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NAIAS LOCAL NEWS, A6



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Enrollment, concessions bolster district's budget

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

More students and employee concessions have helped improve the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' bottom line for fiscal 2013-14.

The district finished the 2012-13 budget year more than \$400,000 better than expected and, coupled with an increase of \$642,549 in revenue and a \$211,524 drop in spending, it projects to have a fund balance of \$3.2 million for 2013-14.

Jim Larson-Shidler, deputy superintendent for business services, attributed the uptick in revenue to district's expansion of its Schools of Choice program to include the two high schools and the dissolution of the Inkster Public Schools, which brought in an additional 43 students.

"The actual enrollment decline was nine FTEs (full-time equivalent) students vs. the 250 that was projected," Larson-Shidler told the school board in presenting a budget amendment to the board at its meeting Monday. "We also received a \$60 per-pupil increase in State School Aid, from \$7,013 to \$7,073."

The district will receive \$101.7 million in revenue for 2013-14. Spending will come in at \$103.6 million, down from

See BUDGET, Page A2



Westland Mayor William Wild fires up the crowd as he officially announces his campaign for Wayne County executive. KATHY HANSEN

WILD ANNOUNCES RUN FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

'What we did in Westland, we'll do at Wayne County,' mayor says

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

See related story on the Wayne County Executive race on Page A3. Officially kicking off his campaign

to run for Wayne County executive at North Brothers Ford, Westland Mayor William Wild cited inspiration from the auto company's successful turnaround and also the hiring of a new coach for the Detroit Lions, owned by William Clay Ford Sr.

"There were better known names. They (the Lions) didn't care about that. They didn't care about the color of his

skin. They found the right guy," Wild said. "I think Wayne County needs a new head coach. I need you to get on my team."

The football metaphor was apropos. The crowd of supporters that filled the dealership showroom was loud, enthusiastic and had signs proclaiming they

See WILD, Page A2

Lutheran Westland grad stars among the cars

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Cars are obviously the stars of the 2014 North American International Auto Show.

But accenting many of the newest vehicles — and having a glow of their own — are models and product specialists from all over the United States.

Rachael Adams, who graduated from Lutheran High School Westland, is one of the local models working the auto show for Japanese automotive supplier Aisin.

She donned a white dress, blue high heels and a sparkling smile at the opening day of press preview week in Detroit, chatting with employees, press and all others interested in Aisin's booth on the main floor.

Adams is an auto show regular, having worked shows all over the world for various companies, and just recently finished up touring with Chevrolet Racing for NASCAR and the IndyCar Series.

"I love it because it is different all the time and I love people," she said. "I try to be really down to earth and put myself in the other person's shoes and treat them how I want to be treated."

Adams has made quite the name for herself in the area as a model, actress and spokeswoman who goes by the name of "Rachael Adams of Detroit." Her film and television experience includes minor



Models Jessica Carraway, left, and Rachael Adams perform publicity work for Plymouth Township-based Aisin at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Adams is a Lutheran High School Westland graduate. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

roles in *Real Steel*, *Five Year Engagement* and *Detroit 187* among others.

She also has been a spokesperson at AutoRama, the Novi Bridal Expo and various charity events.

On top of that she owns a painting company, helps her fiancé with his business and is a mother to two children.

"My motto is life is short so I try to live every minute as if it is my last day," she said. "So if that means I am going to

wake up at 6:30 in the morning to try to get beautiful and work an auto show, then leave here and go get the kids and take them to dance and feed them and help them with their homework before bed, then that is what I am going to do."

Adams said the key to being a successful auto show model is being outgoing and always smiling — two things that come easy to her.

"I love to help people and I love to learn about people,"

she said. "I always said when I was younger that my goal was to be friends with the world."

Adams will be working the Aisin booth on the main show floor for the public show from 2-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 2-10 p.m. next Friday and Saturday and finally from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. next Sunday.

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MAN FACES CHARGES IN 'ROAD RAGE' SHOOTING

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland man is facing multiple felony charges after a gun was fired at a vehicle.

Westland Police said an incident began about 5:35 p.m. Jan. 12 as a traffic altercation in the area of Michigan Avenue and Newburgh in Wayne.

The vehicles — an SUV and a motorcycle — continued north on Newburgh into Westland. It is alleged that as the vehicles continued traveling a couple of miles, the motorcyclist tried to get the SUV to pull over.

When the SUV didn't stop, the motorcyclist continued to pursue the SUV eastbound on Palmer. In the area of Palmer and Stieber, it is alleged that the motorcyclist fired a shot at the rear of the SUV, striking it. Police noted the bullet struck inches from where the driver's two children, ages 7 and 10, were seated in the rear seat of the SUV.

Steven Lavigne, 22, was arraigned Tuesday in 18th District Court on three counts of assault with intent to murder, three counts of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, three counts of felonious

See CHARGES, Page A2



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Volume 49 • Number 69

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INDEX

Business.....	A8	Homes.....	B9	Services.....	B9
Crossword Puzzle.....	B9	Jobs.....	B10	Sports.....	B1
Entertainment.....	B5	Obituaries.....	B7	Wheels.....	B10
Food.....	B6	Opinion.....	A10		

BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

the original budget number of \$103.8 million. The decline is due to employee concessions, including a 5-percent wage cut effective this year. According to Larson-Shidler, the district had budgeted \$60.3 million for salaries last year, but actually spent \$59.8 million. This year's figure is \$56.9 million, for a savings of \$3 million.

Saving money

The district also is saving on health care. It moved to a hard cap, limiting the amount it will pay for insurance premiums. Under state law, those caps are set at \$15,500 for a family, \$11,395 for an employee plus one and \$5,700 for a single employee. The

district is paying less than those caps and as a result is making two contributions of \$250 to \$700 into employee Health Savings Accounts.

As it stands, the district will spend \$12.1 million on health insurance this year, as opposed to \$13.3 million last year.

Wayne-Westland also is benefiting from a 4.56-percent levy from the state to pay for current pensions. The state gave the district \$3.6 million to off-set the cost. The amount was based on last year's salaries before the concessions took effect. The retirement costs, based on a percentage of payroll determined by the state, is 24.79 percent. The district paid out \$16.2 million last year. This year's bill will be \$16.9 million.

"We're paying a little

more, but we're getting additional funding," Larson-Shidler said.

Larson-Shidler also told board he hopes to have the fund equity higher than the \$3.2 million.

"You always budget at hopefully the 99-percent level," he said. "If 99 percent of \$100 million is \$1 million, I'm hopeful we'll be closer to \$4 million at the end of the year."

When questioned by Trustee Carol Middel on the possibility of other revenue sources through such things as the sale of property, Larson-Shidler told her that there are not talks about leases or land sales at this time.

Superintendent Greg Baracy added that there's money in a legislative bill that the district anticipates getting, but that it would be used to off-set the ex-

penses of doing something with Blanchett Middle School, which it acquired through the dissolution of the Inkster School District.

W-W language

In response to Trustee John Goci, Baracy said the district is continuing to push to get back the Wayne-Westland language, money the district received en lieu of millage not used in calculating its per-pupil funding in 1994.

"We've been relentless in talking with our legislators and with the governor's office," Baracy said. "Hopefully, sometime in the future they will look at making it right. There have been no promises, we're continuing to work on it like we did in the past. It didn't come easy in the past and it won't come easy this time."

Middel also asked how long the district will remain out of deficit. Larson-Shidler said that "it looks like the district will make it to 2015-16."

Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin pointed out that the district is receiving less school aid than what was given out in 2001-02 by the state and that the school board and administrators were willing to make tough decisions to keep the district afloat when it lost \$8 million in revenue several years ago.

"We don't have an emergency manager in this district, we manage our own affairs," he said. "I admire the people who were here before me. This board and these administrators have done a great job and I think that's why we have gained students."

Larson-Shidler acknowledged that the fund

equity is below the level generally targeted for districts the size of Wayne-Westland. It represents 3.1 percent of expenditures and is below the board's parameters of 5-10 percent. It represents enough money to keep schools open about two weeks or one payroll.

Board Vice President Thomas Buckalew was thankful for a good report and praised the work of the administration in bringing in 251 students and additional school aid.

"It's fairly clear good things are happening here," he said. "We need to continue to push the idea of schools of choice and ... Westland as a place where people want to be."

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Free throw championship

The Knights of Columbus St. Damian Council is hosting its first annual Free Throw Championship event Sunday, June 26, at St. Damian, 30055 Joy, west of Middlebelt, Westland. The event is free for children ages 9-14.

Registration is at 11 a.m. The contest starts at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Tony Vela at 734-525-8475.

Free program

Expert psychologist Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, clinical director of Garden City Hospital's Center for Counseling, will offer tips on how to focus on changing the inner you in 2014 during a free program at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in the East Court of Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road at Wayne Road. O'Dwyer will discuss the importance of mental health on your well-being, how to improve your approach to life, and why it is important to welcome 2014 with a positive attitude.

The free event includes the question-and-answer lecture, lunch, giveaways and raffle prizes.

Gospel Meetings

Ministers Matthew Jensen and Alijah McCormick are holding

gospel meetings from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Feb. 5, at the Wayne/Westland Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne.

The meetings will emphasize the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The goal of these meetings is to inspire greater faith and commitment in Christ. No collections will be taken.

For more information, call 515-851-2939.

History Lecture Series

The Friends of Nankin Mills will explore the history of Hines Park in a lecture from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

Nancy Darga, former Wayne County Parks historian, former director of Motor Cities National Heritage Area and current director of Piquette Plant, will share her vast knowledge of the history and development of Hines Parkway. She will introduce the key players, including Henry Ford and Edward N. Hines, as well as many others who shaped the history of our area.

Preregistration is required and can be completed by calling the Wayne County Park Office at 734-261-1990. The program is free and sponsored by the Friends

of Nankin Mills.

License Plate Meet

The Southeast Michigan License Plate Meet will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Jan. 25, at the Romanowski VFW Post, 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, in Westland.

Tables are \$5 each or six for \$25. Vendors should bring their license plates in through the post's back door. For more information, contact Scott "Ohawkeye" Olson at 734-421-1599 or at ohawkeye@yahoo.com, or visit the website, vfw6896.com/LicensePlateMeet.html.

Admission will be \$5 per person with children under 12 years old and veterans with a VFW Membership card or VA hospital ID free. Free coffee and donuts will be available.

All proceeds go to the veterans, including what is paid for Ohawkeye's license plates.

Date nights

The annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne.

The cost is \$12 per couple or \$16 per dad and two daughters. Non-resident fees are \$13 for a couple and \$18 for a dad and two daughters. Cost includes snacks, square dancing and a memory photo.

The community center also is holding a Mother-Son Sports Night from 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. The evening of sports, games and food is for mothers and their sons ages 5-12. Cost is \$12 for couples and \$16 for a mother and two sons and \$13 for and \$18 respectively for non-residents. For more information, call 734-721-7400.

WILD

Continued from Page A1

were "Wild for Wayne County."

"I'm running on the transformation of Westland, the 10th largest city in the state and the third largest city in Wayne County," Wild said. "We are Wayne County. We have weathered the financial storm in Westland."

Westland mayor since 2007, just before the financial crisis started, Wild said the city auditors asked for a meeting in 2009 to discuss the city budget.

"In 2010, we would be broken and busted. In 2009, we had a projected \$60 million accumulated deficit," Wild said. "That's our (general fund) budget."

Adjusting spending

Working with the city council and city employee unions, all of whom were under contract, as well as residents, Wild said Westland downsized its operations to reflect the city's revenues.

"We downsized in a compassionate way. We have 125 less employees. We had few layoffs," Wild said. "We had no union problems. We laid out the finances. Now we have a balanced budget and a \$5.5 million surplus. We lived within our means. What we did in Westland, we'll do at Wayne County."

In traveling around Wayne County, Wild said he finds people are frustrated with scandals and mishandled projects like the Wayne County Jail.

"What I bring to the table more than any of the other (expected) candidates is that I'm a hands-on guy," Wild said. "I'm a 24/7 guy as mayor and I'll be the



Westland Mayor William Wild and his wife Sherri, who introduced her husband as he kicked off his run for Wayne County executive. KATHY HANSEN

same as county executive."

As mayor, Wild noted his name appears on signs all over the city, something that draws some criticism.

"Some people think that's bad. It's because I'm accountable. It's what people expect as mayor," Wild said. "I've not met a mayor, city manager or township supervisor who has a direct line to the county executive. That will change Jan. 1, 2015."

With an international crossing, Detroit Metro Airport, professional sports teams and other features, Wild said Wayne County should be a leader in the state and nation.

"You hear a lot about Wayne County, but you probably don't hear about the people who were out there plowing the snow," he said. "It's about the residents. We'll prioritize services. The people (working) at Wayne County are there to serve residents. I'll bring customer service

back to Wayne County."

First candidate

Wild, who was introduced by his wife Sherri and Doug North of North Brothers Ford, is the first candidate to officially announce his candidacy for county executive.

Current Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano hasn't announced his plans. Others expected to enter the race include state Rep. Phil Cavanagh, D-Redford, and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, D-Belleville.

McNamara, son of the late former Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, is scheduled to make a "special announcement" Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Wayne County Community College District's Downriver Campus in Taylor. It's expected he will enter the county executive race.

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Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media
www.hometownlife.com

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CHARGES

Continued from Page A1

assault and one count of felony firearm.

Police confiscated the gun from

Lavigne, who was allowed to carry the weapon through a concealed permit license.

"This is an example of a road rage incident that went too far by an irresponsible gun owner/CPL holder," Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said.

A not guilty plea was entered for Lavigne. A \$30,000/10 percent bond was set and a preliminary examination scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 23.

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Challengers lining up to face Ficano – if he runs

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Publicly, Robert Ficano is not saying whether he will seek a fourth term as Wayne County executive. But several potential foes have been working behind the scenes for months now and are just about ready to declare their intentions.

Westland Mayor William Wild has announced and state Rep. Phil Cavanagh and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara appear just about ready to get in the race to succeed Ficano, regardless if he runs or not.

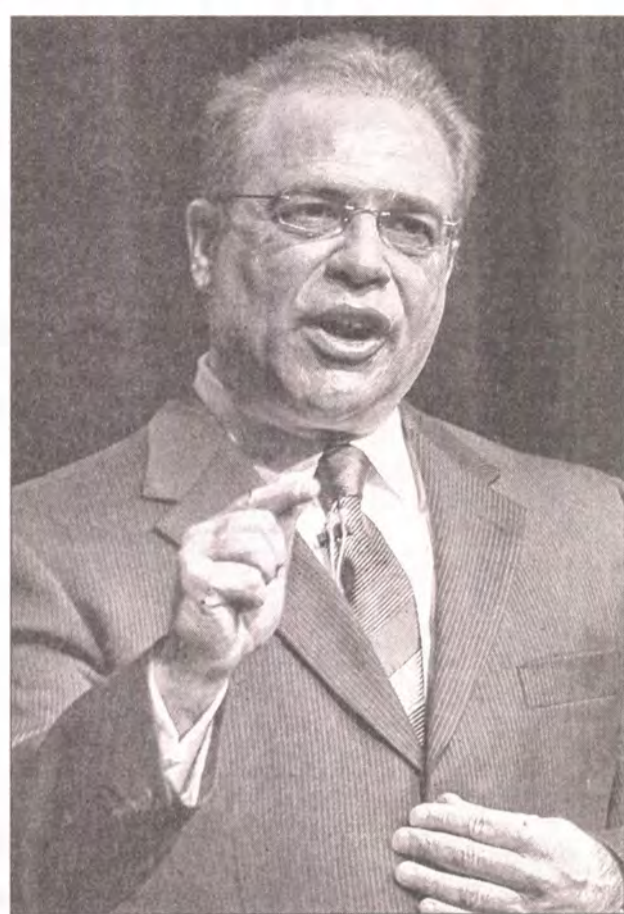
McNamara, a 56-year-old Belleville resident and the son of former Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, is scheduled to make a "special announcement" Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Wayne County Community College District's Downriver Campus in Taylor. While he won't say what the announcement will be, indications are he will declare his candidacy for county executive.

Wild, 45, who is in his second full term as mayor of Westland, said his exploratory committee has already raised \$225,000. He made his official announcement Wednesday at North Bros. Ford in Westland.

"I've always had an interest in the job," he said.

Cavanagh, the son of former Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh (1962-70) who, like McNamara, has set up an exploratory committee, said he has been spending considerable time "garnering support" for a run.

"The feedback I'm getting is people are looking for new leadership," the 52-year-old Redford Township resident said. "With the experience I have at the county, state and federal levels, I believe I can make a difference and provide



Robert Ficano hasn't indicated if he will seek a fourth term.

the leadership people are looking for."

Ficano, 61, who was first elected county executive in 2002, said it is too early to make any announcements about his intentions.

"It's premature right now to even talk about it," he said. "The political season is still a ways away. Right now, my focus is on the issues impacting the county. And bringing in jobs is our No. 1 priority."

Ficano pointed to the recent GE research facility Downriver and Ford Motor Co. plant in Wayne as examples of how the county has worked with the private sector to bring in new jobs.

Early polls

Due to the fact that his administration has been mired in a litany of well-documented issues dragging down his electability, it's not surprising Ficano doesn't want to discuss the race. Among

those issues is a failed jail project that has cost county residents nearly \$160 million to date. Several of Ficano's appointees have been sent to prison for crimes, including obstruction of justice and taking bribes. Others have walked away with lavish retirement or severance packages that have angered taxpayers. And then there is the fact that the county is facing a \$225 million budget deficit.

Early polls show him trailing all of the likely candidates in the race. In fact, a MIRS News survey commissioned in December indicated more than 80 percent of Wayne County voters are looking for new leadership. Another poll, conducted in October, showed Ficano coming in tied for last place (with Wild) among five possible candidates, which included McNamara, Wild, Cavanagh and former Detroit Mayor Dave



Cavanagh



McNamara



Wild

Bing, who most political observers believe has no interest in running.

Both McNamara and Cavanagh said their internal polls show Ficano earning no more than 18 percent, if he were to run.

So the question is whether or not Ficano has enough time to repair his image before the August Democratic primary. McNamara, for one, doesn't think so.

"Whatever fix that happens in Wayne County is going to take some state help, not necessarily money. They are going to have to give us the time to let us change the way we operate. As of right now, the state will not work with us. Bob has been damaged enough that they won't even talk to him," said McNamara, who has been a member of the county commission since 2006. "Everyone I've talked to believes the time is now for new leadership."

Ficano, however, says he has been working closely with Gov. Rick Snyder's office to reduce the burdens created by some state regulations that are costing the county money. Other ways he is cutting costs is through layoffs — he said the county workforce has been reduced by 2,000 — and implementing 10-percent budget cuts across the board to all county departments.

Fixing the problems

Wild said if people are seeking fresh leadership, they should take a closer look at him. He said the city of Westland, like the county and most municipalities, went through some difficult times during the recession that

saw property values and subsequent tax revenues plummet. However, his administration was able to balance the city's budget.

"I believe the skill set I bring to the table would be beneficial at the county level. I think we could replicate what we were able to do in Westland," said Wild, who was re-elected to a new four-year term in November.

"The biggest task at hand is balancing the budget. In Westland, we have had a 40-percent property value loss, but we still have a two-year running balanced budget," Wild said.

Both Cavanagh and McNamara believe the key to balancing the county's budget is dealing with the large deficits in public safety (jail, sheriff, prosecutor and courts) and feel tough decisions are going to have to be made.

Cavanagh, 52, said it's no surprise that the prosecutor's office, sheriff's office and circuit court have all sued the county to try to protect their turf — their budgets.

"We really need to change the philosophy in Wayne County. If we are going to solve these problems, we need all the different departments to buy in — everyone should be part of the solution, not if you don't like it, sue us," said Cavanagh, who is serving his second term in the state House after serving four terms as a Wayne County commissioner.

"We need everyone to sit at the same table and hammer out some agreements on how we get the situation fixed. You can't do this piecemeal," he said.

McNamara said he would really focus on the courts, which he said haven't made any cuts in recent years.

"It's time they join the rest of the world," said McNamara, who noted savings could be gained through more video arraignments, cutting bailiffs and outsourcing some services. He also believes overtime needs to be cut in the jails, which he said is costing taxpayers \$20 million annually.

"It's going to take some real courage to do what needs to be done to bring fiscal responsibility back to the county," he said. "We need to reinvent and rebuild Wayne County for the next 25 years. A big part of the problem is we have too many people rooted to their piece of the pie. But it's time to change the way we do business."

Cavanagh said it isn't lost on him that the race seems to be coming down to "four guys from western Wayne County duking it out." However, he thinks the key to winning the race will be who can garner the most support from Detroit voters. With his deep ties to the city, he feels he will be that candidate.

One of the concerns Wild, McNamara and Cavanagh share about this race is that they will divide the vote to such a degree that Ficano might be able to squeak out a victory.

"I don't think there's any doubt that a crowded field will help him, but I think the recent election in Detroit where Mike Duggan won showed people want change," Wild said. "People are more concerned than simply voting for someone with name recognition. They want someone with a proven track record and somebody who has executive experience."

Prospective candidates have until April 22 to file the necessary paperwork to run for the office.

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Woman gets probation for theft from dementia patient

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Westland woman who police say stole jewelry from dementia patients at a Canton assisted living center has been placed on probation for 18 months and ordered to pay restitution and court fees totaling \$2,473.

Gail Lynn Good, 45, avoided a potential four-year prison term when



Good

records show.

Good's sentencing came after she pleaded guilty in November to one count of larceny in a building for an incident police say occurred last

fall while she was working as a health care employee for Crystal Creek, an assisted living facility on Lilley north of Warren.

Authorities dismissed a second count of larceny after Good agreed to plead guilty to one charge, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

Good was arrested at work following allegations she stole gold neck-

laces, one with a diamond, from elderly women who have dementia, Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh has said.

Good had been released from custody while she awaited her sentencing and had shown up for her court dates, officials said.

Relatives of the victims had notified Crystal Creek administrators about the thefts. Baugh commended the facility

for contacting Canton police rather than handling the matter internally.

Baugh also said jewelry shops in Westland, where the necklaces had been taken, were cooperative. Police were able to

recover one necklace, but one already had been melted down for money, Baugh has said.

recover one necklace, but one already had been melted down for money, Baugh has said.

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Westland MLK Day ceremony scheduled for Monday

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Noted for his reenactment of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches, Greenfield Village presenter Anthony Lucas will again be part of Westland's annual MLK Day Ceremony.

The ceremony will be held 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at Annapolis Park Church of Christ, 30355 Annapolis, south of Michigan Avenue, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt.

"It is so important that the work and sacrifice of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. are honored each year to remind

adults and to teach our youth about the history of civil rights," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "The City of Westland is proud to be hosting this event for the communities of western Wayne."

The ceremony will reflect King's vision for a nation of equality for all races and religions through inspirational performances, artistic representations and historical perspective by Lucas, who will be delivering excerpts from King's most famous speeches.

To honor the day, city and county dignitaries are inviting community members to join them for

this free and public event. At the conclusion of the ceremony, guests are invited to stay for light refreshments.

City offices will be closed for the MLK holiday. Trash collection and emergency services will not be affected.

In celebration of MLK Holiday, United Sonz will take over Wayne Bowl on Sunday, Jan. 19, with Bowl It Out.

A \$15 advance admission fee includes open bowling and pool, along with an 11 p.m. comedy show hosted by local comic Gordon "Big" Dooley and featuring the winner of Toledo's Funny Bone Clash of the Com-

ics, Kelly Williams and BET Comic View All Star Martini Harris.

There will be a disc jockey, food and raffles. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to United Negro College Fund

Wayne Bowl is located at 36900 Michigan Ave. in Wayne. The event is 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. and is for people age 21 and older. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at door. The comedy show begins at 11 p.m.

For more information, call United Sonz at 734-485-8889.

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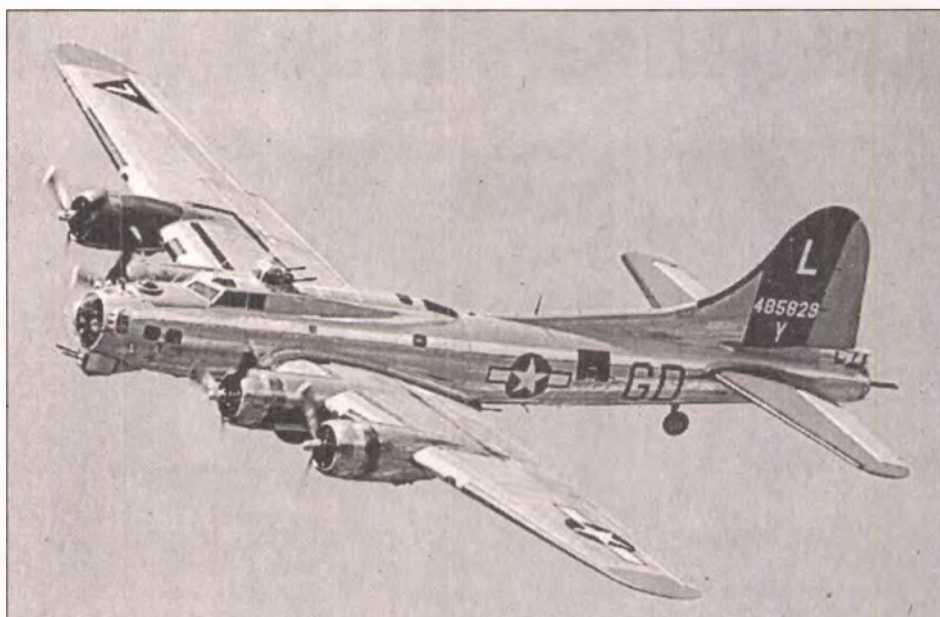
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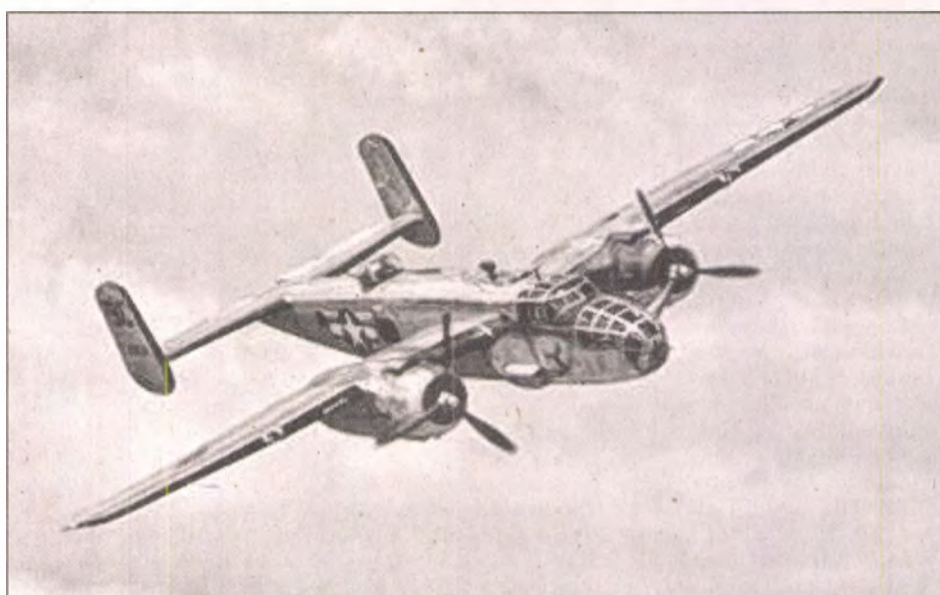
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The pride of the Yankee Air Museum is its fully restored B-17 bomber, Yankee Lady.



Veterans also can get a free ride on YAM's B-25 Yankee Warrior when a paid rider accompanies them.

Air museum offers flight experiences for WWII vets

The Yankee Air Museum is going where it's never gone before by offering its first ever Flight Experience (FLEX) recognition season.

In 2014, YAM is honoring World War II veterans with free rides on the B-17 Yankee Lady and the B-25 Yankee Warrior when a paid rider accompanies them. This special two-for-one pricing is effective for the season beginning in May and running into October.

"All of us feel the deepest honor when a World War II veteran steps aboard one of our aircraft," said Kevin Walsh, YAM executive director. "We want as many World War II veterans as possible to have the opportunity to fly on the B-17 or B-25. This is a special offer for them and an imperative for us."

Next year, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II will be observed and with America's Greatest Generation now in the upper 80s and 90s, Walsh said it's an opportunity to continually pay tribute to these veterans.

"This year it's time to take dad, or grandpa, back through time to the era and skies where heroes have flown," Walsh said. "And it's time to go with him."

While some WWII veterans fly in the Yankee Lady and Yankee Warrior every year, and are usually accompanied by a son, daughter or grandchild, Walsh hopes this incentive will bring them out in scores.

'It's all good'

"We've flown a lot of vets, especially airmen and many who were shot down and taken prisoner," said Norm Ellickson,

"This year it's time to take dad, or grandpa, back through time to the era and skies where heroes have flown."

KEVIN WALSH,
Yankee Air Museum
executive director

crew chief of the B-17. "It's impossible to imagine the thoughts they have during these flights. For some it's a last hoorah, I'm sure. For others it's more somber, like a final farewell, closing a clasp on the mission well done. One thing is sure, in every case, it's all good."

Ellickson said that a veteran's presence on any flight enriches the experience for everyone on board. He added that veterans from all branches of the military are interested in the bombers, but especially those from the Army Air Forces.

"We work very hard to get it right, so our Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and North American B-25 Mitchell are kept in top flight condition," Ellickson said. "The museum spends thousands of dollars and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to maintain these planes. We pass every inspection."

Rates for FLEX rides on the B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bomber are \$450 and \$425 for the B-25 Mitchell medium bomber. YAM members get a \$50 discount on flights.

A FLEX ride is a 45-minute experience with approximately 30 minutes of air time. FLEX rides are being booked

now for select Wednesday evenings out of YAM's home base at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti and other venues in the region.

"Although we're fortunate to have some exceptional engineers, mechanics and craftsmen donate their skills to keep costs down, we still need the revenues provided by full flights," said Dave Wright, Director of the FLEX ride program. "This year, more than ever, we need people to scratch 'a ride in a B-17 or a B-25' off their bucket list."

To book a date

People who are interested in booking a FLEX Ride and flying with their WWII hero are encouraged to plan early. Some of the premium dates may sellout early, Wright said. To order a FLEX ride or to obtain a gift certificate, call Wright at 734-483-4030, ext. 236.

Donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law and will directly support the B-17 and B-25. Certain restrictions and limitations apply and WWII veterans may be asked to provide documentation of their service. Veterans from all branches of the military are eligible to participate.

Established in 1981, the Yankee Air Museum is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Visit the www.yankeearmuseum.org website to learn more about the museum and how the USAF Thunderbirds demonstration team will Thunder Over Michigan, Aug. 9-10.

Also visit YouTube and view "Where Heroes Have Flown" for a 90-second glimpse of a B-17 or B-25 Flight Experience.

Youth Symphony Orchestras holding open auditions

The Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras of Michigan are holding open auditions by appointment for their 55th spring concert season from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 15.

Rehearsals are held Saturday mornings at Madonna University, and the spring concert is

scheduled for May 10.

Ensembles are available for wind musicians, string musicians and percussionists of nearly every experience level. There are two young strings groups, a flute choir, a reed choir, a brass ensemble, a wind ensemble and a full philharmonic orchestra.

Placement auditions are performed and heard by highly experienced conductors to ensure proper placement to challenge the musicians without overwhelming them.

To schedule an audition, email dlindenm@me.com For more information, call 734-634-5250.

Boyfriend faces charge in death

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

An elderly Westland man, in custody in connection with what authorities believe was an assault on his live-in girlfriend, is scheduled to be arraigned today (Jan. 16) on murder charges now that the woman has died.

Police were called to a home in the 6600 block Chirrewa on Dec. 31 for a death investigation. Diane Labute, 71, was reported non-responsive but resuscitated after being transported to Garden City Hospital.

Suffering from numerous injuries, Labute remained hospitalized and died Jan. 13 after being removed from life support.

The boyfriend, Orlando Caruso, 78, was arrested Dec. 31 and charged with aggravated assault. A not guilty plea was entered and he has been jailed in lieu of \$500,000 cash bond since his arrest.

"They had been together seven years but only lived together for the last several months," Westland Police Lt. Todd Adams said. "She had broken ribs in different stages of healing, broken toes, black eyes. She had a wound on her buttocks that was either a bad burn or a bed sore."

With the injuries suffered by Labute and statements made by Caruso, Adams said he was arrested.

Labute had previously been living in Melvindale. She had some family but Adams said they reported being unable to contact her.

"He (Caruso) would make excuses that she wasn't able to come to the phone when her family would call," Adams said.

Caruso is scheduled to be arraigned on upgraded charges before Westland 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell.

lrogers@hometownlife.com

Trailer stolen

On Jan. 14, a resident in the 34000 block of Glover told police someone stole his 6-foot by 10-foot wooden utility trailer overnight from the driveway. He built the trailer, which was valued at \$300.

Vandalism

A resident in the 34000 block of Phyllis told police Jan. 14 that someone put scratches all over her 2002 Dodge Ram sometime between Jan. 11-13.

On Jan. 13, a resident in the 4100 block of Hayes told police she had driven her brother's 2002 Pontiac Bonneville to the store, then parked on the street. A witness later

alerted them that a window on the car had been smashed, causing \$100 damage.

A resident in the 38000 block of Parkview told police Jan. 13 someone smashed her vehicle window.

Stolen vehicles

A 2005 Dodge Magnum station wagon was reported stolen from a home in the 4300 block of Eastlawn Jan. 14. The owner told police the car, valued at \$5,000, had been parked in the garage. When his girlfriend left for work just before 5:30 a.m., he said she noticed the car was gone. The owner told police the car was paid for and he had the only keys.

A Wayne man told

WAYNE COP CALLS

police he left his 2009 Mercury Mariner running and unlocked outside 7-Eleven, 32324 Annapolis, for about 10 minutes just after 4:30 a.m. Jan. 14 and someone stole it. A person described by witnesses as wearing a tan Carhartt jacket was seen getting into the vehicle and driving away.

On Jan. 10, a resident in the 36000 block of Thinbark reported a 2004 Mazda valued at \$4,000 stolen. She said she had both sets of keys and added that a second vehicle had been ransacked.

Documents stolen

A resident at the Wayne Towers Apartments, 35200 Sims, told police Jan. 11 someone

stole her birth certificate and her mother's death certificate from her apartment. She said she thought someone entered with a master key since other residents reported similar problems.

Marijuana possession

A Romulus man was arrested for marijuana possession, driving with a suspended license and held on a warrant after a traffic stop near Howe and Myrtle on Jan. 9. The vehicle, which was registered to someone the man identified as his boss, was impounded.

Break-in

A maintenance person for Hickory Hollow Co-Op, 5757 W. Hickory

Hollow, told police Jan. 13 that he opened the storage shed to find three 5-gallon gas cans, two spade shovels, four snow shovels, two salt spreaders and a golf cart valued at \$8,200. The employee said the roll up door had been locked Jan. 10 when he left work but was now damaged and apparently had been forced open.

A witness told police that about 4 a.m. she saw a man drive the golf cart near the east entrance, park it and get into a blue pickup truck driven by a second man. The pair left and returned 30 minutes later. At that time the passenger got back into the golf cart and drove away while the truck also left.

By LeAnne Rogers

WESTLAND COP CALLS

made a loud noise when she started it and took it to a muffler shop where the theft was discovered.

Stolen vehicle

A 2002 Ford F250 Super Duty truck with a snow plow and salter was reported stolen early Jan. 9 from a home in the 200 block of Stephanie. The truck was parked on the street.

A resident of the home told police she was in the garage when she heard the truck start and drive

away.

Break-in

On Jan. 11, police were called to a home in the 32000 block of Birchwood after a witness spotted a glass doorwall had been smashed. The home was reported to have been vacant for over two years. Copper piping was missing from the basement.

Vandalism

A Plymouth woman told police Jan. 7 that

someone threw a brick through a window of a rental home she owns in the 30000 block of Avondale.

The owner told police she had last been at the home Jan. 3. The home is currently vacant.

Hit and run

A resident in the 90 block told police Jan. 10 that during the night someone damaged the front end of his 1992 Lincoln Mark VII while it was backed into his

driveway.

The officer noted minor damage to the front end. He also surmised someone had turned around in the driveway which is at the end of a dead end street.

A tow truck driver told police he was at Riverbend Apartments, 6804 N. Merriman, Jan. 9 when a Ford F-150 pickup truck backed into the tow truck. The front bumper received minor damage. The pickup fled.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

was when he was notified by DTE Energy that someone called them using his name and said there was a gas leak at the home.

The owner commented in the police report that every time the fire department arrives, a certain neighbor always seems to be outside.

Stolen giraffe

The Garden City Police Department is seeking assistance in recovering "a very special sculpture" that was stolen from a yard in the 32000 block of Warren Road last week. The theft occurred sometime between Jan.

7-8. The giraffe, which stands about 7 feet tall and was hand carved and painted by the owner, has sentimental value to the victims.

Anyone with information is asked to call the GCPD Investigations Bureau at 734-793-1710. If you wish to leave an anonymous tip, call 734-793-1718.

Home invasion

A representative from a property management company reported a home invasion in the 30000 block of Brown on Jan. 8.

He said an unknown person stole the central air conditioning unit as

well as the copper plumbing from inside of the house.

Theft

A resident in the 1500 block of Harrison reported Jan. 3 that someone stole his snow blower after he left it in an open garage.

The owner said he'll check area pawn shops to possibly find it.

Attempted theft

A medical professional in the 27000 block of Cherry Hill reported Jan. 3 that someone tried to steal his air conditioning unit because he found it on the ground.

Property damage


The owner of T Snap Towing, 115 Merriman, reported Jan. 5 that someone damaged the steering column of a truck parked in the lot for two weeks. The owner was notified of the damage.

Fraud

A woman who resides in the 18000 block of Alvin reported that she heard from a collections department about a PayPal account.

She was told that she incurred charges which she said that she never made.

By Sue Buck



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AUTO BRIEFS

Million-dollar baby

The new Porsche 911 Targa 4, with its fully retractable glass roof and starting price tag of \$101,600, was unveiled to the world at the auto show Monday.

But the real star in the room is the Porsche 918 Spyder, which has a base sticker price of \$845,000. Add in all the options and the price tag climbs close to \$1 million. Only 918 cars are being made - period. One of the cars is on display in a large glass room for the public to enjoy.

Red or blue?

Mopar has a cool lineup of monster trucks on display. The Chrysler company also has a neat iPad program that allows the public to customize the exterior of a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500. Change the tires and hubcaps. Try a different coat of paint. Add some running boards. The program allows you to tweak the model and design your own Dodge Ram.

Start your engines

If you love speed, the auto show has plenty of interactive racing games that allow you to slip into a race car and navigate the curves at speeds greater than 200 mph. Ford, Mazda, Toyota and other displays have some super simulators for the public to enjoy.

The trick, of course, is to slow down at those curves. Otherwise you crash, over and over again.

Just build it

The granddaddy of exhibits is the giant robotic assembly line that Ford built for the auto show. On display for the first time, the exhibit will show the public how a car is assembled. It took several weeks to assemble and several of the parts are being shipped to plants in Dearborn and Kansas City once the auto show is over, where they'll be used for actual production.

Shaking hands

Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to attend the show Thursday. Earlier in the week, U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Gov. Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan were on hand.

In addition to Biden, the following were scheduled to attend:

- » U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx
- » U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez
- » U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker
- » Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy
- » NHTSA Deputy Administrator David Friedman
- » National Transportation Safety Board Member Earl Weener
- » Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear
- » Ohio Gov. John Kasich

Under the hood

Ever wonder what a Corvette looks like under the hood? Chevrolet has a cool exhibit on display that strips away the metal frame and shows the body of the car. For Corvette lovers still celebrating the Stingray winning North American Car of the Year, it's the perfect exhibit.



This Corvette is one of the more revealing displays.

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet: 'Keep the foot on the pedal'

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

It didn't take long for Lou LaRiche Chevrolet to announce it has plenty of Stingrays and Silverados in stock.

The two vehicles were named 2014 North American car and truck of the year at the North American International Auto Show this week. Ron Chaudoin, general manager of the dealership, applauds the choices.

"They're two outstanding vehicles and I think it's just great they received this recognition," Chaudoin said. "The Corvette is the only true American sports car made - and who wouldn't want a Silverado in their driveway? It rides like a car, but can do just about anything."

Just in time for the auto show, the family-owned dealership at 40875 Plymouth Road in Plymouth announced \$500 rebates for purchases or leases on the Traverse, Equinox, Cruze or Malibu.

"They're our four core products - that's 80



Some of the Lou LaRiche Chevrolet sales staff pose for a quick photo - next to the 2014 Car of the Year - the Corvette Stingray coupe - in their Plymouth dealership. From left: Debbie Dowling, Joe Wendt, and Ron Chaudoin. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

percent of our volume," Chaudoin said. "That means 80 percent of our customers will get an additional \$500 off between now and the end of the month. That lowers a monthly lease payment by \$15 to \$20."

As the business climate is expected to con-

tinuing improving, Chaudoin said the dealership anticipates an increase of 15 percent or greater in sales for the upcoming year.

"We just renovated the entire dealership," he said. "We ordered a significant number of vehicles, so we're keyed

up. We believe this economy will seriously start to percolate."

Asked what makes the dealership so successful, Chaudoin credits the LaRiche family for being involved in the daily operation of the business.

"They're here on the

premises, so I don't have to wait on a decision - I can get an answer for a customer right away," he said. "The eyes are on the customer. When you come in, we'll get you some coffee and a snack. We'll introduce you to the store and make it a completely good experience. We've got some great products and we're very excited to show them off."

Chaudoin said the auto industry just survived an incredibly brutal economic downturn, leaving it leaner and better positioned for a successful turnaround.

"I'm still amazed that GM, Ford and Chrysler made it through," he said. "I think it shows we can build a car that's equal or better to any car imported. The challenge now is to remain ahead. We fell behind the eight-ball because we stopped paying attention to the competition - we're ahead of them now, so we have to keep the foot on the pedal."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com | 586-826-7030 Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Aisin makes most of spot on main floor at NAIAS

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It's hard to believe the fifth largest automotive supplier in the world has a problem with visibility.

But that is one of the many areas the Plymouth Township-based Aisin is focused on as it enjoys main floor space at the 2014 North American International Auto Show.

"I think one of the issues for us in North America is the supply base is very well-established for the Detroit customers," said Chuck Sanders, vice president of sales and marketing. "They aren't necessarily looking for a new supplier, so we have to bring them new technologies and new ideas that put us to the forefront in their mind."

The company hopes the move of its North American headquarters to Northville Township, with the benefit of a \$1.2 million Michigan Business Development Grant, will help with that as it will allow the company to expand its research and development and create more than 50 new jobs.

Officials expect to invest nearly \$8 million into the facility and have additional room to expand.

Growth has been steady for the company over the years, trending up from between \$400 million to \$500 million in sales 20 years ago to an estimated \$2.4 billion. Globally,



Aisin automotive technology personnel gather at the show. Currently based in Plymouth Township, the company will soon move to Northville Township. From left are President/CEO Masayasu Saito, Vice President of Sales/Marketing John Clark and President Takashi Aoyama. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

sales are about \$3.5 billion and still growing.

Sanders said the company's facilities are "nearly running at full" and expansion is happening globally to meet the needs of the customer.

"As fast as (the economy) came back and as fast as things have grown for us, it has been a little hard to keep up so we have to be continually looking for where we are going to expand additional production," he said.

Aisin serves as the largest transmission supplier in the world, but still that only makes up about 40 percent of the company's sales. It also makes products for the drive train, engine, electronics, body, brakes, chassis and more.

"There are so many other products we make and so many other things we do," Sanders said. "We pretty much cover the gamut of the vehicle."

The company also wants to use its floor space at the auto show to get feedback on some of its new technologies and possibly attract new engineers at industry days.

"It's very tight," Sanders said of the job market in Michigan. "Right now as everyone is rapidly expanding and with the talent pool being very shallow, it is hard to find people. We are always looking for engineers."

On a personal level, Sanders said he enjoys seeing all the new cars, concepts and technologies on display.

"Even if it never goes into production, some of the ideas out there and the way we can keep advancing always continues," he said. "You think you made this next big breakthrough and then a couple years later, it is old technology. It's amazing to see how we can keep improving."

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Public viewing opens Saturday

Experience the next generation of transportation at the 2014 North American International Auto Show when the public viewing opens Saturday. See more than 500 vehicles on display, representing the most innovative designs in the world and experience North America's largest and most prestigious automotive showcase.

Doors open at 9 a.m. Saturday. The public show runs until 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.

From Jan. 18 through 25, shows

hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (no admittance after 9 p.m.) and until 7 p.m. Jan. 26.

Ticket are \$13 for adults; \$7 for senior citizens and children aged 7-12. Youths age 6 and under are admitted free with a parent or guardian.

For group discounts and other ticket information, contact the ticket office at 248-283-5173 or go to www.naias.com.

While the hundreds of vehicles on display are the stars of the NAIAS, there is plenty

of additional family fun planned for the public viewing, including the all-new Paradeland in Michigan Hall's new Kids' Area. In Paradeland, visitors will experience larger-than-life props from the 2013 America's Thanksgiving Parade, including sections of floats and the popular "Big Head" collection of famous Detroiters. The vehicle and parade excitement will continue on the main show floor with two daily NAIAS parades at 3:30 and 7 p.m.

ZF Group fine-tunes its growth for success

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It's getting a little cramped in the Northville Township offices and North American headquarters of ZF Group, as the German company's worldwide success continues into 2014.

The big news last year for the automotive supplier was the introduction of the new nine-speed automatic transmission and, as a result, the news this year is the growth of the company in North America.

Currently, Chrysler and Land Rover have applications with ZF Group for the transmission and CEO Stefan Sommer said a third customer will "launch a big project this year."

"We are at close to 8,000 employees in North America, so that is a significant growth for us," said Bryan Johnson, a Canton resident and manager of marketing and communications for ZF Group. "In our Northville office, we have seen a lot of growth there in different areas and are almost at capacity in our facility, which is a good thing."

Sales revenue for ZF Group, which develops and produces transmissions, steering systems, axles and chassis components, as well as complete systems for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and off-road machinery, increased by almost 10 percent in 2013 to \$23 billion - including \$4.2 billion in North America - and almost 5,000 jobs were created worldwide.

It has 121 production companies in 26 countries and eight engineering centers in four countries.

"The North American market in the future will be even more important," Sommer said. "We are

seeing it now as a very successful and growing market with a huge demand for high technology and very efficient cars."

And as demand is increasing and the market has stabilized, Johnson said it is important for suppliers like ZF Group to have "controlled growth" and be targeted about the market.

"We have all learned lessons about growth and growing too fast and that is part of the problem everyone had," Sommer said. "Now everyone is going to be a little more cautious with their growth and are finding better ways to be more efficient with their production so you can produce with the same capacities."

ZF Group has a spot on the main show floor at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit and hopes to use it to create partnerships and improve relationships.

"And then when the public comes, it allows them to understand what technology might be coming," Johnson said.

The Detroit-based auto show also has a more intimate feel because it is the Motor City.

"For me, it's more about the people than the cars," Johnson said. "I'm so emerged in the car thing every day and this is my industry and these are my people and it's great getting all these people in one place."

Johnson joked that he has colleagues who won't even walk the show floor with him because he stops and talks to someone every 10 feet.

"The way relationships work, that is how you do business," he said.

nmueller@hometownlife.com | 586-826-7209



Bryan Johnson, Canton resident and manager of marketing and communications for ZF Group, takes in the auto show. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Visitors browsed the artwork on display at Thursday's Reflections event at Stevenson High School.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS HONORED FOR REFLECTIONS WORK

Livonia Public Schools students captured the theme, "Believe, Dream, Inspire," in a variety of artistic expressions for the PTSA Council's annual Reflections program.

The National PTA Reflections program is held at the local, state and national levels and is designed to promote an interest in the arts, outside of the classroom setting.

Livonia Public Schools PTSA Council celebrated its 35th Reflections year with Thursday night's awards ceremony, which was held at Stevenson High School.

Students throughout the district submitted their best entries in photography, literature, musical composition, visual arts, film/video production and choreography.

The entries were judged by members of the Livonia Arts Commission and now have the opportunity to move on to state and national Reflections contests.

Cyndi Pierzynski, Livonia PTSA Council Reflections chair, said she enjoys seeing all of the creative works that surround this year's theme.

"We have so many creative students in Livonia, who put a lot of time and effort into their work, even down to the youngest ones," she said. "I think the arts are very important for all students, and Reflections offers students ways to express themselves outside of the school."

"As funding for school programs decreases, programs like Reflections are even more important, as an avenue for children to express their talents."

Visual Arts Awards

Grades K-two Award of Excellence:

Bostyn Beal, kindergarten, Coolidge Elementary, for "Winter Wrap Up Butterfly, Giraffe"

Sam Reina, grade two, Kennedy Elementary, for "The Impossible Touchdown"

Grades three-five Award of Excellence:

Max Reina, grade five, Johnson Upper Elementary, for "Flight of an Eagle"

Megan Pribak, grade five, Riley Upper Elementary, for "Bright Flower"

Grades six-eight Award of Excellence:

Maria Emdanat, grade eight, Frost Middle School, for "The Lonely Blue Planet"

Rachel Connolly, grade eight, Frost Middle School, for "Moonlit Waters"

Grades nine-12 Award of Excellence:

Julie Kotronis, grade 11, Franklin High School, for "Sense of Sight"

Abigail Olenczuk, grade 11, Stevenson High School, for "Dreaming Feet"



Evelyn Edwards, from Franklin High School, was recognized with a Merit Award for her photo, "Remembering Lost," which is displayed on the screen.



Pencil sketch, "Plan B," by Andrea Wickens, of Franklin High School.



This "Moonlit Waters" piece was created by Rachel Connolly, a Frost Middle School student.

Dance Choreography Awards

Jenna Ference-Salo, grade four, Webster Elementary, for "Empower"

Literature Awards

Grades K-two Award of Excellence:

Audrey Rutterbush, grade one, Coolidge Elementary, for "Princess Fairies"

Grades three-five Award of Excellence:
Kiera Zager, grade five, Webster Elementary, for "Home for Bailey"

Sarah Zager, grade four, Hoover Elementary, for "Dream of Becoming a Pop Star"

Grades six-eight Award of Excellence:
Sirhari Srinivasan, grade seven, Frost Middle School, for "Big Endeavors, Small Principles"

Dillan Pribak, grade seven, Holmes Middle School, for "Up North I've Learned ..."

Grades nine-12 Award of Excellence:
Mirna Balaghi, grade 12, Stevenson High School, for "Creative Sin"

Faith Ureel, grade 11, Stevenson High School, for "Don't Underestimate the Tarnished Brass"

Photography Awards

Grades K-two Award of Excellence:
Alyssa Schroeder,

grade one, Grant Elementary, for "Sweet Dreams"

Grades three-five Award of Excellence:

Colette Zager, grade five, Webster Elementary, for "The Amazing Tree"

Colette Zager, grade five, Webster Elementary, for "Monarch Magic"

Grades six-eight Award of Excellence:

Alexa Pierzynski, grade eight, Holmes Middle School, for "Reaching For ..."

Evelyn Sowerby, grade six, Johnson Upper Elementary School, for "Dreaming of the World"

Grades nine-12 Award of Excellence:

D. Pisano, grade 11, Franklin High School for "American Dream Laid to Rest"

Maddie Rae, grade 11, Stevenson High School for "The Tracks Lead Somewhere"

Musical Composition Awards

Grades six-eight Award of Excellence:
Ben Griffith, grade eight, Holmes Middle School, for "Dreams"

Ben Griffith, grade eight, Holmes Middle School, for "Dreams - Full Orchestra"

Film/Video Production Awards

Grades three-five Award of Excellence:
Colette Zager, grade five, Webster Elementary School, for "Legimals"

Grades nine-12 Award of Excellence:
Mirna Balaghi, grade 12, Stevenson High School, for "More than Just Dance"

Dominic Lutz, grade 12, Stevenson High School, for "No Fear, No Doubt"

Awards of Merit were also given in each age group and category.

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The most live sports	YES	NO
Smart Search: the ability to see what's on live TV, XFINITY On Demand and your DVR — all in one place	YES	NO
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BILL BROWN FORD: A MODEL OF SUCCESS

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

What makes Bill Brown Ford so successful? "The people," Sales Manager Mike Schriber said about the popular Ford dealership at 32222 Plymouth Road in Livonia. "Everyone here understands it's all about the customers. Most of our sales people have been working here an average of 15 years. They've built up tremendous relationships with their customers. And when people are happy, word-of-mouth can go a long way."

Heading into 2014, Schriber believes the family-owned dealership is positioned for an exceptional year in sales.

"We have the highest amount of leases coming back that we ever had," he said. "We have some phenomenal products and we're offering great prices and terrific deals. I really believe we'll see a combination of new customers and returning customers because of all the deals we're going to be able to offer."

Two of the hotter lease deals he mentioned are a 2014 Fusion for \$212 a month or the 2014 Escape for \$228 a month.

"So we're talking incredible payments here," Schriber said. "We're excited — these



The sales staff at Bill Brown Ford on Plymouth Road in Livonia is prepared for an exceptional year. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

are some of the best products we've ever had. And we're able to make some great deals."

As the Detroit auto show gets into full swing next week, Schriber said the auto companies did a great job of turning themselves around from fi-

financial dire straits, and are now in a position to grow their businesses and expand.

"We're very fortunate with Bill Brown Ford and the Livonia area that we still were able to remain one of the top three dealers in the nation through

the worst of times — so we're fortunate we have great customers," he said.

"I think there are a lot of people who have put off buying cars the last few years — and they're now in the market to buy a car. All the companies

are putting out great products right now. I just happen to think the Ford products are a little better."

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586-826-7030
Twitter: @BhmEccentric

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Patronage dividend

For the eighth consecutive year, DFCU Financial has rewarded its members with a Special Patronage Dividend, which pays significant cash back to its qualified members. The 2013 dividend is the largest in the program's history, at \$23 million, and was distributed in cash to more than 100,000 members, based on their total relationship with DFCU Financial. This puts the total dividend payout since the

program's 2006 inception at \$157 million.

"Having distributed \$157 million since the announcement of this program in 2006 means that today the dividend program is not only flourishing, but it is making a significant financial difference in the lives of our members," said Mark Shobe, president and CEO of DFCU Financial.

The payout to members is calculated based upon each member's total relationship with DFCU Financial. Qualifying

members receive a .50 percent dividend on their average yearly loan and deposit balances, with each eligible member receiving at least \$50. This includes all checking, savings and loan balances.

For example, a member with a \$150,000 mortgage, \$2,000 in savings, \$1,000 in checking and a \$12,000 auto loan received a Special Patronage Dividend of \$825.

DFCU is the only financial institution in the nation to pay members

an average of nearly \$20 million for the last eight consecutive years. Shobe pointed to the dividend as a significant differentiator between the \$3.5 billion credit union and other financial institutions.

"There is not another financial institution that is able to provide such a significant benefit," he said. "Outstanding financial performance combined with member loyalty makes this possible. We invest in our members and their families, and they invest in us. It's a relationship of mutual success."

DFCU Financial is Michigan's largest credit union with \$3.5 billion in assets. DFCU Financial currently operates a full-service branch in Garden City. For more information and to find out how you can join, call 888-336-2700 or visit www.dfcufinancial.com.

Excellence award

Great Lakes Caring Hospice and Home Health has presented a 2013 Award for Excellence to Hope Healthcare Center for providing quality care to their residents and patients.

From over 1,200 candidates — skilled and assisted living facilities, doctors, and hospitals — in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, 118 were selected for the annual award in recognition of their collaborative efforts to help determine in a timely manner home health and hospice-appropriate patients in order to provide meaningful and helpful quality care.



Hope Healthcare Center Administrator Donald Mass, Social Worker Erin Barker and Registered Nurse Unit Manager Danielle Dreameer received the 2013 Great Lakes Caring Hospice and Home Health Award for Excellence.

"It's important to recognize these partners who committed to their residents' and their patients' best interests," Great Lakes Caring Chief Executive Officer William Deary said. "This is the sixth year Great Lakes Caring Hospice and Home Health has recognized outstanding partners for their care."

The honorees were chosen based on three specific criteria: 1) believing in the importance of good communications amongst the Great Lakes Caring and partner staffs; 2) keeping in mind the needs of residents/patients and the importance of making timely referrals; and 3) for supporting and understanding of the importance of collaborative care.

Tax preparation

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency's Tax Preparation Program is hosting two "Show Me the Money" events to kick off the tax season. The events will

offer free tax preparation, tips for managing money and credit, community resource information and more.

The events will be held:

» 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Wayne County Community College, 21000 Northline, Taylor.

» 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at the Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit.

Free Tax Preparation is available to individuals and families earning up to \$50,000. Individuals should call 734-284-6999 to make an appointment.

Individuals earning up to \$57,000 can take advantage of free tax preparation through the self-prep option. Individuals are asked to take a short survey and once completed, will be linked to a free online tax preparation website.

For more information, contact Miryam Lulion atmlulion@waynemetro.org.

Be careful writing emails

Here's some food for thought. Imagine that every email you sent yesterday just got published on the front page of today's newspaper.

No problem? Great! Because although that scenario might sound far-fetched, in today's electronic world it's not just celebrities and politicians whose texts and emails can bounce back to bite them. In the business world, it's just as easy for emails to get accidentally or maliciously sent to unintended recipients, wreaking havoc on businesses and individuals. We can help protect ourselves with this simple tip.

When in doubt leave it out.

Email is not the place for venting, reprimanding or transmitting sensitive information. If it's genuinely confidential, or if we'd simply feel ashamed to see our choice words published on the front page, then put down the mouse and slowly back away from the keyboard. If it still needs to be said, then fortunately there are other more appropriate, more sensitive and/or more secure ways of communicating those types of messages.



Clarity Newhouse
A SUNNY NOTE

Let's "think first" — and have a sunny day.

Clarity P.S. "If we could measure the damage to

corporations from gossip, it might be more than the GNP of the Third World."

Harvey Mackay, Author P.P.S. Thank you for sharing Sunny Notes with others. New readers can visit www.JoinSunnyNotes.com to add an email address to receive Sunny Notes directly by email each week.

Clarity Patton Newhouse is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond. To reach her, call 734-855-4728 or find her on Facebook facebook.com/sunnynotes.

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IGNORING MOTHER NATURE

Crowds brave the weather to enjoy ice festival

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Mother Nature did her best to spoil the 2014 Plymouth Ice Festival party, dumping steady rain on festival goers and carvers during the event's first two days Friday and Saturday. But even two days of poor weather did little to throttle the enthusiasm of those who did brave the elements to see the 32nd annual festival in downtown Plymouth. While crowds were down from previous years, first-year organizer James Gietzen was still ready to declare the mainstay event a success. "I think things went extremely smooth," said Gietzen, hired last fall to organize the festival. "It was pretty seamless, especially for putting everything together in under four months." Professional sculptors actually started carving ice a couple of days before Friday's opening ceremony. Despite the rain, the opening ceremony, the annual Fire & Ice display and the popular Dueling Chainsaws competition drew solid crowds Friday night. Other popular attractions included the live entertainment and the Sun & Snow cross country ski track set up in Kellogg Park. It all combined with the sculptures to provide a family-friendly environment. Cathy Florn of Westland had her kids in skis

for that activity and the family enjoyed the festival despite the weather. "It was a great day to walk around downtown Plymouth to see all the ice sculptures," Florn said. "The cross country skiing was an added bonus. My kids loved it." Gietzen was appreciative of the folks who ignored the weather and strolled through Kellogg Park admiring the work of first the professionals and then the college students carving in individual and team competitions Saturday and Sunday. He's been around the festival before, so he knows weather is often troublesome, with bitter cold temperatures and snow among the weather impediments in the past. He also knows the weather is something he can't control. "The rain came and then it would stop and then it came some more," Gietzen said. "It was a challenge watching these artists spend eight to 10 hours sculpting and then watching the rain just wash away all that detail." "Our crowds were definitely down from what they usually are," he added. "People can deal with the cold and they can deal with the snow, but when you put cold and rain together, people just don't want to deal with it." The college students carving in the competitions had no choice but to deal with it, because the rain seemed to just keep coming Saturday. While the weather was better Sunday, it was still a tough weekend to carve. "(Sunday's) weather



Seven-year-old Alexa Curtis of Novi practices cross country skiing with her dad, Ray Curtis, as backup. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

was perfect," said Gerrell Franklin of Highland Park, who coached the Oakland Community

College team in the carving competition. "In the rain like (Saturday), it's horrible."

Jennifer Watkins of Southfield saw a story on the television about the festival and decided it

might be a good thing to do with her son, Jacob Fines. While sipping a cup of hot cider Sunday (Jacob opted for the hot chocolate), Watkins said she decided it might be something Jacob would enjoy. "We thought it would be something fun to do," Watkins said. "And it was fun." Laura Carlin of Ann Arbor used to come to the festival when she was young, but hadn't been back in years. She decided it was something she wanted her children to experience, so she came back. "I haven't been here since I was little," Carlin said. "I wanted the kids to have some fun." Gietzen, who wanted this year's festival to get its focus back on the ice, understands crowds were down this year, although website traffic was up, indicating there's still great interest in the festival. He said next year he'll try to do two things: Take advantage of more time to prepare (he figures he'll start in a few weeks) and strive for "bigger ice" next year. He knows the festival is unlikely to return to the kinds of sculptures it used to feature years ago, when the Japanese teams were brought in to carve, but he figures organizers can still do better. "The sculptures were bigger than they had been the last couple of years, but they definitely need to get bigger," Gietzen said. "We need to recommit to being 'all about the ice' and we need to get the sculptures bigger and bigger to 'wow' the crowd."

Redford resident, 102, regales friends, family with stories

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Rie Amberg successfully hid her husband from the Nazis in the attic space of their home in Amsterdam for a couple of days during World War II, worrying all the time he might snore and give himself away. When the Nazis finally imprisoned him for working underground as a journalist for the Dutch government, she tricked the guards into thinking she was pregnant by putting a pillow around her belly so they would release him. At one point, she was imprisoned, too, being fed only bread and water. But the Redford resident has no bitterness, only a positive attitude. "She's happy; she's been through so much, she probably can't cry about things," said her son, Ozzie Amberg of Canton. "She's got just a very positive attitude." That positive attitude and some good genes are what Ozzie Amberg believes have allowed his mother to live such a long, healthy life. Rie Amberg celebrated her 102nd birthday Jan. 2. She still drives to the hair salon and the grocery store, knits, keeps up on current events, maintains her own home and re-



Rie Amberg used a pillow to look pregnant in order to persuade the Nazi guards in Holland to release her husband from prison during World War II.

gales her neighbor, Janet Rayl, with her amazing life stories. "She tells me about her life in Holland as a young girl during World War I and all about her family there," Rayl said. "She recalls a lot during her very young years," including a time when

she almost drown and a soldier pulled her out of the water. "She is still in very good health and is as pleasant and humorous as she could be. She is truly an inspiration and a rare jewel to me." Rie Amberg is a little hard of hearing and has some arthritis, but otherwise is in great health. She wasn't interviewed for this story because her family and friends wanted to surprise her with it as a birthday gift. Rie Amberg was born Anna Marie Helena Symons on Jan. 2, 1912, in Amsterdam, the second oldest of five girls. Her father was a teacher, her mother a homemaker. Rie, a shortened version of Anna Marie, is her nickname. She graduated high school and married Martin Hans Amberg, a German Jew who had defected to Amsterdam.

They didn't have much money, so she wore a black velvet dress instead of a wedding gown. They had one child, Ozzie, now 68. She rode through snow on a bicycle with wooden wheels to the hospital to give birth to him. "There were bombs all around and she wasn't even supposed to be on the streets," her daughter-in-law, Kathy Amberg, said. After he was born, she knitted him a pink outfit because that was the only color of yarn she had. Kathy Amberg is impressed with her mother-in-law's bravery in going up against the Nazis. "She talked to the guards," playing on their sympathies, asking them if they would want to be imprisoned when their wife or daughter was

about to give birth. "She got (her husband) out." The family came by boat to the United States 66 years ago, when Ozzie was 2. Ozzie Amberg was still wearing his little wooden shoes when they disembarked. They settled in Detroit before moving to Redford in the 1950s, where Rie Amberg has lived ever since. Martin Amberg became vice president of a tool and die shop on the east side of Detroit, while Rie Amberg worked at a knitting shop in Southfield, taking young Ozzie along because they couldn't afford a babysitter. She is a masterful knitter, who created stunning women's fashions out of yarn, including suits, coats and even a black cocktail dress with white flowers cas-

cading down the side, her daughter-in-law said. Martin Amberg died at age 80 after 52 years of marriage. Rie Amberg has outlived all of her sisters except the youngest, who is in her mid-80s and living in California. Their mother died while in her early 90s. Ozzie Amberg said his mother would attribute her longevity to doing everything in moderation: "She doesn't do anything to excess." And her positive attitude, despite all the adversity she went through. "She has the best attitude about life and we are grateful to have her in our lives," Ozzie Amberg said. "She truly is a blessing."

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ABSTRACT
WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2014-01
January 7, 2014
A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED: minutes of the special & regular meetings of December 14 & 17; Martin Luther King Jr. Resolution; 2014 dues to SEMCOG; PSA with Vincent Pastue for budget consulting services; monthly financial reports prepared by the Finance Dept.; calling a Special Meeting for Feb. 11, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 9:22 p.m.
Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk
Publish: January 16, 2014
LO-000017508 2x2

WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
RECORD OF ATTENDANCE
1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013
Pursuant to City of Westland Council Resolution No. 8-85-441, the following record of attendance of Council members at regular and special meetings is published for the year 2013

Councilperson	No. of Meetings	Meetings Attended	Percentage
Christine Cicirelli Bryant	24	21	88%
James R. Godbout	24	21	88%
Adam Hammons	24	24	100%
Bill Johnson	24	20	83%
Meriem Kadi	24	23	96%
Michael Kehrler	24	23	96%
Dewey K. Reeves	24	22	92%

EILEEN DeHART-SCHOOFF, CMC
WESTLAND CITY CLERK
Publish: 1/16/2014
LO-000017508 3x2.5

CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 1 1/6/14

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Bryant, Coleman, Hammons, Johnson, Kehrler, Reeves
02-J. Godbout declared Council President.
04-A. Hammons declared Council President Pro-Tem.
05: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 12/16/13.
- Appr. bid for Off. City Newspaper to Observer; am't \$4.75 per col. in.
- Appr. 1 yr. contract w/Detroit Salt for 7,500 tons of rock salt; amt. \$38.26/ton.
- Appr. contract w/C. Stoddard & Sons Inc. for waste control collections.
- MDOT Contract for Newburgh Road reconstruction; City's share \$129,000.
- Adopted. Ord. 109-F-2-A, an ordinance to amend Ch. 62, Art. IV of the City Code by amending Sec. 62-97 defining disorderly persons.
- Adopted Prep. Res. to recognize St. Theodore Men's Club as a Civic Charitable Organization to obtain gaming license from State of Michigan.
06: Appr. spec. land use for prop. commercial building addition & renovation; 1870 S Wayne Road.
07: Conf. re-appt. of J. Fauson as City Atty., thru 12/31/15.
08: Conf. re-appt. of B. Thompson as Planning Dir., thru 12/31/15.
09: Conf. re-appt. of N. Adams as Parks & Rec. Dir., thru 12/31/15.
10: Conf. appt/re-appt. of T. Bailey, R. Graunstadt, B. Prough, G. Green, R. Froreich, M. Londeau & T. Edwards to Parks & Rec. Advisory Council.
11: Appr. checklist: \$ 1,964,745.75 Prepaid for 12/13, 12/20, & 12/27 of 2013
\$623, \$390.59, \$456,759.50 & \$261,320.89 respectively.
Mtg. adj. at 7:46 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.
James Godbout
Council President
Eileen DeHart-Schooff, CMC
City Clerk
Publish: January 16, 2014
LO-000017544 3x4

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2188B, Proposed Land Division, Parcel #081-99-0021-705, East Side of Merriman Road, North of Van Born Road, Jeffrey J. Wild

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission
Publish: January 16, 2014
LO-000017580 3x4

OUR VIEWS

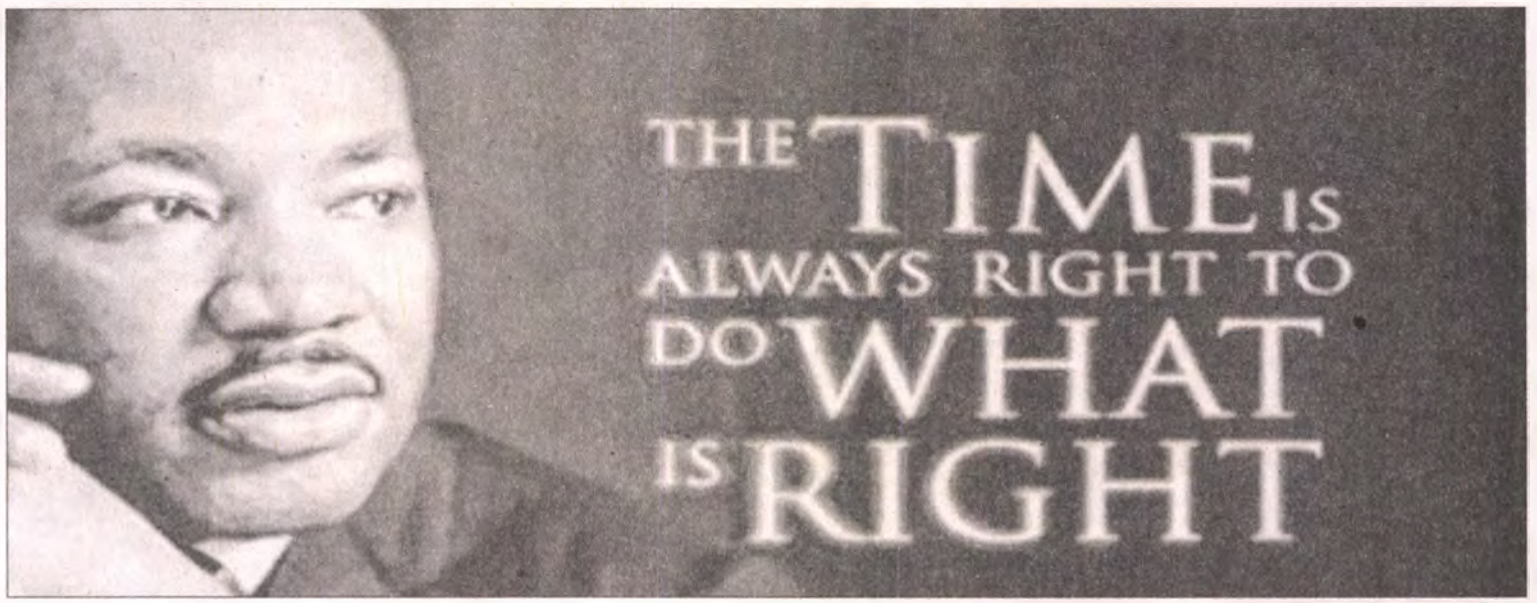
Recommit to finishing King's work

The year 1968 was a watershed year in American history. In a span of two months, the country lost two charismatic leaders — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy — to assassins' bullets.

The losses came at a time when the fabric of life in the country was being ripped apart. Opposition to the Vietnam War was increasing and confrontations over the push for civil rights were escalating. Americans in their 50s and older, who lived through those turbulent times, remember the rallies and marches, the mass of people who descended on Washington, D.C., to demand jobs and equal treatment.

But for the younger generations, there is a disconnect. Everything that happened is simply information found in history books. King and Kennedy are names under photographs and what they did or hoped to accomplish are just words on a page.

An advocate of non-violence, King was a transformational figure in American history. He sought "to make real the promises of democracy." He called on the country to "rise up from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice ... to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."



He challenged America to fulfill the promise of liberty and justice for all. Under his leadership, change came and blacks experienced more progress toward racial equality than had been seen in many, many years. He came to forefront with the Birmingham, Ala., bus boycott and stayed there until his death, leading blacks and whites in peaceful protests to end segregation.

His August 1963 speech given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington was a defining moment of the American civil rights movement. The 1963 rally on the mall in Washington was instrumental

in the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In looking back, it appears that segregation as it was existed in the 1950s and 1960s is all but gone. People of all colors live and work together. They attend the same schools and colleges. There is no separate seating in public places or on public transportation or separate bathrooms and drinking fountains.

But before we pat ourselves on our backs for a job well done, we need to ask ourselves what King would think. Would he see us at the end of the journey he started? Or would he tell us we need to do more?

Would he say that segregation has not gone away, that it has taken on a new form, fueled by poverty and lack of access to a quality life?

On Monday, the nation will pause to remember King. There will be marches, there will be speeches about his life and his vision of social and economic justice for all people. There will be ceremonies remembering what he did so many years ago.

Monday is MLK Day. It isn't a black holiday, it's an American holiday, a time to reflect on the commitment of one man to bring equal opportunity to all people. Through his words and his actions, we now can

step up to the ballot box and vote without the fear of threats and intimidation. We cannot be discriminated against because of who we are, what we believe in or the color of our skin.

Communities from Westland and Canton to Southfield and beyond are holding events to celebrate the life and work of King. Let them be the opportunity to reflect on King's vision of liberty and justice for all and recommit to making that happen.

Let Monday be the starting point for change, not another day off from work or school. King did not tolerate inequality and we shouldn't, either.

LETTERS

Fiscally responsible

At last week's meeting, the Westland City Council took bold steps to save the citizens of this city millions of dollars in legacy costs. Though it's hard to vote against yourself, City Council President James Godbout boldly passed the gavel to Councilman Adam Hammons, as he proposed a change from Defined

Benefit pension to a Defined Contribution, for all future new mayors, directors and clerks.

The current pension system was a formula based on a combination of the highest average salary and years of service. In the real world this no longer exists because of the huge burden placed on the taxpayers and businesses. The change in legislation also

squashed the double and triple dipping of future politicians using the system to feather their nests.

Thank you City Council for putting fiscal responsibility as your goal!
Antoinette Martin
Westland

Supporting Slavens

I was very pleased to read in the *Canton Observer* that State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, will run for state Senate in the 7th District.

I have known Dian Slavens and her family for over 20 years. We both attended the same church on a weekly basis. Dian Slavens was very active in teaching Sunday School. She showed her interest in children and education.

In addition, she has a background as a health professional. She was a respiratory therapist. I believe she will be a forceful advocate on men's, women's and children's health issues. The 7th District would be well-served by electing Slavens as its next State Senator.

Thomas Hartnett
Canton

Tobacco battle not won

It's been 50 years this month since the Surgeon General first informed the public that smoking was linked to increased risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. Since then, we've come a long way in reducing tobacco's grip on our country; restricting sales to children, passing comprehensive smoke-free laws in 30 states, including Michigan, increasing the average price of a pack of cigarettes and cutting the national smoking rate in half.

But if you think the battle is won, think again. There are still millions of smokers in the country, and more than 3,000 kids nationally try their first cigarette every day. Tobacco remains the leading preventable cause of death.

It's time to finish the fight against tobacco. It's time for Michigan to increase funding for our tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Doing so will save thousands of Michigan lives and millions of dollars in tobacco-related health care costs.

Liz Paruch

Canton

Privatize programs

Let's privatize health insurance. Start with Medicare. Average annual spending per beneficiary is about \$10,000. Give every senior that \$10,000 to deposit into their Health Savings Account managed by the Medicare Bank.

The bank, in size and cost, would be a shadow of the former Medicare bureaucracy and a productive member of the financial community.

More than 49 million new customers would have insurance companies salivating. A senior already spending \$4,000 or more annually for Part B, D and a Medigap policy would have \$14,000-plus to buy insurance of their choice.

Do the same thing with Medicaid. Privatizing it would also solve the doctor shortage due to low pay and bureaucratic hassles.

In lieu of paying for "Obamacare," employers contribute to an HSA the employee uses to buy coverage that meets their needs, not what government dictates. Change jobs? Take your insurance and HSA with you.

With millions of consumers capitalized, making health care choices and the industry competing for customers, lower cost and improved service is a given and government won't have their noses in our wallets and examination rooms.

Jack Belisle
South Lyon

Review policies

I recently was involved in a car accident. I was driving on the expressway, maintaining speed with the flow of traffic and within the speed limit and was rear-ended by a speeding, out-of-control driver.

I filed a damage claim with my auto insurance carrier, which agreed to pay for the repair of my car, as required by the policy and the state's no-fault insurance law.

Last year, my wife's car was parked in the Kroger parking lot and suffered extensive damage when another car smashed into it while she was shopping. In that case, too, our carrier paid for the repairs to the car.

The surprise came when our carrier informed us that our insur-

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review and reassess the policies that carriers are using in deciding to raise premiums for individual drivers, with the end that such decisions would be made in a more just manner.

John Grissim
Milford

Nerd, egghead or twit?

Being a member of an older generation when "nerd" became part of the American vernacular, I was inclined to equate it with an older appellation, "egghead." In my youth, an egghead was considered an intellectual. Weird? Perhaps, but brain, nevertheless.

When considering the convoluted, asinine, illogical argument of Gov. Nerd supporting anonymous slander squads, one cannot possibly confuse egghead with nerd. Twit? Yes, but not egghead.

Snyder would have flunked Socrates' Logic 101 class.

Patrick Downey
Novi

Require helmets

I am writing in return to the article that you published (hometownlife.com) Dec. 11, about the motorcycle helmet debate. I question if we should have passed this law. There has been an increase in the number of motorcycle accidents and fatalities since the law has been passed. Not requiring people to wear helmets while riding a motorcycle isn't the best idea; there is no positive outcome if people don't wear helmets. The law was in place to protect riders and their passengers while on streets and state highways.

Some people might say that they have a right to make a decision on whether they want to wear a helmet or not. I don't understand why you wouldn't want to wear a helmet. It could be a matter of life and death if you don't wear it.

What we need to do is revoke the law and require people to wear helmets again to save more lives. If more people started wearing helmets again, we would have fewer annual deaths from motorcycle crashes. If we don't change this now, the death rates on motorcycles could keep going up and up.

James Ciolli II
Novi

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you plan to attend the North American International Auto Show in Detroit?

We asked this question at the Garden City Public Library in Garden City.



"No, I can't afford to buy a new car so it doesn't interest me."

Claudine Wooley
Garden City



"No, I don't have the time."

Lindsay Fricke
Plymouth



"Yes, I'll be going this weekend — my son and I."

Mark Fleck
Garden City



"I have never gone downtown for the auto show."

Barbara Custard
Garden City

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*Source: Monthly unique visitors, comScore Multi-Platform Report, March 2013

Local teen seeks sponsorship to accelerate racing career

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Garrett Rons is hoping a local auto parts supplier will help sponsor his racing career. But he needs a little help from the public.

Rons has entered a contest through Southfield-based Federal Mogul and its spark plug brand, Champion, that could provide him up to \$50,000 in sponsorship money to put toward his racing career, which he does in a non-winged sprint car, a small motorized vehicle used to race on dirt or paved tracks.

"It would mainly help us pay for a new car and new trailer so we can travel to different races and different tracks to racing," said the 13-year-old eighth-grader at Holmes Middle School. "Getting the money from the contest would help us go farther in racing and go to bigger tracks."

Rons is asking for support through votes on the contest's website to help reach his goal. Those interested in voting for Rons can do so by visiting alwaysachampion.com and searching for Rons' video to cast a vote. Voters can cast one ballot per day and the contest ends Feb. 2.

Rons has been racing since he was in kindergarten, moving up from go-karts to sprint cars. He currently competes at Jackson Speedway and finished fourth out of 10 drivers in the overall standings in 2013.

If he wins the contest, he and his family hope to purchase a bigger vehicle and move up to the highest sprint car class. There, he would face tougher competition from both older teenagers and adults. He currently competes regularly against people who are much older than he is.

Audra Rons, Garrett's

mother, said the entire family supports his racing dreams and careers and hopes the contest goes well so that her son can compete against stronger competition.

"He actually wanted to move up for 2014, but we can't afford it right now," she said. "All votes are appreciative, because anything he gets as far as sponsorships is just huge for us."

Garrett Rons said it's a great working with his family members in his racing endeavor, saying all his accomplishments are a team effort.

"My dad and my grandpa are big supporters. Every weekend, they're out with me racing. They're also my crew," he said. "My mom and grandma and sister are all there every weekend. Having them support me is really nice."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com | 313-222-5379 |
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Be proactive, protect yourself from fraud

Most have read about or heard about the story of more than 100 million people who had their credit card, debit card or other personal information stolen by hackers who hacked into Target's database.

Target is not the first company that this has happened to and it certainly won't be the last. In fact, Neiman Marcus just announced that its database was also recently hacked and there are also rumors that two other large retailers will soon be announcing their sites were also hacked.

This should be a reminder to all that we live in a technology-based world and it is extremely important to be aware and on guard in order to protect ourselves. Although, there is nothing to guarantee that information won't be stolen by hackers,



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

there are things to do to minimize the effect it will have.

What can hackers do with the information? With your charge card number, expiration date and security code these crooks can go to town at your expense.

Although there are laws that protect you and minimize your losses, you have to be proactive and notify your bank or charge card company when there is a fraudulent transaction. When you receive your charge card statement or bank statement, it is important to review them immediately for accuracy. If there is a charge that is not yours, immediately notify your bank or charge card company.

Don't assume that the bank or credit card company will catch these inappropriate charges because they don't. If you do not notify them, you could be held liable for unauthorized charges.

These crooks also use the information to get more information on you. Hackers typically have a few different ways which they can contact you for the information. For example, they may contact you through email seeking the additional information. Typically, they will send an official looking email that asks you to click on a link for further information. Once you click on the link, the hackers can get more information from your computer.

If you get an email from Target, for example, don't click on the link. The better way to

do it is to go directly to Target's website and type the information in the browser yourself.

Hackers will also attempt to contact you by telephone claiming that you have been affected by the hacking and that they need additional information to protect you. If you receive one of these calls, hang up. If you do receive a call, the better way to deal with this is to contact your bank or credit card company after you hang up.

My recommendation for Target customers and others who shopped at retailers who have been hacked is to be proactive and notify your bank and credit card company. Let them know that you've shopped at Target and you may be at risk for a fraud. In addition, it is not a bad idea to change your passwords and pin numbers.

We live in a world where every aspect of our financial affairs is affected by technology. Whether it's direct deposit of paychecks, filing tax returns or paying bills online, technology is a key ingredient.

Although banks, credit card companies and other financial institutions have improved their security, the hackers have also gotten more sophisticated. Because of that consumers need to recognize they are the last line of defense and must always be on guard.

If you see something you're unsure of in any financial statement - credit card, bank or mutual fund - don't ignore it or assume that it must be right.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. Send him questions at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Lutz catalyst once again in Stevenson 3-1 triumph

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Before the crowd at Plymouth Cultural Center could get comfortable Saturday night, Livonia Stevenson's Dominic Lutz again showed why he is a world-class player.

Lutz ripped a slap shot over the shoulder of Salem senior goalie Parker Godfrey just 2:09 into the KLAA cross-over boys hockey matchup to open the game's scoring.

It was Lutz 2, Salem 0 before the end of the opening stanza when the forward banged in a rebound for his 29th of the season and that proved to be enough as the defending Division 2 champions tallied a 3-1 triumph.

Stevenson's third goal was by Michael Sinclair into an empty net with 14 seconds to go.

"Dom is just a special player, he's a guy we'll all see at the next level," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He popped a couple early, and had all kinds of chances the rest of the night, and

battled through and through."

The lone Salem goal was scored early in the third period by senior forward Jake Sealy, who sent a seemingly harmless shot from the left circle that bounced off a Stevenson defenseman past netminder Andrew Rozenbaum (21 saves) to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Salem (5-6) put on plenty of pressure in an attempt to force overtime, but could not do so — following a recent trend so far this season of having trouble cashing in scoring chances.

"They had two goals, one off a face-off and another just off a rebound," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "... For us, we had a ton of chances, I don't know how many empty nets we missed again tonight but it happens. Right now pucks just aren't bouncing are way."

Ossenmacher said his team played much better than Friday night against Livonia Churchill (a 4-2 loss) and the competitive tilt against the 13-1 Spar-



Salem's Jack Newel (left) and Stevenson's Dominic Lutz battle for the puck in Saturday's game at the Plymouth Cultural Center. BRIAN QUINTOS

See SPARTANS, Page B2

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Rob Woodson has stepped into a starting role nicely for the Grand Valley State men's basketball team. DOUG WITTE | GVSU ATHLETICS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rocks cut Stevenson like a knife

Salem rolls to 71-45 triumph

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The pace was fast and furious during the first two quarters Monday night between KLAA Central Division boys basketball rivals Salem and Livonia Stevenson.

Salem had a 36-32 advantage at halftime before putting its game into another gear while leaving the host Spartans in the dust en route to a convincing 71-45 victory.

The Rocks, who improved to 7-2 overall and 3-0 in the Central, outscored Stevenson 19-4 during the third quarter while holding their opponent scoreless for a span of 5 minutes and 52 seconds.

Salem's game plan was simply to contain Stevenson's guard combo of Jaiten Webber and Noah Campbell. The junior duo wound up with 14 and 10 points, respectively, but shot a combined 9-of-28 from the field.

"I thought we took them out of their game, we knew who their two scorers were," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We put a lot of heat on them and got help from the other players. We tried to limit them to one scoring opportunity at a time. That's all they got for the most part."

Meanwhile, Salem's twin senior backcourt tandem of Connor and Brady Cole wreaked havoc on both ends of the floor as the pair proved to be highly efficient combining for a total of 26 points with 16 and 10, respectively.

Eight other Rocks also scored including senior center Mike Hoover (11 points) and junior guard Allante Wheeler (eight).

"That's the type of players they are," Brodie said of the twins. "But our team is a good, balanced team. They like to run and play at that pace. Stevenson tried to do the same thing and I think we just outplayed them tonight."

Salem, which did not deviate from its first-half scheme, went on an 18-2 third-quarter run and held the Spartans to 1-of-14 shooting from field.

"We just said, 'Stay solid in what you're doing,'" Brodie said. "We told them to do the same thing they had been doing defensively. The plan was to get to those two shooters and help off, and hedge, and continue to push the ball offensively. Not hold the ball, just go after them. They did a good job with that."

Salem was able to beat Stevenson's three-quarter court press with relative ease.

"It's something the kids work on," Brodie said. "They accept that challenge. They know where each other are. They find open players so well. They catch the ball, square and find players. When you start burning them long, the pressure tends to lessen a little bit and they come off of it because they've got to respect that long pass. I think that happened tonight a few times."

Ironically, Stevenson (1-6, 0-2) stayed close for two quarters despite shooting 13-of-36 from the floor (36.1 percent).

"I thought we put ourselves in position," Spartans coach Brandon Sinawi said. "The first three minutes of that third quarter were huge."

See CAGERS, Page B3

Woodson lesson in perseverance

Wayne grad starts as 5th-year senior

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

While most would have fallen by the wayside, Rob Woodson waited four years for this chance.

And the senior point guard from Grand Valley State is making the most of his opportunity and proving he belongs as a starter for the Lakers, who stand 10-2 overall and 6-2 in the North Division of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Woodson, a preferred walk-on from Wayne Memorial High, played just 27 total minutes as a true freshman before red-shirting during the 2010-11 season.

During his sophomore year, Woodson appeared in all 27 games, while averaging 1.6 points per game.

Last season, Woodson broke into the lineup and served as a reliable backup, averaging 6.2 points and 2.7 rebounds in 19 minutes per game.

Fast forward to 2013-14 as Woodson improved to 12.4 points per game, while averaging a team-best 3.5 assists along with 3.3 rebounds per game. He's also logging a career-best 30 minutes per game.

"It's really a great story, and more and more, a bit of an unusual story," Grand Valley coach Ric Wes-

ley said. "In this day and age, particularly in our sport, there's such a lack of commitment, patience, perseverance, if you will ... Rob is all those things and more. And it's great to see that it's paying off for him."

Waiting game

Woodson, now in his fifth season, was able to bide his time while backing up Breland Hogan for three years.

"I have a totally different role that I've had the past four years,"

Woodson said. "I'm a leader, people depend on me every game. I have to make sure I come to play in every practice and every game, too."

"Coach (Wesley) has given me a little more freedom this year to run things. I come down and run the team the way I want to. 'I haven't had this kind of role since I played in high school at Wayne. I kind of like it. My teammates look up to me. They kind of feed off my energy that I bring every day.'"

Wesley says Woodson has always blended in well with his teammates and coaches.

"I feel like his play is really a reflection of his personality," the Grand Valley coach said. "He's kind of fun-loving type kid who really connects well with people. He has a warm fuzziness about him. He's

kind of a glue guy and everybody on the team has liked Rob since he's gotten here. He's probably one of our most popular guys across the board. And I think he plays the same kind of way. He has a good time and a natural feel for the game. He has the ability to get in the lane and really create opportunities for himself and for others. But he's very much of a team guy."

Among the starters, Woodson is also shooting a team-best 52.5 percent from the floor and has committed just 22 turnovers on the season.

Room to grow

"My hope is that he'll continue to build upon the things he's done already," Wesley said. "He's really become a consistent scorer for us. Obviously he's a great facilitator. He's leading the team in assists. We just hope he can continue to grow in confidence, stay healthy and just continue the way he's played. He's played a lot of minutes. He's handling the ball a great deal for us and most of what we do with him is on the offensive end. It kind of revolves around his ability to just be just an effective offensive player."

On Jan. 2, Woodson scored a season-best 16 points in a 81-76 home victory over perennial NCAA Division II power Findlay (Ohio). He also dished out seven assists in a 64-57 win Dec. 15 at Tiffin (Ohio).

The Lakers currently sit in sec-

See WOODSON, Page B4

Fundraiser celebrates women entertainers, benefits children's show

Honoring Women in Entertainment cause gets boost from Tuesday, Jan. 28, benefit

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Two Muses Theatre will stage its first children's musical next month.

But first, it needs to raise a little cash to defray production costs.

Honoring Women in Entertainment is set for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28, in the theater at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield.

Tickets are \$5 at the door and will benefit *AWAKE!*, the original musical production set for weekends, Feb. 8-22, at the bookstore.



Rodriguez

our Kickstarter backers helped us cover the extra costs that are inherent in putting on a musical. In this case, we are raising fund particularly to cover expenses of *AWAKE!*

"In addition, we are working towards the purchase of a new lighting board...so we are hoping *AWAKE!* can break even with the help of the fundraiser."

Hill co-founded the nonprofit, professional theater in 2011 with Barbie Amann Weisserman of Farmington Hills. The theater is dedicated to increasing opportunities for female artists. Both Honoring Women in Entertainment and *AWAKE!* will showcase all-women casts.

Women entertainers

Emilio Rodriguez of Detroit wrote *AWAKE!* and is directing it. He also came up with the fundraiser idea and is coordinating Honoring Women in Entertainment.

"We were thinking about



Two Muses Theatre will stage its first children's musical next month. A fundraiser on Jan. 28 will help raise funds to pay production costs.

fundraisers that could get us money and wouldn't involved start up costs," he said "We were trying to come up with a theme and since Two Muses is centered around creating opportunities for female artists, we said we'll do a tribute show."

Rodriguez enlisted the help of friends, co-workers and a few of the *AWAKE!* cast members to perform at the Hon-

oring Women in Entertainment fundraiser. They'll pay tribute to female entertainers through songs, sketches and improvisational comedy. Performers include Kryssy Becker, Meredith Deighton, Jaclynn Cherry, Lillian Bishop, Demi Jones, Paige Vanzo, Allison Megroet and Deb Charaman.

"This will pay for costumes, set, actors and recording tracks (for *AWAKE!*)," Rodri-

guez said. "They've done a children's show and they've done a musical. This is the first time they're doing a children's musical."

He was an actor in Two Muses' first children's production, *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf*, last February. Rodriguez said he was asked to direct at the theater this year and encouraged to write a children's production.

The California native teaches drama and English at Mumford High School in Detroit.

AWAKE! tells the story of fairy tale princesses who tire of waiting for a prince to save the day and instead, take matters into their own hands. The cast is Alyssa Lucas of Garden City, as the Evil Queen; Jaclynn Cherry of Rochester Hills as the Good Fairy; Kryssy Becker of Auburn Hills as Snow White; Meredith Deighton of Ferndale as Rapunzel; and Shannon Hurst of Warren as Sleeping Beauty. Advance tickets are \$10 and \$8 for children, 10 and under. They're \$2 more at the door. Buy them online at twomusetheatre.org or call 248-850-9919.



Participants decorate bowls at the first annual Soup Swap last year.

Paint a bowl, dine on soup at Village Potter's Guild

Great place to gather and get creative with some good friends

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you're looking for a girl's night out destination this month, Village Potter's Guild in Plymouth may have just what you need.

The organization will present its second annual Soup Swap painting event., Monday, Jan. 20, Friday, Jan. 24 and 31, and Saturday, Jan. 25, at its pottery studio, 340 N. Main.

"Friday night was a hit and last year we only had one," said event chair Leslie Greenisen, explaining why two Fridays are included in the schedule this year. "It turned out groups of women last year came in and had their Friday night Ladies Night Out."

"We have four groups (of women) signed up already this year. But it's not just Friday night. We have some groups coming in Monday because the kids are off from school. We have some large families coming."

Individuals, couples, families and groups may sign up for one of several 90-minute painting sessions in the studio where they will decorate a bowl made by a Guild member. Available times are 10-11:30 a.m., 12:30-2 p.m. or 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 20; 10-11:30 a.m., 12:30-2 p.m., 5:30-7 p.m. or 7:30-9 p.m. Jan. 24; 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Jan. 25; and 5:30-7 p.m. or 7:30-9 p.m. Jan. 31.

Brush on color

The process involves painting slip — a colored wet clay



Participants can paint bowls this month at the Village Potters Guild in Plymouth, then return next month to fill them with soup.

the consistency of heavy cream — onto the pottery. Design books will be on hand for reference and decorated bowls will be on display.

Carolyn Hook, a Guild member, said participants may use pencil to sketch designs and then apply colors.

"If they come with a design idea, that's fine," Hook said. "Some people last year came in and knew what they wanted and some didn't. We'll have sample bowls and (Guild members) will be there working at every table."

Greenisen said the key is to have fun.

"A lot of people think too hard about it. Put the paint on the bowl and see what happens," she suggested.

Swap for soup

Guild members will glaze and fire each bowl after the painting sessions, making them ready for pick up from 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Soup Swap Day, Saturday, Feb. 8. The

Guild is asking participants to bring canned goods for the Salvation Army food pantry to the Swap in exchange for soup, prepared and served by the Over the Grill Gang, a local men's chef club. No reservations are required for the Swap.

"Last year was a wonderful success. We couldn't have been happier," Greenisen said. "It's a really good community art activity, a good public art project that goes to our mission."

The cost to paint a bowl is \$15 for individuals or for the first two members of a family. Additional family members pay \$10 each. If an individual plans to decorate more than one bowl, the cost is \$15 for the first bowl and \$10 for additional bowls with a limit of four. Finished bowls decorated by Guild members also will be available at the Soup Swap for \$14 each. To register for a painting session, call 734-207-8807.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ART & CRAFTS

ARAB AMERICAN MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1
Location: 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

Details: Pewabic Pottery instructor Victoria Shaheen will lead a bowl-making workshop. Participants will hand-mold bowls from clay and decorate them with a slip-glaze technique. Includes a docent-guided tour of the Museum focusing on Arab artistic heritage in America and the role of food and hospitality in culture. Fee is \$35 and advanced registration is required. Appropriate for adults and children 11 and over

Contact: 313-582-2266; arabamericanmuseum.org

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 22

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: "Elements: Sky, Water, Land," features the paintings, drawings and three-dimensional mixed media works of Martine MacDonald
Contact: 248-473-1856

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during public performances, or by appointment

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Glass sculpture by JB Wood is on display through May
Contact: 734-394-5300

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 1

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Altered Perceptions" features paintings by abstract expressionist artist Jan Brown
Contact: 248-344-0497; http://www.northvillearts.org

FILM

MATRIX THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. screenings and 9 p.m. reception, Thursday, Jan. 30; 8 p.m. screening, Friday, Jan. 31; 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. screenings, Saturday, Feb. 1; 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. screenings, with award ceremony at 6:45 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2

Location: 2730 Bagley, Detroit
Details: Second annual 2014 Detroit Dreaming Film Festival showcase the diversity, struggles and triumphs of the City of Detroit, through narratives, documentary, and shorts. Tickets are \$7 per screening block
Contact: 313-967-0599; www.matrixtheatre.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 17-18 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: *All is Lost*, admission \$3
Coming up: *The Book Thief*, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24; 4:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 25-26; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30
Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 18

Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit
Details: *Amadeus*, 2002 director's cut
Coming up: *True Grit*, 8 p.m. Jan. 31 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 1
Contact: 313-537-2560

SENATE THEATER

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 18
Location: 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit
Details: Harold Lloyd comedy, *Safety Last*, a silent film with organ accompaniment; tickets are \$15
Contact: 313-894-4100; dtos.org

MUSIC

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Open mic sign up, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances 7-9 p.m., the third Saturday of the month through May

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Featured performers on Jan. 18 are The Sorensons, playing bluegrass music on guitar, bass, banjo and violin. Ten open mic spots will be available. Open mic musicians may perform two songs, original or cover. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and include free admission.
Contact: Scott Ludwig at B5Spresident@aol.com

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18
Location: On the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Tenors Un Limited presents "An evening with The Rat Pack of Opera." Tickets are \$33; \$18 for ages 15 and under
Contact: 248-661-1900

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: \$5 donation at the door
Contact: 734-453-1780

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26
Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile at Lahser, Beverly Hills
Details: Cellist David Geringas and pianist Ian Fountain perform works by 19th century Romantic masters Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Strauss. Tickets range from \$15-\$24 for students and \$30-\$60 general admission, available online at chambermusic-detroit.org. Student rush tickets priced at \$10 also are available at the box office beginning an hour before the concert
Contact: 248-855-6070

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: On Jan. 28 the Nuevo Jazz Detroit latin group returns with Duncan Jones on keyboard, Don Levandowski on bass, Patrick Fitzgibbons on vibes, Chuck Golemba on drums, and Jerry LeDuff on congas. \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres
Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

JAZZ CAFE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25
Location: Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: "The January Thaw Jam" features Luis Resto, M.L. Liebledr and Kenny Tudrick; \$10
Contact: 313-887-8532

HEART-HEALTHY RECIPES YOU'LL



Eating heart healthy foods is easier when you have a good plan and a variety of delicious recipes.

According to the FDA, a diet rich in whole grain and organic foods that contain little saturated fat and cholesterol, may help reduce the risk of heart failure.

Here are some tips for preparing heart-healthy choices:

— Choose leaner cuts of meat. There are many delicious options such as skinless poultry, and lean meats, including beef and pork. You also can make smart substitutions. Use turkey, for example, instead of ground beef to make meatloaf leaner.

— Add fruits and vegetables to every meal. It's easier

than you think to provide nutrients to your diet. For example, add fruit to yogurt and blueberries to salads. Create snacks with carrots and hummus. Eat fruits and vegetables of different colors for more nutritional benefits.

— Eat more whole grains. Whole grains provide carbohydrates for energy, fiber to fill and important nutrients for health.

For more tips and heart-healthy recipes that add whole grains to your diet, visit www.PostShreddedWheat.com

Courtesy of Family Features



SHREDDED WHEAT APPLE CRISP

Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 1 hour, 5 minutes
Servings: 6

5 cups peeled apple slices
½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar, divided
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon tapioca
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1-½ cups finely crushed shredded wheat cereal
¼ cup (½ stick) margarine, melted

Mix apples, ¼ cup of the sugar, lemon juice, tapioca and cinnamon in large bowl. Let stand 10 minutes. Stir crushed cereal, remaining ¼ cup sugar and margarine in medium bowl until well blended. Spread apple mixture in ungreased 1-½-quart baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with cereal topping. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes or until topping is browned and apples are tender when pierced with fork.



BANANA BREAD

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 1 hour, 5 minutes
Servings: 16

1-¼ cups flour
1 cup shredded wheat cereal, finely crushed
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup sugar
½ cup (1 stick) margarine
2 eggs
¼ cup fat-free milk
1 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 2 large bananas)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix flour, cereal, spice, baking powder and baking soda in medium bowl; set aside.

Beat sugar and margarine in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs; mix well. Add flour mixture alternately with milk, beating well after each addition. Blend in bananas. Pour into greased 9- by 5-inch loaf pan.

Bake 1 hour to 1 hour 5 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on wire rack; remove from pan. Cool completely. Cut into 16 slices.



SAVORY MEATLOAF

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Servings: 12

2 eggs
1 cup milk
2 pounds ground beef
3 biscuits Post Original Shredded Wheat Cereal, crushed
1 can (8 ounces) stewed tomatoes, undrained
1 medium onion, chopped
¼ cup chopped green pepper
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 375°F. Beat eggs and milk in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Shape meat mixture into oval loaf in shallow baking pan. Bake 1 hour or until cooked through (160°F).



GRAB 'N GO PEANUT BUTTER BARS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Servings: 16

½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
½ cup honey
½ cup reduced fat peanut butter
3 cups shredded wheat cereal, coarsely crushed
¼ cup raisins

Mix sugar, honey and peanut butter in large microwavable bowl. Microwave on high 1-½ to 2 minutes or until bubbly at edge; stir until well blended.

Stir in cereal and raisins. Press firmly into 8-inch square pan sprayed with cooking spray. Cool. Cut into bars. Store in airtight container.

RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY

BETHANY

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18
Location: Leon's 30149 Ford Road, Garden City
Details: The group meets for breakfast.

Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit office of youth and family, providing peer support to divorced and separated persons of all Christian faiths
Contact: www.bethanysemi.org

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City
Details: All you can eat, pancakes,

sausage and beverage, \$6
Contact: 734-427-3660

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19
Location: St. Theodore social hall, 8200

N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All-you-can-eat menu includes pancake and French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, juice, applesauce and coffee. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10.
Contact: 734-425-4421

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

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 www.hometownlife.com

CUSAC, EARL KENNETH

Age 96 of Scottville passed away on December 31, 2013 at his home in Scottville, MI. He was born on October 20, 1917 in Detroit, MI the son of the late W. Ray & Grace (Roy) Cusac. Earl married A. Frances Harding on September 6, 1940 at the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Detroit, MI. He was employed as a product engineer with General Motors until his retirement in 1977. Earl was a lifetime member of the SABBAR SHRINE in Tucson, AZ. He loved playing tennis and played until his late 80's. He also loved to fish, sing, and talk on his Ham Radio and did stage make-up and acted in plays for the Scottish Rite in Detroit. Earl is survived by his children, Marguerite (John) Staples of Tucson, AZ, Kenneth (Kathy) Cusac of Scottville, MI, Patricia (Richard) Ruhland of Garden City, MI; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife A. Frances Cusac and his brother, Roy Cusac. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wayne Masonic Temple, 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, MI 48186. Memorial contributions in memory of Earl may be directed to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation, 1200 Wright Ave., Alma MI 48801, or Hospice of Michigan. Please visit Earl's personal memory page to share a story or photo with the family at www.oakgrovefh.com. The family has entrusted funeral arrangements with Oak Grove Funeral Home & Cremation Center in Ludington, MI.



GEDEON, JOYCE JUANITA

Age 88, of Fenton, Michigan formerly of Redford Township, MI died January 13, 2014. Visitation will be 3 - 7 p.m. Friday at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton, with a Scripture Service to follow at 7 p.m., Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Committal Services will be 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 18 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, West Chapel, in Southfield. In lieu of flowers, contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or The National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Born March 22, 1925 in Detroit. Married to Bartol Gedeon on December 13, 1941; he preceded her in death on May 25, 1997. Surviving are: daughter Nikki Westberg Black and husband Bill Black of Fenton; son Anthony Gedeon and wife Michelle of Palm Coast, Florida; six grandchildren, Todd Gedeon, Cathy and husband Will DeMille, Aimee and husband Dana Smith, Kirk Gedeon and wife Jessica, Laura Westberg and husband Shawn Rubin, and Bart Gedeon and wife Dori Bracero; and eight great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her father Louis Oltean, and step-mother Mary Oltean; mother Pauline Prosyk and step-father Louis Prosyk; and son-in-law William Westberg.
 www.sharpfuneralhomes.com

IRVINE, JAMES DAVID

Mr. James David Irvine, age 86, went home to his Heavenly Father Saturday, January 11, 2014. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on September 29, 1927 to William and Mabel (Robertson) Irvine. James proudly served his country in the Army during WWII. After his time in the service he went to college on the GI Bill and became a corporate attorney at Ford Motor Company for 20 years. On June 18, 1960 he married Mona Louise Roesner. He was a member of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, MAPBD, Rockford Sportsman's Club, and St. Andrews Society of Detroit. James is survived by his wife, Mona; children, Margaret Jean Gable, Diane (David Enos) Irvine, Delma (David) Atwell, Jim (Lisa) Irvine, John (Sandy) Irvine; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Margaret; brothers, William S. Irvine and John R. Irvine. The visitation will be 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at the Pederson Funeral Home, 127 N. Monroe St., Rockford, MI. The Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. Thursday, January 16, 2014 at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 4865 11 Mile Rd., Rockford, MI with Rev. Lam T. Le presiding. Memorial contributions can be made to the English Springer Spaniel Foundation, ESSFTAF Treasurer, 4917 Wagon Wheel Way, Richmond, CA 94803, www.englishspringerfoundation.org. Pederson Funeral Home www.pedersonfuneralhome.com



QUINN, HUGH

passed away at the age of 90 in Des Moines, Iowa December 24, 2013. Hugh suffered a fall on December 20, 2013, which resulted in a broken hip and a mild heart attack. After several days at the hospital, when all seemed well, he underwent surgery to repair his hip. Although the surgery was initially successful, Hugh deteriorated later that day and suffered a cardiac arrest. Hugh was born in Cambuslang, Scotland February 1, 1923. He immigrated to Detroit, MI with his family around 1924. Hugh served in the US Army during WWII, receiving 2 purple hearts. Hugh retired to West Palm Beach, FL and resided there until his recent move to Des Moines, IA. Hugh is survived by his widow, Margo Quinn, her children, Suzanne Collela of New York, Michelle (Robert) Kimbrell of Des Moines, IA, Mark (Page) Rochon of Washington, DC, 5 step grandchildren, 3 step great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his first wife, Madeline Quinn, their four sons - Michael (Patricia) Quinn of Brighton, MI; John (Mary Ann) Quinn of Gregory, MI; Robert Quinn of Orlando, FL; Dennis (Lydia) Quinn of Berkeley, MI, 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and by his brother Charles (Elizabeth 'Betty') Quinn of Plymouth, MI. Hugh was predeceased by his siblings Frank (Shirley) Quinn, Ann (Jerry) Rancour, Mary Margaret (Hugh) Mclean and his parents William Charles 'Charlie' Quinn and Mary Margaret 'Molly' O'Neill Quinn. Memorial Services will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church 711 Rickett Rd Brighton, MI at 10:30am on Saturday, February 8, 2014.



WASHBURN, CAROLYN "LYNN" PRIEST

of Greenville, formerly of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2014 in Carson City, Michigan with her family at her side. She was born July 17, 1928 in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Henry B. and Verna E. Priest, both natives of Irasburg, Vermont. She grew up in Verona, NJ where her father taught English at Montclair (NJ) High School for many years. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, John M. Washburn III, whom she married on September 23, 1950; their children, Christine Kohn (Thomas) of Greenville, MI, David Washburn (Gail) of Ringwood, NJ and Carol Keberly (Paul) of Plymouth, MI; grandchildren, Aaron Kohn (Katie), David Kohn (Kristen), Laura Kohn (fiancé Alexander), Jacqueline Washburn, Laura Sama (Andrea), Brian Washburn, Carolyn Rose (Jason), Jennifer Rasak, and Michael Rasak (Taylor); great-grandchildren, Madison and Payton Rose, Alyssa, Emily, and Daniel Kohn and Noah and Charlotte Kohn; sister, Virginia Weston (Ralph); sisters-in-law, Jane Parker and Ann Samuels. Carolyn graduated from Tufts University (Medford, MA) in 1950 where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in history. Later, after she and John had raised their family, she earned a Master Degree in special education from Eastern Michigan University and taught special education in the Farmington Public Schools for 17 years. She had a great love for the children that she taught. She especially enjoyed spending summers on beautiful Parker Pond, West Glover, VT at the summer camp that her parents built in 1937. These summers held many special memories for her, and she has passed her love of Parker Pond on to her children and grandchildren. A graveside Memorial Service will take place this summer with interment in the Irasburg, Vermont Cemetery. For those desiring to do so, the family suggests memorial considerations be made to either the John M. Washburn III and Carolyn P. Washburn Endowed Scholarship Fund at Alma College, 614 West Superior Street, Alma, MI 48801 or to The Old Stone House Museum, c/o Orleans County Historical Society, 109 Old Stone House Road, Brownington, VT 05860. The family is being served by Hurst Funeral Home through which messages of condolence may be sent via:
 www.hurstfuneralhome.com

May the memory of your loved one...
 ...bring you peace.

May you find comfort in family & friends

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 Fax: 313-496-4968
 Email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA

HAYES, GERMAINE (ZADRA)
 Age 85, January 15, 2014, Livonia, Predeceased by husband Waymon Hayes and daughter Barbara. Survived by son Daniel (Mary) Hayes and one granddaughter Kelly. Germaine was a loving and devoted mother with a fun spirit. She taught at Garfield Elementary in Livonia for over 30 years and she was an avid reader. No funeral services, a private gathering planned. Donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

PIERCE, ROBERT WILLIAM

Passed from this world December 27, 2013, at age 55. A resident of Westland, he was born in Royal Oak, Michigan on November 4, 1958, and lived in Wayne County most of his life. He graduated from Wayne Memorial High School and worked in restaurants and at Meijer's stores throughout his years. He was a Christian, and enjoyed a good life full of close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Lorraine Pierce, of Belleville, MI, and by his beloved "sister," Charyl Stockwell. A memorial service will honor his memory at 12:00 p.m., January 19, at the VFW Hall in Garden City, Michigan.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. AT1500641</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>The Church Worth Driving To! Westminster Church of Detroit Multi-cultural, welcoming, warm & secure parking 17567 Hubbell @ Outer Drive Detroit, MI 48235 Services at 8:30 and 11:00 (Summer and special Sundays-10:00) 313-341-2697 x 200 www.wcodetroit.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. 4 different music styles from classic to modern www.wardchurch.org LO-000164911</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96 www.christsaviorsavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Rev. Dean M. Davenport & Rev. Robert F. Bayer 734-522-6830 LO-000164667</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1625 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196 AT1500602</p>	<p>Rosedale Gardens PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs AT1500637</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p><i>A Church for Seasoned Saints</i> OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm Pastor Grady Jensen & Music Minister Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282 Church As You Remember it! AT1500627</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org AT1500603</p>
<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>St. Paul's Ev. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734)261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES Sunday: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Thursday: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org AT1500600</p>			

For Information regarding this Directory,
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Accounting Clerk
Canton office location looking for full-time accounting clerk. Quick learner with sharp data entry skills and detail oriented person needed. Experience required. Great benefits and opportunity for right person.

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Certified, Full time, Plymouth/Canton area at a Good Year Tire & Automotive Service Center. Send resume to: certifiedautomotive@earthlink.net or Call 734-891-2204

AUTO TECH
Mercedes Benz of Novi is looking for an entry level Tech. Full Time, exc. benefits. Must have state lic. & own tools. Fax or email resume: 248-426-8686 tony@novibenz.com

BINDERY PERSON
One of Livonia's top printing companies is looking for a full-time bindery person. This position requires the ability to run a folder, cutter and other bindery equipment 5 years exp. needed. Call 734-953-9729 x105

Help Wanted - General

CLEANERS WANTED
Part-time evenings. Must pass background check & drug screen. 586-759-3700

COMMERCIAL CARPENTER
Healthcare construction firm. Must have minimum 5 years commercial experience. Email resume to: hr@aimeconstruction.com Fax: 248-476-4277

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ESTIMATOR/SUPERINTENDENT
Must have minimum of 3 years in commercial construction experience. Email resume to: hr@aimeconstruction.com Fax: 248-476-4277

COOKS
Dining Services Management Company has an immediate opening for a part-time cook at a religious retreat center in the Bloomfield Hills area. Minimum 2 years experience a plus. Part-time, must be able to work evenings and weekends. Customer service oriented individuals need only to apply. Please send resume to: rbrown@manresa-sj.org

DATA ENTRY/INSIDE SALES
Canton office has opening for full-time data entry/inside sales position. College education preferred, requires good computer skills. Quick learner and detail oriented person needed. Great benefits and opportunity for right person. Please send resume to: Reference Box 6011 oerresume@hometownlife.com

DELIVERY
HVAC Company. Clean driving record. Chauffeur's license. Located in Oakland county. Email resume to: email@sunheating.com 248-335-4555

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland. (734) 722-4580 x9

FLORAL DESIGNER
Minimum of 2 yrs in-store experience. The Flower Shop. Westland 734-425-5353

Help Wanted - General

PT Technician
Team Rehabilitation has an opening for a full time and part time physical therapist technician at our Livonia office. We offer a competitive salary, excellent benefit package and bonuses. Apply online at: www.team-rehab.com

QUALITY CONTROL TECH
For co located in Canton. Must be familiar with ISO 9001 requirements and have knowledge of Dimensional Measurement Equipment. This is a full time position w/benefits. Email resume to: kstanisz@brugolausa.com Brugola USA

RECEPTIONIST
We are an established, multi-doctor dental practice looking for a part-time dental receptionist for two afternoons a week and Saturdays. Dentech experience is a plus, positive attitude is must! Please send your resume by email: lurtal@bhz.com or fax to 313-565-9085. Attn: Lorie. Please no phone calls.

SKILLED LABOR
Immediate positions available: LINK TOOL & MFG., 39115 WARREN RD., WESTLAND, MI
• CNC DEPARTMENT: Lathes, Mills, Grinding, EDM
• Manual ID/OD
• Surface Grinders
• Parts Finisher
• Die Tru Operator
• Hone Operator
• Parts Inspector with Metrology & ISO Knowledge

UPHOLSTERER
10-15 yrs. exp., ideal for retiree. kmettt@gmail.com or Fax resume 248-347-7664

Help Wanted - General

VETERINARY
Licensed Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Technician with minimal 2 years' experience to join a fantastic team in our beautiful Westland facility. Part - Full time available. Please email resume to: Cheryl.ylita@aol.com

OFFICE/COMPUTER ASST.
for medical office in Livonia. Part-time, Mon.-Thurs. Fax resume to: 248-474-1548

SECRETARIAL
FULL-TIME. Good benefits. Must have office exp., manual bookkeeping, computer, accounting, filing. MUST APPLY IN PERSON: Brose Electrical 37400 W. 7 Mile, Livonia (734) 464-2211

Help Wanted - Medical

Clinical Case Manager (RN)
Must have unrestricted RN license and CCM cert or ability to qualify. Min 5 yrs clinical experience and Case Mgmt experience in Disability, Medical, WC or Auto. Responsible for oversight of Disability claims. Computer literate, excellent written/verbal skills. Located in Novi. Good Benefits. No weekends/holidays. Email resume to: humanresource497@yahoo.com

FRONT OFFICE
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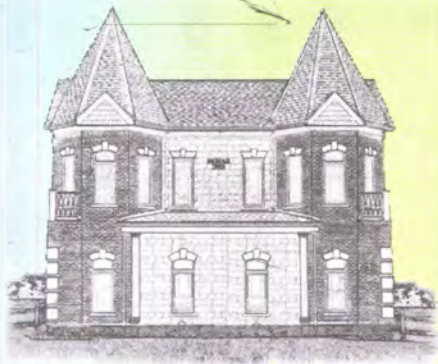
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● **WOMEN LEADERS SPEAK OUT**
PAGE 6

● **CELEBRATE NATIONAL PIE DAY**
PAGE 11

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Stay fit, eat healthy and enjoy a slice of pie

Dear readers:
 Welcome to a new year of *Hometown Life Woman*.

If you've resolved to get fit – physically and financially – eat healthy and have fun, today's edition is for you.

Read about how local women set wellness goals – for all the right reasons. Area experts also discuss the importance of a healthy lifestyle.



Susan Rosiek

Community is very important to local women. It's more than just an address, it's where our "family of support," for business, entertainment and spirituality resides. That's why *Hometown Life Woman* asked local women leaders what they wish for our area in 2014.

And while you are paging through today's edition, check out the story on pie. Thursday, Jan. 23, is National Pie Day. Treat yourself to a luscious piece of pie and check out the list of area restaurants and stores that specialize in pie. Remember, all things are good in moderation – including pie.

Wishing you success in 2014.

Susan Rosiek
 publisher

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The Seven Dumbest Things People Are Told About Estate Planning

By VA Accredited Elder Law Attorney, Nicole Wipp

This article is not, and should not be construed as, legal advice. It is for general informational purposes only. To better understand how these legal concepts apply to you, consult with a qualified elder law attorney.

In our family estate planning & elder law office, we often find that people have misconceptions about estate planning that they get through the internet, their friends, and even other professionals. There are various problems with the topics below, but the most fundamental one is that believing any one of them may lead to bad decision-making.

1. Estate planning is about planning for your death.

Most people think that estate planning is all about "what happens if I die" (you will!). That being said, when done properly, estate planning is about much more than simple death planning. It is also about ensuring that any shift in control, whether due to disability during life or death, is done in the simplest and easiest way possible; about providing loved ones with peace of mind and relieving them from burdensome decisions that you should make on your own; and, in the best case scenario, about ensuring that assets don't get depleted by the need for long term care and/or nursing home costs.

2. If you have beneficiary designations for your assets, you're all set.

Just about every day, I hear some version of the following sentence: "My (insert your person of choice here: sister-in-law, neighbor, financial advisor, banker, cousin-who-has-a-son-that's-an-attorney) told me that if I have beneficiary designations on my assets (investments, bank accounts, retirement) that I won't have to go through probate and I'll be all set."

While this may be true about probate, it certainly doesn't tell the whole story. Very often, the goals clients have cannot be accomplished by doing simple beneficiary designations. Additionally, if there is a need for a loved one to access the accounts to pay bills or manage funds, a beneficiary designation on its own will not allow for this.

3. You should put your kids on your bank accounts or your home so that they can manage your money if they need to, or to avoid probate.

Sometimes, to deal with the issues discussed in #2, people will choose to have their children or other persons on their accounts or their home. This may be a bad idea for

several reasons. Having joint ownership of certain assets (regardless of whose money it really is) can result in unexpected tax consequences, liability issues, and loss of important benefits for long-term care. For example, if your child gets sued, whether or not they are at fault, it is possible that your bank account can be attached to the lawsuit or judgment. There are options that can accomplish the same things without the risks.

4. Talking about estate taxes is a waste of time.

For a majority of Americans, in the current tax year, estate taxes are not an issue – the exemption is currently at 5.34 million dollars. Every dollar about that exemption amount is taxed at a 40% tax rate for estate or "inheritance" taxes. So for those that have less, estate taxes aren't an issue. This year.

That being said, Congress can change the estate tax exemption (they say they won't – do you believe anything Congress says these days?). Unless you know that you will die in 2014, you can't know what the estate tax exemption will be, or whether it will affect your family. Less than 15 years ago, the exemption was below a million dollars. For many, if the estate tax returned to 1990's levels, there would be a tax issue.

5. You need to give your assets away to protect them.

This is one of the most potentially devastating pieces of "advice" that many people believe to be true. Giving assets away is a complex topic that can have repercussions on many levels, including inability to receive benefits for long term care and a loss of lifetime savings.

6. Your power of attorney can take care of everything.

First, it's important to understand this most basic legal concept: a power of attorney dies with the person that gives the power. In other words, a power of attorney no longer works when a person dies. Additionally, most powers of attorney place limits on the person receiving the power in a way that actually prevents the power of attorney from being able to take certain important actions on your behalf, particularly when it comes to the need for long term care.

7. If you have a will, you won't need to go through probate.

This is possibly the most pervasive myth out there. A will is not a probate avoidance device; on the contrary, it is meant for probate.

- Do I Need a Will, a Trust, or Neither?
- How Do I Ensure I Won't Lose a Lifetime of Savings to Long Term Care or Nursing Home Costs?
- How Do I Remain In Control & Preserve My Independence?

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525 Farmer, Plymouth

Wednesday, February 5, 2014:

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Brighton Public Library

100 Library Dr., Brighton

Thursday, February 13, 2014

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Wixom Senior Center

49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Family & Aging Law Center
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Thursday, April 3, 2014:

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Huron Valley
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10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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2014

WOMEN LEADERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT GOALS

By Pamela A. Zinkosky Contributing Writer

What do area women – leaders in government, education, health care and business – want for their community this year?



Laura Cox



Maureen Miller Brosnan



Susan Zurvalec



Jean Meyer

Government

Pulling in the reins on a \$2 billion budget isn't easy or popular, but Wayne County Commissioner **Laura Cox**, who heads the Committee on Ways and Means, is meeting the task head-on. As she begins her 10th year on the commission, she's looking forward to "talking about the reality and advocating for a solution" to deficit spending.

"Our biggest challenge is getting our arms around the budget," she said. This is especially important because of Detroit's bankruptcy, Cox said: "Leaders in Wayne County are realizing that the state is very actively looking at Wayne County."

Cox, who represents residents in Northville, Northville Township and part of Livonia, said making a dent in the deficit starts with examining every service the county provides and "thinking of new, innovative ways to pull back spending. You need to focus on our mandated services."

Cox said the committee now requires all departments to explain overspending and request re-allocations.

For **Maureen Miller Brosnan**, president of the Livonia City Council, the new year's challenge is to enhance her city's reputation.

"My wish for the Livonia City Council is that we come together to embrace the challenges that lie ahead and see them as opportunities for the city to build its reputation as Michigan's leading com-

munity to raise a family, grow a business and age gracefully," Miller Brosnan said.

Health and safety

Miller Brosnan said Livonia, which turns 64 this year, needs to leverage its access to and excellence in health care, with St. Mary Mercy Hospital as a major Livonia presence. "I hope we work to become recognized as one of the healthiest cities in the country," she said. "Every day healthy babies are born here, people with cancer are cured here, lives are made healthier and aging residents are cared for with grace and dignity."

Miller Brosnan also mentioned Livonia's safety and family-friendly qualities in her list of hopes and wishes for the community.

"As a safe community, I hope we work to add qualified police officers to the force of men and women that keep us safe so we maintain this most important designation," she said.

While Livonia seeks to boost its reputation in the education arena, the partner cities just north of it look toward new leadership. **Susan Zurvalec**, who's been superintendent of the Farmington Public School system since 2005, recently announced her retirement.

As she finishes 40 years in education this year, Zurvalec's goal is "to leave the district well-positioned financially and educationally for the new superintendent. Specifically, my goals include de-

veloping a plan that engages our community in financing our facilities' needs, as well as developing a 2014-15 budget that reduces the structural deficit, yet maintains our quality instructional programs."

That goal is no small task, given the recent voter defeat of two bond proposals, collectively totaling \$186.2 million, which sought to fund security, new technology, classroom upgrades and improvements to auditoriums and athletic fields.

Zurvalec's hopes and dreams for public education as a whole? "The governor and Legislature must address their continued underfunding of K-12 public education with this next budget with restoration of the per-pupil foundation allowance cuts made three years ago," she said.

As Zurvalec looks toward retirement, **Jean Meyer** of Northville is just beginning her tenure as president and CEO of St. John Providence Health System, which includes more than 125 medical centers and five hospitals.

Connect with community

"One of our goals is to really connect with the community when they're well – to keep people healthy," said Meyer, who served as interim CEO from June to December 2013.

St. John is reaching out to the community with wellness semi-



Camille Jayne



Cynthia Kabza Vercruysee



Jennifer (Newmyer) Mangin

See GOALS, Page 13



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NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

COMMIT TO GET FIT IN 2014

Stories by Jill Halpin, Contributing Writer

Ten years ago, Beverly Hale, 46 years old, 70 pounds overweight and in poor health, made a decision to change her life.

"I felt terrible all of the time: my knees hurt, my teeth were falling out - I was a real mess," said Hale, of Livonia, a married mother of two adult children.

"I knew I had to make changes. I wanted to live a long life and be healthy. I needed to get the weight off and keep it off for good," she said.

Hale made the decision to join a local Weight Watchers group and started to attend weekly meetings regularly. She also began working out regularly with a friend every morning at the Livonia Recreation Center.

Soon after, she said, her life slowly began to change.

"I was losing weight slowly and steadily," she said.

"Slow and steady wins the race,' right? And I started to feel better. I was not as achy, moving around was much easier and I had more energy, mentally and physically.

"I had tried different diets in the past where I would drop some weight quickly, but then I would just gain it back. This was different. It was a lifestyle change - and it worked."

For Hale, the realization hit hard: obesity was affecting her health.

Obesity rates rising

She was not alone. According to a 2012 study by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, obesity has been rising steadily in the past few decades. As of 2010, approximately 35.7 percent of U.S. citizens are obese.

Despite the glut of advertisements and infomercials encouraging quick weight loss for a picture-perfect bikini body, the most critical reason to shed excess pounds has little to do with how you look.



Beverly Hale of Livonia (right) and her daughter Brooke.

There is no doubt that successful weight loss can improve appearance; however, the real issue is health, said Lisa Talamini, chief nutritionist for Jenny Craig weight loss centers.

According to Talamini, we are "in the middle of a health crisis" regarding obesity, citing a study by the National Institute of Health linking obesity-related conditions to heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and even certain types of cancer.

The health impacts of carrying excess pounds are significant, said Patti Ramos, a clinical dietitian with St. John Providence Health System in Southfield.

"There are many preventable conditions that can all be related to excess weight," she said. "Keeping those extra pounds at bay can go a long way toward keeping disease away.

"It is important to lose those extra pounds to feel good - physically and mentally," she added.

Losing excess weight by making a commitment to work toward your own health and vitality by is one of the best things you can do for yourself, medical experts say.

In fact, for most people, quality of health is directly related to weight, said Dr. Matthew



Lisa Talamini of Jenny Craig

Weiner, obesity expert at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township.

"Obesity as a disease is the single greatest marker to measure your overall health," he said.

Fortunately, Weiner said, it is possible to shed excess pounds and you can start by simply paying attention to the food you are eating.

Change your life

"You can change your life by changing what you eat," he said.

The author of *A Pound of Cure*, a book offering a new approach to changing diet for more effective, long-term, healthy weight loss, Weiner believes that it is the foods that we put in our bodies every day that determine how we feel.

"Eating is not the problem - it is what we eat," Weiner said.

The way to meaningful weight loss, Weiner says, is to adjust your diet so that you are consuming healthy foods that fuel your body, such as fruits and vegetables, and limit processed foods and other junk foods.

"If you give yourself junk, you are going to feel uncomfortable, bloated and sick," he said. "Losing weight and changing your lifestyle is an active process. It is about eating right and giving your body good nutrition."

It is this knowledge that he tries to impart to patients as medical director of the Michigan Weight Management Institute at Huron Valley-Sinai, which provides guidance in adjusting diet and lifestyle for weight loss.

Hale said that learning to give her body good nutritious foods was a key to her continued weight loss success. She credits Weight Watchers with educating her about food



Dr. Matthew Weiner

choices and showing her the improve her diet.

"It really was a complete me," she said. "I learned how cook healthy foods for the Regular exercise was a cr ment to her success, but it v ercise to burn calories," l

"Being active and m better. I was getting str good. Although it was e is amazing how quickly creases," she said.

Add exercise

In addition to the bene mobility and strength, one c roles exercise plays in weigh metabolism, Weiner noted.

"Exercise is very importa lism," he said. "As you age, y slows down."

Metabolism, the rate at w calories, is fueled by the nun you eat, he said.

It's one of the reasons to e ular, healthy meals, as oppos skipping a meal, as some die encourage. If you don't, your body will go into its natural s vation mode and slow your metabolism down,

according to Dr.

Caroline Richardson, an associate professor of far medicine speci in diabetes and at the Universi Michigan.

Regular exer raise your basal l rate, Richardson s that the effects of ex just 30 minutes a day significant impact.

"Increasing your help you burn calori you are sedentary," she said. "That is why it is importa throughout the day. And it h the sluggish feeling."

Building muscle during e important. "Muscles burn ca when you are not using them minute walk is a great way t cle and get your metabolism

Hale considers herself lu made lifestyle changes wher

"The difference in my qu amazing," she said.



Dr. Caroline Richardson

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EXERCISE CAN BE FUN

RESOLVE TO GET MOVING

Exercise is not just about burning calories to lose weight – it is about building a stronger core, shaping muscle and gaining flexibility.

It is also about having fun. Just ask Irene Ivanac of Garden City, owner of Strength and Spirit, LLC, specializing in corporate and in-home personal training.

Ivanac teaches a *Hula Hoop@* fitness class at Joy Fitness Studios in Canton.

Hula hooping is growing in popularity, Ivanac said, and "it is the most fun you will ever have getting fit."

It is also a low-impact, high-cardio workout. "Not only is it great for your core, it burn tons of calories, too," she said.

From beginners to pros, hula hooping is appropriate for all fitness levels, according to Ivanac.

"Even if you were someone who was unable to use a *Hula Hoop@* as a child, you'll be surprised how easy and fun it is once you learn how to move your hips correctly," she said. "There are so many different ways to hoop and you can start out slow and work your way through the different areas. There is a move for everyone."

"It is the first workout that I have found that people laugh out loud while they are doing it," she added.

For Sam Felix, a physical rehabilitation trainer at the DMC Fitness Training Center in Detroit, consistent exercise really is key.

"You need to make sure you are doing it every day and let it become a habit that you enjoy," he said.

There are so many different ways to exercise and move, Felix said, it is important to find what suits you best.



Irene Ivanac, owner of Strength and Spirit, LLC, says hula hooping is "the most fun you will ever have getting fit."

If you do not want to go to a gym, there are many exercises that you can do at home – such as crunches and push-ups for strength training, Felix said.

However, whether you are at home or at the gym, the buzzwords in exercise are "high intensity" and "interval training," according to Felix.

"You need to find out what exercise you like to do and work at it vigorously for a specific amount of time," he said.

"You can slow down – for an interval – and then speed up again and repeat the cycle. It really yields some big results."

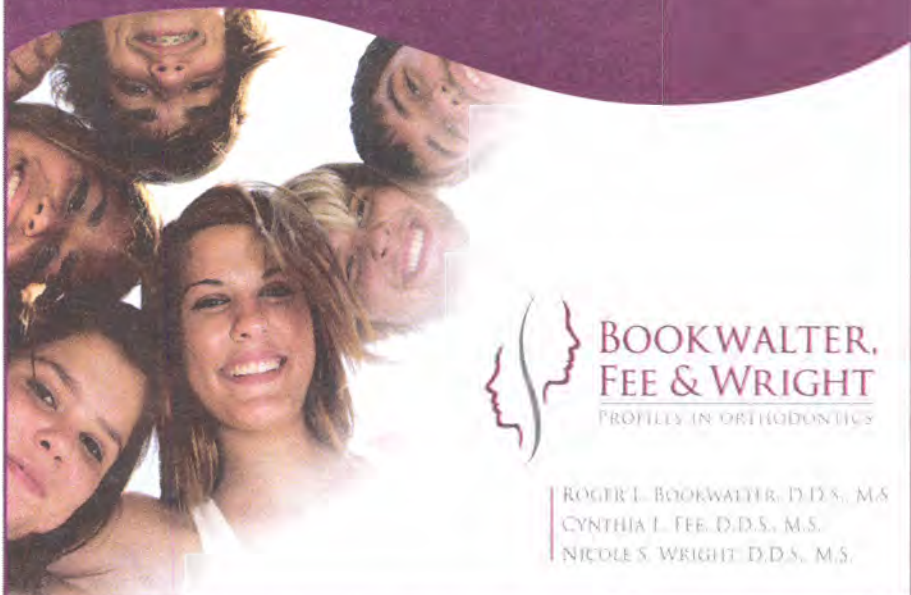
Felix recommends checking out the American College on Exercise fitness website at <http://www.acefitness.org/> to find exercises you might enjoy.

Desk jockeys might also be interested in the newest toy hitting offices across the nation: desk treadmills.

"A desk treadmill is a great way to keep moving throughout the day," Felix said. "Your upper body is free, so that you can type or whatever you need to do with your hands, but your lower body is in motion."

"You can erase that mid-day slump because you are moving all day long and keeping your energy levels up," he said, adding that it is possible to walk away from work feeling fully energized as a result.

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NEED CASH?

Should you tap your retirement account?

Since the housing and stock markets collapsed several years ago, millions of unemployed and even working Americans have found themselves in need of cash, either for short-term or longer-term expenses.

Those who have contributed regularly to a workplace retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b), may find it tempting to tap into those accounts to help cover their bills, either through a loan or a distribution. But before any preretirement withdrawal is made, it's important to know the facts and consider the consequences.



Paula Swain

Your decision should be influenced, in part, by the severity of your needs and the tax implications of the option you choose.

Loans are not considered taxable distributions unless they fail to satisfy plan rules regarding the amount, duration, or repayment terms. But distributions (including hardship withdrawals) are generally taxable as ordinary income and workers who receive retirement plan distributions before reaching age 59½ may be required to pay an additional 10-percent early withdrawal penalty.

Loan considerations

When considering a loan, there are several rules to keep in mind. The IRS generally limits the amount of a loan to 50 percent of your vested account balance, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Most retirement plan loans must be repaid within five years, although loans used to purchase the participant's primary residence may be paid back over a longer period of time.

You may not be able to make new contributions to your plan until the loan is paid off. Additionally, loans are repaid with after-tax contributions and interest (usually 1-2 percent above the prime rate) is due.

It's important to remember that not all plans allow loans. A violation of any of the plan's loan rules may cause the loan to be treated as a taxable distribution.

Additionally, an employer may require participants who have taken a

loan to repay the entire amount immediately upon leaving the company, regardless of the original repayment schedule. If an ex-employee fails to do so, the employer is required to report the loan to the IRS as a distribution.

Hardship: Last resort

The government has made the rules around applying for and receiving a hardship withdrawal of your retirement plan assets difficult for a reason: it wants to ensure that the need for those funds is vital. Most plans allow a hardship only if all other means (including loans) have been exhausted.

Hardships can be taken if they meet certain requirements, including: Non-reimbursed medical expenses for you, your spouse, or dependents; purchase of a principal residence; payment of college tuition and related educational costs (such as room and board) for you, your spouse, dependents or non-dependent children; payments necessary to prevent eviction from your home or foreclosure on the mortgage of your principal residence; for funeral expenses; or certain expenses for the repair of damage to the employee's principal residence.

Ordinary income taxes (both federal and state, if applicable) are due on the withdrawal amount, but the 10-percent early withdrawal penalty may not apply in certain situations, such as when the distribution is made, because of a qualifying disability or to pay medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of the participant's adjusted gross income.

Others include due to a "separation from service" (i.e., ceased to be employed by the company sponsoring the plan) during or after the calendar year in which the participant reaches age 55, to an alternate payee under the terms of a qualified domestic relations order, or on account of certain disasters for which IRS relief has been granted.

Note also that a hardship withdrawal cannot be repaid into your account. Your retirement plan administrator and financial professional can help you determine your options.

Paula Swain CFP® is a financial consultant at Swain Financial, LLC, 39111 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Contact her at 734-552-7610.

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YUM!

Enjoy a slice of pie on National Pie Day

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Celebrate National Pie Day Jan. 23 by indulging in one of America's favorite desserts.

"Pie is the ultimate comfort food," said Larry Nygard, an owner of Blazo's Pies in Livonia.

An area institution that has been making pies since the early 1960s, Blazo's currently supplies local restaurants and groceries with its homemade pies that range from strawberry-rhubarb to sugar-free apple to lemon meringue.

"It's a simple food that people can relate to," he said. "Who doesn't love pie?"

Ken Treflick, owner of Grand Traverse Pie Co. in Plymouth, agrees.

"There are so many different types of pies and it comes in a myriad of flavors," he said. "There's really something for everyone."

Treflick offers 35 flavors of fruit pies, including blackberry peach crumb and a cherry ganache - a cherry crumb pie covered in a chocolate ganache - as well as a variety of cream pies.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, Grand Traverse Pie Co., 41640 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, will mark the event by offering a free slice of pie with every meal purchase.

Achatz Handmade Pie Co. in Beverly Hills, 17736 W. 13 Mile Road, also has big plans. Every day leading up to Jan. 23, customers will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite variety. Choices range from Michigan four-berry to French silk to its signature cannoli cream pie, with a cream cheese-based filling with almonds and chocolate chips and topped with whipped cream and more almonds and chocolate chips, said Ashley Bainbridge, store manager.

"This is definitely a favorite," she said.

OTHER LOCAL SHOPS OFFERING HOMEMADE PIES INCLUDE:

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222 S. Lafayette Street, South Lyon, 248-437-8469

Pie varieties include pumpkin, caramel apple and mincemeat in addition to other fruit and cream pies.

FRANK STREET BAKERY

420 E. Frank Street, Birmingham, 248-792-5192
Homemade pies range from southern custard to pumpkin pecan pie to other traditional flavors.

LOVE AND BUTTERCREAM

3202 Crooks Road, Royal Oak, 248-850-7207
Pie offerings such as cherry and pecan are joined on the menu by other varieties such as chess, chocolate chess and caramel apple.

EDWARDS CAFÉ AND CATERER

115 E. Main Street, Northville, 248-344-1550
Freshly made by one of four pastry chefs, pies here range from key lime and raspberry-pistachio to a maple-pecan bourbon pie with a brown-butter crust.

COZY CAFÉ

401 Forest Ave., Plymouth, 734-455-3310
This downtown Plymouth restaurant offers both lemon and coconut meringue pies for takeout.

BIG BOY

Various locations throughout the Detroit area
Big Boy's famous fresh strawberry pies are still available, along with other varieties such as banana cream and chocolate cream.

Pies are always something to celebrate, said Spencer Edwards of Marv's Bakery in Brighton, 10730 Grand River, whose offerings include apple, cherry and blueberry along with coconut cream and chocolate cream.

Despite the many choices, Edwards said his tastes are simple.

"I like cherry pie made with Michigan cherries," he said. "It's the perfect blend of tart and sweet."

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The new American TWEENAGER



Kearra M. DeJack, 12, of South Lyon won the title of Junior Miss Michigan Galaxy in 2013. COURTESY OF SYLK PHOTOGRAPHY

Recently, a childhood friend posted a video on Facebook of one of my early dance performances from a city recital. Thanks for the humiliation, Kraig. But I have to admit, I got a pretty good laugh out of it. I remember being so much better.

I still hold my ground that I was a standout. But that's not saying much for today's standard. Every year the standard goes up and what used to be amazing is now just OK, not only with artistic performances, but with academics as well. As a first (and only) time mom of a new kindergartener, I'm concerned that my '80s education just might not cut it with "new new math." Thank goodness I'm marrying someone with an electrical engineering degree – at least Quin stands a chance.

Kids, especially girls, are growing up so much faster than in my day. In my 2½ decades in the beauty business, I've seen lots of changes, one of which is my clientele getting younger.



Barbara Deyo

The first time I got my makeup done was for my high school senior homecoming and I think that was pretty much normal. In the last 15 years, the average age for moms to start bringing in their daughters for makeup for special events was about 14. However, in recent years, I have

a new influx of 9- and 10-year-olds getting their brows shaped on a regular basis.

I'm not complaining or judging. I'm happy to get in at the ground level of their beauty maintenance and I certainly encourage moms to bring their girls in rather than taking matters into their own hands, literally. So I applaud them.

How do these tweens do it? Well, I happen to know one. Meet my cousin: Kearra Michaela DeJack, 12-year-old "Supertween."

See TWEENAGER, Page 14

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GOALS

Continued from Page 6

nars, social media and printed materials, so that it hits multi-generational communication methods. The health system is also maintaining a presence outside of its hospitals and going into churches, schools and other organizations where the community gathers.

Meyer also has some goals for the region's health care system overall. "My goal is that every person in southeastern Michigan has access to high-quality, low-cost health care and that everybody has a primary care physician," she said.

Camille Jayne, president and CEO of The Community House in Birmingham, admits her organization is not a basic-needs provider, but says it comes right after those needs.

"We are a nonprofit and our mission is to strengthen our community," she said. The Community House provides 1,000 educational and wellness courses annually for the community, as well as scholarships and free programs for at-risk youth, childhood obesity prevention and other outreach initiatives.

Jayne brought her corporate *savoir faire* to The Community House and took the organization from red to black in just 12 months. Now that the organization is out of debt, Jayne hopes to in-

crease its endowment fund by \$2 to \$3 million, she said.

"We want The Community House to be here another 90 years," Jayne said.

Jayne also has a dream for the Birmingham-Bloomfield area and beyond: "I would hope we could figure out how to work more as a unit – that we could come together to be more unified." By that, she means nonprofit and for-profit organizations working together and nonprofits supporting each other's goals, she said.

Cynthia Kabza Vercruyse, vice chair of Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle in Canton, also has a fundraising goal for her organization, which funds initiatives that address the needs of women and children in Canton and Plymouth.

"Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for the preschool program for 3-year-old children to help off-set tuition for families who are struggling financially," she said. Since the 3-year-old scholarship program ended last year, this age group needs the most help, she explained.

Kabza Vercruyse is also working to increase awareness about Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle and to increase membership.

"Giving back to people and organizations in this community is a key component of our mission and we strive to lead by example," she said. "Sometimes all someone needs is a little boost to help

them overcome a problem. Quietly and little by little, we are making a difference in the lives of people who live here."

Managing business

In the for-profit sector, **Jennifer (Newmyer) Mangin** of Newmyer Distinctive Remodeling in Walled Lake has a goal of controlled growth. Mangin, who's taking a more active role in managing the family business this year, said business has picked up in the last six months and the company needs to be disciplined about how much work it takes on.

"Today, we are back up to full staff like we were prior to 2007, so while our business grows, we have to make sure we are communicating with our customers and keeping our jobs on schedule," Mangin said. "That takes a lot of internal work to make sure we are properly organized."

Newmyer Remodeling is also renovating its showroom and the front of its building to give it more of a retail presence, Mangin said.

Mangin's personal goal, she said, is to balance work and family life, especially as the company grows. "One of my challenges has been to tell myself it's time to go home," she said. "My kids (ages 15 and 14) are growing fast and I really do not want to miss it. No job is worth missing that."

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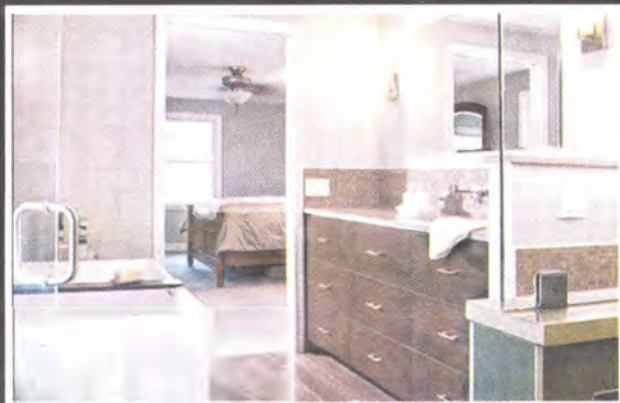
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
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TWEENAGER

Continued from Page 12

I'm not biased – just blessed – to be related to such a beautiful girl, inside and out.

I've had the pleasure of grooming Kearra's brows and doing her makeup for most of the big events in her life to date. Family perk. I was honored to be in attendance for her crowning as 2013 Junior Miss Michigan Galaxy and again for her for third runner-up achievement in Orlando this past summer at the International Galaxy Pageant.

In trying to get a good idea of Kearra's "normal" schedule, I got dizzy just hearing it all. I applaud her parents, as well. Dad Michael is a senior technical specialist with AVL, an engineering consulting company. Mom Laurie is a global IT manager at Ford Motor Co. A day in the life of the DeJack family is very busy.

BD: Kearra, how do you do it all? Tell me about the activities you are involved in outside of school.

KD: The only way I can do it is with lots of help from my family – including you, Barb. And I'm so grateful for all the support I get from my family. I'm a straight A student at Millennium Middle School in South Lyon, where I am

also a member of the Student Council and volunteer with Active Faith. I have been involved in competitive cheerleading for four years and my team has qualified and placed at nationals three times.

I take cheer tumbling classes each week. I have a horse named J.R. and I ride, train and compete in English hunter jumper equestrian competitions. I am a Scottish Highland dancer and take lessons weekly in St. Louis, Mich., and practice daily.

In May, I competed and won the Midwest championship in the 12-and-under-14 age group and I had the honor to represent the Midwest at the United States Inter-regional Competition, placing fourth in the Highland Fling against the top dancers in the United States.

I traveled to Scotland this past August to compete in the Cowal Gathering Open Championship against the top Highland dancers from around the world. I placed seventh overall in my age category.

I dance for fun and to show people about my heritage at local events. I recently signed a modeling contract with Your Entourage Agency and just modeled in my first big fashion show, "Walk Fashion Show" at the Michigan Science Center.

I also volunteer my time to help animals at the Midwest Rabbit Rescue

Bunny Shelter in Northville, where I clean cages, feed, groom and exercise bunnies. At my prior barn I volunteered my time with CANTER, helping to rehab, retrain and adopt out thoroughbred ex-race horses. I also support fundraising for "Lope for Hope" an organization that helps equestrians with breast cancer.

I enjoy spending time with my cats Yin Yang, Tiger and Lily and my dogs Ghillie and Midnight. I also enjoy journaling, reading, writing poetry, water skiing, riding snowmobiles and spending time with my family.

Dizzy? Me, too. So let's talk to mom now.

BD: Laurie, what's it feel like to be the super-mom of such an accomplished "super-tween"? She has some amazing accolades to her name, especially at such a young age.

LD: Whenever your child sets a goal, works really hard toward it and then attains it, you feel immense pride.

Kearra makes it easy because she is very organized – she has to be with her schedule – and academics always come first. She is involved in a lot of varied activities and she really cares about the world around her.

I have to admit when she wanted to enter a pageant, it wasn't something I was eager to jump into. However, we approached it as another learning experience.

I learned the skills are transferable and as a queen people are eager to hear your thoughts. So you have an opportunity to be a role model for others.

BD: The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Kearra competes in many different arenas. What's your favorite part of the competition process?

LD: My favorite part of the process is watching my daughter grow and take on new challenges. She prepares herself completely whenever she does anything. She sets a goal, she researches and analyzes, she makes a plan and decides what's important to her and she executes her plan. She is constantly evolving as a young woman and it's exciting and fun to watch.

I still have no idea how they do it all, but one thing I do know – they look darn good while they are at it. Family perk.

Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body, is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave, 2nd floor, in downtown Birmingham. Readers can contact her at 248-203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com.



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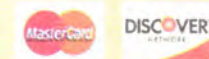
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