ALL-AREA: GIRLS SOCCER PLAYERS PUT BEST FOOT FORWARD SPORTS, B3



Donations pour in for referee's family

Westland man died from injuries after assault

> **By David Veselenak** Staff Writer

Jim Acho cannot believe the level of support he and the family of John Bieniewicz has received in the wake of his untimely death last week.

Acho, a friend of Bieniewicz since their days at Redford Catholic Central High School in



"It's been unbelievable," said **Bieniewicz** Acho, a Livonia attorney who has served as the family spokesman this past

week. "The outpouring of support is amazing and it's been humbling.'

Acho and his brother set up a fund shortly after Bieniewicz, who was 44 and lived in Westland with his family, was assaulted by a soccer player he was ejecting from a match last weekend at Mies Park in Livonia. Knowing he did not have a good chance of survival, he knew Bieniewicz's wife and two children would need financial help to cover burial costs, as well as future living expenses.

Since the site launched last week, more than \$87,000 has

been pledged from around the globe, as of early Thursday afternoon. Donations continue to come in at all times of day, and have come from places such as Italy, England, China and Indonesia, Acho said. Donations have also come in from many professional sports officiating groups from leagues such as the NFL, NBA and MLB, as well as the United States Soccer Federation.

"The outpouring of support is amazing and it's been humbling," he said. "It really bolsters your faith in humanity. People are generally good and care.'

He said the support has most likely been amplified by the world's attention on soccer with the World Cup tournament currently taking place in Brazil and their desire to help out an official's family.

It has garnered attention for those looking for soccer-related

See DONATIONS, Page A2

Bugging out: Teens build creepy, crawly robots

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

hen the sun came out, the bugs moved. They weren't your run-of-mill insects. These bugs came dressed up in beads, feathers and googly eyes and jiggled along on paperclip legs powered by a tiny motor and solar cell.

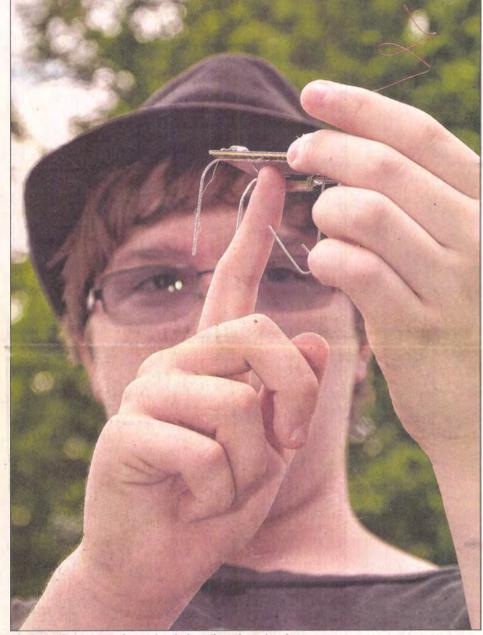
Welcome to robot bugs, an activity offered at the William P. Faust Public Library as part of the teen summer reading program, aptly named Spark a Reaction

"I really enjoy building things, this is exactly what I want to do," Kylie Morton said. "I actually have done a robot. I have a LEGO one at home. It really works.'

The Garden City teen was among more than 20 teens who dropped by the library to try their hand at building a robot.

Using funds provide by the Friends of the Library, teen librarian Jody Wolak purchased the kits from Brown Dog Gagets. She constructed one herself to see how they worked and then enlisted the help of adult literacy program coordinator Tara Scott in working with the teens.

"There's no on-and-off switch; if the



Council OKs deficit reduction measures

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

With budget amendments approved Tuesday, Wayne has reduced its deficit for the new fiscal year to just under \$700,000.

"When will we meet again to whittle on the rest of the deficit?" asked Councilwoman Susan Rowe.

City Manager Joseph Merucci responded that he and Finance Director James Ghedotte talk about the budget all the time. "When we have more recommendations for council (there will be a meeting). Probably in about three weeks," he said

The budget cuts and one added revenue to cut the def-icit to \$691,527 include: » \$184,139 from not replac-

ing two firefighters who re-

cently resigned. » A \$339,776 rebate from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, the city's

self-insured insurance provider.

sun hits it, it will go," she said. "There's strip of solar cells on the top. If you cover them up, they won't go.

The activity was limited to teens in seventh-grade and up. They received a small baggie containing the parts to make a basic bug. A table was set up where participants could customize their insects with feathers, seed beads and glittery "gem stones."

Wolak manned the soldering table, attaching the motor and connecting the wires to the solar cell. Scott manned the glue gun, attaching the paperclip legs and pieces of wire for antenna.

See ROBOTS, Page A2

Chris Hepfinger, 15, of Westland, describes the robot bug. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Police, fire millage language under review

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

A ballot question seeking Wayne voters approval to renew a five-year, one-mill levy to fund police and fire services is likely to appear on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Council voted last week to send the ballot language to the Michigan Attorney General for approval since the millage is levied through the city charter.

Voters approved the one-mill levy in 2010. In order to be legally considered a renewal, the ballot question would amend the charter for a 10year levy, beginning in 2010 or five years from a practical standpoint.

"The 2010 language is identical," said City Manager Joseph Merucci, who corrected his comments last meeting that the ballot language didn't require Attorney General approval:

When the police-fire millage was approved in 2010, Merucci noted the one mill generated about \$670,000. Due to subsequent drops in property values, one mill generates

about \$370,000 in Wayne.

After the millage was approved in 2010, it wasn't added to the existing police and fire budgets to increase their allocations. Instead, the millage revenue maintained spending levels for police and fire while freeing up general fund money that was allocated to parks and recreation.

"I know people had been upset that this was approved (in 2010) and we took money out of the general fund for parks and recreation," Councilwoman Susan Rowe said. "I want to make sure this millage (is for police and fire) plus what is already allocated in the general fund."

The administration recommends to council, Merucci said, while council makes the decisions.

Voters will also be asked to approve five mills for five years to fund police and fire retirement costs. That would provide funding so the retirement costs wouldn't need to come from the general fund.

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» \$2,200 saved by dropping the city's membership in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

» \$16,028 in savings from a position in the Finance Department not filled due to the city's hiring freeze.

Council had earlier cut \$253,190 off the deficit through spending cuts and additional revenues due to charging residents for the full street lighting assessment costs and adding a slight millage increase that will cover televising city council meetings.

With council having approved the sale of the State Wayne Theater, which has operated with a general fund subsidy, the large unresolved question for the city is what will be done with the Wayne Community Center, also subsidized in its current operation.

Plans were presented to partially or fully close the facility. Merucci, who only came on board as city manager in May, asked for additional time to talk with private entities about getting involved with the community center operation. As a result, the city has delayed implementation of the plan closing over half the building, which was to take effect July 1 for about 120 days.

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DONATIONS

Continued from Page A1

news, making headlines across the globe in soccer-hungry cities, he said

"This story was the top story on the London Daily Mail two days ago," Acho said.

Several fundraisers are in the works, he said, including at local Livonia eateries such as East Side Mario's. More details are expected after Bieniewicz's funeral, which was not scheduled as of press time.

Folks looking to help donate can do so at any Huntington Bank branch in Michigan by mentioning his name, as well as drop off donations at the Livonia Police Department. Folks can donate to his family through the site Acho's family has established, johnbieniewiczmemorial.com.

Waiting on organ donation

Mary Mazur, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services, said the county had not yet received the remains of John Bieniewicz, who was declared dead by doctors at Detroit Receiving Hospital Tuesday morning.

She said the remains were being maintained so that organ donation could take place.

"He was scheduled to undergo an autopsy (Wednesday) morning," she said. "Due to the fact he is involved in an organ donation procedure They are still in the process.

'They have deemed his organs as being fit for transplant purposes.

Acho said he believed the organs would be collected sometime this past Thursday, but was unsure of the exact schedule.

Folks can donate to his family through the site Acho's family has established. johnbieniewicz memorial.com.

Tim Makinen is spokesman for Gift of Life, a statewide organization based in Ann Arbor that coordinates some organ donation.

Speaking about the practice in general, Makinen said there are more than 3,300 people on a wait list for organ transplants in Michigan, mostly for kidneys. He said organ donation can be the "silver lining" to any tragic loss of a loved one, knowing many others may continue living with their loved ones' organs.

"It's just an awesome gift," he said. "(Families are) looking beyond their own tragedy and saying 'How can I help others?

Bieniewicz worked with pediatric dialysis patients at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and had officiated soccer at various levels, including professional and collegiate matches.

The man who allegedly assaulted Bieniewicz during the match, 36-year-old Dearborn resident Baseel Abdul-Amir Saad, was charged Monday with assault to do great bodily harm less than murder, a 10year felony. Since Bieniewicz's death, the charges could change, though Wayne County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Maria Miller said there was no update as of early Thursday afternoon.

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Wayne City Council approves sale of State Wayne Theater

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Moviegoers can look forward to new upgraded seating at the State Wayne Theater now that it is under new ownership.

With some changes, an agreement to sell the State Wayne Theater to a company connected with current operator Phoenix Theaters was approved by the Wayne City Council Tuesday.

"It has always been my endeavor to see the theater remain permanently open without fear that it will ever close, Councilman James Hawley said. "It is the most important building in the downtown."

Hawley and Council-man John Rhaesa visited the Phoenix Theater in Monroe and met with Phoenix owner Corv Jacobson.

found we were very excited about. The company is much better financed than I expected," Hawley said. "They can afford new seats for the theater. That's really important to making the theater profitable.

New seating

Owning the theater allows Phoenix to le-



Insight Holdings II LLC is taking over ownership of the State-Wayne Theater, which features a historic marquis that has 1,600 light bulbs and dates back to 1946.

verage the property to finance installation of new luxury seats, Jacob-son said. The seats have already been installed in the Monroe theater.

"In two months, attendance is up 52 percent in Monroe. We will spend \$230,000-\$250,000 for the chairs," Jacobson said. "We will fully carpet. It will dramatically change the movie going experience.

There will be fewer seats in the theaters. Jacobson said, but they attract more customers. He noted other amenities, including state-ofthe-art digital projection equipment that had already been installed in

the theater.

No cash will be paid with the \$60,000 sale price consisting of unpaid monthly management fees owed by the city to Phoenix Theaters. Those fees were owed prior to April 1, and monthly fees owed since then will be paid by the city. Wayne acquired the

State Wayne in 1991, and for some years operated the theater showing films along with live theater. Over the past decade, the city has spent nearly \$1.4 million on the theater in operating subsidies and capital outlay.

Maintaining the status quo would have cost the

cash-strapped city nearly \$140,000 annually. Closing the theater would have triggered an immediate liability of \$333,600, largely to pay for existing digital equipment leases.

Maintaining mural

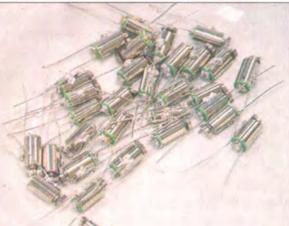
At an earlier meeting, council had insufficient votes to approve the theater sale. Among the concerns were maintenance of the mural on the side of the theater and what would happen if new owner Insight Hold-ings II LLC which is related to Phoenix Theaters-Wayne LLC, decided to sell the theater.

Additional language was added to the contract to allow city maintenance of the mural through an easement and to allow the city to make an offer to buy the building should Phoenix wish to sell

"It's very important that Wayne has the option to buy it. Whether we can afford it or not (isn't known)," Hawley said.

Jacobson commented that he hoped the new luxury seats will be installed at the State Wayne by September.

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A tiny motor with an asymmetric flywheel, powered by a solar cell, causes the robot bug to dance around. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROBOTS

paperclips to create his bug's legs and was debating on customizing it.

July is Parks and **Recreation Month**

uly is Parks and Recreation Month. The oldest state park in the U.S. is Niagara State Park in New York, established in 1885. Niagara State Park contains the American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and a portion of the Canadian Falls. Georgia's Indian Spring State Park has been maintained since 1825, but it did not receive the official "state park designation until much later. In 1895, Mackinac Island State Park became the very first park to be named a 'state park. Michigan has some of the best parks of any state. Most local parks have no entry free, but many state parks do have a cost to enter. You can purchase a Recreation Passport for \$11 from the Secretary of State when you renew your license to gain access to over 100 state parks. Don't want to spring for the Recreation Passport? Here at the Westland Library, we encourage you to play outside this summer, and thanks to MI Big Green Gym, you can visit parks and recreation areas for free. The MI Big Green



Gym initiative is a part-

nership between Michi-

lifestyle through use of parks (mrpaonline.org).

Visit the Circulation Desk to INFORMATION check out a free pass good for a one-day visit to a state park or any location requiring a Recreation Passport. If you're interested in more information on MI Big Green Gym, visit westland library.org or call us at 734-326-6123. For books on the topic of Michigan parks, try Michigan State Parks: A Complete Recreation Guide or Hiking Michigan. As a Westland resident, you also have access to digital magazines using an app called Zinio, including Backcountry, Outdoor Life, and Outside Magazine.

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Continued from Page A1

"I've already been burned once, I can show you my burn," she said.

Feather head

A regular at the library since she was young, Lola Schoemaker of Westland was waiting in line to get a pink feather attached to the head of her bug.

"The wire on the motor has been soldered on, so I got the trial-anderror part out of the way," said Shoemaker, an eighth-grader at Cabrini High School. "This looked cool and interesting; there are always fun things to do at the library."

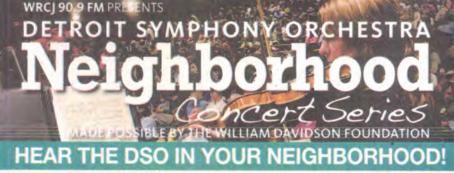
It was Michael Robinson's mother who sent him to the library. She told him he needed something to do. He used two

"This is kind of cool ... this whole solar powered thing," he said. "I like science.'

The activity had Chris Hepfinger seriously considering joining the Robotics Club at John Glenn High School in the fall. He found his bug didn't move well on the bumpy patio stones, but moved quite a bit when he put on a smoother surface - his cellphone.

Upcoming activities for the teen summer reading program, Spark a Reaction, include a theatrical sword combat demonstration on July 10, a Sci-Fi Expo on July 17 and a Stop Motion Ani-mation Workshop on July 24. For more information, call the library at 734-326-6123.

smason@hometownlife.com Twitter: @SusanMarieMason Information Central was compiled by Liz Waun. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go visit westlandlibrary.org.



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- Dr. Sol L. Cogan, DC

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- Stumble into things
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A4 (WG) SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

EDUCATION

New legislation brings opportunities for W-W career, technical programs

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Sue Wilk couldn't have been happier to see Gov. Rick Snyder sign legislation revising the Michigan Merit Curriculum to allow school districts the flexibility to enhance career technical education programs.

The outgoing assistant principal at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland, Wilk has seen how the rigorous high school curriculum has affected the center. The opportunity to add core academic curriculum to different classes will "certainly open up opportunities for students.

"This is definitely advantageous for students in the ca-reer technical field," she said. "It also recognizes the fact that there are rigorous academics in career and vocational education. We're excited that the legislature and the governor support career and vocational education that meets the needs of the students, the employers and Michigan in expanding the state's economy."

The governor recently signed into law two bills that will assist more students in



Former student Jason Akerley was able to meet an algebra II requirement because the curriculum was embedded in the welding class he took at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. FILE PHOTO

taking courses where they can obtain technical, employable skills that lead to good jobs.

Fulfill requirement

Public Act 208 amends the Michigan Merit Curriculum to allow students to fulfill the algebra II requirement by completing a career and technical education program that has the material embedded into lessons. Public Act 209 requires that students be informed about potential career and technical education options and streamlines the

process for students who wish to pursue the personal curriculum option.

"We want to make sure students have options for career-oriented courses that include material from rigorous subjects and that maintain high educational standards,' Snyder said. "We know that a strong public education is an important part of Michigan's comeback. Career-technical classes play an important role in developing talent and helping open opportunities for students for jobs of today and tomorrow."

When the Michigan Merit Curriculum was instituted in 2007, the center saw a drop off in enrollment. The program has come back, but there is a concern about this fall, when the new group of students will be required to take a foreign language, Wilk said.

At the William D. Ford Center, four classes have been offered with algebra II imbedded in the curriculum the first year of Construction Technology and Welding, as well as Electronics and Robotics and Alternative Energy. However, because the algebra II is embedded in the classes, it took four semesters to earn

the required credit and reduced the amount of time students were in their career technical program.

"The kids coming out of our career and technical programs move into college and careers," she said. "We do a study a year after they complete the program and find we have a very high number, 90 percent, of our completers who go into post-secondary education, careers or the military."

Beyond algebra II

She added the center can now look beyond algebra II in incorporating other core academics into other classes.

We are anxious to look at all opportunities that we have to offer core academic credits in career and vocational education," she said.

The new laws also are being praised by the Michigan Manufacturers Association for maintaining rigorous standards while allowing for more flexibility so that more students achieve a high school diploma that is applicable and relevant to the jobs and careers of the 21st century.

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ACHIEVERS

Jasen Dockter of Garden City has been named to the Dean's List for the winter 2014 semester. To achieve the Dean's List, a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade-point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

Stephen Bowman of Westland will receive a scholarship prior to Metro Detroit Youth Day at Belle Isle's athletic fields on Wednesday, July 9. Bowman plans to attend the Art Institute of California in Los Angeles.

The scholarship is part of the Metro Detroit Youth Day Prize Coalition, set up to encourage youth to pursue a college education, and help reduce the financial burden of those who can't afford higher. More than 150 submissions were received this year.

Thomas Wisniewski of Garden City has been named to the University of Iowa's Dean's List for the 2014 spring semester.

Undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the Tippie College of Business who achieve a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher on 12 semester hours or more during a given semester and who have no semester hours of incomplete or no grade reported during the same semester are recognized by inclusion on the Dean's List for that semester.

Alexis Baker of Westland, a student at the Nexus Academy of Royal Oak, will be one of a select number of students from across the country traveling to Stanford Law School in California this July for a 10-day program called Intensive Law and Trail for high-achieving high school students interested in a career in law.

Baker, who ultimately would like to become a prosecuting attorney, will be staying on Stanford's campus July 17-26. As part of the program, she will learn the foundation of law from preeminent legal professionals, including listening to Stanford Law School professors on the practice of law, legal rhetoric and ethics.

JULY 8TH THRU AUG 26

1 FREE POPCORN &

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OVIC

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Movie making fun for all starts July 7 at Madonna

Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun of movie-making at Madonna University during the eighth annual Project Accessible Hollywood - PAHfest. There will be free video contests from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 7-11, and anyone can participate. No experience is necessary. Madonna students and staff provide tips, coaching and equipment for all of the contests. Representatives for the festival will be in the uni-

versity's Franciscan Center Studios, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

This year's contests include:

Cell Phone Art — involves making a one-minute video about the topic of the day using cellphone videography.

Digi-Portraits - create a two-minute video portrait of yourself or someone else. Complete your video in Madonna's digital editing suites. Tone Poems - are created using a flip camera to record images that visually express your original music.

Winners of these contests will be awarded cash prizes during the award ceremony Sunday, July 13, and their videos will be posted online.

Created by Hollywood's Christopher Coppola, PAH-fest provides a venue for everyday people to tell their stories through video. Throughout the week, teams of ordinary people from all walks of life, will

be shooting and editing their six-minute MobiFlicks movies that will premiere at the award ceremony on Sunday evening.

Other activities include the screening of the movie Sand Castles, a coffee house where anyone can perform or just enjoy the performers, and a panel discussion with actors about how they made it in the movie industry.

To register, visit www.madonna.edu and click on PAHfest under Events.





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LOCAL NEWS



The annual outdoor concert series Music From The Heart draws 300 to 400 people every Thursday night to Civic Center Park in Livonia. FILE PHOTO

Music from the Heart starts Thursday

Music From the Heart, the free outdoor concert series sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission and the Livonia Parks and Recreation Department, starts Thursday with a perfor-mance by Toppermost, a Beattle tribute band.

Concerts are held 7-9 p.m. every Thursday during July and August

on the steps of Livonia City Hall located at Five Mile and Farmington roads.

Following is the schedule:

» July 10: Toppermost - Beattle tribute » July 17: Pete and the

Parrot heads - Jimmy Buffet music

» July 24: The Earth Angels - dance

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» July 31: Midnight Special - The Classic Rock Experience - '70s rock

» Aug. 7: Motor City Soul, LLC - classic rock » Aug. 14: Sinjon

Smith with special guest Steve Nickel - country

» Aug. 21: Matt King -Elvis impersonator » Aug. 28: Steve King

& the Dittiles - oldies

Redford joins push to stop county from selling sewer system

By Beth Jachman Staff Writer

Redford Township is adding its voice to a group of communities opposed to Wayne County's plan to sell a wastewater treatment system to eliminate a budget deficit.

The reason: Officials don't think Wayne County owns the system.

The leaders of the majority of the communities think the communities own the Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System, according to Redford Township Department of Public Services Director John Selmi.

The communities that use the system plan to seek a court ruling on who owns it. Redford's Board of Trustees approved joining the group at a special meeting Tuesday prior to a scheduled conference call among the communities this coming week.

The Rouge Valley system communities are also looking at joining with the Downriver system communities to fight this, Selmi said, as the county is also proposing the sale of the Downriver system.

The Rouge Valley system is part of the Wayne County Rouge **River Watershed Waste**water Facilities, which consists of 15 communities: the cities of Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, River Rouge, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne, and Westland and Canton, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, and Van Buren townships.

"This is a big decision. I think we have to have the opportunity to look through this," PAT MCRAE

Township trustee

Deficit elimination

Wayne County, earlier this year, presented a plan to eliminate a \$175 million deficit or face appointment of an emergency finance manager. Close to \$120 million of that money is to be raised by selling the wastewater treatment systems.

The county's trying to eliminate a deficit on the backs of the people in Wayne County, township attorney Jeff Clark said.

The primary revenue comes from the rate payers, township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said.

If the systems are sold to a third party, whoever purchases them would want to recoup their costs, probably meaning higher rates, Kobylarz said.

Some 90 percent of the township's waste goes to the Rouge Valley system, Selmi said.

Trustee Jay Johnson said the scenario sounded like a bank manager deciding he owns the bank because he managed a branch.

But if the communities don't do something, the county will gain legs to stand on, Johnson said.

Township Trustee Pat McRae questioned voting to go forward without knowing what the specific cost would be. "We should know if it's \$30,000 or \$200,000," he said.

"We don't know that cost, but what's the cost if we don't go forward," Selmi said.

Clark assured the board they could pull out later if needed. The communities want to ask a court to say Wayne County doesn't own the system so they can't sell it, Clark said.

Fast decision

"This was just hand-ed to us," Trustee Mi-chael Sullivan said. "I just don't feel comfortable making this decision today.

"This is a big decision," McRae said. "I think we have to have the opportunity to look through this," he said of the paperwork.

The vote is to explore the idea and the township has the right to withdraw, Johnson said.

"I don't think the group is looking for all the communities to sign a blank check," Clark said.

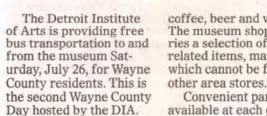
The group is looking for a consensus and the division of costs can't be decided until the group knows how many communities will join in, he said.

"I feel we should put our hat in the ring,' Township Treasurer Lily Cavanagh said.

"Our voice together is a bit stronger," she said.

"At this point there's no lawsuit," township Clerk Garth Christie said. "We oppose (part of) the deficit elimination plan."

DIA offers free rides for Wayne County Day



Visitors can browse the collection, take part in an art-making activity and view the free photography exhibition Detroit - Bruce Weber.

Shopping and eating are always part of a fun day, and the DIA has plenty of both. Café DIA offers entrees, a deckedout salad bar, grill station, sandwiches and scrumptious desserts. Kresge Court diners can enjoy gourmet snacks, sandwiches, salads and desserts.

Both restaurants offer a variety of beverages, including Starbucks

833-4005 or visit tickets-.dia.org. The western Wayne County locations and schedule are: » Westland Public Library, 6123 Central Parkway., Westland. Bus departs library at 9:30 a.m. Bus departs DIA at 2

p.m » Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia. Bus departs recreation center at 9:30 a.m. Use Five Mile parking lot east of rec

center entrance. Bus departs DIA at 2 p.m. There also will be

stops at the Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte; Matrix Human Services Center, 13560 McNichols E., Detroit; Don Bosco Hall, 19321 W. Chicago, Detroit, and the Brownstown Event Center. 23345 King Road, Brownstown.

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



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LOCAL NEWS

Hospital auxiliary seeks holiday card art

The Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary is now accepting artwork submissions for its annual holiday greeting card fundraiser. Original artwork submissions are accepted from children to adults, and amateur to professional artists

Holiday cards will be available for sale in the fall with the chosen artwork displayed on the front and information about the artist displayed prominently on the back. The winning artist will also be awarded \$100.

Proceeds from the holiday cards go to support the Auxiliary's mission of caring for pediatric patients and their families. More than 10,000 cards are sold annually, and more than 500,000 have been sold to date. Once published, the cards will be available for purchase at childrenshospitalofmichiganauxiliary.org, the Something Special Gift Shop inside the Children's Hospital of Michigan and select retailers

In 2013, the artwork celebrated the life of Natalie Thomson, a pediatric patient who lost her battle against renal disease just before her first birthday. Natalie's sisters, Claire and Lucy, created the design to honor her life and those who cared for her.

For entry to the contest, artwork must be dropped off or mailed to Something Special Gift Shop, located at 3901 Beaubien Detroit, MI 48201, by July 31. To obtain a form with contest details and entry requirements, visit childrenshospitalofmichiganauxiliary.org.

Established in 1949, the Auxiliary is focused on raising funds to support the care, education and well-being of pediatric patients and their families throughout the region. Since 1990, the Auxiliary has raised and donated more than \$4.5 million to various projects and programs through the holiday card fundraiser and Something Special Gift Shop. For more information call the Something Special Gift Shop at 313-745-5425.

Timeshares not greatest investment

Q: Dear Rick: We've been to your seminars and we read your column, however, we've never heard you discuss timeshares. My wife and I just returned from a vacation where we looked at a timeshare. After sitting down with a representative of the company and going through the numbers I believe whether we use the timeshare for our vacation or rent it out, it would be a good investment. My wife disagrees. I hope you can persuade her to go my way. The timeshare we're thinking of purchasing is in Hawaii.

A: I hate to burst your bubble but I agree with your wife. Timeshares are not good investments. A timeshare may be good for future vacations but it's not an investment where you can hope to make money.

An investment is something that's going to generate



income on a regular basis or appreciate in value when sold. Unfortunately, timeshares don't fit those criteria.

It is very difficult to sell timeshares. Even though the Internet has made it easier, there are still a lot more sellers than buyers. Historically, when you look at what timeshares have sold for on the secondary market, they're generally selling for less than half of what people originally paid. Timeshares are not good investments for the long run.

In most timeshares you can sell your allotted time. So, if you have a week in Hawaii you could sell that week. However, selling a particular week is not necessarily the easiest thing to do.

In addition, when you look at the prices you're receiving they are not that favorable once you factor in the commissions. Look at some of the resale sites. It's not unusual to pay upwards of 30 percent in commissions.

If someone was thinking about buying a timeshare I would tell them to focus on quality of life not on investment potential. In addition, as opposed to buying directly from the developer, I would look at purchasing one on the secondary market. In many situations you can buy a timeshare for one-third of the price on the secondary market.

Whether you buy a new timeshare or one on the secondary market, it is important to understand your rights and responsibilities. Remember, not all timeshares are the same. Do your homework so you're not buying into a property that's not maintained and

managed properly.

In addition, it is important to know what you are going to pay on a yearly basis. Not only do you purchase the timeshare upfront (typically, somewhere in the \$20,000 range), you have an obligation to pay a yearly maintenance fee.

I have known many people who have purchased timeshares, some think they made the right decision, others have regretted it. However, one thing I have yet to see is anyone who's made money by selling their timeshare.

Look at it as investment in your future vacations, not as an investment for your retirement. Good luck.

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



New pavilions, benches and landscaping are among improvements at Westland's popular Tattan Prk. home of the H20 Zone Spray Park.

Popular H2O Zone reopens after park makeover

A popular Westland city park has reopened to the public after a multimillion dollar upgrade.

The new and improved Tattan Park on Carlson, south of Ford Road, reopened Thursday, just in time for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Improvements to Tattan Park and the adjacent Central City Park, where a pavilion is being built to house the weekly Farmers Market, were made possible through funds from the Westland Downtown Development Authority.

"I'm thrilled that the longawaited reopening of the park is here," Mayor William R. Wild said. "Tattan Park, home to Play Planet, one of the largest play structures anywhere in the United States, and the H20 Zone Spray Park are among the city's finest amenities.

The nearly \$4 million capital investment includes several new park pavilions, with electricity, that are available for rent. There's also is a 1,000square-foot concession area that will open for business in mid-July. Family-friendly restrooms, also will be available in mid-July. In the meantime, portable toilets will be available at the park. Other amenities include park benches and improved shade areas.

Residents can enjoy the park and spray zone free of charge until Aug. 1, at which time the city will begin charging a nominal fee for access to the H20 Zone Spray Park. Fees will be earmarked to offset

costs associated with park maintenance and rangers who will be on site. The fee will be \$3 per resi-

dent per visit to the Spray Zone. Family discount passes will be available. Non-Westland residents shall be charged a fee of \$10.

"Residents love these parks and for those enjoying their summer in our All American City, I can think of no better place in which to enjoy a warm, lazy summer afternoon," Wild said.







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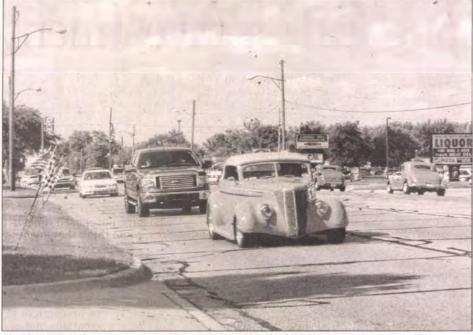
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Classics, hot rods and customs will be participating in the cruise on Wayne Road in Westland and along Michigan Avenue in Wayne. SUBMITTED



Classic cars parked on the lawn of the Westland Historical Village Park as part of the inaugural All American Cruise last year. PHOTO BY STAN SHELTON

Cruisers ready to roll through Wayne, Westland

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Classics, customs and hot rods will take over Wayne Road in Westland and Michigan Avenue in Wayne as the two communities stage their annual cruises Saturday, July 12.

In Westland, the cruise will start with a kickoff party Friday evening along Warren Road between Newburgh and Wayne Road to "bring business to Westland businesses" and move over to Wayne Road from Joy on the north to Glenwood on the south on Saturday.

"My ultimate goal is to make Westland the cruise capital of Wayne County," said Don Nicholson, who is organizing the event. "We estimate we had 9,000 cars for the inaugural cruise based on the number of green paper All American Cruise street signs that were given out. I'm look-ing for 15,000 this year. That would make me happy."

This year's cruise will start at 8 a.m. and have two "epicenters" - the Westland Historic Village Park, where commemorative dash plaques will be given out to the first 100 classic cars (at least 25 years old) that come in and park, and at the Wayne Ford Civic

the Civic League will be giving out the free green mini cruise signs Nicholson has 10,000 of them to pass out - while official cruise T-shirts and tank tops will be on sale at the Civic League for \$20 each.

There also will be plenty of places along Wayne Road for spectators to watch the cars as well as areas where cruisers can stop and watch themselves.

"Last year, one of the hubs seemed to be Town 'n Country Lanes where people pulled in and parked," he said. "It didn't hurt that Howe Collision was giving away free hot dogs next door.'

Last year, businesses set up tables and gave out free samples, and Nicholson expects that to happen this year. It's a good way for people to get to know them, he said.

Vendors can still get a spot at the cruise by calling Nicholson at 734-658-5296 or by email at Don@DonNicholson.net.

In downtown Wayne

This is the second year for Cruisin' US12 in the city of Wayne. For five years, it had been part of the Cruisin' Michigan Avenue event.

"I hope we have more cars than last year; we had thousands of cars



Cruise fans will again get to see a Detroit Grand Prix car on display during the All American Cruise in Westland. PHOTO BY STAN SHELTON

will be the Just Hearse'N Around car club from Hell, Mich.

Also returning will be The LEGO Man, who will set up his LEGO city in town, and venues along the route will have entertainment and activities.

The cruise will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ford Mustang, and many Mustang car clubs have been invited to attend. Car clubs interested in securing specific spots to show off their cars can call Goci at 734-637-1430. "I'm excited that this year's cruise will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mustang, considering we have one of the biggest Ford Plants in the world right here in Wayne — the Michigan Assembly Plant," volunteer Misty Dubois said. Volunteers have been passing out fliers to promote the cruise. Goci was Downriver last weekend, inviting cruisers in the Downriver Cruise along Fort Street to stop by Wayne this weekend.

take the kids and watch the cars," he said. "It's a great way to view the classic cars. Downtown Wayne is the perfect venue for a cruise. It is very walkable and great

for cruisers - four lanes with great turn-arounds." For more information about the event and volunteer opportunities, visit cruisinus12.com or call Goci at 734-637-1430.

More information about Cruisin' US12 can be found on its Facebook page.

smason@hometownlife.com Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

What will capture your eye?

League

The Westland Historic Village will be doing a fundraiser and passing out commemorative dash plaques to the first 100 cars that stop by. They will also be hosting some vendors like MotorCities National Heritage Area and the Detroit Grand Prix car.

Pull in and park

Both locations will have vendor areas and room for cars to pull in and park and pop the hood. There will also be vendors at the Wayne Ford Civic League. All vendor fees will go directly to each location.

Both the village and

cruising and parking along Michigan Avenue," said John Goci, who is leading the all-volunteer committee that is putting on the event. "This is the biggest single-day event in downtown Wayne."

It kicks off at 10 a.m. and runs until midnight. The cruising will stretch from Merriman on the east and Newburgh on the west. There's no need to register for the event, just show up and cruise, Goci said.

There will be plenty of areas along the route for cruisers to park and show off their cars and for spectators to watch. Back for a second year

"The appeal of Wayne is that it's a great place to

Knezek proposes bill to allow holding elections by mail

A western Wayne County lawmaker recently introduced legislation that, if approved, would provide election administrators with the tools they need to hold elections by mail.

"House Bill 5693 takes an innovative approach to encouraging more participation among the electorate, saves our local communities money and dramatically improves administrative efficiency," said State Rep. Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights. "Michigan voters expect their legislators to develop creative solutions to complicated problems. This proposal would allow local clerks to hold an election, if they so choose, by replicating the absentee ballot process for every registered voter — eliminating the costs associated with poll site rental fees, training and poll worker salaries.' HB 5693 provides the

Michigan Secretary of State and local clerks with the necessary legislative framework to allow for elections by mail, if the local election administrator chooses. The proposal outlines how ballots should be prepared, handled and delivered, while still allowing for administrative rules for proper implementation

"One of the most important aspects of this proposal is that it goes to great lengths to secure the validity of our elections, which is a concern for many. Among other protections, election workers are required to compare every ballot signature with the signature on the voter's registration card," Knezek said. "The proposal also includes important language that allows the Michigan Secretary of State to promulgate rules so that this new tool can

be put to its best use."

There are 17 states who offer some form of election by mail, so there is a wealth of knowledge and information available about how to best implement this proposal," he said.

After looking at how Washington, Oregon and Colorado have implemented this type of an election statewide, Knezek said it was easy to see the benefits.

"According to a recent study, the costs associated with conducting elections by mail are onethird to one-half as much as traditional polling place elections," he added. "As revenue sharing for municipalities has been slashed across the state, it is of absolute importance that we are providing local officials with the tools they need to be efficient and save taxpayer dollars whenever it is most feasible.'

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LOCAL NEWS

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COUNTDOWN IS ON TO MUD DAY 2014

Wayne County Parks will be making mud, lots of mud this week in preparation for the 26th annual Mud Day in Hines Park.

A popular summer event for youngsters and adults alike, Mud Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, in the Nankin Mills area of the park.

Parks workers will be creating a 75-foot by 150-foot mud pit where fans can splash in it, sit in it and cake on their bodies. There will be games where youngsters will be separated into age categories to test their skills at "Mud Limbo" and wheelbarrow races before the 2014 King and Queen of Mud are crowned.

Parks officials recommend that children wear old clothes and shoes and bring a clean change of clothing. There are no showers on-site; however, a cleanup area is available with hoses to aid in rinsing off the mud, courtesy of the Western Wayne County Hazmat team which uses the event for training purposes.

It's also recommended that parents bring a supply of towels. Plastic bags will be provided for dirty clothes.

The Hines Park Nankin Mills Area is located on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For more information on Mud Day or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit the parks website at parks.waynecounty.com.



It's mayhem in the mud as kids run into the mud pit at the 25th annual Mud Day celebration at the Nankin Mills picnic area of Hines Park. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Livonia World War II veteran Joseph Girolamo, in front, is surrounded by family members at the award presentation: nephew Joe Girolamo of Redford, Mike and daughter Joyce Hermann of Plymouth, and niece Dona and **Roger Black** of Livonia. JOYCE HERMANN

Livonia veteran first to be honored in new program recognizing Greatest Generation

World War II veteran Joseph A. Girolamo, 93, of Livonia was honored June 26 by the Sons of the American Legion at Livonia's American Legion Post 32.

He is the first World

War II veteran to be recognized in a new monthly program honoring America Legion Post 32 members who are among America's Greatest Generation. The program was initiated by Charlie Wagner, chaplain for the Sons of the American Legion.

The group decided to honor a WWII veteran once a month by presenting the veteran with a

WWII memories and about his time as the drill instructor for the Post 32 honor guard. The event was attended by proud family members, including daughter and son-in-law Joyce and Mike Hermann of Ply mouth, nephew Joe Girolamo of Redford, niece Kristina and husband Greg Zub with daughters Allie and Bella of Livonia and niece Dona and Roger Black of Livonia. A plaque was presented to Girolamo. It will hang at Post 32 until a new honoree is named next month. For more information regarding Sons of the American Legion, contact Charlie Wagner at cwagner@ flexibleplan.com or 248-642-6640, ext. 160.

Zoo offers visual guide for guests with autism

ROYAL OAK — The Detroit Zoo is taking another step in its effort to accommodate diverse audiences by offering a visual guide for guests with autism. The online guide which helps set expectations for animal habitats, rides, attractions and other experiences at the zoo — was prepared in collaboration with the Autism Alliance of Michigan

ance of Michigan. The 31-page downloadable guide, called 'The Zoo and Autism,' provides information about the Detroit Zoo experience along with pictures and fun facts. The narrative also advises individuals with autism about certain characteristics of the habitats and attractions that might concern them - for example, unfamiliar sights and sounds or proximity to free-ranging animals – and it provides guidance on how to respond.

1 1'

a level of expectation and routine for a social outing and assist in acclimating or mediating unknown or potentially unpredictable or stressful situations."

In addition to the visual guide, all fulland part-time Detroit Zoo staff and seasonal employees, as well as 90 individuals from 32 local public safety and social services agencies, attended Michigan Autism Safety Training at the zoo. The training covered the do's and don'ts of working with guests with autism as well as tips on how to assist the guests' caregivers.

"We want all of our guests to have the best possible zoo experience, so we have been working through a series of initiatives addressing the needs of various audiences to make that happen," said Alexis Means, guest relations director for the Detroit Zoolog-





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NAILS

I am talking about fingernails. They are as much a part of the hands as the joints and the palms and provide physicians much valuable information.

For example, the nails may show transverse ridges, that is lines in the nails that go right to left, called Beau's lines. These ridges appear after severe illness or following chemotherapy; physicians seeing these lines know before asking a question that the patient has experienced recent physical stress.

A person with psoriatic arthritis is well aware of his or her nails. Nail pits are a feature of psoriasis; the dermatologist will invariably inspect the nails to assess if current treatment is successful.

Possibly the most famous nail feature is clubbing, so called because the nail changes it form, becoming higher and larger at its base, somewhat in the fashion of a club. There is a hereditary form of clubbing, but it is rare. Physicians most often associate clubbing with serious lung or heart conditions, particularly lung cancer.

The finger nail plays an important role in Berger's Disease, Raynaud's Phenomenon and Scleroderma. In Berger's disease, the digital arteries of the hand are extremely sensitive to tobacco, even a single cigarette puff can cause digital artery spasm sufficient to start gangrene at the nail line. In Raynaud's, digital spasm causes the area in and around the nail bed to turn white; in Scleroderma, the nail bed area is susceptible to small ulcers that often become infected.

Other ways that nails reflect disease is with spoon nails in iron deficiency and blue lines seen in arsenic poisoning.

It is with good reason that physicians prefer the unadorned hand. Too much is hidden from medical inspection with nail polish or the addition of false or manicured nails. plaque in recognition and honor of their service to this great county. During the summer months the event is taking place at the Thursday night car shows hosted by the post and will continue at the Sons of the American Legion meetings in the fall.

Girolamo enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. He was a staff sergeant and combat engineer who served in Africa, Italy and France during the war. Girolamo gave a short

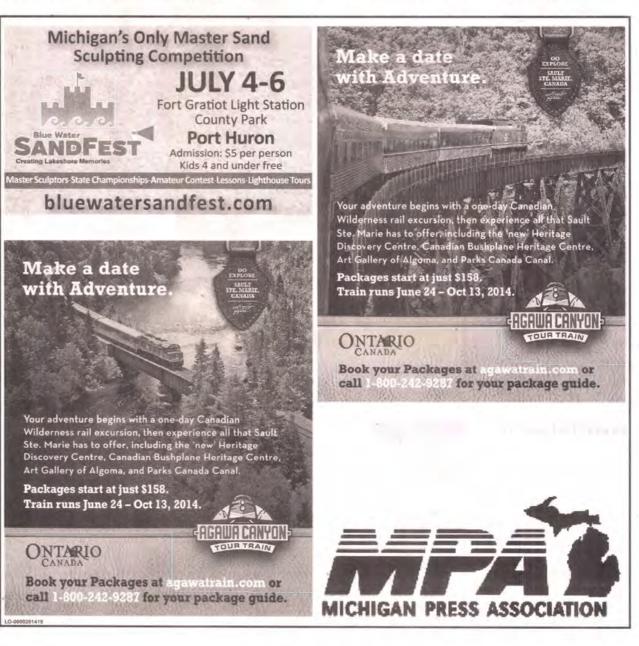
speech about a few of his

According to Stacie Rulison, secretary of the Michigan Autism Council and author of the guide, the images that accompany the narrative are intended to reinforce the visual learning aspect of individuals with autism.

"Visual aids are beneficial in that many individuals with autism have difficulty with communication and may use visuals as a primary or supplemental communication method," Rulison said. "Visuals communicate ical Society.

To download the visual guide and view other special-needs accommodations at the Detroit Zoo, visit detroitzoo.org/Plan/ special-needs.html.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres of naturalistic habitats, the Detroit Zoo is located at 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue off I-696 in Royal Oak.



hometownlife.com

Curious puppies play in the backyard.



These are fun times for the puppies, but they'll be working dogs for Leader Dogs for the Blind when they grow up.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Local family plays host to Leader Dog pups

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

hen they were younger, Alexa and Colette Cichon always wanted a dog

They certainly got what they wanted - and more

Later this week, their Canton family will watch five more dogs, the latest litter of their Golden Retriever, Polo, walk out the door on their way to lives of service with Leader Dogs for the Blind (www.leaderdog.org), the Rochester Hills-based group that provides free guide dogs to blind or visually impaired people.

That makes three dozen puppies the Cichons have bred with Polo, the Leader Dog breeder they've fostered for the last five years or SO.

"It's a wonderful program," Michelle Cichon, mom to Alexa and Colette, said of Leader Dogs. "Everything the do is free, they put so much time and energy into it. (Leader Dogs) gives these people the freedom to go out in the world and provides that independence for them."

The Cichon family got into the Leader Dog business after dad Scott Cichon talked to a Leader



Michelle Cichon, center, with daughters Colette and Alexa, Golden Retriever Polo and Polo's five puppies. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Dog volunteer in the Canton McDonald's years ago. The kids had been wanting a dog, so Scott and Michelle agreed to take in Ginger, the first Leader Dog pup the family fostered.

But the pups only stay in the family for a year, during which time the host family trains the pups, teaches them to socialize and gets them ready for their future. At the end of that year, Ginger had grown on the girls.

"It was really hard to give Ginger up," Alexa said. "Being attached to her for the whole year – it was difficult. We loved her."

Polo, meanwhile, had been fostered by a family in Chicago. When that family couldn't keep her, Polo was brought to Canton and into the Cichon family. Polo has birthed five litters totaling 36 puppies, the latest five of which are headed to Rochester Hills later this week.

As the routine - and the emotion - became more familiar, the "giving them up" part has gotten easier. Part of that has to do with the responsibility - feeding five puppies, taking them outside, helping them learn.

"They're a lot of work, so it's not that hard any more to let them go,' Alexa said, though she said it with a smile.

Though it's hard work, it's work for Leader Dogs for the Blind officials appreciate. The group depends heavily on host families as a means for properly training their

dogs. With host homes, Leader Dogs for the Blind would have to

See PUPPIES, Page A10

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PUPPIES

Continued from Page A9

house them in their Rochester Hills facility, a daunting prospect that would dramatically impact the operation.

"Without having a place where those puppies can grow, we'd have to have a much larger facility," said Sam Ziegenmeyer, Leader Dog's breeding program director. "It wouldn't have that individual touch.'

Michelle Cichon said the family has always "been a volunteering" family, and she thought

getting involved with Leader Dogs for the Blind would be a good experience for the kids.

And the daughters, who everyone agreed are responsible for the care of the puppies, accepted the challenge.

"I think it's a bit of a challenge, but it's worth it," Colette said. "Being an animal lover ... it's a good experience.

Polo has reached the age and stage where this is probably her last litter. Michelle said the experience taught the family there really are volunteer opportunities for everybody.

"You just have to find

your niche," Michelle said. "It's been fun."

Alexa, who earlier this year organized a Feed My Starving Children event that helped feed hungry children around the world, said the Leader Dogs effort taught her "volunteer work can be fun," and left her feeling good about helping others.

"It can still be hard letting go, but it's worth it," Alexa said. "It allows other people to live a life they wouldn't be able to have otherwise.'

bkadrich@hometownlife.com Twitter: @bkadrich



Polo, here playing in the yard with her puppies, is a breeder dog for Leader Dogs for the Blind in **Rochester Hills.** BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEMCOG assembly elects new leadership

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, elected a new slate of leaders at its general assembly last week

Schoolcraft College Treasurer Joan Gebhardt of Livonia, outgoing chair, officially passed the gavel to incoming chair Kathy D. Vosburg, a Macomb County commissioner.

In addition to Vosburg, SEMCOG's slate of officers for 2014-2015 includes:

» Jeffrey Jenks, First Vice Chairperson; Mayor Pro Tem of Huntington Woods. He will become the chairperson in 2015-2016.

» Robert Clark, Vice Chairperson; Mayor of Monroe.

» Rodrick Green, Vice Chairperson; Trustee for Superior Charter Township.

» Jeffrey Jenks, Vice Chairperson; Commissioner for Huntington Woods;

» Phil LaJoy, Vice Chairperson; Canton Township supervisor.

» Karl Tomion, Vice Chairperson; Commis-sioner for St. Clair County

» Joan Gebhardt, Immediate Past Chair-



SEMCOG's 2014-2015 officersare Jeff Jenks, First Vice Chair, Huntington Woods Mayor Pro Tem (from left); Phil LaJoy, Vice Chair, Canton Township Supervisor; Joan Gebhardt, Immediate Past Chair, Schoolcraft College Treasurer; Kathy Vosburg, Chairperson, Macomb County Commissioner; Rodrick Green, Vice Chair, Superior Township Trustee; and Karl Tomion, Vice Chair, St. Clair County Commissioner. Not pictured is Robert Clark, Vice Chair, Monroe Mayor.

coming year .

priorities

Vision, adopting the

zed Plan, and setting

SEMCOG's legislative

region's first Nonmotori-

"I will be promoting

person and Schoolcraft College treasurer.

Vosburg is currently serving her sixth twoyear term as Macomb County commissioner, representing District 8 (Lenox and Chesterfield Townships, the Village of New Haven and the City of New Baltimore).

In her remarks at the General Assembly, Vosburg outlined her four the benefits of active priorities for the upmembership during my - moving year as chair," she said. the Regional Transporta-"I look forward to a tion Plan forward, imple-menting the Regional great year.' Also at the General Green Infrastructure

Assembly, SEMCOG announced its Regional Ambassador Award winners. This is SEMCOG's highest honor for individuals and organizations who make unique

contributions to the quality of life in southeast Michigan. This year's recipients are:

» Bryan Barnett, Rochester Hills mayor, for his leadership on SEMCOG's Green Infrastructure Task Force, adopting Southeast Michigan's first Green Infrastructure Vision, and embracing this environmental work in his community. In a recent citizens' survey in Rochester Hills, residents said that the environment was the most important reason they chose to live in Rochester Hills.

» Dan O'Leary, Washington Township supervisor, for his leadership chairing SEMCOG's Transportation Advisory Council and adopting the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, which directs \$36 billion in transportation funding over the next 25 years to maintain and improve the region's transportation system. In his community, he embraces collaboration, and has worked with Bruce Township officials to assist with their assessing and water service, saving money for both communities.

» Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Formed in 2003, its mission is to develop public access to one of southeast Michigan's greatest assets the Detroit River while also fostering economic development. The vision is to develop 5.5 miles along the river from the Ambassador Bridge to Gabriel Richard Park, transforming it into a destination that is changing the image of Detroit.

» William Davidson Foundation. Named after William Davidson, the late former owner of the Detroit Pistons, chairman and CEO of Guardian Industries, and a noted philanthropist. The foundation grants funds to support culture and the arts, education, health care and other projects in and around Detroit and southeast Michigan, all important elements to a thriving region.

SEMCOG is the only organization in southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of life for the seven-county region's 4.7 million people.







B

VISA

INSIDE: COMMUNITY LIFE, B5-6 • OBITUARIES, B7 • HEALTH, B8

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2014 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM SPORTS

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Boka comes of age as high-level player

Plymouth defenseman a stalwart for U.S. National Hockey Team

By Brad Emons

Staff Writer

Nicholas Boka is taking a much deserved summer break, but the game of hockey is always on the back of his mind.

The Plymouth native, who turns 17 in September, is coming off his first season with USA Hockey's National Development Team Program where he drew high praise as a defenseman for the Ann Arborbased Under 17 squad.

The 6-foot-1, 196-pound

Boka appeared in 52 games scoring six goals and adding 13 assists with a minus-2 rating after coming out of Compuware's Midget Major program the previous season. When not playing interna-

When not playing internationally, the Under-17 team played an ambitious schedule which included games against USHL, a league that features many of the country's top junior players looking for a chance to play in the collegiate ranks and ultimately professionally.

"It was a big adjustment,"

said Boka, who has committed to play at the University of Michigan. "Before you're playing against guys you're own age and you're one of the best players, then come in and you're surrounded by all your teammates who are the best in the country and playing against guys who are older. So you have to work harder than you ever had just to get the win every night and I think that was the biggest adjustment playing against the older

See BOKA, Page B2



Nick Boka played stellar on defense in international play for the U.S. National Under-17 team based in Ann Arbor.

SILL IN THE GAME STILL

Hall of Fame bowler Aleta Sill shares her expertise in the sport by coaching others

By Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

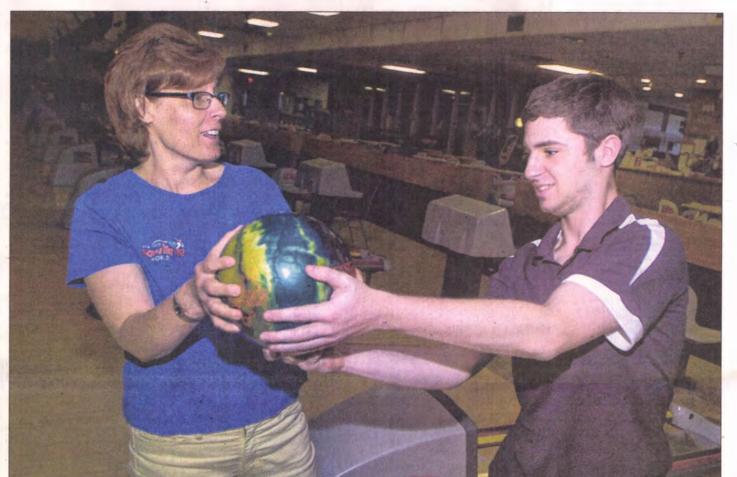
While her competitive career has faded to legendary status, Aleta Sill continues to make bowling a big part of her life and to impact the sport in a different way.

Once one of the best female bowlers in the world, the Farmington Hills resident's passion is coaching others and teaching them to bowl.

Sill started doing that when she was still competing 26 years ago, and she had made that her career since retiring from the women's professional tour in 2001.

She and business partner Michelle Mullen, also a former pro bowler, have operated Aleta Sill's Pro Shop at Country Lanes in Farmington and taught lessons there for the last 11 years.

A lot of practice and a lot of help made Sill a 31-time tour winner. She bowled 31 perfect games and is now a



member of seven bowling halls of fame.

"That's why we're so passionate here about coaching," she said. "If I didn't have the coaching that I had, I know I would not have been as successful as I was.

"I had coaches from the time I was 12 all the way through my career. In

Hal of Fame bowler turned coach Aleta Sill works with student Aaron Radner of Farmington Hills. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

YOUTH SOCCER

WWSL offers first-class pitch proving ground

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

What do United States soccer stars Clint Dempsey and Tim Howard have in common with players in the Wayne-Westland Soccer League?

Dempsey and Howard – like the WWSL's close to 500 players – learned the sport on a much smaller stage than the one the 2014 World Cup is unfolding on this month. Whether or not a current Arsenal player makes it to the soccer stratosphere like the before-mentioned American stars isn't important, current WWSL president Keith Tilley said.

What's vital is that youngsters in Wayne, Westland and surrounding communities are given an opportunity to learn what the sport is all about.

"Our main objective is to give kids an opportunity to play and learn the sport of soccer and be able to afford it," said Tilley, who has three kids of his own in the WWSL. "We want to get kids off their iPods, off the

couch, away from the TV and outside doing something active."

The WWSL has evolved in a positive direction since Tilley

Members of a Wayne-Westland Soccer League select team celebrate following a recent victory.

first got involved close to a decade ago. Once mainly an organization that offered recre-

See SOCCER, Page B4



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See SILL, Page B4

LOCAL SPORTS

Mike Hayes of White Lake won the Golf Association of Michigan's third Net Match Play championship Wednesday over Dustin Ross of Garden City at Lakelands Golf and Country Club,

2-up. "I just kept getting better every round I played, and I didn't make hardly any mistakes," Hayes said. "And that's

over the season."

Making plans

Granato said Boka

with the Under-18 team,

which trains out of the

Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

among that this year,' Granato said. "That's

coaching staff."

will get an increased role

'We work with a lead-

ership group, and he was

collective. His peers feel

that way and so does the

in penalty minutes (144),

'He's really an ag-

could probably cut down

on that a little bit, but on

the same side he's got to

but Granato said that

statistic is misleading.

gressive player," the U-17 coach said. "He

Boka led the Under-17

not something that happens all that often.

"I can't believe I won it to be honest. Every guy I played was great. They were good golfers, true sportsmen and great

Slovakia, Sweden and

did great," Boka said.

it out and what it was

kind of showed over-

Looking at video and hearing everything ev-

ery day at the rink as far

and things I can improve

upon. I think that helped

a lot towards the end of

the season. I started to

catch on as far as what

saying. I think the big-

tally letting the game

gest thing was not men-

control me and starting

to control the game on

a factor every night."

Away from home

my own, and trying to be

these guys (coaches) are

as what I can do better,

Boka said he took a

"Internationally we

Quebec.

seas.

wore on.

people. I really surprised myself by doing this."

Hayes, 47, made it to the final with a 4 and 2 win over David Fagan of Warren. Ross, 35 and a U.S. Army National

Guard pilot who works for an airline, slipped past Tyler Lewis of Grand Blanc in the other semifinal, 1-up. "I hit it great on the

front nine, but I was also



Plymouth's Nick Boka, a defenseman with the U.S. National Under-17 team, played 52 games last season.

Honda, a Midget Minor mouth this upcoming season. "It wasn't that AAA team ... bad. I liked going to school with all my teamas I can with my brother, mates, it was a lot of fun. "We play Xbox, train with him, shoot pucks We get a lot of help with our schoolwork, especialwith him.' ly when we go on international trips. I think the recruit, Boka gave an early yes to Michigan adjustment was pretty

easy. When Boka is away from the rink, he tries to make quality time with his family, which includes his parents, Don (a teacher who played football at Ferris State) and Lora (a school principal), along with his younger brother Luke, a forward who will play this season for Victory

able to use more 3-woods there," Ross said. "On the back nine, I had to hit a driver in a few places. I just started hitting it in the trees and Mike wasn't making mistakes."

Michigan was pretty much the easiest because I loved going to Michigan games growing up. I just felt like I was at home.'

Next season

Boka reports back to the U-18 team on Aug. 25 where he'll lace up his skates again for another lengthy season. "They need the sum-

mer off," Granato said. 'We had over 130 practices this year and we were in the weight room 110 times. We don't want them on the ice and participating over the summer.'

Boka, however, just started back with conditioning work at Barwis Methods, a training facility in Plymouth owned and operated by Mike Barwis, Michigan's former football strength and conditioning coach (under Rich Rodriguez).

"I do that every morn-ing and it's tough," Boka said. "It's probably the best training I've ever had. I'm excited to get the season started.

This year's Under-18 team will play a balanced schedule against, not only international and USHL squads, but against NCAA Division I teams as well.

But there's only a single goal Boka that has on his mind entering the 2014-15 season.

"Expectations are to win the World Under-18 championship, and nothing less pretty much," he said.

It's only the start of summer, but hockey is remains on top of his brain.

bemons@hometownlife.com

BOKA

Continued from Page B1

guys."

Age difference

As a 16-year-old, Boka was lining up against players that were up to four years his elder.

"They go up to about 20 years old and they're all mean and nasty,' Boka said.

But despite the age disparity, Boka more than held his own as the Under-17 squad went 31-23-1 overall and finished 15-0 against foreign opponents.

"He was a very highly sought after player when we brought him in, so coming into the program he already established himself as a pretty darn good player within the age group," said Don Granato, who coached Boka on the Under-17 team and will move up this season as the head coach for Under-18 NDTP squad. "That said, he's improved tremendously. That is because of his intensity, his work ethic and really he's an intelligent enough kid to figure out how to make himself better, which I think is really a big key."

Boka also proved he was as good as advertised.

"Physically, his conditioning and off-ice habits have really paid off over the course of the year," Granato said. "Everything has improved, but I'd say adding power and speed, and just his knowledge at his position as a defenseman. His knowledge of the game has improved immensely

play an assertive and aggressive game. Penaltaking on a role. ties are a consequence of that, but on the coaching ously the best. As a deside there's a lot more fenseman I think I grew good than bad, I can tell

you that. "I love his intensity. He's passionate."

Granato calls Boka a "low maintenance guy."

"He's quiet," the coach said. "His teammates respect him. He's definitely a team player. He asks very good questions. He approaches you when he needs something. He's direct, but he's not overboring. We don't need to hold his hand. We don't need extra attention. He's very professional. For a young kid, that's probably why he's accomplished so much at his age. He carries himself very well."

International game

Boka helped Team USA win the World Under-17 Challenge this season in Nova Scotia. The Under-17 squad also

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Boka also had to make an adjustment going to a different school (Ann Arbor Pioneer) and living with a host family. 'Don't know if I'll do

it this year," said Boka, who is contemplating staying home in Ply-



"I spend as much time

A highly sought-after

State, but after agonizing

"The decommitment

Boka said. "(MSU) Coach

(Tom) Anastos was one

of my first coaches. I

knew him pretty well,

but I think the commit to

over his decision, he did

a 180-degree turn and

gave a verbal commit-

ment to the Maize and

was actually tough,"

Blue.

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LOCAL SPORTS

All-area honors for top soccer players

FIRST TEAM

Kylie Robb, Sr. G, Plymouth: Acrobatic and aggressive, Robb was a defensive force once again for the Wildcats, nearly pushing eventual state cham-



penalty kick scenario in the Division 1 regional **Kylie Robb** semifinal at Plymouth Dearborn.

pion North-

ville to a

Robb's uncanny ability to read plays and communicate with her defense were key factors in Plymouth posting a 12-7 record and winning the D1 district final with a hard-fought victory over Salem.

"Kylie is just somebody who, if you made a mistake, she'd come up with a huge save," coach Jeff Neschich said. "She did that so many times this year.

"She gives everybody in front of her the confidence to play and to take chances.

Robb, who will play basketball at Aquinas College, earned Division 1 all-state third-team honors, as well as selection to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams

Rylee Jayson, Sr. G, Stevenson: The senior, bound for Lawrence Tech, was a three-year starter who finished her

senior cam-

paign with

eight shut-

outs and a

average of

Jayson,

goals-

0.90

who

bounced

against



Rylee Jayson Stevenson

back from an ACL (knee) injury suffered early in her junior year, made alldistrict and all-KLAA honors.

"Rylee was a leader in every sense of the word," coach Chris Grodzicki said. " She was a captain, led the team in minutes. was voted the MVP and was the type of player everyone could look up to.

"In my five years as the coach at Stevenson. 1 have not received as many compliments from opposing coaches for all my other players combined than I did this year for Rylee. Alyssa Dillon, Sr. D, Plymouth: A defensive standout and team leader throughout her high school career, Dillon was a catalyst at



named all-Catholic, all-district and all-Conner region as

Huggins Ladywood

the Blazers reached the state semifinals. "Conner had a fantastic season," coach Ken Shingledcker said. "She played some in our midfield and up top before

committed

to Villanova

University,

was also

settling into our back line. Once we moved her to center back, we won eight straight games at the end of the season.

'Her poise on the ball and tackling ability are second to none. She is a fantastic teammate and a pleasure to coach."

Rachel Winters, Sr. D, Canton: Winters' outstanding multi-sport career at Canton High School finished with a flourish as she was an all-around standout for the Chiefs.

In addi-



the back line, she helped out Winters at the other Canton

end of the pitch with four goals and eight as-

sists Winters, also a standout player for Canton's varsity girls basketball team, earned all-conference, all-district, allregion and D1 all-state honors.

"Rachel was a threeyear varsity starter," coach Jeannine Reddy said. "She is a great player and even better person. She is a great, smart and talented defender. She understands the game very well.'

The KLAA scholarathlete will play D-I women's soccer at Bowling Green University.

Alexis Solomon, Sr. D, Garden City: The senior center back was the Cougars' defensive anchor, defusing opponents' at-



play

The center-back earned all-conference, all-district and all-region honors as well as D1 all-state honorable mention accolades.

"Emily had a great four years at Plymouth High School," Neschich said. "She's been the anchor of our defense all four years and just a strong, fast and smart player.

She will play next season at Siena Heights University.

Emily Huddleston, Sr. MF, Ladywood: The **Division 2 first-team** all-stater, bound for Southwest Minnesota State, fin-

ished her

with 11

senior year

goals and 19

assists for

the district



and region-Emily al champi-Huddleston ons Her 19 Ladywood

assists in a season ranks only second in Ladywood history behind Paige Brennan's 26 (set in 2012).

"Emily put together one of the most accomplished careers in Ladywood soccer history,' Shingledecker said of the all-district, all-region and all-Catholic selection.

"She went from scoring a goal in the state final her freshman year to leading her team back to the Final Four as a senior captain.

"I have known Emily since she was 6 yearsold. It's been a pleasure to watch her develop into the quality leader and person she is today.

Taylor Babcock, Jr. MF, Mercy: Babcock was instrumental in organizing the Mercy midfield and



made the coaches Division 1 allstate third team. She plays for the Northville Rush club team and certain to play at a major level in college, according to coach Butch Babler.

Duhl said. "She is a great 1-v-1 player who thrives in space.

"She played almost every minute of every game. Leah was easily one of the top three players in every game we played all year.'

Lindsay Yankasky, Jr. MF, Garden City: The junior captain registered 14 goals and 10 assists in 20 games played at the left-mid

> position. Smart and fast with the ball at her feet, Yankasky

Lindsay earned an Yankasky all-state Garden City honorable mention as well as all-WWAC, all-

district and all-region honors. "Lindsay wasn't contained by any team this year," Szypula said. "Her work on the outside wore down every opponent's right side. She was the best player in the confer-

ence. "Her ability to read the game combined with tremendous speed and a powerful left foot make her one of the best play-

ers around." Irena Dedivani, Sr. MF, Farmington: Dedivani was a three-year starter who was very effective at controlling the

midfield for the Falcons.



others this Irena year. She Dedivani ended her Farmington high school career with

24 goals. Dedivani is a Division 1 all-state honorable mention and will be a scholarship player next vear at Eastern Michigan

University. "I coached Irena the last three years, and she's been an outstanding player every year,' coach Matt Gasparotto said. "She did all the things we asked her to do this year, and she stepped up as a major

leader. 's very skillful "She and competitive. She'll attack and take players on, trying to create scoring opportunities either for herself or her teammates. She has the ability to beat players with the ball and is fun to watch. "Over three years, I watched her grow into a great leader and a role model for the players around her. With her personality and work ethic, I know she's going to do great things when she gets to Eastern.' Kelsey Parrinello, Sr. F, Churchill: The senior forward, bound for the University of Cincinnati, finished with eight goals and 16 assists for the KLAA South Division champions. Parrinel-Kelsey Parrinello lo, who Churchill repeated first-team



Sam Riga Ladywood

all-district, all-region and first-team all-state honors in Division 2 Her 21 goals in a sea-

son ranks only second behind Kelly Capoccia's

after play-

soccer, led

in scoring

assists en

route to

with 21

the Blazers

goals and 10

all-Catholic,

ing club

24 (set in 2012). Sam does an excellent job of running off the ball and showing up in goal scoring spots, Shingledecker said.

"Her combination of speed and strength are a nightmare for other teams to deal with. We are excited for another year with Sam up top for us."

Alex Griffin, Jr. F,

Mercy: The junior forward scored 14 goals and had five assists to help the Marlins



Alex Griffin Mercy

100

a three-year varsity player and also plays for the Hawks club team. She has committed to play college soccer at Northern Illinois University.

"She has blazing speed," coach Babler said. "She's very competitive. She plays more midfield for her club team, but she's learning how to score. She played more outside mid, so it was easier for her to make the switch.

"Girls by nature are not as selfish. We're teaching them it's not being selfish when you don't make that last pass.'

Ryann Davis, Sr. F, N. Farmington: The senior forward scored 14 goals and added four assists to help the Raiders win the OAA White Division champi-

Javis 19

academic



ALL-OBSERVER **GIRLS SOCCER**

FIRST TEAM Kylie Robb, Sr. G, Plymouth Rylee Jayson, Sr. G, Stevenson Alyssa Dillon, Sr. D Plymouth Conner Huggins, Soph. D, Ladywd Rachel Winters, Sr. D, Canton Alexis Solomon, Sr. D, Garden City Emily Hudleston, Sr. Mr, K. Ladywd Taylor Babcock, Jr. MR, Mercy Leah Moss, Soph. MF, Salem Lindsay Yankasky, Jr. M, Garden C. Irrena Dedivani, Sr. MF, Farmington Kelsey Parrinello, Sr. F, Churchill Sam Riga, Jr. F, Ladywood FIRST TEAM Sam Riga, Jr. F. Ladywood Alex Griffin, Jr. F. Mercy Ryann Davis, Sr. F. N. Farmington COACH OF THE YEAR H Szypula, Garden City SECOND TEAM

SECOND TEAM Brittney Hayes, Fr. G. Churchill Maya Jamison, Jr. G. Harrison Aliya El-Sabeh, Jr. D. Stevenson Olivia Kaye, Sr. D. Salem Summer Reddick, Sr. D. Clarencev, Kathryn Sprader, Sr. D. Clarencev, Maria Pulice, Jr. D. Mercy Gabby Epelman, Sr. D. Canton Jenna Lirso, Sr. MF, Ladywood Julia Yanoy, Sr. MF, Ladywood Marissa Ozog, Sr. MF, Ladywood Julia Yanoy, Sr. MF, Ludywood Martha Mullett, Sr. MF, Plymouth Raven Buck, Jr. MF, John Glenn Riley Burnette, Soph. MF, Franklin Taylor Lambouris, Jr. MF, N. Farm. Alexis Lubonja, Jr. K. Churchill Natelie Winters, Soph. F, Canton Natalie Winters, Soph. F, Canton Madison Lilla, Sr. F, Garden City Victoria McKague, Soph. F, Wayne

HONORABLE MENTIONS Churchill: Kacie Murray, Kate Rubenson, Sylvia Cervantes, Hannah Damico; Franklin: Kanjan Damico, Franklin: Kaylynn Perian; **Stevenson**: Jenna Thom, Alyssa Benvenuti; John Glenn: C.C. Said, Marissa Edwards; **Wayne:** Shaelyn Wojewski; **Clarenceville**: Brianna Tuuri-Cesarz, Tristyn Rean Lindsey Fosth; Ladywood: Lutheran Westland: Samantha Parasa Aliand: nantha Benner; Plymouth: Lauren Babcock, Sydney Rouse, Olivia Janke, Jillian Aguirre, Hope Scheffield, Anna DeBiasi, Kathryn Gordon, Erin Winter; Canton: Katie McGlacken, Hannah Lapko, Genevieve Nutter; Salem: Genevieve Noter, Satem: Morgan Siterlet, Aly Mann, Hayley Rogers, Emma Camp, Plymouth Christian: Katelyn Barkell, Jesse Paulson, Aleze Peters; N. Far-mington; Jessie Carruthers, Karlie Cummins, Samantha Carruthers, Care Wickey Carruthers, Carina Wright; Harrison: Kimberly Lindberg, Vicki Blaga, Farmington: Jessica Clappison, Teagan Evans, Megan Schulz, Rebecca O'Connor, Mercy: Paige Roberts, Marge Terhune, Katie Erdman, Mia Perelli, Patti Wallace; Garden City: Gabby Castillo, Cassidy s, Chelsea Outlaw; Redford Union: Jordan Chapoton, Candice Brennan, Ashley Sandelin; Thurston: Gabrielle Van Well, anna Thomas



winning two games each at longtime nemesis Dearborn Heights Crestwood Jeff Szypula and Dear-Head coach born High. Garden City Szypula, who is also

the head coach for the Garden City varsity boys soccer team, served as the girls junior-varsity squad before taking the varsity reins from Jason Dean prior to the 2013 season. As impressive as the Cougars' on-the-pitch exploits was their 3.4 team grade-point average, Szypula noted. "We had a great group of kids and they deserve all of the credit for our success," he said. "Everyone was committed to working hard to achieve our goals of winning the conference, winning the district, and playing to the best of our abilities each and every day. 'Our favorite quotes of the year were, 'Success only comes before work in the dictionary and 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard. "All of our players on junior varsity and varsity helped each other to get better throughout the season. It was a total program effort. The JV tied for the WWAC championship with Keith Jeffery as head coach in his first year. "Coach Keith and I worked well together as players in college at Concordia, and we continue to work well together as coaches. Bryan Rock and Mariah Carver did a great job as assistant coaches this season."



starter, she had four goals and six assists this year. Babcock



Alyssa Dillon Plymouth

said. "She brings great athletic ability as well as the technical and tactical skills. She just wants to win."

"She is

special

player,'

Neschich

Dillon, who will play Division I women's soccer at the University of Michigan, had plenty of accolades for her prep finale.

She earned D1 allstate first-team honors as well as selection to the all-conference, all-district and all-region squads.

Conner Huggins, Soph. D, Ladywood: The sophomore defender, who had 12 goals and 10 assists, earned first-team all-state honors and was rated the number two player in Division 2 by the coaches.

Huggins, who has

was also a Alexis threat to Solomon carry the Garden City ball deep

into the opposing team's territory given her tremendous ball skills. She was a first-team all-WWAC performer.

"Alexis was a brick wall all year long," coach Jeff Szypula said. "She never came out of games and maintained her high energy throughout each match. Her speed and aggressiveness made it difficult for anyone to get by her.

"We rarely gave up good scoring opportunities and were able to maintain possession out of the back because of Alexis. Our goalies were not tested too much, and when they were it was from a deep shot.'

Emily Burkman, Sr. D, Plymouth: The Wildcats were as tough a defensive unit as any in the KLAA throughout Burk-



2014 season was no exception. man missed a

Burk-

Burkman few games Plymouth due to in-

juries, but she didn't miss a beat with the quality of her

"In the district game, we only gave up two goals to (state champion) Northville, and she was a lot of the reason why,' Babler said. "She's a good athlete, a good competitor; she comes by that naturally.

"She's also very intelligent and she plays that way. It's like having a coach on the field. With her we can make adjustments on the field that some players don't quite understand.'

Leah Moss, Soph. MF, Salem: In a season of uncertainty for the Rocks, Moss was a player

who could be counted on whether the team needed defense or a boost on offense.

omore came through in the clutch down the stretch, as Salem threatened to win the D1 districts before bowing out to Plymouth in a hard-fought final.

The tal-

ented soph-

Moss was named to the all-KLAA, all-district and all-region teams as well as earning D1 allstate honorable mention status.

"Leah can play every position," coach Scott

all-Observer honors, also earned all-KLAA, alldistrict, all-region and second-team Division 1 all-state accolades as a senior

"Kelsey was our playmaker and most talented player who created a lot of scoring opportunities and helped out defensively, too," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said.

Sam Riga, Jr. F, Ladywood: The junior forward, who came back after a year's absence



all-state Ryann player with Davis a 3.82 GPA. North "Ryann Farmington is the best natural

forward I have coached in my 20 years at North," coach Tim Russell said. "She was one of the hardest working players we have had in years. As such she was a terrific role model as a captain.

"Her value on the field went beyond her scoring. She was a valuable presence in helping us to interrupt other teams as they tried to develop their offense from the back.

"Opposing defenses were always rushed, because Ryann was such a persistent and dedicated player. She played every minute of every game, and that was despite the fact she played quite aggressively.

"I was amazed she did not get hurt. Even when she did get nicked up, she came right back the next game. We will definitely miss her presence next season.

COACH OF THE YEAR Jeff Szypula, Garden

City: The second-year head coach led the Cougars to their first outright conference title in over 10 years and the school's first district championship ever.

Among the team's 2014 accomplishments were

Churchill golf outing

The fourth annual Churchill softball golf outing fundraiser will be Sunday, Sept. 28, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

The cost is \$65 for golf and dinner. Dinner only is \$20. The format is a four-person scramble.

Contact Steve Gentilia at 734-776-1716 (churchillsoftball@gmail.com) or Kevin McHugh at 734-748-8520 (kmchugh12@yahoo.com).

Franklin grid outing

The Livonia Franklin football benefit golf outing will be Saturday, July 26, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course, 35786 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

There will be a shotgun for the four-person scramble starting at 8 a.m. The cost is \$65.

Checks should be made payable to Franklin football and mailed to:

9623 Westmore, Livonia, MI 48150.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

For more information, call Chuck Roth at 734-637-6719 or Dan Cline at 734-748-5283. You can also email chuckrothcarpentry@gmail.com or dan.cline@trw.com.

Travel baseball

Tryouts for the Livonia Stars, an under-11 travel baseball team, will be 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3 and 10, at the Franklin High varsity field.

The team will be a member of the Kensing-

ton Valley Baseball-Softball Association and compete in three to four tournaments. Players may not turn 12 before May 1.

For more information, email head coach Matt Fournier at mattfournier22@sbcglobal.net; or call 734-968-0499.



LOCAL SPORTS

hometownlife.com

Bowling fundraiser to benefit animal shelters

By Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

If you like bowling and helping animals, the ninth annual Bowl-4-Animal Rescue is right up your alley.

The event, slated for Saturday, Aug. 9, at Country Lanes in Farmington, will benefit the Dearborn Animal Shelter and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

"It was suggested we might want to align with some charity and do some work in the community," Michelle Mullen, a former pro bowler who teaches at Country Lanes, said.

"At that point, it was a no-brainer for me to think about animals. I couldn't do the amount of work we do if it wasn't something I was passionate about. That's definitely animals in need.

"We have a whole

network of volunteers who are working on this year-round. We go fullsteam in the summer because it's when we're slower.'

Mullen and business partner Aleta Sill, also a former pro bowler and teaching pro, co-run the Aleta Sill Pro Shop at Country Lanes.

In the first year, the event raised \$6,500; that number grew to \$40,000 last year and put the eight-year total at \$150,000. Mullen and Sill hope to raise another \$50,000 this year.

"It's a lofty goal, but we're working hard," Mullen said. "It doesn't matter whether you're a bowler or not. There's a way for everybody to participate.

"We've been blessed that the lanes have been full in years past. With the pledge drive and people who bring in the money, we want to grow out it that way."

The online pledge drive is under way, and the highest fundraisers can win special prizes that have been donated.

They include a Detroit Tigers sky box with 26 tickets and a chef's tasting for six people at the Coach Insignia atop the Ren Cen and the Novi Chop House.

"That just totally elevated anything we gave out," Mullen said. To the high fundraisers last year, we gave a bowling ball and a lesson. Now it's a Tiger suite.

"Our clientele bring in amazing items, so we're getting known for the auction items and the quality of them."

In addition to the bowling fees raised on the night of the event, there will be an auction, offering various sports memorabilia.

"I bleed his event and I don't even take a dime

for granted," Mullen said, adding they're at \$8,000 right now.

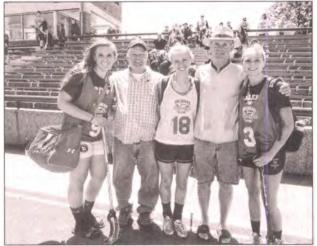
"If somebody comes in and hands us 10 bucks, it's like, 'Yes!' (fist pump), because that's how we get there. It's all the little bits. Big or small, they all come together for us.'

All proceeds will go to the two organizations that care for animals. They do great work,

but there's just so many," Mullen said. "They're full; most agencies are. We have a lot of work to do as a community and people to eradicate this. In our humble world, we try to make a difference.'

Information is available online at bowl4animalrescue.org, on Face-book by the same name or by calling 248-615-9060. All forms can be downloaded. The event is on Twitter at bowl4animalresc.

Park trio in Hall of Fame game



Players in the recent Hall of Fame game include P-CEP participants (from left) Alexis O'Flynn (Canton), Dave Bower (Canton coach), Kiersten Vala (Salem), Dave Medley (Salem coach), and Rose Krasofsky (Salem).

SPORTS CAMPS

Three 2014 graduates from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park took part in the Michigan Women's Lacrosse Hall of Fame Game, held June 14 at Detroit Country Dav

On the squad were Salem's Kiersten Vala, Rose Krasofsky and Canton's Alexis O'Flynn competed in the senior

Churchill hoops

fall) will be 3-6 p.m.

The Churchill girls

2014 summer basketball

camp (grades 5-9 in the

Tuesday through Friday, July 15-18, at the high

For more information,

school. The cost is \$50.

email coach Matt McCo-

showcase.

In order to participate, players must have been nominated by the Michigan Womens' Lacrosse Coaches Association.

Other players from the Park also received nominations and invitations to play: Salem's Lauren Britton, Bridget Kerwin and Canton's Melissa Neal.

SILL

Continued from Page B1

Indy-car racing, you have the pit crew and the driver. I feel like I was the driver, but my pit crew was great.

"They got me finely tuned and that's why I succeeded. That's with any sport. You'll never play at the highest level if you don't have eyes behind you."

Gauging success

Seeing young bowlers she has taught put into practice what they've learned and do well is the reward for Sill.

That has replaced the competitive fire and is the equivalent of her winning a tournament when she was competing

"It's the best feeling in the world," Sill said. 'When someone I've worked with says they won something or shot a big score, there's noth-



"I could beat anybody who had a better physical game, because they didn't have the mental game I did." ALETA SILL

Hall of Fame bowler

shot because I'm not worried about the end smoothed and everything. When I watched ing, period. I've never gotten it back.'

Nowadays, Sill's bowling is limited to three games a week in league play during the winter months.

"It's just a fun league," she said. "I get out to socialize with my friends. Companies send balls and I test them to see what's good for in here. That's basically it."

mmccown54@gmail.com or call 248-761-9201.

Plymouth Y programs

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering a variety of youth instructional programs. The focus will be on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction.

The programs include preschool soccer, preschool and youth basketball and volleyball. Ages

SOCCER

vary by program but offer something for children age 3-14.

The programs are open to YMCA and community members. For more information, contact the YMCA at 734-453-2904 or visit ymcadetroit.org/ plymouth.

Canton football

A summer football camp run by the Canton High School program is slated for July 14-17 at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity field.

The camp is for players entering grades 7-9 in fall 2014. Times are 7:30 p.m. Contact Rich-5 ard Mui at 248-229-2738.

Visit www.cantonchiefsfootball.com to download a flier.

\$450 for a combined spring/fall season. "We don't pay our coaches like a lot of the organizations do, so we're able to keep our fees down," Tilley said. "Even though our coaches work for free, they know the sport well and are great at teaching it to the youngsters. Tilley added that he would eventually like to see the WWSL host an annual tournament whether it be 3-v-3 or 11-v-11 - not just for fundraising purposes, but to further expose the club's offerings to a wider base of players.

shop and teaches bowling at Country Lanes in Farmington. JOHN STORMZAND | PHOTOGRAPHER

wan at

ing like that feeling. It's way better even than my bowling.

"High school bowling is getting bigger every year in Michigan. We've had a (state) champion just about every year, and that's like icing on the cake.'

Sill estimates she and Mullen have taught nearly 27,000 bowlers over the last quarter century.

Young bowlers across the metro area are a large part of their clientele, but they're not limited to a geographic region.

'We travel and do clinics," Sill said. "We'll go anywhere anybody wants us. Our name is getting out there more and more, and we'll go to their centers. We travel all over the state."

The keys to success

Patience and the willingness to be coached are essential to becoming a good bowler, according to Sill.

"There are times and it's not just kids; it's adults - when you tell them something and it's uncomfortable, it's 'Well, I can't do that; that doesn't feel right.

"If you think you're going to take a lesson and all of a sudden go out and shoot 250, a lot of times that doesn't happen, because we have to change muscle memory. It takes time to make a change.

"You might not even bowl well for the first couple weeks. But when you get it, that's when we're going to get to another level."

Results are not Sill's immediate concern with a new student. She adds they often equate throwing a strike with making a good shot.

They might miss the head pin to the right and throw it in the gutter, and I'll say it's a good

result right now," Sill said. "I'm changing a technique.

"It's not so much score-oriented when we're making changes. We're not worried about score. That's what I have to dispel sometimes to make a change."

Get a (proper) grip

As part of her work in the pro shop, Sill also applies her years of experience to custom fit a bowling ball to a client's hand and delivery.

"It's an art in itself and essential to the sport," she said. "Our work is to make people understand it's not just three holes in the ball.

"And I've stayed up; I don't rest on my laurels. I'm always willing to learn something. The bowling balls have changed a ton since I was on tour.

"It's just a matter of the hands you touch and understanding it, all the flexibilities. Once I get a ball on their hands, they see the difference.

"When a grip impairs your swing and we fix it, you can see how much better the swing gets by using less grip pressure.

No distractions

Surprisingly, Sill's best attribute as a bowler was not her physical game - the actual delivery of the ball – but her mental game, her ability to stav focused.

"I didn't have the best physical game, in my opinion," she said. "But this is what was good (tapping the side of her head).

"I could beat anybody who had a better physical game, because they didn't have the mental game I did. I could block things out; nothing could disturb me.

"People would always tell me I looked

tape, I saw flaws.

"But I could repeat shots. If you can repeat. that's the name of the game. It's just repetitive motion, and I could do that."

Sill also is a left-handed bowler, which often put her in the middle of an ongoing controversy in bowling.

"The left side of the lane has much less traffic, so the lefties always got a bad rap," she said. **Right-handers** were always complaining about the lefties, because we had it good on our side of the lane.

'If we didn't bowl well, it was because we couldn't adjust. If we did, it was because the lanes were walled up or set up for us.

"My motto was: 'I'm laughing and taking my money all the way to the bank. Complain all you want.' That just didn't bother me.

Early start on tour

Sill joined the ladies pro tour when she graduated from high school in 1980, and she won her first tournament the next year.

She struggled in 1982 and wondered if she should stay the course. She did and became the first woman bowler to earn \$1 million.

'One of the other bowler's mom gave me this quote, and I said it all the time for years and years: 'I am a strong person. I accomplish all my goals with ease. God will take care of the rest for me," Sill said.

"That year I won my first Queens title, which was a big paycheck in 1983 at 25,000 dollars. I was runner-up for Bowler of the Year. From then on, my career was pretty good

"The last year was the worst year I ever bowled, and it just soured me from bowl-

Annual fundraiser

Another of Sill's passions is helping animals. The ninth annual **Bowl-4-Animal Rescue** is planned for Saturday, Aug. 9, at Country Lanes

The event, which raised \$150,000 in the first eight years, benefits the Dearborn Animal Shelter and the Michigan Animal Adoption Network. Sill has owned numerous pets, all of them rescues.

'Some have passed," she said. "I miss them terribly. And you'll never replace that one, but I'm going to rescue another one that I can get out of that shelter and into a home. That's what I do.

Sill's hobby is collecting dolphin figurines, and she fulfilled a longtime desire to swim with real dolphins.

"That was on my bucket list," she said. "I never went out in the wild and swam with them. SeaWorld has that park where you swim with the dolphins, so it was controlled.

"Nevertheless, I got to kiss one. I got to hold its tail and he pulled me along. It truly was fun. They're strong and powerful. You don't realize until they start to take vou.'

But her favorite pastime will always be bowling, and coaching affords her a means of staying involved.

"People just don't respect bowling enough," she said. "They don't think they need help. They think it's an easy sport and it's not. "Can you imagine an

Olympic athlete trying to do it on his own? It's impossible. Why should people think any different of bowling?

Continued from Page B1

ational soccer teams, the WWSL currently fields several select- and premier-level squads for both boys and girls.

Along with the advanced opportunities, the organization forged a more-recognizable identity when it decided to name all of its upper-level teams "Arsenal.

"It's kind of neat now, because when we go to tournaments anywhere around the Detroit area and people see 'Arsenal' on our uniforms, they know where we're from," Tilley said. "We've created a friendly, positive atmosphere for our teams' players and families.

While the vast majority of the WWSL's players reside in Wayne and Westland, living in one of the two communities is not a requirement, Tilley said.

"The fact that we offer a good product means we have kids from all over wanting to play for us," he said. "There is one player on the U8 girls select team I coach who lives in Brownstown Township.

Compared to several neighboring youth-soccer programs, the WWSL is reasonably priced, Tilley said. A select-level player can expect to pay around

Registration info

The WWSL is currently accepting player registrations for the upcoming fall season. To learn more about the club and to register, visit www.wwslsoccer.com.

Summer academy

The WWSL will be offering an introductory summer soccer academy for kids ages 3-8, July 7-11 at the Wayne Rec Center, which is located at the corner of Howell and Annapolis roads. For the \$50 registration fee, each player will receive a Tshirt and a soccer ball, along with instruction on the sport.

For more information, visit the above-mentioned website.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Kids as young as 4 years old can participate in the Wayne-Westland Soccer League.

B5 (WGRL)

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2014 **COMMUNITY LIFE**

MSU EXTENSION CLASS

Aspiring home food makers get encouragement, reality check

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

I've never met a zucchini bread recipe I haven't tweaked, borrowed, combined and eventually baked.

For the past year and a half, I've made dozens of loaves, striving to perfect a glutenfree, nut-and-squash-filled treat, with an eye toward selling them at local farmers markets.

When Michigan State University Extension offered a class at Holy Trinity Evangelical Church in Livonia recently about Michigan's Cottage Food Law, I joined about a dozen other aspiring cottage food makers to find out just what it takes to turn a homemade baked good, canned food or mix into a profit. The 2010 law allows the production of certain foods in home kitchens that may be sold in markets or roadside food stands.

"It gives a person an opportunity to try out their entrepreneurial wings so to speak," said Christine Venema, MSU Extension educator in food safety. "The law was designed to help those beginning entrepreneurs who want to think about a food business before they have to go through the process of having a fully industrialized licensed kitchen that has been inspected by the local environmental health department.

"The law was ratified in 2010, but the concept was conceived in 2007 when the economy took a plunge. People were looking for ways to make money. You can make up to \$20,000 per household annually. That's nice supplemental income for someone on Social Security. But that \$20,000 represents the gross — before you take out for supplies, labor and booth space."

The law also limits what kinds of foods the at-home producer can make and where he or she can sell it. Internet and retail store sales are forbidden. Foods that require temperature control - either hot or refrigeration — such as milk products, meats, meringue or custard pies, hummus, and fish, must be produced in a licensed kitchen. Raw sprouts, canned fruits or vegetables, salsa, vegetable and fruit butters, garlic in oil mixtures, beverages, pet food, sauces and condiments also are not allowed. The list of acceptable products includes breads, vinegars, cakes, muffins, cooked fruit pies, jams and jellies, cookies, popcorn, cotton candy, chocolate-covered treats, roasted coffee beans, dried soup mixes, dip mixes, baking mixes and herbs Although some class members found their signature foods, including canned pickles and homemade cole slaw, on the "do not make" list, Carrie Aprik, was encouraged to discover that dried herbs are a viable cottage food product. The Royal Oak woman, her sisters and their mother, Marjorie Banner of Northville, are considering dried herb sales. "My mom has a huge garden and we had so much last year that we thought about selling and we were looking into options on how to do that," said Aprik, who grew up in Northville. "She's a great gardener and always has great products, she just plants too many. We were thinking initially of jars of dried herbs and maybe herb salts just to get started and we'll see if there is any interest from there.

MSU EXTENSION CLASSES

Ready to make and sell homemade foods under the Michigan Cottage Food Law? First get inspired by taking a food preservation class through MSU Extension: » Learn how to make freezer and canned jams and jellies 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 19, at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile. Livonia. Participants will make strawberry jam.

» Find out how to successfully and safely use a pressure canner for low-acid foods and a water bath canner for acid foods in a pressure canning class, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Participants will can carrots.

» Head to Detroit Eastern Market for a class on canning dilled products, 11 a.m. July 8, in Shed 2 at the market, 2934 Russell, Detroit.

Christine Venema, MSU Extension eductor, said a class in salsa-making is in the works and likely will be held in August at Holy Trinity Church. Check the Wayne County MSU Extension website at msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/ wayne for details later this month. Or register for the carrot, strawberry jam and dilled products classes on the website.

recommends having several color-coded cutting boards on hand, accurate thermometers and food scales. Frequent hand-washing is a must.

"On the day of production you make sure you've showered, washed your hair," Venema said. "Wear an apron, a hat, take off jewelry. I can't stress enough that on the day of production production lock your pets up. If you have kids running around with dirty sticky fingers, send them outside."

Venema advises home cooks to check local zoning ordinances to make sure their city or township allows a home food product and to research and obtain liability insurance.



Christine Venema, MSU Extension educator, gives pointers on safe canning.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA

HOMETOWN

LIFE.COM

"We were hoping to do it this summer. Everything is planted."

Safety tips

Although the Michigan Department of Agriculture doesn't inspect at-home kitchens, Venema said adhering to safety standards is not only good practice, but essential for avoiding the spread of foodrelated illnesses. She advises cottage food makers to clean, sanitize and then allow to air dry any surface they or the food they make might touch during production. That includes the kitchen floor, cupboards, knobs, cutting boards, utensils and containers. She

Tina Lloyd, Canton Farmers Market market master, said all of her vendors are required to carry liability insurance. Lloyd also checks labels on products, to make sure they are in sync with the law and she rejects items that have been made by a third party and re-packaged by the vendor.

"I have high standards," she said. "All of my vendors have to have labels on their products and people should know where their food comes from. Customers need to talk to (vendors) about where they make their stuff."

Lloyd said the Cottage Food Law offers "a cool opportunity" for at-home food makers to sell their products.

"It's neat and they are excited. I must get contacted by about 40 bakers a year," she said.

Making mixes

Kristi Zebrowski of Westland is among Lloyd's three cottage food vendors. Zebrowski sells her gluten-free baking mixes at both the Canton Farmers Market and at a Cantonbased support group for individuals with gluten intolerance. She also has sold her products at Northville Farmers Market.

"I started with a couple of recipes, pancake and bread, and now I'm up to eight," she said.

Although she may take the leap from home kitchen to an industrialized environment in the future, her cottage food production is "working out" just fine.

"I'd be ready if I got to the point that I was leaving the market completely sold out every time," she said.

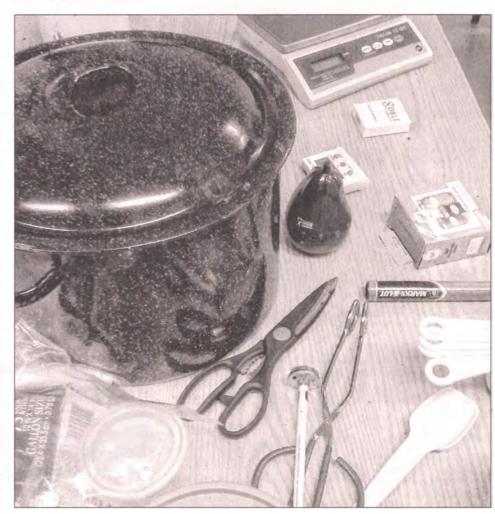
Her tips for budding cottage food makers:

» Look at your cost and labor time.

» Check out your competition. See how similar products fare in a farmers market setting.

» Research the Cottage Food Law and check out www.michigan.gov/cottagefood.

Coco-Nutty Granola Bar Mix is among the products Kristi Zebrowski of Westland makes at home for sale at local farmer markets.



Timers, thermometers, measuring equipment, containers and label-making supplies are shown as cottage food makers ready their product from kitchen to market.

Animal aid groups give scholarships, hot weather tips

Scholarships

The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance is offering financial help for individuals who can't afford to attend its 2014 Michigan Getting to the Goal Conference, planned for Sept. 4-5 at the Somerset Inn in Troy.

Registration fee is \$95 and will include four presentations from national speakers, six "break-out" sessions, and breakfast and lunch on Friday, Sept. 5. Applications for financial help must be emailed to conference@michiganpetfund.org by Aug. 6 or mailed to Michigan Pet Fund Alliance, 2210 Lancaster, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Visit michiganpetfund.org for scholarship and conference information.

National speakers will include Mike Fry, executive director of Animal Ark Shelter, in Hastings, Minn.; Kate Hurley, D.V.M., director of the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at UC Davis and Julie Levy, D.V.M., director of Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the Univeristy of Florida College of Vetgerinary Medicine; Julie Lewin from the National Institute for Animal Advocacy; Keren Overall, Ph.D., editor of Journal of Veterinary Behavior; Ronald Schultz, Ph.D., from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Kim Wolf, founder of Beyond Breed; and Nathan Winograd, founder of the No Kill Advocacy Center.

The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance is dedicated to ending the killing of healthy and treatable homeless dogs and cats in Michigan.

Keep pets safe from heat

With temperatures expected to remain in the 80s this week, it's the perfect time to consider ways to keep your pets safe from the heat.

The Michigan Humane Society offers these tips:

» Bring animals inside during hot or humid weather. Pets



should not be left outside in very warm, humid conditions for extended periods, even in the shade.

» Ensure that pets have access to plenty of fresh, cool water at all times, indoors and out. Hydration is critical to help your pet regulate his body temperature.

» Avoid chaining or tethering a dog outside. He may get twisted and become unable to reach shade or water, or his water dish may get knocked over.

» In homes without air conditioning, use fans to keep air circulating or keep your pet in a cooler area of the house, such as the basement, during the hottest part of the day.

» Avoid vigorously exercising pets during the heat of the day. Instead, take walks in the early morning or evening hours. Avoid hot concrete or asphalt surfaces as they may cause damage or discomfort to the animal's paw pads.

» Keep in mind that old, young and short-nosed animals such as bulldogs, pugs and Himalayan or Persian cats are especially susceptible to heatstroke.

» If you open windows in your home, be sure the screens are secure to prevent cats or other pets from falling out. MHS also recommends

MHS also recommends leaving dogs at home, rather than letting them ride along on shopping trips or for errands in hot weather. Even on a relatively mild 85-degree day, parked in the shade with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car could reach 102 degrees Fahrenheit in just 10 minutes.

"Pet owners bringing their dogs along on errands may have the best intentions and not think twice about dashing into a store for just a couple minutes," said Debby MacDonald, MHS chief cruelty investigator, in a news release. "But not only can that cause immediate discomfort and stress for the fur-coated passenger, when it takes longer than expected due to a hard-tofind item, a line, or running into a neighbor, it could put the pet at serious risk of heatstroke."

If you see an animal in immediate distress in a parked car or left in a yard without water, food or shelter, contact local animal control or police.

Send school reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@home-townlife.com.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS ANDOVER CLASS OF 1974

All classes from the 1970s may attend this 40th reunion for the class of 1974. Several events will be held July 18-20. For more information and to register, visit www.andover70s.reunion manager.com

DEARBORN EDSEL FORD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion is planned 5-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at Andiamo, 21400 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Ticket purchase deadline is Aug. 25. Email Judy (Berry) Buck at jarcbuck@sbcglobal.net for more details.

DEARBORN FORDSON HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1952

62nd reunion set for both January and June classes, Saturday, Sept. 13, at Park Place in Dearborn. Contact Al Orloff at orloffal@aol.com or 734-432-9308; or Marvin Smyth at mmsmyth@juno.com or 313-562-4378 for more information.

CLASS OF 1984

A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 2, at Roma Hall Banquet Center in Garden City. Cost is \$45 per person for buffet dinner, open bar, and dancing. Contact Michele (Tonna) Belczak at michelebel@sbcglobal.net, visit the class Facebook page, Fordson Class of 1984 or www.payitsquare.com/ collect-page/33028.

DETROIT CODY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion runs 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, Sept. 19, at the Sheraton Detroit

Employment

REUNIONS

Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty, Novi. For more information, contact Mike and Barb Kerby, 734-525-0546, kerby66bam@msn.com.

DETROIT MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1950S, '60S

Fourth annual picnic set for noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, at Nankin Mills Pavilion in Hines Park, corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, Westland. Bring your own picnic or buy Michiganmade hot dogs, chips, pop, water and ice cream on site. T-shirts, sweat shirts, and music CDs also will be sold. Seating available under the shelter, or bring your own chairs and pop-ups. Questions? Call Janet Cable at 734-377-4009 or email mackenzie50s-60s@hotmail.com. Or check out www.classcreator.com/Detroit-MI-Mackenzie-1960

FARMINGTON HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1974

40th reunion planned for Friday-Saturday, Aug. 29-30, with a Friday night social and tour of the high school, wine/beer tasting and dinner and dancing on Saturday. For more information, email David Hayes at davidhayz@yahoo.com.

FRASER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights. Contact Rich Whipple, 734-751-2992, rekjwhipple@yahoo.com.

INKSTER CHERRY HILL HIGH SCHOOL ALL CLASSES Open to faculty, staff and alumni, noon to midnight Saturday, July 26, at Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland. Pre-registration is \$10 per person through July 15 and \$15 after July 15 and at the door. No charge for faculty and staff. To register visit CHHSALUM-NI.NET. Contact Debbie Endress Gannon at debbie.gannon@teamdetroit.com.

CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday July 25, at American Legion Hall, 23850 Military, Dearborn Heights. Contact Christine Walker Cruickshank at 248-313-0544.

PLYMOUTH CANTON AND SALEM CLASS OF 1984

30-year class reunion is set for Saturday, Sept. 13. For details visit Plymouth-CantonSalem1984.com.

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355



hometownlife.com

LOCAL NEWS

BIRTH

MILESTONES

LAVERNE STEVEN PRYCE

LaVerne Steven Pryce was born June 5 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor.

His parents are Steven and Kyle Pryce of Plymouth. Grandparents are Wayne and Mary Kay Pryce of Northville and Randy and Sue Woods of Fowlerville.



LaVerne Steven Pryce

ANNIVERSARY

years.

MILESTONES

Charles and Margaret (Sirola) Drury of Redford will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversa-





Charles and Margaret Drury Margaret and Charles Drury on their wedding day in of Redford

BIRTH

MILESTONES

JACOB ADAM GEISER

1949

Jacob Adam Geiser was born June 5, 2014, at Botsford Hospital in

Farmington Hills. Jacob joins his parents, Josh and Tracey Geiser, and his sister, Kylee Marie, 2, at home in Plymouth.



JULY **CAR WASH** Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, July 12 Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City Contact: 734-427-3660

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: Branches Band will

perform sacred and secular music

Contact: 734-968-3523 or 313-532-8655

CROONING IN THE COURTYARD

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. July 9 and 31

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Sing-along and karaoke event; bring your own chair, instruments Contact: 734-427-3660

DVD SERIES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, began July 2

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: View a 36-part series, 'Holy Land Revealed" on biblical archeology by Jodi Magness, a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Free Contact: Nancy Kaplan at

248-737-1931 or email nancvellen879@att.net

FILM

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 and 16 Location: St. Aidan, 17500

Farmington Road, Livonia Details: Free movies are The NeverEnding Story, on July 9 and Gravity on July 16. Refreshments provided and a brief discussion will follow the screenings.

Contact: RSVP to 734-425-5950 **MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 26

Location: Hosanna Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverne, Redford

Details: Free festival with Christian music performances by This Fire Within, The Repeat Offenders, Bekah Greenman, Aaron Lucas and Co., Connor Roy, Heavenly Embers and more. Crafters and vendors will be on site 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: 313-937-2424; www.HosannaTabor.org

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 16 Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Bag sale, 1-5 p.m.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Faith Community

Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-

Details: Runs rain or shine and

includes gently used items, craft supplies, baked goods, and

baskets — wrapped and ready for gift-giving — with cat,

child-pleasing themes. Proceeds

fund mission team trip to South

Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322

or Melissa at 734-466-8694

Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: St. John Neumann,

Details: Lauren Burtell teaches

44800 Warren Road, Canton

a Tuesday yoga class. Walk in

Contact: Burtell at 313-671-

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m.

YOGA CLASSES

July 8, 15 and 22

each class for \$10

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

and study at 8 a.m.

7909

comfort, car, soothing and

Contact: 734-728-1950

YARD SALE

Saturday, July 26

man, Livonia

Dakota

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township Contact: John Shulenberger at

734-464-9491 **Our Lady of Loretto**

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township Details: Scripture study Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday. Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Catholic author Gary

Michuta leads a study of Acts of the Apostles. Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext.

200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville Township Details: Learner's Bible study is

held

Contact: 248-374-5920 FAMILY MEAL Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every



Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first

and third Tuesdays Location: 24800 W. Chicago

Road, Redford Details: MOPS is a place where

moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

View Online www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us:

1-800-579-7355 · fax 313-496-4968 · www.mideathnotices.com

Passages

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers * Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



BARR, ISABELLA

Age 101, of Farmington Hills, died June 26, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Joseph (d. 1998); devoted mother of Patricia (Leo) Zacharski, and Barbara (Dennis) Smith; cherished grandmother of Paul (Deanna) Zacharski, Jane (Tim) Selberg, Ann (Scott) Strobel and Stephen (Meagen) Smith; and great-grandmother of Angela, Emma, Jenna, Zoe, and Archie. In addition to her husband, Isabella was preceded in death by her son Alan. Funeral service Sunday, July 6, 3:00 p.m., at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farming-ton Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Sunday 1-3 p.m. Memorial gifts suggested to Sweet Dreamzzz, Farmington,

MI, sweetdreamzzz.org. heeney-sundquist.com HEENEY-SUNDQUIST



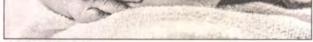
GEHRINGER, NORMA

Funeral services for Norma Gehringer, age 79 of Bottineau, Dakota, were held on North Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nero Funeral Home in Bottineau. Officiating at the service was the Reverend Desir-ee Uhrich. Nancy Olson was the organist and the congregation sang selected hymns. Casket bearers were all family and friends in attendance. Burial was at the Oak Creek Cemetery in Bottineau. Norma Gehringer, a daughter of Elias and Hilda (Hagen) Dunderland was born on September 18, 1934 at Bottineau. She was reared there and later graduated from Bottineau High School. She then went on to receive her degree in nursing in Minot. She went to Chicago for a time and then she moved to Colorado Springs. In 1961, she mar-ried Don Gehringer at Livonia, Michigan. This marriage later ended. She worked as a nurse at a nursing home in Livonia for over 30 years. In 2000, she moved to Bottineau and she worked part time at St. Andrew's Hospital until she retired due to her health. Norma passed away on Friday, June 27, 2014 at a Bottineau hospital. She is survived by her son, Doug Gehringer of Lake Oswego, Oregon; grandsons, Drew and Luke Geh-ringer; sister, Adeline (Gordon) Wettlaufer of Bottineau and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was pre-ceded in death by one son, Robert; one brother, Ellsworth Dunderland and two sisters, Marlene Harms and Anne Smith. Arrangements were with Nero Funeral Home in Bottineau. Friends may sign the online register book at www.nerofuneralhome.net

HALE, MARGARET V. Age 91, of Portland, Maine

passed away on June 29, 2014 at The Cedars in Portland. She was born, Margaret

Viola Erdelyi, on August 8, 1922 in Delray, Michigan, a daughter of Baylis and Rebecca (Lengyel) Erdelyi. She was raised in Ply-mouth, Michigan, where she met and married David V. Hale, also of Plymouth. Margaret was a proud veteran of the United States Navy and served in World War II. She was an avid reader, enjoyed traveling and was an active, employed office manager well into her 70's. Most of all, however, Margaret loved her family. Margaret is survived by her sisters, Alice Hale and Barbara "Pidge" Case, her children David J. Hale, Kristin Hale, Terri Hale, John Hale and Martha Hale. She is also survived by her grandchildren; Kimberly Mat-thews, Jefferson Hale, Laura Guerrero, Sara Hale and Jake Hale. Arrangements are under the care of Coastal Cremation Services, Portland, Maine. To share memories and condolences with the family, please go to: coastalcremationservices.com



Jacob Adam Geiser

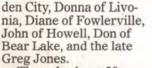
ANNIVERSARY

MILESTONES

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Robert and Nancy (Kinjorski) Jones will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary July 24. They were married in 1954 in Livonia.

The couple has lived in Livonia 48 years. Their children are Laura of Brighton, Robert of Westland, Larry of Gar-



They also have 20 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Robert has been retired from Brewer Roofing for 13 years. Nancy is a homemaker.

They plan to celebrate their milestone anniversary with a family dinner.



Robert and Nancy Jones on their wedding day in 1954.

Robert and Nancy Jones of Livonia

ENGAGEMENT

MILESTONES

PIVETTA-SWANSON

Jessica Pivetta and Steve Swanson announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Amy Pivetta and Walter Pivetta, Jr., of Livonia, is a Midwest regional trainer for Outback Steakhouse and has a B.S. degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Her fiancé, son of Bob and Rena Swanson of Commerce Township, is a tax analyst for Ilitch Holdings and has a B.S. degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He also has his CPA

Jessica Pivetta and Steve Swanson

license.

Their wedding is planned for August 2014 at Shrine Chapel at Our Lady of Orchard Lake.

Wednesday; scrap metal col lection runs July 14-18 Contact: 734-427-2290 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Time/Date: 7 p.m. July 15-17 Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: An ice cream social will be held in conjunction with the sale on July 16. Cost for ice cream is a goodwill offering Contact: 734-427-3660

SERMON SERIES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday through summer

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford Details: Sermon series on The Lord's Prayer

Contact: 734-968-3523 or 313-532-8655

SOCCER MINI-CAMP

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. July 21-24

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

Details: For children, 5-12, of any skill level; \$20 per student includes T-shirt, instruction, snack and take-home soccer ball

Contact: 734-522-6830; info@christoursavior.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon July 7-11

Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia

Wonders" is open for pottytrained 3-year-olds through students entering sixth grade. Includes songs, crafts, snacks, science, recreation and interactive Bible stories. Cost is \$10 per child; \$30 for families of 4 or more

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-9 p.m. July 21-25 Location: Good Hope Lutheran Garden City

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. July 28-31 Location: St. Michael Lutheran



EDDLEMON NARVELLE N

90, of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Eugene for 39 years. Loving mother of Billy Ray (Linda) Eddlemon. Cherished grandmother of Lori, Michelle (Hank) Flynn, Kara, and Brad. Great grandmother of Rory and Blake Flynn. Dear sister of Bon-nie Morris, Alfred (Arlene) Smithson, and Joan Howard. She leaves behind many other loving family members and friends. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home Rice Chapel 36100 Five Mile Rd. Livonia (E. of Levan) Sunday 1-8p.m. Interment will take place in Please Hornbeak, Tennessee. memories share fredwoodfuneralhome.com



May you find comfort in family and friends

May the memory of your loved one ...

...bring you peace.



Lost a Spouse? You are Not alone.

If you need to get legally organized or rebuild your estate plan. Dave Can Help! Call to Attend Our Workshop Mon., July 14, 2014 at 6pm





For over 25 years, Livonia attorney, Dave Brunell has been teaching clients how to get organized and rebuild their legal lives after losing a spouse. Dave's unique holistic care plan system will help you regain peace of mind.

We offer Free in-home consultations. Receive a Free review of your current estate plan or a new plan consultation with a copy of this ad.

Get started, today! Call 734-466-9277 or email us to request your free "Get organized and rebuild your estate plan" E-checklist. dave@careplanattorney.com LD-2430624-91

Location: St. Matthew's United Details: The "Workshop of

Contact: 734-422-6038

Church, 28680 Cherry Hill,

Contact: 734-427-3660;

goodhope

groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/

B8 (WGRL) SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2014 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Seniors meet stroke robot at aging conference

HEALTH

Seniors and their caregivers listened to clinical experts on a variety of health topics, browsed exhibits and participated in free health screenings at the fourth annual Healthy Aging Conference, held June 28 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

"I've attended the Healthy Aging Conference in the past," said Patricia Krolikowski of Plymouth, in a news release. "Every year, there's something different that I find interesting and helpful. I learned about the health screenings and immunizations I should be having as an aging adult, and the free exercise classes offered at the hospital."

Krolikowski was one of more than 100 seniors who participated in the free event. After learning how to reduce the risk of a stroke and recognize warning signs in the first of four seminar presentations, attendees were introduced to the stroke robot. Through the Michigan Stroke Network's Remote Presence Robotics, St. Mary Mercy Livonia and a select group of Michigan hospitals are able to offer advanced stroke care.

"The robot was amazing," said Margo Gerber of Northville, a volunteer who took part in the robot demonstration. "I could not believe the stroke specialist from St. Joseph Mercy Oakland was evaluating me through the robot. It was just wonderful to see how advanced and comprehensive care can be."

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and St. Mary Mercy Livonia are members of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and partners with the Michigan Stroke Network. Other seminar presentations

Other seminar presentations advised seniors on how to maintain independence, access community resources and eat healthy. Clinicians were available for specific health screenings, including memory, balance, mental health, podiatry and weight.

For more information about the senior services offered at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, visit stmarymercy.org/seniorservices.

Margo Gerber (right) of Northville participates in a demonstration of the Michigan Stroke Network's Remote Presence Robotics, which allows St. Mary Mercy Hospital and a select group of Michigan

Remote Presence Robotics, which allows St. Mary Mercy Hospital and a select group of Michigan hospitals to offer advanced stroke care. The robot was part of the "All About Stroke" presentation by Gail Schramek, nurse practitioner (center), at the Healthy Aging Conference Saturday, June 28, at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. The robot allows a remote physician to speak, see and interact with patients. Jim Aldrich, physician services, holds a microphone for the robot.

Stick with your meal plan to stay healthy

Making healthy food choices is the key to staying healthy, feeling better and managing and preventing diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, and by controlling it, most cases of kidney failure can be prevented or delayed. The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan offers these tips on eating healthy while still enjoying the many foods summer has to offer:

» At a summer buffet, scan the table. Fill your plate with vegetables and whole grains. You can include meat dishes, but the portion should be limited to the size and thickness of a deck of cards. If you choose to eat meat, stick with lean meats such as poultry or fish instead of high fat meats, like barbecued ribs. Choose grilled chicken (remove the skin) instead of something fried.

» Look for high-fiber foods, such as dried beans and peas, lentils, and dark green vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, spinach, and kale. Dishes with green beans, black beans, and black-eyed peas are always good choices, as are whole grain foods such as brown rice, couscous, and whole wheat bread and pasta.

» Watch out for fatty foods. Limit dishes with a lot of mayonnaise, sour cream, and butter. Choose veggies that are light on dressing and cheese by using your own dressing made with a little olive oil and vinegar. If you make a sandwich, use whole wheat bread with mustard or salsa instead of mayonnaise.

» Try to drink water, unsweetened tea, or diet soda with your meal. If you drink alcoholic beverages, limit yourself to no more than one drink (for women) or two drinks (for men) a day.

» Have fruit for dessert. This is a great opportunity to get in some of your daily fruit intake. Everyone — including people with diabetes — needs three to four servings of fruit a day. An occasional small slice of pie or cookie is OK if you can work it into your meal plan.

Summer is a time to enjoy family, friends, and life. It's also a great time to refocus on feeling better, eating healthy foods, and controlling or preventing diabetes. For more information on diabetes, or kidney disease and kidney failure, contact the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at 800-482-1455 or visit www.nkfm.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Upcoming

Cooking workshops

» The Plant Based Nutrition Support Group offers a cooking demonstration, dinner and keynote talk, 6-9 p.m. Monday, July 7, at the Great Lakes Culinary Center, 24101 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Cost is \$33. Register at www.plantbasednutritionsupportgroup.org. Keynote speaker is Jill Edwards, a certified clinical exercise specialist through the American College for Sports Medicine.

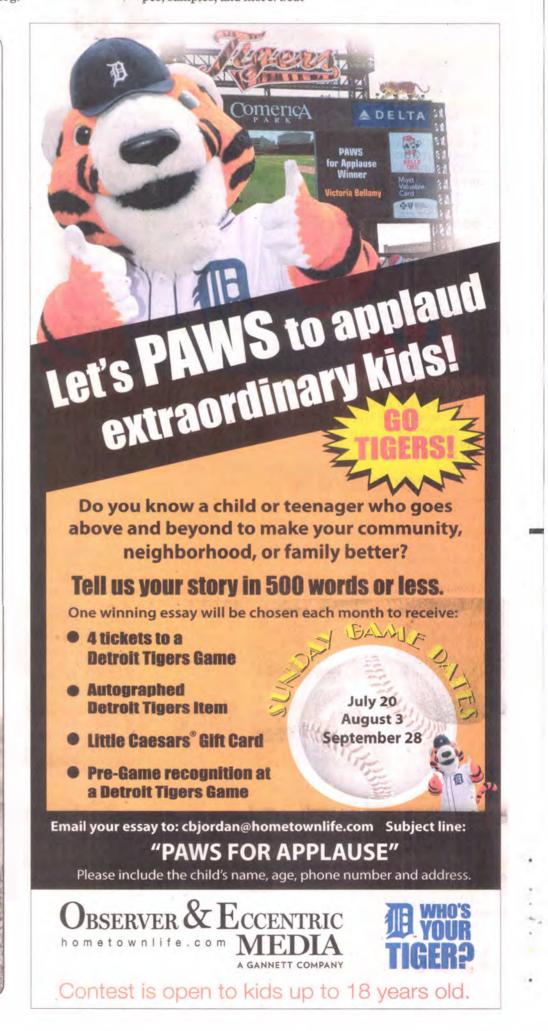
» Chef Rebecca Wauldron of Busch's Fresh Food Market, will demonstrate grilled dishes and a Botsford Hopsital dietitian will give tips on keeping the recipes healthy and nutritious, 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, at Busch's, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$15 and includes a \$5-off-\$50 coupon, giveaways, recipes, samples, and more. Seating is limited. Registration is required. Call 734-779-6100 or visit the guest service counter at the store.

» Learn ways to make desserts that won't derail your health goals in a workshop with a dietitian from Botsford Hospital, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, at Busch's Market, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West Bloomfield. Cost is \$5 and includes a \$5 Busch's coupon, recipes, and samples. Registration is required. Call 248-539-4581 or visit the guest service counter at the store.

Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

DIABETES QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!



SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Summer offers you the opportunity to enjoy the warm outdoors, vacations, picnics and even learn new life skills. Garden City Hospital's Diabetes Summer School invites you to a FREE event focused on promoting healthy living and having fun.

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014; 6 - 8 PM GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL Medical Office Building, Lower Level Classrooms 6245 Inkster Road | Garden City, MI 48135

This is the perfect event for family members, friends and individuals with diabetes, prediabetes, or who are at risk for diabetes complications. Some of the small-group topics to be covered include *Planning a Picnic Lunch*, *Diabetes Jeopardy Trivia*, and *Becoming a Fat Detective*. Guests can also expect door prizes, refreshments, and a diabetes book sale.

> To RSVP, call 734.458.4330. Space is limited.



also inside... Homes • Wheels • Pets • Services

JOBS



Understanding that your soft skills are a very important skill set

Watch out, hard skills and technical know-how: You've got competition. According to a new CareerBuilder survey, the vast majority (77 percent) of employers consider soft skills just as important as hard skills when it comes to evaluating candidates for a job, and 16 percent even say they're more important.

By Mary Lorenz CareerBuilder writer

What are soft skills?

As my colleague pointed out recently, soft skills typically describe "communication, leadership, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, team skills, relationship management and a long list of other so-called intangible traits." Though they are hard to measure quantitatively, soft skills remain a sought after trait and recognized business differentiator among employers.

Perhaps the heavy focus on soft skills has to do with the fact that employers have been struggling to find candidates



survey of more than 2,000 hiring managers nationwide, the top ten most popular soft skills companies say they look for when hiring include:



- manage multiple
- under pressure
- 8. Effective communication skills

1

Evaluating soft skills:

question you must ask

employment testing or during the interview process, using behavioral interview questions is one of the most effective ways to evaluate a candidate's soft skills. Behavioral interview questions are those that center around reallife experiences the candidate has had, as opposed to hypotheticals. For example, instead of asking, "What would you do if ...?" ask "Tell me about a time when ... " or "Give me an example of ... "

behavioral interview questions work:

predictor of future success on the job than potential behavior, according to workforce management expert Nancy Newell, because it helps predict future success on the job by looking into past behavior; two, when they hear questions shaped

around potential behavior, candidates are more likely to say what they think you want to hear.

By asking for real-life examples, you'll get more insight into candidates' soft skills, such as how well they work under pressure, how they communicate and their work ethic. Some more examples of behavioral interview questions include:

- Describe a time when you had a problem with a supervisor and what you did to resolve it.

- Give me an example of how you handled a very tense situation at work. - Tell me about a time

when you had difficulty getting others to work together

how you handled it.

leader you have worked with, you learned from that person.

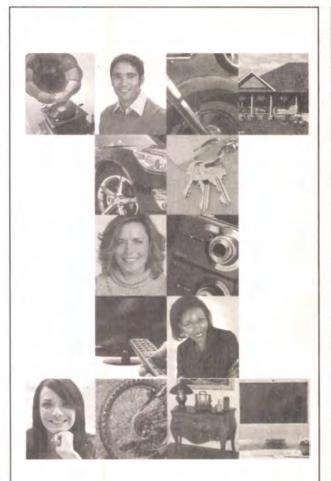
faced that was almost overwhelming and how you got through it.

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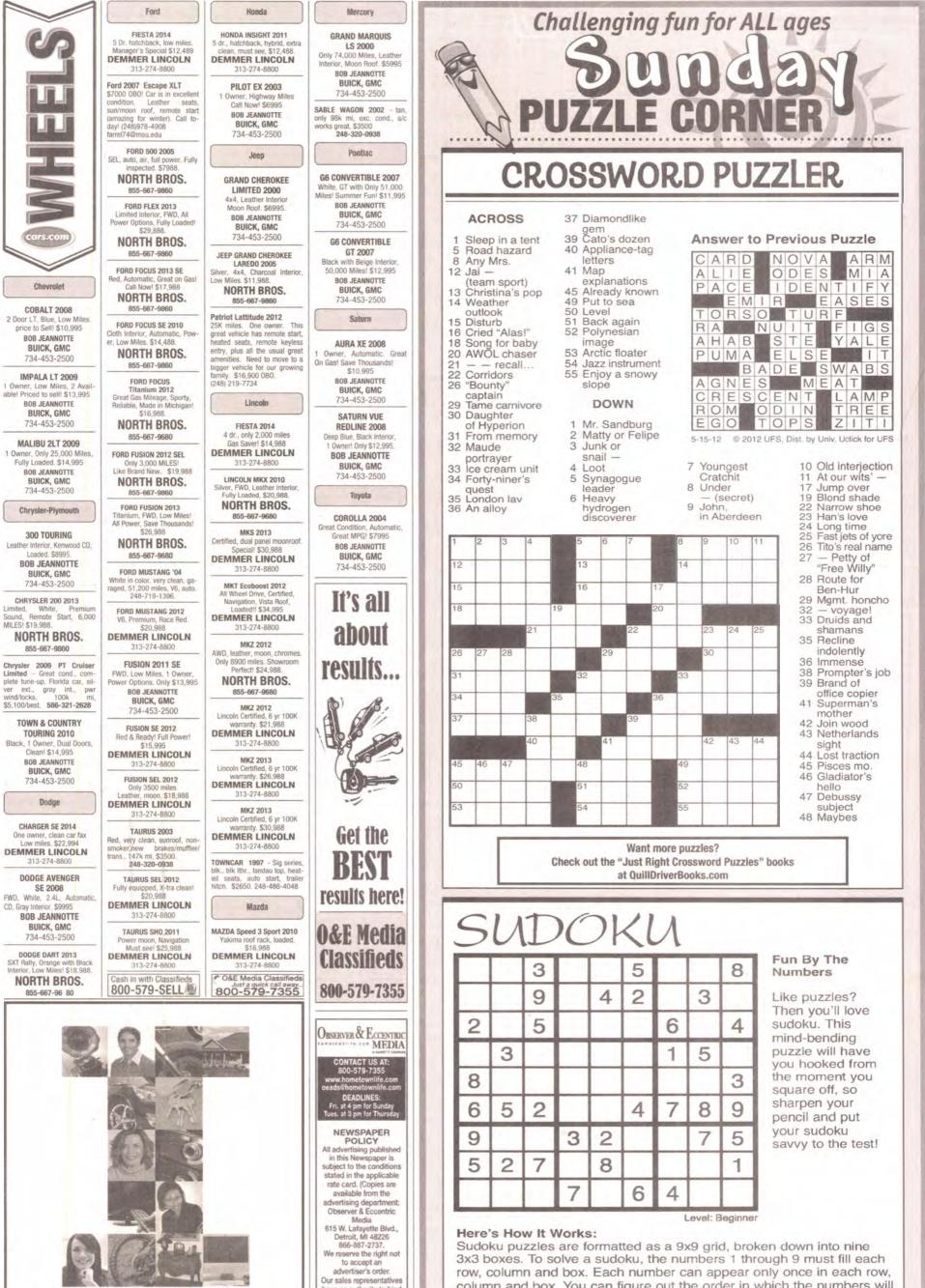
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