. Learn how to create your own fairy garden. • Heirloom Tomatoes - From Seed to Sauce, will include tips on seed selection, growing techniques, use in the kitchen and recipes. Paul Rodman, community garden expert and an Advanced Master Gardener, will lead the class, Tuesday, Feb. 12.

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Guide to Employment

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Brichford-Probelski

Karl Brichford and Mary Probelski were married Sept. 21, 2012, in Traverse City.

The bride, daughter of Paul Probelski of Saginaw and the late Terry Probelski, is a 2006 graduate of Stevenson High School. She currently is enrolled in the Surgical Technology Program at Oakland Community College and is scheduled to graduate in June 2013 as a surgical technologist with an associate's degree in applied science.

The groom, son of Mark and Debra Brichford of Livonia, is a 2004 graduate of Stevenson High School. He earned an associate's degree in applied science at Schoolcraft Community College in 2008. Karl is proud to be a firefighter for the city of Canton, and also works as a Paramedic at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

Kaitlin Zitterman was maid of honor and Charles Buhagiar was the best man.

Kelsey Brichford was a bridesmaid and the groom's attendants were Tim Dew, Kenning Brichford and Jason Probelski.

The intimate ceremony was held in



the vines of Bowers Harbor Vineyard and was officiated by Wayne Kurtycz of NorthRidge Church, where Karl and Mary are members. The reception was held at the Mission Table on the historic Bowers Harbor Inn Estate.

Karl and Mary spent time in Traverse City for their honeymoon, but plan to travel in September 2013 after Mary graduates from her program.

The couple recently purchased a home in Livonia and share it with their two dogs, Louie and Seagram.

Milestones

Wyatt-Doletzky

Ashleigh Wyatt and Daniel D. Doletzky II announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jim and Bonnie Giachino of Canton, is a 2006 graduate of Plymouth High School. She also attended Schoolcraft College and is employed by Infinity Primary Care, Novi.

Her fiancé, son of Daniel and Rosemary Doletzky of Livonia and Genee Doletzky of Sarasota, Fla., is a 2006 graduate of Huron Valley Lutheran High School. He also attended Schoolcraft College and is co-owner of K&D Plumbing, Inc., Livonia.

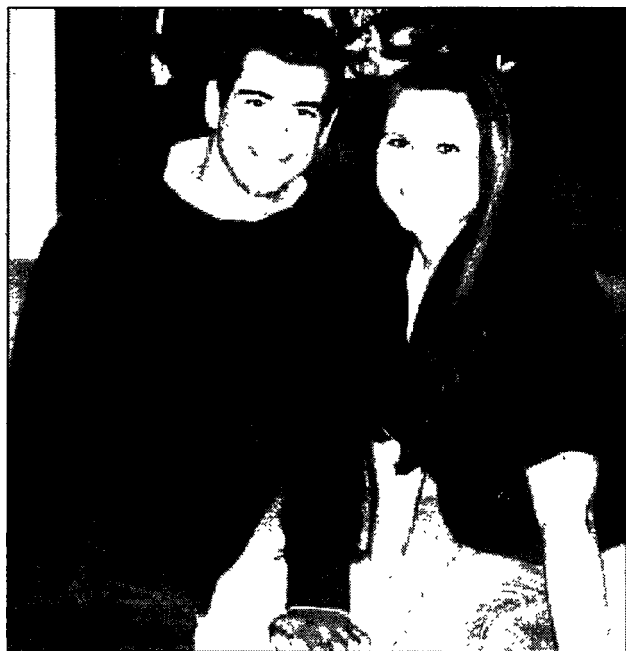


An October 2013 wedding is planned at Grecian Center, Southgate.

Blaine-Fotiu

Jim and Patty Blaine of Clarkston are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Maria, to Tony Fotiu, son of Dino and Barb Fotiu of Livonia.

An October 2013 wedding is planned.



Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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FLYNN, ELWOOD 'JOE'

Age 85, January 13, 2013. Beloved husband of Sue. Dear father of Peter (Mary). Grandfather of Matthew & Shawn. Brother of Iola Sharp and Earl Flynn. Brother-in-law of Gilbert 'Jr.' Stebbins, Patricia (Ronald) Griffith, John 'JC' Stebbins, Elizabeth Stebbins and Lydia Stebbins. In state Thursday 10:30 am followed by the 11:30 am Funeral Service at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City (Just South of Ford Rd.). Family suggests memorials to Garden City Presbyterian Church. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son Funeral Home. www.Santeiufuneralhome.com



LUDWIG, JOYCE CLARK

Age 83, Joyce was a devout Christian that went to be with the Lord on January 9th, 2013. Loving mother of Cathy (Larry) Heidloff of Florida and Barb (Mike) Anthony of North Carolina. Will also be missed by her grandchildren Preston, Meredith and Matt and her grandcats, Noah and Sammy. Survived by her brother Neal Clark of Texas. Joyce proudly worked for 28 years at Schoolcraft College. Visitation Wednesday 4-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., in Livonia. Funeral Thursday in state 10 am until the time of service at 11 am at Grace Lutheran Church, 25630 Grand River Ave., in Redford. Interment Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti. Memorial contributions may be made in Joyce's name to Hospice of Wake County, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607.



RAE, DR. JAMES W., JR.

Died Jan. 7, 2013, of Leland, passed away on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013 at Munson Medical Center. Dr. Rae was born on Oct. 7, 1917 the son of James W. and Grace (Duffield) Rae in Bowling Green, OH. He graduated from the University of Michigan. While at the university, he was a member of the Chi Psi fraternity and was a varsity letterman. He ran track and was the captain and an All-American for the basketball team. During WWII, he was a third-year medical student and was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He was among the first to go ashore after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan. After the war, he returned to U of M Medical School and was awarded his medical degree in 1943. He did his fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dr. Rae then returned to Ann Arbor and in 1950 he became the Founding Chair of the Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation until he retired in 1977. In the 1980s he continued to work part-time at U of M, Northern Michigan Regional Hospital, and Munson Medical Center while residing in Leland, where he enjoyed his passion for sailing and golfing. Dr. Rae is survived by his loving wife of 11 years, Arleen Rakas-Mitchell-Rae; his daughters and son-in-laws, Anne and Bud Blanchette, Laura and Bob Stapleton; four grandchildren, Blaire Elmore, Drew Blanchette, and Rob and Trevor Stapleton; nephew, Jim Bowers; nieces, Bobbie Bowers and Becky Skrainka, stepdaughters, Wendy (Jack) Browner and Tracy Dobson (Oscar Kent) and their four children and five grandchildren. The funeral service was held on Jan. 11 at the Leland Community United Methodist Church. Burial will be at Beechwood Cemetery in the spring. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to ShareCare of Leelanau, P.O. Box 153, Northport, MI 49670 and/or to the Leelanau Conservancy, P.O. Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654. Please share thoughts and memories with Dr. Rae's family on their online guestbook at www.record-eagle.com/obituaries/. Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay.



HOLMES, JAMES C. 'SHERLOCK'

January 14, 2013 Age 83 of Bloomfield Hills. Beloved husband of Helen (nee Winkler) for 59½ years. Dear father of James C. Jr. (Kathy), Stephen W. (Mary), and William P. (Dottie). Loving "Kiki" of Kristin, Jay, Hadley, Stephen, Austin, Perry, Andy and Paul. Brother of Nancy Gilbert. Also survived by his cat "Chief". Graduate of Cranbrook School (cum laude), the University of Arizona (valedictorian) and the University of Michigan (valedictorian), receiving his MBA. Longtime real estate investor and appraiser. Member of the Appraisal Institute and Real Estate Answer Forum. Former Chairman of the Board of Crittenton Hospital. Adjunct professor of real estate at U of M Business School. Member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and head usher at Christ Church Cranbrook. Memorial service was held at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Memorial tributes to Cranbrook Schools. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at DesmondFuneralHome.com



SCHEER, JANET K.

Age 75, January 13, 2013 of Cadillac formerly of Farmington. Beloved wife of Charles. Dear mother of David (Michele), Mary (Robert) Bush, Martha (Harrison Y.) Smith, Elizabeth (Randy) Dick. Also survived by 9 grandchildren. Funeral Service Friday at 11:30am at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Thursday 4-8pm. Those wishing to make a contribution in Janet's name are asked to consider the United Methodist Women's Association of Farmington or American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, Grand Rapids. Please share a memory at: www.rggharris.com



ROGERS, DON H.

Age 69, January 15, 2013 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Barbara. Loving father of David and Debrah (Jim) Craig. Dear brother of Lois (John) Eriksson and Gail (Jim) Smith. Dear grandfather of Casmer, David, Robert, Emily, James, Molly and Matthew. Funeral Service Friday 11am at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Thursday 2-9 pm. Please share a memory at: www.rggharris.com

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SWAIN, MARVIN DENNIS

"Mr. Dennis"
8/14/1946 - 01/14/2013
Dennis passed away unexpectedly Jan. 14 of a heart attack. He was 66 years old. Best known as "Mr. Dennis" to thousands of children throughout Livonia, Westland, Plymouth and surrounding area, he taught them how to swim for over 20 years. Dennis was a Master Gardener and a member of Dignity. He is survived by his sister, Debra Swain, of Edwards, Colorado. Donations should be made to the Special Olympics.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

January

ANNULMENTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30

Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: The Rev. Ron Richards, a canon lawyer with experience working on the Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Detroit, will present information about annulments in a question and answer format. He'll answer such questions as: What is an annulment? How does one get an annulment? How long does it take to get an annulment. Call the parish office to register **Contact:** (734) 455-5910

BIBLE STUDY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, starting Jan. 14 and 9:30 a.m. Friday, starting Jan. 18

Location: Praise Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial, Plymouth

Details: Beth Moore's 10-week Bible study for women will explore the account of the building of the Old Testament tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, the pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for a woman's walk with God today. Participants will be challenged to prepare their hearts to become a home for God's love and glory. Cost is \$15 for a workbook. All women are welcome **Contact:** (734) 542 9816 or irenejim1@hotmail.com

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 20

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10 **Contact:** (734) 425-4421

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Free movie night features the film "Sarah's Choice," about a career woman who has an unexpected pregnancy. She envisions three options and

then makes a choice. There will be a special meal of braised country ribs (free will offering) along with the film. Call the church for dinner reservations **Contact:** (248) 553-3380

FILM

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: The church and AAA Pregnancy Resource Center show "The Voice of John," a documentary about abortion and pro-choice laws. Admission is free and free child care will be available during the movie **Contact:** (734) 459-3333

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday, beginning Jan. 30

Location: Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell, Southfield

Details: Runs through March 6, is nonsectarian and designed for those who have lost a spouse. Call the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section for information and registration. There is no charge but donations are accepted **Contact:** (248) 355-3300, Ext. 0

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Details: Tour the school, talk to other parents and staff during this open house for the school, which includes classes for preschool through middle school, CYO sports, bus transportation for Livonia residents, and flexible payment plans. Registration packets will be available at the open house **Contact:** www.saintgenevieve.org or call (734) 425-4420

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27

Location: 11311 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: St. Michael's School, Livonia's oldest and largest K-8 parochial school, invites all interested families to take student-led tours of their facilities, to meet staff members who will be available to answer questions and concerns, and to share refreshments and conversation with other parents and students. St. Michael's, SE Michigan's only two-time MANS accredited School of

Distinction, offers a traditional faith-filled environment, with a commitment to high academic standards, service to others, a strong science and technology curriculum, coupled with many opportunities for significant parent involvement and extracurricular activities such as sports and scouts. St. Michael's offers half or full-day kindergarten, latch-key programming, and an extended curriculum which includes computer science, art, music, and Spanish. **Contact:** (734) 261-1455, Ext. 226, or www.livoniast-michael.org

POLYNESIAN REVUE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile

Details: The event features Hoaloa Michigan Dancers and Motor City Ukes, Polynesian dance, music and food. Admission is free **Contact:** (248) 348-9675

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: Celebrate Mass; stay after for fellowship and refreshments **Contact:** Pat at (734) 895-6246

February

CONCERT

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10

Location: Sacred Heart Banquet & Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, east of Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Christian concert for children starring Rob Evans, "The Donut Man" and his sidekick, Duncan. The musician is nationally known for Bible story-songs. Admission is \$5 per person; kids, 3 and under are admitted free **Contact:** Rev. Joseph Marquis, Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, at (734) 522-3166

DINNER DANCE

Time/Date: 6-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: This Valentine's Day event will include a sit down dinner, DJ and dancing, and photo booth for special memories. Tickets are: \$35 per couple or \$20 per person. They're available by calling the church office **Contact:** (248) 553-3380

Boost your memory

Authors: Lifestyle changes help stave off dementia

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dr. Gary Small, M.D., is a professor of psychiatry at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and director of the UCLA Longevity Center. In his new book, *The Alzheimer's Prevention Program: Keep Your Brain Healthy for the Rest of Your Life*, he writes of a busy businesswoman.

She comes to his office with her smartphone turned on and is unable to avoid taking calls and monitoring the phone.

"It's very typical," Small said in a recent phone interview. "Technology has insinuated itself into our daily lives."

The key, he said, is to manage technology to the good.

"If we can wrap our hands around it in a way that will make sense, we can use it to augment our biological memory," he said. We don't really need to remember many phone numbers now as they're easy to look up.

Small wrote his latest book with his wife, Gigi Vorgan. The two also wrote *The Memory Bible*, and he gives her a lot of credit.

"She's a tremendous writer. A wonderful collaborator," he said.

She's learned about science and medicine, as he's learned about writing. The couple has a son, 18, and a daughter, 20.

Lifestyle factors

They focus on lifestyle factors, including diet and physical exercise, as ways to stave off symptoms of

MEET DR. GARY SMALL



Small

Information on Dr. Gary Small is online at www.drgarysmall.com. He will speak and sign books 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at Fox Run, 41000 13 Mile, Novi. "It should be a lot of fun," Small said of the Novi appearance, which is open to the public. Fox Run can be reached at (800) 843-1433.

Alzheimer's and dementia. Gary Small was interested in medical school in the mind and behavior, and how the body and brain work. That drew him to geriatrics.

"I realized it was something we could have an impact on," said Small, 61. "But I feel healthier now than I did in my 40s."

He and his wife write of a baby boomer who can't recall an acquaintance's name. "It's a very common situation," he said. "You're concerned about your risk. Behind those jokes is an element of anxiety and fear."

In the average person, genetics only account for about one-third of risk factors, he said, with lifestyle key. In diet, Americans need to learn to control both portions and what they eat to counteract the epidemic of obesity.

He advocates for omega-3 fats such as found in fish, along with a diet with lots of fruits and vegetables.

"It doesn't have to be exotic," said Small, who has a Novi appearance coming up. "It's a kind of food that's readily available. What we need to do is eat nutritious and delicious."

Boost memory

The couple's book is designed to educate people to follow a healthy lifestyle. Memory exercises, what some call "brain teasers," are included, along with common-sense advice on handling stress and getting sufficient sleep.

The authors include assessment tools to help you make a change in lifestyle habits.

Small said exercise that works your heart boosts cognitive performance, sending blood to your brain. Finding a "workout buddy" helps with motivation and more.

"You're having a conversation which is working for brain health," he said. Talking over the day reduces its stresses, too.

In 2002, scientists were able to report human results from PET scans for Alzheimer's and dementias. The goal now is to find a drug to treat Alzheimer's effectively, much like statins work on those with high cholesterol.

"We don't think we can cure it," Small said. Delaying onset of symptoms is key.

"There's always hope for people," he said, citing clinical trials targeting families of those who have dementia. In studies of twins where only one gets Alzheimer's, lifestyle is proving to be key.

Small agreed it also helps boomers and seniors to remain connected socially.

"There's a big plus in staying connected with others," he said. "Social butterflies do better as they age, there's no question about it."

Their life expectancy

tends to be better as well, and they have emotional and practical support.

Scientists are also studying areas with a high number of centenarians, including parts of Italy and Japan. People there tend to be socially connected, he said, as well as physically active and with good diets.

"That's where people show the most resistance," he said of Americans. He and other health care providers have found people feel better once on a better diet, and have less desire

for high-sugar and other foods that aren't nutritious.

His work is rewarding in that it changes lives: "It really is tremendously rewarding." On a book tour, he met a woman who's followed the advice since his first book some 10 years ago. His work is mentally stimulating, "but also to see it help so many people" is great.

"They're going to start feeling better right away," he added of those who follow the advice.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

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CELEBRAS

Advertisement

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Spread the News, Not the Flu

Important Insight Into the Deadliest Flu Outbreak in Over 10 Years

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Jessie Lutz, R.N.
Community Health Services

This flu season is one of the worst in decades, creating a flood of questions relating to the flu, flu shots and flu etiquette. This week, Jessie Lutz, R.N., 28 year veteran nurse at Garden City Hospital, answers what you want to know. "Nurse Jessie" has been answering your questions in the "Ask Jessie" column of GCH's Healthy Generations Magazine for the past three years.

Q: When will flu activity begin and when will it peak?

A: The timing of flu is very unpredictable and can vary from season to season. Flu activity in the U.S. most commonly peaks in January or February, however, it can begin as early as October and continue to occur as late as May.

Q: Why should I get the flu vaccine every year?

A: Flu viruses are constantly changing and flu vaccines are formulated each year to keep up with these changing viruses. This year one flu vaccine protects against three different viruses which are circulating today; influenza B viruses, influenza A (H1N1) viruses and influenza A (H3N2).

Q: Kids being kids, how can I help them avoid other children's flu germs?

A: Have your children remember these three rules: I will use Kleenex, I will wash my hands, and I will stay away from anybody who is sick.

Keep small children away from crowds as much as possible. Small groups are best. As always, try to stay away from people who have the flu.

Q: Can cold weather make you sick?

A: Cold weather does not cause colds. People who live year-round above the Arctic Circle have no more winter colds than people living in Australia. On the contrary, cold weather appears to stimulate the immune system according to a study by the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. Hypothermia (the lowering of the body's core temperature) does suppress immunity, which can lead to colds.

Make sure to dress appropriately for the weather by using hats, gloves, scarves, thick socks and warm shoes or boots.

Q: I am very concerned about transmitting and catching the flu this year. Is shaking hands or hugging just too risky?

A: The most common way to pass the flu virus is through human contact. While it may feel impolite not to shake an extended hand, most people would prefer not to be given the gift of flu. In those instances where a hug or hand shake feels needed, simply let the other person know that you may have come in contact with the flu and would not want to pass it on. This gets you both off the hook and will be appreciated.

On that same topic, while employers appreciate a dedicated employee, they will not appreciate one who causes the whole office to call in sick. Don't try to be a hero. If you're sick, stay home and get well. You need your rest and others don't want your bug. If you're concerned about what your boss will think, call and ask what you should do. Let your boss tell you to stay home...most will.

If you would like to read more from Nurse Jessie or any of the GCH Health Experts, visit GCH.org and click the Healthy Generations icon.

Do you have a health or medical question for one of the GCH Health Experts? Call 877.717.WELL.

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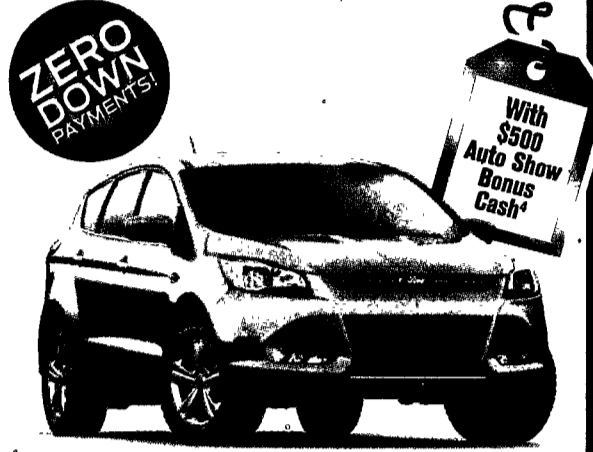


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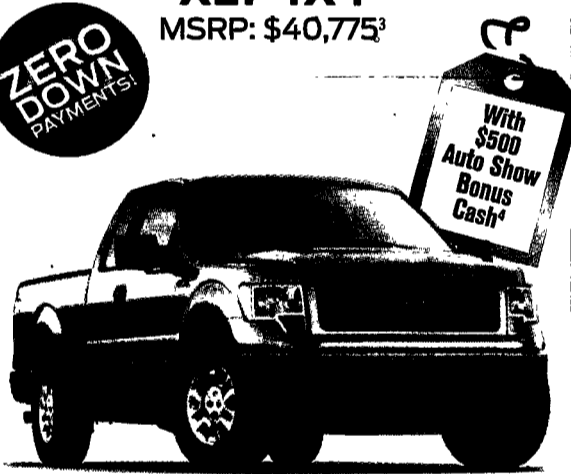


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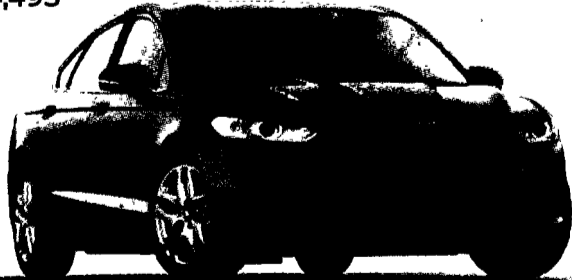


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