



# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 • hometownlife.com

## Fire displaces 20 tenants at Warris Farm



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The fire-damaged building can be seen from Wayne Road.

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Approximately 20 people were displaced by a fire at Warris Farm Apartments in Westland.

The fire was reported at 6:45 p.m. Monday at the complex, which is located on Newburgh between Warren Road and Joy.

"It looks like it started in a second-floor apartment and spread through the door wall to the first- and third-floor units," Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "Balconies on the units were on fire when we arrived."

Those apartments plus one additional unit had fire damage while the other eight apart-

ments in the building had smoke and water damage, he said.

"Three of the units people won't be able to get back into. The other units people will get back into at some point," he said. "There were no injuries among the residents or their animals."

The fire department and the American Red Cross were working with Warris Farms management to relocate the displaced tenants into vacant units within the complex.

"A lot of folks were alerted by smoke detectors. We aren't positive which apartment the fire started in yet but we believe the unit was occupied," Reddy said. "The cause of the

fire is unknown. We haven't been able to get information from the residents yet. We're trying to get them all together."

No firefighters were injured fighting the fire during nearly single-digit temperatures. Unlike a recent fire at Woodcrest Villa Apartment during very high winds, Reddy said weather didn't accelerate the fire.

"We didn't have problems with the elements during extinguishing. Now, we have got some lines (hoses) frozen to the ground but we're putting salt out," Reddy said.

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## Westland recycles Christmas trees, collects compost

Each year, Christmas trees fill homes with light and joy throughout the month of December.

But after the holidays, they don't have much use. Westland residents can give their real Christmas tree a second life by recycling it into a beneficial resource at no charge.

Westland residents can have their tree chipped up by the city and recycled for use at the Westland Community Garden and other locations.

As in the past, space will be provided for residents to drop off their Christmas tree at the city of Westland Recycling Center, located at the rear of the Department of Public Services building, 37137 Marquette.

Drop off trees 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday through Jan. 17. The trees must be free of lighting, tinsel and other decorations. Only real Christmas trees can be recycled.

During these dates, residents can also put trees at the curb to have them picked up at no charge. Trees put out to the curb will go to the landfill and will not be recycled.

This year, due to the warmer weather and lack of snow, many residents still have leaves that have been raked and bagged. Between now and Jan. 17, residents also can put their leaves at the curb for pickup on their normal refuse collection day.

For more information, contact the Department of Building and Planning at 734-467-3210.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alaina Morgan (center), with classmates Jordin Henderson, Xiona Harris, Kaylee Klekamp and others show their dance-a-thon moves.

## Dancing unites school, community

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Ryan Allen will be Principal for the Day for raising \$440.

Chris Swanson didn't mind dressing up as a rubber ducky and singing the Rubber Ducky song. Nor did she mind giving rubber duckies from her private collection to each and every one of the 455 students at Edison Elementary School in Westland.

She's also gladly shared her role as principal for a day with second-grader Ryan Allen.

It was a small price to pay for a successful fundraiser that literally had the students and staff dancing around the school.

"We were looking at needs in terms of supplies and field trips; instead of selling things, we looked at a fitness activity that was community oriented," Swanson said. "We wanted to unite the families and directly relate them to the school. Some teachers wanted to do a fun run, but we wanted to do

something as a staff with parent support."

That something was a dance-a-thon. Students were asked to gather pledges from parents, friends and close neighbors and in return, spent part of an afternoon moving from classroom to classroom to learn how to dance to the music of the 1950s, '70s, '80s, '90s and today from their teachers.

See DANCING, Page A2

## Suspects sought in vandalism at John Glenn High

A security video of two suspects wanted for allegedly shooting out 19 windows at Westland John Glenn High School has been released by Westland Police.

The incident occurred about 5:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2. The damage was estimated to total around \$10,000. The windows were shattered but taped until repairs can be

made.

Video surveillance at the school reportedly captured two suspects, both white males who appear to range in age from 15-20 years. One suspect appears to have an air-powered BB or pellet gun while the other appears to have a slingshot.

One suspect was wearing a plaid jacket

and both were wearing loud-print pajama bottoms. A security video showing the suspects can be found online at ww.hometownlife.com.

Anyone with information on the suspects is asked to contact Sgt. Joe Bobby at 734-467-3159.

By LeAnne Rogers



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# Benefit raises money for Westland youth's funeral

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

About 200 people turned out Sunday for a spaghetti dinner to raise money to help pay for the funeral of a Westland youth hit and killed by a train.

"Considering the Lions (playoff game) and the weather, it went really well," said Buddy Shuh, who helped organize the event.

Nicknamed Chew, Raymond Joseph Patton, 12, died Nov. 23 when he tried to cross the railroad tracks at Venoy in Wayne with a train oncoming. Raymond continued onto the tracks and was struck while his friend stopped.

The spaghetti dinner and some raffles raised about \$2,500 in donations toward the funeral expenses at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne,



Ginny and Mike Majeski helping out at the spaghetti dinner to help pay funeral expenses for a Westland youth hit by a train.

which handled the arrangements at cost.

"The most beautiful thing was how the whole community came together," said Shuh, a pastor at Merge Community Church, which meets at Westland John Glenn

High School.

That includes assistance from First United Methodist Church in Wayne; TEARS, a nonprofit of which Shuh is Michigan chapter president; Lifecare, a Westland nonprofit that provides wellness services; Wayne-Westland Schools; and the City of Westland.

Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Michele Harmala approved an email about the fundraiser being sent out district-wide. Raymond was a student at Franklin Middle School. "That got other people involved. (Westland) Mayor (William) Wild donated all the meat for the spaghetti sauce," said Shuh, adding the city also allowed use of the Friendship Center for the dinner.

Fresh Choice Food Center, which is slated to open a new store in the former Wayne Food Center location, donated most of the other food for the event, Shuh said.

Uncooked excess food like pasta was donated to the St. Mary of Wayne's John Bolde food pantry.

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## DANCING

Continued from Page A1

### Best rewards

There were different incentives to spur fundraising, starting as small as \$5. There were VIP movie tickets with popcorn and juice packs to see *Stuart Little* for those who raised \$60 and breakfast at Big Boy's with Swanson for those who raised \$100.

But the best rewards were tied to the total amount raised. The staff had hoped to raise \$5,500, and there was a reward at each \$1,000 increment. For \$1,000, the kindergarten teachers did a flash mob during lunch. At \$2,000, teachers did scooter races around the school with the top fundraiser; at \$3,000, students got to duct tape teachers to the wall; and at \$5,000, teachers were transformed into a human ice cream sundae.

Swanson's rubber duckie activity was for reaching \$5,500. That was how much organizers hoped would be raised. Students, however, blew past \$5,500, \$6,000, \$7,000 and \$8,000, finishing at more than \$8,150.

"We had a thermometer to keep track and teachers challenged each other," Swanson said.

Students were divided up into 12 groups for the dance-a-thon and rotated through 11 classrooms, spending five minutes in each dancing. Factoring in the two minutes to walk to the next classroom, Swanson said students "burned some calories." After the dancing, they cooled down with a water bottle and a snack, another reward.

Teacher Amy Curtis, dressed in psychedelic bell-bottom pants with a matching top and hat,



Teacher Claire Jones gets a pie in the face from Edison Elementary kindergarten teacher Sarah Dabiero.



Edison Elementary principal Chris Swanson dances to the Rubber Duckie song as a prize for the students surpassing their fundraising goal.

showed students how to dance to the Bee Gees' *Stayin' Alive* from the hit movie *Saturday Night Fever*.

"It's an old Halloween costume," Curtis said. "I had to go all or nothing, so I'm also wearing platform shoes."

Intervention specialist Ann Myles agreed about the weight loss. She came dressed as the policeman from the 1970s disco group, the Village People.

"I think I've lost a million pounds," she said as she stuck her finger in the air in the iconic John Travolta *Saturday Night Fever* pose.

### 'We're family'

Across the hall, second-grade teacher Melanee Hirvala was putting students through their paces to today's tunes. She had plenty of reason to dance. Her class raised the most money.

"We're a family and we worked as a team," she said.

Ryan found out she she was the top fundraiser in the school prior to the morning announcement. She had to keep it a secret until then.

"I was surprised," she said. "My dad took it to his shop and got \$200. My grandma put in \$40 and two other people from his shop gave \$50 each."

Swanson isn't saying if the dance-a-thon will become an annual event, but she is glad at the response from the students, staff and community.

"I was pleasantly surprised at how well we did, but a lot of teachers were shocked," she said. "I firmly believe in teachable moments. If you put stuff out there and do silly things, they respond."

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## WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

### DeMolay Meeting

The Wayne Masonic Lodge will host an informational day for Michigan DeMolay, a youth movement for men ages 12-21, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the lodge, 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

For more information,

contact Ray Lemons at 734-552-3125 or Raymond.Lemons@gmail.com.

### Pasta dinner

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland is holding its monthly pasta dinner from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert for \$8 for

adults, \$4 for children age 12 and under. Children age 3 and under are free.

The center will hold its monthly game night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call 734-419-2020.

## Boy Scout helps cemetery

Westland's historic Chubb Cemetery will be getting new grave markers thanks to the efforts of a Garden City teen.

Sam Bernhardt, a senior at Garden City High School, has partnered with the Westland Historical Commission on a project to help restore grave markers in Chubb Cemetery that have been damaged by nature or vandalized over the years.

Bernhardt, who is working on his final project to earn his Eagle Scout rank, has already begun the process of researching the names of those buried in Chubb Cemetery and creating new permanent markers to be placed this spring.

He and his father, Jim Bernhardt, have several markers completed, but are still looking for donors who are willing to assist in the purchasing or donating of supplies to complete the work.

Chubb Cemetery, located on the north side of Warren Road, east of Newburgh, is the final resting place for a pair of Civil War veterans who called Nankin Township their home, including the cemetery's name-



As his final Eagle Scout project, Sam Bernhardt will be making replacement grave markers for historic Chubb Cemetery in Westland. He is a senior at Garden City High School.

sake who died from wounds suffered at the Battle of Gettysburg.

"I want to thank Sam and the Boy Scouts of America for their help to restore the destroyed markers," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "This project will certainly bring dignity back to this final resting place."

The Westland Historical Commission, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization has pledged to match Sam's funds up to \$500. Any additional

money raised would be put toward the future upkeep of the cemetery.

The revitalization of the cemetery is a key component for the Westland Historical Commission's plan to continue to help educate visitors about the city's past.

To make a donation, visit the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road.

For more information, call the Westland Historic Village Park at 734-326-1110.

## Westland City Hall hosts job fair Jan. 10

Mayor William R. Wild's Westland Works Team is helping put residents to work with a job fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 10, at city hall.

Advanced Engineering, which specializes in stamping and is located in Canton, is looking to hire 30 individuals im-

mediately for variety of positions.

Applicants must have attained a GED or graduated high school and be able to pass a drug test; they should bring a resume and valid driver's license.

Interested individuals will be able to fill out an application at the event

and possibly be interviewed that day.

For more information on Advanced Engineering, go to the company's website [www.adveng.net](http://www.adveng.net).

The job fair will be held in the Westland City Hall Grande Ballroom. City hall is located at 36300 Warren Road.

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# Charity group helps disabled veterans enjoy outdoor activities

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

After 23 years of military service flying planes and other aircraft, Indiana resident Jeff Thompson found he had severe damage in his back. So he did what many veterans do: waited to receive help from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"My back took a beating too, because as kids we all abuse ourselves," he said. "I waited like everyone else and waited for help from the VA."

But that help didn't come — the damage was so severe that the VA couldn't promise he'd be able to walk again. So he received a call from someone at Indiana University, talking about an experimental procedure that installed rods and screws in his back. After a medical coma and a year of therapy, Thompson was back up moving and doing what he loved: fishing.

Thompson, who flew several aircraft in the Marines and worked on aircraft, was at American Legion Post 32 in Livonia on Tuesday night, speaking to several members about his charity, Vets 4 Vets. The charity, which he and his wife, Carol, started, helps disabled veterans with modifications to outdoor equipment, such as boats and wheelchairs, so that veterans can still find enjoyment in outdoor activities. He also volunteers to take veterans and their families out on the water for fishing or for other recreation at several stops around the country.

He stopped in before heading to the Ultimate Fishing Show, taking place this weekend at the

Suburban Collection Showcase in Novi, bringing his modified boat along with him in the post's parking lot. He'll spend time at the fishing show talking to attendees about his organization before heading off to other events around the country. He and his wife are planning to attend events in Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas throughout the year.

His disability prompted him to want to give back to other veterans who may not be able to enjoy activities as they once did, he said. His program doesn't focus on a specific group of veterans, either: he said he's worked with veterans from wars such as World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, in addition to more recent veterans coming home from Iraq or Afghanistan.

"We're trying to open it back up, that it's not just Afghanistan," he said. "That's where we're going with this program."

Jim Pardo, the commander of the Livonia post, said he received a call from Thompson before Christmas, telling him he'd be in the area and asked if he'd like him to stop by and talk about the program. It's a program, Pardo said, that's well worth paying attention to, which is why he invited him to come speak at the post on Newburgh.

"Anything for the veterans," he said. "This is what we're all about."

More information about the program can be found at [v4vfund.org](http://v4vfund.org).

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The boat is ready for veterans.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Jeff Thompson talks about the program.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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## WAYNE COP CALLS

## Vehicle stolen

A resident of Little Creek Apartments, 3670 John Hix, told police Jan. 3 that someone had stolen his 2004 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup truck from the parking lot.

The resident said he had left it parked and locked the night before but it was gone when he went to leave in the morning. He said he wasn't behind on the payments but checked with the bank to confirm the vehicle hadn't been repossessed. The truck was valued at \$17,000 and had New Hampshire license plates.

## Larceny

A woman came to the police station Jan. 5 to report that a friend of her boyfriend had stolen her cell phone. No other details were provided.

## Hit and run

A driver told police Jan. 5 that a green Mercury Mountaineer had struck another vehicle at Michigan Avenue and Newburgh then failed to stop. The Mountaineer was last seen eastbound on Michigan Avenue. There was no indication of what damage had been caused by the collision.

## Vandalism

Three Wayne residents reported tires slashed on their vehicles Dec. 21 bringing the total number of similar complaints that date to 12.

One resident in the 5000 block of Harrison told police a rear tire was cut on his 2001 Ford F250 while it was parked in his driveway.

A resident in the 5000 block of Niagara reported a tire punctured on a 2014 Chevrolet Cruze parked on the street.

A tire was also reported punctured on a 2013 Ford Escape parked in the 5000 block of Gloria.

## Larceny from a vehicle

All four tires and rims were reported stolen from a 2013 Dodge Dart parked in the 3500 block of Mildred over-

night Dec. 23. The owner told police she found the vehicle sitting on a wood drawer removed from a cabinet in the garage.

The owner told police the garage door was damaged and stuck open. The stolen items were valued at \$800.

## Larceny

A snow blower and a propane gas tank valued at \$560, were reported stolen from a shed in the 38000 block of Laurenwood on Dec. 23. The owner told police someone had pried the hasp lock to open the shed.

He also reported walking his dog at about 3 a.m. before leaving for work and reported the shed was undamaged at that time. His wife said she found the shed broken into at about 10 a.m.

## Stolen vehicle

A resident of an apartment at 35330 Van Born told police Dec. 27 that he had been out of town for a couple days and returned to find his 2005 Ford Focus was missing. He said it had been left under the carport and hadn't been driven in two months.

The man told police the car was paid off although the officer noted records showing a lien holder. The officer also noted there marks on the pavement indicating the car had been dragged about 3 feet out of the carport area.

## Larceny

On Dec. 28, a resident in the 37000 block of Hillcrest told police that someone had stolen his Troy-Bilt snow blower, valued at \$756, from his garage. He said when he went into his home Dec. 27 he thought the garage door was closed. When his son arrived several hours later, he said the son closed the door but didn't notice if the snow blower was there.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 28, he said he was backing his vehicle into the garage and noticed the snow blower was gone.

By LeAnne Rogers

## GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

## Stolen TV

A resident in the 28000 block of Donnelly reported Jan. 2 that someone entered her detached garage and stole a flat-screen TV.

The resident noted that the fridge and adjacent shelf, which was full of alcoholic beverages, were untouched.

She believes that the garage was locked but Garden City police could find no evidence of forced entry. Police also canvassed the neighborhood but none of the neighbors said that they saw or heard anything.

## Theft

A resident in the 28000 block of Hennepin wants police to investigate the theft of her iPad and her visiting nephew's possible connection with it.

She reported the theft Jan. 5 and said that the iPad was last seen in her bedroom. The resi-

dent also said that she used an application called Find My iPad, which she said traced it to an address in Bloomington, Ind.

She believes the address has some connection with drug dealers, according to the police report.

## Fraud

An apartment dweller in the 29000 block of Meadow Lane reported Jan. 4 that someone used her MasterCard to make fraudulent purchases. She said her card is still in her possession.

Purchases were made in Redford, Dearborn and South Carolina. She obtained her card from Dearborn Federal Credit Union.

## Vandalism

The Southfield-based property manager of the former Charter One bank located at 5838 Middlebelt reported Jan.

3 that an 8-foot by 4-foot window was broken out.

A piece of asphalt was located nearby. Police were unable to collect any evidence at the scene.

## Vehicle accident

A 29-year-old White Lake resident was arrested after police responded Dec. 28 to investigate an accident at Ford and Henry Ruff.

The investigating officer observed signs of intoxication, even though the driver claimed she had only had one drink approximately four hours earlier, police said.

"She was arrested after failing field sobriety tests, processed and lodged until sober," Garden City Police Chief Robert Muery said.

The woman was found at fault in the accident as she had rear-ended a stopped vehicle, police said.

By Sue Buck

## WESTLAND COP CALLS

## Counterfeit bill

The manager at Advance Auto Parts, 1840 N. Wayne Road, told police Dec. 20 that someone passed a counterfeit \$100 bill at the business. He said an employee noticed the phony bill while counting the drawer at the end of the night. It was unclear who paid with that bill.

## Larceny

» A Westland man told police he left Angelo Brothers Restaurant, 33550 Ford, Dec. 20 and found the catalytic converter had been cut off from his 2001 Chevy Venture. The missing part was estimated at \$200.

» On Dec. 28, a Garden City woman told police she was at MJR Theatres, 6800 N. Wayne Road, and left to find someone had stolen the catalytic converter from her 2003 Pontiac Montana.

» A Dearborn Heights man told police Dec. 29 that on Dec. 23 someone had stolen the catalytic converter from his

2002 Pontiac Montana while he was at Olympic Coney Island, 7011 N. Wayne Road.

## Flying arrow

A resident in the 37000 block of Oakview told police Dec. 28 that he was sitting on the back patio when an arrow flew over his head. The officer said it appeared the arrow, which was recovered, had been shot from woods to the west. Going to a nearby home, the officer was allowed to search the backyard by the homeowner and found no sign of hunting or target practice.

## Break-in

On Dec. 28, a resident in the 32000 block of Fairchild told police that a compound bow and a bicycle, valued at \$900, had been stolen from his garage. He said the garage had been left unlocked.

## Vandalism

» A Westland woman told police Dec. 28 that someone punctured all four tires on her vehicle while it was parked in

the 7800 block of Woodgreen overnight.

» On Dec. 22, a Westland woman told police she was shopping at Target, 35401 Warren Road, when someone put numerous scratches in the right front passenger door of her vehicle.

## Larceny

A snow blower valued at \$100 was reported stolen from a garage in the 32000 block of Birchwood on Dec. 23. The resident told police the snow blower had been in the garage the night before.

## Vandalism

Police were called to Westland Liquidation, 31210 Warren Road, Dec. 23 about phone lines to the business being cut. The manager told police he noticed the damaged wires while taking out the garbage.

The officer noted the wires were frayed and had been pulled down, not cut, apparently to interfere with the store alarm.

By LeAnne Rogers

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Observer & Eccentric JAN. 11**

# Justice Cavanagh ending long tenure on state high court

By Kevin Grasha  
Michigan.com

In the 32 years Justice Michael F. Cavanagh has served on the Michigan Supreme Court, he has participated in more than 2,000 cases and authored 557 opinions, just about half the time on the dissenting side.

Cavanagh, a 74-year-old East Lansing resident who is retiring from the bench after more than four decades of serving as a judge, will partly be remembered for his longevity. When his term ended Jan. 1, he became one of only two people to have served 32 years on the state Supreme Court.

The only other justice to reach the milestone was James Campbell, who served in the 1800s. Including Cavanagh's

eight years on the Michigan Court of Appeals, he said no one has served longer as an appellate judge in the state. Before that, he served as a District Court judge.

In a recent interview, Cavanagh — whose brother, Jerome, was a two-term Detroit mayor in the 1960s — said he never would have imagined the career he ended up having.

"Circumstances," he said, "dictate what path your career is going to take."

### Road to the bench

Cavanagh's path began in 1967, a year after graduating from the University of Detroit Law School.

He took a job as an assistant Lansing city attorney, hoping to gain experience.

"I was interested in going into private practice," said Cavanagh, a Detroit native. "I didn't really think much beyond that."

Two years later, there was an opening for city attorney, and he got the job.

He served for a year before becoming a partner with the Lansing law firm Farhat, Burns and Story.

In 1972, there was an open seat on the recently created 54A District Court. He ran and was elected.

Three years later, he ran for a seat on the newly expanded state Court of Appeals and received the most votes.

"He had a million-dollar name," said former Ingham County Circuit Judge Peter Houk, referring to Cav-

anagh's brother.

Houk, who knows Cavanagh professionally, said he also became known for his fairness and even temperament.

"I've never seen him act anything other than unfailingly respectful of other people," Houk said. "He's not a bomb-thrower."

Cavanagh was first elected to the state Supreme Court in 1982 and was re-elected three more times. The seven justices on the state's high court serve eight-year terms. He can't run again because the Michigan Constitution prevents anyone 70 or older from running for a judicial seat.

He will join a Lansing law firm headed by two of his former clerks, Natalie Alane and Mary Chartier.



GREG DERUITER | MICHIGAN.COM  
Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael Cavanagh.

"It's been a great experience. I've been extremely fortunate to have been exposed to so many different legal issues, different arguments, different law-

yers, different colleagues," he said. "You'd like to think you've made a contribution."

Kevin Grasha writes for the Lansing State Journal.

## Livonia school board elects new officers, welcomes new trustee

The Livonia school board has new officers and a new trustee following Monday's organizational meeting.

The board unanimously elected Colleen Burton president, Dianne Laura vice president and Tammy Bonifield secretary.

For the past two years, Mark Johnson served as president, Burton as vice president and Laura as secretary.

Only one nomination was received for each office, and each vote was unanimous.



Newly elected trustees Liz Jarvis and Dan Centers were administered the oath of office, as were Johnson and Burton.

Jarvis won a four-year seat on the board in the November general election, replacing Trustee Randy Roulier, who did not seek re-election. She officially began her term Jan. 1.

Centers ran unopposed in November for a two-year partial term after being appointed in

May 2014 to replace trustee Julie Robinson, who resigned.

Johnson and Burton were re-elected in November for another four years each.

Johnson was first elected to the board in 2010, Burton in 2009.

Bonifield was elected to the board in 2012.

Lisa Abbey, the district's director of business services, was re-appointed treasurer for 2015.

By Karen Smith

## Weinstein speaks on Power of Forgiveness at Unity of Livonia

Gary Weinstein will share his story of the Power of Forgiveness at the Tuesday, Jan. 13, Citizens for Peace meeting at 7 p.m. at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile.

Weinstein, a Farmington Hills resident, made national headlines when he forgave the man who killed his wife and two sons in a drunken driving accident on May 3, 2005.

He has inspired a documentary film in

hopes his story will help others heal. "Telling the story over and over has proven to be the ultimate therapy," he said.

In a *Free Press* article, he said he spent no energy hating the man who killed his wife and two boys. "Life is easier to navigate without the extra baggage of anger and resentment."

The proprietor of a Novi jewelry store, his motto is Winston Churchill's "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." For Gary Weinstein, what he gives is "The Power of Forgiveness." The free program is open to the public.



Weinstein

## Retired N.Y. fire chief to speak at Livonia Town Hall

Retired Fire Department of New York Chief Don Nigro, who once described Sept. 11, 2001, as the lowest point of his life, will be the featured speaker at Livonia Town Hall on Jan. 21.

He will relate his experiences of joining the Fire Department in 1969 as a firefighter and rising through the ranks of lieutenant, captain, battalion and deputy chief. During his time with the Fire Department he held

many administrative positions such as Assistant Chief of Operations and Head of Emergency Medical Service, which enabled him to initiate the Certified First Responder Program and merge The Emergency Medical Service with the Fire Department of New York.

But no experience was more difficult or trying than the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when he had to assume the role of Incident Commander

because the Chief of the Department, Peter J. Ganci Jr., died at the scene.

"The lowest point of my life," Nigro once said of 9/11. "I'd lost so many friends. It was hard to go on."

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the St. Mary's Cultural Center, 181 Merriam Road, Livonia. Following the lecture, lunch will be served at noon with a question and

answer period. Tickets are \$55 each and can be obtained by calling 734-420-0383.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

**QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**  
Time/date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 and Jan. 24.  
Details: Timothy Lutheran Church will make very simple quilts from samples of decorator fabric for Lutheran World Relief. Blocks will be sewn into rows and rows into quilts, which will be quilted later by a long arm

quilter. Everyone is welcome; lunch will be served. No experience necessary. People are also needed to press.  
Contact: Jean Coleman, 734-422-8855.  
**CELIAC SUPPORT GROUP**  
Time/date: 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12.  
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington.  
Details: The next Tri County Celiac Support Group general meeting will feature guest speaker Jen Cuevas, The Gluten and Grain Free Gourmet. The title of her presentation is "Gluten Free vs. Grain Free,

Bridging the Divide." Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
**LIVONIA NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS**  
Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13.  
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia.  
Details: Livonia author Penny McCusker will be the guest speaker at the January meeting of Livonia Neighbors and Friends. Currently she is writing novels for Harlequin, including *Mad about Max* and *Noah and the Stork*. She sold her first novel in 1997. Livonia Neighbors

See CALENDAR, Page A9

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# W-W Salvation Army seeks post-holiday donations

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Envoy Jim Hulett of the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is grateful to Red Kettle donors, and hopeful more will donate this month.

"It's not strong but it's not weak," Hulett said of this Christmas season Red Kettle fundraising. "We would like it to be a little better. We always like to let people know we appreciate everything they do."

The Wayne-Westland Red Kettle goal of \$180,000 is now at about \$164,000. The corps' After-School Program is continuing but had one of three staff positions eliminated.

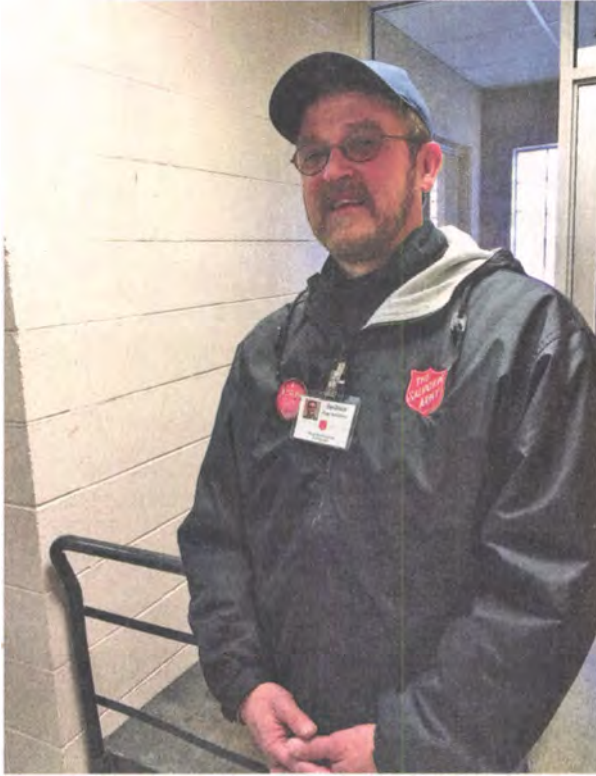
"But we have been OK with volunteers in that program, which has helped. We can always use folks," said Hulett.

"We really did very well the last week," said Hulett of the Red Kettle, noting Thanksgiving and its poor weather put the corps behind on Red Kettles.

"The rain did not help us," he said. "It just wasn't real conducive to bell ringing."

The local corps' mail goal of \$20,000 is closer to target and Hulett anticipates making that by the end of January.

"We would very much like to meet all of



Envoy Jim Hulett, corps commander for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, is hopeful more Red Kettle gifts will come in in January.

our goals," he said. "Donations are always welcome and always needed."

Checks payable to the Salvation Army with Wayne-Westland in the memo line are welcome at 2300 S. Venoy, Westland, MI 48186. The corps' website, [www.waynewestland-sa.org](http://www.waynewestland-sa.org), has information

on donating online, as does the Salvation Army's website for Eastern Michigan, [www.salmich.org](http://www.salmich.org). The regional website showed \$6,651,478 raised out of a \$9 million metro Detroit goal as of the Monday afternoon.

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com)

# County commissioners take seats for new term

Two new commissioners will be taking their seats as the Wayne County Commission holds its organization meeting at 10 a.m. today (Thursday).

Of the 15 commissioners, 13 were re-elected in November and two were elected to their first two-year term. The newcomers are former Livonia City Clerk Terry Marecki, R-Livonia, in District 9, and Abdul "Al" Haidous, D-Wayne, in District 11. Haidous previously was the city of Wayne's mayor.

Held in the commission chambers of the mezzanine level of the Guardian Building, the meeting includes the swearing-in ceremony



LeBlanc

Haidous

for the 15 commissioners for the 2015-16 term.

During the meeting, the commission will select its chair, vice chair and vice chair pro tempore for the term. The meeting is open to the public and the agenda is at [www.waynecounty.com/commission/699.htm](http://www.waynecounty.com/commission/699.htm).

The re-elected commissioners are: District 1: Tim Killeen, D-Detroit;

District 2: Jewel Ware, D-Detroit; District 3: Martha Scott, D-Highland Park; District 4: Ilona Varga, D-Livonia; District 5: Irma Clark-Coleman, D-Detroit; District 6: Burton Leland, D-Detroit; District 7: Alisha Bell, D-Detroit; District 8: Diane Webb, D-Livonia; District 10: Shannon Price, R-Canton; District 12: Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland; District 13: Gary Woronchak, D-Dearborn; District 14: Raymond Basham, D-Taylor; and District 15: Joseph Palamara, D-Grosse Ile.

The full commission meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month.

# What I now know about motherhood

There was a time when I wasn't sure if I'd become a mother.

Not that I didn't want to become one — it's just that I had long set my sights on furthering my career, which, truthfully, was my first priority. I had a corner office with a big oak table in my cross hairs.

Not a 4moms Origami stroller.

After graduating from college, I spent my 20s cooped up in an office, hypnotized by the steady drone of fluorescent lighting while trying to make a deadline, and dinner — if I had one — was carryout from the local Coney Island where they knew me by name.

That is a far cry from the life I live today as a stay-at-home mom of a toddler and a preschooler. And like many mothers, to say that it has been a transition is an understatement.

To be clear, I don't have any regrets.

I'm truly happy. But it would have been nice to have been clued in on some things.

I already knew that, after having kids, alone time with my husband would be scant.

I already knew that I would go days without showering and would smell like a beast.

I already knew that I could kiss goodbye the likelihood of a quality night's sleep for the foreseeable future.

But here is what all those mothering books — and even my friends — never told me:

1. Cheerios multiply. If you give a handful to your 3-year-old and a handful to your 1-year-old, you will be cleaning up Cheerios All. Day. Long.

2. You will have to change your underwear after you sneeze. And furthermore, this is likely to happen at the most inopportune times. Like when you and the kids are bundled up like Eskimos and on your way out the door.

3. You will not use half the crap on your baby registry: You will cast aside that shiny new whale tub in favor of bathing your infant in the bathroom sink be-



By Courtney Conover  
GUEST COLUMNIST

**After springing for a designer baby carrier — think Bjorn or ERGO — you will realize the \$25 one you bought off Etsy is your favorite.**

cause it will be immensely easier. After springing for a designer baby carrier — think Bjorn or ERGO — you will realize that the \$25 one you bought off Etsy is your favorite. And forget those frozen plastic rings filled with liquid, a large rubber spatula makes the perfect teething toy.

4. There will be times when you cry. There will be times when you'll want nothing more than to hurl every single glass in your cupboard against the wall. There will be times when you will want to scream "I can't do this!" And here's the kicker: You don't even have to have postpartum depression to feel this way.

5. "Get your hand out of your pants" and "Get your feet out of your sister's face" will become common, everyday verbiage.

6. While the prospect of scoring designer clothing for yourself at a fraction of retail has always made you downright giddy, you will literally drop to your knees and rejoice to the heavens above when you find a pair of XX-wide Stride Rite shoes in your son's size on markdown. And speaking of designer shoes, the heels you once wore every day to the office will be placed in the back of your closet and will likely never see the light of day again.

7. Television and

tablets are tantamount to the second coming of Christ, particularly when you need to occupy your oldest child while putting your younger child down for a nap. Without these electronic devices, you're playing a game of Whack-A-Mole.

8. If you had a dime for every time you said "stop it" or "be quiet," you would be living mortgage-free.

9. Few things in life are as frustrating as the early stages of potty training a boy. For a split second, you will contemplate throwing in the towel and may consider lobbying Huggies for a size 3XL pull-up for your son to take with him to college.

10. At times, the idea of slaving over a hot stove to make dinner will be more attractive than going through the rigmarole of making your kids presentable, packing a diaper bag for two, and schlepping the kids to a restaurant — where you will need an extra set of hands in order to feed them and yourself.

11. Be wary of those stolen bites of boxed mac 'n cheese you make for your children. They aren't freebies and will serve as yet another roadblock to losing the dreaded pooch that childbirth has left behind.

12. Virtually daily, your children will say something that will surprise you. Still, you will be moved to tears when, while bathing your preschooler in the bathtub, he says, "Mommy's amazing" out of nowhere.

And that makes every single thing on this list worth it.

*Courtney Conover is a mom of two and the wife of a former NFL offensive lineman. She has more Legos and NFL memorabilia lying around her home than she knows what to do with. She is also a certified yoga instructor and a contributing writer to the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book series. She blogs at The Brown Girl with Long Hair at [www.thebrowngirlwithlonghair.com](http://www.thebrowngirlwithlonghair.com) and over-shares on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thebrowngirlwithlonghair](http://www.facebook.com/thebrowngirlwithlonghair).*



Gregory Gatto, flanked by son Anthony and daughter Patty, stands in front of the knight's suit of armor where so many customers took pictures.

# Family owned Roman Forum ends 38-year run in Canton

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

A knight's suit of armor stands tall just inside the front door to the Roman Forum in Canton, as if to guard the Italian restaurant Gregory Gatto built 38 years ago with his then-business partner and brother-in-law, Mario Bossio.

Countless customers, high school prom couples and local sports teams have posed for pictures with it, as did Laura Bush, accompanied by then-Michigan First Lady Michelle Engler, when George W. Bush was campaigning for the U.S. presidency in 2000.

Sir Pizzalot, some called it.

Like a once-majestic knight relegated to history, the Roman Forum, architecturally notable for its brick arches inside and out, closed for business after New Year's Eve on Ford Road near Haggerty.

"I don't feel good about it," Gatto, 83, said. "If I was 10 years younger, I would never do it."

His son Anthony Gatto, 58, worked by his side from the beginning, starting as a young cook after studying culinary arts and working his way up to management.

## Old-school worker

"My father was here every day. He's very old-school when it comes to work," Anthony Gatto said.

Roman Forum's best years ended in the 1990s, Anthony Gatto said, but it began its real decline amid the Great Recession that started in 2007. "Our customers are

older and they don't eat out as often as they used to," he said. "We can't attract a younger clientele."

The Gatto family plans to lease the building to a steakhouse, Black Rock, that has locations in Novi and Hartland. The Gattos have accepted life's changes, but it still hurts.

"It's starting to bother me now," Anthony Gatto said, mere days before the Roman Forum closed for good. "But business has been tough."

Gregory Gatto was in his late teens when he moved from southern Italy. He started a barber shop and Marina's Pizza, still open in Westland though he sold it years ago. Roman Forum fulfilled his dream of opening his own Italian restaurant.

He not only employed sons Anthony and Michael Gatto and daughter Patty Gatto, but over the years he hired hundreds of young workers from the Canton and Westland area. Some went on to become lawyers, teachers, doctors — and they still come back to visit the Gatto family.

"Whole families have worked here," Patty Gatto said.

## Former employee

Jerry Grady, a certified public accountant who chairs the Canton Community Foundation, got his first job at Roman Forum some 35 years ago. He had his final meal there last Sunday.

"I remember New Year's Eve there all the time," he said. "We never stopped serving or, in my

case, busing (tables) until 2 a.m."

Grady called the Gattos "great people" and said they "will truly be missed."

Anthony Gatto talked of longtime employees, such as cook Elvira Darolfi, who died in November at age 89. He still had a copy of her obituary in the restaurant.

Patty Gatto, a Plymouth resident, recalled the Roman Forum's heyday, when "customers would wait in the lobby for an hour" to eat.

The Roman Forum also hosted small banquets and, for years, welcomed groups, such as the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Business and Professional Women. It was where local folks could gather for good food, conversation and a warm welcome from the Gatto family. Yazaki North America, headquartered in Canton, had an opening ceremony there.

Although the Roman Forum served its last meals New Year's Eve, Anthony Gatto said the site would remain open into January as the family sells off many belongings and furnishings from the restaurant.

After closing down his dream restaurant, Gregory Gatto plans to spend time on hobbies, such as gardening. Standing in his kitchen, he raised his hands upward and looked up, indicating a higher power will guide him.

"We'll see what comes next," he said.

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Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

## GC Hospital lands Best, Brightest designation

The National Association for Business Resources has named Garden City Hospital to its 2014 National Best and Brightest Companies to Work For list.

While hundreds of competing companies throughout the country vie for this national recognition, only the companies with the highest quality workplaces can claim it.

The 2014 winning companies were assessed by an independent research firm, which reviewed a number of key measures relative to other nationally recognized winners. They include Compensation, Benefits and Employee Solutions; Employee Enrichment, Engagement and Retention; Employee Education and Development; Recruitment, Selection and Orientation; Employee Achievement and Recognition; Communication and Shared Vision; Diversity and Inclusion; Work-Life Balance; Community Initiatives; Strategic Company Performance and the Best of the Best Small Business.



The National Association for Business Resources has named Garden City Hospital to its 2014 National Best and Brightest Companies to Work For list.

"Being nationally recognized as an exceptional place to work is a true honor," said Saju George, chief administrative officer of Garden City Hospital. "Garden City Hospital has been committed to providing a workplace where staff feels inspired in their work and pride in their surroundings, and this honor validates

all the hard work and commitment of our staff."

"Nationally recognized award recipients keep innovative human resource initiatives at the forefront of their company culture and make it a priority to consider their workforce as an essential aspect in their company success," said Jennifer Kluge, NABR president.

"Our Association is proud to recognize and honor these winning companies for this impressive achievement."

The Best and Brightest Companies to Work For is a program of the National Association for Business Resources that provides the business community with the opportunity to gain recognition, show-

case their best practices and demonstrate why they are an ideal place for employees to work. The national program celebrates those companies that are making better business, creating richer lives and building a stronger community as a whole.

The companies selected for national recognition as a Best and Brightest Company to Work For™ were featured in an online edition of *Corp!* magazine last month. The winning companies also received additional recognition as a national winner at a Best and Brightest Companies to Work For™ awards symposium and gala at a location of their choosing in several U.S. cities.

Garden City Hospital provides comprehensive health care services, osteopathic medical education, and health care related programs to the community at large. For more information about Garden City Hospital, or to find a GCH health expert, call 877.717.WELL or visit GCH.org.

## Start the year with a personal finance plan

Happy new year. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, but now it's back to the real world.

As adults, one thing we can't forget is the importance of personal financial planning. As time goes on, the consequence of poor financial planning is hard to overcome. The sooner you form good personal financial planning habits, the better things will be.

When I talk about personal financial planning, there are a few areas on which I believe everyone needs to focus. These include estate planning, taxes, risk management, debt planning and investing. All are important to a well-balanced and sound financial plan.

That being said, as we begin 2015, there are two things that everyone needs to do. The first is to determine what it costs to live a month. The other is a personal family balance sheet.

When it comes to personal financial planning, many things are dependent upon expenses. For example, to determine whether someone can afford to retire or even stay retired is based upon their personal cost of living.

In addition, to know your individual inflation rate, you need to compare what it costs you to live now compared to a year ago.

One way to lower your living expenses is to be aware of what you're actually spending money on. A cash flow statement is nothing more than a listing of what comes in and what goes out. It is easy to know what comes into your household, but it is more difficult to know what goes out.

Spend some time over the next few weeks looking at your expenses to determine what it actually costs you to live a month. Not what you think you can live on, but what it actually costs. In doing a cash flow statement, you should be able to account within a few hundred dollars of where your money is going. If you can't, you know you have a problem.

I recommend doing a cash flow statement at least twice a year. It is one way to make



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

*Spend some time looking at your expenses to determine what it actually costs you to live a month. Not what you think you can live on, but what it actually costs.*

sure you have a handle on your expenses. I recognize this is a relatively boring task, but it is important to good sound financial planning.

A personal family balance sheet is nothing more than a listing of all your assets and liabilities. If you have investments in mutual funds and stocks, they're easy to value. What is more difficult to value are things such as your home. When you value your home, remember it's worth what someone is willing to pay for it. Therefore, the true value is what other homes in your neighborhood have been selling for.

In addition, I would be cautious about valuing things such as collectibles. Unless they are collectibles that you know you can sell and are pretty certain of the price, then you may not wish to include them on your personal balance sheet. Remember, what is sentimental and important to you may, in fact, have no true financial value.

I don't make new year's resolutions because I forget about them by Jan. 2. However, one thing I always try to do is to improve myself year to year. One way to improve your personal financial affairs is to start the year right by doing a personal family balance sheet and a cash flow statement.

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

## DFCU Financial's pay back to members tops \$24 million

DFCU Financial, the largest credit union in Michigan, announced that more than 100,000 members are receiving a piece of its \$24 million payday — the largest payout by any financial institution in the state, according to a press release.

"At DFCU Financial, returning cash back to our members is our way of saying 'thank you' for their loyalty," said Mark Shobe, president and CEO, DFCU Financial. "We believe it's our responsibility to share our success with the members who help us achieve

it, whether they are borrowers or savers."

DFCU Financial's streamlined structure and management approach have allowed it to pay a collective \$181 million to its members since 2006, a sum larger than any financial institution in the United States, according to a press release. This year's reward surpasses last year's record-breaking \$23 million payout by DFCU Financial.

The organization returns approximately half of its annual earnings to members, who annually

receive 0.50 percent cash back on their portfolios, which may include checking, savings, auto and mortgage loans and credit cards.

In 2015, members received an average cash back direct deposit of \$250 and the largest reward totaled \$18,000. In many cases, members' cash back rewards are significant enough to pay a mortgage or car payment.

"This record-breaking payday is supporting DFCU Financial's mantra of 'take care of our members first,'" Shobe said.

DFCU Financial's CASH BACK rewards for 2016 begin accumulating for members in January.

DFCU Financial is Michigan's largest credit union, with more than \$3.7 billion in assets. DFCU Financial continually reinvests in its membership with new branches and financial literacy education for all ages. DFCU Financial currently operates 24 full-service branches, including its branch at Warren Road and Merriam in Garden City. For more information, visit [dfcufinancial.com](http://dfcufinancial.com).

### BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

#### Wayne Main Street events

Wayne Main Street's Organization Committee is hosting a "Lunch & Learn" General Meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Community Living Services, 35425 W. Michigan Ave.

Interested in knowing who serves on Wayne Main Street committees? Want to know what they have been working on? Here is your chance to meet some volunteers and hear them brag about the progress that they've been making. Bring your own sack lunch and enthusiasm.

WMS also is holding a Partner Roundtable Meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Wayne Activity & Banquet Center, 35000 Sims at Wayne Road.

If you are a part of a local civic organization or sit on a board of any type, Wayne Main Street cordially invites you to attend this roundtable discussion. The meeting will give everyone in Wayne who is trying to better the community a chance to sit in the same room and brief each other on their latest happenings and will allow Wayne Main Street to understand how we can fill the gaps, if any, or forge partnerships among groups who are seeking to accomplish the same things.

Admission: Must bring 2015 calendar of events.

Wayne Main Street is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization. Following the Main Street Four Point Approach, Wayne Main Street focuses on Design, Business Empowerment, Promotions and Organization to revitalize Downtown Wayne.

For more information, visit the Wayne Main Street website at [www.downtownwayne.org](http://www.downtownwayne.org), call 734-629-6822, or email [info@downtownwayne.org](mailto:info@downtownwayne.org).

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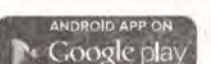


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## OUR VIEWS

# Ending trimesters is difficult decision, but necessary move in Garden City district

Garden City Public Schools is caught between a rock and a hard place. Faced with a \$1.7 million deficit, the district is turning over every rock to find a way to cut costs and get out of deficit. The hard part is that there are only a few rocks to turn.

The district has been in and out of deficit for almost a decade and has jettisoned just about everything it can and still maintained its academic program. It was among the first districts to privatize and, over the years, has switched to contracted custodial, food and transportation services. It has

eliminated sports at the middle school, reconfigured its elementary program and closed a school.

The end result was a brief respite from the red ink, but now it must cut again and this time it will affect the academic program, specifically at the high school level. The deficit elimination plan submitted to the state last month includes switching from trimesters to semesters. The decision isn't an easy one for the school board, which delayed a vote until this month in order to get more information from the administration.

Garden City was among a few school districts that made the decision to abandon semesters and go to 18-week trimesters in the 2008-2009 school year. The impetus was the state's mandatory high school curriculum that required more credits in math, English and the sciences and put a pinch on students taking elective courses. It allowed students to take electives and do credit recovery during the school year.

Trimesters worked so well that the district implemented them in the elementary schools and middle school to

keep report cards, parent-teacher conferences and scheduling on the same track. But trimesters cost the district money, something that is in short supply. Chief Financial Officer Drew McMechan has estimated a savings of \$400,000 with the move back to semesters.

Garden City isn't alone in moving away from trimesters. The Farmington school board in November voted to go back to semesters. In that district, trimesters were criticized for their instruction gaps and scheduling problems, as well as a failure to live up to cost-

saving expectations. Going back to the traditional semesters will save the Farmington district \$300,000-\$500,000 per year.

We understand how difficult this decision is for the school board, but it is one that needs to be made so the district can get its financial house in order. Trimesters are now a luxury the district can no longer afford. Moving away from them doesn't necessarily change the academic program, just how it is delivered.

The change won't be the end of the world, just a new way of looking at it.

## LETTERS

### Mistake?

First, I want to commend the *Wayne-Westland Observer* for its front page salute to recently "term-limited" State Sen. Glenn Anderson of Westland for two decades of public service. He served constituents successfully and with honor and integrity as a city councilman, state representative and

until last week state senator. He was never an ideologue, but always viewing proposed legislation on how it would impact his community and how it would serve the public good.

That said, his forced "retirement" from the senate provides a valuable lesson for local voters. Twenty years ago Michigan voters approved a state constitution amendment that would create term limits for top state administrators as well as the state House and Senate. At the time, polls showed that voters wanted a turnover in those positions to bring so-called "new blood" into state government.

At the time, this newspaper editorialized that the proposal should be rejected. In several editorials, the point was repeatedly made that there was an existing "term limit" option called elections. If voters didn't feel a legislator was ineffective, they could support his/her opponent.

Twenty years later, I believe that the voters made a mistake in approving term limits.

What was lost in the ongoing turnover of state legislators was institutional memory of and the professional relationships that legislators from both political parties needed to discuss, argue and compromise on key proposals. Legislators who have served many years have gained valuable experience in dealing with complicated issues, looking at them from both a financial perspective as well as the impact on real human beings.

What term limit supporters failed to recognize is that state government today is complicated. Proposed legislation covers every human activity. Legislators must have at least a basic knowledge and background on such diverse topics as economics, budgeting of a \$50 billion

### SEND US YOUR VIEWS

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

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, *Wayne-Westland and Garden City Observer* Newspapers, 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi, MI 48377-1736

**Email:** smason@hometownlife.com

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

budget, environment, public safety, public education ranging from pre-school programs to higher education, prison reform, transportation policy, business regulations, tax policy, as well as the social and cultural issues, such as same-sex marriage, abortions and related constitutional questions dealing with the right to privacy, individual rights and equal protection of the law.

Legislators should know why they are supporting or opposing specific legislation.

In the past 20 years, Westland has lost several effective and valuable state representatives, Eileen Dehart, (now the Westland city clerk), Anderson (who moved up to the senate) and Richard LeBlanc, (now a Wayne County commissioner).

While I am saddened to lose those in the state legislature, I hope Anderson's recent "retirement" will spur a new debate on repealing the term limits amendment.

Leonard Pogor  
Westland

### Misleading untruth

In a recent letter to your publication, Tom Hickson from the Michigan Catholic Conference implies that the ACLU supports RFRA in Michigan. This is a blatantly misleading untruth.

The Michigan ACLU says "Noting that the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment addresses both the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion, ACLU of Michigan executive director Kary Moss said that, while individuals retain an unqualified right to believe what they want, they should not be able to use those beliefs to the detriment of others in society. She said RFRA would undermine that balance, creating a host of unintended consequences."

RFRA is simply an attempt by the Republicans to cater to the religious right, and it's desire to maintain the second-class status of gay people in Michigan.

It was supported only by Republicans with not one Democratic vote. The religious right wishes to codify anti-gay sentiment into law, which is the antithesis of Christ's directives.

Shame on any religious person who paints this misogynistic hatred as "tolerant." Don't open a bakery, if you don't want to sell a cake to a gay couple. How would you like to be denied a tank of gas in the middle of the night in a dangerous neighborhood just because you are a Catholic? It might be against someone's religion.

Please recall that our founding fathers escaped religious persecution and that many of them were Deists. Thomas Paine was an atheist and Thomas Jefferson did not harbor any kindness for Christianity. They are turning in their graves.

James Durst  
Westland

### Audit: Good or a warning

In the Dec. 28, in the *Garden City Observer* I was surprised to read a front page article about the city receiving a good report on the financial audit that the mayor and council usually receives this time of the year. Of course, in years past the public was notified that the audit firm would be giving the report and taking questions. But like so many others things that go on in this city, the mayor and the department heads help to keep the fine citizens in the dark on most issues.

Why should we want to know? After all we are the ones that pay taxes for them to use to operate the function of the city. Mayor Walker doesn't like to be questioned on such matters and for the most part, with good reason. He can't tell the truth and wants to make believe that "our city" is just booming and doing great.

My question: Is it? For over two years I have questioned, with facts from Lansing and the city's own audit firm, on the spending and not having a solid plan in the right directions for the future of Garden City.

If you look at the results of the city annual audit some alarming news was given that the average citizens wouldn't pick up on. Note, the article being well written was somewhat informative on some facts and totally absent on a lot of others facts.

Property values dropped another 4 percent last year, which is the smallest number we have had in the last six years, bringing in \$400,000 less in tax revenue for the year. But the city got more than \$400,000 from the federal and state money and an additional \$200,000 in revenue from the 21st District Court, which gave the city a surplus of \$200,000 over the year before, bringing the revenue to \$16.9 million in 2013-2014. The city used the 3-percent increase to increase the unassigned fund balance to \$3.8 million.

As a result of last summer's rainy season, there supposedly was a 16-percent decrease in our water bill (which many have not seen a decrease and I for one have not) hurt the revenue the city normally makes off of its residents for water/sewer usages, the audit shows the city dropped \$10 million in revenue. Alert: So the city increased the unassigned fund balance after making all of its expenditures and lost \$10 million in water/sewer revenue.

My question: So the city has been making approximately \$20 million off of its residents just for the water/sewer rates, which is about 490 percent increase above what the city is charged? Another question: Do we still have \$9.7 million in the water fund or is it more now? Remember the audit before shows the city over charging its residents of \$1.3 million, and we never got any of it back.

Property values dropping and no new businesses to brag about that bring in base taxes, except the new Kroger gas station. Many store fronts on Ford and Warren roads are still closed. Our city is still has blighted area throughout the 5-mile square and the streets are worst than the state roads, patch job after patch job on the pot holes on many streets.

No solid plan for the future unfunded legacy cost (pensions), which the state told the city in 2011 that it was about \$120,000,000. That soon-to-be released number will show it to be over \$150,000,000 and growing \$1 million plus every year. Our Chief of Police/City Manager has never been asked nor done a plan for the unfunded amount. Of course, he should be concerned, if he retires this year (which I wouldn't if I was making approximately \$156,000 per year) his pension would be approximately \$103,000 per year.

Mayor Walker is leading our city into bankruptcy like 12 others Michigan cities have done just by how our city is being operated now and without a legacy plan. The future unfunded legacy costs are going to bankrupt Garden City.

Al Buckner  
Garden City

## OUR VIEWS

# Let your voice be heard on proposed school budget cuts

The Livonia school board is asking for the public's help in deciding what to cut from its general fund budget for next school year.

The board will hold community forums at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the LPS Administration building at 15125 Farmington Road.

If you care about the quality of your children's education and/or your property values, we encourage you to attend one of the forums. All areas of the budget are fair discussion, according to Superintendent Randy Liepa.

Like many Michigan school districts, Livonia has suffered from declining enrollment. Fewer students means less funding from the state. Every year, the district loses about 300 students, which equates to \$2.4 million in funding each year.

While it costs less to educate fewer students, the reduction in cost for staffing is not equivalent to the reduction in revenue. Those 300 students are spread over 800 classrooms, with each classroom losing only one or two students, so almost as many teachers still need to be employed. The lion's share of any school district's budget is personnel.

Unlike some districts, Livonia has spent down its fund balance

in order to preserve programs and services and maintain the quality of education residents have come to expect. Good, quality schools, of course, mean higher property values.

But now there is no more money left in the district's rainy day account. A fund balance of just \$378,556 is projected for the end of this school year. With a general fund budget this school year of \$146.5 million in expenditures and \$143.1 million in revenues, Livonia really should have a fund balance of \$14.6 million, or 10 percent.

The board faces tough decisions about what programs and services to keep and what to cut, and it wants the public's input on what the priorities should be.

Following a presentation on the budget, including what cuts have already been made, attendees of the community forum will break into small groups headed up by a board member to discuss a list of items for possible cuts.

This is your chance to speak up and help shape the future of public education in Livonia.

Those who would like to participate need to register by emailing jwozniak@livoniapublicschools.org or calling 734-744-2510.

## OUR VIEWS

# Chili Cookoff lets dads join PTA without losing man card

The importance of fathers in children's lives, including their education, has long been documented through numerous studies.

Yet nationally, only 10 percent of PTA parents are men.

The Livonia PTSA Council is planning a Chili Cookoff from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Franklin High School to get more fathers involved. Only dads who are PTA members are allowed to enter, but everyone is invited to attend the event and taste the chilis. The entry fee is \$10 per chili recipe. The winner will receive a \$500 donation to their child's school library from the Kiwanis Club of Livonia Early Risers.

We encourage dads, stepdads, grandfathers, uncles and male guardians to attend the coo-

koff and join the PTA.

Research by the National Center for Education Statistics, a federal agency, indicates that children whose fathers are involved in their school perform better, exhibit healthier behavior, have fewer discipline problems and are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities. That's even if their mothers are already involved in their school.

PTAs across the county are looking for ways to involve more fathers, dispelling the perception that the parent group is just for moms.

We applaud the Livonia PTSA Council and Kiwanis club for co-sponsoring an event that allows fathers to feel both invited and welcome to get more involved in their children's education.

# OBSERVER

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# Rotary clubs' project puts smile on youth's face

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Rotary has a creed of "Service Above Self," and two local clubs were able to put that in action, making a local youth's Christmas dream come true.

"We were thrilled to be of service for this special project," said Antoinette Martin of the Westland Rotary, which coordinated work to get a teenage boy with a disability an adult tricycle for Christmas. "We were really thrilled to have a joint project with the Livonia A.M. Club."

The Livonia A.M. Rotarians chipped in on the purchase price, putting the Livonia youth on the road. Martin said she and her club were initially contacted by the youth's physical therapist, due to similar past work done by the Westland club.

Westland Rotarians put the request through their channels. "The mother contacted me three weeks before Christmas," said Martin, a Westland resident and past president of her club. "We put Santa's helpers into gear. She (the mom) was hoping to get it done by Christmas morning."

Santa and his Rotarian helpers came through in time for a Christmas morning gift, with the adult tricycle arriving two days before the holiday. Martin said the 15-year-old has juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and other health issues.

The Livonia A.M. club members were glad to help. "We are elated to do that," said Patrick Zucal, president of the Livonia A.M. Rotary and a Livonia



SUBMITTED  
Westland and Livonia A.M. Rotarians joined forces to purchase this adult tricycle for a disabled Livonia teen.

resident. He is sharing with his club members the mother's thank you of being grateful and saying "God bless."

"That's what we want to hear," Zucal said. "It's nice that it's appreciated. We're all on board with helping families out."

"I'm looking forward to another good Rotary year," added Martin. "Hopefully we'll be able to do some more projects in Westland."

Zucal noted some months back his club was approached by a family from Westland needing help, with that passed on to Westland Rotary. He called such teamwork "a nice partnership."

Both clubs also welcome prospective members, with Westland Rotary meeting at 12:15 p.m. each Thursday at Joy Manor, on Joy Road east of Middlebelt in Westland. Livonia A.M. Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. each Wednesday at Archie's Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Road, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

## CALENDAR

Continued from Page A5

and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May. Special activity groups continue to meet year round.

Contact: <http://livonianeighborsandfriends.tripod.com>.

### 3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Time/date: 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Location: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road.

Details: See great 3D images, and learn how to make your own 3D pictures. Meetings include a 3D program, refreshment break, and a competition

among members. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to rent. The Jan. 14 meeting will feature 3D images from stereo clubs around the world. Also, members can win free photo items in our "Freebie" drawing. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.

Contact: [www.Detroit3D.org](http://www.Detroit3D.org), or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

### BLACKTHORN CONCERT

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16.

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

Details: Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cash bar. Cost is \$15 a ticket or \$100 for a table of eight, \$125 for a table of 10. Purchase tickets in advance by calling St. Edith.

Contact: 734-464-1222; [cmisak@stedith.org](mailto:cmisak@stedith.org).

## New arrival



DAVID MALHALAB | MNS PHOTOM NEWS SERVICE  
Russell Schmitt of Westland shows off a fresh from the mint 2015 Maui Trade Dollar. Worth \$200 in trade, it's the first of coin to hit the Mainland. Schmitt received the MTD at the Wayne Coin Club Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange at Amantea Restaurant in Garden City. The Wayne Coin Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Monday of the month at St John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, in Westland. The club offers free coin, currency and numismatic appraisals.

## CONCERT

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17.

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia.

Details: Mitch and Jesse Manns and Dean Rutledge will be in concert in the lower level of Timothy Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Contact: 734-427-2290.

## DEMOLAY MEETING

Time/date: 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 10.

Location: Wayne Masonic Lodge, 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: The lodge is holding an informational day for Michigan DeMolay, a youth movement for men ages 12-21. The day will be a meet-and-greet with video games and board games.

Contact: For more information, contact Ray Lemons at 734-552-3125 or [Raymond.Lemons@gmail.com](mailto:Raymond.Lemons@gmail.com).

## TOYS AND TRAINS

Time/date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1.

Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Parish, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland.

Details: The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy and swap, toys and trains show at the church hall. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family.

Food is available, and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts and more than 100 dealer tables with various gauges of trains. Tables are available at \$10 per table. Dealer set-up is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

Contact: To reserve tables, call 734-595-8327.

## ST. DAMIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL AUCTION

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 29891 Joy Road, Westland

Details: St. Damian Catholic School Annual Auction presents "Super Heroes and Villains." Doors open at 6 p.m. Live auction begins at 8:45 p.m. Costume contest; \$100 prize. Tickets are \$30 each and include buffet dinner.

Contact: [www.stdamianschool.com](http://www.stdamianschool.com); 734-427-1680.

## ONGOING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Contact: 734-524-0720.

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BOYS PREP HOOPS

# CHA-CHING! Dollar lifts Spartans to win

Senior forward's 20 points lead Stevenson over Churchill

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Judging by the get-after-it performance it unleashed Tuesday night at Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson's boys basketball team didn't sit around watching holiday specials on TV and sipping egg nog during its extended two-week break.

Looking re-energized and rested – anything but rusty – the Spartans rode 32 minutes of clamp-down on-the-ball defense to a 56-48 triumph over the host Chargers.

The winners' offensive punch was provided by senior forward Jacob Dollar, who cashed in four quarters of spectacular play with a career-high 20-point night.

In addition to scoring his team's first seven points, Dollar rose to the occasion midway



Livonia Stevenson's Jacob Dollar drives to the basket for two of his 20 points Tuesday night.

through the fourth quarter when he tapped in a put-back while falling away from the basket to give the Spartans what proved to be an insurmountable 54-46 cushion.

Stevenson (2-3) snapped a three-game losing skid while the Chargers slipped to 4-2.

The Spartans' aggressive defense forced 17 Churchill turnovers, at least half of which gen-

erated fast-break chances at the other end. Churchill made just 17 of 46 field-goal attempts.

"All during break, coach [Kareem] Smartt had us working on help defense, off-the-ball cuts, trying to stay with our man," said Dollar, discussing the Spartans' ramped-up defensive effort. "We played with a lot of energy tonight."

"This is a big win for us. It broke our three-game losing streak and we're the city champs because we beat Franklin, too. It's nice to be able to come in here and win."

Smartt said he presented a challenge of sorts to Dollar during the Spartans' holiday hiatus.

"I put a little pressure on Jacob over the break; I told him he's our inside presence, so we need him to step up if we're going to go anywhere this season," said Smartt. "He definitely stepped up tonight."

"We played really well defensively tonight, which created a lot of fast-break points. Our big

See HOOPS, Page B4

## Franklin icers' 'Purple Out'

The Livonia Franklin hockey team's Friday night game against visiting Walled Lake Central will serve as a unique "Purple Out" fundraiser in addition to a KLAAs inter-divisional contest.

Proceeds from T-shirt sales, a bake sale and a 50/50 raffle will be donated to the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life. The Patriots will wear special purple jerseys, which were donated by Inkorporate Graphics, and there will be a ceremonial pre-game puck drop that will honor local cancer survivors.

The event was spearheaded by Franklin junior captain Brendan Whitney, who is a co-junior leader of the school's Relay for Life Committee and a member of Franklin's National Honor Society.

## Crompton update

Former Redford Thurston swimming standout Dylan Crompton continues to contribute to Eastern Michigan University's swimming-and-diving program.

Crompton played a role in the Eagles winning the EMU Invitational held Dec. 6 at the Jones Natatorium. Among his contributions was an 11th-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle.

In a November meet against the University of Cincinnati, Crompton placed seventh in the 50 freestyle with a time of 21.87 seconds, and eighth in the 100 freestyle with a 48.27 clocking.

Crompton is the son of Todd and Karolynn Crompton of Redford.

## Reporting results

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

The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

## Franklin baseball camp

Livonia Franklin's 9th Annual Future Stars Baseball Camp will be held Saturday, Feb. 21. The first session – which will focus on hitting, base-running and infield work, will run from 9-11:30 a.m.

Following a half-hour lunch, the afternoon session – which will focus on defensive work, pitchers' fielding practice, catching drills and outfield approach – will run from noon to 2:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

PREP PROFILE

# Monendo anchors improved Pat icers

Senior goalie witnessing impressive turn-around

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

No one has had a better perspective of Livonia Franklin's hockey resurgence than Matt Monendo – at least when the Patriots senior goaltender doesn't have a couple of opposing forwards skating around the goal crease, trying to obstruct his view.

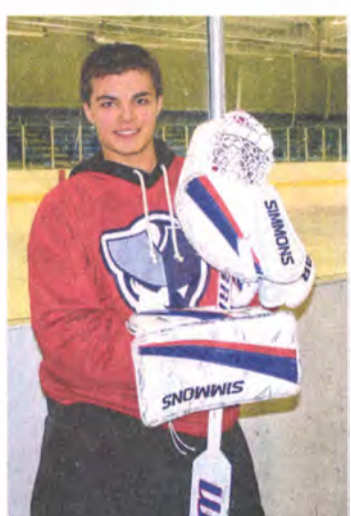
Anchored by Monendo's exemplary play between the pipes, the Patriots have bolted to a 5-4-1 start this season, which is a far cry from his freshman-year campaign during which Franklin would struggle to survive the eight-goal mercy rule against high-quality opponents.

"My freshman year, I'd look up in the stands and all I would see was parents and a few of my teammates' girlfriends," Monendo recounted following Monday afternoon's practice. "We wouldn't even get past the second period against teams like Stevenson. We've been getting better and better the past couple of years, and it feels great to actually be able to compete against good teams."

"We even have our own student cheering section now, which we didn't have my first year. It's not quite as big as Churchill's or Stevenson's, but it's getting there."

Based on his .951 save percentage, Monendo was one of the best goalies in the metropolitan-Detroit area through the season's first month. Tall and rangy for a netminder, Monendo's quickness in front of the net defies his 6-foot-1 frame.

See MONENDO, Page B3



Livonia Franklin senior goaltender Matt Monendo is among the top goalies in the entire KLAAs in save percentage.

GIRLS BOWLING



Westland John Glenn junior Julia Huren took top individual honors at Saturday's Ladywood Holiday Tournament with a three-game series of 651.

# VICTORY LANE

## WESTLAND JOHN GLENN WRAPS UP LADYWOOD HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT TITLE

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

A delivery containing the Westland John Glenn girls bowling team's sharp new competition shirts arrived just in time for Saturday's Ladywood Holiday Tournament at Super Bowl in Canton.

The Rockets wore them well, knocking over 3,502 pins on the way to winning the tournament championship.

Macomb Dakota placed a distant second with 3,227 pins, followed by Farmington/Harrison (3,196), Regina (3,097) and

Wayne Memorial (2,897).

The Rockets were steered down victory lane by junior Julia Huren, who earned individual titlist honors after rolling a three-game series of 651. Canton's Meghan Macunovich was second with a 641 series while Wayne's Christina O'Harris placed third at 613.

O'Harris' robust middle game of 257 was the highest of the day. Macunovich and John Glenn's Emily Dietz both registered 234 games.

John Glenn is off to a red-hot start to the 2014-15 season as it has captured both tourna-

ments it has entered as well as compiled a 4-0 dual-match record.

"The best thing about this year's team is that we're all so close," said Huren, who was the Division 1 state individual runner-up as a sophomore. "We bowl a lot together, but we also hang out together away from bowling. When we're bowling, we come together as a team when we need to. We have good, all-around karma."

The site of Saturday's tournament was familiar territory

See BOWLING, Page B2

# Hayes nets MU school-record

Junior guard's 39 points Saturday shatters single-game mark

It took only 14 games for Michele Hayes to shatter the single-game scoring record for the Madonna University women's basketball team.

The 6-foot junior guard, a transfer from Oakland University, poured in a game-high 39 points Saturday as the Crusaders rallied in the second half to beat host Indiana Tech, 84-65, at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne.

The Crusaders, who overcame a 13-point first-half deficit, improved to 8-6 overall and 7-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Hayes, an Inkster native who played at Southfield-Lathrup, connected on 15-of-24 field goal attempts to go along with 8-of-9 free throws to eclipse the record of 36 set by Dawn Pelc on Jan. 15, 1995.

And for her efforts, which included a 22-point outing in a lost vs. Hawaii Pacific and 26 in a setback to BYU-Hawaii, Hayes was named WHAC Player of the Week.

Senior forward Rachel Melcher added 14 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Lindsey Hernden added 13 points for MU, which shot 33-of-66 from the field (50

percent) and 12-of-13 from the foul line (92.3 percent).

Linsey Masnari and Taylor Seiss tallied 15 and 14 points, respectively, for the Warriors (7-10, 6-3).

The Crusaders, in the midst of a five-game road swing, return to WHAC action beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday at No. 13-ranked Siena Heights.

**Indiana Tech (MEN) 72, Madonna 65:** Franklin Linsey scored 20 points and added eight rebounds Saturday to lift host Indiana Tech (7-10, 4-5) past Madonna University (6-10, 2-6) in a WHAC men's basketball encounter at the Schaefer Center.

Tanner Watkins added 13 points for the victorious Warriors, who made 30-of-41 free throws (73.2 percent).

Sophomore guard Khalil Malone led MU and all scorers with 21 points, while Shaun Duncan and Donald Owens chipped in with 11 and 10, respectively. Chris Dierker (Salem) contributed nine points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Madonna was 23-of-58 from the field (39.7 percent) and 11-of-18 from the foul line (61.5 percent).

MU returns to WHAC play beginning at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Siena Heights.



ED WRIGHT

Garden City's Travis Trigg, pictured during a game earlier this season, led the Cougars with eight points Monday night at Milford.

## Shooting woes costly for GC in 49-19 loss

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Garden City's boys basketball team had an epic shooting night Monday against Milford - but the Cougars' marksmanship was epic for all the wrong reasons.

Playing against the Mustangs' tenacious in-your-face defense, the Cougars made just 12 percent of their field-goal attempts - while going 0-for-25 from beyond the three-point line - during a 49-19 road loss.

The decision dropped the Cougars' record to 1-4 heading into Thursday's 7 p.m. home game against Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

"We held them to 13 points

in the second half and still lost by 30 - that's how bad it was," lamented GC head coach Ron Pummill. "Milford plays hard on defense; they're right up in your chest. But we didn't respond to it as well as we should have. We went east and west too much instead of going north and south.

"We had some threes that were half-way down before rolling out. That gets frustrating for shooters after a while, but we just didn't play as aggressively as we needed to."

Senior forward Travis Trigg was the lone offensive bright spot for the Cougars as he netted eight points.



ED WRIGHT

Pictured (from left) are Westland John Glenn girls bowling team members coach Kim Cabildo, Julie Dietz, Emily Dietz, Ashley Kolb, Olivia Cabildo, Jessica Pate, Julia Huren and coach Ralph Cabildo.

## BOWLING

Continued from Page B1

for Huren.

"I bowl in leagues at Super Bowl, so I'm familiar with the oil and the house, which helped," she said.

John Glenn head coach Ralph Cabildo said the Rockets have a returning nucleus of standouts that is rare in high school bowling circles.

"We are fortunate that we have five returning girls who are all serious about the sport," he said. "Last year we finished runner-up to Davison and they have all their bowlers back

from last year, so it will be fun to see how things develop as the year goes on."

The Rockets are led by senior co-captains Olivia Cabildo and Jessica Pate, who agreed that the Rockets' team chemistry is a key part of their success.

"We mesh so well together, it makes it easier when we're competing in a close match," said Olivia Cabildo. "Everybody supports one another."

**LADYWOOD HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT Saturday at Super Bowl in Canton**  
**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. John Glenn, 3,502 pins; 2. Macomb Dakota, 3,227; 3. Farmington/Harrison, 3,196; 4. Regina, 3,097; 5. Wayne Memorial, 2,897; 6. Lakeview, 2,893; 7. Farmington Hills Mercy, 2,858; 8. Waterford Kettering, 2,770; 9. Canton, 2,753; 10. New Boston Huron Red, 2,728; 11. South Lyon, 2,715; 12.

Flat Rock, 2,624; 13. Clarenceville, 2,604; 14. South Lyon East, 2,538; 15. North Farmington, 2,530; 16. New Boston Huron White, 2,480; 17. Plymouth, 2,471; 18. Salem, 2,343; 19. Divine Child, 2,126; 20. New Boston Huron Chiefs, 2,044; 21. Ladywood, 1,903; 22. Oakland Christian, 1,734.

(Only individuals who bowled three games are listed)

**JOHN GLENN:** 1. Julia Huren, 651; 4. Emily Dietz, 605; 9. Olivia Cabildo, 560; 10. Ashley Kolb, 545.

**FARMINGTON/HARRISON:** 7. Candace Bradley, 587; 13. Dana Iles, 531; 21. Rachel Doran, 498.

**WAYNE MEMORIAL:** 3. Christina O'Harris, 613; 39. Kayla Thompson, 443.

**F.H. MERCY:** 20. Ashlei Brooks, 498; 44. Heather Lillystone, 430.

**CANTON:** 2. Meghan Macunovich, 641; 38. Megan Plave, 444; 46. Megan Peldo, 421.

**CLARENCEVILLE:** 8. Jessica Bishop, 563; 29. Sarah Meili, 463; 66. Erin Walters, 329; 67. Amber Burnett, 322.

**N. FARMINGTON:** 18. Emily Zalenko, 501; 42. Julia Rhode, 437; 56. Anna Hutchinson, 382.

**PLYMOUTH:** 37. Nicole Marshall, 448; 52. Ashley Bresler, 397.

**SALEM:** 28. Brynna Samuels, 464; 43. Katherine Kehoe, 433; 57. Leah Boucha, 376.

**LADYWOOD:** 49. Liz Kemp, 405; 54. Kailyn Delonis, 390.

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# Canton topples field at Ladywood tourney

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Host Canton's boys bowling team captured the title at Saturday's Ladywood Holiday Tournament held at Super Bowl.

The Chiefs toppled 3,770 pins – 2,906 during the three-game individual series and 864 during Baker Game competition – to out-distance runner-up New Boston Huron Red (3,581). Carlton Airport was third with 3,527, followed by Macomb Dakota (3,469), Wayne Memorial (3,436) and Westland John Glenn (3,343).

Other area teams included Salem (eighth place with 3,298), Plymouth (14th with 3,148), Farmington/Harrison (16th with 3,084) and Livonia Clarenceville, which claimed 21st with a score of 2,608.

Twenty-three teams competed in the day-long event.

Dakota's Justin Taylor was the top individual bowler, registering a three-game series of 660. Taylor rolled games of 230, 212 and 218 to edge individual runner-up Joey Krzywonos of Novi Detroit Catholic Central by 13 pins. Canton's Tyler Pozan was third overall

with a 645 series while his teammate Aaron Madsen placed sixth with a 629.

Canton's Mitchell Zelenak's 267 was the high individual game of the day.

John Glenn's No. 1 bowler was Nick Bell, who carved out a solid 629 series. Wayne's Conner Weber paced his team with a ninth-place series of 622.

**2015 Ladywood Holiday Tournament Saturday at Super Bowl in Canton**

**FINAL STANDINGS:** 1. Canton, 3,770 pins; 2. New Boston Huron Red, 3,581; 3. Carlton Airport, 3,527; 4. Macomb Dakota, 3,469; 5. Wayne Memorial, 3,436; 6. Westland John Glenn, 3,343; 7. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 3,331; 8. Salem, 3,298; 9. Lakeview, 3,287; 10. South Lyon East, 3,234; 11. Flat Rock, 3,184; 12. Waterford Kettering, 3,179; 13. Flat Rock, 3,155; 14. Plymouth, 3,148; 15. Brother Rice, 3,134; 16. Farmington/Harrison, 3,084; 17. Gabriel Richard, 3,042; 18. North Farmington, 2,928; 19. New Boston Huron White, 2,806; 20. Oakland Christian, 2,739; 21. Clarenceville, 2,608; 22. New Boston Huron, 2,481; 23. Berkley, 2,437.

**CANTON:** 3. Tyler Pozan, 645; 6. Aaron Madsen, 629; 14. Mitchell Zelenak, 572; 30. Josh Criscenti, 543.

**WAYNE MEMORIAL:** 9. Conner Weber, 622; 26. Tyler Weber, 551; 29. Brandon June, 544; 37. John Willet, 524.

**JOHN GLENN:** 7. Nick Bell, 628; 17. Dante Fischer, 570; 60. Zack Croft, 445.

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL:** 2. Joey Krzywonos, 647; 19. Sean Ebban, 565; 42. Jordan Jenkins, 512; 53. Hohentanner, 470.

**SALEM:** 16. Shane Rusinek, 570.

**PLYMOUTH:** 23. Nick Ray, 558; 45. Jordan Orzech, 505.

**FARMINGTON/HARRISON:** 20. Dominic Gibson, 561; 25. Matthew Heisek, 555.

**N. FARMINGTON:** 21. Eiden Palmer, 558; 59. Nick Kelly, 446.

**CLARENCEVILLE:** 54. Sam Moore, 469; 58. Alvin Tong, 448; 69. Alec Pearson, 381.



Westland John Glenn's bowling team placed sixth at Saturday's Ladywood Holiday Tournament.

ED WRIGHT



Churchill's Natalie Spala works the baseline against Stevenson's Maggie Law.

ED WRIGHT

## Spala sparks Churchill, 35-20

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Thank goodness for Natalie Spala. Without the presence of the sweet-shooting senior guard/Energizer Bunny, Tuesday night's Livonia girls basketball showdown featuring Churchill and Stevenson would have been a lot more offense-challenged – and points were pretty hard to come by even with Spala bombing in threes and laying soft runners off the glass.

In an encounter punctuated by physical play, shaky shooting (except for Spala) and a steady stream of turnovers (the two teams combined for 42 miscues), the Chargers survived the Spartans, 35-20, in the first game of a unique boys-girls varsity hoops double-header played at Churchill.

Spala, Churchill's senior scoring machine, tallied 19 points – just one fewer than Stevenson's entire team – to help the Chargers pull away in a defense-dominated contest that featured offensive efficiency that only a mother could love.

"Both [Stevenson] coach Newman and I agree, it was a very sloppy game," said Churchill head coach Matt McCowan, whose team improved to 5-1 heading into Friday night's KLAAs South Division opener against Plymouth. "I think a lot of it had to do with it being the first game back from break and the girls on both teams get extra excited when they're play-

ing against another Livonia team.

"Natalie bailed us out tonight, that's for sure. That's been our thing this year. We'll have one player go off for a lot of points – usually it's been Natalie or Hannah (Pummill) – and nobody else does much. We need to all get on the same page and get more balanced scoring, especially with the division games starting up."

Three Chargers scored four points a piece – Molly Pummill, Anne Yost and Alivia Kondrath, whose timely three-point swish from the top of the key with 3:40 left in the game was a dagger for the Spartans as it widened Churchill's lead to 29-17.

Sophomore guard Grace Lamerson was a shining light for Stevenson. Among her team-high 11 points was a three-point make with 6:50 remaining that brought the Spartans within striking distance, 23-17. However, the Chargers countered with a 6-0 run on a single Spala free throw, a back-door layup by Molly Pummill and Kondrath's triple.

Stevenson's downfall was the third quarter when it hit just 1 of 11 shots while seeing its deficit grow from a manageable 17-12 to 23-14.

"We knew it was going to be a hard, physical game because Stevenson is our championship rival and they always play us tough," said Spala.

Spala not only played all 32 minutes, but she was the primary defender of the equally-energetic Lamerson.

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## MONENDO

Continued from Page B1

"I started playing hockey when I was about 3 years old, but I didn't try goaltending until fifth or sixth grade," Monendo shared. "If a team doesn't have a good goalie, it can't win, so I thought it would be a cool thing to try. It was fun right away for me, so I

kept at it." Monendo said keeping pucks out of the net is as much mental as it is physical.

"You have to have your full focus on the game 100 percent of the time," he said. "If you take your mind off it even for a second, the puck will end up in the back of the net."

Monendo, who registered a 57-save effort in the Patriots' 1-1 draw with Stevenson last month, said his favorite stops

are the ones no one expects him to make.

"My favorite saves to watch and make are the back-door saves," he said. "The guy with the puck has a wide-open net, and to be able to get over there in time and stop it is a great feeling."

Like most high school goalies, Monendo owns his own gear, including a carefully broken-in glove that he purchased online.

## BOYS HOCKEY

# Bottrell's big night too much for Patriots

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Austin Bottrell tallied four goals and an assist to lead Farmington United to a 5-4 victory over Livonia Franklin Saturday night at the Farmington Civic Arena.

Bottrell's strong performance offset a stellar outing by the Patriots' Trevor Lassaline, who netted three goals and an assist.

Senior goalie Matt Monendo racked up 34 saves for Franklin while Farmington's Brendan Dilloway derailed 27 shots.

Bottrell, who entered the contest as the third-leading scorer in the Oakland Activities Association, got the scoring rolling when he planted a shot in the back of the net in the game's seventh minute. He was assisted by Joey Lajcaj and Jack Cikra.

Cikra extended the hosts' lead to 2-0 with a power-play goal at the 12:34 mark of the second period. He was assisted by Danny Arnold and Bottrell.

Lassaline gave the Patriots life with six minutes left in the second period when his searing one-timer off Zack

Nelson's feed cut the Patriots' deficit in half.

Lassaline deadlocked the showdown at 2-2 two minutes later thanks to helpers from Nelson and Chase Wallis.

Bottrell ushered the Falcons into the second intermission with a 4-2 lead thanks to back-to-back net-finders, the second of which was assisted by Lucio D'Ascenzo.

Franklin battled back to within 4-3 on a Wallis power-play goal (from Lassaline and Jack Ores), before drawing even at 4-4 on Lassaline's hat-trick equalizer (from Brendan Nutting and Justin Makowski) with Monendo pulled for an extra attacker, but Bottrell broke the Pats' hearts with a goal at the 23-second mark off assists from Arnold and Frank Zak.

"We showed a lot of will and determination, twice coming back from two-goal deficits," said Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon. "The loss hurts, but I'm very pleased with our effort. Bottrell is one of the best players we'll face this year and Farmington had good overall team speed."

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## PREP WRESTLING

# Stevenson goes 3-2 at L'Anse Creuse tourney

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson's wrestling team looked good in its final KLAAs dual-meet primer when it went 3-2 at Saturday's L'Anse Creuse Team Dual Tournament.

The Spartans handled Marlette, 48-21, and St. Clair, 47-19, before dropping a 39-36 decision to eventual tournament runner-up Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Stevenson rebounded with a 66-12 triumph over Notre Dame Prep before dropping a 43-27 match to the hosts.

A pair of seniors – 215-pound Brad Scott (5-0) and 171-pound Connor Vaughan (4-0) – enjoyed perfect days for the Spartans, who were bolstered by 4-1 efforts from Will Eckerle (135 and 140), Tyler Statham, who competed at 145 and 152, and 285-pounder Tyler Demski.

Sam Gibbs (112), Taylor Droste (119) and Tarik Al-

codray (130) all went 3-2 for the Spartans.

Stevenson opened the KLAAs portion of its schedule Wednesday at South Lyon East. The Spartans will square off against Walled Lake Central and Lakeland.

## Rockets win at Clarenceville

Westland John Glenn won the Livonia Clarenceville wrestling team tournament for the second straight year Saturday, edging the host Trojans on a criteria decision.

The teams were tied at 30-30 after all the matches were complete. John Glenn had five pins to Clarenceville's four, giving the team title to the Rockets.

The Trojans had five wrestlers who went undefeated in three matches. They included Dyland Brigham (112), Joe Sanchez (119), Domanick Slagle (160), Cameron Fyffe (189) and James Ascott (215).

"It comes to you already broken in," he said, "but I don't like to take one I just ordered out on the ice until I work on it for at least a week or two. I'll sit and work on it while I'm sitting around watching TV. I like to make sure it's nice and loose, and that it's comfortable for me."

Monendo's favorite NHL goalie is Los Angeles Kings netminder Jonathan Quick.

"I like how aggressive he is

and he's a butterfly goalie like me, so I like how he plays," said Monendo.

Armed with a solid 3.0 grade-point average, Monendo is still weighing his post-high school hockey options.

"I may just attend Schoolcraft for a couple years and play juniors, then try to hook up with a college team," he said.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Cramton's 22 points pace Patriots' first triumph

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin senior guard Katelynn Kovach's half-court, buzzer-beating swish just before halftime Tuesday night didn't win the game against Garden City, but it definitely put the Patriots in a victorious mood.

Kovach's amazing shot proved to be a difference-making catalyst for Franklin, which followed with a solid second-half in what evolved into a 63-53 victory over the Cougars.

The result left both teams with 1-5 records.

"Garden City had just hit a three with four seconds left in the half to pull to within 27-25," Franklin head coach Jim Milican explained. "When Becky hit that shot, I'm convinced that is the reason we won the game tonight. It gave the girls such a lift heading into the second half."

Franklin senior forward Sarah Cramton pumped in a career-high 22 points to pace the winners' season-best offensive output. Becky Giacobbi finished with 13 points while Erin McNally (11 points, eight rebounds, three blocked shots) and Tyonna Tate (10 points, nine rebounds) also sparked for Franklin.

Hannah Vera-Burgos was in a shooting zone of her own for Garden City as she singled the nets for 25 points, 18 of which came from three-point land. Lindsey Michalak also played well for the Cougars, contributing 16

points. Franklin led 13-12 after one quarter, 30-25 at the half and 48-36 with eight minutes to play.

In addition to her robust scoring night, Cramton added 10 rebounds, two blocked shots and three steals. Kovach tallied seven points.

Franklin made 13 of 33 free-throw attempts. GC was 8 of 13 from the stripe.

**Thurston wins**

Redford Thurston's first victory of the season — a 42-35 victory over host Lincoln Park — was improbable and inspiring at the same time.

The Eagles trailed by as many as nine points late in the first half before turning things around and ultimately chalking up a solid victory.

A few days before the game, the team's three seniors decided to turn in their uniforms, leaving head coach Bob Ostrowski's already-young roster loaded with inexperienced players.

"We're even younger than we were last year, which is hard to believe," noted Ostrowski. "The way the girls pulled together tonight after losing our seniors was just amazing to watch."

Sophomore 5-foot-1 guard Gillian Drake led the Eagles with 13 points. Six of the diminutive Eagle's points came on offensive put-backs around the basket.

Freshman Ivory Mamo added nine points while sophomore captain



Livonia Franklin's Sarah Cramton, pictured during a game earlier this season, pumped in a career-high 22 points in Tuesday night's 63-53 victory over Garden City.

Megan Abela added eight. Syndey Taylor engineered the offense from the point-guard position and tossed in six points.

Thurston trailed 23-18 at the half before surging to a 32-29 lead at the conclusion of the third quarter. The Eagles then outscored their hosts 10-6

over the final eight minutes.

**Clarenceville tripped up**

Ally O'Donahue scored nine points Grace Gulowski eight to lead St. Catherine of Siena Academy to a 52-13 victory over Livonia Clarenceville Tuesday night.

Staneisha Chambers gave a great defensive performance for Clarenceville, contributing many impressive blocks, steals and rebounds, coach Kelsey Irwin said.

Alicia Southern led the Trojans offensively with nine points. Dawn Longoria and A'sha Whittaker added two apiece. Clarenceville plays Friday night at Thurston.

**Blazers end skid**

Junior forward Erika Selakowski notched a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds Tuesday as host Livonia Ladywood (2-6) snapped a four-game losing streak with a 44-36 victory over Rochester (1-5).

Senior guard Amber Riethmiller added 10 points for the Blazers, who led 21-17 at halftime and 30-26 after three quarters before outscoring the Falcons 14-10 in the final period.

"We executed down the stretch and finished the game," said Ladywood coach Amber Cully, whose team made 16-of-25 free throws (64 percent). "We never gave up and I'm proud them."

Rochester freshman guard Paola Barraza led all scorers with 16 points. The Falcons made only 5-of-13 foul shots (38.4 percent).

**Hawks triumph**

Huron Valley Lutheran improved to 3-2 Tuesday night with a 44-31 victory over Calvary Christian (1-3).

The Hawks never trailed after securing a

13-4 lead after one quarter. They extended their cushion to 24-12 and led 35-19 with eight minutes to play.

Julie St. John had a huge night for the winners, netting 16 points and nine rebounds. Sam Golchuk also played well, contributing 14 points and five steals.

Sarah Bergler netted 17 points for Calvary.

The winners hit half of their 10 free throws. Calvary was 3-for-6 from the line.

"I saw some good things on the offensive end of the floor," noted HVL head coach Kris Ruth. "We got a lot of girls involved in the offense. I was disappointed in our defense tonight. We need to work harder, move our feet quicker, and be way more aggressive on the defensive end."

**Warriors victorious**

Led by Claire Gordon's 15-point, five-rebound effort, Lutheran Westland toppled Sacred Heart, 61-23, Tuesday night. Emily Hahn and Taylor Jones both chipped in with 12 points for the winners, who jumped out to a decisive 14-2 first-quarter advantage.

"It's great to get a win back from break," said Lutheran Westland head coach Sandi Wade. "We played well as a team tonight. We keep improving every game. I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

ewright@hometownlife.com

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

# BEFORE AND AFTER

Schoolcraft men ride double-OT win into break; return with loss in MCCA opener

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Time after time Dec. 20, Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team tried but could not get over the hump against Owens Community College.

For example, the host Ocelots rallied in the final minute of regulation to force overtime, only to quickly fall behind 85-79 in the first minute of the extra session.

No matter. Schoolcraft not only showed remarkable grit and resilience by bouncing back to send the non-conference match-up into a second five-minute overtime, but then finished a stirring comeback with a 106-101 victory.

Sparking the Ocelots with 32 points was guard Ja'Christian Biles, while Owens guard Shaakir Lindsey tallied 31 for the visitors.

Making the 19-14 surge in the second OT more remarkable was Schoolcraft having three key players foul out and rely-

ing on injured freshman forward Davon Taylor (Canton) and reserve freshman guard Moussa Harb to help overturn the Bulldogs.

"Both times we played them (Owens), they were just excellent games," Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour said. "Very satisfying in the sense of different kids stepping up when guys fouled out. Davon, bless his heart, played on an injured knee, gave us just the amount of minutes that we needed."

"Moussa stepped up big. He had a blocked shot, he had a couple rebounds, ran the floor offensively, got to all the (Owens) shooters defensively. He did an excellent job, especially down the stretch."

**Emptying the tank**

Both Taylor and Harb came up with important defensive rebounds in the second overtime to not only thwart the Bulldogs, but help start transitions for offensive chances.

Also huge for Schoolcraft (11-2) was the performance by freshman guard and Westland John Glenn product Dre Black, who came up with several big defensive takeaways and baskets.

Moreover, Black (15 points, six assists, two steals) did not get rattled by foul trouble (he had four fouls early in the second half, one short of fouling out).

"I mean, it's just being disciplined, playing smart," Black said, grinning about the thrilling way his team battled back. "I was picking up help-side fouls and my teammates really stepped up second half and overtime and I didn't have to pick up those fouls, just basically playing smart, playing together."

"Just leaving it all out on the floor. It (the inspirational win) means a lot, it means our team is coming together even more."

Mashhour gave full marks to Black for the way he competed despite

the threat of fouling out.

"We felt we had a good mismatch with the person they had guarding him at the end of regulation and the first overtime," Mashhour said. "Dre, to his credit, took full advantage and just made all the right plays."

"Dre was absolutely sensational today, the most impressive game he's played all year and he's had a lot of very good ones."

**MACOMB 91, SCHOOLCRAFT (MEN) 81:** The visiting Ocelots returned to action following the holidays Saturday in the MCCA opener, but were outscored 59-50 in the second half to fall short.

Scoring 22 points for Schoolcraft (11-3, 0-1) was Ja'Christian Biles, with Lito Booth (16 points), Javon Thomas (13 points) and Tyler Johnson (13 points) helping the attack.

Macomb (7-5, 1-0) was led by Chris Dorsey (24 points) and Brandon Hicks (20 points).

**SCHOOLCRAFT (WOMEN) 78, MACOMB 53:** Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team had a happier conference opener Saturday, thanks to a 51-28 edge in the second half.

Leading the Lady Ocelots (10-4, 1-0) were Wayne Memorial alum Ashley Bland (32 points) and Elise Tolbert (17 points). Rikki Sherdt led the team with 11 rebounds. The top scorer for Macomb (8-4, 0-1) was Sydney Morgan, who tallied 17 points. tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

# Warriors lose to Ann Arbor Greenhills, 55-45

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Momentum was a fickle commodity during Tuesday night's Lutheran Westland-Ann Arbor Greenhills boys basketball encounter.

The lead exchanged hands with the regularity of a pendulum before the Gryphons survived with a 55-45 victory to improve their record to 3-0. The Warriors slipped to 1-3.

The visiting Warriors led 11-10 after one quarter before the hosts stormed back to seize a 32-21 halftime advantage. Proving to be resilient — at least for eight minutes — Lutheran Westland outscored Greenhills 16-8 in the third stanza and trailed just 40-37 with the stretch run still at hand.

However, Greenhills outscored their foes 15-8 in the final period to cruise home with the triumph.

"We played a pretty sloppy first half; we committed too many turnovers on offense and left shooters wide open on defense," said LW head coach Jim Hoefl. "We got down by 13 in the second half, but we chipped away at that lead. We actually took the lead in the fourth quarter, but we were unable to knock down timely shots or get the key stop when we needed it."

"All that being said, I am proud of the way our guys played tonight. They showed a lot of character and grit by chipping away at that deficit and overcoming the turnovers. This was a very good tune-up to get us ready for our first conference game on Tuesday (against Huron Valley Lutheran). We'll be ready."

Cleveland Tarp topped the Warriors' offensive effort with 13 points. He also added nine rebounds.

Zach Anger added 11 points and four rebounds for LW while Zach Burk chipped in six points, 10 boards and two blocked shots.

Other contributors for the Warriors were Brent Croft (seven rebounds) and Luke Smith (six points).

Armaan Dhaliwal led Greenhills with 15 points. James Carr scored 12.

**'Jackets down Hawks**

Harrison got behind early at Auburn Hills Avondale and couldn't make up the difference Tuesday in an OAA crossover game. The result was a 69-45 loss.

The Yellow Jackets led 32-17 at halftime and outscored the Hawks (1-4) in the fourth quarter, 20-13.

Harrison senior center John Rexroth scored 12 points and had 10 rebounds. Brandon Turner and Justin Whitted netted nine and eight points, respectively. Whitted also had six boards.

Chris Barton tallied 20 points and Darius Woods 17 for the Yellow Jackets (4-2), who were 18-of-26 at the foul line. The Hawks were 7-of-15.

"I thought we played OK early," Harrison coach Jason Pickett said. "We missed some shots that would have made the beginning a little different."

"We have to take better care of the ball as a group and rebound a little better. I thought we shored that up, but then we turned the ball over. We have to get back at it and get ready to take on Groves Friday."

**CITY OF WESTLAND**

**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, **on January 13th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSPAPER

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

Publish: January 8th, 2015

Devin J. Adams  
City Controller

**CITY OF LIVONIA**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 4 of Act 207 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1921, as amended, the City Zoning Act (MSA 5.2934; MCLA 125.584) as well as Article XXIII of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the Council of the City of Livonia on **Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.**, in the Auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:

**Petition 2014-11-01-07 submitted by NPM Acquisitions L.L.C.,** requesting to rezone the properties at 27403 and 27451 Schoolcraft Road, located on the southwest corner of Schoolcraft and Inkster Roads in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 25, from OS (Office Services) and M-1 (Light Manufacturing) to C-4 (High Rise Commercial 4 Stories).

**SUSAN A. HOFF, CITY CLERK**

THIS AD REPLACES PREVIOUS NOTICE FOR 1/14/15

Publish: THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

**HOOPS**

Continued from Page B1

guys did a nice job of edging out and helping on the switches."

Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak said Tuesday's game was a culmination of two primary factors.

"Stevenson came out and played hard right from the get-go and we didn't," Solak said. "Defensively, they pushed us out of everything we wanted to do. They ran the floor, attacked the glass — basically everything they wanted to do. We tried different combinations of players, but nothing seemed to work."

Dollar also led the Spartans with eight rebounds.

Senior forward Brett Bonarek led the Chargers with 10 points. Jon Hovermale added nine while Dayton Davis chipped in with eight.

## Signs encouraging for new home construction in 2015

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

With four-county employment at its highest point since November 2008 and oil prices at their lowest since December 2010 – and trending downward – the Home Builders Association/ASA New Housing Permit Forecast projects that new home permits should make their strongest start (dating back to 2006) during the first five months of 2015.

“Oil prices have obviously been getting a lot of attention,” said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan. He sees increased disposable income among residents of Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and St. Clair counties making them more likely to build homes.

“It seems like the metrics point to an uptick,” said Williamston, Mich., resident Stoskopf. “We’re excited about that.”

In analyzing economic data, Stoskopf and colleagues look at: people employed in the labor force; mortgage rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage; oil price by barrel; North American vehicle production; single-family home prices reported by REALCOMP; and a few other lesser factors.

“There has been some contraction in the real estate market,” he said. “A lot of that occurs seasonally.” At the holidays, people are celebrating, he said, and less like-



Homes are and have been under construction throughout Lyon Township, like this one.

ly to be in the housing market. Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report, a total of 206 single-family home permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in November 2014.

While the number of permits issued in November was down sharply from October's figure (399), it exceeded the HBA's forecast model expectation of 176 permits. The number of permits was also down when compared to November 2013 (297). The decrease in activity may be

attributable to a slowdown in the market and seasonal adjustments, as Stoskopf noted occurs regularly late in the year.

He agreed some contractors face challenges in locating skilled workers, with that “still at a premium for some of the trades.”

Some contractors had increased workloads, Stoskopf said, but were still hesitant to hire. “Laying people off is no fun if you ever had to go through it,” he said. “I think some of that is getting better.”

Some skilled workers had relocated or taken other jobs, he said. “I think there's reason for optimism going forward,” he added.

The HBA, headquartered in

West Bloomfield, locally has done the model over the last five years with an accuracy rate of 98 percent. The forecast for this past November's permits was based on study seven months earlier, he said.

“I have pretty good confidence based on the long-term performance of our model,” Stoskopf added. He noted factors such as weather (last year's harsh winter, for example) or another recession can't be anticipated.

“Oakland County is No. 1 for single-family homes produced,” with much new home activity in Lyon Township and Novi.

In Wayne County, Canton dominates building, the industry expert said, while Macomb County is led by Macomb Township and Shelby Township.

He agreed that local municipalities influence how much building happens, noting “They can make it really difficult for a developer.”

Some areas are running out of lots for building, Stoskopf said, although the areas he mentioned as booming “have all been very positive in welcoming new development going in.”

That building leads to both property and sales taxes being paid, he said, as well as spin-off spending. There's less resistance to new building at the end of a recession such as we've experienced, he said.

Home values for existing homes go up with new home building, he noted. “Having that value come into a neighborhood or a community really helps everybody.”

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

## ‘Car condo’ must be done correctly

Q: I recently read about a “car condo” opening up, which has garages and a track. What are your observations about that type of project?

A: It is like any other condominium project, it must be well constructed with adequate financing, a responsible developer and sales must meet the expectations of the developer in order for the project to be successful. Moreover, purchasers must be aware of the restrictions in the condominium and their obligations as co-owners. It is a neat idea which, if done properly, can be successful. Just like airplane condominiums and other high rise garage condominiums.

Q: What is the limit on the loan amount for FHA mortgages?

A: The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced that the maximum conforming loan limits for mortgages acquired by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in 2015 will remain at \$417,000 for one-unit properties in most of the country, including all of Michigan. The loan limits are established for each county under the terms of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) and are calculated each year. HERA sets maximum loan limits as a function of median home values in that county. If you are looking to move to Alaska, for example, the loan limit is \$625,500, and it is that high in some other counties throughout the country. A complete listing for all the counties in the United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands may be found at www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Downloads/Documents/Conforming-Loan-Limits/FullCountyLoanLimit-List2015\_HERA-BASED\_FINAL.pdf.



Robert Meisner

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of “Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium.” He is also the author of “Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track,” second edition. Visit [bmeisner@meisner-law.com](mailto:bmeisner@meisner-law.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 11-15, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table with columns for City, Address, and Price. Includes sections for BEVERLY HILLS, BINGHAM FARMS, BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, and COMMERCE TOWNSHIP.

Table with columns for Address and Price. Includes sections for FARMINGTON, FARMINGTON HILLS, and LIVONIA.

Table with columns for Address and Price. Includes sections for FRANKLIN, HIGHLAND, MILFORD, NORTHVILLE, and NOVI.

Table with columns for Address and Price. Includes sections for SOUTH LYON, SOUTHFIELD, WHITE LAKE, and WAYNE.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 2-5, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table with columns for City, Address, and Price. Includes sections for CANTON, GARDEN CITY, and LIVONIA.

Table with columns for Address and Price. Includes sections for FARMINGTON, FARMINGTON HILLS, and LIVONIA.

Table with columns for Address and Price. Includes sections for FRANKLIN, HIGHLAND, MILFORD, NORTHVILLE, and NOVI.

Table with columns for Address and Price. Includes sections for SOUTH LYON, SOUTHFIELD, WHITE LAKE, and WAYNE.

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales: If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email [june.quantum@gmail.com](mailto:june.quantum@gmail.com) for your reservation or additional information.

Investors: The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

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

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RELIGION CALENDAR

JANUARY BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: 734-425-4421

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. doors open; 8 p.m. show starts, Friday, Jan. 16
Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia
Details: Blackthorn performs; \$100 for a table of eight, \$125 for a table of 10, or \$15 per ticket
Contact: 734-464-1222, 734-464-2020 or email Colleen at cmiakiak@stedith.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia
Details: Mitch and Jesse Manns perform with Dean Rutledge. Mitch Manns has performed with bluegrass, oldie and country bands and Jesse Manns developed his personal guitar style after listening to Chet Atkins, Hank Garland and Jeff Back. Rutledge, a 40-year veteran of the Detroit folk scene, has worked as a soloist and as a member of the New Christy Minstrels. Tickets are \$10 per person
Contact: 734-427-2290

FITNESS CLASSES
Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12-March 30
Location: St. John Neumann, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: John Mason, a certified personal fitness trainer, teaches this 10-week class that includes yoga-oriented flexibility moves, stretching, strength training and abdominal and back exercises. Cost is \$70, with a portion of proceeds going to the church
Contact: 734-455-5910

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11
Location: Prentis Apartment Community Room, located on 10 Mile, east of Greenfield, Oak Park
Details: Jan Jacobs will preview her March workshop project, the creation of a denim quilt. The Pomegranate Guild of South-eastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlework
Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

WORLD SABBATH

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Jan. 25
Location: Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Details: Celebrate peace and religious diversity through this interfaith experience of music, dance and prayer. Afterglow follows the service
Contact: 248-851-5100

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25-March 25
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Grieving with Great Hope workshop is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, presents the five-week series
Contact: goodmourningministry.net or St. Michael's at 734-261-1455

OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 1
Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia
Details: Open house for preschool through grade eight
Contact: 734-425-4420

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville

Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton
Details: No documentation needed
Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL
Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal

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

Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.
Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER
St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.
Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304
Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.
Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

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

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

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances
How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mideathnotices.com

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

ARDREY, WANEVA
Age 87, a Livonia resident more than 51 years, passed away December 27, 2014. Preceded in death by her husband, Jerome (Jerry), parents David and Lula Belle Denney, brothers Russell (Jean) and Richard (Betty Ann). Survived by sons Gary, Greg and Mike, beloved relatives and friends. She was a homemaker, a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church for many years where she and her husband served as deacons. For many years she served as a lunch monitor at Cass Elementary School where students she adored called her "Mrs. A." She was involved in the Ford Wives Club and volunteered with the Travelers Aid Society assisting travelers at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Visitation Thursday, January 1, from 4-7:30 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. until time of Service. Life celebration following interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park.

BIDWELL, A. WILLIAM
January 6, 2015 age 85 of Westland. Beloved husband of the late Marie. Dear father of Catherine Johnson, Sharon (Tony) Vetraino, Karen (John) Osbourne, Alonzo Bidwell, Diane Bidwell and Jean (Tim) Goring. Brother of Douglas (Mary), and Sue (David) Allmindinger. Also survived by 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Funeral Friday 10 am at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive friends Thursday 2-9 pm. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com.

BENNETT, LINDA LEE
Age 71 of Farmington Hills, MI left the cares of this world behind and lay down her burdens on January 3, 2015. Linda Bennett was born in Johnstown, PA on March 12, 1943 the only child of H. Louise Gettys and Robert Julius Barr. Linda will be greatly missed by her children Jennifer (David) Smeltzer and Eric (Carla) Bennett, and her grand children: Abigail and Madeleine Smeltzer and Alec Bennett Linda was formerly married to Karl R. Bennett, Jr. who also survives. A loving mother and true homemaker, Linda often used her creative skills in upholstery and drapery making as well as interior design. Linda's outgoing personality resulted in many long lasting, unique relationships and those that knew her best will truly miss her sense of humor and style. Linda was a graduate of Wayne State University where she received her Master's Degree in Library Science. The "Unabashed Librarian" worked nearly all of her 30 year career with the Farmington Hills Community Library system and Oakland Community College. Professionally Linda was known for her skills in establishing meaningful working relationships with students and other patrons in the library. Recognized for her strengths as a teacher, Linda was named Orchard Ridge Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member for the year 1999-2000. The family will receive family and friends at the Thayer-rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI Thursday, January 8th from 4 - 7 p.m. and the Memorial Service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Farmington Community Library, 32737 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. www.Thayer-Rock.com

JOSLYN, PAMELA S.
Age 68, passed away Saturday, December 27, 2014. Survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Richard; mother, Everetta Pruett-Waterford; sister, Rebecca Pruett; Godchildren Brian and Randy Jean Ihrke. Visitation Saturday, January 10, 1-3 pm, at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial service January 10, 3 pm also at the funeral home.

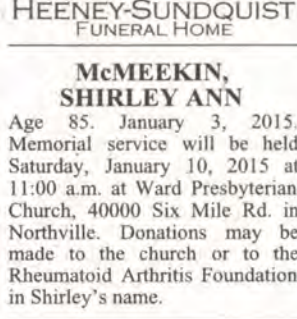
McMEEKIN, SHIRLEY ANN
Age 85. January 3, 2015. Memorial service will be held Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Rd. in Northville. Donations may be made to the church or to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation in Shirley's name.



Portrait of Bidwell, A. William



Portrait of Bennett, Linda Lee



Portrait of Joslyn, Pamela S.



Portrait of McMekin, Shirley Ann

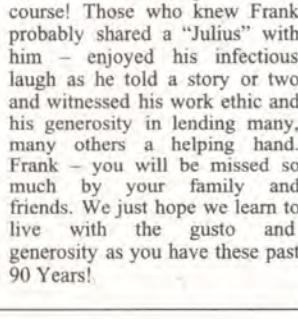
PROVOW, CYNTHIA
Age 62, of Canton, passed away January 3, 2015. Loving wife of 44 years to Bob. Beloved mother of Kirsten. Proud grandmother of Jayvon Miller. Survived by her mother Shirley; sister Colleen; brothers Chris (Cathy), Craig (Tammy), Curt (Michele) and the late Charles. Dear aunt to many nieces and nephews. She will be missed by all that knew her. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Donations can be made to ones favorite charity.

PORTH, FRANK H.
Of Redford passed away December 17, 2014 - on his 90th Birthday. Frank lived in Redford for 61 years of which he owned Redford Rent-All for over 30 years. During his early years in business, he never forgot the encouragement he received from other Redford business owners - The Murrays of Murray's Hardware (and Jewelry!) and The Sobocks of Mr. Chicken to help him persevere to build his business to the success it was when he retired in 1994. Frank went on to help many others needing the same type of encouragement in starting and growing their own business. Frank was born the son of Frank and Alderetta Porth of Highland MI. He joined the US Army during his senior year at Visitation High School. As part of the Greatest Generation, he proudly served in WWII in Germany (and always flew 2 USA flags at his home). He later worked for Burroughs Corp. where he decided that punching a time clock was not for him. He took the leap of faith in 1964 and purchased a small trailer rental yard - Minock Trailer Rental and later grew it into the larger Redford Rent-All. He never refused an opportunity to "donate" the use of a trailer bed for the Thurston High School Homecoming floats. He was married to Shirley Porth for 25 years and remained friends the years after. They had three children - Michael (who predeceased him), Kathy and Judy. He was later married 35 years to Marion Porth- who had a daughter Sue. Frank had three grandsons - Frankie, David and Steven - all who he gave the gift of the opportunity to go to any college to pursue their dreams. Frank's loves were his family and friends, golf, road trips ("On the road again."), John Wayne (who many thought he resembled) and his ARA Rental colleagues. As a side venture, he was a previous part-owner of the Bald Mountain Golf Course in Lake Orion. He was able to enjoy his love of golf AND snowmobiling at this course! Those who knew Frank probably shared a "Julius" with him - enjoyed his infectious laugh as he told a story or two and witnessed his work ethic and his generosity in lending many, many others a helping hand. Frank - you will be missed so much by your family and friends. We just hope we learn to live with the gusto and generosity as you have these past 90 Years!

REPKO, BETTY
Passed away January 4, 2015 at the age of 89. She was born April 7, 1925 in Arcadia, Pennsylvania to Joseph and Mary Gladish. Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband Louis in 2009. She is the dearest mother of Gloria (Ron) Yaszek, Rita Repko and Carol (Wolfgang Beatham) Repko. Dear grandmother of Lisa (Doug Davis) Yaszek, Kristen (Bryan) Richey, Robert Repko Johnson, Eric Repko Beatham and Kyle Repko Beatham and great grandmother of Jack Richey and Case Yaszek Davis. She is the dear sister of Jenny Buckley, Bernice Angell and Robert (Carolee) Gladish. Betty is also survived by her dear sister-in-law Irene Gladish. She was preceded in death by her siblings Emily Sebuck, Rose Sebuck, David Gladish and Albert Gladish. While at High School in Pennsylvania Betty was a cheerleader. She worked prior to marrying Louis as a secretary for an automotive company. Betty was very devoted to her family and also spent her time and efforts as a wonderful homemaker. She was an exceptionally giving person and was very generous with her time. Her husband, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and her siblings were her priorities in life. Betty was a spiritual person and was very committed to the Catholic faith. She is deeply loved and will be missed by many. Funeral Services held Thursday, January 8, 2015, 10am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Plymouth. Burial took place at St. Hedwig Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association. To leave a condolence www.schrader-howell.com

STEFANIAK, ANNETTE
January 6, 2015 age 32. Beloved wife for over 9 years to Steven. Loving mother of Lillianna, Laura, and William. Dear sister of Dawn West, and Valerie Wilk. Daughter of Marion and Renata Wilk. Sister-in-law of Sandy (Jay) Olheiser, Michelle (Dain) Demchik, and Debbie Stefaniak. Daughter-in-law of Mike (Diane) Stefaniak. Visitation Thursday 6-8 p.m. and Friday 2-9 p.m. at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn. Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Prayer Service Friday 7 p.m. In state Saturday 10:15 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 South Lilley Road, Canton. Memorial contributions may be made to Karmonos Cancer Research and American Cancer Society. Interment Riverside Cemetery. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

PAUL J. ROSSOW
In Loving Memory
May 13, 1956 - January 8, 2014. A year has passed since we said farewell to a great son, brother, uncle and friend. You have been dearly missed this past year but forever remain in our hearts. Love, Mom



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

May the memory of your loved one... bring you peace.

Your Invitation to Worship

Advertisement for churches and assemblies including Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, Ward Church, St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, and Open Arms Church. Includes contact information and service times.

# Improvisers stage sketch comedy, games at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Tim and Matt Majzlik want to help you laugh away the January doldrums. Their cure? A combination of comedy sketch and improvisation.

"I hope folks are grinning from ear to ear," said Tim Majzlik, describing the effect he hopes the show *Cure for the Wintertime Blues* will have on its audience. "I want to give them something that, on Monday morning when they're at the office they'll say this was the funniest thing I've seen, it made my new year start off right."

He and his brother are co-producing and directing the show, which is set for 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 at Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. Tickets are \$15, available at [justgobarefoot.com](http://justgobarefoot.com) or through the theater's box office at 734-560-1493.

The brothers staged an improv night a few years ago at Barefoot Productions with a different cast. This time the group, selected through auditions last October, includes improvisers with a broader mix of ages and theater experience.

The show will include written sketches derived from rehearsals over the past two months, along with improvised games that use audience suggestions.

"We welcomed every kind of idea," said Tim Majzlik, describing the rehearsal-to-script process. "I did most of heavy lifting with fine tuning



The cast of *Cure for the Wintertime Blues* will play improv games and act out comedy sketches Saturday, Jan. 17, in Plymouth. SUBMITTED

and writing."

## Theater training

Both he and his brother were involved in theater and an improvisation club as students at Canton High School. Matt, who lives in Canton, also worked with the school radio station.

"I went on to Wayne State University where I majored in theater studies. After graduating from the theater program at Wayne State, I found Barefoot in Plymouth," said Majzlik, who lives in Ypsilanti and manages a movie theater in Ann Arbor. "Matt has done training in the medical field,

both human and veterinarian. He's a trained phlebotomist. Right now he's working as a veterinarian apprentice."

Majzlik said he became interested in theater through improv.

"That was my gateway. For a number of years I struggled with dyslexia," he said, adding

that working with scripts sometimes became a challenge. Improvising on the spot, making up unscripted scenes "was a relief."

"It has helped me with public speaking and being able to express myself," he added.

He and his brother will serve as emcees, introducing sketches and keeping improv games on track during *Cure for the Wintertime Blues*.

Sketches will take the audience back in time to see King Henry VIII and Soviet-era spies, and a mix of other characters.

"I think this one is for the ages. We're jumping around a bit in the time stream of human consciousness. We think the audience will have a fun trip."

The improv set will include some of the games seen on the television show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

All ages are welcome, but Majzlik rates the humor as PG-13.

The cast includes actors who are familiar to Barefoot audiences, and others who are new to the Barefoot stage. They are Griffin Burke of Northville, Nathan Corliss of Ypsilanti, Karen Curtsinger of Canton, Adrian Diffeo of Saline, M. De Lisle of Ypsilanti, Michelle McAlpine of Northville, Fran Potasnik of Saline, Rachel Richardson of Ypsilanti, and Jeannine Thompson of Troy.

For more information, visit [justgobarefoot.com](http://justgobarefoot.com)

## Hear standards, original tunes at Plymouth jazz concert Jan. 17

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Cynthia Kaay Bennett's getting ready to play a little "library jazz" this weekend.

"I've played at a couple of different libraries in Toledo," said Bennett, in a phone interview from her home in Adrian earlier this week. "They have a nice setup at the Adrian library. People come in and sit with their coffee and couples get up and dance."

"I've been in the Plymouth library itself and it's beautiful. It's huge. I hope a lot of folks will come by and enjoy themselves."

Bennett will sing a mix of jazz standards and original jazz songs at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. The concert is free and will include Toledo, Ohio-area musicians, Kevin Korecki on keyboard and Will Kinsey on drums. Reserve a spot by calling 734-453-0750, Ext. 4, or visit online at [plymouth-library.org](http://plymouth-library.org).

Bennett, an Ohio native, has sung at festivals and jazz clubs throughout the country, but also enjoys singing at libraries. She is acquainted with Plymouth Library Director Carol Souchock, who previously worked in the library at Adrian.

"She arranged all kinds of arts festivals here in Adrian. When she transferred from Adrian to Plymouth, she and I maintained a friendship," Bennett said, adding that she is "thrilled" to perform in Plymouth.

"It's nice to be in a concert venue rather than in a nightclub where folks are eating and drinking. The type of music I play will still be the same. What I do is straight ahead jazz. I do a lot of original material as well, which I think interests a lot of jazz enthusiasts. They've heard the standards. Audiences love



Cynthia Kaay Bennett

to hear songs they know but to throw in original tunes that I've written or co-written, adds some interest and makes it unique."

Bennett grew up in Mansfield, Ohio, in a family that "played nothing but jazz." While her friends listened to Aerosmith and other rock bands, Bennett enjoyed Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

"As a junior high girl you think jazz is so corny, but I thought, I really like this stuff. When I first started singing at age 24, I had never sung before. I was a sax player when I went to Ohio State. But when I got out of college and was teaching, I put my horn down. You lose your embouchure. It broke my heart."

When someone suggested she try singing, she gave it a shot by performing in the chorus of *Carousel*. She sang all kinds of music — from Barbra Streisand tunes to Linda Ronstadt — at clubs before settling into jazz. In addition to performing and writing, she also teaches music.

She'll have her three CDs available for purchase at the concert in Plymouth. They sell for \$15 and \$10. Bennett said she plans to donate \$5 from every sale to the library.

## ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily  
**Location:** I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak  
**Details:** Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking  
**Wild Winter Weekend:** Arts and crafts, live performances, ice carving, with enrichment and zookeeper talks about the Zoo's arctic animals, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 17-18. Free with zoo admission  
**Contact:** 248-541-5717

## ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Jan. 9  
**Location:** The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit  
**Coming up:** A reception is set, 6-8 p.m. Jan. 12, for works by 32 artists  
**Contact:** 248-473-1859

## NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through Jan. 31  
**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville  
**Details:** "Between Landscape and Place" is a solo show by painter John Dempsey  
**Contact:** 248-344-0497

## AUDITIONS FARMINGTON PLAYERS

**Time/Date:** Registration at 11 a.m., auditions at noon, Sunday, Jan. 18  
**Location:** The Farmington Players Barn, 32332 We. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Auditions for *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which will be staged in late April and early May. All who audition for leads will sing solos that can be found at [farmingtonplayers.org](http://farmingtonplayers.org). A pianist will be used to accompany the auditioners. Wear comfortable clothes and bring dance shoes if you own them  
**Contact:** [farmingtonplayers.org](http://farmingtonplayers.org)

## COMEDY JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 9-10; 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11 (Greek show)  
**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia  
**Details:** Basile is known for his voice work as Universal Studio's Bullwinkle J. Moose, as well as for the Cartoon Network and many Japanese Anime series. Tickets are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$20 for show or \$32 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday  
**Open mic:** Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list  
**Contact:** 734-261-0555; [catchthefunny.com](http://catchthefunny.com)

## MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

## GET OUT! CALENDAR



Chris Canas Band will perform at the Blues @ The Elks music series, Tuesday, Jan. 13, in Plymouth. SUBMITTED

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 8-9; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10  
**Location:** Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak  
**Details:** Keith Fields; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$18 Friday-Saturday  
**Contact:** 248-542-9900; [info@ComedyCastle.com](mailto:info@ComedyCastle.com)

## FILM PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 10-11  
**Location:** 760 Penniman, Plymouth  
**Details:** *Big Hero 6*; admission \$3  
**Coming up:** *St. Vincent*, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 and 22; 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18  
**Contact:** 734-453-0870; [www.penn-theatre.com](http://www.penn-theatre.com)

## REDFORD THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Jan. 9; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 10  
**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit  
**Details:** *All About Eve*, \$5  
**Contact:** 313-898-1481

## HISTORY PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 11  
**Location:** 155 S. Main, Plymouth  
**Details:** 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as *Elf*, *Polar Express* and *A Christmas Carol*. Santa visits every Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17  
**Contact:** 734-455-8940

## MUSIC BLUES@THE ELKS

**Time/Date:** 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** Chris Canas Band performs on Tuesday, Jan. 13; \$5 donation  
**Contact:** 734-453-1780

## JAZZ CAFE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9  
**Location:** Jazz Cafe at Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit  
**Details:** The acoustic duo Lac La Belle performs, along with instrumentalists and songwriters, Jennie Knaggs and Nick Schillace; \$10  
**Coming up:** 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, Perfect 10 fundraiser benefits the Michigan Humane Society and celebrates the 10-year anniversary of MOTORCITYBLOG. Bands include Yum, The Ill Itches, War Horses, Pewter Club, Amino Acids, Electric Lion Sound Wave Experiment, and more. \$10 at the door, \$20 VIP access  
**Contact:** 313-887-8501

## MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

**Time/Date:** 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11  
**Location:** The Inn at St. John's Chapel, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth  
**Details:** "Miniature Masterpieces," will include *Divertimento K.136/125a* by Mozart, *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4* by Bach, *Suite for Violin, Piano & Small Orchestra* by Lou Harrison and *Peninsula Suite* by Nancy Bloomer Deussen. \$30 general admission; \$25 for seniors, 62 and over, and \$10 for students with ID  
**Contact:** [michiganphil.org](http://michiganphil.org)

## TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

**Time/Date:** Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** Billy Strings and Don Julin, Jan. 9; Olivia Millershin, Ashley Peacock and Oak City Roots, Jan. 10; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and a special guest, Jan. 11; Ronny Cox, Jan. 16; Matt Watroba, Jan. 17; Open Stage, Jan. 20; Nessa, Jan. 23; Stewart Francke, Jan. 24. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.  
**Contact:** 734-464-6302 for additional information

## TUESDAY MUSICAL

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m. Jan. 12  
**Location:** Central Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams at Woodward, Detroit  
**Details:** Mistral Winds performs music by Franz Danzi; Nadine Deleury, Edward Maki-Schramm and Molly Hughes play music by Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger; and Norma Keil Shaw, Marjorie Sterimpel and Sylvain Bouwman play music by Carl Fruhling. Admission free  
**Contact:** Mary Quick at 313-891-2861

## SPOKEN WORD DETROIT STORY LEAGUE

**Time/Date:** Noon lunch, 1 p.m. storytelling and workshop, 2:30 p.m. business meeting, Saturday, Jan. 17  
**Location:** Farmington Library, 23500 Liberty, west of Farmington Road, south of Grand River Ave., Farmington  
**Details:** Visitors are welcome at this monthly session that includes a bring-your-own lunch — coffee and dessert will be provided — a storytelling session and educational workshop  
**Contact:** 248-644-3951



## Try these pasta tips from Andiamo executive chef

What's the secret to perfectly-cooked spaghetti?

Executive Chef Jim Oppat of Andiamo Restaurants offers a few tips, just in time for the frigid weather. Warm up a week night with a hearty, filling spaghetti dish.

- » Use proper size pot to cook pasta, the larger is better
- » Cook pasta in large quantity of boiling, liberally-salted water
- » Never put oil in the cooking water
- » Give the pasta a stir while cooking
- » Do not rinse pasta; sauce immediately

Need a sauce for your noodles? Try Old Fashioned Italian Meat Sauce — it's loaded with garlic, Italian sausage and pork — from Hunt's. Find more recipes at [hunts.com](http://hunts.com).

For more on Andiamo, visit [andiamoitalia.com](http://andiamoitalia.com). Andiamo has restaurants in nine communities, including Livonia.



Executive Chef Jim Oppat of Andiamo Restaurants

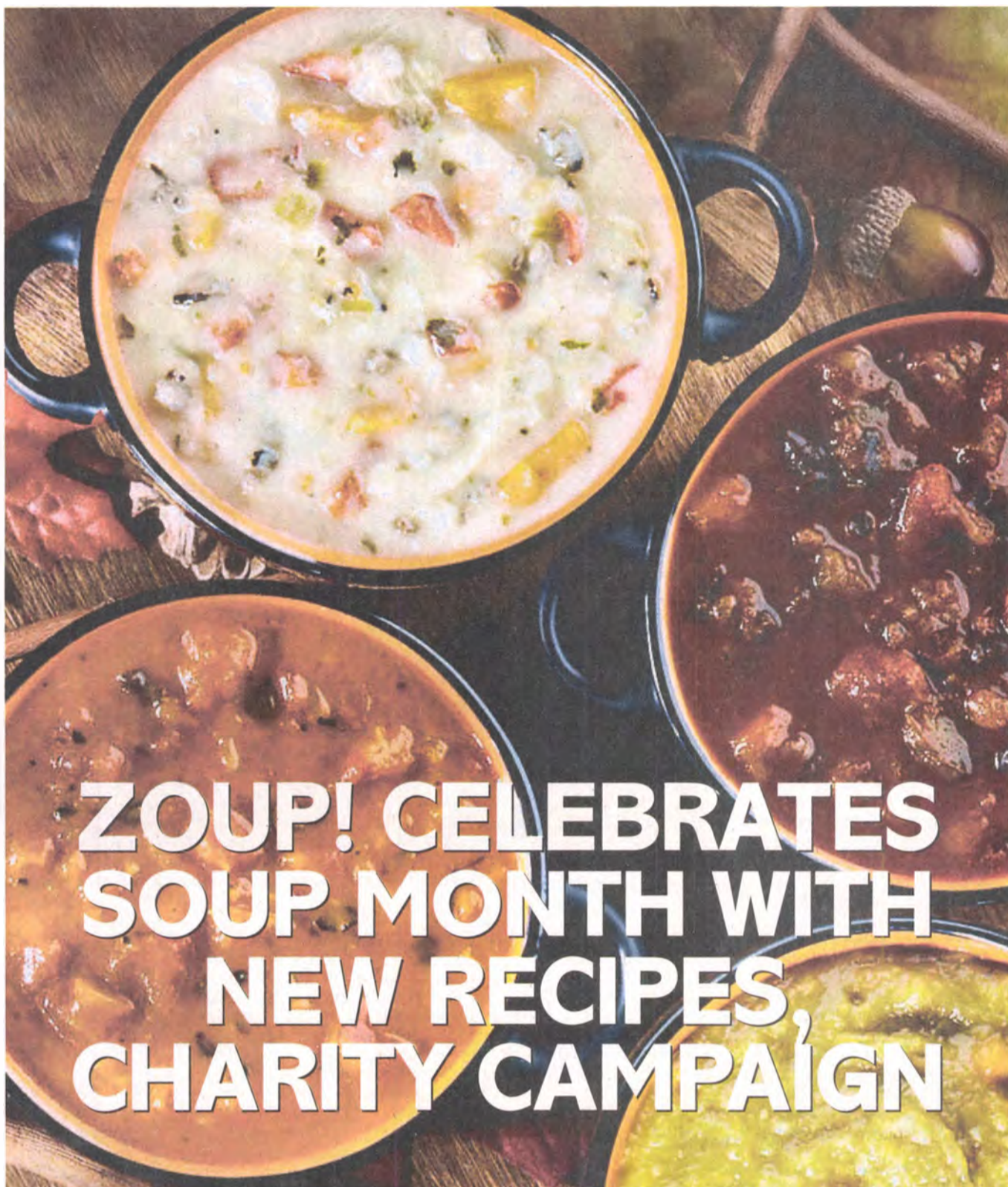
### OLD-FASHIONED ITALIAN MEAT SAUCE WITH PASTA

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Total time: 3 1/2 hours  
Servings: 10

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 bone-in pork chops, 1-1/2 inches thick (2 chops = 1/2 lb)
- 1 pound Italian pork sausage links, casings removed
- 4 cans (14.5 ounces each) Hunt's Diced Tomatoes with Roasted Garlic, undrained
- 1 can (12 ounces each) Hunt's Tomato Paste
- 1 quart water (1 quart = 4 cups)
- 1 tablespoon dried basil leaves
- 16 ounces dry pasta, uncooked

Heat oil in large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chops; cook 3 to 4 minutes on each side, or until browned on both sides. Remove from pan; cover to keep warm.

Brown sausage in same pan, stirring occasionally to crumble sausage; drain. Return to pan. Add chops, diced tomatoes with their liquid, the tomato paste, water and basil; mix well. Reduce heat to low; simmer 2-1/2 to 3 hours, or until sauce is thickened and meat is falling off the bones, stirring occasionally. Remove and discard bones. Cook pasta, drain, serve topped with the sauce.



## ZOUP! CELEBRATES SOUP MONTH WITH NEW RECIPES, CHARITY CAMPAIGN

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

There's nothing like a big bowl of rattlesnake stew to take a bite out of the cold.

Or a mug of creamy bisque to toast January — National Soup Month.

Soup and stew lovers will get a chance to try both recipes when Zoup! introduces Rattlesnake Stew and Chipotle Shrimp Bisque to its menu this month. The bisque will debut Jan. 12 and the stew will follow on Jan. 19. Both will be added to the daily soup rotation at Zoup! restaurants.

"It's never easy to develop new soups. Rattlesnake Stew was particularly challenging because the ingredients were so obscure," said Eric Ersher, Zoup! CEO and founder. "But we wanted to include something that, while not for everybody, is obviously unique in its flavor and ingredients. Many of our customers are interested in different ingredients and are culinarily driven."

Rattlesnake Stew is made with savory vegetarian broth, rabbit and rattlesnake sausage, peppers, brown rice and spices. The Chipotle Shrimp Bisque combines shrimp, vegetables and peppers puree with a creamy tomato soup.

"The Rattlesnake Stew took a long time because we had to source the ingredients and that was challenging. It took eight months, but on average development and testing takes four months for a new soup."

Ersher said he expects the stew will attract interest from customers but won't become a top seller.

"When there is a soup that is very accessible from a perception standpoint, obviously delicious, but understood and familiar, those elements send a recipe to the top of the list. But that's not always our goal."

"Our philosophy has always been to offer something for everyone. We need popular soups like lobster bisque, but it also means we need esoteric soups. We have hundreds of soups. We serve 12 a day and rotate them daily. We encourage sampling."

Ersher attends weekly taste tests at Zoup! headquarters in Southfield to tweak existing recipes and try new ones. Spicy Noodle Soup, the winner of Zoup!'s first online recipe contest, will get a trial run at the Southfield flagship restaurant and eventually may be served at other locations. The winner, a student at Ohio University, was announced Monday, Jan. 5.

"With the broadening of our social media base and the increasing interest of all things culinary, we wanted to bring customers into the loop," Ersher said. The public voted for favorite recipes from among a dozen finalists.

Customers also can satisfy their soup cravings while contributing to a good cause at Zoup! through Jan. 31. The restaurant will offer a voucher for a free 8-ounce side of soup to guests who donate \$2 or more to Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign. Each \$2 contribution represents 20 meals for hungry children. Zoup!'s goal is to raise \$50,000.

"We always look for opportunities to partner in the community. Usually we do so with local organizations, but we were trying to find a national organization whose mission was related to hunger. At an industry event we made a connection and thought it would be a great opportunity."

Zoup! has more than 70 restaurants throughout the U.S. and in Canada. Locally it has restaurants in Southfield, Northville, Plymouth, Novi, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, Detroit and Troy.

Can't wait to celebrate National Soup Month? Roasted Garlic Chicken Kale soup and Spicy Black Bean Chili are two Zoup! recipes you can make at home. See more at [zoup.com](http://zoup.com).



Eric Ersher, founder and CEO of Zoup!

### ZOUP! SPICY BLACK BEAN CHILI

- 1 carrot (1/2-inch dice)
- 1 stalk celery (3/8-inch dice)
- 1 onion (1/2-inch dice)
- 6 cups Zoup! Good, Really Good Savory Veggie Broth™
- 1 green pepper (1/2-inch dice)
- 2 cloves garlic (fresh chopped)
- 1/2 cup cilantro (fresh chopped)
- 4 mild green chili peppers (1/2-inch dice)
- 2 pounds black beans
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 large can crushed tomatoes
- 1 large can diced tomatoes
- 1 whole bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme
- Pinch ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper (cayenne)
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper

1. Sauté vegetables.
2. Add veggie broth and boil 30 minutes.
3. Add black beans, tomato products, spices, chilies. Boil 20 minutes.

### ZOUP! ROASTED GARLIC CHICKEN KALE

Serves 4 to 6

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium white onion, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- 2-3 celery stalks, diced
- 2 jars Zoup! Good, Really Good Chicken Broth
- 1 cup diced cooked chicken (rotisserie chicken works great)
- 1 cup kale, chopped
- 2 tablespoons roasted garlic
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. In a large pan heat extra virgin olive oil. Add onion, carrots and celery. Sauté until the onions become translucent.
2. Add 2 jars of Zoup! Good, Really Good Chicken Broth, bring to a simmer.
3. Add cooked chicken, kale, and roasted garlic. Heat until kale has softened.
4. Add fresh chopped parsley. Salt and pepper to taste and enjoy.

SUBMITTED  
Spicy Noodle Soup is the winner of Zoup!'s first recipe contest. It will be served at the company's flagship store in Southfield, and eventually at other locations.

