

Westland assessments rise; Wayne continues to see decline

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Westland homeowners can expect to see their property tax assessments rise for the first time in several years, while Wavne homeowners are again looking at a drop in values.

Residential property values in Westland are slated to increase an average of 4.56 per-cent for 2014. For Wayne, a 3.99 percent average decrease

in values is expected. "We were down 4 percent last year. We've had an 8-10 point swing. We had projected to be flat (this year)," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "Last year, we budgeted a 5 percent decrease but it was down only 4 percent. If values are up 5

percent that will hit our bottom line." The second second

ers would see an average 4.56 percent increase in their values, that doesn't translate to an equal increase in property taxes. The Headlee Amendment limits the annual property tax increase to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower - currently it's the

Due to the capped taxable value increases, Wild said municipalities will need to cut expenses to meet revenue, even as property values rise.

"I don't think residents will complain if their assessment is higher than the taxable rate," Wild said. "Their personal balance sheet should improve. We've got to keep our revenues and expenses in line."

Similar increases

Assessments had decreased across Wayne County since 2008. With the 4.56 percent increase, Westland is seeing a rise similar to neighboring communities. The 2014 assessments include increases of 5.44

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Angelina Miller, Allison Schultz and Paris Troy, work on their projects. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

To seniors with love

Schweitzer students say 'Be Mine' on Valentine's Day place mats

teacher Dennise Mazurek shifted to



Ripple Effect lands Main St. designation for Wayne

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Wayne Ripple Effect got the news it's been waiting for Wednesday with the announcement by Gov. Rick Snyder that it's among three communities selected by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to take part in the Select Level Michigan Main Street program.

"This is a big step in the future of the city of Wayne," said Cindy Schofield, who was instrumental in drafting the proposal for select status. "We're excited that the Michigan Main Street Program believes in us. We're looking forward to working with them to revitalize downtown Wayne."

The Main Street Select Level designation provides the city with five years of intensive aid to revitalize the downtown. Wayne was the only southeastern Michigan community selected for a final presentation. Also selected were Three Rivers and Grayling. "We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group in our community," Wayne Councilwoman Susan Rowe said. "Their passion to enact positive change is inspiring." This is such great news for the Wayne, and we are ecstatic to learn that the city was cho-sen," Mayor Al Haidous said. "I want to thank the Ripple Effect for all of their hard work and efforts over the past three years to make this possible."

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

What started out as making place mats for seniors for Valentine's Day is blossoming into a relationship between elementary school children and senior citizens.

Elizabeth Star, life enrichment director at American House on Joy Road in Westland, was at Schweitzer Elementary School Thursday morning to collect more than 400 place mats decorated by students for Valentine's Day. By the time she left, the conversation with Principal Jennifer Chambers and

what else could be done.

"So now we have friends in Westland," Mazurek said. "We're definitely going to have to do more.'

Mazurek came up with the place mat idea and pitched it to Chambers, who liked it. The idea of doing something for the community dovetailed with the school's Leader in Me Program.

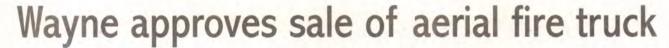
'I thought it was a great idea," Chambers said. "It's a way to give back to the community. We tied in doing something with the community and our goals. When they do something for others, it makes them feel good.

Finished Valentine's Day placemats are ready for the seniors.

Hearts, hearts, hearts

On Monday afternoon, students worked two shifts in the cafeteria, decorating their place mats with hearts and messages. Some messages were

See PLACE MATS, Page A2



By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

As Wayne works to deal with its financial deficit, Inkster will remove a large debt by purchasing Wayne's aerial ladder fire truck.

Financially strapped itself, Inkster is purchasing the truck using an \$800,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security. The grant was set to expire March 28 if not used.

Part of the arrangement, approved by the Wayne Coun-

OBAMACARE

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cil last week, allows Wayne to use the 2007 E-One 134-foot Bronto on a 2014 Cyclone chas-sis truck and calls for training Inkster firefighters on the apparatus.

"The note left on the truck is just over \$800,000. With the FEMA grant, this will just about be revenue neutral," said Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy, who is also heading the Inkster Fire Department on a trial basis through June 30.

Wayne Councilwoman Susan Rowe agreed that offloading the debt from the ladder truck would be a very good idea for the city, but had some questions, including the payoff amount and access to the truck.

Conflicting numbers

The city borrowed \$1 million to purchase the aerial ladder truck, said Wayne Finance Director James Ghedotte, and is scheduled to make \$53,000 payments on the truck twice a year. Wayne owes \$825,000 in principal for the truck, he said, but he got conflicting numbers on the payoff amount of \$825,000

versus a termination value of \$858,000.

"I asked about the difference when we met with Chase (Bank) and they will get back to me to let me know," said Ghedotte, adding the city had budgeted a \$53,000 payment in June which could be used to pay the balance beyond the grant funding.

Once the sale of the fire truck was approved and the agreement for use and training was under discussion, Rowe asked where the vehicle

See FIRE TRUCK, Page A2

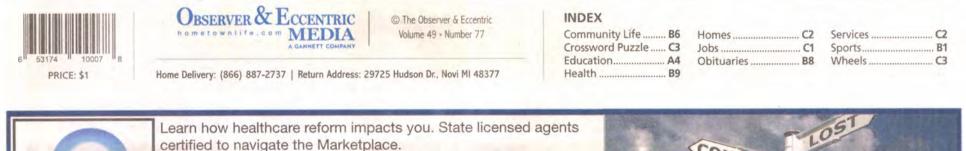
Tight timeline

According to Schofield, Ripple Effect has a "pretty tight time line" of things that need to be done over the next six weeks. At the top of the list will be hiring a Main Street manager, possibly one with grant writing experience.

"We have to hire a manager as soon as possible, so he's on board to go to the national Main Street Convention in Detroit in May," Schofield added.

The check list also includes a conference call next week to plan a Michigan Main Street Center visit to Wayne. Ripple Effect will have to choose a week between now and April 7 when Main Street representa-

See RIPPLE, Page A2



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Wayne visioning continues

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Over 60 people attended Wayne's second Saturday visioning session to help identify short-term solutions to the city's financial problems.

After voting to seek assistance from the state Office of Fiscal Responsibility, the council also voted to have Interim City Manager/ Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib and Finance Director James Ghedotte take all the necessary steps to balance the current fiscal year budget.

"The budget is \$1 million short, it was balanced when it was adopted," said Councilman Albert Damitio.

Along with a projected \$1 million deficit by the June 30 end of the fiscal year, a \$3 million

PROPERTY

Continued from Page A1

percent in Canton, 4.10

percent in Garden City,

percent in Livonia, 9.63

percent in Plymouth and

4.34 percent in Dearborn

Across Wayne Coun-

ty, an average increase

of 1.4 percent is expect-

ed. Decreases are pro-

jected in communities

including a 17.18 percent

drop in values in Inkster.

Wayne will see an aver-

age of nearly 4 percent

decline in values in 2014.

"The residential (de-

Heights.

deficit is projected for 2014-15. "Some of our reve-

nues are not where we expected and we need to reduce expenditures,' said Wayne Mayor Al Haidous.

Thanking all the people who participated in the visioning sessions, Councilwoman Susan Rowe was optimistic.

'There were a lot of good ideas. As we move through the state coming in and with a new budget, I believe we will come out stronger and whole," she said. "We'll be fine. We are a strong community. These two Saturday sessions show that.'

Councilman John Rhaesa thanked Ghedotte and Lisa Nocerini of the Winchester Consulting Group for their efforts during the visioning sessions.

"It's frustrating to be sitting here in this position. We're not able to go backward," Rhaesa said. "What we were is gone and it's not coming back. We have a close-knit community, we come together in challenges."

The community has to look at how to rebuild Wayne, and fix it, he said

"It's not fair and not fair to us. We need a permanent solution. It's not going to be easy,' Rhaesa said. "I'm not looking forward to paying (more taxes) but I look forward to what we can have for future generations."

Five years ago, city officials said a couple of years were needed to get the city finances stabilized, Henley commented, adding a private entity would have already closed its doors under the same financial conditions.

During the second

dotte presented additional budget information and answered questions from the first session. Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy provided additional information about Wayne's efforts to consolidate fire departments with Westland and Inkster, outlining cost-savings to date and

> authority. Participants were divided into five groups where they spent nearly 90-minutes discussing options the city should consider in the budgeting process. Hot topics of discussion included the creation of a public safety department, privatizing certain city services, and a new millage request.

the potential for a fire

Feedback from the financial visioning sessions is available on the city's website, www.ci-.wayne.mi.us.

through growing pains."

assessor, Powers said it is hard to see one particular influence on property values.

Wayne that are going up (in value) and others going down. This is an average," Powers said. "There can be a super hot area and a super cold area. How does that work out statistically? We identify the area and

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they would be on the on Friday for residents

the works to have seniors from American House be guest readers as part of the school's reading month activities in March.

outreach and inter-generational," she said.

RIPPLE

Continued from Page A1

tives will spend three days in the city doing a baseline assessment.

'That will be our starting point, so that data collected for the next five years will be a measure of our success," Schofield said. "We feel the weight on our shoulders. A lot of residents and businesses in the community are counting on us to be successful and we're committed to being successful.'

The Ripple Effect board also will do three hours of training next month on what to expect, what its responsibility will be and "to get us off on the right foot.'

If that isn't enough, the group needs to plan a community on-site presentation. Schofield describes it as a "celebra-tion, a kick-off of the program." The Wayne Memorial marching band and JROTC will be a part of it, she said. The JROTC made the trip to Lansing with Ripple Effect when it made its Michigan Main Street presentation.

On same page

Main Street encourages community economic development by:

» Getting everyone working toward the same goal and assembling the resources to implement a Main Street revitalization program.

» Selling a positive image of the commercial district and encouraging people to live, work,

FIRE TRUCK

Continued from Page A1

would be stationed. "As it stands today, if Inkster (council) approves it, we will house the truck at the Inkster fire station," Reddy said. "As the fire authority progresses, that could change.'

It would not take long for the Inkster firefighters to be trained on the aerial ladder truck, Reddy said.

Available as needed

"The truck will be available to Wayne at any time. You will not see any lag in service," Reddy said, adding regardless of shop, play and invest in the Main Street district.

» Getting the downtown in shape by capitalizing on its assets, such as historic buildings and pedestrian-oriented streets.

» Strengthening a community's existing economic assets while expanding and diversifying its economic base.

'This program has been a driving force for revitalization in other downtowns," Councilman John Rhaesa said. "I look forward to seeing what can be accomplished in our downtown."

Ripple Effect, a volunteer organization, is always looking for citizens to help, Schofield said. The group recently received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation, making donations tax deductible. It's also seeking grants to continue the program and provide resources for the downtown.

"The Michigan Main Street program will help these three communities create opportunities for redevelopment, placemaking and economic growth just as it has in downtowns throughout Michigan for the past 10 years," said Snyder in making the announcement. "Vibrant communities and downtowns are critical as we look to attract new investment, help local businesses grow and retain and attract the talent that is needed to reinvent Michigan.'

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as needed through Mutual Aid.

Wayne and Westland have merged their fire departments as they move toward forming a fire authority. Reddy is temporarily serving as Inkster chief in large part to assess the suitability of pulling that community into the eventual fire authority.

"Inkster was sitting on the FEMA grant. With the debt Wayne had on the apparatus, it was hard for them to keep it," Reddy said. "Inkster is part of Mutual Aid, so we would have access to the vehicle even if there was no authority. It's a win-win for the authority and keeps the truck in the area.'

PLACE MATS

Continued from Page A1

written to mothers, but others were a simple "I hope you have a really good Valentine's Day.

Zachery Edwards drew heart-shaped boxes filled with "green chocolates" on his place mat.

"I like it because you give girls chocolates," he said.

Devin Denino Joseph was into filling his place mat with hearts and

cline) is slowing down. The decrease is less than in the past years," Wayne City Assessor Aaron Powers said. "They (Wayne) should be hitting the bottom of the belt curve. We don't create the market. I think Wayne is a beautiful community — very similar to Garden City."

Western Wayne County has higher property values, Powers said, while affordable homes, such as those in Wayne, are appreciating slower. In addition, he said Wayne has a large number of rental properties. "It all depends on

"And a talking heart that says love," he said.

The youngster was

hoping his grandmother,

who lives at a nursing

home, will get his place

"She's there because

The activity was used

she's not with my grand-pa anymore," he said. "I

get to see her some-

as a reward for good

behavior with young-

fuel their creativity.

hadn't had had a good

sters getting a sucker to

Even those students who

more hearts.

mat.

times.

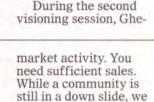
that," Powers said. "The behavior month did

place mats.

On their tables

Mazurek was happy when Star said American House would take the place mats. She said many of the places she talked to were concerned about what the youngsters were going to use to decorate the place mats and the substances getting on their clients

Star said the American House, one of three in Westland, has residents in their 50s



use a one-year sale

study," Powers said. "As

soon as it turns around

to an up curve, we go

back go back to a two-

Smaller number

As a smaller commu-

nity, Wayne statistically

has a smaller number of

home sales on which to

"There has to be a

er. Nothing can correct

use in setting values.

willing relationship between buyer and sell-

year study."

marketplace goes In 20 years as an

"There are areas of

spread it accordingly.'

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through 104. She said tables in the dining room

to enjoy. By the time she left the school, plans were in

"It's a wonderful

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> Tuesday, February 18th, 7 PM in the school cafeteria No charge or reservations required.

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Diaper bank founder stepping aside

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Detroit Area Diaper Bank founder Marybeth Levine of Canton spent five years of her life volunteering her time to collect and distribute more than 1.8 million diapers to nonprofit social service agencies across southeast Michigan

She saw a void in government safety-net pro-grams and filled it. She worked long hours for no pay. She did it because she believes impoverished children and sickly adults who need diapers shouldn't go without.

She touched tens of thousands of lives of people who will never know her.

Levine is ending her diaper bank role and turning the reins over to the agencies she has helped as she prepares to move to Mexico with husband Steve and their sons John, 11, David, 9, and Nathan, 7. Her husband, an auto industry purchasing manager, has a new job assignment.

Levine has taught her diaper bank recipients how to connect to donors. And her website, www.detroitareadiaper bank.org, will soon steer donors directly to the nonprofit agencies.

We're trying to empower the nonprofits with all the information we have and the lessons we have learned," Levine said. "Our goal is for them to embrace and take ownership of this and continue to beat the drum."

Mary Dekker, who coordinates food and baby-care distributions for The Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti, said Levine's diaper bank has had an immeasurable impact.

"It has been vital to what we're doing," Dekk-er said. "We run low, especially on large-size



Marybeth Levine worked year-round from a storage facility to distribute diapers to metro Detroit nonprofit agencies. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

diapers. When we run low, we turn to the diaper bank. We don't have any funds to go out and purchase diapers. It's all by donations.

Dekker is hopeful diaper donors will continue their support through the diaper bank website for now - or go directly to www.thehopeclinic.org.

We need that support. There's going to be a gap in that support when the diaper bank closes," Dekker said. "If we help people with diapers, that frees up money people can use for other things like food."

The Hope Clinic, which has a satellite medical clinic in Westland, is among more than 50 nonprofit agencies that relied on Levine's help. Half of the clinic's clients are from Wayne County.

Levine has worked in Washington, D.C., as a congressional special assistant and as a higher education lobbyist. She once owned her own business as an employee recruiter. Yet she has said her volunteer role with the diaper bank was more fulfilling.

"She doesn't just point out a problem," Canton Public Library Director Eva Davis once told the Observer. "She looks inside herself and does something about it.' The library has routinely helped Levine with diaper collections.

Levine already has stopped accepting diaper bank donations. She still has diapers to distribute until they're gone, possibly through the fifth anniversary in April.

Levine never sought accolades for her volunteerism - yet others saw that she got it. She was named to the Canton Hall of Fame alongside local dignitaries.

"The way people all over metro Detroit embraced the diaper issue, I've been extremely happy, impressed, touched and grateful," Levine said.

Extra Space Storage in Canton gave her a place to store diapers. M.S.A. Delivery Service, also in Canton, helped with large shipments of diapers from corporations.

"Canton has been an amazing base for us,' Levine said.

Reflecting on her years running the diaper bank, she has no regrets. "It has exceeded my

expectations," she said. "Now we're empowering the nonprofits to take ownership of this very important need. We're trying to build a legacy through the nonprofits. The spirit will live on."

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Presidents Day week events

Westland City offices through Friday. will be closed Monday For times on for Presidents Day, including 18th District Court.

The William P. Faust Westland Public Library will be open and emergency services, trash pick-up and recycling will not be affected.

» Mike Modano Arena will host special activities for Presidents Day activities throughout the week.

On Monday, there will be a free open skate from 1-3 p.m. There will also be open skates at regular pricing Tuesday

For times on open skates, contact the Mike Modano Ice Arena at 734-729-4560. The arena is located at 6210 N. Wildwood.

» The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department is holding a Mother and Son Sports Night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. This event is a special opportunity for mothers and sons to create memories

This will be a funfilled evening of sports, games and food. Tickets are \$12 per couple or \$16 for mom and two sons for residents and \$13 per couple or \$18 for mom with two sons for non-residents.

» End the week Throwing Strikes for Historic Village Park. Come out to Vision Lanes at noon Saturday, Feb. 22 for an afternoon of bowling, food and prizes.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$25. A ticket includes three games, free shoe rental and two slices of pizza. Vision Lanes is located at 38250 Ford Road.

Arena offers skating during break

Mid-winter break has arrived. Students seeking something to do can find it at the Garden City Civic Arena

Located in Garden City Park at Merriman and Cherry Hill, the arena is offering public skating from 1-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Feb. 17-21. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for kids. Rental skates are available for \$1.

The arena also is offering Sticks and Pucks for hockey players. It will be available from 2:30-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and

Thursday and from 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. The cost is \$5 per person, goalies are free

For more information, visit www.gardencityicearena.com or call 734-793-1882

On tap in March is Try Hockey for Free. The Garden City Hockey Association, along with the Garden City Ice Arena, is hosting the event Saturday, March 1.

The arena is one of 400 across the country to take part of the Hockey Weekend Across America pro-

gram, sponsored by the National Hockey League and USA Hock-

The event is from 10-11 a.m. and is open to boys and girls ages 4-9. Plan to arrive at the arena at 9:30 a.m. Hockey equipment will be provided, except for helmet (bike or hockey can be used).

Register online at www.tryhockeyforfree-.com by Feb. 27. Walkup registrations will be accepted. For more information, contact the Garden City Hockey Association at 313-917-4173.

12:15-1 p.m. in the Com-

munity lunchroom. Sen-

hand can do so for \$2.25

or bring in a sack lunch.

The lunch will be sloppy

joes, baked beans, coles-

law, hamburger bun, hot

Seniors who want to

eat lunch must make a

reservation 24 hours in

advance by calling 734-

rosy applesauce and

milk.

793-1874.

iors who want to pur-

chase a lunch before-

Seniors learn how to protect against fraud

Protecting Your Assets from Fraud is the Lunch and Learn topic Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Maplewood Center.

Lisa Watts, senior activities coordinator at Maplewood Center, has scheduled this program to inform senior adults about fraud. The speaker will be Kristina Wittner from Edward Jones, a financial advisor.

Her talk will focus on fraud awareness, protecting mature investors, fighting financial fraud with education as well as communication between family members and their financial

professionals. "Kristina will share information to help you to recognize possible issues, prevent fraudulent activity and protect yourself or a loved one if fraud does occur," Watts said.

The free talk is from



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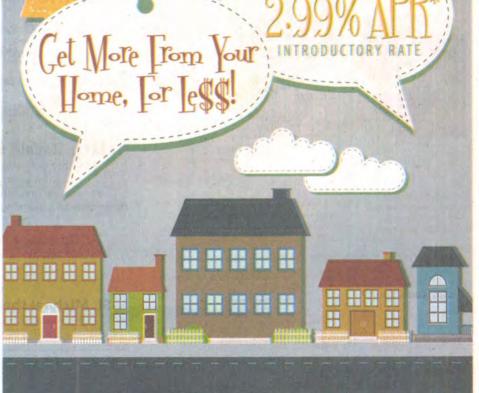
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Two Livonia teachers selected future leaders

Two Livonia Public Schools teachers were selected to participate in the national Teacher Leadership Initiative, a program to develop a new generation of leaders within the teaching profession.

Mitzi Castelli, a secondary mathematics and science curriculum facilitator with 18 years of experience, and Dr. Katie Dodge, a special education elementary teacher con-sultant with 11 years of experience, are two of 150 educators from six states chosen for the 2014 pilot

Castell

year

The Teacher Leadership Initiative (TLI) is a joint endeavor of the National Education Association (NEA), the Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ) and the National Board for **Professional Teaching** Standards (National Board).

ACHIEVERS



"The program will prepare and support the next generation of our profession's leaders to meet the demands of a 21st century teaching professional and ensure the success of their students," said NEA President Dennis Van Roekel.

Sheila Alles, Livonia **Public Schools Academic** Services director, said LPS is proud to have two of its outstanding educators selected to participate in this pilot program. "Both Mitzi and Katie

possess the exemplary professional skills and

talents that make them the perfect candidates for inclusion in this program. LPS is proudly represented by these two excep-tional leaders," said Alles.

Dodge and Castelli said they are proud to represent Livonia Public Schools and the State of Michigan in the program. "This opportunity will

allow Mitzi and I the chance to build our leadership skills, work collaboratively with educators from different states, and conduct action research. I am very excited about the future of this program and the impact it may have on educators," said Dodge.

Special Education Teacher Consultant, Dodge works at all of LPS' K-6 buildings providing support to both general and special educa-tion teachers. She also supports homebound K-6 students as well as the district's hearing and physically impaired students.

Castelli said she is pleased and honored to be a part of the Teacher Leadership Initiative. "During the next 12

months, I hope to grow as

MASA honors Baracy

As the Elementary

learn with educators from all across the country. I look forward to representing LPS and the Livo-nia Education Association as part of this collaborative work.' Castelli works at cen-

a leader as I work and

tral office. Her responsibilities include providing professional development for all the secondary (middle school and high school) math and science teachers in the district and staying abreast of the latest trends, laws, etc. that have an impact on math and science curriculum.

Hayley Jacobi, a student at Garden City High School, has been selected to represent Garden City as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2014 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University

Jacobi joins a select group of students from all over the country for an intensive study of journalism and media. Jacobi was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies.

National Youth Correspondents participate in hands-on, experiential learning through decision-making simulations that challenge them to solve problems and explore the creative, practical, and ethical tensions inherent in journalism and media. The weeklong program will be held at George Mason University July 13-July 18, 2014.

Jessica Drife of Garden City, Zakkary Hardyniec of Wayne and Frances Jackson of West-

land have been named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance during the 2013 fall term at Alma College. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carry-

ing a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Evan Biers of Garden City was among students participating in the midyear commencement at Michigan Technological University in December. Biers received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical Engineering.

Laura Rhodes of Garden City has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2013 term at Northwood University. A freshman, she had a 3.569 grade point average. Rhodes is majoring in entrepreneurship at Northwood.

Brooke Zywick of Garden City has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2013 semester at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She is a member of the Class of

2015 and is majoring in political science.

Named to the Dean's list for the fall 2013 semester at Grand Valley State University were: Mariah J. Carver, Jordyn A. Ebbitt, Chad E. McNamara and Brandon L. Williams of Garden City; and Anna L. Bowles, Grace L. Carpenter, Brooke A. Femat, Eric M. Grudnicki, Sara A. Kempton, Ashley A. Nowicki, Kathryn C. Pepera, Dal-las M. Rohraff, Chelsea P. Romanczuk, Matthew S. Sinclair, Bryan E. Smigielski and Sabrina L. Sweeney of Westland.

Students had to maintain a 3.5 grade point average and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits to be named to the Dean's list.

The Northwood University Mock Team 931 earned sixth place by winning their rounds against the University of Notre Dame and Lewis University at the recent Hoosier Hoedown hosted by Indiana University.

Northwood split ballots in their round against the University of



Dave Campbell (left), the president of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, presents Wayne-Westland Superintendent Greg Baracy with a plaque in recognition of his distinguished service as a MASA member and administrator in public schools. Baracy is one of several school administrators who have served in the organization for more than 20 years. He is the longest-serving superintendent in Wayne-Westland Community district's history and will be retiring June 30.

Chicago and lost its round to Miami. The team of: TC (Thomas) Sample, a junior from Westland; Terrence Green, a junior from Hesperia; Paige Buckley, a senior from Birch Run;

Aaron Grace, a junior from Flushing; Kathleen West, a junior from Birch Run; Holly Redlawski, a junior from Saint Clair; and Jeremiah Dohms, a senior from Barrie, Ontario, finished 5-3.

In addition to the team awards, Terrence Green and Kathleen West won individual recognition in the form of an Outstanding Attorney Award and **Outstanding Witness** Award, respectively.

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CITY OF WESTLAND - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2014-2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM **Public Notice**

The City of Westland is preparing the CDBG/HOME Annual Action Plan, the proposed use of funds, in anticipation of receiving an estimated \$990,040 of CDBG funds and \$234,939 of HOME funds for the year 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015.

PROPOSED USE OF CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

CDBG funds (estimated \$990,040; reprogram \$50,000; program income \$30,000): Grant Administration 198,008 Commodity Food Program, Fair Housing Initiative 221,500 Public Service Activities Senior Programs, Youth Assistance, Community Policing, Domestic Violence Code Enforcement 175,000 143,650

50,000

65,000

49,850

170,000

- Rehabilitation Projects Friendship Center Improvements
- Acquisition/Demolition Blighted Structures
- Norwayne Infrastructure and Parks
- Section 108 Loan
- HOME funds (\$234,939; program income \$75,000): Grant Administration 30,994 80,000 57,320 Housing Rehabilitation Homebuyer Assistance Housing Acquisition & Rehabilitation 141,500
- **Other Program Administration:**
 - Housing Voucher Program
 - · Family Self-Sufficiency Program
 - Neighborhood Stabilization Program
 - · Referrals for low income, homeless and special needs persons for shelter, foreclosure

 Provention and other services
 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - 2014-2015 Action Plan
 Public Hearings: March 18, 2014, 5:30 p.m., Westland Housing Commission; April 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Westland City Council. The proposed 2013-14 Annual Action Plan is available for review at the Housing and Community Development Dept during normal business hours. Submit written comments to: Housing and Community Development Dept, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland 48186 until April 12, 2014.

Joanne Campbell, Director William R. Wild, Mayor, City of Westland

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ublish: February 16, 2014



Virtual or online schools — become informed

By Stanley Szczotka Guest Columnist

irtual or online k-12 academies are another charter school alternative to traditional community public schooling. This is a charter service which offers students and parents the ability to opt out of attending school outside the home and become educated through a computer. This is a relatively new venue for education, and as such, the long-term successes of the effort are not yet known.

Becoming familiar with the online academies is as easy as an Internet search; however, the information available, a school's assessment scores, ranking, graduation rate, and student satisfaction is not readily available. And a program's ability to further a student's education is a mixed equation of student aptitude, parental involvement and extracurricular effort, at best.

Families who have enrolled in virtual programming or have withdrawn and returned to the public system regularly share their experiences with the process. One repeating theme of concern is that although the virtual schools are adept at enrolling children, they do not regularly request student records and when they do, the effort can be many weeks delayed. It leaves one to question how adequate educational planning can occur without obtaining the student's previous education record.

Also, when virtual programs are audited a high percentage (up to 40 percent) of students are noted to have failed. withdrawn failed, and withdrawn with no grade from virtual programming (Florida Virtual Schools (FLVS) 2004-05 & 2005-06). Also after a surge of enrollment to the FLVS program, marked layoffs are noted to have occurred in the fall of 2013 (Lisa Gartner-Staff Writer, Tampa Bay Times, Aug. 7, 2013). Concerns for the authenticity of unsupervised work effort aside, perhaps failed student participation and work effort are causal factors for this decline. Anecdotal reviews of students' and families' online experiences seem to suggest trends of success and trends of failures.

Homeschooling use

Trends of success are often associated with home schoolers and home schooling religious. It appears that virtual learning has found a market share niche with a population of students who have already withdrawn from public schooling and use the program to ground and augment homeschooling efforts — for example, www.angelfire.com/az3/ k12vareview/.

High levels of parental involvement (read most waking hours) and involvement in homeschooling groups is the norm among stories of success. Also the norm is a highly regimented, daily 1:1 learning schedule, with structured study times, outings, homework and regular field trips built around a student-tailored curriculum. It is impressive to read how many day-today field trips, shopping trips, camping trips, and mini-vacations can be rolled into an educational curriculum targeting math, science, marketing or genus/species discovery of insects and native plant fauna.

These students often spend upwards of 8-12 hours a day on parentguided homeschooling curriculum and although there is flexibility in terms of when the time is spent, these families dedicate far more time to educating their children than the average family of public school children and have evolved their lives, careers and income earning around their children's education.

With all due respect to successful home schoolers, the average family is not in a position to solely orient their lives toward educating their children, as most parents work outside the home to support their families. All too often, the families

opting to transfer to a virtual school are the families least apt to meet their students' educational needs. While these families may desire increased educational independence, be disgruntled with a school policy, reacting to a failed school relationship, or fighting with a reluctant learner, these families are looking of an option of success and their students are sometimes too will-

are sometimes too willing to test the virtual school waters, e.g. log in to school, rather than manage the challenges of in-person, face-to-face attendance and participation.

Some students speak of the virtual programming as better meeting their comfort for learning, and some frankly see virtual learning as an easier program of study. And it is not difficult to predict challenges for a student who lacked motivation for traditional schooling, planning to alternatively independently log on and navigate a virtual curriculum without parental supervision, home alone, with parents at work.

Virtual withdraws

It is also not difficult to understand why so many virtual students eventually withdraw, withdraw failed, or withdraw with no grade in this context. Further irony is noted in that many students, who struggle in school be-

DARE TO CARE

Dare to Care about Public Education is a series of articles written by the educational community of Garden City Public Schools intended to bring attention and understanding to issues of concern surrounding public education. This is the eighth article in the series. In the last article, we mentioned other educational options being supported by those in Lansing. One of those options is virtual or on-line learning. This article written by Dr. Stanley Szczotka, the **Director of Student** Services in Garden City Public Schools, addresses virtual education. It takes a commitment of time to be an informed citizen. Our hope is this series of articles is assisting you in becoming informed about the issues that plaque public schools locally and at the state and national levels. Michelle Cline

cause of their home environment, later expect to succeed amid the environment of these challenges. It is not uncommon to have students return to the public schools after an independent virtual learning experiment. The challenge of their return, however, is that these students are often missing credits and either can't graduate with their age-cohort, or have to pursue great lengths to recover their educational transcript following their time away from school.

It would seem prudent for families to think twice about online or virtual programming and consider if their lifestyle and family system matches those of the anecdotal stories of success, and how they will avoid becoming a statistic, such as: Colorado Virtual Academy, graduation rate = 12 percent; Ohio Virtual Academy = 30 percent (Edifier, November 2011); K12 Inc. = 28 percent Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) (Chingos. M. (2013). Questioning the Quality of Virtual Schools. NEPC Report.); Massachusetts Virtual Academy, MAVA =25 percent dropout, and 20-30 percent do not re-enroll (Marcus, J. (2013) Massachusetts Virtual Academy Students Falling Behind. Center for New England Investigative Reporting). And, of incredible concern is that these dreadful virtual program statistics occur amid increased profits, seemingly at the expense of student achievement (O'Conner, J. (2012). Florida Investigates K12, Nation's Largest Online Educator. State Impact Florida, September).

Stanley Szczotka, the Director of Student Services in Garden City Public Schools.

Wayne County employees wear red for women's heart health

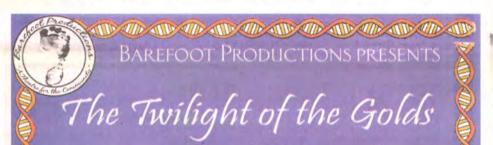
The Wayne County Health and Human Services Department participated Friday, Feb. 7, in the annual American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day for Women. February is American Heart Month. Employees participated in heart health trivia to win prizes and shared healthy refreshments and recipes. They proudly wore red attire and accessories to raise awareness concerning heart disease and support the American Heart Association in its ongoing

mission.

For 10 years, women have been fighting heart disease as part of the Go Red for Women movement. Heart disease remains the No. 1 killer of women – and men – responsible for one out of four U.S. deaths annually. To date, more than 627,000 women's lives have been saved, but the fight is far from over. Individuals need information, education and care, in order to treat,

prevent and help put an end to heart disease.

Wayne County has been observing National Go Red Day to take a stand against heart disease for nearly a decade. Residents can get information about how to stay "heart healthy" by calling the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services at 313-224-0810.



BY JONATHAN TOLINS Directed by Craig A Hane

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³National savings average based on savings products with a \$2,500 product tier as reflected on the FDIC.gov website dated 1/27/2014.

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Ties to slavery

Givens shares family history in Salem Township

By Diane Gale Andreassi Staff Writer

It took the world 100 years to catch up with sleepy Salem Township when it comes to racial relations, at least in the mind of Ray Givens, a Salem resident and greatgreat-grandson of former slave John Lewis.

Givens grew up hearing stories about Lewis and how he came to Salem through the Underground Railroad, an elaborate network of secret routes and safe houses slaves used to move north away from the Southern states which still allowed slavery.

Givens said Lewis was an educated slave in Kentucky who taught his children and his owner's children how to read and write. Since he was a free slave he could come and go as he liked. But he was still in jeopardy, Givens said, because kidnappers were known to to take black youths and sell them in the South.

Safe and protected

Lewis came north, eventually settling in Salem Township.

'The people here made him feel safe and protected," said Givens, an eight-year football coach at South Lyon East High School. "He promised himself he would return, because this is a very special place. Even though I never met him I feel I owe him for all the things he has done, how he pushed faith, trust, respect to all his family and friends. He set the bar high for us and God has given us the opportunities to live the way we do with faith, love, trust and respect.

Talking about his family history, Givens sat in

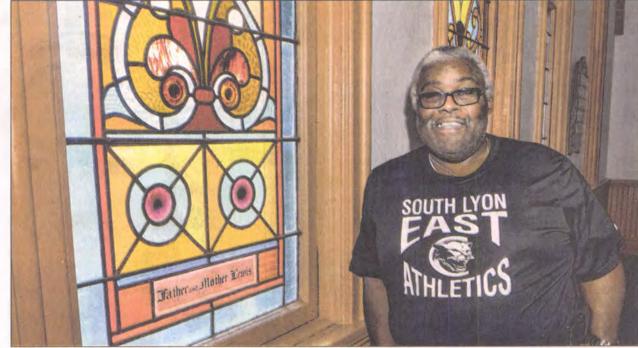
a pew at the Salem Baptist Church on Six Mile, a few feet away from the stained glass window honoring John Lewis and his wife, Lidabelle, who were among founding church members. Givens graduated from South Lyon High School and was inducted in the school's athletic hall of fame. He raised two boys a couple of blocks from where John Lewis lived. At one time, the Lewis family had what Givens calls a "compound" of 14 family houses within blocks of each other in Salem.

Givens, 60, remembers his great-great Uncle Vic sitting on the porch telling stories about his dad to Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan students who would regularly gather to hear how Lewis forged a new life for himself and the descendants who followed.

"Salem was a place like nowhere else in the country," Givens said. "People got along, cared about each other and were family."

Lewis' life story is featured in a chapter of Northville ... the First 100 Years, by Jack W. Hoffman, who included Lewis' obituary, which ran in the Northville Record. Lewis was buried Jan. 18, 1941, and the "whole town turned out for his funeral ... because of this humble man who won its respect, its regard and its admiration in 60 years of being kind, honest, courteous and minding his own business.'

Lewis was a Civil War veteran who brought the local American Legion and "other patriotic organizations into the picture," the obituary stated. He joined a Michigan regiment and fought in the Civil War before moving to Salem when he was 35. "Here he stayed as the years went on,



Ray Givens is the great-great grandson of John Lewis, who traveled the Underground Railroad and eventually settled in Salem Township. Lewis and his wife are honored in stained glass among the founders of Salem Bible Church. HAL GOULD | STAFE PHOTOGRAPHER

building up slowly year after year a reputation of which any man might boast," the obituary said. "'As honest as John Lewis' became the countryside yardstick when trying to establish the worth of someone."

Salem experience

Racism wasn't evident in Salem, Givens said.

"I have relatives from Detroit, and their attitude is different from ours. They called us stupid." His relatives talked about being discriminated against, because their ancestors were slaves.

"My dad said, 'You don't know any slaves, do you?," Givens said. "That's the way I was raised. Nobody did nothing to me."

Givens said he has toured the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and has seen the bus Rosa Parks rode during her defying act, considered a turning point of the civil rights movement "And I appreciate all that I've seen, but I'm looking at it from a different window." His ancestors would tell stories about how Lewis was welcomed in Salem "and how people are supposed to live together," he said.

But that wasn't true even a few miles away as his mother, Julia Ann Givens, learned when she was denied a request from Michigan State Normal School - now Eastern Michigan University - to room with her best friend, June Hamilton, a Salem resident who was white. Julia Ann, who became a nurse, was reportedly the first African American to enter the school.

Lewis and many of his descendants were active in the Salem community. Givens continues that tradition as an usher at Salem Bible Church and volunteers as an announcer for South Lyon East High School basketball games.

"It's about giving back," he said. "I've been blessed so much."

Tastes of bigotry

He was, at times, the target of racism. Like, when he was 16 years old and went with his brothers to a school sports game in South Lyon. Some boys had taken the wheels off the car Givens borrowed from his dad, chased them and threatened their lives.

The Givens brothers ran to a nearby home, where they were taken in and comforted while the police were called. Meanwhile, Givens said they could hear the kids smashing their dad's car. The high school basketball coach at the time, William Thomas, drove the brothers home to make sure they were safe. The Salem pastor drove Givens' dad daily for more than a month to and from work until he got a car.

During the 1967 riots, Givens said, Salem neighbors patrolled outside their home during the evenings to make sure the family was safe. It was the typical kind of love and generosity, he said, they gave and received.

"These are our friends," Givens said. "They put their lives on the line for us. They weren't black or white, they were friends."

Known as "G-Daddy" to many athletes he coaches, Givens was a volunteer firefighter for 23 years in Salem and a few years in Lyon Township. While he worked for three years, 1976-1978, as a sheriff' deputy in Livingston County, Givens got another taste of racism.

He was hired under an affirmative action law in an area where the Ku Klux Klan was prominent, he said. Other deputies refused to ride with him at night fearing they would be targeted along with Givens. He also couldn't rent an apartment, he said, because landlords worried their property would be jeopardized if Givens was attacked.

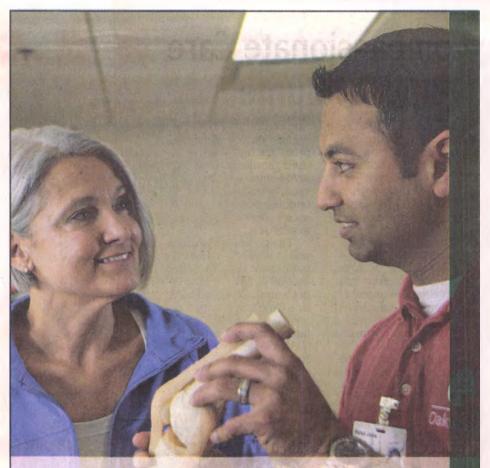
Despite those incidences, Givens said, "I saw more good than bad." Lewis' house still

Lewis' house still stands in Salem, but it's no longer owned by the family. Some of Lewis' belongings, however, were donated by his family to the Salem Historical Society and are displayed in the Jarvis Historical School on North Territorial Road.

Givens recalls listening to his relatives talk about their family members and they "always said, "Tell your story."

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Visit oakwood.org or call 800.543.WELL (9355) to register for a date and time that works for you.



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ON A MISSION

Couple plans trip to South Africa to help children affected by AIDS

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Bridge and Hilary Riddell will travel more than 8,700 miles to South Africa this spring to work for an orphanage and help children affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Royal Oak residents with strong family ties to Canton, Livonia and Temperance, they have committed two years of their lives to Lily of the Valley, home to 120 children cared for by faith-based workers.

"We have this passion to help people from other cultures different from our own," Hilary said.

Bridge, 27, grew up in Canton and graduated from Plymouth Christian Academy. The spirit of giving back runs deep in his family. His grandfather, Bill Heaton, has long been active in the Livonia Goodfellows, serving as its president.

Hilary, 25, attended Bedford High School in Temperance before she and Bridge met at Spring Arbor University, where they fell in love and developed a passion for social justice. They married in 2010 and sought a way to serve God.

"After we got married, we felt called to do something overseas," Bridge said.

They found SIM, a 120-year-old faith-based organization that began as the Sudan Interior Mission and evolved worldwide to encompass 1,600 missionaries in 60 countries. SIM accepted the Riddells and helped them with logistics and other details of their journey.

The Riddells, members of the Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville, had to raise \$25,000 in one-time costs for their two-year mission, but they're still about \$800 a month short on monthly expenses they face at Lily of the Valley, a village in Mophela, 45 miles inland from Durban.

To learn how to help, go to www.bridgeand hilary.com.

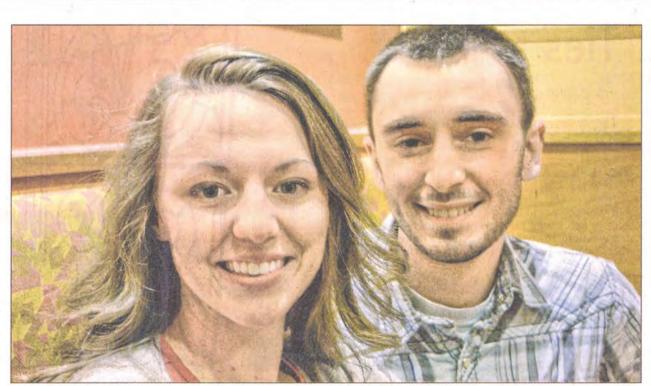
The Riddells could have chosen to use their education to simply better themselves. Yet Bridge, with a degree in art and graphic design, is leaving his job as a digital designer for an advertising agency, while Hilary, who earned her degree in visual communication, is quitting as manager of a cupcake business.

Hilary's sister, Emily Smith of Orlando, Fla., said she is impressed that Hilary and Bridge are using their education and talents to help children who need care.

"To me, it's a very unselfish thing they're doing," she said.

In all, about 72 percent of children at Lily of the Valley are HIV-positive; others come from families affected by the immune-system disease. The youngsters range in age from infant to 19 years old.

Serving as assistant village managers, Bridge and Hilary expect their duties may include tutoring the children, making sure they take their medications, taking them to



Hilary and Bridge Riddell are headed to South Africa to help children affected by HIV/AIDS.

doctor visits, accompanying them on field trips and performing maintenance work around the village, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last May.

The couple has traveled abroad, both together and alone, but never have they committed two

veri<u>zo</u>n

years of their lives to a mission. They're eager to take their faith to South Africa to help people who, without such efforts, might be forgotten.

"I'm excited to do this," Hilary said, exchanging a smile with Bridge.

They expect to leave

as early as April, bidding farewell to their supportive families and friends. They plan to keep in touch with their loved ones and their project supporters through their website and on Facebook. They shrugged when

asked when they might plan to have children of their own. For now, they're focused on the journey ahead. "Right now, we al-

ready have 120 children to care for," Hilary said.

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Hospice is seeking caring, compassionate volunteers to help with office tasks, to serve as friendly visitors for its patients and to sit vigil with patients at the very end of life.

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Compassionate Care Hospice is a communitybased hospice organiza-

Steven Piskorowski

nignest quality of nospice care for patients, their families and other loved ones. Volunteers receive training and ongoing coaching, and social opportunities are available as well.

The volunteer training will take place at Compassionate Care's office at 5730 N. Lilley, Suite A, in Canton. Contact Justine Galat, volunteer coordinator, at jgalat@cchnet.net or 888-983-9050 for more information or to apply for a brief interview.

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Just a reminder



Employees at Oakwood Hospital Wayne have turned the piles of snow into a "billboard" promoting an American Red Cross blood drive Monday, Feb. 17. The blood drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. in conference rooms 1 and 2 of the hospital, located at 33155 Annapolis, west of Venoy, Wayne. To make an appointment, visit www.redcross.org and use sponsor code Oakhosp or call 800-RED-CROSS.

AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Crop for a Cause

A 12-hour Cropping for a Cause fundraiser to benefit the IBC (Inflammatory Breast Cancer) Foundation will be held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Scrapy Chic, 33509 W. Eight Mile, Livonia.

The cost is \$35 and includes three meals, goodie bags, snacks throughout the day, make and take projects, chair massage, electric cords at every table, 50/50 raffle, quarter raffle and Tricky Tray auction with lots of prizes.

Pre-register by calling 248-426-9020. For more information, visit scrappychiclivonia.com.

Tax preparation

The Westland Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, will be assisting residents by offering free tax preparation. The program was developed for those who are low to middle income. They also provide the Home Heating Credit.

Participants must present photo ID at the times taxes are done. Joint returns are done in the morning, individual returns in the afternoon. To make an appointment, call 734-722-7632.

Library program

The Wayne Public Library will present "Stranglers of the Revolution: Detroit's Own Polar Bears" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Back in 1918, Detroitarea soldiers, nicknamed the "Polar Bears," made the trek to Russia to fight the Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War. Learn more about these remarkable warriors in a presentation by Mike Grobbel, president of "Detroit's Own" Polar Bear Memorial Association and the grandson of one of these intrepid fighters.

To register for this free program, call the library at 734-721-7832 or visit the Adult Reference Desk. The Wayne Public Library is at 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne.

Game Night

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland is holding its monthly pasta dinner 4-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert just \$6. The center also has euchre and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

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

Save the date

The Westland-Wayne Relay for Life Kick-Off party will be at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne, Thursday, March 6.

Registration is at 6:30 p.m. and the event is 7-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Find out more online at www.relayforlife.org/ WestlandWayneMI and www.Facebook.com/ RFLWestlandWayne. For more information, contact Meriem Kadi, volunteer event chair, at merkadi131@yahoo.com or by calling 734-718-0476, or Abby Stonerook, ACS staff partner, at AStonerook@cancer.org or 248-663-3404.

Bowling benefit

Throw strikes and help the Westland Historic Village Park from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh, Westland.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. They include three games, shoe rental and two slices of pizza. There also will be raffle prizes for adults and children and more.

Tickets are available at the village on Wayne Road between Cherry Hill and Marquette, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call Ryan at 734-756-0769.

Casino trip

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Casino Bus Trip to Motor City Casino in Detroit on Saturday, March 15. The bus leaves from the Wayne Community Center at 10 a.m. Saturday. Participants will be at the casino 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and return to the Wayne Community Center at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30. The purchase of a ticket includes \$30 in free slots play. Space is limited, so register by the end of February by calling 734-721-0100.

Old Time

Umbrella liability policy: A smart option for some

Q: Dear Rick: I own my own business and have liability insurance on the business. Outside of my business, I have a decent portfolio. I have homeowner's and automobile insurance and I have been considering extra liability insurance. What are your thoughts regarding umbrella liability

policies? A: An umbrella liability policy covers you for additional liability above and beyond your homeowner's and automobile insurance.

The umbrella coverage would kick in after your policy limits on homeowner's or auto insurance limits were exhausted. Like all types of umbrella liability insurance, it is not for everyone. However, in your situation, I would consider a policy.

We live in a litigious society and if something did happen, the umbrella liability policy can protect you. Even though you have liability insurance for the business, it would not necessarily protect you individually, nor would it protect your ownership of the company. Your business is an asset and someone can go after it in a liability situation. The umbrella policy would protect your assets and be used to cover legal fees.

Umbrella liability policies are relatively inexpensive. Typically, you purchase it in increments of \$1 million and it ends up costing a



few hundred dollars per year. As a business owner, that additional liability protection can be valuable in cases of accidents. In addition, for individuals who have substantial portfolios or other assets, an umbrella policy can be used to protect those items.

Typically, you purchase the umbrella liability policy from your homeowner's or automobile insurer. It is not unusual for a company to give you a discount on the umbrella policy. However, even if you don't have your automobile and homeowner's with the same company, it's not that difficult to obtain an umbrella policy.

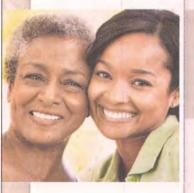
I recommend shopping your homeowner's, automobile and umbrella policy together. You may find that by having all the insurance at the same company, there may be substantial cost savings. After all, the money you save looks better in your pocket. Good luck.

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



Women's Services

Featuring Steve King & The Dittili



LADIES' NIGHT OUT: HEART to HEART

Thursday, February 20 St. Mary Mercy Hospital South Auditorium

5:30 - 7 p.m. Health Screenings Bone density, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) and massage

7 - 8:30 p.m. Speaker: Delair Gardi, MD

Vendors • Light Refreshments • Prize Drawings

REGISTER NOW!

Registration is required. Please call 734-655-1182 or visit stmarymercy.org and click on Classes & Events.



Delair Gardi, MD

Medical Director, Endovascular Services and Interventional Cardiologist, St. Mary Mercy Hospital

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Every minute in America, a woman dies from a heart attack, stroke or another form of cardiovascular disease. And yet, according to the American Heart Association, most of these cases are preventable if you lead a healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Gardi will discuss heart health issues specific to women including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Learn how to lead a heart-healthy lifestyle.



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Saturday, March 1, 2014 Welcome Reception: 7 PM Concert: 8 PM

> Village Theater AT CHERRY HILL 50400 Cherry Hill Road Canton, MI 48187

Rock along with this popular group whose repertoire boasts and eclectic mix of music including Classic Rock favorites from the 1930s to today's chart toppers and a variety show spiced with current tropical comedy. This concert will benefit the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities.

All Tickets:\$35

Includes 7pm Reception and 8 pm Concert

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stmarymercy.org

Chocolate's popularity is lengthy

Think about the best chocolate you ever tasted. Maybe it came from a heartshaped box, or perhaps it was those delectable morsels baked inside chocolate chip cookies, or a sip of chocolate milk. This sweet flavor, which comes from the seeds of the cocoa tree found in Central America and South America, is cer-

tainly versatile, and it has a long history of being a popular treat.



The first people known to consume chocolate were the Olmecs as far back as 1400 BC. The Olmecs lived in the central part of Mexico, and they were the first to domesticate the cocoa tree. The Aztecs and Mayans were also very fond of chocolate. In the 1500s, the Aztec ruler Montezuma introduced a chocolate drink to Hernan Cortes, a Spanish conquistador, who then passed it along to his people. The Spanish sweetened the bitter cocoa by adding cane sugar, and soon chocolate as a drink spread across Europe.

The mass production of solid chocolate and chocolate in bar form began in the 1800s. The Dutch van Houten family revolutionized chocolate production with the creation of cocoa powder and Dutch process chocolate. In 1847, J.S. Fry & Sons of Bristol, England, came out with the first chocolate bar for the general public. Milk chocolate was invented in Switzerland in 1875 by Daniel Peter. Famous names like Cadbury, Lindt and Nestlé also played a part in the popularity and commercialization of chocolate in Europe. In 1903, Milton S.

In 1903, Milton S. Hershey began constructing a chocolate factory in Pennsylvania. His chocolate bars became so popular that the town of Derry Church, where the factory was located, became Her-

shey, Pa. The Public Library of Pennsylvania Cookbook by Marilyn Odesser-Torpey. For an interesting read on historic rivalries in the chocolate business, try Chocolate Wars by Deborah Cadbury, a relative of the famous chocolate-makers. For more information, visit the Library or call the Reference Desk at 734-326-6123. HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Lego Read and Play,

3-4:30 p.m. Feb. 16, all children invited — Come build with us. We'll have lots and lots of Lego® bricks for building, along with books for inspiration.

Tween Writing Workshop, 7-7:30 p.m. Feb. 19, fifth-eighth-graders Do you like to write? If you're in grades 5-8, come to our Tween Writing Workshop. Each month, we'll explore different genres, play writing games, and, of course, write. February's topic is Re-imagined Fairytales. Let your imagination run wild as you craft your own altered fairytale.

Adult Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m. Feb. 19 - Debut author Ayana Mathis centers this novel of the Great Migration on the life of one strong, determined woman named Hattie Shepherd. Like so many other Southern blacks in the early 20th century, Hattie journeys north in hopes of making a new start. It is 1923 and 15year-old Hattie quickly learns that even in the northern city of Philadelphia she will have a difficult life. Hattie marries August, who proves to be a poor husband. After she loses her first two babies, Hattie goes on to mother nine more children with resolve and firmness rather than affection. The novel follows the stories of each of Hattie's children - and one grandchild — as they struggle to find their places in the world. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

eReader and Tablet Support Group, 2-4 p.m. Feb. 20 — Do you have an eReader or Tablet? Want to learn more some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device. An eReader/Tablet expert will be on hand to answer the difficult questions. No registration required.

Open Mic @ Biggby Coffee, 7 p.m. Feb. 20 Let your muse run wild coffee shop-style with singer-songwriter Dave Boutette as your emcee. Writers, poets, singers/ rappers, bands, performers of all sorts are welcome. Show up ready to perform or just sit and enjoy the talent. Tonight's program will be held at Biggby Coffee, 37644 Ford Road, Westland.

Preview Book Sale Friends of the Library, 3-6 p.m. Feb. 20 — The Preview Sale is a chance for members of the Friends of the Library (or those who wish to join) to get first pick in this month's book sale.

Friends of the Library Public Book Sale, Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 21-22 and noon to 3 p.m. and Feb. 23 — Great prices for great books. All proceeds go to the Library.

Library. No Friday Night Movie, Feb. 21. Instead, stop by and check out our Book Sale. Next week's movie is Blue Jasmine.

First- and Second-Grade Book Club, 2-3 p.m. Feb. 22 — The First and Second Grade Book Club meets once a month to discuss books, have a light snack, and engage in exciting, bookrelated activities. The book for February is The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. Sign up at the Youth Reference Desk. Please indicate any food allergies your child may have when signing up.

Rhythm and Rock Time, 1-1:30 p.m. Feb. 23, ages 1-5 — Sing, play and move along with your child. Your little one's natural rhythm will shine in this interactive music program for ages 1-5 with a caregiver. Siblings are welcome. No registration needed.

Registration ESL (English as a Second Language), 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 26 — Adults Register in-person for ESL (English as a Second Language) classes conducted by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes held 9:30-11:15 a.m. Fridays Feb. 28 through April 25. There will be no childcare this semester.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Chess Group, 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign required. Computer Classes and

one-on-one computer classes are offered all year long.

Information Central was compiled by Liz Waun, Adult Literacy Program Coordinator. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org. Celebrate Oscar™, enter contest

The Observer & Eccentric Media, in cooperation with Emagine Theatres, is offering movie buffs three ways to celebrate and win in our Academy Awards™/ Oscar™ Contest.

» Grand prize: Correctly identify the top seven Oscar[™] categories and you could win a 12month pass for two to Emagine Theatres, a \$1,000-plus value. Second-place winner will receive four movie passes. Deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

» Triple play: Enter by Feb. 26 and select "Triple Play" and you will be entered for a chance to win an Academy Awards[™] Viewing and Dinner for up to four people at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sports Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy Awards[™] show while you dine. Prize includes a light supper, champagne toast and dessert.

Go to hometownlife-.com and select the Oscar[™] Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website or go to fb.com/oehometown and click the Oscar[™] Contest icon.

The seven contest categories are:

» Best Picture: American Hustle, Nebraska, Captain Phillips, Philomena, Dallas Buyers Club, 12 Years a Slave, Gravity and The Wolf of Wall Street.

» Best Actor In a Leading Role: Christian Bale in American Hustle, Chiwetel Ejiofor in 12 Years a Slave, Bruce Dern in Nebraska, Matthew McConaughey in Dallas Buyers Club and Leonardo DiCaprio in The Wolf of Wall Street.

» Best Actress In a Leading Role: Amy Adams in American Hustle, Judi Dench in Philomena, Cate Blanchett in-Blue Jasmine, Meryl Streep in August: Osage County and Sandra Bullock in Gravity.

» Best Actor In a Supporting Role: Barkhad Abdi in Captain Phillips, Jonah Hill in The Wolf of Wall Street, Bradley Cooper in American Hustle, Jared Leto in Dallas Buyers Club and Michael Fassbender in 12 Years a Slave.

» Best Actress In a Supporting Role: Sally Hawkins in Blue Jasmine, Julia Roberts in August: Osage County, Jennifer Lawrence in American Hustle, Lupita Nyong'o in 12 Years a Slave and June Squibb in Nebraska.

» Best Animated Feature Film: The Croods, Frozen, Despicable Me 2, The Wind Rises and Ernest & Celestine.

» Best Director: David O. Russell for American Hustle, Alfonso Cuarón for Gravity, Alexander Payne for Nebraska, Steve McQueen for 12 Years a Slave and Martin Scorsese for The Wolf of Wall Street.

» First tiebreaker category is for Best Documentary Feature: The Act of Killing, Cutie and the Boxer, Dirty Wars, The Square and 20 Feet from Stardom.

» Second tiebreaker category is for Best Original Score: The Book Thief, Gravity, Her, Philomena and Saving Mr. Banks.

Arthritis Today Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152

Phone: (248) 478-7860



PALINDROMIC ARTHRITIS

Physicians are aware that nature has curious ways; a good example is palindromic arthritis. In biology a palindrome refers to a phenomenon that starts and ends, but does so by reversing itself.

A form of arthritis provides an illustration. There is an arthritis, appropriately called palindromic arthritis, in which the arthritis begins in a single joint, say the wrist. The wrist pain and swelling often is extreme, but if not treated may last one to three days and then lessen. However, while the wrist joint is recovering, the elbow or shoulder joint becomes inflamed. The arthritis may next march across to the other arm going from shoulder to elbow to wrist. Or the condition may travel to the knee and then the ankle.



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Westland has several chocolate cookbooks, including *The Hershey*,

about it? Stop in to meet with other users, share your expertise, or learn





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to the knee and then the unite.

Resolution occurs in reverse. If the left wrist was just inflamed, but stops completely, then the person with palindromic arthritis knows that the left elbow will be the next site where the pain will end. The episode will keep rewinding back to the right wrist where the flare originally began and there it will completely end.

Physicians have no answer as to why palindromic arthritis takes on this pattern. Doctors can treat the most painful single joint with a steroid injection, but this procedure does not stop the condition from traveling to the next joint. In the effort to prevent attacks of palindromic arthritis, physicians have turned to treating the condition as if it were a variant of rheumatoid arthritis. But there are many drugs used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and a nearly infinite number of ways a physician can combine anti-rheumatic therapies. To date, no single anti-rheumatic drug or combination has proved consistently successful.



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Commissioners have mixed views of deficit plan

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Wayne County commissioners are giving favorable reviews to a revamped deficit elimination plan that focuses on elimination of the county's accumulated deficit and elimination of the annual structural deficit.

The plan was developed by the county's new chief financial officer, former Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo.

"Fresh eyes and a lot of hard work from my executive team have resulted in a financial plan that we believe will resolve many of the longterm issues the county has been facing since the real estate meltdown in 2008," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said about the plan he presented last Wednesday to the Wayne County Commission.

"I think it's a great start to a conversation that hasn't taken place on a broader basis," said county Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, a Democrat whose district includes Garden City and Westland, "We were asked for an up or down vote all inclusive by April. We won't vote on all of it by April." "I think (the plan) is

bold and aggressive. I've been saying for the last year in order to fix the Wayne County budget,





we're going to have to address collective bargaining, consent agree-ments, etc," said Com-missioner Shannon Price, a Republican who represents the Plymouth-Canton area. "The plan Mark Abbo put forward addresses not only the debt, but the structural deficit."

'All kinds of ideas'

Commissioner Laura Cox, a Republican who represents Northville, Northville Township and most of Livonia, said the plan is different than the ones that have been proposed in the past and she said she appreciates the thought put into it, but still is unsure about the wastewater treatment plant's inclusion.

"This plan is so different than other plans that we're used to presenting because it's got all kinds of ideas," she said. "It's got some good structural ideas.

The county is operating with property tax revenue that is \$100 million less than in 2008. The cumulative decline in property tax revenue since 2008 is approximately \$353 million. Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for the county's general fund and support much of the operating expenses for state- and charter-mandated services

To eliminate the accumulated deficit, pegged at \$175 million as of Sept. 30, 2013, Abbo recommends two steps: including the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Unrestricted Fund Balance in the county's general fund balance and reorganizing and recapitalizing county-owned wastewater treatment facilities.

Elimination of the annual structural deficit is a multi-faceted task encompassing many areas of county operations. They include savings generated from:

» Revisions to the pension and health care plans, which will result in annual operational savings to the general fund, as well as virtually all county governmental and enterprise funds. There will also be estimated savings of up to \$38 million to the accrued pension liability and \$418 million in savings to the accrued other post-employment benefit liabilities.

» Reductions in county-wide levels of compensation.

» Changes to employee work rules » Re-prioritizing and reductions to service levels now provided through offices of both the prosecuting attorney and sheriff. » Reducing the num-

ber of circuit court judges, as well as benefits provided to judges. » Better utilization

and leasing of countyowned facilities. Noting that the

changes proposed for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne **County Prosecutor's** Office and the courts none of which are controlled by the county commission - LeBlanc said he wants "to be part of the fix."

"If the majority can be part of it – not unanimous - I'll be pleased," he said. "Whether it's the executive's plan or a commission plan that hasn't been identified yet or a hybrid, something has got to happen."

Challenging items

A number of items in the proposal require action by other bodies and, most challenging, involve employee collective bargaining agree-ments, LeBlanc said. If Wayne County isn't able to get some relief through the labor contracts, he said, there will

have to be services the county no longer provides, as well as fewer employees.

'Wayne County has lost significant management rights in bargaining in recent years," LeBlanc said. "I can't tell you how many times reasonable efforts to contain costs are prohibited by collectively bargaining agreements."

Price, however, said the plan should address the appointees more.

"Ficano and the sheriff still have too many appointees and this doesn't address that; that's a big step," Price said. "I am concerned on the rape kit portion for the (county) prosecutor. We have to make sure we finish our commitment on the rape kits, make sure every lead is fol-lowed and every criminal is convicted. I'm a little concerned the plan might eliminate some of the funding for that.

"I've been pretty tough on a lot of things and I'm going to continue to scrutinize everything. But the truth is (Abbo) put out a plan that eliminates the deficit and starts to fix the structur-al deficit," he added. "You can't continue to have a two-to-one match on pensions. You can't continue to pay for people to have their birthdays off. Not when you're facing an emergency manager." Cox is questioning the

inclusion of the wastewater treatment plant in the plan. With several variables surrounding the plant, she said the figure provided by Ficano might not be the final number once a potential sale is finalized.

"I'm not sure we have a buyer," she said. "I don't know if it easily could be done. That bulk of this whole plan is based on the sale of a piece of property per se ... and that part, I don't know if that's an appropriate item for a deficit elimination plan. That's where my issue is and my concern.'

Commissioner Diane Webb, a Democrat who represents Redford Township, Dearborn Heights and a small portion of Livonia, is also uneasy about placing the wastewater treatment plant in the plan. She said she would rather see other services that appear redundant as part of the plan, including the management of county golf courses and other programs other entities could possibly run.

"I think they need to prioritize getting rid of the assets we don't need," she said. "Sell those things, sell our assets before you take another \$10,000 from a pension.'

Staff Writers LeAnne Rogers, Brad Kadrich and David Veselenak contributed to this

Lawmakers push for SMART way to pay for college

Three Michigan lawmakers have introduced legislation that would put Michigan on the path to removing all financial barriers to higher education in the state.

State Reps. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, Theresa Abed, D-Grand Ledge, and state Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint introduced the Known as the Smarter Michigan and Retaining Talent (SMART) Act, which would set up a pilot program to allow students to attend a public university or community college with the agreement that they would pay back a small percentage of future earnings into the program. These funds would then be used to ensure future students would receive the same access to higher education without financial obstacles. "The issue of rising tuition costs was one of the first things that pushed me to run for public office," said Knezek, whose district includes Garden City, Inkster and portions of Dearborn Heights, Westland and Livonia. "Michigan families are desperate for a solution that will ensure every single student who wishes to obtain a degree can do so without rising tuition costs discouraging their attendance. After years of funding cuts for higher education, tuition rates continue to rise, and more and more students are priced out of a college degree. "Until we are able to stem this tide and convince our colleagues that we must make funding education a priority, we need to look for innovative solutions, such as the SMART Act, that will expand access to students who currently cannot afford college. SMART will make Michigan more attractive to families and students looking for an educationfriendly state to call home," he said.



State Rep.David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, (center) speaks at a press conference, introducing "pay it forward" legislation that would remove financial barriers to higher education by offering interest-free loans to university and community college students. Joining him are state Rep.

Survey shows college degree key to well-paying career

Southeast Michigan residents who took a recent online survey sponsored by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) have voiced their opinions on building a stronger workforce in the region.

The survey is part of a comprehensive effort to develop a strategy for increasing the awareness, recognition and acceptance of a broader menu of career options, including the skilled trades and other technical and STEM (science, technoldents would encourage their children, friends, or other family members to pursue an education path that would lead to a career in skilled trades.

"Clearly, there is more work to do in raising the awareness of technical and skilled trades careers here in southeast Michigan," said Paul E. Tait, executive director of SEMCOG and MAC president. "We need to educate students and re-educate adults for the jobs that exist, as well as provide educational opportunities for the jobs of the future.'

story.

The SMART Act allows for both private and public funding of the pilot program; how-

Theresa Abed, D-Grand Ledge (at Knezek's left) and state Senator Jim Ananich, D-Flint (far right).

ever, it expressly forbids the use of School Aid Fund appropriations. A student's payback portion will be determined by how many years they participate in SMART and whether they attend a community college or university. In addition, it will not begin until students graduate and find employment that pays them above the federal poverty level.

The plan would move away from the old formula in which students pay based on the amount of money loaned, instead developing a new model where students will pay based on the income generated by the education they are able to attain

'We need to widen access to a college education by making it more affordable," said Abed, who has introduced a resolution asking the federal government to partially fund the program. "An interest-free repayment system like SMART does just that. And if Michigan can get federal funding to finance the pilot program, which my resolution seeks, then it's a win-win for our students and our state."

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, has introduced a bill in Congress that would fund state Pay it Forward programs, such as SMART. U.S. Reps. Suzanne Bonacimi, D-Oregon, and Dan

Kildee, D-Michigan, introduced a similar bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. If either of these bills became law, SMART could be financed with federal dollars.

"We are very proud of Rep. Knezek, Sen. Ananich and Rep. Abed for proposing a new vision for funding higher education in Michigan," said Michelle Alwardt, vice president of the Student Association of Michigan and a senior at Oakland University. "The current system is unsustainable, and the student debt crisis impacts more than just our graduates. Investing in our students is the key to creating a bright future for Michigan as a whole. We are looking forward to working with Rep. Knezek to generate meaningful reforms that truly help Michigan students.

'State Rep. David Knezek's SMART tuition proposal places Michigan among state leaders in developing new models for tuition-free access to higher education," said John Burbank, executive director of the Economic Opportunity Institute.

"...All participants who benefit also contribute a pre-determined small percent of income for a set number of years, thus enabling the state to provide SMART access to college for a growing number of students in future years."

ogy, engineering, and math) career paths by students, parents, counselors, education policy makers and legislators.

These were some key findings of the survey:

» A bachelor's degree (50 percent of respondents) was the most important education path to obtaining a well-paying, secure, and fulfilling career to southeast Michigan residents, followed by an advanced degree (master's or doctoral by 25 percent of respondents), industry certification/apprenticeship (18 percent) and associate's degree (7 percent).

» Respondents felt that the current public education system is doing relatively well in helping students focus on college access, preparing students for college success, and encouraging interest in STEM subjects.

» Respondents also felt that the current education system could improve in preparing students to make appropriate career choices, exposing students to a wide range of careers, encouraging students to pursue technical education programs, and exposing students to skilled-trade careers, all of which are critical to broadening choices in the education system and responding to employer needs.

SEMCOG and MAC have created a joint STEM Careers and Skilled Trades Task Force, chaired by Robert Cannon, Clinton Township supervisor, and Gregory Ioanidis, president of ITC Michigan.

One of the most significant workforce challenges facing the southeast Michigan region is the lack of a pipeline of technical and skilled trades workers. Examples of skilled trades jobs include welders, carpenters, electricians, machinists and mechanics. STEM careers include engineers, information technology professionals and nurses.

"Twenty-seven percent of graduating high school students have the capacity to pursue STEM subjects in college, but have no interest in STEM careers," said Ioanidis at the first meeting of the Task Force on Jan. 28. "There is a perception that STEM and skilled trades careers are unattractive. These careers need to be promoted as interesting, challenging, and rewarding positions to young people today. Addressing this challenge is critical to the economic stability and growth of southeast Michigan."

This survey was available on SEMCOG's website at www.semcog.org and MAC's website at www.mac-web.org.

» 70 percent of respon-

WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION – AGENCY PLAN 7/1/2014-6/30/2015 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICE

The Westland Housing Commission is developing the fiscal year 2014-15 Agency Plan in compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements. The Agency Plan reflects the goals and objectives of the WHC and the administration of housing and community development programs. The Agency Plan is available for public review for a period of not less than 45 days at the Westland Housing Commission, Dorsey Center 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186, during normal business hours. Submit written comments to the WHC. The comment period will end on April 12, 2013.

The WHC Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing to obtain citizen comments on March 18, 2014, 5:30 pm, at the Dorsey Center. The Agency Plan will be submitted to HUD April 20, 2014.

Joanne Campbell, Director William R. Wild, Mayor

"Equal Housing Opportunity" Publish: February 16, 2014

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Wayne-Westland Community Schools **Attention: Food Service Management Companies**

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company will provide management services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Food Service Management Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Wayne-Westland Community Schools 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools District Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at 36745 Marquette Westland, Michigan, 48185.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2014. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

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Publish: February 16, 2014

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Westland pastor delivers invocation at Capitol

A Westland pastor recently visited Lansing to deliver the invocation to open the legislative session.

The Rev. Venice Douglas of Westland Lutheran Church of Our Savior was hosted at the Capitol by State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, to read a prayer before the House of Representatives began its work.

"It was a great privilege to have Pastor Douglas come to the Capitol to deliver the invocation," Kosowski said. "I'm proud to have a representative of Westland speak in front of my colleagues." After serving in the Army during the Vietnam War, Douglas was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in July 1979. Although he formally retired in 2006, he continues to serve the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as needed.



State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, (left) with the Rev. Venice Douglas as he delivered the invocation to open the legislative session.

Foundation scholarship applications available

Applications are available for scholarships offered by the Wayne Parks and Recreation Foundation.

» The Harold and Pat Bower Scholarship was established to assist students in furthering an education in the arts and humanities. The arts and humanities include, but are not limited to, areas in art, dance, theater, visual, vocal, instrumental, cinematography, photography and writing.

The Harold and Pat Bower scholarship is for students in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools who are Wayne residents.

» The Jack Demmer Scholarship was established to assist students in furthering an education in the area of business and entrepreneurship.

The scholarships are

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» Must have a letter of acceptance from university/college/technical school.

Applications are available at Wayne Memorial High School, John Glenn High School, the Wayne Community Center and at www.ci.wayne.mi.us (click Recreation). Applications must be submitted by April 5 to City of Wayne Recreation Foundation,4635 Howe Road, Wayne, MI 48184 or emailed to recreation@ci.wayne.mi.us.





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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM SPORTS

BRAD EMONS, EDITOR BEMONS@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-6851

Franklin grapplers march to elite eight Battle Creek-bound Patriots pin

Southgate, win first-ever regional By Brad Emons "I go to the state tourna-

Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's wrestling team has enjoyed a rich tradition during Dave Chiola's tenure as head coach.

But the Patriots broke new ground Wednesday night, earning their first trip ever to the Kellogg Center in Battle Creek as they will march among a parade of eight Division 1 regional champions in the MHSAA's team finals.

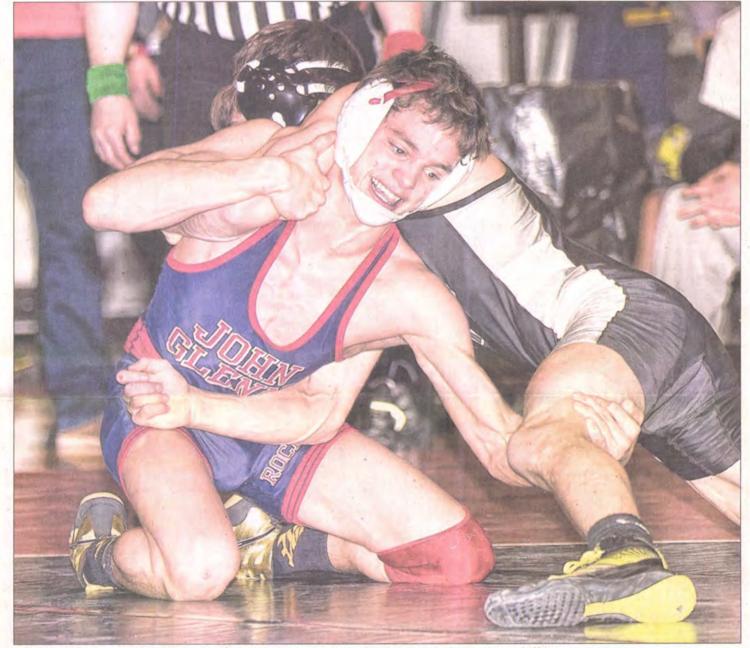
Franklin, now 16-7 overall, defeated host Southgate Anderson, 39-30, in the regional final following a 53-24 semifinal victory over Birmingham Seaholm. "I go to the state tournament every year and sat in the bleachers knowing that we were better than some of the teams down there," said Chiola, now in his 14th season. "And I know when we go there this year there are going to be teams better than us that are up in the bleachers. We've had some very, very good teams, but we've always run into a CC (Novi Detroit Catholic Central) or somebody else that were better than us. But it's nice. It's a deserving team. They've shown a lot of heart."

Holding on to a 33-30 lead in the regional final, Adam Ross

See GRAPPLERS, Page B3



Franklin celebrates its first-ever MHSAA Division 1 team regional wrestling title after a 39-30 win over Southgate Anderson. GARY STEELE



Rockets advance to KLAA semifinal

Glenn overcomes Stevenson, 48-35

Westland John Glenn put it together during the second half Thursday to subdue upset-minded Livonia Stevenson, 48-35, in the first round of the KLAA Kensington Conference boys basketball playoffs.

Glenn, which improved to 12-5 overall, outscored host Stevenson 17-8 in the third period to take control after trailing 21-19 at halftime.

The win puts the Rockets in Monday's Kensington Conference semifinal against 12-5 Northville. (Game time is 7 p.m. at

John Glenn's Chase Spanos (front) earned a 5-0 decision at 125 pounds over Plymouth's Spencer Schifftar. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

ROCKETS' MAT QUEST COMES UP JUST SHORT

Regional champ Plymouth holds on, 39-32

The pendulum swung Westland John Glenn's way as the Rockets made a bid to defeat Plymouth in Wednesday's Division 1 wrestling team regional semifinal. But the Wildcats grabbed it back just

But the Wildcats grabbed it back just in time to post a grueling 39-32 victory and advance to the face Bedford in the regional championship match. (Plymouth hung on 32-29 in the final).

After Glenn individual district cham-

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

pions Jordon Brandon and John Siemasz took 11 out of a possible 12 points at 285 and 103, the host Rockets enjoyed a 32-29 lead — rallying from a 29-15 deficit.

Plymouth, however, stormed back. At 112, Brandon Harris scored a 17-7 major

decision over Cyle Sneed to put the Wildcats back in front, 33-32.

And with the match on the line, Plymouth senior 119-pounder Mo Youssef took care of business by pinning Joe Bates in 1:52 to finish off the Rockets.

"We knew we had to be up by more points going into the last two bouts,"

See REGIONAL, Page B3

Glenn.)

"Our game was tough," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "Stevenson was scrappy. They played hard and were getting to loose balls. We had great looks the first half, but couldn't make shots."

Senior forward Isaac Everette led the Rockets and all scorers with 17 points, while senior forward James Pruitt chipped in with eight.

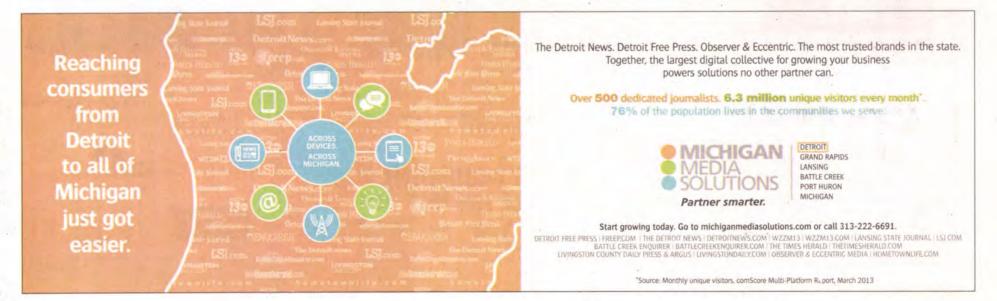
Junior forward Jacob Dollar paced the Spartans (4-13) with 15 points, while junior guard Noah Campbell added six.

"We played two different zones the first half," Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We kept them off balance and forced them into some bad shots. But they (Glenn) made some good halftime adjustments and started knocking down shots. They had four 3pointers and made some clutch shots. They played a great second half."

SOUTH LYON 53, CHURCHILL 48: Carter Drazga scored 15 of game-high 27 points in the final quarter Thursday as the host Lions (12-5) beat Livonia Churchill (9-8) for the second time this season in at Kensington Conference first-round matchup.

Conference first-round matchup. Drazga, a senior guard, made all 12 of his free throws attempts including 10 straight in the second half as South Lyon rallied from a seven-point fourth quarter deficit. Jon Hovermale paced Churchill with 14 points, while Donte Jackson and Jalen Davis added 11

See ROCKETS, Page B3



LOCAL SPORTS

hometownlife.com

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pats trivia challenge

A trivia challenge to raise money for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team will start at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Coach's Corner, 19170 Farmington Road (at Seven Mile), in Livonia.

Also, a percentage of food and drinks will be donated to the Franklin wrestling team, with registration starting at 2 p.m. The cost is \$15 (or bring your own team).

Cash prizes include \$150 (first place), \$100 (second) and \$75 (third). Raffle prizes will also be included.

For more information, call Franklin coach Dave Chiola at 248-752-2340 or email chiola44@yahoo.com.

Future Stars camp

The eighth annual Franklin **High School Future Stars** spring baseball camp will be held 9-11:30 a.m. (Session 1) and 12:15-2:45 p.m. (Session 2) Saturday, Feb. 22, at the high school fieldhouse, 31000 Joy, Livonia.

Session 1 will consist of hitting, base running and infield work, while Session 2 will focus on pitching, outfield, defense and catching drills.

The cost is \$30 per session or \$50 for both. Campers must bring a glove, bat and athletic shoes. Each camper will bring a sack lunch for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. if attending both sessions.

For more information, call Franklin coach Matt Fournier at 734-968-0499 or email mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

CHS Hall of Fame

The 12th annual Livonia **Churchill Athletic Patrons** Hall of Fame induction dinner will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at the Italian-American Hall, 39200 Five Mile, Livonia.

Dinner starts at 6:45 p.m., followed by the program at 7:30 p.m.

Among the inductees will be the 2006 Churchill Division 1 state runner-up cross country team (coached by Sue Tatro), football and baseball player John Stoitsiadis (1986) and former Churchill Principal Rod Hosman.

Tickets are \$35 each if purchased by March 1 or \$40 after March 1. For more information, con-

tact Rob Suida at 313-617-5448 or email rsuida@cmsenergy.com.

Girls softball camp

The Livonia Churchill Chargers fundamentals girls softball camp (grades 3-10) will be from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, March 8, at the high school fieldhouse, 8900 Newburgh Road.

All participants must be preregistered. The cost is \$35. Each girl should come prepared with a glove, gym shoes and bat.

For more information, call Churchill girls softball coach Steve Gentilia at 734-776-1716 or email Churchillsoftball@gmail.com.

Need tennis coach

Dearborn Heights Annapolis High School is seeking a varsity girls tennis coach for the spring season.

Interested candidates should call Annapolis athletic director Scott Wiemer at 313-278-2610.

Baseball sign-up

The Wayne Baseball Association is staging a one-day registration 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Mark Chevrolet, 33200 Michigan Avenue, Wayne.

The registration fee costs are: \$25, Parent Helper (ages 3-4) and Shetland (5-6); \$30 Pinto (7-8); \$55, Mustang (8-10) and Bronco (11-12); to be determined, Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18).

For more information, call Trish Hampton of Mark Chevrolet at 734-722-9100 or email trish@markchevrolet.com.

Girls fastpitch

The Wayne Baseball Association is staging a one-day reg-istration 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Mark Chevrolet, 33200 Michigan Avenue, Wayne.

The registration fee costs

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KEEPER SIGNS LETTER



Livonia Stevenson senior goalkeeper Rylee Jason (middle), pictured with Lawrence Tech coaches Mario Galindo (left) and Jamie Scott (right), recently signed an NAIA letter of intent with Blue Devils. Jason helped the under-13 Michigan Hawks win the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Cup and Region titles. She is currently a member of the Hawks' ECNL squad and is coming off a torn anterior cruciate knee ligament, which kept her out her junior season after starting as a sophomore at Stevenson. "Her commitment to denying goals, physical play and fine-tune positioning are assets we are looking forward to," Scott said. "Rylee is goal-oriented and strives to reach the end result. She will bring qualities that will help to enhance the growth of our team."

are: \$30, Pinto Coach-Pitch (ages 7-8); \$55, Mustang (9-10) and Bronco (11-12); \$80 Upper Divisions (13-16).

For more information, call Trish Hampton of Mark Chevrolet at 734-722-9100 or email trish@markchevrolet.com.

Women's golfers

The Livonia Whispering Willows Golf League will be expanded to 18 holes for \$28 per week (includes greens fees and cart) beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 1.

Non-residents are encouraged to join the 20-week league.

For more information, call Beth at 248-473-9068 or email tbw4boys@aol.com.

Coach-Pitch, T-Ball

The city of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage walk-in or fax-in registration for 2014 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and coach-pitch (ages 7-8) for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville school attendance area through Feb. 26.

Enrollment is limited to the the first 640 participants in each division. Registration forms have been sent to schools or can be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

The season runs from May though July with T-ball scrimmages Monday evenings and coach-pitch scrimmages

Thursday evenings.

Late registration for Livonia or Clarenceville school district residents will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29, at the LCRC, 15000 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

Non-resident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, March 31, at the LCRC's Parks and Recreation office.

Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis through April 30 or until teams are filled.

Open registration fees are \$40 per child (resident) and \$50 (non-resident). Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident)

For more information, call 734-466-2410 (use option No. 2).

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LOCAL SPORTS

Glenn girls hold off Milford in fourth quarter

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

The foul line proved to be Westland John Glenn's best friend in Friday's 54-50 girls basketball victory at Milford.

The Lady Rockets held off a late Mavericks rally to improve to 8-10 overall with the Kensington Lakes Activities Association consolation round victory

Victoria McCloud paced Glenn with a team-best 16 points, while Kaira Barnes and R'Mani Garrard chipped in with 14 and 13, respectively. Kimah Stripling finished with seven.

Glenn led 19-17 at halftime, but opened up a 33-23 lead after three quarters.

Then both offenses got untracked with the Rockets being outscored 27-21 over the final eight minutes.

"The key to our victory was foul shoooting in the fourth quarter," said Glenn coach Derrick Jordan, whose team made 12-o-14 down the stretch. "that pretty much sealed it in the clutch. We allowed them to come back after leading by 10 in the fourth quarter. They (Milford) got some shots off on us. They attempted to press us and when they weren't successful their game plan was to foul us."

Elise Gustafson led Milford (6-12) with 20 points, while Hailey Kassab and Maddy Kurtz chipped in with 10 and eight, respectively.

"We created a few turnovers, but we also turned it over few times which allowed them to cut the lead down down four, but we were able to shoot free throws well and

able to hold the ball," Jordan said. "t was a hard-fought victory. The girls played hard. They really did."

The Rockets made 17-of-28 free throws on the night, while Milford hit 13-of-19.

STEVENSON 58, W.L. CENTRAL 43: Senior

STEVENSON 38, W.L. CENTRAL 43: Senior guard Rachel Wilkinson scored 15 points Friday lifting host Livonia Stevenson to a KLAA consolation round victory over Walled Lake Central (4-14). The Spartans, who jumped out to an 18-8 first-quarter advantage, also got 11 points from senior forward Kyra Johnson and 10 from Charlesann Roy. Joanna Finn tallied 14 for the Vikings, who made only 11-of-24 from the foul line (4-8, percent). Stevenson made 9-of-12 free throws (75 percent). Scutter IV 2005 54. FRAMKLIN 39, Emily

SOUTH LYON 54, FRANKLIN 39: Emily Heinrich poured in a game-high 21 points Friday to power the Lions (4-14) past visiting Livonia Franklin (2-16) in a KLAA consolation bracket game.

(2-16) in a KD94 consolitation bracket game. Breanna Bias chipped in with 10 points for South Lyon, which led 28-19 at halftime before outscoring the Patriots 9-1 in the third quarter. Juniors Sarah Cramton and Jessica McNally paced the Patriots with 10 and eight points, respectively. Franklin made 13-of-22 foul shots, while South Ivon connected on 12-of-15.

Lyon connected on 12-of-15. S. LYON EAST 62, CHURCHILL 28: On S. LYON EAST 62, CHURCHILL 28: On Friday, Gabi Bird tallied a game-high 17 points as host South Lyon East (10-8) rolled to a consolation round victory over Livonia Churchill (7-11). 'The Chargers, who couldn't overcome a 31-9 halftime deficit, got a team-high eight points from Alivia Kondrath. Churchill made 8-of-14 free throws, while East

connected on 7-of-9. **NORTHVILLE 73, WAYNE 11:** It was no contest Friday as the host Mustangs (13-5) invoked a running clock during the second half to beat winless Wayne Memorial (0-17) in a KLAA consolation bracket matchup.

GREENHILLS 35, LUTHERAN WESTLAND GREENHILLS 35, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 28: Sabrina Wu tallied a game-high 14 points Friday as host Ann Arbor Greenhills (10-6, 7-5) downed Lutheran High Westland (6-9, 5-5) in Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division game. Senior center Leah Refenes paced Lutheran Westland with nine points and 13 rebounds. The Warriors, who trailed 14-11 at halftime and 24-17 after three quarters, shot only 10-of-45 from the field (2.2, percent) and 8-of-15 from the foul line (53.3 percent).

ANNAPOLIS 43, CLARENCEVILLE 28: Or Thursday, host Dearborn Heights Annapolis pulled away in the second half for a Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division win over Livonia Clarenceville (9-10, 7-5). The Trojans, who trailed 19-14 at halftime, got nine

points from Erica Katz, while Ayanna Buckley and Mikala Kieling added eight and six, respectively. HURON VALLEY 58, MACOMB 30: Fresh-

man Sam Golchuk scored a game-high 20 points and added five steals Thursday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (11-4, 10-2) romped past host Warren Macomb Christian (2-7 MIAC Red). Senior Sarah Setian and junior Julie St. John added eight points for the Hawks, who broke away from an 8-all first-quarter deadlock with a 17-2 second-

period run. Shaina Rawls tallied a game-high 21 points for Macomb, which made only 3-of-12 free throws. "The girls started slow and sluggish," HVL coach Kris Ruth said. "Sam Golchuk really ran the floor well tonight, got most her points in transition. Total team effort tonight." **BISHOP FOLEY 56, LADYWOOD 50:**

Frishman Maggie Shirk tallied: a game-high 23 points, but it wasn't enough as Livonia Ladywood (2-16) dropped a Catholic League inter-sectional game Thursday at Madison Heights Bishop Foley (11-7).

The Blazers, who also got six points from junior Amber Riethmiller, couldn't overcome a 17-5 first-quarter deficit.

"We did a great job of battling back and never gave up," Ladywood first-year coach Amber Culloty said. "I've never been prouder of my team, but we inst could's finite." just couldn't finish.

Renee Fischer led the Ventures, the Catholic League C-D Division finalists, with 17 points, while Kristin Doxen added 13. Foley made 15-of-23 free throws, while Ladywood

of-14 CLARENCEVILLE 45, THURSTON 33: After leading 17-15 at halftime, Livonia Clarenceville (9-9, 7-4) used a 17-4 third quarter run Wednesday to beat visiting Redford Thurston in a WWAC Red Division game.

Senior center Ayanna Buckley had 20 points, 10 Rebounds and for the victorious Trojans. Mikala Kieling added 13 points, including three 3-pointers. Clarenceville went 12-of-17 from the foul line, while Thurston made just 7-of-19.

Melcher joins elite club in MU win

Berberet's 27 can't save Lady Ocelots in loss to Alpena Community College

Junior guard Rachel Melcher joined both the 1,000point and 500-rebound club Wednesday night, leading the Madonna University women's basketball team to an 80-57 win at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Melcher, a 5-foot-8 guard from Birmingham Marian, finished with a team-best 16 points and eight rebounds as the Crusaders improved to 12-14 overall and 10-9 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Dominique Mosby added 10

points as 11 different MU players scored.

Brittany Teets and Jalissa Williams paced the Wolves (3-22, 2-17), who trailed 39-24 at halftime, with 15 and 13 points, respectively. Andrea Collins added 10.

Schoolcraft falls

Brianna Berberet (Salem) scored game-high 27 points Wednesday, but Schoolcraft College (9-14, 5-8) fell in an MCCAA Eastern Conference game, 80-73, to host Alpena Community College (7-13, 4-9).



Melcher

and 11 rebounds for the Lady Ocelots, who trailed by only one at intermission, 33-32.

came 27 turnovers and 11of-24 shooting from the foul line

Ashleigh Monticello paced the Lady Lumberjacks with 15 points, while Anna Carrick added 14.

Whitney Frazier chipped in with 13 points and 13 rebounds, while Courtney Holmes also tallied 13 points.

REGIONAL

Continued from Page B1

John Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "I knew they probably had it on paper going into 112 and 119, that's where two of their best guys are.

"So we bumped up early and we knew that could either come back to hurt us or work out to our benefit and it hurt us. But either way, we don't bump up and Youssef has beaten (Chase) Spanos a couple times already this year, so it really wouldn't have mattered. We had to gamble a little bit and we did, and it almost paid off.

After Harris came through in the second-to-last bout, Youssef knew it was in his hands whether Plymouth would win the school's first wrestling regional trophy.

"It felt real good, knowing I did it for my team," Youssef said. "We were down and they were counting on me to win. So I just had to get the pin."

Plymouth coach Quinn Guernsey, meanwhile, said having two district champions in Harris and Youssef waiting to go in the final two bouts gave the team reason to believe it could hold off the Rockets (20-10).

"We were nervous, but we were still a little confident," said Guernsey, whose team improved to 35-4 with the win over Glenn. "Brandon and Mo win a lot of matches for us and they're the type of kids we expect to win when they go out to wrestle."

"(W)e went through some rough patches this year. That was one of our problems half the season. ... But the last three weeks, I couldn't be happier with the efforts from some of my young ones and guys fighting ..." BILL POLK

John Glenn wrestling coach

earned a 14-1 major decision over Derrick Lester to make it a 17-15 Wildcats lead.

Plymouth's sideline thought Shaver actually pinned Lester in the final second of the opening period, but officials ruled time had expired.

Instead of six points for a pin, the Wildcats garnered four due to the competitive will shown by Lester. Until the final bouts, those two points loomed large on the scoreboard.

'You know what, we went through some rough patches this year," Polk said. "That was one of our problems half the season. We couldn't stay off our back.

"But the last three weeks, I couldn't be happier with the efforts from some of my young ones and guys fighting and staying off their backs.

Pins by Plymouth's Tarek Tamimi and Hussein Youssef (at 171 and 189) seemingly put the Wildcats in front to stay, 29-15.

Then came a void by the Wildcats at 215, followed by the powerful Brandon's dominant pin of Plymouth sophomore Michael Jordan in 2:59 at 285.

Naubert sets record, but Crusaders upset

Ocelots pull out 88-84 OT victory at Alpena

It turned out to be a bittersweet night for the Madonna University men's basketball team.

Senior Bobby Naubert became the first player in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference history to reach 700 career assists, but MU suffered a damaging 70-66 setback Wednesday night to host University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Naubert, a 5-foot-10 point guard from Livonia Stevenson, finished with 18 points and four assists, but it couldn't prevent the Crusaders from falling to 18-9 overall and 14-5 in the WHAC (now tied with Northwestern Ohio

for third place).

Senior guard Travis Schuba was the only other MU player to score in double figures with 13 points.

Jamiel Strickland led the Wolves (7-20, 4-15) with 17 points, while Jeff Fick added 16

Gage Throgmorton and Marcus Tillmon-Comet both added 12 off the bench as the Wolves built a 40-31 halftime advantage.

Ocelots win in OT

Michael Harvey came off the bench to score 18 points Wednesday, including the game-tying 3-pointer with only one second remaining in regulation, to propel Schoolcraft College (12-11, 5-8) to an 88-84 overtime victory at Alpena Community College

(5-16, 3-10) in an MCCAA Eastern Conference game.

Harvey's triple made it it 73-73.

Freshman guard Josh Campbell (Livonia Stevenson) paced the Ocelots with a game-high 26 points despite making only 14-of-23 from the foul line.

Terrence Coles (Redford Thurston) turned in an impressive performance with 23 points and 18 rebounds, while Andrew Mapley chipped in 12 points and 15 boards.

Alpena, outscored 15-11 in the five-minute OT, got a game-high 37 points from Iravon Howard. The Lumberjacks, who led 34-31 at halftime, also got 17 points from Kharri Dailey and 10 points and 14 boards from Scott Hicks III.

Schoolcraft was unable to over-

Tabitha Mann

added 16 points

The Wildcats got an early jump, with 140-pounder Jon Conn pinning Charles Anderson in 1:16 and Sofus Nielson defeating Tunde Alawode 11-3 in the 145-pound bout to go up 13-9.

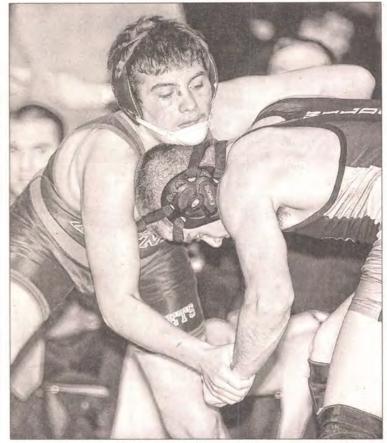
Brad Speen then gave the Rockets some life, rallying in the third period to pin Sam Campbell in 4:45 at 152. That put John Glenn up by two.

The see-saw battle continued in the 160-pound match. Plymouth's Joey Shaver

When Siemasz registered a 24-9 technical fall against Reed, the lead swung back to John Glenn.

That turned out to be a short-lived lead and last hurrah for the Rockets, who finished 18-10 overall.

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In the 152-pound bout, Glenn's Brad Speen (left) pinned Plymouth's Sam Campbell in 4:45. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

REGIONAL WRESTLING RESULTS

MHSAA TEAM REGIONAL WRESTLING RESULTS DIVISION 1 (Semifinal) at NOVI WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 56

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 56 LIVONIA STEVENSON 14 103 pounds: Kaleb Marion (WLC) won by void: 112: Ben Freeman (WLC) pinned Jacob Oesterwind, 2:58: 119: Dom Paterra WLC) p. Spencer Planga, 1:35: 125: Daniel Shear (WLC) p. William Eckerle, 1:08; 130: Jared Hill (WLC) decisioned Castor Rodgers, 6-1; 135: Trevor Demers (LS) dec. Tyler Maddock, 7-1; 140: H. Kinjarski (WLC) p. Dante Lamb, 3:25; 145: Tyler Statham (LS) won by technical fall over David Simon, 16-1; 152: Jake Stitely (WLC) p. Jacob Tennis, 1:24; 160: Derek Gilsbach (LS) won by void; 171: Jake Braun (WLC) won by major dec. over Justice Betke, 11-1; 189: Alex Sovel (WLC) p. Erick Williams, 1:35; 215: Chris Bonnen (WLC) dec. Franklin Metivier, 3-2; 285: T. Ezell (WLC) dec. Parker Nowak, 3-1. Stevenson's dual match record: 13-13 overall. Championship final: Novi Detroit Catholic Central 52, Walled Lake Central 13: semifinal: Catholic

Championship final: Novi Detroit Catholic Central 52, Walled Lake Central 13; semifinal: Catholic Central 77, Waterford Kettering 3.

GRAPPLERS

Continued from Page B1

clinched the victory for the Patriots in the final match at 125 pounds. Ross was in control from the start and was up 10-0 when officials disgualified his Southgate opponent for stalling tactics. Franklin was awarded the maximum six points.

Double-winners on the day for the Patriots included Nathan Atienza (130), Collin Smith (135), Nick Frazier (152), Dan Huber (171) and Jordan Atienza (189). Kenneth Steele (160) also added a victory for Franklin in the final against Southgate.

Chiola juggled his lineup with senior Jordan Atienza, last year's state runner-up at 152, moving up from 160 to 189

"Because of the teams we've had, we've always try to do the best match-ups we can, but because you do it on paper doesn't mean always they follow through," Chiola said. "This is one of the few times where we did the match-ups perfectly, that every kid did his job. Every single kid did exactly what he was supposed to do all the way through. Total team effort.

Franklin is among three teams in the elite eight from the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, joining by Hartland and Plymouth.

"I told my guys from the beginning of the year we had a shot," Chiola said. "They ended every practice all year with a 'top eight' chant. We didn't care about division, conference, Observerland ... anything. We kept our eyes on one goal. Everybody stepped up for this win. It is a great feeling."

Three of the top four seeds will more than likely be No. 1-ranked Davison, No. 2 and

All four quarterfinal matches start at 3:15 p.m. Friday in Battle Creek. The semifinals will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, followed by the finals at 4 p.m. Franklin will be a decided

defending champion Catholic

Central and No. 3 Hartland.

underdog, but Chiola has been pleased with the way his team has improved this season. (The draws will be released after a seeding meeting by the MHSAA Sunday night.)

"The last month, we've really turned it on," he said. "The kids have gotten down to competitive weights after wrestling up all year. They've gotten down to competitive weights and are peaking at the right time. With other teams, we've peaked in December before, but with these guys it's coming at the end of the year. Very exciting."

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ROCKETS

Continued from Page B1

Churchill trailed 23-14 at the half, but rallied with a 17-9 run in the third period to pull within within one, 32-31.

within one, 32-31. "It became a free throw contest," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "They (South Lyon) made every one and we had a tough time scoring." The Lions made 13-0-123 free throws on the night, while Churchill was 9-of-15.

FRANKLIN 49, 5. LYON EAST 43: Senior guard Adam Monroe scored a game-high 20 points Thursday as host Livonia Franklin (4-13) downed South Lyon East (2-14) in a KLAA consolation

game. Monroe made 6-of-11 shots from the floor, including 3-of-6 from three-point range as the Patriots led 27-19 after three guarters before holding or

holding on. Senior guard Alex Perelli added nine points for Franklin, which connecte don 15-of-23 free throws. Jack Leckner and Trent Willenborg each tallied 10 points for the Cougar

NOVI 53, WAYNE 49: Max Yanke scored 19 points and Nick Zugaro added 16 Thursday as the host Wildcats (7-10) held off Wayne Memorial (3-14) in a KLAA consolation game. Novi made 14-0f-15 free throws on the night,

while Wayne hit 6-of-8.

Aaron Journey paced the Zebras with 16 points, while Brian Williams and DeAndre Carter chipped

in with 13 and 10, respectively. "We did not play quite as well to start the third quarter," said Wayne coach Mike Schuette said. "It was a good team effort and everybody played, but they (Novi) wouldn't miss a free throw."

HURON VALLEY 62, PARKWAY 59 (OT): Senior forward Ryan Schaffer scored a game-high 30 points and added six rebounds Friday as host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (4-10, 4-6) earned

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (4-10, 4-b) earned the overline victory over Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (5-10, 5-5) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division game. Jordan Rundstadler added 11 points, while Adam Hodgson grabbed eight rebounds for the Hawks, who outscored Parkway 16-11 in the final quarter to force OT at 52-all. Huron Valley made 21-of-50 shots from the floor (42) escent) and 14-of-26 free threes (53.8)

(42 percent) and 14-of-26 free throws (53.8

percent). "We got contributions from everybody," HVL coach Jim Ott said. "Ryan had a lot of the points, but Adam Hodgson got eight rebounds, which was big. Milan Monk had eight points and took a key charge at the end. It was a pretty good group effort."

GREENHILLS 69, LUTHERAN WESTLAND

31: On Friday, state-ranked Ann Arbor Gr (16-0, 12-0) cruised to a MIAC Red Divisio imph over cold-shooting Lutheran High Westland (9-6, 6-5).

Greenhills soared to a 23-8 lead after one quarter and went up 46-18 at intermission.

Emmett Kulka paced the Gryphons with 24 points, while Andre Diehl and Rawson Scheinberg contributed 13 and 10, respectively, "Once again Greenhills' pressure really took its toll on our team," Lutheran Westland coach Jim

Hoeft said. "They create a lot chaos with double-teams in the full court and half court. It starts to wear you down mentally and physically." A.J. Seltz scored 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Warriors, who shot only 23 percent from the floor (11-of-47).

"What hurt us tonight was our transition defense," Hoeft said, "They got a lot of easy run-outs due to us not getting back – we had too many guys not busting back. You have to limit your turnovers against this team and we were not workful neuroph with the ball transite."

CLARENCEVILLE 66, ANNAPOLIS 41: Kimani Dooley and Jermell Johnson paced a balanced scoring attack with 15 points apiece Friday as host Livonia Clarenceville (7-10, 4-7) rolled to an easy Western Wayne Athletic Confer ence Red Division triumph over Dearborn Heights

Anapolis (1-16, 0-10). Clarenceville jumped out to a 32-19 at halftime advantage and broke the game wide open with a

24-13 third-quarter surge. Junior James Hill added 10 points and controlled the boards for the Trojans, while Chris Bryant, playing in only his second varsity game, contrib-uted six points along with Jalen Bryant and Davis. The Cougars got a game-high 21 points fro

GREENHILLS 67, HURON VALLEY 25: Rawson Scheinberg scored 17 points, while Emmett Kulka and Oladele Gaba added 10 apiece Tuesday as MIAC Red Division champion Ann Arbor Greenhills (15-0, 11-0) routed host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (3-10, 3-6). Milan Monk scored 12 for the Hawks, who shot only 8-od-34 from the Boar.

only 8-of-34 from the floor.

HVL fell behind 28-11 at the half and never

313-222-6851

B4 (W) 0 & E Media | Sunday, February 16, 2014

LOCAL SPORTS

New senior softball team seeking new talent

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Bob Mosher looked up from his cup of coffee at Grand Traverse Pie Co. in Plymouth and smiled.

"We're not looking for superstars," said the 74-year-old Mosher, a Canton resident. "This is a recreational league. This is about getting older gentlemen, senior guys ... off their sofa to join us.

Mosher is a player and comanager for a Canton-based team in the Suburban Senior Softball League of Western Wayne County, a league governed by Amateur Softball Association rules for players age 65 and up.

Not far from his coffee cup was a stack of advertisement placards with all the details about the membership drive.

He is trying to recruit enough senior citizens with "average" talent and a hankering for fun and friendship to join what would be a second Canton team.

With the two Canton squads and the addition of teams



Good sportsmanship, camaraderie and diversity are key components of the 65-and-older softball league.

based out of Dearborn and Taylor, the SSSLWWC would field eight squads for 2014. Other existing teams are from Livonia, Redford and Westland.

Check it out

So far, according to Mosher who began playing softball nine years ago, after retiring from his career in engineering about five players already are in the fold for the second Canton team (which he will not help run).

That means there is impetus to get the word out so that all

of the rosters will be filled with up to 20 players by the time the 32-game season begins in late April.

An informational meeting, where prospective players can attend and commit to the venture, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at Canton Coney Island. The restaurant is located on Lilley, south of Joy. "I'm looking for diversity,"

Mosher said. "I'm looking for fun guys that are friendly, that really want to socialize.'

And even though the expansion team will have home games played at Canton Sports Center (part of a sprawling complex on Michigan Avenue), players do not have to live in the township to join.

For example, the team Mosher plays for (sponsored by Henry Ford Village in Dearborn) is co-managed by a Livonia resident, 70-year-old Vince DeMassa.

"I handle the computers and I'm good with photography,' Mosher said. "Now, Vince is a real player. He's played ball his whole life."

Slated to run the second Canton team are Livonia's Ron Klimzak and Northville's Les Osenkowski, who are age 65 and 69, respectively.

Fun and safety

What Mosher and others will tell those who stop by Canton Coney Island is the league isn't about running up the score (the league only permits five runs per half-inning), but rather getting guys out for some fun, exercise and kibitzing at post-game gatherings.

We're looking for people, a lot of this is socialization, Mosher said. "I always encourage them to come to lunch with us after (games).

"We always go to a place, a restaurant. We have several restaurants that we go to because half our games are at home in Canton and the other half are out on the road.'

It does help if players have some softball experience and the ability to still run from Point A to Point B.

"There are some good guys; we don't look for *talent*," he said. "We look for average, guys with average skills. In other words, if they can run a little bit, that's good.

"If they can't ... it is impor-tant to get to first base without walking.

Mosher stressed that prospective players also need to at least have an idea about what they can or can't do at an advanced age before signing up.

There's only one guy that I can think of (that) made me a little nervous," he said. "He just didn't have the balance or the reaction skills. We're thinking about safety, No. 1.'

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Stephen Weiss definitely is enjoying being back with his old team. PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Weiss gets back with Whalers

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

Going home week suits Stephen Weiss just fine, but being a major contributor to the Detroit Red Wings' playoff push would be even better.

Weiss - a standout player for the Plymouth Whalers from 1998-2002 and a 12-year National Hockey League veteran - last week returned to the place where he cut his teeth as a hockey player, including 2001-02 for longtime Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci. Now on his way to full recovery following sports hernia surgery, Weiss is skating with the Whalers during the Olympic break and is banking on a quick return to the Red Wings. He added that he is feeling better every day. "I've been on the ice for a few weeks now and was able to practice with (the Wings) on our last road trip," Weiss said in the Whalers' locker room Tuesday, following his first practice with the OHL team. "To be able to continue on this week and next week with the Whalers is fantastic for me "I didn't really want to be on my own for these two weeks, that's not a lot of fun. So to be in a team atmosphere and especially with a team that I played with before and haven't been back to this locker room for a while is pretty special."

games and we try and get together as much as we can, given both of our schedules.

"But certainly, they were a huge part of my time here. Getting to where I got wouldn't have been possible without them taking care of me and my roommate (Cole Jarrett) the way they did."

Weiss — who signed as a free agent with Detroit after 11 seasons with the Florida Panthers, the team that drafted him fourth overall in 2001 then smiled when he recalled telling the Albertis he was going to practice with the Whalers. "They were pretty excited when they heard I was coming back here," he said. "We were laughing about the old days. So real special memories being back, for sure."

and see what he does."

Forward and Chicago Blackhawks prospect Ryan Hartman said it was "cool" to add Weiss to a list of NHL stars he has skated with.

"Yeah, I skated with guys like Sharp, Kane, Toews, all those guys," Hartman said. "I played two preseason games this year. It's always an honor to be on the same ice as the guys you watch playing on TV.

Rockets girls bowlers wrap up KLAA Central

By Brad Emons Staff Write

Westland John Glenn capped a perfect regular season in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association with a convincing 28-2 girls bowling victory Wednesday over Novi while clinching the Central Division title outright at Canton's Super Bowl.

The Rockets, who clinched the KLAA Central Division title outright at 12-0, improved to 15-0 overall.

Novi, which missed a chance to claim a share of the Central title, finishes 13-2 and 10-2

Glenn got off to a strong start by sweeping both Baker games, 169-157 and 186-121, in a match where lane conditions

consisted of "middle of the road" oil pattern, which will be used for the upcoming regional at Super Bowl.

"We really didn't bowl our best tonight, but it was a really good team effort," Glenn coach Ralph Cabildo said. "Now we have to get ready for regionals.

Everything pretty much went John Glenn's way except for points taken by Novi's Sara Schulz, who shot a 225 game, and Megan Engels, who added a 200.

Glenn leaders included Emily Dietz, 191-171-362 (high series); Julia Huren, 199 (high game); Olivia Cabildo, 190 (game); Jessica Pate, 178 (game); Ashley Kolb, 149-148-297 (series); and Shelby Fielding, 151 (game).

Spartans skate around Howell

Senior Tyler Irvine collected a power play goal and three assists Thursday as state-ranked Livonia Stevensor rolled to a 6-0 KLAA crossover boys hockey victory over host Howell at Grand Oaks Arena. The Spartans, who improved to 20-5 overall, led 2-0 after one period and 5-0 after two as Dominic Lutz chipped in with a goal and two assists, while Alec Allen contributed unassisted goal and one assist. Other Stevenson goal scorers included Ryan Frazer, Cole Christie and Michael Sinclair (power play). Devin Kelly chipped in with two assists, while Ray Chartier added one.

Brad Couts (two saves) for the shutout.

"It was a total team effort pe win," said Stevenson

hometownlife.com

Like old times

He kibitzed with folks he knew during his junior days, including the team's director of communications and playby-play man Pete Krupsky.

'It's brought back a lot of nice memories," said the 30year-old forward from Toronto. "Veluch is still here, Veluch was the coach my last year. And (athletic trainer/ equipment manager) Dennis MacDonald was here my whole time here, too. And Krupper as well.

"To see some familiar faces is always fun and I get to reminisce. Talking about the old days has been fun.

Although his billet (host) family from his years with the Whalers wasn't at the rink, Weiss said he has always maintained good communications with Plymouth's Tom and Rosie Alberti.

"Oh yeah, we've remained very close," Weiss said about the Albertis. "I'm godfather to their sons' kids now. We've remained very close. They're at a bunch of Red Wings

Suitable for framing

Before Weiss left the arena for the day, he and some Whalers players took a few minutes to take a look at the team's "Wall of Fame" of Whalers who reached the NHL

One of the many framed, color photographs was taken this year of Weiss wearing the Red Wings uniform.

"It's pretty cool," forward Zach Lorentz said. "You see his picture on the 'Wall of Fame' for the Whalers here. He's definitely a veteran player in the show and it's pretty cool for him to be here.

Another forward with bigleague aspirations, Carter Sandlak (recently signed by the Carolina organization), said it is an incentive to see the photos. He wants his own photo up there someday.

"Seeing all those great players up there is pretty special," Sandlak said. "It's a good organization and a lot of players came from here that are playing in the NHL now.

Just ask

Weiss said he would be happy to talk to any Whalers player who wants to get some insight into what it takes to get from Point A (the OHL) to Point B (the bigs).

"If anyone wants to chat or has any questions what pro hockey's like, I'm here for whatever they need," he said.

Today's Whalers plan on doing just that, as well as seeing how a veteran of 680 NHL games goes about his business.

"He played in this league (OHL) and he knows what it takes to get to the next level," Sandlak said. "Just going to ask some questions and watch

"And seeing guys like Steve Weiss, coming back to where he used to play and seeing that he's come through this program, it really means a lot for the Whalers.

Then and now

Vellucci had a pretty good idea back then that Weiss indeed would adapt to being an NHL player.

"He was already taken fourth overall by Florida and he was a real good player," Vellucci said. "I think he was our leading scorer that year, played in all the key situations and I definitely relied on him a lot."

Some 12 years later, Weiss isn't the only NHL player and Plymouth alum to have practiced with the Whalers.

"(David) Legwand skated quite a bit last year," Vellucci said. "(Chad) LaRose and (Canton native James) Wisniewski skated with us. We've had several, mostly in the lockout years.

But they all have the same attributes that he would like current players to pick up on.

"Like, how hard a guy competes in practice," Vellucci said, listing some of those characteristics. "What he does off the ice, how he maintains his body, makes sure he eats right. How he works out, not because the coach tells him, but because he wants to because he wants to be better.

"Those are the things when you're a pro you have to take care of yourself, because if you're not, then somebody else is just going to take your spot.'

And now, Weiss is almost in the same frame of mind, even though he is a NHL veteran. He is scrapping and working hard to get back to Joe Louis Arena and play on a top line, not sit in the press box while younger Wings perform.

Vellucci certainly wouldn't bet against him.

"Obviously he hasn't been on the ice in a while," he said. "But it's like old times watching him skate out there. He's got great hands, great vision."

Stevenson starting goaltender Andrew Rozebaum, who played the first 47 minutes and made 11 saves, combined with

coach David Mitchell, whose team outshot the Highlanders, 42-11. "We had six different goal scorers tonight and our team defense was outstanding. We shut down a pretty solid club who can score goals in Howell. Overall, a nice solid road win.'

The loss drops Howell to 15-6-1 overall.

G.P. SOUTH 3, LADYWOOD 2: On Thursday, host Grosse Pointe South (8-8, 8-8) pulled out the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League victory over Livonia Ladywood (4-12-1, 4-12-1) at City Arena in Detroit.

Freshman Katie Hayward notched her 23 goal of the season from Jackie Kristofik and Rachel Fradette, while Kristofik added Ladywood's second goal of the second period assisted by Cristina Rotondo and

Hayward, Goalie Samantha Erickson was making her second start in goal this season for the Blazers

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Monday, Feb. 17 Novi at Franklin, 7 p.m. S.L. East at Wayne, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Wat. Kettering, 7 p.m. Grand Blanc at Churchill, 7 p.m. Hazel Park at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. (Kensington Conf. Semifrinals) Northville at John Glenn, 7 o.m. Northville at John Glenn, 7 Thursday, Feb. 20 7 p.m Thursday, Feb. 20 Churchill at Brighton, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Franklin at Milford, 7 p.m. Wayne at Pinckney, 7 p.m. Uuth. South at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 Macomb at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m. Macomb at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m. Calvary at Huron Valley, 7 p.m. Garden City at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 estland at Luth. South, 1 Luth, We 1:30 p.m **GIRLS BASKETBALL** Tuesday, Feb. 18 Luth. South at Luth. W'sld, 5:30 p.m. Stevenson at Lakeland, 7 p.m. S. Lyon East at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Hartland at Churchill, 7 p.m. Pinckney at Franklin, 7 Grand Blanc at Wayne, Nooney at Ladywood, 7 p.n. Wednesday, Feb. 19 Univ Prep at Ladywood, 7:30 Thursday, Feb. 20 Washtenaw at Huron Valley, Friday, Feb. 21 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 Calvary at Huron Valley, 5:30 p.m. Churchill at W.L. Central, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Milford, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Hartland, 7 p.m. Franklin at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 uth. Western at Luth. South. 7 p.m. Luth. Westland at Luth. South, 7 PREP HOCKEY Wednesday, Feb. 19 th, 7 p.m. Franklin vs. A.A. Richard at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Churchill vs. Salem at Ply. Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m. Stevenson vs. Macomb Dakota at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 20** Churchill vs. Farmington at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 22** Franklin vs. Pincknew Franklin vs. Pinckney at Arctic Coliseum, 5:30 p.m. Ladywood vs. W.L. Central at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m. BOYS SWIMMING Friday, Feb. 21 sington Conference Pre at Novi H.S, 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 PREP BOWLING Friday, Feb. 21 (MHSSA Team Regionals) Division 1 at Super Bowl, TBA. Division 2 at Oak Lanes, TBA. Division 3 at Cherry Hill Lanes, TBA. GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER Saturday Feb 22 Saturday, Feb. 22 (MHSAA Regionals) Division 1 at Troy Athens, 1 p.m. Division 3 at Oxford, 6 p.m. Division 4 at Mason, 6 p.m. PREP SKIING Tuesday, Feb. 18 SEMSL at Alpine Valley, TBA. MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS Wednesday, Feb. 19 St. Clair at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m Madonna at Lawrence ch, 8 p.m Saturday, Feb. 22 Madonna at N'western Ohio, 3 p.m. Schoolcraft at Flint Mott, 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS Wednesday, Feb. 19 Madonna at Lawrence Tech, 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 Madonna at N'western Ohio, 1 p.m. Schoolcraft at Flint Mott, 1 p.m. TBA - time to be announced.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

TRI-MEET RESULTS Feb. 13 at Brighton-Howell TEAM SCORES: 1. Howell, 141.275 points; 2. righton, 140.425; 3. Livonia Blue, 140.35. Vault: 1. Margo Mekjian (Brighton), 9.65; 2. (tie) here Walker (Harvell) and Palso Blubs (Harvell).

lyssa Walker (Howell) and Paige Blythe (How 9.25 each; 4. Kacy Wolfram (Howell), 9.15; 5. Katie Raby (Brighton), 9.1.

Way (Bighton), 9.1. Uneven bars: 1. Mekjian (Brighton), 9.175; 2. ess Weak (Blue), 8.875; 3. Emily Chatterjee (Blue), 775; 4. Blythe (Howell), 8.65; 5. Bri Rhoad (Blue),

Balance beam: 1. Blythe (Howell), 9.6; 2.

Chatterjee (Blue), 9.05; 3. (tie) Emily Laupp (Howell) and Mekjian (Blue), 8.9 each; 5. (tie) Jillian Zafarana (Blue) and Rhoad (Blue), 8.85 each. Floor exercise: 1. (tie) Mekjian (Brighton) and Blythe (Howell), 9.425 each; 3. Raby (Brighton), 9.275; 4. Chatterjee (Blue), 9.15; 5. Samantha Rauch (Howell) ID. 9.1.

All-around: 1. Mekjian (Brighton), 37.15; 2. Jythe (Howell), 36.95; 3. Raby (Brighton), 35.275; 4. hoad (Blue), 34.925; 5. Laugo (Howell), 34.775. Dual meet records: Howell, 10-2 overall; on and Livonia Blue, 8-3 overall.

-4

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B6 (WG)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014

COMMUNITY LIFE

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Blessed: Redford woman marks 50 years in church music

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Pat Knorp was a high school sophomore when she made her debut as a church organist at her Pontiac parish. "The music director had a full-time job and couldn't do the daily stuff. I

"The music director had a full-time job and couldn't do the daily stuff. I started on the first Friday of Lent. It was Stations of the Cross. By that summer, I was doing the 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. Masses every day," recalled Knorp, now a Redford Township resident. "I'm not a morning person. It's just something I knew I had to do, so I did it. Back then, the organ was in the balcony. I remember a few times I went in with curlers in my hair." In spite of the early morning hours

In spite of the early morning hours and the challenge of singing in Latin, Knorp knew she had a calling in sacred music. She marked her 50th year as church pianist and organist on Friday, Feb. 14.

"I just feel so blessed because I'm so fulfilled by doing this," said Knorp, who has been married to her husband, John, for 45 years. He sings in her church choir at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia and serves as a "roadie" for her handbell choir, the Valentones. The couple has four grown children and 12 grandchlidren.

"I just feel that God had chosen this for me and blessed me with it. I can't imagine not doing it. It's a big part of who I am. Every holiday, I have to be at church and not with family. You give up a lot, yet you get back so much."

Juggling music duties

Knorp has been music director, pianist, organist and adult choir and handbell choir leader for St Priscilla's three weekend Masses for the past three years. Before that, she worked at a dizzying number of parishes, sometimes handling duties at two churches simultaneously.

"I was younger then. I didn't know any better," she said, laughing, as she considered the jobs that had her playing at early morning daily Masses, followed by occasional funerals and then music classes in the afternoon, along with choir practices at night and weekend Masses.

weekend Masses. After graduation from St. Michael's School in Pontiac, Knorp earned an undergraduate degree in speech and drama, with a music minor, from Mercy College. After leaving school. she began playing for daily Masses at St. Valentine in Redford — a job she held



Pat Knorp of Redford Township is music director at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia.

nia and St. Valentine.

She took on the music director's position at St. Lawrence in Detroit, before moving to St. Hugh in Southgate, where she worked from 1977-87. Knorp also spent 14 years at St. Kenneth in Plymouth Township, one year at St. Mary Magdalen in Melvindale, before landing at St. Damian in Westland, and then St. Priscilla.

"When a new pastor comes in, many times he brings his own people," Knorp explained. "So, it's not just up to me to leave. I've just learned to trust God, that he has a plan for my life."

Comptiment newightenens loovie wit

St. Priscilla.

"They are a wonderful group. I feel so blessed," she said. Highlights of her career have in-

Highlights of her career have included writing passion plays and variety shows, the formation of the Valtones and choir tours throughout Europe, including a visit to the Vatican in 1993 when she not only met Pope John Paul II, but also held his hand.

Adding musicians

When Knorp first started playing for Masses, the congregational responses were in Latin. Generally the organ was the congregation of the organ was



Pat Knorp shows off the cake she received this week at choir practice.



Pat Knorp holds hands with Pope John Paul II, during a trip to sing at the Vatican, one of the highlights of her career.

in English. The musical accompaniment also includes parishioners Kevin Murphy on guitar, Tim Hayword on bass, his wife, Kathy on flute, and Dave Capman on drums.

"I have other musicians that are not parishioners who come in for special occasions," she added.

She chooses songs to suit the weekly readings at Mass.

Parishioners Joyce Kelley and Mary Morrison help her organize the music for the choir.

"I am blessed. They help me immensely."

Knorp also burns CD recordings to help choir members practice new material. She's learning how to distribute the songs to choir members via the Internet and she doesn't plan to retire any time soon.

"As long as they want me there and I have a thinking mind and hands that move, I'll be there. I really feel this is what I'm called to do."

Knorp and the Valtones will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Bostford Commons in Farmington Hills. Visit www.botsfordcommons.org. For more information about St. Priscilla Parish, init interview.

for 25 years — while also teaching music at St. Scholastica in Detroit. Teaching stints followed at St. Edith in Livo-

Sometimes, parishioners leave with her. She figures about two-thirds of her choir from St. Damian followed her to Now she tends to play more piano than organ music at Mass, which is said visit saintpriscilla.org.

OUR MENTAL HEALTH

Choir therapy gets its own awareness week



McCulloch

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan, based in Farmington Hills, will perform the 16th annual Capitol Concert at noon Wednesday, March 5, in the beautiful Rotunda at Michigan's Capitol Building in Lansing. The event is free and

open to the public. This year's performance is spon-

sored by state Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington Hills. One year ago, Barnett worked with TCM pursuant to a legislative proclamation denoting the first week of March as Choir Therapy Awareness Week in Michigan. This work was successful and the proclamation was adopted. Since that time, TCM has been working with Barnett's office on a National Awareness Week. I'm pleased to announce that the national proclamation will be presented at the Capitol Concert. Henceforth, the first week of March will be proclaimed "TCM — Choir Therapy Awareness Week in America."

Choir therapy is the assembling of individuals who share a common challenge so that they can experience the joy of singing with others. (Good singing ability is not required.) While providing this pleasure, choir therapy also may aid an individual's adjustment in overcoming hardships. A therapy choir is composed of individuals with special needs such as people with traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabil-ities, mental health issues, addictions and physical challenges, such as blindness, paralysis and orphan diseases. Typically, individuals in our society who live with these kinds of problems are in the process of overcoming difficult things. Choir therapy has been shown to assist people with unique challenges.

Benefits

Choir therapy can increase selfesteem, improve memory and related cognitive functions and enhance social



Len McCulloch directs the Therapy Choirs of Michigan at a previous Capital Concert performance.

skills. In addition, choir members can gain the opportunity to construct interpersonal relationships and obtain personal enjoyment through membership in a group that is supportive, educational and congenial.

Again, good singing ability is not required! There may be some individuals who, because of stroke, speech impediment and other conditions, are unable to sing. In choir therapy, they may be able to hum, tap their cane, clap their hands, etc. In our experience over the past 15 years, we have found this use of music to be a wonderful experience for all participants and audiences.

TCM typically performs a cappella. However, there are times when a tambourine, a keyboard or other musical instrument is employed. The musical repertoire ranges from traditional songs and folk music to patriotic songs and contemporary pieces. TCM's work is about more than just singing. Participants and audiences, as well as volunteers, have repeatedly reported positive effects in the way they experience themselves and their world. Beaming smiles of pride at the close of events are typical.

Volunteer voices

Volunteers from the community, be they able-bodied or with their own special needs, are an important part of TCM. Volunteers assist in many ways. Some lend their voices for volume and modeling, some assist a member with turning pages of a songbook or help singers don their choir robes. Over the years, volunteers have included the chaplain of the Royal Oak Police Department, the director of outreach from the Michigan Opera Theatre, select members of the Finnish Chorale Group and even a member of the Rockets song/dance troupe.

In addition to hearing a wide variety of musical tunes, audience members typically walk away with a new awareness of the fact that there is life after a tragedy. Awareness of choir therapy simultaneously increases awareness of the misfortunes that many in our society experience. Members of the audience can go away with hope and take home compassion.

Venues

TCM has been fortunate to perform at private and public functions state-wide, at assisted living homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and rescue missions, as well as schools, from kindergarten through college. TCM has had the special privilege of singing for former President Jimmy Carter at a Habitat for Humanity luncheon. Its members have sung at a Detroit Tigers game, a Detroit Red Wings alumni fundraiser, the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament's annual Mass for the disabled, the annual Michigan Students Against Drunk Driving conference in Traverse City and even at the Fox Theatre for a sellout crowd of 5,000 patrons prior to Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker Performance.

We all know that song and music have long been known to have healing qualities and other benefits. Lullabies calm our infants, singing ABCs helps our children memorize them, cadence calls help prepare our military with discipline, the sound of *Taps* helps us grieve when we bury our loved ones.

As the Therapy Choirs of Michigan's website states, "It's about more than just singing." As an anonymous writer from Finland once said: "If you wish to sing, you will find a song." Visit TCM'S website at www.thera-

Visit TCM'S website at www.therapychoirs.org. For specific information about the Capitol Concert, call 248-476-9329 or 248 435-7031.

L. J. McCulloch is co-creator with Sherry Cantrell and director of The Therapy Choirs of Michigan. He is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association and credentialed in mental health, traumatic brain injury, addictions and social work, He has published nearly 200 columns for the Observer & Eccentric. These are archived at www.farmlib.org. He can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext.22.

COMMUNITY LIFE

O & E Media | Sunday, February 16, 2014 (WG) B7

'Downton Abbey' show inspires tasty tea tasting

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

It's tea time, Downton Abbey-style in downtown Plymouth.

TranquiliTea, 904 W. Ann Arbor Trail, will serve English tea samples, including blends inspired by the PBS tele-vision series, Downton Abbey, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, the same day the show wraps up its fourth season. Fans of the series, which focuses on the family and staff in a British manor house in the early 1900s, will find Downton Abbey collector tea tins, tea cozies and jewelry for sale at the tasting event. Anyone who dresses in period clothing or correctly answers a trivia question will receive an additional ticket for a jewelry giveaway

"We've done other tastings, but nothing like this," said Colleen Cannon, tea shop owner. "We got inspired when we got the tins. They were big sellers at Christmas. We sold out three times. I've brought in other official (Downton) goods that I don't normally carry.

'On the show, they serve their guests tea. They are always putting the kettle on, even in the servants' quarters," Cannon said, adding "some of



Brendan Coyle is Mr. Bates and Joanne Froggatt is Anna Bates in Downton Abbey, airing 9-11 p.m. Sundays on PBS. TranquiliTea in downtown Plymouth will celebrate the show's season 4 finale with tea sampling, jewelry, period clothing and treats on Feb. 23. NICK BRIGGS/CARNIVAL FILM & TELEVISION LIMITED

the girls here watch the series." Her staff will dress in period clothing for the event.

"I do love watching the detail of the fashion. I started watching this season. I've got a lot of catching up to do," Can-non said. "I would say I am a fan of Violet (Maggie Smith), the grandmother. She's a hoot. I do enjoy her."

Cannon supplied the tea for a Downton Abbeyrelated talk at the Plymouth District Library a few weeks ago. She said the speaker canceled because of bad weather, but the show went on with screenings of a "behind the scenes"

video and a documentary about the manor house used in the television series.

"We learned a lot," Cannon said.

She encourages customers to sample as many teas as possible at her tastings, "so they'll know what they like and what they don't." The Downton Abbey-themed teas include a gingerspiced breakfast blend and an English rose tea with notes of hibiscus and raspberry

"We thought we thought we'd sample those and we'll also have treats."

For more information. call 734-459-9686.

Workshop aimed at genealogy research

The Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the seventh in a series of genealogical workshops to help family historians of all levels research their American ancestors, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth.

This seminar features Dave McDonald, a certified genealogist and a past president and trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. His research specialties include the states of the old Northwest Territory, the Great Plains and New England; he also has done significant work in the British Isles and Germanic Europe. His articles have appeared in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and NGS Magazine, as well as in a

number of state society journals and quarterlies. His lec-

tures at the Plymouth McDonald museum

will be: » Document Transcription, Analysis & Research Plans, which will go through the process of transcription, which leads to full evaluation of a document's clues and assertions.

» Enough Already! Start Writing! Finding the Forest Amidst the Trees; or Completing a Genealogical Project will look at clues to bring a research project to a close and begin the writing proce » New Yorkers to the Midwest looks at the role and place in Michigan's

development.

» American Colonial Era Research will consider the kinds of records available in New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the coastal South. The session also will reflect on the lasting impact of those early days in both the development of the American psyche and the records sought and used in genealogical research.

The fee for the day, \$40, includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the museum's exhibit, "Vintage Project Runway, during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the museum's website nlymouthhisto ry.org. For more information, call the museum at 734-455-8940.

3 ways to celebrate the Academy Awards[®]Show and Win!

Go to hometownlife.com and select The Oscar Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website or go to fb.com/oehometown and click The Oscar Contest icon.

Correctly identify the top 7 Oscar TM categories and you could win 12 month Movie pass for two to Emagine Theatre

(Grand Prize Valued Over \$1,000). 2nd Place winner will win

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Correctly Identify the Top 7 Categories

Best Picture

st Actor in Leading Role st Actress in a Leading Role Best Animated Feature Film Best Actor in a Supporting Role Best Actress in a Supporting Rol Best Director

Tie Breaker Categories Music (original score) **Documentary Feature**

All entries must be received by Saturday, March 1st, 2014 11:59 p.m.

One entry per person/per household

DOUBLE PLAY: Enter by 2/14/14 and select DOUBLE PLAY, you will be entered for a chance to win a pass to admit 2 for a special showing of the Best Picture of 2013 nominated films at Emagine Novi only. First winner will be selected by 2/14/14 to see movies playing week 1 (2/14/14 – 2/20/14), and the second winner will be selected by 2/19/14 for a change to see movies playing (2/21/14) – 2/27/14). See "BEST OF 2013" for movie titles and dates below. (Value: \$60,)

Enter by 2/26/14 and select TRIPLE PLAY, and you will be entered for a chance to win 4 tickets to the Academy Awards viewing at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sports Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy Awards while you dine. Prize includes a light supper, champagne toast and dessert. (Value: \$60)

he BEST of 2013 Emagine Novi ONLY

(Films nominated for an Academy Award® for best picture)

Get a blood pressure check, sign a T-shirt

"T-Shirts, Good Health, Unique Gifts and Red Hats," will combine blood pressure checks with T-shirt autographing, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at The Product Shop, 28465 Five Mile in Livonia.

Precise Home Health Care will be on hand at the event to offer free blood pressure checks and answer questions about hypertension. Agromontee Jefferson of State Farm will answer questions about the Affordable Care Act, homeowner, auto and life insurance. And staff from Franco Facchini, D.D.S., and Five Oaks Dental in Livonia will share tips

for good dental hygiene. Signatures, a collection of autographs from proud Detroit Public Schools alumni, will have T-shirts for signing. The shirts sport photographs of public and private high schools in and around Detroit. Since November 2012, former students have signed their names on shirts that depict their alma maters. More than 11,000 participants have signed the shirts. Past signers include Sen. Carol Levin, who graduated from Central High School; Northeastern High School's Martha Reeves; and Mumford High School's Sam Bernstein.

The signed shirts will tour local shopping malls, libraries, office buildings and other public areas in the fall. Each shirt will be placed in an individual kiosks with an electronic tablet. The display will scroll through fun facts about the school's history, alumni and the names of those who signed the shirt. When the tour concludes, the shirts will be donated to the Detroit Historical Museum.

For more information call Michael Williams at 313-446-2262 or email mewiii@authorcollective.com; or Brenda Bennett-Scott at 734-525-9995 or email detproductshop@aol.com.

Winter in bloom



Farmington Hills residents Judy and Ken Pardonnet attend the Winter in Bloom exhibition by photographer Laurie Tennent at Cranbrook House and Gardens in Bloomfield Hills. Tennent's botanicals are photographic polychrome on aluminum. The 19 pieces in the exhibit are based on the artist's work with Cranbrook's master gardeners. They're on display along the perimeter of Cranbrook House and for sale through Feb. 28. JULIE YOLLES

Only \$35 for One Day or \$60 for Two Days

YOU pick the days to attend!

Unlimited Popcorn!

Limited Seats Available - Buy your tickets early!

Week 1 Feb. 14 - 20

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and you could

Week 2 Feb. 21 - 27

1:30 p.m. Gravity 2D 3:45 p.m. Captain Phillips 6:30 p.m. Dallas Buyers Club 8:30 p.m. Philomena 9:00 p.m. Her

10:30 a.m. American Hustle 11:00 a.m. Wolf of Wall Street 2:30 p.m. Nebraska 5:00 p.m. 12 Years a Slave



STARILANES AURANT & SPORTS BAR AT EMAGINE ROYAL OAK

Come watch the Academy Awards[®] while you dine in style! Includes light supper, champagne toast, & dessert.

When: Sunday, March 2nd at 7 p.m. Where: Star Lanes at Emagine Royal Oak, 200 N. Main St. Royal Oak, MI

How: Reservations are required.

Make your reservations by calling 248.414.0000 x 238 or email banquets@star-lanes.com

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(group pricing is available for parties of 6 or more!)

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WEDDING

Gorte-Criteser

Stephanie Lynn Gorte and Jeffrey James Criteser were married July 20, 2013, in Ferrysburg. The bride, daughter of

Tim and Sylvia Gorte of Livonia, is a 2004 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and a 2009 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in dietetics. She is employed as a registered dietician with Intercare Community Health Network in Pullman.

The groom, son of Susan and Jeff Baker of Midway, Ga., and Jim and Lori Criteser of Com-stock, is a 2004 graduate of Comstock Park High School in Comstock and a 2008 graduate of Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in political science. He is self-employed and cur-rently works in fundraising in the local Kalamazoo political arena.

Katie Gorte served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Sarah Brynaert-McLean, Natalie Truba, Ashley VanTiem, Samantha Ulrich and Stormi Baker.

Brent Hallett served as best man. Groomsmen



Jeffrey James Criteser and Stephanie Lynn Gorte on their wedding day

were Tim Oliphant, Keith Court, Tyler Criteser and Matt Voight. The ceremony was

followed by a celebration

with friends and family at McFadden's Restaurant in Grand Rapids. The couple resides in Kalamazoo.



1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



BLOSSER, **DR. CHARLES**

"CHARLIE" RUSSELL 81 of Royal Oak, Michigan, passed February 9, 2014 lovingly surrounded by his family. Born to the late Charles and Cordelia Blosser in Shelby, Ohio, Charlie earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Industrial Arts from Kent State University and a Ph.D. from Wayne State University. Charlie was a dedicated educator for 54 years. He retired in 2010 from the Ceramic Technology at Oakland Community College Royal Oak Campus, where he trained hundreds of ceramic professionals. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Bridget (Bo-wen) Blosser; his two daughters, Melanie (Alvaro Pereyra) Van Allen of New York City and Amber (Christopher) Galea of Ann Arbor Township; his sister Glenna (Don) Coffey Dunkin of Columbus, Ohio; his late sister Ema Jean (Gene) Coffey; and his large extended family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Charlie Blosser Foundation (education scholarship) or the Royal Oak Animal Shelter-No Kill Rescue at 1515 North Edgeworth, Royal Oak, MI 48067. A memorial celebration will be held Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Royal Oak Music Theater, 318 W 4th St., Royal Oak, MI 48067. For further information please visit www.reme mberingcharlieblosser.wordpress .com.



HATTON, WILLIAM EARL

January 28, 2014. William Earl was a chemist at Dow, American Can, Federal Alloys, 2V Indus-tries, and U of M. He was a lifelong advocate for civil rights, equal access to education, and poverty relief. He was the fami-ly cook, developed his own photos, grew vegetables, tutored chemistry, and could repair, wire, build or program virtually anything. He was a longtime member of the Democratic Club, he ACI and Unitarian of Farmington. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elizabeth (Shortridge) of Traverse City, daughters Lydia and Rebecca sons Nathan and Daryll, Sheri, daughter-in-law, sister Martha Burris, grandchildren Mathew and Joe Fordon, Thea Torek, Kelsey, Kolin, and Julia Hatton, and Lizzie Hatton. He was preceded in death by his son Andrew in 2013, his parents (1936 and 2002), niece, Robin Hatton (1969), and sister, Wetona Stone (2002). A memorial will be held May 17 in Traverse City. Contributions can be made to Grand Traverse Pavilions or the ACLU of Michigan. See lifestorynet.com /memories/97020 for more info.



Age 86. February 9, 2014. Loving husband of Sarah. Dear father of John (Lori) Price (Christopher) Michelle and Manross. Proud grandfather of Brian and Matthew Price and Connor and Emma Manross. Formerly of Livonia, John retired from Bendix Corporation and moved to Tennessee. He envolunteering for the joyed Knights of Columbus and Habitat for Humanity and was a of St Fr Church in Fairfield Glade, Tennessee. Visitation Sunday, February 16 from 4-8p.m., with Vigil Service at 7p.m., at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Funeral Service Monday, February 17 at 10:30am at St. Michael Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Offer condolences at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

RELIGION CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

ANNULMENTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18 Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Monsignor Ronald Browne, J.D., canon lawyer and member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal, will explain the oftenmisunderstood concept of annulment as well as convalidation, a process that brings an established marriage into full union with the church. Free admission Contact: 734-261-

1455, Ext. 200; www.livoniastmichael.org AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16 Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375

Joy Road, Westland Details: Concordia Lutheran School's annual auction, "Winter Won-derland" will include appetizer, dinner, desserts, beer, wine and soft drinks, in addition to an auction. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$270 for tables of 10 Contact: Racann

Kush at 248-474-3991 BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 16 Location: 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland Details: Pancakes,

French toast, scrambled eggs, applesauce, ham, coffee, tea, milk, juice; \$3 adults, \$1.50 children, 2 - 10

Contact: 734-425-4421 JUDAICA ON DVD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, through Feb. 26

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Howard Lupovitch delivers his four-part series, "Sacred Remnants: Rediscovered Treasures of the Jewish Past" on DVD. Topics are "The Aleppo Codex: The Real Text of the Torah," Feb. 19; and 'The Soviet Archives: The Unknown World of Eastern Europe," Feb.

Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931; nancvellen879@att.net PURSE AUCTION

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Steven Piskorowski, co-founder of Army of Apostles, will share the story of his journey from cradle Catholic to Evangelical Protestant to avid anti-Catholic and disciple of Dave Hunt, to the faith of his childhood. The program is free Contact: www.livo-

niastmichael.org or e-mail whybecatholic@livoniastmichael.org. WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, through March 9

Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia Details: This weekly

bereavement support series is designed to help deal with emotions, loneliness and other issues experienced after the loss of a spouse. Widowed Friends is a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Contact: Priscilla at 734-591-7879 MARCH

AUCTION

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Saturday, March 1 Location: St. Damian

Catholic School, 29891 Joy Road, Westland Details: "Totally 80's" auction with dinner served at 7:15 p.m. and the auction at 8:45 p.m. Cash bar includes Jell-O shots and pudding shots. Tickets are \$30, available only in advance from St. Damian parish office at 734-421-6130; St. Theodore at 734-425-4421; Divine Savior at 734-455-3620; and St. Damian School at 734-427-1680

Contact: www.stdamianauction.2014.weebly.com CHILDREN'S CONCERT

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2 Location: Sacred

Heart Banquet and Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, just east of Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: "The Dough-nut Man" Rob Evans and his sidekick Duncan will perform original Bible story-songs such as In The Beginning and The Miracle Song Families are encouraged to

al program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Includes a video seminar featuring grief experts and real-life stories; support group discussion and work-book-based personal study and reflection. Grief-related handouts available weekly. Fee is \$15 and includes the workbook

Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491 GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6

Location: St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights

Details: Al Kresta, author and host of the radio show, Kresta in the Afternoon on AM 990 WDEO will talk about "The New Evangelization: Build the Church, Bless the Nation."

Contact: 313-274-4500 SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m., Saturday, March 8 Location: Concordia

Lutheran School, 9600 Leverne, Redford

Details: Tour the school and visit the annual spring carnival. Incloudes carnival games, book fair, food and more. New students can receive a coupon for \$5 in free carnival tickets by calling the campus or visiting online

Contact: 313-937-2233; www.concordials.org ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto Time/Date: 6:30-7:30

p.m. Monday Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Red-

ford Township **Details:** Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000 St. Michael the Arch-



ELLIS, NANCY **PAULINE DALEE**

89 years of age, of Indianapolis, passed away February 6, 2014. Nancy was born March 15, 1924 to William and Pauline DaLee in Chatham, Ontario, Canada. She loved the nearby Erie shore and her lifelong retreats to the family cottage at Rondeau Park. She now passes that gathering place to her children. Nancy received a BA in Business from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1946. She was a devoted wife and mother and an active volunteer. She gave her time to UNICEF, Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Connor Prairie, and the Indiana State Museum. She was a member of the United Methodist Church. Nancy's friends included her regular bridge partners and sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Survivors include her husband Byron and her devoted children, James Byron (Barbara), Richard William (Nancy), Charles DaLee (Susan), Katharine Ann Copen (Terry), Nancy Jean Henry, and Barbara Jane Monro (Daniel), and nine grandchildren. An urn interment will be at a later date. For information check with Those www.arncremation.com. wishing to honor Nancy's life are welcome to contribute to a charity of their choice.

KUS, JUDITH ANN (nee ARMENTROUT)

Born May 18, 1934, passed away peacefully January 18, 2014. Loving wife, mother, grand-mother, great-grandmother and friend. Judy was retired from the mother. CSX Corporation after more than 30 years of service. She was a long time resident of the Detroit area and most recently of Collierville, TN. Judy will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Memorial contributions in her honor can be made to Disabled Sports USA Far West, ww w.dsusafw.org. Online condolen-ces may be shared with the family at www.georgiacremationcent ers.com

NIMMO, PHYLLIS MARIE

Age 71, of Westland, Michigan, passed on, February 9, 2014 at home. Born June 6, 1942 in Chi-cago, Illinois, daughter of the late Dr. Roy Kenneth and Eleanor Marie (Sutton) Quamme Survived by daughter, Jennifer (Rhonda) Finley of Westland; son, Jamie Nimmo of Livonia; grandchildren; brother, Michael R. (Arlene) Quamme of Aberdeen, Washington; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Cremation rites accorded. Memorial Service Monday, February 17th at Noon with a gathering 1 hour prior, at David C. Brown Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr, Belle-ville. Memorials to Alzheimer's Association appreciated. davidebrownfh.com





SEXTON, MARIAN

Age 90, February 11, 2014 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence. Loving mother of Ellen (Tom) Williams, Regis Sexton, Phyllis (Sally) (Don) Smith, and Robert Sexton. Proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of the late Ruth Louise Imhoff. Visitation Sunday 3-6 p.m. with a 5 p.m. Vigil service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. (between Ford and Cherry Hill), Westland. In state Monday 10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Theodore of Canter-bury Catholic Church, 8200 N Wayne Rd. (between Warren and Joy), Westland. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Asso-To share a memory, ciation. please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

Let others know ...

When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages", a directory located in every edition of your **Observer or Eccentric**

newspaper.



Time/Date: 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The auction includes purses filled with "mystery" items. Participants will get a chance to look at the purses - but not at their contents - before the bidding begins. Bidders must be over 15 years old. Bidding, open to men and women, starts at \$5. Laura Schroll from Home In Service Ministries is the guest speaker

Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322 SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26

Location: Ward Presbyterian Preschool, 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Meet staff and see the facility during this informational meeting for the 2014-15 school year. Programs for children, ages 2-5

Contact: 248-374-5911 WHY BE CATHOLIC

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Dr. Dipak Shah, M.D.,

a cardiologist, will offer

a free seminar on atrial

common abnormal heart

rhythm, 6-7 p.m. Tues-day, Feb. 25, in confer-

ence room A at the Out-

47601 Grand River Ave.,

ment options. The likeli-

patient Center, Provi-

dence Park Hospital,

Novi. He'll talk about

diagnostic and treat-

fibrillation, the most

UPCOMING

sing along and dance in the aisles. Tickets are \$5 at the door; children under 2 are admitted free

Contact: the Rev. Joseph Marqui at 734-522-3166 **GRIEF SUPPORT**

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia Details: "Grieving

with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization cofounded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or through the church Contact: 734-261-1455; goodmourningmin-

istry.net GRIEFSHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, beginning March 16

Location: Faith Community Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia Details: This 13week, nondenomination-

angel

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Catholic author and Bible scholar Gary Michuta leads the study of Acts of the Apostles.

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichae-

l.org Ward Presbyterian Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK hood of developing atrial fibrillation increases with age and increases the risk of

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» 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at Our Lady of Loretto's Church Family Center, corner of Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Walk-ins welcome or make an appointment by

calling 313-534-9000. » 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 6, in the North Auditorium of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-**GIVE-LIFE** or visit redcrossblood.org. Appointment sign-ups are also available in the hospital cafeteria. Walkins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

B9 (WG) SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New standards aim to make children's compound prescriptions safer

A statewide initiative led by a University of Michigan team aims to reduce pediatric medication errors and make Michigan the first state to standardize concentrations for children's liquid prescriptions.

U-M and the Michigan Pharmacists Association have announced the release of the new standards published on mipedscompounds.org as part of a campaign to educate prescribers and pharmacists. The move comes after a survey of 200 Michigan pharmacies revealed potential safety risks posed by the lack of standardization of compounded pediatric oral liquids for more than 110 different medications

In Michigan, more than half of the compounded drugs had at least three different concentrations being compounded by various pharmacies. Some concentration levels were up to 30 times higher than others.

"One of the greatest dangers associated with this variation is that children may switch pharmacies but continue to take the same volume as always - without parents or even doctors realizing that the drug's concentration has changed and that a new dose volume should be pre-scribed," said project lead James Stevenson, Pharm.D., chief pharmacy officer of the MHS Pharmacy Services Department and an associate dean at the U-M College of Phar-

macy. "The drastic differences in concentrations



ceive depending on which pharmacy compounded their

patients

could re-

prescriptions were deeply con-cerning, and these uniform standards are essential for patient safety. We are urging all prescribers and pharmacies to follow our recommended standards to avoid potentially harmful medication errors.'

Children often are prescribed oral liquid prescriptions instead of pills. Medications that are not commercially available must be compounded by a pharmacist.

"Transitions in sites of care, including movement between the home and the hospital as well as between pharmacies, are associated with patient safety risks and this may be especially true in the pediatric population because of the number of liquid medicines that must be compounded," said Chris Dickinson, M.D., a co-investigator on the project.

"It has been gratifying to see this statewide collaborative effort and we encourage all prescribers and pharmacists to adopt the standard concentrations in the interest of improving medication safety in our pediatric population.

The initiative has prompted standard concentrations for nearly 120 drugs that are available on the new mipedscompounds.org website.



Victory Band will play March 3 at the VA Healthcare System in Detroit.

Victory Band brings music therapy to veterans

The Victory Band, which helps military veterans cope with ill-nesses, will perform at 1 p.m. Monday, March 3, in the atrium at the Detroit VA Healthcare System, 4646 John R, Detroit.

The band was formed out of a need for music therapy to aid veterans in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center at the facility.

"In this unique program, we are focused on recovery and rehabilitation, not just treatment," said Michelle Abela, a psychologist at the Detroit VA Healthcare System. "We see everything

Feb 22

8pm

TICKETS

\$6.00

from PTSD to severe depression and schizophrenia. Eighteen months ago, as staff was brainstorming ways we could help our patients, a veteran in the program suggested that we start a band. We had been thinking about ways to incorporate music into our program and we knew that music can offer a number of benefits, so this seemed like a good concept."

Steve Munafo and Matt Thomas supplied the instruments and the music through their Jam for Vets project. They also offered to teach some of the patients how to play the instruments.

Abela said music can help patients with their coping skills, stress management, expressing feelings, leadership and team building.

"We have seen some amazing changes in these veterans. They are so enthusiastic when it comes to their twice-aweek rehearsals, along with the opportunity to perform in front of people. It's truly eye-opening," she said.

Daniel Beever, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Germany during Vietnam, plays keyboard in the band.

'I've made new friends and it's helped me out greatly. And, it makes me happy to en-tertain my fellow vets," he said.

For more on the Victory Band, visit www.detroit.va.gov. For more on Jam for Vets visit www.jamforevets.org/index.html.

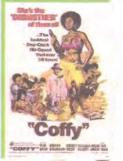
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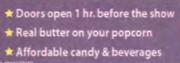
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At Garden City Hospital, we believe both a healthy mind and body are essential to healthy living. Whether you are just starting out or an experienced fitness buff, GCH offers a variety of wellness classes to meet your needs. In honor of American Heart Month, GCH is offering a 2 For 1 Special on the following fitness classes throughout the month of February. Discounted rates are also available.

FITNESS BARRE (Tuesdays, 6-6:45 p.m.)

Fitness Barre is a 45 minute class that fuses core conditioning, Pilates, yoga, orthopedic stretching, and isometrics into one powerful, body shaping experience.

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Slow Flow Hatha Yoga (Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m. or Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.; Tuesday classes are held at GCH)

This playful series is designed to bring movement, energy, and breath back into your body. Suitable for all levels. Modifications are offered for body type, fitness level and ability. Bring a sticky mat and any other yoga prop you may need.

Hatha Yoga (Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.)

Experience the fullness of your practice by slowly merging asanas (postures) and breath to create a powerful, meditative flow, Vinyasa style. Six months of yoga experience required. Bring a sticky mat and any other yoga prop you may need.

TAI CHI (Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.)

Tai Chi is a mind-body exercise that can improve heart health, balance, and flexibility, no matter what your age or ability level. Tai chi combines aerobics, flexibility, balance, and with deep breathing and meditation through a relaxed series of movements.

ZUMBA TONING EXPRESS (Tuesdays, 7:30-8 p.m.)

Zumba Toning Express features exotic rhythms set to high-energy Latin and international beats all while toning with the use of weights.

To register for classes or for more information, call 734.458.3242. Classes are privately held in Westland Mall's Community Room unless otherwise noted.

> For a complete list of scheduled classes: Scan the QR code Visit GCH.org OR call 734.458.3242





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Debra Auerbach CareerBuilder writer

Persistence is something we're taught at a young age. If we get rejected from a sports team, we're encouraged to practice until we improve and try out again. If we get a low grade in class, we're taught to study until we bring our grades up.

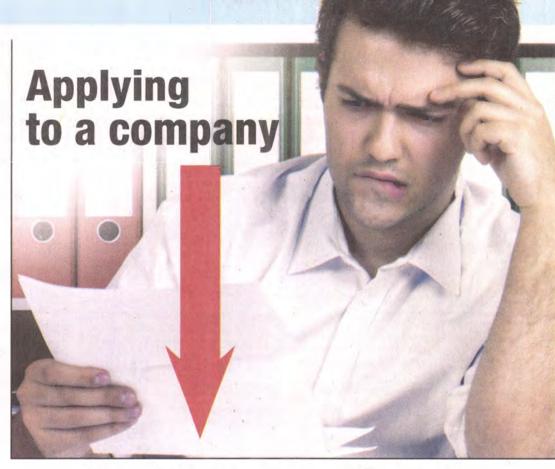
Persistence is an attribute that continues to be important as we get older, playing a part in everything from our relationships to our health to our careers.

When it comes to careers, persistence can certainly pay off, employers want workers who are truly interested in and passionate about their jobs. But what about when a job seeker gets rejected from a company that he really wants to work for? Can he continue to pursue employment at that company, or could his persistence work against him?

Joshua Siva, co-author of "BOLD: Get Noticed, Get Hired," says that job seekers shouldn't be discouraged from applying again to a company that's turned them down. "When an applicant has taken the time to understand the company, the people and the customers, getting rejected the first time around should never discourage that applicant from future prospects with the firm," Siva says. "Any number of reasons could have led to the rejection."

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JOBS

that has previously turned you down?

What to do before re-applying

Siva says there are three things applicants should do before applying again to the same company. The first is to understand the gap in their previous application. How? "Ideally this comes from the company through a contact involved in the hiring process, but if not, the applicant needs to be honest with themselves: 'Did I have the experience, did I speak the company's language, did I sell myself the right way?' Make a list of these things, and spend whatever amount of time is needed to close the gap, and be sure to have it documented and readily demonstrated."

The next move Siva recom-

mends a job seeker makes is to connect with someone at the company in a related function. "This is in order to learn everything about their role, their background, how they got in, company trends, etc.," Siva says. "It's amazing how far asking questions can take the applicant, because at the end of it all, the potential applicant will likely get asked about their own ambitions, and when shared, who knows what doors may open via the employee."

Finally, Siva suggests following up periodically with the human resources manager involved in the hiring process from the original rejection. In your follow up, Siva says to remind the HR manager of your résumé on file, share what progress you've made since and reiterate your passion for the company. "It's always a favorable position when an applicant is on the mind of an HR professional involved with recruiting, because they constantly have visibility and support requests to fill roles."

When it's OK to apply again

After you've been turned down by a company, you may be tempted to re-apply right away, especially if there's another job that interests you. But it may be in your best interest to wait it out a few months, to ensure that you're in a situation where it would make sense for them to potentially consider you again.

Lisa Rangel, managing

director of Chameleon Resumes, an executive résumé-writing and job-search service, says that in general, it's good to wait a minimum of three to six months. "There needs to be enough time to allow for a possible change in the company situation and for the person to amass additional and/ or relevant skills that are different than before."

Applying the second time around

Depending on what you're looking for, and how important it is to work at the company versus in a particular position, you may wait until a similar position comes along, or you may be willing to work in a different function or department just to get a foot in the door. Based on what type of position you're applying for the second time, you should adjust your application materials as needed. But regardless of whether the position is the same or different from the original job you applied for, you need to show the company that you've grown.

"To be taken seriously for the competitive and coveted positions in the marketplace, those who are and aren't currently employed need to be advancing and improving themselves as time goes on," Siva says. "If applying for the same role, that improvement needs to speak to closing the gaps in their previous application. If applying for a different role or function, that progress needs to demonstrate the pivot in knowledge and the commitment made to pursuing the new function of focus.

"Above all else, the applicant needs to be bolder and more creative the second time around in order to stand out from other applicants, in addition to their former self and application," Siva says.

Debra Auerbach is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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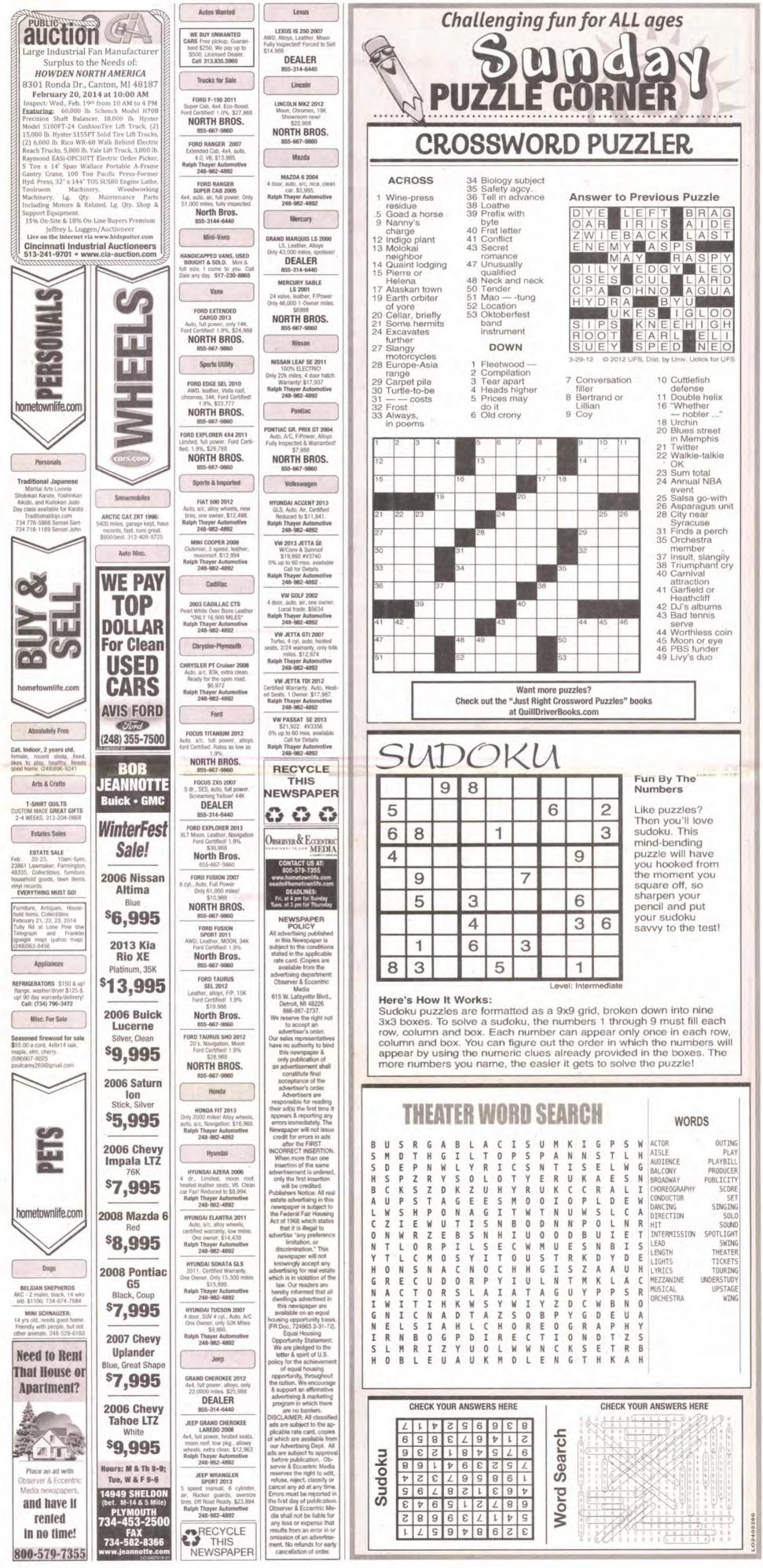
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