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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2014 • hometownlife.com



KID COOKS

Canned foods help keep it simple
Food, B10

Concert injury results in man's death

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A 55-year-old Westland man has died of injuries he suffered while attending a Hank Williams Jr. concert Sunday at DTE Energy Music Theatre.

Robert Kobe was pronounced dead at 12:04 p.m. Tuesday at McLaren Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, said the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. He was injured after reportedly being shoved by a 15-year-old Wayne teen

and striking his head on the concrete in the concourse area.

Robert Kobe's son Cory, also of Westland, has described his father's death as likely accidental — the result of the teen responding to a non-malicious shove from the older man. The teen, a family friend, was part of a group attending the concert that included Robert Kobe, a machinist.

He was in the outdoor theater's concourse area shortly

before 9 p.m. to hear country-western star Hank Williams Jr. when witnesses told police they saw the teen shove him to the ground. Kobe struck his head on concrete and was found lying in a pool of blood by police, the Sheriff's Office said.

Witnesses told police that the teen tried to flee and that bystanders detained him until deputies arrived. The youth spent Sunday night at Oakland County's Children's Village juvenile detention facility

before being released Monday by a juvenile court referee, a police news release said.

The youth probably fled out of fear after seeing blood gushing from Robert Kobe, his son said.

"From what I'm hearing from the detectives, this kid was just pale and terrified all night" when in custody, Cory Kobe said.

Cory Kobe added that his father liked having a few drinks with his music and enjoyed horseplay.

"Did you ever have an uncle who picks on you but doesn't mean to hurt you? That was my father," he said. "My father was double this kid's size. There's no way that kid's just going to come up and clock my dad" with a fatal shove, Cory Kobe said.

Gannett Michigan contributed to this story.

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Chuck Theile of South Lyon has typewriters dating back more than a century in his workshop in Wayne. ELLIOTT MC CLOUD

Wayne is home to typewriter repair business

By Elliott McCloud
Correspondent

Chuck Theile has been living in South Lyon, just north of the downtown district, since 1998. A Wayne County native, he moved for his wife, Cheryl, who was diagnosed with cancer.

"She wanted to be closer to her family," Theile said. "We found a place in South Lyon."

Cheryl passed away in 2000, but Chuck and their daughter, Kelly, stayed.

"We just fell in love with South Lyon," he said. "Kelly went through school there.

It's beautiful. It's home."

For South Lyon, Theile doesn't mind the hour drive to work.

He works for CCS Business Machines in Wayne. It's tucked in a neighborhood that looks like time forgot. That's fitting because CCS is where Theile practices a trade that time has also forgotten. He is one of the last working typewriter repairman.

"It's ironic," Theile said, laughing. "In the army, I wrote code for computers that were as big as semi-truck trailers.

"Then I leave and go

backwards into typewriter repair."

Theile left the army in 1972. His first job out was with Ford.

"I'd probably have a nice pension, but the idea of a trade that I could only use in a factory didn't sit right with me," he said.

With the help of the V.A., he was able to quit Ford and complete a two-year apprenticeship at Wyandotte Office Equipment.

There was no school for Chuck. He had to learn on the job.

See TYPEWRITER, Page A2

Sentencing set for woman convicted in fatal crash

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland woman is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 28 after being convicted of charges, including reckless driving causing death in a Feb. 17 fatal accident.

Ponya Lee, 28, was also convicted of manslaughter and malicious destruction of personal property, \$20,000 or more. The Wayne County Circuit Court jury did not find Lee guilty of the most serious charge, second-degree murder, which carries a possible sentence of up to life in prison.

Testimony in the case was that Lee was upset about her girlfriend ending their relationship. Lee drove off in the

girlfriend's 2014 Chevrolet Impala at a high rate of speed. The girlfriend testified that Lee called on a cell phone from the car to say she was going to deliberately wreck the car.

Lee disregarded a red light at the intersection of Wayne and Warren roads, broadsiding a vehicle driven by Ypsilanti nurse Patricia Nwaneri, 55. Nwaneri died at the hospital a short time after the collision.

A native of Nigeria, Nwaneri was the mother of four children. One of the children, Nkemjika Nwaneri, took the stand and testified about seeing his mother in the hospital shortly after she died.

Police had arrested Lee later the day of the accident on charges of assaulting her girlfriend and two other people, armed with a sword, along with destroying property in the

See SENTENCING, Page A2

Wayne residents sought for Neighborhood Watch

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The Wayne Police Department is looking for residents interested in participating in a Neighborhood Watch Program.

"There has been renewed interest in establishing Neighborhood Watch coming from the community policing meeting in Attwood Park," Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright said. "It sparked more people to become involved."

The idea is to establish citizen-driven groups around the city to participate in Neighborhood Watch. The first area police are working to organize is around Attwood Park.

"We will attend, but it is their meeting. We are helping, but they (residents) need to organize it," Wright said. "The officer will be there to share information, but the residents will have to do some of the heavy lifting."

The Neighborhood Watch Program will divide the city into geographical neighborhoods. Each neighborhood will

have a Neighborhood Watch Group consisting of citizens who live in that area, Sgt. Matthew Spunar said.

The Wayne Police Department will assist in the organization of the groups and provide a liaison between the neighborhood groups and the police department. Spunar noted that Wayne already has some active groups but is hoping to expand the Neighborhood Watch Program.

"Neighborhood Watch is a great way for citizens of a neighborhood to get to know each other, discuss similar concerns and issues, and work together to make their neighborhood a better place to live," Spunar said. "We are currently recruiting citizens to actively participate in this program and hope to have every neighborhood in the city represented."

For more information about the Neighborhood Watch Program, contact Spunar at 734-721-1414, ext. 1503,

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MDE: LPS had right to revoke charter contract

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia Public Schools had the right to revoke its contract with Hinoki International School, the charter school it authorized since 2010, and open a magnet school with the same Japanese immersion program, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Education said Monday.

"Regardless of what one thinks of the actions of the Livonia Public Schools' superintendent in this matter, the district was within its authority as an authorizer to close Hinoki and replace its only charter school with a magnet school," said Bill DiSessa, Communications, Michigan Department of Education.

The father of two former Hinoki students, Andrew Gillman, had

asked state Superintendent Mike Flanagan in a letter Friday to prevent LPS from authorizing any more charter schools, saying it acted unethically in its treatment of Hinoki. He said LPS should be added to Flanagan's list of 11 charter school authorizers at risk of suspension.

But DiSessa said since LPS is no longer an authorizer, it cannot be considered for addition to the list of at-risk authorizers, "even if its academic performance so warranted."

MAPSA calls for investigation

Meanwhile, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) is calling on Flanagan to immediately investigate LPS for what it calls unethical practices related to Hinoki.

"Hinoki had a suc-

cessful and growing program, expanding to 130 students in 2013-14. Faced with its own declining enrollment, the Livonia Public Schools decided to revoke Hinoki's charter this summer so that it could start its own Japanese immersion program — in essence, stealing away a successful charter school," a MAPSA news release said Monday.

"This was unethical and irresponsible authorizing on every level," MAPSA President Dan Quisenberry said in the release. "Last week, the Superintendent put 11 authorizers 'at risk of suspension' for their supposed deficiencies. The names on that list were surprising, but what's most surprising is that Livonia wasn't on the list. It should have been No. 1. This is far and away the worst au-

thorizer in the state." Quisenberry said that because the LPS district served as both authorizer and landlord for the Hinoki International School, it was easily able to close the school and steal the successful program away.

Quisenberry said members of the Michigan Council of Charter School authorizers (MCCSA), which includes all state university authorizers in Michigan, agree to follow a strict set of standards that exceed the provisions in state law. "Livonia never joined the Council, and hasn't followed any of the ethical standards and practices that Council members follow," Quisenberry said.

Michigan law allows for charter schools to be authorized by state universities, community

colleges, intermediate school districts and local school districts.

Contract revoked July 28

The Livonia school board voted July 28 to revoke its contract with Hinoki International School, saying the charter school defaulted on the contract by not having a facility and not enrolling students for fall 2014.

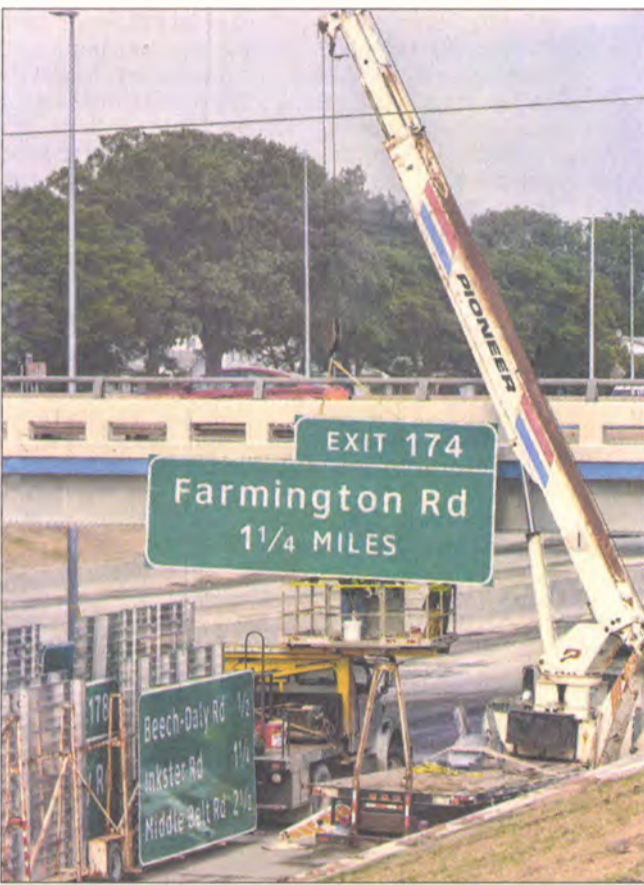
LPS is now offering its own K-6 Japanese Immersion Magnet Program in the same building in which Hinoki operated. The LPS board said it had serious concerns about Hinoki International School's ability to continue running its program because of a breakdown in the relationship between Hinoki's board and administration. LPS planned to admit as many as 75

schools-of-choice students in kindergarten through fourth grade. The program began last week.

Gillman in his letter said that LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa originally presented to the Hinoki school board a proposal to convert the charter-school program at Hinoki to a public-school program at LPS, but the Hinoki board rejected it after polling its stakeholders who wanted an additional year to consider the proposal.

"Liepa disregarded the decision of the legally appointed charter school board, and immediately proceeded to create a replacement school," he wrote.

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New freeway signs going up

Workers mount new signs on the eastbound lanes of I-96 at Levan Road. Crews continue reconstruction on the freeway, which will open no later than mid-October through Redford and Livonia. Michigan Department of Transportation officials say the freeway will open all at once and will not open in segments. The \$148 million project has left drivers seeking an alternate route since it closed in early April.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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- Oct. 22: **Bladder Dysfunction and Overactive Bladder**
Meadowbrook Country Club
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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

An air conditioning unit was reported stolen from a vacant home in the 8500 block of Haller on Aug. 15. A worker with a crew sent to clean the home noticed the unit was missing. Since it was his first time at the home, he said he didn't know when the air conditioning unit had been taken.

Larceny from a vehicle

On Aug. 15, a Detroit woman told police she moved her car to allow installation of a new sign at Spirit Halloween, 34532 Warren Road. Just over an hour later, she said she left the store and noticed items from the console strewn around her vehicle.

When she tried to start the car, she said it wouldn't start. Checking under the hood, she said the battery cables had been cut and the battery was missing.

» Also on Aug. 15 at the Spirit Halloween store, a Redford woman told police she left work and noticed the hood of her car was slightly open.

Inside the car, she said the contents of her glovebox and center console were thrown around the vehicle. She said 10 CDs were missing. The woman told police the car had been locked when she went in to work.

Stolen property

A lawnmower, a bicycle with training wheels and a basketball hoop were reported stolen from a home in the 28000 block of McDonald on Aug. 15. The owner told police the basketball hoop was in the street in front of her house, the bike was in the front yard and the lawn mower was on the west side of the house.

Vandalism

A resident in the 36000 block of Oregon told police Aug. 14 that overnight someone smashed several of her hanging flower pots, throwing them at her car. One was found hanging from the car door handle. The flower pots caused scratches to the woman's 2014 Ford Fusion.

» Overnight Aug. 17, a resident in the 35000 block of Booth told police someone punctured the rear tire on his 1996 Cadillac Seville while it was parked on the street. Also on Aug. 17, a resident in the 35000 block of Booth told police that someone slashed a tire on his 1999 Chevrolet Astro van while it was parked on the street overnight.

» A resident in the 35000 block of Schley told police she found the front tire of her 2003 Dodge Ram punctured while the vehicle was parked overnight in the driveway on the Linville side of the her property.

» On Aug. 17, a resident in the 30000 block of Gladys told police she found three tires slashed on a 2013 Ford Edge. She said the vehicle had been parked in the driveway. The resident said the vehicle belongs to her sister, but she was taking care of it and her sister's home.

» Three tires were reported slashed on a car and a camper parked in the 29000 block of Joy overnight Aug. 17.

» While responding to the vandalism call on Joy on Aug. 17, officers were told other vehicles in the neighborhood had been damaged. Patrolling the area, the officers found two tires slashed on a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado parked in the 8700 block of N. Beatrice.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny

A resident in the 5200 block of Fletcher told police Aug. 13 that he had removed an aluminum intra-cooler from his Chevrolet pickup truck while he was working on his vehicle the previous day. He said he sat the intra-cooler near his home when the repair wasn't completed.

The following day, he said the intra-cooler was sitting the yard when he left for work but it was gone when he returned home. It was valued at \$500.

Vandalism

Police were called to Burger King, 33540 Michigan Ave., Aug. 16 when the manager reported graffiti spray painted on the brick Dumpster enclosure. She said the graffiti wasn't there Aug. 13, but she had been off and didn't make the report until she returned. In the interim, an employee unsuccessfully tried to remove the graffiti.

Larceny

On Aug. 13, a representative from a property management company called police to report the air conditioning unit had been stolen from a home in the 5200 block of Hayes. He said he had last checked the vacant home on July 31 and the air conditioning unit was intact.

Vandalism

The lower half of a glass entry door at a medical building at 4020 Venoy was reported broken Aug. 11. A nurse who works at the location reported the damaged, estimated at \$1,000.

Suspicious circumstance

Just before 9:30 p.m. Aug. 17, a resident in the 34000 block of Stellwagen told police that he had just chased away two males who were breaking into his truck. He said the pair fled south toward Annapolis on 10-speed bicycles. Nothing was reported missing.

Attempted break-in

A resident at the Grey Berry Apartments, 3607 Hannan, told police Aug. 16 that she pulled into a parking space and noticed a window screen damaged and the frame bent on her first-floor unit.

Calling her mother, who was inside the apartment, the resident said nothing was amiss. The mother was unaware of the damaged screen/window frame.

Once inside, the daughter said she noticed her two cats were missing and called police. The officer checked the interior and exterior but found no evidence anyone had entered the apartment through the open window.

The officer did find paw prints on the window sill, indicating the cats hadn't been stolen but left through the open window.

The daughter told the officer she suspected her former boyfriend, a Garden City resident, had attempted the break-in since he was angry about an assault charge she had filed against him.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Thefts

A 39-year-old Waterford man who was a customer at Pandemonium, 1858 Middlebelt, said that he was trading cards at about 10 p.m. Aug. 5, when his cards were stolen.

He reported that he left the table for just a short time and when he returned, his cards were gone. He contacted the manager, who through his own investigation, was able to determine a suspect. The manager followed up by contacting Garden City Police.

Police planned to review surveillance tape. Both the customer and manager said that they want to prosecute.

» A resident in the 5900 block of Lathers reported Aug. 8 that after she left her purse in her unlocked car overnight, someone stole the purse.

It was gone when she went to her car in the morning. The woman said that the vehicle was parked in her driveway.

Suspended license

Garden City police arrested a 28-year-old Detroit man following a traffic stop at Ford and Central about 2 a.m. Aug. 19.

The officer followed the man after he observed him make an illegal left turn out of the Kmart parking lot onto Ford, west of Middlebelt.

The driver was only able to produce a Michigan identification card because his driver's license was suspended, police said. He was transported to the police station

where he was processed and cited for having a suspended license, for impeding traffic and for not having a vehicle registration. His car was impounded.

» A 48-year-old Detroit man was arrested about 1:30 a.m. Aug. 14 in the area of Inkster and Warren roads after police reportedly learned that he was driving with a suspended license. He could only produce a Michigan identification card and police could find no record for his license plate, police said. His driving record listed 21 current suspensions, police said.

» A Northville woman was arrested Aug. 12 at Warren Road and Garden after the police officer reportedly learned that she had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant out of 19th District Court in Dearborn.

The officer initiated the traffic stop because the woman reportedly disregarded a stop sign at northbound Garden at Warren Road. The driver admitted that she had a suspended license and said that she had a warrant for retail fraud, police said.

Property damage

A resident in the 33000 block of Kathryn reported Aug. 12 that someone shattered the driver's side window of her car with an unknown object while it was parked in her driveway.

The responding officer could collect no evidence at the scene.

By Sue Buck



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Storm damage tops \$210M in Wayne County



Hines Drive at Merriman was under water after torrential rain Aug. 11 that caused more than \$200 million damage in Wayne County.

Based on preliminary reports, damage estimates in Wayne County following the storms and flooding on Aug. 11, have been initially estimated at \$210 million with the conservative figure likely to go higher as reports continue to be processed by the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM).

The damage assessment total included most of the communities in Wayne County, excluding the City of Detroit.

"Clearly, the storms and flooding of Aug. 11, have caused extensive damage in much of Wayne County," DHSEM Director Timothy McGillivray said.

"We are getting many reports of damaged basements, electronics and other infrastructure."

Wayne County provided its information to the State of Michigan, as is required in disaster declarations.

The state is compiling the data gathered from the county and across the region to submit it to federal authorities.

It is hoped the damage assessment information will help get federal aid from FEMA and other agencies to assist with ongoing cleanup and restoration efforts.

"We provided the State of Michigan with our initial reports in a timely manner and like other disaster situations,

believe the damage assessment figure will likely rise," McGillivray said.

Following the torrential rains that sparked the widespread flooding the county across much of metro Detroit, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano declared a State of Emergency for Wayne County and its 43 com-

munities on Aug. 12.

Residents are encouraged to check the Wayne County website at www.waynecounty.com and Facebook page for updates from the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security, Department of Public Health and Department of Public Services.

Wayne County submits information in effort to help flood victims

Wayne County has provided information to the state regarding damage from the deluge that flooded parts of metro Detroit Aug. 11, as is required in disaster declarations.

The state will then compile the data gathered from the county and across the region, and submit it to federal authorities. It is hoped the damage assessment information will help get federal aid from FEMA and other agencies to assist with ongoing cleanup and restoration efforts.

What to do if you have flood damage:

- » Contact your insurance company to file a claim;

- » File a claim with your local unit of government. For example, Redford Township property owners should file a claim with the Redford

Township Water Department; Livonia residents should file a claim with the city's Department of Public Works.

- » Take pictures that capture the damage;
- » Save receipts documenting any expenses incurred;

Upon completion of preliminary damage assessments, Wayne County will be in communication with each municipality that reports that their residents experienced damages.

Safe tips for cleaning flooded basements and structures:

- » Never turn power on or off or use an electrical tool or appliance while standing in water.

- » When cleaning, never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners.

- » Stay away from downed power lines and anything that the power

lines might be touching.

Call 211 for additional assistance as needed.

For more information visit the Wayne County website waynecounty.com.

According to FEMA: Recreational and other common areas of the basement are not considered required rooms.

Additional factors to consider which could affect the safety of the occupants of the home are: severely damaged structural components; and severe damage to or complete failure of major mechanical or electrical utilities.

When assessing the damage to a home, consideration must be given when the home has a basement.

For a home with a basement, several variables would need to be identified in order to estimate the degree of

damage to the home.

Some variables would include: water depth in relation to utilities, structural damage to walls, and foundation and support structures.

It is also important to note the uses of the basement, when possible, because FEMA only provides assistance for rooms required for occupation of the dwelling (i.e., occupied bedrooms, bathrooms required for occupied bedrooms, a sole kitchen or living room, or when no other room in another part of the dwelling meets the need).

FEMA defines basement as: "Any area of a building where the floor is below ground level on all sides. Split level homes, below ground level condominiums, and sunken living areas are excluded from the definition of a basement."

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Organizers correct web address for purchasing tickets to Woehlke Palooza

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Oops.

Organizers of the two-day Woehlke Palooza event honoring fallen firefighters and police officers had an error in the web address to purchase tickets for the Aug. 22-23 event.

That incorrect web address actually directed users to an adult photo website. Tickets, priced \$20, are available in advance at all Wayne-Westland fire stations, the U.S. 12 Bar and Grill and at www.neptix.com. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the show.

The event, sponsored by the Wayne-Westland Firefighters Local 1279 and the U.S. 12 American Bar and Grill, honors Wayne-Westland firefighter Brian Woehlke — who was killed in the line of duty in 2013 — along with other fallen firefighters and police who died in the past year.

It's an outdoor event that will be held at the U.S. 12 American Bar and Grill, 34824 Michigan Ave., just east of Wayne Road. Rain or shine, Woehlke Palooza begins at 5 p.m. each day.

On Friday, the entertainment will be headlined by Detroit legends Brownsville Station, along with ThrillBillies, Bristol Street and Two Timin' Band. ThrillBillies have composed a song dedicated to Woehlke that they will perform Friday night during their set.

Saturday will be headlined by Sponge, with Pistol Day Parade, Kaleido and the Mike Leslie Band, all of whom are currently out on national tours. Also performing will be Social Bandits.

The firefighter games, with eight teams participating, will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday and can be watched while guests listen to the music.

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Grant provides thermal imaging cameras for fire department

Five new thermal imaging cameras will be added to the equipment of the Wayne-Westland Fire Department fire trucks, thanks to a federal grant.

"We're real happy to get this one. It's something we've needed desperately," Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "I was surprised we got it, but I'm glad."

The \$56,250 grant comes through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Fire Prevention and Safety Program.

The fire department will have to come up with \$4,500 in matching funds, but Reddy calls that a bargain. The thermal imaging cameras cost about \$10,000 apiece and currently the department only has one unit, which is kept on the shift commander's vehicle.

"We need them on our front line, and now we will have one on each fire truck," Reddy said. "Now we can take them to each fire. We use them for search and rescue and for locating hot spots."

The department has been successful in obtaining grant funding in recent years.

"We write good grants. This was something we really needed," Reddy said.

U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, both D-Michigan, announced the grant to Wayne-Westland and another awarded to the Mount Clemens Fire Department.

"Our first responders risk their lives to keep our families safe, and they rely on these resources to do their jobs safely," Stabenow said.

"This federal support will help ensure that emergency first responders from the Wayne-Westland and Mount Clemens fire departments are prepared for their life-saving duties," Levin said.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These competitive grants help fund professional training programs, update equipment and facilities, and provide new supplies to help first-responders handle hazards efficiently and effectively.

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Marnie (Baumer) van Eek holds 1-year-old Emma while Alexis Baumer feeds her ice cream. The van Eeks traveled from the Netherlands for the event. Marnie is originally from Garden City. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL DRAWS GUESTS FROM FAR AND NEAR

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

One-year-old Emma van Eek could have taken the prize for traveling the farthest distance to the ice cream social at First United Methodist Church in Garden City. It was her first visit to Michigan.

With Emma enjoying her first taste of ice cream — fudge ripple, the crowd's favorite flavor — Emma smiled and laughed with delight.

A resident of the Netherlands, Emma accompanied her mom, Marnie (Baumer) van Eek, on an eight-hour plane ride to Garden City. Her mother graduated from Garden City High School in 1990.

Baumer has followed a career in the performing arts since high school. She is a professional performer who went to New York and met her husband, Jeff, who now has a job in the Netherlands.

"Marnie Baumer is my stage name," Baumer said.

Food pantry

The fourth annual ice cream social was billed a success by the concert goers enjoying another free performance by the Big Band Express in the church parking lot.

All proceeds from the \$5 donations will go to support the community food pantry based at the church. About 1,000 families have been served annually during its five years of operation.

Cassie Taylor, the office manager who is retiring after 10 years, hopes to continue with the food pantry duties and the ice cream social after her retirement.

"We serve Inkster, Garden City, Dearborn Heights and Westland," Taylor said.

Recipients can come once a month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. The food pantry is also open at other times when there is an emergency.



It was a beautiful evening for a concert Aug. 13 and a far cry from the heavy rains and flooding two days prior.



The Big Band Express belts out the tunes.



Cassie Taylor, the retiring office manager at First United Methodist Church in Garden City, takes a break from running the event to enjoy ice cream with Aiden Short. Aiden and his mom, Carmen Short, are Taylor's neighbors.

Newly assigned Pastor Bea Fraser-Soots last served in Waterford and Pontiac churches. This also was her first time at the ice cream social.

"I have been a clergy for 23 years," she said. A former resident of southern California, Soots is a widow with two children. She has felt welcome since she started at the church July 1.

"My first impression was that Garden City is a real active community," she said. "The church is also very active and very capable of things. They are good folks. Things are going well and I am having fun."

Big Band music

The Big Band Express played tunes from the Big Band era. They are a 17-piece band of professional musicians dedicated to performing in the tradition of Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, Harry James, Count Basie, Billy May, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and other big band greats.

The crowd loved the free concert.

"I like the music," said Jack Kerstetter, a Garden City resident. "It's Jumping Jack music."

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Not just a Detroit problem: Westland, Wayne also deal with unpaid water bills

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Detroit isn't the only community where people have unpaid water bills, but how other cities respond to the lack of payment varies.

The controversy about Detroit shutting over water to residents with overdue water bills wouldn't happen in Westland — the city doesn't shut off water.

"If a person has unpaid water bills for six months, it goes on their tax bill," Westland Finance Director Steve Smith

said. "It can go on the tax bills twice a year. Once they pay their taxes, we get our money. It's worked well over the years."

At any given time, the city has an average of \$3 million in water charges to customers who are more than 30 days overdue.

"That is pretty steady. We bill about \$27 million a year for water," Smith said.

If a particular water customer has an especially large overdue bill, Smith said the city will address it.

"By talking, not shutting the

water off," Smith said. "In the 11 years I've been with the city, we haven't shut off anyone's water."

In Wayne, the city will shut off water to a customer whose bill is over \$150 and more than 30 days overdue. For those residents or businesses whose water is shut off for non-payment, the city charges a \$50 shutoff fee that has to be paid along with the overdue balance before the water starts running again.

Like Westland, Wayne bills customers every two months for water. If manpower is avail-

able, water shutoffs are done each month.

"We shut off 80 customers last week. Some are vacant homes," Wayne Finance Director James Ghedotte said. "We work it out with people. Once a year, we will put the unpaid water bills on the taxes."

Wayne bills about \$9 million annually in water and sewer charges. But even with some shutoffs, Wayne doesn't experience the type of complaints and controversy seen in Detroit.

"They didn't do (shutoffs) for so long and started doing it — they were overwhelmed,"

Ghedotte said. "A lot of people didn't pay for a long time. If you keep on it, you get people current. You have to pay the water bill."

People living paycheck to paycheck may shuffle bills while trying to make ends meet, he said.

"It amazes me that people know exactly when to pay off the (overdue) water bill so it will not be shut off," Ghedotte said.

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BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Free Popcorn Tuesdays

MJR Digital Cinemas will offer free popcorn with purchase of a ticket on Tuesdays only, now through Aug. 26.

For the sixth summer in a row, MJR Digital Cinemas will offer Free Popcorn Tuesdays. All popcorn, all sizes, will be free every Tuesday now through Aug. 26. Free popcorn also includes one free refill, same-day purchase only.

The offer is valid with a ticket purchase. Free Popcorn Tuesdays are available at the Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16 at 6800 N. Wayne Road, south of Warren Road. For more information, call 734-298-2657.

Mercury collection

EQ, a U.S. ecology company, has partnered with the State of Michigan to facilitate the collection of mercury through The Great Lakes Mercury Collection Program until September. Any Michigan resident or business can contact EQ for a free collection bucket/box and instruction kit by calling 877-960-2025, emailing mercurybucket@eqonline.com or going to Facebook to request a bucket.

The container is delivered to the residence or business with a return UPS label. Mercury devices, such as thermostats, thermometers, gauges, barometers, switches, relays, sensors and dental amalgam, can be placed in the bucket or box and returned to EQ for proper disposal using the UPS label. EQ will ensure proper recycling methods, which will reduce the amount of mercury from entering the earth's environment.

Garden City Hospital offers new Patient Portal

The successful launch of an Electronic Health Information System, Siemens Soarian, is a significant step in helping Garden City Hospital achieve enhanced patient care delivery, improved care coordination and streamlined financial performance.

In early August, Garden City Hospital announced it had completed a major step in its health technology transformation that brings key business processes into best practice operations. The transformation is helping Garden City Hospital achieve measurable and sustainable improvements in quality, patient safety, satisfaction and profitability.

"Our focus has always been, and continues to be, delivering quality care to our patients," said Saju George, Garden City Hospital's chief administrative officer. "By adopting an electronic health system, we are improving care coordination and collaboration amongst health care professionals while supporting greater transparency, accountability and adherence to best practice."

Technology, especially its use in health care delivery, is changing at an unprecedented pace. Garden City Hospital strives to be flexible and adapt to the changing demands of the health care environment, while providing a solid and reliable support framework that is secure, efficient and cost effective, according to George.

One of the most notable features of the upgrade has been the rollout of GCHHealth, a secure and convenient patient health portal able to manage and access health information at home, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. GCHHealth offers patients access to their medical record summary, including discharge history, health issues, medications and surgeries, as well as clinical lab results and personal information.

"Anytime you remove the potential for human error from



Ashley Ajlouny, a nurse in Garden City Hospital's Emergency Department, inputs patient information bedside on the hospital's Workstation on Wheels, increasing patient safety. PHOTOS BY GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL



The new Patient Portal can be found on the hospital web page at MyGCH.org.

the process, you increase patient safety and efficiencies," said Dr. Rex Ruettinger, Garden City

Hospital's chief medical officer. "We had a robust EMR system and very good clinical outcomes, however, this new system will help accelerate our journey to provide exceptional care and results for our patients."

People who have been a patient at Garden City Hospital and would like to sign up to access the portal can visit the Registration or HIM (Medical Records) department at the hospital and provide their email address and a photo ID.

For more information, visit MyGCH.org or call 734-458-4363.

Know your fees on retirement accounts

Bank fees, credit card fees, resort fees. The list keeps growing and consumers keep paying more in fees.

In many cases the fees are nominal and are more annoying than anything else. However, in certain situations bank fees and airline fees, to name a couple, are significant. A fee that could top them all — and one that is hidden — is charged on retirement accounts such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans.



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

A new study reports that over the course of someone's career he/she could pay more than \$100,000 in excessive fees.

I believe most people would agree that when it comes time to retire, having that extra \$100,000 in their pocket is a good thing. The question is why don't more people do something about high fees? My reasoning is that people are unaware of the fees and believe they have no other alternatives.

My philosophy is you must be proactive. You may be surprised to learn you have other alternatives. If you are retired or no longer working at the company where you have a 401(k) or 403(b) plan and pay high fees you need to move your money into an IRA. By directly transferring the money from your old employer-based retirement savings account into an IRA there is no tax consequences and the money can continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis. In addition, you will have control over your investments allowing you to invest without having to pay excessive fees.

The problem is knowing what fees you pay. In salary-deferral programs it can be difficult to know what you're paying in fees. If fees are coming directly out of your account and are a separate line item they are easier to understand. Unfortunately, it's not that way with many programs. Some of these fees are hidden. For example, the fees charged on different investment options may be more difficult to uncover but trust me, it is worth the effort.

For those of you who are working and contributing to salary deferral programs I recognize that it may be tough to have your employer change the plan. However, it's not impossible. When the employer finds out that the plan has excessive fees, many times they also want to make a change. Particularly, in a small business where the owner is contributing along with employees into the program. Employers also have a vested interest to keep fees low.

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

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Wayne Main Street rolls out new logo

Wayne Ripple Effect proudly accomplished becoming a Michigan Main Street program this year, and to better reflect that change and also appeal to the general public with an easier-to-understand name and logo, they are happy to launch a new look.

Wayne Main Street - Creating a Ripple Effect in Downtown Wayne, both states what the organization is and also encompasses the Ripple Effect concept that locals all recognize and love. Wayne Main Street would like to thank John Rhaesa for designing the new logo. So, when you see the new name, know that all of the same folks who started this volunteer-driven project are still happily involved and that the organization simply had a makeover. It's that time of year again — the beloved Scarecrow Contest is returning to Downtown Wayne.

How it works: Each group or individual will design and build a scarecrow using a pre-made frame and lots of imagination. Be creative. Your scarecrow can reflect your mission, your organization, your business or your family's imagination and artistic talents. Each scarecrow will wear a placard stating the organization or family name while on display on a downtown light post. Registration will take place at the Wayne Farmer's Market each Wednesday between 3-7 p.m. through Sept. 24. A free Scarecrow 101 demonstration will take place at the market Aug. 27, giving folks new and creative ideas for how to build a scarecrow. The cost to partic-



Lindsey Wooten

GUEST COLUMNIST



It's that time of year again — the beloved Scarecrow Contest is returning to Downtown Wayne.

ipate is \$20, which includes frame, or \$15, if using a recycled frame. Registration forms are also available for download on the Wayne Main Street website at www.downtownwayne.org.

Sept. 24 is the deadline to sign up. Drop off your scarecrow at State Wayne Theater between 8-10 a.m. Sept. 27. Volunteers will affix in display location.

The Scarecrow Reception and Contest Judging will be at Goudy Park from 7:30-9 p.m. Oct. 15. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information about volunteer opportunities and how you can help revitalize Downtown Wayne, call 629-6822, email director@downtownwayne.org or visit downtownwayne.org. Turn nostalgia into action today.

Lindsey Wooten is executive director of Wayne's Michigan Main Street program.

Garden City girl wins gift basket from museum

Nine-year-old Mackenzie Cramer didn't realize she would cause such a stir when she visited the Children's Museum of Indianapolis on Monday afternoon.

The Garden City resident was greeted by museum staff and presented with a special gift basket for being the 100,000th visitor to the Terra Cotta Warriors: The Emperor's Painted Army exhibit.

The display includes authentic Chinese Terra Cotta Warriors and ancient artifacts from one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

At first Mackenzie buried her head in her mother's shirt, then giggled at all the attention.



Mackenzie Cramer of Garden City strikes a pose with two Terra Cotta Warriors at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

"Awesome! I get a panda," she said after looking in the basket and seeing a plush panda. It also included a miniature Terra Cotta Warrior and many other toys, games and China-related gifts that she said she already had her eye on following a visit to the Children's

Museum Store. The life-size warriors, deemed the "Eighth Wonder of the World" by some, were discovered in 1974 by farmers digging a well in search of water. Since then, very few of the Terra Cotta Warriors have traveled out of China at any one time. Eight of the magnifi-

cent soldiers, along with more than 100 other authentic artifacts are featured in the interactive exhibit that encourages visitors of all ages to become investigators.

The Children's Museum is the only place to see the magnificent warriors in the United States this year. The exhibit is open through Nov. 2. Timed tickets are still available. Learn more at www.childrensmuseum.org/warriors.

For more information about The Children's Museum, visit www.childrensmuseum.org, on Twitter @TCMIndy, Facebook.com/childrensmuseum and YouTube.com/IndyTCM.



An excited Mackenzie Cramer shows off the gift basket she won Monday as the 100,000th visitor to the Terra Cotta Warriors: The Emperor's Painted Army exhibit at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Drug abuse awareness is focus of annual picnic

A fundraiser this Sunday will support substance abuse awareness and raise money for a substance abuse transition facility in Lyon Township.

The Constantino Del Signore Foundation is inviting the community to Tino's Farm Picnic from noon to 7 p.m. at Sweet Acres Farm, 5880 Eight Mile Road, east of Pontiac Trail, in Lyon Township.

CDS board of directors plan to eventually use the Sweet Acres house and 37-acre farm as a substance abuse transition center for between eight and 10 people, likely teens, recovering from substance abuse. Start-up costs are estimated at about \$500,000 and organizers hope to open the facility in 2016.

Admission to the picnic is \$15 per person and free for children younger than 5. The ticket includes live music all day, a barbecue chicken dinner, pulled pork, hamburgers and hotdogs.

There will be children's games, hay rides, pony rides, a balloon artist, an archery demonstration, bocce ball, horseshoes, bouncy house, door prizes and a 50/50 drawing.

Winner picked

A popular game at the event is "crap shoot." Players pick a square and a chicken is placed on the grid. The winner is determined by the spot where the chicken defecates.

CDS is working in cooperation with Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Botsford Hospital Foundation and Safari Club International S.E. Chapter of Michigan Bowhunters.

The CDS Foundation's focus on drug awareness began after Tino Del Signore died in a tractor accident on the farm. Del Signore, the 47-year-old son of John and Lina Del Signore, owners of Laurel Manor in Livonia, was known for his generosity and philanthropic work.

The fundraiser Sunday is intended to carry on that legacy. Tino Del Signore was among a group of people who started the CDS Foundation 20 years ago. Since then, more than \$475,000 has been donated to various causes, including St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Garden City Hospital, Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Angela Hospice in Livonia, Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit and other facilities, as well as the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, which Tino founded.

The foundation began when a church in the province of L'Aquila in Abruzzo, Italy, needed a roof. Foundation organizers raised the needed money and decided that many other organizations could use help in the United States and throughout southeast Michigan.

While the picnic brings a lot of awareness, it doesn't bring a lot of money from ticket sales. However, sponsor-

ship donations do.

Sponsorships range from: \$100 for the bronze level, which includes a one-eighth ad in the picnic program; \$200 for the silver level, which includes a quarter-page ad and two complimentary tickets to the picnic; \$500 for the gold level, which includes a color half-page ad in the program, a banner at the picnic and four picnic tickets; and the legacy level at \$1,000 or more, which includes a full-page ad, plaque at Laurel Manor, 10 picnic tickets and a banner display.

New volunteer

Last year, Jacqueline Dobson didn't know about the fundraiser that was being held at a farm next to her home at Eight Mile and Chubb. Her 32-year-old son, Jared Norwood, died from a drug overdose a few months earlier. Jared fought his addiction for years, she said and went from "countless" rehabilitation facilities and from one drug abuse

program to another.

Dobson understood firsthand the importance of transitional housing for drug abusers during her son's 12-year struggle. The natural next step for Dobson was to begin volunteering with CDS. She comes to the effort as a longtime Girl Scout leader, Muscular Dystrophy supporter and is active with a number of programs at her church, First United Methodist in South Lyon.

The need in the community for a transition house is tremendous, she said.

For more information about the picnic and sponsorship opportunities, contact the CDS foundation at 248-763-0142 or visit www.cdsfoundation.net. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to CDS Foundation, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

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Darcy Blakemore of Westland (right) and Cathy Burns of Livonia did a little dancin' in the streets in support of the walkers.

SHOW OF SUPPORT

Cheering section supports 3-Day walkers, who raise \$2.4 million

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Cathy Burns of Livonia has been involved with many different events in the series of Susan G. Komen 3-Day walks to fight breast cancer, so it wasn't that odd to see her in downtown Plymouth.

With a grandchild on the way, though, Burns had to stay off the walking path to be ready for grandma duty. But she still wanted to be involved, so there she was in Kellogg Park on Saturday, passing out stickers, dancing and giving out hugs at the Plymouth cheering station.

"I couldn't walk because I'm becoming a grandmother (Sunday)," Burns said. "It was too close to the baby to walk."

Like many others, Burns still found a way to help, support that was appreciated by the hundreds of participants who walked 60 miles in three days for Komen's annual fight against breast cancer.

According to information released by the Susan G. Komen Foundation, some 1,200 walkers helped raise some \$2.4 million this year.

"It's a walk for women and men who want to be a part of something bigger — they want to end breast cancer forever," said Dr. Sherie Phillips, national spokesperson for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day. "We're going to urge people to take action to end breast cancer with each and every step."

The walk through downtown Plymouth was nothing new for Kris Piotrowski. A native of Plymouth who now lives in Troy, Piotrowski did more than watch from the Kellogg Park sidewalks this year.

"My mom was diagnosed in February," said Piotrowski, who walked with her sister, Becky Ingram. "We always saw it come through Plymouth. After (mom) was diagnosed, we decided this was the year to do it."

Jerry Wozny of Livonia dressed the part, manning intersections along the way to help walkers cross the various streets safely while wearing pink camouflage clothing, a pink bandana over his hair and a pink lei around his neck, all in support of the walkers.

"It's nice to get a little crazy," Wozny said. "I don't worry about it. All your other worries will still be there Monday. This weekend is just for them."



Cathy Burns of Livonia hands out stickers to Kenzie and Kylie Hatfield of Columbus, Ohio, who made the trek to support their mom, who was walking.



Jerry Wozny of Livonia, decked out in his pink camouflage, kept walkers safe crossing the street at Ann Arbor Trail and Main.



Walkers once again found tons of support as they passed through downtown Plymouth.

Barb Gaydos of Canton had a cancer scare of her own, and she's seen two cousins and her fiancée's mother beat it.

"That's a lot of cancer in my life," said Gaydos, a five-time walker. "The walk means someday

we're going to find a cure so my niece, my great-niece, all my mother's grandchildren do not have to deal with this ever again."

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Nikki Hermann, of the family that owns Hermann's Olde Town Grille, serves corn chowder to Shelley and Rick Boatright of Redford Township.



Chef Mark Hincker of Station 885 chats with crawlers Dot Balogh of Plymouth, Sue Tamaroglio of Westland and Carol Vandenberg of Canton Township. The chef served up pork sliders with baked beans and cole slaw.



At Plymouth Fish and Seafood, Maranda Hall and Sydney Sullivan serve their signature cod with cole slaw to Betty Haley of Farmington and Mark Stachurski of Canton Township.

Restaurant crawl brings crowds to Plymouth's Old Village

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

It was Old Village's turn in the spotlight Monday evening, when five eating and drinking establishments opened their doors to hundreds of diners for the neighborhood's annual restaurant crawl.

Organized by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, the Old Village Restaurant Crawl introduces newcomers to the local dining scene, gives returning crawlers an excuse to get back to some of their favorites and adds a new social dynamic to area's already busy night life.

It's also a word-of-mouth marketing tool. "I'm really glad the focus is Old Village, specifically," Abigail Stonerook, a first-time crawler, said at Aqua, a new stop on the crawl. "It's our original Plymouth. We should be here."

Aqua, a high-end, European-influenced restaurant at Main and Starkweather, in a completely remodeled building that used to be the Grecian Cafe, was serving Shanghai calamari, center-cut steak bites, chicken piccata and sushi.

'I'll come back'

"This is just a small portion of the menu," said owner Vitor Nikollbi-



Deborah Searcy, Leslie Ryder and Paul Bissell, all of Livonia, sample beers at the Liberty Street Brewing Co. They like the IPA-style ales. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

baj, who opened Aqua in the spring.

"I like it. I'll come back," said Stonerook, of Plymouth Township. Stonerook and five other members of the Plymouth-Canton Jaycees, seated on Aqua's crowded patio, were making the crawl circuit as a group.

"I like the quality of the restaurants here," said Anthony Pomerson of Ann Arbor, another Jaycees member.

"A lot of happy people. I'm glad we did it," Nikollbibaj said.

Over at the Liberty Street Brewing Co., crawlers lined up at the second-floor bar as a manager poured four-beer sampler trays.

Printed tray liners offered background on the beers being served: Red Glare Amber Ale, Starkweather Stout, Steamy Windows and The American IPA.

Blake Leighton of Plymouth Township said Liberty Street is one of his favorite haunts, but that he had never before been to the crawl.

"It sounded cool. I like some of the restaurants down here," said Leighton, who works in a local restaurant.

Steady crowd

Down the street at Hermann's Olde Town Grille, a regular crawl stop, visitors were munching on tuna wraps,

chicken salad wraps, chips and cheese, Traverse City salad, soup and brownies.

"It's a good, steady crowd all night," said owner Nick Hermann, who was checking tickets at the door.

"It's a real good thing for Old Village," he continued. "There're a lot of people who don't know about Old Village."

Chamber president Wes Graff said just over 200 tickets were sold for the event. Other stops on the crawl were Plymouth Fish and Seafood, where a large crowd dined alfresco, and Station 885.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432

Veterans can get help at recruiting event in Westland

Military veterans in need of assistance can get it at a one-stop program being offered at the Bova VFW Post 9885 in Westland on Saturday, Aug. 23.

The AmeriCorps Veterans Recruiting Event will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at the post, located at 6440 Hix, south of Warren Road. More than 30 providers will be on

hand to work with veterans in need of assistance with jobs, health care, education, legal services, housing and more.

"This is a four-pillar event, all of the different providers will be in one place and ready to help," said Bill Mowder, an AmeriCorps veteran resource provider. "All veterans need to do is show up and bring their

DD-214 and, if they are looking for a job, bring a copy of their resume."

The AmeriCorps Veterans Resource Navigator team is working with the Michigan Veterans Administration Agency and Wayne County Veterans Administration in connection with the Wayne County Veterans Community Action Team (VACT). Its function "is

to help veterans find the benefits they need," Mowder said.

"If you come and say you need help with rent or you're going to lose your home, we'll tell you to go to table six and you go there and get help," the Westland resident said. "They do a lot with veterans downtown, but veterans have to find a

way there and a lot of times, they have to come back to get the help.

We're doing everything here. A veteran walks in the door and gets help." Mowder stressed that the program isn't a "closed-door event." Veterans only need to show up with the proper forms to get help.

"If they live in Michi-

gan and they're a veteran, I'll help them," he said.

For more information, call Mowder at 734-306-3554 or send an email to bill.mowder@yahoo.com.

smason@hometownlife.com
734-674-2332

Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

City of Livonia: Minutes of Regular Meeting of 7/21/14

Called to order @ 7pm

Present: Nash, Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Brosnan

Absent: None

#210-14 Approving the minutes of the 7/7/14 meeting.

Several items received and filed.

#211-14 Approving block party on Brentwood between Meadowlark and Jacquelyn on 8/16/14 from 12-10 pm.

#212-14 Approving block party on Minton between Merriman and Sunset on 8/9/14 from 2-10 pm.

#213-14 Approving block party on Woodring between Vermont and Oregon on 8/9/14 from 2-10 pm.

#214-14 Approving block party on Norwich on 8/2/14 from 1-10 pm.

#215-14 Modifying Livonia Compensation Plan to include the ability to compensate employees \$450.00 for 1 week of 24/7 on call duty as assigned by DPW Mgt.

#216-14 Accepting bid of Interior Image for performing work in removing and re-carpeting in City Hall annex for \$25,326.83.

#217-14 Authorizing purchase of 100% of City need for rock salt from Detroit Salt Company for an estimated \$117,025.00 from 8/1/14-4/30/15.

#218-14 Authorizing the City of Livonia to execute the agreement with MDOT for the Industrial Road Construction from 2,100 lineal ft. w of Middlebelt Rd-Middlebelt Rd. pd by a grant from RRR not to exceed \$900,000.00.

#219-14 Approving 1 yr. contract extension w/R.S. Contracting for the 2014 Lane Line Marking Program for \$62,500.00.

#220-14 Authorizing sum of \$32,500.00 to Hard Rock Concrete for additional work in the 2014 Concrete Rd Repair Program to provide emergency repairs to storm inlet structures.

#221-14 Approving Petition 2014-05-08-09 by Faith Bible Church in connection to building an addition at 34541 5 Mile.

Kritzman stepped down from the podium @ 7:04pm

#222-14 Executing an agreement to contract dated 8/10/10 and extend 3 yrs. between the City and Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick to provide engineering services for the Industrial Road Project not to exceed \$159,250.00. Also authorizing \$8,400.00 from funds in Professional Services Account to approve minor adjustments in this work.

Kritzman returned to the podium @ 7:05 pm

#223-14 Approving an IFEC submitted by ALPHA USA for the purchase of new equipment and machinery @ 32711 Glendale for 7 yrs., as well as transfer equipment from 33375 Glendale and maintain the exemption that was approved 10/19/11.

#224-14 Denying Petition 2014-05-01-03 requested originally by the City Council and McLaren Performance Tech/Linamar to rezone property located at 20446 Hubbard from R-3 to P.

#225-14 Referring the issue of traffic speed and truck traffic on Parker, Hubbard, and Norfolk to the Administration for its R/R. Requesting the study be conducted while LPS is in session and on Saturdays while soccer fields are in use.

#226-14 Denying Petition 2014-05-01-04 requested originally by the City Council and McLaren Performance Tech/Linamar to rezone property located at 20421 Parker from R-3 to P.

#227-14 Suspending the rules to permit consideration of items not placed on the agenda.

#228-14 Approving the appointment of Benjamin A. Schepis to the ZBA for a 3yr. term expiring on 7/12/17.

#229-14 Approve waiving the noise ordinance to all a cultural festival with music at St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church @ 32765 Lyndon on 8/2/14 from 2-10:30 pm and 8/3/14 from 1-8 pm.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:21 pm

Complete Meeting minutes available at City Clerk's Office.

Terry A. Marecki
Livonia City Clerk

Publish: August 21, 2014

LO-000209341 3X7.5

CITY OF LIVONIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 4 of Act 207 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1921, as amended, the City Zoning Act (MSA 5.2934; MCLA 125.584) as well as Article XXIII of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the Council of the City of Livonia on **Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.** in the auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:

Petition 2014-07-06-01 submitted by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Council Resolution 174-14 and Section 23.01(a) of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, as amended, proposing to amend Section 11.03(p) of Article XI to require as a condition of the granting of any waiver for a retail building or space of thirty thousand (30,000) square feet or more intended to be a single unit, a statement that the building as proposed will be attractive to other tenants in the event the initial tenant ceases its occupancy of the building, including a description of the features of the building which will make it attractive to prospective replacement tenants.

TERRY A. MARECKI,
CITY CLERK

PUBLISH: Thursday, August 21, 2014

LO-000209013 3X3

CITY OF LIVONIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held in the auditorium at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014, at 7:00 P.M.** for the purpose of determining the NECESSITY and for reviewing the proposed Revised Special Assessment District for the **LEVAN ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT**, for a 10-inch Sanitary Sewer Main to service properties located at 15160, 15200 and 15230 Levan Road, in the City of Livonia, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, pursuant to Chapter 08 of Title 3 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, entitled "Special Assessment Procedure Ordinance." (CR 448-12, CR 107-13, CR 178-13, CR 342-13, CR 190-14, and CR 236-14)

You are further notified that the City Engineer has filed with the City Clerk plans and specifications for the proposed improvement, together with a statement showing a description of the proposed district, the estimated cost of the improvement, ownership of parcels within such district, the assessed valuation of such parcels, his recommendation as to assessment for such improvement and other information required by Section 3.08.060 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, which statement is available for your examination in the office of the City Clerk.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal if an appeal should be desired. A property owner or party of interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file his or her appearance by letter delivered to the City Clerk by the time and date of the hearing and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. The property owner or any person having an interest in the property subject to the proposed special assessments may file written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within thirty-five days after confirmation of the special assessment roll if that special assessment was protested at this hearing.

TERRY A. MARECKI, CITY CLERK

PUBLISH: THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2014

LO-000209011 3X4.5

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OUR VIEWS

Lawmakers must reform charter school law

State education board proposals are sensible

Your move, lawmakers. Last week, the state Board of Education proposed a host of very sensible changes to the state laws governing charter schools, in the wake of a June Free Press report that pointed to glaring problems in the way Michigan's system is structured.

When the Legislature returns in September, the board's recommendations ought to form the basis for laws that give Michigan the best of what charters have to offer, but eliminate the tolerance for (and certainly the expansion of) low-performing schools masquerading as high-quality alternatives.

There's no question that in the 20 years since Michigan first passed its charter law, some schools have posted tremendous results. They're an important part of the education matrix, and part of the system we need to be sure all kids have access to good schools.

But there are too many poorly performing charters, and state law lacks sufficient teeth to ensure comprehensive oversight of charter schools, much less closure of charters schools that aren't up to snuff.

Charter schools receive \$1 billion in state taxpayer dollars each year, and produce results often no better, and sometimes worse than, regular public schools. Some 38 percent of charters rank in the bottom quarter of state schools.

Nothing about that is acceptable for Michigan's children.

The charter system is two-part, comprising authorizers and operators. Authorizers — all of which are colleges, universities or other educational institutions — vet operators and should perform ongoing oversight of the school's operations and academic performance. Charters are funded with state educational dollars, siphoned from the taxes that fund traditional public schools.

Charter operators have asked why they should be held accountable to higher standards than public schools, and it's certainly true that many traditional public schools have abysmal track records.

But the answer to that problem is not continuing to let charter schools escape strict scrutiny; the right approach would hold all schools more accountable for their performance.

Charter schools were sold to citizens here as a way to improve education across the board, offering parents trapped in ailing districts a high-achieving academic alternative. That's the only justification for diverting a billion dollars annually from traditional public schools.

The state board's ideas would bring Michigan's charter schools closer to delivering on their promise, and justifying their existence.

The board would have the Legislature set clear standards for charter operators, and hold charter authorizers more accountable for academic performance.

The state board also proposes to address some financial quirks in the way charters operate. Charter management companies would be banned from serving as a charter school's landlord, and lease agreements for charter schools would have to reflect market conditions. Bidders for contracted services would have to identify relationships with owners, board members or employees of charter schools, and charters would have to adhere to the same financial reporting requirements that traditional public schools make available.

That's a good start. But it's probably not enough. Unlike some states, Michigan places no limit on for-profit, full-service management companies. Should Michigan limit or bar the number of such operators allowed to open schools in the state? It's a question worth investigating.

It's also worth examining the way school authorizers are funded. Charter authorizers can claim up to 3 percent of a school's revenues, a method of funding that gives authorizers little incentive to close poor-performing schools — but plenty of incentive to allow new schools to open.

When lawmakers return to Lansing, drafting and passing legislation along these lines should be a top priority — and frankly, a political no-brainer. Some lawmakers have been reluctant to act, saying freedom from regulation gives charters the ability to innovate, freed from burdensome bureaucracy.

That's hogwash. Innovation need not happen at the expense of responsibility and accountability. But most important, innovation that doesn't lead to better outcomes for students is useless.

Michigan has indulged far too much of that from some charter schools, for far too long.

OUR VIEWS

Upgrades at two Westland parks are worth celebrating

In November 2006, Westland residents woke up to find out that the park they had been taking their kids to play in was contaminated. Built on an old Wayne County landfill, Central City Park went from being a popular recreation destination to a fenced-off polluted piece of land that needed millions of dollars to clean it up.

Embroidered in controversy over lead contamination, the park sat dormant for six years as state, county and city officials determined how extensive the contamination was and how to best deal with it. In 2012, 12 acres of the park was reopened to the public with promises of more improvements to come as money became available.

Those promises were fulfilled last week as city officials gathered to celebrate more than \$3 million in improvements to Central City Park and the adjacent Tattan Park. Utilizing funds from the city's Downtown Development Authority, new pavilions, parking, restrooms, a concession stand and other enhancements have been added to the parks.



Dignitaries gathered for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting at Tattan Park in Westland last week. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The transformation is amazing. Tattan Park has been a popular spot for picnics and parties, but with the addition of smaller pavilions, more families will be able to hold their events at the park. And the larger pavilion in

Central City Park is the perfect setting for the weekly Farmers and Artisans Market. What's even more to like is that the structure allows the market to be open year-round.

Hats off to city officials and the DDA for their commitment to the makeover of the two parks. It has taken a lot of work and a lot of planning on the part of officials to bring about the changes. The parks were the crown jewels of the city's park system, and the improvements go a long way toward restoring their luster.

We'd like to think the park that was rededicated in 2012 was a blank canvas, and these current improvements are the artist's first brush strokes. And if, as DDA member Margaret Harlow hinted, "something bigger and better is coming up," the finished product will be the city's masterpiece.

Now is a good time to stop by and see what's been done. Stroll through Tattan Park and over to Central City. Make it a Thursday afternoon and take in the weekly market. Good things indeed are happening in Westland.

LETTERS

Obama is intractable

Unfortunately we are seeing some very evil things coming about these days.

When Christians and Muslims and Hindus and various other religions were routed from their homes and driven from their towns, very little was said about it during the War in Kuwait, also known as the First Iraq War (Operation Desert Storm), the War in Afghanistan and the Second Iraq War.

President Obama reportedly voted for war as senator with a heavy heart and part of his pattern when running for president was to end the wars. After many years, he said he did it. We still occupy Afghanistan and have troops in Iraq, so that's a little weird. He also sent additional troops there, but is calling them "advisers" as if we didn't remember Vietnam.

He has decided to "save" some Yezidi Kurds. Make no mistake about it. Their worship of the "Peacock Angel" is worship of what both the Muslims and Christians call "Satan." It is a religion bound up with destruction.

Our president rushes to their defense without a plan for resolution. Without ever having recognized these people before. Why?

SEND US YOUR VIEWS

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com.

Fax: 313-223-3318.

Email: smason@hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

The people attacking them are close to taking the northern oil fields in Iraq. The northern fields are as rich as those in the south.

Oil, oil, oil, oil, oil.

Obama was a gainsayer against his opponents until he gained control.

It is my opinion this administration has become intractable, that is, perverse, headstrong, dogged, obdurate, stony, willful, forward, fractious, refractory, unbending, inflexible, adamant and unyielding.

Alfred Brock
Wayne

Take machine guns from bureaucrats

I object to the premise that bureaucrats need to be armed, especially with firepower that exceeds common reason. These untrained personnel have not been trained nor authorized to use weapons against the citizens of this state.

Even worse, is that bureaucrats are beholden to special-interest groups that seek to criminalize the rights of the general public.

This smacks of the Nazi regime of the 1930s. History is repeating itself. And not in a good way.

Pointing out the foibles of politicians is akin to a perceived anarchy. We, as a free people, need to expose the abuses of those currently sitting in power. Of course, standing up for one's right will ultimately incur the wrath of paid-off judges and other politicians who have been bought and paid for by corporate interests.

Just look at the financial backing of those running for office in this election cycle. Follow the money, then ask who benefits from the financial contributions.

Randy Zeilinger
Garden City

GUEST COLUMN

Opportunity ripe for a charter do-over

Education policy has evolved over the years in Michigan to mimic the old Chinese proverb: "When you open the window, all the flies can come in."

The flies have been swarming Michigan's charter school market.

We need a better screen that allows quality schools in and keeps the lousy ones out, be they traditional or charter. We need to support quality learning, regardless from where it emanates.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools include the good, the bad and the ugly.

Lansing policymakers are not creating opportunities for quality schools to bloom and are shutting the window, trapping far too many kids in failing schools. There ought to be a single quality measuring stick for all public education in Michigan.

A lousy school — one that is not educating children — is a lousy school and should not be able to operate, regardless of whether it is a traditional or charter.

The political left needs to stop supporting traditional schools failing our children, just as the political right must admit that simply calling a school a "charter" does not give it magical powers.

We need to stop using our schools and students to make ideological points and instead use them to prepare our children for their future.

Traditional schools, charter



Tom Watkins

schools, blended and e-learning — all have a place in the educational framework so long as they are preparing students for the hyper-competitive, technological and knowledge-driven global economy.

Having traveled extensively in China over the years, let me assure you that its citizens are not slowing down while we indulge in ideological fights.

While we fix the flaws in the lucrative charter scam, we need to be equally cognizant that the status quo will not take us where we need to go. In spite of public schools' past achievements, the current system is leaving far too many children behind.

It should not be a state default policy to cheat children out of the education they need and deserve so that entrepreneurial scoundrels can line their pockets.

Efforts underway to "fix" or help existing public schools are laudable, but more can and should be done for the students and their parents — not for the district, charter or the system. We need to ask: "What must we do to help teachers teach and help children learn?"

The focus must be on establishing quality screens — not to keep charter schools out, but to assure quality (both educational-

ly and financially) is built into all educational opportunities for our children.

As the second decade of the 21st century knowledge economy unfolds, Michigan is going to be dependent at every level on bold leadership with the courage to cast off the anchors of the past and set sail to create a new future. We can no more afford to waste tax dollars on entrepreneurial rip-offs than we can afford to leave a single child behind. Change that produces progress is needed.

While much focus has been on Michigan's "brain drain" — students receiving a college education and fleeing our state — the greater problem is those we fail to educate who are staying behind. We cannot build a strong city, region or state on such a faulty foundation.

So, Lansing policymakers, you have an opportunity for a "do-over." Stop the ideological fights and place the focus on appropriate oversight and quality education, regardless of its source — for the sake of our children and our collective future.

When the Legislature returns, it must take its role seriously and the fix the loopholes and charter school educational pot-holes.

Tom Watkins served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and helped create the first charter in Michigan and Florida. Contact Watkins at tdwatkins88@gmail.com; follow him on twitter at [tdwatkins88](https://twitter.com/tdwatkins88).

County Commission accepting applications for legislative auditor general

The Wayne County Commission is in the process of hiring a new legislative auditor general who will examine and evaluate county activities to improve the accountability of public funds and operations of county government.

The current legislative auditor general, Willie Mayo, is retiring in January after serving for 10 years, the maximum allowed under the Wayne County Charter.

Sept. 12 is the application deadline. The salary range is \$115,000 to \$125,000 annually, depending on the successful applicant's qualifications, and the term will be for two, three or five years, with a maximum of 10 years overall.

Full details are at www.waynecounty.com/phr/jobpostings.htm. Those with additional questions should send an email to

AGsearch@waynecounty.com.

Applications will be reviewed by a task force of commissioners who will recommend candidates to Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak (D-Dearborn). The finalist will be presented to the full Wayne County Commission for approval. The hiring process will be in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

The legislative auditor general must be a certified public accountant; have earned a bachelor's degree in finance and/or accounting; have at least five years' experience performing audits and controls in a government setting; and have managerial experience. There are 10 employees working under Mayo, and they're based at the county-owned Guardian Building in downtown Detroit.

GOP convention in Novi could hold surprises

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Some crucial statewide nominations for the Republican Party will come this weekend in Novi as it hosts the 2014 Michigan Republican State Convention.

Scheduled to be held this weekend at the Suburban Collection Showplace, the convention expects to be an eventful one as many incumbents, including Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, will be challenged. The successful nominees who emerge from the convention will appear on the November general election ballot.

The nominations to be made at the convention include lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, three justices to the Michigan Supreme Court, two members of the state Board of Education and two members



Staudt

each for the Wayne State University Board of Governors, Michigan State University Board of Trustees and University of Michigan Board of Regents.

Novi Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt, who will be attending the convention as a member of the Oakland County Republican Party, said the convention is an important one. The nominations will be made by the party delegates attending the convention.

"It's rare that you see incumbents being challenged like this, but it looks as if they will be," Staudt said.

The convention will feature more than 2,100 delegates, who were picked during county conventions this past month from around the state.

Calley, who has been in office since 2011, is being opposed by Wes Nakagiri, the founder of RetakeOurGov.org. The school board race has four candidates and all three university boards also have more than two candidates seeking nominations.

Staudt said the party appears to be split between Tea Party members and "establishment" Republicans.

Drama aside, the convention will be a boon for Novi with nearly 3,000 people expected to come to town. They will stay in hotels, host parties around town and generally pump revenue into local businesses.

"This is great for Novi to have this. It will bring a lot of people from around the state into town, so it should be nothing but positive for local hotels and businesses," Staudt said.

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SHOCKING NEWS FROM LOCAL HERO

Ex-Clarenceville gridiron standout Tim Shaw reveals ALS diagnosis

By Jim Wyatt
Gannett News Service

Former Livonia Clarenceville football standout Tim Shaw announced Tuesday he has been diagnosed with ALS.

Shaw, 30, excelled as a linebacker at Penn State before being drafted in the fifth round of the 2007 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers, for whom he played for one season.

Shaw played for the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2008 before joining the Chicago Bears for the 2009 and 2010 seasons. He finished his NFL career with the Tennessee Titans, for whom he

played from 2010 until his retirement in 2012.

In a video posted Tuesday on the Titans' website, Shaw challenged the Titans and Penn State, his alma mater, to take the "Ice Bucket Challenge." It shows him wearing a Penn State T-shirt and dumping a cooler of ice water on his head.

"I'm Tim Shaw. A year ago I was playing NFL football. I have recently been diagnosed with ALS," Shaw said in the video. "I am here today to stand up and fight with all of you against this disease."

See SHAW, Page B2



Former Livonia Clarenceville football star Tim Shaw (left), pictured speaking with Observer sports editor Ed Wright at Shaw's football camp this past summer, announced Tuesday that he is battling Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Sunday editions of the Observer is Friday at 11 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

P-CEP and the Whalers

The Plymouth Whalers is hosting a fundraising exhibition game 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at Compuware Arena for teams and activities at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

All proceeds from ticket sales (\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door) will be earmarked to benefit P-CEP teams and activities (Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools).

Tickets for the Whalers-Windsor game are limited and are available at all three high schools and the Plymouth Whalers box office (14900 Beck Road).

For more information, go to www.plymouthwhalers.com or call (734) 453-8400.

RU fundraiser

The Redford Union dance team is hosting a car wash on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Garner's Jewelry & Exchange, which is located at 27154 W. Seven Mile Road in Redford.

The team is raising money for a January trip to Miami, where it will perform during halftime of the 2015 Orange Bowl football game.

Ocelots excel

The "Run for the Hills" race in Farmington last Saturday was successful for Schoolcraft College cross country runners who took part.

Liam Cardenas (Plymouth H.S.) took top honors for his age group in the 5K with a time of 19:22, a pace of 6:15 per mile. Ethan Levack (Plymouth Christian) and Caton Hacker (Plymouth) placed first and second in the 10K race for their age group with times of 38:48 (6:15 pace) and 39:11 (6:19). Saturday the team travels to Flint for the Crim races.

Softball players needed

The 18-and-over Michigan Diamonds women's fast-pitch softball team needs two players — a pitcher and a utility player.

The team is composed of college players and will compete in four tournaments during the 2015 summer season.

For more information, contact Jeff Combs at jcombs@net-scape.com or 810-417-1192.

COMPETITIVE SKATING

Riverside skaters roll at national championships

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Members of Livonia's Riverside Arena Skating Club were on a roll, so to speak, at the 2014 USA Roller Figure Skating Championships held last month in Lincoln, Neb.

Led by coaches Lawaun Modrich and Jillian Heersink, the RASCals placed in a Riverside record seven events in the gathering that attracts the elite roller-skaters in the country.

Skaters compete in several disciplines, including compulsory figures, solo and team dance, creative solo dance, freestyle and precision.

Of the 30 RASCals who competed, 22 brought home medals — the most of all the Michigan-based skating clubs.

Riverside, whose skaters train up to three hours a day, four to five days a week, was led by Livonians Ian Heersink and Jade Ross, who successfully defended their national title in the Freshman A Team Dance category. Heersink also earned a bronze medal in Junior World Class Figures.

A week prior to the national competition, Heersink represented the United States at the Pan-American Olympic Festival in Puebla, Mexico. Despite being the youngest competitor in his event, Heersink earned a silver medal.

Ryan Heersink and Sofia Cueva, both of Livonia, repeated as silver medalists in Freshman A Team Dance. Heersink also placed third in Freshman/Sophomore B Figures, while newcomer Joshua Stadler of Livonia excelled in Elementary B Figures.

After seizing bronze medals for two consecutive years, the RASCals' Junior Precision Team won silver medals, as did the Novice Precision Team. The Junior RASCals precision team included Livonians Christine Asai, Stadler, Sofia and Stephanie Cueva, and Ryan Heersink; Westland resident Estella Clark; Garden City's Hanna Denes; Canton's Kinka Kimfon and Tanvi Karkare; Chloe LaMay of Plymouth; Northville's Tina

See SKATERS, Page B2



Riverside Arena skater Ian Heersink (left) is pictured receiving a medal at this summer's Pan-Am event.

BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW



Westland John Glenn senior captain Adam Valentine prepares to slow down an opponent's rush during a scrimmage Tuesday afternoon. ED WRIGHT

READY FOR TAKE-OFF

Rockets' depth could take them to great heights this fall

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

There was a lot to like about last season's Westland John Glenn boys soccer team, which finished 5-10-3 while playing in the brutally-tough Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division.

This year there is a lot more to like, according to Rockets head coach Jeff Parrish.

"Last year our top guys were very talented, but then there was a noticeable drop-off," said Parrish, whose team finished 2-8 in the division last fall. "This year we have a lot of experienced players back so we're more solid from top to bottom. We have a lot more depth."

Leading the Rockets this season is senior forward Carlos Santiago, who used the off-season to polish an already potent game.

"Carlos is so creative with the ball," Parrish said of Santiago, who tallied eight goals



Westland John Glenn forward Justin Brown controls the ball during a scrimmage Tuesday afternoon. ED WRIGHT

as a junior. "He can cut through anything the defense throws at him. Plus, he's becoming a better teammate and distributor."

Joining Santiago up front will be sophomore Justin Brown, who will give John

See ROCKETS, Page B2

ROCKETS

Continued from Page B1

Glenn an enviable one-two scoring punch.

Leading the way at the opposite end of the pitch will be junior goal-keeper Ryan Dobney, a first-year varsity starter.

"Ryan has looked really good already in our practices and scrimmages," Parrish observed.

The heart of the Rockets' defense will consist of returning senior center-backs Jacob Damian and Derek Merschman, both of whom are "fast and strong," in the estimation of Parrish.

Protecting the flanks

will be juniors Brandon Hart and Brendan Murphy.

Parrish's mid-field will be bolstered by the return of all-conference senior Adam Valentine.

"Adam is a very good leader for us," Parrish said. "He's very smart and he knows where everybody needs to be."

Senior Jose Cruz and junior Nyle Evans will join Valentine in the mid-field. Evans is a two-year starter.

"I like our balance this season," Parrish summarized. "We really don't have any glaring weaknesses."

The Rockets open their season Friday at Belleville.

ewright@hometownlife.com

SHAW

Continued from Page B1

"I want to challenge the Tennessee Titans organization, coach James Franklin and the Penn State football team, and my Clarenceville (Michigan) community. Let's do this."

Shaw appeared fit and in good spirits during the annual youth football

camp he hosted in June at Clarenceville, according to *Observer* sports editor Ed Wright.

Shaw quickly became a special teams ace in the NFL and was the Titans' special teams captain in 2011 and 2012.

Often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain

and spinal cord.

According to the ALS Association, the progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually leads to death. When the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost. With voluntary muscle action progressively affected, patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed.

The ALS Association said it received \$15.6 million in donations between July 29 and Aug. 18 from people who took videos of themselves getting doused with a bucket of cold water.

Earlier this month, Shaw posted a message on Twitter: "What you SAY matters! What you DO matters! Stop floating around this life like it doesn't. #live on #purpose"



Members of the Riverside Arena medal-winning precision team include (front row from left) Kierra Trinity, Miranda Esser, Andrew Esser, (middle row from left) Christine Asai, Chloe LaMay, Hanna Denes, Kinka Kimfon, Sofia Cueva, Estella Clark, (back row from left) Lawaun Modrich, Tanvi Karkare, Stephanie Cueva, Tina Stadnik, Ryan Heersink, Joshua Stadler and Jillian Heersink.

SKATERS

Continued from Page B1

Stadnik, and Andrew and Miranda Esser; and Redford's Kierra Trinity.

Novice RASCals Precision team members included Steve Chappell,

Jillian and Ian Heersink, and Jade Ross of Livonia; Olesya Stadnik of Northville; Miranda Brooks of Redford; La-Keisha Conley of Detroit; and Mahnaz Shafii of Novi.

Also competing in the championships are the Junior RASCals II precision team were Emma Chappell, Mari and Reese DeSchryver of Livonia; Casey and Tatum Sheppard of Redford; and Caliel, Cassidy and Carrington Conley of Detroit.

The Riverside RASCals skating club was established six years ago

with five skaters. It has grown to 32 registered competitors this season.

For more information about the club, go to riversidearena.com or riversiderascals.org.

ewright@hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS SOCCER
Friday, Aug. 22
Livonia Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Farmington at Franklin, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Belleville, 5:30 p.m.
Redford Union at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.
Thurston at Monroe, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 23
Garden City at Carlson, TBA
VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Aug. 23

Garden City at St. Philip, TBA
Clarenceville at Oakland Christian, 9 a.m.
Ladywood at Airport, 9 a.m.
Churchill at Portage Northern, 8 a.m.
Huron Valley Lutheran at Bad Axe, 9 a.m.
Franklin at A.A. Pioneer, TBA
John Glenn at A.A. Gab. Richard, TBA
Wayne at W. Bloomfield, 8 a.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING
Saturday, Aug. 23
Stevenson at Mercy, noon

BOYS TENNIS
Friday, Aug. 22
John Glenn at Taylor Kennedy, 8 a.m.
GIRLS GOLF
Thursday, Aug. 21
Churchill at Highest Honor Inv., 7:30 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 22
Livonia City Tournament at Whispering Willows, 9:30 a.m.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday, Aug. 23
Ladywood at Mich. Catholic Inv., TBA
Franklin at South Lyon Inv., 9:30 a.m.
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday, Aug. 23
Franklin at South Lyon Invite, 9:30 a.m.
GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
Saturday, Aug. 23
Ladywood at Saline Play Day, 9 a.m.

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BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

Strong, experienced mid-fielders spearhead Livonia Franklin kickers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A drenching thunderstorm moved Livonia Franklin's boys soccer team indoors Tuesday afternoon – but it didn't stop the Patriots from moving forward.

The Patriots didn't let the elements slow them down at all as they shifted their practice to the school's weight room and forged ahead toward their season opener against Farmington less than 72 hours away.

Head coach Vic Rodopoulus welcomes back several key performers from a team that went 11-8-1 last year and up-ended Kensington Lakes Athletic Association rival Plymouth in the opening round of the Division 1 district tournament at Canton.

"We have depth all over the field," said Rodopoulus, when asked

what he likes best about his 2014 contingent. "We really don't have a hole out there. We have all the bases covered.

"We have a lot of key returners back and there are some guys up from the junior varsity team who are showing me something. Everybody is eager to get the season rolling."

The heart of the Patriots' line-up pumps in its mid-field, which includes senior leaders Kyle Hayes, Nick Curtis and PJ McGeary.

"Each one of these guys brings something different to the team," Rodopoulus said. "They bring humor, positiveness, hard work and they're all good players. They're good friends and they know how to bring everybody else together, which is important if this team is going to be successful."

Also expected to play

important roles in the mid-field are juniors Ryan Bieth and Jordan Whitt.

"They're both really good players," Rodopoulus said. "Jordan has a lot of great finishing skills."

The Patriots' defense will be anchored by junior goal-keeper Ryan Prohaska, who will double as a place-kicker for the Franklin varsity football team.

"Ryan is strong and he's big; he covers a lot of ground back there," Rodopoulus said.

Franklin's back wall will include center-backs Zach Brokaw and Nolan Hannis, both seniors who will force opponents to work extra hard to get a decent shot at Prohaska. Junior Bobby Mandrink is a solid outside defender, his coach added.

The Patriots' forward contingent includes Robert Jiga, Bobby Williams,



Among the players who will provide valuable senior leadership for Livonia Franklin's soccer team this fall are (from left) Kyle Hayes, PJ McGeary, Nick Curtis and Zachary Brokaw. ED WRIGHT

Jeremy Sheppard and Hayes, who will be shuffled between the mid-field and up top. Newcomer Brendan Sanders, a junior, is also a threat to score at any time.

"I expect Robert will

be among our leading goal-scorers, but we have a lot of guys in the mid-field who can put it in the net, too," Rodopoulus said.

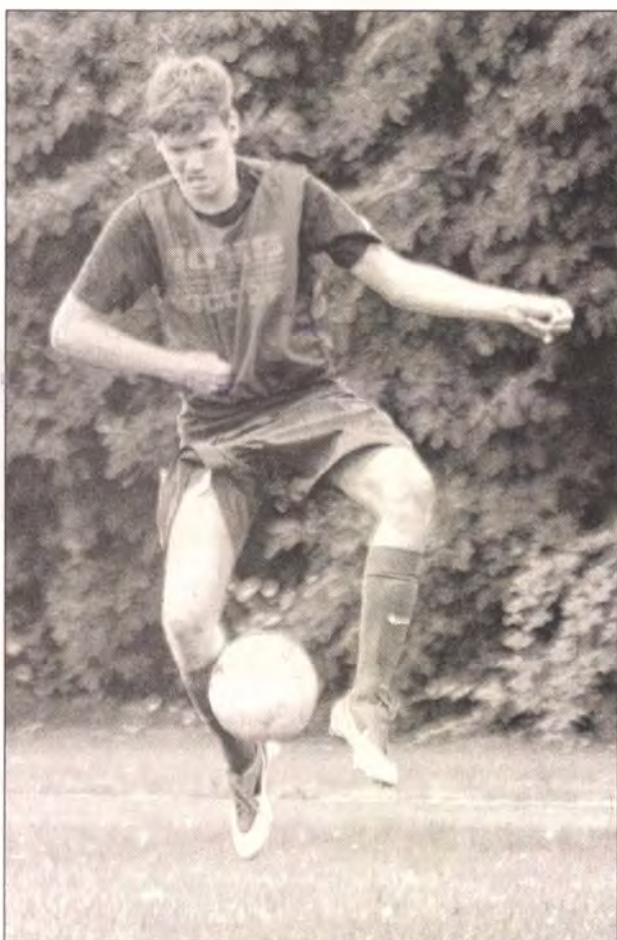
The Patriots open their season Friday at

home against Farmington. The game is set to start at 7 p.m.

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BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

Garden City soccer team has all the ingredients for a bountiful season



A Garden City soccer player proved he has hops during Tuesday's practice. ED WRIGHT

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

One year of varsity seasoning for several underclassmen sprinkled on a plate filled with equal parts skill and commitment should make the 2014 Garden City boys soccer team a force to be reckoned with this fall.

"We had quite a few younger guys who saw a lot of varsity time last year, so that will only help this season," said GC head coach Jeff Szygula. "The bulk of the team is juniors, and they're all working well together and they're committed to winning. We had a scrimmage Saturday at Dexter and I liked what I saw."

The Cougars' program runs 37 players strong, with 19 making up the varsity roster.

"We should be stronger up front this year," said Szygula, whose team came within a 1-0 loss to Dearborn Heights Crestwood of winning the school's first boys district soccer title. "Our forwards are able to create scoring chances for their teammates. We lost a lot of defenders from last year's team, but the kids moving to the back are really step-

ping up."

GC's back-end will benefit from the return of senior goal-keeper Nick Stephens, who missed a good portion of the 2013 season with an injury.

"In my estimation Nick should be one of the top three goalies in our league," Szygula said, without hesitation.

Junior Conner Gibbons will serve as Stephens' back-up. Gibbons is also a skilled defender.

Joining Gibbons along the back wall will be converted forward Maxwell Frederick, Vinnie Bakarian, Jacob Sadowski, Aaron Krzywdzinski and Anthony Mauney.

"I like the whole group," Szygula noted. "Maxwell is one of the fastest players in the conference and he's very skilled and intelligent, so I think his transition to defense will go smoothly."

Spear-heading the Cougars' mid-field will be three-year varsity player AJ Staley (a junior), junior Zach Ball, who led the program's junior-varsity team in scoring last year, and Shane Feasel, a key component for the 2013 squad. Junior James Falk, a center-mid, will round out one of the



Emmanuel Mulbah maintains possession during Tuesday afternoon's practice. ED WRIGHT

most-talented mid-fields in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference.

The Cougars should have no trouble putting the ball in the net thanks to the advanced skills set of forwards Emmanuel Mulbah and Nick Schroeder, who is returning from a broken leg suffered during the opening day of tryouts in 2013.

"They both have outstanding speed and they know how to finish."

Frederick, Schroeder, Staley and Stephens have been selected as captains, Szygula said.

The Cougars open their season at Saturday's Carlson Invitational.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Junior Maxwell Frederick will move from forward to defense this fall for Garden City's soccer team. ED WRIGHT

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Madonna University spikers ready to reload

Transfer Gates bolsters Crusaders' hitting attack

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Jerry Abraham says defense and passing always comes first when it comes to the success of the Madonna University volleyball program.

And that mantra will once again be the focal point for Abraham, who owns an NAIA-best 1,046-265 career record as he enters his 28th season as MU's head coach.

Last Friday, the 2014 Crusader team made its debut with a 25-20, 25-21, 22-25, 27-25 win against a spirited effort from a group of MU alumni players. MU opens its season this Friday at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Early Bird Tournament.

"I love the way we play defense," said Abraham, whose team is coming off an 41-2 season while reaching the quarterfinals of the NAIA National Tournament. "We dug the ball incredibly. I thought Amanda Obrycki was on top of her game tonight. She kind of ran the court defensively. We all played good defense. We passed the ball well on



Gates



Obrycki

serve-receive real well. And we have enough good hitters. If we pass the ball well, we can get a terminating kind of attack."

Obrycki, a 5-foot-4 senior libero from Allen Park Cabrini, posted a team-best 538 digs last year and will spearhead the defense.

Other senior returnees include 5-10 outside hitter Samantha Geile (Fruitport), who had 282 total kills and 236 digs; 5-11 middle hitter Kayla Vogel (Hastings), 282 kills; 5-6 senior defensive specialist Roxy Duzey (Sterling Heights), 159 digs; and 5-5 defensive specialist Cassie Castro (Saline).

Yet another senior, newcomer Casey Gates, is an explosive 5-8 outside hitter from Jackson Center, Ohio. She could be the trump card as the defending Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference champions bid for their 14th NAIA National Tournament appearance under Abraham.

Gates, a transfer from WHAC foe University of

Northwestern Ohio, sat out last season after leading the Racers to a 32-6 record in 2012. The third-team Tachikara NAIA All-American had 492 kills in her only season at UNO while garnering WHAC Newcomer of the Year honors.

Gates spent her first two seasons at Wheeling Jesuit University (W.Va.) where she helped her team to Elite Eight in the 2011 NCAA Division II Tournament while earning all-tournament and all-region honors.

But Gates is best remembered for recording 22 kills and six blocks in a four-set WHAC victory over Madonna in 2012.

A coaching change at Northwestern Ohio led to Gates transferring schools for a second time in her career.

"We played against Madonna during our season at UNO and they were a really good team," Gates said. "When our coach (Kevin Kitchen) left UNO, I decided it was a better look for me to come up here and take my talents here."

Gates, a business major, continued to take classes at UNO last year while doing CrossFit training to stay in shape. And although she might still have some rust from taking a year off, Gates showed off some of her

immense skills in the match against MU's alumni.

"I used UNO's new athletic facility that they have for the longest time, just cardio, running," Gates said of her one-year hiatus. "It's hard to say you're ready to go because of all the jumping with the wear and tear on your knees. My body wasn't used to that, but the physical work ... I was ready. I actually lifted and I think I'm stronger than before."

The transfer is confident she'll be able to fit into MU's scheme quickly even if it means making adjustments on the fly.

"I've never played middle back before," Gates said. "I always played left back. It's new. We're transitioning a lot with it, but the same role really. I'm coming in as a senior, but it's kind of, 'Don't step on anybody's toes, it's their turf.' But as games get going I think I have the same role."

The Crusaders lost arguably their top three players to graduation including middle blocker Emilie Freeman (551 kills, 166 blocks), the WHAC Player of the Year; Evia Prieditis, the WHAC Setter of the Year (1,629 assists); and Stacey Catalano (449 kills,

469 digs).

All three earned All-American recognition in 2013.

Two junior college transfers, 5-8 Spencer Stokes (Oakland CC), a setter from Clio, and Emily Johnson (Grand Rapids CC), a 5-11 middle hitter from Grandville, hope to fill the void.

"Emily Johnson is a good player and a versatile kind of a hitter who is just going to get better and better on a day-by-day basis," Abraham said. "It's hard to replace Emilie (Freeman) and we had the best setter in the country with Evia (Prieditis), and of course Stacey (Catalano) was an all-around great player ... but I think we brought in the players that can play very similar to what we played last year, same style. And I think we're very fast, too."

And that's where Gates comes in where she'll most likely to fill the position previously held by Catalano.

"I really like it," Gates said. "I believe that all these girls have the same mentality clearly as I do. They want to win and their program is very successful. They're a great academic team as well. They've got it all together. It just works."

"I have a little injury right now, a pulled ab-

dominal muscle. So my hits aren't as strong. However, I'm pleased with what I could do with it. I'm not satisfied. I want to be better, but I think taking a year off wasn't too bad. But I definitely look to see better play in the future."

Other returnees include 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Payton Maxheimer (Fenton), 293 digs; 5-9 junior outside hitter Breanna Geile (Fruitport), 182 digs; 6-2 outside hitter Katie Breault (Amherstburg, Ontario), 212 kills; and 6-1 sophomore middle hitter Hannah Poole (Kitchener, Ontario).

Also in the mix and expected to contribute for Abraham will be two freshman – 6-0 outside hitter Amanda Hawkins (Livonia Stevenson) and 6-0 middle and outside hitter Casey Looper (Battelle Creek Lakeview). Both sat out Friday's exhibition match with minor injuries.

So what is the key to garnering a 15th WHAC championship? For Abraham, it's simple and direct.

"Always keep playing defense and passing serve," he said, "and just getting to know each other better, and continue to play fast."

bebons@hometownlife.com

MORE THAN HOCKEY

Former Whalers reconnect for camaraderie and charity

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Fifteen goals were scored during Saturday's fourth annual Plymouth Whalers alumni game at Compuware Arena, with the Blues nipping the Whites 8-7.

But for players and fans alike, the game itself was merely an excuse to get together again and help generate dollars for charity at the same time.

Proceeds from the game will go to Children's Miracle Network at Beaumont Hospital.

"Anytime you can do anything for charity it's a great thing," said John Vigilante of Team Blue, a Whaler from 2002-06. "I know it's something as a player that I always liked to do. Right now, it's for a good cause."

"Doing things for Beaumont, teaming up with them and being able to put this on, it's a great day."

It was great even for goalies Scott Wedgewood (2008-12) and Bill Ruggiero (1999-2000), who each faced nearly 50 shots and had to fish plenty of pucks out of the back of their nets during the afternoon.

"More of a high-scoring game is a little more fun for everybody than a 2-2 game, but it was actually pretty challenging," said Wedgewood, entering his third season of pro hockey with Albany of the AHL. "You don't know what guys can shoot like that are older. ... You're waiting for things to happen and no one's blocking shots, so it's a little more of a laid-back game, but it was a lot of fun."

"The crowd was into it, they were cheering, so it was a lot of fun for all of us."

Wedgewood and Ruggiero split time between both teams during the 50-minute game (two 25-minute halves of running time).

"We switched every half period," Wedgewood said. "But I think I gave up more than he did, so technically he's the winner."

One former teammate he allowed a goal to was current Dallas Stars standout center Tyler



Making a diving stop for Team White is goalie Scott Wedgewood, denying a bid by John Vigilante (No. 8). Back on defense to help Wedgewood are Robbie Czarnik (No. 17) and Brett Bellemore (No. 2). RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

Seguin, a Whaler from 2008-10.

"I think he got one on me," Wedgewood said, chuckling. "A rebound, he put it up high. I'll give it to him."

Also scoring during the game – attended by enthusiastic fans and former billets of the players – was Farmington Hills product Alex Aleardi, who recently signed a free agent contract to join Carolina Hurricanes' AHL affiliate Charlotte.

"It was good, it was a fun time. I got a goal or two, that's always fun," Aleardi said. "It's good to see the older guys, some guys on my former team. It's a good experience."

Among other goal scorers were former Detroit Red Wings player David Legwand (now with the Ottawa Senators of the NHL), Brett Bellemore (Carolina) and Stefan Noesen, a Whaler from 2009-13 and now in the Anaheim Ducks' farm system.

Legwand played for Plymouth from 1997-99, but there were several others who go back even further into the Whalers' illustrious history. Those include Dan Pawlaczky (1993-97), Joe Byrne (1996-98), Mike Morrone (1994-97), Jason Lawmaster (1996-98) and Kevin Holdridge (1996-99).

All five are retired, although Lawmaster coaches locally in the Belle Tire youth program.

Common experience

Meanwhile, defenseman Andre Robichaud (1998-02) skated in his first-ever Whalers alumni game and was thrilled to do so.

"It's great," Robi-

chaud said. "The best part about it is seeing the guys you played with and then also seeing the other generations that have gone through. The pride, the 'Whaler Pride' is fantastic."

Robichaud, who played college hockey in Canada following his stint with the Whalers, reiterated that the alumni game underscores how much of a common bond the players have.

"It's nice to see that it doesn't matter what year you played," he said.

"You come back here, you have fun with the guys. You all shared an experience that's similar, although you may not have shared it at the same time."

"But you can all relate and talk about the same things, right?"

Vigilante, who recently was hired as an assistant coach for the Whalers, has played in all but one of the alumni games.

"I'll keep coming to them as long as I'm in town," he said. "It's good to meet new guys, good to see old faces, it's always a great time. Every guy I talk to loves it."

He also gave a shout out to the fans who turned out for the game, which was preceded by an autograph session.

"They're everything; without them there's no team," Vigilante said.

"We're excited for the year. It was a good turnout today, hopefully it's a sign of things to come for the season. I know it pumps up the players and gives them energy."

Wedgewood said the hockey itself wasn't the biggest part of the alumni weekend. It was getting to reconnect with former teammates and coaches (both Mike Vel-

lucci and Joe Stefan were on hand) as well as his billets, Mike and Kelly Collins.

"I still come back every summer and visit them (the Collins)," Wedgewood said. "They're the most amazing people and I'm very thankful that they're in my life."

Wouldn't miss it

Vellucci made sure to join the festivities, even though he is busy gearing up for his new job as assistant general manager for the Carolina Hurricanes. He recently left the Whalers after more than two decades of sustained success.

"It's great. I always want to come to these things," Vellucci said. "It's exciting to see guys that I've coached for the last several years and a couple guys 10-12 years ago, too. It's kind of wild to see them."

"I still stay in touch with a lot of the guys, some guys I haven't. But they're here and it's a good chance to catch up. It's a lot of fun. They look older, so I imagine I look a little bit older, too."

Stefan, promoted from assistant coach to assistant GM, said that the alumni game always is popular with everybody connected. Saturday's was a hit, both on and off the ice.

"It's always good and it's great for the guys," Stefan said. "They get treated real well here, and it's great for them to come back."

"They see all the fans again and the billets they used to live with, they enjoy it and it's a great time."

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Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Haeger Baseball Camp

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger and his brother Charlie, a former major league pitcher, will be hosting a skills camp Aug. 26-28 (9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day) at the Madonna baseball facility.

Designed for kids ages 9-17, the camp will focus on all aspects of the sport, including proper mechanics, optimal mental approach and positioning.

Participants will be taught fundamental drills to improve individual skills, coupled with learning how to play the game though detailed instruction in simulated games.

Three "Campers of the Day" awards will be presented each day. Additionally, offensive and defensive "Camp MVP" awards will be issued at the conclusion of the camp.

The cost of the camp is \$150.

For more information, visit haegerbaseballtraining.com.

The Haegers will also be hosting a winter break pitching and hitting camp. Dates for this camp will be released soon.

Border Classic game

The second annual 2015 Border Classic All-Star Football Game will be played June 13, 2015, at Wayne State University's Tom Ad-

ams Field.

The inaugural game, matching 40 of the top graduating high school seniors from Michigan and Ohio, was played last June at the University of Findlay in Ohio. Michigan won the game, 27-14.

The game is a cooperative event between the football coaches associations in each state. A time has not been set for the 2015 kickoff.

Team Michigan coaches will be named later this summer and the Michigan roster will be announced after the NCAA signing date in February.

For more information, visit www.mhsfca.com.

Baseball showcase

Henry Ford Community College will be hosting a showcase for high school and junior college baseball players Saturday, Aug. 23, at Papp Park, 9350 Westlake Road, in Taylor.

Registration and stretching will run 8:15-8:45 a.m.

The showcase will provide local players with exposure to the Henry Ford coaching staff and professional scouts.

The registration fee is \$100. To register online, visit www.henryfordcamps.com.

For more information, contact coach Brown at 313-657-3200 or sjbrown@hfcc.edu.

Wild about winning



The Livonia Wild 10U girls softball team recently won the Silver-North Division. Pictured are (bottom row from left) Erica Maladecki, Grace Ozog, Abby Adams, Head Coach Dan Behen, Kaitlin Trantham, Jamie Ostrowski, (middle row from left) coach Nathan Adams, Allyson Collins, Emily Maliszewski, Kam Kerpet, Rachael Schornack, (back row from left) coach Melissa Bater, Sophie Bater, Molly Behen, Isabel Nostrandt, Emma Ostrowski and coach Drew Maliszewski



Younger buyers are entering the real estate market in the Midwest with an improving economy. GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

JOB MARKET GROWTH HELPS MORE MIDWEST MILLENNIALS BUY HOMES

First-time homebuyers have been largely absent from the housing market in the current economic recovery, but some metropolitan areas – particularly in the Midwest and West – are well positioned to see increases in home-buying from the Millennial generation in upcoming years, according to new research by the National Association of Realtors.

NAR analyzed current housing conditions, job creation and population trends in metropolitan statistical areas across the U.S. to determine the best markets for aspiring, leading edge millennial homebuyers. Austin, Texas, and Salt Lake City were identified as top standouts for millennials for having a young adult population with solid job growth rates and still relatively affordable home prices. Seven of the 10 metro areas recognized are in the Midwest and West.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says the homeownership rate for young adults under the age of 35 peaked in 2005 (43 percent) and fell to 36 percent in the first quarter of 2014.

“Limited job prospects, student debt and flat wage growth have combined with tight credit conditions and low inventory to price millennials out of some of the top cities such as New York and San Francisco,” he said. “However, NAR research finds that there are other metro areas millennials are moving to where job growth is strong and homeownership is more attainable. These markets are well-positioned to soon experience a rise in first-time buyers as the economy improves.”

NAR analyzed 100 metro areas that have a large millennial presence, solid local job market conditions and strong migration patterns of young adults moving to that particular area to determine the best purchase prospects for young buyers. Housing affordability and inventory availability were also considered.

The best purchase markets for aspiring Millennial homebuyers are (listed alphabetically):

- » Austin, Texas
- » Dallas
- » Denver

» Des Moines, Iowa
» Grand Rapids, Mich.
» Minneapolis
» New Orleans
» Ogden, Utah
» Salt Lake City
» Seattle

Other markets with strong potential for attracting millennial homebuyers include:

- » Madison, Wis.
- » Nashville, Tenn.
- » Omaha, Neb.
- » Raleigh, N.C.
- » Washington, D.C.

NAR President Steve Brown, co-owner of Irongate Inc., Realtors in Dayton, Ohio, said favorable affordability in these markets will ultimately be met with inevitable life milestones to increase homebuying activity.

“Millennials will eventually settle down, trade their roommates for spouses and want to raise a family,” he said. “As long as median income continues to support purchasing power in most areas, the demand and opportunity will be there for millennials to purchase their first home with guidance and insights from a Realtor.”

Counsel should review senior cohabitation agreement

Q: I am past retirement age and a widow and have heard something about shared and communal housing generally for the elderly. What can you tell me about it?



Robert Meisner

A: Shared housing and communal living are becoming increasingly attractive options among seniors because of the numerous benefits: inexpensive rent, shared responsibilities, resource-efficiency, independence and companionship. Shared housing is generally defined as two or more unrelated people sharing a home. There are two main types: match-up programs which allow homeowners an opportunity to rent out vacant bedrooms following a screening-matching process and/or shared living residences also known as communal living arrangements where homes have multiple tenants, each with a private bedroom, sometimes a private bathroom and shared private common areas. In any event, it is imperative that you have a cohabitation agreement before entering into one of these agreements and have counsel review any living arrangement into which you enter.

Q: I am a senior citizen and I am questioning whether I should make a conveyance of my home to my children to avoid Medicare taking my property. What is your answer?

A: My answer is that this is an extremely complex question which should take into consideration a whole host of factors with which you should consult a lawyer who specializes in elder law. For example, you need to consider the following: 1) Which legal rights on the property will be lost in the transfer and which ones retained; 2) Is the conveyance a gift and, if so, of what value, and what will be the Medicaid transfer penalty; 3) Will any tax benefits be lost; 4) Will your financial ability to remain in the home be in jeopardy due to a shortage of liquid assets and the loss of ability to draw out the equity in the home via such vehicles as a reverse mort-

Shared housing is generally defined as two or more unrelated people sharing a home. There are two main types: match-up programs which allow homeowners an opportunity to rent out vacant bedrooms ... and/or shared living residences also known as communal living arrangements where homes have multiple tenants ...

gage; 5) will this transfer disrupt your estate plan by disproportionately shifting assets; and, 6) will this transaction cause existing mortgages to be called? Will it really remove the risk of a future Medicaid lien? These are some of the answers that you need to get from competent legal counsel.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of “Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium.” It is available for \$24.95, plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. “Condo Living 2” is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of “Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track,” second edition. It is available for \$9.95, plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn’t be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 7-11, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BIRMINGHAM

730 Graefield Ct Unit 151 \$60,000
960 Harmon St \$988,000
1999 Hazel St \$569,000
2047 Windemere Rd \$520,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

6575 Halyard Rd \$326,000
5653 Kolly Rd \$405,000
6855 Oakhills Dr \$457,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

5839 Blandford Ct \$231,000
1465 Sunningdale Rd \$1,425,000
120 Clifton Rd \$510,000
6215 Hills Dr \$250,000
4602 Sunningdale Dr \$629,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

4576 Driftwood Dr \$513,000
166 E Beechdale St \$130,000
5978 Lochmore Dr \$270,000
6081 Lochmore Dr \$282,000
195 Polvadera St \$81,000
1025 Sherbrooke St \$338,000
6138 Strawberry Cir \$350,000
295 Vinona Ter \$87,000

FARMINGTON

30722 Knighton Dr	\$360,000	43643 Nine Mile Rd	\$320,000
22927 Warner St	\$150,000	41754 Broquet Dr	\$100,000
FARMINGTON HILLS		1238 Charleston Ct	\$160,000
23103 Ashley St	\$148,000	NOVI	
28449 Bay Tree Rd	\$195,000	30997 Centennial Dr	\$155,000
27875 Berrywood Ln	\$83,000	44040 Durston St	\$149,000
21322 Collingham Ave	\$63,000	50458 Langley Dr	\$691,000
39132 Downs Ct	\$350,000	24230 N Le Bost	\$175,000
38244 French Pond	\$340,000	24700 Olde Orchard St	\$107,000
37416 Glengrove Dr	\$80,000	21850 Shadybrook Dr	\$275,000
36114 Hardenburg Rd	\$315,000	1155 South Lake Dr Unit 53	\$58,000
33695 Heirloom Cir	\$70,000	23440 W Le Bost	\$80,000
35125 Hillside Dr	\$138,000	28496 Witherspoon Dr	\$98,000
37052 Howard Rd	\$340,000	SOUTH LYON	
29552 Kings Pointe Ct	\$234,000	1201 Corral Ln	\$288,000
30115 Kingsway Dr	\$298,000	24844 Ravine Dr	\$465,000
28334 Kirkside Ln	\$197,000	53422 Shoal Creek Rd	\$400,000
29430 Laurel Dr	\$117,000	SOUTHFIELD	
25683 Livingston Cir	\$285,000	30125 Everett St	\$65,000
24551 Martel Dr	\$214,000	24183 Evergreen Rd	\$20,000
29682 Pine Ridge Cir	\$120,000	29245 Guy St	\$129,000
FRANKLIN		28729 Marshall St	\$58,000
31850 Brandingham Rd	\$724,000	18218 Melrose Ave	\$120,000
27217 Gardenway Rd	\$175,000	23349 N Chanticleer Dr	\$135,000
30320 Rosemond Dr	\$370,000	29630 Red Leaf Dr	\$122,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE		19901 Silver Spring St	\$133,000
18130 Cambridge Blvd	\$80,000	30204 Southfield Rd # A223	\$23,000
MILFORD		WHITE LAKE	
3049 Autumn Ct	\$225,000	615 Island Dr	\$276,000
919 Duke	\$119,000	9062 Rhyon Rd	\$154,000
630 Hill St	\$123,000	1394 Waverly Dr	\$162,000
314 S Main St	\$180,000		
657 Woodside Dr	\$180,000		
NORTHVILLE			

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 28 to May 2, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

43649 Arlington Rd \$194,000
4041 Berkeley Ave \$105,000
43776 Cranford Ave \$190,000
45178 Forest Trail Dr \$218,000
7599 Kingsbridge Rd \$225,000
42897 Lombardy Dr \$215,000
41410 Metaline Dr \$130,000
50145 Monroe St \$156,000
47631 Pembroke Dr \$145,000
1859 Preserve Blvd \$164,000

45339 Remington Ct	\$337,000	39749 Village Run Dr	\$247,000
1696 S Pennfield Ln	\$443,000	PLYMOUTH	
704 Sorel Dr	\$228,000	713 Blunk St	\$512,000
6536 Weatherfield Way	\$281,000	278 Irvin St	\$435,000
44477 Windmill Dr	\$220,000	1251 Ross St	\$160,000
GARDEN CITY		9227 Tavistock Dr	\$180,000
6070 Cardwell St	\$73,000	REDFORD	
1540 Garden St	\$185,000	9560 Berwyn	\$81,000
LIVONIA		26740 Joy Rd	\$15,000
14032 Arcola St	\$128,000	WESTLAND	
36468 Dowling St	\$107,000	34332 Algonquin St	\$82,000
20446 Hubbard St	\$195,000	35767 Castlewood Ct	\$77,000
29127 Lyndon St	\$170,000	30826 Cooley Blvd	\$119,000
NORTHVILLE		950 Easley Dr	\$93,000
19541 Cardene Way	\$185,000	32300 Grandview Ave	\$124,000
19128 Northridge Dr	\$100,000	32018 Ottawa St	\$28,000
42256 Old Bedford Rd	\$335,000	113 Surrey Hts	\$123,000
19856 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$260,000	32915 Woodworth Ct	\$52,000
18025 Stonebrook Dr	\$660,000		

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Condo operation

The Meisner Law Group, P.C., has announced that attorney Robert M. Meisner will be conducting a four-week course Tuesdays from Oct. 7-28, from 7-9 p.m. covering Introduction to Suc-

cessful Condominium Operation.

This seminar is designed for board members and officers, managers, developers, and association members living in or working with a condominium, subdivision, cooperative, or community association. Explore the many legal issues involved in the successful operation of an association. Cost is \$95 (\$85 per person when two or more enroll from the same organization). For registration information contact The Meisner Law Group, at 248-644-4433 or 800-470-4433, via email at: bmeisner@meisner-law.com, or visit the seminar page on the website: meisner-law.com.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday
A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.
RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours
Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.
Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES
apartments.com HomeFinder.com

Homes For Rent
No RENT until October 1, 2014
CHILDS LAKE ESTATES

Help Wanted - General
ASSEMBLY
DADCO inc., the global leader in nitrogen gas spring technology

Help Wanted - General
OFFICE FURNITURE INSTALLATION
business in Wixom is looking to fill FULL-TIME INSTALLER and DRIVER positions

BUY & SELL
hometownlife.com
Absolutely Free

Garage/Moving Sales
NEW HUDSON: Something for everyone! Inexp. slow tables, Diehard cars, Aug. 22nd-24th, 9-7pm

Wanted to Buy
CASH PAID or CONSIGNMENT for Vintage, Antique and Other Valuable Items

Sports Utility
BUICK RENDEZVOUS 2005 FWD, White/Tan Trim, Beige Cloth Interior, Clean! \$5,995

Chrysler-Plymouth
PT CRUISER 2003 Red, Automatic, All Power, Save Now \$4,995

Cemetery Lots
Oakland Hills Cemetery at "Sermon on the Mount"

Mobile Home Rentals
Little Italy
248-221-0881

COUNTER CLERKS
Full or Part-Time
Or Students, All Locations
Mai Kai Cleaners

Part-Time/Seasonal Help
• FOOD PREP
• COOKS • CASHIERS
• PARKING ATTENDANTS

Big Man Recliner
Taupé, very comfy, Good Condition
248-437-5335

Northville LARGE Multi-family sale
Kid's toys, clothes, sports equipment, bikes, fabric, DVD's

PETS
hometownlife.com

FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2005
4x4, liter, fully loaded, \$7,599

DODGE DART 2013
SXT Rally, Orange with Black Interior, Low Miles! \$17,988

Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens
In Garden Of Atonement 4 plots, \$800 each or make offer.

IT'S RAINING DEALS!
FARMINGTON HILLS
DOWN OR LEASE \$585 OR LESS

DIRECT CARE for Day Program
Residential for developmentally disabled. Competitive wages/benefits

REPOSSITION DRIVER
Must have excellent driving record. Experience preferred.

Estates Sales
Another Bernard Davis Estate Sale
313-837-1993, 415-7477

PLYMOUTH: Aug 21-23
Thurs 12-4, Fri 9-5, Sat 12-3, 399 N Evergreen St 1 blk N Pennington

GoldenDoodle-female, house trained smart 313.884.8642

FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2005
4x4, Moon Roof, Leather Interior, 6 Disc CD, \$7,599

1989 Crown Victoria
63,000 original miles, Good condition

RENTALS
apartments.com HomeFinder.com

SERVICES
hometownlife.com

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland. (734) 722-4580 x9

SENIOR TECHNICAL SPECIALIST
(Engineering Manager) for an independent company in Plymouth, MI

BEVERLY HILLS ESTATE SALE
17023 Elizabeth, 8/21-8/23 10am-4pm

Garage/Moving Sales
Bloomfield Village: Huge multi-fam garage sale, 8-4 Sat ONLY 8/23

Dogs
SHIH TZU PUPS, AKC, Vet checked, shots, black female

FORD EXPLORER XLT 2003
4x4, Black with Graphite cloth interior, \$4,995

1989 Crown Victoria
63,000 original miles, Good condition

RENTALS
apartments.com HomeFinder.com

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hometownlife.com

DRIVER-WRECKER
Weekend & Night Shift avail. Experience preferred. Call Mon-Fri 9-5pm. (734) 591-0456

WAREHOUSER
Part-Time. Good organization, customer service, experience required.

ESTATE SALE
CANTON: Garage Sale! Great bargains Thurs-Sat, 9-5pm

Household Goods
DESK: Executive cherry wood, matching chair, extensive brass trim

Fun Activities for Your Dog
Coming in September
Beginning Agility

GM ENVOY SLT 4X4 2002
1 Owner, Manager's Special This Week Only \$6,995

FORD FOCUS 2013 SE
Red, Automatic, Great on Gas! Ford Certified!

No RENT until October 1, 2014
Rentals starting at \$799

Carpet Cleaning Repair/Installation
Carpet Repairs & Power Restretching 35 years exp.

HVAC SERVICE TECH
with 5+ years exp in commercial/industrial equip.

Help Wanted - Medical
FILE CLERK
Busy Farmington Hills medical office looking for a records file clerk

ESTATE SALE
8/21 - 8/24, 10-5pm
24626 Graham, Redford. Cash only

WESTLAND: Moving Sale!
Everything must go! Living & br. outfit, stove, fridge, washer/dryer

Antique & Classic Collector
BUICK 1970 Electra
Convertible, red/white, 2nd top

PROWLER 2001 Trailer
NEVER LICENSED, GREAT FOR RETRO ROD COKE

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DRYWALL
COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.
Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

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Part-Time. Good organization, customer service, experience required.

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THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

Table with columns: Lender, NMLS#, 30 Yr. Pts., 15 Yr. Pts.
1SPMortgage 138501 (313) 215-1766 4 0 3 0
1st Choice Mortgage Lending 138560 (734) 459-0782 4 0 3 0
AFI Financial 2431 (810) 598-4424 3.99 0 2.99 0

Above Information available as of 8/15/14 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above.

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All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department: Observer & Eccentric Media)



PONTIAC

GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 2000
4x4, Leather Interior, Moon Roof. \$5,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Lincoln

LINCOLN MKZ 2010
Silver, FWD, Leather Interior, Fully Loaded! \$19,788.
NORTH BROS.
855-667-9680

Mercury

GRAND MARQUIS LS 2000
Only 74,000 Miles, Leather Interior, Moon Roof. \$5,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Pontiac

2002 Grand Prix 4 door, 3.1
6 cyl. 159K well maintained. Some rust. \$ 2,900.00 (734)420-1006

Pontiac

FIERRO 1986 SE
Red, 55k mi, not running but in great condition. Original owner. \$9,000. 313-926-4602

PONTIAC G8 GT 2009
White, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Moon Roof, New Arrival \$21,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

Saturn

AURA XE 2008
1 Owner, Automatic, Great On Gas! Save Thousands! \$9,995.
BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC
734-453-2500

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734-453-2500

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NORTH BROS.
855-667-9860



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- One pass for two to any Emagine Theatres
- Coupon for a FREE 4-square Buddy's Pizza
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- Interactive "Map It" feature online at hometownlife.com with a print and online ad purchase.

\$3.00 OFF

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Livonia - 734.261.3550
Dearborn - 313.562.5900
Auburn Hills - 248.276.9040
Shelby Twp. - 568.566.1233

Carryout Cafe
Pointe Plaza - 313.884.7400

Carryout ONLY
Royal Oak - 248.549.8000
Bloomfield Hills - 248.645.0300
www.buddypizza.com

\$2.00 OFF

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200 Barclay Circle - (N. of M-59) Rochester Hills

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Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mr. Eban
 - 5 Horror-film street
 - 8 Vitamin D source
 - 12 Roll tightly
 - 13 Kiddie's ammo
 - 14 Mo. expense
 - 15 Casino employee
 - 17 Magritte or Russo
 - 18 Fleetwood —
 - 19 Rush forward
 - 21 Secluded valley
 - 24 Olaf's toast
 - 26 Camcorder feature
 - 28 Bill, for short
 - 29 Morse click
 - 32 High-tech scan
 - 33 Sun, in combos
 - 35 NASA destination
 - 36 To date
 - 37 Earlier
 - 38 Billowing garment
 - 40 A dozen dozen
 - 42 Havens
 - 43 Genghis' grandson
 - 46 Prohibition opposer
 - 48 Fringe —
 - 49 Closet item (2 wds.)
 - 54 Romanov title
 - 55 Lao-tzu's "way"
 - 56 Lira successor
 - 57 Go slowly
 - 58 Bit of a beverage
 - 59 Sax man Getz

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	I	M	S	T	O	A	B	O	W	L
O	R	E	I	R	A	N	O	B	O	E
C	O	L	F	O	R	T	I	F	I	E
K	N	O	T	T	A	R	F			
	D	O	S			K	O	A	L	A
K	N	I	T	R	O	P	E	T	O	W
E	C	O	N	O	T	E	D	H	I	E
E	A	U	Y	E	T	I		V	E	N
N	A	S	A	L		H	O	N		
		L	O	A		C	A	L	I	C
B	O	J	A	N	G	L	E	S		A
R	E	A	M		H	A	L	T		N
A	R	G	O		A	X	L	E		S

- DOWN**
- 1 Pro Bowl letters
 - 2 Plant sticker
 - 3 Buddy, slangily
 - 4 Diploma holders
 - 5 Huge-cast films
 - 6 Bruce — of kung fu
 - 7 Wireless pioneer
 - 8 Fresco
 - 9 Ovid's route
 - 10 Ding-a- — (airhead)
 - 11 MOMA artist
 - 16 Dad, informally
 - 20 Devastation
 - 21 Strong, as venison
 - 22 Entice
 - 23 Blue-pencil
 - 25 Metric pounds
 - 27 GWTW's Scarlett
 - 29 Designer label
 - 30 Ms. Dinesen
 - 31 Impatient clucks
 - 34 "Me" types
 - 39 Starbucks orders
 - 40 Blinding light
 - 41 Dive
 - 43 Klondike —
 - 44 Bear in the sky
 - 45 Arthur and Lillie
 - 47 Wide shoe
 - 50 Yes, in Yokohama
 - 51 Groove
 - 52 Period
 - 53 Many millennia

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
				13				14			
15				16				17			
				18			19	20			
21	22	23		24	25						
26				27	28			29	30	31	
32				33	34				35		
36				37				38	39		
				40			41		42		
43	44	45					46	47			
48				49	50				51	52	53
54											
57											

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

	2				3			
		3	7	8				
8							5	
			9					3
7					5	6		
	8		4					7
3		1	5					
2					7			
9			8				1	

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CIRCUS WORD SEARCH

C A T C H E R A T L G N I G G I R N L A
T L C P Q Q E N A M H C T I P S N U N C
P K D R I J N I A L H C R E P A D E I F
A U A E I G R B A I F E Y T E N K G U O
N R C T H E R G A E R G P B U P Q N E U
T L R S A W O A A L U T M U G O A I P J
O D O I R Q E E N Y L E S I O M K C O T
M I B E A R L B W D N Y N E B R S N R H
I C A K K E S I F A S T H U U T T A E G
M T T U P P R H G U R T L O C Q M L S C
E B S H O E A E S O T I A O O P E A U B
E U A R S D R P D U S P N N O O R B T N
D N P K W E I E U O T T C F L D I L L A G
T G G O E N C B F S E A I H Y I G P R L
S E H P S T A L D S P N O L T A N S A S
P E F I I T O L S N E I P I G W D G P T
G Q O O S A A I W Q G U J F H Y G K P U
L N N U T R O O I A S R E L H G G U J A N
N E O A E N L A D D I S M A R G O R P T
G R K H S C M A U E G Y S U C R I C D K

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

ACROBATS
ADAGIO
AERIAL
APPARATUS
BALANCING
BALLYHOOD
BUNGEE
CATCHER
CIRCUS
CLOWN
CONCESSIONS
ELEPHANT
EQUESTRIAN
FLOAT
FUNAMBULIST
GAG
GRANDSTANDING
GUY WIRES
HERALDS
HOWDAH
INTRODUCTION
JUGGLERS
KEISTER
MENAGERIE
NET
PANTOMIME
PERCH
PITCHMAN
PROGRAM
PROPS
RIGGING
ROUSTABOUT
STUNT
SUSPENSION
TRAMPOLINE
TROUPE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

	2				3			
		3	7	8				
8							5	
			9					3
7					5	6		
	8		4					7
3		1	5					
2					7			
9			8				1	

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

RELIGION CALENDAR

AUGUST
MOVIE ON THE LAWN
Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. Aug. 30
Location: Faith Community

Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: Bring a lawn chair or blanket to watch God's Not Dead. Movie starts at sunset.

Admission, popcorn and ices are free. Movie will be shown indoors in inclement weather
Contact: Steve Morgan at 313-377-0832

OUTDOOR WORSHIP
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, through Aug. 24
Location: Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse, corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads, Canton
Details: Bring your own lawn chair for this service with members of St. Michael Lutheran Church. In case of inclement weather, service will be held at the church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Contact: 734-459-3333

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000
St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.
Location: School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Catholic author Gary Michuta leads a study of Acts of the Apostles.
Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304
Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.
Contact: 313-534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation.
Contact: 248-374-5920

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

SONG CIRCLE
Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

Seeking Volunteers
Time/Date: Sept. 7, Oct. 12 and 26 and Nov. 9
Location: National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section, 26400 Lahser, Southfield
Details: The Council seeks volunteers to help with activities and field trips for clients of Kadima, a mental health facility in Southfield. Trips include a Detroit Tiger game on Sept. 7; Succot celebration at Kadima on Oct. 12; Franklin Cider Mill and Johnson Nature Center on Oct. 26; and the Royal Oak Flea Market, Nov. 9
Contact: 248-355-3300, Ext. 0

PRAYER
Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests.
Contact: 248-476-8860
St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.
Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: 248-433-1011

Connection Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday
Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton
Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Childcare is available for free
Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling.
Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244
» Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: 248-433-1011

Passages
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.middeathnotices.com

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



BUIKEMA, KENT A.
Age 84, formerly of Plymouth, MI. Passed away peacefully Monday, August 18, 2014 after a brief illness in Round Rock, Texas. He was born July 17, 1930 in Chicago, IL. He married his beloved wife and best friend Lolly on August 23, 1952. Together, they had two sons, Robert (Jeanne) of Plymouth, and Todd (Linda) of Lakeway, TX. They were proud grandparents of Jodi (David) Svoboda of Livonia, MI, John (Maggie) Buikema of College Station, TX, and Will Buikema of Brooklyn, NY. They were loving great-grandparents of Kara and Lauren Svoboda of Livonia. He was a former Principal of Canton High School, and Executive Director of Secondary Education for Plymouth Canton Schools. He loved to travel, play golf, was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Georgetown, TX, and was a proud member of the Kiwanis Club in Georgetown, TX. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Texas.



DELLA, MARIANNE MUNRO (CONRAD)
Age 52 of Westland, formerly of Plymouth and Byron, passed away on August 17, 2014. Loving wife of Wil. Beloved mother of Madysen. Dear sister of Kathleen (Scott) MacKenzie, Melanie Quinn, John Conrad and Matthew Conrad. Stepdaughter of Linda Stephens of Grayling, MI. Preceded in death by sister Cynthia Conrad, her mother Diane Conrad and her father Michael Conrad. Marianne received her Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University. She retired from the Finlan Insurance Agency in 1998 after 14 years of selling insurance there. She was also a part-time special needs paraprofessional for Central Middle School ASD program with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Marianne loved helping the children with special needs. She especially loved her family, going north to the cottage and watching her daughter perform with the Pompton team. A funeral service was held Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at St. John's Episcopal Church, Westland. Interment took place at St. Hedwig Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, UMHS Office of Medical Development and Alumni Relations, 1000 Oakbrook, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 To leave a condolence: www.schrader-howell.com

DOYLE THERESA (TERRI)
Daughter of the late Stephen and Catherine Doyle. Dear sister of the late Kay (Cook), Rita (Spence), Peggy (Paul), and surviving sister Mary Jane (Sivec); along with many nieces and nephews. Dearest friend to many. Donations in her memory are appreciated to: PAWS-N-CLAWS RESCUE, P.O. Box 455, Hazel Park, MI 48030. Memorial service to take place at a later date.



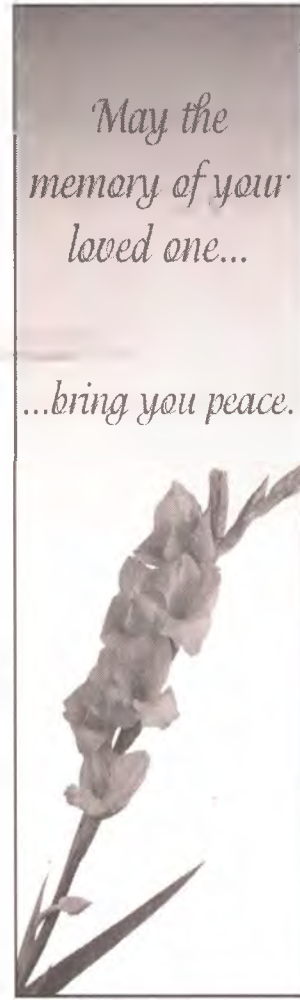
HRUSKA, FRANK
Born December 7, 1927, passed away August 17, 2014 at his home in Garden City. Beloved husband of Margaret. Father of Robert (Cindy) Hruska, John (Judy) Keech, and Susan (Edward) Hazelrigg. Step-father of Jody (Gary) Gawinek and Charles (late Leslie) Snyder. Brother of John (Judy) Hruska, Richard (Beverly) Hruska, Bob Hruska, and Pat Benedict. Grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of 11, and great-great-grandfather of six. He was also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial service to be held at the Garden City Moose Lodge on September 13 at 1:30 p.m. Please send any gifts or donations to the Angela Hospice Center, for all of their help and support during the time prior to his death. He was loved and respected by many, and will surely be missed.



MARTIN, CAROLYN I.
Age 70, August 16, 2014. Beloved wife of the late James. Loving mother of Shaun, Chris and Craig (Sarah). Dear grandmother of James, Jackson, Brooks, Davis and Lincoln. Dear sister of Janice (David) Wheeler, Beverly and Lon Hoover. Visitation was at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, and services were held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Please share a memory of Carolyn at www.rgrgharris.com



PETERSEN, SALLY ANN (REYNOLDS)
Age 81 of Plymouth passed away on Sunday, August 17, 2014. Sally was a proud wife, mother and grandmother leaving behind her beloved husband, Robert of 58 years. Loving mother of her three children, Glenn (Sandy) Petersen, Paul (Dinia) Petersen and, Karen (Randy) Kratt and, dearest grandmother of Jim Petersen, Lindsey Petersen, Thomas Bratrnicki, Kristen Bratrnicki, Jacob Kratt, Anna Kratt and, Robert Petersen. Sally was a longtime member of PEO, Chapter AI of Plymouth. A funeral service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth on Thursday, August 21 at 11 a.m. with visitation beginning at 10:30 a.m. Memorials may be made in Sally's memory to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Road, Suite 200, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 or donate online at www.cff.org; National Parkinson Foundation, Gift Processing Center, P. O. Box 5018, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741-5018 or donate online at www.parkinson.org. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.



SEPTEMBER FITNESS CLASSES
Time/Date: 10-11 a.m., Monday, beginning Sept. 15
Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer, instructs a 10-week series of classes that include aerobic movements, strength training with light hand weights and yoga stretching, followed by abdominal and back exercises. Cost is \$70 with a portion of proceeds going to the parish.
Contact: 734-455-5910

GRIEF WORKSHOP
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, beginning Sept. 10
Location: St. Priscilla's Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia
Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" is a five-week series for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. The workshop is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. For more information and registration details, visit the Good Mourning Ministry website at www.goodmourningministry.net or contact Kay at St. Priscilla.
Contact: 248-476-4700, kay@saintpriscilla.org

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
Time/Date: Sept. 7, Oct. 12 and 26 and Nov. 9
Location: National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section, 26400 Lahser, Southfield
Details: The Council seeks volunteers to help with activities and field trips for clients of Kadima, a mental health facility in Southfield. Trips include a Detroit Tiger game on Sept. 7; Succot celebration at Kadima on Oct. 12; Franklin Cider Mill and Johnson Nature Center on Oct. 26; and the Royal Oak Flea Market, Nov. 9
Contact: 248-355-3300, Ext. 0

OCTOBER CRAFTERS WANTED
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11
Location: St. Theodore Parish Social Halls, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: St. Theodore Fraternity of Christian Women is looking for crafters for its Fall Craft Show. There are 70 tables available. Each costs \$25.
Contact: Mary at 734-425-4421 (voice mail #10)

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY
Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734)261-1360
WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsllivonia.org

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Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Services held at: **Saint Andrews Episcopal Church**
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

**For Information regarding this Directory,
please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247
or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com**

FIRST FRIDAY FUNNIES

Live monthly comedy show returns to Wayne

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Tough work week? You'll get a chance to laugh away your troubles with a "TGIFFF" beginning Sept. 5 at US12 Bar & Grill in Wayne.

Gordon "Big" Dooley, stand-up comedian and comedy promoter from Ypsilanti, will launch the third season of First Friday Funnies, a showcase of local and nationally-known comedians who perform the first Friday of each month from September through April, with Dooley serving as emcee. The first two years the show was set at Wayne Bowl, in Wayne.

"I outgrew the Wayne Bowl. It was a great facility and they treated me well, but the show was ready to take the next step," Dooley said. "I chose Wayne because it's a centralized location. It gives people in the suburbs a flavor of Detroit without them having to go to Detroit."

"This is my way of bringing a taste of the city out to the suburbs."

The September show will feature Ron Taylor, Charlie Newhart and Heather Jay H. Doors will open at 9 p.m., with the show at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The US12 Bar and Grill is located at 34824 Michigan Ave.

Diverse performers

Taylor is a member of the Motown Laugh Kings, a touring group of stand-up comedians, and has performed on the BET Network's *Apollo Live* show. Newhart has acted in commercials and in plays, in addition to performing comedy Dooley described Jay H as a "very funny" up-and-coming comedian.



Gordon "Big" Dooley of Ypsilanti starts his third season of First Friday Funnies Sept. 5 at US12 Bar & Grill in Wayne.

"I try to book what I think people want to see," Dooley said. He avoids booking comedians that speak only to one segment of the audience. Performers must appeal to all ages and nationalities. "We get

people from all walks of life. I want a funny comedian."

Dooley plans to enlarge his role in the monthly show by performing a 10-15-minute set of his own material, in addition to introducing the other comedians.

A "late bloomer" to stand-up comedy, Dooley, 36, has performed for five years, basing much of his material on his own life experiences. He has toured "every major comedy club" in the state and will per-



Ron Taylor, a member of the Motown Laugh Kings, will perform Sept. 5 at First Friday Funnies.

form in New York this fall.

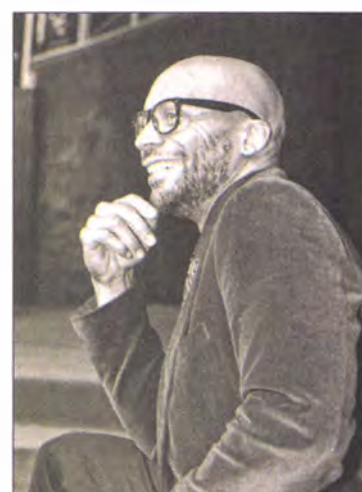
Humor from experiences

"I get inspiration from everywhere. You think about comedy all the time," he said, adding that his material is based on both light-hearted and edgy topics. "You draw humor from all things."

He avoids "offensive" jokes in his act, and explains that "there are so many other things" to poke fun at.

Dooley suggests that audience members come to First Friday Funnies with an "open mind and an open heart, ready to laugh."

"People forget how important laughter is. It's therapy for the soul," he said. "So many people watch a comedy show on TV but never watch a live show. It is completely different. My job is to make sure you are engaged and are a part of



Charlie Newhart is an actor and stand-up comedian. He'll perform Sept. 5 at US12 Bar & Grill in Wayne.



Heather Jay H will help launch the 2014-15 season of First Friday Funnies in Wayne.

the show, not just witnessing it."

For more about First Friday Funnies, visit bigdooleyjokes.com.

AT THE MOVIES



Owen Wilson (left) and Zach Galifianakis star in *Are You Here*, opening Friday, Aug. 22, exclusively at the AMC Livonia 20.

Movies opening Friday, Aug. 22:

Are You Here opens exclusively at the AMC Livonia 20: When Steve Dallas (Owen Wilson), a womanizing local weatherman, hears that his off-the-grid best friend Ben Baker (Zach Galifianakis) has lost his estranged father, the two return to Ben's childhood home to discover Ben has inherited the family fortune leaving the ill-equipped duo to battle Ben's formidable sister (Amy Poehler) and deal with his father's gorgeous 25-year-old widow (Laura Ramsey). Director Matthew Weiner (*Mad Men*). Rated R.

Calvary opens in select Detroit-area theaters: A priest (Brendan Gleeson) is faced with sinister circumstances brought about by a mysterious member of his parish. Directed by John Michael McDonagh. Rated R.

Code Black, opening at Cinema Detroit: Film-maker and physician Ryan McGarry follows a dedicated team of charismatic, young doctors-in-training in the trauma center at Los Angeles County Hospital. Best Documentary winner at Los Angeles Film Festival and the Hamptons International Film Festival, as well as the Audience Award Winner at both Denver Starz Film Festival and Aspen FilmFest. Not rated.

If I Stay: Mia Hall (Chloë Grace Moretz) thought the hardest decision she would ever face would be whether to pursue her musical dreams or follow a different path to be with the love of her life, Adam (Jamie Blackley). But what should have been a carefree family drive changes everything in an instant. Directed by R.J. Cutler. Rated PG-13.

Island of Lemurs: Madagascar: Captured with IMAX® 3D cameras, the film visits the remote and wondrous world of Madagascar. Lemurs arrived in Madagascar as castaways millions of years ago and evolved into hundreds of diverse species but are now highly endangered. Directed by David Douglas. Rated G.

Land Ho! opens at the Main Art Theater in Royal Oak: When they were brothers-in-law, married to two sisters, Mitch (Earl Lynn Nelson) and Colin (Paul Eenhoorn) were close friends, but they drifted apart as Mitch and his wife divorced and Colin's wife died. Now Mitch, a retired surgeon, recruits a reluctant Colin on a holiday to Iceland. Rated R.

What If: Medical school dropout Wallace (Daniel Radcliffe), who's been repeatedly burned by bad relationships, decides to put his love life on hold, until he meets Chantry (Zoe Kazan). They strike up a close friendship and ponder the question — Is the love of your life actually your best friend? Rated PG-13.

When the Game Stands Tall: The film tells the story of legendary football coach Bob Ladouecer (Jim Caviezel), who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a 151-game winning streak that shattered all records for any American sport. Rated PG.

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day, with closing time at 8 p.m. Wednesdays in August

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking.

Wild Summer Nights: Joe Reilly and the Community Gardeners play music for children, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, in the Main Picnic Grove. Free with zoo admission, which is reduced to \$6 after 6 p.m.

Run Wild: 5K and 10K runs, and a 1.5-mile fun walk will benefit the zoo's Ruth Roby Glancy Animal Health Complex, Sept. 14. The 5K starts at 8 a.m., the 10K at 8:45 a.m. and the untimed fun walk is at 9 a.m. Routes start at the Zoo and wind through Huntington Woods. Registration fees run from \$25 for the walk to \$55 for both the 5K and 10 K runs. www.detroitzoo.org/runwild

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 25-Oct. 10

Location: The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Artpack Services Employee Exhibit"

Contact: 248-473-1859

JANICE CHARACH GALLERY

Time/Date: Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Sept. 11

Location: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: "Daily Gratuities: Art, Sport and Cupcakes," features the work of Jessica Kovan. Also on exhibit are works by glass artists and Teresa Petersen, who creates art from thrift store and hardware shop finds

Contact: 248-432-5448

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 23

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "DongFeng" solo show by Wan-Chuan Kesler

Contact: 248-344-0497

AUDITIONS EMERGENT ARTS

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 6-7

Location: The Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti

Details: Auditions for Hollywood and Hyde, a dark comedy, will be by cold reading from the script. Actors will be seen in the order they arrive. The play will be performed Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 23-Nov. 9. Parts for six men and one woman

Contact: emergentarts.com; 734-985-0875

MOTOR CITY YOUTH THEATRE

Time/Date: By appointment, 7-9 p.m. Aug. 28

Location: 27555 Grantland, Livonia

Details: Placement auditions for the theater's "Acting for the Serious Student" course, which will run Friday evenings Sept. 5-Oct. 17. The class is for ages 8-18 and costs \$100 for nonmembers and \$80 for members. Audition consists of a 30-second monologue or two 15-second monologues that will demonstrate skills in memorization, text interpretation, character and stage pres-

GET OUT! CALENDAR



Mary Lynn Rajskub performs Sunday, Aug. 24, at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Detroit.

encc.
Contact: Nancy Florkowski, 586-894-8628; nancy@mcyt.org

COMEDY JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 22-23

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Mo Alexander; tickets are \$12 show only, \$22 with dinner on Thursday; \$16 show only, \$29 with dinner, Friday

Contact: joeyscomedyclub.net; 734-261-0555

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22 and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23

Location: Fourth and Troy Streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Birmingham native J. Chris Newberg; tickets are \$10 Thursday and \$20 Friday and Saturday

Coming up: Mary Lynn Rajskub, best known for her performance on Fox's *24*, performs at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Tickets are \$20-25

Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

FILM PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22 and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 23-24

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Jersey Boys*, admission \$3

Coming up: 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 and Thursday, Sept. 4 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 30-31, *How To Train Your Dragon*

Summer Cinema Series: All shows at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday.; seats \$3. *Abbott & Costello in Buck Privates*, Aug. 21; *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, Aug. 28

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Aug. 22 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Aug. 23

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: *Dirty Dancing*, \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through Sept. 7

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: The exhibit, "Ancient/Modern: The Design of Everyday Things," examines how

inhabitants of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East both resembled and differed from contemporary Americans

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: Wheels of Summer, an exhibit of toys with wheels, runs through Nov. 2. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC ARTS, BEATS AND EATS

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Aug. 29-31 and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Along Washington Street and adjacent parking lots and streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Nine stages with local and national bands, such as The Appleseed Collective, Candy Band, Orbitsuns, Village People, The Spinners, '38 Special, Detroit Chamber Wind and Strings, Killer Flamigos, Ara Topouzian Ensemble and more. Festival includes a juried art show with more than 140 artist booths, and more than 35 food booths, some with gluten-free, vegan, low-carb, sugar-free and low-fat options. Admission is \$3; \$5 after 5 p.m. Visit artsbeatseats.com for a full music schedule and parking information

Contact: 248-541-7550

DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 4-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, noon to 11:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 30-31, and noon to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1

Location: Hart Plaza and Campus Martius in downtown Detroit

Details: Nearly 60 local and national jazz musicians, including Stanley Clarke, Ramsey Lewis, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Joshua Redman, The Motown Legends Gospel Choir, and more, perform at this free festival. Catch the Northville High School Jazz Band at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, on the JP Morgan Chase stage

Contact: detroitjazzfest.com

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Tommy Good Quartet performs Aug. 26. \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouth-elks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Open Mic, Sept. 2; Greg Trooper and George Worthmore, Sept. 6; Empty Chair Night featuring Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and Jo Serrapere, and John Devine, Sept. 7. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.

Contact: 734-464-6302

PICNIC GERMAN PARK

Time/Date: 4-11 p.m.; park gate closes at 9 p.m.

Location: 5549 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor

Details: Old-fashion German dinner served a la carte. Wine, beer, and beverages also sold. Enzian will provide German and American music for dancing. Admission is \$5; children 12 and under no charge. No one under age 21 admitted without a parent

Contact: 734-769-0048 weekdays or www.germanpark.org



CANNED FOODS HELP KIDS COOK

When it comes to teaching kids about healthy eating habits, there's no better classroom than the kitchen.

From conceiving recipes to measuring, pouring and mixing, helping out in the kitchen is not only fun, it gets kids interested in trying new and healthy foods that they may otherwise push to the edge of their plates. So when you're searching for delicious, nutrient-rich and kid-friendly recipes to make together as a family, get inspired by easy-to-use canned foods in your pantry.

Canned foods are affordable and convenient, and many canned fruits and vegetables are just as, if not more, nutritious than their fresh or frozen counterparts. Since the canning process locks in foods' nutrients at the peak of ripeness, all of the freshness, flavor and goodness are naturally sealed in. And by having different varieties of canned pro-

duce on hand, you have year-round access to healthy recipes that feature your favorite fruits and vegetables.

With canned food staples like protein-packed black beans, hearty chicken and vitamin C-rich peaches, easy and nutritious homemade meals are just a few cans away. And with approachable recipes like Chicken Tacos with Peach Salsa and Mexican Fiesta Dip — which makes a terrific snack — along with Sweet Corn Dessert Pudding it's easy for the kids to get involved. They'll be so proud of themselves for helping, and you'll feel good knowing that you provided them with a healthy meal.

For more healthy recipes and to learn how you and your family can get cooking, visit www.CansGetYouCooking.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



CHICKEN TACOS WITH PEACH SALSA

Servings: 4

Salsa:

- 1 (15.25-ounce) can Del Monte Lite sliced peaches, drained and chopped
- 1 (4.25-ounce) can Old El Paso green chilies chopped, drained
- ¼ cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley
- 1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon Tabasco pepper sauce

Tacos:

- 8 corn, flour or whole wheat tortillas, slightly warmed
- 1 (5-ounce) can Hormel Premium chicken breast, drained and flaked
- Finely shredded green cabbage, optional
- Shredded low-fat Monterey Jack cheese, optional
- Lime wedges, optional

To prepare salsa, in medium bowl combine chopped peaches, green chilies, red onion, parsley, lime juice and Tabasco sauce. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

To prepare tacos, fill tortillas with flaked chicken; top with peach salsa. Serve with shredded cabbage and cheese if desired. Garnish with lime wedges if desired.

Note: Canned tuna can be substituted for chicken.



MEXICAN FIESTA DIP

Servings: 8

- 2 (16-ounce) can Goya black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.25-ounce) can Muir Glen diced tomatoes no salt added
- 2 (11-ounce) cans Del Monte Golden Sweet Whole Kernel Corn no salt added, drained
- 1 (4.5-ounce) can Old El Paso green chilies chopped, drained
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon Tabasco pepper sauce
- 1 large ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped cilantro
- Baked tortilla chips

In large bowl combine black beans, diced tomatoes with liquid, corn, green chilies, olive oil, vinegar, salt and Tabasco. Cover and refrigerate 3-4 hours, stirring occasionally.

To serve, stir in avocado and cilantro to mix well. Serve with tortilla chips.



SWEET CORN DESSERT PUDDING

Servings: 10

- 1 (15-ounce) can no salt added whole-kernel corn, well drained
- 1 (8.5-ounce) can creamed corn
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup light cream
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup fat free sour cream
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter 13-by-9-inch baking dish or 2-quart baking dish. In large bowl with wire whisk, combine whole-kernel corn, creamed corn, eggs, heavy cream, sugar, sour cream, flour, baking powder and salt. Spoon mixture into prepared baking dish. Bake until golden brown and set, about 55 to 60 minutes. Remove from oven. Let stand 15 minutes. Serve warm.