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Trash, recycling changes coming

Westland moving to wheeled carts for trash collection, ending RecycleBank program

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Newspapers, social media, cable television and information packets sent to their homes ... Westland residents may have a hard time avoiding news about changes to the city's trash and recycling col-

lection.

Those changes include a move to wheeled carts for trash collection, the end of the RecycleBank incentive program and adjustments in current trash/recycling collection routes.

Westland's participation in the RecycleBank will end July

1; residents who participate in the program will have a year to use their incentive points.

The RecycleBank program cost the city \$175,000 annually and had been offered for five years. The city found only 3 percent of residents were utilizing the incentive program but 78 percent of residents are using the single-stream recycling program.

Trash and compost hauler Midwest Sanitation will be taking over the recycling col-

lection.

Garbage toters

The new 96-gallon toters — the wheeled carts that must be used for trash collection — will be delivered to the Department of Public Works in the next couple weeks. DPS workers will assemble the black bins and deliver them to 28,000 single-family homes.

Since the bins are picked up by a one-man truck using an automated arm, no other trash

containers or bags will be acceptable.

"It's just like when we started recycling about five years ago. You won't use the toters until Sept. 1," Westland Deputy Mayor Jade Smith said. "We will put the toters out to residents during the first couple of weeks in August."

The 96-gallon toters are equivalent to three standard trash cans, Smith said, but

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Lynette Hobyak will have another award to hang on the wall of her office at WCA Assessing, that of Westland's First Citizen for 2014.

Johnston is Business Person of Year

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Being named Westland 2014 Businessperson of the Year came as a pleasant surprise for Randy Johnston, who didn't even know he was nominated for the award.

"An employee submitted the entry — that was pretty nice," said Johnston, owner of VR Metro, a Westland-based Internet marketing company.

Robin Smith, VR Metro project manager, nominated Johnston for the award, which is presented by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

"As an employee of his for two years, I have seen firsthand the time and dedication he puts into VR Metro to help local small businesses grow and achieve their business goals," said Smith in her nomination.



Johnston

Johnston has also worked with Wayne-Westland Community Schools by having high school interns at VR Metro learn about the business, Smith noted, adding that one was hired after she graduated.

A Garden City native, Johnston's first business ventures were Video World stores in Garden City and a Westland store that opened in 1984 on Wayne Road and Hunter.

"It was one of the first video rental stores in the area. I sold the Westland store in 2001," said Johnston, a Garden City West High School graduate.

In 1995, Johnston went back to school and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Cleary University.

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2014 FIRST CITIZEN

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Lynette Hobyak isn't one to wait to be asked. If she sees a need, she jumps in and helps.

"She'll stop what she's doing, she doesn't wait to be asked," said friend Jamie Rohraff.

"I've known her for 17 years and she's always been like that. If she can't do it, she sends out an email to get help."

Hobyak is the 2014 West-

Hobyak tapped as Westland's top volunteer

land First Citizen, an award that recognizes the top volunteer in the community.

Surprisingly, Hobyak doesn't live in Westland, but rather Canton Township. However, growing up in the city and working for her father, Glenn Shaw Jr., at WCA Assessing has kept her feet clearly planted in Westland.

"It's an honor to receive

this," Hobyak said. "It was the way I was brought up. When your parents do it, you just follow in their footsteps. My dad is involved in so much stuff and he gets me involved."

Hobyak lived in Westland until sixth-grade, then moved to Okemos. After high school, she returned to Westland. She's not sure when she start-

ed getting involved in the Westland community, and while she feels guilty she doesn't do it for Canton, she acknowledges that "Westland is where my roots are, I have a business here."

"I didn't really put my hands into things when I moved back, I got involved in the Relay for Life because my mom had cancer," he said. "That was the way I got involved."

Biggby Coffee moving; 2 new businesses receive approvals

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Ford Road fixture for seven years, the Westland Biggby Coffee store will soon relocate further east and add a drive-through window. The council recently ap-

proved a revised site plan and special land use to allow the business to relocate to the north side of Ford just west of Central City Parkway.

It is currently on the north side of Ford just west of Newburgh.

"I hope by fall to be moved

over. For seven years, customers have wanted a drive-through," said Biggby owner Mo Elfakir whose current location can't accommodate a drive-through window.

Biggby will move into a 1,700-square-foot space on the west side of the former Block-

buster store opposite the current City Hall. The rest of the building is occupied by a Verizon store.

Plans call for the drive-through window to be located on the west side of the building.

Council President James

Godbout thanked Elfakir for his continued business investment in Westland and also thanked him for his regular community investment through donations for community events.

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HOBYAK

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Relay for Life

She served as co-chair of the Relay event with Dennis LaMaitre and her sister, Pam Shaw, and in doing so organized a motorcycle rally for several years, taking riders out North Territorial and back to Joy Manor for a spaghetti dinner.

She also has done clothing drives for Light-house Home Mission and St. Mary Outreach Center, but much of what she does comes under the umbrella of the Westland Community Foundation, an organization that's "near and dear to my heart."

Founded by her father, Glenn Shaw Jr., she has been a part of it since the

beginning, and her work with organizations like the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, Good-fellows and the city's new Compassionate City initiative, is an off-shoot.

She loves the foundation because it gives back to the community through its many activities — and the opportunity to work with other community organizations are like sprinkles on a cupcake.

Hobyak is currently helping plan the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army's 25th anniversary. She admits she's put in a lot of time on it. "I hope it becomes a community-wide event," she said.

Two Firsts

Hobyak's recognition as First Citizen since 18 years after her father received the honor. He will be at Joy Manor on



Hobyak's father, Glenn Shaw Jr., is no stranger to the Westland First Citizen Award. He received it in 1996.

Thursday evening to see his daughter receive the honor that he believes is long overdue.

"When I won in 1996, it really should have gone to her," he said.

There's no deadline on if or when Hobyak will ease off on volunteering. She'll "be doing this forever; it's just something I do," she said. "If someone needs help, I just jump in."

Rohraff considers Hobyak her best friend, and said she's the type of person "who is always nice to have as a friend."

"She's so selfless," Rohraff said. "She is someone I look up to; I'm proud to have her as a part of my life. She can always bring out the best in people."

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

At the pumps

How long has it been since you went to the gas station and someone pumped your gas, cleaned your windshield, or ran inside to pick up your items?

John Glenn football players do just that for donations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at the Shell Gas Station, 37400 Ford, at the corner of Newburgh.

Community Day

Community Free Will Baptist Church at 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland, is holding a Community Day at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. There will be hot dogs, bounce houses, games,

face painting and more. Everything is free.

Driving classes

The Wayne Senior Services Office will be offering the AARP Smart Driver Course on 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, July 8-9. The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members (age or residency doesn't apply). Preregister by Tuesday, July 1, by calling 734-721-7460.

Participants must attend both days in order to receive attendance certificate. Call or stop by the Senior Services Office located in the Wayne Community Center on Annapolis at Howe in Wayne.

JOHNSTON

Continued from Page A1

"I transitioned. I saw Internet things at a consumer electronics show," said Johnston, who formed VR (Virtual Reality) Metro Mall to provide online marketing for

area businesses.

In her nomination, Smith noted that Johnston has partnered with many local business. When VR Metro first began, Johnston said most clients were from Westland but now come from the wider metro area.

Now called VR Metro,

the business initially worked out of the back of Johnston's video store.

"We built a lot of websites, did Internet marketing and web promotions," said Johnston, who has six employees and works remotely with a group of programmers and server administrators.

A longtime Westland Chamber of Commerce member, Johnston will be recognized at the chamber awards program, which is set for 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Joy Manor.

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BUSINESS

Continued from Page A1

» A special land use was approved by council to allow a nurse aide training center at 4693 S. Middlebelt at the southeast corner of Annapolis.

The training center would be located in a 6,708-square-foot unit in a commercial strip center.

There would be two classes Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3-9 p.m., each with a maximum of 15 students. The special land use is needed to permit a vocational school in the CB-3 business district zoning.

The approval was granted contingent on the removal of an RV, boat and tires from the property along with

landscaping maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

» The council also approved a special land use for Greater Beginnings Child Care, 170 S. Venoy on the west side of the street south of Cherry Hill in the Cherry Hill Venoy Plaza.

Plans call for the day care center to be in a 4,000-square-foot building. The day care center would care for approximately 70-80 children from six months to 7 years old.

The special land use for a day care center is required under the CB-2 zoning.

The approval was granted contingent on the parking lot being cleaned, repaired and re-striped.

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TRASH

Continued from Page A1

residents can request an additional cart for an annual charge. Conversely, residents who don't expect to need the 96-gallon cart can request a smaller 64-gallon cart, which would be the equivalent of two standard trash cans.

"People will have the option of letting us know. There may be some people, like condo residents, who may not need the big cart or have room for it," Smith said.

Special pick-ups

One change is that residents will be charged special pick-ups, including overflow amounts of trash, carpet bundles, bulk items that don't fit in the cart, appliances and furniture.

"Over the last three or four years, we have seen a trend upward of bulky items. Some things we saw were very concerning," said Paul Ruthenberg of Midwest Sanitation. "We have seen three couches at the curb. That's something we haven't seen before. And other items dropped at the curb."

Ruthenberg commented that he would rather see couches recycled — that is given to someone

who needs a couch — than left on the curb.

"Couches last a long time in landfills. We want to get those items out of the waste stream," Ruthenberg said. "Landfill costs are going up."

Compared to Taylor, where he provides the same services, Ruthenberg said Westland residents recycle at higher numbers.

"I think Westland has taken a more aggressive approach to recycling," he said.

Extra carts

To encourage recycling, residents can obtain a second recycling cart at no charge.

Trash collection route

changes will begin Aug. 11 with an eye on making the routes more efficient.

"If residents have a pick up on Friday and are moving to Tuesday, we will do two collections on the new and old dates," Ruthenberg said. "As long as people can get rid of the trash. It's a one-week event. Residents figure it out."

Informational meetings are being scheduled in July at the Dorsey Center on Dorsey, the Friendship Center on Newburgh and the Church of the Latter Day Saints on Hix.

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CORRECTION

In Kurt Kuban's opinion column "Wayne County executive candidates attempt to break through voter anger" that appeared in last week's paper should have referred to Warren Evans as former Wayne County Sheriff.



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Wayne Memorial graduate receives scholarship from Wayne Police

Recent Wayne Memorial High School graduate Joseph Wellinski is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Wayne Police Department.

The scholarship is awarded to a student graduating from Wayne Memorial who wants to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Listed on the honor roll, Wellinski graduated with a 3.38 grade-point average and was involved in the JROTC, along with the school Senate and volunteering his time to build parade floats and other activities, Police Chief Jason Wright said.



Wayne Memorial High School graduate Joseph Wellinski (center) is the recipient of a Wayne Police Department scholarship. With him is Chief Jason Wright (left) and Mayor Al Haidous.

"Our citation board reviewed his essay and awarded the scholarship," said Wright, who presented the scholarship at a recent Wayne City Council meeting.

"We're very proud of you. One day we may see you in the chief's seat," Mayor Al Haidous said. Wellinski is planning to attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

New trees help green Norwayne community

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

If you're passing through Norwayne, keep an eye out for new greenery.

The eco-friendly renovation project of 120 newly planted trees is thanks to a recent grant awarded to Westland through the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

The trees, planted by the Westland Department of Public Services, include red maples, sunset maples, sweet gums, swamp white oaks and little leaf lindens.

"The trees are planted on city property. The city acquired some odd-shaped lots where we tore down houses and they are un-buildable," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "You can see them on Venoy before you get to Dorsey."

Trees were also planted on cleared corner lots that the city kept to create more green space, Westland Community Development Director Joanne Campbell said.

"It's really just to bring more nature into the community, and that is a wonderful thing," said Campbell, noting other efforts, including the community garden.

The Restoring Trees in an Urban Watershed grant funding came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Service Division and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. ARC is a non-profit organization that includes Westland and 34 other municipalities, in addition to Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties.

"These 120 new trees are a symbol of the re-birth of Westland's oldest

neighborhood," Wild said. "As we collectively work with the community groups within Norwayne to return the neighborhood to a 'community of choice,' additional trees and green space will play a pivotal role in the future livability of the area."

Constructed in 1942, the Norwayne neighborhood was added to the National Register of Historic Places in July 2013. It was built during World War II for Willow Run Bomber Plant workers. At its peak, Norwayne had more than 20,000 residents.

In recent years, Westland has focused on removing blighted housing and improving infrastructure in Norwayne.

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Knezek seeks return of sentencing panel

State Rep. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights has introduced legislation that reinstates a sentencing commission responsible for proposing reforms to the Legislature on the guidelines used by judges when determining prison sentences for criminals.

"Michigan spends more than \$5 million each day on corrections; that's over \$2 billion a year," Knezek said. "This legislation reinstates a commission, responsible for reviewing our sentencing practices, so that Michigan can strike the appropriate balance between the crime, the punishment and the state's bill for incarcerating criminals."

In 1998, after a lengthy analysis by a sentencing commission, the Michigan Legislature enacted recommendations to reform the sentencing structure. The recommendations were

made so that sentences throughout the state were proportionate to the crime, while also taking into consideration a criminal's prior offenses.

As of today, there has not been an organized effort to assess how the guidelines enacted 16 years ago are working in practice. Over the past few years, the Legislature has changed multiple scoring and offense classifications which have increased the average length of stay and thus led to skyrocketing costs. As a percentage of a department's budget, the Michigan Department of Corrections receives the largest portion of general fund dollars and constitutes one of the largest appropriations of money for corrections in the country.

"By reinstating a commission that was abolished in 2002, Michigan can assess our current sentencing practices and ensure that dangerous criminals stay behind bars. In states that formed sentencing commissions, many have

lengthened sentences for perpetrators of sex crimes, while shortening sentences for nonviolent crimes," Knezek said. "Michigan's financial resources are stretched, and spending more than \$2 billion each year on corrections prohibits us from improving our roads, public schools and investing in other important priorities for Michigan's future."

According to a 2012 Pew Charitable Trust Research Study, of the 35 states it reviewed, Michigan has the longest average prison length stay and that Michigan's sentences of time served were 79 percent longer than in 1990. As a result, Michigan has seen an increase in its annual corrections cost by nearly \$492 million.

While a prisoner's length of stay is determined by sentencing and parole policies, the implementation of a sentencing guidelines commission would help bring control to Michigan's spending on incarceration.



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Westland senior says be wary of bogus PCH prize calls

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

A Westland resident thought Publishers Clearing House was coming to his door, but the \$1 million prize and a new vehicle was too good to be true.

And the savvy senior citizen knew it, although "she sounded very convincing," he said.

The man, who asked not to be identified, said he received a call Wednesday morning from a woman, identifying herself as Darlene Hilliard of PCH, notifying him that the

prize patrol was coming to his home with a new vehicle loaded on a flatbed trailer and a check to be presented by three women.

She even gave him her two phone numbers, an address on Winners Circle in Port Washington, N.Y. Thinking that PCH has its offices in Florida — they are actually in Port Washington, N.Y. — the man said he played along.

It was when the woman asked if he had \$500 cash in his house. He replied no and asked why it was needed.

"She said I had to have \$500 cash for the delivery and service charge. When I asked her why I had to pay, if I won something, she hung up," he said.

Out of curiosity, he tried to call the three phone numbers she had provided and found that none of them could receive incoming calls.

The clearing house website states that "at PCH the winning is always free and you never have to pay to claim a prize award." It also warns that "if someone contacts you

claiming to be from PCH, and tells you that you've won a prize award — then asks you to send a payment or money card in order to claim the prize — stop! You have not heard from the real PCH."

"Publishers Clearing House does not operate this way and would never ask for money to claim a prize award. PCH employees would never contact you personally or in advance to notify you of a prize award. Our prize awards are presented just the way you see in our popular TV commercials, 'live

and in person' by our Prize Patrol, with balloons, champagne and check in hand — and with no advance notification."

The man is hoping to get the word out so others aren't taken in by the bogus prize patrol and plans to contact PCH about it.

As for spotting the phone call as a scam, the man said it isn't the first time.

"It happened before, that's why I was suspicious," he said.

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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny from a vehicle

A Westland man told police that someone had broken a window on his 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee on June 17 while it was parked in the east side of Red Robin, 36350 Warren Road. Reported missing were an Apple MacBook laptop, Apple iPad, several school books, a graphing calculator and a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses.

Fraud

On June 18, a Westland man told police that he had been contacted by Life Lock on May 7 and alerted that someone had opened credit cards using his personal information at Sears and Toys R Us. The Sears card had been used, the man said, with \$500 charged to it.

Break-in

Police were called to a home in the 33000 block of Harvard about a fight between two teenage girls. The fight complaint turned out to be unfounded but the homeowner reported the garage had been broken into.

A side door had been forced open on the garage. The owner told police someone had made a makeshift bed using a pool raft and clothing stored in the garage.

The suspect had also defecated on the garage floor. It

appeared nothing was missing.

Vandalism

On June 19, a resident in the 7500 block of Cardwell told police that someone had slashed or let the air out of a tire on her 2003 Ford Ranger overnight. Both gates to the property had been opened. The officer said he could find no cut or puncture mark on the tire, which was flat.

Larceny

A resident in the 28000 block of Currier told police June 19 that he and his wife left for work at 9 a.m., leaving their teenage son sleeping. When the son woke up at noon, the resident said he had noticed the garage door was open.

Checking on the garage door, the teen reported it was off the track and wouldn't close properly. Reported stolen were two jack stands and assorted tools valued at \$210.

Fraud

A Detroit woman told police June 19 that on June 3 she had loaded \$500 on a Vanilla Reload Network prepaid debit card at CVS Pharmacy, 7250 N. Venoy. When she later went to use the card to pay tuition at her child's school, she said it was denied.

Calling the debit card company, the woman said she was told someone had used the

card in Idaho.

Larceny from a vehicle

A Westland woman told police she had her left her Pontiac G5 for ignition recall repairs at Red Holman, 35100 Ford, on April 9. When she retrieved the car June 20, she said the stereo equipment and CDs valued at \$820 had been stolen and the trunk lock cylinder was damaged.

Attempted break-in

On June 20, a resident in the 32000 block of Ogemaw told police she was visiting her grandmother when a neighbor called to alert her that a man was walking around in her backyard.

When she returned home, she said a baby stroller had been moved from the front porch onto the lawn. She also noted markings on a window air conditioning unit. No entry appeared to have been made.

Traffic hazard

Officers came across a 2001 Olds Silhouette minivan disabled on Henry Ruff just north of Van Born block traffic just after 10:30 p.m. June 19. The front tire was missing and there was also front end damage. The vehicle, which was impounded, was registered to a 93-year-old Westland woman.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COP CALLS

Break-in

A resident in the 4600 block of Walker told police June 21 that he was gone for over three hours and returned home to find the door to the sun room had been kicked in. He said he was unsure if anyone had gotten into the house but nothing appeared to be missing.

Ammo found

On June 19, a resident in the 35000 block of Elm called police to report her son had found a plastic container with two pistol magazines and several bullets inside.

The youngster told police he was going through a vacant lot at the southeast corner of Wayne Road and Ash when he found the plastic container. He said he looked inside, then checked the field but did not locate a gun.

The boy told police he then checked with the residents next to field but they said it wasn't their property. He then took the items home and turned them over to his mother.

The officer took the plastic Pelican case, which contained two .40-caliber Smith and Wesson magazines and 25 bullets. He also reported checking the field but finding no weapon.

Suspicious circumstances

At 4 a.m. June 19, a resident in the 4500 block of Woodward told police she had just fallen

asleep when she suddenly woke up. She said she saw someone in the window staring at her and a fan that had been in the window was now on the floor.

The woman said she screamed and ran into her father's room. She was unable to provide a description or say which direction the suspect had fled. The father said he checked outside the home and found the screen on the window to his daughter's room had been lifted up.

Larceny

A Detroit resident told police June 18 that someone had stolen the bronze military marker from his father's grave at Westlawn Cemetery, 31472 Michigan Ave. The man said his father was killed in Vietnam and the military had paid for the special grave marker.

The man told police he had not visited the grave in three years so he was unsure when the marker was stolen. The cemetery had offered to replace the stolen marker but the man said he wanted an exact replacement in bronze.

Vandalism

On June 21, a resident in the 35000 block of John told police that someone had smashed the driver's side window of her 2005 GMC Canyon within the past hour. The vehicle was parked in the street.

By LeAnne Rogers

Jump into July!

Be sure to take advantage of all the great events we have planned for the month of July. Join in for fun, informative, and entertaining activities throughout the entire month!

Events At:

Independence Village of Plymouth
14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-2600

Fourth of July Celebration

Wednesday, July 2 | 1:30 pm

Join your own Village Joy Singers as they help Independence Village celebrate Independence Day.

Our thirty-voice choir will present a program of all your patriotic favorites. Light refreshments will be served.

Art in the Park

July 11 - 13

Friday, 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

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Sunday Brunch & Open House

Sunday Brunch

Sunday, July 20

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Saturday, July 26

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2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

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Thursday, July 31 | 6:00 pm

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PLEASE RSVP THREE DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT



A FINAL RESTING PLACE

Abandoned cremated remains given proper burial

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

It may have been a long time coming, but 59 deceased individuals, including several military veterans, at last found a final resting place at Northville's Rural Hill Cemetery on Friday.

Their cremated remains, which had been left abandoned by family members over the years, were put into one casket and buried in a plot at the scenic cemetery off of Seven Mile. But not before a moving ceremony attended by more than 100 people, including the Honor Guard from American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

The ceremony and burial was set up by David Griffin of L.J. Griffin Funeral Homes. Griffin recently purchased the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville and inherited the cremated remains, which had been stored in a steel case at the funeral home. Many of the remains came over from the Northrop Funeral Home in Redford, and some dated back to the 1930s.

Once he learned of their sad fate, Griffin said he devised the idea for the burial. He approached Rural Hill, purchased a plot and everything else needed for the burial, including a headstone that will be placed at the grave in the coming months. He said it will be a black headstone, and include all the names and dates of the deceased.

"We knew we had to do something," Griffin said.



Members of the American Legion Honor Guard prepare to drape an American flag over a casket that contained the remains of several military veterans abandoned over the years. PHOTOS BY KURT KUBAN

"We did the right thing to honor these folks, who were essentially forgotten."

Father Jack Baker of St. Perpetra Parish in Waterford (and formerly of St. Mary in Wayne) and Pastor Rob Allen of Northville's First Presbyterian Church offered eulogies for the individuals, and the Honor Guard played taps and provided a 21-gun salute for the seven military veterans, including Spanish-American War vet Norval Marlett, who passed away in 1955.

John Sassaman, who sold his funeral home to Griffin, said the remains had accumulated over the years.

"They were left by families who used the services in our funeral homes, and after the

service just left them with us," Sassaman said. "Many of the deceased had no children, which may explain why they were abandoned."

Most of the people who attended Friday's service were quite moved, and many tears were shed, even though nobody there knew any of the people that were being honored.

"We wouldn't have missed this for the world. We always support our veterans. It was a beautiful ceremony, and just took my breath away," said Linda Shirkey, a member of the American Legion Post 32 Auxiliary. "This was long overdue." Father Baker agreed. "It is time to let them lay in peace," he said.

kkuban@hometownlife.com
734-716-0783



The Rev. Jack Baker blesses a coffin Friday containing the remains of 59 cremated individuals at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The Rev. Rob Allen of Northville's First Presbyterian Church is to his right.

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10 - 10:45 a.m.

"Maintaining Independence As We Age" - What an assessment and prevention can do to help you stay healthy -
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11 - 11:45 a.m.

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8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Exhibitors

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Flea Circus brings animal rescue groups to Garden City

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Jen and Emma Ferris like their adopted rescue pug Cody so much that they brought him to the Flea Circus to look for pug products. "We found a pug book," said Jen Ferris. They snapped up *Puddle Pug* about Percy the Pug, a persistent pug who pursues friendship in puddle paradise.

The Garden City Downtown Development Authority recently held its second Flea Circus in the Farmers Market area located near Ford and Middlebelt. There were different animal activities and eight dog rescues on hand. "There is so much to see," Jen Ferris said.

Dog Aide rescue volunteer Shelly Hlavati of Livonia walked a one-year-old boxer-pit bull terrier-German Shepherd. The rescue is based in Dearborn.

"I've been with this group about a year," Hlavati said.

Foster moms and dads bring their dogs, or volunteers pick them up for an event like this one.

Potential owners had a chance to visit with dogs but they couldn't be adopted that day because applications needed to be filled out and home visits scheduled.

There also were educational opportunities. Representatives of Keep Michigan Wolves Protected — a coalition of conservation groups, animal welfare organizations, Native American tribes, wildlife scientists, faith groups, veterinarians, hunters, farmers and concerned Michigan citizens working to protect Michigan's wolf population — had a tent at the Flea Circus.

After 50 years on the protected list, wolves in Michigan are now starting to recover; the current population estimate in Michigan is only 636 wolves, the group said.

"Our current Michigan wolves are small and limited," said Karl Fischer, adding that it's not right to spend decades bringing the wolf back from the brink of extinction only to turn around and allow them to be hunted and trapped for trophies.

Brian Walsh of Walsh's K-9 in Wayne was there with his dog, Jake to talk about solving dog behavior problems. Jake, 9, accompanies Walsh everywhere he goes to give presentations.

Behavior problems can develop quickly. He described what can happen when four dogs from the same litter leave for different homes.

"When each of those dogs leave the litter, one goes to the inner city, one goes to country, one goes to a single family and one goes to a family of 10. Within a short amount of time, you can have four different dogs," Walsh said. "A dog is a reflection of the owner."

When other trainers can't work with some dogs, Walsh steps in. A half day of training that also involves homework can cost about \$250.

Walsh works with dogs that haven't been trained to walk with their owners, can be aggressive and who bolt out the door.

'Avoid, avoid'

Charging dogs have been a problem in some Garden City neighborhoods. Some have bitten mail carriers. Walsh said it's a common occurrence in cities.

"Every neighborhood we go to has the same issues," he said.

"Avoid, avoid, avoid," is Walsh's primary advice to dog owners who think there might be a problem in some areas with dogs.

That might mean not walking dogs in some areas at all. Owners must be dog savvy and know their dogs. In the case of a dog attack, he said there are different solutions, but the owner must be prepared and not allow himself to be caught off guard.

To protect their dog in a dangerous situation with another dog might mean throwing their dog into the car or over a fence to create a barrier, he said.

"If two dogs do lock on, pick up the aggressor's back feet," Walsh said. But that means



Little puppy Carter has a new friend, as Lola wants to play. Garden City resident Jodi Bilak looks on at the Flea Circus. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Karen Zale gets kisses from Herbie, who is from Last Day Dog Rescue in Livonia. He wants to be adopted to a new home.

that the person must now be prepared to handle aggression against him.

"It's one way to break it up, but now that dog might come back at you," Walsh said.

Another option is to get between the aggressive dog and the dog being attacked as a way to distract the aggressive dog, he said.

The owner has to always be able to control his dog. Carrying an animal repellent that can be sprayed in a dog's mouth, a walking stick to strike a dog on the back area where there are a lot of nerves, and even taking garbage can lid on a walk can help, he said. The idea is to place the lid in front of the aggressive dog to distract him.

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313-222-2249
Twitter:@SueBuck



Livonia-based Pet-A-Pet therapy dog Casey shows off his decorated stars and stripes costume.



Garden City Garden Club members came out to support the Flea Circus and raise money for their club.



Sandy Ostrander and dog Ruby and Michelle Doucette and Lokie are with Providing for Paws, a foster-based organization in Garden City.



Retired blood donor Lurch from Garden City checks out the people as they walk by. Lurch donated at least 50 times to the Red Cross and received the Everyday Hero Award for his blood donations.

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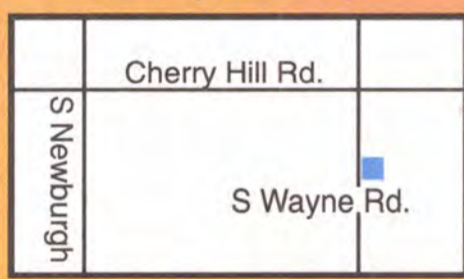
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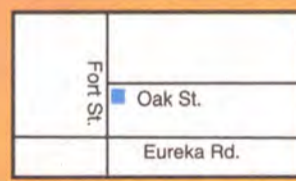
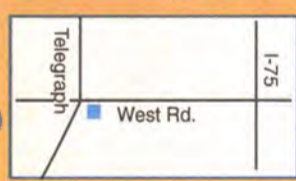
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IKEA expansion comes with road work gift

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

IKEA's plan to expand its Canton store comes with a \$250,000 gift for improving traffic-snarled Ford Road and the potential for new jobs at the 300-employee site, a company spokesman said Friday.

The expansion also means Canton is expected to remain IKEA's only Michigan store for the foreseeable future, spokesman Joseph Roth said.

"That's not going to change anytime soon," he said. "By expanding in Canton, we are ensuring that it will be the only IKEA store in Michigan for a longer time now. We think it's a great location and a great community. That's why we're making an additional investment here."

His remarks came as the Canton Township Board of Trustees is expected Tuesday to amend IKEA's site plan and planned development district to accommodate a 42,826-square-foot expansion of the store that opened eight years ago at Ford and Haggerly.

Fall plans

IKEA, billed as the world's largest home furnishings retailer, hopes by early fall to demolish the former ABC Warehouse store to the west. An expansion of the 311,000-square-foot IKEA store is expected to start by late fall and possibly be complete next spring.



This is an architectural rendering of what the expanded Canton IKEA store will look like. IKEA

Bryan Amann, a local attorney representing IKEA, has called the store "a significant economic engine for Canton and the entire region."

IKEA already has become a destination for shoppers from southeast Michigan, other states and Canada. The area could draw even more business if Paragon Outlet Partners builds a 357,000-square-foot outlet mall with as many as 100 stores by 2016 on the south side of Ford Road, between I-275 and Lotz. Canton residents are divided over the possible uptick in development, with some fearing more traffic congestion.

Roth declined to say how many shoppers IKEA already draws.

The project comes amid plans to ease Ford Road traffic congestion by paving Lotz between Ford and Cherry Hill and tweaking the Ford/I-275 interchange. The long-term goal is to transform Ford into a boulevard from the interstate to west of Sheldon.

Better roads

IKEA plans to give \$242,000 to Canton to designate solely for road improvements and another \$8,000 in so-called in-kind services. The latter portion involves reworking the IKEA site so customers from KFC and other businesses have better access to the traffic light on Ford in front of the IKEA property.

"We felt this was the right thing to do and the

right time to do it," Roth said.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy welcomed IKEA's gift as Canton seeks money to improve Ford Road.

"That's being a good neighbor," LaJoy said. "They certainly didn't have to do that."

The township board's vote Tuesday comes after the Canton Planning Commission already approved IKEA's plans.

"I think it's good for IKEA," LaJoy said, adding the expansion will give the company more room to house merchandise on-site. "If they thrive and make money and stay there and help the community, I think that's good for everybody."

Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, who also serves on the planning commission, said she's glad to see an existing business grow.

More jobs

"The negative for Canton is the loss of the building where ABC Warehouse used to be," she said. "We will lose some taxable value there for now. Down the line, it should balance itself out (with IKEA's expansion). We were glad ABC Warehouse was able to find another home and stay in Canton and use a building that was empty."

ABC Warehouse moved to the former Borders bookstore at Ford and Morton Taylor.

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Beaumont, Botsford, Oakwood agree to form new health organization

Beaumont Health System, Botsford Health Care and Oakwood Healthcare have reached a definitive agreement to combine their operations into a new \$3.8 billion health care organization following unanimous approval by their boards Monday.

Beaumont Board Chair Stephen Howard, Botsford Trustee Chair Gerson Cooper and Oakwood Board Chairman John Lewis said the agreement reflects their organizations' common vision to remain leaders in providing high-quality, high-value, not-for-profit health care and their mission of community service.

Under the terms of the definitive agreement, the three organizations are creating a new, not-for-profit Michigan health system called Beaumont Health. The Beaumont Health name was chosen to demonstrate the new system's focus on health and wellness and was based on independent market research showing the regional and national strength of the new name. The name also has historical ties to pioneering Michigan physician and medical researcher Dr. William Beaumont, whose medical research and innovations are recognized globally.

The three organizations announced a letter of intent March 21 to integrate their combined eight hospitals and 153 other patient care sites into a new comprehensive, collaborative health system focused on advancing quality and access to care throughout

the region.

"While Botsford and Oakwood have outstanding names and brands in their primary communities, we chose the name Beaumont Health because of its recognition and strength throughout all of southeast Michigan and on a national level," said Oakwood Board Chairman John Lewis, who will be the future chair of the Beaumont Health board. "The new health system will be a national model and the name paves the way for an even stronger national voice in the future of health care delivery. And the word health represents our combined goal of improving the health of individuals, families and employers in the communities we serve."

Hard work

Beaumont President and CEO Gene Michalski, who will serve as initial CEO of the new health system, heralded the hard work, respect and collaboration that led to the agreement.

"This milestone demonstrates our mutual commitment to working together to improve quality, efficiency and value for our patients. We'll be able to share and build on our individual successes and will stand stronger together during a time of major transformation in the health industry."

As announced in March, the new health system will be governed by a single board and executive leadership structure with representation from the three organizations. Michalski, Oakwood CEO Brian Connolly and Botsford CEO Dr. 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, LaCasse and Michalski will remain as president and CEO of their respective organizations during the period of transition. Connolly is serving as chief transition executive and LaCasse is serving as clinical transition executive on behalf of the CEO Council.

"The work to integrate

these three great organizations, while challenging, is progressing well," Connolly said. "We see the signs that we are indeed creating the health care system of the future — a system in which population health can truly be impacted in a very positive way while increasing quality and value for every family we are fortunate to serve."

Physician collaboration and integration is another key priority for the new health system.

"We want to continue to engage all our physicians in driving clinical standards, performance, programs and services, and to expand opportunities to partner with community physicians and other care providers to better serve patient needs and secure the future for our physicians," LaCasse said. "This includes the physicians we are training through our graduate medical education programs and medical school relationships."

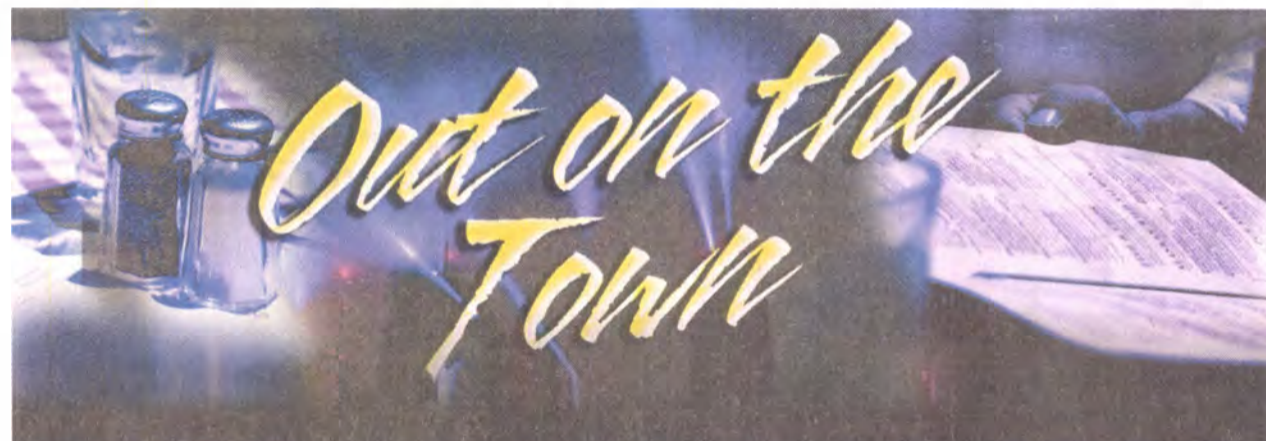
Final approvals

The final steps in coming together are state and federal regulatory approvals. With these approvals, the organizations expect to close the transaction in the fall.

Work will also continue to develop detailed transition plans to bring the operations of the three organizations together and to finalize details, such as a location for executive offices and the appointments of board members and the new health system's executive team.

The new Beaumont Health organization will have eight hospitals with 3,337 beds, 153 outpatient sites, 5,000 physicians, 33,093 employees and 3,500 volunteers. The hospitals include:

- » Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak; Beaumont Hospital, Troy; and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe.
- » Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills
- » Oakwood Hospital-DeARBORN; Oakwood Hospital-Southshore; Oakwood Hospital-Taylor; and Oakwood Hospital-Wayne.



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Spree crowd fends off rain to kick off annual event

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

After winning arguably one of the Livonia Spree's first midway prizes, 9-year-old Allie Avers said a common phrase heard Tuesday afternoon at Ford Field.

"Get your umbrella out!" the Livonia girl said to her mother, Laura Avers.

Laura and Allie Avers were two of the few people who ventured Tuesday to Ford Field as soon as the Livonia Spree grounds opened at 4 p.m. With massive puddles and mud throughout the field, some families and youngsters ventured to see what rides were open and what prizes were available to win.

The Spree, which runs through Sunday, has a multitude of attractions for children and adults, with carnival rides, fair food and live entertainment scheduled throughout the week.

Laura Avers said the Spree is her daughter's big event each summer and insists on going throughout the week. Her daughter and friend spent the afternoon circling the grounds trying to figure out where to go next.

She had already won one stuffed animal while competing in the Fire Fly, a water race midway game that requires participants to shoot water at a target to move a racer.

"We go every day," she said. "It's the biggest thing to my daughter."

Hazel Park resident Lorna Neiman came to the Spree with some of her grandchildren from St. Clair Shores. Her daughter is working the event and thought their families would be able to enjoy some of the rides for free, but found

out that was not the case.

Still, her group was able to find some things to do, including winning at the fish bowl carnival game.

"We'll be here until it closes," she said. "I enjoy going to these things."

Nine-year-old Lily Bourgeois came with her family and rode on one of the roller coasters. She said she's come every year since she was little and wanted to see what was making its first appearance this year, though she said the Twister ride was her favorite.

"I want to find the new rides," she said.

Take the shuttle

The Spree committee is urging attendees to utilize the free shuttle service being offered from city hall to Ford Field because of the I-96 construction and some work being done at Frost Middle School that limits parking.

Shuttles were up and running to the field early Tuesday, though some contained very few passengers because of heavy rain in the area.

The Spree fairgrounds will open at 2 p.m. Thursday. Other activities taking place Thursday include the Taste of Spree 6-8 p.m. at Eddie Edgar Arena, the petting zoo until 9 p.m., the Comedy Magic of Ken and Austin Dumm at 6 p.m. at the Brighthouse Networks tent and the wacky rubber duck races until 9 p.m.

The Spree will finish Sunday evening with fireworks, which will close Farmington Road between Schoolcraft and Five Mile, as well as Schoolcraft near Farmington Road starting at 7 p.m.

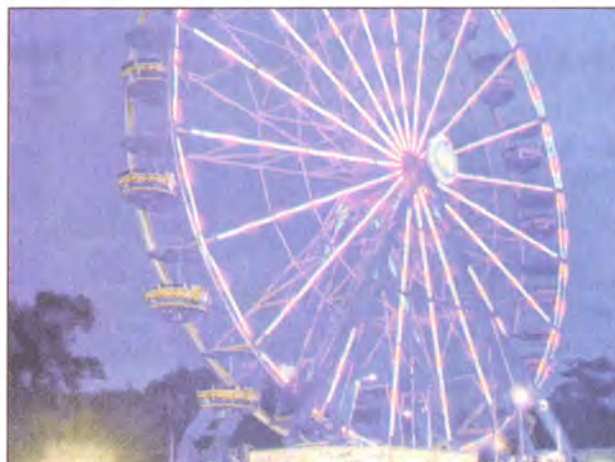
Laura Avers had to

limit the activities Tuesday because of all the rides and other attractions she knows her daughter will want to experience throughout the week. While the Spree offers somewhat unlimited fun for her daughter, her wallet has to tell her to slow down to make it through the week.

"You have to spread out the money," she said with a smile.

More information regarding the Spree can be found on the event's website, livonia.spree.com.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



Rides along the Spree midway. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Ty Paschen, Nick Reed, both 9 years old, and Ryan Trottier, 8, ride the Wacky Worm.

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See the previous page for fantastic items from... **Joe's Meat & Seafood** *art of bread*

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Nedeljkovic is Whalers' top prospect

NHL team could pick Plymouth goalie in first or second round of entry draft

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Alex Nedeljkovic is a virtual lock to stand behind the podium this weekend at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, wearing the colors of whichever National Hockey League team drafts him.

Several of his teammates on the Plymouth Whalers also could enjoy that career-launching moment.

The Plymouth Whalers' 18-year-old goaltender — whose spectacular performance throughout 2013-14 garnered him OHL Goaltender of the Year honors — is rated

fourth overall among North American goalies by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau and could hear his name called as soon as Friday's opening round.

If Nedeljkovic is still available when the NHL entry draft continues Saturday morning with Round 2, it won't be for long.

His new head coach with the Whalers, Don Elland, isn't traveling to Pennsylvania with the team's new general manager (Mark Craig) and assistant GM (Joe Stefan). But Elland will be watching intently to see what transpires.

"Goalies are always tough

(to predict); you never know," said Elland, who is taking over Plymouth's head coaching duties from Farmington Hills' Mike Vellucci (who will be at the NHL draft with his new team, the Carolina Hurricanes). "If he's not the first goalie taken, then I don't know."

"Usually one goes, then they all start to go. It just depends when that first one goes."

Total package

Elland said the Parma, Ohio, native nicknamed "Ned" possesses the talent, work ethic and mind-set to not only be a first- or second-round selection, but to someday become an excellent NHL goalie.

"He has the total package,"

See WHALERS, Page B4



Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic is poised under pressure in this game from last year. He is expected to be drafted by an NHL team this weekend. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS



Sarah Gutknecht makes contact with a pitch against Michigan in April at MSU's Secchia Stadium. REY DEL RIO

MSU discovers diamond gem in freshman softball player

Farmington's Sarah Gutknecht adapts quickly to college game, leads Spartans at the plate

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

When coach Jacquie Joseph recruited Sarah Gutknecht to play softball at Michigan State University, she did so with a long-term perspective.

She thought the former Farmington High School star would develop into a good college player one day and be able to help the Spartans.

That day arrived much sooner than either Joseph or Gutknecht thought it would and the result was an outstanding rookie season for Gutknecht.

She not only worked her way into the starting lineup at third base, but she ended up being MSU's best hitter this year, leading the team in every major offensive category.

"I recruited Sarah as an athlete I thought had a big upside down the road," Joseph said. "I did not expect her to be able to make as big a contribution as she did as early as she did."

"Sarah took the right approach from day one — 'I'm going to work hard and I'm going to give it my all' — and when she had an opportunity,

she never let go. She never turned back."

"Even when she struggled, she kept working hard and persevered. It's a great story and she should be proud."

Being a freshman and having had an undistinguished fall season, Gutknecht didn't expect to play in the spring.

She was called on to pinch hit in the first game, then she got her first collegiate hit in the second as the designated hitter. She started the third game in right field.

"I was expecting the worst and just kept working to become better and I ended up earning a spot," Gutknecht said. "It was definitely better than I expected."

"I just played my game all year. Obviously, I was looking at stats, but it wasn't what I was focused on. I was focused on improving and trying to help the team."

"I was just playing how I play. As the year went on, I got more experience and began to figure out the college softball game, because it's so much different than what I was used to."

Equal to the task

See GUTKNECHT, Page B4



Gutknecht

Stewart's basketball dreams finally realized

Despite hard knocks, ex-C'ville standout signs pro deal in Finland

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Jamie Stewart had to take a long, hard look in the mirror.

The Livonia Clarenceville High grad appeared in only 21 games during his only two seasons at Montana State, squandering his chance to play basketball at the NCAA Division I level with the Bobcats because of academic and disciplinary issues.

Finding himself waylaid in Bozeman, Mont., and at a crossroads, the 6-foot-5 swingman, a former NJCAA Division II All-American from Henry Ford Community College, decided he had to make



Stewart

some changes in his life.

The good news is Stewart graduated last month from Montana State with a degree in sociology and signed a professional contract Monday to play for Forssan Koripojat, a First Division club team in Finland.

Although he never suited up this past season, Stewart continued to work on his game and stay in shape. He also got hooked up with an agent out of Rome, Italy, Giorgio Zambellis of Omnia Sports, who also represents former Michigan State standout Aloysius Anagnone and Marcus Hatten, once an all-Big East selection from St. John's.

Stewart, a high riser and explosive dunker, worked both the phones and the Internet while looking for any type of response.

Inks pro contract

"This opportunity came surprisingly," Stewart said. "It's all off film and off tape. I've been talking to coach (Heinamaki) Juri for two months now. We built that relationship together. He expects good things from me, as well as I do. I had a few more other options, but we decided to go to Finland."

"It was a process for me, especially being out an entire year. Essentially, I've only played one season in about three years, so it was tough. I was never letting those guys sleep. I was always emailing them back and forth, late at night, five in the morning. I kept talking to them and they kept me sane a little bit. Even

See STEWART, Page B4



Clarenceville grad Jamie Stewart played in only 21 games during his two-year career at Montana State. BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

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Long hailed as sweetly satisfying, watermelon may not be the first tasty fruit that comes to mind when you're thinking nutrition. But in fact, watermelon is not only a perfect on-the-go snack to satisfy your sweet tooth, it's also incredibly healthy.

Watermelon contains higher levels of lycopene, an antioxidant, than any other fresh fruit or vegetable. It's also an excellent source of vitamins A and C, as well as providing vitamin B6 and potassium.

Health benefits aside, the crisp, sugary flavor of watermelon makes it a favorite for kids and adults alike, especially during the warmer months. Its firm texture makes watermelon ideal for a variety of recipes, many of which are a natural fit with today's busy households.

Thinking beyond traditional chunks or balls, there are many ways to incorporate watermelon into your favorite grab-and-go foods, from smoothies and breakfast push-up-pops to sandwiches and wraps to juicy, frozen desserts.

To create your own watermelon snacks on the go, gather the kids and let your imaginations run wild. Or, get started with these recipes from the National Watermelon Promotion Board.

Add some sweetness to your morning and try Breakfast Push Pops for a hands-on treat kids will love. Watermelon Slice frozen slices are an easy, fun take on a traditional watermelon slice, and the built-in "handle" makes cleanup a breeze. Mix watermelon and strawberries into a shake or frozen treat, skewer it or frost cut-outs for a new take on watermelon "cookies."

For more recipes visit www.watermelon.org.
Courtesy of Family Features

WATERMELON SLICE

Watermelon slices, cut into triangular wedge shapes about 1/2 to 1-inch thick
Frozen treat sticks

Insert a frozen treat stick into each rind.
Optional: Freeze the slices for a frosty, refreshing treat.



WATERMELON KEBABS

Serves 6

18 1-inch cubes of seedless watermelon
6 cubes of smoked turkey breast
6 cubes of cheddar cheese
6 coffee stirrers or beverage straws

Cut watermelon, turkey and cheese in cubes and skewer on stirrers or straws.



FROSTED WATERMELON

1 watermelon seedless, cut into 1/2- to 3/4-inch-thick slices
1 serving yogurt
1 serving granola or similar cereal

Using your favorite cookie cutter cut shapes out of a 1/2- to 3/4-inch-thick slices of seedless watermelon. Or, if you prefer, use classic cut watermelon wedges. Frost with vanilla or other flavor yogurt. Sprinkle with granola.

KID'S WATERMELON STRAWBERRY SHAKE AND FROZEN SMOOTHIE POPS

Serves 4

Strawberry Shake:
1 container (8 ounces) lemon nonfat yogurt
2 cups cubed, seedless watermelon
1 pint fresh strawberries, cleaned and hulled
1 banana medium, peeled and sliced
Frozen Smoothie Pops:
Strawberry Shake
Small paper cups
Frozen treat sticks

For Strawberry Shake, in blender or food processor, process yogurt, watermelon, strawberries and banana until smooth and frothy. Serve immediately.

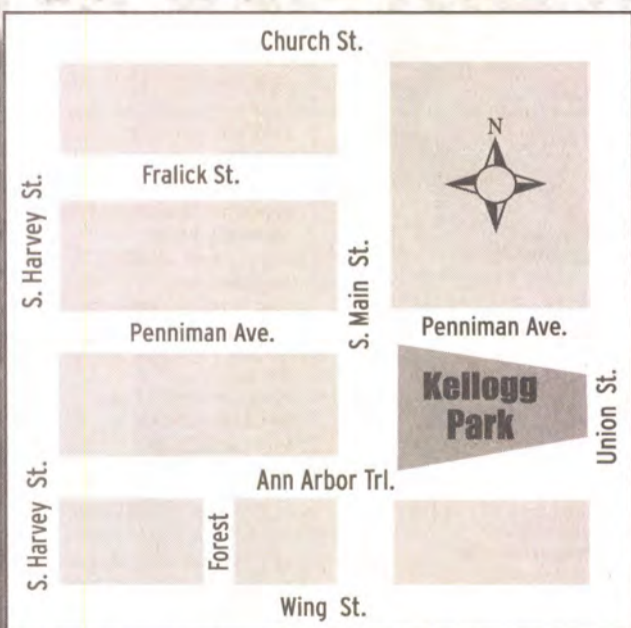
For Frozen Smoothie Pops, pour prepared Watermelon Strawberry Shake into small paper cups. Freeze, inserting frozen treat sticks or plastic spoons when mixture is partially frozen. Or, pour Watermelon Strawberry Shake into ice cream machine. Set and enjoy.

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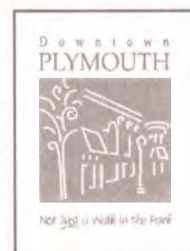
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