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SPORTS, B4

MUSIC LEGEND QUINCY JONES

USA WEEKEND



Best in nation

Stephanie Hyams, a cadet command sergeant major in the



Wayne Memorial High School JROTC Zebra Battalion, has earned the top spot in the National JROTC Essay Contest with her essay on "Why did I enroll in JROTC?" Hyams's essay was selected first from 130 essays at Wayne Memorial and then from the 209 schools in the region to compete at the national level.

Hyams also has received a three-year ROTC scholarship to Eastern Michigan University, after which she will receive a commission as a U.S. Army officer.

Advisory panel

Westland resident Richard LeBlanc is among four appointments Gov. Rick Snyder has made to the Organized Retail Crime Advisory Board.

Housed in the Michigan Department of State Police, the six-member board was created in 2012 to develop a database

and compile annual statistics on organized retail crimes, as well as recommend actions to further combat it. In addition to the governor's four appointees, the board includes the state attorney general and the state police director or their respective designees.

"Organized retail crime is a growing problem in our state, and this board will play an important role in curtailing it and protecting hard-working Michiganders," Snyder said.

LeBlanc will represent the general public on the board. A Wayne County commissioner, he will serve four-year term expiring March 30, 2017. His appointment is subject to approval by the state Senate.

Reduced hours

As of Monday, April 15, the Wayne County Clerk's Westland Satellite Office will have new office hours due to budgetary constraints.

The office, at 3100 Henry Ruff, will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Services affected by the change include birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, assumed names, notary publics and concealed weapons.

INDEX

- Community Life..... B6
- Crossword Puzzle.... C2
- Education..... A4
- Health..... B10
- Homes..... C3
- Jobs..... C1
- Obituaries..... B9
- Services..... C3
- Sports..... B1
- Wheels..... C4

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Westland looks to use vacant parcel for new fire station

Officials close on Circuit City purchase

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The purchase by Westland of the former Circuit City has been completed and a nearby eyesore could also soon become city property — and the site of a new fire station.

The city officially closed Thursday on the \$1.6 million purchase for the former Circuit City build-

ing. Plans call for the former retail building on Warren Road east of Central City Parkway to be retrofitted to become Westland City Hall.

On Monday, city council is scheduled to consider a \$275,000 agreement to purchase the former Service Merchandise building on Nankin Boulevard. Located on a 10-acre parcel, the building would eventually be demolished.

"I think Service Merchandise has been closed at least 20 years," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "We'll build at the north end

of the property. It depends on the square footage."

A new fire station wouldn't require the full 10-acre site, but no decision has been made on what could be done with the remainder of the parcel.

"There is some flexibility with the rest of the property. It could be an out lot (for development), public space or combined with the building to the south (where Malarkey's is located)," Wild said.

The Tax Increment Finance Authority will fund the \$1.6 million purchase of the Circuit City building through a bank install-

ment loan. The TIFA recaptures property tax dollars for reinvestment in public improvements within the TIFA district.

"We stretched it out and got below 3 percent interest for a low payment," Wild said, adding that payment method gives the city more bonding ability.

The \$275,000 for the former Service Merchandise building purchase will initially be covered by the city general fund, but later be reimbursed by the TIFA, Wild said.

Please see **PARCEL, A2**

Olivia Junk (from left), Marcus Allen Jr. and Morgan Gratwick rehearse a scene from the John Glenn High School Theater Guild's production of "Happy Days A New Musical."



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Heyyy!' Glenn brings back those 'Happy Days'

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Richie Cunningham, Potsie Webber, Ralph Malph and The Fonz will light up the stage of John Glenn High School this week, as students present *Happy Days A New Musical* Thursday-Saturday, April 18-20, in the high school auditorium.

The musical is based on the hit television series *Happy Days* that aired for 11 years on ABC. But the musical isn't a continuation of the TV show. Ritchie won't croon about finding his thrills on *Blueberry Hill*. The songs are more reflective of the story which revolves around Arnold's closing and the wrestling match that characters come up with to try to save it.

"There's references in the play to 80 percent of the *Happy Days* shows," director Kev-

OH, HAPPY DAYS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 18-20
Location: John Glenn High School Auditorium, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road
Details: Based on the hit television series *Happy Days*, the musical reintroduces one of America's best loved families, the Cunninghams, and the days of 1958 Milwaukee. Arnold's,

in Gidley said. "There's no reference to Fonzie jumping in the shark tank, but many references to Howard Cunningham being the grand poobah of the Leopard Lodge."

The cast includes Arnold Delvecchio, the affable owner of Arnold's, a hybrid of Arnold, the original owner, and Al who came later on in the television series. The Fonz's cous-

the famed drive-in malt shop and No. 1 hangout, is in danger of being demolished so the gang teams up to save it with a dance contest and TV-worthy wrestling match.

Tickets: \$8 for students and \$10 adults. Available at the door or in advance by contacting Kevin Gidley at (734) 419-2342.

in Charles "Chachi" Arcola and Richie's sister Joanie are already in love. And there's even a reference to Richie's brother Chuck, who disappeared early on in the television series, and Laverne and Shirley.

Gidley is doing a 90-minute version of the musical. It's very

Please see **HAPPY DAYS, A2**

Garden City man charged with embezzlement

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Garden City man is facing a charge that he embezzled more than \$100,000 while working as the manager at a Westland jewelry store.

Kenneth Carl Murray, 42, waived his preliminary examination Thursday in Westland's 18th District Court. He was ordered bound over for trial on the felony charge of embezzling more than \$100,000 from Kay Jewelers, where he had been employed as manager of the store in Westland Shopping Center. A not guilty plea was entered for Murray.

State statute sets dollar amounts in embezzlement charges — in this case, an amount more than \$100,000. Information provided to Westland police sets the dollar amount at significantly higher than the \$100,000 threshold.

"Kay Jewelers did an internal investigation. They set the total loss of cash and merchandise at \$223,702.83," Westland Police Sgt. Norm Brooks said.

The charge is that money was stolen from the store through fraudulent returns and unauthorized charges to customers' Kay Jewelers credit cards.

"If someone bought a \$3,000 item, he'd do a return and take the money. No item was returned," Brooks said. "He is also accused of taking merchandise. The jewelry was sold or pawned."

No merchandise or money have been recovered, Brooks said.

The embezzlement took place from September 2012 until Murray was terminated by the store in December, Brooks said. It was not known how long he had worked for the jewelry chain.

Murray is free on \$10,000/10-percent bond. His circuit court arraignment is set for April 25.



Murray

lr@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Wayne considers Commercial Redevelopment District

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Wayne Road businesses could be eligible for tax abatements under a new Commercial Redevelopment District that the Wayne City Council is expected to finalize Tuesday.

The CRD would run along both sides of Wayne Road between Glenwood and Ash, picking up several parcels and extending the district further south on the east

side of Wayne Road. The goal is to spur new development and reinvestment in existing businesses.

"This law had sunset in 1985. We had done seven (CRDs). We've had no applications since this law was resurrected by the state," Wayne Community Development Director Peter McInerney said. "This is a change for us to make a large district. Now that we're establishing a district, we might get applications."

Once the district is established, businesses could apply for a 50-percent property tax abatement for up to 12 years for new development.

Redevelopment projects in the new district could also qualify for up to a 12-year tax abatement. In the case of improvements to existing businesses, the property value would be frozen at the level prior to improvements being made.

"They always pay taxes on the

land, the half rate would be on the building. There is no abatement for personal property taxes either," McInerney said.

The city is obtaining an application form from the state, McInerney said. Council will need to consider the specifics of each application — the dollar amount of the investments and jobs created — to determine the type and length of an abatement.

Please see **CRD, A2**

CRD

Continued from page A1

"You need to be adding square footage or building a structure. If you're just maintaining, this would probably not apply," McInerney said. "The number of years (for an abatement) is strictly a local decision, as is the decision to create a district."

In the past, Wayne would establish a district for an individual request, McInerney said. The city could establish additional CRDs in other parts of the city, he said, adding there is a pending request from Mark Chevrolet, located on Michigan Avenue.

The approval of the CRD in Wayne will create a redevelopment area that extends north to Cherry Hill. Westland approved a CRD covering both sides of Wayne Road from Glenwood to Cherry Hill.

Westland established the CRD in response to a request from the owner of a 9,000-square-foot office building at 2066 Wayne Road. The property was undergoing renovations when it was damaged by fire in 2012. Now vacant following the fire, the owner is expected to invest about \$250,000 to make improvements to the building.

As far as vacant property along that section of Wayne Road, it was mentioned that the largest parcel would be the for-

mer site of Franks Furniture, destroyed by a gas line explosion in 2010.

Resident Richard Immerfall wasn't happy at the attention received by the former store site compared to others impacted by the explosion. From 1972 until the December 2010 explosion, Immerfall owned and operated Wayne Sew, Vac and Clocks located next door to Franks.

"I had to tear my building down. Hope Medical is out. I understand people died (in Franks). We were injured," Immerfall said. "I was automatically retired. Other people should be recognized. We never got a sorry from Consumers."

While Franks Furniture is mentioned more by name, Wayne Mayor Al Haidous responded that the vacuum shop was also an important and beloved business in Wayne. He urged Immerfall to contact McInerney about commercial sites available in the city.

Council had started the CRD public hearing at its last meeting and adjourned it until Tuesday. That was done to correct a public notice mix-up. Letters had been sent to all property owners in the district, but it was later found the letters should have been sent via registered mail and they were redone.

irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

HAPPY DAYS

Continued from page A1

song-oriented vs. dialogue, he said.

"It's like a full seven seasons condensed and swooshed together," co-director Belinda Walakonis added.

Wide appeal

Gidley selected the show for two reasons: It can be done without live music and the wide appeal of *Happy Days*. However, the music technology has been the biggest challenge. Gidley had thought he would get the music on CDs, instead it came "very iTunes-like."

"You have to download it, it can be started and stopped and customized," Gidley said. "It has a very specific app. This is one of the first shows to do that, this and *Grease*." With both the mid-winter and spring break falling during rehearsal time, Gidley had to get some special licensing to download songs to phones or iOS devices.

"Without that, they didn't have the ability to practice at will," he said.

"A couple of times they've practiced at dif-

ferent homes on the weekends and during the week," Walakonis said. "With mid-winter and Easter breaks, it made it hard, but they didn't miss a beat."

Also serving as co-director is Glenn grad Steven Goldberg. He had been school in Chicago last semester, but came back home to continue his studies at community college. He's familiar with the directing responsibilities. As a Glenn student, he was an assistant director last year.

"I want to go into film directing. This was a volunteer opportunity," he said. "This is very different, a new perspective. While you're acting on stage, you see the directors talking between themselves, but when you're back here, you realize what's going on."

"To have him come back is a testament to the program in and of itself," Gidley said. "His going to film school in Chicago gives him a better perspective because he was on stage and he has a knowledge base."

Johnny Pesnecker has been cast as Richie, with Corey Corona playing Potsie and Steven Mirabitor as Ralph. Playing the

leather-jacketed Arthur Fonzarelli is Marcus Allen Jr. Playing Richie's parents Howard and Marion Cunningham are Morgan Grätwick and Matthew Karpuik, with Alyssa Weeks as Joanie.

Double duty

Olivia Junk is pulling double duty for the show as one of the student directors and one of Pinky Tuscadero's Pinkettes. A junior, this is her second time as an assistant director. She's always loved the opportunity to assume a leadership role.

"I'm able to push my limits and learn the other side of the business," she said. "A Pinkette is a little part and that makes it a lot easier to be a director."

As an assistant director, Junk isn't there to tell her fellow cast members what to do, but more as another set of eyes for the official directors.

"I give my opinion, but I'm there to look out for the whole group," she said.

This is Junk's fifth production at Glenn and loves everything about *Happy Days*.

"I really enjoy it. As a kid, I watched *Happy Days* with my parents," she said. "The feeling peo-

ple will get from this show is great, a happy, laughter thing that people forget to do."

Also sharing assistant director duties is Mirabitor. A senior, this is his final play at Glenn, but his first time helping with the direction. His role of Ralph Malph is a small one, allowing him time to focus on directing.

"I like the leadership role," he said. "If people need something, they can come to me. I love being able to lead and to know I'm a person they listen to."

"This is the fourth production Mirabitor has been in the cast after doing four shows as a member of the crew. His preference is to be on stage.

"I like to perform and when it's a more comedic role, I like the feeling of being able to make people laugh," he said. "The best part of this is seeing it all come together at the end and everyone working together as a team."

"This is a student production. I picked the show, but they've done all the work," Gidley added.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

PARCEL

Continued from page A1

A report prepared for the TIFA board by Plan-te Moran Cresa estimated demolition costs for the former Service Merchandise at \$150,000.

"It's (the report) a couple of years old. Steel prices have gone up. We may be able to recoup most of costs from salvage," Wild said. "It's too early to tell when we would do the demolition; we'd need to close on the property. It's possible the fire station could be

erected before the (existing) building comes down. There is enough room."

Plans call for the new city hall to be open by the end of 2014. Wild expects the fire station, with a \$3 million or less price tag, could be completed by the fall of 2014. It would replace Fire Station 1 located next to city hall on Ford at Carlson.

Bonds, to be repaid by the TIFA, are expected to be used to fund the retrofit costs for city hall, construction of the new fire station and also some yet-to-be determined landscaping and other improvements to Central

City Parkway.

"We're not sure yet the total amount of the bonds. City hall was estimated at \$15 million at the high end. An architect is working on the city hall floor plan," Wild said. "I hope we have renderings soon. We should have a preliminary plan and concept for outside soon."

Similarly, the city will be developing plans for the Central City Parkway improvements.

The city's planned investment in the city's shopping and dining district goes hand-in-hand with other nearby upgrades, Wild said,

noting the \$1 million investment in upgraded entrances and the digital marquee sign at Westland Shopping Center.

"Our goal is to leverage our investment with all the other stakeholders," he said. "Applebee's was in with planned improvements. We'll sit down with all the stakeholders to get them to reinvest."

The current city hall, Fire Station 1 and the closed Bailey Center are expected to eventually be demolished.

irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

CORRECTION

A story on Thursday's Business Page should have stated that the Garden City Hospital Cen-

ter for Breast Care is at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 107, in Westland.

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ACHIEVERS

National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced that Frederic Nicholas of Westland has been awarded a National Achievement NMSC Scholarship. The award is supported by NMSC, which conducts the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Nicholas, a student at Renaissance High School in Detroit, is among approximately 800 outstanding black American high school seniors who have won Achievement Scholarship awards through the National Achievement Scholarship Program. These awards, totaling over \$2 million, are financed by grants from 34 corporate organizations and professional associations, and by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program is a privately financed academic competition established in 1964 specifically to honor scholastically talented black American youth and to provide scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding participants in each annual competition. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Cassandra Ford, Josh Selinski and Bethany Thrun, all of Garden City, have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2012 semester at Saginaw Valley State University. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours and earn a semester 3.4 grade point average or better.

Two Garden City residents have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Detroit Mercy.

Jamie McKenna of Garden City has received the Alex Barba Scholarship, while John McNally has received the Henkel Scholarship.



Maggie Logan and Kayla Jakel are going to the Thrive Academy in California. They earned the spot for all their volunteerism at the Henry Ruff building in Garden City working on the Dress for Success room where community members may go to receive clothes needed for job interviews.



Garden City DECA Club members, with advisors Teresa Millican and Lynda Bommarito, show the honors they received at a recent state conference in Grand Rapids.

DECA Club qualifies 12 for international conference

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Final fundraising help is needed as the DECA Club at Garden City High School rounds the final stretch. The club is raising funds to get to Anaheim, Calif., from April 23-28.

In the meantime, the students had success at a recent state conference.

"We had 12 international qualifiers and nine of these students are actually going to be able to go to Anaheim as three of them have other obligations keeping them from being able to attend," said adviser Teresa Millican.

"The cost of the conference is \$1,100 per student. The students who are going all have spent an enormous amount of time volunteering for the community of Garden City."

Students need that final influx of cash in order to attend the California conference. People who would like to help can contact Millican at millict@gardencityschools.com.

In addition to the 12 international qualifiers, the club earned 15 medals, an SBE Gold Level Certification and a Silver Merit award at the state conference.

International qualifiers were:

- Alaina Kastl and Katelyn Halup who worked on the Cougar's Den free spirit wear for those in need, Creative Marketing Project State winner.

- Ashley Wilamowski and Sadie Crunk for Community Services at the Henry Ruff building, Public Relations Project State Winner.

- Loren Thrun, Laura Rhodes and Rachel Bommarito for Global Entrepreneurship Week activ-

ities throughout the district, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project State Winner.

- Kayla Jakel, Maggie Logan and Zachary Laubernds for organization and participation in community services at the high school, throughout the district and alumni success stories. They are Thrive Leadership Academy recipients.

- Ashley Moyers and Bailey Terrell for School-Based Enterprises, Gold Level Certification for the school store.

Millican said that a medal winners who made it up on the stage were:

- Zack Laubernds, Sports Team Decision Making, one medal for testing.

- Ben Arent for Hotel Lodging Management, two medals for testing.

- Brittney Szabo, Samantha

Burlingame and Rikki Keene for Wings on Fire Charity Hockey Event, Sports and Entertainment Promotion Plan I.

- Kayla Jakel and Maggie Logan for Dress for Success, Resume Tips and Financial Games, Financial Literacy Promotion Project.

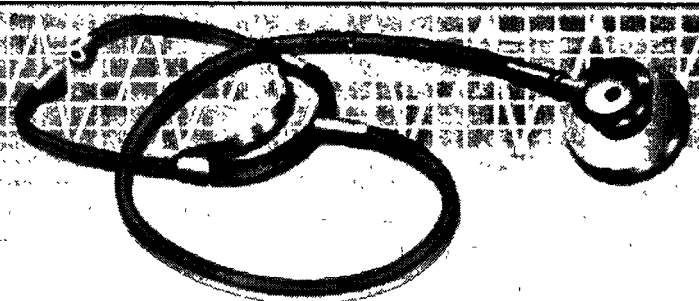
Heaven Kayal also received a Silver Level Merit Award.

Millican gave special thanks to those who helped support the Garden City DECA at the conference.

They were Neil Crosato, Jennifer Cafarelli and Rob Eisiminger who served as chaperones and Michelle Cline, Darlene Jablonski and Julia Eisiminger who served as judges.

Millican beamed with pride at the accomplishments.

Please see DECA, A5



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Question and Answer Panel will follow.

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'We have needs,' school chief says of May 7 ballot proposal

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Fred Mack had questions about the school bond proposal that he and other voters in the Livonia Public Schools district will decide in a special election May 7.

Mack said he had concerns about the 30-year, \$195 million proposal, so he attended a bond information meeting Thursday night at Franklin High School.

Afterward, he left believing the bonds are necessary to upgrade the schools. "Everything breaks down and needs to be replaced," Mack said.

Mack was referencing classroom furniture that needed to be pieced together to be repaired, equipment and technology that officials say are outdated and need infrastructure repairs at the schools, many of

which are 40 to 60 years old.

Superintendent Randy Liepa presented information and answered questions from Mack and other residents there. Another Community Forum and Q&A session will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh.

Liepa gave a chronology of the proposal from the collection of more than 16,000 comments several years ago to the community survey, forums and facility reviews with administrators and building supervisors in 2012-13.

LPS has one of the lowest debt millage rate comparisons, lower than Novi, Dearborn, Garden City, Wayne-Westland, Northville and Plymouth-Canton, Liepa said. LPS facilities "are not comparable to our neighboring school districts," Liepa said.

'Bond is way to go'
"We have needs and a bond issue is the way to go to address those needs," Liepa said.

The bonds would improve the education environment, improve the technology in every classroom, save on energy and maintenance costs and improve security, Liepa said. Specific projects also include furniture, equipment and buses, high school auditoriums and fine arts arenas, entrances and office locations in elementary schools and cafeteria and kitchen upgrades in the district's middle and high schools.

School officials hope the bonds, if approved, will pay for wireless networks at schools and fund mobile learning devices for students.

Officials also hope to replace 70-75 percent of classroom furniture, 61 buses, selected instructional

equipment and 50 percent of custodial and maintenance equipment.

Liepa directed residents who wanted more information to go to the district's website at livoniapublicschools.org.

Mack asked Liepa what he expected the interest rates would be on the bonds. Liepa expects them to land in a 3.75- to 4.75-percent range. "It is about as cheap as it is going to be," Liepa said. "Now is the time to borrow for your home. Well, municipal and school bonds are at very favorable rates right now."

Liepa was asked how the district plans to keep up with the changing technology. He expects technology needs will be reviewed by a committee and teachers will look to the future. A new wireless network will "last us some time," Liepa said.

He hoped state lawmakers pass legislation allow-

ing the use of a portion of sinking funds for new technology.

'Enhancing learning'

Susan Kanai of Livonia works as an educator in a nearby district and has a son attending Livonia Public Schools. The district she teaches in recently upgraded its technology, allowing one of her non-verbal students to communicate with an iPad. "As a teacher and a parent, I want access to that technology," Kanai said.

Kanai said she was encouraging people to approve the bond proposal. She said afterward that she attended because she is "a fact-finding person." Kanai also said improvements made with the bond money will improve housing values.

Supporting the bonds will help the district upgrade its technology, including the mobile apps and wireless, Kanai said.

"You see a lot of neat things that are enhancing learning with the technology that they are growing up with now," she said.

Jerry Veach of Livonia would not comment on how he will vote on the bond proposal. Veach attended to get more information.

"They seem to have their act together on where it is going and what they will do with it," he said of the presentation. "Speaking about it is one thing, but I remember it better by seeing it with my eyes."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2591
Twitter: @KerAbramcz

DECA

Continued from page A4

"As advisers, Lynda Bommarito and I received many compliments about the behavior of Garden City students at the conference," Millican said. "Not only did they dress professionally, they shared a touching moment of silence for Vinnie Meiers and demonstrated teamwork throughout the entire weekend. It was a pleasure to spend the weekend with all of the 42 DECA members who attended the conference. They definitely made Garden City proud."



The Public Relations Project for Sadie Crunk and Ashley Wilamowski focused on all the services available at Henry Ruff. This is Wilamowski's third time qualifying and attending the International Conference, the first time in school's history that a student has gotten the award three years in a row.

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Honor special woman in your life

Salute the special woman in your life during the month of May.

Send us a photo of you and your mom, grandmother, stepmom, aunt, godmother or that special "mom-like" woman who has made a difference in your life.

Send the photo (jpeg format only, as large as possible) to smason@hometownlife.com. Be sure to identify (first and last names) you and your mom and where you live (i.e. Westland, Wayne, Garden City). And tell us in two sentences or less why your mom, grandmother, aunt or other person is special to you.

Look for a photo gallery of all submissions during the month of May at hometownlife.com.

This Salute to Wom-

an photo gallery is sponsored by Indigo Salon and Day Spa in Canton. Five lucky winners will receive a \$20 gift card to Kohl's or Meijer in a random drawing of all names and photos submitted.

Deadline to submit photos and names for the random drawing is midnight Sunday, April 28.

Mom 2 Mom sale

There will be more than 85 tables, as well as a big item area, at the Mom 2 Mom Sale Saturday, April 13, with at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, between Warren Road and Ford.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with early bird entry at 8:30 a.m. Admission is \$1, \$2 for the early bird. There also will be concessions and a bake sale.

Westland Library to host HTE science exhibit

Westland's William P. Faust Public Library has been awarded a new science exhibit, Here There Everywhere.

The HTE exhibit will illustrate how familiar phenomena on earth and across the universe are connected by basic physical laws.

"We want to help people explore how interconnected everything in science is," said Kimberly Arcand of the Chandra X-ray Center, leaders of the HTE project. "By studying the universe, we are also often learning about important physics here on earth

and vice versa."

HTE will be available for viewing in the Faust Area at the library during the month of May. The exhibit is a combined effort of NASA and the Chandra X-Ray Center at Harvard University.

The Westland library was selected as one of only 30 libraries nationwide to receive the banner exhibit.

"In a time when so much focus is being placed on the sciences in schools, it's wonderful that the library can offer such unique resources to our community," Library

Director Sheila Collins said.

As part of the grant award, the library will host astronomy and physics related programming throughout May. It includes:

- The LowBrow Astronomers, a group of amateur astronomers from Ann Arbor, which will host the opening events for kids on Saturday, May 4.

- The Eastern Michigan University Physics Club which will help kids and their families re-create activities from the Here There Everywhere Exhibit on Satur-

day, May 18.

- EMU instructor, Mark Fairclough, who will discuss "The Nature of the Universe" for adults and teens on Tuesday, May 21.

Visit the Here There Everywhere site www.hte.si.edu for more information on the exhibit. Contact the Westland library at (734) 326-6123 for more information on the programming events.

Interested groups and classes are encouraged to contact the library to schedule a visit or to inquire about the acquisition of posters created for the program.

League of Women Voters hosts meet & greet

Are you looking for a way to become more engaged in your community and state?

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is hosting a "Meet & Greet" 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Claddagh's Irish Pub, 17800 Haggerty Road, in Livonia. Find out what the League of Women Voters is all about. Members of the League have

many opportunities to create a lasting impact on local, state and even national issues.

Bring spouses and friends to mix and mingle. The League of Women Voters is not for women only. There will be raffle prizes, including a free membership for a new member. For more information, call (734) 591-0995 or visit www.lwvww.org.

Mark Chevrolet Wayne, Westland baseball programs

Mark Chevrolet Inc. is going to bat for the Wayne Baseball Association and the Westland Youth Athletic Association.

The Wayne dealership has partnered with the national Chevrolet Youth Baseball program to provide new equipment, a monetary contribution, invitations to free instructional clinics and an opportunity for community members to enter the Free Chevrolet vehicle sweepstakes.

"Youth baseball provides positive and productive life lessons for

young people across America, and the Chevrolet Youth Baseball program is an extension of Chevrolet's commitment to baseball, community and families," said Trish Hampton, new and used vehicle sales manager for Mark Chevrolet Inc. "Mark Chevrolet Inc. is bringing that same dedication to youth baseball."

Through the program, Chevrolet will provide \$500 to be divided between the Wayne and Westland associations.

Sponsored leagues across the country will each receive 2,000 free

sweepstakes entry forms to distribute within the community. The teams also have the option of selling the vehicle sweepstakes tickets and would keep all the proceeds.

At the end of the entry period, five winners - one from each region - will win their choice between a 2013 Chevrolet Malibu or Chevrolet Traverse. Each participating market will award a secondary prize.

Mark Chevrolet will provide the Wayne Baseball Association and the WYAA with equipment kits, including equip-

ment bags, baseball buckets, practice hitting nets, umpire ball bags, batting tees and Chevrolet Youth Baseball T-shirts. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics, featuring current and former MLB/ MiLB players and coaches and instructors from Ripken Baseball.

"There is nothing more American than Chevrolet and baseball and Mark Chevrolet wants to combine America's favorite brand and favorite pastime together for our families in Wayne to enjoy," added Hampton.

This will be the eighth year for Mark Chevrolet's Youth Baseball program.

Since its introduction, the program has helped aid local teams affecting more than 3 million young people in communities where Chevrolet's customers live, work and play. In 2012, about 1,600 Chevrolet dealers participated across the country.

"Chevrolet vehicles are designed and built for families, so we hope young people and their parents will consider a Chevrolet as an official vehicle of their household," said Hampton. Chevrolet is the official vehicle of MLB.

For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball, visit www.youthsportswired.com.

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Drivers weigh Ford Road boulevard plan

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Lisa Beningo lives near Ford and Haggerty roads, but she has found shortcuts to get to her bartending job at Bowery Grille & Pub, just east of the high-crash intersection.

"There are so many accidents at this intersection. I try to avoid Ford Road as much as possible," Beningo, 31, said, standing behind the bar. "I live near here, and all I hear are sirens."

That's because police cars and, sometimes, ambulances are often rushing to Canton's most accident-prone intersection, called Michigan's worst by local officials.

Bowery employee Katrice Haggadone, 27, described nightmarish rush-hour driving conditions to Canton from Westland, where she lives near Merriman and Hines Drive.

"It takes me 30 minutes some days during rush hour, and it's not that far," she said.

Beningo, Haggadone and others who brave Ford Road to get to work and home are hopeful their driving woes could ease if the Michigan Department of Transportation adopts a proposal to transform the bustling thoroughfare into a boulevard.

Down the road

A decision is expected by mid-summer, though it still could be years before

the project is started. Even then, it could take one to two years to complete. The proposal suggests adding greenery and landscaping to separate east and west lanes; widening the road to three lanes in certain areas; prohibiting left turns at major intersections; and installing turnaround lanes similar to those on Michigan Avenue.

"I think if they add lanes, it could help," Haggadone said, as long as the boulevard doesn't encroach on bar parking or drive away customers during construction.

"That would be my only concern," she said, adding that ramp work last construction season at the Ford/I-275 interchange "killed our business. It was horrible."

In late 2011, local officials said the stretch of Ford Road from Canton Center to the Westland city limit recorded 2,411 accidents during a six-year period, with 815 of those occurring between Haggerty and Lilley.

Gary Krone, who owns the Carvel Ice Cream shop on Ford west of Haggerty, said he has witnessed numerous accidents, which often occur when motorists are turning across busy lanes of traffic. On the surface, he said the boulevard concept has appeal.

"My first concern is for the safety of my customers — and will it make it safer for them," Krone said. "I think it could only

improve safety."

Avoiding Ford

Like many business owners, Canton officials and the Downtown Development Authority, Krone worries that a long-term construction project could hurt business.

"From a business standpoint, my immediate question, as any other business owner on Ford Road, is how long is the construction going to take," Krone said. "How long would it affect the road closest to my entrance, and how would it affect the ability of my customers to get here?"

Krone often advises his customers to maneuver through the Willow Creek Shopping Center as much as possible to reach Haggerty or Lilley, rather than crossing busy lanes of Ford Road traffic.

MDOT has vowed to make any construction project as painless as possible and to maintain access to local businesses. Ford Road would not be shut down.

Still, Zane Birchler and Emily Pitcher, Plymouth residents who work at the nearby Jimmy John's sub shop, question whether the disruptions are worth transforming Ford Road into a boulevard. Birchler recalled the I-275 bridge and ramp work of last construction season.

"That took forever," he said. "I don't know if a whole year or more of that kind of (construction zone) traffic would be

worth it." Still, Birchler conceded, "the traffic is pretty awful most of the day."

Pitcher agreed. "Five o'clock traffic is the worst," she said.

Pitcher said the boulevard plan, once completed, could help ease traffic patterns. It's the lengthy process that concerns her: "I think it will make everything really messed up."

Safety suggestions

Over at the Bowery, Beningo and Haggadone had another safety suggestion: install pedestrian overpasses across Ford Road. They recalled one man who was killed walking across the road.

Some local officials, such as township board

Trustee Tom Yack, have questioned the boulevard plan. Yack, a former 20-year supervisor, and others had hoped for new ramps allowing traffic to access Haggerty Road from the southbound I-275 exit without getting onto Ford Road. MDOT officials say federal authorities axed that plan.

Amid ongoing talks with MDOT, Supervisor Phil LaJoy has said he believes the boulevard proposal is most likely to happen. He has sought a solution for a decade or longer. State officials say Ford Road within a few years will have to be reconstructed anyway — and the time could be ripe for broader changes.

LaJoy and others have insisted the plan should be

accompanied by paving Lotz Road between Ford and Cherry Hill, giving motorists another route.

Corette Yung, MDOT project manager, has said public support appears "overwhelming" for the boulevard plan. The only other options on the table are to do nothing or to adopt stopgap measures such as adding a westbound Ford lane from I-275 to Sheldon and an eastbound lane from Lilley to Haggerty, along with better turn lanes at key intersections.

Most motorists agree that doing nothing is not an option. Just ask Haggadone: "Canton is still growing."

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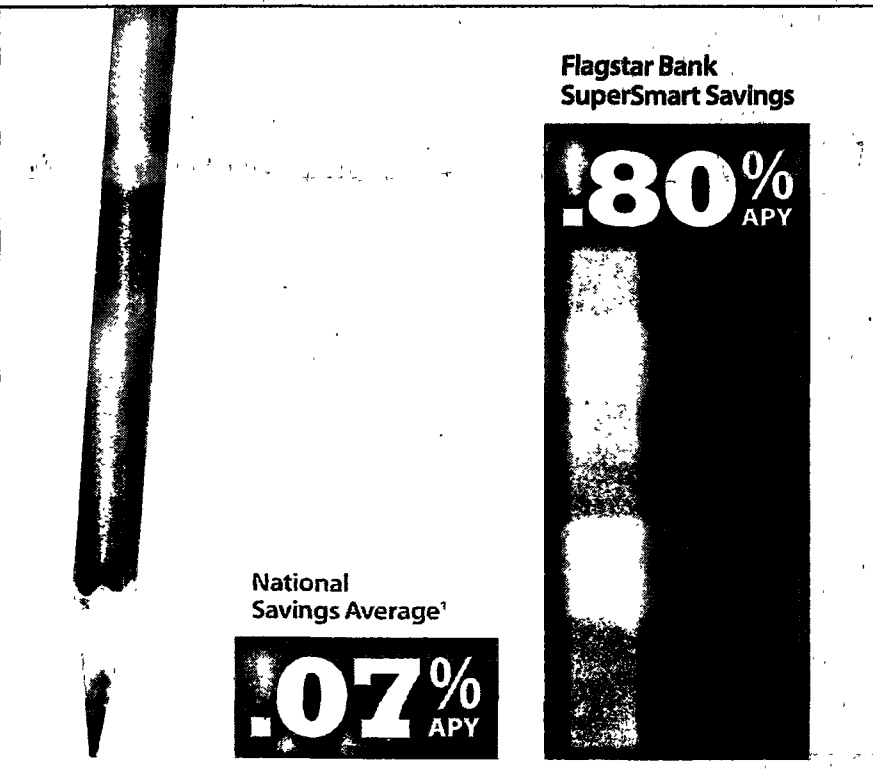


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Blood: A lifeline only recognized when health is at risk

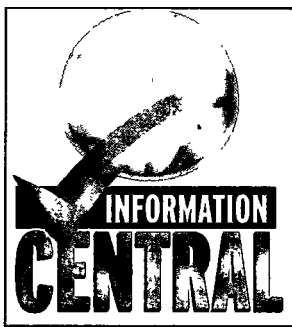
Blood: The familiar red fluid in the body that contains white and red blood cells, platelets, proteins and other elements. The blood is transported throughout the body by the circulatory system. Blood functions in two directions: arterial and venous. Arterial blood is the means by which oxygen and nutrients are transported to tissues while venous blood is the means by which carbon dioxide and metabolic by-products are transported to the lungs and kidneys, respectively, for removal from the body.

Webster's New World Medical Dictionary

Blood is truly a lifeline but few of us recognize its importance unless our health is at risk. A simple blood test can determine if a person has a chronic condition or a life-threatening disease. When someone needs blood help can come from a perfect stranger who just happens to have a compatible blood type and was willing to donate his/her blood.

Blood must be donated – it cannot be manufactured. According to the American Red Cross, someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds; more than 44,000 blood donations are needed every day; the most requested blood type is O; and a single car accident victim can require as many 100 pints of blood.

There are four major blood types: group A, group B, Group AB, and group O. Group O is the universal donor; group A can donate to people with A and AB; group B can donate to B and AB; group AB can donate to ABs but can receive from all types.



The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland can help you try to keep healthy. The library has regular health programs. Please check the events calendar or newsletter to see what is coming. The library also has access to the Health and Wellness database that covers medical topics in a more general tone. Books that deal specifically with blood types include the series by Peter D'Adamo: *Eat Right 4 Your Type*; *Cook Right 4 Your Type*; *Live Right 4 Your Type*; Peter Consantine's *What's Your Type*; Steven Weissberg's *The Answer is in Your Bloodtype*. The library also has materials regarding high blood pressure, diabetes, hypoglycemia and other diseases that may affect the blood.

The library will be acting as a host site for an American Red Cross blood drive on Monday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register for this blood drive by logging onto www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS. Everyone who comes to donate will be entered into a drawing for a free iPad mini. Anyone over age 17 (16 with a permission slip) can donate blood.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Highlighted Activities

Give Light: The Poetry of Rumi Set to Music: 7 p.m. April 15

Join us for the first program highlighting our new Muslim Journeys Bookshelf as singer-songwriter Laszlo Slomovits brings the magic of music to the poetry of mystical poet Rumi (translations by Coleman Banks). Slomovits, who composed the music, will sing as well as play guitar and flute, and will be accompanied by Ken Ishii on cello. Sign up online at westlandlibrary.org/events or call the library at 73 326-6123 to save your seat.

How to Control or Eliminate Type II Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome: revised and updated, 7 p.m. April 16

Attend this talk by Dr. Brian Brackney and learn how the body and metabolism works; why most diets don't work; the true value of being healthy and fit, how food, water and medication plays a role in your health, and how pain limits a person from achieving their full health potential. Sign up online at westlandlibrary.org/events or call the library at 73 326-6123 to save your seat.

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. April 17

The Feast of Love is based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This novel features a cast of characters experiencing love in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Among them are espresso bar owner Bradley Smith and his two ex-wives, Kathryn and Diana; Chloe, who is a waitress in Bradley's bar and her boyfriend Oscar; and professor Harry Ginsburg and his wife Esther. Charles Baxter, the author of this novel,

even makes appearances throughout the book to comment on the situations. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

Writers Workshop: 7 p.m. April 17

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 writers get published. You must attend one session before your writing will be reviewed. To register, visit or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123 or contact andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org To read about our workshops, check out our blog at www.westlandlibrary.org/read/workshop

eReader and Tablet Support Group: 2-4 p.m. April 18

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.

World Book Night Reception: 6:30 p.m. April 18

World Book Night is a celebration of reading and books which will see tens of thousands of people share books with others in their communities across America to spread the joy and love of reading by giving out free books on April 23. Stop by for some light refreshments and find out how you can be involved in future World Book Night book give-

aways.

Friday Night Dinner and a Movie: 6:30 p.m. April 19

Tonight's Dinner and a Movie features food from Alexander the Great, here in Westland. Doors for the dinner portion of the program open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the Circulation Desk until 9 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Tonight's movie is *Lincoln*. "As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves." Snacks and refreshments served. Doors for the movie portion of this program will open at 6:45 p.m., and the movie will begin at 7 p.m. Rated PG-13.

Be a Money Smarty! (webcast): 10 a.m. April 20, Adults

You, too, can be a Money Smarty! Created by Mark Robinson, specifically for Money Smart Week, this high-energy 'lightning round' is where four recognized experts share their "top 5 tips" in just 10 minutes each. Hosted by veteran television talent Christy McDonald, this program will be made available live, in real-time, via webstream (viewers can also watch from home on Detroit Public Television, Channel 56, as well as from DPTV's website).

Community Shred: noon-2 p.m. April 20, Pavilion

Don't keep those old financial documents hanging around your house. Bring up to 100 pounds of paper documents to be shredded at our second annual Community Shred. Gener-

al Shredding of Grosse Pointe Woods will be outside near our pavilion to help you in a friendly and efficient manner. This event is our kick-off celebration for Money Smart Week of Michigan. Look for more event information on our Events page during the week of April 20 through April 27.

Food for Fines: Now through April 30

Hunger and charity are at the forefront of everyone's minds during the holidays, but it is often forgotten that the need for emergency food assistance remains relatively constant year-round. This April, Gleaners Community Food Bank and the Westland Public Library are partnering to alleviate hunger in southeast Michigan. How can you help? Bring nonperishable, in-date goods to the Circulation Desk at the Westland Public Library and receive \$2 per item off of your fines (up to \$20 total, lost or damaged items not eligible). If you don't have fines but would like to donate, please visit any of the service desks in the library or stop by Bigby Coffee or the Westland Friendship Center and deposit your items in one of their donation-only boxes. Questions? Call the Westland Public Library at (734) 326-6123 or stop by any of our service desks. Check your local library to see if they are also participating in this.

Information Central was compiled by Susan Hanson, technical services librarian. 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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Steer clear of low-interest, long-term annuities

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: Years ago, I saw you at a seminar and you recommended that I put some of my money into a fixed annuity. I had money in a CD that I didn't really need and being conservative you recommended an annuity. It worked out very good for me as I received about a 4-percent return. The annuity no longer has a penalty, but still pays me 4 percent. The agent who sold me the annuity is pressing me to move it into another annuity. He claims I can get a better rate of return in an equity-indexed annuity. He says I can't lose money. He's putting a lot of pressure on me to make the move. The annuity only has a 1-percent guarantee and I would have to lock it up for another 10 years. I'm in my early 80s, I am still conservative and I'm not sure when I'll need



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

An instant trigger for me that something's not right is when a salesperson tries to put too much pressure on me. I love that you resisted and are looking for independent advice.

My advice is keep what you have. Your annuity is paying a guaranteed 4 percent and that is a great rate of return in today's environment. In addition, because the annuity no longer has any penalties associated

the money. What do you think?

A: I love that you didn't succumb to the pressure of the salesperson.

with it, you have complete flexibility with the money. If you need money for whatever purpose, you can withdraw it on an as-needed basis.

In today's environment, I'm not a fan of people locking up money for 10 years. It doesn't make sense considering how low interest rates are and the changing economic environment.

I believe everyone needs flexibility and to lock in money for a 10-year period doesn't seem prudent. You are in your 80s, so it doesn't make sense to lock in for 10 years.

Your salesperson is more worried about what ends up in his pocket than yours. I recommend the next time the annuity agent calls, you either don't take the call or tell him in a very

brief conversation that you're not interested in making any changes.

Unfortunately, in just about every aspect of life, we are sometimes forced to deal with aggressive salespeople. I have never liked dealing with aggressive salespeople and I do whatever I can to avoid them. In situations where I'm forced to deal with them, I make sure I let them know that I'm not happy with their aggressive tactics and that they won't work on me. Does this always get them to back down? No, but at least it puts them on notice.

If you are going to buy an annuity (in the majority of situations), it does not pay to lock up for long periods of time. Unfortunately, too many salespeople push long-term annuities because they receive more in commissions.

After all, if you look at fixed annuities today, the guaranteed rate is in the 1 to 2 percent area. Why would anyone want to lock into such low rates? If the guaranteed rate was 7 percent, it would be different. If you are going to buy an annuity, make sure you keep it short term, which will give you greater flexibility when interest rates eventually rise.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Blood Drive

On Monday, April 15, the William P. Faust Public Library will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

To make an appointment log onto www.redcross-blood.org and enter Sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS. Everyone who comes to donate will be entered into a drawing for a free iPad mini. Anyone over age 17 (age 16 with a permission slip) can donate blood.

Spaghetti dinner

A spaghetti dinner will be held 1-6 p.m. Sunday April 14, by the Romanowski VFW Post 6896 pool team to benefit veterans' programs.

The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. A hungry plate will be available for \$8. The meal includes spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, salad and bread and butter. Desserts will be available. There also will be a cash bar, raffles, music and much more.

The Romanowski Post is at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt in Westland. For more information, call (734) 525-9454 or (734) 261-0260.

Parent workshop

The Talk Early & Talk Often® workshop, aimed at helping Michigan parents of middle and high school students talk with their child about abstinence and sexuality, is

224, or e-mail crystal.beauchamp@oakwood.org to reserve a spot.

Pancakes

The Westland Goodfellows are getting a head start on fund-raising for the Christmas season thanks to Ken and Winnie Bauschat and the 50 Plus group at St. Richard Catholic Church. They are hosting a Pancake Breakfast following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 21, which will run from approximately 9:15 a.m. to noon.

All proceeds go to the Westland Goodfellows. The public is welcome. St. Richard is located at 35637 Cherry Hill, Westland.

Pancake Breakfast

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland is holding a pancake breakfast 8-10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at Applebee's, 36475 Warren Road, Westland. The all you-can-eat-breakfast includes pancakes, meat, juice and coffee.

The cost is \$7. Tickets are available from members of United Methodist Women or at the door. For more information call Applebee's at (734) 467-7215 or (734) 721-4801.

Healthy Passport

The city of Westland will be offering a Healthy Passport for 5K and 10K runs.

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 7 4/1/13

Presiding: President Godbout

Present: Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves

51: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 3/18/13.

- Appr. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church "Crop Walk" 5/5/13.

- Appr. Wayne Memorial Flower Sale @ 2103 S. Wayne Rd. 5-10-12/13.

- Appr. D. Borneman to "blanket burn permit" at Nankin Mills Park any day btwn. 4/1 and 5/15/13.

- Appr. Art Van tent sale 5/9-20 & 8/1-19.

- Appr. bid for repair services to fire service vehicles to Cuda Automotive; amt. \$69/hr & R & R Fire Truck Repair; amt. \$82/hr.

- Adopt Ord. 259 to amend Ch. 26 to adopt Art. VIII, Sec. 26-441-26445 to define yard sales, provide requirements for and require permits & permit fees for yard sales.

52: Set 5/6/13 as Public Hearing for 2013-14 Budget.

53: Appr. Max & Erma's Fun in the Sun Event to be held in their parking lot on various dates throughout the summer.

54: Appr. temp. add space permit for Ashley's Bar on 5/4 & 5/11.

55: Conf. re-appt of D. McMullen to LDFA for 4 yr. term to exp. 4/14/17.

56: Conf. re-appt of R. Farsakian to LDFA for 4 yr. term to exp. 4/19/17.

57: Conf. re-appt of A. Martin to BRA for 3 yr. term to exp. 4/5/16.

58: Appr. checklist: \$312,802.16 & Prepaid: \$643,259.79.

Mtg. adj. at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

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Mama Mia hosts 'Quarter Auction' to benefit people with disabilities

Two families from Belleville and Royal Oak, who established Quarters for Kids, will hold a benefit "Quarter Auction" to help children and adults with disabilities served by the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC) at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at Mama Mia Italian Cuisine, 27770 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

The event proceeds will fund food, clothing and furniture for people with disabilities served by the new MORC Human Services Wayne County office in Livonia.

Registration is \$15 for the event, which includes a classic Italian dinner. Participants can purchase tickets through Shelly Papineau at smp@saberfg.com or on the website <http://www.quartersandkids.com>. Event organizers are seeking vendors to participate, local businesses to sponsor the event and donors to contribute items for a silent auction.

"We are a group of families that believed we needed to step up to help people and do it in a creative way," said Papineau, an administrative assistant with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. "Every quarter counts for people who are struggling to have enough to eat or a bed to sleep on."

The families behind Quarters for Kids, John and Shelly Papineau of Belleville, and Dr. Gary and Carol Shelburne of Royal Oak, have made

it their mission to help local nonprofits through a bi-monthly series of "Quarter Auctions" held at different venues in the tri-county area. Their first event raised funds for Judson Center.

"I came to know the needs of people with disabilities and their families through my job at Carhartt," said John Papineau. "I delivered clothes and food to MORC donated by Carhartt and its employees and learned how desperate some people are."

The Papineau family was moved to provide furniture and housewares to a MORC family with a young daughter with autism that MORC got out of a homeless shelter and into an apartment, but had no furniture. Since then the Papineau family has donated beds, dressers, winter coats and more to MORC families.

A Quarter Auction consists of local vendors who sell anything from personal care items to scrapbook supplies to blankets. Participants pay \$15 for the ticket to the event and bring or buy rolls of quarters. They use the quarters to bid on items auctioned by the vendors.

MORC is a nonprofit human services agency based in Auburn Hills, Clinton Township and Livonia that supports 5,000 people in Michigan with developmental disabilities.

American Legion

The Auxiliary of American Legion Post 396 is holding a Spring Craft and Vendor Show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverne, north of West Chicago and south of Plymouth, Redford.

There also will be a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and food available. Admission is \$1.

Preschool signup

Lathers Child Development Center will be hosting open registration for half-day and full-day preschool for three- and four-year-old children 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

The registration will be done in Room 26 at the Lathers Early Childhood and Preschool Center, 28351 Marquette, Garden City. Parents should be sure to bring the child's birth certificate and shot records, their driver's license and check book for registration. A tour of the center will also be available at that time.

Open registration for after-school care will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m. that day.

For more information, call Lisa Mays or Sonya Griwicki at (734) 762-8440.

Rummage sale
Good Hope Lutheran Church is having a rummage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 25-26, at the church, located at 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI. A \$2 bag sale for will be held at 3 p.m. Friday. Call 734-27-3660 for more information.

Bowling Benefit

Garden City Relay for Life team Alyssa's Angels is holding a bowling fundraiser 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at Mayflower Lanes, 26600 Plymouth Road, Redford.

Held in memory of Alyssa Temp, the event costs \$20 per person for adults

and \$15 per person for children age 12 and under and includes three hours of unlimited bowling - 9-pin no tap - shoe rental, two slices of pizza and pop. There also will be door prizes, 50/50, basket raffles and cash bar.

Flocking flamingos

Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or just because you can with a flocking. For just \$20, you can flock your neighbors, friends, or family members with 25 Pink Flamingos on their lawn, courtesy of Project Graduation. Email gardencityprojectgrad@yahoo.com or call (734) 612-5274. Be sure to include your name, telephone number, date of flocking, the name and address of who you want to flock.

Zumba class

Zumba fitness is back at Merriman Road Baptist Church, on Merriman just south of Ford, Garden City. The class is for women age 18 and older. Class time is 8-9 p.m. with registration beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Girlfriends of Grace Ministry at Merriman Road Baptist Church, the class will be held on Thursdays at the church. Donations will be taken at the door to cover the cost of the instructor.

For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

Tutoring

Members of the Key Club are once again offering tutoring 3:30-4:40 p.m. Wednesdays.

Any middle school and elementary students can get some much-needed help with their studies at tutoring is available Wednesdays in Room 118 at Garden City High school, 6500 Middlebelt. For more information, contact Myrna Hathaway

at the high school at (734) 762-8350 or at hathawm@gardencityschools.com.

Community Chat

Please join host Kerry Partin and his co-hosts every Thursday night at 9 p.m. It's the Internet talk show dedicated to the residents and businesses of Garden City and the surrounding communities. Share your events, fundraisers and comments with other listeners.

Call-in live at 724-444-7444 enter call ID 82757#, or visit us in our chat room at <http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757>. Either way we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact us at gccommunitychat@gmail.com.

Healing Hearts

Do you have a loved one in prison?

Know that you are not alone. Confidential support group meetings are held at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland, 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The meet-

ings are free.

For more information contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts at (734) 646-2237.

Museum fundraising

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are continuing their fundraising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande Parlor for social and business occasions.

The bricks are \$50 for the 4-inch by 8-inch size that has up to three lines. The 8-inch by 8-inch bricks are \$75 and have room for up to six lines of text.

The Lathers General Store is open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering a variety of collectibles and gift items.

The museum is located in the Straight Farmhouse at 6221 Merriman, north of Ford Road, Garden City. Call (734) 838-0650 for more information or visit www.sfhonline.org.

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Monday, April 22nd at 7 PM

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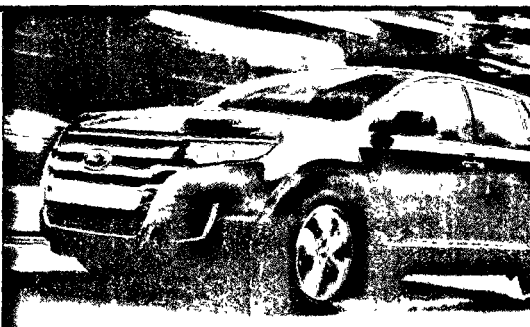
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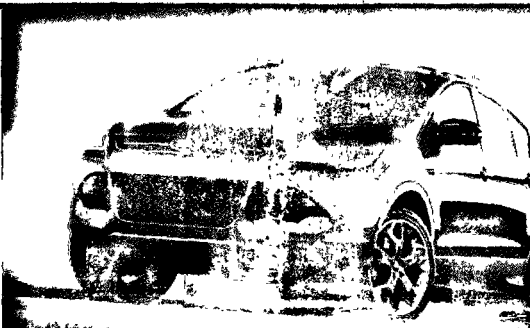
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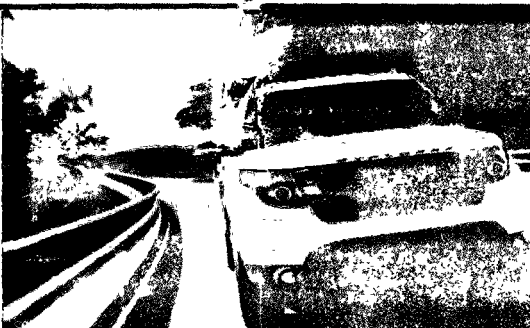
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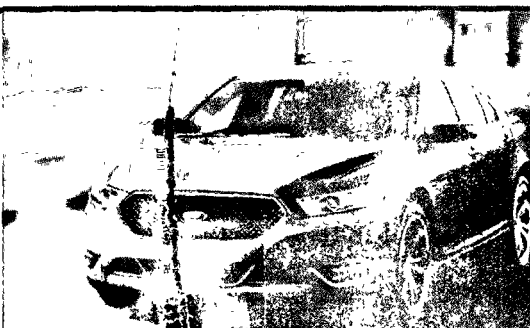
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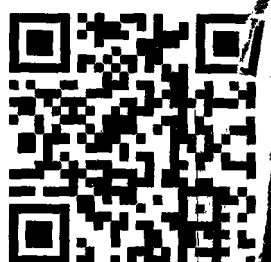


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SPORTS

Ladywood gains tie in early showdown

1-1 deadlock vs. D2 champ

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Catholic League girls soccer powers Livonia Ladywood and Birmingham Marian proved to be on equal footing Friday night.

A match that was postponed a day because of inclement weather and moved to the synthetic turf at Madonna University Field wound up in a 1-1 draw.

Ladywood, which ended Marian's nine-year reign last season as Catholic A-B Division champ, trailed 1-0 at halftime, but scored the game-tying goal with 21:28 left when junior Antonia Ramon pushed home a shot off an assist from junior Emily Huddleston.

Ladywood is now 2-0-1 overall and 1-0-1 in the Catholic League's Central Division, while Marian, which has captured three of the last four Division 2 state titles, stands 3-0-2 and 1-0-1.

This could be the first of four meetings between the two teams, with the next two being May 7 (at Marian) and May 18 (Catholic League championship).

Ladywood, a state semifinalist in 2011, was waylaid in the regional last year by Dexter, while Marian went on to beat Plainwell, 3-1, for the state crown.

"I think these are the top two teams in Division 2," Ladywood

Please see LADYWOOD, B3



Ladywood's Emily Huddleston (right) gets a toe on the ball as Marian's Julia Griessman (9) converges on the play in Friday's Catholic League showdown.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shaw football camp in June

The fourth annual Tim Shaw "Dream it, Do it" Football Camp (grades four-12) will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at Clarenceville High School.

The linebacker and special teams player for the Tennessee Titans, a former Clarenceville and Penn State standout, will host the free camp assisted by current and former NFL and college players, along with area coaches.

The camp is open to the first 150 registrants (includes T-shirt).

To register, visit www.timshawfootball.com.

For more information, e-mail johnshawfamily@gmail.com.



Karate event on April 21

The Michigan Karate Tournament, hosted by the Shotokan Karate Federation of Michigan, will start at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 21, at Garden City Middle School, 1851, Radcliff, Garden City.

Admission is \$5 for ages 15 and up and \$3 for seniors and those under 15. Those under 5 will be admitted free.

For more information, call Tony Valvona at (734) 658-5683; or e-mail Tony@karatemi.com.

You can also visit www.karatemi.com.



Lutheran Westland's Bethany Hoehn (left) and Clarenceville's Rachel Kirschweg fight for the 50-50 ball in Friday's soccer match.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Warriors, Trojans play to stalemate

Game ends in 0-0 draw

Conditions were tough Friday afternoon, but neither host Lutheran High Westland and Livonia Clarenceville refused to give an inch in a girls soccer match.

Lutheran Westland, playing its season opener, battled to a scoreless draw with the Trojans, who now stand 1-1-1 on the season.

Warriors goalkeeper Angela Morrison made nine first-half saves and Samantha Benner completed the shutout with two saves during the final 40 minutes.

Clarenceville's keeper Jillian Bunker was equal to the task making 12 saves of

her own.

"Our defense was again a key factor in the game," Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody said. "Summer Reddick, Grace King, Amal Musleh and Tristyn Bean all did an outstanding job."

"And Ashley Murphy, Lindsey Fosth and Karley Flores handled the middle well."

Lutheran Westland coach Sara Schafer was also pleased with her team's play on the defensive end led by Michelle Greening and Allie Lang.

Please see SOCCER, B3

Senior men's golf meeting

The Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association will stage its 2013 registration and business meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at the Livonia Senior Center, located on the southeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads.

The meeting is open to golfers 59 years and up, regardless of residency.

The \$30 registration fee also covers the season-ending awards banquet luncheon and gift.

For more information, call Tony Amadori at (734) 261-4718.



MU baseball team keeps pace in WHAC

The Madonna University baseball team has 13 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference games to either make up or complete.

But as of Friday, the Crusaders stand alone in first place in the loss column after sweeping a chilly doubleheader from visiting Cornerstone, 13-2 and 6-5,

at Ilitch Ballpark.

MU, which improved to 19-7 overall and 6-1 in the WHAC, completed the sweep by rallying in the seventh inning with a pair of runs as Justin Cook's single tied the game at 5-5 and Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison) won it in walk-off fashion with a two-out RBI sin-

gle scoring Austin Delmotte.

Both Aquinas College (18-6, 9-2) and Indiana Tech (22-10, 12-4) remain at the top of the standings along with MU.

Pelletier and Shane Dokey each went 2-for-4 with an RBI to pace MU's eight-hit attack.

Other RBI leaders included Justin Cook (two), Matthew

Cook (one) and Donny Holland (one).

Canton High's Dan Stoney (1-0), who pitched a scoreless seventh in relief of starter Josh Vandemark, was the winning pitcher.

Vandemark worked the first

Please see BASEBALL, B2

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, April 15
 Churchill at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Novi, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Glenn at S. Lyon, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at S.L. East, 4 p.m.
 Fordson at C'ville, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16
 Glenn at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 HVL at Macomb, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland vs. Roeper at Worden Park, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 Franklin at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Glenn (2), 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at RU, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
 Thurston at C'ville, 4 p.m.
 L. W'sid at L. South, 4:30 p.m.
 HVL at Calvary, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 19
 C'ville at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 Glenn at Belleville, 4 p.m.
 Dearborn at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Grosse Pte. South Inv., 10 a.m.
 Taylor Kennedy Tourney, TBA.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, April 15
 Churchill at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Novi, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Glenn at S. Lyon, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at S.L. East, 4 p.m.
 Fordson at C'ville, 4 p.m.
 L. W'sid at H. Woods, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16
 Glenn at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 L. N'west at L. W'sid, 4:30 p.m.
 Parkway at HVL, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 Franklin at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Glenn (2), 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at RU, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
 Thurston at C'ville, 4 p.m.
 L. W'sid at S. Christ., 4:30 p.m.
 Liggett at HVL, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 19
 Mercy at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
 Glenn at Melvindale (2), 4 p.m.

Lathrup at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 Woodhaven at C'ville, 4 p.m.
 HVL at Ply. Christian, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Churchill Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Mercy Invitational, TBA.

GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, April 15
 Glenn at C'ville, 6 p.m.
 N'ville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16
 Plymouth at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Bapt. Pk. at L. W'sid, 4:30 p.m.
 Regina at Ladywood, 6 p.m.
 Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 C'ville at Berkeley, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
 Plymouth at Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Parkway at L. W'sid, 4:30 p.m.
 Lady. at A.A. Richard, 6 p.m.
 Wayne at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at S. Lyon, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 19
 Church. at Farmington, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 (Ladywood Invitational)
 Ladywood vs. Dexter at MU University Field, 9 a.m.
 Stevenson vs. Divine Child at Ladywood, 10:15 a.m.

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK
Tuesday, April 16
 Franklin at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
 Glenn at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
 Salem at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.
 Lady. at Divine Child, 4 p.m.
 L. W'sid at H. Woods, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
 Belleville, Inkster at Claenceville, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Monroe-Jefferson Inv., 9 a.m.
 Groves Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Stafford Relays at W.L. Western, 9:30 a.m.
 April Showers Relays at Dexter, 9 a.m.

GIRLS TENNIS
Tuesday, April 16

Wayne at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Glenn at Canton, 4 p.m.
 N'ville at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 Ladywood at Marian, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
 Churchill at Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 S.L. East at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Lady. at Monroe CC, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 19
 Wayne at GC, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Monroe Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
 Brighton Quad, 8:30 a.m.
 South Lyon East Quad, 9 a.m.

BOYS GOLF
Thursday, April 18
 Farmington Invitational at Farm. Hills G.C., 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Pinckney Invitational at Rush Lake, 9 a.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, April 15
 Lady. at N.D. Prep, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 Lady. at A.A. Richard, 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Saline Invitational, TBA.

COLLEGE BASEBALL (all double-headers)
Monday, April 15
 Davenport at MU, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 Siena Heights at MU, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 MU at N'western Ohio, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 21
 MU at N'western Ohio, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL (all double-headers)
Sunday, April 14
 Lourdes (Ohio) at MU, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
 MU at UM-Dearborn, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
 Davenport at MU, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 21
 Aquinas at MU, 1 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Attention grabber

Little HVL knocks off Ann Arbor Huron

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran got off to a rousing start last Tuesday in its 2013 girls softball season by sweeping host Ann Arbor Huron, 6-2 and 7-6.

The Hawks, a Division 4 school with an enrollment of 80 students, completed the sweep in the nightcap by scoring twice in the top of the seventh.

Top hitters for HVL included junior Brooke Kuehn (2-for-4, double, RBI); sophomore Jessie Strauch (2-for-3, RBI); and freshman Madison Ott (2-for-3, two runs scored).

Winning pitcher Julie St. John, a sophomore, scattered six hits and two walks over seven innings. She struck out four.

Paige Gallinger, who allowed 12 hits and three

walks, suffered the loss for the Division 1 River Rats.

Courtney Ziemba went 3-for-3 with a homer, double and two RBI in a losing cause.

In the opener, St. John threw a complete-game two-hitter. She struck out six and did not allow a walk.

Junior Sarah Setian went 2-for-4 with two RBI, while Strauch added two hits, including a double.

Krista Lynch went 2-for-3 with a double for Huron (2-2).

GABRIEL RICHARD 14-15, CLARENCEVILLE 1-16: Livonia Clarenceville (1-1) opened its season Monday by dividing a double-header with Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard (1-1).

The Fighting Irish captured the first game, 14-1, in five innings scoring eight times in the fourth inning.

Clarenceville bounced back to win the nightcap in walk-off fashion with three runs in the sixth inning for a 16-15 triumph in a game that was called because of darkness.

Junior Mikala Kieling and sophomore Mia Sampson paced the Trojans' offense each going 2-for-4 with a triple and two RBI.

Clarenceville used two pitchers with Jaki Bateman getting the start before being relieved by Emily Schwartz (1-1), who earned the victory.

Gabriel Richard had a total of 14 hits as Megan Fahlman and Heather Walacavage combined to go 6-for-8 with a walk each and six runs scored.

Meanwhile, Gabriel Richard pitcher Rachel Opplinger held Clarenceville to four hits allowing just one run and fanning three in Game One.

Second baseman Emily Alex had two hits and scored two runs for the Fighting Irish. Schwartz and Kieling each doubled in the loss as the Trojans committed seven errors. Schwartz, who took the loss, went all five innings allowing 10 hits and three walks while striking out six.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Red-hot Crusaders sweep by Lancers

The weather was cloudy, rainy and only 41 degrees Friday in Winona Lake, Ind., but that couldn't cool off the red-hot Madonna University women's softball team at Miller Field.

The Crusaders improved to 22-12 overall by sweeping a double-header from host Grace College, 3-0 and 15-2, to earn their sixth straight win and 13th victory in their last 14 games.

Bree Crampton (11-7) threw a three-hit shutout in the opener going all seven innings. She struck out eight and walked only two.

Catcher Kristen Drabek paced MU's 11-hit attack going 3-for-4 with an RBI.

Emma Cook and Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) also contributed two hits apiece to pin the loss on Grace starter Olivia Wright (7-7), who

struck out nine and walked five in seven innings.

In the nightcap, homers by Cook, Caitlyn Keuvelaar and Katie Fenech keyed the Crusaders' five-inning mercy rule victory over the Lancers.

Amber Rafko and Keuvelaar each went 2-for-4 with three RBI, while Cook was 2-for-3 with two RBI. Fenech and Kasey Trierweiler each added two hits.

Alex Shipley (4-9), the losing pitcher, and Brooke Shell each collected two hits for Grace (11-21).

The Crusaders continue their road trip Saturday at Huntington (Ind.) University before returning home on Sunday to face Lourdes (Ohio) University in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference encounter beginning at 1 p.m. at University Field.

BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

six innings, allowing four earned runs on six hits and two walks. He struck out six.

Cornerstone (11-18, 6-8) got two RBI from Tyler Krahn.

Golden Eagles starter Ryan Harris, who took the loss, allowed six runs (only three earned) on seven hits. He walked three and fanned four.

In the opener, Matt Cook (4-1) went six strong innings, scattering six hits and allowing just two earned runs. He

struck out two and walked two.

Tyler Schofield finished up.

Justin Cook belted a three-run homer in the fifth — his second of the season — to key a six-run MU uprising.

Other top hitters for the Crusaders included John Lauro (3-for-3, two RBI); Alex Charles (3-for-4, RBI); Victor Barron (2-for-2, two runs); and Dokey (two RBI).

Zach Harbison and Tom Enslin each collected two hits for the Golden Eagles, while starter David Mitroff (1-2) suffered the loss.

MU continued its four-game series with Cornerstone on Saturday.



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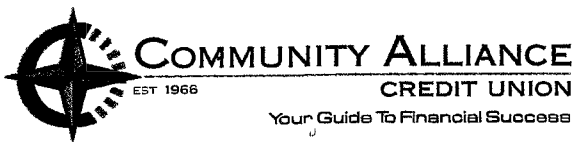
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BOYS TRACK RESULTS

BOYS DUAL MEET RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 109
 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 28
 Glenn 1sts: Miltin Rickett, 110-meter hurdles (17.33); Austin Hickerson, 200 (24.03); 400 relay (Hickerson, Jaylen Pete, Jerimey Martin, Karl Fletcher), 47.95; 2nds: Rickett, 300 hurdles (46.5);

Hickerson, 100 (11.45); Kapreal Moore, long jump (17 feet, 2 inches); 3rds: Micah Orr, 1,600 (4:56.98); high jump (5-5); Jewell Jones, 800 (2:09.36); Kenyatta Mason, 400 (56.51).
 Dual meet records: Plymouth, 1-0 overall, 1-0 KLAAS South Division; John Glenn, 0-1 overall, 0-1 KLAAS South.

FIRING LINE

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KNOW THE SCORE CHECK OUT THE NUMBERS IN TODAY'S SPORTS SECTION

Whalers stymie Owen Sound in Game 5

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Not in the Plymouth Whalers' house — no way would Owen Sound have even a sniff of going up in the OHL Western Conference semifinal.

That proved to be the undeniable theme Friday night in Game 5 of the best-of-seven series at Compuware Arena.

Led by forward Stefan Noesen, Plymouth took it to Owen Sound for 60 minutes en route to a 5-0 victory before just over 3,000 fans.

The Whalers started fast and never wavered, scoring five times in 20 shots over the first 24-plus minutes and wound up with a 43-19 edge in shots on goal.

Plymouth now holds a 3-2 series lead entering Sunday's Game 6 in Ontario with a chance to clinch.

"I think we played a very good game tonight," said Noesen, who scored twice and assisted on another. "In Owen Sound (a 4-3 loss Wednesday in Game 4) we didn't come out ready to play, we only played half a game.

"With a team like that, they're very fast, very competitive, and we can't get down that early."

Full speed

Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci noted how on task his team played, unlike the previous game. He stressed that's how things must continue for the Whalers to finish off the Attack in the series.

"When we're focused we're good," Vellucci said. "I thought we were aggressive, we wanted the puck, and we had a lot of jump."

Exhibit A was Noesen, who came out flying Friday, although he had plenty of company.



Battling for the puck Friday night are Plymouth Whalers forward Stefan Noesen (No. 11) and Owen Sound's Cody Ceci (No. 8).

With 13:19 left in the frame, Noesen collected a bouncing puck in the low slot in front of Owen Sound goalie Jordan Binnington after it was misplayed by an Attack defenseman.

The Ottawa Senators prospect didn't waste any time ripping a low shot into the left corner. It was Plymouth's first of three unassisted goals in the game.

"I just kept trying to get on the forecheck, I was ready to play today and I got a lucky bounce.

That's what it takes to win."

A string of Owen Sound penalties also helped Plymouth get the offense fired up, but it took the Whalers until their fourth power play to score.

At 17:19, defenseman Connor Carrick took a pass from Noesen and sent a low shot from the left point that forward Tom Wilson tipped past Binnington.

Just 16 seconds later, the Whalers had a three-goal bulge thanks to a goal by center

Mitchell Heard (two goals), who raced down the left wing before firing it home.

Insurmountable

Plymouth then chased Binnington to the bench with two more goals in the first 3:44 of the second period.

A point-blank shot by center Rickard Rakell was stopped, but not controlled. Noesen then slammed the rebound in with a wraparound stuff at the right

post.

Moments later, Heard picked up the puck along the left half-wall, veered into the middle of the ice and snapped a shot over Binnington's blocker to make it 5-0.

At that point, with Plymouth holding a 20-6 edge in shots on goal, Owen Sound coach Greg Ireland pulled Binnington and replaced him with Canton native Brandon Hope.

The Whalers did not ease up on Hope, peppering him with seven shots on a five-minute power play.

Hope proved to be Owen Sound's bright spot, stopping all 23 shots he faced in his first postseason action of the season.

With the victory in the books, the Whalers are one win away from reaching the conference finals.

According to Noesen, the team knows it won't be easy.

"We're feeling pretty good right now," Noesen said. "But there's always a little something in there that we know they're going to come out flying.

"And I think we just need to focus on every shift. We have 60 minutes to prove ourselves there."

OWEN SOUND 4, PLYMOUTH 3: The host Attack rolled to an early 4-0 lead Wednesday night and hung on to win Game 4, tying the series at 2-all.

After Artur Gavrus scored at 5:14 of the second period to give Owen Sound a four-goal cushion, the Whalers relieved starting goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (15 saves) with Matt Mahalak, who blanked the Attack the rest of the way. Mahalak also stopped 15 shots.

Plymouth cut the gap to 4-2 before the end of the second on goals from Connor Carrick and Stefan Noesen, and Vince Trocheck made it 4-3 with a goal at 17:47 of the third. Trocheck assisted on the Whalers other goals.

Stopping 21 of 24 shots for the win was Owen Sound netminder Jordan Binnington.



DOUGLAS BARGER/STOCK

Clarenceville's Tristyn Bean (right) and Lutheran Westland's Noel Pierce (20) converge on the ball in Friday's scoreless draw.

LADYWOOD

Continued from page B1

coach Ken Shingledecker said. "I think they know that and I think we know that. Like we said last year, the plan was to play them four times. We didn't get the job done on our end and they won the state championship. The goal is to play four times and whoever wins the last one will be the happiest."

Marian's goal came just 6:20 into the first half, when senior Catherine Anger's corner kick reached the foot of senior Allie Brodsky, who somehow was able to poke the ball past Ladywood senior goalkeeper Sara Even.

"I thought the goalkeeper (Even) had the ball in her hands, but sometimes those things happen," said Shingledecker, who questioned the lead official about whether it should have been a good goal. "You got to rebound from it. That's not the first or the last time those things are going to go that way. That's how the course of the season goes. You just got to battle back and I thought we did that."

The Blazers became more assertive offensively in the second half and nearly had the equalizer with 33 minutes remaining, but Marian freshman keeper Katilin Patouhas denied Huddleston twice, including the first on a point-blank header.

But the Blazers eventually struck for the game-tying goal with just under 22 minutes remaining.

"I think they took it to us both halves the first 10 minutes and we were on our heels," Marian coach Barry Brodsky said. "And I thought the second half against the wind they took it to us. They're a very good team, so you've got to expect good teams to have their runs and you've got to weather the storm when they're doing that. We almost did, but they work hard and got their one goal, so to come out of here with a tie is probably a fair result."

The Blazers were able to get their offensive

attack flowing in second half by recording six shots after having just three during the first 40 minutes.

"I don't know if we were flat or nervous the first half ... we just didn't have a lot of energy," Shingledecker said. "They knew they could play better and we did that. We got rewarded for it. I thought our forwards were excellent and our defense was absolutely outstanding. I think they only had one shot on goal in the second half. We really turned it up a notch."

Patouhas made five saves for the Mustangs, while Even had three stops for Ladywood.

Marian got a strong game from senior forward Hannah Beck Sawyer, who has bounced back this season after undergoing knee surgery after going down in the second meeting last year against Ladywood.

"Eight months — and I thought she played really well today," Brodsky said. "There's a lot of potential and I'm pretty excited about the group. We lost some big players from last year, but we've got some young players stepping up this year."

"Amy Stroud played the last 25 and that by far is the longest stretch she's played, but she's a freshman and I was pretty excited to see how some of the younger players are playing."

The Mustangs also relied heavily on junior Annika Johnson's speed in the midfield area.

"If we can find her feet, we're a much better team," Brodsky said. "She's a talented player."

Meanwhile, Shingledecker was pleased with his team's defensive effort, which held the Mustangs to five shots on goal.

"Catherine Garber, Lauren Wandzel, Liz Danger, Marissa Ozog — that backline is as good as you're going to find, absolutely," he said. "They were excellent from start to finish."

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SOCCER

Continued from page B1

CHURCHILL 1, NORTH FARMINGTON 0: On Friday, host Livonia Churchill (2-3) overcame the sterling goalkeeping of Katie Foss to beat North Farmington (0-2) in a non-conference match.

Kelsey Parrinello scored off a rebound following a break-away attempt by teammate Lauren Wynns.

Foss made a total of 15 saves in a losing cause.

"She was outstanding, plays tall, very good game," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said.

Churchill senior goalie Alexis Tzafaroglou had to make only two saves, but both were from point-blank range in each half, to record her first shutout.

Tzafaroglou also got stellar defensive support from junior Erin McDonald.

JOHN GLENN 8, RU 1: Sophomore Sydney Climie notched a hat trick Friday as

host Westland John Glenn (3-0-1) doused Redford Union (0-3) in a non-conference encounter.

Senior Kaitlyn Mitchell and junior Marissa Edwards also added two goal apiece for the Rockets, who led 3-0 at halftime.

Junior C.C. Said tallied the other Glenn goal, while Susie Bryan and Kendra Pennington each recorded three assists.

RU, outshot 29-1, got a second-half goal from Kailee Kingery.

FRANKLIN 1, CRESTWOOD 0: Shannon Murphy's goal off an assist from Jenna Michniewicz in the 14th minute proved to be the difference Friday as host Livonia Franklin (1-2) downed Dearborn Heights Crestwood (0-1) in a non-conference match.

Franklin goalkeeper Andrea Schweitzer made five saves to post the shutout with defensive help from Kaylynne Perian, Natalie Desautel and Riley Burnette.

Forward Sierra Voice-Robinson also stood out for the Patriots.

STEVENSON 2, FRANKLIN 0: Goalkeeper Emily Kubeshesky made five saves en route to the shutout as Livonia Stevenson (2-1) downed visiting Livonia Franklin (0-2).

The Spartans got a goal from Aliya El-Sabeh in the 37th minute when her free kick curved into the upper corner after Carlin O'Malley drew a foul from 30 yards out.

Stevenson's Sari Rakowicz added an insurance goal in the 46th minute after receiving a ball from O'Malley on a drive that eluded the arm of a diving Franklin senior goalkeeper Andrea Schweitzer.

"It was a tough game and Stevenson played a very good game," said Franklin coach Dean Kowalski, who saluted the efforts of his own Natalie Desautel, Danielle Howard, Isabella Yardley and Riley Burnette.

JOHN GLENN 2, DEARBORN 1: Sydney Climie scored a pair of goals Wednesday leading host Westland John Glenn (2-0-1) to a pair of non-conference wins over the Pioneers (0-3).

Climie scored with the 25:25 remaining of the first half from Kendra Pennington and added her second with 12:02 left off a feed from C.C. Said.

Sandwiched in between Climie's two goals was an unassisted scored by Dearborn's Kendall Kopal.

Glenn goalkeeper Jenna Redden made five saves.

EDSEL FORD 1, C'VILLE 0: Goalkeeper Jillian Bunker was heroic in defeat, saving 18-of-19 shots Wednesday, but it wasn't enough as host Livonia Clarenceville (1-1, 0-1) fell to Dearborn Edsel Ford in its Western Wayne Athletic Conference opener.

Edsel Ford's Kennedy Rankin tallied the game-winning goal in the second half, while goalkeeper Marisa Sauve made four saves to post the shutout.

"Our defense did an amazing job and fought hard throughout the whole game," said Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody, who singled out the play of Amal Musleh, Summer Reddick, Grace King and Tristyn Bean.

Observerland's best swimmers, divers receive honors

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Jason Zhang, Salem: The co-captain and scholar-athlete (4.21 GPA) got it done in the pool, too, capturing Salem's Most Valuable Swimmer Award (shared with Turner Solterman) along with numerous other honors.

Zhang was named to the All-KLAA team and scored at the Division 1 state meet for the fourth consecutive year, also collecting the Mike Kilgore and Salem Coaches awards.

"Jason had an outstanding four years at Salem," coach Chuck Olson said. "He is the example of what can be done as a student-athlete."

At the KLAA meet at Novi High School, Zhang finished third in the 100 backstroke (55.42) and fourth in the 200 freestyle (1:48.97) while being part of the runner-up medley relay (1:40.03) and fourth-place 400 free relay (3:18.56).

Zhang followed that up at the D1 state meet, finishing 12th in the 200 medley relay with Turner Solterman, Jerry Bai and Matt Pairitz.

Nick Leshok, N. Farmington: Leshok makes his third straight appearance on the all-area team after a standout junior season. He finished third in the D2 state meet in the IM (1:53.27) and eighth in the butterfly (52.22). He swam season-best times of 1:53.0 and 51.68 in the state prelims.

Leshok is the OAA Red Division champion in the 200 freestyle (1:44.11) and butterfly (51.90). He is the Oakland County runner-up in the IM (1:56.72) and 100 freestyle (47.55).

"Nick had one of the best seasons ever for a North Farmington Raider," coach Mike Harfoot said. "Whatever we need him to swim for the team, he's willing to swim. He's a tremendous team guy. He's always looking to make the team better by pulling

his teammates along and making everybody better. It's been a pleasure to coach him the last three years, and I'm really looking forward to next year and more good things."

Jackson O'Dowd, Stevenson: The ninth grader was the 10th in the Division 1 state finals in the 50 and 100 freestyles with times of 21.72 and 47.19, respectively.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for any high school swimmer and being a freshman makes it that much more extraordinary," coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "Jackson had a remarkable freshman year. Without a doubt, before his career is over at Stevenson, Jackson could become one of Stevenson's greatest sprinters of all time."

O'Dowd also captured the 50 freestyle title at the KLAA Kensington Conference meet and added a third in the 100 freestyle.

"Being short on sprinters, he was put into a situation where we relied on him almost every meet," Shoemaker added. "He was able to continually step up and certainly made a name for himself."

Ethan Burke, Churchill: The first-year freshman diver was undefeated during the dual meet season, KLAA South Division champion and third overall in the Kensington Conference meet scoring 338.65 points (12 dives).

Burke's personal best dual meet score was 198.80 (six dives). He also finished 14th at the Division 1 regional, missing the state cut by mere six 10ths of a point.

"Ethan has only one season of training on the diving board, but it didn't take long for him to excel," coach Aaron Rieder said. "Ethan's best dive this season was a back somersault with 2½ twists. It is also his favorite. He is off to an incredible start in the sport of diving and will accomplish

much more before he is through."

Danny McNeece, N. Farmington: McNeece posted the area's second-best time in the butterfly (53.08). He qualified in 10th place for the B final at the D2 state meet. McNeece, who was 14th in the fly at the Oakland County championships, also was a state qualifier in the backstroke. He was third in the fly (54.39) and 10th in the back at the OAA Red Division meet.

"Danny had a real nice season," Harfoot said. "He was very consistent in the 100 fly. He was a little up and down his sophomore year. His junior season was fantastic; he was consistently fast in the fly all season. He worked on the backstroke a lot, because that was what the team needed. He did a really nice job swimming the back and fly on the medley relay all year. He's a good all-around swimmer."

Matt Pairitz, Salem: The junior showed so much this season that he won the Most Improved Swimmer Award and was selected one of Salem's captains for next year.

Pairitz qualified for the D1 state meet with strong showings at the KLAA meet, including sixth in the 100 freestyle (49.16) and fourth in the 400 free relay with Danny Lynch, Jason Banasese and Zhang (3:18.56).

He teamed up with Zhang, Solterman and Bai to finish 12th in the 200 medley relay at the D1 state meet and placed at Holland Aquatic Center in two other relays (14th, 400 free, 3:16.87; 16th, 200 free, 1:30.45).

Pairitz also finished 23rd at Holland in the 100 free, with a time of 48.57. "Matt served notice to the state that he had arrived as a freestyler to watch for 2014," Olson said.

Nick Arakelian, Stevenson: The junior, a 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier and Junior National competitor,

made the most of his inaugural high school season by breaking the MHSAA Division 1 state record in the 500 freestyle (4:27.75) as well as a runner-up finish in the 200 individual medley (1:48.22).

Arakelian also shattered a Kensington Conference record in the 200 freestyle (1:40.57) was champ at the same meet in the 100 freestyle (47.0).

He now holds four of Stevenson's eight individual swim marks, and also helped the Spartans set new school records in two relay events.

"Nick was certainly a welcome addition to this year's team," Shoemaker said. "Nick also received All-American status in every event he swam at this year's state meet."

"He is without a doubt one of the premier high school swimmers in the country. Nick's great personality and his devotion to success have certainly benefited this program as well as our community."

John Ferrara, Stevenson: The senior, bound for Oakland University, took second at the Division 1 state finals in the 100 backstroke (56.26 in the prelims) and was fifth in the 200 IM (1:54.54).

Ferrara also broke the 100 backstroke record (51.31) and won the 200 IM (1:56.7) at the Kensington Conference meet. He also helped the Spartans set two new school relay records.

"John completed his four-year swim tenure at Stevenson in high fashion," Shoemaker said. "He was able to better his own school record in the backstroke, which was also fast enough for him to earn automatic All-American status."

"His absence next year will certainly be noticed and his shoes will be hard one to fill. It has been an honor to coach him and he will undoubtedly have a successful college career."

Grant McNamara, Stevenson: The junior placed 10th in the 100 breaststroke (59.88) at the Division 1 state finals and also qualified in the 500 freestyle.

In the Kensington Conference meet, McNamara was champion in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.79) and added a fourth in the 500 freestyle (4:55.86).

"This year Grant was able to drop even more time and place higher at the state meet," Shoemaker said. "Next year Grant will be captain and we expect great things from him as he expects them for himself."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, Stevenson: The quartet of senior John Ferrara, along with juniors Nick Arakelian, Bradley Bielicki and Jake Goeddeke, posted a school record time of 1:34.42 on its way to a runner-up finish in Division 1, while earning All-American status.

"This relay had been strong for us the entire season," Shoemaker said. "We had tried many combinations throughout the season and most came with success. The combination we ended up with proved to be very successful."

"This relay also claims the seventh fastest time ever in the history of Michigan high school swimming."

200 freestyle, N. Farmington: Matt Morgott, Jake Wasko, Brody Clarke and Nick Leshok finished fifth in the D2 state meet and swam the area's fastest time (1:26.02) in the final. The same foursome also was second in the OAA Red Division (1:27.91) and third in Oakland County (1:28.81).

"All four are coming back and they've already set some high goals for next season," Harfoot said. "I'm not going to be the one to tell them they can't achieve those

Please see ALL-AREA, B5

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Summer kickball

Wayne Westland Parks and Recreation will offer summer co-ed kickball leagues on Thursdays starting the week of June 10 at Anderson Ball Fields (Atwood Park) in Wayne.

The season includes 10 games, plus playoffs with a limit of 12 teams per night. Game times are 6:25, 7:35, 8:45 and 9:55 p.m.

Registration will be April 15 through June 3. The cost is \$200 per team.

All teams must register at the Wayne Community Center. (A managers meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, June 10 at the Wayne Community Center.

For more information,

call (734) 721-7400; or visit www.cityofwestland.com (click on parks and recreation, then athletics).

Collins outing

The first Nick Collins Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing will be Saturday, May 11, at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 Seven Mile, Livonia.

A four-year member of both the Stevenson High golf and football programs, Collins died last summer of bacterial meningitis after returning home following his freshman year at Central Michigan University.

The cost is \$75 per person (includes lunch, 18 holes and cart). Lunch only is \$20, while hole sponsorships are avail-

able for \$100.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. followed by a shotgun start (four-person scramble) at 8 a.m. A general raffle and lunch follows at 12:30 p.m.

The registration deadline is April 27.

To obtain a flier, visit www.golflivonia.com or www.livoniapublicschools.org.

For more information, e-mail Jim Omietanski at james_omietanski@att.net or call (734) 542-0776.

Senior softball

A newly formed team in the 65-and-over Western Wayne County Suburban Softball League is seeking slow-pitch players the summer season, which runs from May through

August.

Games will be played at 10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in the Livonia, Canton and Westland areas.

The league is governed by ASA senior slow-pitch rules. A nominal fee will be assessed to cover incidental team and league expenses.

Call Bob Mosher (734) 502-7477 or Doug Curry at (248) 767-0828.

MYAA grid clinic

The Michigan Youth Athletic Association will hold a youth football coaches clinic, Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, at the St. Mary's Cultural Center, Livonia.

To register visit www.miyaa.org.

For more information,

email infor@miyaa.org; or call (734) 459-5921.

Football clinic

The Livonia Stevenson Youth Football Clinic for students currently in grades 2-6 will be from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at the high school turf field.

The camp is free. Check-in starts at 9 a.m. at the school's north cafeteria. Clinic T-shirts are available for \$8 (must be received by May 16).

For more information, e-mail Stevenson varsity football coach Matt Fielder at mfielder@livonia-publicschools.org.

Rebels basketball

The Rebels' 2013-14 eighth-grade team will be playing next season out of the Big Cat AAU circuit in South Lyon.

The team is seeking hard-working, high-character players that want to be coached in a highly-skilled manner to get ready for high school basketball.

For more information, call Joe Jakacki at (734) 223-1070; or email Jakackifamily5@aol.com.

Gymnastics camp

The 2013 Livonia Blue summer gymnastics camp will offer three sessions (four days each) for ages 11-and-up from 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 17-20, July 15-18 and Aug. 19-22 at the Churchill High School gymnastics room.

The cost is \$70 (one week), \$130 (two weeks) or \$180 (three weeks).

The registration deadline is Friday, June 7.

For more information, e-mail Livonia Blue coach Lisa Broomfield at MissLisa621@yahoo.com.

Weekly 5K runs

All runners, joggers and walkers are welcome to participate in a weekly timed 5-kilometer run-

walk at 9 a.m. each Saturday at Livonia's Bicentennial Park.

Participation is free, but you must bring your registrant barcode to earn by registering at www.park-run.com or www.park-run.us.

Grid assistants

Livonia Franklin is seeking two assistant football coaches for the 2013 season.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate knowledge and proven ability to train and teach the fundamentals with prior high school coaching experience.

For more information, e-mail Franklin varsity coach Chris Kelbert at cKelbert@livoniapublicschools.org.

Archery range

Registration is underway for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation's archery range, located on Gledale Avenue, between I-96 and Plymouth Road.

Range hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays (April-Oct.); 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sundays (May-Oct.); and 4 p.m. until dusk, Tuesdays and Thursdays (Sept.-Oct.).

Season passes are available at the Livonia Parks and Recreation desk inside the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard.

Resident season pass rates, which include unlimited hours, will be \$25 (individual), \$35 (two members), \$45 (three members); or \$55 (four or more members).

Non-resident fees are \$40 (individual), \$50 (two members), \$60 (three members); or \$70 (four or more members).

Daily resident fees are adult (\$4) and 17-and-under (\$2), while non-residents are \$6 and \$4, respectively.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

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ALL-AREA

Continued from page B4

goals. I can see all of them improving and going faster next year. It should be the first All-American 200 relay we've ever had at North (based on this year's time)."

400 freestyle, Stevenson: The foursome of Jackson O'Dowd, John Ferrara, Parker Belmore and Nick Arakelian finished only second to Birmingham Brother Rice's MHSAA all-class record time of 3:03.78.

This quartet set a school record at the Division 1 finals with an All-American clocking of 3:07.7, as well as the ninth fastest time ever recorded in the MHSAA.

They also combined to break at Kensington Conference meet mark (3:12.13).

"This relay had similar success to our medley relay," Shoemaker said. "It was an unbelievable time, which broke one of the oldest records on our record board by over four seconds. It was truly remarkable and the four boys swam better than anyone thought they could."

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Matt Laporte, Stevenson: The 10th grader was a state qualifier in the 500 freestyle where he placed 23rd overall with a clocking of 4:50.0.

He was also the Kensington Conference champion with a personal best 4:48.62, while contributing a seventh in the 200 freestyle (1:49.93).

"Matt had quite an impressive sophomore year," Shoemaker said. "He was able to continually drop time in all his events and qualify for the state meet."

"Matt has the personality that without a doubt stands out and is quite a joy to have on deck. Matt continually works hard at each practice and with two more years left in his high school career we expect big things from him. With his ability and work ethic, Matt will return next year and score points for us at the state meet."

Nick Weber, Plymouth: The senior co-captain ended his four-year varsity career on a prestigious note, winning team MVP honors while leading the Wildcats to the KLAAs South Division championship.

Weber was on the 200 free relay team that set a new Plymouth record at the D1 state meet in Holland with a time of 1:42.64. Sharing in that achievement were relay mates Cameron Earls, Ryan Heinze and Alex Wilson.

He also qualified in the 200 medley relay and was a versatile contributor throughout the Plymouth lineup, stressed first-year coach Kenn Forbes. "Nick Weber is one of the most talented, hardest working and gifted kids I've come across in my years of coaching," Forbes said. "He has the innate ability to continually push himself beyond what I thought was possible and then improve off of it drastically."

Weber, lauded for his leadership capabilities, plans on attending Grand Valley State University and pursue a degree in biology. He is undecided about going out for the men's swim team.

"Whatever he puts his mind to he achieves," Forbes said. "I have no doubt that he will continue to achieve throughout college and whatever career path he goes down."

Jake Goeddeke, Stevenson: The junior was a state qualifier in the 100 backstroke (55.84) and 50 freestyle (22.41) en route to 24th- and 26th-place finishes, respectively.

Goeddeke was also a valuable relay team member at the Division 1 finals helping the Spartans to a second h in the 200 medley and a seventh in the 200 freestyle.

Goeddeke also placed fourth in the 50 free (22.48) along with a fifth in the 100 back (55.78) at the conference finals.

"Jake was mainly trained as a mid-distance swimmer with a specialty focused on backstroke," Shoemaker said. "As the year progressed he became stronger and his sprinting ability started to surface. Towards the end of the season Jake became very sick and missed a week-and-a-half of training. Rather than making him too tired, we placed him in the sprint events and this proved to work out perfectly as he qualified in two events. Jake will return next year as a senior captain."

Nick Nader, N. Farmington: Nader was a three-time D2 state qualifier in diving. He was usually a lock to win the event in dual meets. He finished third in the OAA Red Division and 15th in Oakland County.

"Nick has been a fantastic diver for us the last couple years," Harfoot said. "He's been just a rock for us in the diving spot all season. We could count on him to get first or second in the big meets and finish high in the championship meets."

"He also was a fantastic captain to our five freshmen divers. He wasn't just concerned with what he had to do. He brought them along and taught them how to be good divers. That will help us the next couple years."

Jake Wasko, N. Farmington: Wasko finished 10th in the butterfly at the D2 state meet, posting his best time (53.12) of the season. He also qualified in the 50 freestyle. Wasko was fifth in the OAA Red Division (55.34) and 10th in Oakland County (54.55). He also placed eighth in the 200 freestyle in the OAA finals.

"Jake is really starting to come into his own," Harfoot said. "He's been a good swimmer but has the potential to be a great swimmer, and he's starting to realize it. He worked hard in the off season to get better and it showed. He carried it through to the state meet and had a great state meet."



Jason Zhang Salem



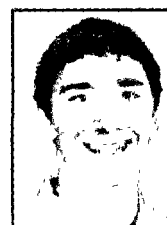
Nick Leshok N. Farmington



Jackson O'Dowd Stevenson



Ethan Burke Churchill



Danny McNeece N. Farmington



Matt Pairitz Salem



Nick Arakelian Stevenson



John Ferrara Stevenson



Grant McNamara Stevenson



Matt Laporte Stevenson



Nick Weber Plymouth



Jake Goeddeke Stevenson



Nick Nader N. Farmington



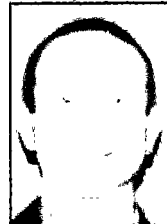
Jake Wasko N. Farmington



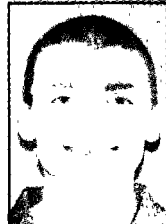
Brandon Shatter Stevenson



Turner Solterman Salem



Parker Belmore Stevenson



Tommy O'Donohue Stevenson



Bradley Bielicki Stevenson



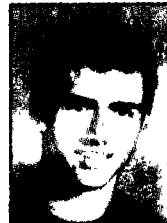
Jerry Bai Salem



Kenny McManimon Salem



Brody Clarke N. Farmington



Matt Morgott N. Farmington



Rob Chapekis N. Farmington

BOYS BEST SWIM TIMES

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 1:34.42
Salem 1:39.03
North Farmington 1:40.57
Plymouth 1:42.62
Canton 1:49.14

200 FREESTYLE

Nick Arakelian (Stevenson) 1:40.57
Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:44.11
Jason Zhang (Salem) 1:48.97
Jake Goeddeke (Stevenson) 1:49.08
Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 1:49.40
Matt Laporte (Stevenson) 1:49.93
Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 1:50.18
Danny Lynch (Salem) 1:50.84
Michael Chen (Stevenson) 1:51.22
Brandon Shatter (Stevenson) 1:51.34

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Nick Arakelian (Stevenson) 1:48.22
Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:53.00
John Ferrara (Stevenson) 1:53.83
Parker Belmore (Stevenson) 2:01.17
Jason Zhang (Salem) 2:01.93
Nick Weber (Plymouth) 2:04.51
Brad Bielicki (Stevenson) 2:04.80
Luke Crompton (Thurston) 2:05.56
Keith Erichsen (N. Farmington) 2:06.14
Charles Liu (Salem) 2:06.24

50 FREESTYLE

Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 21.69
Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 21.72
Jason Zhang (Salem) 22.24
Nick Arakelian (Stevenson) 22.26
Matt Pairitz (Salem) 22.27
Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 22.36
Jake Goeddeke (Stevenson) 22.41
Matt Morgott (N. Farmington) 22.46
Brody Clarke (N. Farmington) 22.75
Peter Romero (Farm. Unified) 22.99
Justin Larkins (Franklin) 22.99

ONE-METER DIVING

Ethan Burke (Churchill) 338.65
Nick Nader (N. Farmington) 326.10
Connor McManus (Plymouth) 287.00
Jesse Damesworth (Stevenson) 286.25
Brian Atiyeh (Stevenson) 260.95
Dave Cunningham (Glenn) 257.10
Chas Eisenhardt (Stevenson) 228.30
Zach Bartolec (Salem) 226.90
Austin Tietlow (Canton) 225.95
Kameron Stancer (Churchill) 217.45

100 BUTTERFLY

Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 51.68
Danny McNeece (N. Farmington) 53.08
Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 53.12
Luke Crompton (Thurston) 54.62
David Ptashnik (Stevenson) 55.59
Cameron Earls (Plymouth) 55.70
Jerry Bai (Salem) 56.32

Brad Bielicki (Stevenson) 56.45
Nick Weber (Plymouth) 57.34
John Ferrara (Stevenson) 57.64

100 FREESTYLE

Nick Arakelian (Stevenson) 47.00
Jackson O'Dowd (Stevenson) 47.19
Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 47.55
Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 48.48
Matt Pairitz (Salem) 48.57
John Ferrara (Stevenson) 49.02
Brandon Shatter (Stevenson) 49.31
Brody Clarke (N. Farmington) 49.74
Rob Chapekis (N. Farmington) 49.89
Matt Morgott (N. Farmington) 50.21

500 FREESTYLE

Nick Arakelian (Stevenson) 4:27.75
Matt Laporte (Stevenson) 4:48.12
John Ferrara (Stevenson) 4:53.94
Jason Zhang (Salem) 4:54.87
Grant McNamara (Stevenson) 4:55.66
Turner Solterman (Salem) 4:56.56
Keith Erichsen (N. Farmington) 4:57.97
Eric Ferrara (Stevenson) 5:00.02
Charles Liu (Salem) 5:00.07
John Stover (Wayne) 5:02.75

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

North Farmington 1:26.02
Livonia Stevenson 1:27.46
Salem 1:29.99
Plymouth 1:32.14
Farmington-Harrison 1:33.94

100 BACKSTROKE

John Ferrara (Stevenson) 50.26
Parker Belmore (Stevenson) 53.47
Jason Zhang (Salem) 55.32
Jake Goeddeke (Stevenson) 55.78
Cameron Earls (Plymouth) 55.87
Patrick Casey (Salem) 56.99
Danny McNeece (N. Farmington) 57.86
Benjamin Yang (Plymouth) 58.73
Brian Kuang (Salem) 59.28
Michael Chen (Stevenson) 1:00.45

100 BREASTSTROKE

Nick Arakelian (Stevenson) 57.01
Grant McNamara (Stevenson) 59.88
Tommy O'Donohue (Stevenson) 1:00.88
Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:01.23
Turner Solterman (Salem) 1:01.34
Luke Crompton (Thurston) 1:01.64
Justin Larkins (Franklin) 1:02.51
Smaran Bhaktawara (Salem) 1:03.38
Rob Chapekis (N. Farmington) 1:04.76
Matt Della Mora (Stevenson) 1:06.07

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 3:07.07
North Farmington 3:11.46
Salem 3:16.87
Plymouth 3:26.28
Farmington-Harrison 3:29.37

"He was a key member of the sprint relays all season. He could swim any slot from leadoff to anchor. He's another one we're looking to have a big season as a senior."

Brandon Shatter, Stevenson: The senior was first-time state qualifier in the 100 freestyle where he took 38th overall (50.2), while also lifting the Spartans to a seventh-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay.

"Brandon had a remarkable senior year and without a doubt left the program on a good note," Shoemaker said. "Swimming just during the high school season, it would take Brandon awhile to get back into shape."

"Brandon is a remarkable student in-and-out of the pool. I could not be happier with what he has achieved for himself and certainly enjoyed watching him grow up the last four years."

Turner Solterman, Salem: Solterman capped off an outstanding Salem career, qualifying for the D1 state meet and All-KLAA team two years in a row. His dedication carried over to the classroom, where he compiled a 3.45 GPA.

Also a co-captain, Solterman shared Salem's Most Valuable Swimmer Award (with Zhang), and also

earned a Salem Coaches award.

He nearly was conference champion in the 100 breaststroke, finishing second with a time of 1:01.34. His time of 1:01.60 at the subsequent D1 state meet was good for 21st overall. His fifth-place finish of 4:57.16 in the 500 freestyle gave him a state cut in that event.

Solterman comprised one-fourth of the 200 medley relay team that took 12th at the state meet.

"Turner set the pace for the team with his work ethic for every practice, which led to his success as a senior," Olson said.

Parker Belmore, Stevenson: The junior placed 11th in the 100 backstroke (53.47) and 20th overall in the 200 IM (2:01.17) at the Division 1 state meet.

He also helped the Spartans take runner-up honors in the 400 freestyle relay as well as a seventh-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay.

At the Kensington Conference meet, Belmore was runner-up in the 100 backstroke (54.95) and was a member of Stevenson's first-place 400 freestyle relay team.

"Parker certainly did an exceptional job this year of stepping up and he played an integral part to our success this season," Shoemaker said. "He had

some of the biggest time drops at the state meet to earn both All-State and All-American honors."

"Next year Parker will be one of our four captains that will lead this team to success. I have full confidence in Parker and look forward to his success next year."

Tommy O'Donohue, Stevenson: The junior placed 13th in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.88) to earn All-State recognition.

"Tommy is one of the hardest working swimmers we have on our team," Shoemaker said. "His dedication and hard work paid off for him this year. After a very successful sophomore season of continually dropping time, Tommy certainly repeated this success his junior year. Next year we will be counting on him once again. There is no doubt in my mind he will come through for us as he has in the past."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, Salem: The quartet of Zhang, Solterman, senior Jerry Bai and senior Kenny McManimon qualified for the D1 state meet with a sparkling second-place time of 1:40.03.

At the Holland finals, the Rocks — with Pairitz in for McManimon — topped that with a 1:39.03 to earn 12th place overall.

2013 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING TEAM INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

200-yard freestyle: 1. Jason Zhang, sr., Salem; 2. Matt Laporte, soph., Livonia Stevenson.

200 individual medley: 1. Nick Leshok, jr., North Farmington; 2. Nick Weber, sr., Plymouth.

50 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd, fresh., Stevenson; 2. Jake Goeddeke, jr., Stevenson.

Diving: 1. Ethan Burke, soph., Livonia Churchill; 2. Nick Nader, sr., North Farmington.

100 butterfly: 1. Danny McNeece, jr., North Farmington; 2. Jake Wasko, jr., North Farmington.

100 freestyle: 1. Matt Pairitz, jr., Salem; 2. Brandon Shatter, sr., Stevenson.

500 freestyle: 1. Nick Arakelian, jr., Stevenson; 2. Turner Solterman, sr., Salem.

100 backstroke: 1. John Ferrara, sr., Stevenson; 2. Parker Belmore, jr., Stevenson.

100 breaststroke: 1. Grant McNamara, jr., Stevenson; 2. Tommy O'Donohue, jr., Stevenson.

RELAY TEAMS

200 medley: 1. Stevenson (sr. John Ferrara, jr. Nick Arakelian, jr. Brad Bielicki, jr. Jake Goeddeke); 2. Salem (sr. Jason Zhang, sr. Turner Solterman, sr. Jerry Bai, sr. Kenny McManimon).

200 freestyle: 1. North Farmington (soph. Matt Morgott, jr. Jake Wasko, jr. Brody Clarke, jr. Nick Leshok); 2. Stevenson (fr. Jackson O'Dowd, jr. Parker Belmore, sr. Brandon Shatter, jr. Jake Goeddeke).

400 freestyle: 1. Stevenson (fr. Jackson O'Dowd, sr. John Ferrara, jr. Parker Belmore, jr. Nick Arakelian); 2. North Farmington (jr. Jake Wasko, jr. Brody Clarke, jr. Rob Chapekis, jr. Nick Leshok).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeff Shoemaker, Livonia Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The following are additional state qualifiers who are not recognized on either the first or second all-area swim team:

Franklin: Justin Larkins; N. Farmington: Keith Erichsen; Plymouth: Cam Earls, Ryan Heinze, Alex Johnson, Alex Wilson; Salem: Dan Lynch, Jason Basanese; Thurston: Luke Crompton.

Co-captain Bai (who won a Salem Coaches Award) and McManimon were named to the All-KLAA team for the second year in a row.

"Jerry was very competitive all four years," Olson said. "Both in the pool and the classroom (3.96 GPA)."

McManimon's stellar attitude and work ethic augmented his swimming ability, Olson noted.

"Kenny was all about the team and whatever he could do for the team he was willing to do," Olson said. "The improvement displayed all four years did not go unnoticed by his teammates or coaching staff."

200 freestyle, Stevenson: The grouping of Jackson O'Dowd, Parker Belmore, Brandon Shatter and Jake Goeddeke earned seventh overall in Division 1 with a 1:27.46.

"This was a relay that had me most concerned all year long," Shoemaker said. "I know I needed to score all three relays in order to place high at the state meet. Since we swam so well at the conference meet, I knew we had an outside chance. I never thought we would be able to place in the top eight and receive All-State honors. These four stepped up and were the main reason we were able to finish third as a team at the state meet."

400 freestyle, N. Farmington: Jake Wasko, Brody Clarke, Rob Chapekis and Nick Leshok swam the area's second-fastest time (3:11.46) in the D2 prelims and finished seventh in the final. They broke the school record by two full seconds and met their own goal of swimming under 3:12.

"Again, all four guys are going to be back next year, so our sprint relays are looking good going into next season," Harfoot said. "They improved all year, and I was really proud of how they swam at the state meet."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeff Shoemaker, Stevenson: The 13th-year coach, a math instructor at Stevenson, guided the Spartans their best finish since 2006 by scoring 191 points and a third-place finish in Division 1.

The Spartans also captured the KLAAs Central Division and Kensington Conference championships this season.

"I could not have asked for a better season," said Shoemaker, a former swim standout at Eastern Michigan University. "From start-to-finish each of these boys dedicated everything for us to become successful. This year we broke more records than any team in Stevenson high school swimming history."



Jeff Shoemaker Coach of Year

Stories Worth Telling

Woodcox pairs images, writing for foster kids' benefit

By Sharon Dargay
 Staff Writer

Rob Woodcox hopes to raise approximately \$26,000 in the next 11 days to help NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township send foster children to camp this summer.

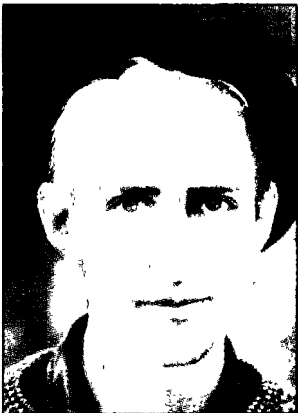
His campaign page on Indiegogo.com, a crowd-funding website, is called Stories Worth Telling and it has earned more than \$4,000 since going live last month.

Woodcox designed the project — which will generate both funds for camp and a book of stories and photos about foster children — after he volunteered as a counselor at a Royal Family KIDS Camp last summer. The California-based non-profit offers a network of summer camps for abused, neglected and abandoned children, with a mission of creating "life-changing moments" for children of abuse. Camps are sponsored and run by churches, with help from social service professionals, throughout the country.

For the past few years, Northridge has partnered with Brightmoor



This is one of the many photographs by Rob Woodcox, featured in the fundraising campaign, "Stories Worth Telling," which pairs photos with stories about foster children.



Rob Woodcox is raising funds to send foster children to summer camp.

Christian Church in Novi, which offers a Royal Family KIDS camp. This year, Northridge will launch its own Royal Family KIDS camp for approximately 32 children from Wayne County. Woodcox hopes to off-

set the church's cost for the camp and year-round mentoring through his online fundraising campaign.

"He is dreaming big with great vision and heart," said Beth Harris, NorthRidge Church outreach coordinator. "Rob participated with Brightmoor and us last year and fell in love with the program."

She figures the church will need about 40 or more volunteers to help staff the camp, which has a ratio of one counselor for every camper, in addition to trained professionals and those who help with camp activities.

"The people who apply to camp counsel are in the interview process right now. It's a commitment. These are not all

healthy kids," she said, adding that some may have emotional or behavioral problems. "It's challenging and you've got to know you're going in there to love on this child, which may be the only love they are going to receive. You need to go in knowing it's going to be a lot of work."

Focusing on fosters

Woodcox, who grew up in Livonia and now lives in Ypsilanti, said the Royal Family KIDS Camp is the only summer camp tailored to foster children.

"When I learned that, I was drawn to it," he said. "I think the thing that struck me the most right off the bat was how



This is one of the photos that Rob Wilcox is offering to individuals who pledge to his fundraising campaign. He is known for including surreal elements in his work.

Please see BENEFIT, B7

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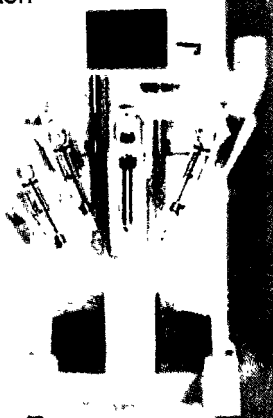
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Animal groups need forever home, mystery players



Rufus is looking for his forever home. He is being fostered through Guardian Angel Animal Rescue in Livonia.

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sandra Mezza of Guardian Angel Animal Rescue in Livonia isn't sure why Rufus, hasn't found his "forever home" because she says he's playful, sweet, silly, loving and ready to kiss everyone he meets.

Rufus is an 11-month-old Brittany Spaniel-American Staffordshire Terrier mix who has been with the rescue "for some time" and who needs a little PR to help get him adopted. He's being fostered in Wixom with Kasey Mack and her family, which includes cats, dogs and kids. Despite a rough start in life, he is doing well.



"Rufus was rescued from a home that had chained him to a so-called doghouse, with very little food and very little human contact," Mezza said. "The people had moved and left him behind he was rescued just in time. It was freezing cold at night and he was soaking wet from the freezing rain. He wouldn't have made it

much longer." Mack said the dog was rescued from the backyard of an abandoned home in Detroit. "There were some concerned people in the neighborhood that got in touch with a mutual friend of my sister's and she got a hold of me and we did a temperament test," she said.

Rufus is micro-chipped, neutered and up to date on his shots. He is housebroken and crate trained. Mack said he received several inquiries about adoption, but also noted that the rescue had "a lot of puppies this winter, so he had to compete with little pups (for adoption) which is always hard."

Mack describes him as "very smart," and would do

well with continued training.

Does he sound like your kind of furry companion? E-mail to guardian_angel_rescue@hotmail.com or call (734) 516-2171.

Tail Waggers 1990 benefit

Here's your chance to play CSI detective and solve "The Case of the Dead Paparazzi" while helping Tail Waggers raise funds for its new Wellness & Spay/Neuter Center.

Tail Waggers 1990, founded by Laura Zain, is the animal welfare group that helps pet owners in need. The organization offers a pet food pantry, low-cost vaccinations, spay and neuter services, as

well as funding for animal emergencies.

Teams of four can sign up now for the fundraiser, which is set for 8 p.m. Saturday, June 8, in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Only 25 teams will be registered.

Participants will hunt for clues, problem-solve, figure out riddles and meet actors portraying

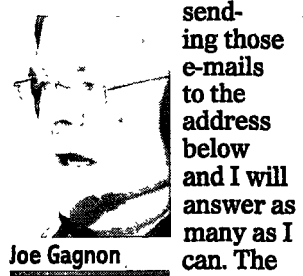
various characters in the murder mystery. An after-party will include pizza, munchies and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$25 each. Register at www.tailwaggers1990.org, e-mail to tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com or call (734) 855-4077.

Readers' questions teach us all

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

I want to thank so many of you who said hello during the four remote broadcasts I did during the month of March. It was so nice to meet and chat with all of you. Meanwhile, just keep



sending those e-mails to the address below and I will answer as many as I can. The following are very informative and help to make you a smarter consumer.

Sue writes: On 11-20-12 I bought a new G.E. washing machine. After it was installed and I started to use it, I noticed that every time I unplugged or plugged it in, it sparked.

I changed the electrical outlet thinking that was the problem. It was not. It continued to spark. I called G.E. and they sent a man out to check it out. He said there was nothing wrong, that the circuit board in the motor had a light that needed to remain on and that it should not be unplugged. He wanted to know why I unplugged it. I told him that when I had an energy audit done by DTE that they told me to unplug anything that I wasn't using with the exception of the refrigerator. He said that the story sounded a bit funny and asked what was name of the repairman. I told them he left me nothing with his name on it and that their records should show who it was. They sent a second man who also indicated that the machine needed to be left plugged in and there was no more harm in that sparking than there was from the igniter on the

stove.

Reply: I will direct this to those companies that are now doing these energy audits which I think are very worthwhile. The spark effect is normal on products that hold electrical current and may appear alarming to many homeowners. It is nothing to be afraid of but if you are going to tell homeowners to start unplugging their appliances, you may be the cause of many needless service calls. I will bet that energy consumption on major home appliances doesn't equal \$5 per year. Appliances with control boards may need to be re-programmed if left unplugged for more than 15 minutes. Hope this helps Sue and sorry you had to replace the wall outlet.

Bob writes: I have a high efficiency 6-year-old hot water heater located in the basement of our condo unit which works

well and provides adequate hot water. Our concern is that strange noises are coming from the tank. They sound like a hammering noise. The noise makes us think it may be water super-heated turning into steam and rising inside the tank. Not sure if that sounds feasible. Sounds just last a short second and are spaced several seconds apart for part of the heating cycle. A local handyman who does work in our complex says, he has heard this noise before in other tanks and not concerned. However I would rather hear an opinion from an appliance professional. Any suggestions?

Reply: I wonder how many people have purchased a new hot water heater because their old one made sounds like the ones described by Bob. These are normal sounds of a hot water heater where the consumer does

not drain a few buckets of water from the bottom of the tank every four months. In reality, few homeowners drain their tanks on a regular basis. With a gas hot water heater, after a few years you will have a build-up of minerals that will accumulate in the bottom of the tank. This can reach a height of 4 to 6 inches and looks like a pile of shale-type flat rock. When the burner heats the bottom of the tank it must heat the rock and water at the same time. The water rises and goes through the rock causing the snap and pop sounds. The efficiency factor is reduced but is not a danger to the homeowner. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Miller Woods Tours

See native spring wildflowers blooming at Miller Woods in Plymouth Township during free, guided tours from 2-4 p.m., leaving every half hour, Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. These dates are weather dependent because the flowers don't always bloom when expected.

Check the Miller Woods website, www.millerwoods.com, starting in April for last-minute changes to the dates when flowers are in bloom.

Entrance to the nature preserve is on Powell Road, just east of Ridge Road, between North Territorial and Ann Arbor Roads. No dogs are allowed in the nature preserve.

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

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The St. Michael Children's Choir will perform at the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast May 2.

Angelic voices will entertain at annual community breakfast

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Jerry Smith has selected the entertainment for the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast the past 20 years and he knows what guests like to hear.

"People like to have groups come in and sing and they like young people," said Smith, a Livonia resident and the music director for First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. "I go out and fish the waters and see what is the best thing out there."

This year Smith hooked quite a catch — youthful, angelic voices that will "delight everyone."

The St. Michael Children's Choir, from St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia, will sing at the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m. Thursday, May 2, at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia. The event also features Smith's wife, Sharon, who will play piano while food is served, and national speaker and author, Tony Campolo, president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, who will address the gathering after breakfast. Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University and a former faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, has written more than 35 books and blogs regularly at his website, redletterchristians.org.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for K-12 students. Make checks payable to Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast, Inc. Mail to the organization to the attention of Sally Butler, 33300 Five Mile, Suite 105, Livonia, MI 48154. Tickets will be mailed upon receipt of payment. Purchase deadline is Friday, April 19. For more information call (248) 476-9427.

The St. Michael Children's Choir is part of the church's music ministry. It

sings at the 8 a.m. Mass once a month, at the children's Christmas liturgy, on other holidays and for special events, such as the upcoming May Crowning, which honors the Virgin Mary, and for Mother's Day, when the youngsters sing alongside their moms.

"We have more than 50 (children) on the roster, although you won't see all 50 at the prayer breakfast," said Cindy Stempin, church music director and a counselor at St. Michael School. "They start at third grade and go all the way to eighth." This year all of her singers also attend St. Michael School, but that's not a requirement for choir membership.

When she became the church organist 20 years ago, Stempin continued the children's choir that had been in place at St. Michael.

"We wanted to have a children's choir sing at the liturgy. There is a lot of literature out there specifically for children's choir, in their range, with harmonies that are simpler. But I will tell you that kids pick up things fast. We can teach by rote."

At the prayer breakfast, the group will sing mostly sacred music, including one piece in Latin and a gospel tune. Youngsters will lighten the mood with a kazoo song at the end of their performance. Stempin said selections range from slow and meditative to peppy.

"I listened to the kids last fall. They were wonderful," Smith noted.

In addition to singing at church, the choir participated in a convention for private schools a few years ago at Cobo Center, in Detroit, and has sung at a festival in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. It performed last week at Barnes & Noble in Northville.

Stempin ranks the upcoming prayer breakfast with those events.

"This is going to be major," she said. "It's such and honor. We're excited."

BENEFIT

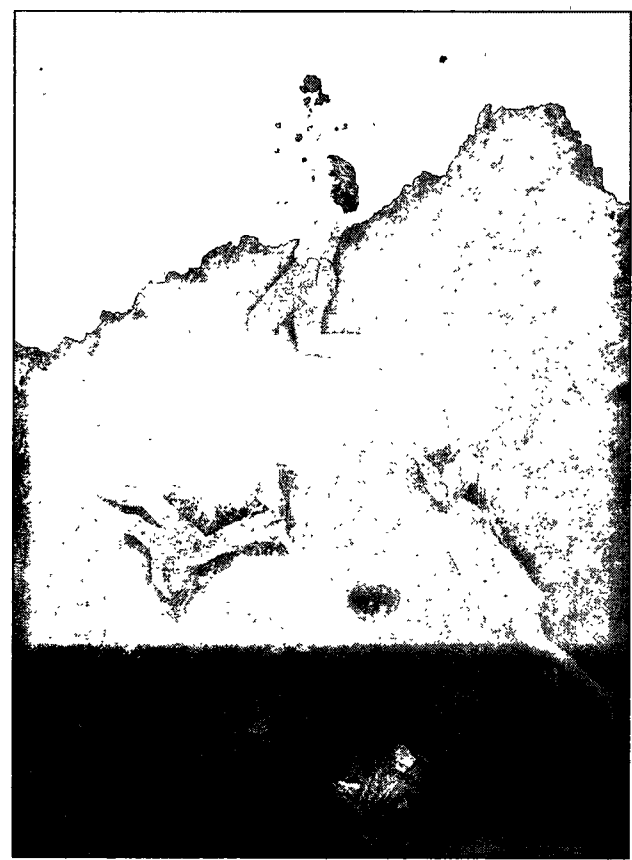
Continued from page B6

focused the camp is on showing these kids love. It's not about discipline or getting on the right track. You demonstrate through your actions that they are valuable and they matter.

"I was abused and neglected as a child. I'm lucky that I was adopted. I was not in foster care, but what makes me so passionate about his project is if I hadn't been adopted I would have been in foster care. I would have been one of those kids."

Woodcox created a team of artists to help produce online videos and the photos that will illustrate written stories of foster children. The group includes his creative partners Jakob Skogheim, a filmmaker, and Tabbatha Plomartas, a producer, graphic designer Casey Maxwell and screenwriter Aubrey Warner.

The photos and stories eventually will become part of a book that Woodcox hopes to use as a vehicle to raise awareness and additional funds for foster children. Images also are used as perks for those who contribute to the campaign. Those who pledge \$10 receive their choice of a photo as digital wallpaper. Contribute \$25-\$50 or more and you'll receive a print from the collection. A \$100 donation offers a ticket to the group's book-signing party, a limited-edition T-shirt and a digital version of the book. A pledge of \$250 or more lands the coffee table book version of *Stories Worth Telling*, along with a digital copy of the book and a ticket to the party. Perks increase with donations of \$750, \$2,500 and \$5,000. The top pledge



Individuals who pledge \$25 or more can receive one of the photographs, like this one, that make up the fundraising campaign, "Stories Worth Telling."

includes a custom workshop with Woodcox, who was nominated for the Best Emerging Photographer award from Framed Network, an online network for photographers.

Church ministry

All money raised through the campaign will go directly to Northridge Church for the camp, which is a part of the church's "Orphan Care" ministry.

"We're trying to make sure we're standing in the gap for kids in crisis and raising awareness of the foster care crisis in Michigan," Harris said. "According to the statistics we've (received), we have about 17,000 kids in the state in foster care."

Harris said the Orphan Care program allows church members to help foster children in a variety of ways. They

can become foster parents. They can help create "comfort bags" filled with clothing, toys and other items that children may keep as they transition from home to foster care. They can help with summer camp or tutoring. The quilt ministry at the church, for example, creates personalized quilts for each camper. Harris added that no one is paid for their involvement in the summer camp.

"We're privileged to provide it. It's a blessing to us," she said.

To contribute or learn more about *Stories Worth Telling*, visit www.indiegogo.com/projects/stories-worth-telling. For more about Rob Woodcox visit robwoodcoxphotography.com or facebook.com/robwoodcox-photography. Visit the church's website at northridgechurch.com.

REUNIONS

Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963
50th reunion will be held Sept. 28. Contact Kathy (Toth) Hay at khay@reinhardrealtors.com or Dianna (Basnaw) McDaniel at djmcDaniel45@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1973
40th reunion will be held Sept. 28. Send

inquiries to Belleville-Mi1973.40@comcast.net or call Laura (Kingsley) Delsh at (734) 485-2744 or Sterling at (734) 265-6132.

DETROIT BURT ELEMENTARY

Classes of 1960-79
A reunion is planned for April 20 at Big Tommy's Parthenon, 40380 Grand River Ave., Novi. A limited number of tickets are available. They will not be sold at the reunion. Presale tickets are \$25; 5-7 p.m. March 15 at Panera at Six Mile and

Newburgh in Livonia. Pattypure@yahoo.com or Burtreunion@yahoo.com for more information.

DETROIT GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1956
A reunion is planned for Aug. 17. Call Jack Sayed at (810) 231-9230.

DETROIT MUMFORD

CLASS OF 1963
A 50-year reunion is set for 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at Somerset Inn, 575 W. Big Beaver, Troy. \$85. Visit www.mumford63.com.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

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.



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 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

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.

www.ssdfighter.com

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Milestones



Riccio-Dobos

Dana Riccio and Matthew Dobos announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Noreen and Robert Riccio of Elk Grove, Ill., attended Rush University and is employed as a vascular ultrasound technologist. Her fiancé, son of Otto and Carol Dobos of Livonia, attended Churchill High School and is employed as a hospital contractor. A November 2013 wedding is planned in Chicago, Ill.



Goachee-Fine

Mrs. Carol Goachee of Garden City announces the engagement of her daughter, Kerrie Lynn, to Steve Fine. Kerrie is the daughter of Carol and the late Thomas Goachee. She is a graduate of John Glenn High School, attended Eastern Michigan University, Madonna University and has lived in greater Los Angeles, Calif., for the past nine years. Her fiancé is the son of JoAnn Fine of Riverside, Calif., and the late Roger Fine. Steve is a graduate of Rowland High School, in Rowland Heights, Calif., and served in the United States Navy for eight years. Their wedding will take place in July 2013 in Los Angeles, Calif. They will continue to reside in Los Angeles, and work together at a large nonprofit that serves the underprivileged of Los Angeles.



Arciero - Sparks

Carl and Kathy Arciero of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Julia Concetta, to Todd Gregory Sparks, son of Wilma and Sam Kepler of Florida. The bride-to-be graduated from Churchill High School in 1999. She received a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Arizona. She is an assistant professor of mathematics at Indiana University-Purdue University, in Indianapolis, Ind. Her fiancé graduated from Centerville High School in Ohio in 1996 and received a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green University. He manages a commercial credit division for PNC bank in Indianapolis, Ind. A May 2013 wedding has been planned.

RELIGION CALENDAR

April

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 1-7 p.m. Friday, April 26
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Contact: For appointments call (734) 722-1735 or (800) RED-CROSS

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 21
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk. Adults pay \$3 and children, 2-10, pay \$1.50. Sponsored by Men's Club
Contact: (734) 425-4421

CAMP ENROLLMENT

Time/Date: Now through May 31
Location: Consuming Fire Christian Center, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland
Details: Enrolling kids and teens, age 5-15, for six-week Bible/Homework Enrichment Camp that will run July 8-Aug. 16. Full day sessions are \$700 and a half-day is \$480. Families get a \$25 discount for added siblings for the full day rate; \$10 discount for the half-day rate. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee at the time of enrollment secures a place. Cost includes the registration fee, snacks, materials for class, tutoring in most subjects and assessment testing
Contact: Melanie Staten or Sylvia Brown at (734) 266-2293

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oebits@hometownlife.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

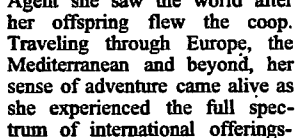
ALS BRO, RICHARD
Hamburg Twp., MI
Richard Alsbro passed away April 8, 2013. He was born January 3, 1943 to Oscar and Alice Alsbro. Richard attended Michigan State University where he met his lifelong companion Carol Baker and received a degree in agriculture. Richard served in the US Navy in Viet Nam. He had a passionate love for our country. Richard owned and operated Dahl Tent and Awning. After retiring from Dahl Tent and Awning he worked for the State of Michigan at the Armory for several years. He was an accomplished photographer and an avid Detroit Tiger and Michigan State sports fan. He is survived by his lifetime companion, Carol Baker, his brother Donald (Sharon) Alsbro, his nieces Lynn (Mark) Sneadon, Barbara (Tom) Van Akkeren, his nephews Alan (Leah) Alsbro and Steven Alsbro. He is also survived by three great nieces, seven great nephews and one great great nephew. Richard was predeceased by his parents and his step-sister Margaret Blasey. The family will gather with friends on Monday, April 15, 2013 from 6:00-8:00 PM and Tuesday April 16, 2013 at 2:00 PM until time of Healing Farewell at 4:00 PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Veteran's Hospital, Ann Arbor or Hamburg Historical Museum. Please leave a message of comfort for Richard's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com



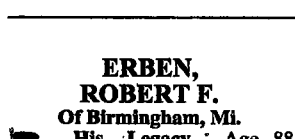
HORTON, MAX BAILEY, JR.
Passed away peacefully March 12, 2013 at his home at Canterbury-on-the-Lake, Waterford; age 91; Born August 13, 1921; Max Horton was a lifelong resident of Birmingham until moving to Waterford in 2002. He attended Kenyon College, graduating in 1943 cum laude, with honors in History. From college, he served in the US Army 15th Weather Squadron in New Guinea during World War II. Returning to Michigan after the war, he attended graduate school at the University of Michigan and Middlebury College Language School. He taught German at Dondero High School, Royal Oak for many years, retiring in 1978. After retirement, Max became more active in the Birmingham Historical Society including helping establish the Birmingham Historical Museum and Park; he also traveled frequently with the Nomads Travel Club and with friends. He was preceded in death by his brother, Edward Fowler Horton, and sister, Elizabeth Horton Buckheit. He will be dearly missed by niece, Betsy Buckheit and her husband Justin London and their daughter Elizabeth London Buckheit, of Northfield, MN and nephew Bill Buckheit of Shawnee, KS, and many, many friends. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Memorial Chapel at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road, Waterford. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Max's name to the Richard G. Salomon Memorial Scholarship Fund, Kenyon College, Development Office, Gambier, OH 43022 or Friends of the Birmingham Historical Museum & Park, 556 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009. Arrangements by the RIVERSIDE CHAPEL, Simpson-Modetz Funeral Home, Waterford. Online guest book: www.modetzfuneralhomes.com
Modetz Funeral Homes



CLARKE, ROBERTA (CARTER)
12/26/26 - 4/3/2013
Roberta Ilene (Carter) Clarke, 86, passed away at her Temecula, California home in the early morning hours of April 3, 2013; she was surrounded by her family. Bobbie was born to Edward Stacey and Carolyn (Valch) Carter in Fordson, Michigan on December 26, 1926. She was raised and attended schools in Detroit, and finished her academics at Thomas M. Cooley High School. There she caught the eye of a burgeoning artist named Richard Allen Clarke, who penned her love letters until she paid him mind. The two were married in 1948, and began their family in 1952 with the birth of their one and only daughter, Janis. Three boys followed Richard, William, and Robert and the family found themselves in the west where the Clarks settled into La Canada, a Southern California suburb. The years to follow epitomized mid-century America. A devoted mother, she was there for her daughter's late-night high school sewing projects, and every one of her sons' track-and-field meets, baseball tryouts and football games. Then this stylish homemaker deftly transitioned into the role of working single mother in 1971. As a Travel Agent she saw the world after her offspring flew the coop. Traveling through Europe, the Mediterranean and beyond, her sense of adventure came alive as she experienced the full spectrum of international offerings—no opportunity left untaken. After moving to her happy home in Temecula in 1995, she forged herself a desert paradise. She taught herself to ski in her forties, and conquered the computer age in her sixties and seventies. Ever the optimist and a romantic at heart, her retirement was spent tending her garden, which seemed always to be in full bloom; shepherding her expanding family, which grew to include seven grandchildren; and watching Hallmark movies, which spoke to her belief in happy endings. Through all its peaks and valleys she crafted an impeccable life of simple refinement—one lived with intention, vivacity, grace and humor. She revealed in her role as mother and grandmother, and cherished every second spent surrounded by her progeny, the great loves of her life. Her attention to detail, her razor-sharp wit, that mischievous wink and the warmth of her smile made her a woman with no equal. With heavy hearts she is survived by her sister, Donna Tiderington of Westland, Michigan, and all her children and grandchildren: Janis Meldahl, and her daughter, Nicole; Richard, his daughters, Jennifer and Ashley, and his wife, Diana; William, his wife, Mary, and their children, Margaux and Carter; Robert, his wife Alicija, and their children, Natalia and Allen. This amazing woman will be put to rest at Temecula Public Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be given to the COPD Foundation: (www.copdfoundation.org).

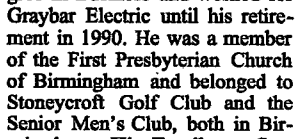


ERBEN, ROBERT F.
Of Birmingham, MI
His Legacy...Age 88 passed away in Ann Arbor on April 7, 2013. Robert was born on February 2, 1925 in Wadsworth, Ohio to Frank and Millie Erben. Robert served our country in the United States Navy during WWII. On July 1, 1950 He married Edna Hath and together they raised a daughter and two sons. Robert received a Bachelor's Degree in Business and worked for Graybar Electric until his retirement in 1990. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham and belonged to Stonecroft Golf Club and the Senior Men's Club, both in Birmingham. His Family... Surviving Robert are his sons, Robert Erben Jr. of Saginaw, and William Erben of Ann Arbor and daughter, Dr. Anne Erben of Troy. Also surviving him are his grandchildren, Lindsay, Leah, Hannah and Daniel. Preceding Robert in death is his wife, Edna Erben, sister, Shirley Erben and daughter-in-law Cheri Erben. His Farewell... The family gathered with friends on Friday, April 12, 2013 at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Memorial contributions are suggested to Ann Arbor Christian School. Please leave a message of comfort to Robert's family by calling 877-231-7900 or sign his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com

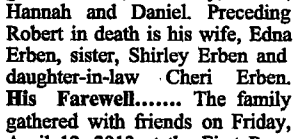


LeCLAIR, Georgia C. (KLOPP)
Age 88 of Farmington Hills, passed away on April 5, 2013. www.thayer-rock.com

OLSON, ELIZABETH B.
Age 96, of Farmington. Passed away April 8, 2013. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.



RUSNOCK, DONALD S.
Age 63. April 6, 2013 of Flat Rock and formerly of Westland. Beloved husband of 22 years to Linda. Loving dad of Dawn (John) Jucha, Heather (Rob) Smith, Tonya Byrd, Kristy (Michael) Stolkey and Stephen (Jennifer) Rusnock. Proud papa of 10. Dearest brother of Carol (Bert) Rakotz, Nancy (Ron) McKague and the late Ileen DenOttier. Also survived by many loving family and friends. Donald devoted his life to the mental health population. He loved cooking and sports. He was so loved and will forever be in our hearts. Memorial contributions to honor his memory may be made to American Cancer Society. Visit www.martenson.com



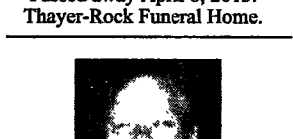
ZAHN, WILMA GAIL
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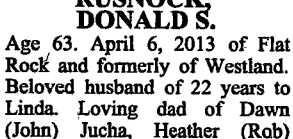
DITZHAZY, JOSEPH A., SR.
89, formerly of Farmington, MI, died Monday, February 18, 2013 in Beloit, WI. He was born December 23, 1923 in Ecorse, MI, the son of Joseph and Mary (Tomasko) Ditzhazy. Joseph entered the Civilian Conservation Corp at 16. He completed high school in the UP at Trout Creek, MI and entered the WWII U.S. Army 104th Division Timberwolves. He was wounded in Germany just before the Battle of the Bulge, receiving a purple heart. On the GI bill, Joseph went to Michigan State where he met and married Helen E. Ringle on September 11, 1948. He graduated in Forestry and had his son, Joseph Jr., in the campus Quonset huts. Moving to Detroit, he worked 20 years at GM, Omni Spectra, and other auto industry companies as a quality control engineer and had his daughter, Carol. Joseph also wrote original patent materials on the use of polyurethane foam for insulating refrigerators with Kelvinator. Joseph then got his Masters in Education and worked 20 more years as a middle school math and science teacher in the Plymouth-Canton Schools. Joseph retired and supported Helen in her 20 years as a professor at EMU in Ypsilanti. Together they hosted 20 YFU students from Europe, Africa, and South America and mentored hundreds of students of education. Joseph enjoyed travel, driving over a million miles in Michigan and across the USA and visiting most of the world's continents. He and Helen played bridge for 40 years with many sets of couples who were lifelong friends. After Helen's death in 2008, Joseph left Fox Run, Novi to live in Beloit, WI near his daughter Carol's family and other loving caregivers. Survivors include his daughter, Carol (Walter) Vogel of Beloit, WI; eight grandchildren, Kira (Shannon) Shuman, Hillary, Whitney, Joseph A. III, and Hunter Ditzhazy, Kimberly, Alexander, and Christina Vogel; one great grandchild, Quinlan Shuman; three brothers, George (Ruth) Ditzhazy of Saginaw, MI, William Ditzhazy of Detroit, MI, and Frederick Ditzhazy of Florence, OR; numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; son, Joseph A. Ditzhazy Jr.; brother, Frank; three sisters, Ellen, Ethel, and Catherine "Mavis". Sat. April 20, 2013 Pastor David Owen will lead a Funeral Service in Hess Chapel at Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48167. Family gathers at 10:00 am, friends join at 10:30 am and service begins at 11:00 am, ending at 12 noon. Committal ceremony with VFW will be held in Glen Eden Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Livonia, MI at 1 pm. Tickets for 2 pm lunch at the nearby Leather Bottle will be given to family at the funeral. Friends who wish to attend, R.S.V.P. by e-mail to Carol at carolrejoice@charter.net. Memorials may be given in Joseph's name to Ward Church or to EMU Foundation - Joseph and Helen Ditzhazy Leadership and Counseling Scholarship Endowment. Further information and online obituary at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

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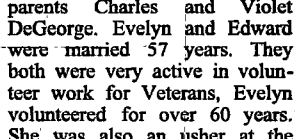
SAYLOR, JAMES C.
Of Birmingham, April 6, 2013. He was born March 26, 1935 to Frank and Florence (nee Cutler) Saylor of Royal Oak, Michigan. James was a graduate of Cranbrook School and earned degrees in engineering from Michigan State and Stanford. He was a longtime automotive engineer for Ford Motor Company. Proud veteran US Army. Beloved husband of Millie (nee Brock) for 54 years. Dear father of Mary Potter Saylor (Bill Potter), Susan Saylor and Alison Saylor. Grandfather of James, Tom, Brent, Diego and Isabel. Brother of Frank (Peggy) and Janet Bronson (Dan). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service was held at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Memorial tributes to Amnesty International. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. view obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



SPEAR, KENNETH J.
January 27, 1918 - August 30, 2012. There will be a memorial service celebrating Ken's life at 11:00 a.m., Sat., April 20, 2013, at The First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

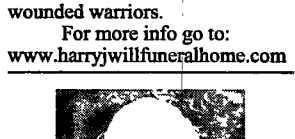
STEWART, EVELYN M.
Age 86 April 6, 2013 was the wife of the late Edward Stewart. She is survived by children: Diana (Craig), Larry (Debra) and David (Debbie), grandchildren: Steven, Russell, Brian and Jason, four great-grandchildren and siblings: Robert DeGeorge, Don DeGeorge and Joanne Page. She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Violet DeGeorge. Evelyn and Edward were married 57 years. They both were very active in volunteer work for Veterans, Evelyn volunteered for over 60 years. She was also an usher at the beautiful Fox theater and was a member of the Gamble post 4626. She enjoyed boating, dancing, bowling, playing pinocle, music and spending time with her family. Visitation will take place at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 25450 Plymouth Rd. Redford, MI 48239 on Wed. April 10 from 3-8pm with the funeral service on Thur. April 11 at 11am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the veterans wounded warriors.

For more info go to: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

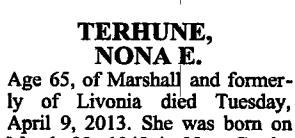


TERHUNE, NONA E.
Age 65, of Marshall and formerly of Livonia died Tuesday, April 9, 2013. She was born on March 22, 1948 in New Castle, Indiana to Clarence and Ina (White) England. She had been employed as the Office Manager for Custom Metal Products and retired in 2012. Survived by her husband, Stephen; sons, Tyson (Sarah) Terhune of Lena, IL and Gregory (Maya) Terhune of Ewa Beach, HI; grandchildren, Lorelei and Chesley Terhune; mother, Ina England; Siblings, Glennis (Mike) Schofield, Gary (Amy) England, Raola (Chris) Lucaus. Visitation will be on Sunday at the Craig K. Kempf Funeral Home, Marshall from 2 PM to 4 PM and 6 PM to 8 PM. A funeral service will be held Tuesday at 2 PM at the Doan & Mills Funeral Home, Richmond, Indiana. Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

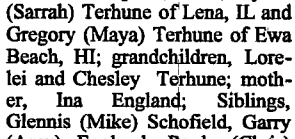
To sign the online guest book, visit www.kempffuneralhome.com



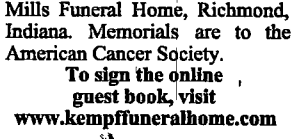
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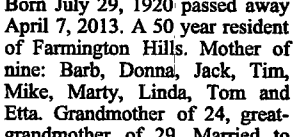
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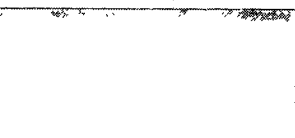
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ZAHN, WILMA GAIL
Born July 29, 1920 passed away April 7, 2013. A 50 year resident of Farmington Hills. Mother of nine: Barb, Donna, Jack, Tim, Mike, Marty, Linda, Tom and Etta. Grandmother of 24, great-grandmother of 29. Married to William M. Zahn for over 60 years. Funeral arrangements are set for Saturday, April 13th, 2013 at St. Clair of Assisi in Farmington Hills, at 11am. reception to following.



Dr. Sofia Merajver (right) and genetic counselor Kara Milliron talk with a patient.

Learn the latest in breast cancer care, research

University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center experts will discuss breast cancer risks — and how you can reduce yours — as well as screening, treatment and research at a free Breast Cancer Summit Saturday, April 20 at Washtenaw Community College.

“Understanding your risk of breast cancer is empowering. Women at high risk, whether because of family history or other circumstances, can take steps to prevent cancer or detect it at its earliest, most treatable stage,” says Dr. Sofia Merajver, M.D., Ph.D., scientific director of the U-M’s Breast Oncology Program and director of the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Evaluation Program.

The summit, which is open to the public, will run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Morris Lawrence Building at the college, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. It will give women an opportunity to learn about their breast health and the latest advances in breast cancer. The event will include information for women currently being treated for breast cancer, cancer survivors and those at high risk of the disease.

Experts from U-M’s Breast Care Cen-

ter will discuss research advances and will outline ways to get involved in supporting research, whether as a clinical trial participant or as an advocate. In addition, the day will include an opportunity for participants to interact directly with the experts during a strolling lunch.

“We’ve seen some exciting advances recently in breast cancer treatment. The more that patients, survivors and women at high risk can partner with physicians and researchers, the more we can learn about this disease and take even greater leaps in reducing the burden of breast cancer on women and their families,” says Dr. Daniel F. Hayes, M.D., co-director of the Breast Oncology Program at the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The Breast Cancer Summit is presented by the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Breast Oncology and Community Outreach Programs, with support from the Mid-Michigan Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

The event is free but registration is required. Visit www.mcancer.org/breastsummit or call (734) 998-7071.

Study shows some breast cancer patients avoid endocrine therapy

Twenty-five percent of women who should take hormone-blocking therapies as part of their breast cancer treatment either don’t start or don’t complete the five-year course, according to a new study led by University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers.

Five years of daily tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors — two types of endocrine therapy that are taken as a pill — is recommended for many women whose breast cancer expresses the hormones estrogen or progesterone. The drugs reduce cancer recurrence and increase survival. Recent studies also suggest there may be even more benefit for some women to continue this therapy for 10 years.

Despite this, the study of 743 women eligible for endocrine therapy found that about 11 percent never initiated the treatments and 15 percent stopped taking it early.

“We’re doing well with women taking endocrine therapy, but there’s work to do,” says lead study author Christopher Friese, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. “If guidelines begin to shift so that some women at high risk of breast cancer recurring need 10 years of endocrine therapy, then the number of women who persist with treatment will likely worsen. We need to develop better ways of supporting women through this therapy.”

The most common reason patients said they either discontinued or never started endocrine therapy was side effects. Many women experience menopause-like symptoms such as hot flashes or vaginal dryness, and both types of drugs can cause joint pains.

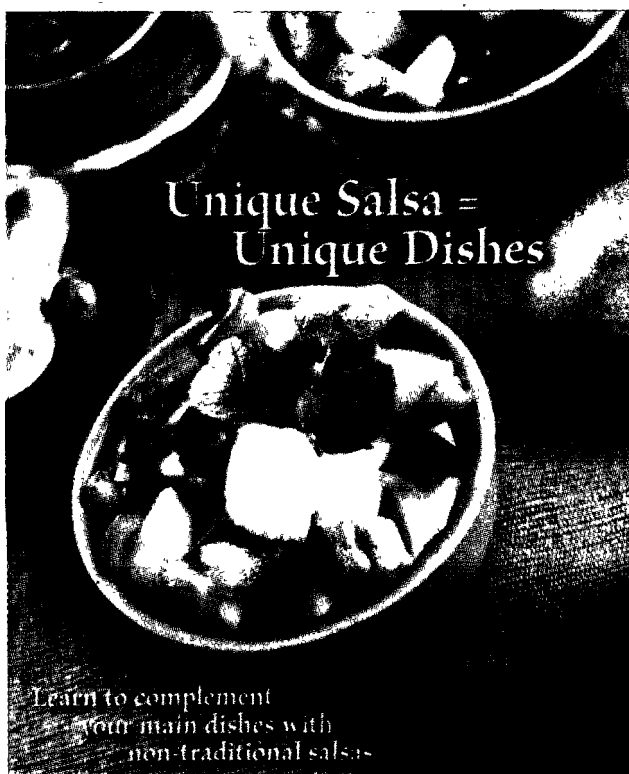
The study surveyed women in the Detroit and Los Angeles, Calif. areas who were diagnosed with breast cancer and reported to Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results, or SEER, tumor registries. Women were surveyed at about nine months after their diagnosis and again about four years later with questions about their use of tamoxifen or any type of aromatase inhibitor.

Women who expressed more worry about their cancer recurring were more likely to complete endocrine therapy, as were women who already took medication regularly.

Women who reported receiving less information about endocrine therapy were less likely to begin taking it, suggesting that doctors need to address patient education before treatment starts. Women who saw a breast surgeon as their primary follow-up, rather than a medical oncologist, were also less likely to begin endocrine therapy.

“It was particularly interesting that greater fear of recurrence was associated in our patient sample with greater adherence to endocrine therapy,” says senior study author Dr. Jennifer J. Griggs, M.D., M.P.H., professor of internal medicine at the U-M Medical School and a medical oncologist who sees patients with breast cancer at the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“We don’t want our patients living under a cloud of fear, so we need to develop creative ways to both reassure and motivate them. This means providing better education about the importance of staying on these medications and partnering with primary care and cancer doctors to help patients manage symptoms.”



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Dr. Cavell
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Q: My father and brother are both diabetics, so I wasn't very surprised when I was diagnosed with pre-diabetes. What exactly is pre-diabetes and does it mean I will develop diabetes and be on insulin for the rest of my life?

A: Pre-diabetes means your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diabetes. Higher than normal blood sugar levels can start to damage your heart and cause problems with how your blood flows through your body. People with pre-diabetes usually develop type 2 diabetes within eight years. There are two different blood tests your physician can order which can detect pre-diabetes. The first is called a finger prick/finger stick test. Blood sugar levels between 100 - 125 indicate you have pre-diabetes, and a blood sugar reading over 126 means you have diabetes. The second test is called a Hemoglobin A-1-c. An A-1-c between 5.7% and 6.4% means you have pre-diabetes, and an A-1-c over 6.5% means you have diabetes.

Many people with pre-diabetes and diabetes do not have symptoms. Sometimes symptoms develop slowly so you may not recognize them. Those most at risk include people who are over 45 years old and overweight, and people who are under 45 years old and:

- Are overweight
- Have a family member with diabetes
- Have high blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Are African-American, Native-American, Hispanic, or Asian
- Women who had diabetes while pregnant
- Women who had a baby weighing over 9 pounds

A diagnosis of pre-diabetes does not destine you to a future of having diabetes. Instead, it should be taken as a wake-up call to make healthy lifestyle changes such as eating a balanced diet, eliminating excessive sugar and carbohydrates and replacing them with fruits and vegetables, and adopting some type of exercise program. These changes can help to eliminate your pre-diabetes condition.

If you have concerns about diabetes, and would like to make an appointment with Dr. Cavell or one of his colleagues at the GCH Center for Family Medicine, please call 734.421.7474. Garden City Hospital has a number of ongoing community health programs dedicated to the fight against diabetes. For more information and a complete list of upcoming events, classes and free testing, visit GCH.org.

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Audi connects on infotainment, brand in U.S. market



By Dale Buss

Audi along with other automakers has seen how infotainment features have risen like a rocket as consideration criteria for U.S. luxury buyers lately. And as Audi seeks to penetrate the ranks of upscale American Millennials — in general, and with its new, entry-level A3 sedan due out around the end of this year — the brand is making a new play for this crowd.

To Audi customers in the U.S., Audi Connect has risen to the second-most important factor behind their decisions to purchase an Audi — in just the last year. That is why Anupam Malhotra believes the company's new data plan for Audi connect will prove a powerful additional lure for the brand.

With the new plan put together by Audi and T-Mobile, Audi owners can obtain real-time news, weather and fuel prices; enjoy access to Google Earth and Google Voice Local Search; and retrieve information securely and conveniently over WiFi — all for as little as \$15 a month. The plan also includes broadband connectivity for up to eight devices in an Audi vehicle.

This maneuver is just one of many being made by Audi as it continues to position itself to enjoy luxury-brand supremacy in the U.S. market. That doesn't necessarily mean that Audi aspires to out-sell Mercedes-Benz, BMW or Toyota anytime soon; Audi sales remain only about half those of those rivals in the United States.

But over time, Audi of America executives believe that ensuring the per-

ception of the Audi brand is tops with American consumers will translate into a challenge to its main competitors even on a volume basis.

The data plan allows new and existing owners of cars equipped with Audi connect — including, for the first time, Audi-certified pre-owned vehicles — to receive all the services for just \$15 a month under a 30-month plan for \$450. Or for \$30 a month, customers can choose month-to-month service.

"We want people to be attracted by the price and to be able to keep their connection [to Audi connect] alive continuously," Malhotra, Senior Manager of Connected Vehicle for Audi of America, told Audi Progress. "We can ensure continuity of support. And people don't have to deal with reminder-of-renewal e-mails or worry about whether their service is active."

Malhotra said that, in part, the introduction of the new plan is "a reflection of the fact that we have a younger customer segment" than some rivals "who are much more likely to be living a connected lifestyle and to recognize what they're getting in Audi connect, with the integration of Google into the car, that isn't available from anyone else."



WiFi in the back seat of Audi models will get more inexpensive.



The Audi A3 hatchback version soon will be replaced in the U.S. by a new Audi A3 sedan.

At the same time, he said, the Audi clientele body overall is growing much more attached to Audi connect, and to what it brings into the car in terms of integrated infotainment. Last year's customer surveys in the J.D. Power APEAL awards, he said, showed that in just one year, "audio, entertainment and navigation" in Audi vehicles became the second-most important factor for purchase, after the No. 1 figure of exterior design — but leaping ahead of what has always been a major aspect of the appeal of Audi vehicles, engine performance.

"Our customers are buying a premium vehicle, and the Audi connect solution in the vehicle is very premium," Malhotra concluded. "The new T-Mobile data plan makes it easier than ever for our customers to continue to enjoy the experience of owning one of the most advanced connected vehicles in the market."

Meanwhile, Audi's competition with BMW and Mercedes-Benz for luxury-vehicle leadership of the world, not just the U.S., is getting still more attention.

Not that this is surprising. The growing focus of their battle is being fed by factors including the rivals' continuing expressions about their plans to be No. 1, by the still-escalating competition for short-term volume leadership in the U.S. between BMW and Mercedes, and by the unabated rise of the Audi brand.

And while BMW by some measures has been the most profitable of the three, Automotive News noted that Audi "did better than BMW last year in terms of operating margin," in part because of the scale benefits of being part of the large Volkswagen Group.

But there are other criteria that are important as well. "To become No. 1 requires a lot more than just selling more cars than your competitors," Rupert Stadler, Chairman of the Board of Management of Audi AG, told Automotive News Europe.

"It also means offering better quality, outstanding service and more. These so-called soft factors have the same importance to us as volume."

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