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THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014 • hometownlife.com



Wayne City Hall roof compromised

By LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

A smoking motor in the air handling system at Wayne City Hall may have averted a more serious situation in the city council chambers last week. Wayne-Westland firefighters, called after city staff reported the smoke, began lifting ceiling tiles in the council chambers looking for the source. There were no flames

but firefighters spotted another problem – two failed roof trusses – and declared the council chamber unsafe. “They noticed the south roof truss was completely broken and separated by a couple of inches,” said Interim City Manager/Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib. “The north truss is deflected about eight inches but not broken.” The weight of the winter’s

record amount of snow overloaded the roof on the City Hall building, damaging the 39.5-foot long trusses, El-Gharib said. “It was Ash Wednesday (when the motor burned), somehow we got a signal,” said El-Gharib. “The snow tomorrow (Wednesday) could have brought the building down. It could have been a major catastrophe.” Belfor was contacted and

their staff shored up the trusses as a temporary fix until an engineer designs a permanent repair to the roof, he said. “All the offices were open Monday,” said El-Gharib. “This should be covered by insurance. We’re not sure of the costs.” Wayne City Hall, located on Wayne Road just north of Michigan Avenue, was constructed in the 1940s as a recreation building. The council

chamber was part of a gymnasium/roller rink. The building was remodeled in 1988. With the council chambers not available for meetings, the council held a special meeting Tuesday in the Wayne Police Department. The regular council meeting on Tuesday, March 18, is expected to be held at the Wayne Community Center.

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Man to stand trial on assault charges

By LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

An elderly Westland man has been ordered to face charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm to his live-in girlfriend. Orlando Caruso, 78, is also charged with aggravated domestic violence against Diane Labute, 71. Labute was taken to the hospital unresponsive Dec. 31 and died Jan. 13 without regaining consciousness after being removed from life support. During the preliminary examination in Westland 18th District Court, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Daniel Williams presented testimony from Labute’s daughter Denise Labute and grandson Christopher Herman about their concerns that Labute was being abused.

See CHARGES, Page A2

Autopsy report not yet received in assault case

By LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

A Westland man is charged with assaulting his live-in girlfriend, who died two weeks later never having regained consciousness. Murder charges haven’t been sought against Orlando Caruso, 78, in the death of Diane Labute, 71, due to the lack of an autopsy report and cause of death from Wayne County Medical Examiner. Police were called to Caruso’s home on Chirrewa Dec. 31 after Labute was found unresponsive. She was hospitalized suffering from broken ribs, black eyes and a large wound on her back described as a rug burn or bed sore. She died Jan. 13 when she was removed from life support. “The autopsy is currently pending. Pathologists have the prerogative based on

See AUTOPSY, Page A2



Tajah Browning, Jordan Clayborn and Matthew Hilpakka listen as Melissa Gilbert reads from her book, “Daisy and Josephine.” PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A ‘DAISY’ GOOD TIME

Author Melissa Gilbert shares her story with kindergartners

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

For the youngsters in Kelley Michaels’ kindergarten class, the excitement was having a real author read to them. But for the teachers who gathered by the door to the classroom at Hamilton Elementary School, the thrill was seeing actress Melissa Gilbert.

“I was 9 years old when I wrote and asked for your autograph. I got a photograph back signed by everyone in the cast (of Little House on the Prairie). I still have it,” teacher Heather Leavitt told Gilbert. “Did I dot my I’s with

See DAISY, Page A2



Kindergarten teacher Kelley Michaels invited Melissa Gilbert to read her book to the class.



Josephine, Melissa Gilbert’s dog, wanders around the classroom greeting kids.



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Two more guilty verdicts in police corruption case

Two defendants in a Romulus police corruption case will find out their sentences after being found guilty by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury last Friday.

Former Romulus police detective Larry Droege was found guilty of misconduct in office and neglect of duty, and Jeremy Channells was found guilty of two counts of misconduct in office and neglect of duty. They could face sentences of up to five years in prison when they are sentenced on March 31 by Circuit Court Judge Michael Hathaway.

The two men are the latest defendants to be found guilty in the case. Last month, Sandra Vlaz-St. Andre, the wife of former Romulus police chief Michael St. Andre, was sentenced to 7-20 years for acquiring and maintaining a criminal enterprise, criminal enterprise conspiracy, failure to file taxes by filing a false return and receiving and concealing stolen property over \$20,000.

In addition to the St. Andres, Droege and Channells, former detective sergeant Richard Balzer and former detectives Richard Landry and Donald Hopkins were charged in the case that stemmed from an investigation by the Michigan State Police into allegations of misconduct, corruption and embezzlement of drug forfeiture funds by members of the Romulus Police Department's Special Investigation Unit.

According to a Wayne County Prosecutor's Office press release, St. Andre directed a probe of liquor license violations, prostitution and narcotics trafficking at the Landing Strip Bar in Romulus and Subi's Place in Southgate, but during the investigation officers embezzled drug forfeiture money, solicited prostitutes and made false police reports.

Still awaiting trial are Michael St. Andre, Hopkins, Blazer and Landry.

St. Andre, a 28-year veteran of the police department, has been charged with conducting a criminal enterprise, acquiring/maintaining criminal enterprise, criminal enterprise conspiracy, embezzlement by public official over \$50, uttering and publishing, misconduct in office, failure to file/false return, obstruction of justice, witness-bribery/intimidating/interfering in a case and receiving and concealing stolen property over \$20,000.

Balzar and Landry have been charged with conducting criminal enterprise, criminal enterprise conspiracy, embezzlement by public official over \$50, uttering and publishing, misconduct in office and neglect of duty, while Hopkins has been charged with all but the neglect of duty charge.

Their trials have been scheduled for July 7, and if convicted, they could face up to 20 years in prison.

By Sue Mason

EMU to host Michigan Collegiate Job Fair

With the Michigan job market heating up, college seniors and alumni from Michigan's two-or-four year colleges can meet with prospective employers from a variety of fields at the bi-annual Michigan Collegiate Job Fair.

The event, sponsored by Eastern Michigan University and supported by the Michigan Career Educator and Employer Alliance, is scheduled to take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 21 at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

The event is one of the state's largest career fairs, with more than 100 employers currently registered. Employers

include Coca Cola, DTE Energy, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Quicken Loans, Siemens PLM Software, Thomson Reuters and various State of Michigan and U.S. Government departments and agencies.

"Many of the employers are seeking to hire entry-level candidates with degrees in business, liberal arts, technology, engineering, human services and allied health," said Ebony Jones, senior corporate relations manager at Eastern Michigan University.

Candidates can view a list of participating employers and pre-register for the event online at

www.mcjf.org. The deadline to pre-register is March 19. Pre-registration fee is \$10, or \$15 with walk-in registration.

"We have continued to see an increase in the number of employers participating over the last couple of years," Jones said. "This lets us know that the economy in the State of Michigan has turned around and jobs are available, especially for candidates with degrees in technology and engineering."

Last November's event attracted 130 employers and 600 candidates.

Jones recommends that candidates dress in professional business

attire, bring several copies of their resume, and research the employers that they are interested in speaking with prior to the event.

"There also will be a ready room on site, staffed by career services professionals, who can prepare candidates prior to entering the fair," Jones said. "The ready room booths provide help with practicing handshakes, LinkedIn photos, company research, job fair success tips and wardrobe touch ups."

Corporate sponsors include WWJ-TV CBS 62, WKBD-TV CW50 Detroit, WFDR-Radio Disney Detroit.

Thanks for the support



Mayor's Committee for Underprivileged Children member Karen McAdams (from left), treasurer Bob McAdams, Pastor Wayne Parker, president Bob Squires and secretary Pat Squires show off the plaque Merriman Road Baptist Church received in recognition of its help in making the 48th annual Santaland Party a huge success. UPC was invited to hold its annual Christmas party for clients and their caregivers at the church.

County announces 'Pothole Blitz' program

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The brutal winter and looming I-96 shutdown through Redford and Livonia have created a need for having local roads in good shape. Several Wayne County officials are hoping a program announced Tuesday in Livonia will help make travel on alternate routes easier.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz and other local officials were on hand at the Wayne County Road Commission building on Grantland in Livonia to announce a program called "Pothole Blitz," an initiative designed to increase pothole repair on major

county thoroughfares in a target area of western Wayne County, including Redford and Livonia.

"I think it's no secret a lot of people's minds center around potholes," Ficano said. "Livonia and Redford, having to do with the closing of I-96, we realize that that's going to put an additional strain on surface streets. I think there's approximately 60,000 that use that (highway) between Newburgh and Telegraph where the closure's going to be."

60 seasonal workers to be hired

Under the plan, Wayne County expects to hire 60 seasonal workers earlier than usual to begin helping fill potholes. Schedules will be adjusted to maximize availability of personnel to help take

care of potholes, especially in the target area stretching from Telegraph to I-275 and Eight Mile to I-94, which contains communities such as Livonia, Redford, Garden City, Westland, Wayne and Dearborn Heights.

So far, it's estimated Wayne County has filled more than 71,000 potholes this winter, one of the snowiest and coldest in Michigan history.

The initiative is expected to cost about \$625,000, funds the county expects to receive through Act 51 money. Alan Helmkamp, senior assistant county executive, said the county commission's Ways and Means Committee approved the budget adjustment Tuesday for the project.



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano answers questions about the "Pothole Blitz." BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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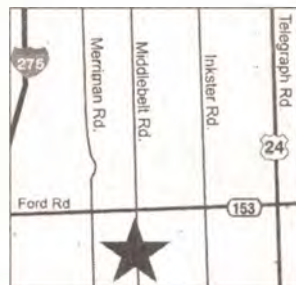
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Elderly woman killed in accident at Westland gas station

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland police are wrapping up their investigation into an accident that killed an elderly Canton woman Friday afternoon.

About 1:15 p.m., the woman, 92, was walking through the parking lot of the Speedway

gas station on the corner of Cherry Hill and Wayne Road when she was struck by a GMC Sierra pickup truck driven by a Romulus man, 72. Police were not releasing the name of the woman.

"It appears she was short - 4 feet, 9 inches - and an elderly male in a large pickup truck was maneuvering to get up to a

gas pump," Westland Police Sgt. Dan Serrano said. "He didn't see her. He made a sharp turn and ran over her."

The Canton woman had parked her car in the drug-store parking lot south of the gas station and was walking toward the gas station, Serrano said.

"We don't know why she

was going to the gas station. Her family didn't know why she was out at that time of day," Serrano said. "She only had a small change purse and a key fob with her (when the accident occurred)."

Neither alcohol nor speed were factors in the accident, he said. Police were wrapping up their investigation Monday.

"It's not likely that the driver will be charged. When someone dies, we have to submit a report to the (Wayne County) prosecutor," Serrano said. "We are seeking direction from the prosecutor on whether there will be criminal charges."

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GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Break-in

Garden City police are investigating a burglary that was reported March 9 at Majestic Beauty Palace and Resale, 29474 Ford.

Entry was allegedly made through an unlocked front door during non-business hours. The police saw that no force was used to make that entry. Money was stolen along with some

other merchandise. The owner planned to compile a list of missing items and deliver the list to the police.

Fraud

A resident in the 28000 block of John Hawk reported March 8 that someone used his Chase Bank debit card to purchase \$225 in merchandise from the Meijer store in Lenox Township. The money was spent on

gift cards and boxer briefs.

A Meijer loss prevention officer planned to review a video of the transactions.

» A Garden City woman came to the police station March 7 to report that someone used her Chase Bank credit card to charge \$212 of merchandise at the Meijer store in Monroe.

Chase Bank reimbursed her for this amount.

She said that she last used that credit card to make a \$16.16 purchase at the Walgreens store at Warren Road and Middlebelt.

» A female resident who lives in the 29000 block of Rush reported March 7 that someone fraudulently used her MasterCard issued by the Fifth Third Bank to make two purchases March 6 at the Meijer store in Walled Lake.

One purchase was for \$198 and the other purchase was for \$244.

» A resident in the 31000 block of Block reported March 6 at the police lobby that someone fraudulently opened a Verizon Wireless account in her name.

She detected this when she checked her personal credit report on Experian.

By Sue Buck

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Missing phone

A Westland woman told police March 4 that she left her cell phone in the photo copy area at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. She said she went home before she realized she'd left her phone behind.

When she returned to the library, the woman said the phone was gone and no one had turned it.

Break-in

The water heater and a shower head unit were reported stolen from a vacant home in the 1300 block of Barchester March 5. The home is owned by a bank and the theft was reported by a property company employee who went to the house.

The employee told police he didn't know when the home had last been occupied. The officer noted the home was heavily damaged inside.

Attempted break-in

The manager of the Laundry Stop, 725 S. Wayne Road, told police March 6 that when she arrived to open the business she found scratch marks on the interior jamb of the rear entry door. She said someone had attempted to pry open the door but hadn't gained entry.

There had been a call from the alarm company about 3 a.m., she said, but police weren't called due to a false alarm a day earlier.

Attempted break-in

A resident in the 34000 block of Bayview told police March 6 that someone had attempted to break into her home. Her son had discovered the rear door window was shattered and the wood frame was damaged. No entry was made to the home.

The screen on the rear sliding glass door was also moved and the officer noted someone had attempted to enter the home through that door, also.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COPS CALLS

Larceny

A two-ton air conditioning unit was reported stolen from a home in the 4400 block of Carnegie March 10. The theft was reported by an employee of a property preservation company that is working on the home.

The employee told police workers were first at the home on Feb. 19 and the air conditioning unit, valued at \$3,000, was missing. It was unclear when the unit had been stolen.

Vandalism

A window was reported broken and graffiti spray painted on a wall at Vandenberg Elementary School, 32101 Stellwagon, March 7. The damage to the broken window was estimated at \$500 and \$400 to remove the graffiti.

Suspicious person

Police were called to the Newberry Square Apartments, 35240 W. Michigan

Ave., about 8:30 p.m. March 8 about several disorderly people in the stairwell.

Officers located a man, who formerly had a Farmington address but now indicated he was homeless, sleeping in a stairwell on the third floor.

The man had a cold open beer which the officer poured out. The officer noted the man appeared to be intoxicated. The man had been removed from the same stairwell by police on March 6.

The man was arrested for having open intoxicants in public and was also held on a warrant.

Vandalism

Two Wisconsin men, 39 and 23, were arrested March 9 for damaging a window and a security aluminum roll down door at Leo's Jewelry, 34900 W. Michigan Ave. Police were originally dispatched on an alarm call and discovered the damage.

Officers were able to identify the suspects from surveillance video and located the

suspects after checking local businesses. Both men were charged with vandalism.

Disorderly persons

» Police were called to Wayne Towers just after 1 a.m. March 4 about a male outside yelling and possibly intoxicated. Officers located the man and took him home.

» On March 4, police were called to White Castle, 32925 Michigan Ave., just after 5:35 a.m. about a woman, possibly intoxicated, laying in the restaurant drive-thru lane. A customer was reported to have picked up the woman and moved her out of the lane before officers arrived.

Vandalism

An employee at the Ford Wayne Assembly plant, 37625 Michigan Ave., told police March 8 that someone had damaged his vehicle and air bag while it was parked in the lot.

By LeAnne Rogers

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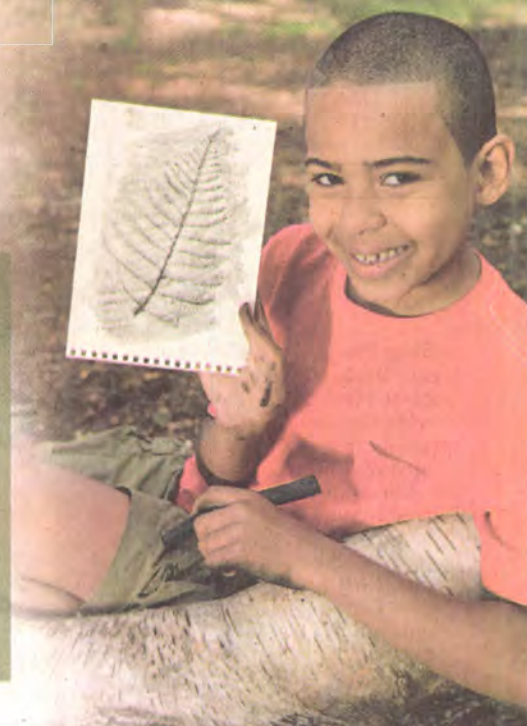
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Square dancers stay fit, friendly

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

Fun, friends and fitness are some of the appeal of a club that meets in Redford on Wednesday evenings.

The Star Twirlers Square Dance Club of Redford has been stepping out for 11 years and recently got a new caller, the person who calls the steps in a square dance session.

George Ferguson of Westland, who is a caller for the Shindiggers of Canton, became the club caller for Redford in January. The Star Twirlers meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Redford Community Center.

"Square dancing is the most fun you can have with seven other people that's not illegal and not immoral," Ferguson said.

A bank president, real estate broker, a garbage man and a landscaper can meet for a square dance and "once they square up everyone is equal. That makes it very comfortable and very enjoyable for everyone," Ferguson said.

About 20 members strong, Redford's club is made up of experienced dancers.

Pat Ulivi of Garden City has been square dancing for more than 30 years.

"The people are great," she said. "Square dancers are friends forever."

A resident of Garden City for 46 years, Ulick and her husband were longtime members of Garden City's Li'l Devils square dance club that lasted for 30 years before it folded.

Clubs all over

A lack of interest by young people has caused square dancing's popularity to wane, but Ulick describes the days of square dancing clubs all over metro Detroit.

"It used to be you could dance seven nights a week if you wanted," she said. Each club had its own color and members went to visit other clubs, she said.

She and her husband used to dance four nights a week and even have 45 matching outfits they used to dance in, she said.

Her husband is no longer physically able to dance, but Pat tries to stay active.

"I just truly enjoy it. It's a lot of good exercise," she said.

Joe Spano of Canton has been a member of the Redford club for many years.

"I feel it's entertainment and doing exercise at the same time," he said.

He used to dance two or three times a week but dances once a week now, he said.

"I like the whole thing," he said.

"It's good exercise mentally and physically," Dave Hermann of Livonia said. He started square dancing in 1968 with his wife, but then took a break starting in 1980. He took it up again in 2003 after his wife died, he said.

It's not like it was years ago when you filled halls with dancers, but it's still fun, he said.

"It's good exercise and I really enjoy it and meet a lot of friends," he said.

Living social

Ferguson, who started calling as an amateur in 1995, also enjoys the social part of square dancing. A retired master electrician, he first joined a square dancing club in 1989 in Van Buren Township. He has now danced in 18 states and Canada.

"Square dancing is an extremely healthy exercise," he said. "And the emotional and social activity that we have is very enriching."

Square dancing not only exercises the body, but the mind, as well.

Square dance is a lot more organized than is apparent on the surface, Ferguson said. There are about 20 clubs in the South East Michigan Association of Square and Round Dance clubs, which is also associated with a national organization, United Square Dancers of America.

There are two types of square dancing. An earlier style was made popular in this area by Henry Ford when he introduced it to his employees, but another style called modern western square dancing started in the 1950s. "That's what's popular today," Ferguson said.

In the older style a person didn't need to know how to dance, because callers guided you through it a step at a time, but modern western dancing has 65 calls for dancers to master to learn the routine.

"Dancers need to know the call before the dance starts. It reminds me of a band at a half-time show. You have to learn the formations to put together a show," Ferguson said.

"It's not just for old people," Ulick said. "I think out west your younger people probably do it more."

"It's the best kept secret," Ferguson said. "It is still around and it is still fun."



Mary Ann Swango of Garden City promenades with dance partner Ernest Phillip of Canton at the Star Twirlers Square Dance Club held at the Redford Community Center. PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN



Caller George Ferguson of Westland keeps the square dancers moving last week at the Redford Community Center.



Mary Belcher of Westland and Dave Herman of Livonia dance to hoedown music doing the left star last week at the Redford Community Center.



Tom Moxlow of Romulus and dance partner Pat Ulivi of Garden City enjoy "friendship set to music" which is the slogan of the Star Twirlers Dance Club.



Harriet Fowler of Westland and Sandy McIntire of Westland end the dance with a "thank you" as they enjoy square dancing last week in Redford.

Wayne-Westland Rec gives kids, parents plenty of things to do

Dads may have gotten the better part of the deal, taking their daughters dancing, while moms spent an evening playing sports with their sons at the Wayne Community Center.

The sports night, put on by the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department, tested the moms' athletic abilities, putting them against their sons in such things as wallyball, octa-ball and underhand dodge ball.

There also was an opportunity to swim and ice skate and a chance to be goalie mom. The evening wrapped up with a tug-of-war between the moms and their sons.

The recreation department has more kid friendly activities planned:

» Parents who want a night out can leave the babysitting to the recreation department which is offering a Kid's Night Out 6-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29. The evening is for children ages 6-13 and includes swimming, games, pizza and pop.

Participants must be registered by 3 p.m.

March 29 at the community center. Parents or guardians are responsible for pick up and must bring a picture ID.

» The 35th annual Marshmallow Drop will be at 10 a.m. Friday, April 18, at the Anderson ball fields in Attwood Park on Howe, south of Annapolis.

There will be three drops for walking toddlers up to age 4 and children with disabilities, ages 5-7 and ages 8-10. The event is free and is sponsored by Crosspoint Community Church.

» Also on Friday, April 18, is the annual Bunny Breakfast at the Wayne Community Center. The breakfast will be 10:30 a.m. to noon and include a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, arts and crafts and face painting. Photo packages with the Bunny will be available for purchase.

The cost is \$5 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. Tickets are on sale now at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne. For more information, call 734-721-7400.



It's mayhem when moms and sons rush for the balls at the beginning of the dodgeball game.



Joseph Ogelle, 7, looks for a mom as a target. Behind Joseph are brothers Peter Farris, 5, and Connor Farris, 7.



Mom LaTasha Garner is pretty good at underhand dodgeball. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Angie Waldman enjoys a moment with son Mark, 10.



Michelle Mayberry and Noah O'Neil, 5, enjoy a treat after the evening.



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BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Free film fest

Free is the word, as Bloomfield Hills-based MJR Digital Cinemas announced it will offer its free Spring Children's Film Festival every Saturday and Sunday, beginning Saturday, March 15, and running through Sunday, April 6, at the Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne Road, between Warren Road and Ford, Westland.

The film fest is totally free to children age 2 and under and parents are just \$1. Advance tickets are not available, and tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until theater capacity.

The film line-up is:

- » *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* (PG) on March 15-16.
- » *Free Birds* (PG) on March 22-23.
- » *Walking with Dinosaurs* (PG) on March 29-30.
- » *Nut Job* (PG) on April 5-6.

Call the theater at

734-298-6257 for show times or check online at mjrtheatres.com the Tuesday prior to the show.

Free sundaes, cones

The Dairy Queen at 3007 S. Wayne Road in Wayne is offering some super deals on its soft serve sundaes and cones. Now through Wednesday, March 19, the store is offering buy-one get one free sundaes, and will follow up with Free Cone Day on Thursday, March 20.

Owned by John and Amma Petrou, the store also is collecting donations for the Children's Miracle Network.

New nonstops

JetBlue Airways brought its service to Detroit Monday with the arrival of inaugural Flight 1137 from Boston Logan International Airport.

In addition to bringing lower fares to those traveling to and from Detroit, JetBlue also helped with an issue that



As of Monday, JetBlue Airways began providing round-trip service between Detroit and Boston three times a day.

is very important to Detroit residents – education and literacy. Following the inaugural celebration several JetBlue top executives and crew members worked with teachers and students to remake a library at Burns Elementary School in Detroit.

Burns is in the lowest 5 percent of the Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) schools in the state of Michigan. JetBlue will provide nearly 600 books to the school's library, which is more

books than it currently holds, as well as one book for each of the 447 students to take home. The airline's IT department also donated approximately 30 computers and helped set up a computer lab.

JetBlue is New York's Hometown Airline™ and a leading carrier in Boston, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Orlando and San Juan. JetBlue carries more than 30 million customers a year to 84 cities in the U.S., Car-

ibbean and Latin America with an average of 800 daily flights.

With JetBlue, all seats are assigned, all fares are one-way, an overnight stay is never required and the first checked bag is free (subject to weight and size limits and exceptions for itineraries including flights marketed or operated by other airlines).

Flights from Boston depart at 7:30 a.m., 4:55 p.m., and 7:36 p.m., and arrive in Detroit at 9:45 a.m., 7:09 p.m., and 9:49

p.m., respectively. From Detroit, flights depart at 6:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 7:45 p.m., and arrive in Boston at 8:05 a.m., 12:24 p.m., and 9:40 a.m.

The new service is JetBlue's S2nd nonstop route out of Boston, and brings the airline's total daily Boston departures to 128. For more information, visit JetBlue.com.

Alaska Airlines also is bringing nonstop daily service from Seattle to Detroit starting Sept. 4. The routes will be operated with Boeing 737 aircraft. Alaska Airlines flies to more destinations from Seattle than any other carrier, including 21 cities east of the Rocky Mountains.

Alaska Airlines, a subsidiary of Alaska Air Group (NYSE: ALK), together with its partner regional airlines, serves nearly 100 cities through an expansive network in Alaska, the Lower 48, Hawaii, Canada and Mexico. For reservations, visit www.alaskaair.com.

Oakwood to change Wayne hospital's name



Oakwood Healthcare is changing the name of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital to Oakwood Hospital-Wayne to reinforce the organization's reputation as a leading healthcare provider in southeastern Michigan.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is becoming Oakwood Hospital-Wayne with name changes being instituted by Oakwood Healthcare.

The change reinforces Oakwood's reputation as a leading health care provider in southeastern Michigan. The names have been changed for all four of its acute-care hospitals to reflect the strength of the Oakwood brand.

The name changes, effective this month, include Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn, formerly Oakwood Hospital and

Medical Center, and Oakwood Hospital-Taylor, formerly Oakwood Heritage Hospital. Oakwood Annapolis Hospital will become Oakwood Hospital-Wayne and Oakwood Southshore Medical Center will be renamed Oakwood Hospital-Southshore. Those changes are expected later this year.

"Oakwood is well known for providing uniquely personalized patient care at all of our facilities," stated Brian M. Connolly, Oakwood president and CEO. "When someone steps into any Oakwood hospital, clinic or facility, they can be assured of receiving the same great expe-

rience no matter where they go. The new hospital names confirm that commitment to system-wide quality and service."

The name change is consistent with the naming of the more than four dozen Oakwood health care centers located throughout metro Detroit and continues the branding strategy that originated with an advertising campaign that launched in 2012. It also reflects the "One Oakwood" concept promoted through the implementation of the OakCare electronic medical records system last year.

The renaming also

provides an opportunity to make signage more consistent across the system, enhance the overall visibility of Oakwood in the region, strengthen Oakwood brand preference against competitors and promote a consistent, high-quality patient experience across the Oakwood Healthcare System.

"Feedback we received from the community indicated that the Oakwood name was synonymous with quality and preference," said Connolly. "We're very proud of that and we want that to be the standard at all of our facilities."

ATTENTION BOYS, GIRLS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS!

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly right here in this newspaper!



Kids are invited to participate in monthly contests!

- Win Prizes!
- See your photo in the paper!
- Get published in the newspaper!



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A GANNETT COMPANY

Vellardita assumes Westland Chamber marketing, membership duties

Longtime member and volunteer Mary Vellardita has become part of the Westland Chamber of Commerce staff.

Vellardita had served on the Board of Directors since 2005 and was the vice chair of marketing and membership for several years and a Chamber Ambassador.

In addition to recruiting new members, Vellardita will focus her efforts on developing marketing programs and working with existing members to help grow their businesses.

"I'm a people person," said Vellardita. "I love getting out and meeting new people. My extensive experience with sales and marketing make this job a perfect fit for me."

Vellardita, who was named Westland Business Person of the Year in 2004, has been a Westland Rotary Club member for more than 10 years. Her dedication to



Mary Vellardita is now handling the marketing and membership duties at the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Westland and many hours of volunteer service earned her the Westland Observer's 2011 First Citizen award.

In her previous position, Vellardita did marketing and graphic design work as a partner in a Westland business, C & M Printing and Imaging for more than 17 years.

"I have worked with Mary for almost 15 years. She has had many volunteer positions with the chamber as she is always willing to help out," said chamber CEO Brookellen Swope. "She has been one

of those people that I could always count on. I'm excited to have Mary officially on staff. She has been a 'Chamber Cheerleader' for years now, which is why she is a perfect fit for the Membership and Marketing position."

"In the short time that she has been on staff, she has recruited new members and began promoting our member marketing services. Her excitement for the chamber is contagious, which will only help our chamber grow," Swope added.

Treat others like you want to be treated

Today, and every day, don't get fooled into taking the wrong turn when challenged by a provocative or combative individual.

In almost every situation, we have a choice of either taking the high road or taking the low road. Often the "high road" means responding respectfully or professionally to disrespectful or unprofessional behavior.

No matter what: Treat others the way we would like to be treated.

Sometimes it's very difficult and that's when



Clarity Patton Newhouse
A SUNNY NOTE

it's very important. Even though we can't control other people's behavior, we can always control our own, and everyone benefits when we take the high road.

So no matter what thunderstorms you run into, bring your own sunshine – and have a sunny day!

Clarity

P.S. "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

James Matthew Barrie

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

Angela Hospice holds annual Laughter Lifts You Up fundraiser

Everyone loves to laugh, but if you need an excuse to do a lot of laughing, how about a ladies night out to help hospice patients and their families? You can laugh and support a good cause at Angela Hospice's annual Laughter Lifts You Up event, Thursday, March 20, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

"This is our biggest event of the year," said Mary Beth Moning, executive director at not-for-profit Angela Hospice. "It's really a lot of fun for all the women who attend and many come year after year with their sisters or girlfriends — but it's also a great way for people to support Angela Hospice and the patients in our care."

One of those patients is Westland resident Debbie McKittrick, who has been with Angela Hospice for more than a year and knows what hospice can offer those with a terminal diagnosis.

"Hospice is probably the best thing you can do," McKittrick said. She's facing lung cancer and liver cancer and was told she had about three to six months to live. Now a year and a half later, she says Angela Hospice has given her her life back.

"Hospice isn't there to help you die," McKittrick

said, "they're there to help you have a quality life. Since I've been with hospice, my health has gotten better. They have gotten me on medications that keep me in control and I have got energy and strength that I never had before. I'm actually going to Curves now and working out."

In addition to the physical care she has gotten to manage her pain and symptoms, McKittrick has been impressed with the resources and counseling her hospice nurse and social worker have provided as well.

"They've built me up to make me the person I am today," she said.

Events like Laughter Lifts You Up help fund these programs, including the non-reimbursed services that Angela Hospice provides, such as grief counseling and prenatal hospice care.

Laughter Lifts You Up has become so popular with the community that an 11:30 a.m. luncheon show was added this year in addition to the 6 p.m. dinner show. Both shows will feature Lynn Trefzger, an award-winning comedian and premier entertainer for Disney Cruise Lines, among others.

"We're very excited to have Lynn Trefzger as our comedian," said Lar-

ry Kralowski, events coordinator for Angela Hospice. "Her comedic style is unique and would appeal to everyone."

In addition to the comedy show, guests will be treated to a gourmet entrée and dessert, plus complimentary wine,

beer and soda bar. A raffle and shopping at "Angela's Boutique" will add to the experience. For tickets to Laugh-

ter Lifts You Up, visit www.AskForAngela.com, or call Kralowski at 734-953-6045. Tickets are \$50 each.

ORDINANCE NO. 248-A-77

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 15:3.2, 15:6.3, 15:6.9 AND 15:6.10 OF WESTLAND ZONING ORDINANCE 248 TO PROVIDE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSE OF SIGN REGULATIONS AS STATED IN SECTION 15:1 OF ORDINANCE 248.

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That subsections (a), (d) and (m) of Section 15:3.2 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance 248, shall be amended to provide as follows:

"15:3.2 Prohibited Signs

The following signs shall not be permitted, erected, or maintained in any district:

a. Signs which incorporate any flashing or moving lights, or exposed incandescent light bulbs, except as specifically permitted. This prohibition shall not apply to LED or electronic display signs with static messages or images, as specifically authorized in this ordinance, provided that they meet the rate of change and maximum luminescence requirements of this ordinance.

d. Any sign which has any visible moving part, visible revolving parts or visible mechanical movement of any description or other apparent visible movement achieved by electrical, electronic, or mechanical means, including intermittent electrical pulsations, or by action of normal wind current. This prohibition shall not apply to LED or electronic display signs with static messages or images, as specifically authorized in this ordinance, provided that they meet the rate of change and maximum luminescence requirements of this ordinance.

m. Any outdoor advertising sign or billboard; however, this section shall not apply to billboards or outdoor advertising signs lawfully in existence at the time this ordinance becomes effective, as such signs may be maintained and repaired to continue their useful life, nor to those specific signs which are expressly allowed by the district regulations contained in this Ordinance. The maintenance and repair of an existing billboard may include upgrade to an LED or electronic display sign provided that: (1) the sign shall contain only static messages or images; (2) the rate of change between 2 static messages or images shall not exceed more than 1 change per 6 seconds; (3) each change shall be complete in 1 second or less; (4) the sign shall possess and utilize automatic dimming capabilities so that the maximum luminescence level is not more than 0.3 foot candles over ambient light levels measured at a distance of 150 feet for those sign faces less than or equal to 300 square feet, measured at a distance of 200 feet for those sign faces greater than 300 square feet but less than or equal to 378 square feet, measured at a distance of 250 feet for those sign faces greater than 378 square feet and less than 672 square feet, and measured at a distance of 350 feet for those sign faces equal to or greater than 672 square feet.; and (5) the sign shall be configured to default to a static display in the event of mechanical failure.

Section 2. That all other subsections of Section 15:3.2 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance 248, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. That Section 15:6.3 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance 248, shall be amended to provide as follows:

"15:6.3 Ground Signs

a. For shopping centers in single ownership or under unified control, or individual uses with a minimum frontage of two hundred (200) feet, one (1) additional on-premise ground sign on each street frontage, other than those regulated in Section 15:6.2 above, shall be permitted, subject to the following controls:

(1) Area: The gross area in square feet permitted for the additional sign on a zoning lot shall not exceed one-half (1/2) square foot for each lineal foot of frontage of such zoning lot, or a total of one hundred (100) square feet, whichever is less. Up to 75% of the allowable gross area of the sign may be used for an LED or electronic display, provided such display complies with subsection c, below.

(2) Setback: Such sign shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the front lot line of such center or individual use. For each five (5) feet of sign setback in excess of the ten (10) foot minimum, the allowable sign height of such sign may be increased by ten (10) percent of the maximum permitted below.

(3) Height: Signs shall have a two (2) foot brick or masonry base, and no sign shall project higher than fourteen (14) feet above curb level.

(4) Distance from Other Permitted Signs: Such sign shall be located at least fifty (50) feet from any other permitted sign on the zoning lot and fifty (50) feet from any existing freestanding or ground sign on an adjacent zoning lot.

b. For individual uses, one additional on-premise ground sign on each street frontage, other than those regulated in Section 15:6.2 above will be permitted, subject to the following controls:

(1) Area: The gross area in square feet permitted for the additional sign on a zoning lot shall not exceed one-third (1/3) square foot for each lineal foot of frontage of such zoning lot, or a total of forty eight (48) square feet, whichever is less. Up to 75% of the allowable gross area of the sign may be used for an LED or electronic display, provided such display complies with subsection c, below.

(2) Setback: Such signs shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the front lot line of such individual use. For each five (5) feet of sign setbacks in excess of the 10-foot minimum, the allowable sign height of such sign may be increased by ten (10) percent of the maximum permitted below.

(3) Height: Signs shall have a two (2) foot brick or masonry base, and no sign shall project higher than eight (8) feet above curb level.

(4) Distance from Other Permitted Signs: Such sign shall be located at least thirty-five (35) feet from any other permitted sign on the zoning lot and thirty-five (35) feet from any existing freestanding or ground sign on an adjacent zoning lot.

c. The LED or electronic display portion of a sign authorized in this section shall meet the following requirements: (1) the sign shall contain only static messages or images; (2) the rate of change between 2 static messages or images shall not exceed more than 1 change per 6 seconds; (3) each change shall be complete in 1 second or less; (4) the sign shall possess and utilize automatic dimming capabilities so that the maximum luminescence level is not more than 0.3 foot candles over ambient light levels measured at a distance of 150 feet; and (5) the sign shall be configured to default to a static display in the event of mechanical failure."

Section 4. That Section 15:6.9 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance 248, shall be amended to provide as follows:

"15:6.9 Gasoline Service Station Signs

Gasoline service stations may only display the following special signs which are deemed customary and necessary to their respective business:

a. Numbers: One (1) customary lettering or other insignia on a gasoline pump containing the brand of gasoline sold, lead warning sign, and any other sign required by law. Two (2) non-illuminated double-faced signs per gasoline pump island may be placed for the purpose of displaying gasoline or other commodity prices and for designating "Attendant Served" or "Self Served." One (1) double-face combination identification sign and gasoline price sign shall be permitted in front facing the street. The number of wall-mounted on-premise signs on the building shall be determined by the Planning Director, in accordance with the maximum allowable gross area of these signs. No portable or temporary signs are permitted.

b. Areas: The signs on the pump shall not exceed three (3) square feet on each pump. The non-illuminated double-faced signs on the pump island shall not exceed four (4) square feet for each sign. The combined identification sign and gasoline price sign shall not exceed a total of forty eight (48) square feet, which includes the border map, background frame, etc., as a regular shaped envelope. Up to 50% of the allowable gross area of the combined identification sign and gasoline price sign may be used for an LED or electronic display, provided such display complies with subsection c of Section 15:6.3 of this ordinance. The total gross area of the wall-mounted identification or business signs on the building cannot exceed one-half (1/2) square foot for each lineal foot of lot frontage, the maximum total area not to exceed seventy (70) square feet as a regular shaped envelope.

c. Location: The pump signs and the pump island signs shall be placed at or on their respective locations. The double-faced front combined identification sign and gasoline price sign shall be placed back from the property line so the edge of both signs will not encroach over the street right-of-way line. The wall-mounted identification or business signs shall not project more than eighteen (18) inches from the face of the wall of the building.

d. Height: The bottom of the pump island signs shall not exceed a maximum height of two (2) feet above the pumps. The combined identification and gasoline price sign shall have a two (2) foot brick or masonry base, and such sign shall project no higher than eight (8) feet above curb level. The top of the wall-mounted identification or business sign on the building shall not exceed the requirements for any other wall-mounted signs, as indicated under Commercial District Signs of this Article of this Ordinance.

e. Set Back: The combined identification and gasoline price sign shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the front lot line of the parcel or lot of the individual use.

f. Secondary Uses: In the event that a gasoline service station also contains a secondary use within the structure, a second ground sign is allowed on the zoning lot. This second ground sign may not exceed twenty four (24) square feet in size. In height, this sign shall have a two (2) foot brick or masonry base, and such sign shall project no higher than eight (8) feet above curb level. This sign shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the front lot line of the parcel or zoning lot.

Section 5. That Section 15:6.10 of the Westland Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance 248, shall be amended to provide as follows:

"15:6.10 Temporary Signs or Banners Advertising a Grand Opening or Special Event

a. A business shall be allowed up to three (3) temporary signs or banners for a grand opening or special event for a period of not more than seven (7) consecutive days, and no more than two (2) separate occurrences per calendar year.

b. The signs or banners may be wall mounted or mounted to the ground. If the temporary signs or banners are mounted on the ground, they shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the front lot line of the zoning lot of the business.

c. The size of any temporary sign or banner shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.

d. All temporary signs and banners shall be professionally constructed and shall be securely attached to the ground or the building.

e. A fee in the amount provided for in the Westland City Code, Chapter 46, Section 46-1(7) shall apply."

Section 6. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 7. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.

Section 8. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

ADOPTED: MARCH 3, 2014
EFFECTIVE: MARCH 13, 2014
PUBLISHED: MARCH 13, 2014



Celebrating a ladies night out for a good cause at last year's Laughter Lifts You Up are (from left) Monica Marini of Dearborn Heights, Michelle Buchanan of Livonia and Janice Tosto of Canton.

Canton bartender Hool garners world title

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Andy Hool knows the old adage, "Practice makes perfect."

And he may have proven it last week when he claimed the TGI Fridays World Championship of bartending at the restaurant chain's world competition in Dallas.

Hool, who has been chasing the prize for a few years now, finally claimed it.

"A lot of hard work and determination finally paid off," said Hool, known by the professional name of Andy Bro. "It was amazing."

Hool, a seven-year TGI Fridays veteran who has been tending bar nearly six years, beat out 11 other bartenders from around the world to capture the crown. The contestants competed in categories including bar knowledge, compulsory and speed performances and a freestyle showcase.

Hool, making his third trip to the finals, said he'd built a comfort level with the various "tools of

the trade" in the months leading up to the competition, and his familiarity with TGI Fridays equipment really helped him settle in when he got to Dallas.

"I use every tool TGI Fridays wants me to use," Hool said. "When I got to the competition, I was comfortable with everything. People are creatures of habit, and that worked for me."

Hool, a former Livonia resident, now lives in Canton with his 5-year-old daughter, Payton. He attended St. Michael School in Livonia and is a graduate of Catholic Central, then in Redford but now located in Novi. His parents, Gerald and Elizabeth Hool, still live in Livonia.

Hool said once he got into the competition, he tried to react to things like it was a normal, everyday shift at the Canton TGI Fridays. It wasn't easy.

"I tried to just treat it like it was a normal shift," Hool said. "It's hard to do, because obviously you're going to feel the extra pressure."



Andy "Bro" Hool hoists the championship trophy — a giant propeller — after winning the TGI Fridays World Bartending Championship in Dallas last week.

OUR VIEWS

Beware of scams during tax season

April 15 isn't the only day during tax season that your wallet can feel a sting.

Scam artists are making the rounds heading into tax time. Police departments recently alerted the media to a fraud in which a caller might tell residents that he or she is from the Internal Revenue Service and claims that a debt must be remedied at once. Targets are typically directed to pay with a preloaded credit card or wire transfer.

Say what you will about the IRS, but it doesn't operate that way. This scummy scam preys on unfounded fears about getting in trouble with the government. This is more Uncle Scam than Uncle Sam.

According to the IRS, here are some red flags to recognize if you get such a call:

» Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names to identify themselves.

» Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security number.

Nobody likes to be scammed. Keep yourself in the know and prevent yourself and your loved ones from becoming victims to fraud.

» Scammers spoof an IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.

» Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.

» Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.

» After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or department of state, and the caller ID supports their claim.

Very sophisticated in some respects, and very misleading at the same time. Your tax filings are due April 15, no sooner, and here is some more advice from the IRS about how to respond to these sorts of calls:

» If you owe or think you owe the IRS some money, call the agency at 800-829-1040. The employees at that line can help you with a payment issue.

» If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes — for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above — call and report the incident to the U.S. Treasury Department inspector general for tax administration at 800-366-4484.

» If you've been targeted by this scam, contact the Federal Trade Commission and use its FTC Complaint Assistant at <http://www.ftc.gov>. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Nobody likes to pay income taxes. Nobody likes to be scammed. Keep yourself in the know and prevent yourself and your loved ones from becoming victims to fraud.

— A Gannett Michigan editorial



Police departments recently alerted the media to a fraud in which a caller might tell residents that he or she is from the Internal Revenue Service and claims that a debt must be remedied at once.

What do you think?



The construction equipment is already on site in preparation for the closing of I-96 from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in Livonia in April for reconstruction. With the closing of the entire freeway, motorists will have to find alternate routes. Do you have a game plan to avoid the traffic congestion? Let us know. Email your response to smason@hometownlife.com by noon Monday and it may appear as a letter to the editor in next Thursday's paper. Include your name, address and phone number. (Address and phone number are for verification purposes only.) BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LETTERS

Water bill like a joke

Paying the water bill in Garden City is like a joke I once heard ...

A hotel guest is charged \$100 for a safe. When she questions why, she didn't use it. The manager replies, it was there. She tells that manager that she is charging him \$150 for sex. He says, we didn't have sex. She says, that's your fault, I was there. I think this analogy is appropriate in more ways than one.

Skip Wehrle
Garden City

Teen consequences

Recent *Free Press* reporting offers views of the student/security guard assault at a Detroit high school. The following is a narrative of editorial comments and attorney statements regarding the incident:

"His (the student's) violent response was an unwarranted and dangerous escalation of the situation." (Removal of a hoodie.) This country's salvation is an adherence to the rule of law. The first lesson is clear: Actions have consequences.

Consequences are one thing, but brutal, unforgiving consequences are far too typical in our criminal justice system. In a just world, though, he ought to be given a chance to prove he can be mature enough to learn from his mistakes.

The student's attorney stated he has no prior contact with the system.

He is extremely remorseful, but he is ready to move forward. It certainly is our position that Mr. Campbell should not be criminalized.

The Detroit Public Schools has taken an initial step and the student has been suspended.

However, Michigan law is very clear regarding future action. In part Section 380.1311a of the Michigan School Code reads as follows:

"If a pupil commits a physical assault at school against a person employed by or engaged as a volunteer or contractor by the school board, the School Board shall expel the pupil from the school district permanently, subject to possible reinstatement.

"The individual may initiate a petition for reinstatement at any time after the expiration of 150 school days after the date of expulsion.

"The individual shall not be

SEND US YOUR VIEWS

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, *Wayne-Westland and Garden City Observer News-papers*, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

Email: smason@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

reinstated before the expiration of 180 school days after the date of expulsion."

Yes, actions do have consequences.

Jim Brenner
Redford

Hit for inaction

The Michigan Senate recently passed a supplemental bill that, among other things, would transfer \$100 million for road maintenance. Even though this is just a transfer of funds and other projects shelved, it will be welcomed by the county and local agencies that have been short-changed the past four years.

Six Republican senators voted "no" on the \$360 million bill, among them Sen. Patrick Colbeck. Why, you ask, would he do that? Well, here's the answer in a nutshell.

Last fall, after failing to stop the Medicaid expansion, he led the charge to not give that law immediate effect. Several news sources warned at the time that our state treasury would take a multimillion-dollar hit because of this inaction. Well, the hit is here. The above supplemental bill includes \$73.3 million to pay for Colbeck's and the tea party's antics.

I can only surmise that with the election looming, Colbeck doesn't want the voters to see, in black and white, how much it cost us for him to please that front organization, "Americans for Prosperity (for the Rich)."

How many roads could be repaired or how many police officers, firefighters or teachers hired with that \$73.3 million? We will never know. But you can bet your last dollar on this: If even one paragraph of the Medicaid expansion bill would have enriched the Koch Brothers, the DeVos family or other billionaires

who fund the Tea Party, it would have taken effect before the gavel fell.

James Huddleston
Canton

All People Matter

March is national social work month. This year's theme is All People Matter. It makes me proud to be a social worker.

All People Matter is the core value of my profession. My training has taught me to challenge oppression and help individuals and families realize their full potential. Often there is a stigma attached to the title of "social worker." People associate it with professionals who must take children-at-risk away from their families. Actually, social workers serve as experts in many important areas such as: EAP (employee assistance programs), gerontology, addiction rehabilitation, community development, legislation and social policy, education, poverty, food access, mental health and LGBT rights. Professionals must abide by a strict code of ethics or they lose their license.

Jane Addams, Sen. Debbie Stabenow and former Congressman Ron Dellums are all social workers. Across the globe, we not only believe that all people have dignity and deserve respect, we work to make it so. American social work profession has a commitment to improving conditions and quality of life opportunities for everyone. "Social work is the profession that does the front line work when other professions stand back," said Dr. Maxine Thomas, director of the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

We do this work because all people matter.

Colleen Crossey, M.S.W.
Novi

OUR VIEW

Time is right to strip R-word from Michigan laws

Last week, the Michigan House of Representatives unanimously approved House Bill 5351 as part of an eight-bill package which, if approved, would eliminate the word "retarded" from Michigan statute and replace it with scientific and appropriate language.

The House vote came Wednesday, March 5, which just happened to be the Spread the Word to End the Word national day of awareness. For six years, Special Olympics has been asking people to take the pledge to stop using the R-word and its variations.

Spread the Word to End the Word is an ongoing effort to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word "retard(ed)" which started out as a replacement for such degrading ones as moron, imbecile and idiot. It is

now has become just as dehumanizing, hurtful and offensive.

According to the website, www.R-word.org, the R-word has become "a common taunt used to make fun of others." It's used to denote behavior that is clumsy, hapless and even hopeless, but "whether intentional or not, the word conjures up a painful stereotype of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

David Knezek, D-Deerborn Heights, sponsored the bill. A volunteer with Special Olympics, he was surprised to find that it is this day and age, "the state of Michigan refers to those who have intellectual disabilities with such insensitive and antiquated language" in its laws.

His bill would delete the mentally retarded references from the statute dealing with interme-

diated school districts and replace the term with developmentally disabled. Knezek believes that eliminating this derogatory term in state laws "is a tremendous step toward addressing the stigma associated with developmental disabilities in our society."

As a society, we still have a lot to do to eliminate such offensive language from our vocabulary. We are offended to hear the N-word and should be to hear the R-word. Taking the pledge is as much about ending its use as telling people with intellectual disabilities you are part of our group.

That's why it's good to see that Knezek's bill passed unanimously in the House and we're confident the bill will receive a similar reception in the Senate. It's change whose time has come.

OBSERVER

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Hindu Temple's free health fair lauded

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

The Hindu Temple of Canton, moving to save lives by detecting health threats and early disease, has announced a free two-day health fair to help area residents who might forgo or delay medical care, often because they can't afford it.

Jatin Desai, a health fair organizer, said the Hindu Temple hopes to reach beyond its site on Cherry Hill Road east of Canton Center to draw a diverse group of people to the event, scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, April 6 and April 27.

"Hinduism is a way of living and we believe the more we help our community, the more healthy our society will be down the road," Desai said. "This is open to all walks of life, regardless of faith."

The Hindu Temple has paired with Oakwood Hospital-Wayne and the Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, or MAPI, for the 12th annual event.

"They have the same mission as us," Desai said. "They want to make sure that the community can be a beneficiary of early detection of any health issues."

As many as 60-70 doctors are expected to become involved in the health fair, open to residents in Canton and beyond.

Don Hazaert, director of Michigan Consumers for Healthcare, a coalition of health-related organizations, lauded the Hindu Tem-



The Hindu Temple of Canton is ready for its annual free health fair, which in the past has drawn large crowds. SUMAN RAVAL

ple's efforts.

"It's a terrific program that communities are going to need for some time to come," Hazaert said, despite the phasing in of efforts such as the Affordable Care Act. "While there's plenty of good news on the health care front, programs like this are important and should be embraced by their communities."

For the April 6 event, the Hindu Temple has confirmed it will accept only the first 350 people who sign up by March 31 by stopping at the temple or going to www.hindutemple.org or www.mapiusa.org, Desai said.

For that three-hour session, patients are asked to fast after midnight because medical personnel plan to draw blood to screen for a complete blood count, cholesterol, prostate health and blood sugar

levels that, if elevated, can lead to diabetes. Minimum age for the blood test is 18.

For the April 27 health fair, patients who had their blood drawn during the first session are asked to return to obtain their results and get medical advice from doctors.

"We want to help them learn how they can change their lifestyle to make it better for them," Desai said.

No prior registration is necessary for the April 27 session. Desai said anyone is welcome to attend and get their blood pressure and hearing tested.

Moreover, visitors will be able to speak with primary care physicians and specialists in cardiology, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, rheumatology, dentistry, gastroenterology, podiatry, endocrinology, nutrition, orthopedic surgery, ophthalmology,

physical therapy and internal medicine.

Visitors are asked to bring their current prescriptions and any medical records they might have. Information booths also are planned with pharmacists and recommendations for nutrition and lifestyle improvements.

When the Hindu Temple of Canton organized its first community health fair more than a decade ago, Desai said it had humble beginnings with around 100 visitors - a number that had quadrupled by last year.

Desai commended Oakwood Hospital-Wayne for being a consistent partner, saying it has been "a major contributor in terms of resources for this health fair."

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Be on guard against tax fraud schemes



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Posing as tax preparers

Every year at this time, the IRS publishes its top tax fraud schemes.

It is important to keep in mind that, ultimately, you are responsible for what ends up on your tax return. You can't use the excuse that a professional prepared your return. The bottom line is, you signed your return and you are responsible.

If you take deductions you're not entitled to, the IRS can assess you the additional tax along with interest and penalties.

One scam the IRS says is increasing is scammers who call pretending to be representatives from the IRS. They tell people that they are either entitled to a large refund or that they owe money.

The goal is to steal money or obtain your sensitive financial information. These callers tend to be aggressive and often call more than once. In addition, when they call they are able to make the caller ID display IRS.

Know that the IRS will initially contact you through the mail. Therefore, if you get a call from someone claiming they're from the IRS, hang up, because it is a scam.

Scammers don't just call, they also send emails claiming the IRS needs information in order to process your return. Once again, this is an attempt to steal sensitive financial information. The emails look legitimate, but they are not. If you get an email from the IRS, delete it.

In addition, many scammers pose as tax preparers. They say that by having them complete your return, you're going to get a much larger refund and will be able to take advantage of certain deductions. They charge you excessive fees to do your return and the end result is that the IRS denies your deductions. You are potentially left paying the tax, along with interest and penalties.

It is important to have only those professionals with credentials and integrity prepare your return.

The last scam that I want to highlight, and one that I've mentioned in the past, is people who create bogus charitable organizations. They use names that sound similar to reputable charities and they solicit money either through email or phone calls.

It's important to watch out for these scam artists. If you are affected by them, your hard-earned money won't go to charity and the IRS will deny your charitable deduction.

There are many more scams that relate to taxes. The bottom line is, keep your guard up at all times. Remember this simple rule: If something sounds too good to be true, it is.

If you hire a professional to prepare your return, make sure it is someone who will stand by his/her work.

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



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Tom and Bridie Flynn are the grand marshals for the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Local couple serving as grand marshals of St. Patrick's Day parade

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

When it comes to celebrating their Irish heritage, Tom and Bridie Flynn get involved with any activity or group they can. That's why the Livonia couple says they weren't surprised when they were named grand marshals of the 2014 Detroit St. Patrick's Day parade this upcoming weekend.

"We've been very, very involved," Bridie Flynn said. "And that's why we were selected. I think we've been at every activity, you name it. We've been all over."

The couple, who have lived in Livonia for several decades, were named grand marshals of the parade back in October. In recent weeks, the two have been all over Metro Detroit, appearing at events such as a fundraiser with Detroit mayor and Livonia native Mike Duggan earlier this week.

"We've been pretty busy in a lot of communities," Bridie Flynn said. "We just run into so many people."

The two have been involved with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Motor City Irish Festival, among other groups.

They received a commendation last week from the Livonia City Council, during which they wore their sashes and medals displaying their honors.

"On behalf of the City of Livonia, we wish to extend our congratulations to both of you for being named the grand marshals for the 56th annual St. Patrick's Day parade and for generously giving of your time and talents to preserve the strong Irish heritage in Detroit," said council president Maureen Miller Brosnan during the presentation.

Both full-blooded Irish

The Flynn couple moved to Livonia from Dearborn when their family expanded with children. Both are full-blooded Irish, with Bridie immigrating to the United States from Ireland's County Mayo when she was 17. She received her citizenship several years after she came to Detroit.

"It was really an opportunity," she said. "It took me a while to get acclimated to the United States with the accent and everything."

Bridie Flynn worked for advertising agency Campbell Ewald for several years before

becoming a stay-at-home mother and getting involved with the PTA, while Tom Flynn worked as a physical education teacher for Livonia Public Schools before retiring.

The parade, put on by the United Irish Societies, begins at noon Sunday and runs along Michigan Avenue from Sixth Street to 14th Street in Detroit. It attracts several thousand people, something the Flynn couple admires, especially seeing lots of families in the crowd.

"That's what's nice about the parade every year; it's a family affair," Bridie Flynn said. "The last two years, we've had a lot of spectators."

The couple will continue on with activities throughout the weekend to St. Patrick's Day Monday where they plan on attending Mass at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the Corktown neighborhood in Detroit.

Tom Flynn said it's been worth all the running around to interact with so many people.

"There's probably not much we haven't done," Tom Flynn said. "You meet a lot of nice people."

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Westland girl selected for pageant



Marcella Puia

Westland resident Marcella Puia, 5, has been chosen as a state finalist in the National American Miss pageant to be held July 3-5 at Adoba Hotel in Dearborn.

The National American Miss pageants are held for girls ages 4-18 who compete in five age divisions.

Marcella attends Wildwood Elementary School and is a

student at the Dance Academy in Westland.

Her parents are Mircia and Leontina Puia. She has a sister Megan and brother Mircia Jr.

Veterans services focus of informational meeting

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Area veterans can get information about benefits and services available through Wayne County on Tuesday, March 25, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

The league and the Westland Veterans Association are hosting the meeting which will run 5-9 p.m. UAW Local 900 has donated refreshments for the meeting.

"This is a no closed-door event. Veterans have complained that they get to a certain point getting information and

then are told that we can't help you," said Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland. "This will be a pilot program."

During the program, veterans will be able to get a Wayne County veterans identification card, which LeBlanc said has become very popular. The card provides various discounts for veterans.

"I hope that veterans and their spouses will come to the program. There is no charge," he said. "We have a flier that will be soon delivered. I think it is going to

be a great event."

There will be no political speeches at the veterans services programs, LeBlanc said, but added politicians were welcome to donate gift cards that can be used for door prizes.

Anyone wanting more information about the veterans services program can call LeBlanc's office at 313-224-8855.

The Wayne-Ford Civic League is located on Wayne Road just south of Ford in Westland.

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PREP BOYS SWIMMING

State champ Arakelian grateful to teammates

Stevenson senior breaks pair of MHSAA records

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Despite winning two individual state titles Saturday, the team always comes first for Livonia Stevenson swimmer Nick Arakelian.

bang in the Division 1 boys finals held at Saginaw Valley State University as he set an all-class MHSAA record in the 200-yard individual medley (1:47.47) and broke his own state mark while defending his title in the 500 freestyle (4:24.84).

In the process, Arakelian also helped make it possible for Stevenson to record its highest team finish in school



Arakelian

history as the Spartans, who scored 202 points, took runner-up honors to Birmingham Brother Rice's 345.

body was excited. My teammates and I are very passionate about what we do. We spent the whole season having fun and working hard. It all came together for us and it paid off big."

In the 200 IM, Arakelian fended off a challenge from Novi Detroit Catholic Central junior Jack Walsh, who was clocked in 1:48.54, to earn first place.

But in the 500 freestyle, Arakelian dominated, winning by more than 10 seconds over Zeeland's Micah De Jonge (4:35.02), while breaking his own Division 1 record of 4:27.05. (The all-class mark is 4:20.71).

"The 200 IM, I definitely hit my mark there," Arakelian said. "That was the one that I

See **ARAKELIAN**, Page B2

PREP BOYS SWIMMING

Stevenson pools its efforts for state runner-up finish

Rice swimmers capture MHSAA Division 1 crown

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

There hasn't been a better day of boys swimming for Livonia Stevenson than Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 state finals, held at Saginaw Valley State University.

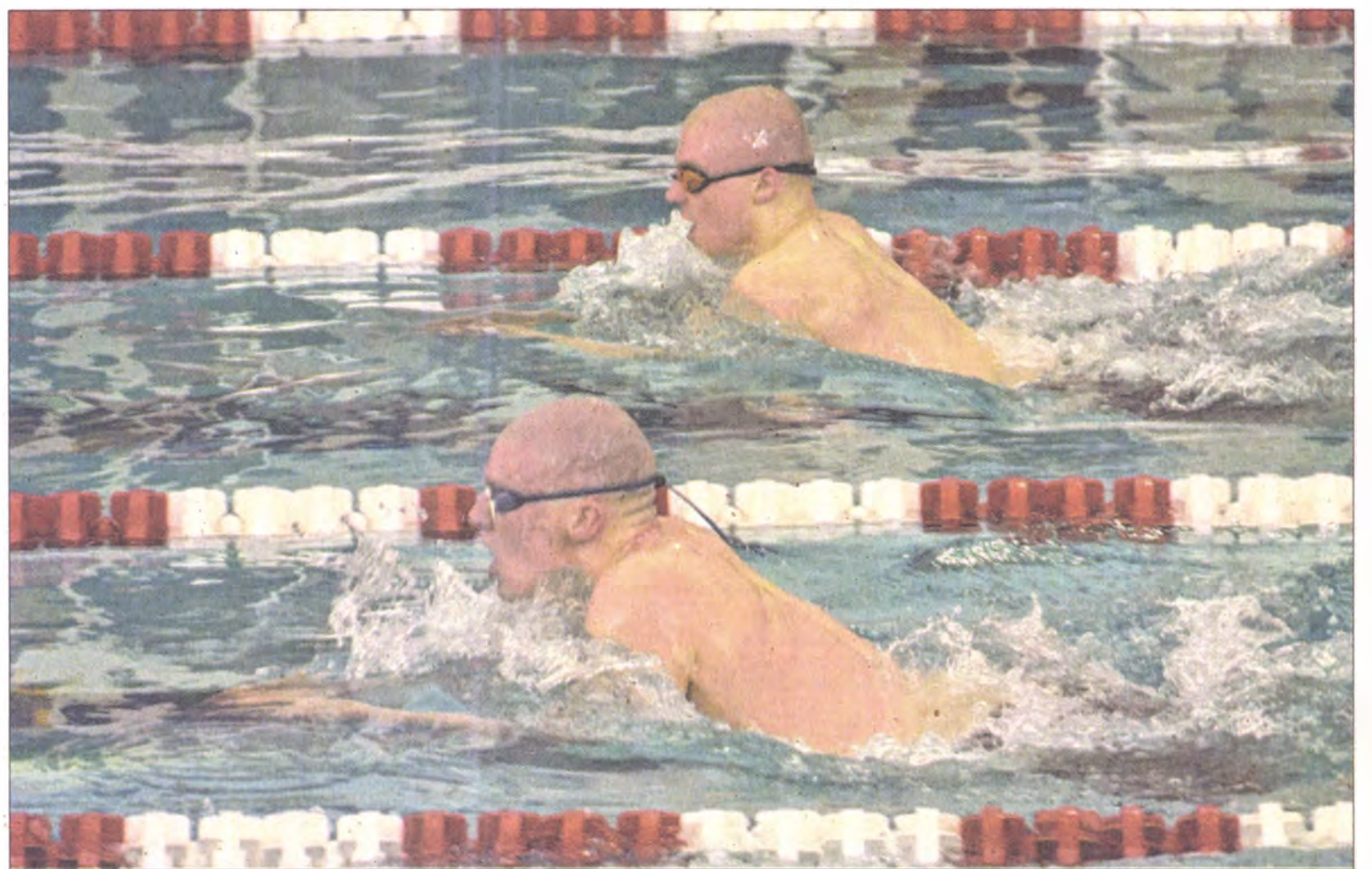
The Spartans, scoring 202 points, left University Center with the state runner-up trophy. Birmingham Brother Rice captured its first crown since 2007 with 345 points.

Stevenson posted 11 different all-state (top eight) performances along with six new school records to top last year's third-place team finish in Division 1.

While Rice was the runaway champion, second place became a battle between Stevenson, third-place Holland West Ottawa (191) and fourth-place Ann Arbor Pioneer (185).

"I was probably the most proud of a swim team that I've ever been," Stevenson 14-year coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "Overjoyed, maybe. It was an up-and-down competition and we were still able to come out on top, which is a true testament to those boys and how well they trained and how well they were able to stick together. When adversity showed its face, they were able to rebound and still come out on top, which is the key to the game of life, I guess."

Senior Nick Arakelian was again the catalyst for Stevenson as he broke an MHSAA all-class record in the 200-yard individual medley (1:47.47) and



Stevenson's Grant McNamara (bottom) and teammate Tom O'Donohue (top), swimming in Friday's prelims, placed sixth and eighth, respectively, in the Division 1 100 breaststroke finals. JIM BIELICKI

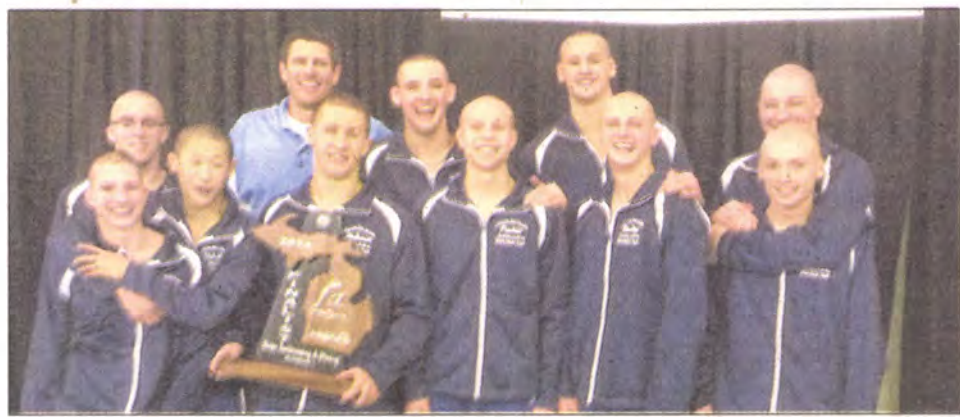
broke his own Division 1 record in the 500 freestyle (4:24.84).

Stevenson also posted a second-place finish in two of the meet's three relay events.

The all-senior quartet of Parker Belmore, Arakelian, Bradley Bielicki and Jake Goeddeke clocked 1:34.54 in the 200 medley relay (to Rice's 1:32.77).

Meanwhile, the foursome of Arakelian, Belmore, Goeddeke

See **SPARTANS**, Page B2



The Livonia Stevenson boys swim team, coached by Jeff Shoemaker, proudly displays its MHSAA Division 1 runner-up team trophy.

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL FINALS

Five Livonia gymnasts garner all-state honors

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia produced nine different all-state performances (top 10) during Saturday's MHSAA Division 2 Gymnastics Individual Finals held at Plymouth High School.

Livonia Blue freshman Jess Weak placed eighth in the all-around (34.875), including a tie for third on the uneven parallel bars (8.85).

Meanwhile, Livonia Blue

sophomore Bri Rhoad tied for fourth on floor exercise and added a fifth on the uneven bars (8.75).

Sophomore Emily Chatterjee added an eighth on the uneven bars (8.65) along with tie for 10th on the balance beam (8.925).

"I am a very proud coach this season," Livonia Blue coach Lisa Broomfield said. "My gymnasts came out strong on Saturday and did what they have been doing all season. Jess came out strong

as a freshman and I'm very proud of her.

"Bri started out rough, but came through at the end and finished strong. Chatterjee came into the meet having fun and finished with a fun and medaling beam routine."

Yet another top performer for Livonia Blue was senior captain Jillian Zafarana, who placed fourth on the balance beam (9.175).

"Jillian, being a senior and first time at the state meet, came out and nailed her beam

routine like I have never seen before," Broomfield said. "It was a very proud moment for her and I was glad I was able to share it with her."

Livonia Red sophomore Marissa McVey also enjoyed success, with a tie for fourth on floor (9.075) and a tie for seventh on vault (9.05).

This is the first time McVey placed at the individual state meet after qualifying in the all-around as a freshman.

"Marissa had a great per-

formance on Saturday," Livonia Red coach Kelly Grodzicki said. "She was struggling with a back injury most of the season. However, determination pushed her through. Marissa shows great focus in her gymnastics and Saturday was a great example of this. I'm very proud as a coach and excited to see what next season brings for this young lady."

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

COLLEGE BASEBALL

It's a waiting game: Weather becomes issue for MU

Crusaders could off for at least two more weeks

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

After a 10-game trip to Florida, the Madonna University baseball team is looking to get a big break back home from Mother Nature – dependent upon when spring actually does arrive.

The Crusaders capped their road swing Saturday with a 10-6 victory over Trinity (Ill.) International in the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational held at Lakeland's Bonny Park.

But with only a slight thaw in sight and yet another snow storm looming in lieu of an extremely harsh winter, MU may not be able to resume play anytime soon until field conditions improve.

"Obviously, you can't be snow covered and play, but the other big issue is frost," MU coach Greg Haeger said. "I looked at the 10-day forecast this morning (Monday) and we're still going below freezing at night. I would say a minimum of two weeks before we play on our field and it could be a lot longer. Mother Nature wins. We just have to be ready when Mother Nature tells us."

Madonna's next scheduled game is Tuesday, March 18, in Mount Pleasant against Central Michigan before launching the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play with a double-header Wednesday, March 19, against Concordia at Ilitch Ballpark.

The Crusaders, now 13-7 overall, ended their eight-day stay with a 14-hit attack to beat Trinity, which slipped to 0-3.

"Every time you play, you have a chance to learn about your team," Haeger said. "This team, being so young, we're learning something every day."

Livonia Churchill's Ben Matigian, John Lauro and Thomas Daffern all went 3-for-4 in the victory.

Matigian scored two runs, while Lauro and Daffern each added an RBI. Zach Tallman also contributed two hits and three RBI, while Ryan Lech also drove in a run.

Matigian, a red-shirt sophomore outfielder, sat out his freshman year and made only nine plate appearances last year, going 1-for-9.

"He's been swinging the bat very well," Haeger said. "He's a tough out right now and we started playing him in the outfield. We've been moving him around between center and left field. He's really been a great surprise this year. The kid has worked awfully hard and deserves what he's gotten this year so far. He's done a great job."

MU used six different pitchers with starter Alex Padilla (2-0) – who went the first five innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits and five walks – earning the victory.

Padilla struck out four before giving way to Dane Staples, who gave up two earned runs on three hits in his only inning of work.

Dylan Cooper and Dan Stoner (Canton) then each pitched a scoreless inning before Tyler Schofield came on in the ninth, only to give up one earned run on three hits. Travis Schuba



Red-shirt sophomore outfielder Ben Matigian (Livonia Churchill) has been a pleasant surprise at the plate this spring for the Madonna baseball team. MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION



Grzelakowski

procedure, sees the doctors, gets the MRIs and everything else that goes on."

Meanwhile, the Crusaders will continue indoor workouts until the weather finally cooperates.

"We've already started to do things a little differently," Haeger said. "We've never done this before, but we're going to use this time Tuesday and Wednesday with the kids to have mid-season meetings, then we'll get back to full practice Thursday and Friday. The only thing you can do is to prepare five days out. We'll watch the Weather Channel, talk to the coaches and look for other opportunities as well."

MU also uses Total Sports in Wixom, an indoor facility.

"We've had that relationship with them many years with the owners and Stu Rose (MU assistant coach), who is on the baseball side of it," Haeger said. "Having access to that facility is a huge asset for us. We accomplish as much as we can with our gym in terms of keeping the pitchers ready and running our hitters through drills, and using live pitching. We use Total Sports when we need to use a defensive day. We'll also use our (MU turf) soccer field. And as soon as we get rain showers, then warms up again, hopefully the soccer field becomes usable in terms of getting outside work in and it keeps us close to campus."

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came on to get the final out to pick up his first save of the season.

Losing pitcher Nick Robinson gave up eight earned runs on 13 hits in six innings of work.

Tony Guidone (2-for-3, RBI) and Cameron Stanley (2-for-4, RBI) paced the Trojans' offense.

Through the first 20 games, MU sports an overall team batting average of .281, with Daffern (.409), Lauro (.379), Taylor Grzelakowski (.371) and Matigian (.333) leading the way.

Grzelakowski, who was named WHAC Offensive Player of the Week after hitting .579, has a team-high 12 RBI, while Lauro and Daffern have 10 and nine, respectively.

Sophomore red-shirt Evan Piechota (Livonia Stevenson) is 2-2 and has pitched a team-high 26 innings. The right-hander

owns with a team-best 1.38 ERA and 18 strikeouts.

Adam Prashad is 2-1 with a 1.46 ERA in 24 1/3 innings. The Crusaders' overall team ERA is 3.23.

Freshman Mike Kanitra (Stevenson), meanwhile, was scratched from the lineup after throwing two scoreless innings in the team's 6-2 win March 1 over Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.) in the Florida opener.

"We're still not exactly sure may have happened to him," Haeger said of the 6-foot-4 right-hander. "The trainers looked at him today (Monday) and we should get some word on him by the end of the week. It's his right arm. We're thinking he pulled a muscle in his forearm, near his elbow, but it doesn't seem like the worst-case scenario with UCL. We're thinking it may have been his elbow, but we won't know until he goes through the medical

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Bobcats rally to crush Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's Cole twins were on a mission to start Monday's Class A boys basketball regional semifinal against Grand Blanc at Linden High School.

Just 10 seconds into the matchup of KLAA teams, Brady Cole drained a trey from the left wing to open up the game's scoring. By the time the quarter was half over, senior guards Brady and Connor Cole each had two triples to their credit as Salem was off and running, 15-4.

Yet although that healthy lead enabled Salem to maintain the edge all the way into the fourth quarter, it wasn't enough to survive the Bobcats' swelling tide of intense speed and pressure all over the floor. That tide ultimately drowned the Rocks, 53-52.

"It was a fragile lead all night, it wasn't like we had a command of the game at all," longtime Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "Their pressure was non-stop, it was relentless and it eventually wore us down."

"The officials let the guys play and there was a lot of body contact, we just didn't handle it very well late in the game. We lost our composure a little bit."

Not helping matters were little things that added up big-time at the end of the night. Salem (17-6) made just 10-of-20 free throw attempts and committed 29 turnovers (compared to 16 by Grand Blanc).

The Rocks also missed several uncontested layups and could not box out big, physical

Bobcats post players such as 6-6 senior Jaylin Blake (12 points) and 6-1 senior Alexander Brackett. It was Brackett who scored with 8.5 seconds left to give Grand Blanc (21-2) the victory.

Brackett (15 points) actually got the rebound of his initial miss and put a second shot up for the winner as the Rocks could not get the defensive board that probably would have clinched the win.

Although rebounding totals were even (Salem actually outboarded Grand Blanc 30-29), the Bobcats tallied 18 offensive boards which proved crucial. Salem's top rebounder was junior forward Tyler Brooks, with nine.

"Everybody always seems to remember the last part of the game," Brodie said. "There's a lot of offensive rebounds we gave up during the game, we didn't shoot very well from the free throw line. I think we were 50 percent. We missed some easy layups inside."

"But you always remember that last play or two when you throw the ball away under severe pressure in crunch time. We were playing in enemy territory. This was definitely Grand Blanc's home gym, it was just tough to even communicate with the kids during that game."

The win moved the Bobcats into Wednesday's regional final against Howell.

Salem's early surge quieted the large crowd of Grand Blanc fans, at least for a while.

Connor Cole and Brady Cole registered 24 and 12 points, respectively, helping Salem

build leads of 17-11 after one frame and 30-25 at halftime.

"They sparked us real well, especially early in the game," Brodie said. "When those guards (Bobcats) are playing like that and they're playing with that much pressure on the entire game, they just keep coming in waves. The Coles did a good job of handling that pressure for the most part."

The Rocks built a 45-33 edge with 1:15 to go in the third following a putback by junior forward Allante Wheeler (seven points).

Grand Blanc, however, scored just before the horn on a field goal by Tre'von Avery (seven points) to cut the deficit to nine points going into the final stanza.

In the fourth, the Bobcats ratcheted up their game even more with plenty of loud encouragement from their fans.

Still, Salem had a 48-44 lead with just over five minutes left following Brady Cole's layup.

Then came a Brandon Brackett trey, followed by a Salem turnover and a missed layup. Some 30 seconds later, Grand Blanc overtook the Rocks for the first time (49-48) on two free throws by Nicholas Randle.

Grand Blanc subsequently lost possession by stepping on the base line, giving Salem a glorious chance to prevail. The Rocks, however, had trouble advancing the ball down to the other end of the floor and finally threw it out of bounds.

There was just 20 seconds left with Salem still in front when the Bobcats started what turned out to be their winning sequence.

Top Elks shooter



Nick Vanderveen (right), an eighth-grader at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Livonia, captured the Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw age-group state title Feb. 22 in Grand Rapids. Vanderveen, who also took first overall, will compete at the regional level Saturday in Indiana against other state champions from Indiana as well as Ohio. On hand to present Vanderveen with the award is Elks Hoop Shoot director Craig Goulding (left).

COLLEGE MEN'S TENNIS

Livonian Cole nets spot on all-decade for NCAC

The North Coast Athletic Conference announced that Allegheny (Pa.) College senior Patrick Cole (Livonia) has been selected to the 30th anniversary NCAC men's tennis all-decade team.

Cole, the only active player to be named to the list, has been a mainstay at top-flight singles for the Gators since his arrival in Meadville, when he was named NCAC Newcomer of the Year in 2011.

Selected for his singles prowess, Cole has been recognized as an all-NCAC first team selection in each of his first three seasons for the Blue and Gold, posting a combined record of 46-10 in dual matches throughout his career. All but five of those matches have come in the No. 1 singles position.

His overall record for the Gators in singles has been 69-18.

Cole, a graduate of the University of Detroit-Jesuit High School, holds multiple Allegheny records, including the program mark for combined victories in a season with 44, and is tied for single-season doubles victories with 22.

Cole currently sits second on the all-time Allegheny doubles wins list, along with ranking third on the all-time singles list. A prominent fix-



Cole

ture on the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Central Region rankings, Cole has been ranked as high as No. 13 during his sophomore year. Cole has also won four NCAC Athlete of the Week Awards during his career.

A leader off the court for the Gators, Cole has served as a captain since his sophomore campaign and has also been an active part of the Allegheny Student Athlete Advisory Committee, currently serving as its president. He also was the 2013 Central Region winner of the ITA Arthur Ashe Jr. Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship and has earned a pair of ITA Scholar Athlete laurels.

The NCAC is celebrating its 30th season by selecting all-decade teams in nearly every championship sport. Athletes from the first 10 years of play were selected in 1993, while players who competed from 1993-2002 were named to the 20th anniversary all-decade team. All current head coaches, as well as select administrators and former coaches, were asked to vote on the 30th anniversary squad.

Cards sign Staples



Westland John Glenn senior Hannah Staples (third from left) recently signed an NAIA letter of intent to play volleyball at Concordia University. Staples was a first-team all-Observers pick this season who lifted the Rockets to a Class A district title. She is also a two-time all-Kensington Lakes Activities and all-region selection. On hand for the signing (from left) was John Glenn coach Krista DePoy, Concordia head coach Karen Graves and Cardinals assistant coach Ryan Mortensen. "Playing club volleyball with some of the girls already on the team will help in my college adjustment," said Staples, a two-time Glenn MVP. "I look forward to getting at Concordia and working hard physically and mentally." Added DePoy: "Hannah has instincts that are not taught, they are God-given. Her passing and defense are amazing. For her size, she also can play a big role as an outside hitter. Coming from a coaching family, Hannah is so mentally tough and listens and learns so quickly."

Falcons win title

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Kim Petras would be especially proud of her son Jason, a sophomore forward on the Farmington High School hockey team, and all of the Falcons today.

Jason scored both goals and played a major role in Farmington winning the Division 3 state championship Saturday afternoon with a 2-1 victory over Sault Sainte Marie at Compuware Arena.

The win was an emotional event in itself, but it was made even more so because the team had dedicated its season to Kim Petras, a staunch supporter of the program who succumbed to cancer last month after a three-year battle with the disease.

"Jason has been a warrior and a catalyst for this hockey team from that point," Farmington coach Bill Newton said as he fought back tears in the postgame meeting with the press.

"We have a motto on our website and in our locker room that we're hashtag-kim-strong. Kim was Jason's mom. She was an educator; she was a beautiful woman. She fought to the very end.

"For this young man to come out here today and score two goals and help us win a state championship, I can't be more proud of him.

"(Kim) was looking after him. She was looking after us from that day we lost her."

Newton revealed he, too, has been waging a personal battle with colon cancer, creating a special bond for life between him and the young Petras, he said.

"I thought it was im-



The Farmington players celebrate their victory in the Division 3 state final Saturday at Compuware Arena. DOUG BARGERSTOCK

portant that you know what this young man has done in the month since he lost his mom," Newton said, adding he is in remission and doing well. "He and that guy beside him (senior goalie John Lethemon) have carried this team on the backs.

"Johnny (has done so) in a whole different way. But it's just a beautiful story what this young man has been able to do under the circumstances."

The state championship is the first in hockey for the Falcons (21-10) and the first MHSAA-sponsored championship for a Farmington-only team.

Falcons first to score once more

The Falcons, who made their first appearance in a final game,

were on the scoreboard just 38 seconds into it when Petras redirected a shot by senior Roman Firestone from the blue line.

"In every single playoff game to get here, we scored the first goal, so we knew we had to get off to a good start," Petras said.

"I give credit to my teammates and my linemates. They got it to the net and made things happen. I was just there to put it in."

As they did Friday in a semifinal win, the Falcons took the play to the Blue Devils early and made it 2-0 late in the first period.

Petras scored his third goal in two days on another redirect with 3:44 remaining. Drake Cole shot the puck in and Petras was in the right spot again with a good sense

of timing. "Coach always tells us to go hard to the net and finish," Petras said when asked about his knack for being able to see a flying puck, get his stick on it and redirect it.



Sophomore forward Jason Petras scored both goals in the 2-1 victory. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student support

Like the previous day, loud cheers of "Johnny! Johnny!" and even chants of "MVP! MVP!" thundered forth from the Farmington student section whenever Lethemon made a save.

"It's great that they're all rooting for me," he said. "It's a great confidence-booster, but I just try to zone all the noise out and just stick to my game."

The Blue Devils (25-3-2) copied the Falcons at the start of the second period and scored their lone goal in the first minute after just 18 seconds of play.

Chase Gamelin fired a shot to the left post and Blake Mastaw put the rebound — one of the few the Soo was able to get into the open right side.

Otherwise, Lethemon gave another superb demonstration of goaltending and blanked the Blue Devils as he had the other five playoff opponents.

"We don't score a lot of goals, but we can play with a one-goal lead because of our goalie," Newton said. "It's huge for us. We're not a come-from-behind kind of team."

"We had some nice chances to get more and so did they. For some reason, someone is looking after us. If we score two, we can win."

Solid on defense

The Soo had its biggest shots-on-goal advantage in the third period (8-2), but most were from a distance and not the result of traffic in front of the net.

Lethemon made many big saves, however, and Farmington defenseman Firestone, Grant Newton, Austin Meltzer, Richard Lantz and Brian Jonik were efficient at clearing the puck to preserve the tenuous 2-1 lead.

"I don't think there's anybody in Michigan except the 19 guys on this team, the coaches, the trainers and the parents who believed we could do this, but we knew all along (the Falcons could win the state title)," Lethemon said.

"We're so proud of the student body and the administration that supported the team so well," Newton said, citing the two-day attendance. "We have a great administration, a great faculty, a great student body — and they love this team."

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media RESULTS

Beth Jaber of New Face New Body in Canton speaks about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media

"I've tried all kinds of advertising in the past and got no results however when I advertised in Observer & Eccentric Media I got my money's worth. I like to spend my money wisely. Their advertising prices were half the price of some other newspapers. Also, people who subscribe to the newspaper want it and read it. The staff is also nice to work with."



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A special assist
Senior Nick Heffron also got an assist on the second goal and, though it won't appear in the official statistics, Petras would give another assist for all three of his goals.

"The whole team just played amazingly and my mom watching down on me — that definitely helped," he said. "I know she was with me through the whole thing."

"She's my No. 1 fan and I know she had a lot to do with how I played the last couple games."

In a near replay of the previous game, Farmington was on the defensive for much of the second and third periods, but the Falcons had their ace guarding the net — Lethemon.

As was the case in most games, the Falcons were outshot by Sault Ste. Marie, 30-22, but the final tally was a lot closer than many other games.

"(The 2-0 lead) takes the pressure off me," Lethemon said. "Every single game in the tournament, we scored first and that's huge for me. "It's a big confidence-

ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2014-06 March 4, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. MEMBERS PRESENT: Haidous, Damitio, Rowe, Mani, Rhaesa. MEMBERS ABSENT: Hawley, Henley. Moment of silence was held for Gary Pride and Ellen Snell. PRESENTATION: by Amy Malmer and Susan Stefanski from SEMCOG. A Public Hearing was held for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. APPROVED: minutes of the regular meeting of February 18; first reading of Ordinance amendments to Chapter 882: Blight Regulations for Commercial Areas-Inoperable vehicles with changes; appointment of David Steinhauer to DDA until Dec. 2018; Ed Marman to Library Board until Feb. 2019; 4th year contract with Frank's Landscaping for Mich. Ave. mowing; budget amendment of discontinuing Retired Lives Medical Coverage; one year contract with Reaction Direct for marketing; consent calendar; recessed to Closed Session at 9:52 p.m.; reconvened in Open Session at 11:25 p.m. TABLED: 2nd year contract with the Frank's Landscaping for DDA Streetscape maint.; Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 11:25 p.m. Matthew K. Miller City Clerk

Publish: March 13, 2014

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GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION. THE AUCTION WILL BE ON TUESDAY MARCH 18TH AT 10:00AM AT 6375 HIX, WESTLAND MI, 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

AMOUNT	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
\$5,825.00	2002	MERCURY	MOUNTAINEER	WHITE	4N2ZU86E02J37686
\$3,725.00	2002	PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	SILVER	1G2JB12F227419553
\$3,646.00	2002	DODGE	CARAVAN	BLUE	1B4GP44342B608100
\$3,717.00	2002	FORD	TAURUS	SILVER	1FAFP56S2A117129
\$2,924.00	1999	MAZDA	MILLENNIA	WHITE	JM1TA2218X1507938
\$2,582.00	2002	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	GREY	1G1ND52J62M725149
\$2,653.00	2005	CADILLAC	STS	BLACK	1G6DW677650236717
\$2,430.00	1992	DODGE	CARAVAN	WHITE	2B4GH553XNR525682
\$2,278.00	2005	CHRYSLER	PT CRUISER	PURPLE	3C4FY48B5T575317
\$1,822.00	1998	CHEVROLET	BLAZER	BROWN	1GNCS13W5W2291645
\$1,727.00	2001	FORD	ESCORT	GOLD	3FAFP13P41R172107
\$1,670.00	2005	CHEVROLET	IMPALA	SILVER	2G1WH52K859114848
\$3,359.00	2002	MAZDA	PROTEGE	RED	JM1BJ245021620609
\$3,275.00	2001	DODGE	CARAVAN	RED	2B4GP44391R283220
\$3,025.00	1997	MERCURY	COUGAR	BLUE	1MELM6247VH606097
\$3,246.00	1999	MERCURY	SABLE	TAN	1MEFM50U9XG643204
\$3,232.00	2005	FORD	TAURUS	RED	1FAFP53215A137875
\$1,404.00	1995	ISUZU	PICK UP	RED	JAACL487207415

Publish: March 13, 2014

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Bring family together with Breakfast

Gathering family and friends around the breakfast table is a great way to make new memories. These breakfast recipes are full of flavor and are easy to prepare, giving you more time to enjoy a delicious meal with your loved ones.

Breakfast Tortilla Cups can be made ahead and baked when you want. Corn bread with Spicy Sausage and Red Peppers is a colorful accompaniment complemented nicely with Sausage Breakfast Skillet with Sautéed Tomatoes & Basil. Mini Quiches are bite-sized delicacies prepared in advance and served at room temperature.

For more delicious reasons to eat breakfast, visit www.johnsonville.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



SAUSAGE BREAKFAST SKILLET WITH SAUTÉED TOMATOES & BASIL

Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 2-4

- 1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville Original Recipe Breakfast Sausage, divided
 - 2 medium red skinned potatoes, (about 1/4 pounds) cut into very thin wedges
 - 1 small onion, sliced
 - 1 teaspoon rosemary, dried or fresh
 - 1/2 pint grape tomatoes, (about a cup)
 - 1/2 cup Gouda cheese, shredded
 - 2 to 4 large eggs, fried, scrambled or poached
 - 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced
- salt and pepper, to taste

In a bowl combine thin-sliced potato wedges, onion slices, rosemary and 2 tablespoons olive oil. Toss together. Use half the package of sausages (about 7 links). In a 10- to 12-inch skillet over medium heat, add potato mixture and cook for 5 minutes, turning the potatoes occasionally so that they start to brown on both sides. Add the sausages to the pan and continue cooking alongside the potatoes, another 10 to 15 minutes, turning occasionally to evenly brown the ingredients in the pan. Add the tomatoes, stir to combine and heat through allowing the tomatoes to brown slightly and burst, about 3 minutes. With a spatula carefully push ingredients to the sides of the pan leaving a space in the center to fry or scramble your eggs just the way you like them. Remove from heat and sprinkle your egg skillet with shredded Gouda cheese and fresh basil.

BREAKFAST TORTILLA CUPS

Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 18 minutes
Serves 12

- 1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville Hot & Spicy Breakfast Sausage Links
 - 9 flour tortillas (6 inches), at room temperature (thicker, home-style tortillas work best)
 - 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Mexican blend cheese
 - 6 eggs
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
 - 1/4 cup finely chopped cilantro
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Salsa

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook sausage according to package directions; cut into small pieces and set aside. Coat muffin pan and both sides of tortillas with cooking spray. Cut tortillas into quarters. Arrange three tortilla pieces in each muffin cup, overlapping to fit. Press tortillas gently and firmly into muffin pan. Tortillas should stick up higher than muffin cup sides. Arrange half of the cheese in tortilla-lined muffin cups. Top with sausage and the remaining cheese. In a bowl, combine the eggs, milk, bell pepper, cilantro, salt and pepper. Carefully pour into cups. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until eggs are set. Serve with salsa.



CORNBREAD WITH SPICY SAUSAGE AND RED PEPPERS

Prep time: 25 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 8

- 1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville Hot & Spicy Breakfast Sausage Links
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 425°F. Remove sausage links from casings. Use kitchen scissors to cut the casings. In a skillet, cook and crumble sausage until no longer pink; drain and set aside. In a bowl, combine the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In another bowl combine the eggs, milk and butter; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in the sausage, red bell pepper and cheese. Pour into a greased 8-inch-square baking pan. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve warm.



MINI QUICHES

Prep time: 25 minutes
Cook time: 16 minutes
Serves: 24

- 1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville Maple or Original Pork and Chicken Breakfast Sausage Links
- 40 whole wheat crackers, crushed (about 2 cups crumbs)
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen broccoli florets, thawed, drained and chopped
- 1 cup frozen corn, thawed
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 12 eggs or 3 cups liquid egg whites or egg substitute
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook sausage according to package directions; cut into 1/4-inch pieces and set aside. In a bowl, combine cracker crumbs and Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle into the bottom of 24 muffin cups coated with cooking spray. Divide sausage evenly among the muffin cups. Top with the broccoli, corn and cheese. Combine the eggs, salt and pepper; carefully pour into muffin cups. Bake for 16-20 minutes or until eggs are set. Let stand for 2 minutes before removing from pans.

CITY BITES

Corned beef

Westland — Ss Simon and Jude Parish will get into the holiday spirit with a St. Patrick's Day sandwich dinner, 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the church, 32500 Palmer. Reuben sandwiches will be \$7, corned beef sandwiches will be \$6. All meals come with chips, cole slaw, drink and dessert. A

kids' meal also will be available for \$4 and will include a grilled cheese, chips, dessert, and drink. For more information, contact Kathy Hansen at khansen8907@sbcglobal.net or 734-716-4436.

Fish dinners

Wayne — Friday Fish Fry isn't just for Catholic churches. The First United Methodist

Church of Wayne also offers a Lenten fish dinner, 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 11, at 3 Town Square, Wayne. Meal choices are baked or fried fish, with baked potato or french fries, vegetable, cole slaw and a roll. Kids' meals include nuggets or one piece of fish, french fries, vegetable slaw and a roll. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for kids' meal. Home-

made pies also are available for \$1 a slice; 734-721-4801.

Tea time

Plymouth — TranquiliTea, 904 W. Ann Arbor Trail, will hold its third annual "Harney Tea Affair," noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23. Harney & Sons Fine Teas is a New York-based team company that sells approximately 300 different

teas. TranquiliTea will offer a variety of its teas — from herbal to green to black — for tasting. Patrons may sample the variety for free and anyone who buys something at the event, will get chance to sample Harney & Sons' "Paris" brand tea. A raffle also will be held for a selection of Harney's cinnamon spice tea. Call 734-459-9686 for more information.

