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COMMUNITY LIFE, B6

City looks to reduce trash, recycling costs

Westland's expenses exceeding revenues

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

After years of declining revenues and increasing costs, like a lot of other municipal funds, Westland's expenses for trash collection and recycling are starting to exceed revenues.

That means the city is look-

ing at alternatives to maintain services, including curbside recycling as contracts for those services are expiring, and to address an \$800,000 funding gap being made up from the general fund. The gap was expected, but the city held it off for an additional two years through spending cuts, negotiated reimbursements from the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority and revenues from recycled materials.

During a recent meeting,

council members were presented with a proposal from Midwestern Sanitation for a public-private partnership. The potential cost-savings was projected at \$600,000 annually.

The proposal from Midwestern Sanitation, the city's current trash hauler, is that Westland would purchase eight Heil Multitask automated trash trucks, 26,000 96-gallon trash containers and fuel. The city would lease the trucks to Midwestern, which provides staff, insurance,

maintenance and administrative support, along with three compost collection trucks and related fuel.

"We have the ability to get better prices and cover the cost through our budget versus him (Midwestern) expensing the capital," Westland council President James Godbout said.

"It helps him out and helps us out. If he put it (the trucks) as part of his proposal, the overall cost would throw it over budget."

Less expense

The city can purchase the trucks at less expense through state bidding and also finance the purchase at significantly lower interest rates, Godbout said.

If there is a problem with service from Midwestern Sanitation, Godbout noted the city would still own the trucks.

For Midwestern Sanitation, part of the savings also comes

See TRASH, Page A2



Dyer Senior Center Director Mary Browe (from left) works with Pat Gregoire of Westland and Paulette Osenroth of Wayne in filling folders that will be given to parents at the Kindergarten Roundup. PHOTOS BY SUE MASON

Ridener appointed Nankin Transit director

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The Nankin Transit Commission, which provides rides to senior citizens and disabled people in four communities, has a new director.

On Thursday, the commission approved a contract to hire James Ridener, retired Westland Police chief, to become director of the bus system that serves Westland, Wayne, Garden City and Inkster.

"Thanks for the vote of confidence. I will do my best to make it run the best way possible," said Ridener, after being appointed on a unanimous vote.

Nankin Transit has been without a permanent director since Garden City resident Richard Fernandez re-

See RIDENER, Page A2

Seniors ready backpacks for W-W's annual roundup

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Seniors who frequent the Dyer Senior Center had their jobs cut out for them — filling 1,200 backpacks that will be given to incoming members of the Class of 2027.

An important cog in the district's annual Kindergarten Roundup that will be held Tuesday, March 25, the seniors formed assembly lines Thursday morning to fill the backpacks with story books, activity sheets, crayons and glue sticks, all meant to help prepare youngsters for their first day of school.

"I've been doing this for three years," said Mary Galan of Garden City, who started out unzipping the backpacks. "I started when I retired and joined the senior club. I've done the packing and the zippers. The zippers can get tough, but I've learned how to open them."

Center Director Mary Browe and volunteers spent more than two hours Wednesday afternoon setting up the assembly line which also included an

See BACKPACKS, Page A2



Maria Galan helps unzip the 1,200 backpacks that will be given out during Wayne-Westland's Kindergarten Roundup on Tuesday, March 25.

WHAT'S NEEDED

Parents who attend the Wayne-Westland's Kindergarten Roundup, from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, will need to bring a few things with them to register their child.

In addition to bringing their child — who'll get to tour the school, meet the teachers and visit the classrooms — parents will need to have:

- » Their child's original birth certificate.
- » An up-to-date record of the child's immunizations.
- » Proof of residency, including a driver's license, a signed lease or mortgage document and two pieces of business mail that are not more than 30 days old.

Parents can find out the school their child will attend by logging on to the district's website at www.wwcsd.net and clicking on the Locate Your School icon or by calling 734-419-2083.

For parents who can't make it to the roundup, the school offices will be open from 6-7 p.m. that evening. They can also contact the school to make an appointment to register at their convenience.

Celebration planned to mark Main Street designation

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Three years of effort to get Wayne designated as a Main Street Select Level community will be celebrated Tuesday at a community visioning session.

"Sort of two important things will happen. There will be a celebration of Wayne getting Main Street," said Sherrie Brindley of Wayne Ripple Effect, which spearheaded the effort. "And there will be a chance to give input on the future of downtown Wayne."

The celebration/visioning will be held from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Living Services Center at Town Center Plaza. For those who have been around awhile, it's the old Metro Place Mall at

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TRASH

Continued from Page A1

from switching to trucks with a mechanical arm and trash carts like those used by Republic, which currently has a contract to collect curbside recycling.

That type of service reduces the manpower by having only the driver on the truck. Midwestern has operated the same type of public-private partnership in Taylor since 2011.

Council will have a study session March 31, reviewing the 2014-15 budget, which Mayor William Wild will present April 1 as required by charter. Part of that discussion will be sanitation.

"We knew the (trash and recycling) contracts were up. We need to reinvent solid waste and recycling," Wild said. "We plan to work under the millage so that we don't have to backfill from the general fund."

The city is allowed

to levy 3 mills for sanitation, but that is currently at its maximum levy of 2.43 mills under the Headlee rollback.

Reconfigure routes

Another way savings might be realized, Wild said, is allowing Midwestern to reconfigure trash collection routes and days for greater efficiency.

"Our priorities are to maintain trash pickup, bi-weekly recycling pickup and the drop-off recycling center," Wild said. "We expect to talk more in-depth, but we are committed to curbside recycling."

A question mark is the RecycleBank program that provides rewards as an incentive for recycling. Wild said he's concerned at the few Westland business participating with RecycleBank, a \$175,000 annual program.

"Westland businesses were supposed to be the bulk of the businesses on the awards side," Wild said.

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RIDENER

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tired July 1, 2013, after 20 years on the job.

"When Dick (Fernandez) left, I knew they would post the job. They asked if I was interested. I was certainly interested," Ridener said.

Since retiring as police chief in May 2010, Ridener has continued teaching at Madonna University. He has a master of science degree in administration.

"I think they (the commission) liked my administrative ability," Ridener said. "The police department was about delivering service. This is about delivering service."

The goals set for Ridener by the commission include balancing the just under \$1 million budget and reducing the deficit that includes accumulated sick leave and vacation payouts, increasing ridership and marketing the bus

service.

"I have a lot of ideas on that," he said.

The location for Nankin Transit offices also will need to be addressed. The bus service currently is housed at the Westland Department of Public Services building in Marquette. City administrative offices in the building are slated to relocate to the new Westland City Hall later this year.

Nankin Transit depends on federal and millage revenues through the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, which also provides the buses, and contributions from member communities.

The bus rate was raised for the first time last November going from \$1 to \$3 each way. The rate increase was cited for negatively affecting ridership numbers but commissioners also noted the severe winter also had an impact.

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Council OKs reappointment of Shapero, Harlow to DDA

The Westland City Council has confirmed Mayor William Wild's reappointment of Arnold Shapero and Margaret Harlow to the Westland Downtown Development Authority.

Both Harlow and Shapero have served on the DDA since 1998. Their terms were renewed for four years. Harlow will continue to serve as the DDA chairperson, a position she held previously.



Shapero



Harlow

"Mr. Shapero and Ms. Harlow have been great assets on the Downtown Development Authority, and I look forward to their continued success at enhancing Westland business and economic

development," Wild said. "The DDA does great work for the city, and I am happy that both of them will continue their service."

Harlow is the owner of Harlow Tire, a family owned auto service shop in Westland that has been in business and serving the community since 1965. Shapero owns Marquette House, an assisted living and Alzheimer's memory care unit in Westland. Marquette

House opened in 1997 and serves 100 seniors in the community.

The DDA is an 11-member board appointed by the mayor. Its mission is to bring about the redevelopment of the DDA District by aggressively assisting existing business and recruiting new business opportunities. Residents can learn more about the group and their work at www.cityofwestland.com/business/dda.html.

BACKPACKS

Continued from Page A1

area where seniors in teams of two helped fill folders with registration information that will be given to parents at the roundup.

With a theme of "Learning That Is Out of This World," the annual Kindergarten Roundup will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the district's 11 elementary schools. Jackie Wrybkowski, a secretary in the district's instruction department, begins ordering backpacks, T-shirts and school supplies in December.

Counting kids

"We do the fall and winter counts and come up with a number for backpacks for each school and go from there," Wrybkowski said. "We never run short. We bring back what's left, and when parents come into register during the summer, we give them a backpack. When they come in, we like to give them something. We give them out until we run out."

"Last year we got through June and July before we ran out," she added. Kay Heard of Westland helped with the backpacks for years before moving away three years ago. Now that she's back, she's walking the line.

"When I got back, I jumped right back in," she said. "I saw a need. Mary needed help and I came in."

Heard likes the idea



Nick Bartuk of Westland gives Deputy Superintendent Paul Salah a few pointers on the art of filling a backpack. SUE MASON

that the backpacks go to the children.

"I know how happy they must be to get these backpacks," she said.

Heard has helped with other things at the center, including volunteering at the center's monthly spaghetti dinner. She picks up trays and with music by the Waco Band. You've heard of the singing waiter, I'm the dancing waiter," she said.

Dave Kapla of Westland started with the backpacks, but eventually moved over to fill the folders.

"Every time I do this I say I'm going to get one of those rubber finger

tips," he said. "I have to wet my thumb."

'We love it'

It might be work, but Beverly Konkright of Westland said the backpack event is fun.

"We love it, especially because it's for the kids," she said. "We use our joints. It keeps you moving."

"It's better than sitting around at home," said Ilene Maas of Westland. "Once you retire, you have to stay busy or you go bananas."

Within two hours of starting, the stacks of backpacks had been moved from one end of

the room to the other. Filled with the school supplies, the volunteers were pitching in to make sure each one had 10 items and then zipped them up.

They were then put in bags and labeled for delivery to the individual schools.

"Before the seniors started doing this, the individual schools did," Wrybkowski said. "They used to get parent volunteers to do it. We'd send the stuff out a month before so they could get it done."

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MAIN ST.

Continued from Page A1

westbound Michigan Avenue and Elizabeth Street.

"There will be food and we're working on music. The visioning will be a lot more fun than it sounds," Brindley said.

Representatives of Michigan Main Street will be on hand for the celebration.

The Main Street Select Level designation provides the city with five years of intensive aid to revitalize the downtown. Wayne was the only southeastern

Michigan community picked as a Select Level community. Also selected were Three Rivers and Grayling.

"This is more than a banner or sign that says Wayne Main Street. It's a very special privilege, it's trademarked," Brindley said. "It's a big deal. You just can't call yourselves that."

Some businesses that have been interested in locating in Wayne have hesitated due to the city's financial problems, she said.

"But with the Main Street, they are turning their attention to us again," Brindley said. "It's something hopeful

and positive despite our difficulties."

Efforts are underway to hire a full-time Main Street manager, an important requirement for the program.

A goal of raising \$50,000 for the program had been established. Brindley said fundraising is ongoing but enough has been raised to move forward.

"We had six or eight applicants. Some look promising. It will be exciting to vet them," she said. The goal is to have the manager hired and an office open by May 12.

More than 100 people are expected to turnout

for the celebration and visioning session. Brindley said, noting the numbers of volunteers who have participated in other events.

"Hundreds of people adopted planters, volunteered at cleanup day and donated money to get to the select level," she said.

Everyone is invited to attend the celebration/visioning session. RSVP at waynerippleeffect@gmail.com.

To donate to the fundraising effort, visit wayne500.com.

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Westland Senior Services Director Barbara Marcum is heading the Compassionate Cities Project.

Westland woman appointed to mental health board

Citing their exemplary public service credentials, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has re-appointed Frank J. Ross of High-



Bianconi

Ross

land Park and appointed Marsha Bianconi of Westland to serve three-year terms on the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board.

If approved by the Wayne County Commission, their terms on the board would begin April 1.

"Frank and Marsha are outstanding public servants, whose diverse set of experience and skills will strengthen the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board," Ficano said. "I urge the commission to approve these stellar candidates."

Ross currently serves as chairman of the DWMHA Board. He has a master of arts degree from Central Michigan University. Previously, he worked for Wayne County for 20 years, first as deputy director of the Wayne County Business Development Division and later as the division director from 2000 to 2009.

Ross also has extensive experience in banking and as an entrepreneur.

"I'm very appreciative of the support that I've received, once again, from Executive Robert Ficano and the County Commission to allow me to serve as one of six members representing the county on the board of directors for the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority," Ross said.

"Having been a board member for approximately 18 years and seeing the organization move from an agency to an authority, I feel there is a tremendous opportunity to incorporate the strengths of the existing system into an advanced and innovative enterprise that will maximize

the quality of care to those who need it most," Ross added. "I look forward to helping shape this new business venture."

Bianconi currently serves as executive director of the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW), located in Livonia. In her role as ED, Bianconi leads the collaborative efforts of the 18 western Wayne communities that belong to the bipartisan CWW consortium, representing 700,000 residents.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Bianconi also serves as chairperson of the Southeast Michigan Substance Abuse Services organization, a group she has been affiliated with for 15 years.

"I want to thank Executive Ficano for this appointment to the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board," Bianconi. "I look forward to working with all parties to create an effective and collaborative Authority. I have spent the last 25 years working with local governments in a cooperative fashion."

"It is an honor to help guide this new Authority in providing assistance to our most vulnerable residents," Bianconi added.

The Wayne County Commission is expected to take up the appointments at their Health and Human Services Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 1, followed by a final vote at the full commission meeting on April 3. Information on the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority can be found at www.dwmha.com.

Information on the programs and services available through the Wayne County Health and Human Services division (HHS) can be found on the county website, www.waynecounty.com.

Westland's Compassionate Cities idea draws a crowd

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Over 100 people turned out to find out more about the idea of Westland becoming a compassionate city.

"I'm very excited to hear what everyone has to say. I thank you for coming," Westland Senior Services Director Barbara Marcum said. "If you asked someone if they want a more compassionate city, I don't know anyone who would say no."

All participants were asked to stand and introduce themselves. There were church members, service club members, veterans groups, homeowners association members, non-profit groups and city-elected and appointed officials.

Westland Mayor William Wild brought the Compassionate Cities movement back after meeting with the Dalai Lama in Louisville, Ky., last year.

Despite having 84,000 residents and an urban appearance, Wild said Westland still has the quintessential small town feel where neighbors bump into each other at the grocery store, the gas station



The first meeting for Westland's Compassionate Cities Project was well attended.

or Westland Shopping Center.

Westland residents support Mission: Green and recycling, Wild noted, but also raise money to fight cancer through Relay for Life. Over 300 people joined Buddy Shuh's Buddy Up! weight loss program.

"We realized that together we could achieve success better than we could alone," Wild said.

The Compassionate Cities movement is connecting with others to lend a helping hand and create a kinder, better place to live, he said.

Another meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at the Friendship Center to break into small groups to shape the local plan.

"There are so many people I deal with who say it's not the

same world it was," Marcum said. "Like road rage. It makes a great difference to smile and let the other person in. You are all priceless. We appreciate you all."

Chairman of the Westland Disabilities Concerns Commission, Ray Schuholz said he was pleased to see the large turnout for the meeting.

"I've got passion (to advocate). Let's get to know each other," he said.

Many of those in attendance are busy and committed to different organizations, Marcum said.

"This doesn't have to take a lot of time. We will go in our own direction," Marcum said.

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According to a new study by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging, men and women with hearing loss are much more likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's disease. People with severe hearing loss, the study reports, were 5 times more likely to develop dementia than those with normal hearing.

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Library hosting Family Matinee Movie

In the United States, universal access to education is a cornerstone of our democracy. Hundreds of years ago, most learning happened at home. Parents taught their children or, if their families could afford it, children were taught by private tutors. In the 1840s, education advocates began calling for free, compulsory school for every child in



the nation. By 1918, states had enacted compulsory attendance laws for school children.

Today, public schools, private schools, charter schools and homeschooling are all options for primary (grade school) and secondary (high school) students. In contrast, higher education at a college, community college, or university has never been compulsory and is not universally accessible. The costs of college tuition and the fear of student loan debt have caused many students to forgo higher education entirely.

One response to the high cost of higher education is the Open Education Resources Movement, which harnesses technologies like the Internet to offer digital materials freely for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research.

A number of higher education institutions have become interested in experimenting with opening up their educational programs to a massive audience over the Internet. Institutions like Harvard, MIT and the University of Michigan have developed a wide variety of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs, pronounced "mooks") which are

available for free online to anyone who is interested in the subjects offered. MOOCs are often provided by university partnerships.

Some well-known providers of MOOCs include the non-profit groups edX (which includes Harvard and MIT) and Academic Earth (which includes the University of Michigan, University of California Berkeley and Oxford University). You can find free courses online by searching for "MOOCs" or the name of a MOOC provider like "edX."

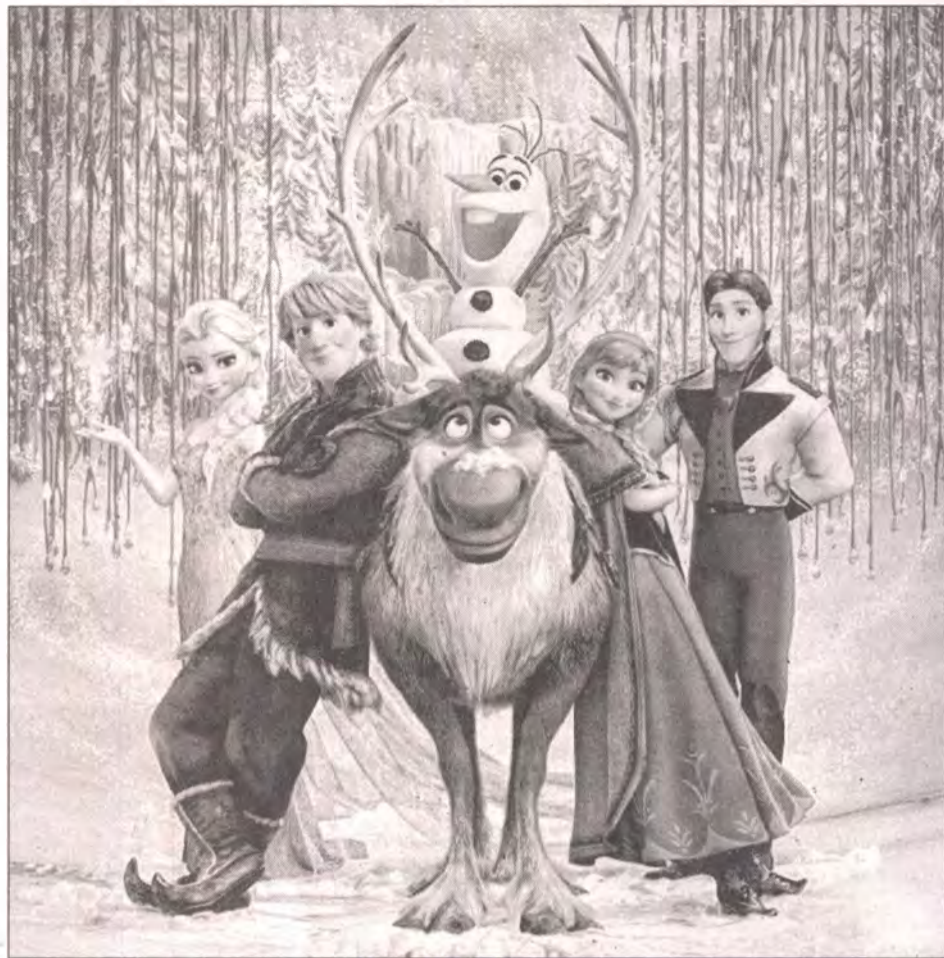
The library carries a variety of materials and resources related to higher education and online learning. For adults, check out *Online Learning: A User-friendly Approach for High School and College Students* by Leslie Bowman or *501 Ways for Adult Students to Pay for College: Going Back to School Without Going Broke* by Gen Tanabe and Kelly Tanabe. If you're preparing for an exam or looking for career training, try the *LearningExpress Library*, an online resource containing test and career preparation resources. For students, we offer the online resource *Tutor.com*, which connects students to tutors who can help them with their homework.

If you'd like to learn more about the evolution of higher education, visit the library's website at www.westlandlibrary.org, give us a call at 734-326-6123 or stop by the Reference Desk.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Highlighted activities

Affordable Care Act - Health Care Navigator



The William P. Faust Public Library will show the movie "Frozen" at its Family Matinee Movie at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29. The movie is rated PG and runs 102 minutes. No registration is required. Light refreshments will be served. Children under age 10 must have an adult present. For more information, call the Youth Department at 734-326-6123.

Assistance, throughout March: Meet one-on-one with an ACA Navigator from Community Bridges for help filling 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: Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. or Sundays, 12-3 p.m. 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 at

734-326-6123.

Writers Club, 7 p.m.

March 24: Have you written stories or poems that you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Join Cheryl Vatcher-Martin as she leads the Westland Library Writers Club. Drop in or sign up online if you want an email reminder.

Using Library Online

Research Tools, 7 p.m. March 24: Library databases — research tools — contain information you can't find for free on the Internet. Learn how to use our premium online resources to do research, prepare for an exam, look up a business, or find auto repair information. This is our Internet Special Topics course for March. Prerequisite: Internet Basics or some experience using an Internet browser. Please register in advance at the Reference Desk.

Family Read and Play,

10:30 a.m. March 25: Young children and their caregivers March is Reading Month, which means a special Tuesday morning activity for young children and their caregivers. Join us in Meeting Room B each Tuesday in March for some stories, songs, and rhymes, and then stay and play with other children.

Noontime Book Club,

noon March 25: Elizabeth Wein's novel, *Code Name Verity*, tells the story of two friends involved in World War II and what happens when their plane goes down behind enemy lines. Limited copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

Academic Enrichment,

3:30-5 p.m. March 26, 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.

Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club, 7 p.m.

March 26: Join us for a discussion of Orson Scott Card's *Ender's Game*. In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers.

Super Science, 6 p.m.

March 27: Do you love science? If you are 7-12 years old then you're invited to join as we do some exciting, hands-on experiments. Wear old clothes, as science can get a bit messy. Register online or call, or stop by the reference desk, or register online. Put child's name and age when you sign-up. Please arrive within five minutes of the program's start time to guarantee your spot. Sign up on our website at westlandlibrary.org/kids/events or call the Youth Department at 734-326-6123.

Friday Night Movie, 7

p.m. March 28: Come join us for some of the best recently released DVDs as part of our Friday Night Movies series. Tonight's movie, *Dallas Buyers Club*. "In 1985 Dallas, electrician and hustler Ron Woodroof works around the system to help AIDS patients get the medication they need after he is himself diagnosed with the disease." (imdb.com). This movie

is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation and Friends of Wayne County Parks.

Bunny Brunch

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

Easter Egg Scramble

The Westland Jaycees will sponsor the 17th annual Easter Egg Scramble on April 12 at Jaycee Park at the corner of Hunter and Wildwood in Westland.

The Easter Egg

Scramble is targeted toward children age 14

and under in the Westland community and is broken up into age groups. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. for the 1 p.m. scramble.

Beginners Computer

Lab, 2-4 p.m. March 29: During this two-hour drop-in lab, we will provide guided activities and librarian assistance to help you become computer literate for today's digital world. Topics include using a mouse and keyboard; selecting, copying and pasting; navigating the Internet; learning what you can do with email; and getting acquainted with Microsoft Office.

Lego Read and Play,

3-4 p.m. March 30, children and their parents: Come and build with us. We'll have lots and lots of Lego® bricks for building, along with books for inspiration. No registration required. Drop in.

Ongoing programming

Job Seekers and

Health Care Help Lab, 11

a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, 5-8

p.m. Wednesday and 1-4

p.m. Friday: Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an email account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed. Throughout

March, Eugenia Dillard, Eligibility Specialist, will be available each Tuesday and Friday to answer your Healthcare Marketplace questions.

Chess Group, 7-8:45

p.m. Thursdays and 1-4

p.m. Saturdays: Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No signup required.

Computer classes,

including one-on-one

computer classes, are offered all year long. Contact the library at 734-326-6123 to find out more.

The library conducts several Storytimes for children each week including: Toddler Tales, Sleepytime Storytime, BabyTime, Preschool Storytime and Family Fun Storytime. Call the Youth Desk 734-326-6123, ext. 2831, for more information or check out our website at westlandlibrary.org/kids.

Information Central was compiled by Katie Dover-Taylor. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or visit westlandlibrary.org. No signup required.

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EASTER ACTIVITIES

Marshmallow Drops

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

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

Join Wayne County Parks as it celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Marshmallow Drop. A blizzard of 20,000 marshmallows will fill the sky as they tumble from the Easter Bunny's helicopter.

The Marshmallow Drop takes place at 11 a.m. at Nankin Mills Park in Westland. Nankin Mills is located at the corner of Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Feel free to bring your own bag/basket but only one marshmallow is needed to receive a prize. The Marshmallow Drop

is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation and Friends of Wayne County Parks.

Bunny Brunch

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

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

Easter Egg Scramble

The Westland Jaycees will sponsor the 17th annual Easter Egg Scramble on April 12 at Jaycee Park at the corner of Hunter and Wildwood in Westland.

The Easter Egg Scramble is targeted toward children age 14

and under in the Westland community and is broken up into age groups. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. for the 1 p.m. scramble.

In addition to the scramble, the first 100 kids will receive a Kid Care ID Kit donated by local business. The Jaycees have also invited the friends of the MI Animal Rescue Group to come out with some of their adoptable animals.

There is no cost for the annual Easter egg hunt, but the Jaycees are asking the community to bring something from the Rescue Group's Wish List — cat litter, canned dog food, canned cat food and dry cat food. For a complete list, go to www.fmar1.org. Those who bring an item will be given an extra ticket toward the main prize.

The Westland Jaycees are a local organization dedicated to training young leaders through community service. For more information on the Westland Jaycees, call 734-858-4811 or visit westlandjaycees.org.

BUY THE BOWL

Tinkham students stage benefit for W-W Resource Center

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Family Resource Center will be on the receiving end of a service learning project that has 15-20 students at the Tinkham Alternative High School making bowls.

Students in art classes and Tinkham's Omankan the Collective, a 21st century after-school program, have been making bowls for several weeks. Their goal is to make as many as they can in time for an April 15 Empty Bowls benefit. The money raised will go to the Resource Center, which helps students and their families living in the Wayne-Westland district.

"It's something that has been done on a national level as a fundraiser," Diane Fournier said. "A lot of groups do it to help food banks and the homeless. I heard about it and thought it was such a beautiful metaphor."

Students like Remy Jefferson initially worked in making bowls with a slip glaze with Katy Schoetzow of Pewabic Pottery, which is finishing them for the April 15 event. Students also have been working with art teacher Anne Chambers, using paper lined bowls to shape the clay. Those bowls will be glazed and fired in the kiln at Wayne Memorial High School.

"We're aiming to make 50 or 60 bowls," Chambers said. "We're trying to make as many as we can. We're trying to make different sizes so people have a choice.

EMPTY BOWLS

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 15
Where: William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, between Wayne and Newburgh roads, Westland
Details: In addition to lunch, there will be a gift basket raffle. A minimum donation of \$5, payable at the door, is being asked. Proceeds will benefit the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center. Located inside Adams Upper Elementary School, the center links families with agencies, organizations, volunteer groups and schools to meet their social, emotional, physical and academic needs.

We're making them so they're functional and some will be functional art.

"This the first time for Empty Bowls and we don't know what to expect," she added.

Chambers wanted to do something with Pewabic Pottery and Fournier was looking for a service learning project for the students. Empty Bowls was a natural fit and Fournier "got the ball rolling."

Making bowls

Chambers picked 10 students who had time in their schedules to work on the bowls and had good attendance. She also included students who weren't able to take a field trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Five students from the after-school program also are making bowls. Her Art II class also is working on the bowls every day.

"I'm trying to keep it with the people who had the Pewabic day, because they have the back-

ground," Chambers said.

The students who worked on the project also will go on a field trip to Pewabic Pottery in Detroit and see a demonstration of wheel-throwing. Chambers also hopes they'll be able to visit the Heidelberg Project while in Detroit.

"The Pewabic class had a lot more instruction, the students learned about coils and slabs," she said. "They did a lot of decorating in the class."

The teachers used the GoFundMe online fundraising site to raise the money needed to pay for the Pewabic class, buy clay and partially pay for the field trip. The money was raised in just 48 hours.

"People were excited; the response was more than we expected," Chambers said.

The students have been very creative with their bowls. One is decorated stencils, others have decorative holes. One lost its bottom; Chambers said she'll use beads and polyurethane to repair it.

"The kids have gotten into it; it's gotten so they know what to do," she said. "They come into my room and they get started."

Jefferson jokes that the last time he played with clay was in elementary school. It might have been in sixth grade, he said. His Pewabic bowl has a blue exterior with orange accent on the inside.

"I think this is going to be awesome," Jefferson said. "I can't wait to see my bowl."

Student input

The students have had a lot of input in the project. They helped in the selection of the Resource Center to receive pro-



Ronald Knuckles (from left), Remy Jefferson, Chai Stoutmire and Dustin Rehrburg work on bowls that will be available for guests at the Empty Bowls benefit at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ceeds from the luncheon, which will be held at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. Culinary arts instructor Chef Tony Paquette is planning on serving three different soups and "doing something special with bread," Fournier said.

"We wanted them to feel connected to the agency we chose and, because it's so close and in our neighborhood, we felt they could connect," Fournier said. "They made the choice. We thought it was a good fit."

Chambers added that the project is now "kid driven." The teachers have been hands off, making themselves available to answer questions.

"They've really taken ownership of this," she said. "It's nice to see a big collaboration come together."

Students have visited the senior citizen centers to talk about the luncheon and are working on speaking before the city council. Many of them will be at the luncheon, manning the bowl table, helping with the

gift basket raffle table and speaking to guests.

"They like the idea; I think it will be exciting for them," Fournier said. "I think they'll be pretty excited to see their artwork go home with someone."

"It's exciting to give the kids the opportunity to give back to the community," Chambers said. "They're excited it's going to the Resource Center."

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ACHIEVERS

Two Westland residents are among Central Michigan University students who will travel across the country during spring break through CMU's Alternative Break program. The 145 student volunteers will provide assistance in 11 states.

Sophomore **Arielle Hines** is volunteering in Charlotte, N.C., at Campus Pride, a nonprofit that helps support LGBTQ and ally students on college campuses across the U.S., while fellow sophomore **Emily McCullen** is volunteering at the Giving Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla.

The Alternative Breaks program is offered through CMU's Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center. Students can pick a service experience dedicated to various social issues, including children's health care, historical preservation, HIV/AIDS and education.

Four Westland residents were among more than 1,000 students who earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in December. Receiving degrees were:

- » **Katelyn E. Matz**, bachelor of business administration;
- » **Alexandra L. Mirabitor**, bachelor of science;
- » **Melissa A. Schacht**, bachelor of science;
- » **Bryan E. Smigielski**, bachelor of arts.

Trustee to resign from school board, move from area

By **Karen Smith**
Staff Writer

Trustee Julie Robinson will resign from the Livonia school board, effective April 14, because she and her husband, Tom, are moving out of the area so he can pursue a new opportunity with his employer.

Tom Robinson is a former Livonia City Councilman. He works for Jackson-based Expert Global Solutions.

Julie Robinson was elected to her first term on the school board in November 2012. Her term does not end until Dec. 31, 2016.

"It has been a great honor to serve the residents and students of Livonia and to work with so many dedicated professionals," Julie Robinson said at Monday night's school board meeting during which she announced her resignation. "From the beginning it was my goal to place students first when sitting at this table and it remains my primary focus for the remainder of my term, making the best decisions for our students, staff and community." Robinson started the



Julie and Tom Robinson celebrate his being re-elected to his last term on Livonia City Council in this file photo. Tom Robinson lost his bid for re-election to the Council in 2013. Julie Robinson was elected to the Livonia school board in November 2012.

Livonia Public Schools Student Art Gallery, a new exhibit in the Board of Education meeting room, as a way to showcase students' talent. "I am most pleased to leave behind the legacy of the art in school board program and the great body of artistic talent we have been able to showcase during our board meetings," she said in her statement. "I look forward to see how it will continue with support of the staff, school administration and board mem-

bers." Tom Robinson served on City Council for a total of 11 years. He lost his bid for re-election in November 2013. He has lived in Livonia for more than 40 years. In a prepared statement Tuesday, he said he and Julie are both excited about their future but sad to leave Livonia. "I have no doubts about how fortunate I have been to be a member and product of such a great place to live and I am

confident that Livonia will continue to offer much to its residents in the future," he said. "It is with great appreciation that I thank the residents of Livonia for the past honor of serving you in elected office and ask that you keep 'Believing Livonia;' you the residents are what makes this community great." "I Believe Livonia," was Tom Robinson's campaign slogan. Tom Robinson said they are purchasing a

home with acreage and horse stables and are looking forward to a change in the pace of their lifestyle to take "advantage of the health and family Julie and I have now."

Tom Robinson underwent a kidney transplant in November 2012 after being diagnosed with IgA nephropathy or Berger's disease, a chronic, progressive kidney disease that had reduced his kidney function to 13 percent just before the transplant. The couple has a daughter who will start kindergarten in the fall.

Livonia school board president Mark Johnson said the board has 30 days from the effective date of Robinson's resignation to appoint a replacement. That person would then have to run successfully for election in November if he or she wants to fill the remainder of her unexpired term.

Johnson said he had not yet met with Superintendent Randy Liepa to discuss the application process.

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Schoolcraft to U holds open house

The University of Toledo and Schoolcraft College are hosting an Open House from 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, to share information and raise awareness about the new bachelor degree programs that will be offered as part of the Schoolcraft to U Partnership that was announced in November 2013.

Representatives from UT will present information on these new education options that will be available on Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia, including bachelor of science degree programs in nursing, criminal justice, health information administration and professional studies, beginning in the fall of 2014.

Admissions and financial aid representatives and academic advisors from UT and Schoolcraft College will be on hand to answer questions and assist prospective students with completion of admissions applications on site during the open house. For more information, visit schoolcraft.edu/SctoU.

District offers new bioethics class

A new bioethics course at Livonia Public Schools' three high schools brings timely and meaningful discussions from the news headlines to the classroom. The course, which has been six years in the making, offers students a deeper look at some of the molecular, biotechnology-based advancements that we are witnessing in today's society.

"Students are being exposed to real-world dilemmas that promote genuine reflection on the part of our young people," said Julie Tafelski, biology and bioethics teacher at Churchill High School, who initiated the course. It was offered during first semester of this school year, but may be expanded in future years.

"Students studied genetic testing and examined the pros and cons of the advancements in this area. While learning about the various genetic tests that are performed at birth in Michigan, students also formed opinions about where this knowledge will lead in the greater society.

"This is truly a course that seeks to develop well-rounded, thoughtful young people who will be able to make intelligent decisions regarding health, biotechnology and molecular testing issues," Tafelski said.

CHS senior Jessica Rusnica said she didn't

realize that some medical and scientific procedures can be controversial and political.

"Looking at both sides of the controversy can help your opinion be shaped more than it was before," she said. "We reviewed articles to further our reasons and knowledge. The knowledge I received in this class will help me when politics come into play, when a controversial topic, such as cloning organs, needs to be voted on."

The course is catching the attention of the biomedical community as well. Tafelski has sought the assistance of experts such as Dr. Tom Tomlinson, from the Michigan State University Center for Bioethics, who has been helpful in procuring resources for the course.

In October, she invited Dr. Ernest Krug, professor of biomedical sciences at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, who shared information on career options, ethics background and an overview of genetic testing.

"The students were able to ask case-based questions and get real, pragmatic answers," said Tafelski, noting that such experiences are particularly rewarding for students.

Students received more real-world insight into the field of bioethics when Dr. Martin Leeyer,

an ethicist from the Mercy Health System and Sylvania Franciscan Health, visited the Churchill bioethics students in January.

He spoke of specific cases in a "what would you do?" format. He also shared career information relating to the bioethics field.

Churchill senior Brendan Wilk said the class was helpful in his future career plans in the field of law.

"Bioethics provides a lot of insight, connecting the law and its practice to a conflicting set of morals and ethics," he said. "A class based so heavily on ethical questions and conflicting viewpoints can be very beneficial and I am glad to have gained that experience through this class."

Tafelski, herself, is learning more about the topic, too. She was invited to serve as the official community representative on the Patient Rights and Ethics Committee at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

"I am certain that serving on this committee will provide me with the invaluable experiences that can be incorporated into this new course," Tafelski said. "Total immersion in real-life cases will allow me to be more authentic in my teaching. It is sure to be a rewarding use of my time, both for me and my students."

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JOSEPH DuMOUCHELLE

FLORIDA MICHIGAN NEW YORK

Westland swears in 3 new officers, promotes 4 veterans

Three new Westland police officers were sworn in and four veteran officers were promoted at a ceremony last Monday at Westland City Hall.

Joining the Westland Police Department were officers Chad Bristol, Matt Allen and Thomas Rogers. Sgts. Dave Dinsmore and Pat Corby were promoted to lieutenant. Officers James Fransisco and Nate Macrae were promoted to sergeant.

» Dinsmore has served with the Westland Police Department for 20 years, working as a detective for six years, a field training officer, a perimeter rifle team member and an evidence technician.

» Corby has served with the Westland Police Department for 22 years and has worked in the traffic bureau and accident reconstructionist. He is currently a motorcycle officer and instructor.

» Fransisco has served with the Westland Police Department for 15 years, and worked with Detroit Police for three years prior to joining Westland. He has been assigned to the special investigations unit as an undercover officer, and has also been a rifle team member and field officer. Fransisco is also a recipient of the Police Officers Association of Michigan Police Officer of the Year Award.

» Macrae has served with the Westland Police Department for eight years, and has been assigned as the department's Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement accreditation manager. He has worked as a motorcycle officer and accident reconstructionist and with the traffic bureau.

» Bristol spent 14 years with the Detroit Police Department from 2000-2014. In his tenure with the Detroit, Officer Bristol received the 2012 Police Officer of the Year award and was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for more than 100 DUI arrests in one year.

» Allen is a John Glenn High School alumnus. He has spent the past 16 years with the Inkster Police Department where he held the rank of lieutenant.



Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik (from left), newly sworn officers Thomas Rogers, Matt Allen and Chad Bristol join Mayor William Wild at the ceremony in Westland City Hall.



Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik (left) and Westland Mayor William Wild (far right) flank four newly promoted officers. From left, new lieutenants Pat Corby and Dave Dinsmore and new sergeants Nate Macrae and James Fransisco.

Allen also received a Police Officer of the Year Award in his time with Inkster.

» Rogers holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Siena Heights University and attended the Detroit Police Academy. Rogers spent 15

years with the Detroit Police Department, where he also received numerous awards.

"I would like to welcome these three talented and experienced new officers into our community. We look forward to their dedication as they serve

and protect our residents," Mayor William Wild said. "I would also like to congratulate the newly promoted officers. Your new ranks are well-deserved and we look forward to your continued service and professionalism."

Wayne County's Sunshine rating improves to A-minus

Wayne County's rating in government transparency has improved from a D- to an A- in the past year.

Sunshine Review, a non-partisan organization formed to rate local governments on transparency, gave Wayne County an A- grade in January. Sunshine Review uses a 10-point transparency checklist to evaluate government websites across the country to see if they proactively and voluntarily disclose information.

"The fight for greater transparency within Wayne County government has been ongoing for some time and today I can say I'm proud of the strides we have made," Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, said this week, in conjunction with Sunshine Week. "Taxpayers are able to view the complete county budget, its financial performance, audit reports and much more by visiting the county's website."

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know.

For more information, visit www.sunshineweek.org/About.aspx.

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IKEA has revealed an architectural drawing of what its expanded Canton store will look like. IKEA

IKEA store expansion expected this fall

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Global home furnishings retail giant IKEA has formally announced it plans a major expansion of its 311,000-square-foot Canton store, confirming what the *Observer* first reported in February.

IKEA intends to demolish the former ABC Warehouse building it owns next door to accommodate a westward, 44,000-square-foot expansion. Construction is expected to start this fall and be finished by spring 2015.

The effort to expand its warehouse comes eight years after the Swedish retailer opened its only Michigan store at Ford and Haggerty roads, where the massive blue-and-yellow store has drawn customers from other states and Canada.

IKEA plans to remain open during an expansion that will leave the store with 355,000 square feet of space. The project involves expanding the self-serve furniture area where shoppers pick up their packaged furniture, rearranging customer service areas and enlarging the home-

delivery area, the company announced.

"IKEA is thrilled with the success of IKEA Canton. But as our customer base and sales continue to grow — along with product assortment — the store's warehouse capacity now is less than ideal," Canton store manager Matt Hunsicker said in a company-issued statement. "Extending the store's self-serve furniture area so it can hold more products would allow us to improve the shopping experience to meet our customers' needs more easily and to enhance our ability to keep lowering prices."

IKEA said the ability to increase its inventory is expected to reduce transportation costs.

Canton Community Planner Jeff Goulet said IKEA has submitted an amendment to its planned development district agreement and site plan. The proposals are under review and will require a public hearing, which hasn't yet been scheduled.

IKEA's exit-area bistro and Swedish food market aren't expected to move during the store reconfiguration. The company said it hopes to minimize dis-

ruptions during its expansion.

"This project may require some flexibility by our customers, but we are confident it will create an enhanced shopping experience with access to a bigger product selection and greater quantities of each item," Hunsicker said.

IKEA is located on 30 acres along Ford Road west of the I-275 corridor, in the heart of Canton's retail shopping district. It has 52 different room settings, three model home interiors, a supervised children's play area and a 350-seat restaurant.

IKEA, founded in 1943 in Sweden, installed Michigan's largest array of solar panels atop its roof in 2012. The company has more than 350 stores in 44 countries, including 38 in the United States.

IKEA spokesman Joseph Roth has said IKEA doesn't disclose annual sales for specific stores. He said U.S. stores had \$4.1 billion in sales for 2012, compared to \$34.6 billion for 349 sites worldwide.

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LIVONIA MAN, 21, IN NEED OF BONE MARROW DONOR

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

They say lightning never strikes the same place twice.

So Kelly Blackburn of Livonia, whose oldest child, Brett Schmeichel, survived a brain tumor 17 years ago, was not expecting a diagnosis other than dehydration when he was taken to the emergency room Jan. 31.

Like many 21-year-olds, Brett did not always eat right or drink enough water.

But after running tests, doctors concluded he has aplastic anemia, a blood disorder in which the body's bone marrow doesn't make enough new blood cells, something that may have been caused by the radiation

used to kill the brain tumor, Blackburn said.

Now Brett is in need of a bone marrow donor for a transplant that will take place at Henry Ford Hospital as soon as a match can be found. "I'm trying to get the word out there, as Brett has no full siblings that can donate bone marrow to him," Blackburn said.

She's ordered 500 test kits for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and bone marrow drive 2-9 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at J.R.'s Emergency Room Bar & Grill in Westland. Her hope is that every one of the kits is used at the event.

The test is a non-invasive swab on the inside of the cheek. Anyone ages 18-55 can take the test and be placed in

the national bone marrow registry to give Brett and others fighting blood cancer and other bone marrow diseases a second chance at life.


Cost of the fundraiser is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. A woman of faith, Blackburn said she is depending on God to help her understand why, why now and why Brett. She believes there's a reason for everything. In the meantime, she is doing everything she can to help her son fight for his life all over again.

To make a donation, go to www.youcar-ing.com/BrettsJourney

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Brett Schmeichel, 21, was diagnosed in January with aplastic anemia, a blood disorder that may have been caused by the radiation used to kill a brain tumor he had at age 4.



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

Snyder touts international business

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Richard Reaume figures Plymouth Township has benefited as much as any municipality from investment from international companies.

That's why when Gov. Rick Snyder came Friday to the township's Robert Bosch, LLC, plant on Haggerty to talk about the importance of international investment, Reaume understood completely.

Reaume, in his third term as Plymouth Township's supervisor, estimated "probably eight different countries" are represented in the township's business world, including Bosch.

"We're very supportive of international investment and the job creation that comes with it," he said.

Snyder was at Bosch for an event lauding the Organization for International Investment, which released findings of a study the Washington-based group commissioned that produced an appraisal of responses from 100 U.S. chief financial officers about



Gov. Rick Snyder chats with Plymouth-Canton's FIRST Robotics team Friday during a visit to Bosch. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the business climate in the United States.

The OFII cited Michigan for its creation of 255,000 jobs since December 2010 and as the state that's recovered most from the Great Recession. Meanwhile, Washington is recognized for setting a new exports record earlier this year (\$81.9 billion) and as a state that counts

one in three jobs related to international trade.

OFII President/CEO Nancy McLernon applauded Michigan for steps such as elimination of the Michigan Business Tax, development of Michigan's talented work force and impressive results from a high priority on job creation.

"Today's announcement is another sign of

Michigan's improving business climate and the good work we've done to reduce taxes, eliminate burdensome and unneeded regulations and by investing in talent enhancement programs," Snyder said. "Investment in Michigan by overseas-based companies is growing and the results mean more and better jobs for peo-

ple all across our state."

Included during Snyder's visit was a tour of the plant and a visit with the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's FIRST Robotics team, Team 862, and its robot, Neo. Team members praised Snyder for his support, not only of STEM initiatives in general, but of FIRST Robotics in particular.

Michigan leads the nation in robotics teams and Bosch - which mentors Plymouth-Canton's team - supports some 40 teams around the country. Snyder spent time with the P-CEP team at last year's state competition and vowed to do so again next month at the 2014 state meet.

"Meeting with (Snyder) is a huge opportunity for us," said Plymouth High School senior Julian Gabriel, one of Neo's three principal drivers. "(You're) meeting with the person who influences how our team will (function) in the future. (Snyder) has supported us really well."

Bosch was chosen for the presentation because, as one of the largest North American

automotive suppliers, the company employs more than 2,800 people in Michigan.

Other highlights of the Michigan economy cited by OFII include:

» Michigan added twice as many overseas new jobs (32,000) in 2011 compared to any other state.

» Michigan's high-tech work force is fourth largest in U.S. and state ranks third for high-tech job growth

» Overseas companies employ 177,500 Michigan workers, about 5 percent of state's private-sector work force. (More than 60 percent of these jobs are in manufacturing.)

"The growth of emerging markets is not surprising, but it underscores that American business and states can no longer sit on the sidelines while other countries actively promote themselves to prospective global employers," McLernon said. "Michigan understands what it takes to work with businesses to attract foreign investment, insource jobs and build its economy."

BBB releases its list of Top 10 Scams in 2013

Every year, the Better Business Bureau receives thousands of calls and emails from consumers who have been scammed or from the lucky ones who have dodged scams by being wary. Some scams are widespread, getting a lot of people for small amounts. Others are more narrowly focused, but take people for thousands or tens of thousands of dollars. The Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel Data Book estimates that Americans lost \$1.4 billion to scams in 2012.

The Council of Better Business Bureaus, the umbrella organization for the 113 local BBBs across the U.S. and Canada, culls its annual Top 10 Scams list from a variety of sources, including reports from consumers, some of whom have been victims of scams; from federal agencies; and from other reliable information sources.

Here's the BBB's Top 10 Scams of 2013

Medical Alert Scam - A new twist to the telemarketing scam hit 2013 hard. With promises of a "free" medical alert system, the scam targeted seniors and caretakers and claimed to be offering the system free of charge because a family member or friend had already paid for it. In many cases, seniors were asked to provide their bank account or credit information to "verify" their identity and, as a result, were charged the monthly \$35 service fee. The system, of course, never arrived and the seniors were left with a charge they had trouble getting refunded.

Easy rule of thumb - be wary of "free" offers that require your personal information upfront and always verify with the supposed friend or family member that the caller says paid for the service.

Auction Reseller Scam - Many people turn to eBay and other online auctions sites to sell used items they no longer need and relatively new electronics seem to do especially well. But scammers have figured out a way to fool sellers into shipping goods without receiving payment. Usually, the buyer claims it's an "emergency" of some sort - a child's birthday, a member of the military shipping out - and asks the seller to ship the same day. The seller receives an email that looks like it's from PayPal confirming the payment, but emails are easy to fake. Always confirm payment in your eBay and PayPal accounts before shipping,

especially to an overseas address

Arrest Warrant Scam - This one seemed to really take off last autumn. In this scam, con artists are taking advantage of technology that can change what is visible on Caller ID and allowing them to pose as the office of the local sheriff or other law enforcement agency. They call to say there is a warrant out for your arrest, but that you can pay a fine in order to avoid criminal charges. Of course, these "police" don't take credit cards; only a wire transfer or prepaid debit card will do.

Sometimes these scams seem very personal; the scammer may refer to a loan or other financial matter. It may just be a lucky guess, but don't be fooled into thinking you are about to be arrested.

Invisible Home Improvements - Home improvement scams vary little from year to year and most involve some type of shoddy workmanship from unlicensed or untrained workers. The hardest for homeowners to detect, and therefore the easiest for scammers to pull off, are repairs or improvements to the areas of your home that you can't see - roofs, chimneys, air ducts, crawl spaces, etc. Scammers may simply knock at your door, offering a great deal because they were "in the neighborhood," but more and more they are using telemarketing, email and even social media to reach homeowners.

Helpful videos on YouTube can add legitimacy to a contractor, but consumers have no way of knowing if the video is real or "borrowed" from a legitimate contractor. Check out home contractors at bbb.org before saying yes.

Casting Call Scam - This is not as widespread as some other scams, but it seems to have really been on the increase in recent years, thanks to the popularity of television talent shows like *American Idol* and *Project Runway*. Scammers pose as agents or talent scouts looking for actors, singers, models, reality show contestants, etc., and use phony audition notices to fool aspiring performers into paying to try out for parts that don't exist. There are several ways this plays out. It can simply be an unscrupulous way to sell acting lessons, photography services, etc., or it can be an outright scam for things like fees for online "applications" or upcoming "casting calls."

Even worse, the information provided on an online application could be everything a scammer needs for identity theft.

Foreign Currency Scam - Investments in foreign currency can sound like a great idea and scammers frequently use real current events and news stories to make their pitches even more appealing. They advertise an easy investment with high return and low risk when you purchase Iraqi dinar, Vietnamese dong or, most recently, the Egyptian pound. The plan is that, when those governments revalue their currencies, increasing their worth against the dollar, you just sell and cash in. Unlike previous hoaxes, you may even take possession of real currency. The problem is that they will be very difficult to sell and it's extremely unlikely they will ever significantly increase in value.

Scam Texts - With online and mobile banking skyrocketing, it's not a surprise that scams quickly follow. One major tactic recently is the use of scam texts, known as "smishing," to steal personal information. They look like a text alert from your bank, asking you to confirm information or "reactivate your debit card" by following a link on your smart phone. Banks of all sizes have been targeted and details of the scam vary, but the outcome is the same: scammers get your banking information, maybe even your ATM number and PIN. You may even inadvertently download malicious software that gives the scammer access to anything on your phone.

Do Not Call Scams - The National Do Not Call Registry offer consumers a free way to reduce telemarketing calls. Scammers call anyway, of course, and they've even found a way to scam consumers by pretending to be a government official calling to sign you up or confirming your previous participation on the Do Not call list. In one variation, scammers ask for personal information, such as your name, address and Social Security number. In another, scammers try to charge a fee to join the registry. Either way, just hang up. These services are free, but sharing personal information with a scammer could cost you a lot.

Fake Friend Scam - Did you ever get a friend request on Facebook from someone you already thought was your friend? If you hit accept, you may have just friended a scammer. A

popular recent scam has been the theft of people's online identities to create fake profiles, which can be used in a variety of ways. A new friend can learn a lot about you to scam you later, "recommend" sketchy websites that download malware, use your account to scrap information on your other friends, even impersonate a military officer or other trustworthy person to perpetrate a romance scam. Be careful on social media, keep your privacy settings high and don't share confidential information.

You can't always be sure that your friends are really your friends.

Scam of the Year: Affordable Care Act Scam - Scammers had a field day with the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), using it as a way to fool Americans into sharing their personal information. Scammers would call claiming to be from the federal government and saying the would-be victim needed a new insurance card or Medicare card. However, before they can mail the card, they need to collect personal information.

Scammers do a lot to make their requests seem credible. For example, they may have your bank's routing number and ask you to provide your account number. Or they may ask for your credit card or Social Security number, Medicare ID or other personal information. But sharing personal information with a scammer puts you at risk for identity theft.

For more information on these and other scams, go to BBB Scamstopper. Sign up for its Scam Alerts and learn about new scams.

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FIGHTING SPIRIT

Area woman shares experience with others

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

One in three women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to a 2013 World Health Organization report. Yet most women don't think much about personal safety, said Tanya Panizzo, owner of Fighting Spirit Personal Safety in Plymouth.

Panizzo, a 40-year-old long-time Plymouth resident, was well-trained in tae kwon do when she was assaulted at age 16, which shows that even women trained in combat can be victims, she said. What's more, many victims never accuse their attackers.

"I just pretended it didn't happen," she said. Panizzo didn't tell her parents. She believed her protective father would kill her attacker. She didn't know how to tell her mother, who grew up being abused. She didn't want to think about it. She didn't think about it until she had a daughter of her own.

"I thought, 'I don't ever want her to hide those things from me,'" Panizzo said. She wanted to nurture a culture where personal safety was not only a topic of conversation, but something people practiced.

Panizzo holds a degree in polymer science from Eastern Michigan University and was a successful engineer, but felt something was missing from her life. A fifth-degree black belt in tae kwon do and blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, Panizzo had kept up the martial arts training she started at age 8 and felt it was time to do that full time. So she left the auto industry to run Midwest Tae Kwon Do in Plymouth.

Like many martial arts studios, Midwest offered self-defense classes, but that wasn't enough. Women were learning to physically resist an attack, but Panizzo knew she was trained in physical self-defense at the time of her assault.

"What was missing from

my adolescence?" she said. "I needed to get personal safety out from under the martial arts umbrella. It isn't all about kicking and punching."

A business is born

In 2009, she founded Fighting Spirit Personal Safety, headquartered in the Midwest Tae Kwon Do building. The business provides hands-on safety classes for women and children and on-site seminars and consultations for companies.

Panizzo said she's reached 1,500 children ages 5 and older and more than 500 women of all ages through her programs. She summed up her company's mission: "Regardless of age, we provide options for safety, help for those who need it and hope for anyone who feels hopeless."

Panizzo's courses are not martial arts classes, but practical lessons in setting clear boundaries, recognizing a potential violent situation and de-escalating it, projecting confidence, verbally warding off an attacker and, finally, physically resisting an attack. They combine physical resistance with mental and emotional readiness.

Children can take specially designed one- and two-hour classes, or 10-hour summer camps, that teach them about safety, how to handle bullies, defense against abduction and good-bad-uncomfortable touch.

Pre-teen and teenaged girls can take Girls-R-Pearls, which delves into self-image, social media, peer pressure and other topics.

While some topics in the kids' programs may be uncomfortable to discuss, Panizzo said she's empowering kids to make important decisions and creating a culture where it's acceptable to say "no" to dangerous situations.

"The more you say 'no,' the easier it is," Panizzo said. "It's just someone has to do it first. If you start them young, that's all they know."

"It becomes part of who they are."



Tanya Panizzo, a former auto engineer, is the owner of Fighting Spirit Personal Safety. KIM OBERSKI

Women's courses

Women can take a comprehensive 10-hour course at her studio, typically over a weekend, or they can take a weekly Stay Safe! For Women course or a one- or two-hour Women's Night Out. Panizzo recommends women and children take a course at least once a year to brush up on personal safety.

The average age for women taking courses is 35, Panizzo said, but she's had women in their 70s take courses, including women of all physical fitness levels.

One wheelchair-bound woman took a class. "She knew she had her hands," Panizzo said, so she learned how to use them to resist an attack. "Everybody can take something from it."

Upon completing the comprehensive women's program, all women receive a purple key. "It's that reminder that maybe you shouldn't be pumping gas at one in the morning," Panizzo said, "but it's also a way for them to be connected to their safety every day." Women have "purple key moments" when they realize they are unsafe, but they know what to do. They realize they have the

"fighting spirit" to protect themselves.

Stress simulation

Each Fighting Spirit program includes a simulation of a dangerous situation. Panizzo has women and children practice punching and blocking with pads and then has her tae kwon do partner Russell Gale don protective gear and act as a pseudo attacker. She calls it "stress simulation."

One important element of warding off an attacker is verbalizing, or yelling, Panizzo said, noting that a 2005 National Institute of Justice study found that women who yelled and physically resisted an attack significantly reduced their potential for injury. Sometimes, attackers even run off when confronted with someone ready to fight, she said.

Many times, course participants verbalize as they punch the pads, but freeze altogether or forget to yell during the simulation. The simulation, while not a guarantee that a victim will act accordingly in a real attack, provides much-needed practice, she said.

Panizzo also provides customized seminars on workplace safety. "It's driven by the employee, but there's a

fiduciary responsibility for managers," Panizzo said. There's also bottom-line benefit. Employees who feel safe are more likely to work that night shift, for example.

Looking ahead

While Panizzo has had people come from many geographic locations to learn about personal safety and has spoken out-of-state, she's looking toward a systematic way of nationalizing her business. Within two years, she plans to offer a training and certification program that will allow people to teach her personal safety curriculum throughout the country.

Panizzo said the assault she survived as a teenager shaped the person she is today, even though she didn't realize it until recently.

"For me, it was this obsession to achieve," Panizzo said. "I wanted to be the best at everything, to do more to help people."

"I had my own purple key moment. I realized that in trying to help others, I was trying to help myself. I thought, 'I don't know if I addressed what (the assault) did to me.'"

For more information, visit fightingspiritsafety.com.

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A new path
Author rose to national business prominence, but needed God in his life
By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Fred Sievert and his wife, Susan, live in Stamford, Conn. They also maintain a town home in Northville Township, which they've had since 2001.
"So we come back quite often," said Sievert, 66, retired president of the New York Life Insurance Company. "It still sort of feels like Michigan's home."
They're graduates of Livonia Franklin High School, who left Michigan in 1991 for his career. Fred Sievert, after retiring from his corporate career, headed to Yale Divinity School for a master of arts in religion degree. He hasn't been ordained but is the new author of *God Revealed: Revisit Your Past To Enrich Your Future*.



"It's been a lot of fun and I'm really glad it's having an impact on people's lives," said Sievert, who with Susan will soon be dividing his time between Northville and Cape Cod, Mass.
Sievert said he's had some 175,000 hits on his website, plus many Facebook likes and reaction to tweets.
"I think they may show up at the book signing" in Northville, he said. He did a *Fox & Friends* television segment, along with about eight other TV interviews.
God Revealed (Morgan James Publishing) is being used for Bible studies and book clubs, including locally. "My whole thing was to impact

people's lives, not so much to sell books," Sievert said.
His subtitle, which he chose, is intended to have readers think about his stories, their own lives and "to see if they could uncover encounters with God."
In the book, Sievert, a former Fortune 100 "workaholic" president, challenges his readers to watch for messages from God in their daily lives. He recommends drawing on experiences to strengthen faith while enhancing work and home life.
During his work years, he prayed often in the workplace, not for things like sales goals but rather for guidance on doing the right thing, acting with integrity.
He and Susan have five children, the oldest three adopted early in life as orphans.
The couple then had the miracle of two younger birth children, after being told that couldn't happen.
They have a couple grandkids, and the children range from 39 to 26 years. Sievert's book grew out of a dinner with daughter Dena and her

husband, Doug, with the couple's daughter urging her dad to share his experiences with the family and larger world through publishing.
In Michigan, Sievert had been with Maccabees Mutual in Southfield, leaving in 1991 to work his way up with New York Life Insurance Company. He became president there in 2002.
Upon retirement, he chose Yale, at first concerned about its liberal reputation but emerging with no regrets. Yale was intellectually and spiritually stimulating.
"It was quite liberal but I actually appreciated that," he said. "It was the first time I went to school for the right reason."
He remains on five nonprofit boards, as well as two for-profit boards and teaches. Sievert said his book is "almost a ministry." His website is www.godrevealed.com.
Sievert is a regular for Detroit Tigers and Lions games, especially the Lions.
"It takes a lot of patience," he said of being a longtime Lions fan and season ticket holder.

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Oakwood Annapolis part of planned new health system

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

For a number of weeks, rumors of a proposed expansion at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills floated throughout the community. The three hospitals — Botsford Health Care, Oakwood Healthcare and Beaumont Health System — have announced the intent to merge operations and create a new health care system.

“Physician collaboration and integration is a key priority for all three of our organizations,” said Dr. Paul LaCasse, president and CEO, Botsford Health Care. “We will use our combined resources to work collaboratively with our physicians. Employed and private-practice allopathic and osteopathic physicians will be partners in the creation of our new organization.”

The boards of the three not-for-profit organizations have approved a letter of intent calling for formation of a new, \$3.8 billion health system that would combine assets, liabilities and operations under unified executive and board leadership.

A new system

The new system would integrate their combined eight hospitals, including Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, and 153 other patient care sites into a comprehensive and collaborative health care network focused on advancing quality of care and access to care for people throughout the region.

The three organizations have begun the negotiation of a definitive agreement and due diligence discussions aimed at creating the new, not-for-profit health system.

“We are three successful health care organizations driven by a shared desire to collectively build upon our success in improving quality, efficiency and value in health care delivery,” said Gene Michalski, CEO of Beaumont Health System. “By combining our strengths, resources, experience and capabilities, we’ll be well positioned to meet future health care challenges while ex-



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne is involved in the announced merger of Botsford Health Care, Oakwood Healthcare and Beaumont Health System.

panding access to high-quality, high-value care for patients throughout the region.”

The announcement comes five weeks after Garden City Hospital officials made it official that the non-profit hospital is being sold to California-based Prime Healthcare Services. That sale must be approved by Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette because Prime Healthservices a for-profit company. A public hearing on the sale will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Garden City High School’s O’Leary Auditorium.

According to the CEOs, the goals of a new healthcare organization include:

- » improving the value of health care services through processes that deliver high quality, well-coordinated patient care at the right time in the right setting at an affordable cost.
- » improving the health, well-being and outcomes of patient populations.
- » improving care efficiency and patient safety by integrating patients’ medical records for easy access by caregivers across all settings of care.
- » improving operational efficiency by lowering and spreading costs over a larger system and through group purchasing of supplies and equipment.

New organization

The new organization will be governed by a single board and executive leadership structure with representation from the three organizations.

John Lewis, Oakwood chairman of the board, will serve as the initial board chair. Gene Michalski, Beaumont CEO, will serve as the initial CEO of the new combined organization.

Michalski, Oakwood CEO Brian Connolly and Botsford CEO Paul LaCasse will all serve on the CEO Council, overseeing the transition and implementation of the new system. Michalski will chair the CEO Council.

Connolly and LaCasse will remain as president and CEO of their respective organizations during the period of transition. Connolly will also serve as transition executive on behalf of the CEO Council.

A system-wide Clinical Leadership Council, including physicians, nurses and other health providers, led by physicians, will drive physician alignment and integration. This group will advise the CEO Council on all medical matters. The organizations’ medical staffs will remain separate.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

Strategies to consider when faced with insurance premium increases

Q: Rick Rick: I'm a widow in my mid-70s. I have my husband's pension and Social Security, which cover my daily expenses. I also have a small portfolio of mutual funds. I have a long-term care policy and I just got notice that my premium is going up a whopping 40 percent. When I bought the policy, the agent told me that premiums can't go up. I've learned that's not true. If I pay the increased premium, is it possible they will raise it in the future? Other than canceling the policy, do I have any other options?



A: Unfortunately, what you are experiencing seems to be the norm. Long-term care companies over the last number of years have been increasing their premiums dramatically on a regular basis.

There are a number of reasons for this including some bad assumptions made by the insurance companies and the low interest rate environment that we are in.

I wish I could give you some assurance that your premium will not go up in the future, but I can't. More than likely, you will have future increases.

In reviewing your situation, the first question is whether you need the policy. Always remember that insurance is need-based. If you have the resources to protect yourself, then you might as well cancel the policy. Just because you paid premiums in the past is not a justification to keep

a policy. If you do need long-term coverage, then look for ways to reduce your premium. For example, you could consider raising the waiting period on your policy. The waiting period is the deductible and it is the period of time before coverage begins.

Another option may be to reduce the time period of coverage. Your policy may have lifetime benefits; by reducing those to three to five years, you may be able to save a substantial amount of money.

In addition, consider eliminating or reducing the inflation protection on the policy. I'm not happy about the increases on these long-term care policies. In addition, I'm not happy that many agents who sell these types of policies have not been honest with people with regard to premium increases. That being said, the premium increase may give many people the opportunity to review their policies and make a decision to retain, restructure or cancel a policy.

Good luck.

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

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Mitt Romney's niece taking on bigger role with Republican Party

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Ronna Romney-McDaniel has never shied away from her political beliefs.

Whether it was handing out fliers for school board candidates when she was a just a child, or more recently campaigning for her famous uncle, Mitt Romney, during his failed bid to become president of the United States, the Northville Township resident has always spoken her mind when it comes to politics.

Well, after being elected last month as the committee woman representing Michigan with the Republican National Committee, Romney-McDaniel, 40, will have a lot more people listening.

After defeating two other candidates for the national unpaid position, Romney McDaniel replaces Terri Lynn Land, who had to step down because she is running for U.S. Senate against Democrat Gary Peters. Michigan's three representatives on the RNC include Romney-McDaniel, Dave Agema, who has sparked controversy with his anti-gay views, and Michigan Republican Party Chair Bobby Schostak. She will complete Land's term, which expires in the summer of 2016.

McDaniel is a party activist from Northville and the daughter of Ronna Romney, a former U.S. Senate candidate, and Scott Romney, an attorney who is Mitt Romney's brother.

Romney-McDaniel grew up in the Bloomfield area, before going off to college and then getting married. She moved back to Michigan in 2007 and chose Northville Township. Today she is a proud stay-at-home mom, with two young children attending Northville's Ridge Wood Elementary.

"It's a great community. When we saw the soccer fields and the kids playing, we thought this is the place for us. This is where we want to raise our family. And it has that great neighbor feel. We just love it," she said of Northville.

Although she's always been politically active, Romney-McDaniel took on a bigger role trying to get her Uncle Mitt elected in 2012. She traveled around speaking with women and trying to convince them to vote



Northville Record Editor Kurt Kuban interviews Ronna Romney-McDaniel about her work with the Republican National Committee. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Republican. The experience really energized her, and she believes in her new role she can make a difference in the 2014 and 2016 elections.

Her immediate goals are to help energize the Republican base at the grassroots level, and get Gov. Rick Snyder and the rest of the Republican slate re-elected in Michigan.

We caught up with her recently and asked how she plans to achieve these goals.

Northville Record: With your uncle being who he is and your family very political, was politics something you were always interested in?

Romney-McDaniel: "We were always involved. In early childhood, I worked on handing out fliers for the local school board race. My aunt ran for precinct delegate at one point. I handed out fliers at the library. It's just something that's been part of our family, being civic minded. We talked about volunteerism and public service at the dinner table. So I don't think it's surprising that I still have that interest after growing up in such a family."

Northville Record: Was working on your uncle's campaign your first big foray into national politics?

"I think the biggest challenge is always communicating with the voters."

RONNA ROMNEY-MCDANIEL
committee woman representing Michigan with the Republican National Committee

Romney-McDaniel: Working for the Women For Mitt Coalition and traveling around the state, speaking to women during that race prepared me for this position and kind of gave me a taste of what it is like to talk to women about issues facing them. And talk to them about our party's perspectives about ways we can help women. And that kind of led to this national committeewoman's role.

Northville Record: Was this position with the RNC something you were interested in, or did someone approach you about running?

Romney-McDaniel: No, I was not approached. It was something I was interested in. I knew about the position. I knew Terri Lynn Land very well, and she was running for Senate. So I thought she might have to resign, and it would be something I would be interested in. After she did, we had a little family round table session, and I decided to throw my hat in the ring.

Northville Record: What were some of the lessons you learned out campaigning in the 2012 election?

Romney-McDaniel: I think the main thing is everyone has a story. We are all part of a community together. And I think if you talk and listen, we

have a lot in common. I think we have ideas that are on the right track that will make our state better. I think we all want the same things.

Northville Record: Discuss the RNC and its role?

Romney-McDaniel: The Republican National Committee is kind of the governing body of the Republican Party. They meet three times a year. Our next meeting will be in Memphis in May. There is a national committee man and national committee woman from each state that are members of the RNC - and also the state Republican chair. So we have three members representing Michigan. The meeting in May will be my first meeting.

We'll talk about about resolutions and rules. One of the most recent changes they made is to the primary calendar for the Republican Party. It's going to be significantly different from 2012 in 2016. There will be less debates. The primary order is set in stone. Any state jumping ahead will have a much greater penalty in terms of their delegates, which Michigan has been one of those states in the past. With the new rules, states won't jump ahead. It's going to spread the primary calendar out.

Northville Record: Looking at the 2014 election, what are your goals in this new role?

Romney-McDaniel: My goals are to re-elect Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette, and to keep our Republican majorities in the state House and state Senate - and to grow those actually. And our Congressional delegation, the Supreme Court, Ruth Johnson for

secretary of state. We've got a big ticket that we're fielding in 2014. It's a team that is working for Michigan. When I moved here in 2007 it was not going so well at that time. We've seen things done by Gov. Snyder and our Republican majorities that have seen our state grow. I want to help get that ticket re-elected.

Northville Record: What do you think are the biggest challenges to do that successfully?

Romney-McDaniel: I think the biggest challenge is always communicating with the voters. You want to talk with them and make sure they're hearing the right things that are happening.

This is a grassroots, volunteer position. I'll knock on doors. I'll make the calls. That's what I did in 2012. I think a lot of it is working with the country chairs and the local chairs, and just getting our grassroots excited and encouraging them to get out and do the work that it takes to win an election.

Northville Record: You've talked about your role as a female and connecting with female voters. Your colleague Dave Agema has been in the news quite a bit for his colorful views. In your role do you have to combat that a little bit, or are you in line with his views?

Romney-McDaniel: I think my role is to represent the Republican Party, which is a party that is respectful and dignified of all people of all circumstances. If you look at our platform, that's what it says. If you look at the preamble of our rules - that's the language that is used. I don't identify with any language that is derogatory

or inflammatory towards any group or person. And the Republicans I know don't agree with that either.

Northville Record: What are the things Snyder has done successfully that you want focus on?

Romney-McDaniel: There's so many things. The population is growing. People are coming back to Michigan. We're starting to see incomes rise again. Our home prices are rising. Doing business in Michigan is a much better opportunity than it was under Granholm. Snyder has made doing business in Michigan an exciting prospect again.

What he's accomplished in the last four years is really remarkable. If you look at the agenda he set forth and what he's accomplished. It's an amazing number of things he's tackled in his first term and I think he'll continue to do that in a second term.

Northville Record: You have been rumored to be interested in running for different offices. Do you see yourself running for some political office down the road?

Romney-McDaniel: I just got elected to this literally a month ago. This is my focus. I want to do this job well. I want to be a good mom. I want my kids to do well in school. Those are the focuses I have right now. I want to keep the governor in office and keep Michigan on the track that it is on. It's important to me that we continue to thrive, because I remember what it was like when we were really struggling under the Granholm administration.

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PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBE, PATIENTS SUBSCRIBE

Physicians almost always prescribe medication, at times, patients don't listen, don't believe, or consider that they know better. As a rheumatologist, I see the contradiction between medical practice and patient response coming up most often in therapy for gout.

The treatment for gout is straightforward. First, the doctor should start the patient on colchicine, then begin a small dose of allopurinol followed by larger doses of the drug until the patient achieves a low enough level of serum uric acid to prevent further episodes of gout.

At times, patients feel they must push back against the regimen the physician recommends. The patient heard that colchicine can cause an upset stomach or that allopurinol is bad for the liver. Or, the patient read an ad about a better cure, or had a relative who experienced a rash that only got better when the relative, on her own, stopped allopurinol.

When such a clash between doctor's orders and patient's will occurs, the doctor faces a difficult decision. He can say to the patient that if the patient doesn't want to follow the treatment prescribed, the patient should find another doctor. Or, the doctor may feel that patience is in order. He may stop calling for medication, but keep the office door open for the patient, if and when, gout pain reoccurs.

The doctor may believe that keeping contact with the patient, and standing ready to treat when the patient is in distress, gives the best opportunity to remind the patient that treatment, as directed, is the surest way to stop further attacks.

What the doctor chooses to do is as much a reflection of the doctor's temperament as it is of the patient's eccentricity.

Take a free bus ride to DIA from Livonia April 5

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) is providing free bus transportation to and from the museum on Saturday, April 5, for Wayne County residents. Visitors can browse the collection, take part in an art-making activity, view two free exhibitions, or see the *Samurai: Beyond the Sword* exhibition at the discounted group rate of \$12 per person.

Park and ride free buses from several Wayne County locations, including the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia. (Use the Five Mile parking lot entrance, corner of Five Mile and Berwick.) The bus will depart the recreation center at 10 a.m.; the DIA at 2:30 p.m.

Other bus locations are in Dearborn Heights, Belleville, Detroit and Woodhaven.

The special Wayne County Day is provided thanks to Wayne County residents, who voted to support the DIA through last year's millage. The museum recently held a Macomb County Day, and an Oakland County Day is March 29.

The DIA has two restaurants: Café DIA and Kresge Court. The museum shop has a variety of gifts, many of which cannot be found in other area stores. A special *Samurai: Beyond the Sword* shop is also available, with many objects imported from Japan (no visit to the exhibition is necessary to access the shop).

Reservations for free bus transportation are required. For more information and to reserve a spot, call 313-833-4005 or go to <http://bit.ly/waynecountyday>

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. General admission (excludes ticketed exhibitions) is free for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county residents and DIA members. For all others, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors ages 62-plus, \$4 for ages 6-17.

Programs are made possible with support from residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

TALE OF TWO LANGUAGES

Town Hall speaker focuses on history of English

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

When it comes to the evolution of the English language, Livonia Town Hall speaker Elliott Engel said it's clear today's youth are changing how we pronounce some words and phrases.

The former professor at schools such as Duke University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina said many young people are merging phrases such as "You eat?" into one word with one syllable.

Farmington resident Amy Kleinschmit said today's young people aren't the only ones who have followed that trend. She remembers her husband in college saying similar things.

"In 1950, they talked like that," she said. "I guess it comes back and forth."

Engel, the last speaker in this season's Livonia Town Hall series, spoke before hundreds Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. Appearing for the third time at the series, he touched on the history of the English language, which he said became a hybrid of Anglo-Saxon Germanic and French Latin after William the Conqueror took over the British Isles in 1066.

He said English was created as a merger between the two languages when his troops from what is now France wanted to remain in Great Britain and marry.

"We are basically the same Anglo-Saxon German vocabulary we've had for 1,500 years. But, in 1066, when William conquered, he did not drive out the Anglo-Saxon German and replace it with his French Latin,"



Listening to Elliot Engel speak about the origins of the English language. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

he said. "The marriage of Anglo-Saxon German with French Latin is what we call today 'English.'"

He said this merger of languages is evident with the number of words found in the English language. Other languages have fewer words. Russian or French, for example, have only 150,000 and 180,000 words, respectively.

In contrast, the English language has more than 623,000 words as of 2010, more than four times what French or Russian have in their languages.

"We have more ways to say the same stupid thing than any language on Earth," he said jokingly. "We could be a blithering idiot, but sooner or later the right word's going to fall out because we have so many more words than they do."



Elliott Engel talks about the origins of our language.

the two. French Latin, Engel said, is closely related to other languages, including Italian.

"He was mentioning a number of words that were French or Latin, but sound so Italian," Kamm said. "Of course the Latin is far more beautiful."

Engel's talk wrapped up the season for the speaker series. Next year's speakers will include Don Most and Anson Williams from the television show *Happy Days*; Darren McGrady, a former royal chef for Queen Elizabeth and Princess Diana; Dan Nigro, the former fire chief of New York City who assumed the position after his predecessor went missing during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks; and James Delgado, a maritime archaeologist. The series begins again on Oct. 15.

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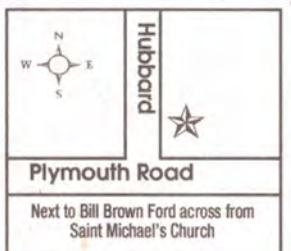
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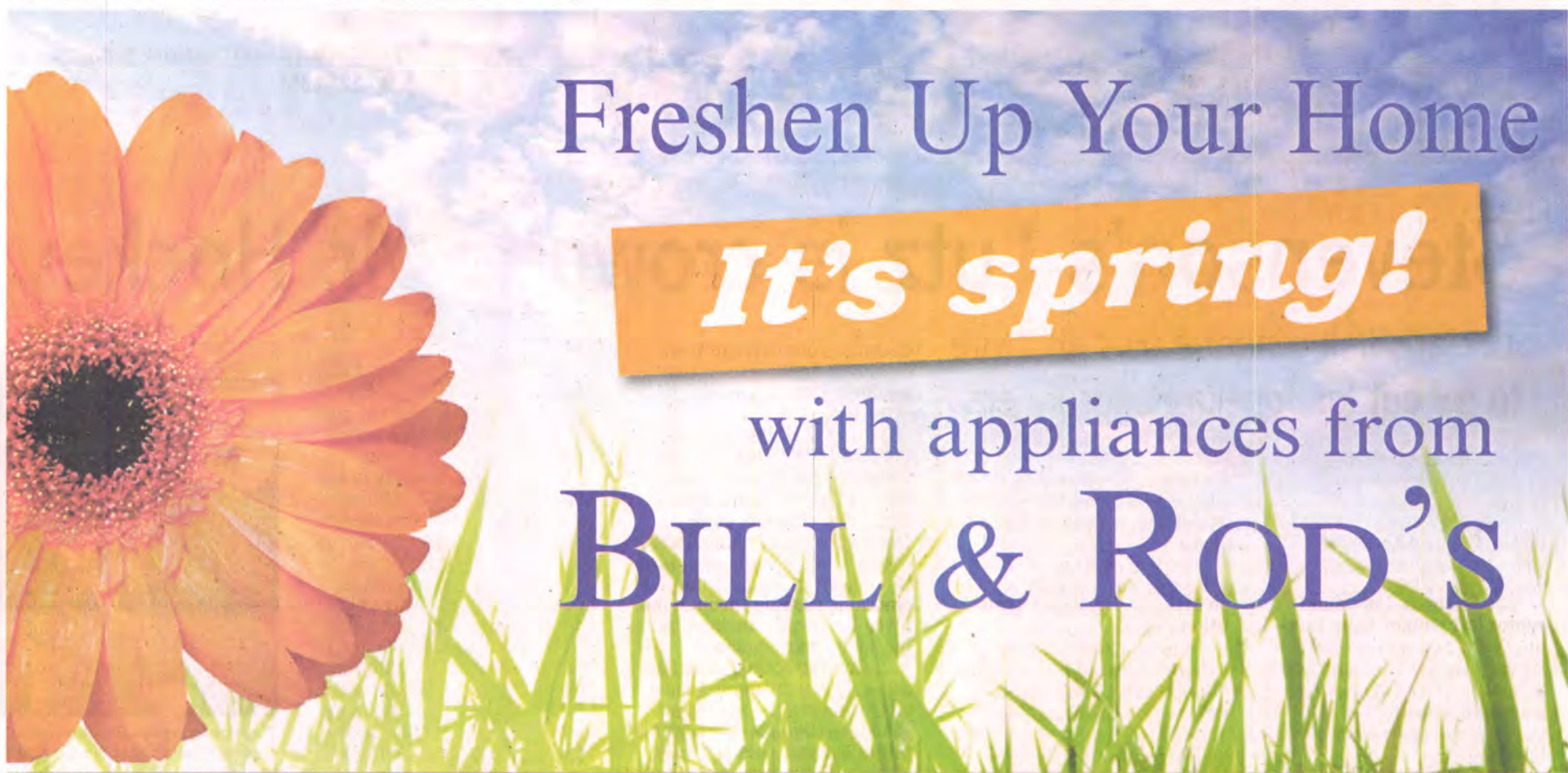
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Stevenson's Lutz is crowned Mr. Hockey

Spartans' left winger earns an invite to try out for Topeka Roadrunners

By Brad Emons
State Writer

Dominic Lutz just closed one chapter on his hockey career – and it turned out to be a pretty good one.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior left winger from Livonia Stevenson was named Mr. Hockey by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association in a banquet held earlier this week at Redford's Burton Manor.

Lutz, who scored 43 goals and added 38 assists in 27

games this year, was part of Stevenson's famed Production Line that also included fellow seniors Tyler Irvine and Devin Kelly.

The trio helped Stevenson to a 21-6 record this season and an MHSAA Division 2 state title in 2013.

Lutz was joined on the Dream Team list by five other Michigan Mr. Hockey candidates including forwards Danny Bosio (Brighton) and Christopher Brown (Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook), defenseman Carter Cerretani (Novi Detroit

Catholic Central) and Brett Pietila (Brighton) and goaltender Kyler Patenaude (Rochester United).

"I was really surprised," Lutz said. "Walking into the banquet I didn't even know I was on Dream Team, which Mr. Hockey comes down to. Once I heard my name I was pretty much caught off guard. Obviously all kinds of happy emotions rushing through me. I was just really excited, but at the same time shocked."

Lutz, who scored over 100 career goals during his four-year run with the Spartans, shared in the moment with his father Ed and mother Linda, along with his younger sister, Julia, a sophomore at Steven-

son. "They were both proud and excited for me," said of his parents. "They supported me my whole life. It was a proud moment for both of them."

Lutz grew up playing in the Livonia Hockey Association Knights youth program before going to play as a freshman at Stevenson.

Ed Lutz got interested in hockey once his son was old enough to lace up his skates.

"He started playing once I started as a kid," Dominic said. "He didn't play at all growing up, but now he's playing in the over 30 leagues. I was the one who originally wanted to play



Stevenson senior Dominic Lutz was recipient of Mr. Hockey by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association.

See MR. HOCKEY, Page B4



Boston College freshman Andie Anastos of Farmington Hills (left) was the team's second leading point scorer. BOSTON COLLEGE SPORTS

Anastos soars with BC's Eagles

Livonia Ladywood grad makes Hockey East's All-Rookie team

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Andie Anastos got to experience a new kind of March Madness this time around.

The former dual-sport standout at Livonia Ladywood High has permanently traded in her sneakers for skates as she thrived during her first season for the Boston College women's hockey team, which fell one victory short of reaching the NCAA Division I's coveted Frozen Four after a 3-1 quarterfinal setback March 15 to Clarkston (N.Y.).

At this time last year, the Farmington Hills native was juggling two sports, leading Ladywood to a Class B state girls basketball quarterfinal berth while playing for Honeybaked's under-19 AAA state championship team.

Anastos, named to the Women's Hockey East (WHEA) All-Rookie team, finished second on the Eagles in points (35) with 14 goals and 21 assists.

"I do miss playing it, I played it my entire life," said Anastos, who was a three-time first-team All-Observer selection and All-Stater as a



Anastos

See ANASTOS, Page B3

Madonna's Naubert garners All-America salute

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

For the third straight season, Madonna University guard Bobby Naubert has earned NAIA Division II All-America recognition.

With his honorable mention selection, the Livonia Stevenson High grad becomes the first MU male student-athlete

to earn three straight selections to the All-America team.

He is also the first Crusaders male student-athlete to earn two Academic All-America honors from Capital One and the College Sports Information Directors of America.

A three-time all-Wolverine-



Naubert

Hoosier Athletic Conference first team selection, Naubert became the first NAIA player in more than 10 years to post 1,800 or more career points, 700 or more career assists and 500 or more rebounds in a career, passing all three marks this season.

He closed his career in sec-

ond place in the MU career scoring record book with 1,914 points, second only to MU Hall of Famer Noel Emehiser's 2,198.

The 5-foot-10 guard is MU's career assist leader with 722 and ranks first (607) in made free throws, 283 more than Mike Massey (1998-2002) in second place. He also ranks eighth with 532 career re-

bounds.

As a sophomore, Naubert earned honorable mention honors, while taking second team honors his junior year.

Davenport University sophomore guard Dominez Burnett and WHAC Player of the Year Wes Hudson, a senior guard from Cornerstone, earned first team NAIA Division II All-America honors.

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Three state champs headline Observerland's best wrestlers

FIRST TEAM

John Siemasz, Fr., Westland Glenn (103): Glenn's first-ever state placer as a freshman finished 56-4 en route to a third-place finish in the Division 1 individual finals.

"His season and postseason run is one of the best I have ever seen," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "He was one of the guys we could always count on to get a pin in dual meets and compete for an individual championship almost every time he stepped in the circle. John is very self motivated and trains all year-round for wrestling."

Siemasz was Wayne County, Salem, Observerland and district champion, while taking third in the regional.

"John has goals in this sport and I'm confident he can achieve all of them before his career is complete," Polk said. "He has a great support system at home and with his training and that's what it takes to be as good as he is. We look forward to working with him and watching him shooting to become our next state champion."

Michael Volyanyuk, Jr., Harrison (112): Volyanyuk was all-state for the second straight season, placing sixth in the Division 1 tournament at 112 and finishing with a 40-9 record. He was the state runner-up last year at 103.

Volyanyuk, who is on the all-area team for a second time, is the Observerland champion and also won the district and regional tournaments. He placed third at the Lakeland Invite and was fourth in Oakland County.

"If he stays healthy, he'll be right there for another opportunity next year, because he's just a hard worker and a very intelligent kid," coach Jim Stuef said. "He believes he can do anything he chooses as long as he puts in enough effort. He works super hard and loves the sport. He's not going to get outworked or outsmarted; that's for sure."

"He's very confident but not cocky. He's very well-liked by his teammates, teachers and coaches. Even the referees come up to you and say what a great kid he is."

Brandon Harris, Jr., Plymouth (112): The best might be yet to come for the junior, who was a standout in 2013-14 with a record of 52-10 — making it all the way to the Palace of Auburn Hills, where he finished eighth at individual finals.

Harris had plenty of other season highlights. He was victorious at the Wayne County, district and regional championships and finished second at the Observerland tourney.

Now with a career record of 108-31, his favorite match of the year was earning a technical fall over Riverview's Tyler Sparks in the Wayne County finals. Harris also cited winning team regionals over Bedford as the best moment of 2013-14.

"Brandon worked very hard this year to become a more complete wrestler, good in all kinds of positions and situations," coach Quinn Guernsey said. "He had a great season and the team will look forward to another all-state campaign from him next year."

Mohamad Youssef, Sr., Plymouth (119): The likeable senior went 56-10 to set school records for career wins and matches. He finished his four-year career with a record of 162-50.

Youssef also is Plymouth's first multiple all-stater, placing sixth on the Palace podium at 119.

Other highlights this season included winning the Wayne County, Observerland, district and regional championships. At the



Siemasz



Volyanyuk



Harris



Youssef

2013-14 ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING TEAM

- 103 pounds:** 1. John Siemasz, Fr., Westland John Glenn; 2. Collin Reed, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Josh Mussin, Fr., Livonia Churchill.
- 112:** 1. (tie) Michael Volyanyuk, Jr., Farmington Harrison; Brandon Harris, Jr., Plymouth; 2. Jeremy Nelson, Soph., Livonia Franklin; 3. (tie) Cyle Sneed, Sr., John Glenn; Cameron Shaughnessy, Soph., Salem.
- 119:** 1. Mohamad Youssef, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Nick Roberston, Jr., Franklin; 3. (tie) Josh Perez, Sr., Churchill; Chase Spanos, Jr., John Glenn; Tim Way, Sr., Wayne Memorial.
- 125:** 1. (tie) Kevin Hunyh, Sr., John Glenn; Nathan Atienza, Fr., Franklin; 2. Spencer Schiftra, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Tyler Mulligan, Sr., Wayne.
- 130:** 1. Ben Griffin, Sr., Canton; 2. Jesse Jones, Jr., Farmington; 3. Dan Allor, Jr., Harrison.
- 135:** 1. Caleb Richter, Jr., Lutheran Westland; 2. Gabe Colston, Jr., Harrison; 3. (tie) Dan Ahearn, Sr., Plymouth; Bruce Haslett, Fr., Salem.
- 140:** 1. Jon Conn, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Ty Jansan, Jr., Canton; 3. (tie) Sandro Lytwyn, Soph., Livonia Stevenson; Tunde Alawode, Sr., John Glenn.
- 145:** 1. (tie) Alec Pantaleo, Sr., Canton; Zach Francis, Sr., Lutheran Westland; Sofus Nielsen, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Caleb McCabe, Jr., Salem; 3. (tie) Jake Tennis, Jr., Stevenson; Wes Warren, Soph., Lutheran Westland.
- 152:** 1. Nick Frazier, Sr., Franklin; 2. Kenneth Steele, Sr., Franklin; 3. Aaron Heinonen, Jr., Wayne.
- 160:** 1. (tie) Jordan Atienza, Sr., Franklin; Joey Shaver, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Connor Vaughan, Jr., Stevenson; 3. Connor Thornbury, Sr., Salem.
- 171:** 1. Hussein Youssef, Jr., Plymouth; 2. Jonah Lambart, Sr., Lutheran Westland; 3. Roy Foster, Soph., Salem.
- 189:** 1. Mitchell Gross, Jr., Salem; 2. Baker Hadwan, Jr., Churchill; 3. James Pomerico, Sr., Wayne.
- 215:** 1. Jordan Brandon, Sr., John Glenn; 2. K.J. Wooley, Sr., Canton; 3. Trent Bekker, Sr., Farmington.
- 285:** 1. Aaron Mauldin, Sr., Wayne; 2. Michael Jordan, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Nate Irvine, Jr., John Glenn.

CO-COACH OF THE YEAR

Quinn Guernsey, Plymouth
Dave Chiola, Franklin

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Ethan Englehart, Nathan Dietrich, Chase Gardner, Zac Leck; **Franklin:** Mugsy Ross, Collin Smith, Austin Steele, Mitchell Retting, Dan Huber, Josh Rettig, Joe Fortin; **Stevenson:** Brad Scott, Tarik Alcodray, Trevor Demers, Majidi Hatem; **John Glenn:** Payton Beneteau, Steve Spencer, Ed Maya, Ricky Laurence, Brad Speen, Derrick Lester, Jawuan Peete, Logan Beaudoin; **Wayne:** Brandon Eeks, Jack Delack, Dom Sanders, Jordan Mills, Tim Nicholson, Jamon Higgins, Zak Nichols, Shagen Hall, Sam Moody; **Lutheran Westland:** Doug Lavolette, Thomas Krueger, Andy Faith, Connor Even, Jacob Bovol, Kole Niemi, Newman Harper; **Canton:** Nick Durocher, Harrison Samoy; **Livonia Clarenceville:** David Curvin, Cameron Fyffe, Domanick Slagle; **Plymouth:** Dylan Dwyer, Sam Campbell, Tarek Tamimi; **Salem:** Hamad Abed, Peter Bushaw; **Farmington:** Chase Walkowiak, Dan Manier, Jackson Tomski, Matt Justice, Matt Dettler, Joe Ghafari; **Harrison:** Jared Char, Austin Crutchfield; **North Farmington:** Mo Mokbel, Jon Huang, Warren Stanfield, Nate Penny; **Garden City:** Ryan Conroy, Ali Arab; **Redford Thurston:** Melvin Ivey, Laymon Gidding-Whately, Eddie Gollman; **Redford Union:** Adam Chernavage, Kenny Vadrinas.

KLAA meet, he finished third. His favorite match was pinning Kurtis Ortman of Bedford at team regionals and he most enjoyed making it to the team finals with his teammates and getting the opportunity to bond with them one last time.

"Mo will go down as one of the best wrestlers in the history of the school," Guernsey said. "He is our first multi-time state placer and holds a couple of school records that will be hard to beat."

"He has been a self-driven, hard-working young man who has set the bar for future generations of Wildcats."

Kevin Hunyh, Sr., Westland Glenn (125): The senior captain finished 52-6 while earning a fourth-place finish in Division 1.

Hunyh also captured Wayne County, Salem, district and regional crowns, while also finishing taking second at Observerland.

"Kevin was our quiet wrecking force this year," Polk said. "He led by example on the mat and in the classroom. He was a product of developing skills over a four-year period at Glenn. Every year he took leaps and bounds."

"I would take a million more just like him on my team. We knew what to expect every time he stepped on the mat and it was nothing less than everything he had. You can't expect anything more as a coach. We are very proud of him and happy we have his picture on our All-State wall to remember his accomplishments."

Nathan Atienza, Fr., Liv. Franklin (125): The ninth-grader carved his own niche in the Atienza family by placing eighth in Division 1 while going 55-10, which included first places as Observerland and the Livonia City meet.

Atienza broke the school record for freshman wins and became the first freshman in school history to earn all-state honors.

"Nate has been around the program for several years because his brother was on the team, so he fit very smoothly into the lineup," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "He showed a lot of maturity as a freshman, and won some big matches. Nate's personality off the mat is so easy-going and likable that I think he's going to grow into a great team leader. We've watched him grow up, but I think he surpassed our expectations this year. He is going to be fun to have around for the next few years."

Ben Griffin, Sr., Canton

(130): The Chiefs senior co-captain capped a brilliant high school career by winning the Division 1 state championship at 130, giving him a season's mark of 50-3 and career record of 213-19.

He rallied late in the third period to nip Howell's Ben Calandrino, 2-1, another example of his penchant for never giving up.

Griffin is just the third Canton grappler in history to be a four-time all-state wrestler. In addition to being this year's state champion, he was runnerup all-state in 2012 and placed in 2013 (sixth) and 2011 (seventh).

"Ben will be remembered as one of the greatest technical wrestlers and toughest wrestlers to ever wear the Canton singlet," coach Cory Mancuso said. "Ben has definitely cemented his place in the record books at Canton, becoming the second winningest wrestler in Canton history."

Griffin will attend and wrestle at Eastern Michigan University beginning in the fall.

Caleb Richter, Jr., Luth. Westland (135): The junior finished the year 46-6 on the year while qualifying for the Division 4 individual finals.

Richter was undefeated in duals and was also first at the Blissfield, Redford Union, Lutheran Westland, Adrian Madison tourneys, along with being a district and regional champion. He was an Observerland runner-up.

"Caleb represents our program well he is a good student, hard worker, respectful and funny young man," Lutheran Westland coach Joe Schmidt said. "He fell one match short of his goal of being all-state as he lost in the blood round at the Palace. The good thing is he has one more chance at it next year. I'm looking forward to see the senior year he will put together."

Jon Conn, Sr., Plymouth (140): One of five Plymouth all-staters, the fourth-year varsity wrestler finished eighth at 140 while going 48-14 for the year (and 149-60 for his career).

An MHSAA academic all-state recipient, Conn also was Wayne County champion this year while finishing second at Observerland and districts. He came in third at regionals.

Conn's pin over Forest Hills Central's James Leark catapulted him into the placing rounds at the D1 individual

finals, and was his favorite match of the season.

"It has been an honor to coach Jon for the last four years," Guernsey said. "He is a talented wrestler and an excellent young man."

"Always a good leader in the room, Jon would get as excited about his teammates success as he would his own."

Alec Pantaleo, Sr., Canton (145): Although Pantaleo was defeated in the Division 1 title bout at 145, he still enjoyed an incredible season (52-1) and four-year career (183-9) with the Chiefs.

Pantaleo, a senior co-captain, did win the state championship at 135 in 2012 and is one of the greatest Canton wrestlers in team history.

"His speed and explosiveness made him one of the most enjoyable wrestlers to watch," Mancuso said. "He is also one of the hardest working student-athletes I have had the privilege to coach."

He will go to the University of Michigan in the fall and wrestle for the Wolverines. A future goal is to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Joe Pantaleo, and become an NCAA All-American at U-M.

Zach Francis, Sr., Luth. Westland (145): Francis wound up second as a senior going 20-4 this season and 156-16 during his career.

He was also a district champion and earned a first at the Blissfield tournament.

As a junior, Francis finished 51-3 and was fourth at 125 pounds.

"Zachary is leaving as the best wrestler in Lutheran Westland history in my opinion," Schmidt said.

"He was injured most of the year, but was able to come back for the state tournament where he earned state runner-up at the Palace. His hard work and dedication to the sport is something I challenge his teammates to match."

Sofus Nielsen, Sr., Plymouth (145): Another Plymouth all-stater, Nielsen finished seventh in D1 at 145 and sported a season record of 40-15 (he was 46-22 in two years at Plymouth).

Highlights included finishing second at the Wayne County and district meets, taking third at the KLAA championships and fourth at regionals.

At the placing match at individual states, he defeated Jacob Balough of Southgate.

"Sofus came to us from Arizona as a junior and we were glad to get him," Guernsey said. "In his two years he accomplished a lot and was well liked by his teammates."

"A very tough wrestler, he frustrated some of the best kids in the state and had a great end to the season beating some of them to earn all-state honors."

Nick Frazier, Sr., Liv. Franklin (152): The senior posted a 44-10 record while qualifying for the Division 1 state finals.

Frazier is a two-time Livonia City champ and three-time regional qualifier.

"Nick wrestled his freshman year at Howell, but he adapted to our team very quickly," Chiola said. "He wrestled wherever he was needed and was one of the hardest working guys in the room. He was a great example to the younger wrestlers and always did whatever was best for the team. His toughness rubbed off on everyone. I think the tenacity he showed throughout his three years here will serve him well in the next chapter of his life."

Jordan Atienza, Sr., Liv. Franklin (160): The senior went 64-1 to become the school's first state champion in school history after going 58-1 as a junior and earning Division 1 runner-up honors at 152

pounds.

Atienza was Livonia City, Wayne County, Observerland, KLAA, district and regional champion.

"Jordan came to us with a lot of hype, and he managed to live up to it," Chiola said of the four-time scholar-athlete. "He improved greatly each year,

which is saying a lot because he was an outstanding freshman."

Sporting a career record of 223-19, Atienza also holds the career and single season record for

pins and wins. He is a four-time City, three-time Wayne County and two-time Observer and KLAA champ.

"He became an incredible team leader and made everyone on the team better, not just the kids around his weight," Chiola said. "His drive and work ethic were great examples to the younger wrestlers. Every disappointment he had in his career he turned into motivation. I expect Jordan to do great things with his life outside of wrestling. He is going to be missed tremendously, and remembered always."

Joey Shaver, Sr., Plymouth (160): The hard-working Shaver's final season culminated with a spot on the D1 podium at the Palace, finishing sixth at 160.

He enjoyed a big senior year, going 47-16 to finish his prep career with a mark of 107-53.

Along the way, he was district champion, runner-up at the Wayne County, Observerland and regional meets and third at the KLAA championships.

Shaver's favorite match of the season was his last-second quarterfinal win over Grosse Pointe North's Andrew Lock at individual states.

"After Joey's sophomore year he came up to me and said he wanted to be good," Guernsey said. "He worked very hard over that summer and through his junior and senior years to end his career as an all-stater."

"It is a great thing about this sport that you can work your way to being good and Joey epitomizes that very well."

Hussein Youssef, Jr., Plymouth (171): It was quite a junior season for Youssef, who went 47-13 to up his career tally to 101-50 while qualifying for the state meet.

Youssef pinned Tyler Hammack of Monroe in the district finals, was able to go with the Wildcats to team states and participate in the Grand March, and won at Observerland and districts.

He also was runner-up at the Wayne County and KLAA meets and at regionals.

"Hussein is a very talented big guy," Guernsey said. "His combination of strength and explosiveness is rare at his weight class and he is going to have an excellent senior season."

Mitchell Gross, Jr., Salem (189): The junior continued his outstanding Salem career by making it to the D1 individual finals and finishing eighth in his weight class, good for an all-state place.

Gross compiled a record of 40-8, sparking the Rocks to the team's first division championship since 2005. He was the Observerland champion at 189.

Salem coach Pete Israel lauded tough-as-nails Gross for overcoming a cold at the individual regionals to finish third and qualify for a trip to the Palace. That was a step up from his sophomore season, when he just missed qualifying for the finals.

"Mitchell is the kind of wrestler that when he is on he is on," Israel said. "He is a true



Atienza



Pantaleo



Francis



Griffin



Nielsen



Richter



Frazier



Conn



Youssef



Gross

Mayes' three-run home run keys Crusader victory

Back in action after a 14-day layoff, the Madonna University women's softball team ventured Friday to Oskaloosa, Iowa to play six games in the William Penn University Classic.

After dropping their opener to the host Statesmen (see below), MU bounced back to beat St. Ambrose (Ia.), 8-5, as Erin Mayes belted a 3-run homer to

spark a four-run Crusaders uprising in the bottom of the third inning.

Winning pitcher Erin Combs (5-2) gave up five earned runs on 12 hits, including homers off the bats of Stephanie Heblson (3-for-4), Kaci Krumreich and Kaitlyn Reiser.

Reliever Bree Crampton came on the seventh to get the

final out and her second save of the year for MU, which improved to 12-5 overall.

Morgan Kaiser, Emma Cook and Mykian Kish each collected two hits for MU, while Kristen Drabeck added two RBI.

Sam Flerlage (4-2), who gave up seven earned runs on 12 hits and six walks, took the loss for the Fighting Bees, who slipped

to 9-6 overall.

On Saturday, the Crusaders were scheduled to play Ashford (Ia.) and University of St. Francis (Ind.) before closing out the William Penn Classic on Sunday Bellevue (Ia.) against Cardinal Stritch (Wis.).

WILLIAM PENN (IA.) 7, MADONNA 3: Brittany Grove went 2-for-4 with three RBI, including a two-run homer in the top of the seventh Friday to

spark the host Statesmen (10-6) to a victory over Madonna University (11-5) in the opening round of the William Penn Classic at the Lacey Complex.

William Penn snapped a 3-all tie with five runs in the seventh to pin the loss on MU starter Bree Crampton (6-3), who gave up six earned runs on 11 hits.

Winning pitcher Jennifer Whitehead (8-0) scattered nine hits, walked five and struck out eight en route to the complete game.

Sydney Edwards also added two hits and three RBI. MU, which scored all three of its runs in the bottom of the fifth, was led by Mykian Kish, who went 3-for-4 with an RBI. Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill) and Morgan Kaiser each added two hits.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Livonia pom tryouts

The Livonia Middle School Pom team will stage open tryouts for girls in grades 4-7 who attend Livonia Public Schools from 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday 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 livonia-pom@gmail.com.

Bucks host games

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

One \$8 pass will get ticket holders into any of all four games, which feature 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

Harriers inducted



The Livonia Churchill girls cross country team coached by Sue Tatro (top row, far right), state runner-up in 2006 MHSAA Division 1 finals, was inducted Thursday into the Churchill Athletic Patrons Hall of Fame in a banquet held at the Italian American Hall in Livonia. The team featured four All-State runners and total of 23 team members recognized for either all-area, all-division, all-conference or Western Lakes scholar-athlete honors. LOU MACERATINI

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 coed 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

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 held from 9 a.m. to 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@livonia-publicschools.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.

ANASTOS

Continued from Page B1

senior, while averaging 19 points a game as a point-guard for the Blazers in basketball. "I'm obviously going to miss it not playing for a few years."

Boston College seventh-year coach Katie King Crowley certainly had heard of Anastos' prowess on the hardwood, but is glad she'll be a permanent fixture on the ice for BC the next three years.

"I was surprised how much poise and composure she had as a freshman," King Crowley said. "It's definitely a step up since high school, and to have that as a freshman is obviously at great asset."

"We knew she was a very good player and would really help our team, but to see that type of composure in a freshman was great."

Boston College finished 27-7-3 overall, while winning the regular season WHEA championship. The season ended with a 3-2 loss to rival

Boston University in the Hockey East finals followed by the NCAA tourney defeat to Clarkson.

And just days after the NCAA setback, Anastos says the loss still lingers.

"It's kind of hard to think about when you walk in the rink and you see nobody on the ice and you say, 'Shoot,' this should be our practice time," said the 5-foot-8 center. "We could be playing this weekend. It's kind of hard to think about that. But credit to Clarkson. They're a really good team and we just came up short."

"They (Clarkson) moved the puck well and had very good speed. They were a good team, but I don't think we had enough quality chances on their goalie."

This was the first year Anastos devoted all her efforts into hockey and it showed.

"It's different," she said. "There's a lot obviously in college. There's more practicing and workouts than in high school hockey, but there was a

lot of time devoted to basketball in high school. It's different focusing on one sport and not having to worry about all the running, just the skating."

Anastos, however, was able to adjust to the speed of the game and adapt to the other facets that go into collegiate women's hockey.

"The puck movement is a lot different than how it was in high school," the freshman said. "The puck moves much fast and people have harder shots. It just makes it a faster-paced game."

King Crowley was more than pleased with how quickly Anastos fit into her role.

"She's a smart hockey player and we knew that when we recruited her," the BC coach said. "She comes from playing two sports in the winter season to only focusing on the one and I thought she did a great job. I think she was able to grow and improve during the season and I'm excited to see her grow even in the next three years. I think she has a lot of potential and I thought she did a great job this year."

And I continue to see her do a great job for us."

Anastos' personality also meshed with the team as well, according to her coach.

"She's awesome," King Crowley said. "She gets along with everybody. She talks to everybody. She's always smiling. She's always happy. She's just a real good kid, someone that you love to have on your team because she's making everybody laugh. She's a little bit of a jokerster even though she comes across as ... 'Oh, no, it wasn't me.' She's a great kid all-around. She really is."

BC should be knocking on the door next season once again. The Eagles will lose starting goalie Corrinne Boyles, along with two defensemen and two forwards, to graduation. U.S. Olympian Alex Carpenter will also return to the team next season.

Andie, the daughter of Lisa and Tom Anastos (the Michigan State men's hockey coach), is one of five children. Her sisters Lauren, Jenna and Alyssa all played basketball at Ladywood.

"He (Tom Anastos) came to see me play my first weekend, and he flew out for our Hockey East championship game, which we lost," said Andie, who is currently enrolled in BC's College of Arts and Sciences. "My dad still gives me some advice. I remember him telling me to stop in front of the net and not skate by it."

And does Andie give out Tom any advice for his MSU hockey team?

"Not really, I just say, 'Good luck,'" she said.

Anastos is in the midst of a two-week break from hockey before resuming off season workouts.

And believe it or not, the former standout Ladywood point-guard still occasionally picks up a basketball.

"I'll good shoot around in the gym upstairs," Anastos said. "I go to the BC men's and women's games. March Madness is starting, so I'll definitely watch those games."

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313-222-6851

ALL-AREA

Continued from Page B2

competitor that really steps up during match time. We moved him around our lineup against the tougher competition and he performed for the team."

Israel said the best is yet to come for Gross in his senior year.

"This season was successful for Mitchell, but I believe he has more that he wants to do," he continued. "I think having the feel for what it's like at the state meet will help him go higher up the podium. Of course there is a lot of hard work and sweat that will come with that and I believe this off-season Mitchell will do just that."

Jordan Brandon, Sr., Westland Glenn (215): The senior capped a tremendous career by going 54-2 as a senior and winning the Division 1 title after going 55-5 as a junior and losing a controversial 5-4 overtime decision in the finals.

Brandon, who finished with 150 career wins, also captured titles Wayne County, Salem, Observerland, KLAA, district and regional.

"Jordan worked extremely hard for his state champi-

onship," Polk said. "He was a great leader on that mat and in the wrestling room. He is looking at several colleges right now and we are excited to see what he can do at the next level. Over the last several seasons Jordan was our biggest 'team guy' on the bench for his teammates as well. He is a wrestler that always steps up and welcomes any challenge that is in front of him."

"Over the summer he was a seven-time All-American traveling all over the country. Jordan has made us very proud and represented Glenn wrestling as a great captain and leader."

Aaron Mauldin, Sr., Wayne (285): Mauldin enjoyed a stellar senior year going 49-8 en route to a fifth-place in Division 1 after earning both district and regional titles.

"The odds have always been against Aaron, starting with the fact that he is a 225-pound heavyweight," Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff said. "He was giving up 60 pounds in some of his matches. Yet it was his technique and work ethic that won him just under 50 matches this season and over 100 during his high school career."

Mauldin was also Observerland champion.

"He has one of the most

beautiful drag trips you will ever see and he is the only heavyweight I have ever seen hit a move like that so well," Vasiloff said. "He traveled all over the country to compete year-round and became a well rounded wrestler. We are very proud of him and all he has accomplished. We look forward to his career continuing at the college level."

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Quinn Guernsey, Plymouth: There's no denying that the Plymouth Wildcats enjoyed their greatest season in team history, and Guernsey's steady guidance, strong communication skills and ability to motivate certainly helped the cause.

Plymouth finished 36-4 in dual meets (a school record for wins), while making it all the way to Battle Creek's Kellogg Center for the Division 1 team championships.

Along the way were victories at the Wayne County and Observerland meets, plus the Highlander Duals, Todd Schoenheide Challenge and Gladwin Invitational.

The Wildcats captured the KLAA South District and Kensington Conference championships, and followed up with victories in the district and regional championships.

Guernsey's squad also finished second at the KLAA team meet, Phillip Jaimes Memorial Tournament and Yeti Challenge.

The coach also praised the work ethic and determination of his team. After winning the team regional over Bedford, Guernsey said the Wildcats did not plan on "just showing up" against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central for the team final.

"This team has had a little bit of a chip on their shoulder all season and even with the success they've had they still are hungry for more," he said.

In addition to the team's mat success, it earned academic all-state honors.

As for individuals, Plymouth set school marks for state qualifiers in a season (6) and state placers in a season (5).

Guernsey — also Wayne County and regional coach of the year — was at the helm for all four years of what was the school's winningest class.

Seven seniors graduating from that class included Mo-hamad Youssef, Joey Shaver, Jon Conn, Sofus Nielsen, Daniel Ahearn, Tarek Tamimi and Sam Campbell.

Dave Chiola, Liv. Franklin: The 14th-year coach guided Franklin to its first-ever berth in the MHSAA Division 1 team finals after capturing regional and district titles.

"In the end, this ended up

being a great year, although it didn't always seem like that," said Chiola, whose team finished 16-7. "Coaching is a funny thing. You can do the same thing every year, but get different results. Ultimately it's the kids that make the difference."

Chiola's career record is 231-97.

"After 14 years here, it was nice to take a team to the state tournament and get the school's first state champ," he said. "I have a great staff of ex-Franklin wrestlers, so accomplishing it with them meant that much more. The team really turned it on at the end of the year. I hear stories from other coaches about kids on their team that don't always make sacrifices for the team, or they have too many individuals and not enough team players. This team was exactly the opposite."

"We had kids cut weight, wrestle up one or two weights, take losses ... whatever was best for the team. In the end it was a team effort that made it possible to get our first regional championship. There were a lot of rough spots along the way, but the way it turned out was awesome. I picked the experience everyone hoped up will pay dividend in the future."



Brandon



Mauldin



Guernsey



Chiola

Knights rule MAHA Girls Tier 2 tournament

The Livonia Knights notched their second Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 12-and-under Girls Tier 2 state championship in three years with a 5-1 victory Sunday over the Traverse City Northstars at the Dearborn DISC Arena.

The Knights, who finished 37-11-4 overall, dominated the final as Claire Antilla scored on the team's first shift assisted by Megan Mathews and Michelle Marzolo.

Grace Garby then scored four minutes later from Anna Braschwitz followed by a pair of second-period goals by Marzolo to make it 4-0.

The Northstars, which reached the championship game with a 10-0 semifinal win, got on the board with seven minutes left in the second period.

But Antilla answered with 27 seconds remaining in the second and the Knights clamped down defensively during the final period allowing only five shots to seal the win.

Earlier in the day, the Knights pulled out a 3-2 victory over the Kensington Valley Ravens, who finished 3-0 in their

bracket and had beaten the Knights only a week earlier.

Marzolo scored twice within a two-minute span during the second period and Klaudia Roznowski added on a back-handed rebound shot with 12 seconds remaining in the same period to make it 3-1.

The Ravens scored midway through the third period to cut the deficit to one, but the Knights stood tall and played solid team defense led by their goalie Kennedy Marciw to hold on for the victory.

The Knights started off the weekend with a 9-2 triumph over the DSC Wild Flowers as Antilla and Megan Goleniak each scored a pair of goals.

Marzolo contributed a goal and three assists, while Grace Garby added a goal and two assists. Braschwitz, Mckenna Ceci and Beth White also had goals, while Kamryn Murray and Marnie Waggoner each collected two assists.

Ceci had the prettiest goal of the game with an end-to-end rush from her defensive position to score on a nice wrist shot.

In the second round,



Members of the state champion Livonia Knights include: Claire Antilla (Northville), Grace Balch (Canton), Anna Braschwitz (Livonia), Mckenna Ceci (Canton), Grace Garby (Canton), Megan Goleniak (Canton), Emily Kostielney (Livonia), Kennedy Marciw (Livonia), Michelle Marzolo (Livonia), Megan Mathews (Allen Park), Kamryn Murray (Livonia), Anna Otte (Canton), Victoria Pilut (Livonia), Klaudia Roznowski (Livonia), Nicole Stefanick (Livonia), Marnie Waggoner (Canton) and Beth White (Livonia). HOCKEY WEEKLY

Livonia suffered its only tournament setback with a 2-1 loss to Traverse City with Marzolo notching the only Knights goal with four minutes left in the second period.

The Knights, however, bounced back in their third round-robin game with a 2-1 triumph over the previously undefeated Ann Arbor Cougars to

finish second in their bracket as Marzolo and Nicole Stefanick tallied goals. Rounding out the

Knights squad, coached by Carrie Sirola, includes Grace Balch, Emily Kostielney, Anna Otte and Victoria Pilut.

Assistant coaches include Matt Ceci, Carlo Marzolo and Ed Kostielney. The team manager is Heidi Marzolo.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, March 24
 Wayne at Ypsi Lincoln (2), 4 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25
 Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26
 Churchill at Hartland (2), 3:30 p.m.
 Bus. Academy at Wayne, 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 27
 Garden City at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Chavez at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
Friday, March 28
 Lincoln Park at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Crestwood at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Belleville (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at A.A. Skyline, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Edsel Ford, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 29
 Greenhills at Clarenceville, 11 a.m.
 Stevenson at W.L. Western, 11 a.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Wednesday, March 26
 Wayne at Ypsilanti (2), 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Harper Wds., 4:30 p.m.
Friday, March 28
 Berkeley at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m.

Wayne at A.A. Skyline, 4 p.m.
 Luth. W'sid at N.B. Huron, 4:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Edsel Ford (2), 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 29
 Clarenceville at Crestwood (2), 11 a.m.
 Ladywood at Westosha (Wis.), TBA.
GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, March 24
 Lincoln Park at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. Churchill at Legacy Ctr. (Brighton), 3 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25
 St. Catherine at Wayne, 4:30 p.m.
 Garden City at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at Dearborn, 5:30 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. DeWitt at Madonna University, 6 p.m.
 Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26
 John Glenn at Wat. Mott, 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, March 27
 Thurston at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
 Farmington at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 28
 Luth. W'sid at Wash. Christian, 4:30 p.m.
 John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 29
 Ladywood Invitational, 8 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Saturday, March 29
 Plymouth Quad, TBA.
 Monroe Invitational, TBA.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Wednesday, March 26
 Ladywood at Bloom. Hills, 7 p.m.
 Flint Powers at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL (all double-headers)
Saturday, March 29
 Madonna at Davenport, 1 p.m.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL (all double-headers)
Tuesday, March 25
 Madonna at Albion, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 29
 U-M-Dearborn at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 30
 Madonna at Siena Heights, 1 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media RESULTS

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



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

MR. HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

and he kind of figured he'd try it out before I did. He then started off, and once he figured I liked it, I started playing."

Stevenson coach David Mitchell will certainly miss Lutz's presence on-and-off the ice.

"All that are associated with Stevenson could not be more prouder of or happier for Dominic Lutz for winning Mr. Hockey," Mitchell said. "The four-year career that Dominic has had here has been nothing short of remarkable. Dominic has sure left his mark on Stevenson hockey, Livonia high school hockey and even Michigan high school hockey. Winning this prestigious award puts a fine cap on what has been an extraordinary high school hockey career."

"Again, we could not be prouder of what he has done and what he has accomplished. He will go down as one of the greats in Stevenson hockey history and we

can't wait to watch him be successful at the next level."

Lutz, who would like to play NCAA Division I hockey some day, has been invited to try out in June with the Topeka Roadrunners of the North American Hockey League, a proving ground in the junior ranks.

Leading up to that tryout is some off season training. Joining at the tryout will be his linemate Irvine, a Division 1 first-team All-Stater who had 26 goals and 54 assists this season at Stevenson.

"I'll run, lift weights, get in a couple of weeks skating twice a week," Lutz said. "Come junior camp time I'll really pick up the skating. It will be a lot of ice and weight room work."

Possessing a lazor-like shot with a knack for scoring, Lutz admits there's numerous facets of the game that he needs to improve upon.

"You always try to get faster and quicker because if you go onto the next level you always see the play is just way faster, so I think you're always trying to improve your speed, not

only my foot speed, but my reaction time, and how quickly I react in a game and how it speeds up," he said. "Also, I've heard once you get the puck on your stick at the next level you've got to keep your head up a lot quicker and ready to move the puck because right now in high school you tend to have more time. At the next level all the time is gone, so you have to keep up with the play and be ready for the pace a lot quicker. The speed will really be the key."

And that's not all for the newly crowned Mr. Hockey.

"Always, too, keep improving my shot and my puck-handling and keeping it on my stick," Lutz said. "I always have to work on my physical game, become more physical player. I've been hearing that and I'm going to try and improve upon that throughout the year, and hopefully I'll continue to improve on that as well."

One chapter written, another chapter just beginning.

bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851

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 3rd, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

HEATING / A.C. REPLACEMENT

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: March 23rd, 2014

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Prom goers can look like a million

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Callie Gross and Lisa Benages want prom goers to look like a million bucks without having to spend a fortune on a dress.

"Going to prom is amazing. It's your dream in high school. We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to go," said Gross, who is organizing the 2nd Life Prom Dress Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile in Livonia.

Benages, who teaches family and consumer science at Plymouth High School, will coordinate the fourth annual prom dress sale, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 5, at the high school, 8400 Beck, in Canton.

"I don't want anyone to go without a dress. We've had a lot of thanks and praise for holding this sort of thing. It's heartwarming and it's fun. It's neat when the girls find their dress and they are so happy," Benages said.

She came up with the idea for a sale of gently-used formal wear while watching her daughters clean out their clothes closets. They were eager to donate their former prom gowns. Benages organized the sales event that "has grown every year."

"I can't tell you how busy we are that day. It's fast and furious."

Classrooms and restrooms are used as fitting rooms near Benages' classroom in the "600 wing" of the school. No dress costs more than \$20. There's also a free table and Benages offers free alternations for the teens.

She said some women also shop for costumes and "Mom Prom" dresses. Canton Leisure Services holds its annual Mom Prom 8-11 p.m. April 5 at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Participants wear old prom dresses, bridesmaid and wedding gowns to the event, which features music, dancing, contests, prize drawings and more, with profits benefiting



Hundreds of dresses will be sold for \$20 each March 29 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia.



Some gently-used formal dresses don't end up at the prom. Ashley Benton found this dress at the Livonia sale last year and planned to wear it to the Michigan Emmy Awards.

Canton Goodfellows. Tickets are \$35. Call 734-394-5460.

"We have a good couple hundred dresses this year," Benages noted. "There aren't as many new dresses this year, but they are really nice used dresses and they come in all sizes and styles."

In Livonia

The 2nd Life Prom Dress Sale collected more than 800 dresses last year and sold approximately 500 of them.

"It was a madhouse but it was great," Gross said.

She'll hand out numbers to shoppers starting at 7 a.m. on sale day. Doors will open at 8 a.m. and teens will be called to the sales floor according to their numbered tickets. Prom dresses will be priced at \$20; less formal dresses will cost \$5-\$10 and bridal dresses will be \$75-\$100.

"We have dresses that were priced at up to \$700 with the tags still on them," she said.



Pam Phillips handles alterations at the 2nd Life Prom Dress Sale last year in Livonia.

"This year the dresses mostly came from stores."

Seamstresses will be on site to help with alterations and some accessories, including shoes, jewelry and purses will be available.

For more information, email Benages at Lisa.Benag-

es@pccsml.net. Call St. Paul's at 734-422-1470.

Other events:

Southfield-based 98.7 AMP Radio, along with local sponsors, will present the fourth annual Gown Town 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at Doug-

las J. Salon in downtown Royal Oak. The salon also will serve as a drop-off point for dress donations, noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Teens can choose a gown for free.

"This is the second time we're hosting it," said Douglas J guest services coach Cristina Olivito. "We're going to use all of our spa rooms as changing rooms, so that the girls can try the dresses on. Our students will be here like personal shoppers to help them. The girls who are coming to pick up a dress will receive a voucher from us towards their hair and

See PROM, Page B7



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Canton

SPECIAL EVENT:

Wine & Cheese Social
Friday, March 28th
2:00 p.m.

Waltonwood at Cherry Hill
RSVP today
(734) 335-1554
42600 Cherry Hill
Canton

ATTENTION US VETERANS:

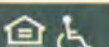
Aid and Attendance Benefit Workshop
Thursday, March 27th
2:00 p.m.

Waltonwood at Royal Oak
RSVP today
(248) 397-5308
3450 West Thirteen Mile Road
Royal Oak

SPECIAL EVENT:

Brain Neurobics
Thursday, April 3
1:30 p.m.

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
RSVP today
(248) 468-4903
27475 Huron Circle
Novi



Fred Rogers lives on through his achievements

March 20th marked the anniversary of the birth of Fred McFeeley Rogers. Many of us are familiar with his life and work. Born in 1928, he was a professional puppeteer, an ordained minister, and a music composer who became the host of the TV program *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. He wrote the trademark tune *It's A Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood*.

Recently, I found myself mindlessly whistling, as I often do, and by turning my attention to the tune I recognized it as the one I had heard many times as a youngster at the beginning of yet another episode of the television program which spanned three decades named *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Ironically, the next day, I received my monthly email from the nonprofit company that Fred founded, Family Communications, Inc. This month's installation pointed out that March 20 would be Fred's birthday. Fred's followers honor the day by wearing zipper sweaters. You see, Mister Rogers began each show by coming in out of the rain, removing his rain coat and placing his umbrella on the stand. He would then ritualistically select one of the zippered sweaters and a pair of house shoes from his closet. Sometimes he would whistle the tune *It's a Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood*.

His show was for and about children and their parents. It ran on PBS from 1968 to 2001. A countless number of topics were covered by Mister Rogers through television, in order to assist children and parents on their journey through their relationship with each other. Some of these themed episodes covered such lessons as "What We Can Do With Our Angry Feelings," "Life Lessons On Cooperation and Kindness," "Understanding Why Friends Fight and How to Help," "Why Friendship and Sharing Can Be Hard," and "Encouraging Kindness."

Rogerisms

A particular book about Fred is one that I found in Canada last year. Interestingly, it was on a rack with other



Len McCulloch

OUR MENTAL HEALTH

health brochures in a pharmacy. Although it only cost \$11.95, it contained a wealth of Fred "Rogerisms." These were quotes of numerous things that Mister Rogers had said. As I thumb through the book of quotes frequently now, I haven't found any words of wisdom with which I disagree. I have challenged others to look through the book of quotes and find one that they would consider senseless or outdated or in any other way, not useable. So far, no one has won the challenge.

One of the quotes of Mister Rogers that I find worth telling goes like this: "The world is not always a kind place. That's something all children learn for themselves, whether we want them to or not, but it's something they really need our help to understand." Fred's "teachings" were and are remarkable. They address the child and the parent who used to be a child. Fred keenly explains, in easy-to-understand language, that parents need to know how their own childhood experiences play a role in their parenting decisions.

I like to excavate tidbits about famous people. In doing a background check on Mister Rogers, I found the following to be interesting: He had approximately two dozen zippered sweaters that were all hand-knitted by his mother. He was the father of two boys whom he and his wife of many, many years raised successfully. He had academic degrees in music and was an ordained minister. He obtained unique, advanced training from Sigmund Freud's daughter, Anna Freud, known for numerous acceptable theories and practices of understanding childhood development and providing treatment for children whose development or life experiences strayed from the course of health. Additionally, Fred was awarded 17 honorary doctorate degrees in childhood development from major uni-



Fred Rogers of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*

versities. In 1984, the Smithsonian Institute put one of Fred's zipper sweaters on exhibit.

He taped his last episode of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* in the year 2000. In 2002 he was diagnosed with stomach cancer and he died in 2003.

Honors

Fred had been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including The Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of TV Arts and Sciences and The Presidential Medal of Freedom. His website says he was considered to be an enduring presence in American homes for more than 30 years.

Another one of Mister Rogers' quotes stated: "My hope for you at the beginning of this new moment in your life is that you will take good care of that part of you where your best

dreams come from, that invisible part of you that allows you to look on yourself and your neighbor with delight. Do your best to appreciate the gifts that we really are and always will be, to look for every opportunity that allows you to clap and cheer, loving your neighbor as yourself." It's from his book, titled *Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers: Things to Remember Along the Way*. To me, this says it all! You see, Fred Rogers lives on through what he gave us.

Len J. McCulloch is a Diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, addictions, and social work. He is also creator and co-director, with Sherry Cantrell of the Therapy Choirs of Michigan, (www.therapychoirs.org) a non-profit organization devoted to the use of choir therapy and gentle teaching to

assist the lives of individuals, with special needs including those with traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, mental illness, and orphan diseases. His column, "Our Mental Health" is archived at www.farmlib.org. McCulloch can be reached for consultation at 248-476-9329.

Ladies' night out benefits preschool scholarships

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle will hold its second annual signature event, "Give the Kids a Boost," 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Plymouth Manor, 345 N. Main, Plymouth. This ladies' night out will include food, a cash bar, a raffle and silent auction, shopping and a mini fashion show featuring items from businesses in and around Plymouth and Canton.

Cost is \$30 and registration is required. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for preschool.

Last year's inaugural event raised nearly \$8,000 for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank.

To register, go to www.cantonfoundation.org or call Beth Meade at 734-495-1200.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, *Observer & Eccentric*, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Livonia Garden Club

Larry Turowski, retired general manager of the floral division at English Gardens, will give tips on flower arranging and will create several floral arrangements at the next meeting of the Livonia Garden Club, 7 p.m. April 1, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information call Ruth Moline at 734-525-3167 or visit livoniagardenclub.org.

Tree and shrub sale

ReLeaf Michigan, a nonprofit organization with a mission to educate the public on the value of trees and the need to properly select, plant, and maintain them, is taking orders for trees, specialty trees, shrubs and evergreens. Orders must be placed by April 11 at www.ReLeafMichigan.org. Pick up is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at

a variety of locations in southeastern Michigan, including Handy Park, 26650 Capitol Ave., in Redford Township. For more information call 800-642-7353 or email info@releafmichigan.org.

Spring bug hunt

The Friends of the Rouge needs volunteers to help look for stoneflies, mayflies and other aquatic insects at the beginning at 9 a.m., April 12, along the river. Interested volunteers must pre-register by March 28. Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult. Participants will meet at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center, where they'll be assigned to teams that each travel to two sites where they look for living things in samples collected from the river under the direction of a trained team leader. Results help determine the health of the river. For more information or to sign up, visit therouge.org.

Heritage Park

One Starry Night will run 7-9 p.m. Saturday, March 29 and is for ages 5 to adults. It will include a talk by a local astronomer, astronomy crafts for kids and telescope viewing outdoors.

Explore Nature Day, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, is for all ages and will include a guided hike, art projects and nature games. Cost is \$5 per child or \$10 per family.

Register for the programs at <http://recreg.fhgov.com>. Heritage Park is located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Call 248-477-1135 or email asmith@fhgov.com for more information.

English Gardens

Learn the secrets to a beautiful lawn at a free presentation 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22.

Get tips on how and when to prune trees and shrubs in a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29.

Garden Party weekend runs April 5-6, with presentations scheduled 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at all stores.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

Maple sugaring

"Maple's Sweet Story," runs noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March at Kensington Metropark Farm Center near Milford/Brighton. Take a guided walk through the farm's sugar bush to learn the secrets of tapping a tree. Watch sap being boiled down into maple syrup at the sugar shack. Maple syrup products will be available for sale and to sample. The fee is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children, 3-12; children under 3 are free. For more information call Kensington Metropark at 248-684-8632.

Beware of hazardous appliances at home

I received an email from a person who had a GE microwave and replaced it with a different brand because the product created all sorts of sparks inside the oven. This person purchased a counter top unit and no longer believes in the under the counter style.

A few weeks ago, I interviewed Cathy Cannivet from Florida who a few years ago was the homemaker who took on the corporate giant General Electric when her refrigerator ice maker starting spitting out pieces of plastic along with a few other problems. Her story was amazing and it led to a class action suit that cost General Electric several million dollars. Here is the other amazing factor: She took on General Electric again because microwave ovens are coming on by themselves. There is currently a class action suit on microwave ovens and you can read all about it by going to the search engine and typing in "class action law suit on microwave ovens." This story is just fascinating and certainly makes one well aware of a hidden danger that may be in your very kitchen.

On another subject, I just



Joe Gagnon

APPLIANCE DOCTOR

met a lady visiting from Ottawa who tells me she has to clean the big rubber gasket on the front load washing machine she owns. I explained the problem that millions of consumers in this country have pertaining to mold and odor conditions with front loaders. It was all news to her and I informed her to go check this out on her computer. There has been a huge class action suit recently turned down at our Supreme Court, but ongoing and your computer will tell you all about it.

Faulty appliances

Holy Smokes, folks (no pun intended), what is going on in the major home appliance industry? We have heard of the many fires this winter with condos and apartment fires taking the lives of people and leaving them homeless. One in particular started in the kitchen with the source still unknown. In recent years, many recalls have been is-

sued because of refrigerators catching fire, dishwashers shooting out flames, kitchen range burners coming on all by themselves and the continuing clothes dryer fire issue. As I have screamed lately, we need a law that makes a manufacturer or retailer responsible for making homeowners aware. I have yet to hear from Michigan Sen. Patrick Colbeck on this request of a month ago. I'll let you know what he says on a Michigan law needed to protect his constituents.

Now here is a new one that I have never heard or seen in all my years. When the microwave came out in the early '70s I played the role of an expert technician who taught many how they worked and how to repair them. Recently a man delivered to me an Amana Radar Range manufactured in 1974. The glass tray where you place your food was all in one piece but there was a melted spot in the center about the size of the bottom of a teacup. I have never heard of this happening and I found out that the glass melting point is something like 850 degrees. I have been wracking my brain about the cause of this, until just now

when I wrote the word "teacup."

If you remember a few years ago I wrote about the exploding teacup bursting into the faces of homeowners when they pulled the cup out of their under-the-counter microwave ovens. The water wouldn't come to a boil because the holding vessel it was in had no imperfections and this caused a superheated condition where the steam collected in one large bubble which rested on the bottom of the cup. Once you moved it ever so slightly, the water blew up and caused blindness and serious burns. It's a possible solution to the melted glass tray.

While I'm waiting to discover how appliances can be made safer for the American home I can give you only one piece of good advice. Install more smoke and fire detectors than you have now. There could be a predator in your home that is sleeping in a major appliance.

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.

PROM

Continued from Page B6

makeup ... The last time we did this there was a huge line around the building."

Last year, more than 500 free dresses were distributed. Douglas J. is located at 409 S. Center St. Call 248-336-5500. Visit www.987ampradio.cbslocal.com.

Livonia organization

Hope's Closet, founded by 1992 Churchill High School graduate Whitney Drake, will offer teens free prom dresses, April 26 through May 2 at Royal Oak First United Methodist Church, 320 W. 7th, in downtown Royal Oak.

"We ask them to bring a student ID and if they are home schooled, they just need a letter stating they are home schooled," said Drake, a Livonia resident. "We have thousands of dresses. We do it once a year. This is our 11th year."

Drake said her high school education influenced her decision to create the boutique and continue it annually.

"I was taught to give back. It was great," she said. Shoppers must make an appointment for the boutique. Call Hope's Closet at 248-347-1309, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., starting April 7, to make an appointment. The church does not book the appointments. Visit www.hopecloset.com.

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

HELTER-MCGHEE

Nicole Helter and Frederick A. McGhee Jr., both of Livonia, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Rebecca Gross of Brighton, earned an M.B.A. degree in 2006 from Eastern Michigan University and currently works in the foster care system for the State of Michigan.

Her fiancé, son of Charlotte Smith of Detroit, is a 1966 graduate of Cass Technical High School, Detroit, and currently works for Midwest Logistics.



Nicole Helter and Frederick A. McGhee Jr.

A May 2014 wedding is planned at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.

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ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

STUPRYA-PATTERSON

Audrey Stuprya and Clay Patterson announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Dale and Terri Stuprya of Garden City, attended Garden City High School and is employed by Garden City Hospital.

Her fiancé, son of Dale and Stephanie Patterson of Garden City, also attended Garden City High School.

An April 2014 wedding is planned in Taylor.



Audrey Stuprya and Clay Patterson

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m. to 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 business casual. Bethany is 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

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 29

Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: A full orchestra and the combined choirs of St. John Neumann and St. Mary's of Wayne will perform Vivaldi's Gloria. The concert will be repeated at 4 p.m. Sunday March 30, at St. Mary's of Wayne. Free admission

Contact: 734-455-5910

CONCERT

Time/Date: 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30

Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform works by Bach, along with *Create in Me*, by K. Lee Scott, which was commissioned by the Singers in honor of retired director, Eric Freudigman. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for seniors and students, 12 and over. Children under 12 free

Contact: detroitlutheransingers.com

Location: Ss Simon and Jude Catholic Community, 32500 Palmer, Westland

Details: *Franz Jagerstatter: A Man of Conscience* screens, following Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

Coming up: *Bishop Thomas Gumbleton: A Prophet Among Us*, part 1, April 4, part 2, April 11

Contact: 734-722-1343

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, March 28

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Theme is "From Garden to Glory"

Contact: 313-532-8655

LENTE SERVICE

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

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Worship followed by a light lunch

Contact: 734-522-6830

LENTE SOUP, DISCUSSION

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. soup dinner; 7:15 p.m. video presentation and discussion, Tuesday, March 25, April 1 and April 8

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, between Levan and Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" by pastors Bob Hoey and Allen Kannapell

Contact: 734-425-2800

LENTE VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 23

Location: St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen, Southfield

Details: The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at this third of five Lenten services. The homilist will be the Rev. James King, assistant priest at the Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, Livonia.

Coming up: The remaining vespers services will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 760 W. Wattles, Troy and Sunday, April 6 at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, 2407 Carpenter, Detroit

Contact: 734-422-0278; pascha-books@sbcglobal.net

NEW DAWN CLUB

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 25

Location: Thomas's Family Dining, 33971 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: New Dawn is a social club for widows and widowers that meets monthly at St. Edith Church in Livonia for companionship and at area restaurants for lunch or dinner. All faiths are welcome. The group will have lunch at Thomas's. Call Mary Jo, 734-425-3767

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, through April 10

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: The Siena Heights University Campus Ministry team will lead this series for teens. The series is based on the Rev. Robert Barron's new video series that focuses on the way pride, envy, anger, sloth, gluttony, greed, and lust may affect a person's life and relationships with God and others. Registration is required; cost is \$12.95 for accompanying study guide

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 207; www.livoniastmichael.org

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Time/Date: 8 a.m.-3p.m. Saturday, March 29

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Guest speaker, Carolyn Bira of Holy Cross-Flushing, will present "Identity Check: Remind Me Who I Am?" Dexter High School Chamber Quintet is the musical entertainment. Cost is \$25, which includes a continental breakfast and box lunch. Registration forms are available online at www.christsaviors.org or call the church

Contact: 734-522-6830

MOM 2 MOM

Time/Date: 9-9:30 a.m. early bird, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. regular hours, Friday, April 11; and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 12

Location: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville

Details: Selling gently used baby, kids and maternity clothes, including coats, shoes, costumes, swimwear, furniture, toys, books, strollers and more. Early bird admission is \$2; other hours, \$1. Bag sale is \$6 on Saturday

Contact: sumc-moms@gmail.com

MUSICAL ORATORIO

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 6

Location: St. Edith Parish, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, combines soloists, chorus, and narration, portraying Christ's final thoughts and words while on the cross. Performance includes the adult choir at St. Edith, an orchestra and slide show of the Passion. Free will offering

Contact: Heather Nofar Shina at 734-464-1222, ext. 314

WALK THRU THE BIBLE

Time/Date: 1-5:30 p.m. April 6

Location: Friendship Church Canton 1240 N. Beck Road Canton

Details: An instructor will guide participants through the Old Testament using the Walk Thru the Bible hand signs memory system. The interactive session will include people, places and events of the Old Testament. Aimed at 4th grade and up. A free lunch will be served before the session. Cost is \$15 per person or \$60 per family

Contact: Cheri Pelic at 248-349-5447; cantonfriendship.org

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

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

Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

OUR LADY OF LORETTO

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: The Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

Livonia woman earns Zonta Club scholarship

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County recently awarded a scholarship to Catherine Crombez of Livonia.

Crombez is a senior at Madonna University, where she studies biochemistry and piano performance. She has a 3.97 grade point average and has been named to the dean's list. Crombez plans to major in neuroscience in graduate school, with a goal of helping to restore quality of life for patients with neurological disorders. She currently is an intern in a University of Michigan neuroscience laboratory assisting in animal studies that examine Huntington's disease.

Although her profes-

sional goal is neuroscience research, she also plans to attain a degree in musical performance. She started playing the piano at age 5 and has performed in ensembles and as an accompanist. She teaches music to children and adults at Madonna where she works as a supplemental instructor and tutor. Crombez says music teaches patience, appreciation, and perseverance.

Crombez also enjoys volunteering. She regularly helps organize programs to assist peers in study groups, leads a community choir, facilitates vacation Bible school, and contributes to neighborhood events.

MARCH

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Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

Seminar promotes vegan diet

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

What's Easter without eggs and ham on the buffet table? A step toward better health, according to Jeanie Weaver. The South Lyon woman coordinates the annual fall Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza, a demonstration of vegetarian and vegan foods for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The event, held at the Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy in Plymouth, also includes a tasting and presentations on the health benefits of a plant-based diet.

Weaver will turn her attention to the Easter buffet table with a new cooking, tasting and health seminar 2-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at the Academy, 15585 N. Haggerty, one block north of Five Mile, Plymouth.

"I wanted to have it around Easter so it gives people practical ideas for an Easter buffet or dish. They might not like all of it, but I bet there will be something they'll like. It will be a mini holiday tasting," she said, adding that she'll also cook up foods for "everyday" plant-based meals.

"I thought I wanted to do something more instructive as far as how to accomplish a plant-based diet. I thought I'd present to a smaller group and be more interactive, showing from start to finish how to put together a meal."

Two physicians, including Weaver's father-in-law, Arthur Weaver, M.D., of Northville, and a dietitian will be on hand to talk about health benefits and to field nutrition questions. The session will end with an Easter buffet.

Avoiding meat, dairy

Weaver, a physical fitness trainer, will use the book, *Engine 2 Diet* and its 28 Day Challenge as a guide during the seminar. Rip Esselstyn, a former firefighter in Austin, Texas, created the mostly vegan diet after discovering a col-



league had dangerously high cholesterol. The plan focuses on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds.

"They eat this way in the fire station because so many firefighters were having terrible blood pressure, high cholesterol, and problems with weight. They made the station a plant-powered station and saw results in four to five weeks," Weaver said. Esselstyn's fellow firefighters saw high blood pressure and cholesterol levels drop as they avoided eating meat and dairy products. "I could use scads of other books, but I like his book

because he is a marathoner and firefighter."

The seminar includes a four-week support system to help participants through the 28-day challenge of switching to a vegan diet. Weaver will hold sessions on Tuesdays at the school. Participants may call or email her in lieu of meeting in person.

"People can get out of it as much as they want," she said. "The point he makes in the book is that until you experience it, you can't believe it. Your taste buds will change. You'll move away from the stuff that causes you problems

and you start not craving it. People report that they don't have headaches like they used to. They're eating an anti-inflammatory diet and doing it with foods and not supplements."

Cost for the seminar, including the buffet and follow-up sessions, is \$35 per person or \$45 per couple. Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 25. Call 248-446-9176 or email holidaytasting@gmail.com to RSVP. Payment — cash or checks only — will be collected at the door.

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 Baronette 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 Tammuela Singleton, MD. RSVP by Monday, March 24 to Tanya Robertson at 734-961-3501 or tanya@himich.org.

Celiac support

Pam King from The Center for Celiac Research is the speaker at the Tri County Celiac Support Group, 7 p.m. April 7, at The First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. tccsg.net

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 at 248-888-2500 or visit www.botsford.org.

Dental care

The University of Michigan School of Dentistry will offer free dental services to the first 100 children, ages 5-14, preferably those without dental insurance, on April 5, at the school, 1011 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. Services include dental cleaning, X-rays, sealants, fillings and extractions. Visit umgivekidsasmile.org.

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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

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(1) When leasing, Matching Down Payment program up to \$750 is valid on all 2014 model year vehicles with the exception of C-Max, Focus Electric, Fusion Energi/Hybrid, Mustang GT/GT500, F-150 Raptor, E-Series, Transit Connect & F650/F750. When purchasing, Matching Down Payment program up to \$750 is valid on all 2014 model year vehicles with the exception of C-Max, Focus Electric, Fusion Energi, Mustang GT500, F-150 Raptor, Transit Connect & F650/F750. The maximum down payment has been figured into advertised lease payment. Residency restrictions apply. This program is available through 3/31/14. See dealer for exact details. (2) Not all customers qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease (10,500 miles). Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees. Some payments higher, some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash for RCL/RCO customers who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 3/31/14. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. (3) 2014 Focus SE FWD 2.0L Ti-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 26 city/36 hwy/30 combined MPG; 2014 Fusion SE FWD 2.5L Duratec I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 22 city/34 highway/26 combined MPG; 2014 Escape SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 23 city/33 hwy/26 combined MPG; 2014 Taurus SEL FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 19 city/29 hwy/23 combined MPG; 2014 Ford Flex 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 18 city/25 hwy/20 combined MPG and 2014 F-150 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 FFV engine EPA estimated rating of 14 city/19 hwy/16 combined MPG. Actual mileages will vary. (4) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment. Excludes Focus S, Focus ST, Fusion Energi, and Fusion Hybrid. Other exclusions may apply. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 3/31/14. (5) The \$1,000 Focus customer cash includes \$500 Ford Motor Credit Cash and \$500 Retail Open Bonus Cash; the Fusion \$1,000 customer cash includes \$1,000 Ford Motor Credit Cash; the Taurus \$1,750 customer cash includes \$1,250 Ford Motor Credit Cash and \$500 Retail Open Bonus Cash; the \$500 Flex customer cash includes \$500 Retail Open Bonus Cash; and the F-150 \$1,250 customer cash includes \$500 Trade Assist and \$750 Ford Motor Credit Cash. (6) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. 60 months at \$17.92 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment. Valid on XLT only. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 3/31/14. (7) The Focus \$3,000 Customer Cash includes \$750 Matching Down Customer Cash, \$1,250 Customer Cash, \$500 Ford Motor Credit Cash and \$500 Retail Only Bonus Cash; the Fusion \$2,500 Customer Cash includes \$750 Matching Down Customer Cash, \$750 Customer Cash and \$1,000 Ford Motor Credit Cash; the Escape \$2,000 Customer Cash includes \$750 Matching Down Customer Cash and \$1,250 Customer Cash; the Taurus \$5,500 Customer Cash includes \$750 Matching Down CC, \$3,000 Customer Cash, \$1,250 Ford Motor Credit Cash and \$500 Retail Only Bonus Cash; the Flex \$1,500 Customer Cash includes \$750 Matching Down Credit Cash, \$250 Customer Cash and \$500 Retail Only Bonus Cash; and the F-150 \$6,750 in total cash savings includes \$750 Matching Customer Cash, \$500 Customer Cash, \$500 Retail Only Bonus Cash, \$500 Trade Assist, \$1,500 XLT Customer Cash and \$2,750 XLT 302A + 59H Package. (8) Focus Sync & Sound package with leather seating valued at \$1,190 on Package 201A. Sync & Sound discount excludes 'S' model. (9) This RCL Renewal program is not compatible with any owner loyalty program. Customers who have previously terminated their lease between October 1, 2013 - January 2, 2014 are eligible for this program. A customer returning from any new FMCC RCL eligible Lincoln, Mercury or Ford Division vehicle lease may go into an eligible new Ford Division vehicle Retail or Lease Contract. Limit of one renewal incentive per termination. A customer must terminate their current lease in order to qualify for the incentive. Customers are not required to terminate their new RCL Lease at original dealership. A customer who terminates their Lincoln or Mercury Division RCL lease is eligible for the Renewal Incentive. A customer who terminates their Independent lease is NOT eligible for the Renewal Incentive. Some exclusions may apply. Program number 34646/34648. This program is good through 3/31/14.

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How to:

CONNECT

Emailing or calling a person out of the blue can be scary, but if done right, it can also help your job search and career. Follow these tips, remain respectful, and soon you'll start to see your professional network and employment prospects grow.

Handling the 'cold' networking call or email

By Matt Tarpey,
CareerBuilder writer

Growing your professional network is an essential part of finding a job and advancing your career. The Internet makes this easier by allowing you to expand your reach beyond your typical contacts. Reaching out to people you aren't directly acquainted with, whether they are hiring managers or simply contemporaries working in your industry, can be a tricky and sometimes awkward situation. However, the reality is that "cold calling" or "cold emailing," when handled correctly, can be a useful part of building your network.

Matt Tarpey is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz.

Here are some tips for mastering networking with strangers:

Find the missing link

You've probably heard the popular theory of "six degrees of separation," which suggests that every individual is six or fewer steps, by way of introduction, from any other individual. Your best bet to get a hiring manager's attention is to be introduced or recommended by a mutual acquaintance.

Hiring managers may ignore cold calls or emails if there's no mention of a specific connection that led the job seeker to them.

Familiarize your contacts with your elevator pitch to help them introduce you around at networking events, and don't forget to return the favor when the opportunity arises.

Give context

If you can't find a direct link, it is essential that you have a good reason for asking for the contact's time and that you are upfront about this reason from the start.

Be specific about why you're reaching out to this individual in particular.

- Are you familiar with his work?
- Were you both at a networking event but missed the opportunity to connect?
- Or are you simply looking for job opportunities or career advice?
- Know what you're looking for before you dial or hit "send."

What else do they offer?

Typically, when building your network, it's not a good idea to bluntly ask strangers for a job. If they say no, which they likely will, the relationship ends there, and you may as well remove them from your network.

Rather than asking for a job outright, try fostering a connection by asking for advice or an informational interview.

Not only are hiring managers more likely to respond positively to this request, but you build a stronger relationship and gain valuable information in the process.

Keep it short

Make it easy for the hiring manager you contact to help you. Your email should be short and concise, clearly spelling out your situation and the relevant information. A lengthy, wordy email with big blocks of text is unlikely to be read, much less thoughtfully considered and responded to. Respect your contact's time and keep the initial introduction brief.

Emailing or calling a person out of the blue can be scary, but if done right, it can also help your job search and career. Follow these tips, remain respectful, and soon you'll start to see your professional network and employment prospects grow.



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 4 During
 8 Stable parent
 12 Joule fraction
 13 Repute
 14 Iridescent stone
 15 Happy — clam
 16 Warned (2 wds.)
 18 Takes on cargo
 20 Sock filler
 21 Sedgwick of the screen
 24 Downgrade
 28 Go at an easy gait
 31 "Ben- —"
 33 Deli side
 34 Singer — Sumac
 35 Navajo foe
 36 Compass pt.
 37 Old clothes

DOWN
 1 Wheel and —
 2 Sky bear
 3 I say!
 4 Unable to sit still
 5 Printemps month
 6 Rascal
 7 Corp. section
 8 They appear on runways

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16				17				
18			19			20					
			21		22	23		24	25	26	27
28	29	30		31		32		33			
34				35						36	
37			38		39				40		
41				42		43		44			
			45		46		47		48	49	50
51	52	53			54	55			56		
57					58				59		
60					61				62		

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SUDOKU

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

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WORDS

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

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

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Car Report

Michigan Remains at National Epicenter of Booming Automotive Production



By Dale Buss

Every time a site consultant or state economic-development official turns around, some automaker or large supplier is expanding a plant, ordering tooling for a promising future model, domesticating production that occurred offshore or even plotting a whole new facility. It's happening across America's increasingly prosperous auto belt.

For the most part, Michigan has been a huge winner in this revival of U.S. automobile manufacturing. Expansion and new activity at Ford's Wayne complex, at General Motors' Lake Orion plant, and at Chrysler's SUV-making factory on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit each attests to the fact that the state still has what it takes to make winning automobiles for the 21st Century.

But other moves, even by the old "Big Three," underscore how automotive pro-

duction these days has become almost a nationwide pursuit. In the first quarter alone, among other moves, Chrysler announced expansion of its Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio. Ford said it would return output of medium-duty trucks from Mexico to Ohio. Volkswagen flirted with unionization of its Chattanooga, Tenn., plant amid speculation that the company would double its footprint there via production of a new SUV. BMW is set to reveal a major new investment at its Spartanburg, S.C., manufacturing complex.

And, of course, Tesla dangled its multi-billion-dollar battery "gigafactory" in front of four Sun Belt states as potentially the biggest economic plum ever bestowed by a carmaker. Texas, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico benefit just from being considered for this project.

Yet while American and

foreign-based automakers are creating more new opportunities for U.S. production than could have been imagined even a few years ago, the chances for new states to get into the game remain limited.

Because they have built advantages in transportation infrastructure, labor-force skills, utility rates and other important auto-manufacturing criteria over the course of decades, the Midwest and South are harvesting almost all of the stepped-up domestic output. Witness the surge in Michigan.

"The states with the toughest business cases for making cars are all gone now," noted Sean McAlinden, chief economist for the Center for Automotive Research, based in Ann Arbor. "New York, California, New Jersey — they all had the highest tax and health-insurance rates and were far from suppliers that have clustered in the Upper Midwest and South."

Now a few new states could make cases as virgin territory for auto production. Nebraska and Kansas, for instance, have positioned themselves for such a run with tax reform and workforce-education initiatives, argued Larry Gigerich, managing director of Ginovus, an Indianapolis-based site consultant. Pennsylvania lurks on the fringes.

Even Arizona and Nevada could join the auto belt some-

day because of favorable taxes and Sun Belt locations that are increasingly crucial markets for all auto companies. Landing the Tesla plant would make either an instant Tier 1 member of the car-state fraternity. If Texas gets the nod from Tesla, it could become an auto-making superpower, since General Motors and Toyota already have major operations there making their most profitable vehicles: pickup trucks.

"No matter which state wins," Gigerich said, "there also will be the opportunity to develop a research and technology park to leverage off Tesla's impact, because of the sheer size of its facility."

But as a cautionary tale, states also must consider the case of Arkansas. Surrounded literally on every side and corner by a state that already was making cars, several years ago Arkansas "fell flat on its face in an attempt to launch an automotive platform because it just didn't have the industrial labor force," McAlinden said.

Tennessee also provides reason to pause. The state granted Volkswagen \$500 million in incentives to open its plant in 2008. But when VW cooperated with the United Auto Workers union in staging a unionization vote in the plant in February, some national and local politicians in the state threatened to close the spigot on any further financial

breaks for Volkswagen if the union won. It didn't.

One trend is clear: Increasingly, the attractiveness of the Midwest and the South as auto-making regions is equalizing. Rising wage rates and even the threat of unionization of a Sun Belt plant make it more complicated for Japanese, Korean and German manufacturers to expand in those states. Meanwhile, favorable tax reforms and the spread of a right-to-work ethos in traditional car-manufacturing powerhouses Michigan, Indiana and Ohio impose dwindling penalties on the Detroit Three for sticking with the region they know best.



The Jeep Grand Cherokee is proudly made in Detroit.



Southern competition for auto manufacture is represented by this Volkswagen Passat made in Tennessee.

"The only remaining big difference is that, for deal-closing tools, Southeastern states can bring more to the table than Midwestern states in terms of cash-equivalent incentives," Gigerich said. "But we tell our clients not to make a decision on incentives. Everything else has to line up first."

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