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KEY TIPS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HEART

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 Wayne homeowners are again looking at a drop in values.

Residential property values in Westland are slated to in-

crease an average of 4.56 percent 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."

While Westland homeowners 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

rate of inflation.

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

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 chosen," 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."

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-

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To seniors with love

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

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

teacher Dennise Mazurek shifted to 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

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Wayne approves sale of aerial fire truck

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-

cil last week, allows Wayne to use the 2007 E-One 134-foot Bronto on a 2014 Cyclone chassis 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 off-loading the debt from the lad-

der 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

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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 Gheldotte 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

deficit is projected for 2014-15.

"Some of our revenues 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 Gheldotte and Lisa Nocerini of the Winchester Consulting Group for their efforts during the visioning sessions.

"It's frustrating to be sitting here in this posi-

tion. 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 visioning session, Gheldotte 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 the potential for a fire 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.

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

RIPPLE

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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 "celebration, 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,

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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PROPERTY

Continued from Page A1

percent in Canton, 4.10 percent in Garden City, 7 percent in Livonia, 9.63 percent in Plymouth and 4.34 percent in Dearborn Heights.

Across Wayne County, an average increase of 1.4 percent is expected. Decreases are projected in communities including a 17.18 percent drop in values in Inkster. Wayne will see an average of nearly 4 percent decline in values in 2014.

"The residential (de-

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

market activity. You need sufficient sales. While a community is still in a down slide, we 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-year study."

Smaller number

As a smaller community, Wayne statistically has a smaller number of home sales on which to use in setting values.

"There has to be a willing relationship between buyer and seller. Nothing can correct that," Powers said. "The

marketplace goes through growing pains."

In 20 years as an assessor, Powers said it is hard to see one particular influence on property values.

"There are areas of 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 spread it accordingly."

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PLACE MATS

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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

more hearts.

"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 mat.

"She's there because she's not with my grandpa anymore," he said. "I get to see her sometimes."

The activity was used as a reward for good behavior with youngsters getting a sucker to fuel their creativity. Even those students who hadn't had a good

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

through 104. She said they would be on the tables in the dining room on Friday for residents to enjoy.

By the time she left the school, plans were in the works to have seniors from American House be guest readers as part of the school's reading month activities in March.

"It's a wonderful outreach and inter-generational," she said.

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FIRE TRUCK

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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 ownership and location, the truck will be available

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."

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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 programs 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.detroitareadiaperbank.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," Dekker 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 rou-

tinely 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 will be closed Monday 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

through Friday.

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 fun-filled 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 Hockey.

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. Walk-up registrations will be accepted. For more information, contact the Garden City Hockey Association at 313-917-4173.

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, pro-

tecting 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

12:15-1 p.m. in the Community lunchroom. Seniors who want to purchase a lunch beforehand can do so for \$2.25 or bring in a sack lunch. The lunch will be sloppy joes, baked beans, coleslaw, hamburger bun, hot rosy applesauce and milk.

Seniors who want to eat lunch must make a reservation 24 hours in advance by calling 734-793-1874.

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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 consultant with 11 years of experience, are two of 150 educators from six states chosen for the 2014 pilot



Castelli



Dodge

"The program will prepare and support the next generation of our profession's leaders to meet the demands of a 21st century teaching profession 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 exceptional 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.

As the Elementary Special Education Teacher Consultant, Dodge works at all of LPS' K-6 buildings providing support to both general and special education 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

a leader as I work and learn with educators from all across the country. I look forward to representing LPS and the Livonia Education Association as part of this collaborative work."

Castelli works at central 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.

ACHIEVERS

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 week-long program will be held at George Mason University July 13-July 18, 2014.

Jessica Drife of Garden City, Zakkary Hardy-niec 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 carrying 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 mid-year 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, Dallas 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

MASA honors Baracy



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	- 175,000
• Code Enforcement	- 143,650
• Rehabilitation Projects	- 50,000
• Friendship Center Improvements	- 170,000
• Acquisition/Demolition Blighted Structures	- 65,000
• Norway Infrastructure and Parks	- 49,850
• Section 108 Loan	- 49,850
HOME funds (\$234,939; program income \$75,000):	
• Grant Administration	- 30,994
• Housing Rehabilitation	- 80,000
• Homebuyer Assistance	- 57,320
• 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 prevention 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

Publish: February 16, 2014

Virtual or online schools — become informed

By Stanley Szcotka
Guest Columnist

Virtual 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-to-day 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 parent-guided 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 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 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 Szcotka, 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 plague 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 Szcotka, 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 participat-

ed 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.

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

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 great-great-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 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 | STAFF 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's 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 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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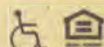
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ON A MISSION

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.bridgeandhilary.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

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

dclem@hometownlife.com
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Twitter: @CantonObserver

Compassionate Care seeks volunteers

Compassionate Care 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.

The hospice service area includes the counties of Oakland, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston. Volunteers set their own schedules and typically donate one-two hours of time per week.

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based hospice organiza-

tion committed to the highest quality of hospice 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 scrapychiclivonia.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, Detroit-area 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 Histor-

ic 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.

Umbrella liability policy: A smart option for some

Q: Dear Rick: I own my own business and have liability insurance. 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?



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

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.

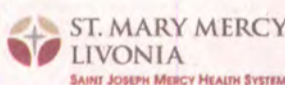
Umbrella liability policies are relatively inexpensive. Typically, you purchase it in increments of \$1 million and it ends up costing a

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.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



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LO-0001180514

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

to be applied toward the expenses of tuition, room and board, fees, books and supplies necessary for pursuit of study at any school, college or other educational institution. These scholarships are for one year only.

The Jack Demmer scholarship is available for students in the Wayne-Westland Community School District who are Wayne or Westland residents.

To apply for the scholarships, students must have:

» Evidence of strong personal character, leadership and work ethic.

» Demonstrated academic success in related classes, projects, and work experience.

» Involvement in school or community experiences that challenge the student.

» Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

» Two recommendations from either an instructor, counselor, or business person and a personal recommendation.

» Must have received either a G.E.D. or high school diploma.

» 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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Franklin grapplers march to elite eight

Battle Creek-bound Patriots pin Southgate, win first-ever regional

By Brad Emons
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.

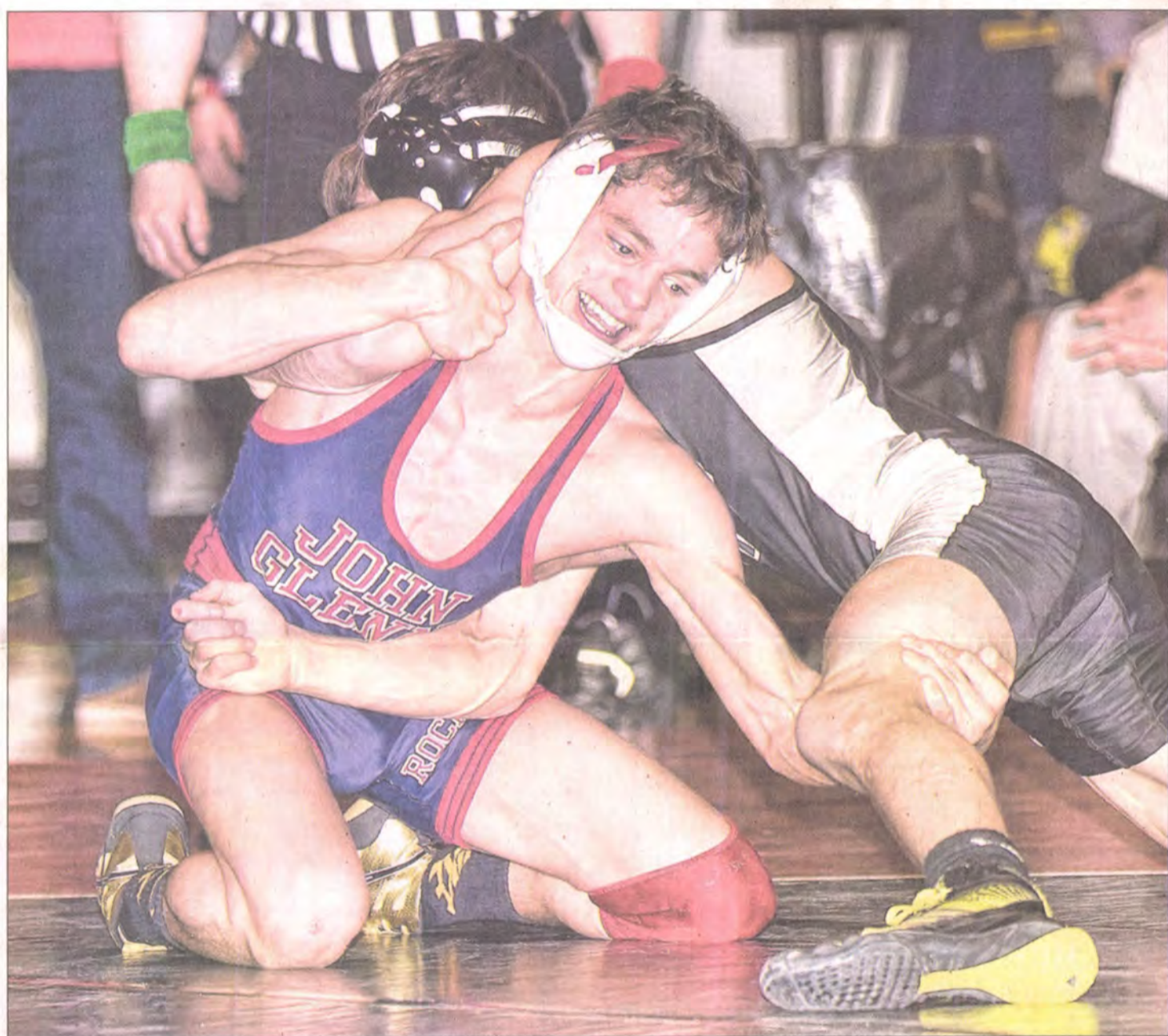
"I go to the state tournament every year and sat in the bleachers knowing that we were better than some of the teams down there," said Chiola, now in his 14th season. "And I know when we go there this year there are going to be teams better than us that are up in the bleachers. We've had some very, very 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



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

Rockets advance to KLAAs 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 KLAAs 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 half-time.

The win puts the Rockets in Monday's Kensington Conference semifinal against 12-5 Northville. (Game time is 7 p.m. at 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 Sina-wi 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 3-pointers 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) in the second time this season in at Kensington Conference first-round matchup.

Drzaga, 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

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IT'S A CALLING

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 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 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 Valtones. The couple has four grown children and 12 grandchildren.

"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.

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 for 25 years — while also teaching music at St. Scholastica in Detroit. Teaching stints followed at St. Edith in Livonia and St. Valentine.



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

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."

Sometimes, parishioners leave with her. She figures about two-thirds of her choir from St. Damian followed her to

St. Priscilla.

"They are a wonderful group. I feel so blessed," she said.

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 only accompaniment for vocals.

Now she tends to play more piano than organ music at Mass, which is said



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 Hayward 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.bostfordcommons.org. For more information about St. Priscilla Parish, visit saintpriscilla.org.

OUR MENTAL HEALTH

Choir therapy gets its own awareness week



Len
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 sponsored 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 disabilities, 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 self-esteem, improve memory and related cognitive functions and enhance social



Len McCulloch directs the Therapy Choirs of Michigan at a previous Capitol 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 posi-

tive 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 statewide, 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.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.

'Downton Abbey' show inspires tasty tea tasting

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

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

TranquilTea, 904 W. Ann Arbor Trail, will serve English tea samples, including blends inspired by the PBS television 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. TranquilTea 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," Cannon 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 Abbey*-related 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 ginger-spiced 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



McDonald

number of state society journals and quarterlies.

His lectures at the Plymouth 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 process.

» 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, plymouthhistory.org. For more information, call the museum at 734-455-8940.

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

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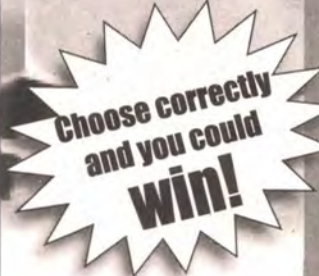
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Enter by 2/26/14 and select TRIPLE PLAY, and you will be entered for a chance to win 4 tickets to the Academy Awards viewing at Star Lanes Restaurant and Sports Bar at Emagine Royal Oak. Watch the Academy Awards while you dine. Prize includes a light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



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3:45 p.m. Captain Phillips

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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 prescribed," 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 Pharmacy.

"The drastic differences in concentrations



Stevenson

patients could receive depending on which pharmacy compounded their prescriptions.

"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 illnesses, 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

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-a-week rehearsals, along with the opportunity to perform in front of people. It's truly eye-opening," she said.

Daniel Beaver, 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 entertain 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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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.

YOGA

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.

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Applying to a company

that has previously turned you down?

director of Chameleon Resumes, an executive resumé-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.

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."

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 resumé 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.

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Medical Office seeks exp'd. Receptionist. Must have strong computer & medical insurance knowledge. Full-Time with exc. pay & benefits. Ann Arbor area.
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AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	4.125	0	3	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	4.25	0	3.25	0
Co-op Services Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.375	0.25	3.375	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.5	0	3.5	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.375	0	3.375	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.25	0	3.25	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	4.125	0.5	3.125	0.625
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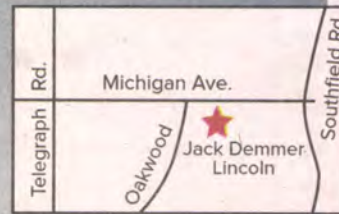
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