



EASY WAYS FOR FAMILIES TO SAVE COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2014 • h

Woman charged with stealing from VFW

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer



McMichael

A Westland woman is facing a charge that she embezzled several thousand dollars while working as treasurer for a local veterans organization.

McMichael is accused of stealing what was described as several thousand dollars from VFW-sponsored fundraisers and events, such as a poker room, from September 2013 through June 20 2014.

ment charge, McMichael is also charged with being a habitual offender. She is currently on probation in Washtenaw County for embezzling over \$10,000 from Eastern Michigan University.

In that case, McMichael entered a guilty plea to stealing from the university while employed as a budget analyst in the Extended Programs and Educational Outreach Department.

Sentenced to three years probation in August 2013, McMichael isn't scheduled to

complete that probation until August 2016. She was also ordered to repay the university, from which she is reported to have retired and is collecting a pension.

A not guilty plea was entered for McMichael, who was in custody as of Thursday in lieu of a \$10,000/10 percent bond.

"I would ask that she (McMichael) be referred to pretrial screening services," defense attorney David Lankford said. "I don't know if there is a hold for Washtenaw County. I know

she is on probation for a similar offense."

There appeared to be nothing in the court file about keeping McMichael in custody for Washtenaw County.

"Maybe they haven't found about it (the probation violation) yet," 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell said.

McMichael is scheduled for Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment Aug. 7.

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Witness Scott Herkes and defense attorney Ali Hammoud re-enact the blow to soccer referee John Bieniewicz. In background are defense attorney Hassam Bazzi, defendant Bassel Saad and assistant prosecutor Erika Tusar. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Man bound over on murder charges in death of soccer referee

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

The man accused of killing a referee in Livonia earlier this summer will face arraignment in Wayne County Circuit Court next week after being bound over on a second-degree murder charge Thursday.

Livonia 16th District Judge Kathleen McCann found there was enough evidence in the case against 36-year-old Dearborn resident Bassel Saad to go to trial and bound him over after a preliminary examination was held Wednesday and Thursday.

"In this case, I believe the people have met the threshold of probable

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Defendant Bassel Saad cries during the hearing. At left, attorney Hassam Bazzi.

Races may bring more voters out on Tuesday

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Westland and Wayne voters will be going to the polls Tuesday to cast their votes in the primary election.

Voters will cast votes on either the Democratic or Republican side — splitting tickets isn't allowed in the primary, which is designed to select the candidate who will face off in November.

"We usually have 15-18 percent turnout for the primary," Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof said. "With the mayor (William Wild) on the ballot, that may bring out more people. The 18 percent is more likely."

Wild, who was reelected as mayor unopposed, is among the Democratic candidates for Wayne County Executive. Others in the crowded field include incumbent Robert Ficano, former Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, Kevin McNamara and Phil Cavanagh.

With just over 62,000 registered voters, Schoof expects about 11,500 voters to turn out for the primary.

In Wayne, City Clerk Matthew Miller said the primary usually draws about 20 percent of the city's 13,245 registered voters.

"This election is a funny one. This election has a lot of candidates. That may take it up to 25 percent," Miller said. "We will get 40-45 percent turnout for a gubernatorial election in November."

As in Westland, Wayne's mayor, Al Haidous is on the ballot. Haidous is in a three-way Democratic race seeking to replace McNamara as county commissioner in the 11th District. The other candidates are Jeremy Cady of Huron Township, a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy, and William Collop of Wayne, a 29th District Court officer.

With no Republican candidate, the winner of the Democratic primary will take the two-year county commission seat. The district includes Wayne and part of Westland.

Most of Westland is in the 12th County Commission District where Democrat Richard LeBlanc is running for second term unopposed.

Voters will also be electing a candidate for the 13th Congress-

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Westland man to face trial in molestation case

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

A Westland man is facing 13 felony charges for allegedly sexually molesting a young family member and taking cell phone photos of the incident.

Darrell Ashley, 26, waived his preliminary examination Thursday in Westland 18th District Court. He was or-

dered bound over on charges, including three counts of child sexually abusive commercial activity, three counts of using a computer to commit a crime — 20-year felonies — and second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

According to the warrant, the girl, 14, was spending the night at Ashley's family home June 6. It is alleged that during the night, Ashley sexually

assaulted the girl.

The girl subsequently told her mother about the incident, police said, and the mother confronted Ashley. The girl and her mother later filed a complaint with police.

Part of the charges stem from alleged cell phone photos taken of the sleeping girl being fondled. Police said the phone was linked with a laptop computer, which was at

another location, and automatically uploaded photos to that computer.

Defense attorney David Lankford asked for a reduction in the bond for Ashley, who had been jailed since his arrest.

"There are a number of charges when you first read them. They all stem from one

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VOTE AUG 5th PRIMARY

Advertisement for Ned Apigian, Architect, City Planner, Democrat For State Representative, 11th Dist.

Players testify during trial of man accused of killing referee

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Scott Herkes testified Wednesday the soccer match referee John Bieniewicz was officiating June 29 in Livonia was not one that appeared different than any other.

"It was a little chippier than most of our games, but nothing extraordinary," Herkes said. "We've had games like that."

Some fouls were called and some cautions issued to some players in the first half. But a second caution to one player in the second half led to an incident he had never seen before.

He said he saw 36-year-old Dearborn resident Bassel Saad bring his arm back and deliver a blow near Bieniewicz's head and neck, causing him to fall down immediately, after being whistled for a yellow card.

"He just collapsed to the ground," said Herkes, who was playing on the opposing team from Saad. "He fell, basically straight backwards."

Herkes was one of several witnesses who testified Wednesday

afternoon in Livonia's 16th District Court during a preliminary examination for Saad, who is charged with second degree murder in the incident.

The two-and-a-half hour hearing wrapped up Wednesday afternoon and will continue at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Livonia courthouse before Judge Kathleen McCann. A preliminary examination is held to determine whether there is enough evidence to bring the case to trial. If McCann finds there to be enough evidence to move the case to the trial phase, Saad will be bound over and further proceedings will take place at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Bieniewicz was declared dead two days after officiating the adult league soccer match at Livonia's Mies Park, 32305 W. Chicago. Police say Saad struck him after Bieniewicz was attempting to eject him from the match.

If convicted, Saad, who kept his head downward toward the floor during most of the hearing, faces up to life in

prison. He remains locked up in the Wayne County Jail on a \$1 million cash or surety bond that has not been posted.

Referee 'never saw anything coming'

Joseph Cosenza, who played on the same team as Herkes that day, said Bieniewicz had blown his whistle right after another foul once play restarted in the game after Saad began to yell at him. In soccer, dissent of the referee can be punished by the issuing of a yellow card, a caution. If a player receives two yellow cards in one match, it equates to a red card and that player is ejected.

Cosenza said it was clear Bieniewicz went to show Saad a red card from his pocket, indicating he had been ejected, when Saad struck him.

"When the ball was in play, (Saad) began complaining about the call," Cosenza said. "(Bieniewicz) never saw anything coming."

During the first half, Saad received a yellow card for an illegal tackle, Cosenza said. After that foul, Cosenza said Saad was gracious about the

incident, even offering to help the fouled player on the other team up off the ground.

"He was very gentleman-like about the whole situation," he said.

Jamal Saleh, a teammate of Saad's and a doctor, said he ran onto the field after seeing the incident and began examining what he could do to help Bieniewicz. He testified that Bieniewicz was unconscious and did not wake up after the incident at the field.

Saleh said Bieniewicz had a pulse but had issues breathing.

"I noticed he started to turn a little blue," Saleh said. "I noticed he wasn't breathing."

Saleh said he stayed with Bieniewicz until first responders arrived and took him to the hospital. Standing on the sidelines off the field waiting to be substituted in, Saleh said it was apparent Bieniewicz could not have prepared for the strike.

"This is what I believe: He didn't see it coming," he said.

EXAM

Continued from Page A1

cause," she said. "I am binding him over on the charges."

Saad was bound over after two days of testimony in the Livonia courtroom. He's accused of killing Westland resident John Bieniewicz, a soccer referee who was officiating an adult league match at Livonia's Mies Park June 29. Several witnesses testified Wednesday they saw Saad strike Bieniewicz after the referee was in the process of ejecting him from the match.

During closing statements, Saad's attorney, Ali Hammoud, argued the incident was overcharged and that while an assault did take place at the field, a murder did not.

"This is not second-degree murder, judge," he said. "That one punch is exactly what manslaughter was made for."

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Raj Prasad said the contention of whether the incident contained enough malice to be classified as murder was enough to send the case to a jury in circuit court and allow them to decide the case.

A preliminary examination is held to determine whether there is enough evidence to send a case to trial.

McCann agreed, saying there was enough information that should have demonstrated there was enough malice and enough evidence to send the case to circuit court in Detroit.

"He had to know," she said. "Anyone should know in this day and age it could cause death."

Saad is expected to be arraigned Thursday at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison. He remains locked up in the Wayne County Jail on a \$1 million cash or surety bond.

"This is not second-degree murder, judge"

ALI HAMMOUD, attorney for Bassel Saad

strike to his left side near his neck and jaw area was enough to jerk his head sideways. During that instance, damage appeared throughout the area and down to several vertebrae just below the skull.

"It was a significant amount of force," she said. "There was a significant and sudden twist of the head."

Njiwaji, who has worked for the county's medical examiner office for several years and has done hundreds of autopsies in that time, said she has never seen a case like this. She said this region near the neck and jawline, if struck, can lead to death if hit properly and with enough force. It appeared Bieniewicz was unconscious before hitting the ground, she said.

Scott Herkes, who was playing on the opposite team as Saad during the match, said in his testimony Wednesday Bieniewicz appeared to be out shortly after the strike.

"He just collapsed to the ground," Herkes said. "He fell, basically straight backwards."

Another player, Joseph Cosenza, said Saad was arguing with Bieniewicz on a call he made. Shortly after the foul with play moving, Bieniewicz blew his whistle to stop play and issued Saad a yellow card for dissenting with the referee.

It did not appear Bieniewicz expected the punch before it hit him.

"When the ball was in play, (Saad) began complaining about the call," Cosenza said. "(Bieniewicz) never saw anything coming."

Njiwaji said it appeared during the autopsy Bieniewicz had not prepared for the impact. Had he been prepared, there may have been less damage to that area and a chance he could have survived, although left with major brain damage.

"If he braced, maybe he would be different," she said. "But there's no evidence of that."

Free concerts return to Goudy Park on Aug. 6

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Free concerts in Wayne's Goudy Park will return Wednesday, Aug. 6. The concerts run through Sept. 3 and follow the weekly Farmers Markets.

The schedule is:

- » Aug. 6 - Dead in Dog Years performs classic rock.
- » Aug. 13 - Wayne Councilman David James will perform contemporary sounds of Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash and others.
- » Aug. 20 - Classic rock and blues by Gabrielle Wild.
- » Aug. 27 - Modern blues and alternative rock with Brothers & Company.
- » Sept. 3 - TC & the Katz will perform oldies



Dead in Dog Years will be opening the summer concert series in Goudy Park on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

and classics.

Located behind City Hall, the Wayne Farmers Market is open from 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays. The concerts are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wayne Councilman John Rhaesa organized the entertainment, which has received financial sponsorships from local businesses and service clubs.

"We're definitely pleased to get the concerts back," Wayne Main Street Executive Director Lindsey Wooten said. "The market is a great success for sure. It is generating foot traffic and draws people from other communities."

Now accepting the EBT card, Wooten said the market is offering opportunities for people of all walks of life to obtain fresh produce. That's especially beneficial, she said, with low-income housing located in the downtown area.

The Wayne Farmers Market Art Contest also is in full swing. The mar-

ket is accepting all mediums: paint, pencil, chalk, photos, sculptures, anything.

To submit an entry, send photos of the work in a private message to the Farmers Market Facebook page. Once the number of entries have been narrowed to the top elections, there will be voting by the public.

The winners will be announced on Art Day Aug. 20. There will be two winners - first-place for age 12 and under and first-place for age 13 and older.

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

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VOTERS

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sional District. In that race, longtime U.S. Rep. John Conyers is being challenged by Horace Sheffield III in the Democratic race.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Schoof is reminding Cooper School

Medical examiner: 'I have never seen an injury like this'

The final witness called in the exam, Wayne County Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Chantel Njiwaji, performed the autopsy on Bieniewicz's body. She said it appeared the

TRIAL

Continued from Page A1

incident. There are a lot of overlaps and lesser counts," Lankford said. "Each photo is a different count. The number of counts is misleading. I am asking for personal bond."

Bond was reduced by 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell to \$5,000/10 percent. Conditions, which Lankford had suggested

ed by the girl's family, include no contact with the girl or her family, no use of computers, smart phones or other devices to access the Internet and that Ashley wear a GPS tether.

A not guilty plea had been entered at arraignment for Ashley, who is scheduled for Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment on Aug. 7.

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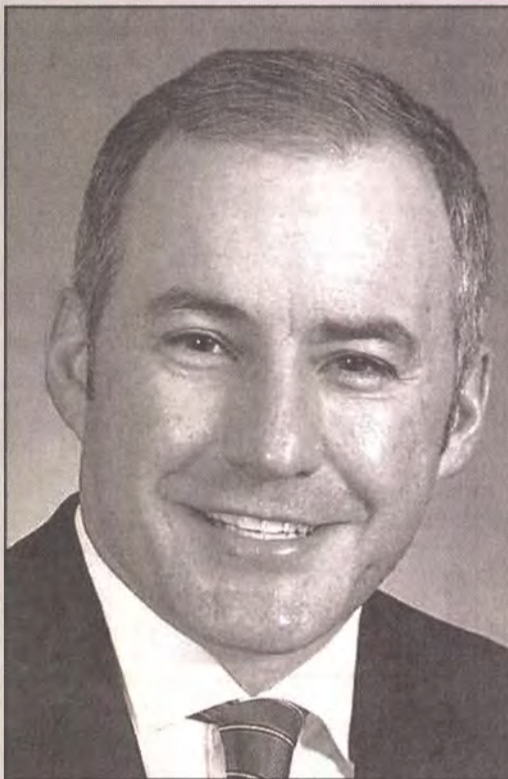
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Meet the Candidates for Wayne County Executive

BILL WILD

Has a Plan for the **FUTURE** of Wayne County

Bill Wild is proposing a **PLAN of ACTION for Wayne County** rather than just empty campaign slogans.



Among his carefully considered and researched plans are:

ETHICS REFORM:

- A full-time, independent County Ethics Officer
- Online posting of all Wayne County Contracts
- Mandatory ethics training for all Wayne County employees
- Mandatory Public Hearings if any county official asks for removal of a member of the Ethics Board.

THE DEFICIT BUDGET:

- Wild wants to bring together the employees, the unions and the 43 communities in the county to work on collaboration, shared services and common goals.
- Wild will insist on full transparency about the budget, showing both expenses and revenues.
- Wild plans to cut from the top. He has proven he is willing to cut his own salary and benefits as he did as Mayor of Westland and have all department heads do the same to ease the burden on taxpayers and employees.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Wild will move more aggressively to work with state and federal leaders to identify appropriate resources for road repair and maintenance
- The decline of our roads, bridges, tunnels and other critical infrastructure is unacceptable and is blocking progress in economic development and job creation.
- We need major improvements, because under the current management, Wayne County is not getting the job done on Wayne County roads.

STAFFING:

- Wayne County government staffing and personnel has been a disaster for the taxpayers. Repeated scandals, high-ranking officials caught with their hands in the till and outrageous pension and compensation for a select few. Wild has a plan to change the employment environment, without political payoffs or cronyism. There are currently 187 Wayne County appointees while Oakland County has only 21.
- Wild is committed to diversity and will assemble a strong team that reflects the diversity of the county.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Wild will hold the line on taxing residents and business owners and will maintain and nurture existing businesses.
- He has a plan to streamline the process for establishing a new business in Wayne County.
- Wild will work with the City of Detroit, the Detroit Regional Chamber, the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and the development departments in all 43 county communities to recruit new employers to the county.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Wild plans to balance the budget so that funds are available to pay for the much-needed public safety service residents pay for and deserve.
- Wild wants to reset the relationship with the Wayne County Prosecutor so the two can work cooperatively and for the same goal, serving the best interest of the public.

THE COUNTY JAIL:

- Wild doesn't think Wayne County taxpayers can afford a new jail at the Mound Road site in light of the failed \$300 million failed jail of the current executive and his high-paid "consultant" Warren Evans. Wild plans to investigate the sale of the site and other county properties in an effort to quell the \$175 million county deficit and perhaps finance needed improvements at the current jail and 36th District Court.

Warren Evans

Has a **PAST** of Failure and Mismanagement

ETHICS:

- Evans was forced to resign as Detroit Police Chief in 2010 when his inappropriate sexual relationship with a young female officer was exposed.
- He arranged and was part of the reality TV show he thought would promote his own career and generate personal publicity for him. Evans reportedly shopped a reality TV called "The Chief" in which cameras would follow him and other officers on dangerous calls. When a 7-year-old child was killed during the dangerous police operation, he defended having the film crew on site, which he arranged in direct violation of an order from the mayor. In a TV interview about the death of the girl, he said "When you're dead, you're dead."



BUDGET:

- Warren Evans was appointed by his long-time friend Bob Ficano as a highly-paid consultant for the failed Wayne County Jail project that cost Wayne County taxpayers \$300 million, a bill that still has to be paid. Evans was Bob Ficano's appointed under sheriff while Ficano was Sheriff, acted as his 'consultant' and was a highly-paid Ficano appointee. He has offered no plan to reduce the deficit the county is facing.
- Evans collects a \$72,800-a-year pension from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and did so while he made \$128,000 a year as Sheriff. Now he wants to add the Wayne County Executive's annual pay of \$171,690 to that to support his home in Washtenaw County and his horse farm in Anderson County South Carolina.
- His candidacy for election is being challenged in court as he did not change his residency from Washtenaw County Township to Detroit until the day before the filing deadline.
- While he was Sheriff, his department was consistently over budget.

STAFFING:

While Detroit Police Chief, the department was under investigation by the FBI and federal oversight due to poor management and failure to ensure that officers were properly trained and supervised.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Evans claims he will "fix the county roads" but he does not say how or offer a plan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Evans has no record of job creation or economic development but a strong history of neighborhood destruction as he and the "Gang Squad" from the Detroit Police Department walked the streets of the city prompting multiple complaints from residents. After his "resignation" the squad was drastically reduced. (The Detroit News)

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Evans first resigned from his appointed position as under sheriff.
- He then abruptly resigned as Wayne County Sheriff.
- He was asked by the mayor to resign as Detroit Police Chief when his sexual relationship with a young female officer was revealed.
- His direct involvement in a TV reality show featuring the Detroit SWAT team resulted in the death of an innocent 7-year-old girl.
- While he was Sheriff, he owned a bar in Detroit and was \$16,080 in arrears on property taxes.
- When he was the under sheriff in Wayne County he and his brother had the no-bid phone contract with Ameritech at the County Jail. Every time a prisoner made a \$3 phone call, they collected a 15% fee which totaled about \$315,000 a year.

THE COUNTY JAIL:

- Evans was the highly-paid consultant hired by current Executive Bob Ficano to help plan and oversee the construction of the new jail which is \$300 million over budget and will eventually cost taxpayers more than \$500 million.

Summer academies boost W-W students

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Summer school took on a whole new meaning in the Wayne-Westland Communities School where students at four elementaries attended academies focused on skill sets designed to give them an academic leg-up on the new school year.

The five-week academies were held at Hicks Elementary in Inkster, Hoover in Wayne and Hamilton and Schweitzer in Westland. More than 350 kindergarten-fourth-graders attended.

"It was for the most at-risk students at the four buildings," said Jennifer Munson, executive director of school improvement and innovation. "We designed the program by the skills needed; it was based on test scores. Summer school helps the kids maintain what they've learned and accelerate. With these youngsters we wanted to see them accelerate in their learning."

The students attended school for three hours a day, four days a week, focusing on key concepts in such areas as science, mathematics, reading and the district's Leader in Me program. Technology interventionists worked with students in science, exposing them to virtual learning.

The district also offered three-hour, four-week Jump Start program for pre-kindergarten students at the school.

"They had technology every day," Munson said. "There was always technology and it was always hands-on."

"Creative teachers"

Site coordinators and teachers were brought in from throughout the dis-



Estella Martinez (left) and De'Aja Mitchell do a presentation on liquids at the conclusion of the Summer Academy at Hicks Elementary School.

trict. Teachers, long-term substitute teachers and even student teachers were picked for the program interviewed.

"We had so many creative teachers," said Amanda Olson, site coordinator at Hicks Elementary. "For the kids, the academy was different than regular school."

The academies also were about partnerships with organizations like Starfish Family Services, the William P. Faust Public Library and Michigan State University. Parents also were involved by using the district's Compass learning to go on and see what their children were doing, Olson said.

"As teachers and administrators we can tell parents about what their

children are learning, but it's not as powerful as seeing it," she said.

On the last day of the program, students took to the hallways of the school to show off what they had learned to parents with Community Gallery Walks. Youngsters like Estella Martinez and De'Aja Mitchell demonstrated the skills they learned in mathematics and science by showing how much water could be put on the head of a penny or the porousness of different materials.

"It's about six drops," said De'Aja, using an eye dropper to drip water on the coin.

The two girls are going into the second-grade and admitted that the Summer Academy was fun way to

learn, especially math.

"I love math," De'Aja said. "I excel in math."

Taven Marvin and Loreil Lillis talked about the Leader in Me, a program that aims to build students' leadership skills while improving the school culture.

"I enjoyed coming," said Taven's father Antjuan Moore who brought son Keon Moore to the program.

Virtual learning

For soon-to-be first-graders Ava Lawrence, Da'Vontae Abney and Miani Hodges, the thrill of the walk was getting to show off their "adult" glasses that came complete with moustaches.

For Ava, the best part of the academy was the

science work and learning to read books. For Miani, it was the virtual field trip to the St. Louis Zoo where they students learned about owls.

"We got to talk to the lady at the zoo," Miani said.

This is the second year the academy has been offered at Hicks. Last year 75 students participated. This year it was 100. One key goal was attendance, and the hope was to keep it at 85 percent throughout the five weeks and that happened, Munson said.

"It's significant that we had almost perfect attendance," Munson said. "I think that's phenomenal."

smason@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

ACHIEVERS

Thomas Wisniewski of Garden City received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, international relations, political science from the University of Iowa at the close of the 2014 spring semester.

Approximately 5,000 degrees were awarded at the end of the semester.

Rachael Alholinna of Westland has been awarded a 2014-2015 Dul Foundation Scholarship. Currently a student at Schoolcraft College, she is studying Cosmetology Management.

Dul Foundation Scholarships are awarded to current employees, spouses or dependents of Clips & Clamps Industries in Plymouth. In addition, applicants must be a high school senior or a graduate that plans to enroll or has enrolled in a full-time or part-time accredited school. This scholarship is awarded based on high academic performance and excellent character.

Christina Milne of Garden City was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering during Lawrence Technological University's 82nd Commencement Exercises on May 10.

Lawrence Tech's class of 2014 included some 900 graduates.

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Store reopens following bomb threat

Livonia Police said a bomb threat made Wednesday afternoon against the Dollar General may have been a hoax phone call. Police called to the store at 33185 Plymouth Road found no

evidence of a bomb in a search of the building, which was evacuated, Lt. Tom Goralski said. The Michigan State Police Bomb Squad was at the scene. A bomb dog assisted in the search.

Dollar General manager Dewayne Coaster said an unidentified male made a threat in a phone call to the store, which he answered, at about 12:40 p.m. Two staff members and a few customers were in the store at

the time. The store was reopened by about 2:30 p.m. "Everything was fine and no one was injured," Coaster said. "The doors are now back open. It was just a scare. At this store, we take everything serious."

MDOT to update businesses on I-96 project

Michigan Department of Transportation officials will provide an update on the reconstruction of I-96 during a meeting Wednesday, Aug. 6, at George Matick Chevrolet in Redford. The meeting will run from 7:30-9 a.m. at the auto dealership's main showroom, 14001 Telegraph, on the northwest corner of Schoolcraft and Telegraph. The Livonia and Redford chambers of commerce are coordinating the gathering with MDOT representatives.

Speakers will answer questions and provide tips on how to drive more activity to businesses near the freeway, organizers said. "This will be an excellent opportunity for the business community to get updated on the project, ask questions and share information concerning the I-96 FIX," MDOT Public Information consultant Delora Hall Tyler said.

"Business owners will also receive tools to assist them in their marketing efforts throughout the remainder of the construction season," she added.

The entire freeway and the left lanes of Schoolcraft Road have been closed from Telegraph to Newburgh roads since early April to make way for a complete rebuild of this major roadway between the western suburbs and Detroit. Most of the overpasses along the seven-mile stretch of I-96 also have been closed for work. A number of them have since reopened. The nearly \$150 million project is scheduled to be complete sometime in October.

For more details on the project, visit www.96fix.com.

Roush awarded \$1 million grant for expansion plan in Livonia, Allen Park

Roush has received Michigan Strategic Fund approval for a project that will generate a total capital investment of up to \$8.7 million and create 210 new jobs, resulting in a \$1 million Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced.

Roush plans to expand its current engineering and manufacturing sites primarily in Livonia as well as at its leased spaced in the City of Allen Park.

Michigan was chosen over competing sites in Illinois, New Hampshire, Colorado and Florida. The City of Livonia has offered support by allowing the company use of municipal facilities related to the project. Individuals interested in career opportunities with Roush should visit roush.com/careers.

State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, lauded the grant support of Roush's business expansion and job creation.

"The City of Livonia worked hard to secure the expansion bid from Roush and out-competed other contenders in Illinois, New Hampshire, Colorado and Florida,"

Walsh said. "Our region and the state are both dedicated to building a bright future for Michigan, and this is one more step to fostering a fantastic business community."

Founded in Michigan in 1975, Roush provides engineering, product development, prototyping, testing and manufacturing services to customers in the transportation, defense, entertainment, aerospace and oil and gas industries. Through its Roush Performance and Roush CleanTech groups, the company manufactures automotive performance products and alternative fuel systems for fleet vehicle applications.

The Michigan Business Development Program provides grants, loans and other economic assistance to qualified businesses that make investments or create jobs in Michigan.

The MSF considers a number of factors in making these awards, including: out-of-state competition, private investment in the project, business diversification opportunities, near-term job creation, wage and benefit levels of the new jobs, and net-positive return to the state.

Bee happy



Bee happy that we still have a month of summer to enjoy. This bee works a patch of coneflowers at the Westland Library, preparing for a winter that will arrive too soon. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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Westland team wins World Robot Olympiad event

Two Westland youths came away winners of the first World Robot Olympiad USA state tournament in Michigan, organized by Lawrence Technological University and held July 26-27 at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn as part of Maker Faire Detroit.

Christian Daniels and Juan Carlos Feraro, who competed as the Martians, won first place in the open category and advanced to the U.S. finals to be held Sept. 27 at LTU in Southfield.

This year's WRO open category theme is "Robots and Space." The task is to create autonomous robots to assist humankind in solving tasks in space.

At the Maker Faire Detroit, eight teams in

the open category showed off their creative robotics projects related to space exploration. Daniels and Feraro won with the two robots they designed to collect soil samples on Mars.

WRO is a global LEGO Robotics competition that was started in Singapore in 2004. Each participating country has its own competition and the winning teams from each country are invited to attend the World Robot Olympiad to compete for gold, silver and bronze medals. In the process, competitors gain new understanding of science, technology, engineering and math — the STEM subjects.

The United States has not participated in the past, but this year LTU



Christian Daniels and Juan Carlos Feraro (front) of Westland are congratulated for winning in the WRO-USA open category by LTU computer science professor C.J. Chung (left), the WRO-USA national organizer, and Thomas Goulding, chair of LTU's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

computer science professor C.J. Chung was appointed as the U.S.

national organizer. Chung is the founder of Robofest, another inter-

national competition that makes it fun to learn about robots and STEM subjects.

"This is an event that brings young people from all over the world together. Teams of youngsters get the opportunity to learn more about STEM and develop their creative and problem-solving skills through various robotics challenges," Chung said.

This year, nearly 20,000 teams from 49 countries are participating in the WRO. Each participating country has its own competition and the best teams from each country will compete in the world finals, to be held in November in the Olympic city of Sochi, Russia.

WRO-USA will be

coordinated by the Robofest office (www.robofest.net) at LTU. The other WRO-USA tournaments will be held in California, Illinois, New York, Oregon, Texas and Washington state.

There is still time to organize a WRO team to qualify to compete in the state finals Sept. 27. An informational meeting and a "Rocket" game workshop will be held 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, in room M218 of the Buell Management Building on the LTU campus. For information, contact robfest@LTU.edu.

Another Michigan preliminary tournament will be held Sept. 6 at the Cranbrook Schools. Go to www.wroboto.us to register a team.

Youth wins Paws for Applause promotion

Andrew Lithgow, 10, of Livonia was this month's Paws for Applause winner. He was selected earlier this season and attended a Detroit Tigers game where he was recognized by the Detroit Tigers.

Giving back is a recurring theme in his life. "He has done great service projects such as ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, creating gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, raking leaves for the neighborhood church, as well as going door-to-door to collect canned goods to donate," said proud mother Jeanine Lithgow in a letter submitted to O&E Media.

"Every time it snowed last year, Andrew was outside shoveling out the elderly neighbors. He did this without prompting and without asking for anything in return."

Paws for Applause is a

partnership of the O&E Media and the Detroit Tigers, to honor extraordinary young people for giving back and making their communities better. Andrew won four July 20 Tigers tickets, a Little Caesars value certificate, and an autographed photograph of a Detroit Tiger. He was congratulated by PAWS and presented a certificate during the game.

There is still time to submit an essay nominating a deserving child or teenager for upcoming games. A winning essay will be selected for one of the remaining game dates, Aug. 3 and Sept. 28. Email nominations to cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line: Paws for Applause. Include the youth's name, age, address and phone number. The contest is open to youth up to age 18.



Andrew Lithgow, 10, of Livonia won four July 20 Detroit Tigers baseball tickets, a Little Caesars value certificate, and an autographed photograph of a Detroit Tiger. He was congratulated by PAWS and presented a certificate during the game.

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Dignity MEMORIAL

Water is top topic at Sheffield gathering in GC

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Horace Sheffield III is livid about the water shutoffs in Detroit, which has come under fire for turning off water of customers who are delinquent on their bills.

"I'm tired of inequity when it comes to enforcement," said Sheffield of the shutoffs that have attracted attention from across the country.

Sheffield criticized the tough enforcement stance on the working poor, working class and seniors. He doesn't believe that Detroit goes as hard after large businesses getting tax breaks, tax credits and tax incentives.

Sheffield hosted a town hall forum July 31 at Christian Faith Ministries in Garden City but drew a sparse crowd.

He is running in the U.S. House 13th District against incumbent John Conyers Jr. in a race that could decide if Conyers will return to the U.S. House for a 26th term. Sheffield has been called Conyers' strongest challenger in several years.

Sheffield encouraged the audience, many of them Inkster residents with water billing problems of their own.

"There's nothing that we can't address, if we come together," Sheffield said. "Water is the main issue."

He accused the Detroit of making money on the water charged.

"Treat people in Detroit the same way," he said.

Complicity in crisis

Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department stepped up its shutoff efforts in March in an attempt to collect more than \$90 million owed by Detroiters who are behind on their bills. He questioned why the Detroit allowed the amount

"The city of Detroit doesn't have sufficient customers to subsidize this water system."

HORACE SHEFFIELD III,
Congressional candidate in the U.S. House 13th District

to grow to this level.

"The city literally did not collect water bills," Sheffield said. "The city has some complicity in this crisis."

"Prosperous people" have also not paid their bills. Sheffield believes that if the city is only paying 10 percent of the bills that they owe, then residents should also be allowed to pay 10 percent of what they owe regardless of income.

"The city of Detroit doesn't have sufficient customers to subsidize this water system," Sheffield said.

Detroit has buildings where water is running continuously and that cost is being passed onto residents.

There's been a break in the water shutoff case. Last week, the water department halted the shutoffs until Aug. 5 while it continues to alert poor customers to available assistance programs.

Every city in metropolitan Detroit handles its collection problems differently. In contrast to Detroit, Garden City has not disconnected water service for non-payment, according to Garden City Clerk/Treasurer Allyson Bettis, who didn't attend the forum.

"Unpaid bills are charged a penalty," Bettis said. "Severely delinquent accounts may have the unpaid amount placed as a lien on a subsequent tax bill."

The forum also fea-

tured Byron Nolen, an Inkster attorney who won a case setting aside flat rates. Nolen is noteworthy in the water rates discussion because he was instrumental through a lawsuit filed to gain refunds for Inkster residents whose water rates skyrocketed last year.

The outcome was that retired Wayne County Circuit Judge Paul Teranes ordered a reduction in water rates from \$15.30 per unit to \$11.96. Teranes presided over a bench trial.

At \$14.64 per unit of water when the lawsuit started, Nolen said that amount was double paid in other communities. Through Nolen's efforts, Inkster's residents received a \$303 credit on their accounts.

'How do you assess'

The problems started when the city started replacing about 9,000 old water meters with new ones in 2011. Inkster city officials said the old meters had slowed down for years and weren't providing accurate water readings, so residents were being undercharged.

The new meters increased some residents' bills to catch them up on so-called "underpayments."

"The question is how you assess," Nolen said. "People have to live."

He acknowledged a cash-flow problem in Inkster where with the foreclosures; there was no tax money at all.

David Nathan, a candidate for 5th State Senate District, told the audience that the "issues of Garden City, Redford Township and Detroit are pretty much the same."

"We have a Republican Legislature and a Republican governor who pretty much don't care about working class families," he said. "We need to look at the roads



Congressional candidate Horace Sheffield III speaks to residents during a community discussion in Garden City on Wednesday evening. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

that divide us as roads that bring us together. We need to be inclusive. We are at war for our lives and our livelihoods."

Henry Nolen of Inkster liked the opportunity to learn more about water issues. "I never knew that there was so much profit

in water," he said. "It's amazing."

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Members of the Redford Township and Livonia Business Communities:

Join us for a Business Community Meeting and Listening Session

When:
Wednesday, August 6, 2014
7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Where:
George Matick Chevrolet (Main Showroom)
14001 Telegraph Rd., Redford Charter Township, MI 48239
(On-site parking. Continental breakfast.)

Purpose:

- Hear the latest reconstruction information – learn what's been completed and what's still ahead.
- Talk to project staff about questions and concerns.
- Get information to assist in driving more business to your door.

The facility is handicapped accessible. For special accommodations, contact 313-427-3914. For more information about 96Fix, visit: www.96fix.com

Residents of the Redford Township and Livonia Communities:

Join us for an Open House and Listening Session

When:
Wednesday, August 6, 2014
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where:
VFW Post #345 Don Hubert Hall
27345 Schoolcraft, Redford Charter Township, MI 48239
(On-site parking. Refreshments.)

Purpose:

- Hear the latest information on the I-96 freeway reconstruction project – see what's been completed and learn what's ahead.
- Talk to project staff about questions and concerns.

The facility is handicapped accessible. For special accommodations, contact 313-427-3914. For more information about 96Fix, visit: www.96fix.com

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October 22 - register by October 17

November 20 - register by November 14

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Medical Director, Gynecological Robotic Surgery, St. Mary Mercy Hospital

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Cantoro Italian Market II
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Plymouth

Sept. 24: Bladder Dysfunction and Overactive Bladder
Meadowbrook Country Club
40941 W. 8 Mile Rd., Northville

Oct. 22: Pelvic Prolapse
Cantoro Italian Market II

Nov. 20: Pelvic Prolapse
Meadowbrook Country Club

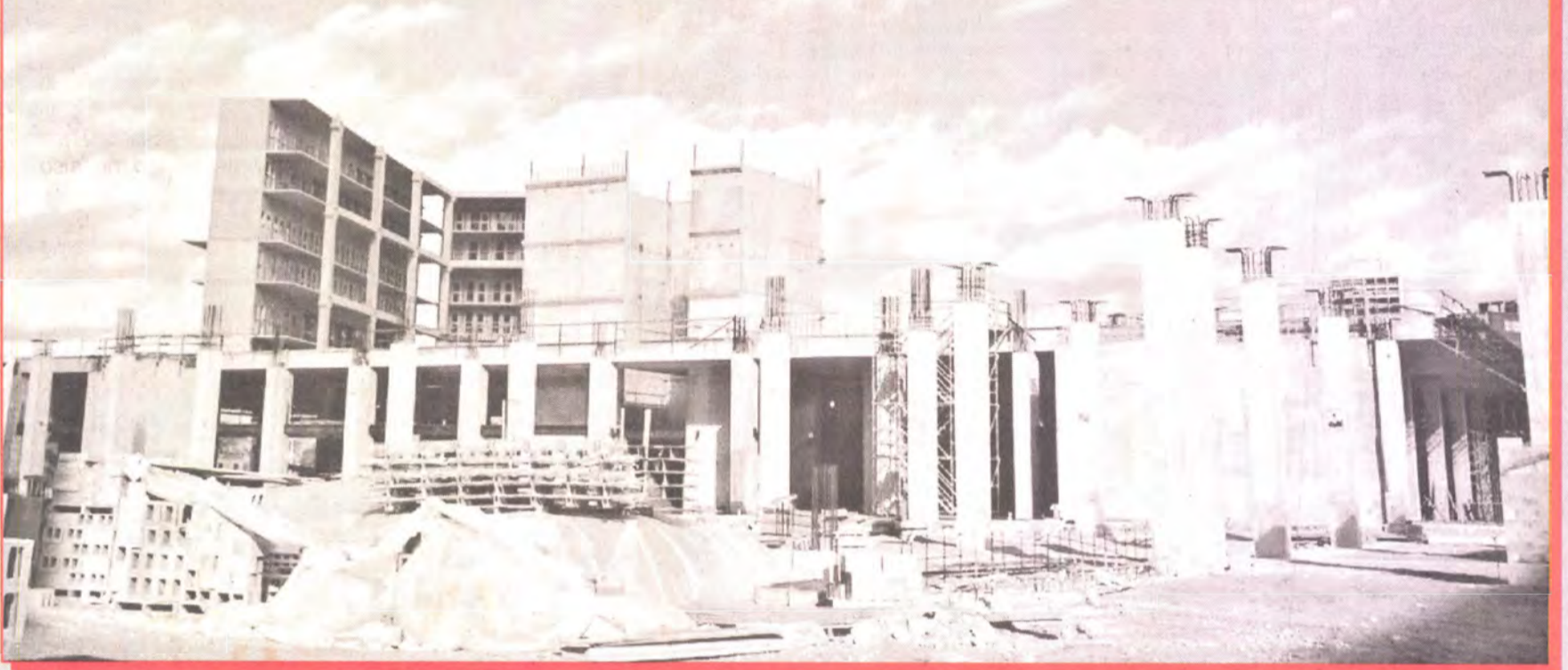
5:45 p.m. - Check-in
6 p.m. - Presentation

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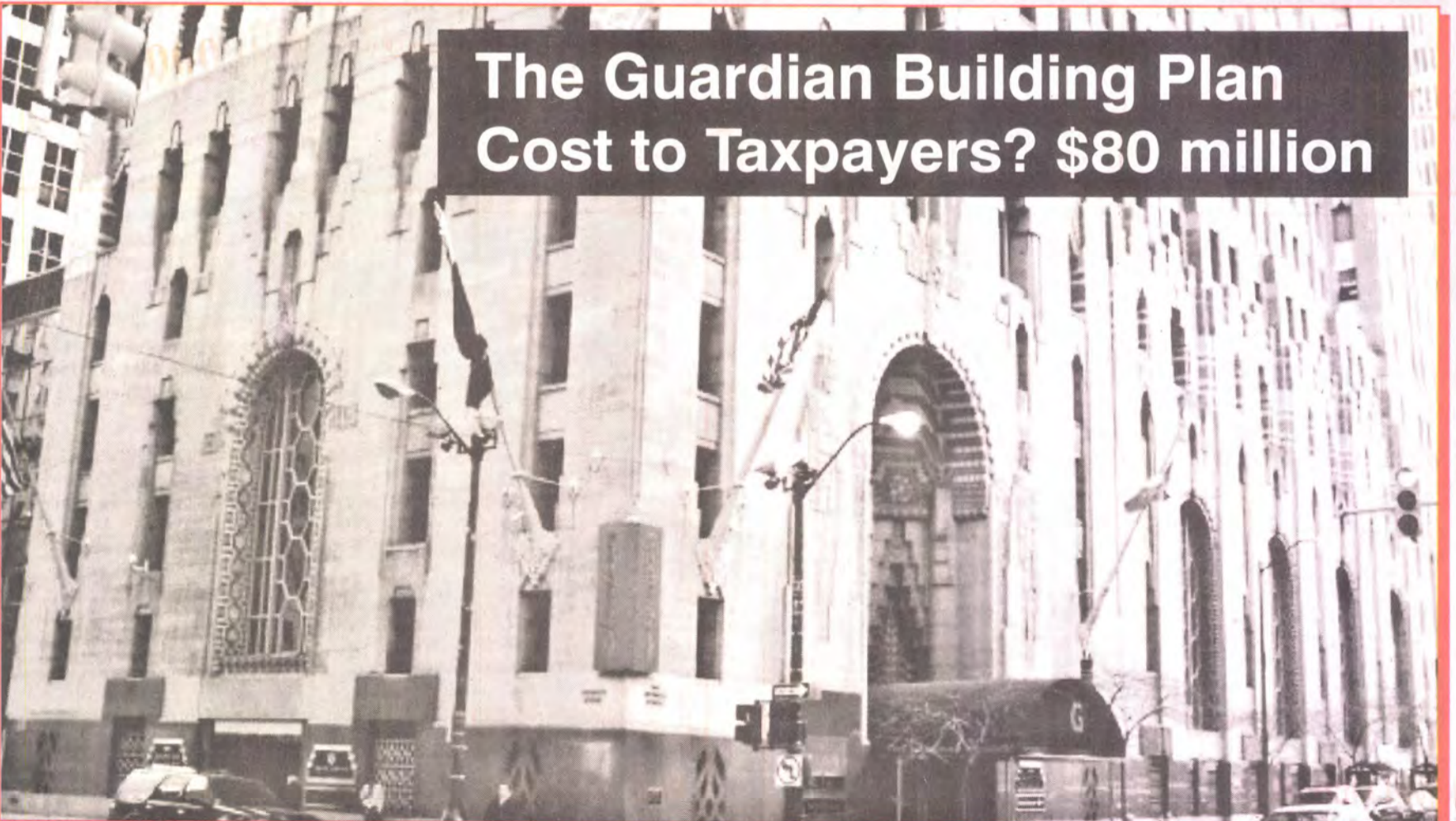
**The Failed Wayne County Jail Project
Cost to Taxpayers? \$300 million**



**The Failed Pinnacle Race Track
Cost to Taxpayers? \$33 million**



**The Guardian Building Plan
Cost to Taxpayers? \$80 million**



PARTNERS in the of Wayne County Government KING FOR YOU?



Tonight at 11

Warren Evans collects a \$72,800-a-year pension from the Wayne County Sheriffs Department and did so while he also made \$128,000 a year as Sheriff. Now he wants to add the Wayne County Executive's annual pay of \$171,690 to that yearly income to support his home in Washtenaw County and his horse farm in Anderson County, South Carolina.

Warren Evans was Ficano's appointed under sheriff in Wayne County. Then Ficano appointed his crony, Evans, as Sheriff, a job he abruptly resigned. Then Evans became Detroit Police Chief, a job he also resigned amid a sex scandal.

Warren Evans' candidacy for election is being challenged in court. He changed his residency address to Detroit from his "farm" in Washtenaw County only one day before the candidate filing deadline, a clear violation of state law which requires any candidate to be a qualified elector in the city for 30 days.

Warren Evans was Ficano's highly-paid "consultant" on the new Wayne County Jail that went \$300 million over budget and still stands half-built and abandoned due to cost overruns.

Warren Evans was forced to resign as Detroit Police Chief in 2010 when his sexual relationship with a young, female officer was exposed during an investigation of the department.

Warren Evans owned a bar while Detroit Police Chief and was \$16,080 in arrears on property taxes.



BOB FICANO

Ficano's administration is currently under FBI investigation for corruption

Several former staff members have pleaded guilty to charges of bribery and extortion

Failed Wayne County Jail project went \$300 million over budget and had to be cancelled

Chronic budget deficit is currently at \$175 million in Wayne County

Ficano's plan for debt elimination has been rejected by the state

Crime in Detroit is at 396 instances per square mile compared to an average of 36 statewide

Failed Pinnacle Race Track cost county taxpayers \$33 million

Ficano's Guardian Building plan cost taxpayers more than \$80 million.

Ficano's legal bills have cost county taxpayers more than \$1 million



KEVIN MCNAMARA

McNamara is part of Ficano's failed administration, voting with Ficano 75% of the time he served on the Wayne County Commission

McNamara voted FOR the Pinnacle Race Track, costing county taxpayers \$33 million

McNamara voted FOR the failed jail project, costing county taxpayers \$300 million

McNamara supported and voted for a new pension plan for himself and other county commissioners

As a county commissioner, he voted for the \$80 million spent on the Guardian Building

He voted to spend more than \$1 million in county funds to help Ficano defend himself against multiple lawsuits

Voted to approve a \$100,000 contract for former Wayne County Commissioner Keith Williams despite deficit county budget



PHIL CAVANAGH

While on the Wayne County Commission, Cavanagh voted to approve the appointment of top Ficano aide Azzam Elder, target of Federal corruption investigations, to high-level county positions

Cavanagh was a strong supporter of the Pinnacle Race Track, approving \$450,000 for legal services, \$106,000 to demolish area properties

Missed the vote for funding Head Start in Detroit

Missed the vote to authorize funding for training of deputy sheriffs

Missed the vote to provide internet access to public records

Approved the appointments of Christine Beatty and Derrick Miller, major players in the Kwame Kilpatrick scandal, to the Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority

Cavanagh supported Ficano's plan to spend \$80 million of taxpayers' money on the Guardian Building purchase and renovation

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All Wayne County Taxpayers

From: Partners in Poor Government
BOB FICANO
WARREN EVANS
KEVIN MCNAMARA
PHIL CAVANAGH

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Failed Pinnacle Race Track Project | \$33 million |
| Guardian Building | \$80 million |
| Failed Wayne County Jail Project | \$300 million |
| Legal Bills to Defend Ficano from Employee lawsuits | \$1 million |
| Ficano's "Plan 6" retirement for County Employees over next decades | \$1 Billion |
| Total due from taxpayers | \$1,414,000,000 |

Skateboarding legend Tony Hawk to visit Riley Skate Park on Aug. 23

Skateboarding legend Tony Hawk will appear at Riley Skate Park in a free demonstration at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, as part of the Birdhouse Summer Tour hosted by the City of Farmington Hills Special Services Department.



Hawk

Skateboarding enthusiasts are invited to watch Tony Hawk along with the Birdhouse Skate Team featuring Aaron "Jaws" Homoki, Ben Raybourn, Clint Walker, David Loy, Kevin Staab, Willy Santos, Clive Dixon, Mike Davis, Shawn Hale and Shaun Gregoire.

As one on the Birdhouse Tour's eight-city On the Road Summer 2014 Midwest Tour, Riley is a 29,000-square-foot, all-concrete skate park with a variety of features for skateboarders and inline skaters of all skill levels. At the Aug. 23 event, 100 limited-edition Riley Skate Park skateboard decks will be for sale, along

with T-shirts and other souvenirs. Riley Skate Park is at 35550 W. Eight Mile inside Founders Sports Park, just two miles east of I-275. Call 248-473-1800 for more information. Skateboarding fans are also invited to attend or participate in the 2014 Fall Classic Skateboarding Competition on Sept. 13-14. All skill levels, from beginner to advanced, are welcome. Admission fee is \$5 and the competition starts at 10 a.m. each day. For registration information, call 248-426-0899.

Livonia restaurant owner wins \$11,000 in Food Network's 'Cutthroat Kitchen' competition

Not many people would think about cooking with a Tiki Torch but that was the challenge given to local chef Tom Lin.

He was featured on the July 20 episode of the Food Network's *Cutthroat Kitchen* hosted by Alton Brown. The competition took place between four chefs whose goal was to sabotage each other in order to win money.

In the episode, "Welcome to the Jungle," Lin beat out his competitors and won \$11,000. The Food Network has already invited Lin to shoot another episode in September and he was also featured on Guy Fieri's *Guy's Grocery Games*, which airs on the Food Network later this summer.

"People don't know that I am a very competitive person," Lin said about the show. "Whether it's martial arts, ballroom dancing, or even cooking, I love to compete. This was a natural fit for me."

Lin has been cooking for over 26 years and is owner of Szechuan Empire in Livonia and Com-



Local chef Tom Lin was featured on Food Network's "Cutthroat Kitchen."

merce Township. He opened his first restaurant at the age of 20 and has been a successful restaurateur ever since.

Specializing in Chinese cuisine, Lin also prepares Japanese and Thai dishes.

His nutritious and healthy style of cooking is a departure from the stereotypical type of Asian cuisine and a trend that his customers want.

He teaches at The Community House in Birmingham. His next class, "Asian Salads & Sauces," takes

place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. In this class, he will share recipes for his most popular Asian inspired salads and sauces.

Attendees will make a crispy/fruity chicken salad that is refreshing and can be served for lunch, dinner or a potluck supper-either warm or cold.

Students will also learn to prepare a crunchy cabbage salad with toasted Ramen noodles, fresh vegetables and almond slivers with a sweet and tangy dressing.

Lin says the featured sauces are staples in Asian restaurants. The sweet and sour sauce and Teriyaki can both be used in a variety of ways.

Other upcoming classes at TCH featuring Lin include: "Thai Cuisine," Wednesday, Oct. 1, and "Art of Sushi," Monday, Nov. 10.

Fee for classes is \$32. To register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 S. Bates St., Birmingham, 248-644-5832, or online at www.tchserver.org.

CITY OF WESTLAND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RENTAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The City of Westland is accepting proposals for Norwayne Rental Rehabilitation projects located in the Norwayne community. The City of Westland will fund the projects with federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Proposals for the Norwayne Rental Rehabilitation projects are due on: Wednesday, August 27, 2014, by 10:00 a.m., via sealed envelopes marked "Norwayne Rental Rehabilitation" to the Department of Housing & Community Development, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland MI 48186.

To receive a copy of the RFP, contact Joanne Campbell at jcampbell@cityofwestland.com or by calling 734.713.3711.

Joanne Campbell, Director
William Wild, Mayor

Publish: August 3, 2014

LO-000207043 3x3

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **August 12th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:


Janitorial Cleaning Services


Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams
Controller

Publish: August 3, 2014

LO-000208843 3x2



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HOSTED BY:
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Jeff Long, CFP®, FIC
Jeff Myers, FIC
Matthew Crenshaw

EVENT DETAILS:

| | |
|--|---|
| Thursday, August 7 1:00 p.m. St. Michael Lutheran Church 3003 Hannan Rd. Wayne, MI 48184 | Thursday, August 14 1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Huron Valley Lutheran School Library 33740 Cowan Rd. Westland, MI 48185 |
| Thursday, August 7 7:00 p.m. Open Arms Lutheran Church 7865 Belleville Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 | Wednesday, August 20 2:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Summit on the Park - Arts 2 Room 46000 Summit Parkway Canton, MI 48188 |

Please call **734-455-9272** or email huronvalleygroup@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. You can also register at Thrivent.com/findaworkshop. Light refreshments will be served.

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27763AD R3-14

Map out a strategy for collecting Social Security

Dear Rick: I will turn 62 later this year. I am single, have no debt and my house is paid off. I work full time and my income covers my living expenses. I will have no pension when I retire. I have been investing every year in an IRA. Should I take Social Security now or wait until I retire? I plan to work another six or seven years. My boss told me I should wait, while a friend says it would be better to take Social Security now and invest the money on my own. Can you help?



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

A: I agree with your boss. The best decision is to delay Social Security.

There are two issues. The first is the give-back rules. If you take Social Security at age 62, continue to work and earn more than \$15,480, for every two dollars you earn above that amount, the government will subtract a dollar from your Social Security benefits. In addition, it is also possible that you would have to pay tax on your Social Security.

There are also financial reasons to wait. If you take Social Security at age 62, you receive 25 percent less than if you waited until your

full retirement age. For people born between 1943 and 1954, full retirement age is 66. Therefore, by waiting until you're 66 to accept Social Security, you will receive a 25-percent increase in your benefits. When you factor in the tax consequences and the economics and the fact that you do not need income currently, it would be in your best interest to delay Social Security until at least 66.

There also is a question of whether you take it at 66 or wait until 70. In many situations, I tell people that it does make sense to delay Social Security to age 70. The reason is that every year you delay past age 66, you receive an 8-percent increase in benefits. Someone who waits until 70 will have benefits of about one-third greater.

In the past, it used to be easy. When you turned 65, you collected Social Security and that was that. Today, there are many more issues that need to be considered. Particularly, where

husband and wife have worked, there are many scenarios where you may take Social Security for one spouse and delay taking it for the other.

The bottom line is to have a strategy, just like investing. The strategy isn't just what is good for you today, but also what will be good for you in the future.

Remember, when it comes to retirement, we're not talking about a few years, we're talking about decades. Therefore, the decision you make regarding Social Security will have a significant impact on your future.

I am frequently asked if Social Security will be around long term. My general view is that for anyone in their mid-50s or over, I'm not worried about Social Security. There may be changes such as tax issues or how cost-of-living adjustments are handled, but I'm pretty confident that Social Security will be there.

Good luck.

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



VOTE FOR THE ONLY Qualified Candidate for Wayne County EXECUTIVE!

ADAM S. ADAMSKI

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014

- Free Food for all every Wednesday, 9:30 am until 11 am. Pick up your Free Food at Veterans Haven 4924 Wayne Rd., Wayne, MI 48184 Tel. 734-728-0527
- Adamski will repair all our roads, bridges, infrastructure
- Adamski will bring thousands of new jobs to our county by returning our textile industry to Wayne County. "Made in the USA"
- Veterans – Adamski is the only U.S. Veteran candidate – served 2 yrs. On the U.S.S. Boston (CAG-1) Flagship Atlantic Fleet! Cavinagh – Evans – Ficano – Wojtowicz – All Draft Dodgers!
- Adamski will raise property taxes by 75% on all foreign auto dealers in Wayne County! Buy only American made vehicles – U.A.W. Workers – Support our U.A.W.!
- Adamski is the only candidate to speak out against the illegal, barbaric, cannibalistic, murderous, genocidal state of Israel! Stop 11.1 billion U.S. Tax dollars to Israel, every year.
- Adam S. Adamski humbly requests your vote! Ask all candidates if they are Zionists! If yes, then write in your name

----- CUT ----- AND ----- SAVE -----

VOTE FOR ADAM S. ADAMSKI

Wayne-Westland School Board Trustee on November 4, 2014, Exceptionally Qualified

- 2 year former substitute teacher, all grades
- Adamski – B.A. Degree Political Science – History – Michigan State University – Graduate Studies, Education U.N.L.V.
- Adamski strongly supports a Yes vote on the Wayne County RESA Millage – November 4, 2014 for our students!
- Call President Obama at 202-456-1111 and demand that he tell Israel to end the present war in Gaza – or U.S. Will declare war on Israel!!

Paid for by "American Israelis for Peace" Michigan #513268-3 – 32711 Michigan Ave. Suite #114, Tel. 734-722-4100 Ext. #114

The Wayne Housing Commission is requesting proposals for the replacement of 37 heating ventilation systems in the Wayne Housing Commissions scattered family units. Notice is hereby given that proposals for furnishing all work necessary and incidental to the above mentioned replacements will be received at the Wayne Housing Commission office, 4001 S. Wayne Rd, Wayne, MI 48184 until Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 3:00 P.M. A Pre-Proposal Site visit will be held at the Wayne Housing Commission office on Monday, August 18, 2014 from 2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. Written questions must be submitted to the housing commission office by Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 4:30 P.M. Proposal packets are available at the Wayne Housing Commission office.

Publish: August 03, 2014

LO-0000207367 3x2.5

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2014-07-02-10 submitted by Stucky Vitale Architects requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(n)(3) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to construct and operate a credit union with drive-thru facilities (Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union) at 20595 Farmington Road, located on the southwest corner of Farmington and Eight Mile Roads in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 4.

Petition 2008-11-06-04 submitted by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Council Resolution #477-08, and Section 23.01(a) of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to amend Section 10.03 of Article X and Section 11.03 of Article XI of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to require waiver use approval of any business licensed pursuant to the Deferred Presentment Service Transactions Act, MCL 487.2121, et. seq.

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

R. Lee Morrow, Chairman
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLISH: August 3, 2014

LO-0000207089 2x4

NO. 2969

AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE USE OF PORTIONS OF STREET, ALLEY AND PUBLIC GROUND.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

Section 1. The report and recommendation of the City Planning Commission, dated April 8, 2014, setting forth its resolution 04-18-2014 on Petition 2014-02-03-01 submitted by Clarenceville School District, requesting to vacate a portion of the existing Beatrice Avenue right-of-way located approximately 250 feet south of Norfolk Avenue, adjacent to property owned by Clarenceville Schools including Lots 16 and 17 in the Elmwood Farms Subdivision in the Northeast ¼ of Section 2, City of Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan, is hereby accepted and adopted and the Council does hereby approve all proceedings on said Petition 2014-02-03-01, it appearing that a public hearing thereon was held on April 1, 2014, as provided by law and that the proper notices of such hearing were given.

Section 2. Pursuant to Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, the City of Livonia's use of the following property is hereby vacated:

LAND SITUATED IN TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 9 EAST, SECTION 2, CITY OF LIVONIA, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS:

THE SOUTHERLY PART OF BEATRICE AVENUE (50 FEET WIDE) TO BE VACATED, LYING ADJACENT TO LOTS 16 AND 17 OF "ELMWOOD FARMS SUBDIVISION", AS RECORDED IN LIBER 48 OF PLATS, PAGE 59, W.C.R., FURTHER DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 17, ALSO BEING ON THE EAST LINE OF BEATRICE AVENUE AND THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID "ELMWOOD FARMS SUBDIVISION"; THENCE S 88°20'30" W 50.00 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 16; THENCE N 01°40'10" W 251.23 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF BEATRICE AVENUE TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 16; THENCE N 88°23'00" E 50.00 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 17; THENCE S 01°40'10" E 251.19' ALONG THE EAST LINE OF BEATRICE AVENUE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 0.29 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Monday, July 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Terry Marecki, City Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 8th day of July 2014.

Jack Kirksey, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney

Dated: July 8, 2014

Publish: August 3, 2014

LO-0000206875 3X3

LO-0000207046

OUR VIEWS

Wild has skills needed to lead Wayne County

The August primary election is a political contest that tends to attract far fewer voters November's general election, but the decisions made now are just as important.

In Tuesday's election, voters must vote by political party. They cannot cross over, which can keep people on the sidelines. There's also a belief that the primary isn't as important as the general election in which the winner is selected.

Wrong. There are many important contests being decided Tuesday. One of the biggest decisions is who will be the Democratic nominee in the Wayne County executive race.

Beleaguered Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano is facing a plethora of challengers who want to end his 12-year stint as county executive. Of the challengers, only a few rise to the level of serious consideration in the Democratic primary – state Rep. Phil Cavanagh of Redford Township, former Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans of Detroit, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara of Belleville and Westland Mayor William Wild.

Of those candidates, Evans and Wild have the leadership abilities, but after a close look at the two candidates, we believe Wild has the ability to restore confidence in county government and provide the change voters are looking for.

As Westland's full-time mayor since 2007, he has been able to move the city away from a projected \$50 million deficit to a \$5 million surplus by working with the city's unions to get necessary concessions, while maintaining services. He currently has a three-year running balanced budget. Those kinds of successes are needed at the county level.

He has said that this election isn't about the past, it's about the future – and we agree. Wild has the ex-



Westland Mayor William Wild would provide a fresh start for Wayne County and help restore confidence and trust in government.

ecutive experience in the private and public sectors that is needed to lead Wayne County. He has a proven ability to work with employee groups to make changes and bring about fiscal responsibility.

He would provide a fresh start for Wayne County

and help restore confidence and trust in government. We urge voters in the Democratic primary to select **William Wild** as the nominee for Wayne County executive.

OUR VIEWS

RESA millage asks too much of voters

Wayne County Regional Educational Service is asking voters to decide on a 2-mill tax increase for schools throughout the county for six years.

This is the first time RESA has placed a millage request on the ballot. Two previous attempts failed to garner enough support among school districts representing more than 50 percent of students in the county.

Individual public school districts cannot ask local voters for additional operating revenue, which was part of Proposal A passed 20 years ago, making the countywide millage the only way to raise additional school operating revenue.

While the millage would provide public K-12 school districts with needed revenue, it doesn't solve a funding problem that needs to be addressed. School districts have done more than their fair share to cut spending and adopt best practices. Many districts have privatized food and custodial

services. Others have privatized and/or cut transportation costs, increased class sizes and sought concessions on wages and benefits.

What is needed now is for the state to address the structural flaws created and propagated by Proposal A. Districts like Livonia, Plymouth-Canton and Northville shouldn't be pitted against Wayne-Westland or Garden City on which gets more with this millage.

We have always been strong supporters of education, but believe this millage asks too much of local taxpayers, many of whom who have yet to recover from the recession. While new tax revenue would be nice for local school districts, now is the time for state officials to step up and do what is right: solve the funding problem in a fair and equitable manner.

We reluctantly urge a **NO** vote on this question.

OUR VIEWS

Vote yes on Prop 1, SMART and LPS requests

Proposal 1, if approved, would activate a package of legislatively approved bills that would phase out the personal property tax on industrial and commercial equipment and levy an Essential Services Assessment millage on property that is exempt from the PPT.

It would split the State Use Tax into two taxes, a State Share Tax and a Local Community Stabilization Share Tax, plus create a Local Community Stabilization Authority to administer the Local Community Stabilization Share Tax. The proposal would also replace the revenue local governments would lose without the PPT with revenue from the Local Community Stabilization Share Tax and Essential Services Assessment.

Many groups agree that Proposal 1, while perhaps not a cure-all, is a vital step toward making Michigan more competitive. It's another step toward changing Michigan from a job loser to a job leader. We urge you to vote **YES** on Proposal 1 in this year's primary.

Wayne County Public Transportation (SMART) Millage – Proposal 2 is asking voters to renew and increase the taxes they pay to support the SMART system. The 0.41-mill increase would generate an additional \$28 million per year to fund capital needs, such as replacing buses, balancing operating budgets and possibly allowing for some increase in service, according to SMART officials.

The system is critical for the success of the region. While a majority of residents in this area prefer to drive themselves around, others take the bus. Without the SMART system, some would have no way to work and others couldn't accomplish things most of us take for granted like going shopping or to the post office.

There's no proof that buses would stop running if the increase is rejected by voters, but the benefit to the region outweighs the cost. Vote **YES** on the Wayne County Transportation Millage.

Livonia Public Schools millage renewals – Voters in the school district will decide two millage renewal proposals: a 1.12-mill sinking fund tax to fund ongoing repairs and a 18.4568-mill non-homestead tax for operations.

The sinking fund tax, which expires this year, brings in about \$4.6 million annually district-wide. It's used to pay for projects, such as roof and parking lot repairs, boiler and water main replacements and other emergencies that are not part of the \$195 million construction bond voters approved in May 2013. The non-homestead tax, which is levied against businesses and commercial and industrial properties, expires in 2015. It brings in about \$22 million in revenue to Livonia Public Schools.

The two millages are necessary for funding the district's educational program and maintaining facilities. If voters do not approve the two millage renewal requests, LPS would be forced to drastically reduce or cut programs to make up the costs. Vote **YES** to renew the district's sinking fund and operating millages.

OUR VIEWS

Our choices in local races

13th Congressional District

Long-time incumbent Congressman John Conyers Jr. is facing a strong challenge from well-known Detroiters Horace Sheffield III in his bid for a 26th term.

While Conyers has been at the forefront of the civil rights movement and done many things in the past to benefit residents of his district, his first term representing the reapportioned 13th District that includes a portion of Detroit and western Wayne County and Downriver, has lacked action on behalf of the district.

That isn't what the 13th District needs. It needs a representative in Congress who will be proactive and represent the interests of its residents. That person is Horace Sheffield III. As a congressman, he says he will fight for the district's and state's fair share of federal funding, create sustainable jobs and work to provide access to affordable health care. He also plans to develop a diverse Community Action Coalition that would let constituents have a say in what is important to them and the district.

Those are actions that will benefit the district and that make **Horace Sheffield III** the best choice in the 13th District.

5th State Senate District

In the reapportioned 5th District is another city-suburb district that includes northwest Detroit, Redford, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Wayne and Westland. There is no incumbent. With six candidates to choose from, we see current State Rep. David Knezek as the candidate with the drive and energy to make things happen in Lansing.

An Iraqi War veteran and the youngest member of the Democratic Caucus, Knezek has been effective during his first two years in office, championing the causes of veterans in the state and the education. He has been highly visible in his district and plans to continue to do that, if elected to the Senate.

We believe **David Knezek** will represent all residents of the district, making him the right choice for the Democratic nomination.

7th State Senate District

In the Republican primary for the reapportioned 7th State Senate District seat, one-term incumbent Patrick Colbeck of Canton is being challenged by political newcomer Matthew Edwards of Plymouth Township for the nomination.

We believe the nod should go to Colbeck. A conservative, he supported Michigan becoming a right-to-work state and elimination of the Michigan Business Tax and the personal property tax. He opposed an increase to the minimum wage, saying it wouldn't do anything to create jobs. He also says he's not in favor of a tax increase to pay for roads, calling it "good money after bad." He also was a key figure in bringing some \$5 million to the district, to be used for improvements on Lotz Road and Ford Road (near the I-275 interchange).

While he may actually be too conservative for the district, **Patrick Colbeck** deserves the GOP nomination in the 7th Senate District.

10th State House District

Voters in the 10th state House district, which includes Redford and a



Colbeck



Hicks-Clayton



O'Neil



Rhoades



Sheffield



Johnson



Knezek



Cox



Marecki



Cady

See PRIMARY, Page A14

Forum on border issues held at Livonia City Hall

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Plymouth resident Caryle Schober wants to learn more about what's happening with immigration issues in the United States.

"I want to know what's going on," she said. "We do a lot of investigating of what's going on up in Washington, and we're very dissatisfied."

Schober, along with about 100 others, sat through a forum done by U.S. Congressman Kerry Bentivolio's office Thursday night at Livonia City Hall. The forum touched on several issues surrounding the influx of unaccompanied children who are entering the U.S. from several Central American nations.

Bentivolio, R-Milford, is running against challenger Dave Trott from Birmingham on Tuesday in the primary election in

the 11th Congressional District. Bentivolio was not in attendance at his office's forum, but video chatted from his Washington office.

He said the issue is one of concern, and that many youth in the nation do face violence regularly.

Bentivolio, who went on a trip to several Central American nations last month, came back and shared his experiences, many of which shed light on the nations and their problems.

"They're coming from a culture of violence," he said. "They live in that environment."

He said while many immigrants do attempt to come into the country through the proper means, many do not. And when these children come in, it's a major cultural shift to what they're accustomed to.

"A lot of those people



Jason Anderson, a border patrol agent, speaks during a forum Thursday night at Livonia City Hall held by the office of U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Milford. DAVID VESELENAK

are trying to get here for the right reasons," he said. "There's no real rule of law there. It's gang-

controlled. "When they come to this country, that's how they're going to react to

certain situations." About 100 unaccompa-

nied children are expected to arrive in Michigan this month to centers in Farmington Hills and Bay City as the federal government figures out what to do with them.

Schober, who said she's seen firsthand the issues of trying to bring family back to the country, said she wanted to come and demonstrate there are people interested in this issue as it is reported across the country.

"We wanted to make our presence known, and that we care and are we interested and we want to show up so you see there are people who are concerned about all the immigration that is happening that shouldn't be," she said.

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

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32184 Six Mile • Livonia

Saturday August 9th
10am: 9U #3 & 10U #4
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2pm: 13U #2 & 14U #1

Sunday August 10th
10am: 9U #3 & 10U #4
12pm: 11U #3 & 12U #4
2pm: 13U #2 & 14U #1

Age as of April 30, 2015
All Participants must live in Livonia or attend Livonia Schools
Limited Coaching Positions available

For more information and to Pre-register for tryouts at www.LJAL.com

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

FIBROMYALGIA IN THE ELDERLY

Fibromyalgia is a condition of widespread pain that occurs in people in their early years, often as young as age 15 or 16. The condition can last for years and is marked by brief periods of respite from pain. The identifying characteristics of Fibromyalgia are pain that is daily, migrating, often accompanied by migraine like headaches, jaw pain, anterior chest pain, irritable bowel and irritable bladder.

Diagnosing Fibromyalgia poses a difficulty for physicians because the pain can emulate sciatica, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus. A physician caring for a patient with Fibromyalgia must listen to the patient's complaint of pain with care; a person with Fibromyalgia can develop a medical problem like anyone else. While Fibromyalgia can last a lifetime, it is never a cause of death.

The physician's need to keep attentive doubles when dealing with an elderly person with Fibromyalgia. The problems of aging such as pain at night, aching after sitting for even a short time, difficulty in walking, inability to raise shoulders high enough to dress and comb hair are problems both of aging and Fibromyalgia. Other concerns such as loss of energy and appetite can be an indication of an occult cancer or of depression associated with Fibromyalgia.

Treatment of Fibromyalgia is more difficult in an older person than in a young individual. Drugs such as minocycline (Savella) cause drowsiness and interfere with equilibrium; the same holds true for duloxetine (Cymbalta) or pregabalin (Lyrica). Drugs for pain such as hydrocodone or oxycodone should play no role as they inhibit respiration, cause loss of equilibrium and gait, and lead to intractable constipation. For Fibromyalgia in the elderly the best treatment is exercise, but superimposed osteoarthritis of the knees, and the problem of overcoming pain many times overrides the necessity for activity.

Livonia Public Schools
MILLAGE RENEWAL

Proposal 1: Renewal of 18-Mill Non-Homestead Operating Milage

Proposal 2: Renewal of 1.12-Mill Sinking Fund Milage

There is NO INCREASE for these renewals.

For more information visit:
www.livoniapublicschools.org/millages

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MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

PRIMARY

Continued from Page A12

small part of Detroit, have five candidates to choose from Aug. 5 in selecting a Democratic nominee for the seat currently held by Phil Cavanagh. The winner will face Republican Matthew X. Hauser in November.

Jay Johnson – a Redford Township trustee, president of the Michigan Jaycees and former president of the Redford Jaycees – is the only one of the five candidates who has held elective office before, other than precinct delegate. He has a track record and is a known entity to Redford voters. He hit the ground running when elected in 2012 and hasn't stopped yet. He launched the Community Gardens and helped to launch the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Redford, for which he serves as a captain. Johnson's leadership skills, which propelled him to

the top of the state Jaycees group, qualify him to be an up-and-coming law maker.

11th State House District

Candidates for both the Republican and Democratic seats on the November general election ballot will be filled on Aug. 5. The district includes a small section of southeast Livonia as well as Garden City, Inkster and parts of Dearborn Heights and Westland.

In the Republican race, **Jim Rhoades** of Garden City is the best choice. He has been involved in the legislative process at all levels of government for more than three decades and believes his experience in working with both parties will help him better represent the district. He wants to see Lansing take another look at where the money comes from and re-examine how things are done at the state level before considering new taxes or tax increases.

On the Democratic side, **Lisa Hicks-Clayton**

of Dearborn Heights is the best choice. She has a lengthy history of community involvement and as an elected official is committed to fiscally responsible government. She understands that government service isn't about the individual, but the team and is a strong advocate for adequate funding of early childhood education and questions Lansing's definition of equitable funding of the K-12 program.

19th State House District

Livonia voters will be electing someone to replace John Walsh as their representative in the state House since Walsh is term-limited. Of the two Republicans running in Tuesday's primary election, **Laura Cox** is the most qualified to succeed Walsh. Democrat Stacey Dogonski is running unopposed.

Cox is one of just two Republicans on the 15-member Wayne County Commission. Yet she was appointed by the chairman of the commission to

head the commission's Committee on Ways and Means, which reviews and sets spending priorities and allocates resources related to the county's \$2 billion budget. Since being elected in 2004, she has repeatedly fought for more transparency in county government and voted against measures that have increased Wayne County's debt.

Livonia needs someone in Lansing with clout who can fill Walsh's shoes. We believe Cox is the right Republican for the job.

9th County Commission District

Voters in Wayne County Commission's 9th District, which includes most of Livonia, Northville and Northville Township, will choose between two Republicans and two Democrats. We recommend Livonia City Clerk **Terry Marecki** for the Republican nomination and retired attorney **Patrick O'Neil** for the Democratic nomination.

Marecki, who former-

ly served on the Livonia City Council and Livonia school board, has the political experience and knowledge to best represent constituents of the 9th District. Her opponent is a political newcomer. We think Marecki will be able to work with members of the Democratic-controlled commission to get the best possible deal for constituents in the mostly Republican district.

O'Neil is a former Inkster City Council member who previously ran for Livonia mayor. Like Marecki, he has political experience and knowledge.

11th County Commission District

Huron Township resident **Jeremy Cady** isn't put off by the problems that have beset Wayne County with the investigation of top county officials, cost overruns related to the new jail and a legal challenge over the end of their 13th check. He believes he can help.

Cady is among three candidates vying for a seat on the Wayne County

Commission, representing the 11th District which includes Wayne and a portion of Westland. With no Republican challenger, the winner in the August primary will be elected to represent the district.

Cady, a Wayne County Sheriff deputy, shows a depth of knowledge about the county. He speaks his mind about county problems and what the commission has and hasn't done and is committed to making sure the needs of county residents are met before the county's wants. He's not a career politician, has no ties to the current county executive, and offers a fresh face with fresh ideas and a plan to stick up for the people of what he calls "forgotten southwestern Wayne County."

It's statements like that that make **Jeremy Cady** our choice for the Democratic nomination in the 11th Wayne County Commission District the Aug. 5 primary election.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Marecki please

After attending numerous meetings and watching Livonia city government over many years, it's no Marecki for me.

She didn't want to give up her school board job after being appointed to city council until she was told it was a state law, she couldn't do both.

Next in Terry's career she was appointed city clerk and given a pay raise.

At the candidates'

debate, it was my question about the Northville Township annexation that brought out the real Terry. She then claimed hindsight is 20-20 and if she only knew it would divide people. Let me tell you, she ran that council meeting about the annexation. She knew it would hurt people, but she did what she was told to do.

Terry repeated she believed in communication and transparency in government. She has eliminated audience communication from the

report of council meetings that are published in the *Observer*.

People can be put in two groups: givers and takers. Terry is a taker who has advanced by drinking the Kool-Aid Jack Kirksey has made over the years. I'm asking voters to do your homework on this. I voted for a change. I voted for Tom Berry.

Christopher Martin
Livonia

Hand out again

Did you get your recent plea from Garden City Schools for more money? What a waste of money sending this notice out. Better use would be in the classrooms. Didn't we already give them a \$35 million bond and a 1-mill sinking fund? Now they are back for more.

They continue to say it is needed for facility repairs. Isn't that what the sinking fund is for? When the proposal for the sinking fund was brought, the claim was it

would free up money to be spent in the classroom. Well, it is not working. Have you seen the latest MEAP results? Failure again! The trend looks like a roller coaster at Cedar Point, up and down. Eighth-grade reading was the bright spot in the latest MEAP test with 63 percent proficient. Don't know about anyone else but when I went to school below 60 percent was failing.

The district blames the shortage of money on shrinking student enroll-

ment and the state. Yet every administrator (except CFO who is new) since 2010 has had an increase in their total compensation package. The amount spent on directors, superintendent, and others at 1333 Radcliff is \$1,921,476 (rounded, source school website compensation report 2013). Yet, they cut the back bone of the schools, teachers, including an Educator of the Year. What did she forget how to teach?

If the student count continues to dwindle, in part because of competition from the new free charter school in town, why do we still need all these administrators making over \$100,000 per year? Don't see any shrinkage in the top-heavy end. The school reconfiguration was to bring all similar grades to the same building for better coordination of the teachers, and save money. Not working. The experiment failed. Let's go back to neighborhood schools. The people at the top are failing our students.

Believe it or not, people are still struggling financially. The district said that it will only cost home owners another \$50 per year. That is \$50 on top of the money we already send to Radcliff. Let's not try to confuse the public, again. On a home taxable value of \$50,000 and that is how the cost is figured it would be \$100 a year at 2 mills. I heard (John) Thackleberry say that 85 percent of the cost is wages and benefits. So why are administration still getting raises? Why continue to hammer the teachers? What about the board kicking in, heard it from the table before, the amount of pay they receive is so small, so why not make a good will gesture and give it up.

Garden City residents do not need to spend any more money. Though the district has made many changes to save money, they still have opportunities to save more.

The other scary thing about the millage is there is no control on the use of money. It can be spent on anything the district wants, unlike the sinking fund which has limitations. The budget for 2014-15 has been set. It is negative and that includes the money that would come about if this millage passes. See, the district figures this is a slam dunk on the millage and has wrongfully included it in on the new budget. Therefore, when the millage does not pass, the board will have to pass a lower revised budget because of poor planning.

Vote Aug. 5, but do not vote this millage.

Hubert Wyllie
Garden City



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AIM HIGHER

LETTERS

Continued from Page A14

Keep Marecki off commission

I couldn't help but laugh when reading the rationale used in last week's Letters to the Editor to convince voters to choose their friend, Terry Marecki, for Wayne County Commissioner.

"As a mother and grandmother, Terry Marecki knows families have to make tough choices every day." Can't the same be said of just about any candidate?

"Laura Cox endorsed Marecki as the best hope to continue the fight." Terry Marecki's daughter worked for Laura Cox, the mutual admiration society that masquerades as Republican politics in Livonia, the good old boy/girl network hard at work again.

Terry Marecki didn't do much to dissuade Livonia Public Schools from holding their own separate election for the bond issue — a separate election that cost taxpayers hard-earned dollars.

Marecki signed on early as a proponent and backer of the failed Northville Psychiatric Hospital "land grab" orchestrated by Mayor Jack Kirksey and the Schostak Brothers development company. Terry Marecki's willingness to allow one community to "steal" land from another doesn't speak well to the fact that, as Wayne County Commissioner, she wouldn't represent just parts of Livonia, but would represent Northville and Northville Township as well. If I lived in either of those two communities, and with that kind of track record, I would flee the prospect of electing Terry Marecki to higher office like my hair was on fire.

We don't need to continue the status quo by promoting another me-

diocre performer. We don't need to vote for candidates because some of their friends write in to the newspaper and tell us to. It's time for a change. On Aug. 5, please vote for Tom Berry as the Republican candidate for Wayne County Commissioner representing District 9.

Charles Harkness
Livonia

Support RESA millage request

I must take exception to the tone and message that appeared in an editorial, "Vote No on Wayne School Proposal," published on July 28 edition of the *Detroit News*. The editorial makes some judgments, that, frankly, are just not fair nor appropriate.

The editorial asserts that this millage is to "subsidize poorer districts like Detroit Public Schools." While this proposal is far from perfect, it is the only mechanism in place for districts to ask voters for support. The State of Michigan, through its faulty experiment of Proposal A, which took effect in 1994, did exactly what the editorial is alleging this proposal would do. It (Proposal A) also, in many instances, has had the effect of a net increase in cost to Michigan residents through the 50 percent increase in state sales tax.

The editorial states that the Michigan K-12 budget has increased 4 percent, but fails to point out that 100 percent of that increase, and more, are then reabsorbed by the State in higher retirement costs passed on to districts (currently nearly 30 percent of payroll). It is important to remind readers that this is a state-mandated retirement system that local districts have absolutely no control of. The state generated an early buy-out program for school employees several years ago, loading many more people into the pension system, but

without funding that incentive.

The editorial states that districts should "strive to work within budget realities." The district where I live, Romulus, has cut at least 30 percent of its budget in the last five years, and is still in deficit. Declining property values, with no way for our community to raise the millage rate to maintain the revenue, has crippled our ability as a community to adequately provide the programs we feel are important to our children. We have closed four school buildings, outsourced nearly every non-teaching position, eliminated crucial programs that cut across the student population, increased class sizes (in many cases to 35) and our staff members have certainly stepped up to the plate with record-setting concessions. All of this and we still don't have funding for new books, better technology and the things we've worked hard to maintain.

We certainly don't need the default of other districts to happen as has happened in Inkster and Buena Vista. The children in those, and every community, deserve to have access to quality education without fear of their schools closing.

Finally, the editorial asserts that there is a "lack of safeguards to make sure the funds are spent wisely." This is a function of each and every local Board of Education and its representative community, and the fact that you would be so irresponsible as to stereotype every community as one that cannot responsibly manage itself is outright irresponsible.

I encourage your readers to support this proposal to help stabilize funding for our school children.

Robert W. McLachlan
Romulus



Jill Andra Young, a Plymouth photography business owner who is involved in the fundraiser (shown here with Henri), said Bark for Life is "the only American Cancer Society event where you can bring your dog to walk during the event."

Bark for Life set for kickoff rally

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Bark for Life Canton, a cancer-fighting fundraiser that pairs cancer survivors, their dogs and supporters, has announced its kickoff event as organizers ramp up efforts to draw attention to this year's rally, which draws participants from across metro Detroit.

Anyone who wants to pick up team captain kits, learn about sponsorship opportunities or simply get involved in Bark for Life is urged to stop by 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Bailey's Pub & Grille, 1777 N. Canton Center, in the shopping plaza southwest of Ford and Canton Center roads.

Bark for Life Canton's fourth annual event is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, in Canton's Her-

itage Park. Featuring opening ceremonies, a survivor lap, numerous activities and a closing ceremony, it is patterned after Relay for Life. It benefits the American Cancer Society and encourages participants to bring their canine companions, who often provide comfort to people battling cancer.

"Bark for Life is the only American Cancer Society event where you can bring your dog to walk during the event," said Jill Andra Young, a Plymouth photography business owner and Bark for Life committee member.

Young's mother was a 31-year colon cancer survivor, so Young is among the Bark for Life participants.

"That's why I 'bark' — as we say," she said.

Bark for Life organizers hope to organize as many teams as possible to raise as much money as possible for the American Cancer Society.

"Bark for Life's kickoff is to give people the awareness of our event and what Bark for Life is all about," Young said.

Dog lovers who have never been involved in the event are encouraged to stop by Bailey's Pub & Grille to learn ways to get started.

"We can help them form a team," Young said.

For more information, go to www.relayforlife.org/barkcantonmi or find Bark for Life Canton on Facebook.

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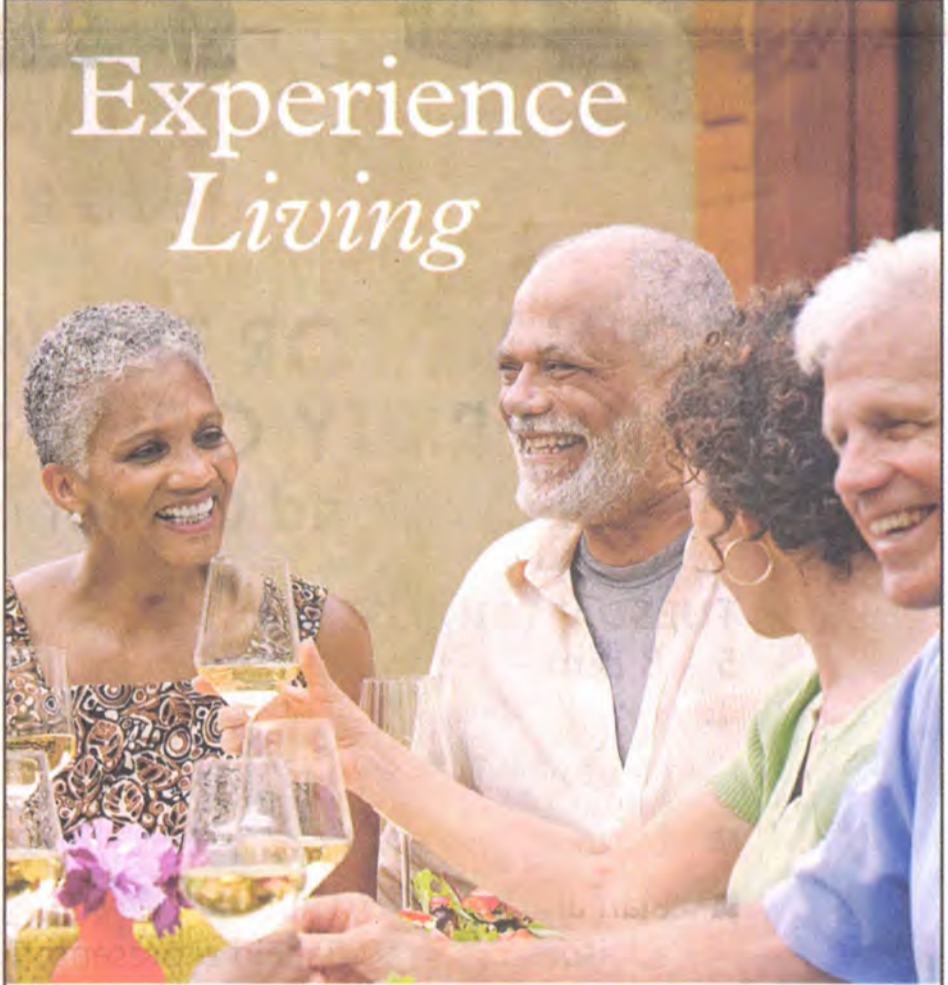
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Wayne County offices get energy monitoring system

A pilot program aimed at improving energy use and reducing utility costs at Wayne County's historic Guardian Building took another step forward with the successful installation of the Energy Operation Center.

The more than \$1 million project, funded entirely by the Korea Micro-Energy Grid consortium, uses a high-tech "smart grid" system to control operating systems. Along with other capital improvements and technological advances, it is estimated to save 10-15 percent on the building's utility expenses, approximately \$200,000 annually, beginning in August.

With the Energy Operation Center installed, K-MEG officials will monitor the systems in the coming weeks and make adjustments as needed before officially calling the work finished.

The Guardian Building monitoring is one of three pilot programs in buildings initiated by K-MEG across the United States.

Monitors systems

K-MEG, a consortium of 80 Korean companies, constructed the Energy Operation Center to run its various control/automation systems on the 16th floor of the Guardian Building. From that location, K-MEG can monitor energy systems, air flow usage and



Project manager Trey Lim from Smart and Green Controls in Plymouth discusses the K-MEG project at its unveiling.

utility output in the Guardian Building. Other features include a Building Energy Management Systems, Advanced Monitoring Infrastructure, environmental sensors and sensor network.

"Wayne County was honored to be part of the pilot program agreement with K-MEG," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said. "The technological enhancements will improve the operational efficiency of the Guardian Building."

"It's a win for our general operating budget and the taxpayers in Wayne County," he added. "We continue to look for and use the latest technologies, so we can reduce our overhead in the short term, while making us more efficient in the long run."

Samsung C&T, KT Corp., Nara Controls, Ecosian and S&G Controls are among the 80

companies making up K-MEG and are involved in the Guardian Building project.

Completed in 1929, the Guardian Building was purchased in 2007 by Wayne County, which relocated its offices there from the Old Wayne County Building.

Old building sold

The Wayne County Commission recently approved the sale of the Old Wayne County Building and a nearby 120-space parking lot to New York developers, who plan to renovate and lease the historic structure for \$13.4 million.

The sellers are Wayne County, the Wayne County Economic Development Corp. and the Old Wayne County Building Limited Partnership. The buyer is 600 Randolph SN LLC of Great Neck, N.Y.

Wayne County will receive nearly \$2.7 mil-

lion, which the Wayne County Commission could apply toward the county's budget deficit.

The New York developers are an undisclosed family that has purchased and developed more than \$250 million in real estate in Manhattan, plus projects elsewhere, over the past few years. The Old Wayne County Building is its first purchase in Detroit, said Moshe Oppenheim, an attorney representing the family.

The developers plan to spend between \$4 million and \$5 million on structural improvements and another \$5 million to \$10 million on tenant build-out. Wayne County owns the parking lot at 400 E. Fort St., adjacent to the building. The county, through the EDC, owns the land on which the building sits at 600 Randolph. The partnership owns the building.

The Old Wayne County Building was constructed between 1897 and 1902 and received a National Register of Historic Places designation in 1975. Wayne County operations were moved in December 2009 from the building after the county purchased the Guardian Building.

Under terms of the sale agreement, all litigation between the county and partnership that transpired since the county left the building will be dropped.

Sheriff's Office offers free pre-hire physical ability test

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office will offer a pre-hire Physical Abilities Test from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 16, for men and women interested in working as officers in the county jails. The test, which is normally \$50, will be free that day and takes place at Cass Tech High School, 2501 Second Ave. in Detroit.

Those who pass the physical test will have the option that day of taking required written tests and submitting a job application to expedite the hiring process. The Sheriff's Office has more than 75 vacant officer positions in the jails.

New hires are paid a salary of \$28,284, a \$1,200 annual retention bonus, health care and other benefits.

Individuals who have met all of the necessary conditions may be eligible for Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) certification/licensure after hire.

Included on the test, which must be completed within five minutes, 35

seconds:

» Carrying a 40-pound weight a distance of 100 feet.

» Climbing up and down a four-step staircase 15 times.

» Running about 330 feet around six cones.

» Dragging a 165-pound dummy 45 feet.

Test applicants must be at least 18 years of age and bring a driver's license. A signed note from their doctor approving participation must also be presented at testing (a health screening form available at www.sheriffconnect.com).

In addition to successful completion of the physical test, applicants for officer positions in the Wayne County Jails must have a high school diploma or GED and be qualified to obtain a concealed pistol license. Those with felony convictions will not be considered.

More information about the job openings can be found at www.sheriffconnect.com or waynecounty.com/phr/job-postings.htm or by calling 313-224-5901.

Thrivent Financial hosts free economic update

Thrivent Financial is hosting six free economic updates in Wayne, Westland and Canton

during August.

The events will be presented by Jeffrey S. Long, financial consultant with the Huron Valley Group with Thrivent Financial in Plymouth. They will offer updates about changes in the economy and markets, what they mean to your financial strategy and will help answer many important questions including:

» Should I react to economic headlines?
» Could my investments be doing better?

» Is it time to change my financial strategy?

"Paying attention to financial and economic news is important," Long said. "However, we want to help people understand how recent events can impact them and how they can keep their financial strategy on course."

The 60-minute programs are set for:

» 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne.

» 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Road, Belleville.

» 1 and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at Huron Valley Lutheran High School library, 33740 Cowan, Westland.

» 2 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Summit on the Park, Arts 2 Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

The events are free. To register, call Matt Crenshaw or Lisa Kitz at 734-455-9272 or email huronvalleygroup@thrivent.com.

Complimentary refreshments will be served during each event.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Please include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Mail, fax or email information to: *Observer*, Community Calendar, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Fax: 313-223-4650. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

LIVONIA FARMERS MARKETS

Time/date: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 11.
Location: Wilson Barn, 29350 W. Chicago St., Livonia.
Details: Local vendors, local produce and crafts.
Contact: www.wilsonbarn.us.

WESTLAND FARMERS MARKET

Time/Date: 3-7 p.m. Thursdays.
Location: In the parking lot of Westland City Hall on Ford west of Wayne Road.

Details: Shoppers will find fresh produce and plants, baked breads and desserts, honey, jams and jellies, cake pops, sausage and jerky, soaps, candles, jewelry, sun catchers and more. The market also features weekly entertainment.
Contact: For more information, call the Westland Chamber of Commerce at 734-326-7222.

WAYNE FARMERS MARKET

Time/Date: 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays.

Location: Goudy Park behind Wayne City Hall on Wayne Road, north of Michigan Avenue.

Details: More than 25 vendors provide Michigan-made and Michigan-grown products and live music.
Contact: Christine at 734-786-8401 or market@growing-hope.net.

GHANA SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Time/date: Week of Aug. 9.

Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: St. Edith Parish is collecting the following new/gently used items to help school children in Ghana, West Africa: K-8 reading books (not textbooks), backpacks, exercise pads/notebooks, pens, pencils, markers, handheld pencil sharpeners, math sets in good condition, summer clothes (children's size) children's shoes and sandals (male and female), sports jerseys, PCs (nothing big and bulky) items will be collected the weekend of Aug. 9. There will be a drop off box in the Gathering Area for donations after Mass. Donations may also be dropped off during the week at the Parish Office. For larger donations, schedule a pickup time by calling the Parish Office.
Contact: 734-464-1222.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE
Times/dates: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 8-9.
Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia.
Details: Huge selection of variety of goods from home and books to sports and equipment. Bag Sale starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Baked goods including cookies, muffins, small breads.
Contact: 421-7249.

MOM-2-MOM SALE AND OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9.

Location: Tiny Tots Preschool, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia.
Details: Admission is \$1 for those arriving from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$2 for early birds arriving at 8:30 a.m. Table space is available. Visit tinytotslivonia.org for registration information.
Contact: Martha Rotter, 464-0211 ext. 208.

GOLF OUTING

Time/Date: 7:15 a.m. Aug. 9.

Location: Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier, Plymouth.

Details: The Lyman Foundation is accepting registrations for its 35th annual Golf Outing benefiting Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City. There will be starts at 7:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.
Contact: Register at www.lymanfoundation.org.

FOOD PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 9.

Location: Holy Cross Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia.

Details: The cost is \$20 for a food preservation workshop, "Salsa Is not Just a Dance," is being offered in Livonia. You must pre-pay and pre-register. Learn how to can tomatoes and salsa. Each participant will go home with a food product.
Contact: Register at www.eventsonline.msu.edu or call 810-667-0341 for questions.

CRAFTERS WANTED

Date/Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11.

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

Details: St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women is looking for crafters for its Fall Craft Show. There are 70 tables available at a cost of \$25 each.
Contact: Call Mary at 734-425-4421 (vm #10) to obtain a table rental contact.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Time/date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18.

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: Hosted by the Women's Guild, this Holiday Bazaar will feature crafter tables with new handmade craft items to sell. Homemade baked goods, raffles and lunch during the day. Some tables available for rental.
Contact: 734-464-0476.

TUITION-FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Time/date: Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon sessions.

Location: 26141 Schoolcraft, Redford.

Details: The South Redford School District is offering a tuition-free preschool program, with the exception of a one-time only material fee of \$75, to all children who reside in south Redford for the 2014-15 school year. Children must be 4 by Sept. 1, 2014. The children attend three-hour classes, Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon sessions. The preschoolers participate in activities that are designed to encourage the development of readiness skills necessary for a successful kindergarten experience. Parents interested in more information may contact the Preschool Program teachers at 313-535-4000, ext. 1036.

PRESCHOOL SIGN-UPS

Location: Westland Free Methodist Preschool, 1421 S Venoy Rd, Westland

Details: The preschool is currently enrolling for classes which begin in September. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee - a \$25 value. The Christian preschool offers classes for 3-4-year-old children, a theme based curriculum taught by certified teachers and all the basic preschool academic skills as well as a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.
Contact: For more information, schedule a tour or enroll, call 734-728-3559 or send an email to wfmfpreschool@yahoo.com.

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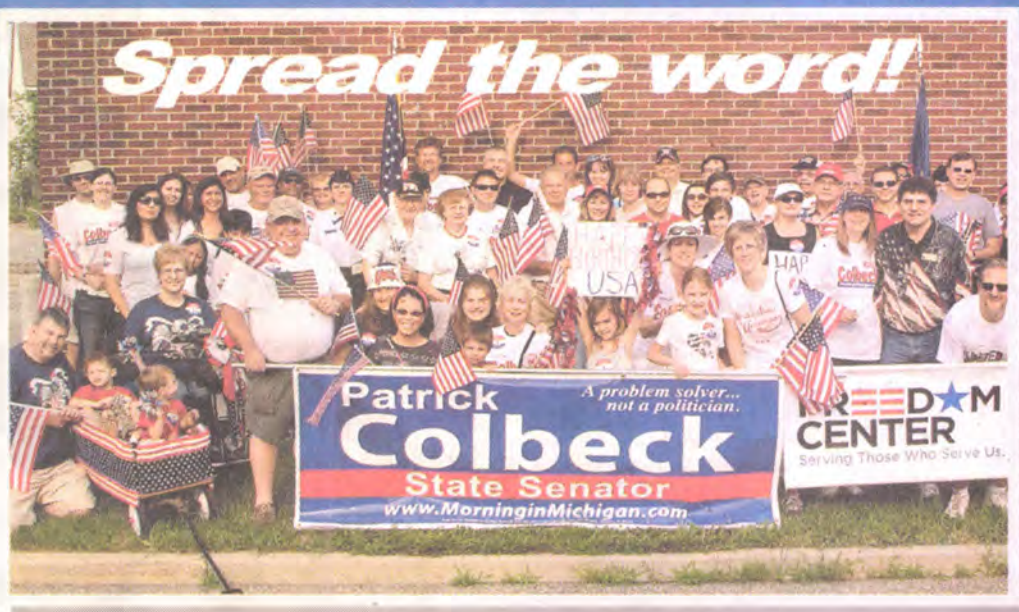
ABOUT PATRICK

Patrick Colbeck is currently serving his first term in elected office as the State Senator for MI's 7th District which will include Livonia starting in 2014 along with the communities of Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Wayne. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan with Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Aerospace Engineering as well as a graduate of the International Space University in Strasbourg, France. Included among his over 20 years of engineering and management work in a variety of industries, he has worked on systems for the International Space Station and instructed students at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Space Camp.

While currently residents of Canton, Patrick and his wife, Angie, have deep roots in Livonia. Patrick attended Hoover Elementary School and Holmes Junior High School before graduating from Catholic Central High School. His parents were founding members of St. Colette. His late mother, Barbara, was the organist at St. Colette and later the music minister at St. Edith. His dad, Bill, was an active member of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce of which Patrick is a member. Angie attended Dickinson Junior High School and graduated from Stevenson High School. Angie and Patrick's parents live in Livonia.



Patrick received the Good Citizenship Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution while in high school



"Like many of you, I dearly love our country but I am very disappointed by our current political environment. I am disheartened by attempts to transform our nation from one of a free and independent people to one of increasing government control and dependence. How do we change this course? Well, my wife Angie and I left the comfort of a relatively obscure private life and successful small business to change the direction of the state we love. With your support, we have made a significant difference by focusing on actual solutions to the problems that we face rather than politics as usual. I am working hard to faithfully represent your voice in Lansing. I will need your vote to continue to provide your voice of common sense."

- Senator Patrick Colbeck



Grand Opening of the MI Freedom Center November 11, 2011

| JOBS | EDUCATION | SENIORS | VETERANS | ROADS | PUBLIC SAFETY |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Did you know that there are ~26,000 job openings right now within commuting distance of the 7th Senate District? See MorninginMichigan.com for link to job openings | Total funding per pupil by state for Livonia school district has increased by \$1,450 . Over \$1.9B has been dedicated to protect the public school retirement system alone. See MorninginMichigan.com for school funding facts | Senator Colbeck has been awarded The Senior Alliance Legislator of the Year Award for his work to safeguard our seniors. He voted NO on the Senior Pension Tax. | In 2011, Senator Colbeck co-founded the Michigan Freedom Center to "serve those who serve us". As Chairman of MI Veterans Agency budget, he has driven performance improvements in veterans services. | Did you know Michigan already spends 53% more per mile for our roads than the national average? We can fix our roads without raising taxes. See MorninginMichigan.com for plan to fix roads | As Chairman of the State Police budget, Senator Colbeck added more police, more truck weight enforcement officers, and grants to keep our schools safe. |

ENDORSEMENTS

- The Detroit News
- Observer & Eccentric Media
- Right to Life of Michigan
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Small Business Assoc. of MI
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Metropolitan Association of REALTORS
- REALTORS PAC of Michigan
- Associated Builders and Contractors PAC
- Medical Doctors PAC
- Docs4PatientCare
- Police Officers Assoc. of MI
- Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association
- National Rifle Association
- Citizens for Traditional Values
- The Madison Project
- Bruce Patterson, Former State Senator, Canton
- Laura Toy, Former State Senator, Livonia
- Jack Kirksey, Mayor of Livonia
- Astronaut Jack Lousma

MORE INFORMATION

Elect Patrick Colbeck to be your state senator and you will be among the best informed citizens in the state. His Senate website at MorninginMichigan.com contains links not only to his editorials, press releases, office hours, and floor speeches, it also provides links to what he calls the "Solution Center" and "Data Center". His Senator Patrick Colbeck Facebook® page provides almost daily updates on events, issues, and votes happening in Lansing and throughout the district.

Colbeck's views on the issues

JOBS "I started my public service in January 2011 at a time when Michigan was suffering from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Our unemployment had skyrocketed and our auto industry was struggling. Many referred to this downturn as our "lost decade". During that decade, Michigan was the only state in the nation to have lost population. Times are better now. *Michigan is coming back!* I am happy to report that Michigan has created over 250,000 private sector jobs. In fact, there are now ~ 26,000 job openings within a 30 mile commute of the 7th Senate District. Our population is growing again and our youth no longer have to seek employment in other states."

HEALTHCARE "As one of a handful of legislators who have actually read the federal Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare), it is obvious that this act is neither affordable nor caring. Putting 159 new organizations between a doctor and patient does not lower costs or improve care. This is why I strongly opposed Obamacare and applied my experience in the healthcare and IT industries to develop a free market alternative called "Patient-Centered Care". This approach has been described by Forbes.com as "Two parts Marcus Welby, M.D. and one part Steve Jobs". Not only would this solution lower costs, it would also improve care by providing patients of all income levels access to life-saving, preventive care. My solution keeps healthcare decisions between you and your doctor. See MorninginMichigan.com for more info."



Sharing biography of Neil Armstrong with students

profession has been reduced to following a script rather than allowing teachers to tailor instruction to suit the individual student. Furthermore, we have no objective proof that these new standards will actually improve student performance. That is why I have been the most outspoken opponent of Common Core in the Senate and will continue to be if re-elected."

SENIORS "As a kid I was blessed to grow up surrounded by both sets of grandparents. They helped teach me the value of hard work, integrity and responsibility. I have worked hard to repay their loving guidance with my public service. During the past four years, I have passed legislation to protect seniors in nursing homes and have been an outspoken advocate for retirees including my passionate **NO** vote on the Senior Pension Tax (Senate Journal #41, Roll Call Vote #170 on HB 4361, May 12, 2011). My opposition to Obamacare is driven in large part by the federal government's push to cut Medicare services for the elderly by over \$700B in order to pay for other services such as the expansion of Medicaid. I am committed to caring for those who spent their entire lives working to leave this nation stronger than they found it and that is why I am honored to have received The Senior Alliance Legislator of the Year award for my work on behalf of all of the seniors right here in our community."

VETERANS "Serving those who serve us is a passion of mine. Active duty, veterans and their families have sacrificed much to preserve our freedom. And it is our duty to honor those sacrifices. As the chairman of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget, we brought Michigan from one of the worst performing states for veteran benefit claims processing, to 3rd in the nation. Public service does not always require legislation. In 2011, I teamed up with a group of service-minded veterans to co-found the MI Freedom Center at Detroit Metro Airport. To date, the MI Freedom Center has welcomed over 90,000 active service personnel, veterans and their families with open arms during their travels."



Astronaut Jack Lousma, Angie, and I

EDUCATION "Like many parents, my parents were always passionate about ensuring that their kids received a quality education. A quality education is a team effort that requires hard work from students, parents and teachers. In Michigan, we helped students and parents by expanding dual enrollment programs that significantly lower the cost of higher education. We also changed teacher tenure law to reward educators on the basis of performance not length of service. We have gone on to provide over \$1B in additional funding during my tenure, but we still need to remove roadblocks to innovation like Common Core. The Common Core Standards Initiative adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010 not only micromanages our state standards and assessments, it also micromanages the classroom by mandating not only what kids are taught but also how they are taught. The teaching

YOUTH SOCCER

Salem's Rodriguez is ready for world

15-year-old Canton girl selected to play for U.S. U17 team in South Korea

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Isabel Rodriguez's out-of-this-world soccer skills are about to take her halfway around the globe.

Earlier this week the 15-year-old sophomore-to-be at Salem High School found out via email that she was selected to play for the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team that will be traveling to Mokpo, South Korea, later this month.

Rodriguez, who plays for the elite Michigan Hawks Soccer Club, was one of just

20 players chosen from a roster of 30 girls who were invited to participate in a week-long U17 Women's National Team training camp at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif., in June.

"I was actually on my way to soccer practice when I found out I had been selected, and I was so excited that I was jumping up and down in the car," Rodriguez said. "It's such an honor to be chosen. I'm looking forward to playing in South Korea and playing against girls from other coun-

See RODRIGUEZ, Page B2



Isabel Rodriguez played so well in an invitation-only United States National U17 soccer camp in California earlier this summer that she was selected for a national team that will travel to South Korea later this month.

PICK-UP BASKETBALL



Players were drenched in sunshine as they participated in a pick-up basketball game earlier this week at Canton's Freedom Park. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT

FRESH-AIR HOOPS

There's nothing quite like the outdoor game for many summertime players

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The vast ceiling that covered the basketball court Canton resident Juan Sanders launched high-arching jump shots from early Wednesday evening was sky blue and highlighted by puffy, popcorn-shaped clouds.

The court's air-conditioning unit was set at a comfortable level thanks to a cool breeze that blew off and on out of the west.

The concrete surface Sanders rhythmically pounded his ball on was faded and streaked with vein-like cracks, and one of the court's nets was frayed and missing a few strands of twine, but the Plymouth High School graduate wasn't complaining.

Sanders was outdoors — on this particular mid-summer night at Canton's Freedom Park — shooting hoops and having a blast.

"I love playing outdoors — it's peaceful, quiet, the sun's shining," said Sanders, flashing a what-more-could-you-want? smile. "The competition is good out here and I get to play with my buddies. I'll only play indoors during the summertime once in a blue moon. I prefer being outdoors, in the fresh air."

Judging by the number of outdoor pick-up basketball games

See HOOPS, Page B2



Eighth-graders-to-be Ryan Berger (left) and Nick Downs go for a rebound during a recent pick-up basketball game at Freedom Park.

RUNNING/CYCLING

'Down Under' next stop for GC duathlete

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

It hasn't taken long for Garden City resident Myla Snyder to get the hang of duathlon — a demanding sport that combines long-distance running and cycling.

On July 19 in St. Paul, Minn., in just her second year as a duathlon competitor, the 50-year-old Snyder earned a berth on Team USA, which will be competing in the 2015 Duathlon World Championships, which will be hosted by Australia.

Needing a top-18 placing to earn a spot, Snyder covered the nearly 36-kilometer course in 1 hour, 30 minutes and 20 seconds, which was six minutes faster than her previous best time.

Duathlons require a 4.6-kilometer run followed by a 31.2-kilometer bike ride. Courses are generally stocked with plenty of hills.

Snyder, who owns Far East Trading Company in the Westland Mall, trains diligently for duathlon competitions in Hines Park and in local fitness centers.

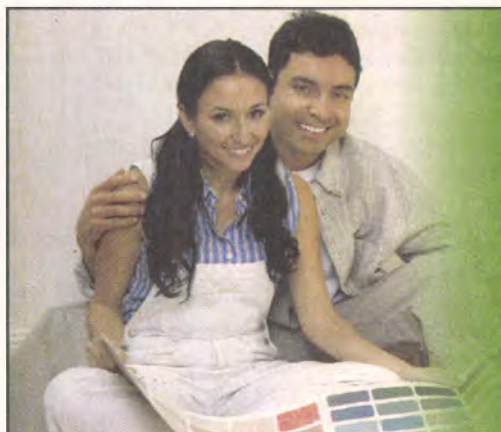
She competed in the 2014 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain, after qualifying for Team USA in Tucson, AZ in her debut effort in the sport.

Snyder is currently seeking sponsors for her trip to Australia, given the high costs the trip will entail. To contact her, send an e-mail to: mayang888@comcast.net.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Garden City resident Myla Snyder has earned a spot on the USA's 2015 Duathlon National Team, which will be competing in Australia.



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HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

that materialize every summer night throughout Observerland, Sanders is not alone when it comes to his passion for the fresh-air version of the sport.

Although a proliferation of AAU-related basketball activities has pulled many high school-aged hoops junkies into indoor, organized settings, the outdoor game still flourishes thanks in part to the atmosphere only Mother Nature can engineer.

"I like the surroundings here," said Ed Moody, as he motioned toward the ample foliage that borders the well-kept courts at Redford



With only the winning team's players guaranteed a berth in the following game, the competition at Redford Township's Bell Creek Park is intense. ED WRIGHT

Township's Bell Creek Park. "I try to get out here every night — or at least every other night —

after work to unwind and play some ball with my friends. "I mean, the wind's

blowing, people walking by stop and watch you play a little bit, the competition is good. There's not much else I'd rather be doing in the summer."

The structure of the games that unfolded during one recent mid-week night at Bell Creek was impressively sound. The action was highlighted by crisp passing, air-tight defense and effort-powered rebounding.

Moody said there's a reason why ball-hogging and lazy defense are rare: the win-or-sit scenario each player faces.

"When you get 20 or 30 guys out here like we have tonight, if you don't win the game, you may be sitting and watching for an hour," he said, smiling. "So most of the guys play hard, just like

they would in a high school game. We still have fun, but it's serious, too."

Regular area outdoor players insist that conflicts are rare at the parks they frequent during the summer — even though games are run under the call-your-own-fouls format.

"Honestly, we try not to even call fouls, unless it's really bad," said Hezekiah Johnson, a Canton resident who enjoys playing every chance he gets at Freedom Park and Griffin Park, which is located just a long jump shot away north on Sheldon Road. "Sometimes when the game gets intense and only the winner stays on, yeah, there are some disagreements, but you never see fights. Everybody is

pretty cool out here."

While the refreshing summer weather is usually a benefit to playing outdoors, it can also be a drawback, Johnson said — but only if you let it.

"Obviously, when the wind is blowing pretty hard, you're not going to take as many jump shots," he said. "But the conditions can actually help your game because it makes you focus more."

"If you can make a 20-foot jumper out here with the wind blowing, you can definitely make one indoors with no weather to worry about."

Johnson then took one dribble on the Freedom Park court and released a sweet rainbow jumper that settled softly into the nylon twine.

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RODRIGUEZ

Continued from Page B1

tries."

The daughter of Rob and Audrey, Rodriguez started playing soccer when she was 5.

It wasn't long before she started kicking it into high gear, so to speak.

After a standout career with the Canton Celtic program, she joined the Hawks prior to her U10 season and has sparked on the pitch ever since.

"I loved soccer right away," said Rodriguez, who earned a 4.0 grade-point average during her freshman year at Salem. "I like that it's not a sitting sport; you're always moving, there's always action."

The left-footed Rodriguez has played every position under the sun during her youth career, but she'll primarily be a defender once she pulls on her red, white and blue uniform in Mopko.

"Since I'm left-footed, I usually play on the left side of the field," she



Salem sophomore-to-be Isabel Rodriguez (left) has excelled for the Michigan Hawks since her U10 season.

said. "I usually play midfield for the Hawks, but I'm happy wherever the coach puts me."

Rodriguez's ultimate soccer-related goals include making the national team that will compete in the U17 2016 World Cup and playing collegiate soccer.

Due to her affiliation with the Hawks, Rodriguez was not allowed to

play for Salem's girls soccer program this past spring, but she was far from idle. Rodriguez earned all-state accolades while running the 400-meter dash for the Rocks' track-and-field team.

In the winter she plays point guard for Salem's basketball program.

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"I usually play midfield for the Hawks, but I'm happy wherever the coach puts me."

ISABEL RODRIGUEZ,
Salem sophomore-to-be

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CITY OF WESTLAND - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
PROGRAM STATUS AND SUBMISSION OF THE CAPER
(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

The City of Westland will hold a public hearing on the status of CDBG and HOME programs, year ended June 30, 2014, Westland Housing Commission, August 19, 2014, 6:30 p.m., 32715 Dorsey, Westland. Draft CAPER available for comment August 15 - September 12, 2014. Submit written comments to: Department of Housing & Community Development, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI.

| CDBG FUNDS | Status | Amount |
|---|------------------|---------------------|
| Project | | |
| CDBG Administration | Annual, Complete | \$198,008 |
| Housing Rehabilitation | Annual, Ongoing | \$92,633 |
| Senior Programs | Annual, Complete | \$155,000 |
| First Step | Annual, Complete | \$3,500 |
| Wayne County Family Center | Complete | \$2,000 |
| City Projects/Friendship Center Improvement | Complete | \$19,415 |
| City Projects/Dorsey Center Move | Ongoing | \$1,155 |
| Community Resource Officer | Annual, Complete | \$116,000 |
| Outreach Ordinance/Code Compliance Officer | Annual, Complete | \$105,000 |
| Samuel B. Ware Community Center | Annual, Ongoing | \$13,990 |
| NSP - Acquisition/Demolition | Ongoing | \$134,027 |
| Norway Infrastructure | Complete | \$87,830 |
| NSP3 Family Self-Sufficiency | Ongoing | \$540 |
| TOTAL CDBG EXPENDITURES | | \$929,099.00 |
| HOME FUNDS | | |
| HOME Administration | Annual Complete | \$30,994 |
| Comm. Housing Devt. Organization (CHDO) | Ongoing | \$112,505 |
| Homebuyer Program | Ongoing | \$81,000 |
| NSP - Acquisition/Renovation | Ongoing | \$131,616 |
| HOME Housing Rehabilitation (Limited) | Ongoing | \$114,928 |
| TOTAL HOME EXPENDITURES | | \$471,043.00 |

CDBG program income is \$30,104. HOME program income is \$142,225. Financial data is subject to reconciliation and audit adjustments. The City of Westland will submit the CAPER to the Detroit HUD Office on September 25, 2014.

William R. Wild, Mayor
Westland Observer and Eccentric

Publish August 3, 2014

GOLF

O&E men's golf tourney fast approaching

There's still time to register for popular two-day event

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

It's definitely going to take some work on Labor Day to earn the accolades and hardware that go along with winning the 2014 Observer & Eccentric Open golf tournament.

Featuring a unique two-day, two-course format, this year's annual O&E tourney — set for Sunday, Aug. 31, and Monday, Sept. 1 — is expected to attract many of the top golfers in the area, including two-time champion Dan Longeway.

Among the assets that set the annual O&E event apart from others is that the 36-hole competition is played on two separate Livonia courses: Fox

Creek on Sunday and Whispering Willows on Monday.

"A lot of tournaments use a two-day format, but not many play on a different course each day," said Paul Worley, the head professional at Whispering Willows. "I think the players like the two-course format. It gives them a little variety."

Worley said Labor Day weekend has proven to be a popular time slot for the long-time event.

"In the past, we've held it in August, September and October, but Labor Day weekend seems to draw the most golfers," Worley said.

"We've held it on Labor Day Weekend the past four or five

years and we've drawn 80 to 90 golfers each year."

The tournament's entry fee is \$95. Registration forms can be found at golflivonia.com or at Livonia golf courses.

The deadline for entries is Saturday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. The maximum size of the field is 120 golfers.

All participants must have a current USGA index and a maximum handicap of 20.

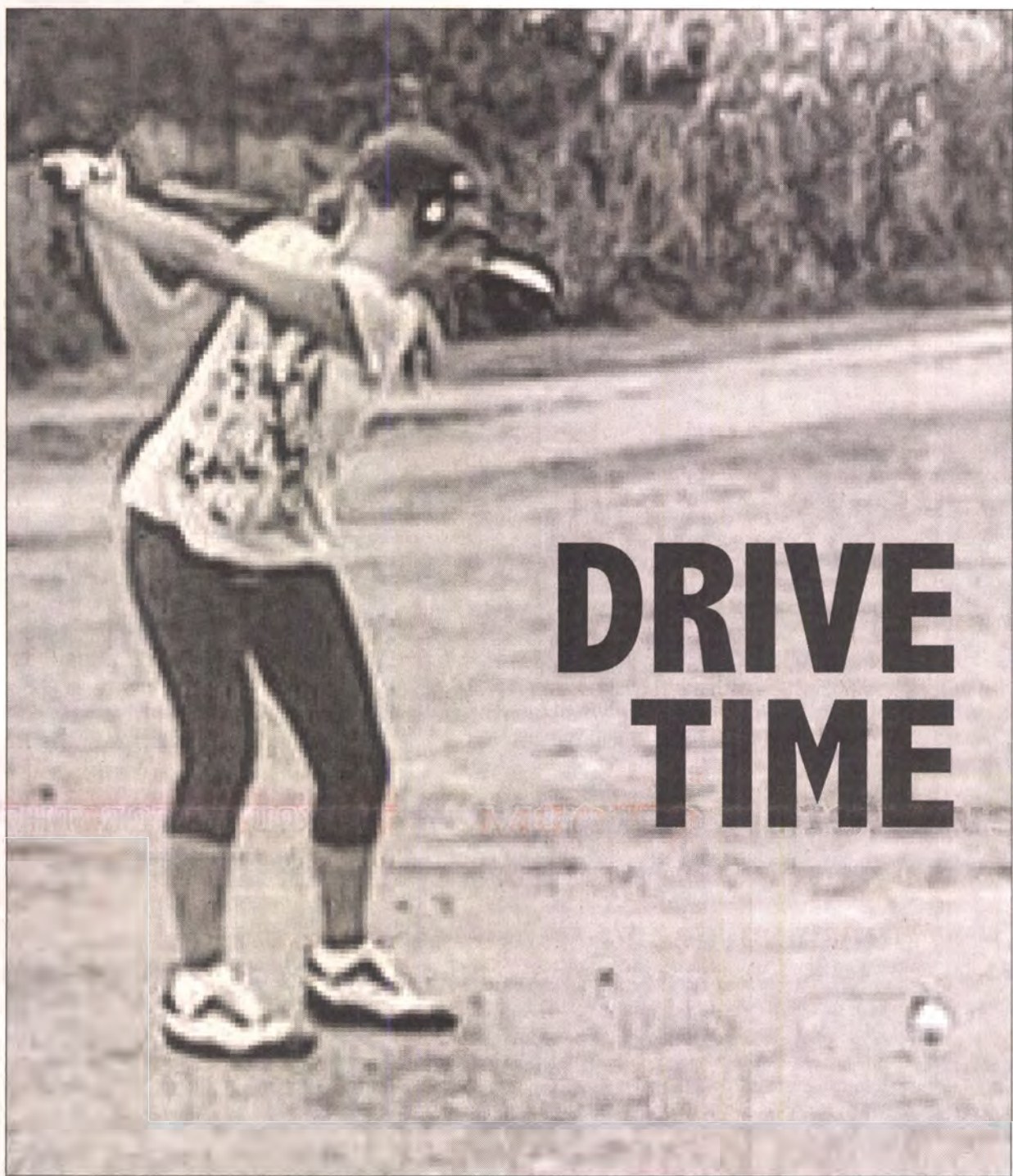
The tournament will have two flights: regular and 55-and-over. Golfers are allowed to enter just one of the two divisions.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Dan Longeway will be looking to defend his Observer & Eccentric golf title on Labor Day weekend. PAUL WORLEY

JUNIOR GOLF



Livonia resident Summer Horen prepares to launch a drive during Wednesday's Motor City Junior Golf Tournament at Whispering Willows Golf Course. PHOTOS BY PAUL WORLEY

Motor City Junior Golf Tournament brings out best in young linksters

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A longtime gem on the local junior golf circuit, Wednesday's 13th annual Motor City Junior Golf Tournament at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course featured several diamond-studded performances.

Shining the brightest in the 67-player field was 13-year-old Justin McCown of Sterling Heights, who carded a spectacular 18-hole round of 76 to earn the first-place trophy in the Boys 13 & 14 Division. McCown outstroked runner-up Justin Diegel of Livonia by eight shots.

Nick Lamothe (85) and Tyler German (89) also managed to break 90 in the division on a picture-perfect morning for golf.

"We had a good turnout this year," said Paul Worley, the head professional at Whispering Willows. "The tournament's numbers are up and down. Last year we had 35 players, but in previous years we've had over 80."

"It's mostly Livonia kids, but we get players from surrounding areas, too, like Farmington Hills, Canton, Northville and Novi."

In addition to providing an every-shot-counts tournament setting, the event included closest-to-the-pin and longest-drive competitions.

"The majority of the players who enter are 14 and under," Worthy said. "The older kids have a lot more going on plus there are a lot more tournaments now for them to play. They have to kind of pick and choose."

For the more-than-reasonable fee of \$49, players were able to take advantage of a junior golf program offered at Idyl Wyld Golf Course in Livonia along with the opportunity to play in Wednesday's tournament. Players were also given a chance to play a practice round at Whispering Willows.

The first-place finisher in each division received a trophy while the runner-ups all received medals.

Livonia resident Alex Westphal captured the Boys 15-17 title by turning in a stellar round of 84. Westphal outlasted fellow Livonian Sean Ebben, who placed second with a solid 88.

Ian Wood and Evan Westphal, both of Livonia, placed first and second, respectively, in the boys 12-and-under standings.

Northville resident Jonathan Zaremba won the closest-to-the-pin competition in the boys 15-17 age group while Livonia's Andrew Blazo walked away with the longest-drive prize.

McCown delivered the longest drive in his age group while Logan Lautenbach knocked down the closest-to-the-pin award in Boys 13 & 14 age group.

The 12-and-under boys longest-drive champion was Owen Michaels while Nathan Drabicki reeled in his age group's closest-to-the-pin award.

Girls winners

Dearborn resident Grace Fiscelli fired a stellar round of 88 to win the Girls 16 & 17 Division. Fiscelli also swept her division's closest-to-the-pin and longest-drive awards (she tied Northville's Victoria Zaremba in the longest-drive competition).

A pair of Livonians — Megan Gronau and Rachel Crachiola — placed one-two in the Girls 14 & 15 Division, respectively. Gronau shot an 87, nine shots lower than Crachiola. Kendall Payne earned the closest-to-the-pin and longest-drive awards.

Farmington Hills native Alana Jones won the Girls 12 & 13 Division with an 85 — the lowest round of the day for the girls golfers. Livonia's Summer Horen placed second with a 94.



Livonia resident Alex Westphal won the Boys 15-17 division with a round of 84.

2014 Motor City Junior Golf Results Wednesday at Whispering Willows
Boys 15-17
 84: Alex Westphal; 88: Sean Ebben; 89: Kyle Swider; 90: Jeremy Thompson; 92: Connor McQueen; 98: Ian Seach; 102: Andrew Blazo; 122: Jonathan Zaremba.
Boys 13 & 14
 76: Justin McCown; 84: Justin Diegel; 85: Nick Lamothe; 89: Tyler German; 95: Logan Welch; 98: Patrick Murray; Jacob Smith; 100: Ryan Lautenbach; 107: Ryan Khune; 113: Brian Stemen; 115: Jimmy Edney; 123: Patrick Zaremba; 125: Danny Collieran; 127: Josh Suzo; 130: Frank Pastula; 133: Brendan Fuciarelli; 144: Tyler Mussen; 145: Logan Lautenbach; 149: Zachary Bond; 150: Ezra Houghtby.
Boys 12-and-under
1st place: Ian Wood; **2nd place:** Evan Westphal; 90: Kyle Robertson; **4th place:** Owen Michaels; 93: Henry Shymanski; 96: Brent Haslem; 104: Brandon Stout; 108: Luke Beally; 109: Josh German, Nick Collins; 114: Nathan Blazo; 117: Daniel White; 118: Tyson Wisner; 127: Jacob Robertson; Nathan Drabicki; 152: Colin Nguyen.
Girls 16 & 17
 88: Grace Fiscelli; 98: Madeline Hintz; 105: Victoria Zaremba; 115: Marin McGowan; 118: Kristin McLean.
Girls 14 & 15
 87: Megan Gronau; 96: Rachel Crachiola; 97: Kristen Szabelski, Sofia Cueva; 98: Kendall Payne; 112: Emily Walters; 117: Katherine Collieran; 123: Zoe Fargoff.
Girls 12 & 13
 85: Alana Jones; 94: Summer Horen; 97: Anna Vento; 123: Sophia Wygonik, Amelia Carey.



Farmington Hills resident Alana Jones shot a sizzling round of 85 to win the Girls 12 & 13 Division by nine shots.



Bombers pack big punch

The South Farmington Blue Bombers won the 8-and-under division of the Summer Blast Tournament July 12-13 on the campus of Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. The team went 4-0 and won the championship game over Lake Orion, 15-0. The team members are (bottom row, from left) Andrew Van Akin, Owen Matteson, Joshua Brenner, Ben Kazan, (middle row) T.J. Calleja, Ryan Hanks, Noah Cahill, Rece Linn, Cameron Pettaway, Dylan Dinkins, (top row) coaches Rich Hanks, Joe Gjebic, Kurt Linn and Tom Brenner.

Churchill 'Meet the Team' night

Livonia Churchill High School's annual "Meet the Team" night will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. in the James P. Carli Auditorium. All athletes who plan on participating in at least one sport during the 2014-15 school year and at least one of their parents are asked to attend.

For more information, contact the Churchill athletic office at 734-744-2650, ext. 46117.

Plymouth YMCA offerings

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

The programs include leagues, clinics and instructional classes.

A girls volleyball league (ages 8-12) will include one practice during the week and games on Friday evenings. The season begins the week of Sept. 8. Registration is now open.

YMCA co-ed soccer leagues

are forming for children ages 3-11. The season will run from Sept. 8 through Oct. 25. There will be one practice per week and one game per week on Saturday mornings.

Programs are filled on a first come, first-served basis. Games and practices are held in the Plymouth-Canton area.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 734-386-0700.

GCYAA football accepting registrations

The Garden City Youth Athletic Association is still accepting player registrations for its flag football (6- and 7-year-olds), freshmen (8- and 9-year-olds) and junior varsity (10- and 11-year-olds) football teams. Practices begin July 30.

For more information, visit www.gcyaafootball.com. The GCYAA is a certified USA Football Heads Up tackling program.

CYO fall soccer registration

The St. Edith CYO athletic program is accepting registrations for its fall CYO soccer teams. Teams are open to girls entering grades 4-8 and boys entering grades 4-6 this fall.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

The program is open to those who attend St. Edith, St. Colette, St. Aidan and St. Kenneth parishes. There is also a program for boys and girls in kindergarten through third grade. For more information, contact Ron Wollenweber at stedithsoccer@gmail.com or visit www.stedithcyo.com.

Golf to help military veterans

Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton will participate Monday, Aug. 11, in the World's Largest Golf Outing to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

The event will involve thousands of golfers and hundreds of courses throughout the country.

The cost is \$200 for a foursome, \$100 for a twosome and \$50 for a single golfer. The fee includes a hat and golf ball with the WLGO logo, greens fee, shared cart, lunch, prizes and awards.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. There will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m., followed by an awards ceremony at 3 p.m.

Golfers can register at worldslargestgolfouting.com or fellowscreekgolf.com. For more information, call Fellows Creek at 734-728-1300.

Participants will have a

chance to win a trip for four to the Nike Campus, which will include all fittings for custom-fit Nike irons and a Nike hat-and-shirt package.

Michigan Generals softball tryouts

The Michigan Generals will have softball tryouts from 6-8 p.m. the following evenings at North Farmington:

16U: Tuesday, Aug. 12, and Tuesday, Aug. 19; 14U: Wednesday, Aug. 13, and Wednesday, Aug. 20; 12U: Thursday, Aug. 14; and Thursday, Aug. 21.

Pitchers and catchers should plan on staying a little longer. Registration begins at 5 p.m. each night.

Visit www.michigangenerals.com for a registration form and more information about the program.

Glenn volleyball fundraiser

John Glenn High School's volleyball team will have a golf fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 9, at Fox Hills Golf Course.

The cost is \$125 per player or \$500 per foursome. The cost includes 18 holes of golf, lunch on the turn, unlimited range balls, raffle ticket and steak dinner.

Check-in time is noon; play

begins at 1:30 p.m. Registration deadline is Sunday, Aug. 3.

For more information, contact Walker at 719-339-6159.

Precision Baseball tryouts

Tryouts for the Precision Patriots 11-U travel baseball team are scheduled from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, July 28, at Precision Baseball, 7835 Market Street, in Canton.

The Patriots will have winter indoor practices and training, league and tournament play. Players must be age 11 or younger May 1, 2015.

Players from surrounding areas are welcome. Any questions can be sent to precisionpatriots11u@gmail.com.

Churchill softball 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 (kmhugh12@yahoo.com).

TRYOUTS**Livonia Lakers 13U travel baseball**

The Livonia Lakers 13U travel baseball team will be holding tryouts for its 2015 season Aug. 9-10 from 2-4 p.m. each day at Bicentennial Park (field No. 7), which is located at 35400 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

Players from Livonia and surrounding areas are invited to attend. The Lakers, who were established in 2010, play approximately 20 games in the advanced division of the KVBSA in addition to four to six tournaments, some out of state.

The team starts winter workouts in January. The head coach is a former high school varsity baseball coach who strives to prepare the team's players to make them high school ready.

Players are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to check in. For more information, contact Aaron Rumberger at crrumberger@yahoo.com.

Redford Union boys soccer

Redford Union boys soccer tryouts will be held Aug. 13-15 from 5-7 p.m. at MacGowan Elementary School. Players must bring cleats, water and a completed physical. For more information, contact coach Jim Gibbs at 313-995-4234.

Physicals for students can be done at RU on Aug. 7 for \$10.

Livonia Churchill fall sports

Following are details for upcoming fall team tryouts for Livonia Churchill High School:

» Boys cross country: Aug. 13 from 9-11 a.m. at Cass Benton Park (off Hines Drive between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads). For more information, contact coach John McGreevy at jmcgreevy@yahoo.com.

» Girls cross country: Aug. 13 from 9-11 a.m. at Cass Benton Park. For more information, contact coach Sue Tatro at statigia2@livoniapublicschools.org or 734-744-2650.

» Football: Aug. 8, at Churchill football field. Workouts and conditioning will be held from 6-8 p.m. For more information, contact coach Bill Defillippo at wdefilli@livoniapublicschools.org or 734-812-3033.

» Girls golf: Aug. 15 at 3 p.m., Aug. 16 at 3 p.m., and Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. at Whispering Willows Golf Course. Bring golf equipment and be prepared to pay an \$8.50 green fee for each day of tryouts. For more information, contact coach Paul Worley at paulworley@pga.com or call 734-748-6250.

» Boys soccer: Aug. 13 at Churchill track at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact coach Matt Grod, mgrodzic@livoniapublicschools.org or call 734-744-2650.

» Girls swimming and diving: Aug. 13 at Churchill High pool from 7-10 a.m.. For more information, contact Coach Aaron Rieder, arieder@livoniapublicschools.org or call 734-744-2650.

» Boys tennis: Aug. 13 at Churchill tennis courts from

10 a.m. to noon. Bring water and be prepared for conditioning. For more information, contact coach John Webster at jwebster2@livoniapublicschools.org or call 734-788-8211.

» Girls volleyball: Aug. 13 at Churchill competitive gym from 3-6 p.m. For more information, contact coach Anna Gatt - amkgatt17@yahoo.com or 734-306-3793.

All athletes must have a valid physical on file (conducted after April 15, 2014) in order to tryout in addition to the LPS one-time participation fee of \$300.

Livonia City Thunder 15U travel baseball

The 15U Livonia City Thunder baseball team will be holding tryouts Saturday, Aug. 16 from 1-3 p.m. at Bicentennial Park (field No. 3). The team will be playing in seven to eight tournaments during the months of June and July, and possibly early August of 2015 after the high school baseball season is over.

Players are asked to arrive 15-30 minutes early for registration. For more information, email jakackifamily5@aol.com.

10U Livonia City Thunder travel baseball

The Livonia City Thunder travel baseball organization has announced the addition of a 10U team beginning with the 2015 season. The head coach of the 10U team will be Phil Henriksen.

Tryouts will take place at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3. All tryouts will be at Bicentennial field No. 5 in Livonia. Players are asked to arrive 15-30 minutes early for registration.

The season will be comprised of entry into the KVBSA (15-18 games) and into six to eight competitive weekend tournaments.

For more information, contact Henriksen at s8henriksen@yahoo.com.

11U Livonia Stars travel baseball

Head coach Matt Fournier will be holding tryouts for the 11U Livonia Stars travel baseball team Sunday, Aug. 3, and Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Livonia Franklin High School baseball field from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

This travel team will play games in the KVBSA and three or four tournaments.

Players can not turn 12 before May 1, 2015, in order to be eligible to sign up. For more information, contact Matt Fournier at mattfournier22@sbcglobal.net or at 734-968-0499.

15U Dearborn Heights Diamondbacks travel baseball

The Dearborn Heights Diamondbacks 15U travel team will be holding tryouts for the 2015 season on Aug. 9 from 6-8 p.m. and Aug. 10 from 2-3:30 p.m. The tryouts will be at Field of Dreams, which is located at 7506 Inkster Road (between Warren and Joy) in Dearborn Heights.

For more information, email rmstwins@yahoo.com or scramton@comcast.net.

JV pom girls get it done!

The Canton High School junior varsity pompon team took first in several categories at the recent Mid-American Pompon camp. The girls won the Showmanship Award and also took first in the Speed Learning, Original Routine and Most Improved categories. In the back row (from left) are coach Nikki Battaglia, Arianna Mattioli, Jenna Milewski, Brianna Tetlow, Danielle Guerra, Morgan Filmore, Saniya Kale, Alexis Faust, Nikki Christensen, Jessi Dawson and coach Brandee Amick. In the front row (from left) are Mallery Woodard, Claire Carrier, Nicole Piontek, Alia Jones, Grace Jurczak, Sydney Drechnowicz, Kendall Milo and Payton Rasmussen.

Storm surges to title

The Livonia Storm 13U girls fast-pitch softball won the Lakeshore Storm Summer Classic College Showcase Tournament in Holland July 25-27. The Storm was also the division champion of the Western Wayne County League Gold Division with a record of 10-1-1. The team's overall record this season was 55-17-6. Pictured are (top row from left) coaches Jeff Trujillo, Tom Churchill, Tim Olshanski and head coach Scott DeBoer, (middle row from left) Val Pfeiffer, Paige Hanson, Paige Ameal, Claire Hammons, Catherine Olshanski, Caitlin Brickey, (bottom row from left) Brooke Hanson, Tara Trujillo, Molly Padrock, Jennifer Ostrowski, Alison Peck and Alexis Churchill.

Wild about winning

The 14U Livonia Wild travel softball team was crowned division champion of the Western Wayne County League in addition to taking the title in the Livonia Wild Summer Slam 2014 Tournament. Pictured are (top row from left) Abe Vinitski (head coach), Jessica Zahm, Mikayla Ott, Kalya Krusinski, Megan Gronau, Natalie Bradford, Macey Reese, Kaitlyn Vinitski, Sue Dorr (assistant coach), Curt Ruppel (assistant coach), bottom row from left) Kendra Juliette, Lydia Ruppel, Miyah Smith, Bridget Folk, Maria Teodoro and Abby Daoust.

HEARTBEAT OF PLYMOUTH

Church festival reaches out with music, speakers, service projects

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Five churches are working together to stage the first Heartbeat of Plymouth Festival, an event organizers hope will entertain, educate and show that Christian denominations can work together.

"It started with a meeting at First Presbyterian. They were worried about how future leaders from church would be developed and that got me thinking," said Roger Cromwell, a member.

Cromwell suggested a Chautauqua-style event that would include music and speakers. The Chautauqua Institution, based in southwestern New York, started in the late 1800s offering classes to Sunday school teachers. Its course offerings quickly broadened to include academic subjects and later, the arts.

Other members liked the idea, but wanted to include lay persons from local churches in the planning. The event will run Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-10, in downtown Plymouth.

"We made a list of churches and came up with 17 in the area and started calling people we knew. We started with the Methodists and came to find out they were thinking of doing the same thing."

The Plymouth First United Methodist Church had offered a one-night Christian music concert, Heartbeats, for the past few years in Kellogg Park. The event included activities for children in addition to music.

"They (First Presbyterian) came to us and started talking about Chautauqua, an event



Lee Strobel will speak at the Penn Theatre, Aug. 9-10 during the Heartbeat of Plymouth event.

held in New York. They had been feeling a nudging to do something like this here," said Bill Strobridge, a member of Plymouth First United Methodist.

Working together

They and three other churches came together to work with First Presbyterian on the event. The churches formed a coalition called Faith Festival, which later was changed to Heartbeat of Plymouth. The group sponsored a Christmas carol sing-along last year in Kellogg Park and offered prayer sessions on the National Day of Prayer in May.

"It was quite obvious the Christian churches in Plymouth had not worked together in a lot of years and I think they were eager to do that," Cromwell said. "I'd like to see more churches involved. I'd like to see the festival grow."

Strobridge said the festival isn't meant to be "a love-in for Christians" but rather an op-



John Branyan brings his comedy to the event Aug. 9-10.

portunity for church members to invite friends, neighbors, family members and colleagues to hear Christian music and speakers.

Comedian John Branyan will entertain and author Lee Strobel will speak both days at the Penn Theatre. Free Christian music performances will be held in the park. Visitors also can participate in charity projects at The Gathering, across from the park.

Music as outreach

Jeremy Russell of Plymouth First United Methodist Church is in charge of the musical performances for the festival. "For us it was building on something that we already had been doing," he said, referring to the annual Heartbeat concert in the park. "But this is doing it in a way that is more inclusive and it's a better way to reach out to the community."

A mix of local and national musicians will perform Christian contemporary pop and



All Things New is among the bands scheduled to perform at Heartbeat of Plymouth.

HEARTBEAT OF PLYMOUTH FESTIVAL

What: First festival created by the Heartbeat of Plymouth, a coalition of five Plymouth churches, Church of the Nazarene, First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth First United Methodist Church, and Praise Baptist

When: Noon to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-10

Where: Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, The Gathering and the Penn Theatre

Details: Christian comedian John Branyan and author Lee Strobel will make presentations from noon to 3 p.m., both days at the Penn. Musicians Dale Hicks and Kyle Whipple will open the show. Tickets are \$5, available from the participating churches. Admission at the door unless the event sells out. Free Christian music concerts, 3:30-7:30 p.m. both days. Performers include Impact Band, Saltz N Beck, All Things New, Molly Hunt, Chosen, and Josh Wilson. Guests may participate in service projects by helping to package meals for Kids Against Hunger and by assisting The Salvation Army with backpacks for Backpacks for Education, 3:30-6 p.m. both days. Children's activities also run from 3:30-6 p.m. and will include face painting, balloon making, and other kid-friendly fun.

Contact: facebook.com/heartbeatofplymouth

rock over the two-day event. He said music is one of the most universal ways to "celebrate and share the gospel" with a wide variety of listeners.

"This is our first year with a

collection of churches coming together," he said. "We're excited whatever way God will shape this and use it. We're looking forward to it."

EASY WAYS FOR FAMILIES TO SAVE

The average family is always looking for ways to save a little bit of cash. While some efforts to save money may seem small and insignificant, it's beneficial to look at the big picture. By saving here and there where you can, the amount can really start to add up.

From eating out less often to selling unwanted items in a garage sale, there are many ways to keep more of your hard-earned money in your pocket. Here are several ideas for families who wish to be wiser with their dollars:

Cut back on entertainment

Do you have a cable package with all the bells and whistles? Is your entire family on a first-name basis at the local movie theater? Consider reducing your entertainment expenses and opt instead for less expensive, family-friendly activities, such as camping trips, hiking adventures or visiting a free art gallery. These activities are typically more enriching on a physical, intellectual and emotional level and increase family bonding — which is always a great thing.

Reap the rewards

From grocery store chains that offer gasoline discounts to clothing retailers who offer special member incentives, rewards programs provide truly great perks for families trying to save some dough. Even popular search engines are joining in on the fun of rewarding members for their loyalty. For example, when people sign in to their Microsoft account to search for anything on Bing.com, they can earn Bing Rewards credits. These credits can be redeemed for everything from airline miles, gas points, summer blockbuster entertainment and gift cards to major retailers and restaurants. On average, people can earn credits worth the equivalent of more than one coffee per month with

Bing Rewards.

Buy used

From clothing to cars, you can typically find a gently-used version of something you need at a much better price. Look for specialty stores that sell used video games for the little ones. Or, if you're in the market for furniture or unique gifts, the local antique dealer or flea market is a great place to check out.

Get rid of unused items

Encourage every family member to clean out their drawers, closets and spaces to get rid of things they no longer use. Start a yard sale or take the items to a consignment shop to earn extra cash. You can also donate the items to a local charity for a tax deduction. If you find that sentimental attachment keeps you holding on to too many items, ask yourself if the item has been used within the last six months. If it hasn't, that usually means it's time to let it go.

Travel smart

Adjusting to a budget doesn't mean you have to cut out the many joys of traveling. For a fun weekend getaway, look for camping sites at the local state park. If roughing it isn't your thing, there are many websites that showcase rooms or homes you can rent for vacation. These options are usually run by the homeowner and offer an affordable and unique alternative to a mundane and often overpriced hotel room.

Give homemade gifts

Family life comes with its many gift-giving opportunities — from birthdays to holidays to special life milestones. Because these occasions happen often, all of the purchases can add up. Put your creative juices to work and visit your local craft or hobby store for homemade gifts your family and friends will treasure. Whether it's a bauble-adorned



TECH-SAVVY SAVING

The Internet is a great resource when it comes to searching for good deals. Check out these ideas to put your time online to good use:

» Used goods

Shop online for auction or list sites to find the best deal for the goods your family needs. Some of the best finds for used goods online include cars, lawnmowers, musical instruments and appliances.

» Save by searching

Did you know you can earn credits towards free goods just by searching online? Visit www.bing.com/rewards to sign up, and start earning credits to put to use at your favorite retailers.

» Amazing apps

There are numerous apps that work hard to save you cash. Look for those that locate the cheapest prices on gas, coupons from local grocery chains and even those that help you to easily budget your finances.

picture frame, a dozen fresh-baked cookies or a dip mix in a jar, gifts made by hand show that you put time and thought into creating them. For a finishing touch, include a special hand-written note along with the gift. You can also give the gift of your service or time through acts such as babysitting, house sitting or taking care of a pet while a loved one is out of town.

Purchase hand-me-down items

For growing families, clothing purchases can add up fast, especially with multiple kids. While shopping, choose clothing in colors suitable for boys and girls, such as green, yellow and orange. You can then pass down this wardrobe to the next child in line, limiting the amount of money you spend on clothing they will quickly outgrow.

Be smart with utilities

Encouraging your family members to adopt small, money-saving practices can save

you big on monthly expenses. Simply turning off lights when they aren't in use, reducing shower times and using a clothesline are just a few ways to reduce overall household consumption. These activities also offer an important lesson to children about conservation and sustainable practices.

By adopting a few of these money-saving activities, you can see the savings pour in. To search for more great tips, visit www.Bing.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

Brewing their own: Craft beer is near in scenic Northville

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Some in Northville might not know it, but the Northville Winery is now making its own craft beer.

"We've been pouring our own beer for two months now and it's been really well received by our regulars," said Winery owner Carina Nelson, who owns it with her husband Rob Nelson.

They recently added the microbrewery license and a small distillery license. So far Rob has brewed up a variety of batches, including a Pale Ale, Amber, IPA and a Belgian Blonde. Carina said they are excited about this new opportunity.

"Our regular locals have been anticipating this and so were we," she said. "The response has been so good that also most every weekend we have been running out of our taps."

Located next to Parmenter's Cider Mill, Rob and Carina started making their own wine over five years ago and they have been expanding ever since. It's a true homemade, craft venture.

All of their grapes and apples are brought in from the west side of Michigan. They do all the pressing in the cider mill and fermenting and bottling in the winery building. Every bottle is filled and labeled by hand. The winery now produces

several alcoholic wines, hard cider flavors and now beer.

They now want to get the word out.

Each Friday they have acoustic music with new beer on tap to go along with the different wines and ciders, so it's a great opportunity to experience the new and Improved Northville Winery and Brewery.

They also want everyone to know the Cider Mill Wine Counter re-opens Aug. 30.

To learn more go to their web site at <http://thenorthvillewinery.com/index.html>. They are located at 714 Baseline Road.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com | 248-437-2011, Ext. 255



Rob and Carina Nelson have expanded the options at the Northville Winery.

Send school reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

BIRMINGHAM GROVES CLASS OF 1979

35-year reunion, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at O'Tooles Irish American Grill and Bar, Royal Oak. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more details, visit www.groves1979.com.

DEARBORN EDEL FORD 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.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS HASTON CLASSES OF 1963-64

Reunion organizers seek alumni, teachers and staff from 1963-64 and also friends from Brainard Elementary and Haston Jr. High who may have left school before the classes graduated at Haston. The main event is a dinner party Saturday, Sept. 20, at Andiamo Restaurant, Bloomfield Hills. Advance tickets are required. Email Diane Jones at dianejones816@gmail.com or by phone at 610-436-4915.

DETROIT CODY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964

50-year reunion runs 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, Sept. 19, at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty, Novi. For more information, contact Mike and Barb Kerby, 734-525-0546, kerby66bam@msn.com.

CLASSES OF 1950S AND 60S

Reunion set for 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Nankin Mills Pavilion, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, in Edward Hines Park. Music, memorabilia, door prizes, hot dogs, chips, bottled water, baseball caps, T-shirts, sweat shirts, tassels, beads, and music CDs will be available. Special parking area for classic cars. Bring chairs and pop-ups. No need to register. For more information,

contact Phil Varilone at 313-562-3579 or Pvarilone@wowway.com; Jerry Marszalek at 313-532-0134 or Jmarsares@sbcglobal.net.

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 Michigan-made 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.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL CLASS OF 1989

Reunion is planned for 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at One Under Bar & Grill, 35789 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$55 per person and include appetizers and open bar. To purchase tickets log on to Paypal using nancymcinnroy@gmail.com. For more information contact Tracy Rayburn-Miller or Nancy McInroy on Facebook or email steele37@yahoo.com or nedoff@yahoo.com.

LIVONIA STEVENSON CLASS OF 1974

40-year reunion, planned by Linda Armstrong, Kim Geiger and Jack Karbowski, 7 p.m. to midnight Nov. 29, Corsi's Restaurant, 27910 Seven Mile, Livonia. Includes dinner, photo booth, disc jockey, pizza. Reservations and payment with Karbowski, 313-530-9634;

PLYMOUTH CANTON AND SALEM CLASS OF 1984

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

REDFORD THURSTON CLASS OF 1969

45th reunion is set for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10, at Northville Hills Golf Club, 15565 Bay Hill Drive, Northville. Tickets are \$45 and includes dinner, dancing and cash bar. RSVP by Sept. 1. Contact Jill Serbay at jserbay@gmail.com for more information.

ROMULUS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1979

A 35-year reunion is planned for Aug. 16 at Best Western Gateway International (Airport), 9191 Wickham, Romulus. For more information, contact Duane Moffat at 248-426-6501 or Spectroemc2@gmail.com.

Guide to Employment

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

Help Wanted - General
CUSTODIAN PART-TIME
Our Lady of Victory Parish, Northville, seeks a part-time custodian (15-19 hrs/week) to provide janitorial services, minor maintenance duties, and set-up of facilities in and around the school building. Submit resume to: oloffice@olnorthville.net

Help Wanted - General
LABORERS
No experience required. Email resume: chrishjohson@trugreen.com Call: 313-218-8634 or apply at www.trugreenjobs.com **TRUGREEN** EOE/M/F/N/D/AA

Help Wanted - General
SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
For Ann Arbor book manufacturer. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Full-time 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri. Benefit package included. Please apply in person at 1350 North Main Street, Ann Arbor or email resume to: libraton@cushing-malloj.com All applications must be received by August 8, 2014

Help Wanted - General
Buddy's Pizza Opening in Novi!
We are now accepting applications for: ALL POSITIONS
Please apply bwn 2 & 4 PM at our Farmington Hills location: 31646 Northwestern Hwy
Please indicate "NOVI" employment on your application

Help Wanted - General
ACCOUNTANT
Established Real Estate Firm looking for Full-Time Accounting/Bookkeeper to join our team! Requirements: - Entrepreneurial mindset - Work well with a team - Maintain precise bookkeeping accuracy while meeting deadlines - Competitive salary
Send resume to: adam.oberki@gmail.com

Help Wanted - General
DRIVERS-LTL-Home Weekly
Ashley Distribution Services seeks
•LTL DRIVERS-UP to \$70-\$80K/1st YEAR- Ability to Enter Canada
**Multiple stop loads to retail stores
•Home Weekly
•Paid Vacation
•401K
•Med/Life/Dental
Class A CDL & at least 1 year current OTR exp. Clean MVR/PSR Reports. Call 1-800-837-2241 8AM to 4PM CST for info & app or email: jobs@ashleydistribution.com or www.ashleydistribution.com to apply under jobs.

Help Wanted - General
PAINTERS NEEDED
Must have Experience Call Dave: (734) 341-0632
PLUMBER
Applicants must have the following: •Licensed journeyman plumber with at least 3 yrs. field experience in •Residential/Commercial •Ability to solve problems & deal with supervisors & customers in a professional, courteous manner •Must own hand tools •Valid driver's license •Must have reliable transportation
Only qualified persons apply. Send resume and work history/experience to: resume_hr_department@yahoo.com

Help Wanted - General
ROUTE SALES REP
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Share your health history

Start a new tradition at your family reunion

Family reunions are a great opportunity to reconnect and turn relationships into strong, eternal ties. This year, try starting a new tradition — share your health history with your family.

Passing down family health history can be as important as sharing that heirloom recipe your great-grandmother shared with your grandmother. Many health conditions run in the family, so knowing the health history can help you or your loved ones take the right steps to stay well and get tested if you or they are at risk. Sharing a health history means having a conversation about your health conditions or those experienced by another family member. These conversations can transform a simple update about a loved one's well-being into a piece of prevention.

Why is sharing a health history important? Though marked with stories and laughter, family reunions are also a perfect time to talk about important matters that affect the health of your family members. As the number of those with common ailments such as obesity, heart disease and cancer continues to rise, other major conditions should not be overlooked, especially kidney disease.

There are usually no symptoms for early kidney disease, which is why it is sometimes called a "silent disease." The two primary causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood



Family reunions are a perfect time to talk about health history. GETTY IMAGES/BLEND IMAGES

pressure.

The National Kidney Disease Education Program is encouraging relatives at family reunions to talk about the connection between diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease. The program's Family Reunion Health Guide can help you plan large group or one-on-one conversations about kidney disease. You do not need to be a health care professional or expert to

start these important conversations — the guide has everything you need. To download or order a free copy, visit <http://nkdep.nih.gov/get-involved/talk-with-family.shtml?ref=MAT>.

Conversation tips

Talking about health history at family reunions can be challenging. Having a strategy for difficult conversations can help guide the discussion and make it a

meaningful and productive experience. Here are some tips for getting a one-on-one conversation started at your next family reunion:

1. Ask permission to have the conversation and try to choose a convenient time and comfortable environment. Look for a quiet, private place that is free from distractions.

2. Acknowledge that it is not always easy to face personal health prob-

lems. Try to be supportive and listen to their concerns.

3. Include personal stories in your health discussion. Try sharing your story on how you manage diabetes or high blood pressure to help put them at ease.

4. Offer to go with family members to their health care provider and encourage them to bring information about kidney disease, diabetes and high blood pressure to

appointments.

5. Follow up with family members in ways that work for them. Some relatives may prefer a phone call to an email or text message.

Make the kidney connection with a loved one and start a new, healthy tradition at your next family reunion. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MakeTheKidneyConnection>.

Courtesy of Family Features

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By Robert Half

Launching your first job search is both exciting and bewildering. You're eager to impress potential employers with your newly gotten experience and degree, but you're afraid that you might botch it. Here are some common job-search mistakes that trip up many new grads and tips for avoiding them.

Mistake No. 1: Neglecting your network

Although online searches, campus career centers and career fairs all have their place, harness the power of professional networking when searching for your first job. Consider joining your school's alumni network or a relevant professional association in your industry. Talk to as many people as you can neighbors, parents' friends, members of your house of worship about your career goals, especially if they're in the same or similar industries.

Mistake No. 2: Being sloppy or too clever

If you're serious about the job search, you will not only carefully edit your resume and cover letter, but you'll ask someone else to take a look, too. Read your documents out loud to make sure they sound professional; this is also an excellent way to catch mistakes. Often, one typo can get your application tossed off the short list.

It also doesn't pay to be cute or clever. Yes, your application materials might stand out that way, but not always in a good way. See Robert Half's "Resumania" column for other good advice and best practices.

Mistake No. 3: Sending out generic documents

When you come across that cool job post, don't make the rookie mistake of sending out a one-size-fits-all application. If

6 job-search mistakes to avoid when finding your first job



you want to land your first job, you have to do your homework.

Start by clicking through the company's website. Search for recent news articles. You may also want to like their Facebook page and follow their Twitter feed. Then, tailor your resume and cover letter to show how your skills and experience mesh with the job description, as well as the firm's corporate goals and culture.

Mistake No. 4: Being careless about your online persona

Just as you conduct a Web search on the people that you're interested in dating, potential employers will do a search on you. If you haven't already, sign up with LinkedIn, upload a professional-looking profile photo and write a polished summary.

You also need to comb through all your other online

profiles and social media posts, and scrub what you don't want hiring managers to see. Even though you may have set all the right privacy settings in the beginning, we all know how frequently they can change. It wouldn't hurt to give everything a thorough once-over as you start searching for your first job.

Mistake No. 5: Showing immaturity

After sending out personalized application materials, you'll start hearing back from a few companies. Don't give them reasons to doubt their judgment with unprofessional phone or email manners. That could cost you your first job opportunity.

Start by getting rid of the quirky or brusque voicemail message. Instead, record a pleasant and neutral one that's appropriate for a job search.

Don't forget to give your email the same treatment by

having an address that is a variation of your full name -- not a nickname, your hobby, an alternate persona or something worse. And if you have a quote or cute graphic automatically appended to the end of each email you send, you'll want to delete that or change it to just your contact information.

Mistake No. 6: Being unprepared for interviews

You got a call for an interview, but you can't just show up and expect to ace it. Now is the time to study. Anticipate the possible questions and rehearse the answers. Practice with someone to make sure your delivery is smooth, confident and on point. Realize that the interviewer may throw you oddball questions like, "If you could be any animal, which one would you be?"

Also keep in mind that

many preliminary interviews are now done by phone -- and that not all hiring managers will set up appointments before calling. Be prepared for job-related calls out of the blue. And when they do call, try to find a quiet location where you won't be interrupted.

You may wonder how to get a first job when there's so much competition for so few openings. By avoiding these common job-search mistakes, you'll greatly increase your chances of success and a long, fulfilling career. along.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
PT. Computer skills, previous office exp. a must & insurance billing exp. preferred for mental health clinic.

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Human Resource Assistant
Candidate will perform all basic administrative assistant duties as well as assist with payroll records, orientations, processing associate documents and maintaining HR databases.

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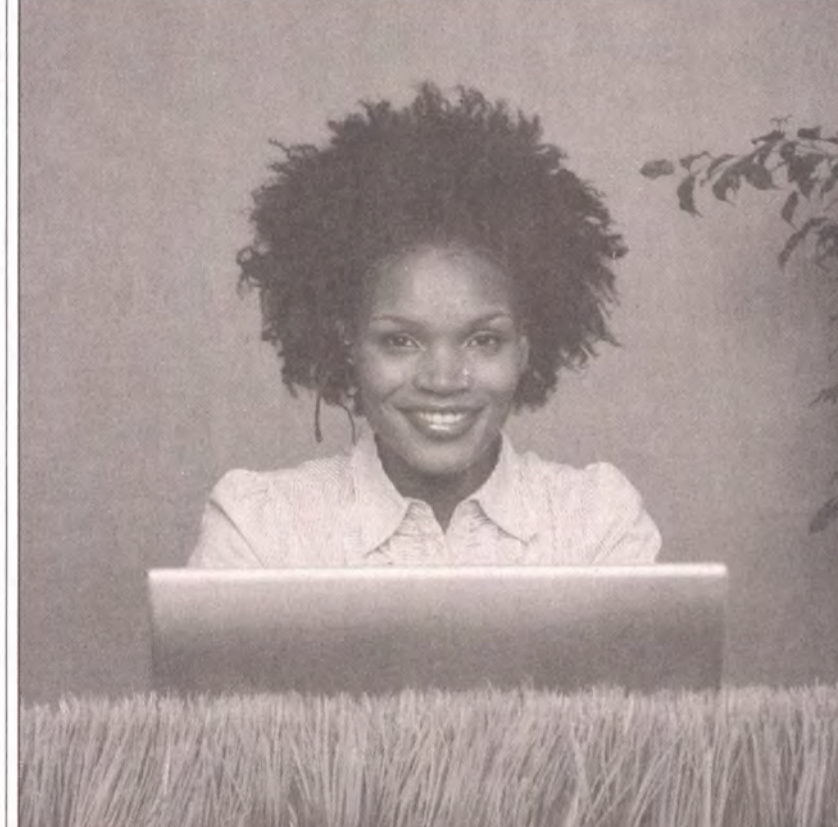
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