

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 • hometownlife.com



FOOD, B10
WARM UP
TOASTY, TASTY CHILI

Wayne, Westland halt fire authority talks

Wild: Wayne needs to get fiscal house in order

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

There was a smattering of applause Tuesday evening after city officials in Wayne announced that there would be no further discussions related to the formation of a fire authority involving Wayne, Westland and Garden City.

The announcement came a day after Mayor William Wild hand-delivered letters to Wayne City Manager David Murphy and Inkster City Man-

ager Richard Marsh indicating that Westland was putting an end to the talks.

In the letter, Wild expressed concern with the "lack of stability in Wayne's executive staff, most notably having five city managers since the merger of the two cities' fire departments in 2012."

He also cited the departure of long-time Mayor Al Haidous next month, the perceived lack of support for an authority among members of the Wayne City Council as "evidenced by their public comments," and concern about multiple and confusing ballot proposals that could potentially impact the

fire service.

"When you look at Wayne, you see they need to focus on getting their fiscal house in order before we can talk about any long-term plans," Wild said. "We need to focus on the authority, but Wayne needs to focus on other things more. They need to deal with their revenue; they need to get the police and fire millage renewed. There was a lot of confusion with the Wayne people."

The two cities will continue to operate the joint Wayne-Westland Fire Department. According to Wild, the merger is working and is saving both cities money.

Saddened by decision

Wayne Mayor Al Haidous said he was saddened by Wild's decision, but not surprised.

"In my heart, I'm sad to see this stop at this time for whatever reason," he said. "I know it's a failure and I'm not afraid to admit it's a failure. The concept was good; the intention was to create a fire authority and that was good. It would have enhanced services and saved the cities money, but we have reached a point where Wayne and Westland were not headed in the right direction. The truth is we need to move forward. This isn't working at

this time."

The decision to stop the talks comes after three meetings were held last week in the three cities to explain the authority and what steps needed to be taken to make it happen. The three councils would have had to approve the creation of the authority and then hold an election for approval of a millage to support it.

The Wayne City Council had scheduled a study session for Tuesday evening to further discuss the fire authority and then vote on moving on forward. That was removed from

See AUTHORITY, Page A2



Dispatcher Dina Benyo and retired dispatcher Kathy O'Bryan tell a few stories about serving with Stensen Klim (center).
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Police dispatcher retires after 25 years of emergencies

'No one stayed as long as I did,' Klim says

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

When Stensen Klim got hired as a Westland Police dispatcher 25 years ago, she didn't have a strong calling — she was looking for a job.

"I saw an ad in the newspaper. I was looking for a job and put in an application," Klim said. "I put in applications everywhere — a postal carrier, I took the test for government jobs to be a typist. I was looking for a job with benefits to support my family. My husband was working part-time while he was going to school."

As it turned out, Westland Police responded to her application first and Klim started working as a dispatcher in 1989. Retiring with 25 years of service as a dispatcher is rare at the police department — Deputy Chief Todd Adams said if another dispatcher worked the full 25 years to retirement, it was a long time ago.

"There were six of us hired — three



See KLIM, Page A2 Stensen Klim plans to spend more time with grandchildren, including 8-year-old Grace Banta.
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne residents to consider ward voting

Inkster mayor concerned about limiting opportunity

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Toward the bottom of a crowded Nov. 4 general election ballot, Wayne residents will cast votes on three proposed charter amendments.

Proposal 1, which would elect council members from six wards, and Proposal 2, which would establish term limits for elected city officials, were both placed on the ballot due to petitions submitted by resident Ron Roberts.

The third question seeks the renewal of a five-year, one-mill levy to support the police and fire departments. It would generate about \$370,000 annually.

Proposal 1 would leave the

See PROPOSAL, Page A2

Wayne charter amendment would establish term limits

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

There's no question that over the years, Wayne has had some long-serving elected city officials — decades long-serving.

"When I started this, there were four people on council who had served for over 20 years," resident Ron Roberts said. "That's 80 years. At the time, it was a huge problem, getting them (council members) to listen to anyone."

That's what prompted Roberts to submit petitions seeking voter approval of a charter amendment limiting elected officials to 16 years of service. He also submitted petitions for a second proposal to have council members elected by ward.

Taking a seat on the Wayne County Commission in January,

See CHARTER, Page A2



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INDEX

Business A7
Crossword Puzzle B7
Entertainment B9
Food B10
Homes B6
Jobs B6
Obituaries B8
Opinion A12
Services B6
Sports B1
Wheels B7

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TJ Brisbois guides daughter Olivia on measuring, while son Carter waits his turn.

SUBMITTED



Members of the Livonia Lions Club fulfilling their motto, "We Serve."

SUBMITTED



Livonia Kiwanis Club members, from left, Kathi Withun, Secretary Melissa Pilzner and Gary Gazella assist with the packing.

SUBMITTED

Volunteers pack 20,000 meals for the hungry

The Hall at St. Edith's Parish in Livonia filled quickly Saturday as more than 140 volunteers from around Livonia gathered to help package 20,000 meals to feed the hungry.

Guided by Michael Burwell of the Kids Against Hunger Coalition, the interior of the hall was quickly transformed into a dozen production lines. Each line contained all of the food, supplies and volunteers needed to measure, weigh, bag and seal each nutritious meal.

Burwell discussed the devastating impact of hunger: Every day, 14,500 children die of malnutrition, and 1 in 5 Americans go to bed hungry. He invited the volunteers to raise their hands in the air and repeat: "These are my hands. And today I will use them to serve. I will use them to feed families around the world and around the corner."

In short order, more than 21,000 meals were boxed and ready for distribution, many of which were delivered via Livonia Cares to food pantries in and around Livonia.

Ron Gaffney, president of the Livonia Community Service Organization FORUM, which hosted the event, welcomed and acknowledged all of the volunteers and organizations that helped make the event possible. Members of the Livonia Forum include the Livonia Kiwanis Club, Livonia AM Rotary Club, Livonia Goodfellows, Livonia Junior Chamber, Livonia Rotary Club, Madonna University Lions Club, Livonia Lions Club and the Daniel A. Lord Knights of Columbus.

The event was co-sponsored by the Kids Against Hunger Coalition and St. Edith Parish. Additional support was provided by Livonia Kids

and Families, Community Choice Credit Union, Forrester's, Thrivent, The Looney Baker, Michigan Dairy and Biggby Coffee on Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

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O&E Media holiday arts, craft show is Saturday

Jump-start your holiday shopping at the *Observer & Eccentric Arts & Crafts Show* from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Quality Inn Suites, 30375 Plymouth Road (between Middlebelt and Merriman) in Livonia.

Admission is free to the event, which features some 30 local artists, crafters and home businesses.

A free stress-reduction workshop by Dr. Michael Brackney is set for 1 p.m. Learn how stress affects the body and how to relieve it to feel better and enjoy life.

A raffle prize drawing will be held every 30 minutes.

Free refreshments will be available while supplies last.

The first 100 at the event will receive a movie pass to any Emagine Theatre and a Buddy's Pizza coupon.

A few exhibit spaces are still available. Contact Choya Jordan at cbjordan@michigan.com for more information.



Woolen Beaded Necklace

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

CITY OF WESTLAND GENERAL ELECTION November 4, 2014

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Westland on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time candidates for the Republican and Democratic parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon: Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, U.S. Senator, Congressman (13th District), State Senator (6th District), State Representative (11th and 16th District), State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University, County Executive, County Commissioner (11th and 12th District), Supreme Court Justices, Judges of Court of Appeals, Judges of 3rd Circuit Court, Judges of Probate Court, Judge of 18th District Court, Wayne County Community College and Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustee Members, School Board Members (Wayne-Westland, Livonia, Romulus, Taylor and Garden City) and ballot questions including the following: State Proposal 14-1 A Referendum of Public Act 520 of 2012, Establishing an Open Season for Wolves and Authorizing Annual Wolf Hunting Seasons - Should this law be approved? **YES OR NO**; State Proposal 14-2 A Referendum of Public Act 21 of 2013 Granting the Natural Resources Commission the Power to Designate Wolves and Other Animals As Game without Legislative Action - Should this law be approved? **YES OR NO**; County Proposal The Wayne County Retirement Commission - Shall Section 6.112 of the Wayne County Home Rule Charter be amended to authorize the Chairperson of the Wayne County Commission to appoint a designee to represent him/her on the Retirement Commission? **YES OR NO** and Local School District - Garden City Schools - Millage Renewal Proposal Building and Site Sinking Fund Tax Levy - Shall the currently authorized millage rate of 2 mills (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all property in Garden City Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2016 to 2020, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2016 is approximately \$974,101 this is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2015 tax levy)? **YES OR NO**

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of June 23, 2008 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY Wayne County, Michigan		Voted	Years Increase Effective	
Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Increases		
County of Wayne	November 3, 2009	1 mill		2019
Wayne County Jail	August 7, 2012	1 mill		2021
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills		2015
Wayne County	November 6, 2008	1.25 mills		2020
Community College	November 6, 2012	1 mill		2022
Garden City Public Schools	August, 2012	18 mills	2018 (non-homestead only)	
Inkster School District	August, 2011	2 mills		2015
	May, 2006	21 mills	2015(non homestead only)	
	May, 2006	6 mills		2015
Livonia Public School District	August 5, 2014	18.4568 mills	2020 (non homestead only)	
	August 5, 2014	1.12 mills		2019
Taylor School District	November, 2012	18 mills	2018 (non homestead only)	
Wayne - Westland Community Schools	May, 2010	18 mills	2025(non homestead only)	
Detroit Zoological Park	February, 2012	1 mills		2022
City of Westland	Operating	0.1 mills		2017
	Operating	6.4834 mills		
	Police & Fire Ret. Act 359	3.35 mills		
	Sanitation	0.0216 mills		
	Other	2.0 mills		
	General Fund	5.3716 mills		
	Library	11.8550 mills		
		0.9477 mills		
Wayne County Transit Authority	August 5, 2014	1 mill		2017
Wayne County RESA	August 5, 2014	2 mills		2018

Dated June 23, 2008

Raymond Wojtowicz /s/
Treasurer

The places of voting for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, will be as follows:

Precincts	Locations
1, 13, 18 & 19	Schweitzer School, 2601 Treadwell
2, 11, 23 & 32	Elliott School, 30800 Bennington
3 & 7	Stottlemeyer School, 34801 Marquette
4 & 8	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
5, 24 & 29	Edison School, 34505 Hunter
6, 9 & 10	Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer
12, 25 & 35	Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail
14	Marshall Middle School, 35100 Bayview
15	Greenwood Villa, 7600 Nankin Ct
16	Holiday Park Club House, 34850 Fountain Blvd.
17 & 37	P. D. Graham School, 1255 S. John Hix
20	Wildwood School, 500 N. Wildwood
21 & 42	Johnson School, 8400 Hix
22	Westland Meadows Club House, 30600 Van Born
26 & 33	Hamilton School, 1031 Schuman
27 & 36	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
28	Church of Christ - Annapolis Park, 30355 Annapolis
30 & 31	Hayes School, 30600 Louise St.
34 & 38	Dyer Social Service Center, Senior Wing - 36745 Marquette
39	Landings Apartment Club House, 7000 Lakeview
40 & 41	Hellenic Cultural Center at St. Constantine Church, 36375 Joy

The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on said day of election. Every qualified elector present and in line at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote. Voting sites are ADA compliant.

A sample of the ballot may be obtained at the City of Westland City Clerk's Office or on the internet at michigan.gov/vote

Registrations to vote will be accepted in the following locations:

- City or County Clerk's offices during normal business hours
- Secretary of State Offices located throughout the state during normal business hours

Eileen DeHart, CMC, CMMC
Westland City Clerk

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Hearing reset for suspect in ref's death

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The man accused in the death of a soccer referee in an adult league match this summer in Livonia is now scheduled to return to court Friday after his previous hearing was canceled.

Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn, was scheduled to go before Judge Cynthia Gray Hathaway last Friday morning for a



FILE PHOTO
Saad

attorney, Cyril Hall, asked it be pushed back. A special pre-trial hearing is now planned for 9 a.m. Friday at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice

motion hearing. Court officials say Saad has changed attorneys, and that the new

attorney, Cyril Hall, asked it be pushed back. A special pre-trial hearing is now planned for 9 a.m. Friday at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice

in Detroit.

Saad is accused of striking John Bieniewicz, a referee, during a soccer match Saad was playing in at Mies Park in Livonia earlier this summer. Police say Bieniewicz, who lived in Westland with his family, was about to issue a red card to Saad, ejecting him from the match, when Saad struck him. The injury sustained in the strike led to Bieniewicz's

death two days later.

He has been charged with second-degree murder. If convicted, Saad faces up to life in prison.

The hearing for Saad was originally scheduled to discuss the issue of bond and a possible change-of-venue motion for the trial. Saad's previous lawyer, Ali Hammoud, had requested the court change the trial's location because of the level of attention the case

had received.

Bond for Saad currently stands at \$1 million, which was set at 16th District Court and continued after Saad was bound over and arraigned in circuit court in August. Hammoud had requested it be reduced to \$150,000. He remains locked up in the Wayne County Jail awaiting trial.

There was no word from prosecutors, if

those two items would be discussed at this week's special pre-trial hearing.

In addition to the hearing this week, a final conference is currently scheduled for Oct. 30, with a trial date of Dec. 8, according to online court records, although those dates could change.

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Judge dismisses 5 of 6 charges in HalloWayne case

A Garden City district judge has dismissed five of six charges against Christopher Sanders. However, the Wayne man was bound over to Wayne County Circuit on a charge of identity theft related to the prize money in a HalloWayne pumpkin carving contest.

Sanders, 45, had been charged with larceny by conversion, embezzlement as an agent or trustee and embezzlement from a non-profit charitable organization, all five-year felonies, along with forgery, uttering and publishing or writing bad checks and identity theft. The charges specify the amount of money in question is more than \$1,000 but less than \$20,000.

However, 21st District Judge Richard Hammer Jr. dismissed all but the identity theft charge, saying that the witness didn't complain of being a victim and that the five elements of fraud hadn't been met. However, Hammer did find enough evidence to support the identity theft charge under a section of the law.

"The intent to commit fraud is to use another person's identity, but there is no evidence of fraud," Hammer said. "However, there was a misrepresentation of some manner to obtain the money. His name (Mike Spence), for one reason or another was used. He acqui-

esced, but he was not really happy at his name being used."

Sanders was accused of multiple felonies in connection with the nonprofit group Destination Wayne. At the heart of the matter was a \$1,000 check that was deposited into his personal bank account.

The check was written to Spence, who testified he was offered the money if he claimed to be the winner of a 2013 HalloWayne pumpkin carving contest sponsored by Destination Wayne and the Wayne Chamber of Commerce. Spence testified he never entered the pumpkin carving contest and didn't claim to have won.

Defense attorney Ronald Ruark found Hammer's ruling "a very reasonable decision." He argued during the preliminary examination that the charges should be dismissed since no one was claiming to be a victim — not the woman who donated the prize money, Beverly Campbell, a principal of Destination Wayne who wrote the check, or Spence.

"We're 83 percent of the way home," Ruark said. "We have some technical arguments that we will have to deal with downtown."

Sanders will be arraigned on the charge in Circuit Court on Nov. 3. He remains free on \$1,000 personal bond.

By Sue Mason

WAYNE COP CALLS

Break-in

More than \$2,000 worth of goods were reported stolen during a break-in of a home in the 4000 block of Hubbard on Oct. 16.

The homeowner told police he left for work at 6:50 a.m. and when he returned at 6 p.m. he found two laptop computers, a gold watch, two iPod Touches, two pellet rifles, water jug filled with an estimated \$1,000 in coins and a prescription for Norco pills.

The man said there were no signs of forced entry

and that the side door had been left unlocked. The inside of the home also did not appear to have been ransacked.

Break-in

A resident in the 30000 block of Richard Street reported to police Oct. 18 that her Nintendo video game system had been stolen from her house sometime between Oct. 13-16.

The woman told police the family had been on vacation and when they returned home, she found the gaming system missing

from her son's room. The woman said she had spent two days looking through the house for the gaming system with negative results.

Nothing else had been taken from the house. There was no forced entry, and the woman said she had locked all the windows and doors herself before leaving.

She added that she had to unlock the dead bolt on the front door to get into the home when she returned.

By Sue Mason

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Stolen vehicle

A 21-year-old Westland resident reported that at about 10 p.m. Oct. 19 someone stole his 2001 Ford Taurus after he left it running and unlocked in the parking lot of Subway, 30406 Ford.

He said that he parked his vehicle in the first spot on the west side and was only inside the store about 10 minutes. When he returned, the car was gone.

Because the car owner didn't report the incident until later that day, police weren't able to ask questions at the store or obtain a

copy of the surveillance tape. The driver said that the vehicle wasn't insured.

Fraud

A Garden City resident in the 28000 block of Bock reported Oct. 17 that someone fraudulently used her debit card account from Fifth Third Bank.

It apparently was used five times at a Meijer store in Sterling Heights until a sixth attempt was declined because it was blocked by the bank.

The card owner said that she didn't know how her information was accessed

by the thief and added that she still had her card in her possession.

Property damage

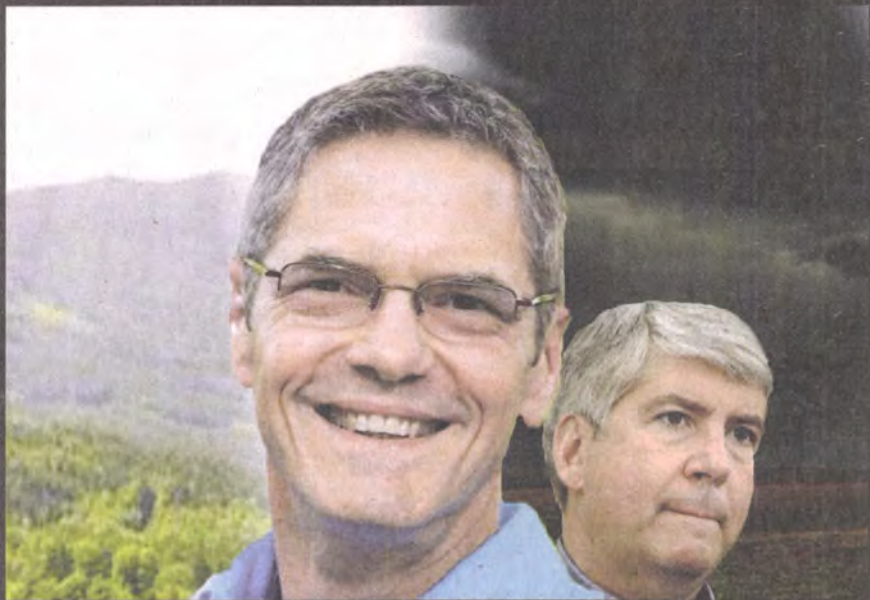
A resident in the 30000 block of Rosslyn found all four of the tires on her 2008 Jeep station wagon slashed about 9:30 a.m. Oct. 18 after it was parked in her driveway overnight.

She said that when she tried to fill the tires, but wasn't able to. She then reported the incident to Garden City Police.

The damage was estimated at about \$400.

By Sue Buck

WHY IS SCHAUER LEADING SNYDER IN THE POLLS?



MAYBE PEOPLE STARTED LOOKING AT THE REAL STATS

Michigan National Ranking United States

Michigan	National Ranking	United States
Unemployment		
7.4%	44 th	6.1%
Female Worker Earnings		
74 cents/dollar	44 th	77 cents/dollar
K-12 Funding Per Student		
\$9,733	42 nd	\$12,231
Higher Education Appropriations per FTE		
\$4,663	39 th	\$6,290
Infant Mortality		
7.4 per 1,000	37 th	5.9 per 1,000
Children in Poverty		
25%	36 th	22%
Police per 1,000 Civilians		
2.64	47 th	3.42
Violent Crime Rate per 100,000		
490.3	40 th	386.3
Credit Rating		
AA-	45 th	AA+

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Chuck "Coon Dog" Kuhn waves at Ford Road traffic, either welcoming them or daring them to stop.



Zombie kids are another hit.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brett Kates, at right, is in the Michael Myers costume.

GARDEN CITY MINI GOLF OFFERS GOOD 'HAUNT'



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
According to Bill Bicknell, Barb Bicknell, his wife, is the creative genius behind monster miniature golf, and that doesn't scare him at all. The Bicknells of Westland own the Garden City Mini Golf, which always opens the first week in April.

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Halloween is a tradition at Garden City Mini Golf, which annually offers a haunted version. "We have been doing this for eight years," owner Bill Bicknell said. "This is our eighth season of Haunted Golf. Halloween is growing in popularity."

October brings out a special treat at Garden City Mini Golf.

The first year generated such a large response Bicknell and wife, Barbara, decided to repeat the experience.

At night there are actors in costume.

"We have Freddy Krueger, Jason, Frankenstein, clowns, etc," Bicknell said. "Every year we try to do new things to keep it fresh." There's a new tunnel

display this year.

Families have taken a swing at traditional miniature golf since 1967.

"My parents, James and Patricia Bicknell, started here in 1967," Bicknell said. Bill and Barbara took over in 1999.

The course has been located at the same site on Ford Road just east of Middlebelt and offers nostalgic recreational fun. The 18-hole putt-putt course typically remains laid back and a treat for families.

Barb spends countless hours at the course with Bill who also owns a small construction company in Westland, where the couple has resided for 20 years.

Customers keep coming back.

Hellen Hunt of Garden City stopped by to check the hours and

remarked about the business. The grandmother planned to come back with her grandsons.

"It's really nice," Hunt said. "It's great. I come here a lot, especially at Halloween. They have all the characters. They have strobe lights. It's a little scary but not too bad."

The course is open daily now through Nov. 2, an extension beyond Halloween holiday itself on Oct. 31.

The hours are 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7-11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Adult prices are \$8 for those 9 years old and older and \$6 for children 8 and under.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @SueSBuck



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Which head has the human behind the mask? That would be the clown at left, Sheldon Varhol, who is almost sure to star in your next nightmare.

What would you do over if you could?

Have you ever wanted badly to achieve something — and you were so close — but you blew it?

I have. We all have.

Here's mine...

Back in the late 90s, I was in the running to replace Ananda Lewis, the co-host of a then popular cable TV program show called *Teen Summit*. (Lewis had decided to leave the show for greener pastures at MTV, where she had been hired to co-host *Total Request Live*.)

It was my senior year at the University of Michigan, and with mere months until I earned my bachelor's degree in communications, I wanted nothing more than to line up a job in broadcasting. So I hounded the



Courtney Conover
GUEST COLUMNIST

higher-ups at *Teen Summit* for months. Months. I mailed countless audition tapes. I even sent flip-flops with my photo on them with a caption that read I just want to get my foot in the door.

And guess what?

My persistence paid off. One day, I got a call from the show's producer who said that auditions were being held for Ananda's spot. And I was invited.

My mom and I flew to Washington D.C., and the next thing I knew, I was on a soundstage — so

close to what I had thought was my dream job I could taste it.

And then the teleprompter (which I had never read from before) went up ... and I shut down.

I still don't exactly know what happened. All I know is that words were rolling up the monitor faster than I could read them, I nervously began speaking gibberish, and despite not being fully aware of anything at that point, I can tell you — with complete and utter certainty — that I felt every bead of perspiration as they slid down my back.

My golden chance was literally slipping through my fingers like sand at the beach, and I remember thinking that my

career was over before it really began.

Now, as I reflect on that day with the benefit of hindsight, I can say that it's all good. A year after that horrendous debacle, I signed my first television contract to report the evening news for a CBS affiliate in Columbia, South Carolina (WLTX-TV). And, subsequently, I'm now a pro at reading teleprompter: I can read that sucker while I hang from a tight-rope and paint my toenails at the same time.

To be clear, I don't have any regrets. I, personally, feel that regret is a wasted emotion. I realize that changing even the tiniest detail of my past would alter the entire trajectory of my life's path ... which would

not make sitting here typing this — or even having my family — a sure thing.

Again, absolutely no regrets here.

I ended up making a respectable career in broadcasting, and while I don't think about that ill-fated audition often, when I look back on the road I've traveled, it does cross my mind. What if?

My husband Scott has experienced a similar scenario. The Detroit Lions get razzed all the time about not having made it to a Super Bowl yet. But in 1991 — Scott's rookie year — the team was one game away from the Super Bowl. Meaning, had they won this particular playoff contest against the Washington Redskins, they would

have been one of two teams in the 1992 Super Bowl.

Scott will be the first to tell you that he didn't play his best that day — and the team as a whole didn't either.

That said, several years later, Scott still wonders: What if the Lions had won? What if?

And so I ask you: What's the one situation you would do over if you had a second chance?

Wayne resident Courtney Conover is a mom of two little ones and the wife of former Detroit Lions offensive lineman Scott Conover. She has more Legos and NFL memorabilia than she needs. She blogs at thebrowngirlwithlonghair.com and overshares at [facebook.com/thebrowngirlwithlonghair](https://www.facebook.com/thebrowngirlwithlonghair).



PHOENIX THEATRES
The State Wayne features a classic wrap-around marquee with 1,152 lamps and is one of the most unique historical marquees in the country.

Phoenix Theatres upgrading seats, screens at State Wayne

Phoenix Theatres has announced renovation plans for every auditorium in the downtown four-screen State Wayne Theatre — the most exciting feature being the replacement of every seat in the building with large, electric-power, leather recliners.

Each auditorium will feature wall-to-wall plush carpeting, reconfigured aisle spacing to provide every guest with 6 feet of leg room, and new vastly increased digital picture sizes in every auditorium. Renovations are already underway and the full project is scheduled to be finished by December — just in time for the holiday movie season.

“We remain true to our mission at Phoenix Theatres of focusing our attention on making the customer experience the best we can offer, where every seat in the house is the first-class section,” Phoenix Theatres owner Cory Jacobson said. “We are significantly upgrading our newest property, the State Wayne, and will offer plush recliners with power-lift footrests, better sight lines, in a completely new environment coupled with fully updated digital picture and

sound. We are also leaving our current ticket price policy in place, providing what we hope to be the finest movie-going value anyone can find anywhere in Michigan.”

Phoenix Theatres purchased the State Wayne Theatre building from the City of Wayne in mid-September. It also operates 10 screens at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and eight screens at the Mall of Monroe in Monroe. The State Wayne offers Christie Digital Projectors and Dolby's latest 7.1 Digital sound systems, new QSC speakers and amplification — all run from GDC computer servers and RealD XL 3-D presentations.

“Phoenix Theatres is currently the only theatre that is not raising prices for the luxury of reclining while experiencing the latest Hollywood releases — all part of our effort to maximize customer comfort, convenience and value,” Jacobson said.

The new seating design has the following features: loveseat pods for two, with a flip-up middle armrest and drink holders and a power recline feature for virtually limitless relax-



PHOENIX THEATRES

The new seating design provides loveseat pods for two, with a flip-up middle armrest and drink holders.

ing positions at the touch of a button. The seating also is designed for cozy, luxurious comfort and lumbar support.

“We see great promise in the other historic buildings in downtown Wayne and want to be a part of the resurgence and revival of businesses there for the long run,” Jacobson said. “We plan on keeping the history-telling mural on the exterior east wall that shows the great progress of Wayne over the years.

We want to preserve that part of how the City of Wayne tells its story to visitors and young people in the community.”

“And without question, the classic wrap around marquee with its 1,152 lamps is the character of the theatre and one of the most unique historical marquees in the country — it is part of what drew us to Wayne in the first place,” Jacobson added.

For more information, visit phoenixmovies.net.

Investors need to understand, accept market volatility

Last week the market reminded us how volatile it can be.

Last Wednesday all of the three major indexes fell. It was one of those days that causes investor anxiety. It prompts investors to question what they are doing.

The major indexes opened the day down and stayed that way. The Dow Jones Industrial Average in particular had one of those roller coaster days. The Dow opened about 200 points down and by mid-day it was down over 450 points. One could feel panic setting in.

However, after hitting its lows for the day, the Dow bounced back and by the close of business it was down about 170 some odd points. Of course, being down 170 points is not a good day on Wall Street.

Whenever there is extreme volatility and movements in the market, investors want to know why. They typically look for the one reason that caused the market turbulence. Unfortunately, when it comes to the markets, very rarely is it one event that causes the volatility.

Talk to 10 Wall Street experts and you'll probably get 15 different opinions as to what caused the market's movement last Wednesday. The general consensus was that slowing growth in Europe and, in particular, a new report showing that Germany's economy is slowing and not meeting growth projections.

In addition, experts cited ongoing issues with terrorism in the Mid-East, particularly with ISIS, along with the Ebola virus spreading in the United States. Those issues seem to be the main ingredients that caused the market's volatility.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

How to react

As investors, the question to ask is how we should react?

For as long as I have been writing a column and managing portfolios, I've always believed that investors should not react to every event. Investors have to accept that market volatility is the norm, not the exception. If investors react to every bit of turbulence in the market, they would leave their money in the bank, getting a 1 percent return or less. That's a prescription for disaster for most investors as far as I am concerned.

The only way for an investor to be successful and not panic over every twist and turn in the market is to have a long-term game plan. Investors who do not have a game plan are in reality, gamblers. Some gamblers are successful; however, the great majority loose.

A game plan is not based upon where the market is or what the market is doing today but rather, upon long-term individual goals and objectives.

As investors, last week reminds us we should not be investing for the short run. The markets are for investors with a long-term horizon.

Market volatility is a fact of life. We cannot avoid it but we can work with it.

Good luck.

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

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Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln MKZ vehicles are hot sellers at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln MKZ-A-THON — which offers no food, no gimmicks, no gifts, just great deals — takes place during business hours these next four days:

- » Thursday, Oct. 23, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- » Friday, Oct. 24, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- » Saturday, Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- » Monday, Oct. 27, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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- » Complimentary roadside assistance.

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Lincoln MKZ, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," conveyed Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "The 100,000-mile FREE bumper to bumper warranty that comes alongside all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost, exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

Loaded with features, the Lincoln MKZ will satisfy any customer, Law explained.

"The Lincoln MKZ provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or



More than 50 Lincoln MKZs will be on-site for Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln MKZ-A-THON.

COURTESY OF VARSITY LINCOLN



Loaded with features, the Lincoln MKZ will satisfy any customer.

COURTESY OF VARSITY LINCOLN

AWD, dual-zone climate control, Bluetooth®, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof, and heated and

cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few," Law detailed.

"This model defines luxury that is incompara-

ble in this price. With Lincoln most premium luxury features come standard, as opposed to paying additional for

"The Lincoln MKZ stands alone in its class of vehicles."

JERE LAW
Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager

similar features on other comparable brands.

"The Lincoln MKZ stands alone in its class of vehicles," Law emphasized.

Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that the Lincoln MKZ will hold its value.

"This model holds its value more than other models for many reasons," Law said. "Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and

dependability are advantages that add to the Lincoln MKZ's value."

The MKZ-A-THON event includes the Lincoln MKZ Hybrids in inventory, which get an EPA-estimated MPG 41/39 (city/highway) and can drive in electric-only mode up to 85 mph.

"The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid's gas mileage, dependability and warranty make for a solid modern vehicle and overall excellent experience," Law stated.

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Varsity Lincoln is the number one dealer in the nation, based on 2013 Total New Retail Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction, per a Lincoln sales report.

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"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale," Law concluded.

*0.9% APR for 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

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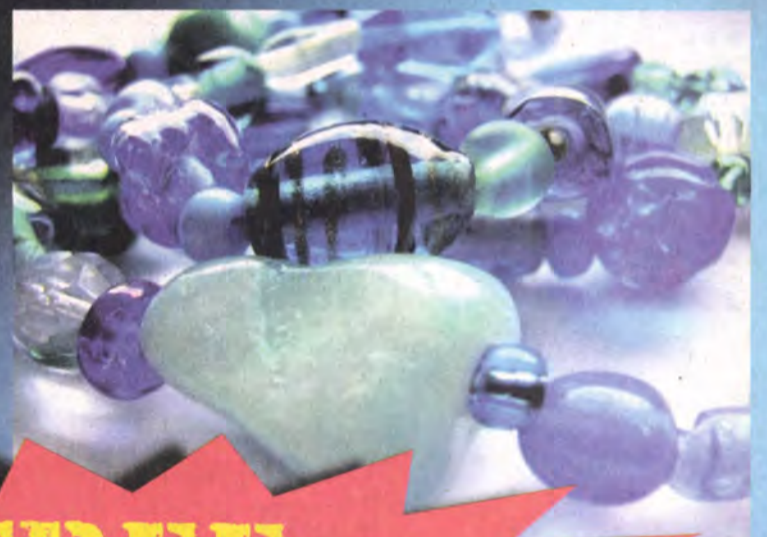
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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Churchill cages Lions in five

Chargers earns hard-fought KLAA cross-over triumph

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

During Tuesday night's KLAA Kensington Conference cross-over volleyball match featuring visiting Livonia Churchill and South Lyon, the host couldn't handle Yost.

That would be Charger middle hitter Amanda Yost, who led a spirited five-game victory for Churchill with 12 kills.

The win improved surging Churchill's record to 23-14-4 heading into Saturday's Kensington Conference tournament.

The Chargers displayed a ton of resilience on Tuesday, countering a 25-17 first-set loss with a thrilling, match-knotting 27-25 victory in the second stanza.

Head coach Anna Gatt's Chargers sparked in the third game, winning 25-16, before dropping a 25-23 decision in set four.

Churchill dominated the fifth set, 15-6.

The winners' defensive effort was paced by Lauren St. Pierre, who registered 17

digs. Natalie Panek and Rayna Yetts both contributed 16 digs while Amanda Rybak (14 digs) and Lauren Fallu (12 digs) also took turns frustrating the Lions hitters.

Sharing the setting duties effectively were Rybak (21 assists) and Yetts, who distributed 20 helpers.

Joining Yost as front-row stars were Yetts (11 kills) and Panek, who chipped in with point-earning swings.

GC earns bronze

Once Garden City's volleyball team stepped out of the pool at Saturday's Beast of the East tournament, it basked in some bronzed sunshine, so to speak.

Playing in a tougher-than-average pool, the Cougars went 0-3, losing to North Branch (25-14, 26-24), Portage Central (26-25, 25-17) and Grosse Pointe North (25-7, 23-25, 16-14), which put them in the bronze brackets.

Once there, the Cougars found their groove, defeating Allen Park in the quarterfinals, 26-24, 19-25, 16-14, before taking care of Dearborn Divine Child, 25-17, 14-25, 17-15, in the semis.

Garden City bounced back from a tough 25-16 loss in game one of the finals to St. Joseph to win the final two sets and the bronze title, 25-17, 15-12.

Allie Lynn (41 kills) and Holly Sayger (31 kills) spearheaded the Cougars' attack while Hannah Vera-Burgos was an assist machine, picking 46 on the day. Alex Roffi also had a nice day setting up the hitters as she picked up 41 helpers.

Taylor Bejma led a staunch defensive effort with 63 digs, eight more than Lynn.

"We knew it was going to be tough against St. Joe's," admitted GC head coach John Pace. "They had won their two previous matches in straight sets, so they were finished with their semifinal match before we were finished with our first set.

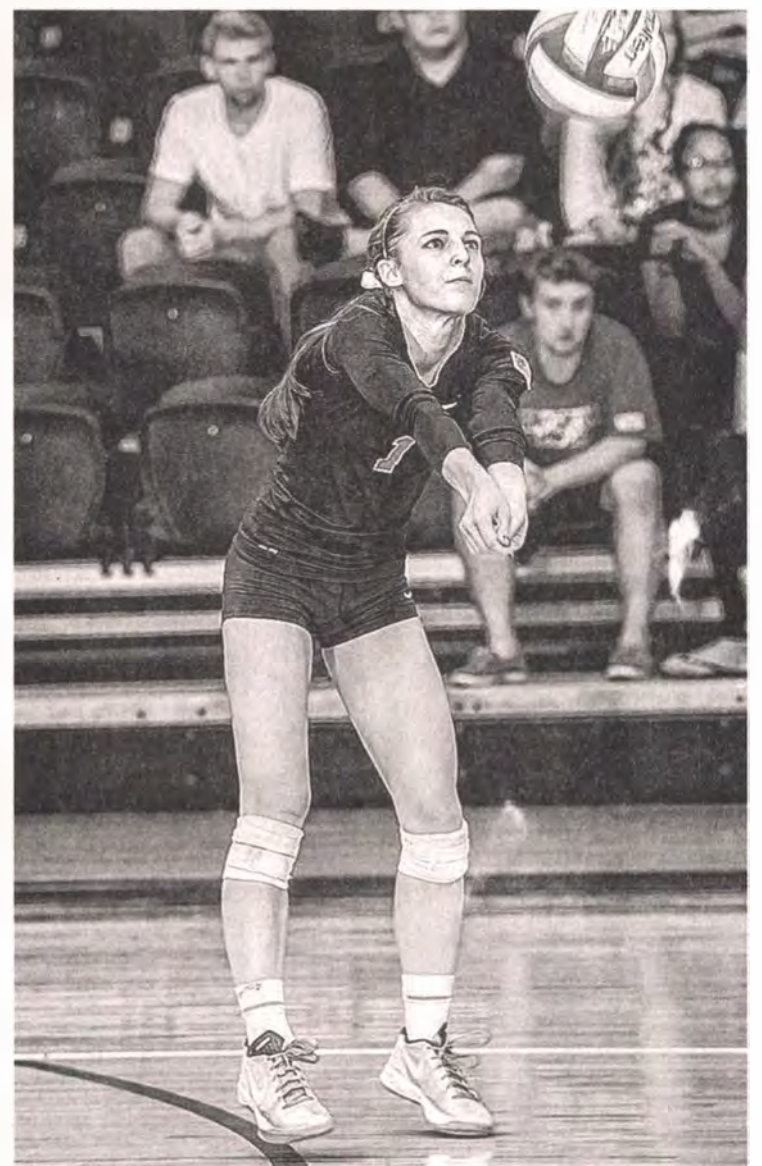
"St. Joe's was very confident. They controlled the first set, but we started to get a little foot hold late in the set. In set two we were much more confident and we controlled the play."

Pace predicted the series of tight decision will bolster his team down the stretch.

"I wanted to see how strong we could be in these situations, but four three-set matches is a lot to ask for," he said. "In the final we were playing our ninth consecutive set. I was proud of the girls. When we were done, we were a tired team."

ewright@hometownlife.com

Record-breaking effort



MARIST COLLEGE

Garden City native Brooke Zywick broke the Marist College volleyball program's record for career digs on Oct. 18 in the Red Foxes' 3-2 win over Rider. The senior libero finished the day with 19 digs and now has 1,611 for her career. "Brooke has meant a lot to this program," said Marist head coach Tom Hanna. "On days like today when we need good serve-receiving and obviously defense, she's an anchor for us."

D1 REGIONAL SOCCER

Chiefs strike late to nip Dearborn

Belcher's goal with 6:31 left gives Canton 2-1 victory

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Undaunted by two missed penalty kicks and an equalizer scored by Dearborn's Brandon Katona midway through the second half, the Canton Chiefs went to work.

The No. 2-ranked squad in the state dug in against the pesky Pioneers and broke a 1-1 tie with just 6:31 remaining to earn a 2-1 win in the Division 1 boys soccer regional semifinal Tuesday night at Westland John Glenn.

On the winning play, senior defender Sam Belcher sent a close-in shot past Dearborn goalkeeper Owen Courtright on a play assisted by senior midfielder Jack Zemanski.

A free kick by junior midfielder Jimmy Walkinshaw started the key sequence.

"(Junior midfielder) Alex Yokley drew the foul and Jimmy just played a beautiful ball back post," Zemanski said. "I was able to get my head on it.

"Alex made a great challenge in the box which allowed Sam to just finish it for us. It was all hard work, it's what this team's all about."

According to Belcher, "He (Zemanski kind of just played it across, the goalie got a deflection on it and it popped out in front of me, I just got my leg in front of it I didn't have to do much. It went upper top of the net on the left side."

Canton (21-0-3) will now square off against Northville 7 p.m. Friday in the regional final. The Mustangs required overtime to edge Temperance Bedford, 1-0.

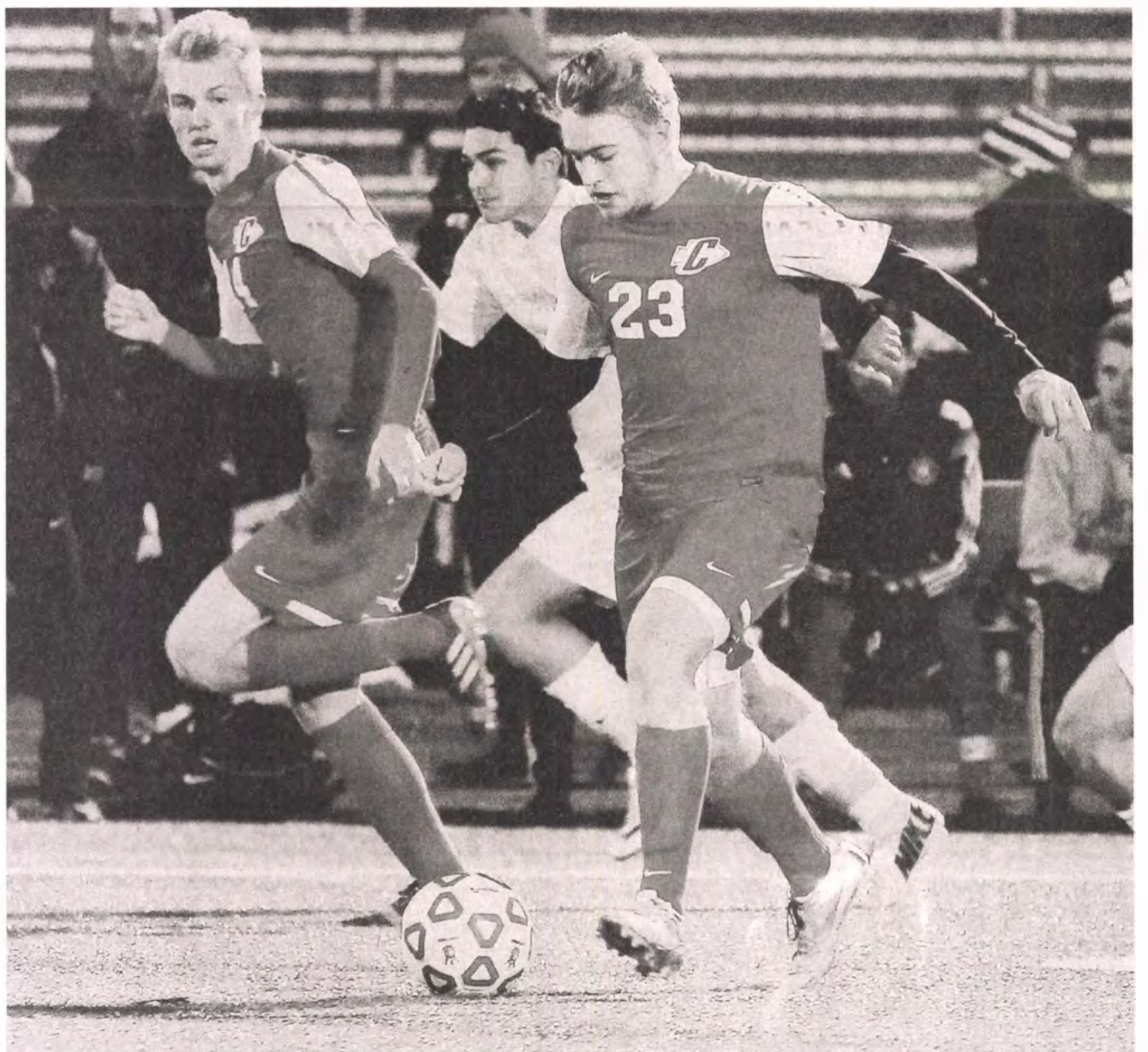
The reason the late heroics were needed was because of outstanding play by Courtright — who dove to bat away a penalty kick attempt by junior midfielder Jason Ren with 26:32 remaining — and intensity and speed by the Pioneers after the intermission.

Dearborn evened things up at 1-1 when Katona headed in the corner kick by junior midfielder Sami Abadi.

Getting it back

"We were ready to bounce back (after Dearborn scored)," co-captain Zemanski continued. "We knew we played a bad couple minutes, but we were ready to work hard.

"We knew we were the



Canton's Sam DeLoy (No. 23) pushes the ball up the field during Tuesday's D1 regional soccer game against Dearborn. At left for the Chiefs is Carter Schenk (No. 14) while Trevor Lennon of the Pioneers (No. 5) closes in.

ED HENGESH

better team and we knew we could win if we just put our head down and kept working."

Canton head coach Mark Zemanski praised his team for not giving in after the Pioneers picked up the pace in the second half.

"They (Pioneers) adapted a little better the second half to us," coach Zemanski said. "I thought we sat back instead of what we wanted to do, which is keep attacking and pressing. And they did a nice job of finding the open spaces and moving the ball well on us. It was one of the better teams we played.

"They had a nice goal to tie it up, I give my boys a lot of credit though. When they tied it up, my boys pressed them

and were able to get that winning goal."

Sharing goalkeeping duties for the Chiefs were seniors Dylan DaSilva and Andrew Loehnis, who played the first and second halves, respectively.

The Chiefs opened the scoring with 15:37 left in the first half, with Walkinshaw again in the middle of things.

Walkinshaw played a nice throughball from the right side into the box, where junior midfielder Josh Posuniak pounced on it.

Posuniak hurdled Dearborn's sliding goalkeeper, got behind him and nudged the ball inside the right post.

Canton had other chances to pad the lead, but appeared

snakebit for a while. First, Posuniak's header hit the inside of the left post.

And with 5:57 left, senior forward Carter Schenk was brought down in the 18-yard box and awarded a penalty kick. Schenk attempted a low drive, but it hit the left post.

It remained 1-0 when Ren attempted his penalty kick, which looked targeted for the back of the Dearborn net only for Courtright to fly to his left to knock the ball away.

With the Pioneers pouring it on and finally drawing even, the Chiefs might have thought another overtime scenario might be ahead of them. In the districts, Canton had to ward off Salem in PKs.

But then Belcher saved the

day with his clutch goal.

"It's amazing, we've been through overtime already with Salem, it went to PKs," Belcher said. "You just don't want to have to go through that feeling for a playoff game knowing it could end your high school career.

"So just finishing the game with six minutes left is an amazing feeling."

Canton nipped Northville 2-1 in the only time the teams squared off during the regular season. Northville is 15-4-3.

"It will be a really good game," the elder Zemanski said.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



SMOKY CHIPOTLE CHILI

Total time: 2 1/2 hours
Servings: 6-8

2 1/2 pounds beef shoulder, arm or blade roast boneless, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
1 teaspoon salt
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cans (14 1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes with green peppers and onions, undrained
1 bottle (12 ounces) beer
2 tablespoons adobo sauce from chipotle peppers
1 tablespoon minced chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed, drained
3 tablespoons masa harina
Dairy sour cream

Cut beef roast into 1/2-inch pieces. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in stockpot over medium heat until hot; brown beef in batches and remove from stockpot. Season with salt. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same stockpot over medium heat. Add garlic; cook and stir 1 minute. Add beef, tomatoes, beer, adobo sauce and chipotle peppers; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover tightly and simmer 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours or until beef is fork-tender.

Stir in beans and masa harina; return to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 1-2 minutes or until slightly thickened, stirring constantly. Serve with sour cream, as desired.

Warm up to toasty, tasty

chili

Whether cooking for a crowd or serving up a regular weeknight meal for two, nothing warms the body and pleases the appetite like a bubbling pot of rich, flavorful chili. A classic, satisfying meal, chili offers comfort in a bowl. Easy to double up into big batches, it's the ultimate time saver for busy families. You can even freeze it to enjoy later or portion it out for delicious lunchtime leftovers the next day.

These three rich and meaty chili recipes make the perfect addition to your weekly family dinner routine or when company is stopping by. Each recipe features the robust, savory flavors of beef, a favored ingredient in many chili dishes.

Whether served with warm rice, tortilla chips, cornbread or by itself in a bowl, don't forget to top off your chili feast with a tasty array of toppings. With chopped chives, green onions, sour cream, specialty cheeses and other goodies, you can add texture and taste to this popular cold weather cuisine.

For more recipes, visit The Beef Checkoff at www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



CHILLY DAY BEEF CHILI

Total time: 6 1/2 hours on HIGH, 9 1/2 hours on LOW
Servings: 6-8

2 1/2 pounds boneless beef chuck or round, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
2 cans (15 1/2 ounces each) black beans, rinsed, drained
1 can (15 1/2 ounces) chili-style tomato sauce with diced tomatoes
1 medium onion, chopped
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 cup prepared thick-and-chunky salsa
Optional toppings:
Shredded Cheddar cheese
Diced red onion
Diced green onion
Diced avocado
Dairy sour cream

Combine all ingredients except salsa and toppings in 4 1/2 to 5 1/2-quart slow cooker; mix well. Cover and cook on HIGH 5 1/2 to 6 hours, or on LOW 8-9 hours, or until beef is tender. (No stirring is necessary during cooking.) Just before serving, stir in salsa; cook 2-3 minutes or until heated through. Serve with toppings, as desired.

BEEF AND CHORIZO CHILI

Total time: 45-50 minutes
Servings: 4-6

1 pound ground beef (95 percent lean)
7-8 ounces beef chorizo
1 1/2 cups chopped white onions
2-4 medium serrano peppers, chopped
2 tablespoons ground ancho chili powder or regular chili powder
2 tablespoons masa harina or cornmeal
1 tablespoon dried Mexican or regular oregano leaves, crushed
1 teaspoon salt
2 cans (15-16 ounces each) garbanzo beans or pinto beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
Hot cooked rice (optional)
Optional toppings:
Sliced radishes
Crumbled queso fresco
Dairy sour cream
Sliced green onions
Dressing:
1 medium ripe avocado
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
1 garlic clove, peeled
1/2 teaspoon salt



Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add beef, chorizo, onions and peppers; cook 8-10 minutes, breaking into 1/4-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon; pour off drippings. Return beef to skillet.

Add chili powder, masa harina, oregano and salt; cook and stir 1 minute. Stir in beans and tomatoes; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 15 minutes. Remove from heat; let stand 5 minutes before serving.

To make dressing, cut avocado into chunks. Place avocado, water, lime juice, garlic and salt in blender container. Cover; process until smooth. May be prepared up to 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate.

Serve chili over rice with toppings and dressing, if desired. Note: Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not reliable indicator of doneness.