

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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TOM IZZO'S STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

Wayne stops making health care contribution

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Faced with a deficit projected at over \$1 million by June 30, Wayne will save nearly \$555,000 in the general fund by not making a contribution to a fund that pays for retiree medical coverage.

"It's a funding mechanism. For each full-time person, we take 35 percent (equivalent) of their pay and put it into the retiree health care," said Wayne Finance Director James

Ghedotte. The Retired Lives Medical Coverage also funds vision care for current employees, life insurance and sick leave pay out. Not making that contribution for the remainder of the fiscal year will keep \$554,673 in Wayne's general fund.

But as Ghedotte notes, it also means the city isn't contributing to the RLMC which has a \$3.9 million balance. The general fund was scheduled to contribute \$1.9 million to the

RLMC during the fiscal year. "If we don't fund it, that means it would have enough for two years," said Ghedotte.

City staff was scheduled for a second with representatives of the state Office of Fiscal Responsibility on Tuesday.

"They took our information at the first meeting. We will meet with them again, and I will find out what they can do. I don't know what they can do," said Ghedotte.

With a deficit projected for the current fiscal year and a

significantly larger deficit expected in 2014-15, the council asked for the state assistance at the recommendation of budget consultant Vince Pastue, Farmington city manager.

"This is a step before receivership, an emergency financial manager or a consent agreement," said Ghedotte. "They give advice and it kind of gets the state involved before an EFM. They realize that if you are to the point of an EFM, you're kind of beyond help."

Wayne currently has paid its bills and hasn't violated any state regulations or laws, he said.

The council was scheduled to meet in a second closed session regarding labor negotiations Tuesday. Additionally, the council is soon expected to begin looking at specific budget cuts to address the shortfall.

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The "Classrooms and Kids" budget proposal is an alternative school funding plan that supporters say will put more money in K-12 classrooms like that of Wayne-Westland teacher Diane Krzyaniak without raising taxes. FILE PHOTO

Educators' plan: More dollars in classrooms, not raising taxes

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

A coalition of superintendents, school leaders, parents and other public school advocates is proposing an alternative school funding plan they say will put more money in K-12 classrooms without raising taxes.

The "Classrooms and Kids" budget, as it is called, builds on Gov. Rick Snyder's recent budget proposal by reducing or eliminating \$186.2 million in line-item categorical programs in the School Aid Fund to help provide an additional \$167 per student in base

funding.

The categorical items are mostly programs that reward performance and the adoption of cost-effective practices but also include some special programs.

The proposal would also require an extra \$88 million above Snyder's budget, with \$34 million coming from the budget surplus and \$54 million from the general fund.

This is the first time in years a large segment of the educational community has come together to proac-



Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa is working with educators across the state on the "Classrooms and Kids" budget proposal.

See EDUCATORS, Page A2

Competency exam set for woman charged in fatal crash

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A competency examination has been ordered for a Westland woman charged with deliberately causing a fatal traffic accident.

Ponya Lee, 27, was scheduled for a preliminary examination Thursday in Westland 18th District Court. In custody since Feb. 17, Lee is charged with second-degree murder in the collision that killed Patricia Nwaneri, 55, of Ypsilanti.

Lee is also charged with three counts of felonious assault and vandalism during a domestic violence incident at a Westland apartment later on Feb. 17. She is represented by different attorneys in the two cases.

On Thursday, one of the retained attorneys representing Lee in the murder case was ill and the other had a conflict in another court. As a result, court-appointed attorney David Lankford, who is handling the assault and vandalism charges, made the request for the competency examination.

Along with being examined for competency, Lee will also be examined for criminal responsibility and whether she was competent to waive her Miranda Rights in making a statement to police.

The hearing was scheduled for May 8 although it could be moved up if the examination is completed sooner - something that is possible due to Lee being incarcerated.

Lee, who entered a not guilty plea, is charged with deliberately running a red light at the Warren and Wayne roads intersection striking the car of Nwaneri, a nurse and single mother of four. Wayne-Westland firefighters used the Jaws of Life to extract Nwaneri from her vehicle, which had been struck in the driver's side door.

Police reported that Nwaneri was initially unconscious following the accident but was alert when taken to an area hospital where she subsequently died.

On Feb. 17, Lee was first arrested on the felonious assault and vandalism charges. Police reported Lee was in the process of moving out of an apartment following a break-



Lee

See EXAM, Page A2

Wayne council to interview new mgr. hopeful

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A special meeting to interview a city manager candidate has been scheduled by the Wayne City Council for 10 a.m. Saturday, March 22.

Due to the ongoing problems with the roof over the council chambers in City Hall, the meeting will be held at the Wayne Police Department on Michigan Avenue east of Howe.

The city manager position has been vacant since September when Robert English re-

tired. In December, Council interviewed two candidates but decided not to make an employment offer to either applicant.

At the recommendation of consultant William Costick, director of community relations for OHM and retired Farmington Hills city manager, the council decided to take a few months off before resuming the search.

Costick found two candidates for this second round of searching, both of whom met with the council's city manager search committee of

Mayor Al Haidous, Councilmen James Hawley and Skip Monit.

"The committee met with both candidates. One withdrew. We recommend that you (council) interview the other candidate at your convenience," said Haidous.

At the time the meeting was being scheduled, the name of the applicant wasn't being released due to request for confidentiality from the applicant, currently employed in another community.

Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-

Gharib has been serving as interim city manager. The council also hired Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue as a consultant to assist in preparing the 2014-15 fiscal year budget.

Due to a prior commitment, Councilwoman Susan Rowe said she will be unable to attend the interview. Since the rest of council could attend, she said that they should go ahead with the meeting but asked to be allowed to submit questions for the candidate.

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New locations for Wayne meetings

Due to problems with the roof over Wayne City Hall council chambers, upcoming municipal meetings are being relocated.

» The regularly scheduled council meetings set for 8 p.m. Tuesdays, March 18, April 1 and 15, have been moved to the Wayne Community Center at

Howe and Annapolis.

» The Tuesday, April 8, Planning Commission meeting will be held at the Wayne Police Department on Michigan Avenue east of Howe.

» The Thursday, April 10, Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held at the Wayne Police Department.

EXAM

Continued from Page A1

up with her girlfriend. Lee is charged with attacking the former girlfriend and a man who was at the apartment with a Samurai sword.

The former girlfriend is the registered owner of the car Lee

was driving when the collision happened. Police said Lee was on a cell phone arguing with the former girlfriend and told her she was going to crash the car.

Judge Sandra Cicirelli ordered that Lee continue to be held without bond.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Alumni Reunion

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association annual All-Class Reunion will be 5-10 p.m. Friday May 16, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne.

Tickets are \$30 each before May 1 and \$35 after May 1. For more information, call Tillie VanSickle at 734-595-7806 or Sharon Scott at 734-7224651.

Divorce program

The William P. Faust Library is inviting parents and children to a special screening of the new DVD, "Split: Divorce Through Kids' Eyes," 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 18.

Healing from a separation and divorce is not simple or quick. This program will help you see things through the eyes of your kids and help you ease them through their feelings. Jenna Zimmerman, a home-based therapist, will be the guest presenter.

Parents and children view the 30-minute DVD together and then children will go to the library's Activity Room for a group art project. Parents will stay for information, discussion and resource sharing with Zimmerman.

The program is for parents and children, ages 4 and up. Register at www.westlandlibrary.org/events. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123.

Ladies Night Out

Designer Duds n Infant Treasures in Westland is hosting its monthly Ladies Day Out Networking and Vendor Event noon-5 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the store, located at 815 N. Wayne Road, between Cherry Hill and Marquette.

The free event for friends, family, associates and fellow mommies who don't get "out much" to take an hour or so out of their busy lives to stop in and grab a bite, meet some new friends, and shop if you wish.

There will be raffle items from each vendor and 50/50 drawing at the end of the event. Each person that stops in will get one free ticket for a raffle item.

The vendors include Rita Gorski Van Scyoc; Cookie Lee, Melanie Brown; 31 Bags, Jennifer Shephardson Ganzberger; Pure Romance, Dana Fortier; Grace Adelle, Beth Klenczar; Jamberry Nails, Sherry Hattley; Papparazzi, Kendra Grier; Heaven's Best, Coleen Mackey Giza-Audritsh Billings; Scentsy, Jennifer Guess; Origami Owl, Lisa Creedon Elliott; It Works, Renee Barba-Hopkins; Advocate, Kathryn Strong; Innutra, Joyce Woods Jabro; Tastefully Simple, Melinda Eberhart, and Mary Kay.

Assessment: 'Classrooms and Kids' proposal 'simple, doable'

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa, who is vice president of the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education and on the legislative council of the Michigan Association of School Administrators representing metro Detroit districts, answered the following questions about the "Classrooms and Kids" school funding proposal:

How can taxpayers be assured the additional money translates into more learning?

One key point, we are not asking for additional funding from taxpayers or new revenue streams. The proposal is based on the governor's budget and available state funds. Second, as most school districts have experienced declining revenues in recent years, they have implemented tough budget reductions. This proposed increase in the foundation allowance will allow them to maintain and return staff positions and provide other direct resources that will go directly to students, which impacts student learning.

What kind of things can the additional money be spent on?

One of the benefits of the proposal is that it

provides flexibility for local districts to utilize the funds as they see their highest priorities, leaving these important decisions to local school decision makers. In one district, they may need to upgrade their science curriculum, while another district may want to reduce class size. Every district has different needs and this proposal keeps the decisions where they need to be, at the local level so these specific needs can be met.

Does the \$250 to \$291 per-pupil increase bring districts back up to where they were before the state instituted cuts with the new administration?

No, but it is a move in the right direction. School leaders appreciate the governor's budget proposal, which begins to move in the direction of restoring this funding, and our proposal takes it one step further.

Is this a band-aid solution to help get districts through the next year or the basis for a more comprehensive school funding plan for the future?

It is an improvement on the current funding system for next year, based on the governor's

proposed budget. There is not time for a comprehensive overhaul of the school funding system prior to this year's budget being finalized. It is based on the governor's budget as the starting point, utilizing existing available funding to provide the first significant improvement in school funding in some time.

Does the MEA support this plan? If not, why not?

The MEA would rather see a comprehensive school reform plan. While we respect their thoughts, this will not occur by May when the state budgets are typically finalized. Our plan can be accomplished by then as it is based on the governor's budget proposal and it provides the first real increase in discretionary funding in some time, which we believe teachers across the state will welcome.

What are the chances this proposal will be approved?

We believe it makes great sense, so we feel there is a very good chance it will be successful. It provides lawmakers with an opportunity to increase funding for local schools for the first time in a significant way in several years. It does

so without increasing taxes or finding an alternative revenue stream. It provides local school districts with more flexibility in utilizing their funds and more stability by reallocating funds from categorical funding areas, which aren't always stable. It meets the request of Michigan citizens, who have said K-12 funding is a priority (EPIC-MRA poll within last month says Michigan citizens want to see state budget surplus utilized for schools No. 1, well ahead of tax cuts). It is simple and doable. It is a win-win on many fronts.

What kind of response have you gotten from local legislators?

It is just being laid out for them, but there are so many positive aspects to the plan, we expect that it will be well-received. We also believe that legislators will appreciate a proactive proposal from the school community and it will have even more credibility based on the wide range of school organizations that support the proposal from across the entire state, a coalition not seen for a school funding proposal directly related to an upcoming budget.

EDUCATORS

Continued from Page A1

tively offer an alternative to the governor's proposal.

It is supported by the Michigan Association of School Boards, the Michigan Association of School Administrators, the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education.

"The 'Classrooms and Kids' budget recognizes that districts have various needs they need to address to support their students," Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa said. "This is a budget for our schools that is supported by virtually everyone in education because it was created by those of us on the frontlines of education who see the needs of our children."

Darryle Buchanan, former president of the Southfield school board, said while the governor's proposal is a step in the right direction, the 'Classrooms and Kids' budget better meets districts' needs. "School boards across the state have a pulse on the needs of our schools and the outcomes expected by our communities and this budget allows us to address those needs," he said.

The plan was announced Feb. 27 during a press conference at the

state capitol. State Rep. John Walsh (R-Livonia), speaker pro tem, said he plans to meet the first week in April with Liepa to learn the details of the plan. He said while he likes the governor's budget proposal, he also likes the concept of using categorical. "I think we can definitely do something there," he said.

Flexibility, stability

Liepa said the 'Classrooms and Kids' budget proposal would provide an infusion of additional dollars into local schools, while also giving districts the flexibility to use the money to best meet their needs and providing stability to maintain programs from year to year.

Here's how it would work: Snyder proposed a per-pupil increase of \$111 for minimum foundation districts, a \$83 increase for districts above the minimum foundation. The 'Classrooms and Kids' budget would add an additional \$167 per-pupil for all districts, plus an additional \$13 per-pupil equity payment for minimum foundation districts.

That would bring the total per-pupil increase up to \$250 to \$291.

That increase would be off-set in some districts by a loss of revenue in categorical. For example, Livonia Public Schools would lose about \$52 for each student from the elimination of the best practices grants.

Still, the 'Classrooms and Kids' proposal would put an additional \$1 mil-

lion into LPS' coffers next school year over and above the \$1.2 million Snyder's budget would provide. That's almost enough to make up for the \$2.4 million projected revenue loss from an expected enrollment decline of 300 students.

Not a 'windfall' for districts

"This isn't a big windfall for school districts across the state; we're just trying to maintain existing programs," said Liepa.

The proposal is not a complete redo of the state's school funding model, he said, which would take a lot more time than the approximate two months left before the state adopts its budget for Fiscal Year 2015, which begins Oct. 1. "But it's a great start to get back into reinvesting dollars into the educational system," he said.

Over the past five years, LPS' foundation grant has been reduced by about \$500, Liepa said. The 'Classrooms and Kids' proposal really does provide an infusion of funds into the schools that we haven't seen in quite some time," he said.

The foundation grants provide more funding stability and flexibility than categorical, he said. Categoricals that would be reduced or eliminated include grants for best practices in management, \$80 million; grants for high academic achievement, \$46.4 million; and the Michigan

Virtual University, \$9.38 million.

Liepa, who's vice-president of the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education and on the legislative council of the Michigan Association of School Administrators representing Metro Detroit districts, said the categoricals are those that "either restrict school districts or don't touch a lot of students." Left intact would be categoricals affecting special education and at-risk students, for example.

He said most districts are already following best practices in management in order to balance their budgets, and that categorical has been reduced over the years, minimizing the incentive.

He said the requested \$34 million is about 3 percent of the state's nearly \$1 billion budget surplus, and the \$54 million is what the legislature approved over and above the governor's budget proposal last year.

The reception to the plan has been good so far, he said. A recent EPIC-MRA poll showed 38 percent of 600 Michigan residents supports having the state budget surplus go to K-12 schools, compared with 36 percent for roads and 11 percent for an income tax cut.

"People want to see money invested back into education," he said. "It really addresses what citizens are asking for."

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— Dr. Sol L. Cogan, DC

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What are patients saying?

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— Jerry W.

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Students from the Memorial 1-2 Campus in Garden City were in awe of the bald eagle among other animals that were displayed at the school.

Bald eagle wows students, parents at Memorial School

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

The bald eagle stole the show at the Memorial 1-2 Campus in Garden City.

The school invited the Ann Arbor-based Leslie Science and Nature Center to show students and parents up close what nature has to offer. The majestic looking eagle scanned the library where children and their families watched just as intently.

"One, two, three," presenter Sarah Gilmore said before moving the eagle to encourage it to spread its wings for the audience and photographers.

"Her wings all the way from one end to another are almost seven feet long," Gilmore said.

Although Gilmore said she was almost six feet tall, she tried to compare her height to the eagle's wingspan.

"I would be shorter than her wings," Gilmore said. "These feathers are light."

Gilmore added that the eagle's bones are hollow, add-

ing to the bird's lightness and cruising ability.

Young birds have longer wingspans because their feathers are longer.

"They are almost like training wheels," Gilmore said.

Eagles built large nests, some can be as big as a car, according to Gilmore. And the talons at the end of their feet are perfect for gripping and tearing prey.

Other 'guests'

Besides the eagle, Gilmore brought a barred owl, a bearded dragon and a bunny.

"I have some things you might want to meet," Gilmore said.

The bearded dragon, a reptile, doesn't like the cold Michigan winters. The cold-blooded animals need extra heat and this reptile had a heat lamp in his carrier.

"He likes to live in a desert," she said.

When a bearded dragon is

See BALD EAGLE, Page A5



Sarah Gilmore, a presenter from the Leslie Science and Nature Center in Ann Arbor, asked the children what sound the barred owl makes. The sound is different from other owls. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Justice Taylor of Garden City participates in "Bubble Science," one of many science tables the school had available to teach kids how much fun science can be.



Memorial first-grade student Sheyla Rivas learns about nectar for birds.

W-W counts down to Kindergarten Roundup

The countdown is on to Wayne-Westland's annual Kindergarten Roundup. Blast-off will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the district's 11 elementary schools.

With a theme of "Learning that Is Out of This World," the program will provide parents with the opportunity to tour their child's school, meet the principal and teachers, receive registration information and explore programs.

Every incoming kindergarten will receive a free T-shirt for the class of 2027 and a backpack filled with items to help prepare for their first day of school.

Parents who can't make the morning roundup can stop by their school office 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, to register. Parents also can make an appointment to register their child.

To register a youngster, parents will need the child's original birth certificate and an up-to-date immunization record, as well as proof of residency, including a driver's license, a signed lease and/or mortgage document and two pieces of business mail that are not more than 30 days old.

The district offers all-day kindergarten at every school, a Talented and Gifted program, foreign language and before- and after-school care.

Schools include Roosevelt-McGrath, Hoover and Taft-Galloway in Wayne; Wildwood, Elliott, Edison, Hamilton, P.D. Graham and Schweitzer in Westland; Walker-Winter in Canton; and Hicks in Inkster. Call 734-419-2083.

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W-W to switch to four-day week during summer months

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Employees of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools who work during the summer will be getting long weekends after the school board voted this week to move the district for a four-day work week beginning Monday, June 16.

This is the second year the district has closed each Friday during the summer. In a pilot program last year, Wayne-Westland went to the four-day week for

nine weeks, saving more than \$95,000 in utilities and overtime.

"It was a win-win for the district," Superintendent Greg Baracy said. "Part of the intent was to arrange time for parents to come in before or after work. There was a cost savings we had not anticipated."

"It was very well-received by the employees," said Kelly Bohl, senior executive director of human services. "The original intent was for it to be more of a morale-booster. When we talked with the employee

groups, they said they appreciated the long weekends."

This year's four-day schedule will run for eight weeks, ending Friday, Aug. 8. All of the district's schools and administrative offices will have extended hours Monday through Thursday and be closed each Friday. Employees will not be required to work the extended hours the week of the Fourth of July.

The length was shortened to eight weeks after last year's program showed employees need-

ed to return to working five days a week sooner to accommodate the start of school.

The district's administrative offices, its 11 elementary schools, two upper elementarys and two middle schools, as well as the Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center, will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and from 7 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and Tinkham

Alternative Education Center will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and from 6:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Building administrators and secretarial employees have the option of working the proposed hours or from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday would be charged as a vacation day. Skilled trades and custodial employees also have the option of working from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., with Friday counted as a vacation day.

The district had ex-

pected to save about \$20,000 with the pilot program, but saved more than triple that amount. According to Deputy Superintendent Jim Larsen-Shidler, the district saved \$10,337 in reduced utility costs and another \$84,750 in overtime expenses.

"The unintended consequences are a nice surprise," board Vice President Thomas Buckalew said about the savings.

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Entries sought for Law Day essay contest

"American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters" is the topic of the 18th Angelo A. Plakas Law Day Essay contest.

Students in ninth-12th grade who live in Westland are eligible to enter the competition, named for late city attorney Angelo Plakas.

Students should use the content from Michigan Milestones of One Person-One Vote, Sojourner Truth, Eva Belles' Vote and Freedom Road, to explain how a citizen's right to cast a ballot is still at risk today and what challenges they face to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in democracy.

Essays should be typed, double-spaced and be a minimum of two pages to a maximum of three 8½-by-11-inch pages. The entries must include the author's name, home address, city, state, home telephone number, school and name of the civics/

social studies teacher.

The deadline for entering is 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 16. Wayne-Westland students can submit their essays to Michele Anderson at John Glenn High School, and Kerry Hritz at Wayne Memorial High School. Any students who are enrolled in civic/social studies classes during the current school, but don't attend John Glenn or Wayne Memorial, should contact the Westland City Attorney's Office at 248-912-3218 for more information or submit their essays by 5 p.m. April 16 to Michael McNamara, Fausone Bohn LLP, 41700 W. Six Mile, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48168.

Judges are three attorneys from the city attorney's staff. The winner will receive a plaque and a \$50 gift card at the May 5 Westland City Council meeting.

Call McNamara at 248-380-000, Ext. 3218, for more information.



Memorial second-grade student Brennan Luck pets a spotted bunny that was brought along with several other animals. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

"All of our birds are raptors who have been injured in some way. That's why we have them."

SARAH GILMORE - Leslie Science and Nature Center

BALD EAGLE

Continued from Page A4

afraid, it will open its mouth and puff out its "beard."

Gilmore also showed off another bird, the barred owl, so named because it has bars on its belly. Its call is different from other owls.

"All of our birds are raptors who have been injured in some way," Gilmore said. "That's why we have them."

The owl was walking across a roadway and was hit by a car, suffering a concussion. It, too, has talons at the end of its feet to help it catch food. It can also turn its head almost all the way around to see what's behind it.

Just a bunny

Finally, Gilmore took out a regular bunny, taking care to make sure both the eagle and owl were perched securely away in their boxes. Each child had a chance to pet the bunny.

Student Jennifer Cassell was clear on which animal she liked the best. "I liked the bunny," she said.



The bald eagle stole the show. Sarah Gilmore of the Leslie Science and Nature Center in Ann Arbor showed off the bird, which has a wingspan approaching seven feet.

Mom Carolyn Cassell was excited by the assembly. With a day off from work, she looked forward to attending. She loved seeing the eagle.

"It just melted my heart," she said.

The Leslie Science and Nature Center also set up specific stations for children to take part in hands-on activities and experiments. Memorial teachers were given quick lessons in order to present the stations to the students.

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² Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 01/27/2014.
³ National savings average based on savings products with a \$2,500 product tier as reflected on the FDIC.gov website dated 1/27/2014.

Parents raise funds to help children of accident victim

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Headed for her first day at a new nursing job, Patricia Nwaneri died Feb. 17 in a car accident in Westland.

Nwaneri, 55, of Ypsilanti was a single mother, raising four children ages 14-21. The South Arbor Charter Academy in Ypsilanti, which all of the Nwaneri children attend, held a fundraiser to benefit the family.

A spaghetti dinner was held Friday at Cavalry Baptist Church, 8318 Carpenter Road, Ypsilanti. The church is located next to the school.

"This was the one school all the children had attended - the youngest just graduated," said Laura Holliday, a fundraiser organizer. "That's why we as parents felt we had to step up."

A native of Nigeria,

Nwaneri had put herself through nursing school while raising her children, Holliday said. Nwaneri had been laid off from a nursing position in June, but was on her way to a begin a new job when she was killed, Holliday said.

"Patricia had no life insurance so there was an immediate burden. The older kids are back home (from college)," said Holliday. "They are a very tight family unit. All they have is each other."

Westland resident Ponya Lee, 27, is charged with second-degree murder in the death of Nwaneri. Lee is accused of deliberately causing the collision with Nwaneri's vehicle.

Held without bond since Feb. 17, Lee is accused of setting out to crash the car of a girlfriend who was breaking up with her and with whom she was arguing on



A fundraiser was being held Friday to benefit the children of Patricia Nwaneri (center), killed in a Feb. 17 car crash in Westland.

a cell phone when the accident happened.

Donations for the family can also be made at TCF Bank to the Patricia Nwaneri Child Trust Fund. For more informa-

tion, call Holliday at 734-635-3417 or hearts4nwanerichildren@gmail.com.

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Turkovic, Shippey, Scott and Holland

Trio gets probation for Canton party robbery

By **Darrell Clem**
Staff Writer

Three young men have now been placed on probation for robbing two Westland teens who police say had gone to a Canton party to buy drugs, a Wayne County Circuit Court clerk confirmed Thursday.

A fourth defendant, 17-year-old Muhedin Danny Turkovic of Canton, hasn't yet been sentenced.

The latest developments came after police say one victim, 18, was punched and kicked while the other, also 18, was struck in the face during a robbery that occurred Nov. 2 inside an apartment at The Crossings, a sprawling complex near Joy Road and I-275.

Alexander James Shippey, 22, of Livonia has been placed on probation for 18 months by Wayne County Circuit Judge Margie Braxton after he pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery, the clerk said Thursday. Joseph Charles Holland, 18, of Canton has received a two-year probation sentence for the same charge.

Their sentencings came after Clary Dejuan Scott Jr., 17, of Detroit already had been placed on probation for three years for his role in the robbery, according to the court.

The three defendants could have faced 15 years in prison for unarmed robbery, but authorities have said they accepted a plea deal that included probation and certain court costs and fines. However, they could be imprisoned if they get into further trouble or fail to obey a laundry list of court orders.

Turkovic, still facing sentencing, also has pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery.

Canton Detective Erik Kaledas has said the Westland teens were robbed of money and a cellphone after they arrived at the Canton party, allegedly to buy drugs.

All four defendants had initially faced armed robbery charges, which carry penalties ranging up to life in prison. However, those charges had been dismissed during a preliminary hearing in 35th District Court due to a lack of evidence linking the men to a gun.

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Business owner scammed in DTE Energy case

By **David Veselenak**
Staff Writer

Livonia police and DTE Energy officials are warning residents and business owners to be careful after a local merchant was scammed out of more than \$1,600.

The business owner, a 46-year-old man from Westland, came into the police station Thursday afternoon to report he had been targeted in a fraud at his business in the 37600 block of Five Mile. He told police he received a phone call earlier in the week from someone posing as a DTE Energy employee. The suspect told the business owner he would have his power shut off if he did not pay some bills that totaled more than \$840.

The suspect told the man to go to the Rite Aid at Eight Mile and Newburgh and purchase two MoneyPak prepaid cards. He was then instructed to call a phone number and leave the cards' numbers to

pay the supposed outstanding bill.

The next day, the man received another phone call from the suspect, saying there was a problem processing the payment and instructed him to go back to the same Rite Aid and purchase two more money cards and call back with the pertinent information to make the payment. The man purchased the cards and called back, giving the cards' data to the suspect.

The total amount the business owner was out was more than \$1,670.

He later called DTE Energy, who told him it does not make payments over the phone and was forwarded to the company's fraud department.

Scott Simons, spokesman for DTE Energy, said the company will not call customers and threaten to turn off their power with only hours notice.

"We don't ask for payment

through Green Dot cards," he said. "We also don't call customers and tell them we're going to shut off power in an hour if they don't provide payment."

Those who believe they have been the victim of a similar scam are encouraged to contact their local police department, as well as call DTE Energy at 800-477-4747 and inform the company.

Green Dot warns its users to never give the card number to someone they don't know and to decline sharing their card number with anyone over the phone or email.

Simons said scams using MoneyPak cards have become a common occurrence that have been reported to the company.

"The Green Dot scam is a nationwide problem," he said. "We've had several of our customers be affected."

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Garden City Hospital president and CEO Gary Ley talks about the remodeled birthing center.



Dr. Chadi Haddad (left), Hospital Guild President Geri Morrissey, CEO Gary Ley and Brian Curtis, representing major donor Joumana Kayrouz, cut the ceremonial ribbon for the opening of the remodeled birthing center.



Clinical nurse manager Leslie Wiemer demonstrates the new recliners suitable for a nursing mom or a napping dad.

Hospital unveils 'family friendly' birthing center

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

It was a red ribbon day for Dr. Chadi Haddad, who wore one around his neck as he walked around the newly renovated Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. A gynecologist and obstetrician, Haddad was a major sponsor of the center's makeover.

"I've been coming here for 10 years; this has been my first and only job," Haddad said. "Garden City Hospital has become a second home for me and my patients."

In addition to Haddad, hospital president and CEO Gary Ley acknowledged the support of the Hospital Guild and attorney Joumana Kayrouz in the transformation of the birthing center. Ley described Kayrouz's donation as "substantial" and pegged the guild's support of the nursery at "well into six figures."

According to Guild President Geri Morrissey, the volunteer group provided \$125,000. The money is the proceeds from the operation of the gift shop and Garden Cafe, plus sales it holds in the hospital lobby, Ley said.

"It's in the oldest wing

of the hospital that was built in 1960. We weren't able to tear it down and start from scratch, but we were able to create a comfortable setting," Ley said. "It took a lot of people and a lot of coordination to make this happen."

"It took a lot of effort. We had to move the department next door. There was no room for the nursery and security," he added.

Comfortable environment

The goal of the remodeling, which started last fall, was to provide new mothers with a more comfortable environment for their birthing experience. It included an expansion of the waiting area, a redesign of the central nurse's station and a makeover of the rooms.

The amenities included individual climate controls for each room, sofa-sleepers for dads and glider-rockers for moms and a larger "kid-friendly" waiting area with new furniture, Wi-Fi and TV.

The center has five birthing rooms, seven patients rooms that can be private or semi-private and a four-bed triage area. The waiting



Leslie Wiemer, clinical nurse manager of the birthing center, shows guests one of the new labor rooms at Garden City Hospital. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

room has been expanded with a large seating area at the entrance to the center, in addition to the small alcove that has been updated.

"The waiting room is very family-friendly," clinical nurse manager Leslie Wiemer said. "Before the families were on top of each other, now there's room for them to spread out and relax while waiting for their babies."

A horseshoe-shaped nursing station has lower counters for better visibility. There's also a snack area where families can get beverages

and food.

The labor rooms have been updated. They're "warm and comfortable, so a mom can have her family come in," Wiemer said. The rooms also have new heating and cooling systems, new flooring and new curtains.

"Anything to make the moms feel comfortable," Wiemer said. "They've done a good job in keeping the rooms private so we don't have to double up."

Moving day

The reopening ceremony was held last Tuesday, followed by move-in day Wednesday. The

equipment was the first to be moved from the birthing area across the hall, followed by the patients.

"This is truly the best gift ever for the patients," Wiemer said. "We're ecstatic. We didn't think tomorrow would ever come. This has been a group effort. The staff is so happy."

Haddad made his donation because "I want me and my patients to be comfortable here."

"The whole hospital interacts as family and that benefits the community," he added.

The reopening comes at a time when the hospital is in the process of

being purchased by Prime Healthcare Services, which plans to invest \$35 million in capital improvements.

"This is a pretty exciting time for the hospital and it's only just beginning," Ley said.

Hospital board member Linda Breakie, daughter-in-law of the late Allan Breakie, the hospital's first administrator, shared Ley's enthusiasm.

"I was a nurse here. I think this will be a good thing for the hospital," she said.

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Don't drink and drive this St. Patrick's Day

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

With the revelry of St. Patrick's Day approaching, the Garden City Community Coalition for the Prevention of Substance Abuse is offering some tips for those who plan to celebrate.

The group is reminding drivers not to get behind the wheel if they have been drinking. They also want the public to plan ahead and designate a safe driver just as they plan ahead for New Year's Eve.

"In the U.S., St. Patrick's Day is a holiday typically associated with drinking so the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) does a national campaign every year to raise awareness of the dangers of impaired driving

during the 'wearing of the green' celebration period," said director Susan Nicholas. "The NHTSA also has been working to address 'binge drinking' both because of the danger of impairment but also because binge drinking incidents can cause physical damage to the brain and other body systems."

The coalition is to joining in state and federal efforts calling attention to the St. Patrick's Day "party norm" particularly among underage drinkers and those in the 21-34-year-old age group who are more likely to binge drink.

"Two years ago we supported the Garden City Police Department in providing Minor in Possession patrols over that weekend which

resulted in multiple citations all at one house party," she said. "We also support the enforcement of the Garden City social hosting ordinance which holds adults responsible for minors drinking in their homes. Last year there were no youth related citations so we think that prevention efforts are acting as a deterrent."

Be vigilant

Although St. Patrick's Day falls on Monday this year, she suggests that parents be vigilant and remind youth of Zero Tolerance expectations because it is the law.

"It's important to know where they are and to talk to the parents of youth who may be hosting get-togethers so that the rules are clear to everyone," Nicholas said.

"In keeping with the Coalition's parenting campaign, 'Show You Care, Be Aware,' we remind parents and adults to lead by example while celebrating this year."

According to the NHTSA, more than 269 people have been killed nationwide in crashes involving drunk drivers during the St. Patrick's Day holiday from 2007 to 2011.

Those fatalities were preventable.

"When you celebrate St. Patrick's Day, just be smart about it," Nicholas said. "If you know you're going to drink - whether with friends at a pub or attending a party - designate a sober driver ahead of time or call a taxi to make sure you get home safely. There's never an excuse for driv-

ing after drinking."

According to NHTSA in 2011, on average, one person was killed every 53 minutes in a drunk-driving crash in the United States. Most of these crashes involved drunk drivers who had blood alcohol levels of .15 or higher, which is almost twice the legal limit of .08.

Safety celebration

To prevent these tragedies from occurring, Nicholas recommends the following steps to have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day:

» Before the festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.

» Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home.

» If too impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation to get home safely.

» Call the police if a drunk driver is on the road. "You could save a life," Nicholas said.

» Take a firm stand before tragedy occurs. If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov. For more information about the Garden City Community Coalition for the Prevention of Substance Abuse, call 734-793-1868.

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more than 40 public computers that provide Internet access as well as Microsoft Office 2010 programs, including Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher. Our librarians and computer assistants are always willing to help.

If all of this sounds overwhelming, we can help with that too. The library offers monthly computer classes. If you're just starting out, we have Computer and Internet Basics classes. If you are interested in learning how to use any of the Microsoft Office programs we have classes on Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher.

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Access the database through our website, westlandlibrary.org. Just click on the Research tab and find LearningExpress Library under the subject "Computers." You will find basic computer tutorials, as well as tutorials on Windows, including Windows 8, and Mac operating systems, Microsoft Office pro-

Dinner and a movie



A 1970s con artist (Christian Bale, right) is forced to team up with an FBI agent (Bradley Cooper, left) in *American Hustle*, inspired by a real-life sting targeting corrupt politicians.

grams and many others.

To find out more about our computers, LearningExpress Library, or classes at the library, visit the library's website at www.westlandlibrary.org, give us a call at 734-326-6123 or stop by the reference desk. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon Sunday.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Affordable Care Act - Health Care Navigator Assistance, throughout March - Meet with an ACA Navigator from Community Bridges for help fill out your Health Insurance Marketplace application (Navigate Health Reform Michigan). Sign up for a 30-minute appointment in March on one of the following days: 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Thursdays or noon-3 p.m. Sundays. Call the library to see what information you must bring or check the Marketplace Application Checklist at www.healthcare.gov/downloads/

MarketplaceApp Checklist - Generic.pdf. Bring your spouse/family if you're hoping to decide on a plan. Stop by or call the Reference Desk to reserve a slot (734) 326-6123.

Divorce and Kids, 6:30 p.m. - March 18, Parents and children, ages 4 and up - Parents and children are invited to a special screening of the new DVD, *Split: Divorce Through Kids' Eyes* (30 minutes). Healing from a separation and divorce is not simple or quick. This program will help you see things through the eyes of your kids and help you ease them through their feelings. Parents and children, ages 4 and up, will view the short DVD together. Then, children will go to the Activity Room for an art project while parents stay for information and discussion with family therapist, Jenna Zimmerman. Afterwards, parents and children are invited to enjoy a snack together. Sign up online westlandlibrary.org/kids/ events or call the Youth Desk at 734-326-6123.

Academic Enrichment, 3:30-5 p.m. - March 19, Grades 5 and up - Bring your assignments for FREE homework help and study help. Geared toward grades 5 and up. No advanced registration needed, however, parents must sign a waiver upon arrival in order for child or teen to participate.

Tween Writing Workshop, 6 p.m. March 19, fifth-eighth-graders - you like to write? If you're in grades 5-8, come to our tween writing workshop! Each month, we'll explore different genres, play writing games, and, of course, write. March is all about movies. Have you ever wished your favorite movie had a different ending, or wondered what would have happened if the story continued? Try writing your own script and you can decide what happens next!

Adult Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m. March 19 - *Sisters Brothers* is a historical novel from author Patrick de Witt. In the early 1850s, two brothers, Charlie and Eli Sisters, earn their living as killers for hire. A mysterious man known simply as Commodore hires them to track down and murder his enemy. Charlie and Eli set out from Oregon City and travel down the coast in search of the elusive target. The two brothers, known for their savage and brutal tactics, encounter a series of Western adventures along the way. When Charlie and Eli finally find what they're looking for, they begin to question everything they've ever known. Limited number of copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

eReader and Tablet Support Group, 2 p.m. March 20 - Do you have

an eReader or Tablet? Want to learn more about it? Stop in to meet with other users, share your expertise, or learn some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your device. An eReader/Tablet expert will be on hand to answer the difficult questions.

Open Mic, 7 p.m. March 20 - Writers, poets, singers/rappers, bands, performers of all sorts are welcome. Just show up ready to perform.

ESL (English as a Second Language) Class, 9:30-11:15 a.m. March 21 - Get help practicing your English skills in a classroom setting with a conversation emphasis taught by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes will be held every Friday through April 25.

Dinner and a Movie, 6 p.m. March 21 - What's better than dinner with friends? Well, dinner and a movie with friends. Tonight's movie, *American Hustle*, is about, "A con man, Irving Rosenfeld, along with his seductive partner Sydney Prosser, is forced to work for a wild FBI agent, Richie DiMaso, who pushes them into a world of Jersey powerbrokers and mafia." (imdb.com). This month's restaurant will be Gabriel's Cheesesteak. Each dinner includes 1 cheesesteak hoagie, side salad, chips, soft drink and light dessert. The cost for dinner is \$8. Please purchase your dinner tickets at the Circulation Desk by Thursday, March 20. Doors for dinner open at 6 p.m. Doors for non-dinner attendees will be 6:45 p.m.

Information Central was compiled by Tara Scott. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. Call 734-326-6123 or go to westlandlibrary.org.

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FALLING

People will remember this winter as ferocious: record low temperatures and days, one after another, with wind chills below -10 degrees. Michigan physicians would describe this winter as brutal. The number of patients who fell, breaking shoulders, forearms, hips, knee caps and ankles would have set a record if Guinness kept such statistics.

All of us have heard the admonishment: "don't have a fall." Unfortunately, no one giving that advice states how to avoid one. If a person needs a cane, crutch or walker for ordinary walking, how can he or she maneuver over icy walks or slippery steps? Or if a person has swollen hands or painful wrists, how can that person expect to put on winter boots?

For people with arthritis, the most practical approach to winter is to not go out, but that common sense approach has limited value. The more arthritis one has, the more important it is to keep moving. For the person with arthritis, staying indoors is good counsel only if there happens to be a gym in the house.

The best advice may be that if one is going out, even as short a distance as the front walk, be sure to wear rubber boots, even galoshes. The ice this winter means no walk is so insignificant as to waive off caution or good shoes.

In physicians' experience, the worse problem facing a person after the fall is not the pain, nor heavy casts, ill fitting braces or the months of impairment. The greatest barrier to recovery is fear: fear of falling. That concern causes a paralysis for which the only antidote is courage.

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HEY, BABY KENSINGTON METROPARK WELCOMES SPRING ARRIVALS

The barns are bursting with new babies and expectant mothers at Kensington Metropark in Milford.

As of last weekend, a set of triplets and three sets of twin lambs were tottering around the barn, along with several baby goats and a set of piglets born Feb. 17 to Sugar.

And more are on the way. "The recent births at the farm are really just the beginning of the excitement," said Kensington Farm Center interpreter Chris Williams. "In the next three months, we can expect approximately 14 kids (baby goats), 14 more lambs and roughly 30 piglets to be born."

New chicks — chickens and turkeys — will crack their way into the world in April, and two cows are also due to give birth a little later in the season.

The new additions, said Farm Manager Debbie Cavallaro, attract lots of visitors to the farm.

"Spring, when all the babies start coming, is our busy time," said Cavallaro, noting she's been present for most of this year's deliveries.

"Animals are a lot like us when they give birth. Some are quick and easy, others are more complicated."

Also at the farm are draft horses, ducks, chickens, miniature donkeys, and rabbits. The farm is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A metroparks vehicle entry permit is required, \$7 daily. General information can be found at www.metro-parks.com.



A visitor says hello to some curious kids. PHOTOS BY LAURA COLVIN



Three of the farm's nine new lambs curl up in the barn.



Piglets stay warm under a heat lamp in Kensington's main barn

lcolvin@hometownlife.com
248-390-7396

EQ offers free mercury collection

Wayne-based the Environmental Quality Company has again partnered with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Mercury Collection Project to facilitate the collection of mercury.

The Great Lakes Mercury Collection Program provides free mercury collection services to residents and business in Michigan. The program will run through Sept. 30.

This is an ongoing effort to collect and properly recycle mercury. EQ will ensure proper recycling methods which will reduce the amount of mercury from entering the environment.

In 2013, EQ worked with the MDEQ on the Great Lakes Restoration setting up a designated phone number and email address that were specifically designed for all requests received for the program.

During that period, EQ received 164 bucket requests and recycled 325 thermometers, 145 thermostats, 520 industrial switches and fuses and various relay switches and gauges, lab thermometers, manometers and hydrometers.

The program is easy. Upon request, EQ will send a free collection bucket with a shipping box to your door via common carrier. Each bucket contains easy-to-follow return instructions. Once the bucket is filled with the mercury containing device(s) it can safely be returned in the shipping box to EQ.

Interested parties should call EQ at 877-960-2025 or send an email to mercurybucket@eqonline.com to receive a free collection container.

More information on the Mercury Collection Program can be found at greatlakesrestoration.us/ or the EQ website at www.eqonline.com.



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DTE installing solar panels along I-96

3,000 panels expected to be online by May

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Let it shine. Drivers along I-96 east of Milford Road may have noticed some 3,000 solar panels being installed near Old Plank Road in Lyon Township. It's DTE's biggest solar energy project so far, said Scott Simons, DTE spokesman. When the project is complete it will provide 818 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about 150 homes.

"It's hard to follow an electron, but they generally follow the path of least resistance and will likely be used by area residents and businesses," he said.

The panels are built on property owned by Mil-

ford Tree Farm. Simons said DTE has a 20-year contract with the property owner, which includes an up-front payment and annual payments through the contract. He declined to share specifics on the agreement. The property owner wasn't available for comment.

The \$3.5 million investment in Lyon covers installation, construction and design. Simons said the project should be completed by May.

Lyon's project is the 19th solar energy plan in southeast Michigan. Others include Ford Assembly in Wayne; Monroe County Community College; Mercy High School in Farmington Hills and a rooftop installation at Blue Cross Blue Shield in downtown Detroit.

While the location won't produce a tremendous amount of energy compared to traditional

energy producers, like the Fermi nuclear plant that puts off 1,100 megawatts, it is a step in making headway in alternative methods, Simons said, adding that this is DTE Energy's largest solar energy project so far in the state.

The state legislature has mandated DTE and other energy companies reach a 10 percent renewable energy goal by 2015. The Lyon solar energy is "eight-10ths of the total needed," Simons said.

More solar renewal projects are on the way and at least one will be bigger than the Lyon solar site, he added.

The Lyon solar project has a lot of visibility on the north side of Interstate 96, west of Old Plank Road. Letting the public know the company is committed to renewable energy production is key, said Simons. DTE



Chris Scheer, an electrician for Ranck Electric, helps guide into place one of the 3,000 solar panels that are going up in Lyon Township along I-96 near Old Plank Road. Each panel should be able to generate, at peak-wattage, about 700 watts of electricity. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

started its solar initiative in 2009.

The location is good, because "it gets a lot of sun, we had an interested property owner and it has high visibility, so people know we are involved with renewal

energy," he said.

Most DTE solar energy partners are with large organizations.

"Less than a handful are with individuals," Simons said. "We aren't really looking for partners, but if people think

they have a rooftop or adequate amount of ground to host a solar energy project we are more than willing to hear from them."

dandreassi@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, Ext. 262

Sunshine Week

Access to information should be a common goal for better government, better lives

If you've been watching what goes on in Washington and some statehouses across the country, you might wonder if there's any issue that everyone should be able to agree on whether they are conservative or liberal or libertarian, Democrat or Republican, pro-this or anti-that.

There is: It's the need for transparency in all levels of government.

As we observe Sunshine Week in Michigan and around the country to encourage openness in government, the Michigan Coalition for Open Government (MiCOG) is urging citizens and public officials to seek transparency in the operations of their local and state



Charles Hill
GUEST COLUMNIST

governments, their schools and universities, their federal government and their courts.

You can do this by supporting Michigan legislation that would amend the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to make government information more accessible by limiting fees and discouraging delays.

Or by supporting a bill that a Republican lawmaker proposed to create an Open Government Commission to hear

FOIA appeals. Or by supporting a bill that two Democratic lawmakers proposed to expand FOIA coverage for the legislative branch so it is more in line with the broader coverage that applies to the executive branch.

MiCOG, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization open to citizens, journalists and associations concerned with open government and freedom of information — urges passage of that pending legislation.

Make a difference

You also can make a difference by letting your local officials — from the mayor to school board members — know that it's important to you

to know how your tax dollars are being spent and how they are making decisions about classrooms or parks or roads or snow removal or trash collection.

It's important for you to know this so you can independently judge the soundness of those decisions; so you can suggest your ideas for improvements in programs or government actions; so you can evaluate government officials' performance; and so you can guard against corruption and conflicts of interest.

You can help by asking questions of your government officials and by encouraging openness.

Politicians and government officials are more likely to take the trouble to create open systems and practices if they know it is important to their constituents. Tell them that your

assessment of their performance includes their record on open government.

Non-partisan

Let them know this should not be a partisan issue and that you want information regardless of which party or group is in power. If you're in New Jersey, you don't have to be a Democrat to want to know more about a big bridge closure in that state.

In Michigan and Louisiana, you don't have to be a Republican to want information surrounding the corruption charges that resulted in convictions of mayors in New Orleans and Detroit.

Michigan has plenty of tough transparency and accountability challenges ahead, including how courts handle public access and fees for electronic records, whether juvenile criminal records

should be public or secret, and how much secrecy should be allowed in new mental health courts, including convict records and data revealing rates of recidivism for the program.

Remember that you have a stake in Michigan's freedom of information laws.

How much you are permitted to know about your government directly affects the quality of your government, your schools, your courts, your job, your freedom and your life.

Charles Hill is a member of the board of directors of the Michigan Coalition for Open Government and a former Michigan bureau chief for The Associated Press. To join or find out more about MiCOG, go to <http://www.miopengov.org> or follow MiCOG on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MiCOG> or Twitter [@miopengov](https://twitter.com/miopengov).

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Rick's rules for converting traditional IRA to Roth IRA

Q: Dear Rick: I'm over 72 years old, retired and have a traditional IRA, from which I have been taking required minimum distributions. I read an article in the "Wall Street Journal" about converting to a Roth IRA by taking a distribution from my traditional IRA, paying tax on it and immediately putting the remainder into a Roth IRA. Is this correct? Can you tell me what form I need to convert into an IRA?

A: I read the same article and I think it is a little misleading. The question is whether someone who is over 70½ and taking required minimum distributions is eligible to do a Roth conversion. The answer is yes. However, it comes with a caveat.

If you are over age 70½ and required to take required minimum distributions, you are still eligible to do a Roth conversion. However, you cannot convert the money that you take as your required minimum distribution. You can convert anything above and beyond that number, but your required minimum distribution is not eligi-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

ble for a Roth IRA.

For example, if your IRA was \$100,000 and your required minimum distribution was \$5,000, then you are eligible to convert your remaining \$95,000 into a Roth IRA. The \$5,000 that was your required minimum distribution is not eligible to be put into a Roth.

If you do decide to convert, you need Form 8606 to report the transaction.

Since Roth IRAs came into existence, I have been a strong supporter. The benefits of having money grow tax-free and not subject to the age 70½ minimum required distribution rule is a substantial benefit.

I don't care how old or how young someone is, they should look at taking advantage of Roth IRAs.

To contribute to a Roth IRA, you typically need to have earned income (which is income from your labor). If you are retired, you typically cannot contribute to a Roth IRA. However, you

may be eligible to convert existing IRA money into a Roth IRA.

Here are my rules to help people make the right decision regarding converting.

» Without touching the money that you are converting, you must have the cash available to pay the taxes owed.

» By converting the money and recognizing that as additional money income, you are not putting yourself into a higher tax bracket.

» You won't need the money for at least five to seven years.

If you met these criteria, then converting to a Roth IRA makes sense.

A Roth IRA is a great tool that every investor, no matter their age, needs to consider. The money grows tax-free and is not subject to the age 70½ minimum required distribution rule, benefits that more people ought to take advantage of.

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, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185, on April 2nd, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

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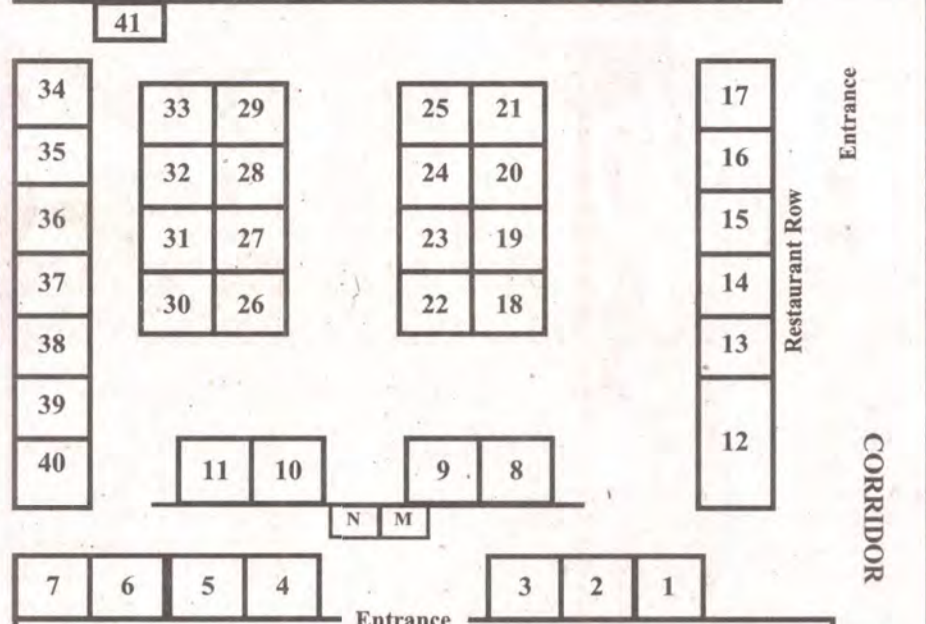
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CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS

ON THE BRINK

Chiefs grind out low-scoring win over Grand Ledge in Class A semi at Breslin Center



Canton players celebrate their 35-28 win over Grand Ledge in the MHSAA Class A semifinals at the Breslin Center. JARRAD HENDERSON | GANNETT MICHIGAN

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

During the run of success that began for the Canton Chiefs late in the regular season, the team has adopted a "refuse to lose" mentality.

And now, the Chiefs refuse to leave the Breslin Center.

Canton frustrated Grand Ledge at every turn Friday afternoon at the arena on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing.

And once the Chiefs' offense started to click in the fourth quarter, the Comets had no answer as Canton earned a 35-28 victory and first-ever

trip to the Class A girls basketball finals (Saturday against Bloomfield Hills Marian).

Canton snapped a 19-19 tie early in the fourth following a steal by senior forward Shannon Perry in the defensive zone. The ball was threaded to senior center Taylor Hunley (12 points, seven rebounds), who nailed a jumper from the top of the key.

That jump-started an 8-0 run that made it 27-19 and put the Chiefs in the driver's seat.

"We've sort of just tried to grind games out all year," Canton coach Brian Samulski

See CHIEFS, Page B2



The Canton cheering section goes crazy, celebrating the Chiefs' 35-28 victory over Grand Ledge. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Rushing out to congratulate Taylor Hunley (No. 5) on the Breslin Center basketball court after the Chiefs defeated Grand Ledge is freshman Erin Hult (No. 4). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Plymouth center Zach Lorentz (No. 9) scores in the first period against Erie's Daniel Dekoning. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Whalers pelted by Erie, 10-1

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Friday was Fan Appreciation Night at Compuware Arena and the Plymouth Whalers' generosity apparently extended to their opponent, the Erie Otters.

Plymouth gave up nine unanswered goals to the hungry Otters — who are driven to keep the No. 3 playoff seed in the Ontario Hockey League Western Conference — and dropped a 10-1 laugher before 2,898 fans.

"They're a good team and when we're not ready to play and they're that good ... granted, it shouldn't have been that bad, but they're a good team," Whalers assistant coach Don Elland said. "There's no doubt about it."

Plymouth (27-33-0-7) did have to travel from Thursday night's makeup game at Owen Sound, a game the Whalers needed to win in order to entertain thoughts of moving up from eighth seed to seventh as the regular season wraps up this weekend.

The Whalers lost 2-1 to the Attack and Elland said it was decided to rest some players and play rookie goalie Zack Bowman against Erie.

No excuse

Elland stressed that the schedule and travel had nothing to do with how Plymouth got waxed by Erie.

"If you want to use excuses you can use that, but there's no reason for our performance tonight," he said. "We just weren't ready to play, for whatever reason."

"We can say we don't have anything to play for, but we're getting ready for the playoffs, so we got to be better."

Bowman ended up making 44 saves, but there was little he could do against a potent offense featuring players such as Connor Brown (125 points) and Dane Fox (62 goals entering Friday's game).

"He (Bowman) made a lot of good stops, he battled hard; it's

See WHALERS, Page B4

Marian gets past Marlins to reach Class A final

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Kara Holinski and her Bloomfield Hills Marian teammates didn't let this one get away in their fourth and final meeting with rival Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Mustangs avenged a Feb. 16 loss to their arch rivals Friday with a 67-55 victory in a Class A state semifinal basket-

ball game Friday at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Holinski scored a game-high 20 points as Marian (24-2) advanced to its first championship game since 1998 and was scheduled to play Canton in the final Saturday afternoon.

"We've been looking forward to this game for a long time," Holinski said. "It wasn't in my wildest dreams that we would be able to play Mercy

again after the Catholic League loss.

"I can say for myself and my teammates we were just so determined and focused to beat them, because we love each other so much and wanted to do it for each other."

When the Marlins climbed within two of the Mustangs midway in the fourth quarter, 50-48, Holinski took charge of the game.

She scored the next four points on a putback and a layup and quickly restored the momentum for Marian.

Just do it

Following a trey by Mercy's Candice Leatherwood, Holinski scored again on a drive to the basket to make it a 56-51 game with three minutes remaining.

"I was just focused on how bad our whole team wanted it

and how hard we had worked," Holinski said. "At a certain point, you just stop thinking and start doing."

"If you see the openings, you go. If you have the fast breaks, you just go. It was more of a feeling than thinking consciously through it."

Marian was in a good posi-

See MARIAN/MERCY, Page B3

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

Registration Monday for annual 'Super Jess' 5K run

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's National Honor Society will host its fourth annual "Super Jess" 5K run at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 4 on the high school campus.

This event was created in 2011 in honor of 16-year-old P-CEP student Jesse Lindlbauer, whose sinus infection turned into an abscess which ruptured, causing a traumatic brain injury. The SJ5K run was created in order to bring the community support to the family and raise mon-

ey. After a successful event in 2011, the National Honor Society decided to make the SJ5K an annual event to honor local families in need.

This year, the race will support one present P-CCS student and one P-CCS alumni: Salem senior Jerrica Fitzgerald and Salem alumni Amy Ladenberger.

» Jerrica Fitzgerald was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a rare medical condition in which

fluid builds up in the brain. Jerrica has undergone more than 30 surgeries and countless nights in the hospital since she was diagnosed in 2009. She attended Smith Elementary and West Middle School. Jerrica is now a senior at the Park and is excited to graduate this spring with the rest of her class.

» Amy Ladenberger is a 25-year-old Park graduate who attended Hoban Elementary and Discovery Middle School.

She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a disease which causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs, digestive tract and other areas of the body, when she was three months old. Within the last year, Amy underwent a double lung transplant and many other surgeries prior to that.

Please join the NHS to raise money and support for the Fitzgerald and Ladenberger families by participating in the SJ5K,

donating funds, or sponsoring the May 4 race.

It will begin 8 a.m. at the Canton varsity football field.

Registration will begin Monday and continue until race day; registrations received prior to April 16th will include a race shirt.

Registration forms can be found on the SJ5K Facebook page, on the P-CEP website or in Canton, Plymouth and Salem main offices. Event fees are \$25 for adults over 18

and \$20 for all others.

For questions about the race or volunteering, please contact the student coordinator of this event, Shannon Perry at SJ5Kcommunity@gmail.com. For questions about becoming a sponsor, contact Chris Kozler at ckozler7@gmail.com. All donations and sponsorships can be made out to "NHS SJ5K 2014" and can be mailed to Pam Davis, 46370 Spinning Wheel, Canton, MI 48187.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

said. "We always haven't done a great job of scoring, so we said, 'Hey, if we can hold someone under 30 and we can get to 30, then we'll give ourselves a shot.'"

It wasn't a picnic much of the game for Canton's offense, either.

The first quarter ended with the Comets up 6-5 and it was just a 13-10 game at halftime with Canton (22-4) coming to life when senior forward Paige Aresco (11 points, six rebounds) scored a layup with six seconds to play before the intermission.

Under control

Canton's swarming 'D' had a lot to do with Grand Ledge's abysmal shooting in the first half (3-of-19, 15.8 percent) although the Chiefs did not fare much better (6-of-24, 25 percent).

As a byproduct of how quick the Chiefs were on defense, Grand Ledge senior twins Lindsay and Hannah Orwat managed just nine and four points, respectively, for the day.

"I thought that was the key, Rach (Winters), Nat (Winters), Alanna (Brown), those three did an outstanding job on those kids," Samulski said. "We switched a lot of stuff. But I thought the key to the game was controlling those guys and not letting them get off."

During the post-game interview session, both Grand Ledge head coach David Jones (whose team finished 24-3) and Lindsay Orwat credited the way the Chiefs plugged lanes and forced the Comets to take low-percentage shots.

"Everything I heard about them (Chiefs) on their defensive end really showed up today," Jones said. "They played great team defense and we were just never able to settle into a shot that we wanted to get."

"They're very good on their help defense and they recover quickly."

Lindsay Orwat, meanwhile, said it was difficult to deal with Canton's relentless help-side defense: "Me and my sister love to shoot off a ball screen and they were there in our face."

"It's outstanding, we always talk about playing the last day."

BRIAN SAMULSKI
Canton coach

Making it tough

Another key for Canton was keeping Comets 6-3 center Cori Crocker from having too many freebies around the rim.

"I think it was more just physically not allowing her to get too deep into the post, so that she couldn't get any easy shots," Hunley said. "Just trying to push her out as best I could, be physical."

Canton's four senior co-captains (Aresco, Hunley, Rachel Winters, Perry) all talked about how the team's kind of relished being an under-the-radar group all season.

"Sometimes we haven't been thought of as a leading team or whatever," Perry said. "I think it's great that we can work so hard and be able to make it to the final day of the season."

And the style of basketball that might frustrate opponents is exactly how the Chiefs like to play it.

"I think a lot of the great teams are really focused on offense, offense, offense," Aresco said, smiling. "And when they come up against us, we've done a really good job of shutting them down and it's been kind of shocking for them, I think."

Samulski added that this has been a different kind of postseason run than 2010 and 2012, when the Chiefs lost in the semifinals at Breslin.

"It's outstanding, we always talk about playing the last day," he said. "The first two teams, they were ranked in the top three all year around and (there was) a lot of pressure to even get here."

"These guys, they've been really able to enjoy this run that they've put us on because there was no real pressure. No one really talked about them, there wasn't a high ranking."

"So we refuse to lose, we keep plugging away and try to do what we do. We're playing tomorrow."

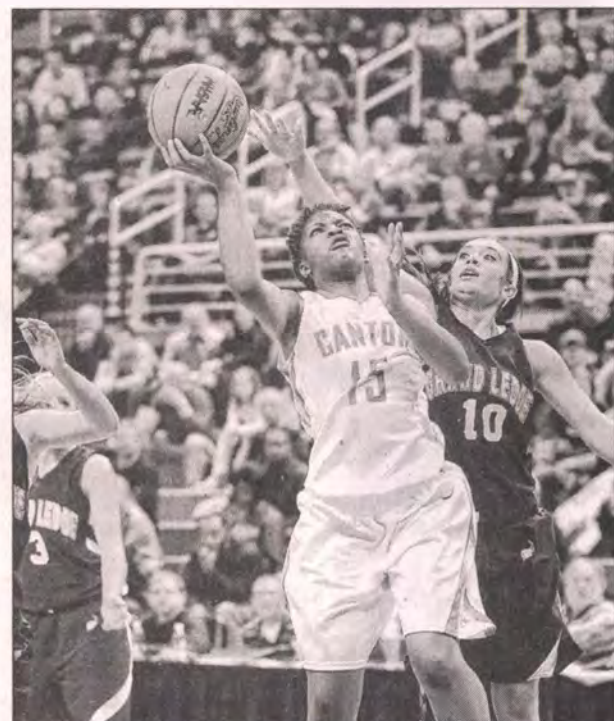
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Canton's Paige Aresco takes the ball to the hoop during Friday's Class A girls basketball semifinal at the Breslin Center. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



One of the ongoing match-ups Friday in the Class A girls basketball semifinal pitted Canton's Taylor Hunley (No. 5) against Grand Ledge's Cori Crocker. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Canton junior Alanna Brown made some key contributions Friday, scoring five points and grabbing seven rebounds. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Pairitz leads respectable showing by Rocks

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There are varying degrees of success in high school sports and Salem boys swimming and diving coach Chuck Olson is tickled about how some of his athletes performed March 7-8 at the Division 1 state meet.

Birmingham Brother Rice topped the field at Saginaw Valley State University over the two-day event with 345 points, well ahead of runner-up Livonia Stevenson (202), Holland West Ottawa (191), Ann Arbor Pioneer (185) and Bloomfield Hills (136).

Salem (nine points) finished 27th, with senior Matt Pairitz instrumental to all of the Rocks' scoring.

Olson cited time improvements "in all three relays and (in) the five individual events four of the five swam faster."

Pairitz had the best day, finishing 16th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.38, good for a point on the team scoreboard. He narrowly missed qualifying in the 100 free.

The Rocks collected four points each for the 15th-place 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay.

Pairitz, sophomore



Salem's Matt Pairitz, shown from a meet earlier this season, had a very respectable showing at the Division 1 boys state meet. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charles Liu, freshman Phillip Collingwood and senior Jason Basanese finished the 200 free relay in 1:30.59.

That quartet finished

the 400 free relay with a mark of 3:20.81.

In the 200-yard medley relay preliminaries (the top 16 per event made the Saturday fi-

nals), Salem wasn't far off the mark, either.

Juniors Patrick Casey, Brendan Wellman, Liu and Basanese placed 23rd with a time of 1:41.20; the 16th-place team from Grand Blanc clocked in at 1:40.07.

Plymouth also had a team in the 200 medley relay. Finishing 27th (1:42.46) for the Wildcats were juniors Ben Yang, Ryan Heinze, sophomore Garrett Beauprez and freshman Michael Wischer.

In individual prelims, Pairitz's bid to make the finals in the 100 free came up just short. He finished 17th with a time of 48.41, behind 16th-

place Matthew Erickson of Ann Arbor Pioneer (48.28).

Meanwhile, three other Salem swimmers competed during prelims in individual events.

Liu's mark of 1:50.40 in the 200 free earned him 32nd overall.

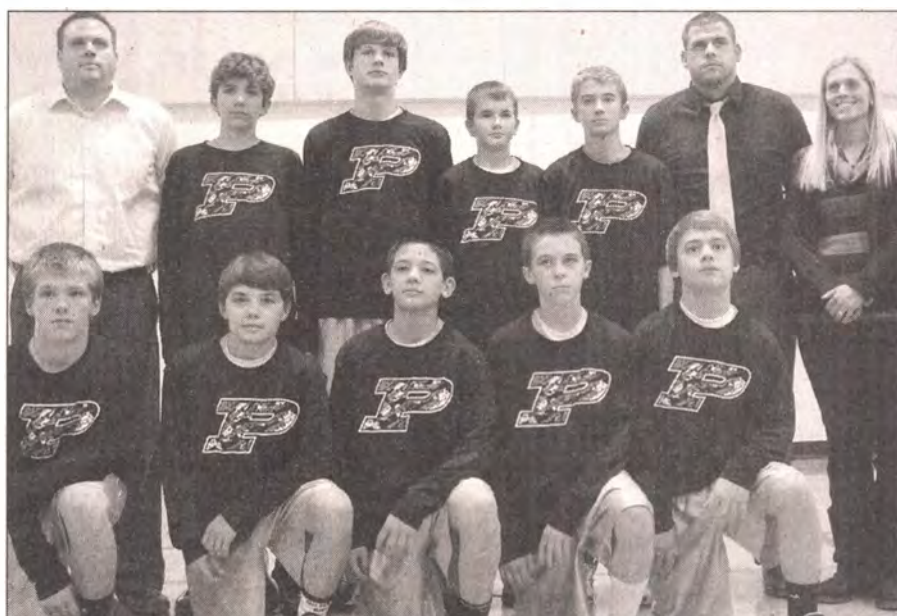
Wellman and Casey both took part in 100-yard backstroke preliminaries. Wellman finished 25th (55.76), with Casey coming in 28th (56.00).

Both were about a second slower than 16th-place Ryan Johnston of Grand Blanc (54.55).

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Members of the 8-0 Pioneer Middle School 'A' basketball team are (bottom, from left) Grant Harrison and Eian Barker and (back, from left) coach Joe Wallen, Jeremy Armstead, Ryan Boyd, Trevor Genaw, Connor Engel, Cameron Kight, coach John Palmer and coach Andrea Palmer.



Members of the 8-0 Pioneer Middle School 'B' team are (front, from left) Ben Wright, Bennett Austin, Lucas Binguitt, Alex Bowser and Sam Zorn and (top, from left) coach Joe Wallen, Brandon Boyd, Jordan Forney, Evan Petersen, John Olson, coach John Palmer and coach Andrea Palmer. Also on the team was Travell Hale.

Pioneer completes stellar hoops season

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The three H's – hustle, heart and height – proved to be key elements for the Pioneer Middle School basketball teams' championship-caliber chemistry this winter.

Both the Panthers' 'A' and 'B' teams each hammered out an 8-0 record during their month-long schedule that included a home and away game against each of the four other Plymouth-Canton middle schools – East, West, Discovery and Central.

The bulk of this season's Pioneer 'A' team also chalked up an unbeaten season for their school's 'B' team last winter.

Central was the unofficial defending 'A' champion from 2013.

"It was a great honor to coach Pioneer this season,"

Panthers head coach John Palmer said. "Through hard work and dedication, the players were able to be competitive in every game."

Palmer praised the efforts of all five middle school programs.

"The competition of the

middle school league has been increasing every year," he said. "I see growth in the players from every team. Not only are they developing character, but they are getting fundamentally ready for high school basketball."

ewright@hometownlife.com



Bloomfield Hills Marian forward Brittany Gray (No. 23) and Farmington Hills Mercy guard Sierra Wangler (No. 5) both go for a loose ball during the second half Friday.

MARIAN/MERCY

Continued from Page B1

tion with a lead late in the game, and it scored its last 11 points at the foul line to win going away.

The Mustangs, who evened the season series with Mercy at 2-2, led by 11 points in the second half when the teams played in the Catholic League final a month ago and lost by one at the buzzer.

The key to her team's success was very simple, according to Marian coach Mary Cicerone.

"The game plan was we just break their press and we win – and we did," she said. "I thought we did for most part."

"We spread them out and attacked it fairly well and finished most of our layups. I thought that was going to be the difference if we didn't panic and lose our composure against the two presses they use."

The Mustangs, who had 30-plus turnovers in the first two games with Mercy and were affected by the press in the 55-54 loss on Feb. 16, reduced their turnovers to just 13.

The Mustangs also played excellent defense, limiting the number of transition points by the Marlins and making it difficult to penetrate their half-court defense.

After opening the game with six missed shots, the Mustangs played well and shot the ball well after that, both from the field and the foul line.



Mercy junior Sierra Wangler and Marian junior Brittany Gray compete for a loose ball in the state semifinal game in East Lansing. JARRAD HENDERSON | GANNETT MICHIGAN

Marian shot 46 percent overall (19-of-41) and cashed in big time on free throws, going 25-of-35. Mercy made 40 percent of its field goals (20-of-50) but was just 9-of-10 at the line.

The Mustangs overcame the slow start and an early deficit to lead 14-12 after one quarter and 32-26 at halftime.

The six-point difference was a game-long obstacle for the Marlins, also got within two late in the third period, 38-36.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Livonia pom clinic

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

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

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

CHS Hall of Fame

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

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

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

Tickets are \$40 per person. For more information, contact Rob Suida at 313-617-5448 or email rsuida@cmsenergy.com.

Livonia pom tryouts

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

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

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

Bucks host games

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

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

And on Saturday, April 5, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas, women's soccer teams representing Michigan State, Michigan, OU and Northwestern will square off in the Best of the Midwest games. Tickets are also \$8 for an all-day pass if purchased online. (Group rates are also offered for 20 or more for \$7 apiece if purchased by a parent, coach or manager.)

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

Coach-Pitch, T-Ball

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

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

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

The season runs from May through

July with T-ball scrimmages Monday evenings and coach-pitch scrimmages Thursday evenings.

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

Varsity pom clinic

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

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

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

Women's golfers

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

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

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

MU cross country

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

The cost is \$75. MU will also hold long runs 7:30-9 a.m. Saturday, July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, at Cass Benton Park. The cost is a \$2 donation each long run.

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

Sponsor needed

The 11-and-under Livonia Rockets, a travel baseball team which will play six to seven tournaments this summer, is seeking a team sponsor which includes a banner and company name and phone number to advertise.

Any donation is appreciated. For more information, call Steve at 734-716-5194 or coach Ed at 734-670-6768.

Motor City Hoops

The MetroPCS Motor City Hoops Classic, a new 3-on-3 basketball tournament, will be Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8, on the Detroit Riverfront.

The event is a collaboration of some of the area's top organizations, including presenting sponsor Opportunity Detroit, with proceeds benefiting the Detroit Goodfellows and the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy.

The MetroPCS Motor City Hoops Classic will have divisions for all ages and skill levels with both men's and women's teams invited to compete.

Approximately 400 teams from throughout the area are expected to participate. In addition to team competitions, there will also be a 3-point shootout and free throw shooting contest for prizes as well as free youth clinics for participants in the 4-8 grade divisions.

Registration is under way with the deadline for team registration Friday, May 23. Early bird registration ends Tuesday, April 15.

To register, or for more information, visit www.motorcityhoopsclassic.com.

Need tennis coach

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

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

FAST-BREAK FESTIVAL

St. Val's youth hoops tourney is a much-anticipated event for young cagers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Young CYO basketball players look forward to the annual St. Valentine All-Metro Basketball Tournament so much, they'd probably dribble all the way to Redford Township from their home parish if that's what it came down to participate.

The 32nd annual hoops event has unfolded in the St. Val's gym over the past couple of weeks, with 15 teams competing in four divisions.

When the nets were cut down (theoretically) Saturday night, 40 games were efficiently jammed into 10 days of baseline-to-baseline action.

Each of the contests is accompanied by high school-caliber pre-game introductions, heart-pumping music and in-game announcing.

Is it any wonder the event draws teams from as far away as Brighton to the St. Val's gymnasium every March?

"The reason why it's so popular, in my opinion, is because our volunteer staff of

workers go overboard to make it a special event for the kids," St. Val's athletic director Gary Waxler said.

"The atmosphere in our gym when the games are going on is electric."

Just about the only things the NCAA "March Madness" tournament offers that St. Val's doesn't are Jim Nance and Clark Kellogg.

There are Cinderella stories, "teams to beat" and buzzer-beaters galore. And most of the squads bring cheering sections that may not rival Michigan State University's "Izzone" in size, but demonstrate just as much per-person spirit.

Waxler said the tournament has grown exponentially since its inception in the early '80s.

"We started out with just two divisions and have expanded to four," he said. "We could probably draw more teams, but it's hard to get any bigger with the time constraints we're under."

The tournament is limited to CYO junior varsity squads,

which are made up of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students.

The event is the second-largest fundraiser for the St. Val's athletic department, Waxler added.

Waxler said there have been countless heart-warming moments that have unfolded during tournament — both on the court and off.

"The one that stands out the most is when one of our players, Joey Peglowski, passed away from a terminal brain tumor while our tournament was going on," he said. "Everybody loved that kid and his number has been retired."

"Joey's funeral was going to take place at our church, so St. Robert Bellarmine (which is also located in Redford) stepped up and let us use their gym so that the tournament could continue."

Although none of the St. Val's teams advanced to the division finals this March, "they all played hard and never gave up," Waxler said.

ewright@hometownlife.com



St. Robert Bellarmine's Alyson Brumm drives hard to the basket during her team's game against St. Valentine. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

WHALERS

Continued from Page B1

a bad situation," Elland said. "We got to rest (Alex Nedeljkovic), we got to get him ready for the playoffs. We were in it up until last night trying to get the seventh seed, that's why we played Ned last night. We didn't get the win, so now we're stuck in eighth so we got to rest some guys."

"It wasn't on Bowman. We weren't good, we held some players out, they had a full lineup. But we weren't ready to play."

After Andrea Burakovsky scored the first of his two goals at 12:05 of the first period, the Whalers briefly responded when center Zach Lorentz notched his 27th goal of the season less than two minutes



Matt Mistele (No. 22) of the Plymouth Whalers tries to stay a step or two ahead of Erie players during Friday night's game at Compuware Arena. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

later. Assisting on the Lorentz goal were Bryce Yetman and Liam Dunda. But Michael Curtis put Erie

(51-14-2-0) back in front before the end of the period and the Otters really went to work in the middle period. Erie outshot the Whalers

20-14 in the second and scored five times, including two each by Brendan Gaunce and Connor McDavid.

Bowman tried to hold Erie to seven goals, making a series of splendid saves in the first half of the third period.

Yet he couldn't completely keep the Otters at bay, allowing three goals over a span of less than three minutes.

With 5:43 left, Fox rushed down the left wing and wired a slap shot high over Bowman's trapper to make it 8-1.

Finishing off the scoring were Burakovsky (his 40th of the season) and Jake Evans, both parked in front of the Plymouth goal to finish off perfect centering passes.

Elland said the Whalers will need to shrug off the rout in a hurry, with Saturday's regular-season finale against Windsor at Compuware followed by

preparations for the first round of the playoffs against top-seeded Guelph.

OWEN SOUND 2, PLYMOUTH 1: The visiting Whalers allowed two goals in the third period Thursday to suffer this Ontario Hockey League setback. The game was rescheduled from Wednesday due to heavy snow.

Matt Mistele put the Whalers on the board at 14:24 of the first period, with assists to Nick Malysa and Connor Chatham.

That 1-0 lead stood until 5:57 of the third, when Owen Sound's Kyle Hope beat Plymouth goalie Alex Nedeljkovic (31 saves).

Hope scored his second of the game at 13:29 on the power play, from Gianluca Curcuruto and Hartman.

Lorentz scored his 26th of the season at 15:26 of the third, with assists going to linemates Victor Crus Rydberg and Carter Sandlak.

Crus Rydberg netted his 12th in the second period on the power play, from Gianluca Curcuruto and Hartman.

Making 35 saves for Plymouth was Alex Nedeljkovic while Spirit goalie Nikita Serebryakov stopped 35 Whalers shots.

The matinee was played before 2,573 fans. tsmith@hometownlife.com

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Food choices change boosts health

Henry Ford Health System has cut 7 tons of fat from food and increased fruit and vegetable purchases by 10 percent annually in an effort to offer patients more healthy food choices.

The hospital system also removed all fryers, committed to removing all deep fried fat products, and advertises only healthy food choice options on cafeteria advertising and menus.

Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D., Henry Ford's chief wellness officer was scheduled to talk about the hospital's nutritional efforts during a Partnership for a Healthier America's Building a Healthier Future Summit, Friday, in Washington, D.C.

"We have a responsibility to provide our communities with a wide variety of affordable,

delicious, healthy food options — making the healthy choice the easy choice," Wisdom says. "Our patients, employees and other customers like what we're doing."

Offering healthy options can be a money-maker, too. After the system implemented healthy food choices, revenue

increased 7 percent last year at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

Dietitians and chefs worked together to make healthy foods beautiful and enticing to both patients and café customers, according to John Miller, director of Culinary Wellness at Henry Ford Health System.

"Healthy food doesn't need to be expensive or boring," Miller said. "We're excited to see the response as we introduce even more healthy food



Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D.

options throughout the hospital system." Last year, Henry Ford committed to PHA's Hospital Healthy Food Initiative guidelines to improve nutrition of patient meals as well as what is offered at on-site cafés. The three-year, three-month commitment lasts through 2016, with Henry Ford the only hospital system in Michigan joining the initiative.

"A hospital is a center for health, but we know that comfort food is important, too," Wisdom said. "The goal of this initiative is to increase healthy options or make less-healthy choices a little more healthy —

not deprive people of choices."

Henry Ford had already met the PHA initiative of increasing fruit and vegetable purchases to 10 percent of total food dollars purchased by 2015. All four Henry Ford Health System hospitals meet the guideline, with two spending more than 20 percent. The hospital system also has committed to:

» Meeting PHA requirements that call for at least 60 percent of a la carte entrees and side dishes meet healthy guidelines in 2015. Fifty percent must meet the guidelines this year.

» Remove all fryers and deep fried fat products. The fryers have been removed from all hospitals and at least one hospital has also removed all deep fat fried products with plans to phase them out of the

remaining three facilities.

» Promote only healthy food options within five feet of cash registers. All Henry Ford Health System have met that goal. Henry Ford Health System also worked with Pepsi to re-wrap all of the café refrigerators with non-branded, healthy images.

» Offer wellness meals for both adult and children in cafés and to adult and pediatric patients. All Henry Ford hospitals currently offer at least one adult and one children's wellness meal.

"We firmly believe that this commitment will allow us to better fulfill our main goal of providing our patients with the best care possible, while also promoting health throughout the community," Wisdom said.

For more, visit www.henryfordliveswell.com.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

UPCOMING

Bleeding disorders

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan offers a free, informational program and dinner for those with bleeding disorders and their immediate families, 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, at Hotel Baromette Renaissance, 27790 Novi Road, Novi. Guest speakers will include Trevor Martin, a high school sophomore who will talk about how he manages his hemophilia, along with Tammueella Singleton, MD. RSVP by Monday, March 24 to Tanya Roberson at 734-961-3501 or tanya@himich.org.

Breakfast class

A registered dietitian from Botsford Hospital will show how eating a healthy breakfast can help you stay healthy, 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$5 and includes recipes, food samples, nutritional advice and a \$5 Busch's coupon. Tickets available from Busch's Guest Services

Counter or by phoning 248-427-7400.

Childbirth education

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

Diabetes yoga fundraiser

A yoga fundraiser will be held to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, March 30, at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Adult classes are \$10 and children's class is \$8. A children's class will be held 12:30-1:15 p.m.; all levels flow class is 1:30-2:30 p.m.; healthy backs class is 2:45-3:45 p.m.; and intro to yoga is 4-5 p.m. Bring a yoga mat to class. To register or for more information, email karen@yogahearts.com or [\[sant@gmail.com\]\(mailto:sant@gmail.com\)](mailto:audreyplea-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Drug series

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

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

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

First responder

Huron Valley Ambulance is forming a volunteer medical first responder team and will hold eight-week training classes for participants interested

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

Pelvic health webinars

Paul Makela, M.D., Mary Mercy Hospital medical director of gynecological robotic surgery, will discuss such topics as pelvic pain, bladder leakage, hysterectomies and other pelvic health problems, noon and 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 online. The webinar is free but registration is required. Call 734-655-2987. A member of Makela's staff will explain how to access the webinar. Participants' identities will remain protected and not be revealed to others attending the webinar.

Sweet Dreamzzz benefit

The Michigan Construction Leadership Council and the AGC of Michigan will sponsor a benefit for Sweet Dreamzzz, 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at John Cowley & Sons Irish Pub, 33338 Grand River Ave., in downtown Farmington. Registration fee is \$35 and will include food and beverages. RSVP by Thursday, March 20. Email to nancymaxwell@sweetdreamzzz.org or call 248-478-3242. Sweet Dreamzzz provides sleep education to children and their parents, along with bedtime essentials for economically disadvantaged families.

Walk with a Doc

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

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ONCE UPON A TIME

Tell me a story!

Storytellers will spin yarns at Livonia Library

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

When Doreen Lawton joined the Detroit Storytelling League nearly 20 years ago, she promised to bake cookies for the group every month in lieu of facing an audience.

"They told me I had to tell a story if I wanted to belong to the League," said Lawton, who has long since gotten over her performance jitters. "I told one story a year. Now I tell a couple times a year if they need me. The group is wonderful."

The Plymouth woman will serve as "maestro" at the League's fourth annual Once Upon a Time Children's Story Concert, 2 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Livonia Civic Center Public Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

The event, designed to celebrate stories and promote reading, is for children 4-10. Admission is \$3 per person. Every child will take home a small prize and refreshments will be served after the event.

Lawton will tell a short story about her teaching experience, before introducing the featured tellers, Jeff Doyle of Ann Arbor, Gwen Lewis of Redford and Loretta Vitek of St. Clair Shores.

Funny, traditional tellers

Judy Sima, League president, describes Doyle as a humorous storyteller who often includes audience participation. Youngsters may be invited on stage to help act out roles or provide sound effects.



Gwen Lewis of Redford is a featured teller at "Once Upon a Time" in Livonia.



Jeff Doyle of Ann Arbor will tell some stories that include audience participation at the annual Detroit Story League children's concert.

"Jeff has a story about his blankie. It's a piece of fiction but he puts himself into the story, which is what a lot of us do," Sima said.

Doyle is a guest teller at the annual event. Lewis and Vitek are League members. Lewis will tell traditional African folktales and Vitek will focus on dragons.

Sima said the children's storytelling concert aims to make youngsters aware that the oral tradition exists.

"Because of social media, it's important to have events where people can engage face to face and have a common experience together," Sima said. "With storytelling, it's you and the audience. With a play or movie, they can go on whether there is an audience or not."

Joining the League

The Detroit Storytelling League meets at 1 p.m. the third Saturday of the month, from August through June, at



Doreen Lawton



Laura Vitek

libraries throughout southeastern Michigan. Each session includes a workshop, sometimes with a guest speaker, and member storytelling. The next session, April 19, will be held at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth. Lawton is among the members scheduled to tell a story.

"For me, the secret is to tell stories about my past. I'm 82, so I've got a past," she said. "I can always tell stories about when my husband, George, and I had a farm in Canton. We had a sheep farm on Joy between Beck and Ridge. We ended up with close to 90 sheep one year."

Her husband kept his "day job," meaning that Lawton was "chief farm-

er who got up in the night to tend to sheep" when they were ready to give birth or had some other need. When the last of her three children went off to college — and they were unable to help with the animals — the couple quit farming.

Lawton sought out the Detroit Storytelling League in search of activities after her husband died. Although she didn't plan to tell stories professionally, she enjoyed both hearing and occasionally telling stories with other members.

"Every month we have workshops, so we get tips and pointers on how to be better storytellers. We're all learning. We just enjoy the group so much," she said. "The club members are so supportive and helpful. There are all kinds of opportunities to tell stories. But no pressure."

For more about the League, visit detroit-storytelling.org.



Guests at Happily Ever After, a program about the history of weddings, will see vintage gowns and eat cake, March 26, at Greenmead in Livonia.

Wedding 'reception' offers cake, gowns, music at Greenmead

Learn about wedding customs and see bridal gowns of the past at Greenmead Historical Park's "Happily Ever After" program, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia.

"Our guest speaker is Carol Brichford. She will be speaking on wedding traditions and customs," said Maureen Casey, recreation specialist, in an email to the *Observer*. "Food is provided by area caterers and our wedding cake is being prepared by Sue Poster, head pastry chef for the Suburban Collection Showplace."

The evening will

start with Brichford's presentation, along with wedding music, at the historic Newburgh Church, in Greenmead's village. A wedding reception will follow at the Alexander Blue House where guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee. Vintage wedding gowns and photos also will be on display at the reception. The evening will end with door prizes from local businesses.

Tickets are \$12. Call 248-477-7375 for reservations. All proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of Greenmead.

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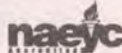


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Artist talks about icons at Livonia church soup supper

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Artist Kathleen Bordo Crombie prays before picking up her paint brush. She creates religious icons, but won't take on a commission unless she believes it's God's will. And when she finishes painting of a sacred image, she gives all of the credit away. "I truly know that God writes the icons. I am the vessel. I mix the paint and hold the brush." Crombie will talk about the artistic and spiritual process involved in creating icons in a presentation called "Created in His Image," Tuesday, March 25, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road in Livonia. The Dearborn artist will start her presentation at 7 p.m., following a Lenten soup supper at 6 p.m. The supper costs \$5 per person, payable at the door. Her talk is one of many Lenten activities at St. Michael's, where the season will culminate in an exhibit of a replica of the Shroud of Turin, April 13-20. The Rev. Todd Lajiness, rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will give a brief history of the shroud, an examination of the wounds, along with some contemporary debate points about its authenticity as the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, at 1:15 p.m. April 13. Crombie, who has been a guest speaker at St. Michael's monthly "Why Be Catholic?" program, will explain the painting process, including symbolism that is written into the image. "Icons are meant to teach. Everything in an icon means something — the way the head is turned, the position of the hands, the color of the vestments — everything has mean-

ing. It can be read, which is why they call an icon 'written,'" she said. "In the Eastern church, they believe that when you come before an icon to pray, it's a window to the divine. When you're standing there, there's no barrier between you and the holy person on the other side. Praying in front of an icon is like going to a meeting. You go to have a conversation with someone."

Painting process

Crombie sketches the image on a prepared surface and adds layers of acrylic paint. Traditionally, icons were painted in egg tempera.

"When you look at an icon you see a painted image, but that's not all it is. There are layers upon layers upon layers of paint. Everything blends and there are no hard lines," Crombie said. "The paint is thin. The first person I studied with said it's like painting with smoke. The color builds. You get these phenomenal colors."

Crombie, who was raised Catholic, got involved in basket making when her children were young. She took classes, developed her own style, and began creating contemporary art baskets with natural materials, such as tree bark and rattan.

"There was a time in my life God called me out of the art world. I was working at the Detroit Institute of Arts in membership development, but it was clear a job change was coming and he led me to the pro-life movement," she said.

Activism, artistry

Crombie, now a grandmother, took a job with Michigan Right to Life, where she currently is minority outreach director. She felt a "tug" nearly 10 years ago to take up art again.

"God said I didn't give you this talent for nothing. Use it



Kathy Crombie at work in the home studio where she "writes" icons

for my glory."

She took a weeklong icon workshop at St. Michael Sacred Art Institute of Enders Island, Conn., and has never looked back. The first icon, *Corpus of Christ*, that Crombie created outside of the workshop is installed in a chapel at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth.

"It's 6-foot-5 (inches) with a 6-foot arm span," Crombie said. "One teacher told me a kid looked at it and said 'It's so big!' The little kid was mesmerized. It's in a great place and helping the children understand what Jesus did for us on the cross."

Her icon, *Lady of Philermos* is on display at Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit and a life-sized icon, *Divine Mercy* is installed at the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township. Representatives from the Divine Mercy Center will be on hand at her presentation to sell replicas of her icons, with proceeds benefiting the center.

For more about *Created in His Image*, visit www.livoniastmichael.org or call the parish office at 734-261-1455, Ext. 207.



Jesus, I Trust In You

Kathy Crombie created this icon, which is displayed at the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township.

Helping women with appliance repairs



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

With a man writing this column about women, he has to be very careful to not use the wrong phrase or make sure his meanings cannot be taken two ways. I am just going to let the words flow from the heart and see how I can connect women to my world of appliances. I have said it a million times "man can put it together, woman can

take it apart." And so it was repeated several times at the recent Canton Home Improvement show when ladies out shopping came up to me and thanked me for helping them fix their own appliances.

One lady told me she changed the pump on her washing machine all by herself with a phone conversation with the Appliance Doctor. Another told me she changed the stirrer motor on her microwave oven because of me and another told me how I showed her how to change a torn rubber door seal on her refrigerator. I could go on here, but I have to shut off my ego and get to another

thank you. Thanks to all of you who tell me you read this column. That makes me feel really good.

I used to own an appliance parts store where I talked to many people who wanted to do their own repairs and I helped every one of them get the job done. I never made much money, but I sure made a lot of friends and that was all I needed. The majority of customers were men from all walks of life and once in a while a female would come into my store, describe her problem and ask for directions on how to do it herself. There are many stories and one sticks in my mem-

ory like it was yesterday. A very senior citizen came in and told me her gas dryer was not drying clothes anymore. From her description, I knew it was a gas valve problem and so I showed her an old gas valve assembly just like the one in her dryer. And then she told me she was a widow and her husband had died just two years ago and he always fixed anything around the house. His workshop was just like it was the day he died with all the tools hanging so meticulously on the peg board.

I then showed her what tools to use and what direction to turn the coupling nut and

the electrical wires to disconnect. She went home and two hours later came into my workshop with the gas valve in her hand. I changed the defective part for her and sent her on her way. The next day, she came into my shop with a plate of cookies and with tears rolling down her cheeks, couldn't thank me enough. She said that she had never fixed anything in life like this and although she missed her husband terribly she felt a new confidence in herself. I had already spent a lifetime teaching service schools in the appliance indus-

See GAGNON, Page B8

Women 'go red' at annual luncheon for heart health



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

February was the month of the little red dress. The American Heart Association, along with national sponsorship from Macy's, celebrated its 10th year of the Go Red for Women Campaign.

And Go Red they did, when 600-plus women, and a few good men, attended the Detroit Go Red For Women Luncheon at the MGM Grand Detroit. It raised more than \$600,000 for women's heart health. Comedian Rosie O'Donnell, the keynote speaker, talked firsthand about heart disease — the leading cause of death among women. O'Donnell survived a massive heart attack on Aug. 14, 2012, so she's on a prevention education mission. The mother of four teens and a baby plans to be around for a very long time, and we're behind her 100 percent.

Girl Scouts Gala

Even if you gave up sweets for Lent, the Girl Scouts Cookie Gala will give you a special one-day dispensation in honor of charity. At 6 p.m. March 26, guests are invited to the annual Girl Scouts Cookie Gala at DTE Energy headquarters in Detroit, where the area's top culinary bakers and chefs will compete for various awards, using the beloved Girl Scouts cookies as a key ingredient in



Westland Macy's team members Bridgett Bryant, (left) sales manager; Karin Tanti-McLearn, merchandise lead; Sheila Fisher, sales manager; and Lonette Blackburn, vice president, Westland Macy's store manager wear red at the Go Red for Women Luncheon. Macy's is a National Sponsor of the Go Red for Women campaign. Since 2004, Macy's has raised over \$46 million through its Magic of Giving program.



their recipes.

The best part of the event, which benefits Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, is the audience gets to taste and vote. Tickets are \$100 each or \$170/pair before March 21 or \$120/individual and \$190/pair after that date; 800-482-6734, Ext. 2281, or visit www.gssem.org/cookiegala.

Contact Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES



Bryan Huntley and Katherine Hopman

HOPMAN-HUNTLEY

Katherine Hopman and Bryan Huntley announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Cindy and Terry Hopman of Canton, is a 2008 Plymouth High School graduate. She also graduated from Grand Valley State University with a major in mathematics and minor in elementary education. She teaches in Grand Rapids.

Her fiancé, son of Cathy and Steve Huntley of Grand Rapids, graduated from Grand Valley State University with a major in group social studies and a double minor in mathematics and secondary education. He teaches eighth-grade math at Excel Charter Academy in Grand Rapids.

A July 2014 wedding is planned in Grand Rapids.

MILESTONES

MCLAUGHLIN-BALKUS

Kevin and Laura McLaughlin of Northville, and Beth and Ray Segler of Brighton announce the engagement of their daughter, Meryl McLaughlin, to Timothy Balkus, son of Gary Balkus of Wyandotte. Kevin and Beth both are former Livonia residents.

Meryl is a 2012 graduate of Michigan State University with a master's degree in special education, with an endorsement in autism spectrum disorders. Tim is a 2009 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in criminal justice and sociology.

The couple plans a summer wedding at Kirk of the Hills Church in Bloomfield Hills.

ENGAGEMENT



Meryl McLaughlin and Timothy Balkus

ENGAGEMENT

Arbor.

Her fiancé, son of Terry and Jane Wright of Lowell, graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in biology and Spanish and currently is a student in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

A June 2014 wedding is planned at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia.



Eric Wright and Kelly Snitchler

MILESTONES

SNITCHLER-WRIGHT

Kelly Snitchler and Eric Wright announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mark and Cherie Snitchler of Livonia, graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in communication studies and Spanish. She currently works at ForeSee in Ann

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES



Rashanna Baker and Shaunton Davis

BAKER-DAVIS

Sheila Baker-Harris of Farmington Hills is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Rashanna Baker, to Shaunton Davis, son of LaDon Davis of Detroit and the late Richard Evans.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University, and a children's advocate for the State of Michigan. The groom studied architecture at Lawrence Tech University and currently works in the automotive industry.

A July 2014 wedding is planned.

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

CONRAD-GENSINGER

Laurel Marie Conrad and Dan Gensinger announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Adrian and Mary Conrad of Denver, Pa., attended Canton High School. She earned a B.A. degree in audiology and speech pathology from Michigan State University and a master's degree in speech-

language pathology from Eastern Michigan University. She works as a clinical manager for Select Rehabilitation in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Chris and Janet Gensinger of Winona Lake, Ind., earned a B.A. degree in biology from Indiana University. He works as a general manager for Aramark in Chicago.

An August 2014 wedding is planned in Hinsdale, Ill.



Laurel Conrad and Dan Gensinger

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 29

Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, Redford

Details: Bethany Together Dance admission is \$13 and includes beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks. Dance lesson from 7:30-8 p.m. Attire is business casual. Bethany is an organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit. It provides peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths

Contact: 248-988-0454

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 16

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

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

Contact: 734-425-4421

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17

Location: Congregation B'nai Moshe, 6600 Drake, West Bloomfield

Details: Violinist Kara Fenyo

Bahcall and Pianist Noemi Maczelka will perform works by Hungarian Jewish composer Karoly Goldmark. A kosher dessert reception follows. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$10 for B'nai Moshe members and their guests

Contact: 248-788-0600; www.bnaimoshe.org/12:45 p.m.

LENTEN SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through April 9

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Theme is "From Garden to Glory"

Contact: 313-532-8655

Passages
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

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



DUPREE, GEORGE CLOYD

Age 95, of Goshen passed away Thursday, March 13, 2014 surrounded by family and friend. He was born February 25, 1919 in Trafalgar, Indiana to John and Jennie Dupree. He is survived by daughter Deanna (William Collins) Dupree of Petoskey, Michigan; son Terry (Grace) Carling-Kelly of Dubuque, Iowa; sister Ruby Jones of North Vernon, Indiana; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and companion Virginia Miller of Goshen, Indiana. He is preceded in death by parents, daughter Linda, 13 siblings and Deanna and Terry's mother, Gertrude (Todd) Dupree. Visitation will be on Friday, March 21, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. at Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Home, 311 S. Main St. Goshen, Indiana 46526 with a service following at 3 p.m. Pastor Harold Knight of Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church will officiate. Burial will be at Clinton Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions to VFW National Home for Children, 3573 South Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Online condolences may be left at www.rrefh.com



FISCHER, BERNARD D.

Died suddenly January 30, 2014, age 81, Sebastian, Florida. Formerly of Rochester and Bay City, MI. Born in Detroit July 4, 1932, to the late Ronald E. and Helen Fischer. Survived by wife, Shirley, of Sebastian, daughter Julie (Neil) Preston and granddaughter Jennie Preston of Rochester. Preceded in death by son Bill and brother Ronald. Grad. Bay City Central 1950, MSU Class of 1954, member Delta Tau Delta. First marriage to the late Nan Thomas, Bay City, 1954. After serving as MP at 5th U.S. Army HQ, he was employed at Chevrolet Bay City, transferred 1968 and settled in Rochester. Purchasing agent for Chevrolet/GMC at the Tech Center and later for Higbie Mfg. Founded Rochester Tube Products 1973. Sailing was his life-long passion. His adventures, interests, projects and hobbies were limitless. His infectious enthusiasm, "joie de vivre" and huge presence will be deeply missed. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date.

O'FLYNN, THOMAS
Loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, son, and friend who died suddenly. Preceded in death by his mother Roseann O'Flynn; sisters Renee and Taran. Beloved husband of Cynthia O'Flynn, loving father of Meghan (Paul) Lepkowski, Tommy (Regina) O'Flynn, Brian (Kelly) O'Flynn. Loving grandfather of Brayden and Liam Lepkowski, and Emily O'Flynn. Cherished son of Terrence O'Flynn. Details of family service will be forthcoming.



SALTSMAN, VIRGINIA JACKSON

92, died peacefully in her sleep on March 12, 2014 in Holland Michigan. She was a long time resident of Birmingham, MI. Virginia was born in 1921 in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated from Katharine Gibbs secretarial school in New York City, and earned her BA from Oakland University in Rochester, MI. She married the late Robert Saltsman in 1948. Virginia loved working with kids and enjoyed many years as administrative assistant at Pierce Elementary School. She also liked to travel, play bridge, garden, and had a great love for animals. Virginia is predeceased by her daughter, Carol and her son, Michael. Virginia is survived by her two sons, Charles of Santa Cruz, California and Thomas (Teresa) of Grand Haven, MI; two grandchildren, Adam (Rebekah) and David, and two great-grandchildren. She is sadly missed by her companion Robert Sell. A private memorial service is planned. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the The Inn at Freedom Village in Holland, MI for their kindness and excellent care. Arrangements are by the Dykstra Funeral Homes Inc, 29 East 9th St. Holland, MI 49423. For more information please visit www.dykstrafuneralhome.com.



SNYDER, DONNA MARGARET

Age 83. Born July 29, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan to Christopher and Myrtle Gulbransen. Died March 10, 2014. Donna attended Dominican High School and graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1952. She obtained her teaching degree from Wayne State University in 1956. She married Charles ("Chuck") Snyder in 1956. They were married for 22 years before he passed away in 1978. She is survived by children Chris, Steve, Greg (Tracey), Mary Beth (Harrison), and grandchildren, Tess, Grace, Thomas, Andrew and Anne. Donna was an active, longtime member of the Birmingham Village Players. She truly enjoyed performing and being part of the Village Players community. She spent many years volunteering with various organizations, including the Birmingham Community House, Memorial Hospital of Tampa, and the Henry B. Plant Museum in Tampa. Donna's family and many friends enjoyed her spirited character and sense of humor. She will be missed! Private services for the family are being held. Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital: <http://www.stjude.org/donate> or Stray Rescue of St. Louis: <http://www.strayrescue.org>

OTTO, KATHRYN A. "KATE"

March 13, 2014, age 87, of Plymouth. Beloved wife of James for 63 years. Loving mother of Jim (Kari), William "Bill" (Robin), and Karen (LeRoy) Brooks. Proud grandmother of Luke, Natalie, Jack and Hank. Dear sister of Beverly (Bill) Van Frank and Virginia (David) Karsten. She was a reading teacher at Isbister Elementary, the Principal of East and Hulsing Elementary Schools in Plymouth, and an Adjunct Professor at Madonna University in Livonia. Visitation Monday 2 - 8 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (Btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Tuesday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral Service at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road (1 block W of Middlebelt) Livonia, MI 48154. Memorials may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, or to the Church. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



IUPPENLATZ, YVONNE

March 12, 2014. Loving wife of John. Dear mother of Mark and Steve (Lynda). Grandmother of Bode and Kate. Family will receive friends Sunday 1 - 3 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), 248-549-0500. Memorial Tributes to The Beaumont Foundation, PO Box 5802, Troy, MI 48007-9620 View obituary and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com

In Memoriam



BRIAN HINZMAN

Thinking of you on your 33rd Birthday, March 16, 1981 Never forgotten and forever in our hearts. Love, Your Family



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Observer & Eccentric MEDIA

GAGNON

Continued from Page B7

try and they were mostly men that I was educating, but this happening with a female senior citizen just reinforced my resolve to teach any woman willing to listen, how to repair an appliance and I am proud to say they number in the thousands. "Man can put it together, woman can take it apart."

And now a reward which is much unexpected. Let me quote. The Northville-Novi branch of the American Association of University Women has sent me this letter: "It is a fact that you have repeatedly supported our organization and its mission by participating in its activities and encouraging your colleagues to assist. Through your work you have sought to educate the public in shopping wisely for appliances and being able to make their own repairs. These actions have supported women, often the primary decision makers for home appliances, to be well informed consumers." Yes, folks, I am receiving the Impact Community Enrichment Award from the AAUW and I will be proudly accepting this honor because in plain English, I JUST LOVE HELPING WOMEN!

And to all the guys out there who thought I was a mean hockey player — eat your heart out. Stay tuned.

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

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JOBS

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Debra Auerbach
CareerBuilder writer

Looking for a job isn't easy. It takes time, patience and a lot of work. If you're starting a job search, it may be tempting to jump right in, but if you don't take some time to reflect on what you want and how you want to get there, you may end up taking your job search in the wrong direction.

Before you begin looking for a job, ask yourself some questions that will help you get a clearer picture of what you're looking for, what skills you can contribute to a company and what kind of job can help you achieve your career goals.

Not sure what to ask? Here are some questions to consider:

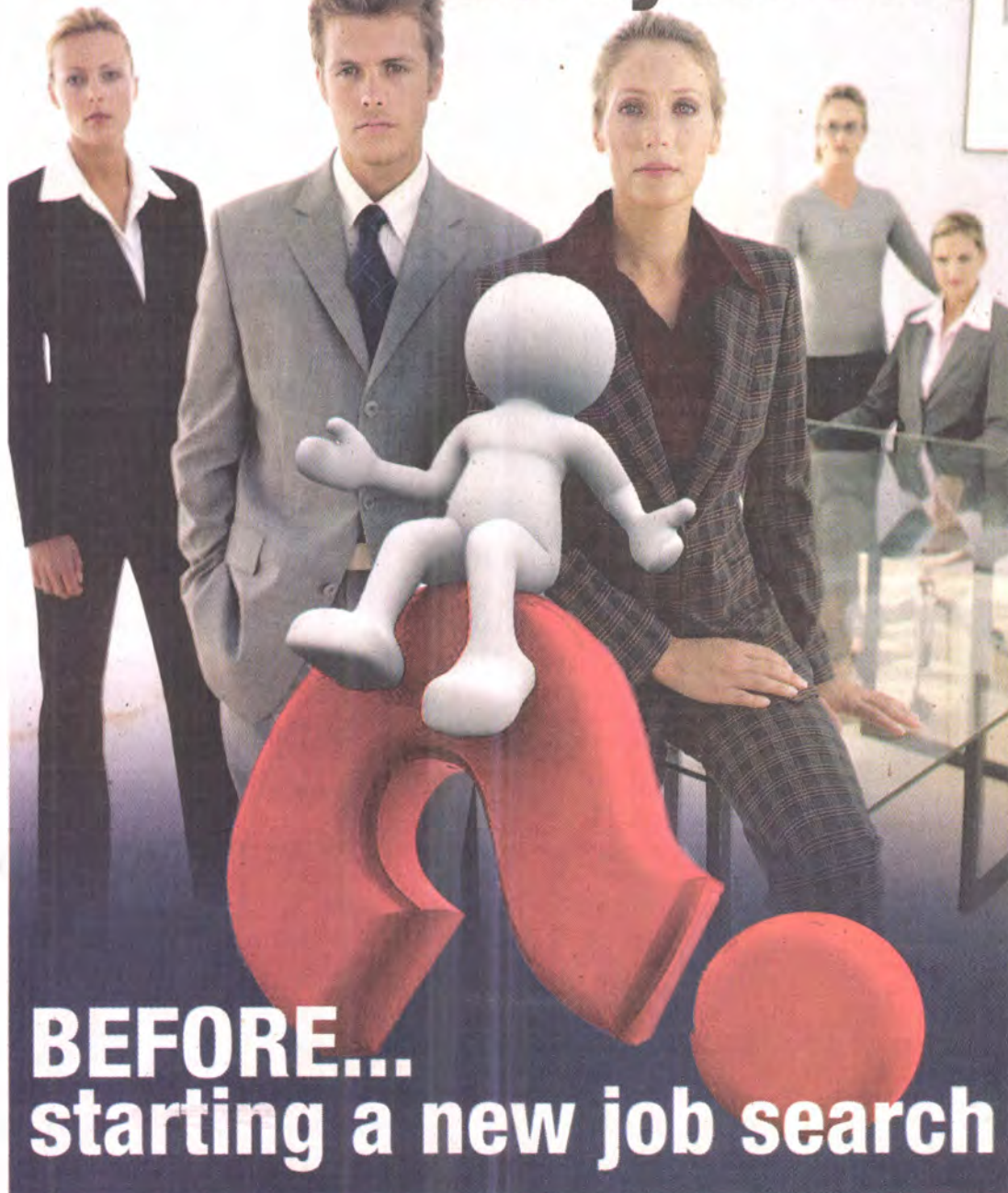
Why am I starting a job search?

This should be the first question you ask yourself. While you may think it's an easy one, getting to the root of why you're looking for a job can help you determine whether you're job searching for the right reasons. "If you are fresh out of school or unemployed, it's not an issue. But what if you are employed and just unhappy with what you are doing?" says Bruce A. Hurwitz, President and CEO of Hurwitz Strategic Staffing. "I have had a number of career counseling clients come to me thinking they wanted a new job but left realizing all they wanted were new responsibilities. They all stayed on the job, got new responsibilities, and they, and their bosses, were quite happy."

What unique value do I bring to potential employers?

Kimberly Robb Baker, certified résumé writer and job-search strategist, says that if you stick to only showing how you meet the basic requirements of a job, you'll be treated like a commodity. Instead, you need to think about what it is that

The questions to ask yourself



BEFORE... starting a new job search

makes you unique and attractive to prospective employers. "Whether your background in physical education informs your HR candidacy with a unique perspective on employee wellness programs or your coding knowledge makes you an IT manager who can speak engineers' language, you have something to offer that goes

beyond the basics. Find it and express it."

What type of corporate culture do I want to work within?

"Corporate culture is an important factor one must take into consideration when not only contemplating a job offer

but also when applying for jobs," says Jesse Siegal, senior managing director and recruiting expert of recruitment firm Execu-Search. "Therefore, before applying to jobs, you need to take some time to reflect on what you are looking for in a workplace. Some valid questions to ask yourself include: 'Do I need an employer who

will permit me to work a flexible schedule? Am I okay with having to work long hours in a competitive environment? Do I prefer to work on more collaborative teams or do I prefer working independently? Once you have these answers, when applying and interviewing for jobs, you'll have a better idea of what to look out for and what questions to ask the employer to learn more about an organization's corporate culture."

On what, if anything, can I be flexible?

While it's good to think about what you'd want in an ideal job, it's more realistic to consider what are "nice to have's" versus "need to have's," since no job will be perfect. "What is a must-have? This will help you decide if a job offer is worth taking or passing on," says Laurie Berenson, career strategist, certified master résumé writer and president of Sterling Career Concepts LLC. "Location? Industry? Job function? Hours? Salary? Perhaps you're willing to take a low salary to break into your desired industry. Prioritize what's important to you."

Where do I ultimately want to be in my career, and what steps do I have to take to get there?

"Most people need several 'stepping stone' positions to reach their ultimate goal," Berenson says. "This is especially true of younger job seekers. The job you accept tomorrow may not be your dream job, but if it's getting you into your desired field or industry or is with a reputable employer, consider it a stepping stone to where you ultimately want to land. You can't expect to get there overnight."

Debra Auerbach is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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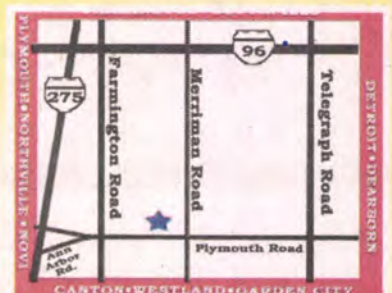


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Luck o' the Irish

We are family

My father and his (siblings) were Irish jig champions in the Bronx," says actor **Zach McGowan**, 32, who, as a kid, spent afternoons in his family's tavern, McGowan's, on the Upper West Side. "At our family celebrations, they all do the jig." McGowan can dance, too, but nowadays, is more focused on acting — and traveling. He stars on Showtime's *Shameless* and Starz' *Black Sails*, which films in South Africa. "I love traveling," he says, but "the toughest part is I have a family. They only do first steps once."

Irish jig, family style!



birthday buzz



Queen Latifah, who turns 44 on March 18, is a multi-talented star. She's an Oscar-nominated actress, Grammy-winning rapper and talk-show host.

- 3.16 Brooke Burns, 36; Erik Estrada, 65.
- 3.17 Rob Kardashian, 27; Kurt Russell, 63.
- 3.18 Lily Collins, 24; Vanessa Williams, 51.
- 3.19 Bruce Willis, 59; Glenn Close, 67.
- 3.20 Holly Hunter, 56; Spike Lee, 57. 3.21 Rosie O'Donnell, 52. 3.22 Reese Witherspoon, 38; William Shatner, 83.

vip.



Jesus, superstar

Why bring Christ to Hollywood? "Jesus hasn't been on the big screen in a decade, and I think the people in a new generation are very excited to see the film," says **Roma Downey**, 53, of *Son of God*, which she stars in and produced with husband Mark Burnett. They're a powerhouse duo: She's the Emmy-nominated *Touched by an Angel* star, and he's the reality TV guru behind hit shows such as *Survivor* and *The Voice*. And they know their material, having brought record ratings to the History Channel last year with their miniseries *The Bible*. "To see it on the big screen is a very different experience. It's not even so much you see it as you feel it," Downey says. "While we were filming *The Bible*, we looked at each other and said, 'This is so amazing, and it deserves a big screen showing as a standalone presentation.' So, we shot more than we needed in the TV series."

Born and raised in Derry, Northern Ireland, Downey, now a Malibu, Calif., resident, manages at least one trip back a year. Last summer, she was "most encouraged" by what she found. "The city (was) practically annihilated in the 1970s (during the 'Troubles' between Catholics and Protestants). To go back home and see a city restored brought such joy to my heart."

CATCHING UP WITH Saoirse Ronan

Think Irish women are all spitfire and sass? Well, you're mostly correct. "(We) are quite feisty and quite tough," says actress Saoirse Ronan, 19. "We have a bit of edge to us, but in a good way. We're strong and we stand up for ourselves in general. My mom, aunts and cousins — we're all pretty feisty." Ronan, whose first name is pronounced SIR-sha, has played her share of combative females, including teen assassins in *Hanna* and *Violet & Daisy*. In *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, in theaters now, she plays a pastry apprentice noted for her specialty: Courtesan au Chocolat. In real life, Ronan isn't quite so skilled but says, "I've made a few cupcakes in my time ... and a cheesecake."



Cause CELEB



Keshia Knight Pulliam
Actress

What: Kamp Kizzy was founded to empower girls ages 11 to 16 of all socioeconomic backgrounds. "Something special happens when girls get to spend time together without boys: bonding, self-discovery," says Pulliam, who went to all-girls schools for both high school and college.

Where: Atlanta

Why: "Nobody has made it to where they are today without the help, input and guidance of others," says Pulliam, who credits her family and her *Cosby Show* co-stars with keeping her grounded and encouraging her to stick with school, even while pursuing acting.

How: To join Kamp Kizzy in its goal of sending 100 to 150 girls to camp this summer, donate at KampKizzy.org/donation

CONTRIBUTING: Gayle Jo Carter, Nancy Mills, Balbina Herman

DOWNEY: JON KOPALOFF; PULLIAM: BEN GABIC; RONAN: BEVA PRICHNE; GETTY IMAGES FOR THE MOST BRITISH INDEPENDENT FILM AWARDS; MCGOWAN: FREDERICK M. BROWN; GETTY IMAGES; LATIFAH: ILLUSTRATION BY ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ FOR USA WEEKEND.

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Don't cry over spilled litter

Barbara Jenkins of Richmond, Ind., sends in this advice for a fast and convenient way for cat lovers to clean up those constant kitty litter spills:

"Put a poster board under your cat's litter box," she writes. "When kitty kicks litter out, just move the box and tip the spills on the poster board back into the litter box.

It's worth the cost, she adds: "Poster board is often less than \$1 a sheet, so replacing a soiled sheet is no big deal.

"I have four cats and six litter boxes — so I love this tip."

Have you got a tip?
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Healthy friendships

Beware! Isolation is a risk factor for premature death

Loneliness does more than make you sad. People who feel consistently lonely have a 14% higher risk of premature death than those who don't, a recent study finds.

The impact of loneliness is almost as strong as the impact of being poor, which increased chances of dying early by 19%. To avoid loneliness: stay in touch with former colleagues, maintain meaningful relationships and participate in family activities, says psychologist John Cacioppo, director of the Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience

at the University of Chicago. He and colleagues reviewed survey responses from more than 2,100 adults 55 and older, controlling for age, gender, socioeconomic status, social isolation and poor health behaviors.

Their research has found loneliness can lead to sleep problems, raise blood pressure, increase the stress hormone cortisol, increase depression and reduce feelings of

Having high-quality relationships is a key to happiness and longevity.

living a meaningful life.

"Having high-quality relationships with a few people is one of the keys to happiness and longevity," Cacioppo says. "The stresses of life are more easily endured if we can share them with someone in whom we can confide and trust," he says.

— Nanci Hellmich



OVERSTIMULATED KIDS?

Almost three-quarters of young people ages 2 to 22 consume at least some caffeine each day — including 63% of children ages 2 to 5, according to an analysis in the March issue of *Pediatrics*.

The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages caffeine consumption by young people and says that "stimulant-containing energy drinks have no place in the diets of children and adolescents."

Researchers who analyzed consumption from 1999-2010 found coffee accounted for only 10% of caffeine intake in 1999-2000, but nearly 24% in 2009-2010.

And energy drinks, which were not even tracked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1999-2000, represented nearly 6% of caffeine intake in 2009-2010.



Among kids ages 2 to 5, tea overtook soda as the largest contributor to caffeine intake in 2009-2010.

Too much caffeine can increase heart rate and blood pressure, hyperactivity and anxiety, the study notes.

For healthy adults, the FDA says 400 milligrams a day (the amount in about three 8 oz. cups of coffee) is "not generally associated with dangerous, negative effects." The agency has not set a safe level for children.

— Michelle Healy

How couples stay in step

In romantic relationships, women set the pace — literally. That's the conclusion of researchers who studied walking speeds among a small group of heterosexual couples and their friends. As expected, men ambling solo generally walked faster than women. But when men walked with their wives or girlfriends, they slowed down to match their partners' speeds. Women barely sped up at all. "It's really men who do all the compromising," at least in this small aspect of romantic relationships, says Cara Wall-Scheffler, a biologist at Seattle Pacific University.

An interesting note: When guys walked with female friends, they did not slow down. When they walked with other guys, they actually sped up. And when women walked with female friends, both women slowed down.

— Kim Painter



JUST FOR WOMEN

New stroke guidelines point to some risks men don't face

Women may have many of the same risk factors for stroke as men — diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol — but also can face separate issues, such as pregnancy-induced high blood pressure, use of birth control pills and other hormonal and lifestyle factors.

The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have released new stroke-prevention guidelines specifically for women. They include:

▶ Recommending low-dose aspirin or calcium supplements to lower pre-eclampsia risks in women with high blood pressure before pregnancy.

▶ Advise a blood pressure screening before taking birth control pills because if you have high blood pressure, the pill raises stroke risk.

▶ Women who have migraines with aura should stop smoking to reduce stroke risk.

▶ Women over age 75 should be screened for atrial fibrillation; it has been linked to higher stroke risk.

— Nanci Hellmich

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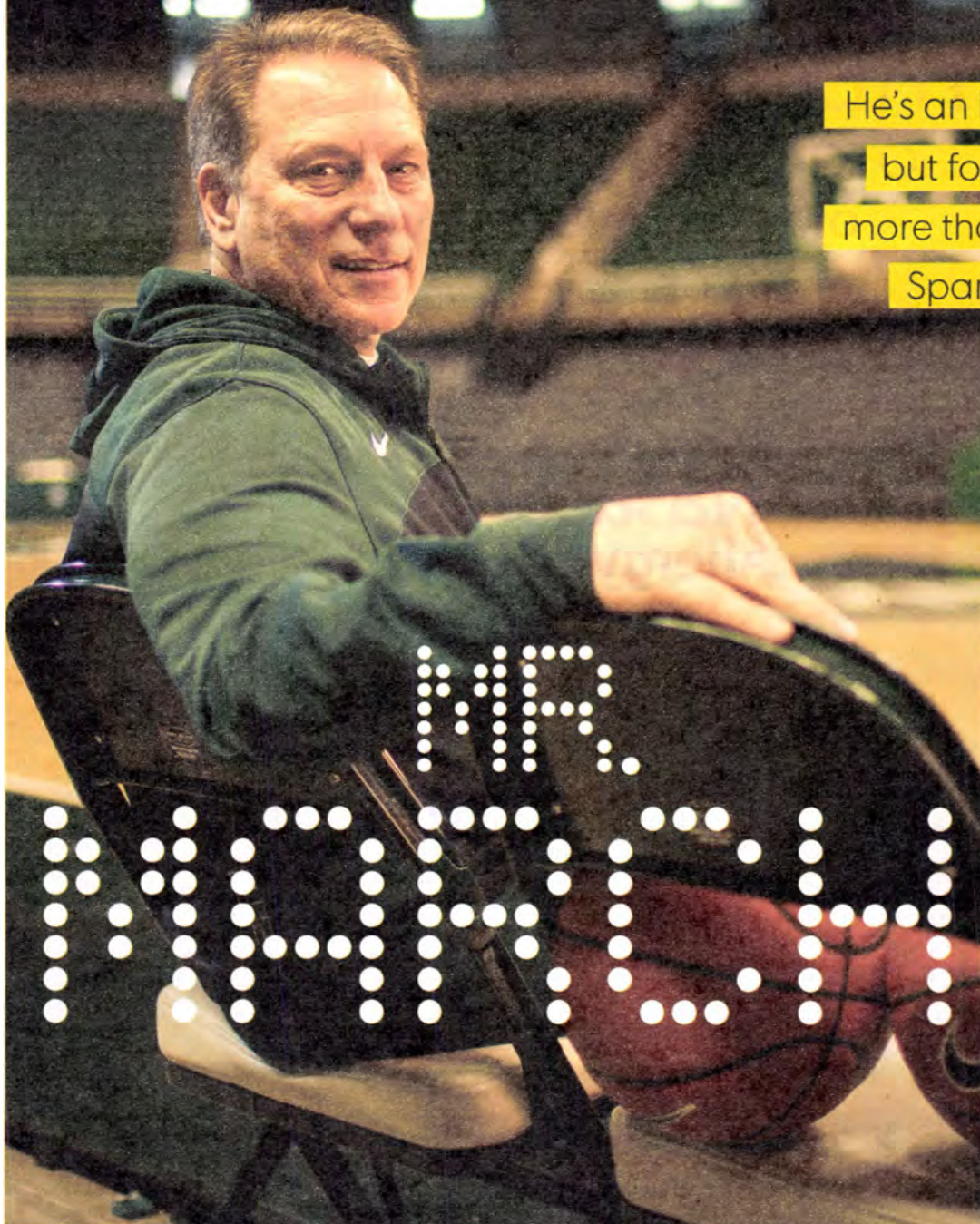
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He's an NCAA Tournament staple,
but for Tom Izzo, success means
more than how his Michigan State
Spartans perform on the court

**BY NICOLE
AUERBACH**

● ● ● ● ● he job that shaped Michigan State's Tom Izzo into the coach – and man – he is today didn't require a basketball. Far from it. At age 12, Izzo was enlisted to work in the family business, started by his grandfather in Iron Mountain, Mich. Tony Izzo & Sons originally opened as a shoe repair business in the Upper Peninsula community, but it expanded into a little bit of everything, from carpeting to awnings.

From second grade on into college, Izzo underwent an apprenticeship of sorts. He learned what it meant to work hard; he understood its value long before most of his peers did. "Having to work real early in my life – that was a pain in the butt then, but I wouldn't trade it for the world now," he says.

Later in his life, after his basketball-playing days at Northern Michigan

University, after seven years coaching there, after he was hired at the school he's now synonymous with, those skills honed during summers up north at the family business proved quite useful.

"When I first came down here (to Michigan State, then as an assistant coach) and I was making no money, first couple of homes that I owned, I laid my own carpet," Izzo says. "I could put a zipper in a coat. I could fix your heels on your shoes. Whatever you need, I could do it for you."

Nearly two decades have passed since Izzo, now 59, became head coach at Michigan State. His Spartans are a March Madness mainstay, with 16 straight appearances in the NCAA Tournament heading into this season, including a national title in 2000 and five other Final Four appearances. Yet when he reflects upon what he hopes to pass on to his players — what he hopes they'll learn from him — Izzo never focuses on basketball. He thinks back to those summers working in Iron Mountain.

"What I try to pass on to guys is just work, work your way through things," Izzo says. "That's what I've done my whole life. If you do it

Champions Izzo and Mateen Cleaves



that way and you don't skip steps, you're going to be more prepared when your talent maybe runs out. ... The biggest thing I try to talk about is how you treat people and the work ethic that it's going to take to be a successful athlete, a successful father, a successful person."

Izzo knows he has made an impact on hundreds of young men who have played for him over the years. Many of them left lasting impressions on him, too. None perhaps greater than Mateen Cleaves.

Cleaves grew up in Flint, a city about an hour northwest of Detroit, probably known best for its high crime rates. Cleaves was heavily recruited — by both Michigan and Michigan State — but ultimately chose the Spartans and their young, new coach. He was a member of Izzo's first full recruiting class in 1996.

"Here's a white guy from Iron Mountain, never played against an African-American athlete until I got to college," Izzo says. "I'm recruiting a kid out of Flint, Michigan. I always say that Mateen taught me a lot of worldly things. He

made me realize that it doesn't matter where you're from, what color you

are, who you are, if you can get through to a guy and get him to trust you. ... Realizing that you have to get guys to trust you before you can get them to die for you — he taught me that."

When Cleaves thinks back to the early days of their relationship, he remembers an ambitious coach, someone who worked hard with the hopes of being great. Their bond, Cleaves' trust — that stuff came later, but it came quickly.

"He had my mother in his back pocket; I don't know what he did," Cleaves says, laughing. "The day I left the house to go to Michigan State, she said, 'You better listen to everything he says and do everything he says to do.' That's pretty much what it was

Continued on page 8

REASONS THE NCAA TOURNAMENT IS THE BEST EVENT IN SPORTS

No sporting event quite dominates minds like March Madness. If you're a die-hard sports nut, a casual fan or not even close to being a sports enthusiast, odds are you've filled out a NCAA Tournament bracket.

Sportswriters Scott Gleeson and Daniel Uthman explain why they look forward to the tourney every year.

THE MYSTERY

Making the NFL, NBA or baseball playoffs is basic math based on records and standings. But the NCAA Tournament field is chosen by committee. And that can lead to pleasant surprises and devastating disappointments.



THE BRACKET

For most sporting events, betting can be a solitary exercise that requires knowledge of point spreads and over-unders. To have a stake in the NCAA Tournament, all you need is a bracket and a pencil. Even the president does it.

THE ROUND-THE-CLOCK REALITY SHOW

The first few days of the NCAA Tournament hurts work and school productivity, in a good way. The early rounds feature 32 games in two days, each spread over a 12-hour-plus period. It's also when winning the office pool becomes 10 times more important than getting that office promotion.

THE BUZZER BEATERS

The clutch shots in tourney history have broken hearts and created frenzy and lasting memories. Who can forget Lorenzo Charles' championship-winning putback dunk in 1983 for North Carolina State or Christian Laettner's 1992 buzzer-beater to send Duke to the Final Four?

THE OVERNIGHT SENSATIONS

A year ago hardly anyone knew Florida Gulf Coast University had a basketball team. Few even knew Florida Gulf Coast University existed. But with two upset victories in the 2013 tourney, the school became the biggest story in sports for two weeks.

THE FINAL FOUR

College basketball's national championship doesn't need a best-of-seven series, but it's also too big for just two teams. Perennial powers like North Carolina, Kentucky, Michigan State and Louisville tend to make regular appearances, but fresh faces do break through, like Butler in 2009 and 2010 and Wichita State last season.





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PHILIPS Lifeline

Continued from page 7 with Coach Izzo."

Izzo would yell at his players, getting on them, pushing them to go harder, play smarter, get better. "When you see him getting up in guys' faces or hollering at them, you know he cares about them," Cleaves says. "Coach Izzo, he wants you to be successful so bad."

"What I try to pass on ... is just work."

What Izzo did worked. As a senior point guard, Cleaves led the Spartans to that 2000 national championship. During the NCAA Tournament, Michigan State won every game by double figures.

Now, nearly 14 years later, Izzo and Cleaves remain close. They talk on the phone at least once a week, mostly about their wives and children. And sometimes Izzo tries to get Cleaves, now an analyst for CBS Sports Network, to consider coaching (he thinks Cleaves would be great with players). But to truly see the depth of their friendship and respect for one another, just look at their kids.

Thirteen years ago, Izzo named his son Steven Mateen Izzo. Nine years later, Cleaves returned the gesture, naming his newborn boy Mateen Izzy Cleaves.

"I told Coach I had to put a little Flint in it, so I added the 'y,'" Cleaves says. "We laugh about that. I did that not just because he named his son after me, but really what he meant to me in my life. If there's anybody in this world I want my son to be like, it would be Coach Izzo." ❧

Shirley Temple

In 1934, in the midst of the Great Depression, 3-foot-tall Shirley Temple got America's attention with "Stand Up and Cheer!" Actress, dancer and singer, she could do it all. She went on to star in nearly two dozen films, inspiring generations with her unique spirit and optimism. America's Little Darling will live forever in our hearts as the most beloved child star of all time.



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Should you take supplements?

Expert advice about vitamins can be confusing. These guidelines will help get you started.

Recent news and research about vitamins and supplements can be confusing: One recent study, for example, said low levels of vitamin D may damage the brain, and higher levels of D have been linked a reduced risk of certain cancers. Yet a new research review found little health benefit from taking vitamin D supplements.

Multivitamins made headlines as well: Based on findings from three studies, a group of experts said that using multivitamins to prevent a

chronic condition is a waste of money for well-nourished adults.

Supplements aren't meant to substitute whole foods; we should get our

nutrition through our diet, but even a person who eats well can become deficient in micronutrients, says Dr. Jennifer Ashton, recurring co-host on *The Doctors* and board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist. Plus, every person is unique,

adds recurring co-host and urologist Dr. Jennifer Berman: Depending on your age and lifestyle, and if you have a particular ailment or other factors, you might benefit from a supplement.

Here are a few guidelines to consider; but before adding any vitamins or supplements to your regimen, talk to your doctor.

Supplements can help replenish certain deficiencies. Older adults are often low in B12, Dr. Ashton says. People with disorders that lower nutrient absorption, such as celiac disease or inflammatory bowel disease, may need iron or folate. Folic acid supplements are also recommended for women before and during pregnancy. Other examples: Older, postmenopausal women may benefit from calcium supplements, says Dr. Berman; vegans or strict vegetarians might consider a multivitamin, Ashton adds.

More is not better. Any vitamins taken in too-high doses can

Will you benefit? Every person is unique.

lead to problems. Fat-soluble vitamins, such as vitamins A and E, are stored in the body for longer periods of time and tend to pose a greater risk for toxicity. Too much vitamin A can cause nausea, headaches or even coma; excess vitamin E can thin your blood, raising your risk of bleeding. And overdoing it on zinc may lead to stomach cramps and diarrhea, and it might affect levels of good cholesterol.

Cross-check drugs and supplements. It's important to make sure there are no potentially dangerous interactions, Dr. Ashton suggests. Zinc may interfere with antibiotics, for example; St. John's Wort can decrease the effectiveness of common anxiety drugs and birth control pills, as well as many other serious drug interactions. **W**

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Boosting 'good bacteria'

Probiotics are live microorganisms similar to those found naturally in the body, especially the lower gastrointestinal tract. Also known as "good bacteria," they are available in foods and dietary supplements.

Dairy products such as yogurt account for 63% of the U.S. market; dietary supplements, 36%; and infant formulas, cereals and oral care products, 1%. More than 50% of yogurt sold in the USA contains probiotics.

Probiotics are not the same as prebiotics — non-digestible substances that stimulate the growth or activity of potentially beneficial microorganisms. "Synbiotics" refers to products that combine probiotics and prebiotics.

Sources: National Institutes of Health, *Natural Products Insider*

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AMERICA'S TOP 5 ANTI-AGING SUPER SOLUTIONS!

by Tiffany Strobel*

Here they are... the top 5 anti-aging superstars everyone is talking about! As we all know, in today's youth-obsessed culture, looking young, radiant and vibrant isn't just about vanity... it's about keeping your edge and staying competitive. But which one of these anti-aging super solutions is right for you? Try one or try them all; each one has a money-back guarantee. (Remember to visit the individual websites for full details on each product)

Editor's Pick!

1 Growth Hormone Therapy: The Long-Awaited "Fountain of Youth"?

Everybody's talking about human growth hormone (hGH). It's been featured on *The Doctors*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Fox News*, and *CNN*. *Allure* magazine, in its "Anti-aging Special" issue, highlighted growth hormone as its 2013 call-out. *Shape* magazine began a recent growth hormone article with the provocative lead in: "When you see a 50-year-old actress who can pass for 35, you can bet that good genes aren't the only things responsible for her youthful glow." But when the famed Dr. Oz himself told his audience about an oral compound that's been proven to increase mean, serum (blood) growth hormone levels by 682% and said, "I have been searching for this from the day we started the show. I've been looking for ways of increasing hGH naturally because I don't like getting the injections..." OMG! Almost immediately, this underground "miracle pill" became a full-blown "anti-aging" phenomenon.

The compound is being sold under the trade name SeroVital[®]-hgh, and it's quickly gaining an almost "cult-like" following because, let's face it... something that may have the power to reduce wrinkles, tighten saggy skin, decrease body fat, increase lean muscle mass, boost energy, rev up sex drive, and make you look and feel decades — not years, but DECADES — younger is, at the very least, irresistible. But is there a catch? Find out all the details at SeroVital.com. Can't wait to try it yourself? It's currently available at all Ulta stores and direct from the manufacturer at 1-800-884-6285 or SeroVital.com. Use promo code **HGH175** and get free shipping.[†]



"This may very well be the most significant breakthrough in skin care since the discovery of retinol"

Did you know sugar can age your skin... maybe even faster than the sun? That's right. Sugar causes wrinkles through a process called glycation, and if you think you can avoid "sugar damage" to your skin by simply reducing your daily sugar intake... think again! That's why a revolutionary new product named GlyTerra-gL is being called "the most significant breakthrough in skin care since the discovery of retinol." While everyone is really excited about GlyTerra's effect on "sugar damage," let's not forget that GlyTerra also reduces the appearance of existing fine

lines, deep wrinkles and crow's feet... visibly improves the appearance of age spots and loose, droopy,

flaccid skin... and — most importantly — makes everyone's complexion look healthier, more radiant, and significantly younger. Not even retinol can do all that! And ever since its debut at the 9th World Congress of Cosmetic Dermatology held in Athens, Greece, it's become a favorite of some of the most well-respected beauty editors around the globe... including me! You can find GlyTerra (a two-part system consisting of a powerfully effective 2% "Day" Cream and a highly concentrated 4% "Night" Cream) for about \$135 (approximately 45-day supply) at all Ulta stores or order direct from the manufacturer by calling 1-800-448-7611 or visiting www.GlyTerra.com. Use the promo code **GLY53** at checkout and shipping is free.*



The Acid-Free Micro Peel!

Unlike harsh, acid-based facial peels that can literally strip your skin of its protective layer, the once-a-week, 3-Step Micro-Peel Resurfacing Kit from DermaFactor® is a breakthrough Acid-Free Enzyme-Active

Micro Peel that will revolutionize the way you

care for your skin. The kit includes: • The Ultra Nourishing Facial Mask, which goes on first to moisturize, cool, soothe and gently prep the skin • The Acid-Free Enzyme-Active Micro Peel, a revolutionary new formula containing proteolytic enzymes, which gently break down the proteins that hold dead skin cells together to fully exfoliate your skin... without harsh acids of any kind • The Finishing Skin Shield, which seals the skin as a defense against environmental stressors and contains a purified fraction of natural oat polyoses to nurture the skin and help smooth away the look of wrinkles.

So throw out those harsh facial peels of the past and let DermaFactor's Acid-Free Enzyme-Active Micro Peel Resurfacing Kit nourish, exfoliate, smooth and tighten your skin as it reduces the appearance of your wrinkles and makes you look and feel absolutely amazing. Each kit contains four once-a-week complete treatments. \$79 at www.TryDermaFactor.com or call 1-800-618-7066.

Use promo code **PEEL9** for free shipping.*



Consumer Favorite!



Is stress making your skin look older?

As if we didn't already know that stress makes you feel old, researchers have finally tied stress (even everyday, "ordinary" stress) to the rate at which our skin ages (it has to do with something called "accelerated telomere" [pronounced TEL-oh-mere] shortening... learn more at CarterReed.com). The best way to slow down stress-related skin aging? Relacore® Extra. For those of you unfamiliar with it, Relacore Extra is a super popular anti-stress, feel-good pill most well known for its ability to reduce stress-related "belly bulge" (that's why it's called "America's #1 selling belly fat pill" AND the reason why the best place to find it is in the weight-control section of your local Wal-Mart, RiteAid and Target store). Nevertheless, as more and more beauty editors are touting Relacore Extra as the new skin-care "must-have," Relacore Extra is being "reborn" as an anti-aging staple

(oh, and the reduction in stress-related belly fat is a bonus!). About \$29 USD (extremely affordable) at smarter retailers nationwide, direct from Carter-Reed at 1-800-254-1462 or online at www.Relacore.com. Use promo code **RELACORE33** and get free shipping.*

Serious Dark Spots? [don't try to hide them] FIX THEM!

Nothing screams your "real" age louder than those telltale age spots. Bremenn Clinical (a company that's spent years researching pigment-correcting formulations like the world famous "Serious Dark Circles" cream, Hylexin®) has the solution. It's called, what else, Bremenn Clinical's Dark Spot Eraser.™ Dark Spot Eraser contains a powerful combination of super-effective skin lighteners and pigmentation modifiers that not only helps reduce the appearance of existing dark spots, but also addresses the appearance of future spot emergence, making it the ultimate solution for even the most serious dark spots. So don't try to hide those serious dark spots... fix them with Bremenn's Dark Spot Eraser. Available at Kohl's, Costco and smarter retailers nationwide, or directly from Bremenn Clinical at 1-800-310-1713 or www.BremennClinical.com. Use promo code **DARKSPOT46** and get free shipping.*



If you purchased the Pocket Hose, you could receive compensation from a Class Action Settlement.

This notice explains that the Court has certified a class action lawsuit that may affect you and that a Settlement has been proposed in the lawsuit. The lawsuit is titled *Alex Arreguin, Jr. et al. v. Telebrands* and involves the product the Pocket Hose products in various sizes (the "Covered Products"), sold in the United States between November 6, 2009 and January 30, 2014.

What is the Lawsuit About?

The lawsuit claims that some of the advertising and product labels for the Covered Products contain unsubstantiated or misleading statements regarding the Covered Products, and that the Covered Products are defective. Telebrands denies all allegations of wrongdoing and liability asserted in the lawsuit. The Court has made no determination that any of the allegations are true, and has made no finding of liability or wrongdoing. The lawsuit does not claim that the Covered Products are unsafe.

Am I a Member of the Class?

You are a member of the class if you purchased for personal consumption, and not for re-sale, one or more of the Covered Products, in the United States, its territories, or any U.S. Military facility or exchange between November 6, 2009 and January 30, 2014. Defendant's officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendant to act as an endorser of the Covered Products are excluded from the class.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

Purchasers of the Covered Products in the United States between November 6, 2009 and January 30, 2014 may receive partial monetary refunds for their purchases.

How Much Compensation Can I Get?

Each Settlement Class Member who makes a valid claim will be entitled to reimbursement as follows:

- (a) For those Settlement class members who return the Covered Products to the Settlement Administrator and provide a copy of the receipt memorializing the purchase of the Covered Products, a total of \$20.00 per unit of Covered Products purchased during the Class Period, up to the total amount of units purchased that are returned with a valid receipt.
- (b) For those Settlement class members who provide a copy of the receipt memorializing the purchase of the Covered Products, but who do not return the Covered Products to the Settlement Administrator, a total of \$12.00 per unit of Covered Products purchased during the Class Period, up to the total amount of units for which the Settlement Class Member has a valid receipt.
- (c) For those Settlement class members who neither return the Covered Products nor provide a valid receipt, but who substantiate their claims through a submission attesting to their purchase of the Covered Products under penalty of perjury, together with additional information requested by the Settlement Administrator on the Claim Form, a total of \$6.00.

Settlement Class Members may submit a Claim by completing and submitting a Claim Form to the Settlement Administrator. Claim Forms may be obtained at www.hosesettlement.com. Claim Forms must be postmarked or electronically submitted no later than June 20, 2014 to be valid.

What Are My Options?

- File a Claim. You must remain in the Class to file a claim. You will be bound by the Court's rulings, but you can object to the Settlement. By remaining in the Class, you will release claims against the Defendant and other Discharged Parties as outlined in the Settlement Agreement, available as described below. Please read the Release carefully, as it affects your legal rights.
- Do nothing. If you do nothing, you will remain in the class and will be bound by the Court's rulings and the release of claims under the Settlement Agreement.
- Exclude yourself and keep your right to sue the Defendant. You may request to exclude yourself from the class. To request exclusion, you must mail your request, including your name, address and telephone number to the Settlement Administrator, no later than June 20, 2014.
- Object to the Settlement and/or appear in Court, only if you remain in the Class. You may hire your own attorney for these purposes, but you do not have to. Your written request must be filed with the Court by June 20, 2014.

Details on how to file a claim, exclude yourself, object or appear in the case are available at the Website, address or phone number listed below. The Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement at the Fairness Hearing on August 14, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

This Notice is a Summary only. To get additional information, including a copy of the Detailed Notice, Settlement Agreement and Claim Form, visit: hosesettlement.com; call: 866-446-4667; or write: Pocket Hose Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 3967, Portland, Oregon 97208-3967.

fun.

STICKDOKU

BY TERRY STICKELS

Use your logic to find the correct number for each square.

When finished, all nine rows across, all nine columns down and all nine 3-by-3 boxes must contain all nine numbers, 1 through 9, with no repeats.

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

At usaweekend.com, click on the "Games" tab to play our online interactive sudoku.

FRAME GAMES

BY TERRY STICKELS

Can you solve these puzzles? Each communicates a well-known saying, person, place or thing. Answers below.

1. BARR IERS

2. C | O | L | O | R

3. FIRST REFUSAL

4. YOUR CO_NTRY!

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

STICKDOKU ANSWERS:

- 1. Breaking barriers
- 2. Color between the lines
- 3. Right of first refusal
- 4. Your country needs you!

FRAME GAMES ANSWERS:

Poetry Contest

\$25,000 in prizes awarded!



The National Amateur Poetry Competition is now accepting entries for our next contest. We encourage new and previously unpublished poets to participate. All qualifying poets will receive an editorial comment from a qualified editor.

All poems must be 26 lines or less (line limit is strictly enforced!) and can be written on any subject, in any style. Mail one original poem to

Poetry Contest
1501 Broadway
12th Floor M
New York, NY 10036

Submissions must be postmarked by May 31, 2014.
Entry is free!

**TOTAL FREE-
DOM - NO STRAPS!
EVEN FOR THE
LARGER BUST!**

Tired of Sag & Slouch?

SAG! BAD FIT! STRAPS! HOOKS! JUST STOP IT!

SAY YES to Super-lift, Cushy Comfort and Real Support - WITHOUT ANY STRAPS!



SKY BLUE

BEST SELLING COLOR!



WHITE



BLACK



NUDE



NO MORE SAGGING BUST!

BEST SELLING COLOR!

Imagine a Bra That You Hardly Feel Is There!

One cup stretches to perfectly fit **B-C-D-DD-E**

Wonderful For Your Shoulders!

Super-Lift Technology - without the sag - and still get Super-Comfort!

SUPER STRETCH!

Pads Included
For Extra Lift, Support & Coverage!

The Hot & Gorgeous Bandeau Bra That You'll Love To Show Off!

- Perfect for those strapless tops and dresses!
- Unique Stretch-Sculpt™ material sculpts your bust together with two removable support-pads!
- Perfect even for the LARGER BUST!
- So comfortable - and wonderful for your shoulders!
- An incredible fit - also adjusts to different bust sizes - and to periodic changes in your body!

NO HOOKS!

Perfect for strapless tops and dresses!

Unique design sculpts your bust to perfection!



Smooths away back fat. Hidden pouches to slip in included support-pads. Cups are stretchable but still give perfect support.



Erase Back Fat!

CORAL

The Strapless Bra That Gives Real Support & Coverage!

This is the first strapless tube top bra to give the support you want and the lift you deserve! The unique Stretch-Sculpt™ material is shaping and sculpting and still very flexible - and also included are two removable support-pads for extra lift, volume and coverage. Whether you're a petite size or a full figured woman, you'll have a bandeau bra that shapes your bust to perfection and gives you a natural, lifted, younger look instantly! Even in

strapless tops and dresses. And even if you should have a LARGER BUST! The unique material is soft, comfortable and very stretchable, but still supportive. Stretches to easily fit from cup size B to cup size E. Does not lose its shape. So easy to slip on or off. Fashion import of woven material of 90% nylon/10% spandex. Machine wash. Choose among colors CORAL, WHITE, NUDE, BLACK and SKY BLUE! Sizes S-L or XL-3XL.

5 COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM!

- GET THIS!**
- Super-lift!
 - Super-support!
 - Super-comfort!
 - Seamless cups!
 - Gorgeous style!

Pads Included!



Removable Comfort Pads that you easily slip in or out!

SUPER-OFFER!
~~RETAIL \$19.99~~
\$13.00 OFF!
Direct-to-you price:
\$6.99
MAX 9 bras per customer!

- SAY NO to all this:**
- No straps!
 - No hooks!
 - No underwire!
 - No shoulder pain!
 - No rolling or bunching!
 - No flattening of bust!
 - No back fat or bra lines!
 - No saggy bust!

UP TO SIZE 3XL
PLUS-sizes at no extra charge!

FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING!
When you order 3 or more bras!
You must use the Value Code at the bottom of the coupon if you call or order online.

Eliminates top bulges and back fat with it's breakthrough shaping and firming technology that smooths away trouble spots!

FED UP WITH GRAVITY?
The seamless cups with built-in super-lift will give you the support you need to cradle your bust in pure comfort and give you a stunning, youthful bustline!
Look up to 10 years younger!

SIZE INFO:
Order the size you would normally order for a top or T-shirt.

Shirt size	
S - L	4 - 14
XL - 3XL	16 - 30

Offer not available in stores!

90 day return policy!
If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, simply return it within 90 days, for any reason, and your purchase price (excluding shipping & handling) will be refunded.

U.S. orders only. No shipments to Canada.

Order from our secure website!

www.fourcorners.com
Enter Value Code **KLR 689**
at checkout to use this offer!

Or order by mail!
Send to: Four Corners Direct, Inc., Dept. KLR 689, PO Box 4800 Sarasota, FL 34230-4800
When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

Order by phone, Toll-free number:
1-800-550-5700
Mention the Value Code in the coupon.

Mail to: Four Corners Direct, Inc, Dept KLR 689, PO Box 4800, Sarasota, FL 34230-4800

CORAL #12-5427	WHITE #12-1863	NUDE #12-1855	BLACK #12-1371	SKY BLUE #12-5419	Strapless Comfort Bra Not \$19.99
Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	Qty?	1 \$6.99
					2 \$13.98
					3 \$20.97
					4 \$27.96
					5 \$34.95
Amount:					\$
Add shipping & handling \$3.99 when you buy 1 or 2.					\$ 3.99
FREE S/H when you buy 3 or more!					
Residents of FL add 7% sales tax.					\$
Please print clearly!					Total \$
90 day return policy!					
Value Code KLR 689					

Check or money order enclosed (payable to Four Corners Direct, Inc.) **Please print clearly!**

Charge my credit card

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

Card# _____ Exp. date: ____/____/____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

LIMITED-TIME OFFER!



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Only from DISH
Get an iPad[®] mini Free when you sign up for DISH and the Hopper.[®]

Cannot be combined with promotional pricing. Everyday prices start at \$54.99/mo. Requires 24-month commitment, credit qualification and qualifying programming.

CHOOSE YOUR PACKAGE AND SAVE!

Smart Pack
~~\$32.99/mo~~
55+ Channels

ACT NOW
~~\$19.99/mo~~
FOR 12 MONTHS

America's Top 120
~~\$54.99/mo~~
190+ Channels

ACT NOW
~~\$29.99/mo~~
FOR 12 MONTHS

America's Top 200
~~\$69.99/mo~~
240+ Channels

ACT NOW
~~\$39.99/mo~~
FOR 12 MONTHS

America's Top 250
~~\$79.99/mo~~
290+ Channels

ACT NOW
~~\$44.99/mo~~
FOR 12 MONTHS

Not eligible for Hopper or iPad mini offer.

All offers require 24-month commitment and credit qualification. Monthly DVR and receiver fees apply. Not eligible for iPad mini offer.

FREE HOPPER UPGRADE



UNBEATABLE WHOLE-HOME HD DVR

- Watch all your live and recorded TV anywhere*
- Instantly skip commercials*
- Store up to 2,000 hours of your favorite shows
- Record up to 6 different shows at the same time*

*Feature must be enabled by customer. Available with qualifying packages. Monthly DVR and receiver fees apply.

ACT NOW AND ALSO GET:

FREE PREMIUM CHANNELS
for 3 months

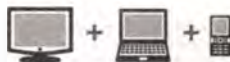


Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability.

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in up to 6 rooms

FREE HD
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Additional Requirements: For iPad mini Offer: Customer must select Hopper system and minimum of America's Top 120 package; allow 4-6 weeks for delivery; offer not available in Puerto Rico or USVI. ETF based in part on everyday price (i.e. non-promotional price) for programming. Available while supplies last. Model subject to change without notice. **HD Free for 24 Months:** Additional \$10/mo HD fee waived for first 24 months. Requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay with Paperless Billing. After promotional period, then-current everyday monthly price applies and is subject to change. **Premium Channels:** 3-month premium offer value is \$165; after promotional period, then-current everyday monthly prices apply and are subject to change. Blockbuster @Home requires Internet to stream content. HD-only channels not available with select packages. **Hopper Features:** Autokip feature is only available with playback the next day of select primetime shows on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC as part of PrimeTime Anytime feature. Both features are subject to availability. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional Installation only. Certain equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. Recording hours vary; 2000 hours based on SD programming. Equipment comparison based on equipment available from major TV providers as of 1/17/14. Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected, Sling-enabled DVR and compatible mobile device. **Miscellaneous:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 6/12/14.**
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