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SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014 • hometownlife.com

SLIGHT PROPERTY TAX INCREASE KEEPS WAYNE COUNCIL MEETINGS ON THE AIR

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Wayne residents can expect to see a slight increase in property taxes — an average of just over \$4 annually — in part to keep city council meetings televised.

The council voted to approve a millage that under state law can be levied to fund publicity for the city.

"It could be used for cable, Nankin Transit information, the city website," said City Manager Joseph Merucci, who recommended council approve

the levy, which does not require voter approval.

The law, P.A. 359 of 1925, allows the council to approve up to 4 mills for publicity but also restricts the amount of taxes collected to \$50,000. The funding would cover cable televising of council meetings, an expense currently covered by the general fund.

"In 1925, 4 mills probably was \$50,000," said Merucci. In this case, the millage levy would be .1347 mill.

The average home value in Wayne currently has a \$31,600 taxable value. Based on that

and the .1347 mill levy, Merucci said the average homeowner would pay \$4.26 more annually.

This millage is separate from the city's general operating millage, which is currently at its maximum.

As the city deals with a more than \$1 million deficit for the fiscal year beginning July 1, elimination of the \$14,000 line item to fund taping of the city council meetings for cable television was possibly being cut.

Initially, Councilman James Hawley said he was skeptical

about the proposal and didn't support it. After the motion stipulated the publicity millage would be used to fund cable telecasts of council meetings, newsletters and the city website, he supported the motion.

Later in the meeting, Councilwoman Susan Rowe asked that Merucci look into the feasibility of holding council meetings at 29th District Court, which has remote controlled video equipment installed in the courtroom.

Due to structural issues with the roof at City Hall, the council has been meeting reg-

ularly at the Wayne Community Center with some study sessions or special meetings at other locations. Rowe said she had spoken with 29th District Court Administrator Linda Gable about the proposal.

"We can also look at streaming live like we used. It's a great opportunity. We would save money on overtime for Department of Public Works guys to operate the cameras," Rowe said.

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Main Street manager Lindsey Wooten talks with Jan Podgers at Thursday's meet and greet. PHOTO BY SUE MASON



Main Street's Wooten sees 'opportunities' in downtown Wayne

By **Sue Mason**
Staff Writer

Lindsey Wooten looks at Wayne's downtown as filled with "nothing but opportunities." The new director of Wayne's Michigan Main Street program, she's excited about the future.

"I'm really excited to come to Wayne, there's so much potential in the resources you have here," said Wooten during a meet and greet at the First United Methodist Church on Thursday evening. "I've never seen a community so enthusiastic. Your attitude is so inspiring."

Wooten is Wayne's new Main Street manager. Spirited away from the Howell Main Street DDA program where she was an assistant director, she's been on the job about a month and used the meet and greet to introduce herself to the community.

"I'm in the getting-to-know-you phase," she said. "It's a long process. There's a lot of people to meet and friends to make."

But Wayne is a familiar place for Wooten, who grew up in Taylor and during high school worked for Rhino in Wayne encouraging people to let someone come in and demonstrate Kirby vacuum cleaners.

She studied pathology at Grand Valley State University, but it was her four years as a tour guide at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island that rekindled her interest in old architecture and sent her back to college to earn a master's degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University.

Her passion

In applying for the position in Wayne, Wooten told the Ripple Effect Committee, which spearheaded the acquisition of the Main Street select level designation, that supporting and promoting Main Street Communities "is one of my deeply rooted passions."

She interned and worked for the Howell Main Street DDA and led efforts to establish Howell Opera House as a Single Resource Local Historic District, the only way to protect an historical building.

She also has a deep understanding of what young people and young families want. While their parents may have favored large tracts of homes and a local mall, today's "millennials want a walkable community."

"My enthusiasm for walkable communities,

See **WOOTEN**, Page A2

Westland councilmen exchange barbs again

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Conflicts among Westland council members have flared up again in a continuation of sharp words from a meeting earlier this month.

The war of words between Council President James Godbout, Councilman Dewey Reeves and Councilman Kevin Coleman started over Coleman's comments regarding the 2014-15 fiscal year budget. Coleman cast the only vote against the budget adoption.

Mayor William Wild, Godbout and Reeves all expressed surprise at Coleman's vote and comments that his ideas regarding the budget had been ignored.

Under public comments last week, residents Bill Campbell and Stephanie Klef-

man, regular council critics and Coleman supporters, blasted council members for comments at the earlier meeting. Campbell, who ran unsuccessfully for council in November, labeled the comments unprofessional and accused council members of bullying Coleman.

"Thanks for those with kind words. I will continue to do the job I was elected to do," Coleman said.

During his comments, Godbout again criticized Coleman, describing him as sitting silently and not offering any detailed proposals regarding the city budget. After the budget study session, Godbout said he met with Coleman and explained in detail why Coleman's request to hire additional police

See **COUNCIL**, Page A2

Newberry Square tenants air complaints

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Efforts are underway to have the air conditioning running again at Newberry Square Apartments in Wayne.

Some tenants came before the Wayne City Council recently with complaints about the lack of air conditioning and other problems at the Michigan Avenue building.

"They are still without air conditioning. The whole chiller unit is broken and the pipes," said Michael Buiten, Wayne engineering manager. "They had a couple of quotes that would take eight weeks to fix it. They called a more local company."

Part of the problem, Newberry Square manager Pat Bartosik said, is that the building has a boiler system that many air conditioning companies won't work on. The system heats or cools the entire building.

"Last year, I switched to air conditioning and it cooled off. I waited until the second or third week in May," Barto-



Newberry Square tenants have opened their windows to get air into their apartments.

sik said. "The chiller and tower were all blown. They said it would take eight weeks. It's nobody's fault. The unit has to be made."

By using a local firm, the time line for getting the air conditioning running has been shortened considerably, possibly three weeks, Bartosik said.

See **COMPLAINTS**, Page A2



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Wayne Memorial graduates score big with scholarships

College will be very affordable for two Wayne Memorial High School graduates who are among 21 Michigan students named as members of the Gates Millennium Scholars Class of 2014.

Crystal Fletcher and Carlos Pernel have received the scholarships, each worth an estimated \$500,000. The money will cover their education through their undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies, according to Wayne Memorial Principal Kevin Weber.

Weber praised the two students, who were honored at this month's school board meeting, saying that they have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, in the hallways and in the community.

Both teens were athletes, did community service in the community and the school, and were involved in the Upward Bound program, a federally funded educational program that provides certain categories of high school students better opportunities for attending college.

"At Wayne Memorial, we talk often about Wayne Pride, and they have both demonstrated Wayne Pride all four years they were at Wayne," Weber said. "And I am completely confident they will have Wayne Pride in their future endeavors."

UM bound

Fletcher is beginning classes this week at the University of Michigan where she plans to study computer science.

"I want to thank my family, friends and teachers who guided and helped me along the way and the board for the educational opportunities," Fletcher said. "Without you, I wouldn't be standing here now."

Pernel will attend Central Michigan University in



College for Creative Studies scholarship recipient Jennifer Tigani scored a first place with this poster in this year's North American International Auto Show. FILE PHOTO

scribed Tigani as "an exceptionally talented graduate" whose portfolio was extremely impressive with many pieces from the North American International Auto Show and several gold key awards from the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

"Graphic designer teacher Steve Paulsen again was instrumental in guiding a graduate to greatness," Kay said. "She won multiple awards that culminated in this award of excellence."

"We're proud of Jennifer, she's an awesome graphic designer," teaching assistant Liz Ritter said. "She's a very hard worker and you can see that in her work."

Kelly Agius received a \$40,000 scholarship, and Bethany Lilygren a \$56,000 award. Both were students in Gloria Joseph's digital media class and both plan to study photography at CCS.

Agius received a gold portfolio the National Scholastic competition. She is already working in the field as Kelly Marie Photography, specializing in weddings and portraits.

"We're very proud of Kelly; she's a very talented young woman," said Joseph, who described a digital composition she showed to the board as "an outstanding self portrait."

Kay described Lilygren as having outstanding leadership skills and as having talented in digital media and a competent project manager. Her National Scholastic portfolio contained one gold key, two silver keys and an honorable mention.

"She was my go-to person, she was my student assistant all year," Joseph said. "We're very proud of her as well."

All together, the five students received a total of \$1.23 million in scholarships.

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the fall. He plans to study physical therapy.

Among the people Pernel thanked were counselor Theresa Weaver, Upward Bound Director Jan Tomlinson and his mother, saying that "without you, I wouldn't be here."

"You've been there for me since my freshman year, and now that I'm out of school I know you will be there because you keep telling me to keep in touch," he said.

In presenting Fletcher and Pernel with certificates of recognition, board Treasurer Frederick Weaver, noted that he "did the calculations" and that the scholarships are equal to spending \$20 a day for 25,000 days at McDonald's.

"This is a good way to go to school and get your doctorate," he said. "It's a good way to spend your life."

The board also recognized three graduates of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center who received \$236,000 in scholarships from the College for Creative Studies.

Jennifer Tigani received the largest scholarship — \$142,000. She plans to study graphic design at CCS.

'Talented grad'

Career-Technical Center Principal Steve Kay de-

Livonia Public Schools board considers 2014-15 budget that keeps cuts away from kids

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Administrators for Livonia Public Schools have proposed "a balanced budget with a plan" for 2014-15 that preserves programs and services for at least one more school year.

The plan includes forming a budget committee to start meeting in August to consider \$880,000 in additional cuts and start planning ahead for the 2015-16 school year.

"We've pretty much worked every trick in the book to make sure these cuts stay away from the classroom," Superintendent Randy Liepa told the school board at a committee of the whole meeting Monday. "In my mind, you're approving a balanced budget with a plan."

The proposed 2014-15 budget calls for \$138.4 million in revenue and \$140.4 million in expenditures, reducing fund equity to about \$800,000. Proposed cuts of \$212,000 include reducing the conference budget for professional development, reducing the supply budget by 1 percent and eliminating two support positions through attrition.

Schools of choice expansion?

Proposed revenue enhancements include expanding schools of choice for kindergarten students by 22 seats for an additional \$176,000. Currently, there are 60 seats available for 2014-15, 10 in each grade for kindergarten through fourth and five in both fifth and sixth grades.

The board is required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30. It is scheduled to meet again Monday, June 23.

Liepa said there are a number of variables this summer that may impact the budget for next school year, that is why he wants to hold off on making further budget recommendations until after the school year begins.

Those variables include an early severance incentive the district offered teachers, a possible better-than-expected fund balance for 2013-14 following the annual audit, a possible supplemental school aid fund bill and a

Wayne County enhancement millage on the Aug. 5 ballot that may make no cuts or more cuts necessary. "If that passes, we're in good shape for next year," Liepa said of the county enhancement millage.

Trustee Randy Roulier said reducing the fund equity to less than 0.5 percent for him is "extremely uncomfortable." He suggested the board set a target of what it wants the fund equity to be and then try to get to that number through reductions.

Goal of saving programs

But Liepa said doing so would require reductions the district has tried to stay away from, including privatization, increasing the number of students admitted through schools of choice, increasing pay to participate fees, reducing athletic program offerings or cutting back on transportation services. "Our goal has been to save programs and it's been a tightrope," Liepa said.

Liepa said the \$50 increase in the per-pupil foundation allowance approved by the state Legislature last week was a disappointment for many districts, especially since it doesn't cover rising retirement costs. While the state also increased retirement funding to meet its obligation under the law, the bottom line is that Livonia is still \$850,000 short for next school year. The additional \$50 per pupil will bring in about \$718,000. "So truly that money is eaten up in the retirement costs and then some," he said.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, said he voted for the school aid bill, which increases K-12 funding by 4.1 percent, because he believes the state-wide policy to bring parity to per-pupil funding is correct. He said some districts get \$1,000 less per student than other districts. He said while some lower funded districts received an additional \$125 per student, higher funded schools, like Livonia, received a greater amount from the state against retirement legacy costs. Livonia's retirement funding was increased from \$334 to \$558 per student.

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LO-0000190735

Douglas 3-4 Campus students help Guardian Angel Animal Rescue

By Sue Buck
 Staff Writer

Sam, a wheaten terrier rescued by Sandy Mezza, never took his eyes off Mezza when she came to receive a much-needed check from some students at the Douglas 3-4 Campus in Garden City.

Mezza, a Westland resident, who founded the Guardian Angel Animal Rescue, the check recipient, said Sam was found abused and abandoned in a cornfield in Gagetown, in Michigan's Thumb area.

"He is afraid of men," Mezza said. "He is very needy."

Mezza has opened her heart to help animals. Her home, like those of the foster "parents" she works with, is a revolving door of rescued animals who can finally breathe a sigh of relief that they are safe, protected and loved.

Mezza's eyes teared up and she quietly said "thank you," to the third- and fourth-graders who learned through this project that animals should be valued, treated with kindness and not discarded.

"Many of our rescues are from Detroit," Mezza said.

The student project began with some children who wanted to make a difference. They approached behavior supervisor Cindy Stapleton and took their idea to Principal Jim Bohnwagner.

The fourth-grade girls, led by Juliana Tomasi, came up with the idea that they could make the popular rubber-band jewelry and sell it for less than a dollar with the expectation that at the end of the year, the money donated would go to help the Guardian Angel Animal Rescue.

Besides Juliana, fellow fourth-graders Katie Nunez, Antonia Butka, Mia Borg and Bella Caltabiano teamed to form Protecting Animals With Style, or P.A.W.S.

Juliana recalled that three years ago her family was faced with having to help an outdoor cat that had given birth to kittens.

Her mother Barb decided to contact the Guardian Angel Animal Rescue, a no-kill organization which takes in homeless, abused and neglected ani-



It takes a village to help abandoned and abused animals. Students from the Protecting Animals With Style group at the Douglas Elementary 3-4 Campus presented a check to Sandy Mezza, founder of Guardian Angel Animal Rescue. The students, Bella Caltabiano, Mia Borg, Katie Nunez, Antonia Butka and Juliana Tomasi, are pictured with Mezza, Sam (the terrier), Principal Jim Bohnwagner, teacher Maryann Wendzel and behavior supervisor Cindy Stapleton. PHOTOS BY SUE MASON

mals that have been left to die.

Bohnwagner reminded the students who attended the assembly that anyone who purchased a rubber-band bracelet contributed to this cause. Some students who didn't buy a bracelet made a donation instead.

The rescue's work continues and appreciates the help of others.

The rescue hotline is 734-516-2171. Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 511309, Livonia, MI 48151. Its email address is guardian_angel_rescue@hotmail.com. Pet supplies and donations to defray vet bills which are now more than \$7,000 are always welcome.

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 Twitter: @SueBuck



Fourth-grade students from the Protecting Animals With Style group, known as P.A.W.S., at the Douglas Elementary 3-4 Campus worked hard this year making rubber-band bracelets to sell. The money donation benefits the Guardian Angel Animal Rescue.

ACHIEVERS

Nilam Pradip Bhagalia of Westland recently received his doctor of physical therapy degree from Utica College in Utica, N.Y.

Brianna Beesmer of Westland received her associate of Applied Science degree in human services during Baker College of Allen Park's June 7 commencement ceremony. She also received a Dean's Award in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement, leadership and volunteerism.

Thomas Sample of Westland was among 26 students and two staff members inducted into the Northwood University Delta Xi Chapter of the Delta Mu Delta Honorary Society in Business Administration this spring.

Founded by five professors from Harvard, Yale, and New York University in 1913, Delta Mu Delta promotes scholarship in business education and recognized and rewards scholastic achievement in business subjects. Delta Mu Delta membership is the highest national recognition a business student can earn.

Named to Northern Michigan University's Dean's List for the Winter 2014 semester were **Rachel Rodriguez** of Garden City, who had a 4.0 grade point average and **Autumn Thornsberry** of Garden City and **Mary Porta** of Wayne who qualified with a grade point averages of 3.25-3.99.

Siena Heights University recently announced its dean's and academic achievement lists for the winter semester 2014.

Named to the list were:

» Dean's List – **Chelsea Coatsworth** of Garden City, Comprehensive Education; **Kody Richardson** of Garden City, Criminal Justice, and **Jonathan Allen Turnbull** of Garden City, Health Studies.

» Achievement List – **Kristin Blossom** of Westland, Radiologic Technology; **Robert Lanier Culver** of Westland, Power Technology, and **Deric Clifford Gress** of Westland, Public Safety Studies.

To make the lists, students must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0. The dean's list is for full-time students with at least 12 credit hours, and the academic achievement list is for part-time students with at least six and no more than 11 credit hours.

Congrats, CLASS OF 2014

Hunter Victoria Juliano



Graduated from:
 Clarenceville High School

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We couldn't be more proud of who you have become so far, and who you will become in the future.

Love You Mom, Dad, Nikki, Tiffanie & Antonio

LO-2430931-01



Madeline Bila Michels

Plymouth High School

Special awards:
 PHS Academic Honor Key recipient
 PHS Scholar Athlete
 Co-captain PHS Varsity Competitive Cheer Team
 Four-year Varsity letter winner
 Central Michigan University Academic Excellence Scholarship recipient

Congratulations, Madeline!

We're so proud of who you are and all you've achieved. We love you!
 Dad, Mom and Harrison

LO-2430941-01



Marques Johnson

Graduating from Belleville High School

Four special awards:

1. Belleville Male Athletic Award
2. Four Year Varsity Award
3. Senior Band Award
4. U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis Award

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LO-2430959-01



Michaela Lyn North

of Livonia

Graduated from:
 Winston Churchill High School

Yearbook editor
 We are proud of your achievements thus far, just stay focused and your future will be bright.
 Love, your family

LO-2431099-01



Jessica Bracey

of Plymouth

Graduated from:
 Grand Valley State University
 Bachelor of Science Degree
 Well done, We Love you & are so proud.
 Mom, Dad, & Matt

LO-2430927-01



Winston W. Roberts

Morehouse College

Phi Beta Kappa; Magna Cum Laude

Congratulations, Winston! From PCA to PCEP to Morehouse you've excelled. God bless your next opportunity. Love Dad, Mom, Shelbey, Greer

LO-2431463-01



Derrick Leonard Rossell, Jr.

Plymouth High School

There are no limits to what you can achieve. We are SO proud of you!
 Love The Rossell Family

LO-2430920-01



Andrew Harrison Yaekle

Graduated from:
 Salem High School
 Class of 2014

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 Dad and Mom

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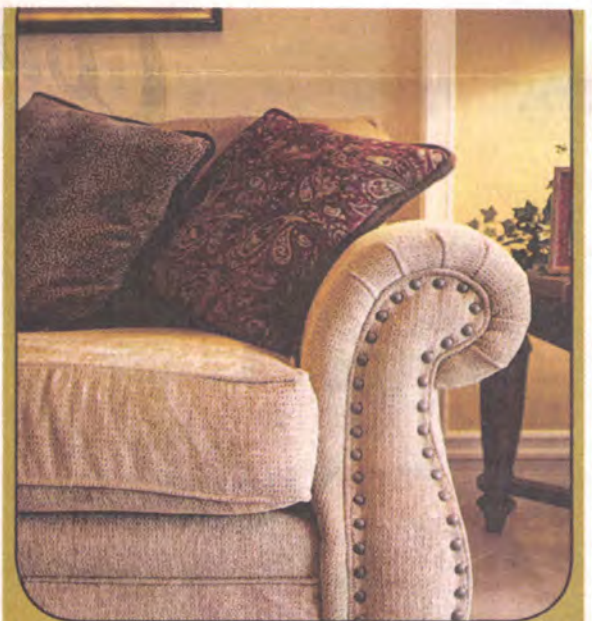
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The Saturday, June 28, hazardous waste collection is the second of three being held by Wayne County. The next one will be Aug. 16 at Westland Shopping Center.

Wayne County holding Household Hazardous Waste collection event June 28

Wayne County's Land Resource Management, a division of the Department of Public Services, is holding its popular Household Hazardous Waste collection from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 28, at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn.

Wayne County residents only can dispose of medical sharps, household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, solvents, pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only), nail polish, glue, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries, dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs (all types), fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

Electronics - computer CPUs, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice, cellphones, fax machines, copiers and televisions - also can be

recycled at the event.

Items that will not be accepted include commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive material, explosives, ammunition, 55-gallon drums, shock sensitive materials, household trash, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete.

LRMD officials are underscoring the importance of properly disposing of medical sharps like syringes, needles and lancets. Used needles can transmit serious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis.

"Improperly discarded syringes, needles and lancets expose waste workers to potential needle-stick injuries and potential infection," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said. "We want residents to know there is a proper way to dispose of this medical waste and that our Household Hazardous Waste events accept medical sharps."

The do's of medical sharp disposal include placing used needles, syringes and lancets in a hard-plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured lid. Containers commonly found in households like liquid laundry detergent bottles or metal coffee cans will work. Label the outside of the container to say "Medical Sharps."

The secured containers should be taken to a local household hazardous waste collection. Or the lid can be reinforced with heavy-duty tape, labeled "Not Recyclable" and placed in the regular trash. That will prevent a trash hauler from mistakenly routing the container for recycling.

For recommendations and links for proper disposal of medical sharps, go to www.safeneedle-disposal.org.

For more information on the hazardous waste event, call 734-326-3936 or go online to www.waynecounty.com/doe/1043.htm.

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Garden City Thrift Store holds job fair

The Salvation Army Thrift Store in Garden City will host a job fair from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, June 27.

The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center is holding the hiring event in an effort to fill 10 open positions at the nonprofit's Garden City thrift store.

Positions include both full- and part-time openings for clerks, stock personnel, cashiers and managers-in-training. Applicants are encour-

aged to come prepared with a resume and references.

Garden City Salvation Army Thrift Store is at 28982 Ford Road between Middlebelt and Inkster Road. For more information about the job fair, visit www.salarmythrift.com or call 313-965-7760.

The ARC is an integral part of The Salvation Army's mission, and offers substance-abusing adults the opportunity to rebuild their lives through a voluntary,

short-term residential self-help program designed to establish a sense of dignity, self-esteem and personal strength that will allow them to resist the desire to abuse a substance and regain their rightful place as contributing members of society.

Completely self-funded, the ARC draws its entire operating budget from the revenue of the 34 Salvation Army Thrift Stores located in Southeast Michigan.

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Former Detroit Lion emphasizes family, community involvement at new McDonald's

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

As the owner of the new Wayne McDonald's restaurant, former Detroit Lions defensive back James Thrower doesn't want to be the center of the attention.

"I don't want anyone to know I'm here, that I own the business," Thrower said. "I want them to know McDonald's is in the community. I want to have the best McDonald's and work with the community so they are happy to have McDonald's in the area."

Originally from Arkansas, Thrower went to college in Texas where he played football. He went on to the NFL and ended his career with the Lions in 1974.

"Normally, ball players stay where they finish their career — where they have name recognition and a good reputation — or in their college or home town," Thrower said. "I met my wife here. There were opportunities here. Why not Detroit? I planted my feet here."

McDonald's is a family business for Thrower — the family has several stores. His wife Marla, along with their four children — James II, Joni, Jamar and Marissa — all are active in the business.

"We have a small family business. We were fortunate to get in the McDonald's business," Thrower said.

"We grind it out every day. What drives me as a former professional athlete is you always have an attitude of winning and doing your best each day. That's all anyone can ask."

Along with family sup-

port, Thrower cites his religious faith as driving his success and his emphasis on community involvement.

"I wish I could invite everyone in the community to be there for the opening," Thrower said. "This will be their McDonald's in Wayne. We will give them great service. I've been involved in church all my life. There are a lot of churches in Wayne. I will feel most at home in Wayne."

Thrower will host an official carnival-themed grand opening celebration of his newest McDonald's restaurant at 35111 Michigan Ave. at Wayne Road from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 28. The doors to the brand new store, which took more than two months to build, will officially open to customers at 6 a.m. Friday, June 27.

The carnival-themed event will feature "Happy," McDonald's new Happy Meal character, raffles and giveaways, DJ music, face painting, a bounce house and games for children from noon to 4 p.m.

To commemorate the grand opening celebration, Thrower will make a donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities and offer the first 100 guests in line a complimentary McCafé Card providing cardholders with free McCafé coffee through Jan. 31, 2016.

Prizes during the family-friendly event include McDonald's Arch Cards, an iPod Shuffle and a brand new bike.

During the first week of business, June 27-July 1, dine-in customers will enjoy a free small McCafé coffee for breakfast (limit one per customer).

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
313-222-5428
Twitter: @LRogersObserver



James Thrower

Schoolcraft College expanding veterans' services with new space in fall

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College has an expanded Veterans Services Office opening on its Livonia campus on Haggerty, north of Six Mile.

Plans are for the facility to open in September, with work now on schedule.

The facility will feature a lounge, said Pam Paxton-Keehner, the college's veterans services coordinator. Also on tap are study carrels. "Just a place to hang out," she said.

The college enrolls some 225 military veterans in a typical semester, Paxton-Keehner said. She's been on the job since 2009 with the Post-9/11 Bill to support education for returning veterans.

The majority of the veterans have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, she said. "They seem to gravitate toward the public safety kind of careers," including police, fire and EMT. "We have some who are doing nursing."

Paxton-Keehner agreed a military discharge can be a confusing time for veterans with all the paperwork. "They're so anxious to move on and get home," she said.

Some are unsure of how to proceed with higher education. "We're a one-stop shop," said Paxton-Keehner, who can be reached at 734-462-4400, ext. 5346. "It is very overwhelming. We try to sort it out."

The military benefits in education can be tough to decipher, along with other services for veterans. Paxton-Keehner recommends veterans wishing to attend Schoolcraft first call her. There is a checklist for things like admissions, the placement test and more before registration.

She's housed in the college's McDowell Center with other student services. "We really hope to have much more robust referral help for them," she said, such as housing and VA health benefits.

"We really hope to make it more their own," she said of the expanded office.

The new office will have a space for Paxton-Keehner, the



Many educational benefits for returning military veterans are offered, with Schoolcraft's Pam Paxton-Keehner the college's veterans services coordinator. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The new space is larger with study areas and a lounge. It should be ready in the fall.

clerk at the entrance and both lounge and study areas.

"It's more than we've ever had before, so I'm very excited," she said of the retrofitting of the existing space for veterans.

One veteran is Lawrence Smith of Canton, who earned an associate's degree with honors from Schoolcraft before heading to Eastern Michigan University, where he's almost completed his bachelor's degree in public safety.

Smith, an officer with the Detroit Police Department, was encouraged to return to school by his wife, who is also former military. Smith served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to

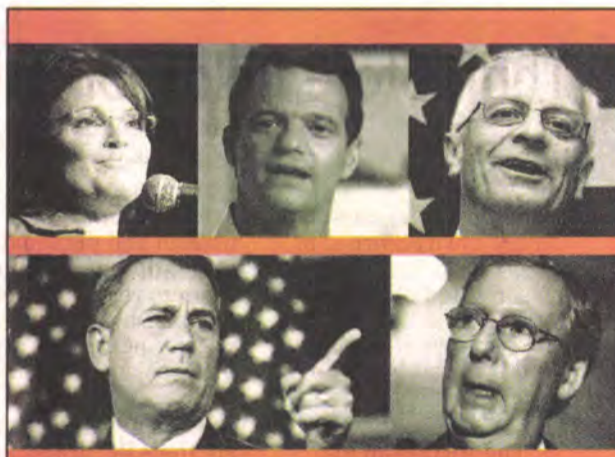
2005, including in Germany, Japan and Egypt.

Paxton-Keehner is proud of Smith, as well as another student heading to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. That student/veteran earned the Purple Heart.


"It is amazing to watch them succeed," she said. "I love what I do. It's really opened my eyes. I have the utmost respect for these guys."

She didn't have much experience with returning veterans earlier in her life and said, "All they need is a little help. This is the best job on campus. It's just amazing."

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Upcoming events help build interest in annual 3-Day walk

The 2014 Susan G. Komen 3-Day is coming to the tri-county area Aug. 15-17. The 60-mile walk will begin with an inspiring Opening Ceremony at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi, on Aug. 15

and end with a celebratory Closing Ceremony at Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn on Aug. 17. The Komen 3-Day® is for both women and men who want to be a part of something bigger — ending breast cancer

forever. Participants raise a minimum of \$2,300 and walk an average of 20 miles a day for three consecutive days, educating tens of thousands of people about breast health and raising funds to help support breast

cancer research and community outreach programs. In preparation for the walk, there will be a Wine-y Walker Meet-Up from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 26, at Michigan by the Bottle Tasting Room, 45645 Hayes Road, Shel-

by Township. During the 3-Day there is no whining and no wine-ing allowed, but before the event participants are free to indulge a bit. Participants can treat themselves to some Michigan wines and local

bites while meeting fellow walkers and crew. A 3-Day coach will be available to answer questions. For more information about the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, call 800-996-3DAY or visit www.the3day.org.

Local fans describe their passion for World Cup soccer action

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

The Englishmen at the Claddagh Irish Pub of Livonia were probably a little disappointed Thursday afternoon.

Make that a lot, as England lost to Uruguay in a FIFA World Cup match. But that didn't take away from the camaraderie as these hardcore World Cup fans gathered to watch.

"Since the day I was born," is the response of Leyton Ellison, who is from England and lives in Livonia, to the question of how long he has been interested in soccer.

He coaches a local soccer club, AC Milan Detroit, and plays soccer for Schoolcraft College. He watches the World



World Cup soccer plays in the background at Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia with flags hanging of countries that participate in the popular sporting event.

Cup matches every day, he said, but notes people in the United States aren't as interested as they are back home. "Nobody cares," he said.

Back home, soccer matches are more of a public event, said Marcel Schmid, who is from Stuttgart, Germany.

"But the enthusiasm is growing here. It's getting bigger," said Schmid, who played professional-

ly in Germany and coaches at Schoolcraft College.

Lifelong fans

Paul Johnston, who lives in Northville but is originally from England, agrees. "There'd be no traffic moving," he said pointing to busy Haggerty Road.

People in England don't just watch the game in pubs, he said. "A lot of people just have parties at home," he said. "All my life," is his response to how long he has been into soccer.

But he says interest in the sport is increasing in the United States. "It's getting better," he said. He's been living in the United States since 1991 and said he has seen a big difference over the years.

Watching World Cup soccer with lifelong fans is exciting, Doug Ware of Livonia said: "It's pretty exciting to watch the game with guys who understand it a lot better than I do."

"I appreciate their enthusiasm for the sport," Ware added.

Mike Bona of Livonia said he first began watching World Cup in 1994: "It's growing in popularity in the U.S."



Leyton Ellison of Liverpool, England, and Steve Davis of Grimbsy, England, enjoy World Cup soccer at Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia. PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

"We've watched a lot of games here," he said. Bona is a soccer coach at Schoolcraft College.

100-percent soccer

Coaches from the Plymouth Soccer Club were also watching the game at Claddagh.

Yao Kra of Ivory Coast, who lives in Canton, says he goes to all the Irish pubs he can find to watch the games.

Watching games is much different here, though. "Back home, it's 100-percent soccer," he said. "It's fun."

"It's great to be with a crowd that loves soccer," said Zach Wilkes of Westland, who also coaches for the Plymouth Soccer Club. He said he has been playing soccer since he was 4.

"I played soccer my whole life," Erik Shaltis of Redford said Friday. "I coach both my son and



Livonia residents Mike Bona and Doug Ware are soccer fans and both enjoy World Cup matches. Bona coaches for AC Milan Detroit.

daughter in Ferndale Soccer. I grew up in Redford Soccer League — my dad was the president of the league for several years."

The U.S. didn't have mainstream soccer on TV back then, "so when World Cup came along, I fell in love ... now every four years is like a month-long holiday for

me and my friends — well, some of them," Shaltis said.

He became a fan of South American teams like Brazil and Argentina.

"I have the pleasure of watching it this year with three rookies," he said, referring to his girlfriend, son and daughter.

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Marshall Upper Elementary 35100 Bayview Westland, MI 48186	

Meal Service will start Mon., June 23, 2014 at all locations*
*Hours vary by locations.
For hours, program end dates, and meals provided, please call the school.
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EATING AND GOUT

It is a popular notion that eating certain foods will bring on gout; almost everyone who has the condition can recall a meal of lobster, shrimp or a particularly large steak that the person felt led to an attack of gout that night.

Physicians would contend with that conclusion. The medical literature includes a number of studies that show that if a person eats the most anti-gout diet possible, doing so would at best, lower the serum uric acid, the precursor to gout, by only one milligram. In practice, physicians medicate to lower the uric acid levels by three or more milligrams.

The story with drink is different. In short, drinking beer and whiskey increase the risk of gout, wine at the evening meal poses little threat. Of course, over indulgence of wine or spirits is both bad for one's health and for the gout. Because illicit brews are at times laced with lead, and because lead ruins the kidney's ability to rid the body of uric acid, it is important for anyone at risk for gout to stay away from such stuff.

For the vast majority of people with gout, who are on medication such as Allopurinol or Uloric, eating meat or seafood and taking a glass of wine, red or white, is as much an option as for anyone without gout.

What anyone needs to be aware of, is his or her intake of soft drinks. They contain a large amount of fructose, which the body ultimately changes to uric acid, the forerunner of gout. Drinkers of large amounts of soda pop are at more dietary risk for gout than steak or seafood eaters.

LD-000199117

Eastern Michigan, Schoolcraft OK criminology program



Kim Schatzel, Eastern Michigan University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Student Services, exchanges ceremonial pens with Schoolcraft College Vice President of Student Services Cheryl Hagen.

Schoolcraft College students interested in a degree in criminology will have an easier process transferring to Eastern Michigan University as a result of a new articulation agreement recently signed by the two schools at Eastern's Livonia Center, 38777 Six Mile Road.

EMU's bachelor of science in criminology and criminal justice requires a total of 124 credits. The new agreement will allow up to 86 credits from Schoolcraft to transfer to EMU. The multidisciplinary program offers four areas of concentration: legal studies, law enforcement, corrections and criminal justice administration.

Articulation agreements are a joint partnership between an EMU academic program and an academic program at a community college. Agreements make it easier for a student to successfully transfer to EMU, saving time and money and transfer credits.

"We're excited about offering this articulated program because there has been so much interest expressed by Schoolcraft students," said Patricia Cygnar, director of community

Careers include police officer, criminologist, forensic psychologist, private investigator, security specialist and correction officer.

college relations at Eastern Michigan. "Eastern's degree completion program in criminology will be offered conveniently for Schoolcraft students at the EMU Livonia Center. Students will be able to complete a bachelor's degree with the law enforcement or corrections concentrations right in Livonia."

The criminology degree can lead to a variety of careers in the criminal justice system and corporate/private security. Careers include police officer, criminologist, forensic psychologist, private investigator, security specialist and correction officer. The program is recognized by the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers



Signing the articulation agreement are (from left) Thomas Venner, EMU dean of Arts and Sciences; Kim Schatzel, EMU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs and Student Services; Cheryl Hagen, Schoolcraft College vice president of Student Services; and Robert Leadley, Schoolcraft College dean of Occupational Programs and Economic Development.

Training Council and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

EMU and Schoolcraft have 15 other articulation agreements, including applied technology, industrial distribution, aviation management, communication technology, health administration, hotel & restaurant management, nursing completion, public safety, social work and technology management.

Eastern Michigan University currently has 146 articulation agreements with 17 Michigan community colleges, five out-of-state community colleges and three universities participating. A reverse transfer program and the Honors program are also available through 33 academic programs at Eastern.

For more information, go to www.emich.edu/ccr/artguide.php or call EMU community college relations at 734-487-6577.



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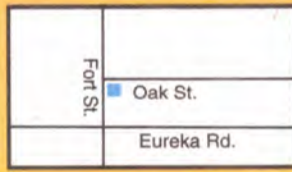
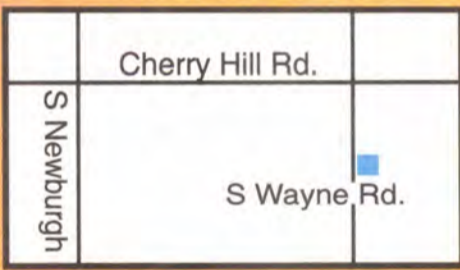
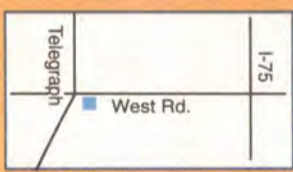
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Rumberger caps off storied career



Longtime Salem baseball coach Dale Rumberger and his team keep close tabs on the action during a recent game.

Rocks baseball coach steps down after 28 years with program

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem's varsity baseball team in 2014 ran like a well-oiled machine as the Rocks posted a 28-10 record, most victories in school history.

And the mechanic, head coach Dale Rumberger, is leaving the garage.

Rumberger informed his players and their parents that he was retiring from the post

shortly after the Rocks were defeated 1-0 by Northville in the recent Division 1 district tourney.

During Rumberger's 20-year career as Salem's head coach (1995-2014), the Rocks compiled a record of 356-303. As an assistant coach from 1987-94, he helped the team go 143-67 and win a state title in 1991.

One of his former players from those early successes, Salem athletic director Tom Willette, praised Rumberger's baseball acumen, communication skills and work ethic.

"Dale Rumberger is one of the best teachers of baseball skills that I know at the high

school level," Willette wrote in an email to the *Observer*. "If you wanted to put in the time and effort, coach Rumberger would spend countless hours throwing batting practice or hitting ground balls or watching pitchers throw to develop those players to their full potential."

"Dale Rumberger has a passion for Salem baseball, starting as a player for the Rocks at the original Plymouth High School and then as part of the coaching staff at Plymouth-Salem and finally Salem High School."

See RUMBERGER, Page B4

ANOTHER LEVEL

Marines steer GC football players through challenging, team-building workouts

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The presence of camouflage-wearing United States Marines proved to be more than a subtle hint that the intensity of Tuesday morning's Garden City High School football workout would be ramped up a few notches.

On the first morning following semester-ending final exams, more than 100 Cougars were tested with a challenging Marine Corps combat fitness session that included

an 800-meter run, a drill that required the lifting of 30-pound ammunition cans and a grueling "movement under fire" obstacle course – all under the direction of locally-based Marines, including Staff Sgt. Robert Stokes, a 2004 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School.

"The workouts we're doing today are great for football because they test the athletes' strength and endurance, while at the same time building teamwork and chem-

See MARINES, Page B2



Garden City's Nick Clark drags teammate Nick DeHetre through a portion of an obstacle course designed by the U.S. Marines. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT



USMC Staff Sgt. Robert Stokes (right) encourages a Garden City football player through a drill.

Canton golfer Do captures Amateur in dramatic finish

By Greg Johnson
Correspondent

Canton's Henry Do emerged as the champion of the 103rd Michigan Amateur Championship after one of the most dramatic finishes in the history of the state's oldest and most prestigious championship.

The 19-year-old University of North Carolina golfer turned back 41-year-old commercial real estate lender Steve Anderson of Troy in 19 holes Friday in the 40th Ama-

teur held at historic Belvedere Golf Club in Charlevoix.

"I'm still shocked I was able to come out with a victory," Do said. "It's quite an accomplishment for me to have my name on the (Staghorn) trophy with those other guys."

Do lost a 1-up lead on No. 16 to a stunning downhill 20-foot birdie by Anderson and then at No. 17 fell victim as Anderson dropped a 45-foot putt from across the green for birdie.

"I was completely rattled on the tee and my caddie (Dongmin Kim) told me you still

have a shot at this," Do said. "So I got it together a little bit, hit a good tee shot and gave myself a good opportunity to hit one close and I guess I did."

He did – a 180-yard 7-iron shot to within 12 inches to force extra holes.

"That's got to be all-time greatest shot for me under pressure," Do said. "I can't think of a better shot."

On the first extra hole, Anderson missed the green short and missed his seven-foot par

See AMATEUR, Page B2



Canton's Henry Do, who just completed his freshman year at North Carolina, won the 103rd Michigan Amateur in dramatic fashion. GREG JOHNSON | GAM

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Get physical: Yoga program aims to keep pulmonary hypertension patients active

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Rana Awdish, M.D., hopes yoga will help patients with pulmonary hypertension — high blood pressure in the lungs — exercise more successfully.

Awdish, a Northville resident and pulmonologist at Henry Ford Hospital, developed a 40-minute yoga program, available on DVD and download through iTunes and Googleplay, with poses modified for individuals with pulmonary hypertension. The exercises are gentle enough for hypertensive patients, even those on oxygen or with joint pain, and can be accomplished seated or standing. The program includes three levels of low-impact yoga

exercise that is aimed at improving balance, strength, reducing stress and calming the nervous system.

"What we find so impactful about yoga is two-fold: Most of our patients are so limited because of shortness of breath. They find it difficult to exercise," said Awdish, who has practiced yoga for 20 years. "Yoga meets them where they are. Even if they are wheelchair-bound, yoga allows them to do exercise in their chair. It meets patients where they are and they have successes."

"The focus on the mind-body aspect of it and the focus

on the breathing helps to calm the nervous system" and reduce blood pressure and heart rate, Awdish added.

That's especially important for individuals with pulmonary hypertension. In patients with the disease, the heart works harder to force blood through the narrowed vessels in their lungs. It typically develops between ages 20-60 and strikes women two or three times more than men. Awdish said genetics and environmental factors likely play a role in developing the disease.

"It's been a rare disease for a long time and is now being recognized, and recognized in older people more now than before. It tends to run hand-in-hand with rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. We know that if patients exercise, they'll have

less joint pain and a better quality of life. What we don't know what the ideal exercise modality is.

Exercise success

Awdish said she created the yoga program after patients asked for it. They wanted to try yoga, but weren't sure which kind was safe and which poses they should avoid.

"These were things I knew because I had done yoga for so long. I started doing yoga in college, but it became meaningful to me in 2008 when I became critically ill."

She said yoga played a big role in helping her to regain her health as she recovered. She practiced basic yoga exercises and saw results.

"I could see day to day I

was getting stronger."

Awdish said the focus on breath in yoga also may help patients view their breathing, which often is hampered by their disease, as a "healing modality" rather than a symptom of pulmonary hypertension. Common symptoms of the disease are shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, and a racing heartbeat.

"It empowers patients to create a more healing environment for their bodies. It's so empowering for them to have successes."

A grant from the Pulmonary Hypertension Association paid for the program. To order a free DVD, visit henryford.com and click on departments and then the link to pulmonary and critical care medicine.



Rana Awdish

Study shows Sweet Dreamzzz helps preschoolers get more sleep

A new study from the University of Michigan found that preschoolers taking part in the Farmington Hills-based Sweet Dreamzzz educational sleep program slept 30 minutes longer each night.

In the study, published in the journal *SLEEP*, 152 preschool children and their families participated in the Sweet Dreamzzz Early Childhood Sleep Education Program, through Head Start programs. The sleep project included a one-time, 45-minute sleep education program for parents, and two weeks of classroom sleep education for the preschoolers. Parents were asked to keep diaries for assessment of their children's sleep habits.

"We know that an increase in sleep duration of that magnitude is associated with better

function for kids during the day," said Katherine DeRue, who conducted the study while she was a postgraduate fellow at the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center and Departments of Neurology and Pediatrics. She is now a pediatrician and sleep physician at IHA Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Consultants in Ann Arbor.

"Parents often underestimate how much sleep their kids require, so an educational program like this, directed at parents when they have more control over their kids' sleep schedules, can have great impact."

The study also found that parents' awareness and knowledge of good sleep behaviors also improved after program participation, but this effect

was not sustained when parents were retested one month later.

"So we found that a two-week program of daily exposure to sleep education in the preschool classroom, along with an initial presentation for parents, can be an effective strategy," said Ronald D. Chervin, M.D., M.S., the study's senior author, director of the U-M Sleep Disorders Center, and a volunteer on Sweet Dreamzzz's Advisory Board.

"But repeated exposure or reminders about the sleep information may be necessary to maintain the effects for kids and especially parents over time."

This is believed to be the first study to examine the effect of a sleep education program on the sleep of preschool-

age children.

Learning good habits

Among the lessons taught were recognizing 8 p.m. as the desirable bedtime; learning that an apple is a better snack before bedtime than a candy bar; and identifying reading rather than watching television as a relaxing activity before bedtime.

"We are pleased to see that the University of Michigan researchers have been able to measure the impact of our sleep program. We know a proper sleep environment, regular bedtime routine, and the right amount of sleep hours each night can impact the future of our children," said Nancy Maxwell, Sweet Dreamzzz executive director. Sweet Dreamzzz provides

educational programs on sleep, along with free sleep essentials, such as sleeping bags, toothbrushes, and books about sleep, to schoolchildren in low-income areas. Sweet Dreamzzz's main aims are to encourage better sleep — and thereby better health and learning — at the earliest ages.

"Nutrition and exercise are commonly the focus of educational efforts to improve children's health," Chervin said. "Good sleep — in quality and quantity — is no less vital to our kids' future, yet it's rarely if ever discussed. Our new findings suggest that a small amount of effort to promote better sleep could have substantial benefit now, and conceivably for years to come as these youngsters grow older."

Change... Should I be afraid?

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Haddad
Obstetrics/Gynecology

Like it or not, things change. It's inevitable. And, while all women will experience menopause, the extent of its effects can vary greatly. Obstetrician/Gynecologist and GCH Health Expert, Dr. Chadi Haddad, provides an overview of what to expect during this physical change.

Q: When does menopause usually start and what causes it?

A: Menopause is a normal part of aging and generally occurs after the age of 40, with an average age of 51. However, some women may experience menopause early, either as a result of surgery, such as hysterectomy, or from damage to the ovaries. Each woman is born with a finite number of eggs, which are stored in the ovaries. The ovaries also produce the hormones estrogen and progesterone, which regulate menstruation and ovulation. Menopause occurs when the ovaries no longer release an egg every month and menstruation stops.

Q: Will menopause symptoms last for the rest of my life?

A: For most women, the symptoms of menopause last for a relatively short time. However, a woman's level of estrogen naturally remains low after menopause. This can affect many parts of the body, including the sexual and urinary organs, heart and bones. So in that sense, the changes of menopause will be lifelong. But eating right, exercising and making other positive lifestyle changes can help a woman feel great and live a long, healthy life after menopause.

Q: What is the difference between perimenopause and menopause?

A: The term 'menopause' is often used interchangeably with perimenopause. However, a woman only technically reaches the menopausal stage of life after she has not had a menstrual cycle for twelve months. The major difference between perimenopause and menopause is the production of eggs. During perimenopause, a woman experiences irregular periods, but her ovaries may still produce eggs.

Q: Even though my eating habits have not changed, I've gained weight recently. Is this linked to menopause?

A: It may be. The body's metabolism changes during and after menopause. Everyone's metabolism begins to slow during the early to mid-30s. This change occurs slowly, so it may take a while for the impact of eating habits to affect weight. It is important to make a sensible, nutritious diet and healthy behaviors, such as getting enough exercise, a goal for life. Evidence suggests eating a diet, which includes lean protein and is low in fat and carbohydrates, may help.

At Garden City Hospital's Center for Women's Health, Dr. Haddad and his team provide the most advanced services in gynecology, obstetrics, prevention and surgery. To make an appointment with Dr. Haddad, call 313.561.2200.

Do you have a health or medical question for one of the GCH Health Experts? Visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

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GREENMEAD GARDEN WALK

Livonia senior recognized for gardening, painting

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Beverly Johnston hated gardening as a child. "We had a vacant lot next to our house that my mother planted," said Johnston, recalling her childhood yard in Plymouth. "My sister and I helped her. We're talking using a hoe to get out weeds, carrying buckets of water, and canning everything. It was not our idea of a good time. We swore that we'd never have gardens."

But after she married, moved to Livonia 62 years ago, and started raising her four children, Johnston discovered "there's more of my mom in me than I realized." She put in a few tomato plants behind the garage and eventually added cutting flowers. When the family moved to their second Livonia home 48 years ago, Johnston put her green thumb to work.

Now at age 86, she'll open her yard to visitors Saturday, June 28, on the Greenmead Garden Walk in Livonia.

"What I aim for in the garden is to make it pleasing to me. I see something I like that appeals to me, I like the color or shape of the leaf or I think it looks cool next to something. I have an impulse garden."

Johnston said her mix of colors and potted annuals also reflects her interest in art and experience as a painter.

"I'm very much influenced by color. I just planted delphiniums next to rosy azaleas. I'm always thinking about what to put next to each other," she said. "I had a teacher who once said for a painting not to be boring, put in something unexpected. And that is the way I treat my garden."

A raised bed, for example, includes a Japanese maple tree that once thrived but since dying has become yard sculpture. Her late husband and two sons planted the tree for Mother's Day one year. Johnston decided to leave it in tact in memory of her husband and one of her sons, who also has



Beverly Johnston is an accomplished artist as well as gardener. Several of her paintings will hang in her garden during the walk. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

died. A wind chime hangs from the tree, which sits near a gazing ball.

Abstract artist

A few of Johnston's floral pastels and paintings will be on display in her garden during the walk. Meanwhile, she'll set up her easel in one of the other gardens on the tour and will paint.

She recently won first place for an abstract painting she entered into the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) spring art show, which runs through June 30 at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Johnston said she has "always been into art" to some degree since childhood and has taken classes at Michigan State, Schoolcraft, Center for Creative Studies, Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Association and at VAAL, where she serves as treasurer. While raising her children, she didn't have much time to dabble, but when her youngest daughter was 4, Johnston attended a "ladies day out" at the YMCA and took

25TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF GREENMEAD GARDEN WALK

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 28

Where: Five gardens at homes throughout Livonia, along with gardens at Greenmead Historical Park, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile

Tickets: \$9 in advance; \$10 day of the event. Tickets available at all Livonia public libraries, Greenmead Historical Park and at Livonia City Hall, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road.

Contact: 248-477-7375

two art classes.

"I eventually got back into it. I joined an art club and started taking instruction."

She painted still life compositions and landscapes for years, but switched to abstract work after taking a class with Laura Host at the BBAC.

"I used to enter all the local



Beverly Johnston's floral paintings will be on display during the garden walk, but her passion is abstract art.

art shows. I don't do that much any more. I paint full size. It's hard to lug paintings around. Mainly now I paint for me."

Lugging bags of dirt and mulch to the backyard and weeding from a kneeling position isn't easy, either. Four years ago, Johnston hired Col-



Years ago, Beverly Johnston's husband and a son planted a tree in the back yard. Both husband and son have passed on. The tree eventually died, too. Beverly keeps the tree as a sculpture to honor them.

leen Giovanni of Farmington Hills to help with the heavy stuff outdoors.

"She is very nice. She brings in four or five kids and they work. I like her attitude and her kids. She teaches them the ethics of working."

FLOWERS ARE FOREVER WALK

'Every year is a work in progress'

Pool, park-like setting create hotel resort theme in Plymouth Twp. garden

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Linda Breakie usually plants 35 flats of annuals to accent her perennial beds every year and spends about 20 hours a week getting her yard into shape for summer.

But this year, with her five-acre property in Plymouth Township on the the Flowers are Forever Garden Walk, she has been busy adding 15 flats, and working full time in the garden.

"A neighbor was in it last year and recommended me," said Breakie, who agreed to open her yard to the public on Tuesday, June 24. "Every year is a work in progress. Every year I'm trying to get in more perennials. The number of annuals never goes down. There is a lot of room to fill in."

She and her husband, Richard, who are both retired, bought the property 20 years ago, when they were self-employed in the health field. Although the site included "a lot of messy woods" and an above-ground pool, they liked the overhang at the attached garage and imagined it would become the perfect spot for outdoor gatherings.

"Richard has worked so hard on cleaning up the property," Breakie said. "When you drive up it kind of looks like a park. We're in a natural beauty area, so we don't want it to look too manicured."

Family flowers

In addition to weeding out trees and scrub bushes, the couple had an in-ground swimming pool installed. The back yard also includes a waterfall,

FLOWERS ARE FOREVER GARDEN WALK

When: Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 24

Where: At several gardens throughout Plymouth and Plymouth Township

What: Presented by Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth

Tickets: \$8 pre-sale and \$10 on June 24. Tickets half off for children, 12 and under. Babies carried in arms are free. Strollers are not permitted. Tickets available at Saxton's Power Equipment, 587 W. Ann Arbor Trail; Backyard Birds, 627 S. Main; and Sideways, 505 Forest Ave.

Contact: Karen Jachym at 734-459-5087 or Marilyn Detmer at 734-454-4625

hot tub and rock garden. Breakie also transplanted many perennials that once grew in her mother's gardens in Detroit and Dearborn Heights. One peony, for example, was handed down from her paternal grandfather to her mother and finally to her.

"It's the prettiest bloom of any peony I've ever seen," she said, describing the 50-year-old plant. "It's carnation pink. I try to group all the colors in the back (yard). I like the pinks and purples. I enjoy colors and flowers, but I'm not a Master Gardener."

She calls her yard a "jumble garden" because of its mix of plants and colors. It's set in sandy soil which is easy to dig, but requires added supplements. Breakie also sprays her plants with repellent to safeguard them from the dozen or so deer that cross the property every day. She has "dog-proofed" much of the yard but discovered that their three



Linda Breakie says the entrance to her five-acre property on Ridge Road in Plymouth Township looks like a park.



Linda Breakie works on her garden, amid lavender, begonias and ageratum flowers. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Australian shepherds seem to understand the phrase "get out of the flowers."

Breakie plans to add chairs, umbrellas and other items to give the back yard a "hotel

resort" theme for the Flowers are Forever Walk. The Trailwood Garden Club also will sell plants and garden ornaments on site.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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

Heritage Park

» Take a Full Moon Friday Night Hike 9:30-10:30 p.m. July 11. Cost is \$3 per person. Hikes are for ages 5 and up. Pre-register at recreg.fh.gov.com. Or pay at the event.

» Family Campfire, 7-9 p.m. July 11, is free. Marshmallows, s'mores and beverages will be sold.

The park is located at 24915 Farmington Road, south of 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

Livonia Garden Club

The Livonia Garden Club presents its Small Standard Flower Show, 3-5 p.m. Friday, June 27, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 28, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. The event is free. For more information, visit livoniagardencub.org or email admin@livoniagardencub.org.

English Gardens

» Learn to bring color and texture to the garden every year at a free presentation, Perennial Gardening 101, 10 a.m. Saturday, June 28.

» Get hints for creating an exceptional landscape at a free presentation, The Basics of Landscape Design, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 5.

» Children will learn about butterflies and how to attract them during Plant a Butterfly Garden, 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 8. Youngsters also will make a butterfly container garden. The store will supply the paint to decorate an 8-inch terra cotta pot and two plants to fill it. The fee is \$10. Register at www.englishgardens.com or in the store.

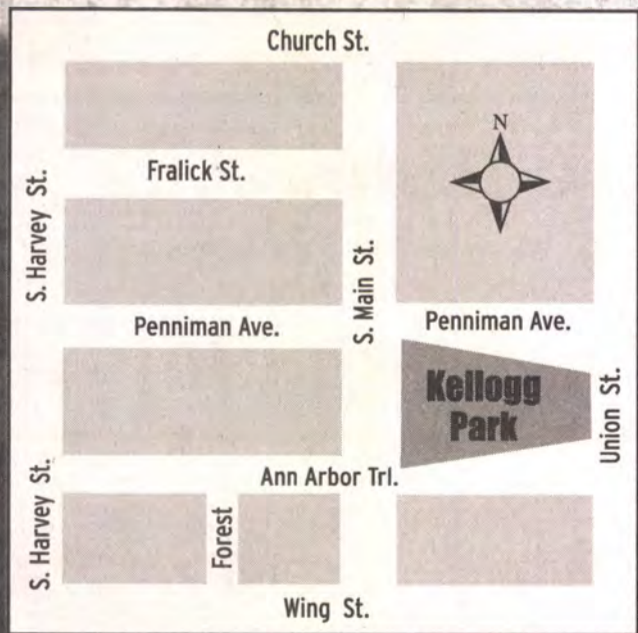
Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

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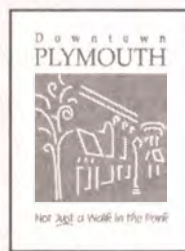
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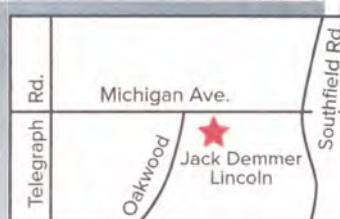
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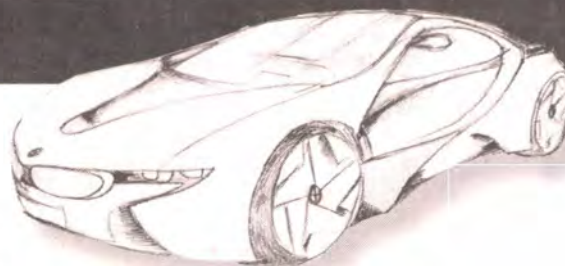
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Car Report

GMC Has a Big, Big Hit in Hugely Capable New GMC Yukon



By Dale Buss

If the unraveling of Iraq had occurred even three years ago, the U.S. automotive industry might have been greatly alarmed because of the potential run-up in oil – and gasoline – prices and how it would spook American consumers, as such spikes notably have before. And sales

occurring ever again in our lifetimes have receded to almost nil. Gasoline prices in this country can be expected to demonstrate much more stability in the years ahead – albeit at today's \$3-a-gallon-and-up levels – even though oil remains a global market.

And demand for vehicles such as the new Yukon, and the 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe and Chevrolet Suburban, won't be whacked nearly as severely as they were several years ago.

After the 2008 financial crash and Great Recession, the entire segment of hulking SUVs like the GM models and the now-defunct Ford Excursions was written off as moribund. Gasoline prices spiked at more than \$4 a gallon; they offered woeful fuel economy; the recession had sapped purchasing power from most Americans; and gas-thirsty SUVs were considered automotive Public Enemy No. 1 by the mainstream media and cultural elite.

But the new GM fleet is just the right group of new offerings to bring the category back amid signs that a good number of Americans again want the size, roominess, towing capabilities and other practical advantages of mammoth SUVs in updated packages. Yukon sales, for example, were ahead by 143 percent in May compared with a year earlier and were 42 percent higher for the year to date compared with 2013.

The Yukon also has just gotten a hugely important new imprimatur: It was named in a tie with Suburban as the top-ranked Large SUV in the 2014

Initial Quality Study by J.D. Power & Associates.

So what kind of vehicle is worthy of such glowing regard?

The new 2015 Yukon is fully redesigned with greater engine output

The 2015 version still offers some of the most important benefits of driving such a large vehicle: a high position to optimize visibility while driving, ample mass and loads of safety features to lend confidence on the road, and cavernous

with a 5.3-liter V8 engine that generates 355 horsepower, even more than last version's 320 horsepower, and a six-speed automatic transmission. But Yukon also posts respectable fuel economy of 18 mpg combined, 16 in the



Rear connectivity features are a highlight. prospects would look significantly worse for vehicles such as the brand-new 2015 GMC Yukon.

But while sensitivities to the threat to Iraq's oil capabilities have sent global crude prices significantly higher lately, one major change in the picture has prevented U.S. consumers and automakers from being nearly as concerned about such dangers as last time: the new paradigm of domestic energy security.

Advanced technologies such as "fracking" and horizontal drilling have boosted U.S. crude-oil production by 47 percent since 2010, and last October domestic oil production surpassed imports for the first time in nearly two decades.

The upshot: The chances of a repeat of the traumatic gasoline-lines scenario of the Seventies



The 2015 GMC Yukon is helping bring back the large-SUV segment.

and improved fuel economy at the same time, better standard and optional equipment, an integrated fold-flat third-row rear seat, updated exterior styling, a quieter interior and low-range gearing now available on the Denali model.

The new Yukon still brings its traditional rugged truck construction and V8 towing capacity but also has added amenities and features that make the experience of driving and riding in it more like that of a full-fledged luxury SUVs.

I got to experience most of the joys of the new Yukon on a recent road trip.

interior room and seating flexibility that take maximum advantage of all of that room.

The SLT version that I drove also featured four-wheel-drive, providing the kind of sure-footedness that comes in handy in the unpredictable weather Michigan has experienced so far in 2014.

What the latest Yukon also provides is better fuel economy than ever before, and more touches that add up to a premium driving experience.

The 2015 Yukon comes standard

city and 22 on the highway with 4WD. GM's new "active fuel management" features such as cylinder deactivation are squeezing every possible mile out of this big powertrain.

Comfort-wise, the new, noticeably improved Yukon now sports high-quality materials, crisp gauge readouts, an intuitive central infotainment display, advanced rear-passenger connectivity features, and other creature comforts including a third row of seats that now is firmly anchored in the vehicle's floor as stow-away seats.

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