

W-W board to start superintendent search

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board made it official Thursday evening, voting to move ahead in a search for a new superintendent.

The board voted 6-1, with Trustee John Goci dissenting, to contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards to help with the search. Current Superintendent Greg Baracy plans to retire July 1 after 17 years as the district's top administrator.

While the agenda's sole item was superintendent search/selection process, the discussion covered the hiring of a company to conduct a search, consideration of requesting proposals from a search firm and the possibility of appointing an interim superintendent until after a new school board is seated in January 2015.

"My goal is to address all of the topics and take the next step," Board President Shawna Walker said. "We are all of different views and I want us to work together to move this

district forward. One of the many duties we have is to select and hire a superintendent. We have one employee, the superintendent."

Goci favored getting proposals from search firms to find one that would suit the board's needs. He also was a proponent of naming an interim superintendent and letting the new school board making the selection.

"With four seats up, with a majority of the board being turned over, it would be a disservice to the new board,"

Goci said. "We should do an RFP, pick a firm and time the search as the election of the new board happens."

Goci found little support for his suggestion.

Get job done

Board Treasurer Frederick Weaver expressed confidence that the current the board "can get the job done."

"I think it's significantly unfair for two or three new board members to come in with little or no experience and the first thing out of the

box, they have to select a superintendent," he said.

Board Vice-President Thomas Buckalew also favored "stepping up and doing the job" trustees were elected to do. He said he didn't favor appointing an interim superintendent because it would "create uncertainty and add stress to the lives of the employees."

"I think this board brings more experience to the process than a board with new members," he added. "I think

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Mom and daughter Debbie and Mackenzi Goetz of Westland are members of the Westland Jaycees Relay for Life team. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Wayne resident Laurie Patterson, a cancer survivor for 15 years, attends the Relay for Life kick-off held at the Wayne Community Center.



Sponsorship Chairperson Bev Smith is excited about the upcoming Wayne-Westland Relay for Life event coming in June.

Wayne looks at upkeep of streetscape landscaping

In Wayne's Downtown Development Authority District, there are about 110 planted beds as part of the streetscape.

Who will maintain those beds is the question for council, which delayed action on hiring a contractor as volunteers are sought to take over the work.

The administration had recommended approving the second year of a five-year agreement with Frank's Landscaping. The nearly \$27,000 cost would be paid by the DDA, which isn't funded by the city's strapped general fund.

"We can't afford to do it, we need to take a year off," said Wayne Councilman Albert Damitio, after a motion to approve the contract received no support.

The city has invested millions of dollars in the downtown streetscape, said Interim City Manager/Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib, adding it would become overgrown and unsightly without maintenance.

Asking that the contract be tabled, Councilman John Rhaesa said he would like to talk with the Wayne Ripple Effect about providing volunteer labor to maintain the planted beds. He said people doing community service through 29th District Court could also work on the landscaping.

"The Ripple Effect could use this money instead of paying an outside contractor. We could double our money," said Rhaesa, a former Ripple effect member. "I'm thinking outside the box."

The city charter requires

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Relay for Life kicks off for 2014

By LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

The winter weather broke — at least temporarily — with a sunny day and milder temperatures just in time for the Wayne-Westland Relay for Life kick-off Thursday.

"Do you believe it's this time of year again? I'm so excited to be here," 2014 Relay for Life Event Chairperson Meriem Kadi told the crowd gathered at the Wayne Community Center.

The kick-off meeting lets newcomers learn about the 24-hour American Cancer Society fundraiser and also serves to motivate the returning teams and participants. This year the event will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8 in



Lee and Rhonda Temple accepted the award for top Westland-Wayne Relay for Life fundraising team in 2013, representing Alyssa's Angels. The team raised \$8,400.

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Cavanagh announces he'll run for Wayne County executive

By Beth Jachman
 Staff Writer

State Rep. Phil Cavanagh says he wants to change the culture of Wayne County government.

Cavanagh, a Redford resident, officially announced Monday that he's running for Wayne County executive this year.

Saying people have lost faith in Wayne County, Cavanagh said he wants to bring back integrity. In the past, people have run for office on the promise of jobs, and now there are people there who

aren't carrying their weight, he said.

"The attitude that public service is an honor in itself," is what he wants to foster, he said.

Cavanagh, who formed an exploratory committee in December, made the announcement at an event in the lobby of the Fisher Building in Detroit.

He said he was encouraged to run by friends and supporters, and touts the experience and relationships built during time spent as a county commissioner and state representative. Cavanagh is serving

his second term in the Michigan House representing District 10 which includes Redford and part of Detroit.

Balancing the budget and dealing with the deficit are among his first priorities.

Money wasted

Many dollars are wasted on county appointees, making it difficult for the county to address problems like plowing snowy roads, Cavanagh said.

"I think it could be leaner," he said. "If we address that we are going to be able to hire



State Rep. Phil Cavanagh celebrates with supporters after he announced Monday he is campaigning for Wayne County Executive.

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SEARCH

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we need to move forward. We need to get at it and get the job done and find someone with the leadership."

Saying that she is "not ready to abdicate" her responsibility, board Secretary Carol Middel pointed out that she has spent a lot of time in classes and now is prepared to take what she has learned and use it in finding a new superintendent.

"As a first-year trustee I made first-year trustee mistakes," she said. "I don't feel that back in my first year I could have made a deci-

sion on a new superintendent. With five years on the board, I'm now fine at applying my experiences to selecting a superintendent. I don't want to start and slow down."

"We need to start now and finish."

She added that if the board can't find the best fit or a consensus can't be reached, an interim superintendent should be considered.

Trustee Charles "Tray" Griffin pointed out that the "most important job" the board does is select a superintendent and that the board "will be judged by that."

"Carol's comments are dead on, I'm not prepared to select an interim superintendent,"

Griffin said.

'We're prepared'

Walker told her fellow board members it "would be unfair to prolong the process ... to the community, to the employees and to the person we hire," she said. "We would be in limbo and start having problems."

"I trust each one of you to make a good decision. We've taken the classes, we're prepared. Bringing in a new board would be like throwing them into the lion's den."

Trustee Sally Madison initially pointed out that using an interim could give an internal candidate the opportunity to try out the job while allowing a longer time frame in which to prop-

erly conduct a search. However, she asked board members to keep an open mind about an interim superintendent as the search process moves forward.

"It's fine moving forward," she said. "You can set a deadline and set it as a goal, but you may need to have an interim superintendent rather than shoot to have someone in place by the start of the school year."

In the end, the board agreed with Weaver's motion to enter into the superintendent search process as soon as possible and use the MASB to facilitate that search.

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Westland joins Compassionate City initiative

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland the All-American City, has focused on being a green city and healthier community.

Now, Westland is officially a Compassionate City. The council voted recently to adopt a Compassionate City resolution making Westland a partner in an international effort.

To find out what that designation will mean locally, residents are invited to an official kick-off program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at the Friendship Center.

The Compassionate City resolution came to Westland Mayor William Wild's attention while he was attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting.

"The resolution will allow the city to go out for grants under this

initiative," said Wild. "We want to keep it open-ended."

Senior Resources Director Barbara Marcum has been named to head the compassionate city initiative.

"We're going to reach out to residents, businesses and churches to create compassionate policies," said Wild. "Residents can come out that night (March 18) to help us shape it."

The Compassionate City resolution affirms the principle of compassion and utilizing the initiative as a way of stimulating community projects. Part of that is working to connect organizations and individuals that are in need of resources with volunteers who can provide assistance.

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BEDS

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expenditures over \$3,000 to be put out to bid, El-Gharib said.

"They (the contractor) is out there daily. We can't give money to volunteers," he said. "Who do we call if something is wrong? The volunteers?"

There are also state licenses required for applying fertilizer and pesticides, said Assistant DPW Director Dan Hamann.

(Former Mayor) Bob Warfield told me the city had spent \$500,000 on day lilies (in the streetscape)," said Hamann. "If we want them to bloom, we need to tend them."

Responding to a question from Rhaesa, Wayne Ripple Effect board member Cindy Schofield said the group would be interested in exploring the idea of the group taking over the downtown landscaping maintenance.

"It's not unheard of to form a partnership with the Main Street Program manager overseeing volunteers," said Schofield. "It's a bigger project than we have taken on in the past. We've had a lot of volunteers come out."

The streetscape maintenance is done five days a week for eight months of the year, said Wayne Mayor Al Hadius.

Council delayed action on the contract until their next meeting March 18.

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Ron Yerger of Westland joined his wife Susie, a three-time cancer survivor, at the Westland-Wayne Relay for Life kick-off.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

RELAY

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Wayne's Attwood Park.

"Part of the reason I relay is hope. My story is not unlike yours. The word I hate starts with 'C' but cure is a better word," Kadi said. "My father unfortunately did not hear that word. My mom heard, 'We've got it all.' She has 15 years as a (cancer) survivor."

Fundraising teams work to help the American Cancer Society fund research and programs to aid those battling cancer. An important part of the relay is recognition of cancer survivors and caregivers.

Formerly active in the now-disbanded Women of Westland, Susie Yerger hasn't been on a relay team for the past couple of years but attended the kick-off and walks in the survivor lap.

"My health has not been great the last couple of years. I had uter-

ine cancer and one year to the day was diagnosed with breast cancer. I'm doing OK. He takes care of me," said Yerger, with a nod to her husband, Ron. "My grandkids would cheer us on (during laps)."

As a hobby, Yerger said she crochets scarves and hats for cancer patients, as well as donations to Warm Hearts and First Step. The yarn is donated by members of Yerger's church, United Baptist, family and friends.

A 15-year lung cancer survivor, Laurie Patterson attended the kick-off meeting as part of the Hornet Crew, a team from Franklin Middle School.

"We're just starting now. I'm getting the kids to walk at lunch and see if they'll sign up," she said. "Some of the kids seemed very excited."

The official survivor speaker, Sheila Rogers, recalled being diagnosed with breast cancer 25 years ago on April 15, 1989 when she was 37 years old.

"Mammograms were not even on the radar then. The American Cancer Society promoted self breast examinations," Rogers said. "That saved me. They have my heartfelt thanks. I plan to celebrate my survivorship and relay for at least

another 25 years."

Many relay participants raise money and walk in honor of someone who has had cancer. Debbie Goetz of the Westland Jaycees works on coordinating a the large silent auction and also runs the jail, participates in memory of her best friend's mother.

"She was like my second mother. I relay for her. One day hopefully there will be a day when we don't have to keep up this fight anymore," Goetz said.

It was noted that the American Cancer Society had contributed \$119 million to fund cancer research resulting in more effective screenings, treatments with fewer side effects and methods to prevent cancer. The \$5 billion from the federal government for cancer research highlighted the theme of Better Together.

This year's first team captain meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at the Westland Friendship Center. Anyone interested in getting involved in relay is invited to attend.

For more information, visit RelayForLife.org/WestlandWayneMI or facebook.com/RFLWestlandWayne.

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CAVANAGH

Continued from Page A1

more workers."

Cavanagh, 52, joins Westland Mayor Bill Wild who announced his candidacy in January, and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, son of former Wayne

County Executive Ed McNamara, who announced last month, in running for the seat now held by Robert Ficano.

Ficano has not said whether he intends to seek re-election.

"I think my resume does it," Cavanagh said when asked how he will stand out from his opponents. He points to his

work on the mental health board, land banks and Health Choice.

'Make a difference'

"In everything I've been involved in I tried to make a difference, but also learned from it," he said. "I voice out my concerns even if it's not popular."

He said as state repre-

sentative he has also tried to address what is not working in Wayne County with a bill for distressed communities to help homeowners and a bill to address people buying property from the delinquent tax rolls and then not paying taxes.

"I'm not afraid to fight for what is right," he said.

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I-96 shutdown pushed back to April 1

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Call it an April Fool's Day prank played by Mother Nature.

The shutdown of I-96 through Redford and Livonia that was originally slated to start March 24 has been pushed back one week to April 1 because of the poor weather conditions, Michigan Department of Transportation mobility engineer Aaron Raymond said.

"It's looking more and more like that's the exact date, but weather permitting," said Raymond, who is working on the project through MDOT's temporary Livonia office. "I think a lot of that has to do with the weather."

Raymond said even with the one-week delay, the contractor for the project, Shelby Township-based Dan's Excavating, still expects to wrap up work on the reconstruction on time

sometime in October. The decision was made late last week to push back the project, he said.

The wicked weather in metro Detroit this year has led to the second-snowiest winter on record, with almost double the average snowfall and less than 10 inches off the all-time record set in 1881.

Both directions of the freeway will close in April from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in Livonia for the nearly \$150 million reconstruction project. The freeway will remain closed until the fall. Several bridges will also be worked on, as well as landscaping work along the freeway.

Some preliminary work is already starting before the shutdown occurs. Crews will be out starting Monday working on a widening of the service drive north of Schoolcraft leading to Telegraph. Crews will work and add a tempo-



Construction equipment is staged on the I-96 median between I-275 and Newburgh Road. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

rary lane on the current service drive to accommodate the heavier traffic the road expects to handle when motorists get off the freeway during the shutdown.

The widening will take out some concrete median and remove a curb on the west side of the service drive to northbound Telegraph.

"They're going to take out that curb and flatten the whole area out," Raymond said. "We've done this on other projects and it works really well, letting those people merge right one lane."

The right lane of the northbound overpass will be closed starting Monday as well, allowing for merging traffic to easily

enter a lane onto northbound Telegraph. That closure, which will reduce the overpass to two lanes going northbound, will also remain in place until the fall.

MDOT has already widened the exit lane at another high-usage area in preparation for the project: crews added an additional lane on the

exit ramp from I-275 to Six Mile in Livonia last fall. Like the Telegraph widening, both will be temporary and will revert back to their original configuration after the reconstruction project on the freeway is complete.

Raymond said some other lane work is expected on the Telegraph service drive southbound, but it is not expected to alter any traffic patterns. Besides any other emergency repairs or some shoulder work by the contractor, Raymond said no other major preliminary work is expected to take place until the shutdown occurs.

Anyone with questions regarding the project is encouraged to contact MDOT via email at MDOT-96fix@michigan.gov.

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Artwork, photography sought for Three Cities Art Club exhibition

Three Cities Art Club is seeking artists to submit artwork and photography for their second annual juried art exhibition at the William P. Faust Public Library.

The exhibit will run Friday through Monday, April 4-7. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 4-5, noon to 5 p.m. April 6 and 9 a.m. to April 7.

On April 6, there will be a reception when many of the artists will be available to talk with attendees. The exhibition will be held at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road. The reception will be held 1-3 p.m. with awards presented at 2 p.m. There will also be live demonstrations periodically during the show.

The deadline to enter

is March 17. An entry form can be downloaded at www.threecitiesartclub.org. Original art including oils, acrylic, watercolors, pastels, collage, photo art, pottery, are being sought.

Submit up to three entries for \$30 and \$5 for each additional piece. Join Three Cities Art Club for \$25 for a membership good through August 2015, and the entry fee drops to \$25 for the first three pieces plus a reduced commission fee for pieces that sell during the exhibition. Submit photos of art for judging on CD or flash drive. Full details are on the entry form.

Local artist Al Weber is the juror and judge for this year's show. He studied at the Art Center College of Design in Pasade-

na, Calif., Purdue University and Indiana University and attended numerous workshops by internationally renowned watercolor artists.

Weber will select approximately 100 pieces to be included in the exhibition. He will select first, second and third place plus two honorable mention prize winners in two categories - photography and all others. Three Cities Art Club is seeking artists to submit artwork and photography for their second annual juried art exhibition at the William P. Faust Public Library.

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and all others.

Westland Mayor William Wild will once again select his favorite piece for his personal \$100 "Wild Award."

Attendees will get to vote for their three favorites in the Popular Vote competition and, at a minimum, the piece with the most votes will earn the creator an Artist's Bag valued at \$60. More than \$800 in prizes will be awarded.

To learn more about entering artwork in the exhibition, attending the event or Three Cities Art Club, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or via e-mail at marilynmeredith@wow-way.com or visit the club's website at www.threecitiesartclub.org.

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WILDWOOD STUDENTS INTRODUCE PARENTS TO '7 HABITS'

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Michele Martin brought rocks to Wildwood Elementary School Tuesday for show and tell.

A fourth-grade teacher, Martin used the small, medium and large rocks to demonstrate to parents the third of seven habits students at the Westland school are learning as part of the Leadership in Me program. The third habit is put first things first.

"The small rocks are all the little things we do," said Martin. "You do them first. Then you put in the big rocks, those are things that are important to you like your family, but there's no room. You have to put the big ones in first so you do those things that are important to you first."

The program, which is being piloted in seven Wayne-Westland schools this year, is based on the 7 Habits of Effective People and aims to develop a culture of leadership in the schools. Hicks, Hoover, Hamilton, Roosevelt-McGrath, Schweitzer and Taft-Galloway are also doing the program.

Tuesday evening families were invited to Wildwood's first Leader in Me night. They were introduced to the first four habits during the 90-minute program that include a pizza dinner provided by Domino's which has been a major sponsor of the program at Wildwood. In addition to the enough food to feed 250 people, Domino's also contributed \$500 to Leader in Me.

They also watched a video about the program

at the school, heard a bride presentation and then did activities with their children to reinforce the habit.

Students like Samantha Phillips and Mackenzie Quigley were presenters, telling parents what they have learned.

"I really like the habits because I'm kind of a leader," said Samantha Phillips. "I've learned not to back down, but I think I'm like putting first things first."

"We're learning to be leaders every day," added Mackenzie Quigley. "We've learned so much stuff about the 7 Habits and what we should do when we're older."

Setting goals

In Martin's classroom, parents worked with children on setting goals. They were challenged to decide where they wanted to be in a month, six months, one year and five years. They were also given a paper rock to write on what was important to them. Most put down family, children, husband and life, but one guest wrote in University of Michigan football.

Trevor Shelton might have been doing the fourth habit, but number seven - Sharpen Your Saw - was his favorite. The habit emphasizes taking care of you and spending time with family and friends.

"I have to work my heart, my mind and my body," he said. "For my mind, I put down reading; for my body I put riding; for my soul, I put music."

"I'm not surprised he put down music," said his mother, Katrina. "He loves music."

Trevor has been telling his family about the 7 Habits. His goal "is to get everyone in the family to do them," she said.

Students learn the habits and practice to be leaders every day. In the case of the second habit - Begin with the end in mind - fourth-grader Riley Benci said she has learned to plan ahead and set goals. It's an important part of the class.

"It's easy to use the habits," she said. "I like number two the best because it teaches you to set goals and I have set goals for dance."

Plan ahead

The activities included assembling a puzzle without knowing what it looks like, then working on a goal and planning how to achieve it. Four-year-old Gracie Malotke knew exactly what her goal is.

"I want to be Cinderella when I grow up," she said.

"She loves that princess," said her mother Jennifer. "I think she'll be happy as Cinderella."

While the students are focusing on all seven habits, they only did presentations on four to keep the program to 1½ hours so parents could be introduced to each habit.

Martin said she knew the first Leader in Me Night would be successful, just as the program has been for the students.

"It becomes like a life skill that the kids use all the time," said Martin. "It's natural and it makes sense to them."

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Twitter: @SusanMarieMason



Trevor Shelton gets help from his mother Katrina and Aaron Skiver on goal setting.



Joseph and Gail Lee work on assembling a puzzle without knowing what it looks like.



Jennifer Malotke works with daughter Gracie, 4, on planning her future. Gracie, who will be in kindergarten next year, wants to grow up to be Cinderella.



Charlotte Gregory works with her granddaughter Carmody Huttenstine on her plan of where she wants to be in a month, six months, one year and five years.



Wildwood teacher Michele Martin uses small, medium and large rocks to demonstrate how doing the little things leaves no time for the big things.



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Open houses to outline Schoolcraft degrees

The University of Toledo and Wayne State University will offer bachelor's and master's degrees at Schoolcraft College this fall through the Schoolcraft to U partnership. The schools will outline the details of each program at special open house events during the month of March.

UT will present its offerings 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, and WSU will hold its informational session 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18. Both events will take place on Schoolcraft College's main campus in Livonia in the VisTa-Tech Center.

"This is the first chance for our community to hear the details of these exciting partnerships," said Schoolcraft College Associate Dean of Advising and Partnerships Laurie Kattuah-Snyder. "Each

university will give presentations about its programs and Schoolcraft will have staff on hand as well. Students and parents will be able to get all their questions answered, and they also will have an opportunity to apply to each school right on the spot."

The schools also developed agreements that make it easy for students to seamlessly transfer credits and continue the pursuit of a bachelor's or master's degree all on Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia.

The Schoolcraft to U Partnership with UT and WSU offers many benefits for students, including high quality. Both schools have long-standing track records of academic excellence and job placement after graduation. The partnership was built on flexibility so that students will have op-

tions, such as traditional face-to-face courses, online courses and combinations of both.

Affordability is a major feature because students can save money by taking a combination of transferable courses from Schoolcraft College and then complete their bachelor's degree program of study through the partner universities, while attending classes in Livonia.

In addition, students enrolled at UT through the Schoolcraft to U Partnership will be given a scholarship equal to the out-of-state surcharge, regardless of their residency. Students also can take advantage of scholarship opportunities available from all three institutions.

The University of Toledo will begin by offering a bachelor of science in nursing, a

bachelor of science in criminal justice, a bachelor of science in health information administration and a bachelor of professional studies (tracks specializing in electronic commerce and information technology applications or entrepreneurship, family and small business).

Wayne State University will offer the bachelor of business administration in accounting or management, the bachelor of science degrees in computer science, computer technology, electronic transportation technology, electrical/electronic engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology and the Master's in Business Administration degree.

Admissions and financial aid representatives from Schoolcraft College and each

partner university will be on hand to answer questions and assist prospective students with completion of admissions applications on site during the events.

Both universities plan to add degrees in additional fields of study as time goes on. The majority of classes offered by the schools will be held in the Jeffress Center, Schoolcraft College's newest building. The facility, which is located on the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty, is currently being remodeled to house the Schoolcraft to U partnership.

For more information about the open house events or the programs and services offered through the partnership, visit www.schoolcraft.edu/sc-to-u or call the Schoolcraft College Answer Center at 734-462-4426.

GC AFJROTC cadets attend military ball

The Garden City High School AFJROTC program held its fourth annual Joint Military Ball at Burton Manor, with the Ben O' Davis Aerospace Science School in attendance as special guests.

A Military Ball is a formal dining-out ceremony for the military where guests are invited. It consists of a dinner and dance.

The evening began with a receiving line where cadets introduce themselves and their dates to the guests of honor and VIPs. The ceremony part of the evening began with the posting of colors by Jordan Potter, Jeffery Ball and Blake Schettler, with William Gage as commander, as well as the reading of the AFJROTC cadet creed.

The history of the military ball was presented, including its origin and history. From



Crowned as king and queen of the military ball were Chris Witt and Hayley Schneider.

there, the POW/MIA table was presented along with the script.

The fun part of the evening began with the Grog Bowl Ceremony. A Grog Bowl is a bowl filled with "special ingredients" for the cadets to drink based on different violations made throughout the night. Ingredients in this year's Grog Bowl included orange juice, olives, iced tea, lemon juice and many other

mystery ingredients.

Similar to a high school dance, the AFJROTC had a court of their cadets voted by a majority. On the court were Brandon Hunter, Jeffery Ball Jr., Tre Whitt-Smith, Chris Witt, Hayley Schneider, Marisha Potter, Melissa Green and Blair Berry. The winners for this year's King and Queen of the Military Ball were Chris Witt and Hayley Schneider.

Whalers promote fundraiser

Students at the Burger Center for Students with Autism scored big recently when members of the Plymouth Whalers hockey team paid a visit.

Players Josh Wesley, Liam Dunda and Zack Bowman and team mascot Shooter attended a pizza party arranged by the BASA parent group at Burger. The Plymouth Whalers autographed posters, shot hockey pucks with students, and raffled off two backpacks filled with Whalers items.

The players attended the event to help create excitement for the Lyman Foundation's fundraising event that will be held at Compuware Arena on Friday, March 14. Students from Burger School will be on the ice before the game to sing the National Anthem and cheer the Whalers from the stands.

Ashley Painter with the Whalers' group sales department created photo books for the students to help them understand more about the arena, singing the National Anthem



Members of the Plymouth Whalers recently stopped by Burger Center for Students with Autism to help promote a special Hockey Night for students and their families.

and what to expect at the game.

The Lyman Foundation is hosting Hockey Night with the Plymouth Whalers vs. Erie at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth. Tickets cost \$12 and can be purchased at www.plymouthwhalers.com. Enter promo code: lyman & select section 111.

For more information, visit www.lymanfoundation.org or email lymanfoundation@yahoo.com.

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Chisom Anwunah and Chineneye Iziegbunam were among those students celebrating multicultural night at Canton Charter Academy.



More than a dozen countries were represented at Canton Charter Academy's multicultural night, with people in traditional attire like Aadaeze Iziegbunam and Chiamaka Iziegbunam.

Academy celebrates many cultures

Hundreds of students, their families and staffers came together last week as Canton Charter Academy celebrated its fourth annual multicultural night.

The celebration of different cultures included food and dance from more than a dozen countries. Each country had a table filled with authentic food and artifacts, and students dressed in traditional attire.

To help cap the evening, the entire student body performed a dance together.

"I hope students who attended multicultural night take away the idea that their school community is like a magnificent quilt of many cultures," Canton Charter Academy Principal Janelle Magyar said.

"The night serves as a great opportunity for parents to connect with each other, which strengthens the school community."

Studio hosts Disney auditions

Walt Disney World is coming to metro Detroit to search for full-time character performers and energetic college students interested in the Walt Disney World college program.

Auditions will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Central City Dance & Fitness Center, 6700 N. Canton Center Road, in Canton.

Advanced registration is not required. However, auditions start promptly at 10:30 a.m. with sign-in required from 10-10:30 a.m.

All performers will learn a simple movement/dance routine. Comfortable clothing and a clean pair of dance shoes or sneakers to change upon your arrival is highly recommended.

Male and female full-time performers are needed to bring to life the world famous Disney characters. Characters perform before thousands of guest each day in "meet and greets" at the Walt Disney World Resort. Also, they may perform in parades and events, such as the Disney parks shows Festival of the Lion King and Disney Festival of Fantasy Parade.

Disney Creative Entertainment is seeking energetic college students interested in the Walt Disney World College program. Participants network with leaders and build teamwork and problem solving skills. For eligibility to apply for the Disney College program, visit

<http://cp.disneycareers.com>.

Additionally, Disney is seeking full-time female Disney Princess look-alikes. Performers develop improvisational skills, poise and grace while working for one of the world's leading entertainment companies.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and able to start within six months of the audition. Audition scores are only valid for six months. Also, full-time applicants must be willing to relocate to the Orlando, Fla., area and be available for at least one year of full-time work.

For more information, visit centralcitydance.com and click on the Disney auditions icon.



Performers warm up in the audition room at Central City Dance & Fitness Center in Canton.

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Examine your life insurance policy needs

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my mid-50s and been divorced about five years. I have two adult children with who I have no relationship. I have disinherited both from my will. I have a life insurance policy for \$500,000. My two adult children are the beneficiaries on that policy. In my divorce decree I was required to keep the policy and to have my kids as beneficiary but that provision has now expired. Since I disinherited my children from the will, does that suffice for the life insurance policy? My ex-brother-in-law is the agent and I just don't want to deal with him. Do I even need the life insurance? I am single and have no beneficiaries.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

A: The fact that you disinherited your children in your will would not be operative when it comes to the life insurance policy. Other than a few minor exceptions, whoever is named as beneficiary on a life insurance policy receives the proceeds upon death.

If you are going to retain the policy, you need to change whom you've named as the beneficiary. In addition, I always recommend naming a secondary beneficiary.

I recognize that it may be uncomfortable to deal with your ex-brother-in-law. An alternative is to contact the life insurance company and ask for a change of beneficiary form so you can make the changes without having to deal with him.

In addition, if you decide to keep the policy, consider changing the agent of record. If you have another agent who is more comfortable to deal with, you should be able to change who is listed as the agent of record.

The next — and probably bigger — issue is whether to keep the policy. As far as I'm concerned, life insurance is not an investment. The question to ask is, upon your death, does anyone lose out financially. If the answer is no, then there's no reason to have life insurance.

Life insurance is part of risk management. The risk you're insuring is that your death will cause an economic harm to someone. Since you are single and have no

dependents, there is no one who loses out financially. My advice is cancel the policy.

I know people in the life insurance business will tell you that life insurance is a very good investment. I don't think it's a good investment if I have to die in order to collect.

Agents will point out that you can always borrow the cash surrender value on your policy. That is true. However, what they don't say is that you have to pay interest on your own money. Why should I have to pay interest on my own money?

Life insurance falls under the category of risk management. Like all insurance, you only insure what you cannot afford to lose financially.

Most people receive the invoice for the premium and automatically write a check. I suggest before writing the check, make sure you still need the life insurance. The policy may have been purchased 10 or 15 years ago when you needed it. If you no longer need the insurance, why continue to pay?

In addition, it's also a good time to make sure you have the right type of policy. Many people have universal life or

whole life insurance.

There are significant differences between different types of insurance. For example, term insurance, which is the type of insurance that most people should have, is significantly less expensive than whole life or universal life.

Therefore, when your premium take a few minutes to determine if you need the coverage and if you do, be sure you have the right type of policy. Good luck.

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

GEEK OF THE MONTH



Tommy and Creighton Buckalew with dog Buddy Fry.

Name: Tommy and Creighton Buckalew with dog Buddy Fry.

"We geek reading together."

How does the library help you? "We can [each] pick books we like." Tommy likes the DC Heroes books. Creighton likes all books. Both boys started out in the William P. Faust Library's Toddler Tales program. Now Tommy is in the Kindergarten Book Club, reading on his own. And in terms of reading to Buddy, Tommy read him *Go Dog Go* and Creighton read him, *Goodnight Gorilla* (Buddy loved both books - "Woof woof.").

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JOSEPH DuMOUCHELLE

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Belle Isle benefits from Macy's program

The Belle Isle Conservancy has been selected for "Heart Your Park," a program introduced as part of Macy's "Secret Garden" campaign to raise awareness and money for local parks across the country.

Now through March 31, customers at Macy's Westland and Dearborn

stores can donate \$1 or more at the register, with 100 percent of the donations benefiting the Belle Isle Conservancy.

Macy's will match the total customer donation across all stores, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000 in total.

Belle Isle Park is one of more than 550 parks

nationwide that will benefit from Macy's "Heart Your Park" this spring.

Donations will go toward making improvements such as maintaining trails, playgrounds and ball fields.

For more information, visit macys.com/secretgarden.

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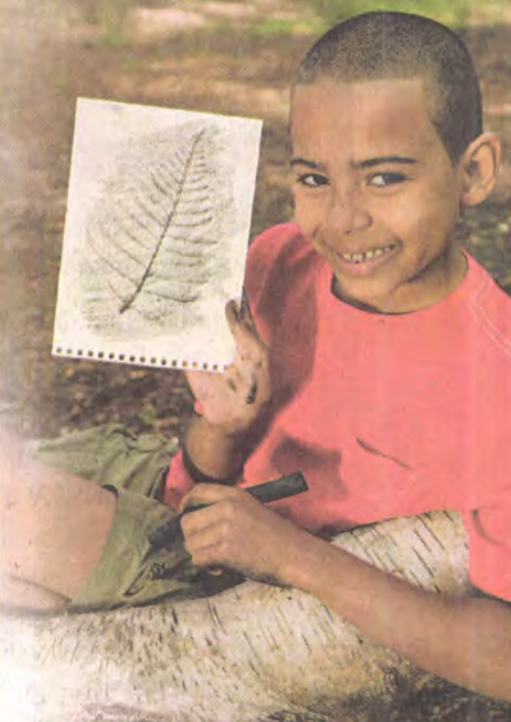


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GOLD MEDAL MANIA

Plymouth-Canton students welcome Olympic champions

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton boasts what coach Barb Miller says is the largest high school figure skating club in the country.

And the PCS Figure Skating Club showed up in force Friday to have breakfast with Olympic ice dancing gold medalists Charlie White and Meryl Davis. The group, along with hundreds of other students, staff and fans welcomed the champions, who train at nearby Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton, at an interactive assembly at Salem High School.

Figure skater Audrey Reding, a senior at Salem, was predictably excited to have the chance to see White and Davis.

"They're huge role models," said Reding, who trains at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. "They've done everything. They make skating look so elegant and so easy, and you know it's not that easy. This is a huge deal."

The event, part of the district's observance of National Breakfast Week, was a collaboration between the district, Kellogg's and Action for Healthy Kids. Plymouth-Canton's director of food services, Kristen Hennessey, met with Action for Healthy Kids representatives after serving on the governor's task force.

Plymouth-Canton was

one of only two districts in the country – the other was in Utah – to host such an event. The whole idea, according to Hennessey, was to reinforce the fact that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

"We wanted to educate kids that not everyone gets a healthy breakfast," Hennessey said. "If you have a great start in the morning, you're going to have a better day."

About 100 students, most chosen by lottery, got to have breakfast while waiting for Davis and White to arrive. It was a homecoming, of sorts, for the skaters. Davis' mother was a longtime teacher in the Plymouth-Canton district.

It was also important to the skaters to push the "healthy breakfast" message.

"One in five kids goes without breakfast," White said during a brief speech. "For us to come home from the Olympics and help deliver the message is great."

After taking several questions from the excited throng of students, White and Davis moved – with an even bigger crowd – into the Gloria Logan Auditorium, where they, among other things, helped judge a teacher dance-off. Teachers from each of the district's three schools squared off in 60-second dance routines.

Husband-and-wife



Olympic ice dancing gold medalists Meryl Davis (left) and Charlie White get together with Kellogg's emcee Mike Lemelle to take the world's largest selfie with hundreds of students at Salem High School Friday.



Special Olympians get a chance to hang out with Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

dancers Gretchen and Mike Andridge, both of whom teach at Salem High School, said they weren't sure at first what they were getting into. But they got out in front of some 800 students and danced away.

But they were a bit nervous.

"We thought it was just going to be a little fun thing," Gretchen

Andridge said. "Then we realized the Olympians were going to be there, and suddenly it was more intense."

"We're both speakers for a living," the good-natured Andridges agreed, "but dancing in front of your students is a little different."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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Meryl Davis joined PCS Figure Skating Club captains Allison Schendel, Victoria Massey and Audrey Reding in judging the teacher dance-off.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by email at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at 313-223-3318. For more information, call 313-222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS IRISH DINNER

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Location: St. Damian Church, 30055 Joy, Westland. Details: St. Damian will host its annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Dinner on Saturday, March 15, after the 5 p.m. Mass. There will be Irish step dancing, music and song with a DJ, face painting and balloon sculpting. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage, roast beef, vegetables, desserts and beverages. There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash bar. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for ages 5-11.

TRIBUTE SHOW

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 21-22. Location: Angelo Brothers Banquet Hall, 33550 Ford, Westland. Details: Tribute artist and impressionist Chris Ayotte will take a trip back in time with the familiar sounds of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tom Jones and Elvis Presley. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, with appetizers at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show from 8-9:30 p.m. On Sunday, doors open at 1 p.m., with appetizers at 1:30 p.m., dinner at 2 p.m. and the show from 3:30-5 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each and include dinner, soft drinks and show. A cash bar will be available.

FLEA MARKET

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 17 (rain or shine). Location: Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Details: Space is available for a flea market at Kirk of Our Savior. Space rental is \$25, which is non-refundable. Provide your own tables. There will be a hot dog vendor on site and a bounce house. Contact: Contact Sharon Garcia at 734-728-1088 or email churchoffice@wowway.biz.

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. Location: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool in Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool will enroll for the 2014-2015 school year during its open house. The preschool offers a Tot to Toddler class, a 3-year class and 4-year morning and afternoon.

BLOOD DRIVES

Time/Date: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27. Location: Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Details: Garden City Hospital will hold its spring American Red Cross Blood Drive in the lower-level classrooms of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building on the hospital campus. Appointments are available and walk-ins are welcome.

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Monday of the month. Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth. Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

in partnership with the American Red Cross, will hold a blood drive in the North Auditorium of the hospital. The public is invited to join St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees and volunteers in donating blood at the event. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred. Contact: To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. Appointment sign-ups are also available in the hospital cafeteria.

FOR YOUR HEALTH SAFE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays. Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. Details: A Safe Place is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. Contact: Russ Weathers at 734-422-1995.

ADULT DAY SERVICES

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth. Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals.

MENOPAUSE & MORE

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.

COUNTERPOINT

Time/Date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia. Details: Support group, newcomers welcome.

LIFECARE

Time/Date: 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday. Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth. Details: LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.

TOUGHLOVE

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. second Monday of every month. Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland. Details: Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others and learn to cope with the new and frightening experiences Donations are appreciated.

EDUCATION WILLOW CREEK

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Contact: 734-326-0078.

ST. DAMIAN

Location: 29891 Joy, Westland. Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. Contact: 734-427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA PRESCHOOL

Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children ages 2-5 at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. Contact: 313-561-4110, Ext. 10

ST. MARY

Location: St. Mary Catholic School, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Details: St. Mary School offers pre-K 3 and 4 and kindergarten-eighth-grade. St. Mary has been recognized as a School of Distinction. Contact: For more information, call the school office at 734-721-1240.

Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Street at 734-629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - SPOUSES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of the month. Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for a spouse age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

CAREGIVERS - WESTLAND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland.

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland.

Details: Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance is sponsoring a support group that provides support and guidance for families caring for an older person.

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. second Monday of every month. Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland.

Details: Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others and learn to cope with the new and frightening experiences Donations are appreciated.

ORGANIZATIONS FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November. Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between

Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Contact: Pat Ibbotson at 734-331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com or Jo Johnson at 734-522-3918.

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays. Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check www.westlandrotary.com for more information about meetings, programs and events.

WAYNE ROTARY

Time/Date: noon every Tuesday. Location: Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne, except the last Tuesday of the month when the meeting is at 6 p.m. At the US12 Bar and Grill on Michigan Avenue.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/Date: 9 a.m. Thursdays. Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men to meet with other widowed men for breakfast at 9 a.m. at Steve's Family Restaurant on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Many topics are discussed including those that may be pertinent to your own situation. Also, ideas are presented to help you become involved in the activities of Widowed Friends.

SENIOR SERVICES

Location: Senior Services Lounge, Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne.

Details: Wayne Seniors Services offers Sew Friendly 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Material Girls 6-9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month; the Golden Hour Club at 11 a.m. Thursdays; bingo at 1 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month for adults age 50 and older; and the Sometimes Travel Club for adults age 30 and older with \$5 annual dues.

ORGANIZATIONS

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November. Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between

second Monday of the month and at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month.

Location: Big Boy Restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Details: The Westland Lions Club holds lunch and dinner meetings on Mondays. Contact: For more information, call Debbie Dayton at 734-721-4216.

TOASTMASTERS

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. Location: 35613 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Enter from parking lot entrance.

Details: Wayne-Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life. Contact: For more information, call Curt at 734-525-8445 or Luddie at 734-414-0034 or visit westlandeasytalkers.toastmastersclubs.org.

FISH DIAL-A-RIDE

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Contact: For more information, call 888-660-2007 and leave a message.

CITIZENS FOR PEACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia. Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome. Contact: Colleen Mills at 734-425-0079.

CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE 2014 BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Wayne will meet in Wayne City Council Chambers, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Date, Day, Appointment Time, Petition. Rows include March 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2014 with corresponding days, times, and petition types like Organizational Meeting, Commercial/Industrial Residential, Poverty/Residential Residential, etc.

Your 2014 Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classification will be mailed to you the week of March 3, 2014. The inflation rate, expressed as a multiplier, to be used in the 2014 Capped Value Formula is 1.6. The Inflation Rate Multiplier Calculation is outlined in Bulletin No. 13 of 2013 by the State Tax Commission on the State of Michigan website.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Petition to Board of Review Form 618 (Former number L-4035). The Petition Form approved by the State Tax Commission is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search for Forms [618] (GO). Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with original signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

If you desire an appointment, please call the Finance Department at 734-722-2000 Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Matthew Miller City Clerk

Publish: March 2, 6, 9, 2014

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 24, 2014 AND CANCELATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 28, 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Hearing on this matter previously scheduled and advertised for April 28, 2014 is canceled.

The Garden City Council held a duly noticed Public Hearing on this matter at its meeting on February 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., and no comments were received during the Public Hearing. Following the Public Hearing, the City Council authorized the application of the following projects for the use of these federal CDBG funds for the period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015:

OBJECTIVES:

- A) To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low- to moderate-income and/or areas where 51% of the residents are of low- to moderate-income.
B) To reduce negative environmental impacts.
C) To maintain a high level of performance in the management of CDBG non-federally funded programs.
D) To improve the quality of life for low- to moderate-income persons.
E) To create affordable housing for low-income households.

ESTIMATED FUNDING

Table with 2 columns: ESTIMATED FUNDING, PROPOSED PROJECTS. Rows include \$117,854, \$23,570, \$6,588, \$9,125 and projects like Citywide Housing Rehabilitation, Senior Services Coordinator, Planning, CDBG Administration.

The following items are contingent upon the availability of funds and may vary depending upon:
• The repayment of prior Housing Rehabilitation loans through lien pay-offs.

Table with 2 columns: Amount, Description. Rows include \$10,000 Program Income (Housing Rehabilitation) and \$167,137 Total Proposed Allocation (estimate).

Everyone is encouraged to provide input regarding the proposed allocations of the CDBG programs. Documentation regarding the CDBG program is available at the Community Development Department, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734)793-1663.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS City Clerk / Treasurer

Publish: March 9, 2014

CITY OF GARDEN CITY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a hearing will be held by the City of Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135. At the hearing all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on the following agenda item. 1. McDonald's Redevelopment Project - 2205 Middlebelt Road. The applicant is proposing to redevelop the existing McDonald's restaurant and is seeking variances from the following Zoning Ordinance Central Business District (CBD) standards: a. Section 154.354(A)(1) to permit front yard setbacks along Ford and Middlebelt Roads that exceed the 20' maximum front yard setback. b. Section 154.354(A)(2)(c) to permit the main entrance to be more than 25' from the corner of Middlebelt and Ford Road intersection. c. Section 154.354(B)(2) to permit parking in front of the building and to permit parking lots to have frontage on Ford Road and Middlebelt Road. d. Sections 154.355(A) Building Design, (B) Building Height, (D) Front Façade to permit a building design that does not comply with the CBD Building Design Standards. e. Section 154.356(E)(1) to permit outdoor storage within the trash enclosure area. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting and should be addressed to the Building Department at 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the application and site plan may be examined at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the hearing. Publish: March 9, 2014

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 24, 2014 AND CANCELATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 28, 2014. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Hearing on this matter previously scheduled and advertised for April 28, 2014 is canceled. The Garden City Council held a duly noticed Public Hearing on this matter at its meeting on February 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., and no comments were received during the Public Hearing. Following the Public Hearing, the City Council authorized the application of the following projects for the use of these federal CDBG funds for the period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015: OBJECTIVES: A) To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low- to moderate-income and/or areas where 51% of the residents are of low- to moderate-income. B) To reduce negative environmental impacts. C) To maintain a high level of performance in the management of CDBG non-federally funded programs. D) To improve the quality of life for low- to moderate-income persons. E) To create affordable housing for low-income households. ESTIMATED FUNDING PROPOSED PROJECTS \$117,854 \$23,570 \$6,588 \$9,125 Citywide Housing Rehabilitation Senior Services Coordinator Planning CDBG Administration (Combined total of Planning and Administration cannot exceed 10% of total allocation) The following items are contingent upon the availability of funds and may vary depending upon: • The repayment of prior Housing Rehabilitation loans through lien pay-offs. \$ 10,000 Program Income (Housing Rehabilitation) \$167,137 Total Proposed Allocation (estimate) Everyone is encouraged to provide input regarding the proposed allocations of the CDBG programs. Documentation regarding the CDBG program is available at the Community Development Department, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734)793-1663. ALLYSON M. BETTIS City Clerk / Treasurer Publish: March 9, 2014



Connor Kirkpatrick of New Hudson watches as Victoria Taylor-Sluder, park interpreter, demonstrates the sap-collecting process. PHOTOS BY LAURA COLVIN

Kensington staff shares 'Sweet Story'

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

Ken Klemczak was at Kensington Metropark in Milford to learn about the process of making syrup and sugar from the sap of maple trees. "I'm going to try it at home," said Klemczak, who owns about 6 acres of land in Howell. "For me, it's about sustainability. I don't think the foods we're consuming today are very healthy; it's time to get back to the way things used to be." Klemczak was among dozens who came out during the weekend to learn about "Maple's Sweet Story," a program geared at teaching participants about the process

of producing maple syrup from a maple tree. The program lasts about an hour and begins with an introduction by a park interpreter, who shows participants how to identify a suitable maple tree, as well as how to tap the tree to get the sap running. Park interpreters present the information in a way that will encourage people to try the process at home. "It's definitely a home-grown industry," said Victoria Taylor-Sluder, park interpreter. "You really don't need very many trees to make your own syrup." Although it was a bit cold for sap on Saturday — outdoor temps need to be at about 36 degrees

before the sap will run — plenty of folks came out to see the process, and possibly get a breath of fresh air. In the weeks ahead, when the sap begins to run, other aromas may be in the air, as well, as the evaporator steams away to boil the sap into syrup. "Boiling the sap creates a wonderful smell," Taylor-Sluder said. "It smells like toasted marshmallows out here in the spring." Real maple syrup products will be available for sale and to sample, and visitors can also stop by the French and Native camp to hear and see how sugaring techniques have changed throughout the years. "It's good just to get outside; we've been inside too long this winter," said Kristy Penney of



Clara Penney, 5, of Livonia gets a taste of maple syrup from Chris Williams, park interpreter, as Clara's mom Kristy Penney and brother Isaac Penney, 2, look on.

Livonia, who came out with her husband and kids. "Maple's Sweet Story" takes place at the park Saturdays and Sundays in March from noon to 3 p.m. Park officials encourage participants to dress for the weather, as the program takes place outdoors. Registration is not required for the weekend programs. Cost

is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children 3-12 years old; children younger than 3 are free. A vehicle entry fee is required at metroparks.

Reach Kensington Metropark at 248-684-8632.
lcolvin@hometownlife.com
248-390-7396



George Sluder talks to visitors about 18th century Native American techniques for maple sugaring.

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THE BREATH OF ARTHRITIS

The effect of arthritic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus arthritis and spondylitis are not limited to the joints. Physicians are aware that arthritis affects the whole body, particularly the lungs.

The basic force that drives rheumatoid arthritis, is the formation of antibodies against the joint linings in the hands, wrists, shoulders, knees and feet. Why these antibodies also act against lung tissue is unknown. The effect is to thicken the thin layer of tissue that acts as the interface between air and blood in the lung capillaries. Thickening of this lung tissue makes it difficult for oxygen to diffuse into the capillaries. If the lung tissue reaches a critical thickness the person feels short of breath; in addition the right side of the heart meets more resistance putting a strain on that chamber.

It is not unusual for older patients with rheumatoid arthritis to have more trouble moving because of breathlessness than from joint pain. The problem compounds if the patient was or is a cigarette smoker. For reasons not yet clarified, a patient with rheumatoid arthritis who is a smoker almost invariably develops thickened lung tissue. The medical name is: interstitial fibrosis.

Lupus lung disease can take the form of pneumonia, bleeding into the lung or inflammation of the lung lining also known as pleurisy or pleuritis. A patient with Lupus may also develop right sided heart strain from interstitial fibrosis as happens in rheumatoid arthritis. Antibody to lung tissue is the cause, the type of lung reaction being related to the type of antibody binding to lung lining.

In ankylosing spondylitis, an arthritis of the low back, for reasons unknown, the lung can develop interstitial fibrosis similar to that in rheumatoid arthritis.

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Life after Elmore

Peter Leonard reflects on his father and life as a writer

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

There's always going to be a little Elmore in Peter Leonard.

Elmore Leonard was a world-famous crime novelist. His son, Peter, is carving out his own literary path, having published five novels in the past six years.

Peter Leonard's latest book, *Eyes Closed Tight*, comes out in March. The story starts out in Pompano Beach before it shifts to Detroit — and Birmingham. His dad owned property in Pompano Beach and set many of his stories in Florida.

Father and son share an ear for dialogue and a writing style that's sparse but spot-on with details. Their lead characters are competent, but make mistakes.

And there, the chain breaks. Elmore Leonard passed away last August at the age of 87. With his passing, Peter Leonard lost a dad and a friend.

"It seems a little odd that we're not out on the road," Leonard said, as the two often traveled together on book tours in recent years. "But he was getting tired; he was slowing down. We went to the University of South Carolina and after that trip he said to me, 'You know, I think I'm done.' It was just too much work."

Now, his son works at the same desk where his dad wrote *Rum Punch*, *Get Shorty*, *Out of Sight* and dozens of other famous novels. Leonard lives in Birmingham, not too far from Quanton Lake. A large photo of his dad looms over the desk that was taken by Annie Leibovitz. A photo of Hemingway rests on the fireplace mantle in the den.

The home almost wants to announce: writer lives here. Leonard, of course, has a more humble view of the situation.

"When you write as I do, no one thinks you really have a job," he said. "My wife doesn't, so I'm fair game if somebody needs to be picked up at the airport or they need help moving something."

Meet O'Clair
His main character in *Eyes Closed Tight* is a retired Detroit homicide investigator by the name of O'Clair. He runs a motel in Pompano Beach with his girlfriend, Virginia, and life is good until a serial killer shows up.

Then things go terribly bad. "He's the older guy who doubts himself," Leonard said of O'Clair. "He doubts that he's good enough to have this good-looking girl who's much younger than him. He feels it's beyond him."

The name, it turns out, was inspired from one of Leonard's classmates at Brother Rice High School.

"The real O'Clair is a big guy," Leonard said. "He played football and I knew him pretty well in high school. I liked his name and using it grounds the character in reality."

One scene takes place in the old Forte restaurant — Leonard was once a partner in an ad agency located in the same building.

Several scenes are set at a townhouse on Merrill Street.

The story itself is rather dark — a contrast to his dad's breezier plots. "The style of the book is a mystery," he said. "My father never wrote a mystery — he didn't care for mysteries. I look at *Eyes Closed Tight* as old-fashioned crime fiction that's been updated."

Part of his research came from spending several weeks shadowing

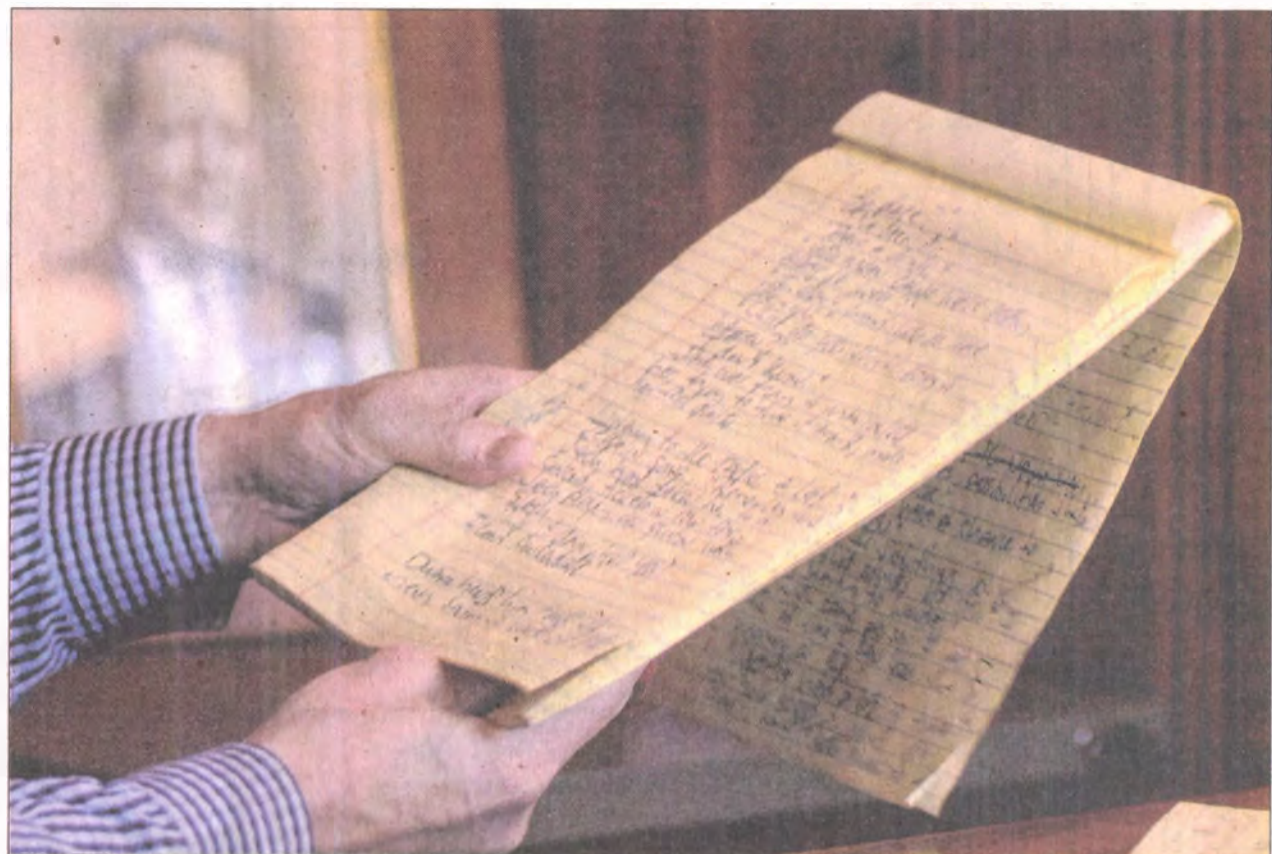
the Detroit homicide unit. He went out on the afternoon shifts and more than once found himself observing a murder investigation.

"The first scene I went to, there wasn't a body," he said. "It was a drive-by shooting — the person who was shot was taken to a local hospital."

"What I saw was the car the guy was riding in, the bullet holes in the windshield and blood all over the interior. I walked around to the driver's side of the car and saw four bullet holes in the driver's door. There was a down vest where the driver had been — and in the vest pocket was a stack of hundred dollar bills. It was eerie to see it."

And then a little Elmore comes out in him: "One observation: the black guys were way better dressed than the white guys," he said about the detectives. "I was struck by how stylish they were. It was in the dead of winter when I went out with them and these guys were wearing cashmere coats with their Borsalino hats. They looked good."

Life after Elmore
There's another photo in the study, a black and white snapshot of Elmore's dad. Peter Leonard never met him.



Peter Leonard writes all his first draft material on legal pads. His dad did the same, only his pads were unlined. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Peter Leonard during an interview at his home in Birmingham.

"He died before I was born," Leonard said. "He was a dude — well dressed, well groomed. He owned a Chevy dealership in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and wanted Elmore to take over the business. But Elmore wouldn't have any of it. He wanted to be a writer."

The family grew up in Lathrup Village. Before Elmore was truly famous, he was the somewhat eccentric dad who drove a Fiat and grilled an onion-topped burger for the neighborhood kids that he proudly dubbed the Elmore Burger. "He was the odd guy — all my friends had fathers

"When you write as I do, no one thinks you really have a job. My wife doesn't, so I'm fair game if somebody needs to be picked up at the airport or they need help moving something."

PETER LEONARD

who worked for the auto companies in some way," Leonard said. "But it's interesting that my dad always knew what he wanted to do. If you want to be a writer, how do you make a living? Eventually, maybe you do. But you never know." Leonard said his dad was still around when he was writing *Eyes Closed Tight*. "Elmore was going through a lengthy divorce

and he would have dinner at my house maybe four times a week," Leonard said. "He was working on a novel called *Blue Dreams*, his 46th, and he would talk about the scenes he wrote that day. He would light a Virginia Slims 100. I'd pour him a glass of wine and we were off."

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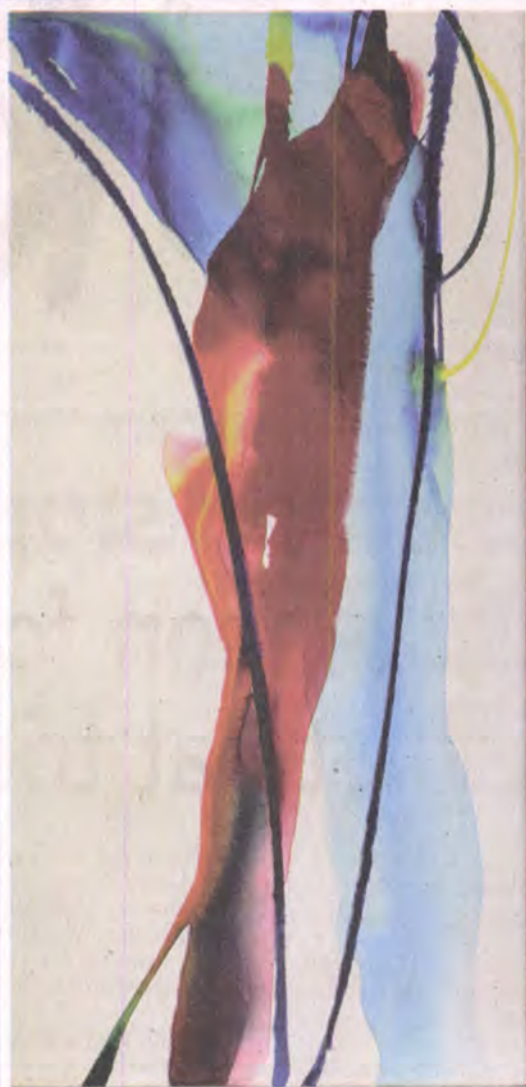
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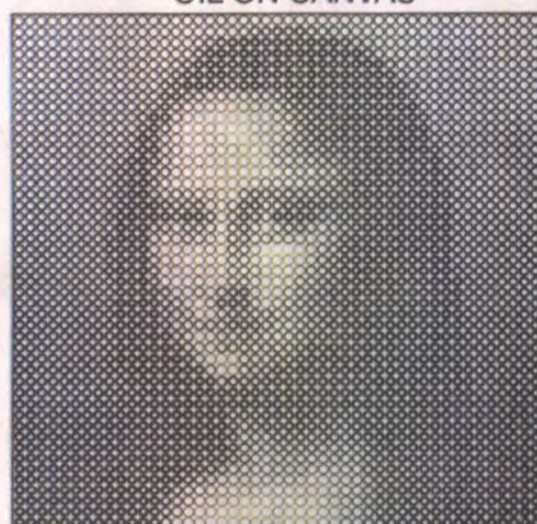
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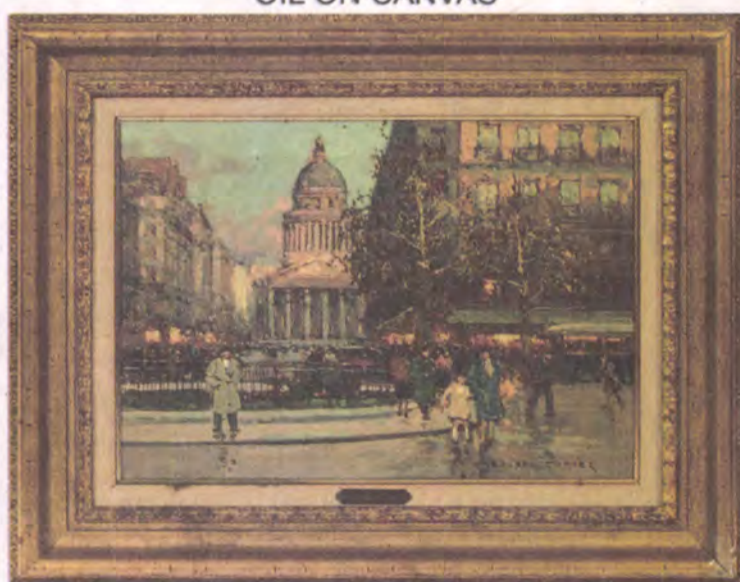
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John Glenn runs into Romulus roadblock again



Romulus center Matthew Eldridge (left) and John Glenn's Mychael Bradley fight for a rebound in the first half of the Class A district semifinal at Belleville. JULIAN H. GONZALEZ | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Defending Class A champions defuse Rockets' bid, 68-56

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Like a bad penny, perennial state power Romulus always seems to come up for Westland John Glenn in the Class A boys

basketball district tournament. And Wednesday night was no exception, as the defending state champs ousted Glenn for the fourth time in five years, 68-56. Romulus, which survived a 57-51 scare Monday from district host Belleville, takes its 18-4 record into Friday's championship game against Taylor Truman (20-2), which romped to a 76-48 win over rival Taylor Kennedy in the first game of

the doubleheader. (Game time is 7 p.m. at Belleville.) Glenn, the KLAA South, Kensington Conference and KLAA Association champ, goes out with a 15-6 record. "We only lost one game in 2014, but they're better than us," eighth-year Glenn coach Dan Young said of the Eagles. "They got a lot of guys that you have to deal with and

See GLENN, Page B3



Stevenson's Jailen Webber tries to dribble around Thurston defender Brandon Marshall. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Thurston stops Stevenson for district hat trick

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Winning district boys basketball titles is becoming old hat for Redford Thurston.

The Eagles garnered their third straight Friday night with a hard-fought 55-49 win over Livonia Stevenson in the Class A final at Livonia Franklin.

Thurston, which improved to 14-7 overall, will try and extend their season Monday night as a huge underdog when they face host Detroit Cass Tech, which upset No. 2-ranked Detroit Pershing. (Game time is 7 p.m.)

"We're going to go out there, play the way we play, and give it our best shot," Thurston coach Brian Bates said. "What happens, happens. It will be the third time out there and it's not new to the guys. We're going to play Cass Tech and the kids are excited."

There were more than a few moments when Thurston's third straight district crown appeared to be in jeopardy.

But the critical swing came after Stevenson junior guard Jailen Webber soared in for a layup to cut Thurston's lead to 36-34 with just three seconds left in the third quarter.

But on his way back down the floor, game official Chuck Phillipson whistled Webber, who finished with 12 points, for an unsportsmanlike technical foul.

Senior forward Xavier Crofford then made two free throws and Curtis Cobbs nailed a triple at the buzzer from the top of the key to put the Eagles up by seven, 41-34.

Thurston extended its lead to nine to start the fourth quarter and held on at the finish despite 11 points from Stevenson junior Noah Campbell, who led all scorers with 23 points.

"I think my guy (Webber) was trying to get back in he was trying to extend the arm to block the pass," Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said. "To me, it's a warning, but I'm not going to complain about it. I thought it was a warning, but I didn't think it was a technical. It was a five-point swing and we lost by six."

The Crofford brothers, Xavier and Isiah, paced Thurston's balanced scoring attack with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

"The Crofford brothers have been awesome all year along," Bates said. "X' is

See HAT TRICK, Page B3

Bedell inks pro contract with Columbus Crew

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

After signing a Major League Soccer contract Wednesday, former Livonia Churchill High standout Adam Bedell hopes to loom large with the Columbus Crew.

The 6-foot-7 forward has the distinction of being the first University of Detroit Mercy player drafted by an MLS team after going as the seventh pick in the third round (45th overall) in the 2014 MLS SuperDraft held in January.

And when he makes his first appearance with the Crew, which opened its season Saturday, Bedell will become

the second Churchill High player to appear in an MLS game joining Real Salt Lake head coach Jeff Cassar, who was a goalkeeper for the Dallas Burn, Miami Fusion and FC Dallas (1996-2001 and 2003-06).

Cassar, who played at Florida International University, was the eighth player selected overall in the 1997 MLS College Draft.

"It's very exciting, I've been waiting for this moment for a long time," said Bedell in an audio interview on the Crew's website. "And I couldn't be more excited to be in Columbus and this great organiza-



Bedell

tion." During the 2014 pre-season, Bedell competed for a roster spot and logged 75 minutes of action in three appearances. He scored the Crew's third goal in the 3-1 victory over Toronto FC on Feb. 19.

"Adam is a strong, tall target forward that gives additional depth this season," Crew sporting director and head coach Gregg Berhalter said. "We drafted him because we felt he would make a strong addition to the team and we were pleased with his effort throughout this pre-season that secured his spot on our ro-

ster." Per club and MLS policy, additional terms of the signing were not disclosed.

With the help of U-D coach Nick Deren, a Livonia Stevenson High grad, Bedell was able to get an invite to the Crew's Combine in December.

Bedell certainly had the credentials to earn a tryout after finishing his Titan career among the leaders in several major statistical categories that included sixth all time in career points (67), goals (23) and assists (22). In 2012 he was named the Horizon League's Player of the Year.

"After the Combine, I spoke with Gregg and we had a nice

conversation," Bedell said. "From there on, we played the waiting game. Couple days before the draft, you had your phone by you all the time, looking at things ... you're trying to stay busy with other things because you don't want to be distracted, but it's definitely on your mind all the time. Getting that phone call that I was going to get drafted was definitely exciting and definitely a relief."

Seizing the moment, Bedell was able to take advantage of his opportunity during the pre-season.

"It's been good," he said.

See BEDELL, Page B2

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Livonia Blue takes 8th in MHSAA team finals

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The atmosphere was electric for Friday's MHSAA Girls Gymnastics team finals held at Plymouth High School.

And the home team Canton came away with its first-ever state championship with a total of 146.65 points, while Grand Ledge and Farmington Unified took second and third with 144.25 and 144.200, respectively.

Two other Kensington Lakes Activities Association teams, host Plymouth (141.325) and at-large qualifier Livonia Blue (137.95) placed sixth and eighth, respectively, among the 13 schools.

Other KLAA teams in the field included Brighton, seventh (138.925); Howell, ninth (137.45); and Walled Lake Western-Northern, 12th (134.35).

"It was loud and it was crazy," Livonia Blue coach Lisa Broomfield said. "We were absolutely rooting for Canton to win. We wished them luck through the events and they cheered as loud as they could when we took the stage. It was great. We wanted Canton to come out and do what they've done all season long, get that



Livonia Blue's Jillian Zafarana goes through her balance beam routine Friday at the MHSAA Girls Gymnastics team finals.



Livonia Blue sophomore Bri Rhoad tries to keep her balance on the beam during Friday's MHSAA team finals at Plymouth. PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

top score and get their first state title. We were pleased watching that and being a part of that atmosphere for them."

Livonia Blue's top event was floor exercise (35.45) followed by vault (34.55), balance beam (34.50) and the uneven

parallel bars (33.45).

And although Livonia Blue couldn't match its regional team score of 140.45 at the state finals, it was a productive day.

"The day went really well, I was pleased with a lot of the

performances that we did have," Broomfield said. "Scoring is going to be more difficult at the state finals. We threw a couple of new skills today on events for different gymnasts. Most of them hit their routines today. Some of them had rough days today, but it's good practice for tomorrow's individual state finals. I'm looking forward to

tomorrow and seeing what they can pull together again. It was like an extra practice today for them."

Sophomore Bri Rhoad was Livonia Blue's top performer as she scored a team-best 9.025 on the uneven bars followed by a 9.0 on floor.

Catie McDougall recorded a team-best 8.8 on vault, along with a Blue-best and high score of the day 9.125 on the balance beam.

Other high scores on the day from Livonia Blue competitors included Emily Chatterjee, floor (8.925); Alex Zukowski, vault (8.825); Jillian Zafarana, floor (8.725); Jess Weak, vault (8.65); and Nicole Sokolowski, vault (8.25).

"We had a couple falls," Broomfield said. "We had a couple of new routines put together for this event. Our thing was to go out there and do as well as you can with nothing to lose. They tried a couple of new things and didn't quite hit today. But since they did it today, hopefully they'll be able to hit it tomorrow."

The Division 1 and 2 individual finals will start at noon, also at Plymouth.

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Crusaders hit Florida home stretch with 12-7 record

After a rainout Thursday and an off-day on Wednesday, the Madonna University baseball team got back to diamond Friday, splitting a double-header with Evangel (Mo.) University in the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational.

Sophomore right-hander Evan Piechota (Livonia Stevenson) threw a complete-game four-hitter as the Crusaders captured the opener, 9-3, at Pat Thomas Stadium in Leesburg, Fla.

Piechota struck out five and walked three as he evened his record at 2-2.

Taylor Grzelakowski paced MU's eight-hit attack going

2-for-3 with two RBI, while Ryan Lambrecht went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Ben Matigian (Livonia Churchill), John Lauro, Christian Holder and Ryan Lech also knocked in runs.

In Game Two, Evangel evened its record at 7-7 with a 2-0 win as pitcher Koby Gaddis (3-0) allowed just two hits, walked two and struck out four in going the distance.

Losing pitcher Adam Prashad also went all seven, scattering seven hits with no walks while striking out three.

Evangel scored both runs in the top of the sixth highlighted by Brandon Cobb's solo homer. Christian Manciel also went

2-for-3 with an RBI.

Shane Dokey and Lauro had the lone hits for MU, which entered its final game Saturday against Trinity (Ill.) International with a 12-7 record.

BENEDICTINE (ILL.) 6-3, MADONNA 2-10: On Tuesday, Madonna (11-6) was able to salvage a split of double-header against Benedictine University-Springfield (3-3) held at Chain of Lakes Park.

After losing the opener, 6-2, the Crusaders pulled out a miracle rally in the bottom of the seventh, scoring 10 times to stun the Bulldogs, 10-3.

Offensive stalwarts for the Crusaders, who improved to 11-6 overall, included Ben Matigian (3-for-5, two RBI), Taylor Grzelakowski (2-for-3, three RBI), Donny Holland (three RBI) and Shane Dokey (two hits).

Senior righthander Travis Schuba, who joined the team Sunday in Florida after finishing his basketball season Saturday in Grand Rapids, improved his record to 2-0 with three scoreless innings of relief to rescue starter Justin Hicks.

In Game One, Luke Lavin allowed just two hits over

six innings and Blake Seibert went 2-for-3 with four RBI to propel Benedictine (3-3) to the win.

MU starting pitcher Jake Varcio was roughed up for six earned runs on six hits in 3.1 innings. Dylan Cooper pitched 3.2 innings of scoreless relief.

Grzelakowski went 3-for-3, while Matigian added two hits and Ryan Lech knocked in two runs.

MADONNA 8, BENEDICTINE (ILL.) 3: Taylor Grzelakowski went 3-for-5 with three RBI and Zach Schmidt added three hits and two RBI on Monday as Madonna (10-5) turned back Benedictine-Springfield (2-2) at Chain of Lakes Park.

Winning pitcher Alec Padilla went the first five innings to pick up the win. He allowed just two hits, walked one and struck out six. Reliever Dane Staples pitched three scoreless frames.

POINT PARK (Pa.) 5-4, MADONNA 0-6: On Sunday, No. 19-ranked Point Park University (4-5) and Madonna (9-5) split a twinbill at the Lake Myrtle Complex.

Alex Mateo pitched a complete-game, seven-hit shutout in the opener as the Pioneers earned a 5-0 win in the opener.

Yulicer Arias (3-for-4) and Javy Marticorena (2-for-4, two RBI) keyed Point Park's 10-hit attack.

Losing pitcher Evan Piechota (1-2), a sophomore from Livonia Stevenson, gave up two earned runs over six innings.

Shane Dokey and John Lauro each collected two hits. In Game Two, Travis Schuba (1-0) pitched two

innings of scoreless relief as the Crusaders broke a 4-4 tie with two runs in the eighth to earn a 6-4 triumph.

MU Adam Prasad worked the first five innings, while Dalton Ovesen led the offense going 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Tim Birko went 4-for-4 for the Pioneers.

MADONNA 9-7, HANNIBAL-LAGRANGE (Mo.) 2-6: On Saturday, Madonna (8-4) opened its Russ Matt Central Florida Invitational trip by sweeping a pair from Hannibal-LaGrange (3-8-1).

Thomas Daffern went 2-for-3 with three RBI while freshman Dee Jawad added two hits as MU took the opener, 9-2, thanks to six runs in the seventh inning.

Winning pitcher Tyler Schofield (1-1) went five innings in relief of freshman starter Mike Kanitra (Livonia Stevenson), who worked two scoreless

innings.

In Game Two, John Lauro knocked in two runs, while Jawad and Shane Dokey each collected two hits in a 7-6 victory.

Starter Alex DeYonker (Livonia Franklin) went the first 4.2 innings before giving way to Justin Hicks, who got the win. Hicks got five outs and Dan Storey came on for the final two to pick up the save.

Madonna softball ends spring trip with 11-4 record

The Madonna University women's softball team had its seven-game winning streak snapped with a 4-3 loss to Shawnee State (Ohio) on Thursday morning, but rebounded for a 5-2 win over Northwood (Fla.) in the afternoon to close its 2014 spring trip at Chain of Lakes Park in Titusville, Fla.

The Crusaders end their first week of their season at 11-4 overall, including wins in eight of their last nine games.

Freshman righthander Erin Combs picked up the win for MU in the circle, throwing the first six innings, allowing two runs on five hits while striking

out six. Reliever Bree Crampton threw a scoreless seventh.

Combs (4-2) helped her own cause at the plate, going 2-for-3 with two RBI, while sophomore second baseman Emma Cook was also 2-for-3 with a RBI.

The loss dropped Northwood to 6-12 overall.

In the opener, Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) belted a 3-run homer in the top of the fifth inning to knot the game at 3-all, but Shawnee State answered with the game-winning run in the bottom half of the inning.

Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill) also collected two

hits for MU.

Hannah Foster, Holly Brabson and Kirsti Yates each collected two hits and one RBI for the victorious Bears (4-5).

Winning pitcher Miranda Pauley (3-1) scattered six hits and a walk over seven innings.

Crampton (6-2), who allowed three earned runs on eight hits and a walk, took the loss. She struck out eight.

Mayes sets record

On a day where senior Erin Mayes set the career home run



Mayes

mark, MU swept a pair of games downing Concordia University (Ill.), 3-0, before taking down Shawnee State, 4-1, Wednesday at Chain of Lakes Park.

Mayes, who needed one homer coming into the season to put her name at the top of the record book, launched her 20th career long ball in the fifth inning against Shawnee State to break a tie with Ashley Shay (2008-11) and Jamie Bobrowski (2001-04) at 19 homers.

The homer was part of Mayes' 3-for-4 effort at the plate against the Bears (2-5).

The senior first baseman from Ida also drove in three runs as the Crusaders improved to 9-3 overall.

Cook and freshman Morgan Kaiser both collected a pair of hits as well in support of Crampton, who allowed just two hits while striking out a career-high 15 batters (without issuing a walk).

In the win over Concordia, Combs threw a three-hit, complete-game shutout. She struck out four and walked only two.

Mayes went 2-for-2 with an RBI, while Creighton also knocked in a run.

EMU signs Jaguar



Livonia Stevenson High senior Olivia Kitz, a member of the Michigan Jaguars, recently signed a NCAA Division I letter of intent to play soccer at Eastern Michigan University. Kitz, a central defender, has been a member of the Jaguars' Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Cup championship team. She played two seasons at Stevenson earning Freshman MVP and Best Newcomer awards, while also making the 2011 All-Observer (second team). In 2012, Kitz earned All-District and All-KLAA honors, as well as her academic letter. Kitz will graduate in June with Cum Laude academic honors. She will join an EMU team that finished 12-7-2 overall and captured the Mid-American Conference regular season championship last fall. LORI HYMAN



Livonia Churchill grad Adam Bedell (left) recently signed a pro contract with the MLS Columbus Crew. COLUMBUS CREW | PHOTO

BEDELL

Continued from Page B1

"When we went into Bradenton (Fla.) for the first leg of the preseason we were just kind of warming up to each other and getting know each other. People were focusing on playing and things like that. But now that we've gone through the second leg of preseason, and getting into the season coming up here — the weekend — the guys are great and we've gotten to know each other really, really well. We're kind of meshing as a group and it's good to see and it's good to be a part of it."

And when the Crew travels Saturday for its MLS opener, Bedell will have the distinction of being the tallest player in the MLS, as he was recently measured at 6-foot-7 $\frac{3}{4}$.

"My size ... that's the first thing when you're looking at me you see," said the former high school basketball standout.

"At 6-7, 6-8, you've got to be a presence in the box. My feet are great. I have good feet and I think I've shown them that. My finishing ability in the box can always get better, but I think that's a strong point in my game. And I think I've shown that so far."

And after signing his initial pro contract, Bedell is already eyeing a permanent residence in Columbus.

"I've stayed at a hotel for over a month now," the forward said. "Definitely ready to settle in to my own place. I think I've found a place and I should be moving in there soon."

And once Bedell steps onto to the field, he'll fulfill a lifelong dream.

"My first game will be everything I've waited for being a pro soccer player," he said. "It will be exciting, a rush of emotion for sure. Hopefully I'll keep the emotions in check and use it as a positive and just work hard and show what I can."

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Henry resigns as Schoolcraft men's coach

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Randy Henry's seven-year stint as Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach is over. The 59-year-old Henry, who went 14-15 this season en route to a sixth-place finish in the MCCA's Eastern Conference, decided to resign Friday after a pair of meetings with Schoolcraft Athletic Director Sid Fox. Henry, a longtime producer and director for WDIV-TV's early morning show on Channel 4, went 68-134 during his seven seasons as Ocelots coach with his only winning season coming in 2011-12 when the Ocelots finished 19-12.

"I'm looking to do something different," Henry said. "I got some chances to start working with some videos and things along that line. I had a good run my seven years, not wins and losses, but a good experience working with a lot of young men while I was there." According to a press release sent Friday by Fox, Henry cited his desire to devote more time to business opportunities and to his work with the B.A.L.L. Foundation, a local non-profit he founded that helps metro Detroit youth develop athletic, learning and life skills. "He is a charismatic coach who always took pride in repre-

senting the college and did so with class," Fox said. "The academic progress of his student-athletes always came first. He was a consistent supporter and advocate of our Student-Athlete Support System, which provides academic support for all of our student-athletes." The 6-foot-8 Henry is a graduate of Detroit Redford High School. He played four seasons at Illinois State under the legendary Will Robinson, who became the first black head coach in the NCAA Division I ranks. Henry was also a former assistant under Glen Donohue at St. Mary's College in Or-

chard Lake. He took over the Ocelots' program in 2007-08. "Schoolcraft is one of the greatest places you can work for, and it really was," Henry said. "Everybody from president, down to the custodians, it was a great place. I'm going to miss the practices and being around the kids because I was always around them trying to help them grow as people, and not just as basketball players. I wasn't trying to get them to the NBA, I was just trying to get them to enjoy the college experience. I'll also miss the competition and the games." Henry's successor is anyone's guess, but three-year assistant coach Vitor Imbuzei-

ro might be a candidate if Schoolcraft decides to keep the job in-house. Schoolcraft is scheduled to return nine of its 12 players from this year's squad, which was ousted Tuesday by perennial NJCAA Division II power Flint Mott CC, 105-55, in the first round of the District 10 playoffs. "This year was really tough," Henry said. "Everybody wants to win. As a competitor you want to do well for the school, but we struggled those seven years I was there. It (the losing) wears on you." bemons@hometownlife.com
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GLENN

Continued from Page B1

they're good off the dribble and they can shoot it. They have a lot of good players. It's hard to guard when they get rolling. And when they start knocking threes, it's really hard."

Glenn came into the game winning 14 of its last 15 games, but the Eagles were in command much of the night, with the exception a brief stretch in the second quarter, when the Rockets forged ahead, 20-17, on a pair of free throws by 6-foot-4 senior forward Isaac Everette, who led all scorers with 26 points.

Romulus, however, turned up its ball pressure and ended the first half on a 15-2 run to lead 32-22.

"You can't win championships without playing defense," said first-year coach Jerret Smith, who once played at Glenn before transferring to Romulus for his junior and senior years. "And that's what our kids have to understand. When you can sit down and stay in a stance, you can be OK. When you don't do good stuff like that, you're not a good team."

Romulus was plenty good, both defensively and offensively.

In the third quarter alone, the Eagles made 9-of-17 shots from the floor to open up a 20-point lead.

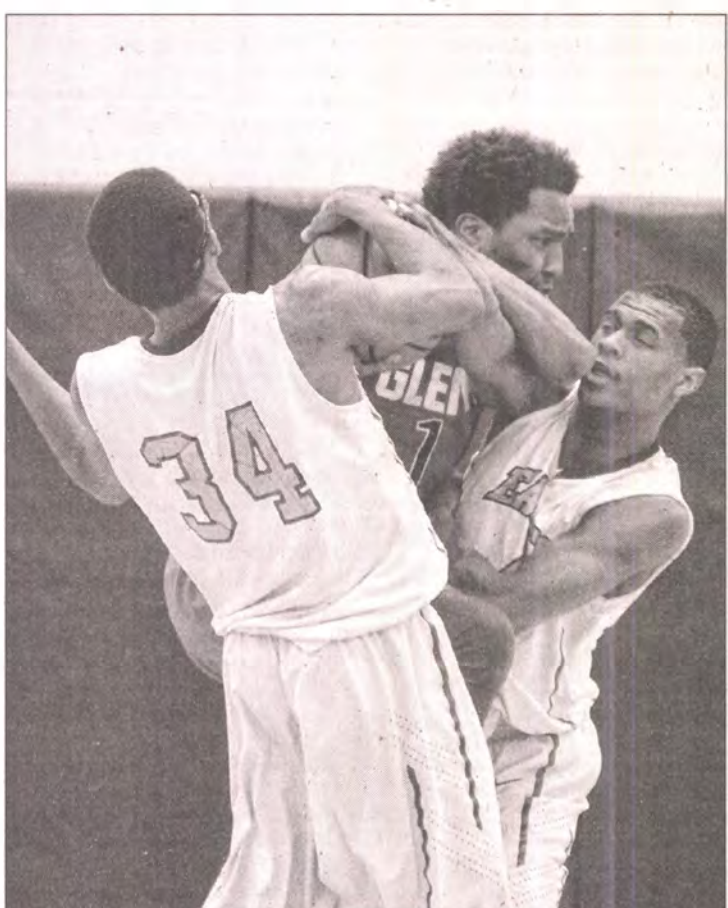
"They were trapping the ball, took us out of our stuff," Young said. "He (Smith) did the right thing, tried to make it faster and get his athletes running. The second half, when they really started trapping the ball and coming at us, and making us play a little faster ... it was hard."

"Their best offense is that transition defense stuff. Once they got that going, it's very difficult. Then you have to come out of your zone and guard all those different guys. It makes it very tough."

Romulus led 52-37 after three quarters and never let the Rockets get closer than 12 the rest of the way.

For the game, the Eagles made 30-of-62 shots from the floor (48.3 percent) and committed just five turnovers.

Kris Clyburn paced Romu-



Romulus' Kenneth Henry (left) and Khaire Williams (right) tie up John Glenn's Isaac Everette during the second half of Wednesday's Class A district semifinal. JULIAN H. GONZALEZ | GANNETT MICHIGAN

lus with 21 points, while Jaylin Walker contributed 17.

"I said from the get-go, if we could score, we could hang," Young said. "If we couldn't score enough ... obviously, it's hard to contain those guys. That's always been the deal. Two years ago (66-64 loss), we could score enough to be able to stay in a zone."

Senior guard DeAngelo Kirksey and senior forward James Pruitt added 10 and nine points, respectively, for the Rockets, who shot 19-of-50 from the floor (38 percent) and committed 13 turnovers.

"The only thing for us to win it and take us to a state championship is to play defense for 32 minutes," Smith said. "Glenn came out and played tough. Every team is playing for their life right now. We came out too slow. You've got to understand teams have been coming out and jumping on us right away. We have to come out with the same intensity and match that intensity. We had

to pick it up, pick it up ... that's a great team (Glenn)."

Smith said Monday's narrow win over Belleville helped get his team refocused for the district semifinal challenge against Glenn.

"When you get to this point of the year, you've got to find ways to win," the Romulus coach said. "It doesn't matter if you're ranked or who you are, every kid doesn't want to go home right now. Every kid has got to play tough. I'm hoping that was our only bad game (Belleville) of the year. We've been coming out slow and we just have to come out and play on the defensive end and let that lead to our offense."

"None of these guys played in this district last year. We had eight guys in front of them who played, five Division I players and three others who went on to play college. These kids are a little inexperienced right now."

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HAT TRICK

Continued from Page B1

good on the perimeter. He's a senior and has been on three of these district championship teams now. He took over at a point in the game when we needed him to. And his brother (Isiah) is getting better every day. From the beginning of the year until now ... he's just a really good basketball player right now."

Sophomore point guard Brandon Marshall, who hit a key runner in the lane with 1:02 left after Stevenson closed to within four, added 11. Marshall also made six straight free throws in the fourth quarter.

"Brandon did a nice job," Bates said. "He had a couple games - and I don't want to say it - where he missed a couple down the stretch. He made them tonight and he came up big. He's a sophomore and he's grown up a lot this year."

Thurston trailed 15-13 after one quarter, but took a 25-20 halftime lead thanks mainly to second and third shot opportunities.

"I don't want to say we controlled the boards, but we were good on the boards tonight," Bates said. "We were bigger than they were and we got second and third chances, put-backs, and that's what we had to have to win the game tonight."

Bates' halftime message to

his team was simple and to the point.

"The game is not over," he said. "We need to come out and we need to attack, which we didn't do at the beginning of the second half. We just wanted to continue to play the way we did. We didn't start the half that way, but we ended it at least."

Stevenson made 21-of-52 shots from the floor (40.3 percent), while Thurston was 20-of-49 (40.8 percent).

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Sinawi said. "We missed two clear layups. My kids played hard. It was a hard-fought game both ways and unfortunately we didn't get enough bounces to go our way. And it's disheartening. That's their third in a row and it's frustrating for us to have to see that."

Rebounding loomed large in the final outcome.

"They're bigger than we are," Sinawi said. "That's what they (Thurston) do and we knew that going in. We were going to have to do a good job blocking out. They missed a lot of shots, but it was some of the putbacks that hurt us. We figured out a way to keep it close - not that we needed to - but the zone was effective. Our guys rotated, we got loose balls ... it's frustrating to see our kids play their butts off and not raise the trophy tonight."

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Stevenson's Devin Kelly (left) squeezes by Thurston defender Xavier Crofford in Friday's Class A district final at Franklin. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Madonna cagers reap WHAC honors

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference recently announced its 2014 men's basketball awards. A total of eight Madonna University players were honored.

Repeating as first-team selections as voted by the WHAC's 12 head coaches were seniors Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) and Travis Schuba (Rapid City/Kalkaska).

The 5-foot-10 Naubert earned first-team honors for the third straight season after becoming the first men's basketball player in league history (1992-present) to score 1,800 career points, record 700 career assists and pull in 500 career rebounds.

He led the WHAC and ranked sixth nationally in total assists with 188. His 6.0 assist per game average ranked him ninth in NAIA Division II. Naubert paced MU in scoring averaging 18.1 points per game while also grabbing 4.2 rebounds per contest to rank second on the team.

Schuba earned his second straight selection to the first team and ranks second on the team with a 14.3 points per game average. He ranks third nationally with 3.46 made 3-pointers per game as well as with his 105 made triples. He became MU's career 3-point

leader this season and has knocked down 399 triples in his career.

Meanwhile, fellow senior Fred Williams (Oak Park/Berkley) was tabbed to the honorable mention team for the second straight season. Williams averaged 11.9 points and 4.1 rebounds per game before suffering a season ending injury in December that limited him to 13 games.

Siena Heights junior guard Christian Covile (Westland John Glenn) also earned honorable mention honors.

Among those named to the Academic All-WHAC team included Naubert, Matt Jenkins (Plymouth/Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard), Derek Lennen (Schoolcraft), Jeff Schmitz (South Lyon) and Zach Wedesky (Fowlerville). To be selected, a student-athlete must be a junior or senior and have a 3.25 grade point average or better.

Jenkins, along with head coach Noel Emenhiser, were selected to the WHAC's Champions of Character team as each school selects one student-athlete who best displays the NAIA's Five Core Values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

Emenhiser, who guided the

Crusaders to a 20-13 record, was chosen by his fellow coaches as the coach that best displays those traits. It is the third time he has been selected in his career for the honor.

All-WHAC women

Madonna junior guard Rachel Melcher (Sterling Heights/Bloomfield Hills Marian), who averaged a team-best 16.5 points and 8.8 rebounds per game, earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors.

Fellow junior guard Chelsea Williams (Livonia Franklin) made honorable mention after averaging 14.9 points and 4.2 ppg.

Sophomore Tori Duffy (Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes), a transfer from the University of New Hampshire who averaged 11.3 ppg in her inaugural MU season, was selected to the WHAC's All-Newcomer squad.

Academic All-WHAC honorees included Melcher, Williams, Hayley Stempier (Dearborn Divine Child) and Dominique Mosby (Farmington Hills Mercy).

Freshman center Erin Menard (Livonia Churchill) was selected to the WHAC Champions of Character team.

Stevenson takes down Pats to earn spot in district finals

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson got the rematch it was looking for in the Class A district boys basketball tournament.

But the Spartans first had to take care of business Wednesday night against upstart Livonia Franklin, needing a 28-19 fourth-quarter run to subdue the host Patriots, 57-47.

Stevenson, now 6-15 overall, will play Redford Thurston for the district championship beginning at 7 p.m. Friday at Franklin. Thurston also advanced Wednesday with a 62-49 triumph over Garden City.

Thurston (13-7) beat Stevenson earlier this year (73-53 on Dec. 19) and ousted the host Spartans in the same district final from a year ago, 65-56.

Against Franklin, the Spartans jumped out to a 17-8 first-period advantage, but saw their lead dwindle to only one, 29-28, after three periods.

Junior guard Noah Campbell then tallied 13 of his team-high 15 points in the final period, including two big three-pointers, to help spark the Stevenson surge. And the Spartans also made all 10 of

their free throw attempts to help seal the victory.

"Noah was the difference," Sinawi said. "And we made some big shots. We got more run-outs like when we started the game. We got some fast breaks before they (Franklin) could set up their defense."

Senior forward J.T. McCallion and junior guard Jaijen Webber chipped in with nine points apiece for the Spartans.

Franklin (5-17), coming off a 46-44 upset win Monday in the district opener over rival Livonia Churchill, got a game-high 16 points from senior forward Nick Guest.

Senior guard Adam Monroe and senior forward Nick Mardausz chipped in with 13 and 11, respectively, for the Patriots, who shot 14-of-40 from the floor (35 percent) and 13-of-19 from the foul line (68 percent).

Billy Bonanno and McCallion took turns guarding Monroe, who was limited to 3-of-14 shooting after being the hero in Monday's victory over Churchill. Senior forward Devin Kelly also did his fair share on the defensive side as well.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

CHS Hall of Fame

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

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

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

Tickets are \$40 per person.

For more information, contact Rob Suida at 313-617-5448 or email rsuida@cmse-nergy.com.

Livonia pom clinic

The Livonia Middle School pom team will stage a clinic for girls in grades 5-8 who are Livonia Public Schools district residents from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 22, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia.

Included in the \$25 cost is a T-shirt. Participants will learn basics and a pom routine taught by currently Livonia Pom team members.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, email Andrea at Livonia-pom@gmail.com.

Bucks host games

The Michigan Bucks of the Premier Development League will host four top collegiate men's soccer teams, including NCAA Division I champion Notre Dame, in a series of exhibition matches Saturday, March 22 at Pontiac's Ultimate Soccer Arenas, 867 South Boulevard E., Pontiac.

One \$8 pass will get ticket holders into any of all four games which features Notre Dame, Michigan, Oakland University and Xavier.

And on Saturday, April 5 at Ultimate Soccer Arenas, men's and women's soccer teams representing Michi-

gan State, Michigan. OU and Northwestern will square off in the Best of the Midwest games. Tickets are also \$8 for an all-day pass if purchased online. (Group rates are also offered for 20 or more for \$7 apiece if purchased by a parent, coach or manager.

For more information, visit www.bucksoccer.com. You can also call Wayne Pirmann at 248-701-0526 or email wpirmann@bucksoccer.com.

Livonia pom tryouts

The Livonia Middle School Pom team will stage open tryouts for girls in grades 4-7, who attend Livonia Public Schools, from 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, March 27-28, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Churchill H.S., 8900 Newburgh, Livonia.

The tryout fee is \$10 (payable the first day).

For more information, or to obtain a registration form, email Andrea at Livonia-pom@gmail.com.

Coach-Pitch, T-Ball

The city of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage late registration for 2014 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and coach-pitch (ages 7-8) for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville school attendance area from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29, at the LCRC, 15000 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

Nonresident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, March 31, at the LCRC's Parks and Recreation office. Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (nonresident).

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

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

For more information, call 734-466-2410 (use option

No. 2).

Varsity pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom pon clinic (grades 3-11) will be from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12 at the high school fieldhouse (courts nos. 1 and 3).

The cost is \$25 (includes light snack, T-shirt and CD). You must register by Wednesday, April 2 to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Students must wear gym shoes and workout clothes.

For more information, email Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lyman@livoniapublicschools.org.

Women's golfers

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

Nonresidents are encouraged to join the 20-week league.

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

MU cross country

Madonna University will stage its summer cross country base camps for serious high school runners from 8:45-9:45 a.m. July 28 through Aug. 1.

The cost is \$75.

MU will also hold long runs from 7:30-9 a.m. on Saturdays, July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, at Cass Benton Park. The cost is a \$2 donation each long run.

For more information, email Madonna cross country coach Pat Daugherty at pdaugherty@madonna.edu. He can also be reached evenings at 734-658-0226 (cell) or 734-432-5634 (office).

Need tennis coach

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

Interested candidates should call Annapolis A.D. Scott Wiemer at 313-278-2610.

Newest Crusader



Livonia Stevenson senior Stephen Fenech (bottom row, middle) recently signed an NAIA National Letter of Intent to run cross county at Madonna University. The two-time Division 1 state qualifier was a three-time first-team All-Observer selection who owns the fourth-fastest 5-kilometer time in school history (16:04). Fenech also earned All-Wayne County honors twice and was team MVP. On hand for the signing were (top row, clockwise) Stevenson track and cross country coach Chris Inch, MU coach Pat Daugherty and parents Patrick and Sharon Fenech. LORI HYMAN

Whalers secure yet another playoff spot

Make it 23 years in a row. The Plymouth Whalers defeated host Niagara 4-3 Thursday night to qualify for the Ontario Hockey League playoffs for the 23rd consecutive season.

Plymouth clinched the eighth playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference with the victory.

Netting the game-winning goal with just 2:04 left in regulation was forward Matt Misteale, on a play set up by defenseman Nick Malysa and forward Francesco Vilardi.

Making 32 stops for the victory was Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, as the team rebounded from Wednesday's 11-2 loss at Erie.

Niagara's Luke Mercer put the IceDogs in front early in the first, but Plymouth's Yannick Rathgeb answered with a goal just 51 seconds later (from Misteale and forward Connor

Chatham) to make it 1-1.

It was 2-1 after the first, following the 27th goal of the season by Carter Verhaeghe.

The Whalers scored the only goals of the middle stanza to take a 3-2 lead into the third.

Vilardi netted his 13th of the year on the power play (from Rathgeb and Mitch Jones) and forward Ryan Hartman chipped in his 24th of the season, also on the power play, in the final minute of the game. Setting up Hartman's marker were forwards Carter Sandlak and Victor Crus Rydberg.

Niagara made it 3-3 at 15:43 of the third on a goal by Eric Ming, but Misteale found the back of the IceDogs cage behind goalie Brent Moran (28 saves) just over two minutes later for the winner.

Next for Plymouth (26-31-0-7, 59 points) is game at 2 p.m. Sunday at Compuware Arena against Saginaw.

Guide to Employment

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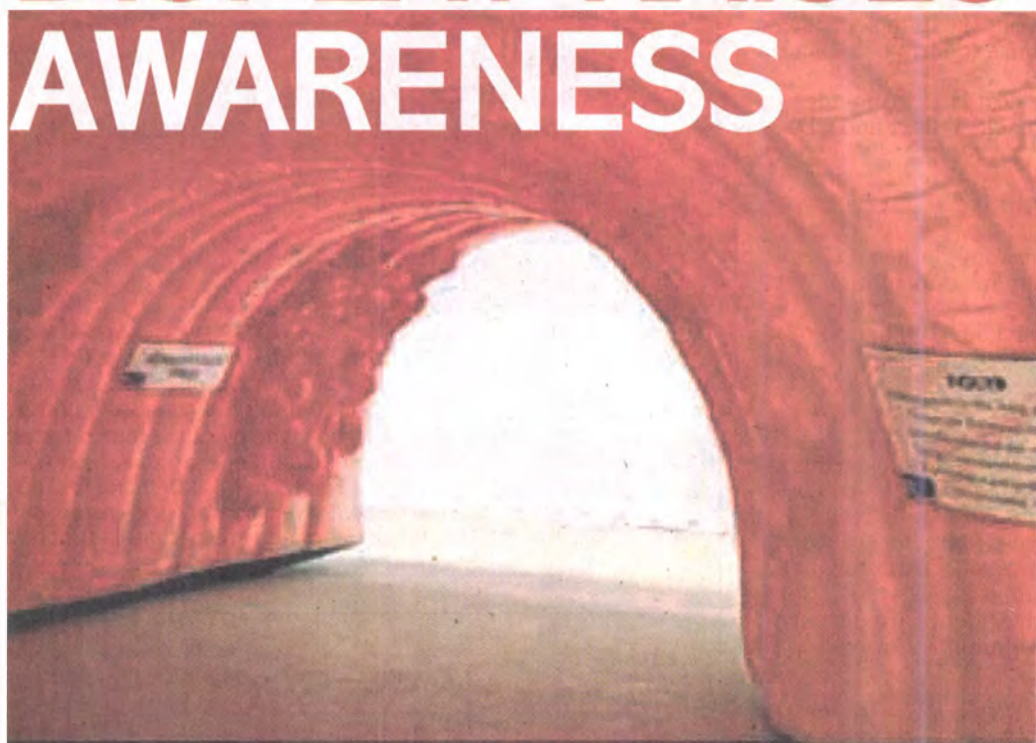
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DISPLAY RAISES AWARENESS



OF COLORECTAL SCREENING

In honor of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, the American Cancer Society will station a walk-through, giant colon display this month at several metro Detroit hospitals, as well as the Michigan Science Center.

» 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, March 10, at Josephine Ford Cancer Institute at Henry Ford Hospital, 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

» 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at St. Joseph Mercy Health System Ann Arbor, 5301 McAuley Drive, Ypsilanti

» 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield

Look for the inflatable walk-through colon, which is 20-feet long and 12-feet high, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 28, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at

the Michigan Science Center, 5020 John R, Detroit. Nutrition and colon cancer experts will be available during the two-day showing to answer questions and share educational materials related to healthy eating habits, the importance of exercise, knowing your family health history and risk of colorectal cancer, when to get screened for colon cancer, and more. The Karmanos Cancer Institute's Hamchandra Mahaseth, M.D., a colon expert, will answer questions from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Guests who buy general admission tickets to

the Michigan Science Center will have access to this special display at no additional cost.

Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in the U.S. for both men and women. Currently, only one in three adults receive their recommended colorectal screening tests, even though colorectal cancer is one of a few cancers that can be prevented with screening.

This year, more than 130,000 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and more than 50,000 Americans will die from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society. That's some 135 deaths every day, many of them preventable. For more about colorectal cancer, visit cancer.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

UPCOMING

AARP driving course

The AARP Smart Driving program is an eight-hour classroom refresher course for experienced motorists, 50 and older. It runs 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, March 12-13, in classroom 11 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. Participants will learn how to sharpen their driving skills, and develop strategies for adjusting to age-related changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time. They also will learn about the effects of medications on driving performance, about car safety, maintenance of the vehicle, and ways to prevent accidents.

Registration and attendance at both sessions are required. No walk-ins. \$15 fee for AARP members and \$20 fee for nonmembers. Register by calling 734-655-8950.

Breakfast class

A registered dietitian from Botsford Hospital will show how eating a healthy breakfast can help you stay healthy, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$5 and includes recipes, food samples, nutritional advice and a \$5 Busch's coupon. Tickets available from Busch's Guest Services Counter or by phoning 248-427-7400.

Celiac support

Chef Doug Cordier will prepare two gluten-free soups and will provide basic nutritional instruction at the next meeting of the Tri County Celiac Support Group, March 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Childbirth education

Learn about the stages of labor, managing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-section and more in classes that meet 7-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 3, 10, 17 and 24 at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Register by calling 248-888-2500 or visit www.botsford.org.

CoQ10 and more

Health educator Sandy Baumann will talk about "CoQ10, Magnesium, Vitamin D, and Omega-3 Fat," at a meeting of The Questers, Alexander Blue Chapter, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, at Greenmead, located at

Eight Mile and Newburgh, Livonia. \$10 and includes cost of workbook. Register by March 10 with Sue Lutz at 734-812-6857.

Drug series

Dawn Farms-sponsored programs at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti:

» "Eating Disorders and Chemical Dependency," 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, will examine the evidence that eating disorders are true biopsychosocial diseases, similar to chemical dependency.

» "Grief and Loss in Addiction and Recovery," 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, will describe theories of grief and grief recovery, losses that the chemically dependent individual and his/her family experience throughout the addiction and recovery processes, and how recovery program tools can help. Call 734-485-8725, or email info@dawnfarm.org.

First responder

Huron Valley Ambulance is forming a volunteer medical first responder team and will hold eight-week training classes for participants interested in volunteering at community events or assisting with community awareness programs and administrative tasks. An informational meeting is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Emergent Health Partners, 1200 State Circle, Ann Arbor. The free classes run from 6-10:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, beginning May 6. After completing the course, participants take a state exam for certification. Call 734-477-6331 for more information.

Hearing loss support

Don Evans of Zounds Hearing Center will talk about the company's product and answer questions at the next meeting of The Hearing Loss Association of America, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. For more information, call Tony at 734-664-3297.

Walk with a Doc

Marshall Solomon, a board-certified podiatric surgeon, will discuss "Better Shoes for Better Feet," noon Thursday, March 20, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Walks are held rain or shine. Register by calling 877-477-Doc1, option #1.

Two area hospitals named among top 100 nationwide

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield recently were named among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics, a company that provides information and solutions to improve health care cost and quality.

The Truven Health 100 Top Hospitals study identifies hospitals that offer the highest level of value to their communities, based on a national balanced scorecard. The scorecard measures hospital performance across a number of areas: mortality; inpatient complications; patient safety;

average patient stay; expenses; profitability; patient satisfaction; adherence to clinical standards of care; and post-discharge mortality and readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, and pneumonia. The study, which uses only public data sources, such as Medicare cost reports, for its calculations, has been conducted annually since 1993. Hospitals don't apply for the study, nor pay for honors.

This is the sixth time that both St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Providence Hospital and Medical Center have been recognized

for the honor. Providence also won Truven's Everest Award, which is given to hospitals that have shown the fastest, most consistent five-year improvement rates, in addition to top performance.

The 100 Top Hospitals study indicated that if all U.S. hospitals performed at the level of this year's winners, the average patient's stay in the hospital would decrease by half a day, more than \$5.4 billion in health care costs would be saved, and nearly 165,000 more lives would be saved.

For more information, visit 100tophospitals.com

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Local actor pens plays, performs unscripted improv

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sean Paraventi's newest and oldest plays run simultaneously this month at two different theaters in metro Detroit. And a third work hits the stage in April.

Not bad for a guy who wrote his first play after age 40.

"It's unprecedented. It's exciting," said Paraventi, considering that three of his seven plays will be staged this spring. "Two of the plays overlap by two weeks."

The Redford playwright and actor made his writing debut in 2010 at the Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company with *The Current*, a play about a bachelorette party that goes off-track when the bride-to-be and her friends visit a psychic. The comedy runs March 21 through April 13 at Two Muses Theatre in West Bloomfield.

On March 23, his newest work, *Broken Pieces*, about adult siblings who return home for their mother's funeral, will be read at the Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company's annual staged reading festival in Detroit.

Magenta Giraffe will stage Paraventi's drama, *Love Is Strange*, which focuses on a twisted relationship between two lovers, April 4-26.

"I try to be character driven," he said. "I want plays that everyone can be entertained at, not just theater people ... where people aren't checking their phones, where the average working class can enjoy the play."

"When I'm really in the zone, I just basically write until I feel I'm done. I find it helpful, even if I do it on my own, to have actors come together and read it, to hear it out loud and to have feedback."

Playwright premiere

Paraventi said he was "shocked" when the Magenta Giraffe, told him they planned to include *The Current* in their 2010 season, after it debuted in the annual staged reading festival. He had started writing after



Sean Paraventi of Redford is an actor and playwright.



Angie Brayman (left) of Livonia and Sean Paraventi of Redford work out a scene on stage at ComedySportz in Ferndale.



Kelly Rose Voigt, (left) Kristin Schultes, Diane Hill, Alysia Kolasz, and Tara Tomcsik rehearse a scene from Sean Paraventi's play, *The Current*, at Two Muses Theatre.

acting in a play that its author had self-produced.

"During the rehearsal process it inspired me. I thought I wanted to give it a try. Writing was something I always wanted to do," he said.

Paraventi, who is single, grew up in Detroit surrounded by siblings who also wrote and acted. His sister, Maureen, is a playwright, novelist, actress, editor and musician, who earlier this year participated in TLC Production's 24-hour play project in Canton. Sister Tina is a musician and actress. And their late sister, Kit, also was involved in theater.

He took business classes in community college, dropped out and moved to Los Angeles in the early 1990s.

"I did things opposite. When I moved to L.A. I didn't move to be an actor," he said. "For a long time I worked at Warner Brothers as a security guard. I lived in L.A. for over 10 years."

Becoming an actor

Paraventi credits Kit with encouraging him to take improv and acting classes. He trained with Gary Austin of The Groundlings, which laid a foundation for future improv work. He's currently a regular cast member at ComedySportz in Ferndale. During the family-friendly Friday-Saturday shows, two teams of improvisers compete in games and sketches for audience votes.

After returning to Michigan in 2003, Paraventi studied acting at The Purple Rose Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, and other venues. He has performed in commercials, film, television and in plays throughout southeastern Michigan, including, Waterworks Theatre's outdoor Shakespeare productions in Royal Oak.

Between his acting and writing schedule, Paraventi found time to create his own business

— a bicycle taxi service — the last two summers in downtown Royal Oak.

He also runs marathons. He started running in 2002 after he quit smoking and often trains along Hines Drive where he gives a wide berth to the Canada geese that "scare the hell" out of him as they cross his path.

"I ran the *Free Press* marathon last October. I lot of my friends are training for spring marathons. I'll probably do one in the fall."

For more about the Magenta Giraffe staged reading festival, visit magentagiraffe.org. For more about *The Current* at Two Muses Theatre, visit twomusetheatre.org. Read funny and fascinating facts about Paraventi on his website, seanparaventi.wordpress.com. Don't believe the reference to heavyweight boxing at the end of his acting resume — he says he put it there to see if anyone reads all the way through.

ON STAGE

» Hear a reading of *Broken Pieces* at 3 p.m. March 23 at Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, at the Abreact Performance Space, 1301 Lafayette, No. 1301, Detroit. A workshop-style discussion will follow the reading. *Broken Pieces*, which is about four grown siblings who return home to attend the funeral of their mother, is one of six plays selected for the Magenta Giraffe's sixth annual staged reading festival, March 21-23. Admission is by donation. 313-408-7269; www.magentagiraffe.org.

» See *The Current* at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21 through April 13, staged by Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. *The Current* centers on a bachelorette party that takes an interesting turn when the bride-to-be and bridesmaids visit a psychic on their way to the bar and realize that, although they have been friends since high school, there is still more to learn more about each other and themselves. Advance tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and senior citizens, available at twomusetheatre.org or by calling 248-850-9919. Tickets also available at the door for an additional \$2. Opening night includes a bachelorette party with prizes and games at 7:20 p.m. in the theater lobby. Audience members who stay after the show on Sundays will hear readings by area psychics. Donate a gently used bridal gown and receive two free tickets. The gowns go to The Bride's Project, which raises funds for cancer support programs in the Ann Arbor area.

» *Love Is Strange* runs April 4-26 at Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, at the Abreact Performance Space, 1301 Lafayette, No. 1301 Detroit. The play looks at the relationship between two lovers with a horrifying hobby. No minors admitted without a parent. Check magentagiraffe.org for performance times.



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It's fish fry time at local churches

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Catholic churches throughout southeastern Michigan began frying, baking and broiling fish dinners with the start of Lent last week.

The seafood dinners help parishioners refrain from eating meat on Fridays before Easter, offer a tasty treat to the community, and also build unity.

"We find that the fish fry events are a great way to bring the parish community together. We get everyone, really — families, retirees, parishioners, visitors — it's really a lot of fun," said Brent Haase of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth Township, where the OLCG Booster Club sponsors the dinner. "Our student athletes play a big role in supporting our fish fries volunteering as servers and helping to seat customers. We have student athletes from a different sport help out each week."

Most parishes offer a twist on the standard fried fare, with other seafood or pasta options. St. Kenneth Parish in Plymouth Township again will sell wine, clam chowder and salad in addition to its seafood dinners. Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Community in Westland added a combination plate to its menu this year for the first time.

Some parishes don't see the need to mess with a good thing.

"It's pretty much the same as last year," said Evelyn Griwicki of St. Dunstan's in Garden City, describing the fish fry menu. "We've gotten a lot of good response to it."

Ready to chow down?

Here's a sampling of area fish fry meals:

» Our Lady of Good Counsel, social hall, 42650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through April 11. Adult dinners are \$8, senior dinners are \$7, children's menu for ages 6-12, is \$5 and children, 5 and under eat for free. Adult and senior dinners include two 4-ounce pieces of fried fish or one 8-ounce piece of baked fish or six pieces of shrimp. A combo meal of shrimp and fried fish also is available. Dinners come with cole slaw, baked potato, roll. The children's meal includes potato chips and applesauce and offers a choice of fried fish, shrimp, chicken strips or macaroni and cheese. Carry-outs and a la carte available. 734-453-0326

» Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, Redford: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 18. Eat in or carry-out. Menu includes one- or two-piece fried fish and chips dinner, \$6.75 and \$8; shrimp dinner, \$9.25; baked orange roughly, \$9.75; baked file of salmon, \$9.50; clam strips and hush puppies, \$7.25; combo dinner, \$8.75; seafood platter, \$10. Dinners come with cole slaw and roll; most include either fries or choice of baked potato or rice pilaf. Pierogi, fish sandwich, mac and cheese and pizza also available. 313-534-9000.

» Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Power Road, Farmington: 4-8 p.m. Friday, March 28 and April 11. Held in the school cafeteria, the fish fry offers a fried or baked battered cod dinner that comes with French fries, roll, cole slaw and beverage. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for

seniors, and \$5 for children, 6-12. A crab cake dinner also is available for \$12, jumbo shrimp dinner is \$10 and macaroni and cheese is \$4. Clam chowder, pizza from Livonia Italian Bakery and desserts are a la carte. 248-474-5720

» St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia: 5-7 p.m. through April 11. Dinners are \$9 and include either broiled salmon or baked cod, and come with roasted potatoes, vegetables, cole slaw, roll, dessert, coffee tea, milk, pop or water. Children, age 10 and under, pay \$5 for either mac and cheese or a fish dinner. 734-425-5950

» St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road, Westland: 5-7 p.m. Fridays through Lent. Menu includes deep fried cod, for \$6-\$9; baked haddock, \$8; seafood platter, \$7; shrimp, \$9; crab cakes, \$10; herb-grilled salmon, \$11; and pierogi dinner, \$7. All dinners come with cole slaw, roll, drink and either baked potato or fries. 734-421-6130

» St. Dunstan's, 1515 Belton, Garden City: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 18. Fish may be ordered baked or fried. A one-piece fish dinner is \$5.50; two pieces are \$7; three pieces are \$8.50. Shrimp dinners and combo plates also are \$8.50. Dinners include fries or baked potato or macaroni and cheese, along with salad or coleslaw, a roll and beverage. Pizza and other items are available a la carte. 734-425-6720

» St. Genevieve-St. Maurice, in the activities center, 29015 Jamison, Livonia: 5-7 p.m. with a 4:30 early bird special for senior citizens, Friday, through April 11. The menu includes a



dine in. 734-721-8745
» St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, through April 11. Dinners feature baked or fried, hand-dipped Atlantic cod, mac and cheese, green beans, french fries, rolls, butter, and beverages. Adults, \$9; seniors and take-out, \$8; kids, 3-13, \$5; and kids under 3, free. 734-261-1455, Ext. 200

» St. Raphael Parish, 31530 Beechwood Ave., Garden City: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday through Lent. Good Friday hours are 3-7 p.m. on April 18. Battered Icelandic haddock dinner, shrimp dinner and combo dinners are \$8.50 each. Sandwich plate is \$7. Dinners include fries or mashed potato, coleslaw, roll, and beverage. Pizza slices are \$3-\$4. Carry-out available. 734-427-1533

» St. Robert Bellerme, corner of West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford: 4-7 p.m. Friday, during Lent. Deep fried or baked cod, along with three side dishes, roll and beverage is \$8.75 for adults and \$4.75 for kids, under 12. Side dishes include soup, salad, mac and cheese, cole slaw, vegetable, rice pilaf, fries, baked potato or hush puppies. Weekly special is \$10.25. Soup and salad bar is \$8.75. Mac and cheese dinner and pizza also available. Seniors, 60 and older, receive \$1 discount on dinners. 313-937-1500

» Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Community, 32500 Palmer, Westland: 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through April 11. Dinners are \$8 and include two pieces of fried fish, one piece of baked fish or six pieces of fried shrimp and include cole slaw, choice of potato, roll, beverage and dessert. A combination dinner is available this year for \$10. Children's fish dinner is \$6. Mac and cheese and grilled cheese also available. Carry-out or dine in. 734-722-1343

weekly "Seafood Special" that changes weekly, for \$10; fried white cod or seasoned baked cod; fried fish nuggets; macaroni and cheese, and cheese pizza. Meals include New England clam chowder or "soup of the day," baked potato or French fries, steamed vegetables, cole slaw, roll and coffee or punch. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for the half-hour early bird senior special, and \$6 for children, 12 and under. 734-427-5220

» St. Kenneth, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Township: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday through Lent. Good Friday hours are 5-7 p.m. on April 18. Dinners include fried fish, \$5; baked tilapia or baked salmon, \$6; fish platter or shrimp basket, \$6.50. Dinners come with baked potato or fries, green beans, salad, and beverage. Child's portion of fish or mac and cheese also served. Clam chowder, desserts and wine available a la carte. 734-420-0288

» St. Mary, 34530 Michigan Ave., Wayne: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 4. The \$9 dinner includes a choice of fried fish, baked fish or shrimp, and comes with a choice of fries or baked potato. The \$6 dinner offers mac and cheese, fried fish or baked fish and a choice of fries or baked potato. All dinners come with cole slaw, roll and beverage. Carry-out or

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Livonia-based Gallagher Fire Equipment Co. owners Alan and Rebecca Ross enjoy the 13th annual Unabashed Bashed at the Townsend Hotel. The event raised more than \$130,000 for the Birmingham Education Foundation. JULIE YOLLES

Appliance fires underscore need for recall awareness

After writing about the 195 million recalled appliances that are currently in American homes, my phone lines and computer have been very busy. One of the calls was from state Sen. Pat Colbeck who is looking into the matter to see what he can do.

As I've stated before, we need a system that informs a consumer any time there is a recall on an appliance. Right now, we have nothing and people are dying needlessly and homes are burning down and it's a crying shame that little attention has been given to this very serious problem. With today's technology, you would think that a little red light could be installed on the console of an appliance and if there is a recall on the particular model number, the manufacturer could flip a switch at the factory and everybody is made aware. This might have helped Lorraine who dropped me an email just after my previous column hit the stands.

She writes: "Joe, I am a senior who has followed your advice for many many years. I was victim of a dishwasher fire a long while back and the only thing I could do was spend my money to replace it. I always look for a positive though, and this one was that we were in the basement as I was getting ready to leave for work and telling my husband goodbye. I kept thinking I could smell something unusual like something melting. I walked up the stairs to leave and just glanced in the kitchen and my empty dishwasher that had not been run since the day before, was on fire burning through the door. I shudder to think what would have happened if I had not noticed, like my husband trapped in the basement and burning to death. I moved on, repaired the damage and thought about the good part. I know I would have recourse if it happened today. I am all for you getting that law into effect. We do need protection and appliances are just as important as cars. Joe, you have been the most considerate, knowledge-



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

able, caring and sharing person in the field beyond a doubt. I commend you and thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Faulty microwave

Folks, Lorraine is just one example of what I'm writing about and you can imagine how many stories like this and worse are being told by many appliance owners across this country. Her story reminds me of the time I was working the stage at a home improvement show and a lady came up to me and told me of her daughter's recent death. The daughter took a nap, the house caught fire and the young girl died. The fire department determined that the fire started in the microwave oven. The insurance company said the daughter had placed something in the microwave and then went to bed. The mother insisted that her daughter was much more responsible than that. She would never do something like that. As I sat there with tears rolling down my cheeks and her just sobbing, all I could do was offer my condolences. I've never forgotten that scene and when recently I read a report that stated, "microwave ovens are coming on by themselves" I thought of that grieving mother.

I don't know how long I will continue doing radio shows and writing this column as old age is making some unwanted gains. But before I go to appliance heaven I am determined to write one more law that makes someone accountable and creates a system that makes a homeowner aware of an appliance recall. Stay tuned.

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

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Art is FUN!



The month of March is recognized as Youth Art Month. Many schools take this opportunity to feature student's works of art. Did you create an art piece? Share it with us. Selected items will be featured in next month's Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights and on Scoop's Facebook page. Send a scanned picture or photograph of your artwork along with your name, age and community. It would be great to include a photo of you holding your art piece if possible.

My Hero

By Trevor Quattlander



Trevor Quattlander

"Oh, he broke another tackle and he scores" is what the announcer says when Barry Sanders gets the ball. Barry Sanders is not only my hero but my idol. I try every time to run the ball to never go down just like Barry Sanders did.



Although he wasn't the fastest player on the field, he had some moves. He had a running style like no one else. If a hole wasn't there he would go to the outside and find a hole. I think he has a great running style and that is why I admire him. That is why Barry Sanders in my hero and idol.

Jack The Noble Knight

by Griffin Bryan



Griffin Bryan

Once upon a time, a noble knight named Jack was guarding the king's castle when a messenger came to him and told him that a fierce and deadly dragon was terrorizing a city called Yanglehest, which was about 30 miles from the city that he was in called Edellbrook. Also, he said the king had requested Jack personally because Jack was a noble and brave knight.



A day later Jack set off on his journey to Yanglehest to slay the mighty dragon. He took food, armor, and supplies in case he needed them. In two days Jack had finally reached Yanglehest and what he saw was unimaginable. Houses were burned to shreds. Villagers were running around crazily; and above him flying around was the dragon! Quickly, Jack ran as fast as he could into the nearby house of about ten villagers to take cover from the dragon. He asked the villagers in the house if they knew how to kill the dragon but they said they didn't. One of the villagers told Jack that three warriors had tried to kill the dragon, but two of them fled. One of the warriors cut off the dragon's head but it grew two more heads and then the dragon ate him! Jack nervously said, "OK" and then he went out to face the dragon. Jack snuck around the outer wall of the house so he wouldn't be seen by the dragon, but the dragon saw him come out of the house. It swooped down and tried to eat Jack but Jack slit both of its throats. Jack then immediately remembered what the villager had told him and said to himself, "Oh no..."; and then the dragon grew three heads! So then Jack panicked and ran straight toward the dragon with his sword and he put the sword right in the dragon's heart. Then the dragon died instantly and became ashes.



The people of Yanglehest praised Jack and told him that he was their hero and that he could come back whenever he wanted. The two towns of Edellbrook and Yanglehest lived happily ever after.

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Snow

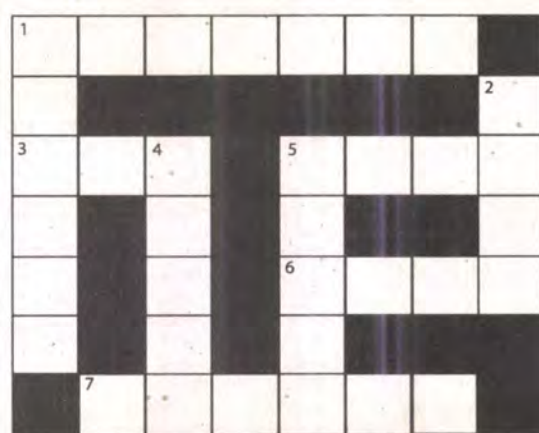
SPANISH: Nieve

ITALIAN: Neve

FRENCH: Neige

GERMAN: Schnee

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Making of higher temperature
- Negative
- In a short time
- In a different way
- Small, flat pieces something

DOWN

- Cold season
- Frozen precipitation
- Whole number
- Eaten between meals

Answers:
 Across
 1. Warming 3. Not 5. Soon 6. Anew 7. Flakes
 Down
 1. Winter 2. Snow 4. Total 5. Snack

Courtesy of Metro Creative

Mail contest entries, birthday forms and talent submissions to:

Scoop the Newshound, Observer & Eccentric Media, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit Mi 48226 or email your submission to cbjordan@hometownlife.com by **March 28**

Winning submissions will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

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Do background check on potential employer

By Alina Dizik
Contributing Writer

Job seekers aren't the only ones who should undergo a lengthy background check; it's important that candidates research the company, too. Anything from pending lawsuits, bankruptcies or layoffs can be enough to raise a red flag. It's important to understand what you're getting into before accepting any position.

Doing background research also will help you ask all the right questions during an interview and impress hiring managers. Not sure where to start when it comes to researching the company?

Here's how to conduct your own background check on a potential employer:

Check the finances

"Always look at the financial stability of the company," says Jonny Laurent, vice president

and general manager of Sage Employer Solutions, a recruiting firm. While it may be difficult to find specific information for a private company, it's important to try. Do online research, search local news sources and ask former or current employees -- do some quick digging to make sure your employer is viable. When companies experience important financial events like bankruptcies, there's a greater chance you'll be able to find out about them and track results.

Gauge the company culture

Speaking to current or former employees can help you understand whether you're a cultural fit with the company before you take the job. If you're not comfortable with areas of a company's culture, it can hurt your career. For example, a place that prizes cutthroat tactics to get ahead may be the wrong fit for someone who is looking for a team-oriented environment. "Find people in your network or close to your network who



do work or have worked for them and start a dialogue," says Laurent, who suggests LinkedIn as a good start. "Unless there is overwhelming evidence that the company is a bad fit, do not sell the company short and still interview, but now you can interview with open eyes."

Check its problem-solving record

The way a company approaches problems can be a good indicator of whether you'd want to work there and how the company treats its workforce. Before taking a job, find out "what has been the company's greatest challenge over the past year and how have they approached and solved the problem," says Jayne Mattson, senior vice president of Keystone Associates, a career management company with offices in New England. In a weak economy, it can be especially telling to see how a company has dealt with tough times. For example, if it's been able to grow an area of its business -- and you're being hired for a new position -- it can be a sign of good leadership.

Track layoffs and career progression

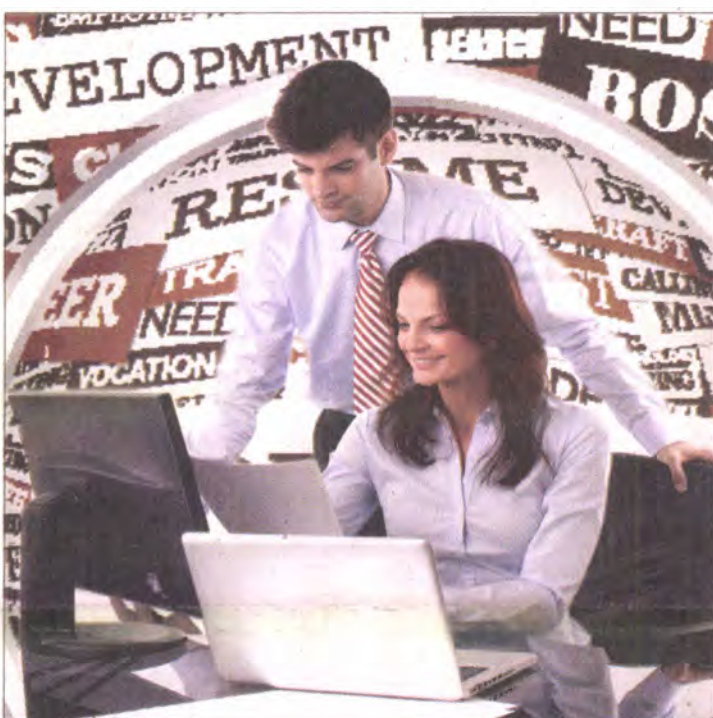
For most people, the biggest fear once they take on a new job is a layoff. And while that risk can't be entirely prevented, it's good to understand a company's track record. If the company has had multiple rounds of layoffs, it pays to be more careful when taking the role.

Additionally, try to find out who had your job previously, why she left and where she went. Knowing your career options after you're ready to move jobs can be a good way to gauge fit.

If you have any lingering questions, don't be afraid to

speak up when talking with the recruiter or during an interview with the company. Not only will it help calm your anxiety, but it'll show hiring managers that you've done your homework and understand the company. A background search "will help you and the company make sure the role is going to be a good fit for both of you," Mattson says. "Ask questions that will get to the heart of what you are trying to understand, so you will make the right career decision."

Alina Dizik researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder. Follow @Careerbuilder on Twitter.



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Help Wanted - General
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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Evergreen tree
 - 4 Get under one's skin
 - 7 Type of market
 - 11 Verdi heroine
 - 12 Caviar
 - 13 Dock
 - 14 Makes more interesting (2 wds.)
 - 16 Bookie's figures
 - 17 Wyoming range
 - 18 Unstable
 - 20 Mir successor
 - 21 This and that
 - 23 Humongous
 - 26 Fall fruit
 - 27 Luau number
 - 28 Crotchety and cantankerous
 - 31 Estimated
 - 33 Smallest amount
 - 34 Raspberry stem
 - 35 A great many
 - 36 Museum piece
 - 38 Suffix for hero
 - 41 Chaplain, slangily
 - 43 Stray calf
 - 45 Lemony
 - 47 Seemed attractive
 - 49 Wacky
 - 50 Grassy field
 - 51 Clothing
 - 52 Yellowstone sights
 - 53 Form 1040 info
 - 54 Ground breaker
- DOWN**
- 1 Egads!
 - 2 Goes over proofs
 - 3 Baylor University site
 - 4 Tax-collecting org.
 - 5 Carpenter's tool
 - 6 French Legion headgear
 - 7 Broadway turkey
 - 8 Pretty beetle
 - 9 Bring to a conclusion
 - 10 Super Bowl highlights?
 - 11 — spumante
 - 15 Register for
 - 19 Gym class, briefly
 - 22 Dried clover
 - 24 Seine vista
 - 25 Traipse about
 - 26 Four-footed pal
 - 27 Outcry
 - 28 Night hunter
 - 29 Greek letter
 - 30 Carp about details
 - 31 Pit stop purchase
 - 32 Battery terminal
 - 34 Crinkled fabrics
 - 36 QB stat
 - 37 Ph.D. exams
 - 38 Snow house
 - 39 Long bout
 - 40 Docs prescribe them
 - 42 Bothers over trivial things
 - 44 Solemn promise
 - 45 Pub pint
 - 46 Mountain pass
 - 48 Cook's vessel

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	I	N	D	B	I	B	G	A	T	E
A	V	E	R	A	N	A	L	I	E	N
D	E	B	U	T	A	N	T	A	N	T
D	U	E	T	A	S	T	A	S	T	E
F	R	O	G	D	R	E	G	S		
A	I	L	E	D	A	R	N	F	L	O
I	C	E	R	E	D	Y	E	A	I	D
R	O	O	A	M	O	S	I	D	L	E
			O	M	E	N	S	N	E	T
V	U	L	C	A	N	H	R	S		
C	H	I	T	D	I	A	M	E	T	E
R	O	M	E	S	P	T	I	D	Y	
S	H	O	T	D	O	E	S	A	S	E

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	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11					12				13			
14				15					16			
17						18			19			
20				21	22				23	24	25	
			26						27			
28	29	30				31	32					
33						34						
35				36	37				38	39	40	
			41	42				43	44			
45	46					47	48			51		
49						50						
52						53				54		

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

		3			7	5		
				9				1
		2	8		6			
	7				2			
8								5
6	2		4			7		
	6		3	1				8
			4					
			6	5		2		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

EXERCISE WORD SEARCH

E P D R R D R T A E B S B F S T S A K H
Y S T R E T C H I N G Y D D U B E M F S
N Y F B M G L V G N I T F I L A S H B G
G J L K T E Y R U N N I N G D Y S S E
N Q C S T O M O P T N I M R H C A E E L
I F V A N H P B G R L I E W U N L T T O
K O F E R O G S E A O N K V U E C A A C
L R C C N D I I X R A T G O E U S L R P
A M A G O E I T E L S E W B Q T I D D
W Y I D I L D O I W S H G I T E R P Y D
I R R J T L Y N V T A P I C N R F C H R
M U O X A A E C A A E E U P R F A E O R
Q J H F R R X I G T S P N K T L Y X B W
E N P I I M R Y P U E C E A O Q M E R I
R I U T P S B X L O T A U R K K H R A S
U D E N S D I F U K S Q I L M I T C C T
T T P E R F W K S R S E B K A N P I G R
S C Y S E G C X E O S P P W S R M S M O
O Q J S P I W Q X W O D E D N I W E B P
P P N O H T A R A M M U S C L E S L E S

WORDS

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- ARMS
- BUDDY
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- CARBOHYDRATES
- CARDIOVASCULAR
- CLASSES
- EUPHORIA
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- FORM
- FREQUENCY
- INJURY
- LEGS
- LIFTING
- MARATHON
- MEMBERSHIP
- MUSCLES
- PERSPIRATION
- PILATES
- POSTURE
- PROTEIN
- REPETITIONS
- RUNNING
- SETS
- SPORTS
- SPOT
- SQUAT
- STAIRS
- STRETCHING
- WALKING
- WEIGHT
- WINDED
- WORKOUT
- YOGA

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

4	1	8	6	7	5	3	2	9
5	3	9	2	4	8	6	1	7
2	6	7	3	1	9	4	8	5
6	2	5	4	7	8	1	7	9
8	9	4	7	6	3	1	5	2
3	7	1	9	5	2	8	4	6
1	5	2	8	3	6	9	7	4
7	8	6	5	9	4	2	3	1
9	4	3	1	2	7	5	6	8

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

E	P	D	R	R	D	R	T	A	E	B	S	B	F	S	T	S	A	K	H
Y	S	T	R	E	T	C	H	I	N	G	Y	D	D	U	B	E	M	F	S
N	Y	F	B	M	G	L	V	G	N	I	T	F	I	L	A	S	H	B	G
G	J	L	K	T	E	Y	R	U	N	I	N	G	D	Y	S	S	E		
N	Q	C	S	T	O	M	O	P	T	N	I	M	R	H	C	A	E	E	L
I	F	V	A	N	H	P	B	G	R	L	I	E	W	U	N	L	T	T	O
K	O	F	E	R	O	G	S	E	A	O	N	K	V	U	E	C	A	A	C
L	R	C	C	N	D	I	I	X	R	A	T	G	O	E	U	S	L	R	P
A	M	A	G	O	E	I	T	E	L	S	E	W	B	Q	T	I	D	D	
W	Y	I	D	I	L	D	O	I	W	S	H	G	I	T	E	R	P	Y	D
I	R	R	J	T	L	Y	N	V	T	A	P	I	C	N	R	F	C	H	R
M	U	O	X	A	A	E	C	A	A	E	E	U	P	R	F	A	E	O	R
Q	J	H	F	R	R	X	I	G	T	S	P	N	K	T	L	Y	X	B	W
E	N	P	I	I	M	R	Y	P	U	E	C	E	A	O	Q	M	E	R	I
R	I	U	T	P	S	B	X	L	O	T	A	U	R	K	K	H	R	A	S
U	D	E	N	S	D	I	F	U	K	S	Q	I	L	M	I	T	C	C	T
T	T	P	E	R	F	W	K	S	R	S	E	B	K	A	N	P	I	G	R
S	C	Y	S	E	G	C	X	E	O	S	P	P	W	S	R	M	S	M	O
O	Q	J	S	P	I	W	Q	X	W	O	D	E	D	N	I	W	E	B	P
P	P	N	O	H	T	A	R	A	M	M	U	S	C	L	E	S	L	E	S

Car Report



Nissan Gets Last Word on Ad as Sales of 2014 Rogue Keep Surging



By Dale Buss

Several weeks ago, Nissan was forced to issue a corporate apology for overwhelming NFL telecasts and other TV shows with the same advertisement for the new version of its Nissan Rogue.

But guess what? February sales results demonstrated that Nissan's blanket-advertising approach for its improved crossover — so annoying to some media pundits and others — was exactly the right strategy.

The crucial new version of Rogue feature better fuel economy, an available third-row seat and more technology features, correcting some of the important deficiencies in the original version that was an overall hit anyway.

Dealers moved this new Rogue at a blistering pace even amid the awful weather of February, and no doubt a good number of buyers had that annoying advertisement

dancing around in their heads.

Nissan Rogue sales increased by 72 percent in February over the year earlier, when the brand was selling an earlier version of the vehicle. Nissan sold more than 17,000 Rogues in the month, making the nameplate the second-highest-volume vehicle in the entire Nissan lineup, by far, after the bread-and-butter Altima sedan.

Including January, Rogue sales of more than 31,000 units for the year-to-date were a whopping 64 percent ahead of a year earlier.

A year ago, Rogue ranked only No. 4 in February sales among all of the company's nameplates. Nissan executed a major upgrade of the vehicle precisely because, as its main entry in the hot compact-crossover market, Rogue carried outsized importance.

In turn, Rogue's sales surge in February was the key to a strong monthly performance by Nissan amid a flat overall market and major shortfalls by several brands, most of which were blamed on the severe winter.

Nissan sales in February rose by 17 percent, and the company overall (including Infiniti) now has replaced American Honda as the No. 5 automaker in the United States, through February. The Nissan brand bumped the Honda brand to become No. 4 behind Ford, Chevrolet and Toyota.

Such results are important baby steps in the surge that Nissan is attempting to engineer for its brand in a challenging U.S. market that may indeed — weather-induced one-offs aside — be slowing down a bit.

And the Rogue's boffo sales performance seems to have justified Nissan's overwhelming the U.S. airwaves about two months ago with the ad — everyone knows it by now — that depicted the new Rogue leaping onto the back of a commuter train to illustrate with hyperbole that it is a fun and capable drive.

At the time, however, it wasn't too pleasant for Nissan to deal with the blowback to the incessant running of that single

commercial.

Typical was this Tweet by Jane Wells, a CNBC Los Angeles reporter: "In a Wells administration, networks can only run the Nissan Rogue ad once an hour."

Soon Nissan was issuing tweets of apology in response to specific individual complaints but with this general tone: "Sorry. We hear you. May have been a little TOO excited about the Rogue. Working w/ networks to show less this wknd. Our bad!"

There's nothing Nissan must apologize for in the vehicle itself. As the "Commute" ad and other advertising for the car amply points out, this is a nimble and more capable new Rogue that Nissan is aiming at an important market segment.

It's also roomier and more flexible inside. One common criticism of the original vehicle, which was introduced just six years ago, was that its 59.7-cubic-foot cargo capacity was relatively modest, even for the compact-SUV segment. The 2014 Rogue has expanded that space to 70 cubic feet, and an innovative "Divide-N-Hide" configurable rear storage system also is available.

Also, the original version of Rogue had a second-row seat that didn't slide or recline. Voila! The 2014 Rogue

does both, with a useful 40/20/40-split configuration to boot. Nissan also has added an optional third-row seat. Edmunds.com pointed out that this was "a particularly shrewd move" given that the competing Toyota RAV4 no longer offers one — without increasing Rogue's overall size or weight.

Under the hood, the new Rogue sports a 28-mpg-combined EPA estimate, even with all-wheel drive. Its 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine generates 170 horsepower. Its softened suspension yields "tepid handling," Edmunds.com opined,



The image seen by (nearly) all of America: the "Commute" ad

compared with the sport and similarly fuel-efficient 2014 Mazda CX-5. And the two-row 2014 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport promises "superior performance and a unique sense of style," Edmunds.com said.

For Nissan, combining its capable new Rogue with January and February sales means never having to say you're sorry ... again.



Nissan greatly improved the 2014 Rogue.

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