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COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

2014: A year of building for Westland

New city hall and farmers market pavilion open

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

In Westland, 2014 is likely to be remembered as the year that a long-needed new city hall and the Farmers Market Pavilion opened.

The new city hall, a renovated former Circuit City store on Warren Road, opened for business in early October and was officially dedicated several weeks later.

The 64,000-square-foot building provided space to

move city departments like Department of Public Services administration, economic development, planning/building and Youth Assistance, which has a private entrance, under one roof.

The building also provides space for storing voting machines and records, eliminating the need for rented off-site storage. Other than police and fire, the only city departments remaining outside city hall will be Community Development at the Dorsey Center, which is moving soon to the former Jefferson-Barns School, and the senior citizen program at the Friendship Center.

The \$10 million project was funded through the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

Farmers market pavilion

Improvements to Tattan Park, including the new Farmers and Artisans Market, were unveiled in August.

The new pavilion, parking, restrooms, a concession stand and other enhancements to the park came from plans and \$3.5 million in funding from the Downtown Development Authority. The building allows use year-round, including two winter markets.



Westland's fourth annual Blues, Brews and Barbecue was another successful event.

See 2014, Page A2



Brian Junk, a Westland resident and supervisor, earned the state Customer Service Award from Grand Rapids Building Services, which provides custodial services for the the Garden City Public Schools.

Defamation suit against councilman settled

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A lawsuit charging that a Wayne councilman defamed a resident by public comments implying that the man had touched children inappropriately has been settled for an undisclosed amount.

The outcome of the settlement, which was recommended after a Wayne County Circuit Court case evaluation, apparently depends on which side of the complaint you're on.

Both resident Christopher Sanders and Councilman Skip Monit were pleased the case was resolved, but they had different views on what the settlement meant. While Sanders clearly viewed the settlement as victory, so did Monit, who has denied the allegations.

"I feel the settlement agreement is equitable and I am very happy with the results. That being said, this was never about the money for me. This was about not allowing the climate of entitlement and intolerance in city hall to continue," Sanders said. "This was about setting an example for others who think they have no recourse against the misuse of authority or the misconduct of those in elected office."

The case was settled after being found to have no merit to be taken on to mediation or a trial, Monit said.

"It's a great relief to have that behind me. The case evaluation showed there was no reason to pursue this — there wasn't enough evidence to go to trial," Monit said. "There was no merit in the case. The plaintiff created these (legal) costs for the city."

Sanders's complaint alleged Monit made comments at a 2012 council meeting indicating Sanders improperly touched two youngsters at the Hallo-Wayne event. At a subsequent council meeting, Sanders demanded a public apology without addressing Monit specifically.

In the lawsuit, Sanders charges that Monit's comments were tantamount to calling him a pedophile.

"I will not allow myself to be

See LAWSUIT, Page A2

Garden City High custodian honored for customer service

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Brian Junk, a custodial supervisor, incorporates a positive outlook in always looking forward in his life.

His hard work and philosophical approach has gained the attention of staff and students for almost eight years at Garden City High School, which has 1,200 students.

Last month, Junk earned further recognition as the state Beulah Parker Customer Service award winner, an honor bestowed on him by his employer, Grand Rapids Building Services, the Garden City School District's privatized custodial firm. He received his award before 1,700 people at a banquet hall in Grand Rapids.

"I'm humbled for my company actually thinking of me and for Garden City for hiring us," Junk said. "I have the utmost respect for Garden City and for my company."

Some at the high school have nicknamed Junk the "Mop Jock," which doesn't bother Junk a bit.

"I like to interact with people and I like challenges," Junk said. "When I get a lot of challenges, I enjoy that."

Junk, 56, starts his day at 4:45 a.m. and makes sure that the building is safe for the kids to come in. He is always on call for whatever needs to be done throughout the day.

"It could be toilets, electrical outlets, heating or cooling, or a kid who just got sick," said Junk, a 15-year Westland resident. "Anything that you can possibly think of, it's happened. There's never a boring day for me. I love my job."

Different line of work

Until he was laid off about eight years ago, he was a fleet manager for Ford Motor Company. He decided to look for a different line of work.

Married to Lisa, the couple has two children: Olivia, 18, who attends Eastern Michigan University, and Ethan, 14, a student at John Glenn High School.

Junk grew up in and lived in Redford Township for more than 20 years

and graduated from Temple Christian, a private school.

Junk is thrilled about his award. But, he could also be recognized for a lifetime achievement award because his life has been far from normal.

When Junk was 15 years old, he broke his neck in a diving accident in his home swimming pool. One of his friends pushed him off midair during a dive.

"I went topside and hit the bottom of the pool," Junk said. "I broke my second, third, fourth and fifth vertebrae."

The doctors told his parents that he would never walk again. Junk was paralyzed from the neck down with a poor prognosis at Botsford Hospital until doctors began to see what they considered a miracle.

"I had to learn how to walk, talk and do everything all over again," said Junk, whose graduation from Temple Christian was delayed.

Junk became stronger in body, mind and spirit.

See AWARD, Page A2



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St. Mary Mercy Livonia announces First Baby of '15

K'Leigh Middleton was the first baby born at the St. Mary Mercy Birthing Center in Livonia in 2015.

Ashleigh Carroll of Canton gave birth to K'Leigh at 7:03 a.m. Jan. 1. K'Leigh weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces at birth and was 20 inches long.



Ashleigh Carroll holds her baby K'Leigh Middleton at St. Mary Mercy's Birthing Center.

Host virtual blood drives with new SleevesUp website

January is National Blood Donor Month and, this year, American Red Cross supporters have a new way to help save lives through blood and platelet donation with SleevesUp virtual blood drives.

SleevesUp is a first-of-its-kind website that lets those who feel passionate about blood donation create a virtual blood drive and encourage colleagues, friends and family members to give blood or platelets or make a financial donation to support their campaign. SleevesUp campaigns allow people to honor someone's life, celebrate a special occasion or simply bring others together to help save lives — any time of the year, regardless of location.

"SleevesUp is a new way to empower people to help ensure blood is available for patients this winter and throughout the year," said Jim Flickema, chief executive officer for the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region. "It gives those who feel passionate about blood and platelet donation and want to make a difference in people's lives a chance to multiply their impact many times over."

A SleevesUp virtual blood drive can be created at redcrossblood.org/ SleevesUp in just a few minutes. Once a campaign is created, others can pledge their support immediately by making an appointment to donate blood or platelets at a blood drive or donation center convenient for them. Those who are not eligible to give blood, do not have a Red Cross blood donation opportunity near them or simply want to do more can also support a SleevesUp campaign by making a financial donation to the Red Cross Blood Services.

SleevesUp is one of

many ways individuals and groups can celebrate National Blood Donor Month, which has been observed in January since 1970 and recognizes the importance of giving blood and platelets while honoring those who roll up a sleeve to help patients in need. The winter months can be especially difficult to collect enough blood and platelets to meet patient needs. Inclement weather can result in blood drive cancellations and seasonal illnesses, like the flu, can prevent some donors from making or keeping appointments to give.

Blood donors with all blood types, particularly O negative, A negative and B negative, and platelet donors are encouraged to make an appointment to give. In addition, individuals are encouraged to check out SleevesUp and invite others to join them in making a lifesaving donation. More information about SleevesUp is available at redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Coming soon: Plymouth Ice Festival

Kellogg Park and the streets of downtown Plymouth will host the 33rd annual Plymouth Ice Festival, long the largest free ice festival in Michigan, beginning Friday, Jan. 9, through Sunday, Jan. 11.

The 2015 event will feature the annual collegiate ice carving competition, sponsored by Genisys Credit Union. Student carvers will compete in one of two carving contests: the individual contest Jan. 10 and the team competition Jan. 11.

The individual competition, beginning at 9 a.m. Jan. 10, will give students three hours to carve their sculptures. The team competition, starting at 8 a.m. Jan. 11, will have teammates working together on their carvings. Winners will be announced and receive trophies each day at 1 p.m.

The festival is also reprising the popular Dueling Chainsaws event at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 in Kellogg Park. Carvers are each given 15 minutes, one block of ice and their chainsaws to create their carvings as the audience watches.

The festival will also offer interactive sculptures — good for posing for "selfies" — and winter sports-themed activities, such as a test of hockey skills, sponsored by Health Alliance Plan, and the Blue Care Network Cross-Country Skiing Zone, presented by Sun and Snow. The latter will feature professionals who will explain the gear, help visitors get the equipment on and set them off on the park's cross-country skiing trail.

The "fire and ice" towers will also return Jan. 10-11 to Kellogg Park, with the lighting of the towers scheduled for about 7:30 p.m. each evening.

In conjunction with the ice festival, the E.G. Nick's on Forest will be opening its party lot for beer, drink specials, live music and the outdoor bar made of ice. The party lot will be open from 7 p.m. to midnight Jan. 9-10.



FILE PHOTO

The 2015 Plymouth Ice Festival should bring thousands of visitors to Kellogg Park and the surrounding downtown streets.

Sponsors of the 2015 festival include HAP, Metro Detroit GMC Buick Dealers, Ally Financial, Johnson Controls, Genisys Credit Union, St. John Provi-

dence Health System, the U.S. Army, the Boston Beer Co., Blue Care Network, Fox 2 News and radio station 93.9 The River.

Ice festival hours are

3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Jan. 10 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 11.

The festival website is www.plymouthicefestival.com.

The Confession of my Life . . .

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Confessions are tough. Real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first.

Years ago something happened to me that changed my life forever. Let me tell you my story.

I remember it like it was yesterday...

I was working as an Associate Doctor in a busy Chiropractic office when I suddenly realized that I was unsatisfied and unfulfilled with my work. (Have you ever felt this way?) I was working for someone I no longer respected and realized that I needed to do something else with my life. I wanted to quit being a chiropractor! I was willing to give up and walk away from a career that had consumed thousands of hours of my time and for which I had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars studying and developing my knowledge. I was ready to leave this environment where I felt trapped in a box with unrealistic expectations and demands and no lasting results for my clients.



I couldn't help but wonder if the rest of my life is going to be like this. I didn't know where to turn for help. But, listen to this . . .

Finally, a respected colleague of mine convinced me to join a conference call hosted by Dr. Ted Morter, III, to learn about Bio Energetic Synchronization Technique (B.E.S.T.). Dr. Morter presented the phenomenal results achieved by B.E.S.T. treatment—with clients who have been classified as medical and chiropractic "failures"—and what made B.E.S.T. different from traditional techniques. Instantly, I felt hope flow through me. I decided to hop on a plane and attend a one-day seminar to see for myself what the technology could do. At that seminar, I was floored by the multitude of applications that are possible with B.E.S.T. This form of care allows me to help people in a way that I had been dreaming about since I first decided to become a chiropractor. In that moment, I realized that this is the approach I would use with each person I treat; this IS the approach that allows your body to heal itself from the inside out in ALL AREAS of your life.

Now let me tell you about Emma our wonderful daughter in the photo...

She gets B.E.S.T. treatments regularly and it makes a big difference in her life. You see, unlike many of her little friends, she rarely gets the "common" childhood illnesses like colds or the flu. She is what I like to refer to as the typical "Naturally Healthy Kid." This may seem like a small thing, but it makes a huge difference to her, and to our family!

It's strange how life is...

Because now people come to see us with their neck and shoulder problems. Also they come to us with their headaches, migraines, chronic pain, arm pain, whiplash from car accidents, carpal tunnel syndrome, backaches, ear infections, asthma, allergies, numbness in limbs and athletic injuries just to name a few.

Several times a day clients thank us for helping them with their health challenges. But I can't really take the credit. My confession is that I've never healed anyone, of anything. What I do is perform a specific scientific technology that energetically balances the physical body, relieves nerve pressure, and then the body responds by healing itself. We get amazing results. It's as simple as that!

The studies speak for themselves, like the Parker University study that showed that nearly 87.5% of people who saw a B.E.S.T. Practitioner were satisfied with their results. That's just incredible!

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Little Stars concerts bring holiday cheer

Youth organization visits nursing homes, senior centers

The Little Stars Foundation, a nonprofit and charitable youth organization, concluded the 2014 holiday performance season recently with 10 concerts in eight nursing homes and senior centers.

It's the ninth consecutive year TLSF has toured nursing homes and senior centers, playing Christmas carols on their violins and passing out presents to residents.

This year, the foundation has performed at Hope Health Care Center in Westland, Four Season Nursing Center in Westland; Waltonwood at Cherry Hill Independent Living, Waltonwood at Cherry Hill Assisted Living and Memory Care, Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living and Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Living, all in Canton; Waltonwood at Twelve Oak II in Novi; and Independence Village of Plymouth.

TLSF members also brought 360 fleece blankets to the seniors as this year's Christmas gifts. The members raised the funds through fundraiser activities.

The TLSF visits brought joy to hundreds of local seniors during this holiday season. The performances were well-received, with many senior residents singing along to the holiday carols.

The nursing home residents mentioned that they were "very happy to see the young visitors" and enjoyed the "talent" and "heart-warming performance and gifts" that the Little Stars brought along with them. Many residents expressed their wishes for the young musicians to come back soon.

For more information, go to <http://www.thelittlestars.org> or email tlsf@thelittlestars.org.



The Little Stars Foundation performs at Hope Health Care Center in Westland.



TLSF brought blankets and Christmas music to Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living in Canton.



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STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Zach Obsniuk, a junior in the Math/Science/Computer program at Livonia Churchill High School, was invited to attend the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament in Boston Nov. 14-15. The event draws close to 1,000 of the best math students from around the world, including China.

The only student from the Livonia area, Zach captained the team of top high school math students from around the state. They competed in individual and team math events. Zach finished 19th individually. His team took first place in the guts round team event.

Otis Kemutambah of Redford received a Dean's Scholarship from Lourdes University for having at least a 3.0 cumulative high school GPA. The scholarship has a value of up to \$5,000 per academic year. Kemutambah is a recent graduate of Lee M. Thurston High School.

Alexandra Zoski of Livonia received academic honors from Arizona State University by making the university's Dean's List for the Spring 2014 semester.

Heidi Meek of Livonia received a \$400 scholarship from Northern Michigan University for the 2014-15 academic year, part of \$6,000 awarded to NMU by the State of Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to increase the number of registered nurses committed to working in underserved fields and with underserved patients.

Casey Rhines of Livonia, a sophomore seven-year BS/DDS major at University of Detroit Mercy, heads to Cincinnati to participate in the schools Alternative Winter Break program. From Dec. 18-23, students will build community, reflect, and share work with



Zach Obsniuk, a junior in the Math/Science/Computer program at Livonia Churchill High School, holds the first-place award his team earned at the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament in Boston Nov 14-15.

communities affected by injustice. These experiences include manual labor, cultural learning, relationship building, and daily prayer and reflection. Participants exemplify the Jesuit education goal, being "men and women for others" and the Mercy tradition of "compassionate service to those in need," both part of UDM's mission as an institution of learning.

Zak Krug of Livonia was chosen by Siena Heights University to be featured as the We Are the Independents "Student of the Day." He was selected from among more than 41,000 students attending the 15 independent colleges and universities that make up the Michigan Colleges Alliance. Students are showcased as part of the Alliance's collective marketing campaign, We Are the Independents, which offers information and scholarship opportunities for high school students and their parents who are considering college choice in Michigan.

Currently a senior with a major in Sport Management, Krug is president of the Student Athlete Advisory Board and a member of the Sport Management Association. In the summer, he works at Comerica Park.

Krug attended Livonia Churchill High School. Founded in 1949, MCA strengthens the collective capacity of 15 leading independent, four-year colleges and universities, grounded in a liberal arts and sciences tradition to broaden college choice in Michigan, support access to MCA campuses for students and families, and foster career outcomes for MCA graduates. Member institutions include: Adrian College; Albion College; Alma College; Andrews University; Aquinas College; Calvin College; Hillsdale College; Hope College; Kalamazoo College; Madonna University; Marygrove College; Olivet College; Siena Heights University; Spring Arbor University and University of Detroit Mercy.

Exhibit coming to Holocaust Memorial Center



The sculpture, "Broken Walls," pictured here as a photo, is one of the items featured in the exhibit.



AILEEN WINGBLAD

The Holocaust Memorial Center debuts a new exhibit Jan. 11.

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host the exhibit Never Let It Rest: Sojourns in the Shadowlands from Jan. 11 through May 3.

The exhibit is a mixed-media installation that features sculpture, ceramics, photography, video and found objects relating to the small town of Salzwedel in the Saxony-Anhalt region of Germany during the time of Nazi control.

The artists, Hans Molzberger and Michael Roque Collins, will speak at the 7 p.m.

opening, which is free with paid admission or membership, and is generously supported by the PNC Foundation. Both artists have independently and collaboratively created art concerned with the Holocaust in Germany and Poland. Their artworks combine to create a powerful reminder of man's inhumanity to man during the Holocaust.

"We have found the exhibits using multiple mediums like art and video allows it to reach a much broader audience," Holocaust Memorial Center

Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman said. "Never Let It Rest fulfills this goal and we look forward to its display and the visit from the artists themselves."

The exhibit is supported by Susan Malinowski, Gary Shapiro and Nancy and James Grosfeld.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. For more information, got to www.holocaustcenter.org or call 248-553-2400.

Street dedication to remember fallen firefighter Woehlke

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A section of Ford Road in Westland will be named to honor the memory of a fallen firefighter.

In one of the last actions before 2014 ended, Gov. Rick Snyder signed the bill, which names Ford between Newburgh and Wayne Road the Brian Woehlke Memorial Highway.

"I'm so glad the governor signed the bill. There were other renaming bills and the governor wanted them all in line," State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland said. "I'm really happy the governor decided to do this."

A Wayne-Westland firefighter, Woehlke, 29, was killed May 8, 2013, fighting the fire that destroyed Marvaso's

Italian Grille/the Electric Stick. Woehlke was found to have died of smoke inhalation after becoming trapped in the collapsing building.

The fire has been ruled an arson and Woehlke's death a homicide.

No final report on the fire has been issued and no arrests have been made in the case, which is under investigation by the Michigan State Police.

Woehlke, who was married with a daughter, worked out of fire station 1 on Ford at Carlson. The station, named for late Fire Chief Ralph Savini, will be relocating to a new building on Central City Parkway later this month.

"We talked about it as a union local. The station

is moving but we preferred Ford Road to memorialize Brian," said Mitch Tokarski, president of the Wayne-Westland Firefighters union. "There is more traffic—it's a busier section of town. I think it's fine."

There will be a ceremonial bill signing with the governor in the near future. Kosowski said he hopes members of Woehlke's family will be able to attend.

A ceremony is expected, probably in the spring, to unveil the street signs. Kosowski said plans for that will be handled by Westland Mayor William Wild and Fire Chief Michael Reddy.

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FAMILY PHOTO

The late Wayne-Westland firefighter Brian Woehlke with wife Jennifer and daughter Ava.

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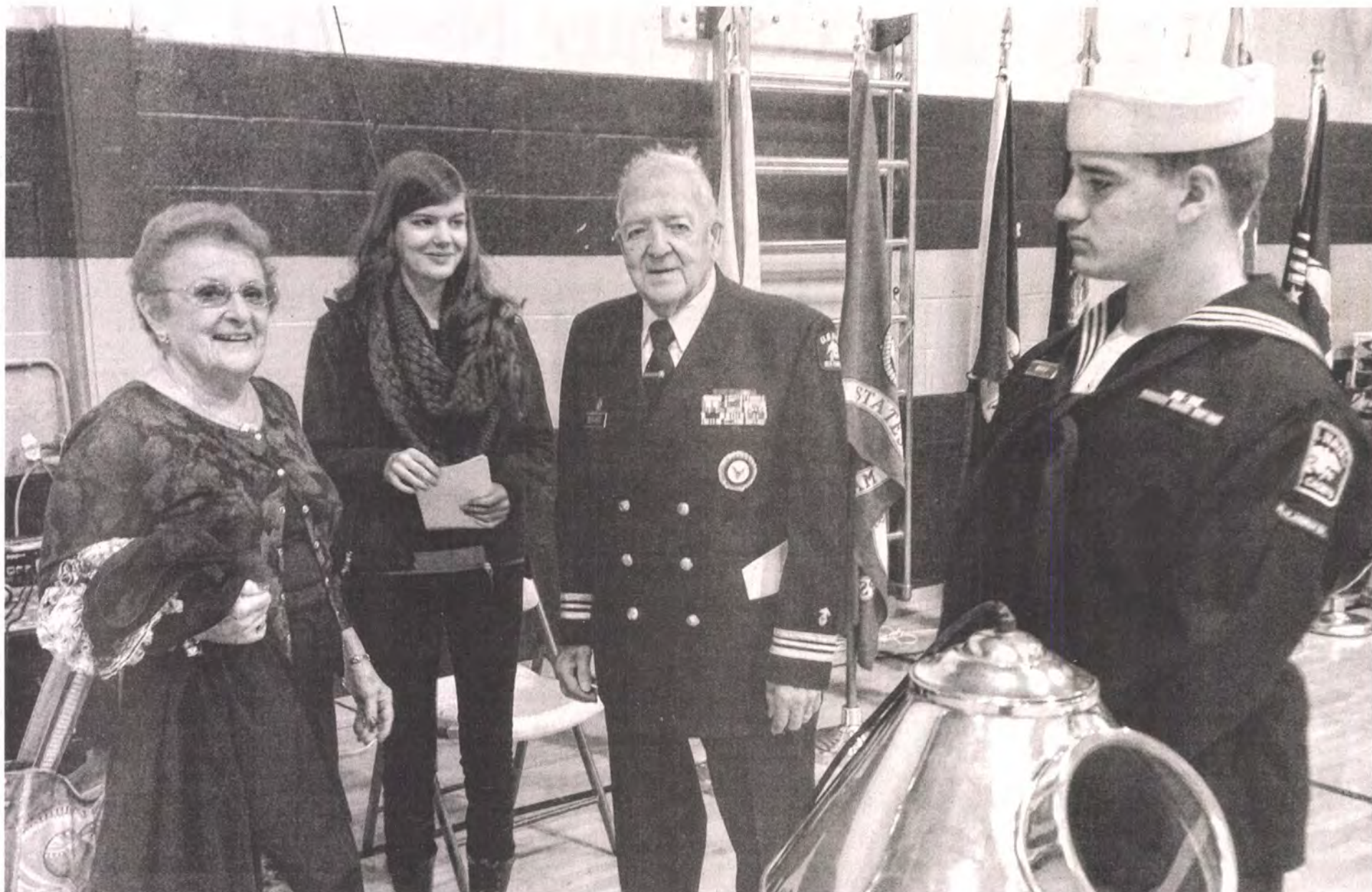
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Barbara Brennan of Milford (from left) talks with Brittany Cagle of Melvindale, Lt. Cmdr. Leonard DeNard of Melvindale and Sea Cadet Zack Marks of Northville at the ceremony. SUE MASON

Sea Cadets say farewell to their commander

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Lt. Cmdr. Leonard DeNard was a bit disappointed as he walked out of the gymnasium at Cambridge High School in Garden City.

Flanked by a cadre of Navy Leaguers and Sea Cadets, DeNard was walking off into retirement after 36 years with the Navy Sea Cadet Corps.

"One, is that all I get?" the Melvindale resident asked.

DeNard was referring to the tradition of helping a retiring sailor leave by kicking his butt off the ship. His comment attracted a second kick from Seaman E3 Christina Gregg, who had piped his departure.

The retirement ceremony was part of the division's awards ceremony, held Dec. 13 at Cambridge, where the program is based. It included promotions, awards and the announcement of Sea Cadet of the Year, an honor that went to Ethan Hansen of Northville.

"It came as a little bit of surprise," the Northville High School junior said. "I thought I might win, but there were a few people ahead of me. Once the previous petty officer left, I jumped in and filled the need. I was big brother to everybody and that might be why I got it."

Hansen also received a second honor — the Sons of the American Revolution's bronze Good Citizenship Medal. Authorized in 1895, the award recognizes a person



Sea Cadets Devin Markonni of Livonia (left) and Kory McMillan of Canton welcome guests to Annual Awards Drill. SUE MASON

whose achievements are noteworthy in their school, community or state. It was the first time the award has been presented in the state of Michigan.

Gregg of Romulus received the Daughters of the American Revolution NCSS Outstanding Cadet medal and ribbon for her exceptional and meritorious performance of her duties, leadership, character and discipline.

"I was surprised and honored to receive this," she said. "I work really hard and it's nice to know that it's noticed and appreciated."

Saying good-bye

But it was DeNard's retirement that was the

main event. A U.S. Navy veteran, he joined the Sea Cadets in 1982, entering the Great Lakes Division as a uniformed instructor. He served there eight years, before joining the Hannan Division. He served as the executive officer until he was promoted to commander of the training ship Bristol Bay in 2006.

Born in Windsor, DeNard moved with his family to the U.S. in the 1940s after Pearl Harbor. He was a Canadian Sea Cadet when he was 11 and 12 years old. He hooked up with the U.S. version as an adult through his son David.

"I took my youngest son to drill. He had long hair. The captain talked to him and told him he would have to get a haircut," DeNard said. "That was on a Monday night. On Thursday, he asked when the next drill was. That night, he talked to

the captain and wanted to sign up. I told him if he signed up, I would, too."

He went to classes 16 hours a day at the Great Lakes Training Center to start, then was assigned to the Noble Odyssey, where he worked with cadets for 13 years. He was moved to the Pride of Michigan and went to Norfolk, Va., to pick up the ship.

DeNard in his farewell speech, acknowledged the cadets, telling them that "you'll never see a better group of cadets and officers."

"I am moved to be a part of this," he said. "After all my work with this program, I can say you won't find better people. Even though I'm retiring, I will be back to check on you."

In its 50th year of operation, the Hannan Division is the oldest continuously serving sea cadet unit in the state and

one of the oldest units in the United States, according to its executive officer, Lt. Ed Brennan of Milford.

"The James M. Hannan Division was the pilot for the program in 1964 and has experienced success over the years," he said.

Changing places

The division has been housed at the high school for two years. At one time, it operated out of Brodhead Armory in Detroit. When that closed, it moved to a church before dropping anchor at Henry Ruff School in Garden City three years ago.

After just one year at Henry Ruff, the division received bad news: it had to move again. But Principal Debbie Eves, who was recognized at the ceremony, had good news for the group. They were moving with her to Cambridge High School.

"She saw to it that we

SEA CADET CORPS

Sea Cadet organizations exist in most of the maritime nations of the world. Recognizing the value of these organizations in educating youth in maritime matters, the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States to establish a similar program for American youth. The Navy League agreed to do so and formally established the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy League Cadet Corps in 1958.

The Sea Cadets program is for youth ages 13-17, while the Navy League Cadets are for those ages 11-14. The James M. Hannan Division and the training ship Bristol Bay meet at Cambridge High School, 28901 Cambridge, Garden City.

For more information, contact Lt. Ed Brennan at 248-685-9568.

got this excellent facility," Brennan said. "I remember we had a facility where the roof leaked and the lights didn't work. Debbie gave us this and that is behind us."

The program ended with lunch and DeNard, with the help of the youngest Navy Leaguer and the oldest Sea Cadet, helping slice his cake with a saber.

"Who wants to like the knife?" he joked, but added, "I'm going to miss this, but they gave me a card, a retirement card. I can go to any function with the cadets — drills, parades. I'm not going away. They'll get tired of me hanging around."

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Arthritis Today

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



INFLAMMATORY OSTEOARTHRITIS

How can a patient develop inflammatory osteoarthritis? Osteoarthritis is a wear and tear arthritis, it results from a loss of cartilage from use like a tire loses tread from wear on the road. Inflammation is like a fire. For the body, the inflammatory response destroys cartilage, like flame burns up wood. In both instances the result is loss of cartilage, but the pathway to that end is very different.

Inflammatory osteoarthritis most commonly occurs in the hands because the hands are under constant use and the way the finger joints taper they lend to acquiring a rough calcium edge that is the starting point for inflammatory osteoarthritis. These rough edges, called osteophytes, act like slivers at the joint. Irritation ensues with the joint becoming swollen and painful to touch or when used to pinch, grasp or hold.

Treatment of inflammatory osteoarthritis is not settled. Medications like aspirin, ibuprofen or naproxan have not proved successful, and in people over age 70 are a risk because of the stomach upset and kidney dysfunction these medications may cause.

Heat helps but its effect is temporary. Drugs such as Enbrel or Humera work well against the inflammation of rheumatoid arthritis, but trials have shown no such response in treating inflammatory osteoarthritis.

The best healer is time. It may take weeks or months but in time the inflammatory response of the osteoarthritis dampens down and eventually resolves. The hand may not return to its former shape but will regain its past function.

LD-000225885

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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 21, 2015

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for January 21, 2015 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items. The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on February 18, 2015 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m. Publish January 4, 2015 LD-000226185 2x2



Geneva Presbyterian Church youth huddle around a barrel for warmth in the church parking lot as they learn about homelessness.

JULIE BROWN

FEELING THE STING

Church teens explore reality of homelessness

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Winter break for many teens is a time to relax and enjoy friends and family. Teens at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton found time Dec. 26 to reach out to the homeless.

"I think it's pretty cool," said Nathan Pohl, 15, a home-schooled sophomore, as he and other Geneva high school students fashioned shelters against the night's cold and damp using appliance boxes and duct tape. "I don't know of many other places that do this."

It was Pohl's second year in the Boxing Day tradition, which he said helps him learn what it would be like to be homeless.

"This is my third year," said Josh Doering, 16, a senior at Canton High School. "It gives us a unique experience that most kids our age don't have."

Louis Stark, 14, a Canton High School fresh-

man, said, "This is actually the first time I've done this." The scene overnight outdoors in Geneva's parking lot, with two barrels ablaze with fires for warmth, looked different than what Stark expected. "We've pretty much got a bunch of boxes," he said of the cardboard structures.

British tradition

The tradition at Geneva dates back some 20 years. It's based on the British tradition, also observed in Canada, of boxing up clothing no longer needed on the day after Christmas to give to the needy.

Geneva's Caitlin Marchand, 16, a Plymouth High School junior, was participating for her third time. "I think it's really good," Marchand said. "It helps bring awareness to homeless people, especially this time of year."

"I got to prepare for this," Marchand added, pointing to her layers of

warm clothing. "A lot of people don't get to do that. We get to go home to a warm house. They don't."

Mike Graunstadt of Canton, youth ministry elder, was set to take the 3-7 a.m. shift overnight, with Geneva parents taking turns watching over the kids. Graunstadt noted parents are no longer allowed to bring their teens food during the night.

"The weather last year was miserable," Graunstadt said. This year compared to last was "definitely a day at the beach. The kids will be experiencing more what it's like to be on the street."

Donation drive

Josh Skelly of Plymouth is director of youth ministry at the church; he grew up in Plymouth's First United Methodist Church and was active in youth programming there in grades 6-12.

Skelly said 10-12 Geneva youth signed up this year for the event, which includes a collection of clothing and toiletries for the Open Door program at Fort Street Presbyteri-

an Church in Detroit. A collection box for Open Door donations will be outside Geneva Church, on the west side of Sheldon north of Ford Road, through Jan. 7.

"Initially, I was hesitant," said Skelly, a newcomer to Geneva and the Boxing Day tradition. "It's a good time to sit and talk to the youth." The overnight outdoors — only bathroom breaks inside allowed — gives teens "a raw experience to see what people experience year-round. I hope they expand their world view and see the importance of giving and charity. It's going to be awesome," Skelly said early in the evening. "I'm pretty excited."

Ben Ogden, director of Open Door, arrived at Geneva shortly after 8 p.m. The Royal Oak resident has been director there since 2009 and with Open Door since 2003.

"We kind of just generally chat," Ogden said. "They're kids, so a litany of statistics doesn't make

an impression."

Ogden is grateful for the Geneva tradition, Open Door's largest such drive through January and into February. "Very, very important," he said of the more than 5,500 people a year so served.

He noted T-shirts and other such donations are welcome, along with winter clothing, as homeless people dress in layers and must periodically discard clothing.

'Most fragile'

"There's going to be a lag," he said of Detroit emerging from bankruptcy, as it relates to the chronic homeless, those without homes three years or more. "Usually what you have to repair in the person is just so bad. The population we serve is at their most fragile."

There are issues with support, mental health, chemical dependency and lack of education/job skills, Ogden said. "Big

boats turn very slowly. We didn't get here in 10 years, we got here in 50 years," he said of Detroit.

He described gentrification of downtown Detroit and the ripple effect from the business core outward, disrupting people living there. "Anyone that could afford to leave left. White people had money first," he said of the city's history.

"We're not seeing much change in our world (at Open Door). They're not encouraging programs like ours to stick around. You've got to look at it pragmatically. We've got to figure out a way to stabilize the two."

Ogden noted the purchase by businessman Dan Gilbert of the former *Detroit News/Free Press* building across from Fort Street Presbyterian Church. Gilbert understandably doesn't want 400 homeless people on his doorstep, Ogden said.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **January 16th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

ASBESTOS REMOVAL - THOMAS GIST ACADEMY

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

This project is a federally funded, Davis Bacon Prevailing wages will apply.
Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: January 4th, 2015

LO-000226142 2x2

CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the City of Livonia has received a request for an Exemption of Personal Property under PA 328 of 1998 from Doug Madsen, Managing Director, in connection with the prototype blow mold manufacturer that are entering the automotive market for their facility located at 31690 Glendale Street, Livonia, MI 48150. (Industrial Development Overlay District #109)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF LIVONIA has determined as follows:

1. The City Clerk shall provide copies of the Application for Exemption of Personal Property to the legislative bodies of the governmental units deriving property taxes from the property which will be affected, as required by PA 328 of 1998, Section 211.9f, of the General Property Tax Act PA 206 of 1893, as amended.
2. The City Clerk shall contact each of the affected taxing units, and (i) indicate the Council's interest in this matter, and (ii) assist these taxing units in collecting such information as may be necessary to determine their respective opinions on this Application, and (iii) advise the said taxing units of the Council's desire to hold a hearing on this Application on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan.
3. The Council has set **Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, as the date, time and place for conducting a hearing on said Application.

SUSAN A. HOFF, CITY CLERK

Publish: SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015

LO-000225961 3x3.5

CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the City of Livonia has received an application requesting approval of an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate from ActuaPlast NA Inc. in the Office of the City Clerk on December 23, 2014, for new machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures at their facility located at 31690 Glendale Street, Livonia, MI 48150 (Industrial Development Overlay District #109):

THE CITY COUNCIL OF LIVONIA has determined as follows:

1. The City Clerk shall provide copies of the said Application to the legislative bodies of the governmental units deriving property taxes from the property which will be affected, as required by Act 198, P.A. 1974, as amended.
2. The City Clerk shall contact each of the affected taxing units, and (i) indicate the Council's interest in this matter, and (ii) assist these taxing units in collecting such information as may be necessary to determine their respective opinions on this Application, and (iii) advise the said taxing units of the Council's desire to hold a hearing on this Application on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan.
3. The Council has set **Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, as the date, time and place for conducting a hearing on said Application.

SUSAN A. HOFF, CITY CLERK

Publish: Sunday, January, 4, 2015

LO-000225962 3x4



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Popular official Kavulich, 72, mourned

Longtime referee dies following heart attack

By Ed Wright
 Staff Writer

Hall of Fame sports official Joe Kavulich was so well-known and so well-liked that more than a handful of high school basketball games were delayed briefly by his congeniality.

"I can remember 10 or 12 games the past few years where we'd be at the scorer's table, getting ready for the jump ball to start the game and someone would say, 'Where's Joe?'" recounted fellow official and long-time friend Don Vogt, with a warm laugh. "Then we'd see him, over by the sidelines or standing near the crowd, smiling and shaking somebody's hand, or telling a joke or



Joe Kavulich

something. It didn't matter where we were - doing a high school or college game - he knew everybody and everybody he knew liked him." The 72-year-old Kavulich died Tuesday night at his home in Plymouth Township, six days after suffering a massive heart attack. Kavulich's oldest son Mike said that his father became dizzy while playing in an adult hockey league at Plymouth's

Arctic Pond the morning of Christmas Eve. He was transported by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, where his condition worsened. "He suffered cardiac arrest in the emergency room at St. Mary's," Mike Kavulich said. "We actually lost him twice - they had to resuscitate him - and they put in two stents. At about 4 p.m., the doctors told us his prognosis was very grim."

See KAVULICH, Page B4

Livonia 'Y' leagues and classes

The Livonia Family YMCA, located at 14255 Stark Rd., is accepting registrations for both winter sports leagues and classes.

Ten-game youth basketball (ages 6-14) and volleyball (ages 8-14) leagues begin Jan. 12, while eight-game adult basketball and volleyball leagues begin Jan. 4-5. Winter classes for toddlers through adults - including gymnastics, karate, aikido and preschool sports - begin the week of Jan. 4.

Contact the YMCA at 734-261-2161 or email Chris Jackett at cjackett@ymca-detroit.org for more information.

Area gridgers star for MSU

A pair of former Observerland football players made key contributions to Michigan State's come-from-behind, 42-41 victory over Baylor in the Cotton Bowl game Thursday in Arlington, Texas.

Running back Jeremy Langford of Wayne (Westland John Glenn) rushed for 162 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries. He scored his first two TDs on 2-yard runs; the third was a 1-yarder.

Wide receiver Aaron Burbridge of Farmington Hills (Harrison) caught four passes for 57 yards, with the longest being a 39-yarder.

He was one of nine players to catch a pass and one of three with four or more receptions. Tony Lippett (five catches, 74 yards) and Keith Mumphery (four catches, 87 yards) were the others.

Quarterback Connor Cook was 24-of-42 passing with two TDs - the second being a 10-yarder to Mumphery with 17 seconds remaining to tie the score, 41-41.

C'ville camp for baseball

Livonia Clarenceville High School will host a six-week baseball camp starting Saturday, Jan. 17. Clarenceville head coach Craig Cotter will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy.

Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning.

For more information, go to www.USBBaseballAcademy.com or call toll-free 866-622-4487.

PREP HOCKEY



Livonia Churchill senior forward Dylan Smith was upended by Brighton's Sam Brennan during a third-period rush Friday night.

ED WRIGHT

SLIPPERY SLOPE

Livonia Churchill icers can't quite escape from 4-0 first-period abyss

By Ed Wright
 Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill was arguably the better team during the final 34 minutes of Friday night's KLAA cross-division game against visiting Brighton.

However, dogged in part by three third-period penalties - the final one a five-minute dagger that came with just 5:48 left and Churchill trailing 5-3 - the Chargers could never quite get over the hump from a 4-0 first-period deficit before dropping a

6-3 decision to the Bulldogs. Brighton's final goal was an empty-netter from Brad Halonen with just 6.8 seconds left. The loss dropped Churchill to 3-5-2 overall, while Brighton improved to 4-5-1. The Chargers are currently

2-0 in the Kensington South Division, two points behind front-runner Plymouth. The Chargers host the Wildcats at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Eddie Edgar Arena.

See CHURCHILL, Page B3

COMMUNITY RECLAMATION PROJECT

Styers pumps new life into former school

Ambitious former boxing champion builds hope with Norwayne Boxing Club

By Ed Wright
 Staff Writer

If you drive slowly past the until-recently vacant Jefferson Barnes Elementary School that rests in Westland's Norwayne subdivision and crack your window just a little bit, you're liable to hear a heartbeat.

More precisely, you'll hear a drill buzzing, a hammer pounding or the thumping sound of boxing gloves hitting a speed bag.

The sounds are the rhythmic beats of resuscitation and the

guy doing the CPR is Jeff Styers, a former Norwayne resident who chiseled out an incredibly successful amateur - and, for a short time, professional - boxing career before founding Bingham Farms-based Arrow Strategies, a multimillion-dollar talent-acquisition company.

Styers, along with former professional boxing contender Erskine Wade, is the driving (and financial) force behind the Norwayne Boxing Club, a positivity-saturated opportunity for

See BOXING, Page B4



Former successful boxers Jeff Styers (right) and Erskine Wade are the catalysts of the Norwayne Boxing Club, which offers youths the opportunity to improve their ring skills and their academic achievement.

ED WRIGHT

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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Rocks top field at Traverse City

Salem sweeps way to title at holiday tournament

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Salem Rocks varsity boys hockey team traveled Up North over the holidays for a chance to bond. Of course, making the whole experience even sweeter was winning all three games the Rocks played at the annual Scott Miller Memorial Tournament in Traverse City.

Salem routed Traverse City St. Francis 8-1 on Dec. 26, then followed up with a 4-0 victory the following day against Traverse City West.

That led to to championship game, Sunday, Dec. 28, at Centre Ice Arena and the Rocks scored three goals in the third period to edge Traverse City Central, 3-2.

The Rocks (6-3-1, ranked No. 8 in Division 1) thus prevailed as the Miller tourney champion for the first time in the five years they have competed there.

"Each game we got better," noted Salem head coach Ryan Ossemacher. "(Central), who we beat in the finals, is a very good team and had us on our heels in the first period.

"We made some adjustments and controlled the second period and finally broke through in the third."

Central took a 2-0 lead in the first and that score held up until the Rocks tallied three goals within a two-minute span in the third.



The Salem Rocks varsity boys hockey team celebrates Sunday after winning the championship game of the Scott Miller Memorial Tournament in Traverse City.

COURTESY SALEM HOCKEY

Scoring for Salem were Matt Schaumburger, Zach Newsom and Liam Walker while Noah Willer chalked up two helpers.

Making 23 saves for his second win of the tourney was senior goalie Dillon Phillips.

Salem's top guns for the three games at Traverse City were Schaumburger and Walker (three goals, two assists each) and Willer (one goal, four

assists). Registering a plus-8 for the tourney was Bailey Thompson (one assist).

Against TC St. Francis, goalie Nathan Blank stopped eight of the nine shots he faced as Salem dominated.

Marty Mills and Zach Goleniak each scored twice, while other markers were collected by Evan Newel, Willer, Schaumburger and Walker.

In the weekend's second game, Phillips (16 saves) blanked TC West. Providing Salem's offense were Goleniak, Schaumburger, Noah Saad and Walker with one goal each.

"Not only was it a good weekend for us hockey wise, but it also gives the players the opportunity to spend some time together," Ossemacher continued. "The team meals and bus trip really help us

come together as a team, which is a very important part of on-ice successes."

The Rocks will visit Eddie Edgar Arena 8 p.m. Wednesday for a KLAAs matchup against Livonia Stevenson.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Canton ends '14 by clipping OLSM, 55-49

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Just over a day before the crystal ball dropped at Times Square in New York City, Canton's boys basketball team was dropping a leather ball through the net on a regular basis against visiting Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Led by senior Greg Williams' 27-point year-end

celebration, the Chiefs improved to 5-0 Wednesday afternoon by knocking off the Eaglets, 55-49. The loss dropped OLSM to 3-2.

Williams drained 9 of 13 field-goal attempts and 5 of 8 free throws.

Logan Ryan also sparked for the winners, netting 14 points and 14 rebounds. Canton's Jalen Cochran yanked down eight rebounds in addition

to playing lock-down defense.

Chiefs freshman Noah Brown calmly stroked home two pivotal free throws down the stretch to cap his first varsity start in style.

"It was another quality win for our team against a really good opponent," noted Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy.

Jason Boswell led the

Eaglets with 17 points.

The Chiefs led 15-5 after one quarter and 24-23 at the half. OLSM seized a short-lived 31-30 lead with eight minutes to play.

Canton, which hit 14 of 19 free-throw tries, out-rebounded the Eaglets 30-19.

The Chiefs return to action Tuesday at Salem.

ewright@hometownlife.com

KAVULICH

Continued from Page B1

"But then, it was like a miracle - he started coming around and getting better. He was transferred to St. Joseph's (Hospital in Ypsilanti) and they put two more stents in."

Tuesday morning, shortly before he was released from St. Joseph's Hospital and following a thorough examination by doctors, Kavulich was told that the previous days' episodes left no damage to his heart and that he'd more than likely be able to return to officiating at some point.

"He was so happy and fired up to be going home," Mike Kavulich said.

Kavulich died sometime around 10 p.m. at his home after going to his bedroom to watch TV, his son said.

"Within an hour of the time word got out about my dad's death, I must have received 50 text messages and phone calls from his friends, guys he worked with over the years," Mike Kavulich said. "I can't even begin to tell you how comforting that was."

A Detroit Public Schools counselor for 42 years before retiring, Kavulich marked his 50th year as an official in 2014. He worked many games the past 25 years with his son, Vogt and Bobby Williams.

"The past couple of years, I really started appreciating working with my dad more, because I started realizing that this isn't going to last forever," Mike Kavulich said. "He was talking about retiring and I knew I was going to be missing more games to watch Kayla (Mike's daughter, who is a standout distance runner at Michigan State) compete."

"Our last football game together was at Livonia Churchill on Halloween. The weather was absolutely horrible that night - it was cold, windy, rainy - but my dad was at the top of his game, like he always was."

Vogt said Kavulich was instrumental in getting him involved in big-time college and high school officiating.

"In the late '70s, I attended a state final basketball game that Joe was working," Vogt said. "I had just gotten into officiating; I think I was doing some JV games. I watched the way Joe worked that game - the way he handled the coaches and the players - and I thought to myself, 'That's the kind of official I want to emulate.'"

"His death has hit me really hard. I've known him for so long. He's such a great guy. We were scheduled to work a high school basketball game together on Tuesday night (Jan. 6). That's when it's really going to hit me, when I walk out on the court and he's not there."

In addition to Mike and Mike's wife Julie, Kavulich is survived by his wife of 40 years Jan; sons John (Susan) and Brett; and grandchildren Kara, Kayla, Jim and Jeff.

Visitation was Jan. 2 at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home

A Mass of resurrection was held Jan. 3 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. Interment is at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Michigan Humane Society or donor's choice.

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College-bound Marlins



Nineteen seniors at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills are college-bound athletes who will continue playing their primary sports at the next level. They include (front row, from left) Madeline Loniewski, swimming, Georgetown University; Christine Clayton, volleyball, Beloit College; Jordan Johnson, softball, Adrian College; Monica Shuk, volleyball, Albion College; Marge Terhune, soccer, St. Lawrence University; Jenna Lerg, volleyball, University of Michigan; Alexandra Griffin, soccer, Western Illinois University; (middle row, from left) Kathleen McGee, swimming, Michigan State University; Roxanne Griffore, swimming, Purdue University; Molly Murphy, softball, Emory University; Brooke Ottaway, lacrosse, Rollins College; Taylor Babcock, soccer, University of Portland; (back row, from left) Michaela Bargardi, swimming, Cleveland State University; Erica Heath, golf, University of Detroit Mercy; Analise Sala, soccer, Hope College; Claire Lachner, ice hockey, Quinnipiac University; Alexandra Sobczak, softball, University of Michigan; Taylor Jones, basketball, Oakland University; Allysen Eads, cross country, Hillsdale College.

BOXING

Continued from Page B1

young men and women in the area to improve their outlook on life - both with boxing gloves and textbooks.

From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, the club - which will take up a good portion of the east end of the recently established Jefferson Barnes Recreation Center - will hold a grand opening that will be highlighted by guests appearances from Thomas "The Hit Man" Hearn, current light middleweight champion Cornelius "K9" Bundra and former world champions Jimmy Paul and Hilmer Kenty.

There will also be exhibitions by several members of area boxing establishments, including Hands-On Gym and Coleman Young Gym.

"When I first met with

(Westland) Mayor (William) Wild, I told him that if this building ever becomes a recreation center, the first thing I'd put in here is a boxing gym," said Styers, who is the governor-appointed vice chairman of the Unarmed Combat Commission (formerly the Michigan Boxing Commission). "My vision is to replicate the Downtown Youth Boxing Gym in Detroit, which has done a ton of positive things for kids."

"Along with the boxing area, we will have two classrooms where the members will be required to put in mandatory academic time and we'll have tutors and mentors from the Champions of Wayne program on hand to help the kids who need it.

"I also want the members of our club to be actively involved in our community. This is a largely transient area; not too many people

around here own their own home, so there isn't that sense of community pride you get with home ownership. Whether it's helping out in the Norway garden down the street or helping somebody paint their home, I want these kids to feel a civic responsibility to this community."

The cost for each member will be "minimal" Styers assured - especially when you consider the potential benefits.

"I feel that in order for something to have value to it, you can't give it away for free," Styers said. "There will be a minimal charge, but it will be the cheapest gym in the Detroit area."

Wade is a perfect complement to Styers. Born in Chicago and a boxer since he was 16, Wade is a firm believer that everyone who walks into the boxing club should walk out a well-rounded individual.

A victor in his first 70 amateur fights, Wade won multiple Golden Gloves titles and his resume includes being involved in the first boxing match ever televised by the USA cable network.

"Boxing can teach you so much about life," Wade said. "I am so excited to help make a difference in the lives of the young men and women who walk through those doors."

Wade has been instrumental in marketing the club as he has helped distribute fliers throughout the community and the schools.

Youths as young as 6 years old can become members, Styers said.

"We'd love to develop high-level amateur boxers," Styers said. "But ultimately, we want to prepare these kids for life."

The gym is located at 32150 Dorsey St. in Westland.

Canton One Acts Festival shows original drama, comedy, talent

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Canton One Acts Festival will take on an international flair when it stages its first submission from abroad, Jan. 16-18 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"We've had submissions from other countries before but we've never picked them," said Christopher Tremblay, a member of TLC Productions, which produces the biennial writing competition and show. "The one from Australia, *The Kill*, that one in particular really popped during dramatic readings. It really jumped from page to page. It will be exciting to see that one."

Linda Pohl, festival co-producer, said the play is unique, with a plot twist that may surprise the audience.

"It doesn't go the way you'd think it would go. We were excited to get that one. The fact that it's from out of the country is a major plus," she said.

The Kill, a comedy by Alex Broun of Sydney, Australia, will close out each of the festival shows, which include a total of eight one-act plays from writers in North Carolina, Arkansas, Washington, California, Maryland and Michigan.

TLC's Tremblay, Pohl and Tim Chanko consider the first 100 submissions they receive within three months for each festival. Last year, it took just under two months to reach the 100 mark for this year's event. They whittled the entries to approximately 20 semifinalists, and dramatic readings were held last fall. The final eight were chosen, cast and rehearsals began in November.

Actor-playwrights

Richard Holland of Livonia and Maureen Paraventi of Redford are the only local authors with works in the festival. Both are well-established



Kayla Younkin and Anton Koyton rehearse a scene from "Press Pray," one of eight short plays that will be staged Jan. 16-18 during the Canton One Acts Festival at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

actors in community theater.

Holland is directing Paraventi, TLC member Tim Chanko, and Ken Overwater of Dearborn in his play, *Clocking Out*. He also portrays a psychiatrist — his wife, Lisa Brawley, plays the patient and Pohl is a nurse — in *Serenity Island*, a comedy.

He and his wife enjoy acting, directing and producing plays together at local community theaters. Both of them submitted works to the festival.

"TLC are good people to work with. This is the second TLC project I've been involved with," said Holland, who also participated in TLC's StageLab24, a 24-hour writing and staging activity, in January 2014. Holland said he submitted *Clocking Out* to the second biennial festival in 2013, but it didn't make the final cut.

"It probably was about 10 pages too long. I took the pen out and started crossing lines off. I re-submitted. It's a drama, not a comedy, but the situation and dialogue will get a laugh here and there," he said, describing his play about

death. "Someone has died and the angel of death is confounded because of the way things are unfolding. I want people to laugh at parts of it."

Writing for actors

Paraventi became interested in playwriting after attending the 2011 Canton One Acts Festival. Her first submission to the festival, *Who Goes to Russia?*, a comedy-drama, was accepted for production in 2013. Her winning entry this year, *Such a Small Word*, is a drama about a woman who made a terrible mistake.

"Because I'm an actor, I write for actors," Paraventi said. "I create roles intended to give actors a challenging experience — to put them through the emotional wringer, in other words. Leanne Young, who is one of the best actors in southeast Michigan, is heartwrenching in *Such a Small Word* ... in a very short time she takes her character through an incredible range of emotions."

Evan Phillips and Betty Berryman also appear in the play, which is directed by Kris-



Leanne Young (left), Brian Taylor, and Sabrina Hubbard rehearse a scene from "Car Talk," written by a playwright from North Carolina.



TLC Productions is Chris Tremblay, Linda Pohl and Tim Chanko.

tin Heitmeier.

In addition to her role in *Clocking Out*, Paraventi also portrays a redneck truck driver in *Crisis Line*.

Variety of plays

Both Paraventi and Holland said they enjoy the festival format.

"The great thing about one-act festivals is that they move along so quickly and they give the audience so many stories in one show," Paraventi said. "There truly is something for everyone in this one."

That's by design. Pohl and Tremblay said the producers look for a mix of plays when they choose finalists and carefully select the order they'll appear during the show.

"We're trying to appeal to a

wide audience," Tremblay said. "There are some festivals that will say to submit a play with this theme or this object has to be in every scene. That can be clever and creative, but from an audience standpoint, we want to give them a taste of different types of plays and expose people to new, emerging playwrights.

"One of our goals is to give people who never directed before an opportunity to direct," he added.

Local actors in the show this year include Sally Dixon, Brian Scheidel, Betty Berryman, Tim Chanko, and Linda Pohl, all from Canton; Richard Holland, Lisa Brawley and Mark Steinhauer, all from Livonia; Leanne Young of South Lyon; Kristin Heitmeier of Northville, Brian Taylor of Plymouth, Maureen Paraventi of Redford; and Anton Koyton of Westland.

Berryman, Heitmeier, and Pohl, local directors are Karen Pritchard of Garden City, Alan Highe of Northville and Linda Trygg of Wayne.

The festival runs 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Tickets are \$15. Visit tclprod.wordpress.com.

Festival nudges Canton man into acting, short stories

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Brion Scheidel turned lemons into lemonade when his two plays didn't make the cut for this year's Canton One Acts Festival.

The Canton man decided to try acting instead. He landed a role in the event's first Australian-authored play, a comedy that will close out each night of the festival, Jan. 16-18 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

And if that wasn't enough, Scheidel, whose one-act play, *Saving JFK*, was staged at the 2013 festival, turned the piece into a short story, which was published recently in an anthology called *Then Again*.

"What motivated me to get involved on the acting side was the culmination of not having a play I wrote selected for the festival. And I had the chance to get to know and interact with community theater mem-

bers. It's a fun group of people. I wanted to stay involved," Scheidel said. "It has been fun. I was in *Much Ado About Nothing* in college and in high school I was in *Guys and Dolls*, but that was it."

Scheidel wasn't certain he'd audition for the festival until he volunteered for the event's dramatic readings, which helped judges select the final eight plays last fall.

"That was my first acting experience since college and it was a lot of fun. I got to experience a little bit of each play," he said. He auditioned and landed the role opposite TLC Productions member Tim Chanko, in *The Kill*, by an Australian author.

"I'm really excited. For me, it's the perfect way to get back into acting."

The festival not only renewed his interest in acting, it also helped Scheidel try his hand at short stories.

After Scheidel submitted



Brion Scheidel (left) works with Tim Chanko in a scene from "The Kill," a play by an Australian writer, for the Canton One Acts Festival.

his one-act plays last year for the upcoming festival — and waited to see if they were selected — he discovered that Michigan Speculative Fiction was accepting entries for an

anthology of short stories about time travel. His 2013 play, *Saving JFK*, was about a Secret Service agent who travels back in time to prevent President Kennedy's assassina-

tion. The story seemed to fit perfectly with the short story theme.

He revamped the play into a story, getting feedback from his wife and daughter, and submitted the story. Editors at Michigan Speculative Fiction offered suggestions and gave him two weeks to resubmit another re-worked version.

"It definitely was a challenge. But I really enjoyed the process. It was rewarding for me. It was a great learning experience. I'm fascinated with the assassination and this period of history. I've always dreamed of writing a novel on this topic. If I'm going to seriously consider doing this in the future, there's a lot of work to do, a lot of practice."

Links to the anthology in all available formats are at mifwriters.org/division-by-zero/then-again/.

Broken appliance part replacements are hard to find

It's 2 o'clock in the morning and I can't go to sleep and just to show you how bothered I am over the appliance industry, I decided to write about some of the past month's happenings.

A lawyer friend down the street has a six-year-old Amana refrigerator and needs a handle for the freezer door. She ordered it through Sears and they sent her a handle for the refrigerator door at a cost of \$65. It doesn't fit so I got the correct part number and she ordered it again. This time she was told it is no longer available and she is out of luck. Now she has two bolts sticking out of the door and it certainly doesn't look good.

We go to my nephew's house for dinner and he has two bolts sticking out of his door on the same make of refrigerator.



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

He's out of luck as well and he knows that for the sake of this handle, he will have to purchase a new refrigerator in the near future.

My friend Mike has a General Electric double wall oven six years old at his summer home Up North. He put the range through a self-cleaning cycle and the high heat comes out of a front vent which melted the front of the touch pad. It looks terrible and he tells me that GE has found fault with the design but the part is no longer available. I might add that I have read about this problem from consumers who

have filed complaints on the review sites. Mike happens to be a bank president and after finally reaching one of the top dogs at GE, they found the part for him and he is getting it at no charge.

My darling Valorie has a good friend named Dale who has a seven-year-old Whirlpool double wall oven and it quit working. She called for service and the technician told her the control board is no longer available. She had to spend \$3,700 for a new oven and I could go on and on with these types of stories.

I visited an appliance dealer recently that's been in business since 1928 and I stopped by their warehouse to pick up a new washing machine. I asked why there are so many used appliances in a corner of this warehouse and the technician

said that they rob parts off of them to help customers who have a problem getting parts. He showed me door handles which would cost a consumer over \$100 and he sells them for a fraction of that price. The current cost of many parts is going through the roof and it's as if the manufacturers are forcing homeowners to throw away a perfectly working appliance because some cosmetic part needs replacing. And get this folks; there is no law that an appliance manufacturer has to carry parts for any given amount of years. It just does not exist!

Now you may say that if this happens to you, "I will purchase another brand." That may not make much sense because most of today's brands all belong to GE, Whirlpool and Electrolux. Expected next

year, Electrolux may have purchased General Electric and the parts problem may loom much larger. Across this country you will find many junk yards for all types of automobiles. Those guys must be making money, and so with this thought in mind I think I will purchase some property on a gravel road, hang a sign out front, sit in a little shack and sell used parts. The direction and the way things are going with new appliance purchases, I wouldn't be surprised if I made a pretty good living and a ton of friends. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.r.com.

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