

## Millage question coming in Way

**By LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

In an effort aimed at alleviating pressure on the general fund, Wayne voters are likely to be asked in May to approve city charter amendments and allow the levy of 3 mills for five years to fund police and fire pensions.

Council directed the city

attorney to prepare language for the ballot questions following a presentation and recommendation from Councilman Albert Damitio.

'We got the audit and I reviewed the history of what the contribution to the pension fund was," said Damitio, whose council assignment is looking at city finances. "We have taken \$1.1-\$1.2 million

from the general fund for pensions in recent years. I didn't want to ask for more than we needed."

With a mill currently worth about \$370,000 in Wayne, the 3 mills would generate enough to make the pension payment currently coming from the general fund.

After years of decreasing property values, Wayne is

dealing with an estimated \$500,000 shortfall in the current fiscal year and a larger deficit projected for next year. As Damitio noted, the city

had been taking money from its risk-management and equipment-rental funds to help pay pension obligations.

We established those funds back in the 1980s to replace equipment and for emergen-

cies," Damitio said. "We built those funds up. They were self-sustaining. We needed a cushion.'

With those funds depleted, Damitio said the city wouldn't be able pay for unexpected equipment failure or other emergencies. If there isn't sufficient money in the drug

See MILLAGE, Page A2

## Four men charged in Westland woman's death

**By LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

Four Westland men have been arraigned on charges in connection with the beating death of a Westland woman whose body was found on a Dearborn Heights street.



Two of the men are charged with killing Diedra Akins, 46, including her live-in boyfriend Terrence Johnson, 44, who is charged with one count of first-degree



Johnson

30, is also charged with first-degree murder as well as second-degree murder

Both Johnson and Batts are being held without bond.

Two other men, Michael Bashlor, 34, and Joshua Hurston-Herron, 23, are

charged with

Randy Batts,

murder.



Members of the student councils at P.D. Graham Elementary School and John Glenn High School represented the district's more than 12,000 students in saying thanks to the school board for all it does.

## V-VV SIU SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



**Bashlor** 



being accessories after the fact. The charges are that Bashlor and Hurston-Herron helped dispose Akins' body. A \$250,000 bond was set for

Bashlor and

Hurston-Her-

**Huston-Herron** 

ron.

A preliminary examination has been scheduled for Feb. 5 for all four defendants.

Not guilty pleas were entered for all four defendants at their arraignment Thursday afternoon in Westland 18th District Court.

A woman, later identified as Akins, was found dead in the roadway in the area of Powers and Glenis in Dearborn Heights early Jan. 19. Akins was found to have died from blunt force trauma to head.

Later that same day, police said Bashlor came to the West-

See CHARGES, Page A2

#### **By Sue Mason** Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board received a very special thank you from its students.

January is School Board Recognition Month and student council members from P.D. Graham Elementary and John Glenn High School were at the Wayne-Westland board meeting this month to thank members for what they do on behalf of students.

"It's my pleasure to start off with something unique for the board," John Glenn Principal David Ingham said, referring to the board recognition portion of its meeting. "The board makes a point of recognizing students and students' accomplishments. We're turning the tables on you and having the students recognize you. This represents all the students in Wayne-Westland."

P.D. Graham Principal Jennifer Curry thanked her student council advisers, kindergarten teacher Jennifer Morris and third-grade teacher Aileen Balatico and Glenn Assistant Principal Kim Cieszynski, who worked with the students on the presentation.

"They truly have done tremendous work with student councils and in doing a wonderful presentation for you," Curry said.

The P.D. Graham students presented the board with a Thanks poem,

See THANKS, Page A2

## State to conduct assessing audit in Westland

#### **By LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

A multi-year citywide apalready underway — and now, like other Wayne County com-

It's called an Audit of Mini-

ments, approved by the Michi-gan State Tax Commission. It replaces the 14-Point Review and the Mini Review, which were previously used to make sure communities complied with state assessing policies.

"It's like an outside audit of your finances. The state comes in to review," said Aaron Powers of WCA, which handles city assessing and is

doing the citywide appraisal. "We generate all the (property) tax revenue. It is a couplestep process that will take a year to complete."

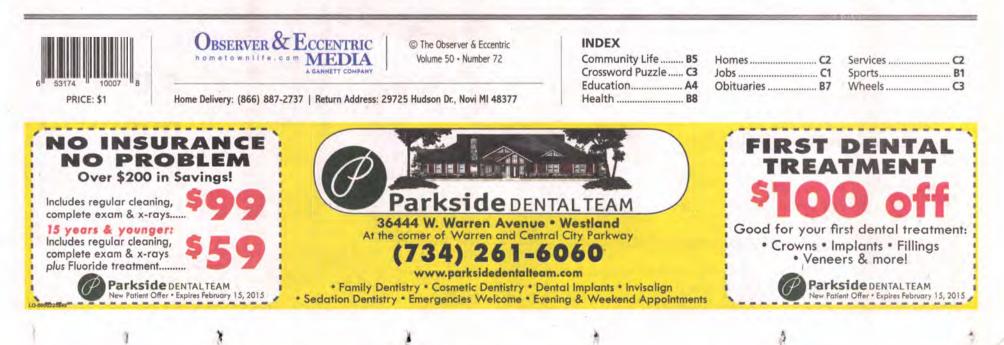
The State Tax Commission has hired the firm Tax Management Associates to conduct the audit, which will be conducted over the spring and summer.

Westland isn't alone in hav-

ing its assessment practices and records reviewed. As part of reviews of the entire state, Powers said this year Wayne County will go through the audit process.

"A lot of it is record-keeping. We don't anticipate any problem at all," Powers said. 'The state wants to make sure

See AUDIT, Page A2



praisal of Westland homes is munities, the state will be auditing the city's assessing records.

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#### **AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND** starting at 8:45 p.m.

#### **Toys and Trains**

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy and swap toys and trains show from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer, Westland. The public is welcome.

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. Dealer set-up is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

Tables are available at \$10 per table. To reserve tables, call 734-595-8327.

#### **TEARS fundraiser**

The Michigan Chapter of the TEARS Foundation is holding a fundraiser Friday, Jan. 30, at the Chuck E. Cheese, 42001 Ford Road, Canton.

Stop by to eat after 3 p.m. and 15 percent of the sales will be donated to TEARS, a national nonprofit that helps pay the funeral expenses for families who have lost a child between 20 weeks gestation and one year of age.

#### **Open House**

District. St. Michael is located at 3003 Hannan Road between Palmer and Michigan Avenue in Wayne. For more information, contact the school at 734-728-3315 or visit www.stmichael lutheran.org.

#### Senior programs

Wayne Senior Services programs for February include:

» Bingo, 18 years and up, 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26. There's a \$50 jackpot.

» Free Legal Presentation offered by Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. Free to all, 60 years and up, 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Topics include guardianship, wills, trusts, power of attorney, assisted living and much more. Reserve a spot by calling Wayne Senior Services at 734-721-7460.

» Free Heart Health Screening. Open to anyone 18 years and up. Screening includes blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screening (no fasting required for screening), plus a stroke risk assessment done. Walk in, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tues-day, Feb. 17.

All programs orig-

## WESTLAND WORKERS EA TOP WATER CERTIFICATIO

Two Westland employees have successfully obtained the difficult state S-1 license required for overseeing the city's municipal water system.

Department of Public Services Foreman Michael Dittmar, a 14-year employee, and water crew leader Christopher Payzant, a 22-year employee, have successfully passed the rigorous examination requiring information in a number of areas related to water distribution systems, to earn their S-1 licenses.

State law requires that the city's water distribution system be supervised by the operatorin-charge, who must possess an S-1 license. The Water Distribution

There also will be a

dinner.

.com.

costume contest with a

\$100 prize. Tickets are

or to order tickets, call

734-427-1680 or visit

www.stdamianschool-

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#### THANKS

holding up each letter as they recited it: » Thank you for help-

» Helping us raise

money for our school; » Always helping the school district;

» Never gives up when things are difficult; » Kids come first in

#### MILLAGE

Continued from Page A1

forfeiture account, he said the city would be unable to replace police cars, for example. The pension payment would still need to be made, if those funds are depleted.

"We need to do it (increase funding) before we run out of money completely," Damitio said. "We paid just over \$1.2 million (for pensions) from the general fund. We were \$800,000 short. We can't do that year after year.'

#### **Pension millage**

In 2013, voters rejected establishing a P.A. Act 345 millage that would have levied up to 7 mills for 10 years. This proposal would also set up a 345 police and fire pension program to take the pension fund out of the general fund.

"The City of Westland is fortunate to have city employees with this advanced level of training," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "I am confi-

your eyes; » School board members, we appreciate you

a lot. John Glenn student

council members said thank you with a "token of appreciation," a mem-ory book created by both the Glenn and P.D. Graham students.

"I don't think we've ever had students come and say thanks," board President Thomas Buckalew said. "We work

amount of millage because the city would still have a \$1 million shortfall. Damitio said he was confident that the savings from other inefficiencies that will be implemented will cover the remaining shortfall.

"Everyone at the table is working on how to optimize efficiencies," Damitio said. "I think that we can make more improvements so structurally we can have a balanced budget with \$1 million for the pensions (from a 345 millage).'

As part of the efforts to deal with the budget deficits, council members were tasked with working with individual city departments and reporting back with recommendations. Damitio was the first to report back to council.

Damitio spent a great deal of time and effort

CITY OF WESTLAND Westland Mayor William Wild and Wayne-Westland Department of **Public Services Director Ramzi El-Gharib** flank staff member Christopher Payzant and Michael Dittmar, who have earned their S-1 water operator licenses.

dent they can help pro-vide oversight of the city's vital water distribution system and ensure compliance with state regulations."

hard for the community and we work hard for the students. I've never seen anything like that. It is most appreciated."

Buckalew also concurred with a suggestion by Trustee Sally Madison that the letters be laminated and displayed in the board room.

smason@hometownlife.com 734-674-2332 Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Rowe said.

"If we can show people what we can do with the money, we need to show what we will do, if it doesn't pass," Rowe said. "We can't sit back and say we will do some-thing. We need a real plan to be implemented, if it doesn't pass.'

That means specific plans for steps like closing the community center or going to biweekly trash collection, she said.

That lack of specific cuts, or a plan B, was a source of criticism regarding the 2013 345 ballot questions.

'It's do or die. My problem with the 3 mills for five years is that I'm not sure five years is long enough," Mayor James Hawley said. "I can live with it. We need to convince people we're doing the right thing so they would vote for it

## Continued from Page A1

ing us with our activities;

St. Michael Lutheran School (Preschool-8thgrade) is hosting an open house to current and prospective students from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26. Take a guided tour of the school, meet with teachers and learn about Christian education.

St. Michael is a fully accredited parochial school that offers morning and afternoon licensed latchkey and bus service for residents in Wayne-Westland School

inate through the Senior Services Office, located in the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe. For more information or to register, call 734-721-7460.

#### School auction

St. Damian Catholic School's annual auction - Super Heroes and Villains - will be Saturday, Feb. 7, at the school, 29891 Joy, Westland.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the live auction

the job of your dreams by improving your speaking ability, selfconfidence and leadership skills.

Toastmasters Westland Easytalkers currently has openings for new members. The group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday at 35613 W. Michigan Avenue, Wayne, two blocks west of the State Wayne Theater.

Call Luddie Connor for more information at 734-414-0034.

Some council members questioned the

#### CHARGES

Continued from Page A1

land Police Department and provided information about Akins, including what happened to her at her home on Grand Traverse in Norputting his proposal together, collecting information and looking back at many years data, Councilwoman Susan

wayne and how her body was disposed of in Dearborn Heights. Westland Police offi-

cers executed a search warrant at the home of Akins and Johnson. Evidence at the house showed it was the scene of the original assault on Akins, police said. The

again.'

lrogers@hometownlife.com 734-883-9039 Twitter: @LRogersObserver

attack on Akins reportedly stemmed from a dispute over crack cocaine.

Further investigation led to the arrest of the four defendants.

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#### AUDIT

Continued from Page A1

the record-keeping requirements are followed and proper classifications are used." Along with reviewing the assessing records, Powers said there will be field visits. Letters will be sent to those getting a

physical audit of their

property and TMA em-

ployees will have identification. "I would anticipate the contractor would knock on the door and do a quick walk-around. They don't peek in the window," Powers said. WCA is in the first

year of a five-year review of property in Westland, looking at 20 percent. It's been a number of years since the city has done a citywide reevaluation to make sure assessing records accurately reflect properties. "If the state pulls part

of the city (properties) we haven't been to, we'll show them our plans," Powers said. "I think this is just about the state feeling comfortable with

the revenue generating. The state started in the Upper Peninsula a few years ago.'

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## Men sentenced in Westland teens' murders

#### By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

The sentences of two Detroit men convicted of murdering Westland teens Jacob Kudla and Jourdan Bobbish were no surprise.

Both Fredrick Young, 26, and Felando Hunter, 24, had both been convicted of multiple felonies, including two counts apiece of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

On Wednesday, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Dalton Roberson also sentenced Young and Hunter to 50-75 years on charges of torture; the same sentence for armed robbery: and two years for the felony firearm charge that has to be served before the other sentences. Young also received a fiveyear concurrent sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Testimony during the trial was that Kudla and Bobbish went to a home on Detroit's east side in July 2012 to buy drugs. Instead, they were robbed, stripped of their clothing and driven around in a car before being shot execution-style in a vacant field.

Bobbish was a Livonia Churchill High School senior, and Kudla was a Churchill grad who was attending Schoolcraft College.

Throughout the trial, the courtroom was filled with family and friends of the teens. The sentencing is when family members get to make a statement on the impact of the murders of Kudla, 18, and Bobbish, 17.

"I stand here today broken inside. I have sorrow in my heart, soul and every fiber of my being today, and I will carry that with me for the rest of



FILE Said Jourdan's mother Carrie Bobbish. Jacob

my life

here on

Earth,"

Kudla was

Hunter Young

an only child. "God's got this," said Virgie Kudla, Jacob's mother. "Not only did they take my son's life, they took my life, my future."

During the trial, Hunter and Young were impassive. Hunter is already serving life sentences in two other murders, including the death of Vietnam War veteran John Villneff. According to Detroit Police, Hunter and Young were part of a crime spree that began with the killings of Kudla and Bobbish.

Hunter made no comment when asked if he had anything to say before he was sentenced.

But Young said, "I'd like to say sorry to the family of Aiyana Jones, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and I want to apologize for them for not being able to get justice for their loved ones who were murdered in cold blood and in respect for the peaceful protest I want to say hands up, don't shoot, black lives matter."

Young was using the slogan used by protesters in Ferguson, Mo., after Michael Brown, a black teenager, was fatally shot by a white police officer.

Irogers@hometownlife.com 734-883-9039 Twitter: @LRogersObserver

#### 'Colored women's club' founder is topic of library program

Rosa Gragg, a member of the Michigan Hall of Fame who helped People of Color advance in education and commerce, will be the topic of a free Friends of the Library program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

Speaker Angela Calloway will use a slide presentation to relate how Gragg in 1941 undertook the purchase of the William Lennane home on the corner of Brush and Ferry Street and how the



Ferry Street and how the Calloway house became well known as the "colored

women's club" but today is home to the Detroit Association Women's Clubs Inc. Gragg's accomplishments eventually

Gragg's accomplishments eventually led her to be elected into Michigan Hall of Fame.

Calloway is a native to Detroit. She received her B.A. from Spelman College and later earned a Juris Doctorate from the Detroit College of Law. Angela joined the Detroit Association of Women's Clubs Inc. in 2004 and served in various leadership roles. Presently she works for the Detroit Public Schools in the Office of Human Resources – Division of Employee Relations.

For more information, call 734-466-2495.



The new mini recital series is designed to bring Livonia Symphony musicians and the audience closer together in a more intimate setting than the one pictured.

## Symphony holds series of 3 mini recitals

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra will hold a series of three Sunday afternoon mini-recitals beginning Sunday, Feb 1.

Ania Sorokhtei Piano Trio will perform at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Other members of the trio are Lillian Fenstermacher, violin, and Stephanie Urban, viola. The group will play the *Mozart Piano Trio in E-Flat Major*. Sorokhtei has performed many times with the Livonia Symphony and will perform again on the symphony finale on May 2 at Clarenceville High School. Born in Lviv, Ukraine, she was selected to attend the Lviv Special Music School for Gifted Children at age 7. She performed throughout Europe until arriving in the United States in 1977, where she now teaches and performs locally.

Fenstermacher graduated with both bachelor's and master's degrees from Hartt College of Music, Hartford, Conn. She joined the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 1965 and has recently retired, dedicating her time to teaching, coaching and playing with the Chamber Arts Piano Quartet.

Urban, a student of DSO violists LeRoy Fenstermacher and Caroline Coade, received her bachelor's degree in viola performance and music education from the University of Michigan. Urban, current principal violist of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, is an avid chamber musician and regularly performs in the Detroit-metro area. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased online at

www.livoniasymphony.org or at the door. The new series is designed to bring the musicians and the audience closer together in a more intimate setting, providing a great opportunity to introduce young people to the various instruments of the orchestra and allow them to meet the soloists. A reception will follow the performance.

The Sunday afternoon series continues at 3 p.m. March 22 with the LSO String Ensemble at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard Road, Livonia and concludes at 3 p.m. April 26 with the LSO Woodwind Ensemble at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.





A4 (WG) SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# EDUCATION

SUE MASON, EDITOR SMASON@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-6751 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Four W-W students win poster awards

Four students from the graphic design class at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center won awards in the 27th annual North American International Auto Show 2015 High School Poster Contest.

Sixteen awards were given out in this year's competition, which attracted 781 entries from 58 Michigan schools.

Veronica Peterson of John Glenn High School won Designers Best of Show, while Jasmine Traxler and Kyle Wilkin of John Glenn High School and Jada Baskin placed first, second and third, respectively, in the 12th-grade competition.

Peterson and Traxler received \$500



Jada Baskin (from left), Kyle Wilkin, Veronica Peterson and Jasmine Traxler show off their designs that won awards in the 2015 NAIAS Poster Contest

prizes, while Wilkin received \$250 and Baskin \$100. The four are students in Steve Paulsen's graphics design class at the Career Technical Center. The posters, judged by panelists from the local art community, are posted on the NAIAS website at naias.com. The winning posters also have been on displayed at the 2015 NAIAS at Cobo Center in Detroit and reproduced in the official auto show program.

#### STUDENT ACHIEVERS Jessica Gnacke and Catherine Io-

nescu of Westland have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt.

Norwich University was founded in 1819 by Captain Alden Partridge of the U.S. Army and is the oldest private military college in the United States. Norwich is one of the nation's six senior military colleges and the birthplace of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

Annette Perkowski of Westland has been named to the Dean's List for the 2014 fall semester at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. To be included, students must achieve gradepoint averages of 3.5 or higher.

A graduate of Livonia Churchill High School, Perkowski is pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in scientific and technological communications.

Students from Garden City, Wayne and Westland have been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for -he fall 2014 term at Lawrence Technological University. To be named to the honor roll a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the term.

On the Dean's list are Joshua Piehl and Zachary Wardell, both of Garden City and both majoring in mechanical engineering; **Bailey Terrell** of Garden City, who is majoring in media communication; Herve Djoumbi of Wayne, who is majoring in mechanical and manufacturing engineering; Matthew Castaldini of Wayne, who is majoring in computer science; Mark Pisaneschi of Westland, who is majoring in audio engineering technology; Jacob Ulrich of Westland, who is majoring in computer science; Tyler Trombley of Westland, who is majoring in English and commu-nication arts, and **Zaid Zwayyed** of Westland, who is majoring in architecture

Named to the Davenport University Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester were **Rebecca Marian**, **lesha McFalling** and **Eriona Shega** of Westland and **Joshua Poirier** of Garden City. To achieve the Dean's List, a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade-point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

**Derek Carr** and **Timothy Keener** of Westland were named to Davenport University President's List for the fall 2014 semester. The President's List recognizes top students who excel with outstanding academic performance. To achieve recognition, a student must maintain a minimum 3.8 grade-point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

## Wayne-Westland gets tips from OK2SAY

A comprehensive school safety initiative is showing modest success in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Launched last September by state Attorney General Bill Schuette, OK2SAY has already provided Wayne-Westland Schools with confidential information that has helped the district respond to critical student needs, according to John Albrecht assistant superintendent for instruction.

"Providing students and families with the resources to report potentially harmful behaviors or situations to school officials across Michigan was much needed," Albrecht said. "By including Wayne-Westland Community Schools in the OK2SAY network, we hope to continue to better serve our students, their families and our communities."

It's a sentiment shared by Schuette and Michigan State Police Director Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, who recently announced a significant first semester success for OK2SAY which generated 410 tips, including 163 tips on bullying and cyber-bullying, 54 threats of suicide and 13 tips on child abuse.

"OK2SAY is working to keep our kids safer in Michigan communities and schools," Schuette said. "If even one child's life is saved by OK2SAY, this program will have been a success. OK2SAY has passed its first semester with flying colors."

"OK2SAY has been successful in giving students the opportunity to break the code of silence by submitting tips by telephone, text, web, email and multimedia technologies," Etue said. "We're pleased to be part of a program in which more than 400 tips have helped to respond to threats and prevent tragedies in our schools."

In Wayne-Westland, school officials received information through OK2SAY after two John Glenn High School students were hospitalized after using the synthetic drug Cloud 9.

OK2SAY operates as an early warning system in schools to thwart tragedies before they occur. Created as a result of the Student Safety Act of 2013, OK2SAY's focus is on early intervention and prevention.

OK2SAY was modeled after Safe2Tell, a Colorado program started after the 1999 Columbine tragedy. It enables students to confidentially report potential harm or criminal activities aimed at students, teachers, staff or other school employees. It became operational in Michigan schools Sept. 2 and by Dec. 19, 410 verified tips had been received by MSP operators through phone calls, text messages, web and mobile app submissions.

The key features of OK2SAY include confidential reporting and 24/7 operations. Students, teachers, parents, school workers, friends and neighbors can all submit tips, if they are aware of a threat in school by calling 8-555-OK2SAY, 855-565-2729, texting 652729 (OK2SAY), emailing ok2say@mi.gov or online at www.mi.gov/ok2say.

An OK2SAY mobile app also is available for download in app stores for iPhone and Android.

- By Sue Mason



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It is the policy of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education to prohibit any acts of unlawful discrimination in all matters dealing with students, employees or applicants for employment. The Wayne-Westland Schools reaffirms its policy of equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, age, height, weight, marital status or disability which is unrelated to an individual's qualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's qualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's dualification should be directed to the Executive Director of Student and Legal Affairs, Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 (734-419-2083).



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## Financial decisions after death of spouse

Q: Dear Rick: My husband passed away in 2014. He had an IRA variable annuity with death benefits. He had been withdrawing, so there's only \$20,000 left. I am 58½ and work part time. My house (5.2 percent interest), will be paid off in approximately three years. Also, I have a variable home equity home loan with a balance of \$80,000. Should I put the annuity

> in my name,

roll it over and, if so, where?

Should I

take the

dollars and pay

off my

house? Should I



pay down the balance of the variable home equity loan before the repayment period starts in July? Should I put a fixed locked rate on this equity loan with the repayment period or put the \$20,000 in a Roth IRA?

A: I'm very sorry to hear about your husband.

In reviewing your situation, it makes sense to lock in the rate of the home equity loan. Sometime in the not-too-distant future we will begin to have higher interest rates and your home equity interest rate will rise.

You may want to consider refinancing your mortgage. The interest rate that you would have on a refinance would be lower than you currently are paying on your primary mortgage. Take into consideration the cost and fees regarding the refinance.

With regard to the IRA, variable annuities don't belong in IRAs. There are hefty fees associated with variable annuities and you have limited investment options.

If in como in aumontly

## Cox appointed to four subcommittees

State Rep. Laura Cox, sworn in earlier this month to her first term in the Michigan House, was appointed by House Speaker Kevin Cotter to the House Appropriations Committee, where she will serve as chair of the Subcommittee on General Government for the 98th Legislature.

Cox also has been named to three other subcommittees. She will serve as vice chair of the Subcommittee on Judiciary as well as on the subcommittees on Higher Education and Department of Community Health. As chair of the Subcommittee on General Government, she will lead discussions for allocating the \$4.7 billion annual budget to make the best use of



Cox

forward to working with my colleagues to find the best ways to distribute Michigan's budget between the state's various

looking

agencies and departments," said Cox, R-Livonia. "I am honored to have been named chair of the Subcommittee on General Government. My previous leadership of the Ways and Means Committee in Wayne County has provided me the experience to help me work with my colleagues on crafting a budget for Michi-

gan's taxpayers."

The House Appropriations Committee helps distribute the state's budget for each state department and agency. There are 18 House appropriations subcommittees that assist in delegating the annual budget based on subject area.

## Meet the newest members of the Botsford medical family

#### **Botsford Center for Internal Medicine**



Judith M. Edge, D.O. is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and board certified in internal medicine. She specializes in the care of geriatric patients with multiple health concerns.



Zachary Lemon, D.O., FACOI is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) and board certified in internal medicine. He specializes in preventative medicine and is an adjunct clinical instructor at MSUCOM.

If income is currently not a problem, then it may make sense to invest the money for long-term growth. You are only 58½ and you need growth. However, if income is

However, if income is going to be a problem, I recommend transferring the money into an IRA and then withdrawing that money over time to pay down your mortgage.

If you do not need the money and you can invest for growth, then consider converting the money into a Roth IRA.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Email questions to rick@bloom assetmanagement.com.





Kerry Stone, PA-C is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy with a Master of Science Degree in Physician Assisting. She specializes in primary care medicine.

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#### LOCAL NEWS

## Stan Lee lithograph highlights St. Damian auction

#### By Sue Mason Staff Writer

An ice skate signed by Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White and a lithograph signed by comic book legend Stan Lee are just two of the items that will go to the highest bidder at the St. Damian School's 17th annual auction Saturday, Feb. 7.

It takes an almost year-round effort to stage the auction, which is the major fundraiser for the Westland school. This year's theme is "Super Heroes and Villains" and the event will feature a full-course dinner, cash bar, live and silent auctions and jelly jar and 50/50 raffles.

Kelly DeLaRosa and Michelle Rudzinski are heading up this year auction. Working out of several rooms at the school, they spend their

Contact Us



SUE MASON Auction co-chair Michelle Rudzinzki shows off a T-shirt that will be part of Livonia Churchill Chargers basket in the annual St. Damian auction.

Tuesdays putting together the auction that includes the skate and lithograph as well as a one-week time share in Kissimmee, Fla., plenty of Detroit Red Wings items, tickets to next fall's Michigan-Oregon State game at the Big House and a fishing trip. "As parents, we're required to work 25 hours; we never have a problem with that," Rudzinski said. "Tuesdays are auction Tuesdays, and the next several weeks we'll be here in the evenings. The week

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SUE MASON Co-Chair Kelly DeLaRosa shows off the Ladywood

of the auction, we'll be here all week."

High School auction basket.

A group of 30 parents put on the auction, which originally started in a rented hall. When the new church was built, the auction was moved to the school. The multipurpose room and hallways are used to stage the event.

"We use the whole school," Rudzinski said. "We put the silent auction in the hallways so families can see the school."

#### **Biggest fundraiser**

The auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the school. Last year it grossed \$31,000, up from previous years, according to Rudzinski, adding that "we're rebuilding." Although only 300 tickets are available, the auction has never sold out. The two women would like to hit 200 this year.

The event is for those 21 years and older. Tickets for the evening are \$30 per person and include a full buffet-style dinner with cash bar and a costume contest with a \$100 prize. Doors open at 6 p.m. The silent auction will be open until the live auction starts at 8:45 p.m. and re-open after 10 p.m.



SUE MASON An ice skate, autographed by Olympic gold medalists Charlie White and Meryl Davis, will be up for the highest bid in the live auction.

"The idea is if you didn't get anything in the live auction, you can find something to spend your money on in the silent auction," DeLaRosa said.

Organizers start soliciting donations in September. They have a list of more than 800 businesses that they approach, but they also get donations from teachers, parents and Pastor Fr. Patrick Casey who has donated a pizza party for a class. Some items like the front pew of the church for First Communion or the Christmas concert or having a hallway named after your child have set off bidding wars. Even lunch with fourth-grade teacher Kim Rourke has gone for as high as \$100.

#### Guaranteed authentic

The Stan Lee autograph was donated by a family that had gone to Comic Con and met him. It fits in nicely with the auction's theme and comes with a certificate of authenticity. There also is limited-edition, signed-and-numbered duck carvings by Wildflower Decoys, gift certificates to restaurants like the Mongolian BBQ,



SUE MASON Rudzinski expects the bidding to be high on this lithograph signed by comic

book legend Sam Lee.

Dave and Busters and Buffalo Wild Wings and passes to The Henry Ford and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Ohio.

Missing from the auction, however, will be furniture made by Thomas Eldred who passed away last year. The husband of eighth-grade teacher Karen Eldred, he had made items like an outdoor bar with a sink and mini-fridge, garden bench, whiskey barrel patio table, potting station and kitchen island on casters for the auction.

A strong supporter of the school and a firm believer in the mission of St. Damian's, this auction is dedicated to him.

St. Damian is clustered with St. Theodore and Divine Savior parishes, also in Westland. Tickets are available in their respective parish offices and at the school at 29891 Joy, between Merriman and Middlebelt. The deadline for ordering is Feb. 4.

For more information, call the school at 734-4271680. To see more of the items up for auction, visit stdamianauction2015.weebly.com.

smason@hometownlife.com 734-674-2332 Twitter: @SusanMarieMason





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## Gov. signs Colbeck free-market health care bill

State Sen. Pat Col-beck, R-Canton, believes the path to providing Michigan citizens with access to higher quality, lower cost health care has been cleared following Gov. Rick Snyder's signature into law of Colbeck's SB 1033 (Public Act 522 of 2014).

According to Colbeck, this legislation ensures that direct primary care services are not treated as insurance products by regulators. The direct primary care model enabled by Colbeck's legislation has been referred to by David Chase of Forbes.com as "Two parts Marcus Welby and one part Steve Jobs.'

The new law assures physicians who adopt a direct primary care service business model that the administrative burden associated with insurance regulations will

not interfere with their treatment of patients. Physicians who offer direct primary care services provide specified services for a monthly subscription fee that usually vary between \$50 and \$125 per month.

Typically, Colbeck said, these services include routine medical care such as office visits and basic tests and procedures. Consumers would also purchase a high-deductible health plan at reduced rates to cover those services not provided through their DPCS plan.

DPCS redirects the focus of health care away from government mandates, regulations and fee schedules back to the simplicity of the doctor-patient relationship. The enactment of this law comes on the heels of the release of a



Sen. Pat Colbeck believes the path to providing Michigan citizens with access to higher-quality, lower-cost health care has been cleared.

study of the impacts of DPCS by Seattle-based Qliance Medical Management, LLC.

In this study, Qliance reports that the adoption of DPCS as a component of employer-sponsored health plans resulted in a

20-percent reduction in health care costs, increased patient satisfaction and better care. "The citizens of Mich-

igan will have greater access to high quality, low cost health care as individual physicians,

finally free of the insur-ance and hospital system bureaucratic monopolies can innovate and deliver high-value healthcare," said Tom Valenti, founder and partner of Forthright Health.

'Kudos to Sen. Pat Colbeck and Gov. Rick Snyder for making SB 1033 law. This law enables direct primary care here in our state. This innovative health care delivery model will help solve Michiganders' health care costs and access challenges," said Matt McCord, M.D., with Docs4PatientCare.

The legislation is the centerpiece of Colbeck's

"Exploit then Repeal" strategy regarding the Affordable Care Act. This strategy seeks to identify sections of existing law that can be exploited to promote free market health care solutions such as his patient-centered care solution. The adoption of this solution would "effectively nullify the need for the 159 new federal organizations erected between a doctor and patient under Obamacare," Colbeck said.

"As we pursue health care reforms, we need to protect the doctor-patient relationship," Colbeck said. "I do not want our citizens to be subject to the same anxieties around coverage or continuity of care that accompanied the rollout of Obamacare as we pursue its repeal. Patients enrolled in DPCS agreements at the time of the repeal of Obamacare will have no such anxieties."

For more information, go to the "Obamacare Alternative" section at www.MorninginMichigan.com.

## Madonna earns national recognition for community service

Once again, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Madonna University to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification. Madonna is among just 240 U.S. colleges and universities to be given the designation and one of 157 schools, only two in Michigan, to be granted renewal of the honor.

"We are honored and proud of this recognition. Engagement through service is central to Madonna's mission and identity," said Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna University president. "Our timeless Franciscan values - respect for all people, reverence for creation, peace and justice and education for truth and service - animate all that we do to prepare graduates to contribute positively in an increasingly interconnected global society.

In order to be selected, colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the classification, first offered in 2006. Participating institutions voluntarily submitted materials describing the nature and extent of their engagement with the community, be it local or beyond. "Receiving this classification for a second time is an important milestone for Madonna University," said Ernest Nolan, provost and vice president for academic administration. "Our deep commitment to community engagement and public service continues despite the devastating effects of economic recession." Madonna University's selection recognizes the institution's deep commitment to engagement both inside and outside the classroom, demonstrated through numerous programs and projects, including: » Academic Service-Learning integrates community service with course content and provides opportunities for students to apply their talents, knowledge and skills to address community needs and pressing social issues, in partnership with local and global nonprofit organizations. » Days of Service provide ways for students to engage in community service throughout their education at Madonna University.

» International Service-Learning involves students in applying their academic knowledge and skills to help address global issues in countries such as China. Costa Rica and France.

» 9th Grade Counts! Summer Program is a partnership with The Phoenix Academy and the Springwells Village Local College Access Network to help equip eighth-grade students from southwest Detroit with the skills and resources to succeed in

high school. Students participate in academic enrichment activities and benefit from college readiness programs.

» College Positive Volunteerism helps youth and families plan for college and Know-How2Go! CPV students have diverse academic interests, including broadcast and cinema arts, criminal justice, dietetics, education, nursing and social work.

» Ford MU Community Corps is a unique service-leadership experience supported by the Ford Motor Co. Fund.

Small teams of students with similar academic interests work together to address community needs. Teams develop and expand service projects in collaboration with a faculty mentor and nonprofit organization professionals.

» Alternative Spring Break programs expose students to complex social and cultural issues through community visits, experiential learning, direct service, group discussion, readings and reflection.

Each year, Madonna students, faculty and

staff volunteer their time and talents to benefit the community. During the 2013-14 academic year, 1,878 students contributed 47,463 hours to the community. These numbers represent a financial contribution value of more than \$1 million per year.

Madonna University also was named to the 2014 President's Higher **Education Community** Service Honor Roll. Administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. De-partment of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education, Campus Compact and the Interfaith Youth Core, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships. Madonna University has received this distinctive recognition since 2006.





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LOCAL NEWS

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## LOCAL RESIDENTS ENJOY EVENING OF GLAMOUR, FUN AT CHARITY PREVIEW



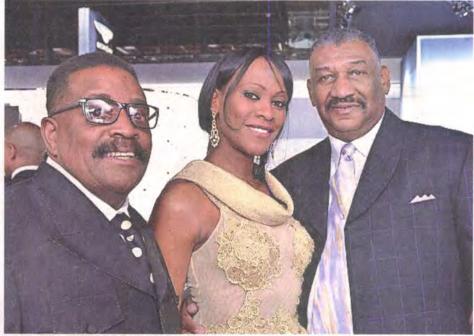
Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards (right) working security at the ribbon cutting opening event, with Leslei and Anthony Markwort of Holt.



Former state Sen. Bruce Patterson of Canton at the Ford truck display.



Roz Lullove Cooperman of Bloomfield Township, Beth Stewart, Michigan Philharmonic director and Plymouth Township resident (center), and Connie Hogan of Bloomfield Hills, wait for the Charity Preview to begin.



Ron Munson of Southfield, Tina Lyle of Farmington Hills, and Hollis Sheffield of Detroit stop for a photo.



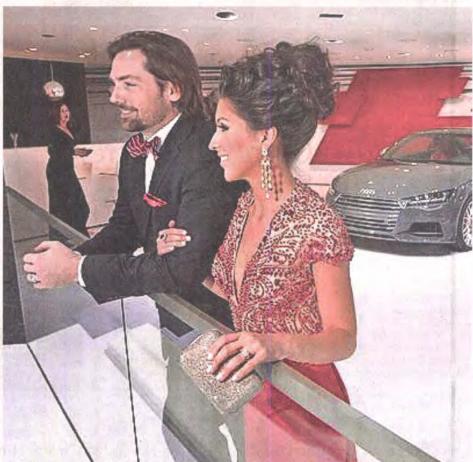


Delta Airlines pilot John Vena of Canton enjoying the party.

Martin and Terry Olejnik of Canton.



Karen and Tim Hanchett of Canton.



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Aaron and Jacki Karnws of Livonia stroll through the Audi exhibit.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

#### Wish you were here



The Alessandrini family of Livonia traveled to the big island of Hawaii in December. Pictured are: Dan Alessandrini, Jane Alessandrini and David Alessandrini, all of Livonia. Also on the trip was James Alessandrini, who took the photo.

# Wish you were here

Nancy, Finn, Patrick and Hannah Rhatigan - all from Livonia - visited Langkawi, Malaysia, during the Christmas holiday to see Patrick's brother get married at The Andaman. This picture was taken at Langkawi's Skycab, one of the world's steepest and longest free-span cable cars. The Rhatigans also spent time in Kuala Lumpur and Sydney, Australia.



Peg Gall and Dick Saunders in Antarctica in December 2014 with the Livonia Observer celebrating his 81st birthday, the 31st anniversary of his quadruple bypass surgery and their 33rd wedding anniversary in January 2015.





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#### LOCAL NEWS

## Westland's Nicholson keeps focus on classic cars

#### **By Sue Mason** Staff Writer

While metro Detroiters have been flocking to the North American International Auto Show to see the latest and greatest in cars and trucks, Don Nicholson has had his eye on some much older models.

A car cruise promoter, the Westland resident is using the winter months to organize his lineup of events that will start with a new Cruisin' Michigan the Road Rally and end with the highly popular Cruisin' Hines Drive.

'This is the time for the automakers to shine, but this is when I get

sponsors on board," Nicholson said. Nicholson plans to

kick off his cruise season with the road rally May 2, which will feature a cash prizes for first place no speeding allowed. The rally will be open to only classic cars 25 years and older. Participants will have access to multiple auto history sites and a large party and car show at the end.

"Participants will have to stop at business check sites and answer a question in order to win the \$1,000 prize," Nicholson said. "It's about a 100-mile route. Model T's and IROC Camaros will be able to compete

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DON NICHOLSON Don Nicholson and his son Edward enjoy the view from the

against each other. There which will have a movie will be some fun things and concert July 10 at the going on like games to

Wayne-Ford Civic League as a prelude to the July 11 cruise. "We've been working

with the Civic League for the All American Cruise. We'll have vendors there, and Benny from Benny and the Jets will be the emcee. I've already booked Eddie Cooper and the Exit Band," he said. Nicholson is working

on get the automakers on board with the cruises. The Detroit Grand Prix

is back for another year "and is on board for all of the events," Nicholson said.

Capping off the season is the Hines Drive cruise that attracted more than 60,000 people last year. Like the All American cruise, the Hines Drive cruise is being expanded to a two-day event with the addition of a kick-off party and Family fest at **CrossPointe Community** Church in Wayne on Aug. 22.

"The church came to me. They moved the date of their Family Fest to the cruise date to bring in more people," Nicholson said. "Pastor Phil (DiLernia) is a car guy."

It took four years to get a handle on the crowds that turn out for the Hines cruise.

Last year, Nicholson moved the entrance to Ford Road, eliminating the traffic jams that occurred at the Hines Park entrances off Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman.

#### Autopalooza

Helping to drive interest in the cruises is Pure Michigan's Autopalooza, which showcases automotive events around the state. That "has opened doors for us, especially the tourism," Nicholson said.

"We had 12 states, three Canadian provinces represented at the Hines cruise," he said. "We even had a group come in from Australia. We now have a display set up at the I-75 welcome center. We've been able to make agreements with hotels and partnered with those out of state to put our information in their rooms. It helps draw in people.'

Nicholson has set up websites and Facebook pages for Cruisin' Michigan the Road Rally and Cruisin' Hines. For more information on how to become a sponsor, call him at 734-658-5296.

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## Mental Health Authority offers training

As part of Mental Health First Aid Awareness, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is again offering free training courses designed to teach people methods of assisting someone who may be in the early stages of developing a mental health challenge or in a mental health crisis.

iconic 1960s Batmobile.

On the calendar

His calendar also

Palooza at Milan Drag-

cars, vendors, drag rac-ing and Miss Hot Rod

way on May 31, featuring

Palooza contest; a charity

event at MaryCrest Man-

or in Livonia on June 15;

and the third annual All

American Wayne Road

Cruise in Westland,

includes the Hot Rod

earn points.

A course in Spanish will be available for the first time.

DWMHA received a grant through the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health to support and educate about the importance of Mental Health First Aid, which ties closely with Gov. Rick Snyder's call for attention to the improvement of the mental health system in Michigan. "Mental Health First

Aid training is an evidence-based program that will do just that greatly increase the understanding of mental health issues, and in turn, improve the recognition and appropriate treatment of mental health issues for our residents," said Dr. Carmen McIntyre, DWMHA Chief Medical Officer. "Last year nearly 3,500 people in Wayne County alone attended the Mental Health First Aid training courses; far exceeding our local goal set by MDCH."

"This is an effort to reduce stigma, improve mental health literacy, and greatly empower the individuals serviced throughout our region," said Tom Watkins, president and CEO of DWMHA.

Mental Health First Aid will give people the knowledge of the potential risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety/ trauma, psychosis and psychotic disorders, substance use disorders and self-injury.

It will also give them the skills, resources and knowledge to assess a situation, select and implement appropriate interventions, and help the individual in crisis connect with professional care.

Suggested partici-

pants include family members, advocates. students, juvenile justice workforce, court professionals, law enforcement professionals, school teachers and emergency personnel.

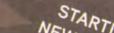
The training courses are:

» Youth Mental Health First Aid - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3rd, in Room 123 at the New Hope Baptist Church, 33640 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

» Adult Mental Health First Aid - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at EMU-Livonia, Suite 400, 38777 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Visit www.dwmha-.com for more dates and details.

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#### LOCAL NEWS

## **Players stage** 'Miracle on **South Division** Street'

. Opening night to benefit Manna **Community Meal** soup kitchen

A deathbed confession begins to blow the lid off the Nowak family "miracle," unraveling a secret kept for decades. This revelation is at the heart of Miracle on South Division Street, a hilarious comedy (with a terrific twist) by Tom Dudzick. opening Friday, Feb. 13, and running through Feb. 28 at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills.

Imagine the guy next door erecting a life-size shrine in his front yard and the rest of the community flocking to it as a symbol of hope and faith. It's easy to envision this occurring in a Buffalo neighborhood in 1942 at a time when Americans needed so desperately to "believe." The family legend began when Grandpa Nowak wit-nessed a "holy vision" right in his barbershop, which inspired a commemorative shrine on his property that served as a source of family and pride in the Polish neighborhood for years. Miracle on South Divi-

sion Street, provides a breezy look at ordinary people with extraordinary dreams — people who consider themselves to be "special" and "cho-

sen." "It's sort of a Polish of Seinfeld-Mo version of Seinfeld-Moonstruck-My Big Fat Greek Wedding!" said director Suzanne Rogers of West

Bloomfield

Rogers sees it partly as a play about "faith and family." "What is a mir-acle?" she asks. "Do they exist? In what or whom do you mut your faith? do you put your faith? How do you maintain faith in a world of chaos?"

The "Shrine" that makes the Nowaks the talk of the town gives them their identity. But when they gather to discuss daughter Ruth Nowak's plans to write a play about that family "miracle," a deathbed confession shakes their faith to its core.

Margaret Gilkes of Farmington Hills plays the kind-hearted family matriarch Clara who runs a neighborhood soup kitchen and offers "healing soup" prepared on "holy ground." Clara's daughter, Ruth, is the free-spirited budding playwright destined to make her mark on the world. She is played by Margaret's real-life daughter Katie Gilkes-**Bigwood of Farmington** Hills.

Ruth's sister Beverly (Kristi Schwartz of Canton) is the opposite of her sibling, a skeptical tradi-tionalist who works as a ketchup bottler. Michael Soave of Ferndale plays the "baby of the family" Jimmy, (a garbage collector) who is thinking about marrying outside the faith. His biggest struggle is keeping the peace among all the women in his life.

Rogers says the com-edy is also "about divisions: divisions in families (even loving families), divisions between



The cast includes (from left) Katie Gilkes-Bigwood (Farmington Hills), Kristi Schwartz (Canton), Michael Soave (Detroit) and Margaret Gilkes (Farmington Hills).

young and old, Catholics and Jews, conservatives and liberals, tolerant and intolerant," Rogers said.

Such divisions certainly develop in both heartfelt and hilarious ways while the Nowaks reveal layers of secrets and lies while embracing life's delightful surprises. As the family shares stories amidst a shrine, some soup and a series of secrets, this comedy contains just the right mix of ingredients to leave us all laughing about our own families back at home.

Miracle On South Division Street is sponsored by Varsity Automotive Group. Tickets are on sale at the box office, 248-553-2955, and at farmingtonplayers.org.

The opening night performance of Miracle on South Division Street benefits Manna Community Meal, a soup kitchen in Detroit where Rogers volunteers to help others in need. In a unique twist on the Players' popular 50/50 drawing, money collected during the Barn's 50/50 raffle will be matched by Varsity Automotive Group. The 50/50

winner will receive half the pot, but matching funds will be donated to the soup kitchen. Additionally, the Barn

will provide a post-show dessert bar for the patron afterglow party with treats from On The Rise Bakery, which is spon-sored by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. This venture is run by members

of the Reaching Our Potential Everyday program. These are men who have recently been released from prison or have completed a substance abuse treatment program and are trying to change their lives. Cast members in-

clude: Clara (Margaret Gilkes, Farmington Hills); Ruth (Katie Big-

wood, Farmington Hills); Beverly (Kristi Schwartz, Canton); and Jimmy (Michael Soave, Ferndale). In addition to Rogers, the production team includes assistant director Julia Spina-Kilar of West Bloomfield, pro-ducer Phil Hadley of West Bloomfield and stage manager Jill Jones of Southfield.

#### INVITATION TO BID ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan is accepting Asbestos Abatement Contractor firm bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services necessary to complete asbestos abatement at the following schools:

> **Hayes Elementary School Kennedy Elementary School Roosevelt Elementary School**

Bid forms and specifications can be obtained at the Livonia Public Schools Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section title DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids, or at Buy4Michigan Website www.buy4michigan.com. A MANDATORY pre-bid walk through is scheduled, for Thursday, February 5th, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. at Kennedy Elementary School, 14201 Hubbard St., Livonia, Michigan 48154. Meet in the Media Center.

Sealed bids marked Hayes/Kennedy/Roosevelt Asbestos Abatement will be received until 12:00 p.m. on the 18th day of February, 2015 at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance. Livonia Public Schools is not responsible for the delivery of the bid. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays

The Bid Opening will take place at 2:00 p.m. on the 18th day of February, 2015 at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education office at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified, and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Livonia Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each bid over \$22,767.00 and must be submitted with the bid forms finished with specification.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All bid proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner of any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Superintendent or the Livonia Public Schools. All bidders must disclose any relationship with an Iranian company in compliance with Act No. 517. The bid will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any relationship with an Iranian company that exists between the Owner and any Employee of the bidder. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement. All bids must h accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement included in the bid packet. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.

**Business Investment Opportunity** In an exceptionally strong agricultural region



Nearly 73 acres of excellent farmland in West Central Ohio, bordering Indiana

Investment is approximately \$690,000. (Averaging \$9,500 per acre.)

The current owner is a farmer and is selling with a leaseback for five years.

A payment of \$23,500 will be made in the spring of each farming year. At the conclusion of five years, seller will be interested in renewing lease, with terms negotiable at that time.

The seller is a local Birmingham resident, looking to raise equity for additional business development of the expansion of his seed and beef companies.

The property is lien free, debt free.

Investment includes frontage on two sides. Taxes are approximately \$1,000 dollars per year. Please note: the property has no value as a hunting property.

The ideal investor; is an investor looking to diversify their cash holdings.

Interested parties call 419-305-0187

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/ or informalities and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Nova Environmental at 734-930-0995 or to James McMuldroch, District Engineer, 734-744-2500 ext, 42158

> Nick Armelagos Administrator of Finance Livonia Public Schools 15125 Farmington Rd Livonia MI 48154

Publish: January 25 and January 29, 2015

#### INVITATION TO BID

#### ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan is accepting Asbestos Abatement Contractor firm bids for all labor, material, equipment and all other services necessary to complete asbestos abatement at the following schools:

#### **Riley Upper Elementary Emerson Middle School**

Bid forms and specifications can be obtained at the Livonia Public Schools Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section title DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids; or at Buy4Michigan Website www.buy4michigan.com. A MANDATORY pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2015 at 3:00 PM starting at Emerson Middle School, 29100 West Chicago, Livonia, MI 48150, meet in the main lobby. The walkthrough will move to Riley after the Emerson walkthrough is complete. Attendance at both walkthroughs is required.

Sealed bids marked Riley/Emerson Asbestos Abatement will be received until 12:00 P.M. on the 5th day of February 2015 at the Livonia Public Schools, Board of Education, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154. Sealed bids should be addressed to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance. The Bid Opening will take place at 2:00 P.M. on the 5th day of February 2015 at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified, and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Livonia Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each bid over \$22,767.00 and must be submitted with the bid forms finished with specification. All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner of any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Superintendent or the Livonia Public Schools. All bidders must disclose any relationship with an Iranian company in compliance with Act No. 517 and attach this information to the bid. The bid will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any relationship with an Iranian company that exists between the Owner and any Employee of the bidder. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement. All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement included in the bid.packet. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/ or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Leo Wall at ETC Group at 734-955-6600 or to James McMuldroch, District Engineer at 734-744-2500, extension 42158.

> Nick Armelagos Administrator of Finance Livonia Public Schools 15125 Farmington Rd Livonia MI 48154

Publish: January 22 and 25, 2015

#### A12 (WGRL) 0 & E Media | Sunday, January 25, 2015

LOCAL NEWS

hometownlife.com

# 'Fiddler' production features local talent

The Broadway version of Fiddler on the Roof is performing at the Village Theater in Canton for two weekends, Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 and Feb. 6-8, and will star all local talent.

Fiddler on the Roof is the story of Tevye, the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions, as outside influences encroach upon his family's lives. He must cope both with the strongwilled actions of his three older daughters who wish to marry for love and the edict of the Tsar that evicts the Jews from their village.

"This show is timeless and great for the entire family," said director Connor Rhoades, a Plymouth-Canton Educational Park graduate studying theater education at Eastern Michigan University. "I am so excited to bring such a time-honored show to Canton on its 50th anniversary.

With 18 musical numbers and a cast of more than 50 ages 6-22. Rhoades said, the show has "a little something for everyone in the family."

More than 100 performers came from all over metro Detroit to participate in auditions in November 2014, coming from as far as Ann Arbor, Novi, Madison Heights and Windsor, Ontario. Brandon Waldenmayer of Canton plays the role of Tevye. "I'm honored to be

part of such an extraordinary cast," said Waldenmayer, a junior at Easter Michigan University double majoring in children's theater and public administration who has performed in more than 50 shows, including as The Cowardly Lion (The Wizard of Oz) and Felix Ungar ( The Odd Couple). Rated PG, this family

outside influences encroach upon his family's lives.

friendly production is a wonderful way to take the family to see a timeless Broadway-style

show without spending a fortune. Audiences will be familiar with songs such as Tradition, If I Were a Rich Man and Matchmaker, Matchmaker.

In "Fiddler on the Roof," Tevye, the father of five daughters, tries to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions as

In addition to the public performances, Forever After Productions will present two performances for local school children to attend. "The school shows are

an important part of what we do bringing this level of theater performance to young people

who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a touring production" show producer and choreographer Debby Ash said.

Forever After Productions is a community theater company based in Plymouth. Since 2009, it has produced more than 25 full-stage musical and dramatic productions throughout metro Detroit, including at the Power Center in Ann Arbor, The Berman Center in West Bloomfield and The Village Theater in Canton.

FOREVER AFTER PRODUCTIONS

Tickets are \$17 and are on sale for all eight performances – 7 p.m. Jan. 30, 2 and 7 p.m. Jan. 31, 2 p.m. Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Feb. 6, 2 and 7 p.m. Feb. 7 and 2 p.m. Feb. 8 – and can be purchased at www.iheartforeverafter-.com or by calling Forever After Productions at 734-547-5156. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Read in Canton.

## Freshman senator Knezek delivers Democratic response

#### By Sue Buck Staff Writer

David Knezek, the freshman senator in the 5th District, achieved recognition last week when he was selected to give the Democratic reaction to Gov. Rick Snyder's State of the State speech speech on Tuesday.

Knezek represents Garden City, Inkster, Redford Township and portions of Detroit and Dearborn Heights.

The youngest member of the Senate, Knezek focused his speech on the need for bipartisan cooperation to tackle the vital issues facing all Michigan citizens. He believes that means working together in pursuit of common sense legislation that promotes opportunity and fairness for everyone

"It was my time spent as a United States Marine that taught me the



Plawecki Knezek

importance of setting aside our differences, calling upon every skill and element of our training and above all else, taking the necessary actions to protect the man or woman next to you," Knezek said.

Knezek said that these skills were critical while serving in a combat zone and they are what are needed in the State Capitol today.

'No matter your party affiliation, what matters is that you are a citizen of serve to have a state government that puts you first and represents said.

#### **Reaching out**

It's an uphill climb for Knezek who, like other Michigan Democratic senators are in the minority. Even prior to Knezek taking the oath of office, he said that he was reaching out to the other side of the aisle. He pointed out that lawmakers were elected to serve every citizen in the state.

He also talked about the need to keep talented young people in Michigan, adding that he chose to remain in Michigan after graduating from college three years ago.

'I know that as a state, we have yet to reach our full potential and so all of us should all be invested in helping to achieve greatness," he said. "We must do more to support our public schools to ensure that college is attainable for everyone, and once students get there, we need to ensure that a degree is afford-

#### able."

"It is time for every elected official to take a stand for the people we serve and send a message across Michigan that partisanship for the sake of partisanship is the enemy of progress," Knezek said, "Once we shed those blinders, we can return to the task together of making this state the best place to work, worship and raise a family.'

State Rep Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights, who replaced Knezek in the 11th House District, said that the Legislature needs to focus on making Michigan's economy work for everyone.

Snyder addressed the budget deficit caused by massive tax breaks and incentives to big corporaMichigan residents, not just a select few," Pla-wecki said. "Restoring the middle class must be a priority as it builds a stronger foundation for our state.'

Several times during his speech, Snyder urged voters to approve a proposal on the May 5 ballot that would raise money for road improvements. That would come in the form of a sales tax increase. House Democrats backed the plan last term, which included restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit to its former level and increasing funding for schools, Plawecki said.

Critics-say that Michigan already has the second highest sales tax in the nation.

"Residents deserve safe streets and bridges,

January 20/50 Toy Sale! 20% OFF\* Playmobil Toys Priced \$50 & Less! Sale Ends 1/31/15 ALLEX (Corolle)

Michigan and you deyour interests," Knezek

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and suffered internal bleeding, hemorrhaging, required hospitalization or a loved one died while taking Xarelto between 2011 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation.

Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727



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



#### **ARTHRITIS FEARS**

Patients may consider it dreadful news when the doctor tells them that they have rheumatoid arthritis. The diagnosis may bring to mind gnarled hands and swollen feet, the profile of someone bent over and shuffling from chair to bathroom and back, and of a life ruined by pain and deformity.

The reality is that rheumatoid arthritis today has nothing to do with such a grim disease.

First, rheumatoid arthritis covers a wide spectrum of change. It is possible, even probable, to experience a mild form of the condition in which the aching and stiffness last under an hour a day, the joint pains while present, are not debilitating, and the hands lose no dexterity.

Second, the medications available today provide excellent relief from inflammation and are able to stop the immune processes that cause and continue the arthritis. With modern treatment it is possible to resolve rheumatoid arthritis.

Third, the body brings to bear its own defenses. At times, even minimal medicine suffices to allow the person, through their own response, to put the arthritis into a state of quiescence or remission.

It is important that persons with joint aching lasting six weeks or longer see their physician. Speedy diagnosis and timely treatment are the keys to successful control of rheumatoid arthritis. Furthermore, the first eighteen months of the condition determine what will be the extent of joint damage. If a person is fearful or unwilling to admit the need for help, the opportunity to save the joints, gain an early recovery or limit impairment, is lost.

What is the best antidote to fear and doubt? Moving forward to define the problem and obtain medical care.

#### **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School, located at 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI, will have "Open Enrollment" from March 9 – March 31, 2015, between 9 AM to 3 PM, and on Sunday March 15, 2015 from 10 AM to 1 PM For further information or special appointments, please call the school at 248.569.2988. Random selection drawing new applicants will take place at the school on Wedne April 22, 2015 at 10 AM. Families of those selected w notified.

Publish: January 25, 2015

City of Livonia: Special Meeting of 12/22/14 Called to order @ 7pm Present: Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Nash, Kritzman, Brosnan Absent: Pastor. Several items received and filed **#382-14** Appointing Susan A. Hoff to the Office of the C Clerk of the City of Livonia, to fill the unexpired term of Terry A. Marecki, which term expires December 31, 201 such appointment to be effective January 1, 2015 upon taking the oath of office. Meeting adjourned @7:12 pm Complete meeting minutes available at City Clerk's Off Terry A. Marecki Livonia City Clerk Publish: January 25, 2015

tions. Coupled with tax increases on seniors and working families, Michigan's recovery lags behind the rest of the nation, according to Plawecki.

"I'm eager to work with Gov. Snyder and the Legislature on positive reforms that benefit all

as well as a quality education for their children," Plawecki said. "Our state's economy and businesses, large and small, also depend on a properly maintained infrastructure," she said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com Twitter: @SueSbuck

e call ag for esday, ill be	PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2014					
	NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved Minutes for meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of December 2014 are posted at the following public places within the Township:					
City f l5,	Community Center, 12121 Hemingway Fire Department, 15145 Beech Daly Library, 25320 Six Mile Road Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly Police Department, 25833 Elsinore Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly					
fice.	Approved Minutes may also be viewed on-line at www. redfordtwp.com					
	GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk Charter Township of Redford					
9 2x2.5	Publish: January 25, 2015					

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned in the Township of Redford by the Redford Township Police Department and are to be sold, as is, at open auction on Saturday, the 31st day of January 2015, at North Redford Towing, 25215 Glendale, Redford, MI 48239. Vehicles can be viewed on the auction date. Registered owners will be allowed to pick up their vehicles prior to the start of the auction. Check <u>www.nrtowing.com</u> for the current list.

2000	BUICK	4D	IG4HP54K0YU319678	LESABRE	ARREST	1407617	
1997	CHRYSLER .	4D 4D	1C3EJ56H0VN606314	CIRRUS	ARREST	1408861	1
2004	GMC	SW	1GKEK63U74J290128	YUKON	ABANDONED	1409011	4
1994	BUICK	4D	1G4HP52L2RH538714	LESABRE	ACCIDENT	1409027	5
2003	FORD	SW	1FMPU16L53LA26554	EXPEDITION	ACCIDENT	1409042	6
1999	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3EJ56H0XN681095	CIRRUS	ACCIDENT	1409042	7
2000	FORD	SW	1FMYU70E0YUA22253	EXPLORER	ARREST	1409051	8
1994	CHEVROLET	SW	1GBEG25K3RF172660	SPORTVAN	ARREST	1409051	9
2002	FORD	4D	1FAFP38332W162751	ESCORT	ACCIDENT	1409107	10
1993	PLYMOUTH	SW	1P4GH44R0PX585781	VOYAGER	ACCIDENT	1409107	11
1994	FOLD	4D	2FALP74W0RX100765	CROWNVIC	ARREST	1409120	12
2003	PONTIAC	SW	1GMDX03E43D186641	MONTANA	ARREST	1409213	13
2000	SATURN	4D	1G8JU52F4YY608179	LS1	ABANDONED	1409309	14
2007	FORD	4D	1FAFP53UX7A109139	TAURUS	ACCIDENT	1409364	15
2002	OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3WX52H32F274900	INTRIGUE	ABANDONED	1409487	16
2001	MERCURY	4D	1MEHM55S21G624517	GRAND MAR	ACCIDENT	1409488	17
2013	FORD	4D	1FADP3F25DL243062	FOCUS	REC STOLEN	1409629	18
1995	TOYOTA	4D	1NXAE04B3SZ283776	COROLLA	ARREST	1500051	20
2001	CADILLAC	4D	1G6KD54Y51U176906	DEVILLE	ABANDONED	1500054	21
2007	FORD	TK	1FDXE45S37DA16483	E-450	ABANDONED	1500194	22
1999	BUICK	4D	1G4HP52K6XH460068	LESABRE	ARREST	1500198	23
1997	MERC BENZ	4D	WDBHA23E9VF486782	350	ACCIDENT	TITLE	24
2000	DODGE		- 1B7HC13Y8YJ173451	1500	FIRE	TITLE	25
2002	FORD	PU	2FTRF17222CA91349	F150	ACC	TITLE	26
2000	FORD	SW	1FMFU18L7YLC13360	EXCURSION	ACC	TITLE	27
1996	MERCURY	2D	1MELM62W9TH629962	COUGAR	ACC	TITLE	28
1998	FORD	4D	1FAFP52S3WG119894	TAURUS	ACC	TITLE	29
2001	HYUNDAI	4D	KMHDN45D11U242078	ELANTRA	REC. STL	TITLE	30
2002	FORD	4D	1FAFP34372W319722	FOCUS	ACC	TITLE	31
2004	GMC	SW	1GKDT13S642196424	ENVOY	ROLLOVER	TITLE	32
Publish: J	anuary 25, 2015					LO-000022	28415 4X4.5

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0 & E Media | Sunday, January 25, 2015 (WGRL) A13



A14 (WGRL) 0 & E Media | Sunday, January 25, 2015



Wednesday 1/28/15 8:30am-6pm

1

^Based on 12/2014 Total Certified Pre-Owned Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction per Lincoln Sales Report. \*As low as 0.9% APR for up to 48 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details. \*Price does not include tax, title, license and dealer fees due at point of purchase. Inventory and pricing subject to change. See Varsity Lincoln for details. Offers end 1/31/15.

X

ours:

#### **INSIDE:** COMMUNITY LIFE, B5-6 • OBITUARIES, B7 • HEALTH, B8

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM SPORTS

ED WRIGHT, EDITOR EWRIGHT@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-578-2767

#### PREP VOLLEYBALL

## **Grenier returning to Churchill's sidelines**



Mark Grenier has agreed to return as the head coach of Livonia Churchill's volleyball program following a two-year absence.

Widely-respected coach is back after two-year absence

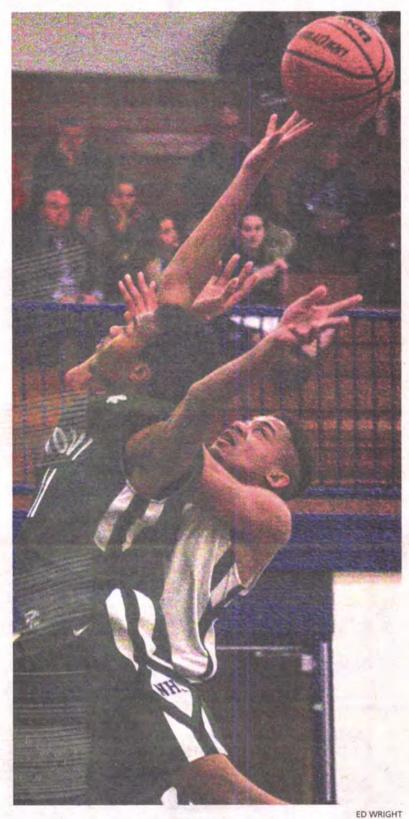
By Ed Wright Staff Writer

When Mark Grenier is inducted into the Livonia Churchill Athletics Hall of Fame on March 19, it turns out he won't be going in as the Chargers' former volleyball coach after all.

Churchill athletic director Marc Hage announced earlier this week that Grenier has agreed to return as the Chargers' head volleyball coach following a two-year absence. Grenier, who coached high school volleyball for 17 years – and led the Chargers to a Class A state title in 2007 – before stepping aside after the 2012 season to spend more time with his four children and wife Amy, will replace Anna Gatt, who resigned from the post due partly to time constraints presented by her full-time job.

"We could not be happier that Mark is back at the helm of the Charger volleyball program and we are most excited to get start-

See GRENIER, Page B3



#### PREP BASKETBALL



Livonia Stevenson student Alex Saleh puts up a shot for the Michigan Challengers wheelchair basketball team Friday night during an exhibition against a team of Stevenson alumni players.

## TOO MUCH GREEN

Novi pulls away from Stevenson in KLAA Central Division clash

#### Hockey pre-regional

All three Livonia high school hockey teams will participate in an MHSAA Division 2 hockey pre-regional set for March 2 and 4 at Eddie Edgar Arena.

On March 2, Franklin and Churchill will meet in a match-up set to begin at 7 p.m. The winner of that contest will advance to the March 4, 7 p.m. game against Stevenson, which drew a bye. The victor of the Wednesday show-

down will move on the to D2 regional final, which is set for March 7 at 7 p.m. at Edgar Arena.

## Ranked wrestlers

Several high school wrestlers from Livonia and Westland have earned top-10 rankings in their respective weight classes from michigangrappler.com.

Westland John Glenn, which is unranked in the Division 1 team rankings on michigangrappler.com despite a 21-3 dualmeet record, has two representatives in the individual rankings: freshman Michael Mars is listed as the fifth-best grappler at 103 pounds while sophomore John Siemasz is No. 2 in the 112-pound ratings.

ED WRIGHT

Returning statequalifier Nathan Atienza of Livonia Franklin is ranked No. 5 at 140 pounds while Livonia Ste-

Stevenson's Jalen Webber battles Jaylen Dixon for a rebound Friday night.

#### **KLAA WRESTLING**

## John Glenn makes statement at Franklin

#### By Ed Wright

Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's wrestling team put a stranglehold, so to speak, on the top spot of the KLAA South Division standings Wednesday night at Livonia Franklin.

In a quad meet that also included the host Patriots, Wayne Memorial and Canton, the Rockets outlasted Franklin 36-24 before dominating the youthful Chiefs, 62-11.

The Rockets improved their overall record to 21-3 overall

and 3-0 in the South with only a division encounter against the winless Wolfpack remaining.

In the night's other matches, Canton upended Wayne and Franklin out-pointed the Wolfpack, 54-19.

"Tonight's matches went pretty much as we expected," said John Glenn head coach Bill Polk. "We know it's always going to be a battle against Franklin. Our matches against Canton are usually very competitive, but they're extremely young this

See STATEMENT, Page B2

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

A close, compelling high school basketball game gradually evolved into a slow-motion train wreck for Livonia Stevenson Friday night.

Spartan sophomore guard Ian Knoph's steal and layup with 3:45 left in the second quarter gave his team a 21-20 advantage over visiting Novi, but the Wildcats re-charged their batteries at halftime before running away with a 74-45 triumph.

The game marked the return to Stevenson of former head coach Brandon Sinawi, who took over the reins at Novi during the off-season.

It was also a special night thanks to a halftime wheelchair basketball exhibition between the Michigan Challengers and a

See STEVENSON, Page B4

ED WRIGHT Westland John Glenn's Steve Spencer registered an 18-3 victory over Canton's Abdelhadi Shuair Wednesday venson senior 171pounder Connor Vaughan is ranked No. 10 in his weight class.

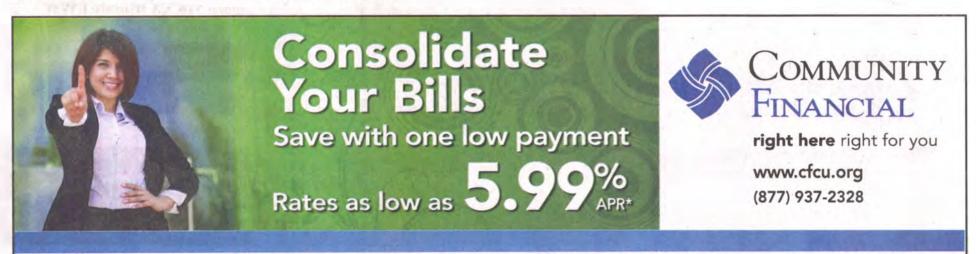
Livonia Churchill's Baker Hadwan has earned a No. 5 ranking at 215 pounds.

In the Division 4 rankings, Lutheran Westland senior Caleb Richter has earned an honorable mention listing at 140 pounds.

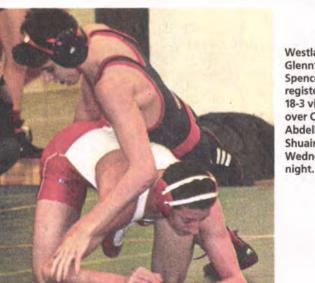
## Reporting results

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

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



\*Subject to credit application and approval. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary and is dependent on individual credit history and other factors. Stated rate includes .25% discount with automatic transfer from Community Financial checking account. Not available for refinance of existing Community Financial loans. Rates as of 12/29/14 and subject to change. Federally insured by NCUA. 🕿 Equal Housing Lender. ©2015 Community Financial



#### LOCAL SPORTS

#### PREP SWIMMING

## Stevenson submerges Churchill, 130-55

**By Ed Wright** Staff Writer

Tuesday night's Livonia high school boys swimming-anddiving meet featuring Stevenson and Churchill included a unique brother-vs.-brother encounter.

The Reppenhagens - Kyle, a senior for Churchill, and Bryan, a Stevenson freshman both contributed to their respective team's point total, but it was the Spartans who ultimately prevailed, 130-55.

The Spartans' dominance was thorough as they placed first in every even except diving, which was was captured by Churchill's Ethan Burke (294 points).

"The Churchill meet went as expected," said Stevenson head coach Jeff Shoemaker. "We had some good swims and some not-so-good swims. It was during exam week so both teams' athletes had a lot on their plate.

"We are down in numbers this year, as is Churchill. With no middle school program it is hard to get kids to come out for swimming. We lost 16 seniors last year, which was basically half our team. We were Division 1 runners-up and with losing all those boys its making for a tough year as we are barely hanging on with 18 total swimmers.

"We do have a few returning state swimmers and, like always, we're focusing on looking to see what we can do at the end of the season. The boys are training hard and our times are dropping we just need more swimmers.

Among the stars for the winners were Alex Lee, who touched first in the 200-yard freestyle (1 minute, 48.95 seconds) and the 500 freestyle (4:59.58) while leading off Stevenson's 200 and 400 freestyle relay victories.

Eric Ferrrara also excelled for the Spartans as he raced to a first-place showing in the 50 free (24.14 seconds) and the 100 free (52.09) while also contributing to his team's two free-

LINDA FERRARA Brothers Kyle (left) and Bryan Reppenhagen competed against one another during Tuesday's **Churchill-Stevenson** swimming-and-diving meet.

#### style-relay triumphs.

Stevenson's Jackson O'Dowd was a points machine in the specialty events as he won the 200 individual medley in 2:05.10 and the 100 butterfly in 57.40 seconds.

ners for Stevenson were Parker Wasielewski, who took the 100 backstroke in 1:00.16, and Brian Smith, who out-performed the competition with a time of 1:07.78 in the 100 breaststroke.

Kyle Reppenhagen placed third in the 100 backstroke and fourth in the 200 IM for the Chargers while Bryan Reppenhagen placed fourth in the 100 butterfly.

Churchill's Tyler Opdycke placed second in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.93).

#### STEVENSON 130 CHURCHILL 55

#### **Tuesday at Stevenson**

200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Eric Ferrara, Brian Smith, Parker Wasielewski, Jackson O'Dowd), 1 minute, 48,92 seconds; 2. Stevenson (Brandon Kerby, Benjamine LaPorte, Blake Beck, Adam Goeddeke), 2:00.85; 3. Churchill (Kyle Reppenhagen, Jake Jarvis, Tyler Opdycke, Dash Dobar), 2:04.05.

Dobar), 2:04.05. **200 freestyle:** 1. Alex Lee (5), 1:48.95; 2. Joey Ferracciolo (5), 2:11.62; 3. Colin Dillon (C), 2:18.96; 4. Dylan Fetter (C), 2:27.38. **200 individual medley:** 1. Jackson O'Dowd (5), 2:05.10; 2. Adam Goeddeke (5), 2:15.53; 3. Benjamin LaPorte (S), 2:17.58; 4. Kyle Reppenhagen (C), 2:21.94; 5. Noah Morrison (C), 2:59.82. **50 freestyle:** 1. Eric Ferrara (S), 24.14; 2. Matthewa Japorte (S), 2:3: 3. Dash Dobar (C)

Matthew LaPorte (S), 25.23; 3. Dash Dobar (C), 27.08; 4. Brian Smith (S), 27.11; 5. Jake Jarvis (C), 27.38

1-meter diving: 1. Ethan Burke (C), 294 points;

2. Patrick Holton (C), 158.55; 3. Andrew Saltzmann (C), 130.80; 4. Jacob Hall (S), 120.75; 5. Victor Huang (5) 93 15

100 butterfly: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (S), 57.40; 2. Matthew LaPorte (5), 1:00.05; 3. Tyler Opdycke (C), 1:06.87; 4. Bryan Reppenhagen (5), 1:13.82; 5. Colin Dillon (C), 1:21.86.

Dillon (C), 1:21:86. 100 freestyle: 1. Eric Ferrara (S), 52.09; 2. Parker Wasielewski (S), 55:37; 3. Brandon Kerby (S), 1:00.13; 4. Dash Dobar (C), 1:02.48; 5. Noah Hagood

(d):17.27. **500 freestyle:** 1. Alex Lee (5), 4:59.58; 2. Benjamin LaPorte (5), 5:21.04; 3. Blake Beck (5), 5:35.92; 4. Dylan Fetter (C), 6:32.18; 5. Noah Morrison (C), 6:32.63.

Morrison (C), 6:32.63. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Alex Lee, Eric Ferrara, Matthew LaPorte, Jackson O'Dowd), 1:35.65; 2. Churchill (Dash Dobar, Jake Jarvis, Collin Dillon, Dylan Fetter), 1:55.15; 3. Churchill (Andrew Saltz-mann, Patrick Holton, Noah Hagood, Noah Morri-2:10.26

Soni, 2:10.26.
 **100 backstroke:** 1. Parker Wasielewski (5), 1:00.16; 2. Adam Goeddeke (5), 1:02.65; 3. Kyle Reppenhagen (C), 1:03.49; 4. Brandon Kerby (5), 1:07.78; 5. Alex Babut (C), 1:36.87.
 **100 breaststroke:** 1. Brian Smith (5), 1:07.78; 2.

Tyler Opdycke (C), 1:13.93; 3. Joey Ferracciolo (S), 1:14.21; 4. Jake Jarvis (C), 1:21.69; 5. Jacob Fuher (S), 400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Alex Lee,

Matthew LaPorte, Benjamin LaPorte, Adam Goed-deke), 3:40.97; 2. Stevenson (Parker Wasielewski, Brandon Kerby, Blake Beck, Bryan Reppenhagen), 4:02.94; 3. Churchill (Colin Dillon, Dylan Fetter, Kyle

SALEM 90 200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Adam Goeddeke, Brian Smith, Parker Wasielewski, Alex Lee), 1:45.97; 2. Salem (Patrick Casey, Phillip Collingwood, Brendan Wellman, Noah Fleming), 1:46.42; 3. Salem (Kevin Amell, Brandon Yee, Collin Urbacsewski, Matthew Croop), 1:57.29. 200 freestyle: 1. Matthew LaPorte (LS), 1:51.57; 2. Charles Liu (S.), 1:52.62; 3. Eric Ferrara (LS), 1:56.89: 4. Brian Kuang (S) 2:00.25; 5. Benjamine Charles Liu (S), 1:52.62; 3. Eric Ferrara (LS),
 1:56.89; 4. Brian Kuang (S), 2:00.25; 5. Benjamine LaPorte (LS), 2:03.40.
 200 [Mt: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 2:00.97; 2. Phillip Collingwood (S), 2:14.48; 3. Patrick Casey (S),
 2:18.09; 4. Brian Smith (LS), 2:22.73; 5. Lucas Sheedy (S), 2:3.82.
 50 freestyle: 1. Alex Lee (LS), 23.62; 2. Noah Fleming (S), 24.71; 3. Adam Goeddeke (LS), 24.72; 4. Gregory Payne (S), 25.24; 5. Matthew Croop (S),
 25.94.

25:94. 1-meter diving: 1. Michael Falzon (S), 171.55 points; 2. John Vary (S), 166.80; 3. Brendan Sibel (S), 128.65; 4. Jacob Hall (LS), 91.20; 5. Victor Huang (LS), 89.60.

(15), 89.60.
100 butterfly: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 55.25; 2.
Brendan Wellman (S), 57.43; 3. Collin Urbacsevski (S), 1:00.29; 4. Gregory Payne (S), 1:01.80; 5.
Benjamin LaPorte (LS), 1:02.67.
100 freestyle: 1. Alex Lee (LS), 50.92; 2. Charles U. (D) 52: 2. Alex Elemine (S) 54.45; A. Brianer, S. M. Stark, S. M.

100 freestyle: 1. Alex Lee (LS), 50.92; 2. Charles Liu (S), 53.83; 3. Noah Fleming (S), 54.45; 4. Brian Kuang (S), 55.09; 5. Blake Beck (LS), 59.07.
500 freestyle: 1. Matthew LaPorte (LS), 4:55.53; 2. Eric Ferrara (LS), 5:08.38; 3. Phillip Collingwood (S), 5:22.72; 4. Brendan Casey (S), 5:35.25; 5. Collin Urbacsewski (S), 5:40.10.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Jackson O'Dowd, Matthew LaPorte, Benjamin LaPorte, Eric Ferrara), 1:45.95; 2. Salem (Charles Liu, Gregory Payne, Brian Kuang, Noah Fleming), 1:46.16; 3. Salem (Ceddy Dowswell, Abraham Soto, Aaron

Salem (Teddy Dowswell, Abraham Soto, Aaron Smith, Nicholas Marion), 1:58,73.
 **100 backstroke:** 1. Brendan Wellman (S), 57.65;
 2. Patrick Casey (S), 57.81;
 3. Adam Goeddeke (LS), 58.64;
 4. Parker Wasielewski (LS), 1:00.53;
 5. Kevin Amell (S): 1:06.12.

Amell (5), 1:06.17, 100 breaststroke: 1. Brian Smith (LS), 1:06.69; 2.

Brandin Yee (S), 1:14.06; 3. Joey Ferracciolo (LS), 1:14.72; 4. Nicholas Landon (S), 1:14.97; 5. Miles oll (S) 1.20 19

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Benjami LaPorte, Alex Lee, Parker Wasielewski, Eric Ferrara), 330.93; 2. Stevenson (Bryan Reppenhagen, Matthew LaPorte, Adam Goeddeke, Jackson O'Dowd), 3:31.90; 3. Salem (Brian Kuang, Charles Liu, Phillip Collingwood, Brendan Wellman), 3:32.30.

#### STATEMENT

#### Continued from Page B1

year.

"Our goals are to be in better shape than our opponents and to avoid getting pinned. Getting caught on our backs hurt us in two of our losses, so we've been working on not getting caught. We only got pinned once in each match tonight, so we did a good job with that tonight.'

The Rockets constructed a concrete 30-8 lead against Franklin before the Patriots cut the margin to 30-24 heading into the deciding 152-pound encounter

Early on, pivotal wins were registered by Rockets Nate Irving, who edged Josh Retting, 4-2, in a 215-pound showdown; and Avery Casey, who outlasted Joe Fortin, 3-2, in a compelling 285-pound classic.

John Glenn's Michael Mars followed up his beefier teammates' close triumphs with a 52-second pin at 103 pounds to keep the Rockets' momentum train going.

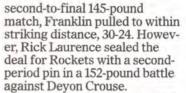
Franklin's Johnny DiPonio then started his impressive 2-0 night with a 19-4 technical-fall win, but Rockets Anthony Gibson (119) and Chase Spano (125) put together back-to-back W's to help John Glenn re-establish a solid lead.

Franklin head coach Dave Chiola offered high praise to DiPonio.

"If our seniors and juniors wrestled with his aggressiveness, we'd be a lot better team," said Chiola. "Even when he doesn't win, he always puts up a fight."

Patriot 140-pound sophomore Nathan Atienza continued to shine as he recorded first-period pins in both of his matches.

After Collin Smith defeated Genaro Acerrano, 18-11, in the



The highlights were few and far between for the Wolfpack, who received positive results from Aaron Heinonen (152) and Jamon Higgins (160). JOHN GLENN 36, FRANKLIN 24

160 pounds: Derrick Lester (JG) decisioned Donny

Terry, 5-1; 171: Mitchell Retting (LF) dec. Logan Beaudoin, 7-2; 189: Jawaun Peete (JG) pinned Dan Huber in 1:39;
215: Nate Irvine (JG) dec. Josh Retting, 4-2;
285: Avery Casey (JG) dec. Joe Fortin, 3-2;
103: Michael Mars (JG) pinned Antonio Herrera in 52

112: Johnny DiPonio (LF) won by tech. fall over Anton

Nicosia, 19-4; **119:** Anthony Gibson (JG) pinned Cole Dennis in 17

seconds;
125: Chase Spanos (JG) dec. Adam Ross, 9-2;
130: Nick Robertson (LF) won by major dec. over

Payton Beneteau, 14-4; 135: Jeremy Nelson (LF) dec. Brad Speen, 6-1; 140: Nathan Atienza (LF) pinned Steve Spencer in 124:

145: Collin Smith (LF) dec. Genaro Acerrano, 18-11; 152: Rick Laurence (JG) pinned Deyon Crouse in 3:07.

#### FRANKLIN 54, WAYNE 19 171 pounds: Mitchell Retting (LF) pinned John Hicks

in 1:10

189: Alex James (WM) dec. Dan Huber, 8-6; 215: Joe Fortin (LF) won by void; 285: Josh Retting (LF) pinned Anthony Calloway in

128; 103: Howie Whitaker (LF) won by void; 112: Antonio Herrera (LF) won by void; 119: Johnny DiPonio (LF) won by tech. fall over Bryan Raymond, 17-2:

125: Adam Ross (LF) dec. Jack Dejack, 3-2; 130: Jeremy Nelson (LF) won by major dec. over Nick Daniels, 13-2:

135: Nick Robertson (LF) pinned Mark Reed in 5:13; 140: Nathan Atienza (LF) pinned Tyler Pennell in 46

145: Jordan Mills (WM) pinned Smith in 1:10; 152: Aaron Heinonen (WM) won by major dec. over Deyon Crouse, 11-2;
160: Jamon Higgins (WM) pinned Garza in 4:25.

#### JOHN GLENN 62, CANTON 11

171 pounds: Logan Beaudoin (JG) dec. Nick ocher, 3-2;

189: Jawaun Peete (JG) pinned Armando Chacon in 8

215: Nate Irvine (JG) won by major dec. over Ryan

Morelli, 16-3; 285: Adam Armesto (C) pinned Ewing Joyce in 3:52;

- 285: Adam Armesto (C) pinned Ewing Joyce in 3:52;
  103: Isaac Leffer (IG) won by void;
  112: Michael Mars (JG) pinned Robert Laird in 1:03;
  119: Anthony Gibson (JG) pinned Ben Samoy in 1:49;
  125: John Siemasz (JG) dec. Harrison Samoy, 13-5;
  130: Payton Beneteau (JG) dec. Justin Winnie, 10-2;
  135: Brad Speen (JG) pinned Justin Van Berkel in 1:54;

- Hat is the second of the second

152: Rick Laurence (JG) pinned Grant Trotman in

160: Derrick Lester (JG) pinned Clayton Declue in 1:44.



ED WRIGHT Wayne Memorial's Aaron Heinonen battles Franklin's Deyon Crouse in a 152-pound match.



Additional first-place win-

Reppenhagen, Tyler Opdycke), 4:17.46. STEVENSON 96 SALEM 90

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LOCAL SPORTS

#### BOYS PREP SWIMMING

## FOR THE RECORD

Burke sets diving mark in Churchill's win over Rockets

**By Ed Wright** Staff Writer

Fueled by Ethan Burke's record-shattering diving performance, Livonia Churchill John Glenn, 98-87, Thursday night in a KLAA South Division meet hosted by the Chargers.

Burke, a junior, compiled 314.85 points to easily out-distance teammate Patrick Holton, who earned 183.15 points, and John Glenn's Justin Woz-

niak, who registered 164.10. The victory improved Churchill's record to 1-1 in the division. The Rockets slipped to 2-2 overall and 0-2 in the South.

The Chargers bolted out of the starting gate with a flourish by winning the meet-opening 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1 minute, 57.48 seconds. The winning foursome consisted of Kyle Reppenhagen, Tyler Opdycke, Kevin Taylor and Dash Dobar.

John Glenn's quartet of Cory Routen, Jacob Deering, Josh Eddings and Tzadkiel Ponce De Leon placed second in 2:01.65 followed by the Rockets contingent of Brandon Head, Austin LeBlanc, Peter Augostino and Sean Linden (2:21.06).

John Glenn's Jason Burcicki struck gold in the 200 freestyle as he touched first in 2:08.95 to out-distance Churchill's Colin Dillon (2:16.58) and Dylan Fetter (2:16.83).

Churchill went 1-2 in the 200 individual medley thanks to strong efforts from Taylor (2:14.46) and Reppenhagen (2:19.25). Deering placed a strong third for the Rockets with a clocking of 2:19.80. John Glenn's Routen

touched first in a thrilling 50 freestyle race as he edged Churchill's Dobar and Jake Jarvis by less than a half-second.

Taylor was supreme in the 100 butterfly as his clocking of 1:00.96 bettered John Glenn's Deering (1:03.06) and Churchill's Opdycke (1:06.25). Routen maintained his domi-

nance in the freestyle sprints as his time of 58.03 seconds in the 100 free edged teammate Jeremy Billings (59.9) and Churchill's Dobar (1:00.61).

Burcicki was the best in the long haul for the Rockets as he won the 500 freestyle marathon by 22 seconds over Churchill's Noah Morrison. Dillon placed third in the event with a time of 6:15.04.

200 freestyle relay



TOM BEAUDOIN Livonia Churchill Ethan Burke set a school record during Thursday night's meet against visiting Westland John Glenn.



Westland John Glenn's Jacob Deering is pictured during the 100 breaststroke race Thursday night at Livonia Churchill.

Churchill's Taylor, Jarvis, Dobar and Dillon ultimately pre-1:46. second ahead of John Glenn's

Brandon Head, Peter Augostino, Jeremy Billings and Burcicki.

Reppenhagen triumphed in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:03.95. John Glenn picked up second- and third-place points thanks to fine showings from Josh Eddings and Yihweth Ponce De Leon.

The Chargers went 1-2 in the 100 breaststroke as Opdycke out-stroked teammate Jarvis by just over seven seconds. John Glenn's Austin LeBlanc placed third in 1:35.17

The meet-ending 400 freestyle relay was won by John Glenn's contingent of Billings, Deering, Burcicki and Routen, who logged a time of 3:57.22. Churchill's foursome of Dillon, Reppenhagen, Opdycke and Jarvis finished runner-up in 4:07.74.

ewright@hometownlife.com

p.m.

p.m

THE WEEK

AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL** 

Tuesday, Jan. 27 RU at Garden City, 7 p.m. Thurston at Annapolis, 7 p.m. Crestwood at Clarenceville, 7

nson at Harrison, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30 Garden City at Crestwood, 7

Stevenson at S. Lyon, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Thurston, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 Garden City at Belleville, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Crestwood, 7

Annapolis at Thurston, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29

Thurston at Clarenceville, 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30 John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m. Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m. Fordson at Garden City, 7 p.m. S Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m. BU at Annapolis, 7 p.m. BOYS SWIMMING Tuesday Lan. 27

son, 6:30

Tuesday, Jan. 27 N.D. Prep at Stevenso

Wayne at Belleville, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29 Canton at Wayne, 6:30 p.m. Redford Union at Garden City,

5.L. East at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Jan. 28 Wayne at John Glenn, 5:30 p.m. Garden City at Crestwood, 5:30

Clarenceville at Belleville, 5:30

S.L. East at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.

Thurston at Edsel Ford, 5:30

Saturday, Jan. 31 Observerland Invite, 9 a.m. at

RU at Annapolis, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 Stevenson at Novi, 6 p.m. S. Lyon at Franklin, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 Stevenson vs. CC at Compu-ware, 5:30 p.m.

Franklin at Canton, TBA

PREP GYMNASTICS

Churchill, 6:30 p.m. PREP BOWLING

Wayne Co. Tour Hill Lanes, TBA

Wednesday, Jan. 28 Livonia Blue vs. Livonia Red at

Monday, Jan. 26 Wayne at Novi, 3:30 p.m. John Glenn at Salem, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 Salem at Wayne, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31 Wayne Co. Tourney at Cherry Hill Lanez TRA

PREP HOCKEY

Franklin at John Glenn, 6:30

Thurston at Fordson, 4 p.m.

p.m.

5:30 p.m.

p.m.

p.m.

urston at Clarenceville, 6 p.m

7 p.m.

Annapolis at RU, 7 p.m. Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Canton at John Glenn, 7 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dearborn at RU, 7 p.m.



Stevenson's Nate Sudek, pictured during a game earlier this season, scored on a penalty shot in Friday's win over Churchill.

#### PREP HOCKEY

## **Olschanski** leads Stevenson over Churchill, 5-1

Franklin earns draw with Northville

> **By Ed Wright** Staff Write

Stephen Olschanski scored momentum-igniting goals in the first and second periods Friday night to lead Livonia Stevenson to a 5-1 victory over Livonia Churchill in a KLAA cross-over game played at Eddie Edgar Arena.

The victory improved the Spartans' record to 10-4-3 while Churchill slipped to 5-8-3

Olschanski broke open a scoreless draw with 11:48 left in the first quarter off assists from Kevin Stefanick and Nate Sudek.

The game remained tight until the final two minutes of the opening stanza when Alex DeFlorio (from Nick Beers and Josh Denomie) and Vince Glenn (from DeFlorio) ripped shots into the net to give the Spartans a somewhat-comfortable 3-0 lead.

Following the first inter-mission, Olschanski got the Spartans rolling again when he netted a power-play goal off helpers from Adam Olson and Mick Sinclair.

The Spartans put the game out of reach with 5:18 left in the second period when Sudek converted a penalty shot to ramp his team's lead up to

turned away 38 pucks for the Chargers.

#### Pats tie Northville

Playing Livonia Franklin apparently is no longer an automatic win on the hockey schedule.

The up-and-coming Patri-ots, coming off a 3-3 deadlock on Jan. 14 with Livonia Stevenson, ranked No. 3 in Division 2, did it again Wednesday at Edgar Arena by gain-ing another 3-3 draw against Northville, ranked No. 7 in Division 1, in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

Franklin, now 6-5-2 overall and 0-3-3 in the KLAA's South Division, got 33 saves from goaltender Matt Monendo and a power play goal from Chase Willis with only 2:29 left to earn the tie.

Trevor Lassaline and Kolby Dewhirst assisted on the Willis game-tying goal.

Franklin jumped out to a 1-0 lead at 5:29 of the opening period on Brendan Whitney's short-handed goal from Justin Makowski and Willis.

Northville, which is 11-2-2 overall and 5-2-1 in the KLAA's Central Division, tied it at 15:56 on Jack Meacham's goal from Alec Morgan and Nick Strom.

After a scoreless second period, Morgan scored unassisted just 52 seconds into the second period, but Lassaline countered for the Patriots with only 6:36 left on an assist from Whitney. Meacham then notched his second of the night with 5:35 to play from Morgan and Kevin O'Connell to make it 3-2, but Willis answered just 3:06 later. The Patriots had a total of 27 shots on goal.

was tight throughout before



PAM HARPER

Members of the Lutheran Westland wrestling team pose with their first-place trophy following Wednesday's inaugural Dennis Tuomi Memorial Tournament that was hosted by Lutheran North.

#### PREP WRESTLING Warriors honor former coach with victory

**By Ed Wright** Staff Writer

Members of Lutheran Westland's wrestling team honored the memory of the school's former coach Dennis Tuomi the best way they knew how Wednesday night: by winning the inaugural Dennis Tuomi Memorial Team Tournament, which was hosted by Lutheran North.

The Warriors opened the threeteam tournament by upending Lu-theran Northwest, 78-6, before taking down North, 57-21

Lutheran Westland head coach Joe Schmidt was a long-time assistant to Tuomi (who passed away in the fall of 2014), so Wednesday's event held a higher meaning to him and his athletes

"Out of our 28 wrestlers, we only have three who knew Dennis, but all 28 of the kids know how important Dennis is to me, so I think that inspired them," Schmidt said. "Lutheran North's athletic director did a great job with the pre-match ceremony honoring Dennis.'

All three teams competing in the tournament had strong ties to the popular Tuomi. Lutheran Northwest's Don Justice formerly coached with Tuomi while Lutheran North's Dan Unger wrestled for Tuomi.

The Warriors were on their game

from the get-go as the only deficit they faced the entire night was an early 9-6 hole against North. However, a strong run started by the team's mid-weight standouts sparked the trophy-winning roll.

Among the standouts for the champions were Nick Garber, who recorded two pins at 171 points.

"What made Nick's night special was that both of his wins came against quality opponents," Schmidt said

Sophomore Nick Glinn won his only match of the night at 215 - a 10-3 verdict against a solid foe, Schmidt said.

Senior Thomas Krueger improved his season mark to 29-2 with pins at 215 (against Northwest) and North (a 58-second effort).

'Thomas hit a fireman's carry move against North that got the whole team fired up," Schmidt add-ed. "The kid he picked up must have weighed around 260 pounds."

Other standouts for the Warriors included Manny Rankin (119), Christian Zimmerman (112) and the Kuhn brothers - Jake and Josh.

'Neither of the Kuhn brothers won, but the effort they gave glorified Dennis's legacy," Schmidt said. "There was no quit; all 100-percent effort.

ewright@hometownlife.com

#### 5-0.

Churchill senior captain Dylan Smith helped the Chargers avoid a shutout when he scored a man-advantage goal with 9:46 remaining in the game thanks to assists from Parker Hodges and Dan Hudy.

Andrew Rozenbaum stopped 15 shots for the winners while Andrew Broyles

#### GRENIER

#### Continued from Page B1

ed," said Hage. "Anna Gatt performed admirably in her duties and I fully expected her back next year. She grew immensely in her two years as the head coach and our kids did not miss a beat. The fact her kids won a MHSAA District this year is a testament to that. We will miss her, we wish her well and I personally would like to thank her for all she did for our kids.

"Concerning Mark, the caliber of volleyball in the KLAA just bumped up a notch. He is one of the most-respected coaches in the league, area, and the entire MHSAA. We are so fortunate that he decided to get back into the sport and our kids will be all the better for it. He is one of the best coaches I have ever been associated with, at Churchill or otherwise. He is a flat-out winner and we cannot wait to throw the ball up next fall."

Grenier said his most recent stint as the Chargers' head volleyball coach will make his fall schedule "ambitious, to say the least" as he will continue his role as the head coach of the Churchill freshmen football team. Grenier will get an opportunity to coach his oldest son, Avery, who will be a member of the freshmen gridiron team this fall.

A social studies teacher at Churchill, Grenier will run freshmen football practice from 3-6 p.m. in the fall before hustling inside for 6-9 p.m. volleyball practices.

"I'm very excited to be back," said Grenier. "I was surprised when Marc told me Anna wasn't coming back; returning to volleyball wasn't something I was looking to do at the moment because I have a deep commitment to coaching football, too. But when Marc told me we could make it work, I was all for it.

"I wouldn't be able to do this without the incredible support of my wife."

Grenier said he missed one thing far more than any others while he was away from the volleyball program.

"I missed the connection you make with the kids as a coach and as a teacher; that was hard to give up," he said. "The relationship you cultivate with the athletes far supersedes anything else.

Grenier held an impromptu meeting with returning members of the volleyball program on Wednesday night.

'It was kind of a last-minute thing, and we're in the middle of final exams, so I wasn't sure what the turnout would be, but there were about 30 kids there, so that was nice," he said. Grenier will be assisted by,

among others, his longtime friend Jim Button.

"I've also reached out to some former players, who are going to try and make it work in their schedules," he added.

In addition to Avery, the Greniers have two younger sons - Jack and Ben - and a daughter, Sydney, who is a senior at Churchill and a member of the Chargers' gymnastics and swimming-and-diving programs.

ewright@hometownlife.com

#### LOCAL SPORTS

#### HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

## Livonia Blue earns win over Farmington

#### **By Ed Wright** Staff Writer

Farmington Unified's gymnastics team was singing the "Blues" following Wednesday night's meet against rival Livonia Blue.

Powered by 36-pointsplus all-around performances from Jessica Weak and Bri Rhoad, Livonia Blue vaulted over Farmington, 143.0-142.2.

The significant victory improved Blue's record to 6-1.

"Wednesday night was a great win for us," Blue head coach Lisa Broomfield said. "Jessica Weak and Bri Rhoad had outstanding performances.

'Our team came out and was ready for a great competition. We knew going into the meet that Farmington was going to be good and we knew that we had to pull our team together to pull out a victory. Watching the team

rally together, cheer each other on, and support one another melts my heart. Knowing that the team is competing as a team and wanting the highest score they can get makes me a very proud coach.'

Weak's highest score was generated by her floor-exercise routine, which garnered a 9.4, second only to Farmington's Carina Wright (9.5). Weak also earned high marks on the beam (9.3), vault (9.1) and uneven bars (9.0).

Rhoad excelled on the beam, impressing the judges to the tune of a 9.4 mark. Rhoad scored a 9.0 on the vault.

Blue's Emily Chaterjee placed second overall on the beam with a 9.45 Farmington's Jacquline Farguhar placed first with a 9.55

Katie McDougall also shined for Blue, earning 8.7-plus marks in all four events.

"Jessica came out strong and hit her highest all-around score in her high school career so far." Broomfield said. "She was solid on each event and never looked more calm.

"Bri was right behind her in the all-around. Bri came out and gave it all she had. I am proud of her and she is working even harder to improve her skills and scores.

"Emily Chatterjee came out and gave it her all. She hit all her routines and realized what she is capable of. I am very proud of her and she is pushing herself to improve and become a stronger gymnast for herself and her team.

"Catie McDougall is a very consistent gymnast and I can always count on her. She is strong and always putting her team first. She is battling a small injury but continues to push herself for her team."

#### **Canton edges Red**

State-ranked Canton upended Livonia Red, 143.675-135.70 in a meet held Tuesday at Plymouth High School.

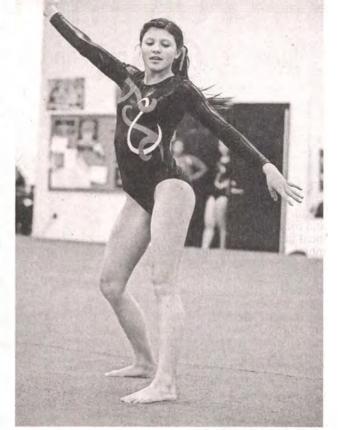
The top score of the night turned in by Red was Marissa McVey's 9.225 in the floor-exercise competition.

McVey also sparkled on the vault (8.85) and the bars (8.35).

Other key contributors to Red's solid final score were Olivia Ryktarsyk, who earned an 8.75 on the vault, an 8.5 on the floor and an 8.35 on the beam; Sydney Grenier, who registered an 8.55 on her floor routine; and Jackie Dziurgot and Mikaela Hille, both of whom scored 8.9s on their floor

routine. Red and Blue will square off on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Churchill.

ewright@hometownlife.com



JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO Livonia Red's Mackenzie Boorman is pictured completing her floor-exercise routine during a meet earlier this season.

#### STEVENSON

Continued from Page B1

group of former Spartan players. The wheelchair game was orchestrated by Stevenson senior and Challenger player Alex Saleh (see story in Thursday's Observer.)

Stevenson struggled at both ends of the court following an encouraging opening 12 minutes.

The Spartans' offensive troubles were reflected in the fact that their co-leading scorers - Knoph and Noah Campbell - tallied just seven points each.

Defensively, the hosts had a difficult time slowing down the Wildcats' inside-outside tandem of guard Max Yanke (17 points) and 6-foot-6 post player Naji Ozeir, who pumped in 19

Novi improved to 8-2 overall and 5-0 in the **KLAA** Central Division while the Spartans slipped to 4-6 and 2-3, respectively. The game marked the mid-way point of the season for

ing some changes and bringing my bench in. "If our starters don't

play well, which they didn't tonight, we don't play well as a team. We haven't played well defensively the past couple of games and offensively, everybody is trying to do it by themselves. Now we're in a building process once again.

The Wildcats took full advantage of Sinawi's familiarity with the Stevenson roster.

"I haven't seen them play in a long time, but I know what they can do and how to guard them," said Sinawi. "We knew Noah [Campbell], Jalen [Webber] and Jacob Dollar are their scorers, so we tried to take them out of the game, and my guys accomplished that."

Sinawi said his team's a pleasure to coach because when one player is off the mark, another will step up and fill the void. "We really don't have

one go-to guy this season," Sinawi said. "We have different guys stepping up every game. Max, who is a senior captain, is very, very efficient when he wants to be, and he definitely was tonight. Naji missed too many short shots, but he had a good game." Stevenson's early catalyst was senior guard Nolan Bradford,

who pumped in four quick points to help the Spartans build a 13-11 lead after one quarter.

A rim-rattling dunk by Novi's Kam Hankerson capped a 5-0 second-quarter run for the visitors, giving them a 16-13 lead.

But Stevenson didn't back down the rest of the half and actually cut its deficit to 35-29 on Campbell's layup to open the third quarter.

However, Novi knocked down 10 of 16 field-goal attempts in the third compared to 3-of-14 shooting for Stevenson, which led to the game getting out of hand for the entire fourth period.

The Wildcats were money at the free throw line, draining 19 of 24 attempts. The Spartans were just 7 of 15 from the stripe.

Three players scored six points for Stevenson: Webber, Bradford and Dollar.

Senior forward Brad Dotinga was solid throughout for Novi, scoring 12 points to go with five rebounds. Ozeir led both teams

with 14 boards. "As a coach, I know there are ups and downs in every season, with every team," said Smartt. "We're a little down now, but this is where we have to come together and become a team."

## **GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL** Spartans outlast Novi in OT

**By Ed Wright** Staff Writer

In a KLAA Central Division game saturated with drama, Livonia Stevenson's girls basketball team clipped host Novi, 46-45, in overtime Friday night.

Arryn Dochenetz was the hero for the Spartans as she scored six of her game-high 20 points in overtime.

The victory improved Stevenson's record to 4-7 overall and 2-3 in the Central. Novi slipped to 1-4 in divisional play.

"It was a fun game to be a part of," said Stevenson head coach Tim Newman. "Both teams played hard, both teams made big shots. It was a see-saw, back-and-forth game from start to finish.'

In addition to Dochenetz, Grace Lamerson excelled for Stevenson as she netted 14 points. Jenna Lowman led Novi's balanced attack with 11 points.



Lutheran Westland freshman Rachel Reddeman battles for a rebound during a game earlier this week against Greenhills.

Robichaud improved to 11-1 overall and 5-0 in the division while GC slipped to 2-9 and 0-5, respectively.

Warriors prevail

Lutheran Westland

seized first place in the

MIAC Red Division on

Friday with a 49-46 vic-

Christian. Both teams

entered the game with

Warrior guards Sabri-

Hoehne and Taylor Jones

combined to sink 14 of 18

3-0 divisional marks.

na Morrison, Bethany

free throws down the

streatch to seal the win.

Freshman Rachel Red-

deman led the winners

with 14 points. Morrison

tory over Parkway

John Glenn beaten

added 12.

Dogged by five charging rouis in the second quarter, Westland John Glenn succumbed to visiting Plymouth, 54-35, Friday night. The result left the Wildcats with a 9-2 overall record and 5-0 mark in the KLAA South. The Rockets slipped to 5-6 and 3-2,

both squads.

"Defensively, our starters just weren't ready to go at the start of the third quarter," said Stevenson head coach Kareem Smartt, whose team was outscored 26-10 during the pivotal frame. "Novi scored 10 or 12 points in a row, so I started mak-

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#### CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middle Belt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 30414 Cherry Hill Road (northwest corner of the Cherry Hill and Henry Ruff intersection) from O-1 Office District to C-1 Local Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middle Belt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: January 25, 2015

#### CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2015-01-02-01 submitted by Imad Potres requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 10.03(m) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate a massage establishment (Tomato Massage) at 37575 Five Mile Road within the New Five Village shopping center, located on the south side of Five Mile Road between Newburgh Road and Blue Skies Avenue in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 19.

Petition 2015-01-02-02 submitted by TSFR Pizza, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(c) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate a full service restaurant (MOD Pizza) at 13229 Middlebelt Road, located on the west side of Middlebelt Road between the CSX Railroad right-of-way and Schoolcraft Road in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 26.

Petition 2015-01-02-03 submitted by TSFR Pizza, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(h) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to utilize a Tavern license (sale of beer and wine for consumption on the premises) in connection with a full service restaurant (MOD Pizza) at 13229 Middlebelt Road, located on the west side of Middlebelt Road between the CSX Railroad right-ofway and Schoolcraft Road in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 26.

Petition 2015-01-02-04 submitted by Wade Shows, Inc. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(1) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to conduct a carnival in the parking lot of Sears, sponsored by the Livonia AM Rotary Club, consisting of amusement rides, games and food concessions from April 29, 2015 through May 10, 2015, inclusive, on property at 29500 Seven Mile Road, located on the northwest corner of Seven Mile Road and Middlebelt Road in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 2.

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

×.

#### R. Lee Morrow, Chairman CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: January 25, 2015

#### Robichaud cages GC

WWAC Blue Divisionleading Dearborn Heights Robichaud padded its cushion with a 74-30 victory over Garden City on Friday night.

The Bulldogs rumbled to a 20-7 first-quarter lead before taking a commanding 43-14 advantage into the half. Kelli McDaniel led

the Cougars with seven points. Rachel Spellman and Hannah Vera-Burgos chipped in with six points each and Lindsey Michalak added five.

#### **BOYS HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS**

## Thurston bumps Crestwood, 69-57

**Redford Thurston** overcame first-half foul troubles, a rowdy home crowd and a talented Dearborn Heights Crestwood team Friday night on the way to a 69-57 road victory over the Chargers.

Thurston improved to 10-1 overall and 5-0 in the WWAC Red Division. Crestwood fell to 6-3 and 4-1, respectively.

Brandon Marshall led the Eagles with his second consecutive 20-point night. He also added four assists and three steals. Deaunte Jackson netted 15 points and seven rebounds while Rickey Hudgens (13 points) and Isiah Crofford (11 points, eight rebounds) also played well for the winners.

Thurston head coach Brian Bates said the key point of the game came in the second quarter when reserves Quran Kennedy, Treven Gary and Kobe Williams entered the game after a trio of starters committed their second fouls.

'We were trailing when those three came in and they actually helped us get the lead (31-26) at

the half," said Bates. Thurston made 18 of 26 free throws.

#### **Churchill downs** Wayne

**Dayton Davis** scorched the nets for 15 points to lead Livonia Churchill to a 59-46 victory over Wayne Memorial. Joan Andoni added 12 points for the winners and Jon Hovermale chipped in 11.

Churchill, which improved to 7-4 overall and 3-2 in the KLAA South Division, never looked back after building a 29-14 halftime lead. The Zebras fell to 3-7 and 1-4, respectively. Juan Wise scored 12 points for Wayne.

#### GC wins OT thriller

A red-hot shooting night by senior swingman Joe Pummill paced Garden City's 79-73 overtime victory over host Dearborn Heights Annapolis Friday night.

Pummill pumped in a career-high 22 points, thanks in part to draining five three-point shots. His third triple of the night tied the game at 68-all at the end of regulation and

respectively. Nadia Reed led the Rockets with 11 points. Arianna Hassan and Carley Loving both added six. Kendall Rose paced the Wildcats with 14 points.

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he contributed two more treys in the four-minute extra session.

Travis Trigg (18 points, 10 rebounds) and Travis Kidd (13 points, eight in the first quarter), also played well for the victors

GC head coach Ron Pummill also praised the play of guard Tony Van Dooren, who scored six points. GC won despite making just 18 of 36 free throws. Brian Collins, who fouled out mid-way through the overtime, led Annapolis with 20 points.

#### **Parkway drives** past LW

Caleb Shumake scored 23 points Friday night to lead Parkway Christian to a 97-70 victory over Lutheran Westland. The result left the Warriors with a 3-5 overall mark and 2-2 record in the MIAC Red Division. Parkway improved to 4-4 and 3-0.

#### **Canton upends** Franklin

A 16-point night by Franklin guard Johnny Cantrell couldn't prevent Canton from rolling to a 62-32 win.

#### B5 (WGRL)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015

# **COMMUNITY LIFE**

**OBSERVER &** ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

# Great life, legacy: 'Ma Jazz' to be remembered with scholarships, concerts

#### **By Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

Gary Ellis told band friends and followers that his mother, local jazz advocate and promoter, Midge Ellis, had died, by posting a message on his Broken Arrow Blues Band website.

"I've been a a little pre-occupied of late taking care of my Mother, MaJazz," he wrote, also posting two photos of his mom. "She took her walk to the other side at 9:22 a.m. on January, 9th, of 2015. I will miss her until we walk together with the Ancestors In Paradise...

His message will go beyond the Web page and into the con-cert hall this spring, when the Ellis family stages a musical memorial to "Ma Jazz," the longtime Livonia resident who co-founded the Montreux (Detroit) Jazz Festival, ran a popular big band jazz series for years in the Clarenceville School District, and produced the Michigan Jazz Festival at Schoolcraft College. She was 91 and vice president emerita of the Michigan Jazz Festival board when she died earlier this month.

"This is a party. The tenta-tive date is (Sunday) May 17 at Schoolcraft College in the DiPonio room," said Gary, who lives in Brighton. "We still have to figure out a time frame, but it probably will be 1-7 p.m. or 8 and it will go and go and go. Musicians from all over the world have expressed interest. It could be huge.'

He said the concert probably will include a few headlin-ers and a jam session. Al-though he drums for a blues band, Gary said he likely will

play during the jazz jam. "It will be open to the public and if you want to come in, I suggest that you come on Saturday," he said, referring to the anticipated crowd. "We're trying to make it accessible to



Midge Ellis is inducted into the Livonia Hall of Fame in 2011.

everyone." The list includes the Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association, Greater Detroit Jazz Society, Michigan Jazz Festival organizers, Schoolcraft College where Ellis held several administrative jobs in the 1970s to early 1990s, fellow Livonia Hall of Fame inductees - she was in the class of 2011 - jazz club regulars, students and "all the musicians."

"It could be enormous," Gary said.

That's at least partly because jazz musicians "abso-lutely loved" his mother, he said.

"Musicians say how much she changed their lives," said her daughter, Holly Ellis, who lives in Washington state. "A lot say 'I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for her. "She gave them their first

gig," Gary added. "She was an advocate. She talked to every musician I know. People would call her from all over ... Count Basie, Stan Kenton and others."

Rick Selva, Ph.D., director of the jazz studies program at Schoolcraft College, considered Ellis his "friend and men-tor."

"I call her my Jazz Grand-

ma," he said. Selva is planning a special tribute to her at his annual spring concert on April 20. The Up Jumped Spring Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. in the VisTa-Tech Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, in Livonia.

#### In the works

Craig Strain and Joan Schott, both members of the Michigan Jazz Festival board, said the group will discuss a potential tribute when it meets next month.

"There's a lot of talk on different things. I would not want to tell you anything definite at this time," said Schott, who lives across the street from Ellis' home. "There will be a tribute. Her contribution has been unbelievable. Jazz was her life. She was a great promoter and everyone loved her. She will be sorely missed."

The Greater Detroit Jazz Society's twice-monthly concert last weekend at Shield's of Southfield turned into a tribute to Ellis. The Society had booked Ron Kischuk's Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band, with Johnny Trudell on trumpet.

"They're all Midge's friends," said Sally Bolle, Soci-ety co-founder. "I got a call from Holly Ellis ... she said I'd like to make the concert into a tribute for my mom. She brought 20 people and the board of the Michigan Jazz Festival had a table. We were packed. We had no seats left. There were tears flowing that

day. It was heartfelt."

Bolle described Ellis as a powerful music promoter who 'laid the groundwork for many fine events."

#### **Music pioneer**

Gary said his mother honed her mediating skills as a music promoter, while trailblazing her way through what was then a male-dominated industry. He said his mother could get things done, even when others couldn't. He even uses "some of the tools she used" as a promoter when marketing his own band.

Both Gary and Holly say their mother also taught them how to listen to jazz. When legendary drummer, Peter Erskine, told Holly "you get it" after one of his concerts, she responded, "Of course I do, I'm Midge's daughter." Gary said his mother "was

carrying on a tradition given to her from our grandfather," by teaching her children to appreciate and understand jazz. Gary remembers riding in the back of the family's 1965 Mercury Country Squire, his moth-er at the wheel and singing jazz tunes, as they headed south to visit their grandfather.

Ellis also stressed the importance of teaching youth not only to listen to jazz, but learn to play it.

"You've got to grab the kids," Gary said. "It's not about the people who can play jazz, it's about people who need to learn to play jazz." Her children will help pass

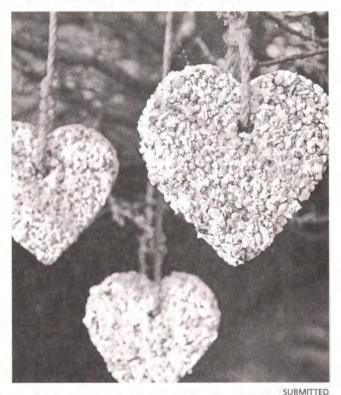
jazz literacy on to the next generation, by setting up a scholarship fund through the Schoolcraft Foundation in her memory. Gary said the fund should be in place by Jan. 28. Checks may be made out to the Schoolcraft Foundation, noting that it is for the Midge Ellis Scholarship Fund.

that's the message," he said.

## Gagnon household: Goodbye, front loader, hello, new washer

#### **GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR**

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometown-



y last column about smart meters created several emails and enough reading material to keep me busy for the next month.

I am still waiting for a spokesperson to contact me so we can attempt to clear up the question marks voiced by the end user. Until then, I appreciate all the comments you want to send me and will continue to work on your behalf.

Speaking of appliance dissatisfaction, I watched a television show a few weeks ago on CBC Canada called Marketplace. This show airs Friday at 8 p.m. on Channel 9 out of Windsor. It was amazing to me when the host introduced two qual-

Joe Gagnon APPLIANCE DOCTOR

ified appliance technicians, both with 33 years of experience, to talk about the appliance industry. What really struck me was that these guys were saying the same things that I have talked about for the last 20-some years. The opening comment was, "They don't make them like they used to." And here they were on a national stage without restrictions on their opinions and words and let me tell you, they weren't shy. The word quality came up and they said it doesn't come close to what it once was.

They pointed their criticism at Whirlpool and Samsung and described a defrost drain problem which is caused by a collapsed drain tube. They interviewed a consumer who had spent \$1,300 in repair bills on products in his home which were only a few years old. He talked about the irritation of trying to get restitution from Whirlpool and what he went through on the telephone. Once contacted by Marketplace, Whirlpool was very quick in sending him a refund of \$1,300.

#### Costly parts

They talked about parts replacement being way too expensive, causing consumers to throw away a major appliance before its time. They also pointed out that parts are no longer available for products in just a few years after purchase. All in all, their conversation covered everything I've written in these columns or talked about on my radio show. Now here is another kicker. You can go to CBC television and click onto their website for Marketplace and see this television special broadcast, but don't even try. They removed it the next day and I'll suppose why. Once Whirlpool and Samsung got wind of this, I can imagine that these companies called the head of CBC and talked about the monies they spend with CBC, and as you know money talks.

As for the word controversy, we have had some in the Gagnon household for the last few years. My darling Valorie did not fall in love with the Maytag front loader when we purchased it seven years ago. We used to have a 35-year-old Maytag top loader that I rebuilt from scratch. She loved that old machine and it washed clothes better than anything. At the time her mother was in a senior home and Val would wash her clothes and sheets. During this period is when we took delivery of this front loader and that's when she began to complain of the stinky clothes and how they were not getting clean. Just a few days ago I bought a new washer and with the help of my son, Mark, and son-inlaw, Virgil, it was installed and is now in operation. Valorie would say, quite a difference.

Drop me a note and I'll tell you what kind of washer solved the controversy in our home. Speaking of front loaders, let me tell you a story of just a few days ago. Dr. Finley's daughter called me about her 16-month-old Whirlpool front loader. It has a bad tub bearing and the parts cost alone is well over \$300. Total repair cost would come close to \$600 and she is going to purchase a new washer. I could repeat this story a few hundred times but this is just an example to think about when you are shopping for a new washer. By the way, Dr. Finley was the Red Wings doctor for over 40 years and he took great care of players. I take great care of him today. Stay tuned.

You can email appldr@twmi.rr.com.

life.com.

#### **Farmington Garden** Club

Karen Auch, a certified arborist, landscape specialist and advanced master gardener, will talk about problem-solving plants, 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, at the Spicer House in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, email fgc1932@gmail.com or call 248-477-3854.

#### Livonia Garden Club

Cheryl English, an Advanced Master Gardner and Master Compos-ter, talks about "Return of the Native Plant," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, at the Civic Park Senior Center, located at Farmington Road and Five Mile, in Livonia. English has nearly 200 species of native plants and more than 50 varieties of clematis in her Detroit garden. She owns Black Cat Pottery, and will have samples of her work and note cards for sale at the meeting. For more information email rmo78jsa@aol.com or visit livoniagardenclub.org.

#### **Master Gardeners**

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County will sponsor a four-week series of Tuesday night classes, beginning Feb. 3. Classes meet 7-8 p.m. at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne, and cost \$10 each or \$30 for four if registered in advance.

» Feb. 3: Lisa Eldred Steinkopf, annuals and house plant manager at Steinkopf Nursery, Farmington Hills, will talk about the best plants for cleaning the air, seven elements needed to grow great plants, and how to identify pests and diseases.

Kids can learn how to make heart-shaped treats for birds, Feb. 7 at English Gardens stores.

» Feb 10: Gary Eichen, plant health care/bio-turf lawn manager for Mike's Tree Surgeons in Troy, will identify which trees are best to plant in metro Detroit.

He'll talk about soil biology and why soil is important in choosing the right tree.

» Feb. 17: Joe Barson, owner of Barson's Greenhouse in Garden City, will talk about the basics of water gardens, different kinds of waterfalls and water garden construction.

» Feb. 24: Kevin Collins, garden center manager at Ray Hunter Flower & Garden Center in Southgate, will talk about hydrangeas.

To register, email mgwwcorg@gmailcom

#### **Friends of the Rouge**

Volunteers are needed to search for stoneflies in the Rouge River on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Searchers will meet at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and then will carpool in teams to Rouge streams in metro Detroit. Only trained team leaders go into the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank

Children, 5 and older, may attend if accompanied by a participating adult. Register by Jan. 30 at therouge.org or by calling 313-792-9621.

#### **English Gardens**

» Learn what's involved in creating a fairy garden, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31. Free.

» Make your own fairy garden to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$19.99. Sign up at englishgardens.com.

» Learn about attracting bees and birds to the garden in a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb.

» Kids can make heartshaped bird treats to take home, at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Cost is \$5. Register at englishgardens.com

Classes are held at all stores.

COMMUNITY LIFE

## Auto Show galas draw glamorous guests, more than \$5 million for charity

The Charity Preview at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit and the AutoGlow at Ford Field drew thousands of guests to help kick off the North American International Auto Show on Jan. 16.

The Charity Preview also raised \$5.3 million for nine children's charities. AutoGlow took in nearly \$220,000 to benefit The Children's Center of Detroit.

The North American International Auto Show wraps up Sunday, Jan. 25.



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST AutoGlow Gala Hosts Bill and Lisa Ford, Children's Center assistant vice chair



NAIAS Chairman Scott LaRiche, Northville resident and executive manager/vice president of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth; and his wife, Dawn; and their son, Steve LaRiche of Livonia.



Canton residents Jayson and Corinna Trantham from Ford Motor Co. Global Travel, attend the Ford-sponsored AutoGlow. The AutoGlow, held at Ford Field, benefited The Children's Center of Detroit.



Plymouth residents Brian and Renee Godfrey, Corporate Alliances manager, Ford Motor Co., emjoy the Charity Preview and AutoGlow. Renee looked stunning in a navy Monique Lhuillier gown from Saks.

## He has roots: Plymouth church pastor feels right at home

#### By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Pastor Randy Short arrived at Living Peace Church in Plymouth Sept. 1, 2014. The Westland resident had worshiped at Trinity Church of the Brethren, Living Peace Church's predecessor.

"That's the church I attended as a youth," said Short, who grew up in Livonia and graduated from Livonia Franklin High School in 1986.

Short, 47, is finishing up the master of divinity equivalent through Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Ind., which is yoked for his Church of the Brethren and the Quakers. Trinity Church of the Brethren in Redford began in 1951.

"I'll be ordained later this spring," said Short, who also studied at Northwood Institute, now Northwood University, in Midland.

"Not to conquer a neighborhood but to become part of it," he said of Living Peace Church's work. "So a more kingdom-based approach than a church-based approach. So far, pretty positive," he said of community reaction to the church in a neighborhood near downtown Plymouth.

Julie

Yolles

SOCIAL

SCENE

"Visitation's important in my ministry," he said. "Worship preparation. Trying to find God in the neighborhood."

In 1997, Short moved to a community near Defiance, Ohio. He served in his ministry at Lick Creek Church of the Brethren in Bryan, Ohio, and then Middlebury Church of the Brethren in Middlebury, Ind.

Trinity Church of the Brethren sold its Redford building in 2010, rented for worship at Field Elementary in Canton for awhile and then made the move to Plymouth under its new name.

#### **Celebrating peace**

Short noted his denomination, the Mennonites and Quakers are the three recognized in the U.S. as conscientious objectors. That includes opposition to violence. "It also means being with those who are marginalized," he said. "We help support a transitional homeless shelter in Ann Arbor." The church observed National Day of Peace last Sept. 21 with the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, based in Canton.

"We dedicated our Peace Pole out front," Short said of the "May Peace Prevail on Earth" pole in six languages — English, German, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic and Hindi. That Sept. 21, the Christian and Muslim worshipers prayed for Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped in that country and held hostage by Boko Haram.

Short noted 179 girls were of the Church of the Brethren, and that there has been violence toward Christian worshipers and pastors, including murders. "That was nice to have both of us (Muslim and Christian) there standing up for peace against Boko Haram."

"We would much rather create faithful disciples of the kingdom," he said of Living Peace Church, which has had football watching parties for fun and is planning to show foreign films while serving appropriate cuisine, such as from Lebanon. "Our congregation, I think, is a good reflection of Plymouth. There's a strong core of educated middle class." The church member-

The church membership is also diverse economically, he added. "The real question is how well have we treated Plymouth? The city worked with our congregation very well. The neighbors were receptive to our being here. Plymouth has been a welcoming place for us," with a couple nearby businesses helping out with Sunday parking.

Short's proud of his denomination's roots back to the late 1500s and early 1600s in Germany, with the belief that those baptized should be of age to understand why. "Ever since our inception we've been very socially active," he said. "A church of community and peace."

Indeed, the sign out front says "Continuing the work of Jesus/Peacefully ... Simply ... Together."

Short's the permanent, part-time pastor who's starting a job search to supplement his ministry. "I wanted to get my feet under me and get to



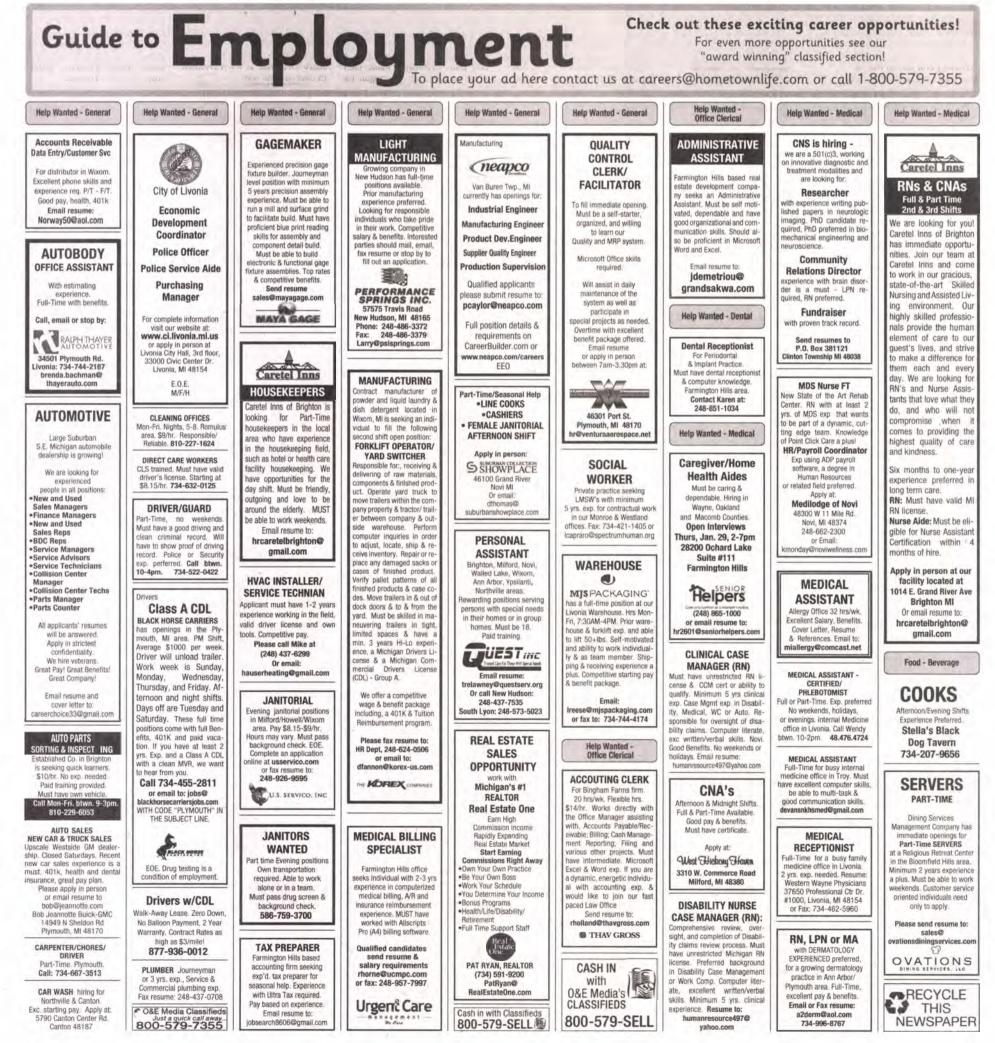
Pastor Randy Short of Living Peace Church in Plymouth with the "May Peace Prevail on Earth" peace pole in six languages. Short is a Westland resident who grew up in Livonia.

know the congregation," which numbers 60-65 with average attendance around 30.

Short's married to Kathie, who works at NovaStar Solutions in Livonia. "We were blessed with one beautiful daughter," he said of Bailey, 18, a freshman music education major at Manchester University in North Manchester, Ind.

Living Peace Church is at 684 Deer St., Plymouth. Its phone is 734-667-4821. The website is www.livingpeacechurch-.com. The church is on Facebook.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



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#### LOCAL NEWS

#### JANUARY FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Jan. 25 Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The Rev. Jason Thomas will conduct a class that will explore faith, including church history, the Trinity and more. Light lunch provided Contact: Rev. Roger Wright at

#### 313-682-7491 GRIEFSHARE

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Sunday Location: New Life Church of Garden City, 33111 Ford Road, Garden City

Details: Sessions began Jan. 18 and are held weekly for anyone suffering the loss of a loved one. Workbooks cost \$20

Contact: Jo Alley at 248-766-5977

#### MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Time/Date: 6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, at Maplewood, Garden City

Details: New midweek service includes music, scripture, prayer, and a message based on Scripture

#### Contact: 734-421-8628 **OPEN HOUSE**

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25

Location: St. Michael the Archangel School, 11311 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Take a student-led tour of this K-8 parochial school, meet staff members, and other parents and students. St. Michael offers half- or full-day kindergarten, latch-key pro gramming, and an extended curriculum which includes computer science, art, music, and Spanish. It is a Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools accredited School of Distinction

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 226; livoniastmichael.org **OPEN HOUSE** 

#### Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Monday,

Jan. 26

Location: St. Michael Lutheran School, 3003 Hannan, between Palmer and Michigan Ave., Wayne

Details: Take a guided tour of the school and meet with teachers. St. Michael is accredited by Michigan Association of Non-**Public Schools and National** Lutheran School Accreditation The preschool-eighth grade parochial school is celebrating its 32nd school year. It offers morning and afternoon licensed latchkey and bus service for residents in the Wayne-Westland School district Contact: 734-728-3315; stmi-

chaellutheran.org **PRAYER GROUP** Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thurs-

feature grief experts and reallife stories of grieving individuals; support group discussion; and work-based personal study and reflection. Registration fee is \$15, which includes the workbook and other materials Contact: Rev. Roger Wright at

#### 313-682-7491; griefshare.org **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 cofounded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy, presents the five-week series

Contact: goodmourningministry.net or St. Michael's at 734-261-1455

#### **GRIEF RECOVERY**

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1-March 22

Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia Details: The free four-week program is for widows and widowers. It will deal with topics

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

such as loneliness, anger, and depression. It's presented by Widowed Friends, a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Contact: Priscilla at 734-591-7879 **OPEN HOUSE** 

Time/Date: Noon to 2 p.m. Feb.

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia Details: Open house for preschool through grade eight Contact: 734-425-4420

#### WEDDING. COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

Time/Date: 10 a.m. commitment ceremony; 12:30 p.m. wedding, Feb. 14

Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia Details: The church offers a complimentary group wedding and group commitment ceremony on Valentine's Day. Couples must pre-register, and those participating in the wedding ceremony must deliver their license to the church no later than Wednesday, Feb. 11 Contact: 734-421-1760

ONGOING **CLASSES/STUDY** Men's Bible study Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491 **Our Lady of Loretto** 

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday 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 Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12 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: Ethanie 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 Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

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assages

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



#### ABRAMOVICH, JAMES

Age 75 - January, 17, 2015 brother of Robert Dearest (Jessica). Dear uncle of Jennifer (Carl) Haslett. Preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Hilma. He was a dedicated employee for 48 years at Town & Country Hardware in Garden City. He was an avid pilot of single engine planes and enjoyed flying. He was a collector of cast iron toys. Private services were held. Family suggests memorials Yankee Air Museumthe Willow Run, Ypsilanti, MI www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Charlotte Rose Pachla daughter of Emily and Steven Pachla, was still-

born on Thursday, Janu-ary 8, 2015, at William Beau-Hospital, Roval Oak mont Michigan. Though she was born without a heartbeat, she was a beloved member of our family. and was a joy to her parents, brothers, and grandparents, who could not have loved her more. Now she is in heaven where she can be held and cuddled and loved by God, but she will live on in our hearts forever. Survivors include her parents, Emily and Steven (Troy); her brothers, Carter Schultz (Sterling Heights) and Jonathan Pachla (Troy); aunts and uncles. Martin and Carol Pachla (Troy) and Andrew and Megan Stewart (Clawson); Guenther grandma Ellen (Bloomfield Hills): grandpa, James Stewart (Troy); grandparents, Louise and Robert Pachla (Hamtramck); and the many aunts, uncles, and cousins of Emily and Steven. A private memorial service was officiated by Father Stanley Pachla at St. Veronica Catholic Church in Eastpointe, MI on Saturday, Jan-2015. Donations uary 24. Charlotte's memory can be made to "Charlotte's Wings" at:



#### REUTHER. KENNETH ROBERT

Age 84 of Canadian Lakes, passed away Saturday, January 17 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Ft. Myers, Florida. He was April 26, 1930 born Maywood, New Jersey, the son of Edward and Mabel (Heinze) Reuther. Ken attended Rutgers University and was a graduate of General Motors Institute in Flint, MI with a degree in Engineering. married Barbara He Ann Crimmins on March 29, 1952 while she was attending the Hurley Hospital School of Nursing in Flint. Ken served in the army overseas during the Korean War as a motor pool mechanic. After his return, Ken and Barb eventually made their home in Plymouth, Michigan for 36 years and had three sons who were active in various sports and music activities. In 1952, Ken was hired by the Ford Motor Company, beginning a 41 year career with that company where earned a reputation tough, hands-on, get the job done problem solver. He became the guru for heading the national launch programs of numerous car and truck lines over many years and was known as an out of the box, innovative thinker. He served as the plant manager at the Dearborn Pilot Plant, as an Executive Engineer and retired as a Chief engineer. During his time with Ford, he forged a bond between that company and the Ferris State University School of Technology, beginning a long relationship that included serving on the Ferris Foundation, the funding of 2 scholarship funds and his being awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 1999. Ken was very active in the Canadian Lakes Community where he and Barb first bought a weekend getaway home in 1978 that they eventually occupied year round after his retirement. He cofounded the Canadian Lakes Ford Club with Bob Emerson, sponsoring an annual Golf Outing that raised tens of thousands of dollars for Mecosta County Hospital. Two years ago, at 82, he conceived, funded and oversaw a team of talented people who donated services for the construction of the Reuther Music Pavilion as a gift to the Canadian Lakes Community. In his spare time he enjoyed home improvement projects and gardening. Ken is survived by his partner and friend Avis Gerber of Canadian Lakes; two sons; Rick Reuther of Grand Rapids, Robert Reuther of Canadian Lakes, one sister; Dorothy Schafer of South Carolina, two nephews; John Schafer of South Carolina, Carolina and Bob Schafer of Michigan. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Tom in 1995 and wife Barbara in 2008. He will be remembered at a private service for family members this Monday and a memorial service for friends and family planned for a spring date, to be determined. Interment will be at Highland View Cemetery in Big Rapids. Memorial contributions in Ken's name may be directed to the Canadian Lakes Gifts and Memorials, 10690 Pierce Road, Canadian Lakes, MI 49346. Contribution envelopes may be obtained at the Daggett-Gilbert



#### SCHEIFELE. MARILYN

January 9, 2015. Beloved wife of Hudson for 66 years. Dear Kahan mother of Lyneeta Lisabeth (Norman), Layne (Steven), and the late Larry. Cherished grandmother of Shane Colwell (Shannon), Katelyn Hunsberger (Shawn), and Jesslyn Soucie (Brandon). Greatgrandmother of Morgan, Andrew, Conner, Jack, and Baby grandmother Soucie on the way. Sister of Marleeta Walton. A celebration of life service will be held in the spring. Memorial tributes to First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.Desmon dFuneralHome.com.





#### TRAWICK JAMES LEON

Formerly of Farmington Hills, Michigan, passed away on January 21, 2015. He was born in Repton, Alabama on October 7, 1925 to Lucy Mae (Fendley) and William Edward Trawick He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth Willingham Trawick, and his brother, Ramsey Leroy Trawick. He is survived by his four children, Mary Lynn Trawick Freeman, Leslie (Bill) Clark, Allison Trawick (Rick Rothermel), and Steven (Alicia) Trawick: seven grandchildren, Shannon Nicholas Fink. and Steven Clark, Zachary and Jacob Rothermel, and Alexandra and James Willingham Trawick; sister, Keeble Poellnitz; brother. Keith Trawick, and a Rov number of nieces and nephews. Jim served overseas in the Coast Guard as a signalman on LST WWII during before attending Marion Institute and Duquesne University, where he



Obituaries, Memories & Rememberances

day

Location: Parish office building at St. Edith, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets weekly for prayer and snacks Contact: 734-464-1223

#### 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

#### FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 18 Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne Details: Worship service Contact: 734-728-1950

#### AUCTION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb.

Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland Details: Concordia Lutheran School's annual auction, Disney Dreams, will include appetizer, dinner, dessert, and beverages Tickets are \$30 per table or \$270 per table of 10. Buy them at either campus, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, 248-474-2488; or 9600 Leverne, Redford, 313-937-2233. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Feb. 9 Contact: Raeann Kusch at 734-432-7777

#### **DINNER/DANCE**

Time/Date: 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

Details: Catered chicken dinner with dessert bar, music and dancing. \$20 per person. Buy tickets at the church in person or by phone before Feb. 9 Contact: 248-553-3380

#### GRIEFSHARE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-June 7

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This nondenominational program features Christcentered Bible-based teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved. Includes videos that

#### DAESCHNER NANCY ELIZABETH

Lost her two year battle with cancer on November 20, 2014. She was always positive during her illness and refused to give up. Nancy resided in Henderson, Nevada and was a daughter of William H. and Mary K. Daeschner. She was the youngest of four children and a of Seaholm High graduate School and Northwood Institute Nancy loved her nieces and nephews and was always proud of their accomplishments. She is survived by her husband, William Gault; siblings, Mary and Doug Warren, William and Doug Warren, William Daeschner, Sally and Doug Houck; and two nieces and two nephews, Jeffrey and Kathryn Warren, Emerson and Hanna Houck. Nancy's Funeral will be held June 13, 2015, 11 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham, MI. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Nathan Adelson Hospice located in Las Vegas, NV.



#### DuCOMB, WILLIAM F. JR.

Born: April 17, 1945. Passed: January 9, 2015. Dedicated his WC life to running the DuComb Co. and in service to the March of Dimes. He is survived by wife Karla, sons Keven and Steven. Memorial service to be held February 6th from 3-7pm at the Detroit Golf Club. Donations may also be made to the March of Dimes in his honor.



www.charlottes-wings.com

#### **REARDON, JACK**

Age 84, passed away January 17, 2015. Born in Cleveland, Jack had lived in Tallmadge for the past 18 years. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 as a Specialist Second Class. Jack retired in 1994 from Livonia Steenson High School in Livonia Michigan with 32 years of teaching service. He was Stevenson's Head Football Coach for the first 30 years of the program and was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaching Association Football Hall of Fame. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rose Marie Reardon. Jack is survived by his daughter. Mary (Jeff) Garrison of Stow; grandchildren, Paige, Mike, and Megan. Visitation will be 6 until 8 p.m. Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Donovan Bagnoli Funeral 339 Southwest Home, Ave., Tallmadge Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 24, 2015 at Our of Victory Church, 73 Lady North Ave., Tallmadge with Rev. Mike Matusz officiating. Interment will be held at Tallmadge Cemetery.



Funeral Home, Big Rapids. Share a memory or leave a con-dolence for the family at www. daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com May you find comfort in family and friends



#### SHERMAN, ROGER FOWLER, SR.

January 15, 2015. Surrounded by his loving family. Age 76. Formerly of Winnetka, Illinois, Evanston, IL and Glencoe, IL. Proud veteran of the US Army. Longtime advertising and marketing executive in Detroit and Chicago. Beloved husband of Judie (nee Young) for 53 years. Dear father of Roger F., Jr. (Susan) and Ingrid Anne Turner (Stacy). Grandfather of Jack and Kathleen Turner. Brother of Anne Owens (the late Clyde) and the late Sally Mudgett. Also many nieces and nephews. Also survived by his beloved dog Charlie. Services were held at Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Memorial tributes to WRCJ Classical Music Public Radio Station or Michigan Animal Rescue League. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.





received his B.S. in accounting A certified public accountant, he worked for General Motors for 30 years, rising to the position of Assistant Divisional Comptroller, Fisher Body. Contributions in Jim's name may be made to the American Heart Association



#### WOOMER, MATTHEW THOMAS

58, husband of Patti Saligman Woomer, and a former resident of Birmingham, Michigan, died December 17, 2014 at his Lex-ington, Kentucky home with his family by his side. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Matt was the son of Anthony (deceased) and Catherine Woomer of Lexington, KY. Survivors include Patti, his wife of 32 years, and his seven sons: Ryan (Lauren), Keith, Anthony (Karen) of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Adam, Joseph, Samuel and Bryan. Matt is also survived by his mother Catherine Woomer and his seven siblings: Judith Woomer Keating of Lexington, KY, John (Christine) Woomer of East Grand Rapids, MI, Katie (John) Guido of Rocky River, Ohio, Joseph Woomer of Nesbit, Mississippi, Nancy (Kevin) Sidow of Piedmont, California, Susan (Robert) Schneid of Birmingham, Alabama, and Andrew (Cindy) Woomer of Rocky Riv-er, OH. Raised in Birmingham, MI, Matt graduated from Bir-mingham Seaholm High School in 1974. Matt attended West Vir-ginia University and earned a de-gree in Mining Engineering and later earned his MBA from The Ohio State University. After college, Matt worked throughout Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia in the coal mining industry. In 1989, Matt and his family moved to Lexington, KY where he owned and operated Spartan Rock Products of Boonesboro, KY. Matt served as President of the company until his death. An avid learner, Matt was a member of The Alternate Board where he met many close friends who shared in his passion for business. Matt's life was centered around his family, he enjoyed the outdoors, ice hockey and boating. Funeral services and interment have already taken place. Memorial contributions in Matt's name are suggested to Camp Hayo-Went-Ha -Campership Program 919 N. East Torch Lake Dr. Central Lake, MI 49622.

**B8 (WGRL)** SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Plan ahead to assure secure future for aging parents

#### **By Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

Tom Dobolski worries about his mother-in-law's well-being. She is elderly, lives alone,

experiences symptoms of de-mentia, and doesn't accept help easily.

"She refuses to have strangers in the house. She has lost all effort to cook, but she will not have someone come in to help her with cooking," said the Livonia man. "We tried a couple of house cleaners, but they don't clean the way she does. She refuses to even look at any of these assisted living places. If she knows my wife is taking her there, she refuses to get in the car. She's stubborn. What do you do, call the cops?"

Dobolski was part of an over-flow crowd of mostly baby boomers, who shared their frustrations, stories and questions with a panel of experts recently at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia.

The free two-hour session, "When Aging Parents Need Your Help," gave attendees a chance to ask specific questions about finances, housing, legal needs and other issues they've encountered as they provide care for elderly loved ones.

Joanne Darga, community liaison for Comfort Keepers, a home care assistance company; Erin Mortenson, an elder law attorney from Northville; Paula Swain, a financial consultant from Plymouth; Jessica Weathers, a social work at St. Mary Mercy's Senior Wellness Center; and Bruce Webb, a senior real estate specialist for Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors, came together to field questions and offer advice.

The panel meets in libraries, hospitals and other venues approximately eight times a year. It will be back at St. Mary Mercy for another round of questions on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Call 734-738-6300 for more information.

The panel members



#### **Getting advice**

"We've seen an elder law attorney. For us, it was is there any new information we don't have. Is there anything we're not familiar with that we should be?" said a Livonia woman, explaining why she and her two sisters attended the event. They declined to give their names because they hadn't told their mother about the panel discussion.

We just don't want to miss out on any help that is available for our parents," another sibling said.

stressed the importance of

planning well before elderly parents are physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.

The process should include two important documents - a power of attorney that can give an adult child legal authority to act on behalf of elderly parents with financial matters and a patient advocate designation to assist them in medical matters. Children and parents can work together to make sure documents, are in place.

"Without those two documents you can spend thousands and thousands of dollars in court," Mortenson said, adding that one of her clients

might have saved \$10,000 if only she had both in place.

Here's a sampling of topics that surfaced during the meeting:

» Do you recommend putting your name on your parents' bank accounts?

"I never recommend that kids be joint owners. You are subjecting your parents' assets to all of your liabilities," Mortenson said. "You are causing problems for any kind of benefit in the future.

She said the government will be more likely to scrutinize a joint account if the parent applies for Medicaid when transitioning to a skilled nurs-

ND GOODFEL

ing facility.

'They may want a receipt for every \$100 debit for the last five years."

She said a signed financial power of attorney can allow an adult child to pay bills, sign checks and assist their parent with other financial responsibilities, without the need for joint bank accounts.

» If an elderly parent, on Medicare, needs rehab in a skilled nursing center, who pays?

The first 20 days Medicare pays 100 percent. Once day 21 hits, Medicare pays 80 per-cent," Weathers said, adding that supplemental insurance may pay the other 20 percent of the bill.

"There is a 100-day Medicare benefit, but it's broken up that way. You also need to have a 30-day wellness period out-side the hospital or a skilled nursing center for that benefit to reset. So, let's say mom or dad goes home Friday, but they are back in rehab next Friday. If they left off at day 20, they will start at day 21 when they return, because they didn't have a 30-day wellness period."

» Should you give any money away if you are considering going into a skilled nursing home (with Medicaid assistance)?

"The answer is no," Mortenson said. "Medicaid has a fiveyear look back, meaning that if you give away any money oth-er than gifts at Christmas, for birthdays and usual tithing at church, then you will get a penalty. For every approximately \$7,800 you give away, you'll get a one-month penalty. And you won't get Medicaid even if you have zero dollars.

'So don't give away your money. There are other things you can do ahead of time. Talk to an elder law attorney to make sure you are maximizing your dollars, that you can still give your kids some kind of inheritance and still go into a skilled nursing home on Medicaid."



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www.westlandgoodfellows.org 32715 Dorsey St., Westland, MI 48186 734-788-2270