SHOW MUST

Senior actors are fundraising,

PAGE B6



Wayne voters face millage proposal May 5

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Two ballot questions for a P.A. 345 millage have been approved for the May 5 ballot by the Wayne City Council.

The city will ask voters to set up a 345 police and fire pension program to take the pension fund out of the general fund as well as approve a 3-mills-for-five-years request to fund police and fire retirement costs - currently paid through the city's general fund - to generate an expected \$1 million annually. That would leave another \$1 million to be trimmed from the city's spending.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Just prior to its regular meeting, the council received a budget update from consultant Tim McCurley of Plante Moran showing that the current fiscal deficit has grown to

A similar proposal was rejected by voters in 2013. Councilman John Rhaesa questioned placing the proposals on the May 5 ballot along with a state road-funding tax

request.
"Do you think it will pass in that environment? We need to think of that," Rhaesa said. "It would be two years (before it could be placed on a ballot again) if it doesn't pass."

May vote

If the questions aren't placed on the May ballot, Councilman Albert Damitio said the revenues wouldn't be available for the 2015-16 budget, if approved by voters.

We wouldn't have a structurally balanced budget. We

have a responsibility to go before voters for what we need for a structurally balanced budget," he said.

The councilman tasked with working on city finances, Damitio had recommended the ballot questions. He said the \$1 million shortfall remaining, if the ballot proposal are approved, could be addressed with spending reductions.

"We need to be honest and up front with the citizens and meet the requirements on the budget," Damitio said. "We will let the citizens decide. If

citizens don't approve it, the money to support the pensions won't be there.

Unlike the failed 2013 ballot proposals, the council this time talked about making public specific budget cuts that would have to be implemented, if the additional funding isn't approved by voters.

The voters spoke (in 2013). Is the council going to come back to us each time you need more money?" resident Bob Boertje said. "I took a 16-per-

See MILLAGE, Page A2

Wayne-Westland history teacher best in nation

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

According to her colleagues, Michele Anderson has two passions: teaching history and a love and appreciation for honoring veterans.

And it was those two passions that won the John Glenn High School teacher the 2014 National History Teacher of the Year award from HISTO-RY® and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American Histo-

Anderson was in New York in November to receive the award. The award recognizes her work on an oral history project and USO-style dances

more than two years. The project started two vears ago with students interviewing World War II veterans and now includes Korean War and Vietnam

veterans. "This would not have been possible without the community," Anderson said. "This community has made this award come to life. Without this community, we wouldn't have had the people to interview. The veterans are awesome, the kids are awesome.

Anderson was nominated for the award by John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham, who was asked to do it by state officials after she won the 2013 Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Award for Excellence in Teaching History from the Michigan Council for History Education. Michigan had never had a teacher win the national award until now.



SUE MASON

Wayne-Westland school board President Thomas Buckalew hugs National History Teacher of the Year Michele Anderson. Buckalew had told John Glenn High School Principal David Ingham to "Just watch, she'll be a star one day."

Getting students excited

Ingham was at the award ceremony and noted Anderson's quote from the program: "Students get excited about history when somehow it becomes real to them."

"That's what Michele is all about," he said. "For years, I have watched her make history real for students. She has spent her career making

history real, taking her students on field trips to being the reality of the history they're studying to their current lives and making it real for them. She gets them engaged and makes it exciting for them.'

Anderson had approached Ingham about her project three years ago, when she applied for and received a \$6,545 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

'Without Dave Ingham, this wouldn't have happened," Anderson said. "At a time when it's getting harder to fit extra activities into the instructional program, I went to him asked, actually I told him, 'Don't tell me how I can't do this and tell me how you can support me in doing this and in filling out a three-inch application.

Also in New York was Wayne-Westland school board President Thomas Buckalew, who taught with Anderson at John Glenn. The chair of the social studies department, he had approached Ingham about appointing Anderson as a co-chair as he transitioned to retirement.

'She was a fairly new and younger teacher. There were many more experienced teachers, but Tom told me, 'Just watch, she'll be a star one day' and Tom was right," Ingham said. "He was the first one that put that thought in my head.'

Anderson is chair of the social studies department and still is called by the nickname Little Buck, which she earned

See TEACHER, Page A2

Murphy appointed Wayne city manager

By LeAnne Rogers

For the first time in more than a year, Wayne has a permanent city manager.

The council voted Tuesday to approve a contract with David Murphy, who has been interim city manager since October.

Wayne Mayor James Hawley and Councilwoman Susan Rowe served as a committee to negotiate a contract Murphy with Murphy.



The contract is for six months -Murphy had proposed six months or three years. The council committee had proposed a one-year agreement.

"It will give me a chance to see what transpires with the city's financial stability. We'll see by June. This may feel more comfortable,' Murphy said. The city's fiscal year ends June 30.

Murphy's salary will continue at \$2,000 weekly with the addition of benefits, such as health care, vacation and a 10-percent contribution to his pension.

Under the agreement, Murphy would receive three months of pay and benefits if terminated.

The Michigan Municipal League provided Wayne with a list of city managers willing to serve on an interim basis.

Murphy served over five years in South Lyon. He also worked in Almont, Caro and Brighton Township. Since he left South Lyon in October 2013, he has filled interim positions in Franklin and Huntington Woods.

Wayne had a series of interim city managers since Robert English retired in the fall of 2013. Department of Public Services Director Ramzi El-Gharib filled in for months before Joseph Merucci was brought in. After Merucci abruptly left, thenpolice chief Jason Wright served as city manager.

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City enforces emergency with tickets, towing

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Those who got tickets or had their vehicles impounded dur-

ing the snow emergency that resulted from a 16-inch snowfall certainly had plenty of warning As of Thursday, Westland

Police reported that they ticketed 82 people for failing to get their vehicles off the street and impounded 21 vehicles.

Once a snow emergency is declared, all street parking is prohibited until the emergency is lifted.

'We were able to get numerous others to move (their vehicles) voluntarily," said Westland Deputy Police Chief Brian Miller, who oversees the patrol division. "At the Westland Police Department, our goal is to get the streets cleared as quickly and efficiently as possible." Getting the public to voluntarily comply when a snow emergency is declared allows everyone to do their job more efficiently, Miller said.

"The police department is then free to answer the day-today calls for service that do not stop because of the snow emergency," he said. The snow emergency re-

mained in effect until 4 p.m. Thursday to allow DPS crews to complete clearing streets. When vehicles are left on

the street and have to be plowed around, this creates a hazard since police and fire emergency vehicles may be delayed in their response because of a partially blocked roadway," Miller said. "This hazard is over and above the headache it causes for residents who live on these streets

and have to drive down them.

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Wayne's budget deficit has grown ag

By LeAnne Rogers

Through a mixed bag of savings and higher than budgeted expenses, Wayne's current fiscal year deficit has grown to \$656,000.

The council adopted the budget, balanced in theory with money from a millage proposal that was never placed before voters. Some cuts had been made to get the deficit down to about \$500,000.

"Some revenues were budgeted high and expenditures were budgeted low," City Manager David Murphy said. "I'd do the opposite - budget lower revenues and higher expenditures so you hope to meet in the middle.

At a study session Tuesday, Tim McCurley of Plante Moran provided an update on city finances to council. Without a finance director since August, the city hired Plante Moran to reconcile banking records and give an accurate picture of city finances while helping prepare the 2015-16 budget.

The budget adopted had \$16.7 million in expenditures and excess revenues of \$650,000. However, without the \$1.85 million budgeted from a P.A. 345 millage, the city instead had revenues of \$14.8 million and a \$1.2 million shortfall.

The city saw an additional \$110,000 in tax revenues, \$100,000 savings each in the city manager and police department and \$40,000 additional revenue in EMS runs, according to McCurley.

However, McCurley said at the same time the fire department has spent \$230,000 over budget on overtime, utility costs are \$119,000 over budget in Parks and Recreation and 29th District Court fines and fees are down \$340,000.

"I feel like I'm living Groundhog's Day," said Councilwoman Susan Rowe after the budget presentation.

In light of the Wayne-Westland Fire Department merger, which was in part to save money, Councilman Anthony Miller questioned the overspending in the fire department budget. The departments share a chief and operations but each city provides a required number of firefighters

"You had 16 firefight-

ers in the budget. You reduced it and now, you only have 12 firefighters on staff," McCurley said.
"The (firefighters) union

contract has a five-firefighter minimum manning, so you need to hire staff or use overtime. Twelve firefighters are not enough to cover sick days, vacation, days off."

Miller asked if it wouldn't be more efficient to hire additional firefighters. Without a finance director and other key managers the city also had been without a personnel director - McCurley said it can be hard to resolve those issues.

for say \$130,000, then you have legacy costs and that takes the cost considerably higher," Murphy said. "You have to consider that.'

"If you hire someone,

While there was a savings in the police department budget, McCurley said vacant police positions are likely causing the reduced revenues for the court.

"When police staff is reduced, court fines and fees are reduced. You're down four officers from the budget," McCurley said.

The Parks and Recreation's higher than budgeted utility costs appear to be due to council deciding to close over half the community center at the start of the fiscal year, McCurley said, but then not actually closing that much of the facility. The ice arena was closed, although not other parts of the build-

"Tim (McCurley), we're thrilled to have you here. At least, we are getting some numbers. Can you help us come up with numbers on savings, if we did different things like closing facilities?" Mayor James Hawley said. We need numbers. We don't know if we would save \$10,000 or \$100,000."

A former finance director in both Wayne and Westland, McCurley said he would work on the budget to see what can be done to reduce expenses.

"It takes time. It will help you with next year," said McCurley, who commented that finding onetime money to cover expenses doesn't address the structural budget deficit.

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MILLAGE

Continued from Page A1

cent pay cut this year. I had no choice. I'll be very vocal against this."

Boertje added that the council didn't follow through with the approved plan to close half the community center, costing the city money.

Critical of proposals

Resident Ron Roberts was also critical of the 345 proposals, adamantly telling council it would never pass. He repeated his view that the city should file for bankrupt-

"You've been just hanging on a little longer for years. You're technically bankrupt when

you have people doing three or four jobs," Roberts said. "It won't pass, I can tell you, and the governor's proposal won't pass. Resident Vern Amos

said the city can't justify the expense of the community center, which would have high maintenance costs even if the building was closed.

"It would be better to

bulldoze it, build condos or some other private use," Amos said. "DPS can handle the ball fields."

Amos also called for an on-call volunteer fire department and privately contracted EMS.

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TEACHER

Continued from Page A1

working with Buckalew. "Before the presentation of the award, historian Dr. Earl Lewis, the president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, talked about that ah-ha moment when lessons and textbook words come off the page and become the fabric of the students," Buckalew said. "If anything, that is what Mrs. Anderson's oral history project does. It brings history alive to her students.

Thanks for support

Anderson thanked her husband Greg and her

three children for their support in allowing her to pursue her passion. It has taken her to the World War II Museum in New Orleans and to Germany to learn about its school

system. With the help of the Detroit Historical Society, she created a lesson plan to teach about students about Westland's Norwayne community and the part it played in Detroit becoming the Arsenal of Democracy. The lesson plan can be found on the Detroit Historical Museum's

Anderson continues to make history real for her students. She recently received a grant from Target that will be used

for a field trip to Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, which was the mustering-in point for the Vietnam veterans.

The Detroit Historical Society is putting together a mock muster for students to experience, she said.

Enthusiasm for her project has gone beyond her students, who by early January had interviewed 41 veterans. She did a survey of the high school and found heard about the project and planned to attend this year's USO-style dance because "it's so

Help also has come social studies department who have "put in "have always been

school staff and music teacher Scott Cramer who, with his students, provides the entertainment for the dances. This year's Vietnam USO dance will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in

In addition to the state and national Teacher of the Year awards, Anderson also has received the Michigan Historical Commission's John B. Swainson Award for her efforts to preserve the memory of Michigan's defense workers and World War II veterans.

the high school cafeteria.

She also has been VFW District 4 Teacher of the Year and, last year, she and Cramer received the Voya Financial Unsung Hero Award.

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Westland officials to cut ribbon for new fire station

A ribbon-cutting for the new Westland Fire Station 1 is set for 4 p.m. Monday.

Westland Mayor William Wild and Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy will cut the ribbon and officially open the new \$3 million fire station.

Located on Central City Parkway, the new fire station replaces the city's oldest station, which is located on Ford at Carlson near the original city hall. The old station served the city for more than 50 years, predating the incorporation of the city to its Nankin Township days.

'The new station has a state-of-the-art training room and will cost less to operate due to energy-efficient windows, lighting and HVAC system," Wild said. "The improvements to city buildings efficiently while also offering an aesthetic

look that

Wild

speaks to the professionalism of the department and the

growth of the city.' The location of the new station, north of the new city hall and west of Westland Shopping Center, is also an impor-

tant change. "Fire stations are strategically located to provide a high level of response to both fire and EMS emergencies while supporting other fire stations," Reddy said. "Studies show that the new location will provide greater coverage and reduce response times in primary and secondary response

areas. Named for late fire chief Ralph Savini, the 35701 Central City Park-

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that students have had much fun."

from the members of the there," as well as the

Wayne agrees to 90-day lease of closed school

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Wayne municipal offices are expected to temporarily move to the vacant Vandenberg School at the end of March.

The temporary move is needed so that the roof at City Hall can be repaired. A structural failure of its steel trusses was discovered nearly a year ago,

"We will move over there the last week of March. We hope to be up and running March 30, City Manager David Murphy said.

Closed since 2010 and slated for demolition, Vandenberg is located at 32101 Stellwagen. Origi-

nally, the lease was supposed to be for \$1. Instead, Wayne-Westland Schools asked that the city cover the \$7,678-permonth utilities costs, which the council approved.

"We rolled that into the lease. The repairs will take 30 to 60 days. We put 90 days in the lease," Murphy said.

The cost for replacing the roof is about \$350,000 and will largely be paid by the city's insurer, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. MMRMA will also pay for leasing the school and related costs for the move.

Located on Wayne Road just north of Michigan Avenue, Wayne City

Hall was constructed in the 1940s as a recreation building. The council chamber was part of a gymnasium/roller rink. The building was remodeled in 1988. The weight of the

record snowfall of the 2013-14 winter is believed to have contributed to the roof failure. Resident Ron Roberts

questioned why city hall wasn't temporarily moving into the Wayne Community Center. "There are too many renovations needed. The

school is laid out perfect for us," Murphy said. Resident Vern Amos commented that he would prefer having city hall move into the Wayne

Library and possibly

make the move permanent.

"You need to make city hall a visible building. If you move to the community center, you are outside the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) area, so you wouldn't be able to use DDA money," Amos said.
"The library is in the DDA area. You need to condense areas of city hall."

In recent years, there have been discussions about relocating city hall offices to various locations, including the community center and library.

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Livonia school board eyes selling five vacant sites

By Karen Smith Staff Writer

The Livonia school board will consider Monday hiring a consultant to market the first of five vacant properties over the next few years.

It will also consider offering limited Schools of Choice for generaleducation students again next school year after administrators said this year's pilot program proved success-

Both actions follow community budget forums held in January, where attendees said they'd prefer revenue enhancements over program cuts to keep the district out of deficit, according to Superintendent Randy Liepa. The district, which has a general fund budget this school year of \$146.5 million, expects to have just \$400,000 in fund equity by June 30.

The board will consider contracting with Bill Bowman of Great Northern Consulting Group to market the former Washington and Nankin Mills elementary school sites for approximately \$15,000 each. Topographical studies at about \$7,000

each will also need to be conducted.
"By and large, we discourage the sale of property, but we have a sig-nificant number of vacant parcels," Liepa said Wednesday at a committee

of the whole meeting. He said administrators have identified five they won't be needing in the future: the approximate 13-acre Washington site at Hix and Ann Arbor roads in Livonia; the approximate 7-acre site at Hubbard and Ann Arbor Trail in Westland, the 4.5-acre Perrinville School site on Ann Arbor Trail at Farmington Road in Westland; a 10-acre site across from the Western Wayne Skill Center in Westland; and another 10-acre parcel on Hicks Road south of Johnson Upper Elementary in Westland.

Perrinville was torn down in 2011, Washington in 2014 and demolition on Nankin Mills was started in December. The other sites never had schools on them, Liepa said. The historic one-room schoolhouse remaining on the Perrinville property is being moved to Greenmead His-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Demolition began on Nankin Mills School in December. The site is one of five properties the Livonia school board is considering selling over the next couple of years.

torical Park.

Liepa said real estate market conditions have improved recently. He said he will recommend putting the Washington and Nankin Mills sites on the market this year and the other sites on the market over the next couple of years.

From ease of development, highest and best use, Washington and Nankin Mills make sense right now,"

School board President Colleen Burton said members can look at the proposed use of the properties when

they review the proposals.
"We actually do have some input on that," she said, adding the board can decide if a proposal is a good fit for the community.

Trustee Mark Johnson noted the

board can reject any proposals:
"We're not bound by the Requests

for Proposals to sell the property.'

Schools of Choice

The board will also consider Monday offering 50 seats next school year to general-education Schools of Choice students: 20 in kindergarten, 10 each in first and second grades, and five each in third and fourth grades. This year, 60 seats in kindergarten through sixth grades were made available to general-education Schools of Choice students in a pilot

"We believe it was very successful," Liepa said, adding the students acclimated easily. "It's turning out to be a plus for our school system."

Liepa said the number 50, as opposed to 60, is being recommended by administrators for next school year, based on the projected need.

More seats - 20 next year, compared with 10 this year — will be made available in kindergarten. This year, the district had 30 applicants for the 10 kindergarten seats and not enough applicants to fill the five

available sixth-grade seats, he said. The district is offering the handful of third- and fourth-grade seats mainly to accommodate siblings of children in its academically talented programs, which are also open to Schools of Choice students, Liepa said. The district prefers to accept younger students over older stu-

Burton said there is difference between "open" and "limited" schools of choice. "I'm hoping the public understands this (program) is on a very limited basis.

May 5 vote

The board will also consider Monday adopting a resolution supporting the May 5 statewide ballot proposal that would, among other things, increase the state sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent, providing additional funding for roads and an additional \$300 million for schools, about \$200 per student.

Liepa said school districts have not received that much of an increase in the foundation allowance since before 2000. While it is "not a windfall" — the amount is about a 2.5-percent increase — he said it will help restore some of the lost funding in the past five years.

Trustee Dan Centers thanked Liepa for his leadership in drafting a resolution. "There's a lot of information on it and people are unsure about it," he said.

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STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Concordia University Ann Arbor officials released the Fall Honors List for the first semester of the 2014-2015 academic year. To be eligible for the honor, students must achieve a minimum 3.50 grade-point

Among the area students named to the list were: Westland residents Allison Guse, a senior studying Family Life Church Worker; **Jessica Klieber**, a junior studying Legal Studies Public Policy; and Martha Mullett, a freshman studying Biology.

Founded in 1963, Concordia University Ann Arbor is affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Brittney Roach of Wayne has been named to the Honors List for the fall se-mester at Mercy College of Ohio. To be named on the Honors List, a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher and be enrolled for 6-11 credit hours.

Roach is a senior, studying Medical

Jordan Daniel Thrun of Garden City, has been named to the President's List at the University of North Georgia for achieving a 4.0 grade-point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B.

Thrun is pursuing a bachelor of arts in degree in International Affairs.

Darren Hombirg of Wayne, a members of The Citadel South Carolina Corps of Cadets earned top honors in the fall 2014

Hombirg was named to the Dean's List recognition for carrying 12 or more semester hours and a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work.

Four Westland residents have been named to the Fall 2014 Academic Honors List at Spring Arbor University. The Academic Honors List recognizes full-time students who have received a grade-point average of 3.7 or higher for the semester. Part-time students must receive a 3.7 grade-point average for the semester and carry a cumulative 3.7 GPA.

Named to the list were:

» Tessa Diaz, the daughter of William Diaz and Bethann Delpiano of Westland. She is a sophomore, majoring in biology.

» Shelby Mitchell of Westland. She is a

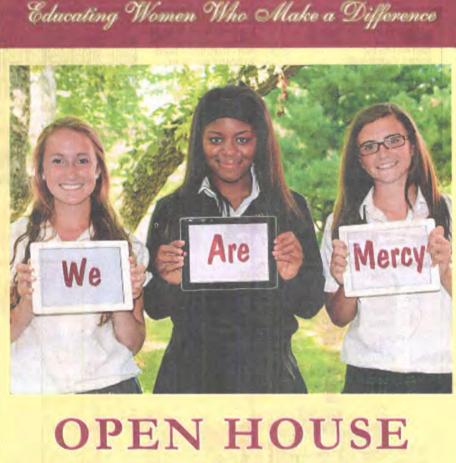
junior majoring in psychology

» Daniel Palka, the son of Walter and Deborah Palka of Westland. He is a freshman, majoring in accounting.

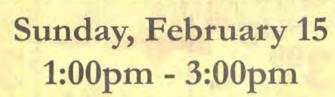
» Cecilia Said, the daughter of Joseph and Lisa Said of Westland. She is a freshman, majoring in psychology.

Tasha Gore of Westland received her bachelor of social work degree at Spring Arbor University's commencement exercises on Saturday, Nov. 22. Gore was a cum laude graduate.





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Colbeck: Not sure ref assault bill is answer

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

A proposed bill introduced in the Michigan Senate that would charge those who assault sports referees and coaches with a felony is something local state Sen. Patrick Colbeck isn't



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He is a long-standing

sure is the right answer. Colbeck, a Republican who represents Wayne, Canton, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township and Livonia, said the bill, introduced last month, may add addition-

al protections that he believes the state government should not add.

"It's dangerous to go off and take that approach," he said. "I think our laws are made for the equal benefit for everyone.'

The bill, Senate Bill 32, was introduced by Sen. Morris Hood, D-Detroit, in January and was placed in the judiciary committee, one Colbeck sits on in Lansing. If approved, it would make the assault or battering of a sports official, such as a referee or coach, a felony punishable by up to three years of imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Currently, assaulting a referee or other individual follows standard assault laws, which is a misdemeanor.

The bill comes after a referee, Westland resident John Bieniewicz, was allegedly assaulted last summer at Livonia's Mies Park by an adult soccer player in a match Bieniewicz was officiating. He later died from his injuries. The suspect in his death, 36-year-old Dearborn resident Bassel Saad, is set to go to trial on second-degree murder charges Feb. 23.

Colbeck, who recently began representing Livonia in the Senate after redistricting, said he doesn't believe a special class of protections should be added to certain professions and not others.

He said while his heart goes out to the family of those affected by crimes like this, he said penalties should be

"If you assault somebody, you should be associated with the penalties of assault," he said.

Ken Shingledecker, director of operations for the Livonia City Soccer Club, said he has not heard much about the bill since it was proposed, but having the discussion over the issue is important in this day and age.

'I would say any steps that people feel need to be taken to protect officials and coaches are good steps," he said. "It's obviously an important topic that needs to be talked about.'

Colbeck said the way to correct issues surrounding the treatment of sports officials and others should be something that should be done without having to be legislated.

People need to start pulling out the idea that we should be loving our neighbors as ourselves. We're not doing that anymore," he said. "You have to solve it with a change of heart."

The bill remains in committee.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com | 734-678-6728 | Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



SUBMITTED

Westland resident John Bieniewicz was reportedly assaulted last summer at Livonia's Mies Park by an adult soccer player in a match Bieniewicz was officiating. He later died from his injuries. The suspect in his death, 36-year-old Dearborn resident Bassel Saad, is set to go to trial on second-degree murder charges Feb. 23.

February Veteran of Month active member of Honor Guard



Richard A. Schmidt of Plymouth was honored as the February "Veteran of the Month" by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Schmidt served in the U.S. Marine Corps from September 1961 to January

Upon enlisting in Detroit, he was sent to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego for boot camp. He was then sent to Camp Pendleton for basic training and then to the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow, Calif., where he

was trained in supply logistics. In October of 1962, while at Barstow, he was put on stand-by alert as the Cu-

ban Crisis played out. In November of that year, he was

deployed to Okinawa — the central supply base for all for the Pacific Command and in particular, Vietnam. While in Okinawa he competed in the Far-Eastern Division Rifle Matches.

In June of 1964, he was sent back to the States and served out his time at the Marine Corps Supply Center in Albany, Ga. While there, he worked with civilians to create a catalog of parts with location codes and stock numbers to streamline the supply operation.

Schmidt is a long-standing member of American Legion Post 32 and has been a member of the Post "Honor/ Color Guard" for 24 years. During his

time with the Honor Guard, they competed in many state and national competitions. They won the state competition six times and narrowly missed the national competition by seven-tenths of a point and a second time by five points. Last year they served in more than 70 local events.

The Honor Guard focuses on military-related services, normally inclusive of flag folding and presentation, a 21-gun salute, and Taps to honor those who have served. The Color Guard's "duties" focus on community-related activities such as the flag dedication at Willow Run Airport. They also visit senior citizen homes where veterans

He was the guest speaker at the SAL meeting on Feb. 3 and shared his experiences in the Marine Corps. His talk was followed by a standing ovation from all attending to show their appreciation for his service to the country and to the American Legion.

Schmidt was presented a plaque containing his picture and service information and an additional plaque was put on display in the entrance hall of the Post 32 for all to see.

The SAL invites local residents to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150.



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Saturday, February 14 • 9:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. Risen Christ Lutheran Church 46250 Ann Arbor Road · Plymouth, MI 48170

1200 S. Canton Center Road · Canton, MI 48188

Tuesday, February 17 . 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Canton Public Library

Please call 734-455-9272 or email huronvalleygroup@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. Light refreshments will be served.

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27623C R3-14



Anna LeBelle straightens the binders at the Schoolcraft Book Store, where she works via the Livonia Transition Program.

LPS students with disabilities land jobs at Schoolcraft College

A particular group of students can be found on

the campus of Schoolcraft College in Livonia

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These students are learning how to be model employees and contributors to the college, through the Livonia Public Schools' Livonia Transition Program, or LTP.

Created four years ago by Jennifer Taiariol, administrator of student services at Livonia Public Schools, the LTP program is designed for adult students who have varying types of disabilities. Students spend half of their day in a classroom setting at the Western Wayne Skill Center and the other half working in real jobs at the numerous job sites

that have partnered with the program.

On the job, the students are gaining confidence while showing their strong work ethics and positive attitudes.

At Schoolcraft College, that type of combination is not only welcomed, it is contagious, according to Glenn Cerny, vice president and

CFO at Schoolcraft.

"These kids bring a joy and a different type of attitude that develops more energy for our staff," Cerny said.

"That's exactly what Jennifer and I were thinking of when we started this."

See STUDENTS, Page A7



Aaron Rutkowske folds towels in the Fitness Center at Schoolcraft College.



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STUDENTS

Continued from Page A6

The partnership blossomed after the idea was sparked by Cerny's wife, Leslie, a speech pathologist at Churchill High School in Livonia.

'We have a lot of opportunities on campus, so we reached out," he

Now, there are eight LTP students who work in various jobs on the campus each day. They perform duties that include office work, digitizing files, and custodial book store operations and one student keeps the Schoolcraft Fitness Center looking great.

"This (program) is a resource that hasn't been tapped. We are getting a huge benefit," Cerny

The students have proven themselves to be dependable and selfdirected. Their supervisors are thrilled to have them on the team.

"Anna has been a delight," said Joe Holzman, who supervises Anna LaBelle at the Schoolcraft Book Store. "She has a great attitude, she helps everybody and she's always looking for work. She's a smiling face that lifts people's

Aaron Rutkowske works in the Fitness Center, where he keeps the towels laundered and the windows sparking clean. Jennifer Cook, his supervisor, said "it's comforting" to have Aaron there.

"He brings a lot of smiles and comfort," she said, adding that the clean towels for the members are also very

appreciated. Becky Harrison and Donna McCollister supervise two LTP students in the custodial area. They're enjoying teaching Bailey Fox and Raffi Markarian the various jobs they have in five buildings on cam-

"They're a lot of fun,"



Back ry, from left: Raffi Markarian and Brian Derus; front row, from left: Bailey Fox, Anna LaBelle and Aaron Rutkowske.

"Whope that wha students exitthey're secring cometitive emloyment,"

BETHANTER, Livonia Transiin Program specialist

Harron said. "Once theyick up on (a task), they now it. Just like anybdy else, it's getting to krw their abilities. Wtching them grow

their skills has been rewarding for Harrison and McCollister.

"When they first came, they couldn't tie a bag," said McCollister, noting that now they're doing windows, cleaning and stocking bathrooms and moving from place to place, in a pair, without a supervisor.

"I enjoy seeing them go from where they were, when they first came here, to where they are now," Harrison

Kim Fortner, an LTP teacher, said it's important that the students are taking the life skills they're learning in the classroom and applying them to their jobs.

"We talk a lot about (life skills) in the classroom, but they're actually doing it out in the community," she said.
The point of the Livo-

nia Transition Program is the "transition" piece.

"We hope that when students exit, they're securing competitive employment," said Beth Santer, LTP program specialist. "The nice thing about Schoolcraft is that it gives them the option to work among their age peers. And, there is a wide variety of job sites on campus.'

The LTP staff is very pleased with this new partnership with School-

"It's going very, very well," Santer said. "They are absolutely phenomenal with our students."

Other job sites for the 35 students who are enrolled in the Livonia Transition Program are Angel Gardens, Biggby Coffee, Webster Elementary, Coolidge Elementary, Western Wayne Skill Center, Perrinville Early Childhood, Cintas Laundry Service, Adat Shalom, Family Video, Emerson Middle School, YMCA and DAV thrift

The program has

blossomed since starting four years ago.

"Every year, we add more job sites," Santer said. "We try to match up students with job sites that are in their interest area and within their skills.

One exchange between Anna in the book store and her supervisor,

'We love having you here," said Joe Holzman

to Anna LaBelle. 'Thank you. I love working here," Anna replied, with a smile.

For more information on the Livonia Transition Program, visit livoniapublicschools.org and click on Programs.

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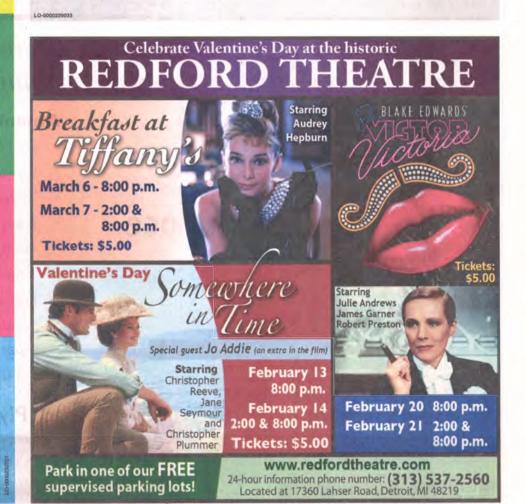
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Hearing delayed in Westland womar's death

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Due to evidence inadvertently not provided to defense attorneys, a preliminary examination for two men charged in the fatal beating of a Westland woman has been delayed two weeks.

Terrence Johnson, 44, is charged with one count of first-degree murder in

the death of Diedra Akins, 46, who was his live-in girlfriend. Randy Batts, 30, is also charged

Akins

with firstdegree murder as well as second-degree murder. Both Johnson and Batts, who are Westland residents, are being held without bond.

The hearing began Thursday in Westland



Hurston-Herron



Bashlor

18th District Court with

testimony from Dearborn

Heights Police Sgt. Brian

Mitchell, who was called

to Powers near John Daly

lying the street early Jan.

"The body was naked.

There was a nightgown or

a blanket over her head,"

Mitchell said. "The fire

department was there. I

Police crime lab.

name Akins.

suffering from blunt

called the Michigan State

trauma, was identified by

her fingerprints as Die-

recently was using the

dra Crawford, who most

Once Akins was identi-

The victim, reportedly

after a body was found

Batts



Johnson



fied, Mitchell said he went to her last known address on Grand Traverse in Norwayne. Johnson was leaving the home when he arrived, Mitchell said.

"We didn't have a next of kin. They (Akin and Johnson) were supposed to be dating," Mitchell said. "I noticed he had a fresh scratch on his face. He said the cat had scratched him the prior day.

Johnson agreed to come to the Dearborn Heights Police Department to talk with officers, Mitchell said, and was given a ride after saying he didn't have transporta-

"He (Johnson) said that they were still dating. He thought she might be at the hospital; she would do that," Mitchell said. "He had her identification and insurance card in his pocket. He had no explanation for that.'

Westland Police then called and were interested in talking with Johnson. Police believe Akins was killed at the home on Grand Traverse.

When the next witness was called, defense attorneys Wyatt Harris and Mark Magidson said they had not received a copy of the witness's written statement given to police. There was a break to

allow the defense attorneys to review that statement. But then it was found the defense attorneys had also not received a CD of an interview.

"There are 15 CDs in the packet. I thought they had all been proided to the defense," lyne County Assista Prosecutor Brian Scerer said, apologizing forhe oversight.

McConnell asn't happy with theituation, including Magson being 90 minutes lateor the hearing. The pliminary examination w adjourned until Fo. 19.

Two other Wstland men, Michael Ishlor, 34, and Joshua Huton-Herron, 23, areharged with being acceories after the fact. le charges are tha Bashlor and Hurston-Hron helped disposekins' body.

Both Bashloand Hurston-Herron weed their preliminary exnination and were scheded for Wayne County rcuit Court arraignmt on Feb. 12.

A \$250,000 bid was set for Bashlorid Hurston-Herron, w remain jailed.

Representing Hurston-Herron, defense attorney William Winters sought a bond reduction for his client. He noted that the mother of his child was in the courtroom and that he was a long-time metro Detroit area resident.

"I would ask for a bond reduction. This young man got himself involved in a serious situation," Winters said. "I think you (McConnell) know him. He has no non-appear-

Holding up a stack of criminal case files, McConnell said, "He has three non-appearances in the first file.

"I'll go no further," responded Winters, requesting that Hurston-Herron be referred to the pre-trial defendant screening unit.

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

Poll numbers show slight edge for Michigan sale tax hike

By Paul Egan Michigan.com

LANSING - A plurality of likely Michigan voters would approve a onecent increase in the state sales tax that will appear on the May 5 ballot. But the more voters hear about the complex proposal, the less they like it, according to a recent

The EPIC-MRA poll of 600 likely voters found that 46 percent would vote "yes" on the proposal, which among other changes would raise \$1.2 billion to fix roads and \$300 million to support K-12 schools. Meanwhile, 41 percent would vote

But after hearing details of the complex plan, the results get flipped, with only 38 percent saying they would vote "yes" and 47 percent saying they would vote "no." The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent-

age points. Many experts say ballot proposals should start with support close to 60 percent to have a

good shot at passing.

The poll numbers were coupled with two other developments that don't bode well for the plan pushed by Gov. Rick Snyder and a range of interest groups: The decision to pull out of the project by the team of consultants selected to sell the plan and an economist's report that said changes to vehicle registration fees could cost Michigan taxpavers an extra \$102 million on their federal tax returns because they would no longer be tax-deductible if the proposal is approved.

EPIC-MRA President Bernie Porn said in a memo accompanying the poll numbers that with less than 50 percent of those polled saying they will vote "yes," Snyder and other supporters of the proposal "will have an uphill battle finding a compelling message to convince a majority of Michigan voters to vote 'yes' on May 5.

He noted that the 46-41 percent edge for a "yes" vote was extrapolated by including both



FILE PHOTO

A city crew patches potholes in Southfield. A proposal to increase Michigan's sales tairom 6 percent to 7 percent to raise money for road repairs will appear on the May ballot.

those who were definite about how they would vote and those who were leaning one way or the other. When only those who were definite about how they would vote were included, the proposal is supported by just 33 percent and opposed by 35 percent,

Porn said. Snyder said that he's not discouraged by the numbers. "It's early," and "polls are polls," he told reporters after a luncheon speech in Lansing.

"This is something important that I believe

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we will get passed in May," he added.

The details EPIC-MRA gave respondents included the hike in the sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent, additional money for roads and transit, \$300 million extra for schools and \$95 million for local government, and the removal of the sales tax from fuel sales.

But the details EPIC-MRA provided poll respondents differed sharply from the proposed ballot language approved by the Legislature. For example, respondents were told of higher vehicle registration fees, an estimated a 3-cents-per-gallon hike in the price of fuel, and full restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families.

None of those details is included in the proposed ballot language. The proposed ballot language says a "yes" vote would raise additional money for transportation and schools but doesn't provide specific num-

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE

Snyder said th proposal is mostly abut "having safe roat and bridges in Michian" and it's "scary" for mtorists to drive beneath verpasses and risk filing concrete or face ptentially damaging ptholes.

In another devlopment related to th ballot proposal, a team ld by Lansing public reitions firm Truscott Rosman. which was going I sell the sales tax hike voters, pulled outove differences with Snyer's office over how tapproach the task, Tiscot Rossman Presider Johr

Truscott said. The team that vithdrew also includewetean campaign manger Howard Edelson, pllster the Glengariff Grap and advertising spcial ist Joe Slade Whit& Co., Truscott said.

"The ballot propsalis very winnable," Tiscat said. "The front ofice wanted a slightly dfeent approach" thathe team of consultant die, he said.

Taking over theffort

are Lansing consultants Martin Waymire and WWP Strategies.

Roger Martin, a partner in Martin Waymire, said the May ballot initiative will be the 11th he has worked on, and "I believe that once people understand why this is needed to restore and improve the safety of Michigan's roads, they will vote 'yes.' '

Snyder said the change in the consulting team is "just part of the normal process." He also downplayed a report issued by East Lansing consultant Patrick Anderson that said one effect of the road package, if it passes, is that the cost of vehicle registration fees will no longer be deductible on personal federal income tax returns.

"I'm not taking his conclusion as certain," Snyder said. "That's one economist's opinion," and if Anderson turns out to be correct, the issue can easily be addressed. This is not a big thing that people should dwell

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TOYS \$50 & UNDER

ALIX Manue (Doin)

Survivor of Human Trafficking If you don't think human trafficking happens in your zip code, think again.

Survivor and author of "The Slave Across the Street", Theresa Flores shares her story of being a sex slave while a typical high school student in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. Drugged, raped,



and tortured at 15, she was trafficked for 2 years to men in their 20's and 30's, all unbeknownst to her family. Now this victims' advocate is speaking out on the reality of human trafficking in the U.S.

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EXERCISING JUDGEMENT

Common sense says that if a person starts jogging and a knee begins to hurt, stop jogging. This admonition may be sound advice if one is young and otherwise healthy. This advice may not be in a person's best interest who is old and not in good condition.

If one is older, and for this discussion, older would mean over age 50, it is best to find out why the knee hurts, correct the problem and return to jogging. The best medicine a person can take is regular exercise; nothing substitutes for it. Fulfilling this requirement becomes imperative in a Michigan winter.

Now the days provide little sun and no warmth; the incentive each morning is to stay home as long as possible. The elderly, people over age 70, often have the opportunity to remain home all day. Physicians will tell their patients don't take that option.

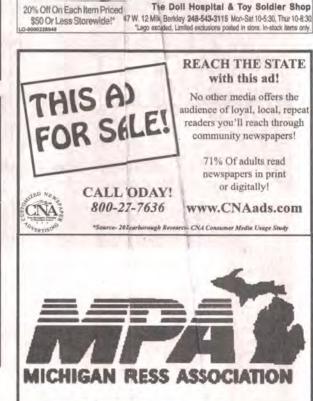
Staying home leads to hardly moving. Going from living room to kitchen to bathroom back to living room to watch television, then later to the front door to pick up the newspaper at the doorstep, is not exercise. To bones, joints and muscles such movement is hardly more than hibernation. The body needs activity, the brain requires stimulation, and the heart wants contact with others. To accomplish these ends requires movement.

In turn, movement depends on the elderly person exercising judgment. Each person has his or her set of circumstances: is with a partner or lives alone, has macular degeneration or remains able to drive, has recurrent heart failure or is in general good health. Individuals must pick their way so that despite their liabilities or with the assets they possess, they find a way to satisfy the needs of body,





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DIA offers free bus ride from Canton, Redford for Wayne County Day

The Detroit Institute of Arts is providing free bus transportation to and from the museum Saturday, Feb. 28, for Wayne County residents as part of its "County Days," which provides this service four times per year for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Visitors can browse the collection, see the DIA's "guest of honor," Rembrandt's Self Portrait with Shaded Eyes, on loan from the Leiden Collection, New York, and make their own work of art in the DIA



On display in the Detroit Institute of Art's African American Collection, is "Quilting Time" by Romare Bearden.

Studio.

Three free exhibitions are on view: Ordinary

People by Extraordinary Artists: Works on Paper by Degas, Renoir and Friends; Photographs from the Detroit Walk-in Portrait Studio by Corine Vermeulen and Make a Joyful Noise: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral.

Shopping and eating are always part of a fun day and the DIA has plenty of both. Café DIA offers entrees, a deckedout salad bar, grill station, sandwiches and desserts. Kresge Court diners can enjoy gourmet snacks, sandwiches, salads and desserts. Both

restaurants offer a variety of beverages, including Starbucks coffee, beer and wine. The museum shop carries a selection of art-related items, many of which cannot be found in other area stores.

Parking is available at each departure location. Round-trip transportation and admission are free, but reservations are required. To reserve a spot, call 313-833-4005 or go to tickets.dia.org.

The western Wayne County locations and schedule are:

» Northville Commu-

ton Center Road. The Monet Bus leaves the library at 9:30 a.m. and leaves the DIA at 2 p.m. Capitol St., Redford. The

Picasso Bus leaves the park at10 a.m. and leaves the DIA at 2:30 p.m. The DIA is open 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission (excludes ticketed exhibitions) is free for Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county residents and DIA members. For all others, admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors ages 62 and older and \$4 for ages

The Detroit Institute of Arts is at 5200 Woodward, Ave., Detroit. For more information, call 313-833-7900 or go to www.dia.org.

6-17. For membership

information, call 313-833-

BBB has advice on what to do when identity is compromised

Tens of millions of Americans could be victims of the latest corporate data breach, this one at Anthem Insurance. Unknown hackers apparently stole personal identifying information (PII) from current and former Anthem customers, including names, addresses, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and other information that can be used for identity

theft. Anthem has set up a separate website with information on the breach, but the Better Business Bureau recommends that consumers always go to a company's main website first and follow links from there. Scammers often take advantage of data breaches and subsequent confusion to set up spoof websites and send phishing emails.

BBB offers the following suggestions for consumers concerned that their PII has been stolen (also available at bbb.org/breach):

» Do not take a "waitand-see" approach as you may have done with

act quickly. Breaches involving Social Security numbers have the potential to be far more detrimental to victims, and the damage can be difficult to repair.

» Consider taking a preemptive strike by freezing your credit reports. This will not impact existing credit cards and financial accounts, but will create a roadblock for thieves seeking to create fraudulent accounts using your personal information.

» At a minimum, if you know your Social Security number has been compromised, place a fraud alert on your credit reports. While less effective than a freeze, this will provide an extra layer of protection.

» Take advantage of the free credit monitoring services Anthem will be offering to breach victims. While this is not a preventative measure, this will alert you to new accounts or inquiries using your Social Security number so that you can act quickly to repair the damage.

» Vigilance is key.

alcreditreport.com for unauthorized charges or other signs of fraud. (Note: This is the only free credit report option authorized by the Federal Trade Commission.)

» For more information and complete stepby-step guidance on repairing the damage caused by identity theft, visit the FTC's identity theft resources.

» Expect that scammers will take advantage of this data breach to send out phishing emails and other messages that appear to be from Anthem, a credit bureau or other legitimate companies. Do not click on links from any email, text or social media messages about this or any other data breach.

For all businesses that collect customer information:

» Make sure you protect your customers' data. If a data breach can happen to a major corporation with significant data security measures in place, it can happen to any business.

» Check out BBB's updated online guide Data Security - Made Simpler for free information on how to create

Get One Lunch

a data security plan. According to its BBB Business Review, Anthem Inc. also operates as Wellpoint Inc., Anthem Blue Cross & Blue

Shield and Administar Federal, Inc. However, not all Blue Cross & Blue Shield companies are part of the Anthem network. If you aren't sure

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» Canton Public Li-

brary (park on west side

» Handy Park, 26650

of library), 1200 S. Can-

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Michigan native produces Hollywood film about bullying

By Jay Grossman Staff Writer

Jordan Roberts, who entertained local listening audiences for years with her celebrity voices on the Dick Purtan Morning Radio Show, is the executive producer behind a powerful film about bullying called White

Her production company, Filmanthropic, and Breaking Glass Pictures are hosting special screenings and anti-bullying fundraisers across the country. The first screening on the nationwide tour kicks off Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Emagine Theaters in Royal Oak.

"I'm glad to bring this to my hometown," the Bloomfield Hills native said Wednesday in a phone interview from her home in California. "I really wanted to produce this film because I was constantly bullied in school and it was the unhappiest time of my life."

Roberts started her career by doing spot-on celebrity impressions in comedy bits with Purtan that were based on actual news events. Fan favorites were Kathie Lee Gifford, Bette Midler, Barbra Streisand,

Whoopi Goldberg and Madonna. She and her producing partner, Barbara Lazaroff, recently launched Filmanthropic as a vehicle to create socially conscious mainstream movies and television programming.

"Our company isn't just about doing socially-conscious films," she said. "Every movie we make, we will generate increased awareness and funds for its cause.'

In White Rabbit, the devastating effects of teen bullying are brought out through the story of a picked-on student who contemplates shooting up his school. It features Hollywood stars Nick Krause (Boyhood, The Descendants), Britt Robertson (To-morrowland, Cake) and Sam Trammell (True Blood). Roberts believes the audience will be surprised by the movie's message.

"It leaves you feeling hopeful, like you can do something," she said. "It's not glorifying a high school shooting it's trying to prevent it.

The Lahser High School graduate grew up in Michigan before moving to St. Louis in sixth grade because of her dad's job. Over the next several years, she found herself constantly being bullied by classmates.

"I went from having a lot of

DETAILS

Jordan Roberts

had friends again.

What: "White Rabbit" sneak preview and bullying prevention fundraiser hosted by Jordan Roberts. When: Thursday, Feb. 12.

Schedule: 5:30 p.m.: VIP reception hosted by Filmanthropic. Tickets are \$100; 7 p.m.: Movie screening presented by Fuel Leadership Performance; 8:45 p.m.: "White Rabbit" release party sponsored by Emagine Entertainment. Where: Emagine Royal Oak, 200 N. Main St.

Tickets: Available at the door; general admission, \$10; benefactor admission, \$25. To pre-purchase 10-plus tickets or to inquire about sponsorship, please contact the Variety the Children's Charity office at 248-258-5511.

friends in school, to moving to a new

area and having no friends and being

afraid of going to school," she said.

"Then we moved back to Michigan

and it was like magic - suddenly I

with the environment," she added.

affected my self-esteem. When

on a limited budget of around

children's charities.

'In my case, a lot of it had to do

"The circumstances changed for me.

I was one of the luckier ones. I've had

a great life. But there's no question it

you're being bullied in school, you're

constantly in fear - fight or flight, I

always wonder what kind of grades I

would have gotten if I wasn't bullied."

\$900,000. Filmanthropic's goal is to

raise \$1 million for anti-bullying and

"I'm bringing the movie to my

The movie was filmed in Louisiana



"White Rabbit" is a story about a high school shooter in the making and the consequences of teen bullying.

hometown to raise money for Variety the Children's Charity and Peace Now," she said. "I want to help prevent bullying - that's what is driving all of this — and I'm doing this in at least 10 cities this year."

Leigh Steinberg, the celebrity sports agent who inspired the movie Jerry Maguire, will be speaking at the Los Angeles fundraiser of White Rabbit. Steinberg believes high school athletes can play a key role in reduc-

ing teen bullying.
"Bullying at every level of education is a scourge which steals selfidentify from the victim, often for life," he wrote in an email message Wednesday. "Athletes sit at the pyramid of the social matrix in high school and have the ability to combat this problem by role modeling. I have pushed for coaches and athletes to take the lead in combating bullying."

Roberts said she is using her experiences of being bullied to become a champion for kids who are facing their own tormentors.

"I'm so proud, not only of this beautiful film and its brilliant performances; I'm proud of the life I have now," she said. "So much love, so many friends. Healthy parents. So much gratitude."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com | 586-826-7030 | Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Stevenson to celebrate 20 years of Japanese instruction

Stevenson High School will celebrate 20 years of Japanese Language Learning in Livonia with a reception March 31. Former Livonia Japanese language

students are invited to attend. Stevenson's Japanese Program maintains a small but strong presence. Its students' successes have been recognized at the state level with multiple first- and second-place trophies at the Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl, secondplace wins at the Japanese Language Speech Contest, and first- and secondplace wins in the Nengajo (New Year's

Card) Contest. Second-year students have also received national recognition with sixthand 10th-place wins at the National Japan Bowl. Many of the Japanese language students continue to follow their love of Japanese language and culture beyond high school.

Stevenson High School will host a reception from 3-4:30 p.m. March 31 to celebrate 20 Years of Language Learning in Livonia. Speeches and performances will start at 3 p.m. with refreshments to follow. Former Livonia Japanese language students should RSVP to Melisia Taylor at mtaylor@livonia publicschools.org by March 24.

EMU-Livonia to host graduate open house

Eastern Michigan University-Livonia will host a free open house 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, for prospective graduate students interested in business, public administration or educational leadership.

Sessions are at 5:15 p.m. for educational leadership; 5:45 p.m. for business administration; and at 6:15 p.m. for public administration. The \$45 application fee will be waived for attendees who complete their application during the open house.

EMU-Livonia is at 38777 Six Mile Road, just west of I-275. Advisers will be available on site for business administration, public administration and educational leadership.

emich.edu/masterleadership, call 877-

818-4368 or email livonia@emich.edu.

To RSVP, go to https://extendedemich.hobson sradius.com/crm/forms/z KG03GG08670x6700pM4 For more information, visit





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Vinyl big part of The Park record show

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Vinyl record collectors, whether reliving Bruce Springsteen-inspired glory days or embracing Daft Punk's electronic futurism, can likely find a turntable treat simply by visiting a Plymouth-Canton school.

Despite the decline of old-school music stores, vinyl's resurgence has made a record show by student radio station WSDP-FM (88.1), The Park, one of the hippest places for area music collectors to find the right groove.

Like a revived classic, The Park's seventh annual record fair returns 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, to the Salem High School cafeteria, where collectors can find thousands of vinyl records, CDs, import-only re-leases, T-shirts, posters and other collectibles.

"I would say probably most of the music is vinyl," said station manager Bill Keith, a Salem grad who earned a telecommunications degree from Michigan State University and worked for a country radio station before returning 24 years ago to The Park.

about vinyl's comeback. "Vinyl has a warmer sound to it," he said, and the packaging gives musicians more room for artwork, lyrics and credits. "It's a bigger palette for the artist to work on."

Keith has a theory

The Park, a Plymouth-Canton student radio station since 1972, raised

about \$2,000 last year from its record fair. Potential vendors, who pay \$30 to reserve an eightfoot table to display their collections, may call Keith at 734-416-7732.

As many as 50 vendors are expected; WSDP has its own space, too.

Patrons pay just \$3 for admission, though collectors can pay \$5 to start shopping an hour earlier at 9 a.m. among music genres such as classic rock, hip hop, electronic, country and indie rock. Students from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools get in free with their student identifica-

Annie Wellman, a 12thgrader and station program director, said she has bought a KISS action figure, vinyl records of The Sound of Music and a Christmas soundtrack by Alvin and the Chipmunks and old VHS movies.

Power of vinyl

Tori Brown, a 12thgrader and station promotions manager, said she enjoys the camaraderie among music lovers who gather in one spot to buy, sell and talk music, regardless of their favorite genre. Shoppers looking for vinyl range from teens to baby boomers.

"You can see this community of people," said Brown, who cited punk rock as among her favorite genres.

Caitlin Flora, an 11thgrader and WSDP music director who enjoys punk and alternative rock, agreed, saying she enjoys seeing "how music brings people together."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Annie Wellman (from left), Tori Brown and Caitlin Flora are part of WSDP-FM (88.1) The Park.

The record fair is only one of the Park's fundraisers. The station also has a May auction and a fall pledge drive, altogether raising about \$30,000 a year.

The Park has drawn its share of accolades. It was named the state's best high school radio station last year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. It also was a finalist in 2014 for the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Best Non-Commercial Station — the only high

school station nominated. The Park has adapted

to change to widen its reach. It moved to an adult Top 40 format in 2012, leaving behind indie and alternative rock. Just recently, it increased from a 200-watt station to 300 watts with a new transmitter, reaching a broader area.

After 43 years on the air, it seems, The Park, like vinyl albums, is a survivor.

For more on the station, go to www.881The-Park.com.

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER WSDP station manager Bill Keith talks about the record fair.

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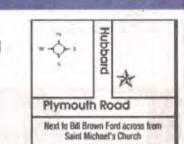
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Join Arbor Day Foundation in February, receive free trees

Joining the Arbor Day Foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting. Anyone from Michigan who joins the Foundation in February 2015 will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America

"The blue-green hue and distinctive shape of Colorado blue spruce trees will help beautify Michigan for many years to come," said Matt Har-ris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees will also add to the proud heritage of Michigan's existing Tree City USA communities."

The Tree City USA program has supported community forestry throughout the country for more than 35 years.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of

Members also receive a subscrip-



ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION Join the Arbor Day Foundation in February and receive 10 free blue spruce trees.

tion to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which contains information about planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28, 2015, or visit arborday.org/february.





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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Location: Westland Free Methodist Preschool, 1421 S. Venoy, Westland.

Details: The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is enrolling for classes for 3- and 4-year-old children. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee, a \$25 value. This tuition-based, Christian preschool offers a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and includes all basic preschool academic skills along with a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.

Contact: 734-728-3559; wfmpreschool@yahoo.com. LIVONIA NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road,

Details: Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club in Livonia, welcomes a chef from Williams-Sonoma, who will demonstrate how to add more vegetables to meals, by transforming firm vegetables such as carrots, cucumbers and zucchini into thin "angel hair" strands, spiral cuts and ribbon "noodles." New members are always welcome. Livonia Neighbors and Friends is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May. Special activity groups continue to meet year-round. Contact: http://livonia neighborsandfriends.tripod.com

3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Time/date: 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Location: Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road,

Details: See great 3D images, and learn how to make your own 3D pictures. Meetings include a 3D program, refreshment break, and a competition among members. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to rent. The Feb. 11 meet-

ing will feature 3D images from stereo clubs around the world. Also, members can win free photo items in a "Freebie" drawing. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always

Contact: www.Detroit3D.org; Dennis at 248-398-3591. ST. MARY MERCY

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/date: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

Location: St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: In partnership with the American Red Cross, St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold a blood drive in the North Auditorium of the hospital. The public is invited to join St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees and volunteers in donating blood at the event. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred. Contact: 800-GIVE-LIFE; red-

crossblood.org. LIVONIA SYMPHONY **MARDI GRAS EVENT**

Time/date: 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: The evening will feature dinner and the jazz sounds of the Livonia Symphony Jazz Quintet under the direction of Assistant Conductor Carl Karoub. Enjoy the festivities of a traditional New Orleans-style Mardi Gras. Tickets are limited. Cost is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Tickets may be obtained at www.livoniasymhony.org or by mail to Livonia Symphony Mardi Gras, 37637 Five Mile Road, PMB #398, Livonia MI 48154

DAR MEETING

Time/date: noon Saturday, Feb.

Location: Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Details: Beth Garner will speak on "For the Fun of It: The History of American Children" during the meeting of the John Sackett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

DESTINATION GRADUATION

Time/date: 5:30-8:3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Location: Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia Details: Don't feel like cooking dinner? Join a fun evening, open house style for a delicious sampling of food and desserts from local restaurants, caterers

and bakeries. All proceeds go

toward Franklin's Senior All Night Party. All local schools welcome

Contact: Sharon Culbertson at 734-261-3264 or at rsculbert263@gmail.com.

MOTHER HUBBARD PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

Location: Mother Hubbard Preschool, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Interested families are invited to an open house. Openings available for 3- and 3-year-old students for the 2015-16 school year.

Contact: motherhubbard nurseryschool.com; stacyjolly@gmail.com.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY SHOW

Time/date: 1:59 p.m. and 7:29 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Road,

Livonia

Details: The Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus present their 76th annual Parade of Harmony America Sings! featuring the 2008 international champs, O.C. Times, and Backbeat of Northville High School. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door

Contact: 248-559-7082; songsters.tix@hotmail.com.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday,

Location: Academic Pathways. 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Details: See what a cooperative preschool has to offer. Potty training is not required. Programs for ages 3 and 4. Contact: 734-261-9540; www.a-

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

Time/date: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Location: Civic Center Library,

cademicpathwayspreschool-

32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Details: Get pertinent information on getting back into short sale or foreclosure. New

the market after a bankruptcy, programs available for first-time home buyers and conventional loans with 3-percent down and no PMI. Sponsored by Keller Williams Realtors. Call Sheila Roma at 248-760-6785 or Debbi McLaughlin at 248-561-0077 by Feb. 19 to reserve a spot.



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SECTION B (WGRL)

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SPORTS

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PREP SWIMMING

Spartans split KLAA Central meets

Stevenson takes down South Lyon, falls to Novi

By Ed Wright

Late-meet drama wasn't a dominant ingredient during the Livonia Stevenson boys swimming-and-diving team's pair of recent KLAA Central Division contests.

On Thursday, the Spartans dropped a 108-78 decision to mighty Novi. One week earlier, Stevenson thrashed visiting South Lyon 107-79.

Stevenson bolted off the blocks against the Wildcats as its 200-yard medley relay con-

tingent of Adam Goeddeke, Brian Smith, Parker Wasielewski and Jackson O'Dowd pieced together a time of 1 minute, 45.68 seconds to edge Novi by a half-second.

After the Spartans' Alex Lee and Eric Ferrara went 2-3 in the ensuing 200 freestyle relay race, the hosts earned seven points in the 200 individual medley thanks to the brother combination of Matthew La-Porte (first place, six points) and Benjamin LaPorte (fifth place, one point).

O'Dowd captured the 50 free in 21.27 seconds, but Novi swept the 1-meter diving com-

See SPARTANS, Page B4



Stevenson's Eric Ferrara placed third in both the 100- and 200-yard freestyle events Thursday against Novi.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

CHARGING 'FOUR'WARD

Livonia Churchill gridiron standouts announce next-level destinations

By Ed Wright

The resounding success Livonia Churchill's football program experienced the past few years was reflected in the size of the crowd in room 22A of the high school during Wednesday morning's "National Signing Day" ceremony.

With a large contingent that included family, friends, coaches and Churchill athletic director Marc Hage looking on, senior gridiron (and classroom) standouts Matt Skibinski, Brian Alsobrooks, Nick Davis and Tim Dulin officially signed letters of intent to play at the next level.

Skibinski, a 6-foot-5, 290on to play for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; Also-brooks, one of the state's top kickers and a highly regarded quarterback, officially com-mitted to Eastern Michigan University; Davis, a bull-doz-ing 6-3, 290-pound offensive guard, agreed to continue his career at Wayne State University; and Dulin, a 6-4, 185pound wide receiver, documented his commitment to the University of North Dakota University.



Livonia Churchill senior football players (from left) Matt Skibinski (Miami University of Ohio), Brian Alsobrooks (Eastern Michigan University), Nick Davis (Wayne State University) and Tim Dulin (University of North Dakota) committed to play for their respective universities by signing letters of intent during Wednesday's "National Signing Day" ceremony at Churchill.

"I'd like to thank all of these athletes for the pride and honor they've brought to Churchill High School the past four years," Hage said, moments before the players gripped their pens. "All of these athletes are exemplary football players, but they're even better citizens. They're

respectful, nice people."
Churchill head football
coach Bill DeFillippo echoed Hage's praise of the four sig-

"You're fortunate as a foot-

ball coach if you have one of your athletes move on to play at the next level, so to have four shows what a special year this has been," DeFillippo said. "I want to thank you guys for the dedication, commitment and leadership you've shown the past four years. You were easy to coach, fun to coach and I am going to miss you all."

All four signees played instrumental roles in the Chargers' 8-3 season that saw them average nearly a point a min-

Imposing figure

A post-freshman year growth spurt propelled Skibinski into the college football recruiting limelight.

'I was a skinny 170 pounds my freshman season, so one of our coaches put me on a diet plan and a new weight-lifting routine," Skibinski said.

What did his new diet consist of?

See CHURCHILL, Page B4

COLLEGIATE SIGNINGS

Blazers ready to burn it up at the next level

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

A trio of Livonia Ladywood athletes who shine brightest in the spring added some sunshine to Wednesday morning's dreary, gray weather when they inked letters of intent to play their respective sports at the next level.

As part of a "National Signing Day" ceremony at Lady-wood, Blazer soccer standouts Samantha Riga and Andrea Kwasniewicz officially committed to play for Grand Val-ley State University and

Northwood University, respectively, while softball slugger Morgan Larkin agreed to continue her diamond career at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

A resident of Plymouth, Riga is a dynamic offensive player who netted 20-plus goals for the Blazers in 2014. She chose defending Division 2 national champion Grand Valley over other interested programs that included Michigan State University, Albion and the Miami University (Ohio).

See BLAZERS, Page B2



Pictured (from left) are Livonia Ladywood seniors Samantha Riga, Morgan Larkin and Andrea Kwasniewicz, all of whom signed letters of intent during Wednesday's "National Signing Day" ceremony.

Coach needed

The Livonia Ladywood track and field team is seeking an assistant coach, who will be responsible for mentoring sprinters and hurdlers.

Interested individuals are encouraged to send an email to Lady-wood head track coach Dennis Murray at dennismurray3@yahoo.com or Ladywood athletic director Vic Fournier at vfournier@ladywood.org.

Correction

It was erroneously reported in Thursday's edition of the Observer that Livonia Churchill's Englehart brothers were the only set of siblings to both place at the Observerland Wrestling Tournament held Jan. 31 at Churchill.

Livonia Franklin brothers Mitchel Ret-ting (third place at 171 pounds) and Joshua Retting (fifth place at 215 pounds) both placed as well.

Hayes stars for MU women

Michele Hayes unloaded for a game-high 26 points Wednesday night as the host Madonna University women's basketball team moved back into second place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference with a 71-59 victory over third-place Siena Heights.

The Crusaders, ranked No. 25 in the latest NAIA Division II Coaches' Poll, improved to 15-8 overall and 13-4 in the WHAC.

Hayes, a 5-foot-6 junior transfer from Oakland University, made 9-of-20 shots from the field, including 6-of-9 from 3-point

Sophomore forward Justice Dean (Garden City) also chipped in 18 points and nine rebounds, while senior forward Rachel Melcher had a double-double with 13 points and 10 boards.

Sierra Calhoun led the No. 20-ranked Saints (19-6, 13-4) with 21 points, while Mackenzie Tomasik added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Jessie Arnold also tallied 10 points.

MU men win

Salem High's Tyler Stewart came off the bench to hit three triples on his way to a team-high 13 points Wednesday as host Madonna University (11-14, 7-10) turned back Siena Heights (9-16, 5-12), 76-65, in a WHAC encounter.

Stewart was 3-of-4 from 3-point range as the Crusaders made 9-of-19 on the night.

Donald Owens added 12 points and eight rebounds, while Shaun Duncan and Jeff Schmitz chipped in 11 and 10 points, respectively. Duncan also dished out seven as-





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PREP HOCKEY

Stevenson bombards Canton, 6-1

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Canton scored first in Wednesday night's KLAA cross-divisional hockey game at Eddie Edgar, but host Livonia Stevenson had the last laugh.

Chief Connor Wherrett steered a Hunter Schlampp pass into the net 4:30 into the contest to put the team that had won just two of its first 17 games ahead, 1-0.

But the lamp-lighter proved to be a wake-up call for the Spartans, who tallied six unanswered net-finders in a 6-1 rout that saw Stevenson outshoot Canton, 59-11.

The victory improved Stevenson's record to 12-5-3 while the Chiefs slipped to 2-14-2.

"I think our energy was up tonight and we had a lot of sustained pressure, which is something we've been working on," said Stevenson head coach David Mitchell. "We were able to control the game for the most part, so I give our guys a lot of pressure. It was a solid team effort."

Although he came out



ED WRIGHT

Stevenson's Zach Finzel carries the puck up ice during the third period of Wednesday's 6-1 victory over Canton.

on the short end of a one-sided duel with Stevenson's Andrew Rozenbaum (10 saves), Canton goalie Nick Borg played like an expertly-programmed cyborg for much of the night as he defused 53 Spartan shots, including all 14 that he saw in the final 17 min-

utes. Rozenbaum is one half of a stellar two-goalie platoon system for the Spartans, who have also been bolstered by strong

play from Cullen Barber. "Both of our goalies

have been doing a great job of playing well when they get the opportunity," said Mitchell. "Andrew did a great job of keeping everything in front of him and helping us control the tempo.

Junior Ben Kowalske was a point machine for the winners, knotting the game at 1-all with just 32 seconds left in the first period with a power-play goal assisted by Alex Allen.

Kowalske also assisted on the Spartans final three goals, all of which came during the final 5:48 of the second stanza.

The ultimate gamewinning goal was deposited into the net three minutes into the second period by Stevenson's Alex DeFlorio, who was assisted by Randy Maples.

Nate Sudek then provided the hosts with some breathing room when he scored at the 10:54 mark.

The Spartans' backbreaking goal – at least as far as the Chiefs were concerned - was a shorthanded gem by Adam Olson that made it 4-1 with 5:48 to go in the second off an assist by Kowalske.

Derek Deska scored 33 seconds later (from Kowalske) before Olson capped the scoring with a late second-period goal from Kowalske and Des-

Rocketing to the next level



Five senior members of the Westland John Glenn football program signed letters of intent to play in college during a "National Signing Day" ceremony held Wednesday at the school. Pictured (from left) are Tyrikh Hunter (Findlay University), Javaughn Burns (Findlay University), Deshawn Baker-Williams (Central Michigan University), head coach Tim Hardin, Andre Brown (Northwood University) and DeAndre Barthwell, who will play for Chadron

BLAZERS

Continued from Page B1

"Playing for a school that has a goal of winning a national championship every season really appealed to me," said Riga, the daughter of Scott and Terry Riga. "I visited the campus the first time during the summer of my sophomore year, then I visited again in October before verbally committing on Nov. 7. I loved everything about the university.

After excelling for the Blazers as a freshman, Riga played her sophomore season for the widely acclaimed Michigan Hawks before returning to Ladywood last year.

"I have an attacking mindset," said Riga, when asked about her pitch skills. "But I like to set up plays, too."

Riga is an outstanding student, too, having chiseled out a 3.83 grade-point average with just a few months left in her high school career. She plans on pursuing a degree related to business and mar-

keting. A lock-down defender, Kwasniewicz will be making an inspiring return to the pitch in the spring after missing her junior season with a serious knee injury.

"After having to sit out last season with my injury, I definitely appreciate having my health more and being able to play soccer again," said Kwasniewicz, the daughter of Ron and Michelle. "I suffered the injury in February of 2014. I had to go through four weeks of rehab before the surgery, then I rehabbed most of last summer. I feel great now.

"We lost eight or nine seniors from last year's team, so we're going to be pretty young this season, but I still think we'll be good.'

Kwasniewicz, who resides in Walled Lake, takes the most pride in her possession skills and knowledge of soccer, which she has been playing for as long as she can remember.

Everything about Northwood appealed to Kwasniewicz, especially the school's highly rated business curriculum.

Armed with a stellar 3.4 grade-point average, she plans on pursuing a degree in accounting and/or finance.

Larkin embraces the unique opportunity of playing college softball for her high school coach, Scott Combs, who is the head strategist at both Ladywood and UM-Dearborn.

A hard-hitting outfielder, Larkin batted close to .400 as a junior as she helped lead the Blazers to the Division 2 final game.

"I know some of the girls on UM-Dearborn's team already, and I know the coach, so that will make the transition from high school to college softball easier," said Larkin, an exceptional student who plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in chemistry before eventually studying to become an orthodontist. "I've loved going to school at Ladywood; everyone is so nice and genuine."

Larkin is the daughter of James and Holly Larkin of Westland.

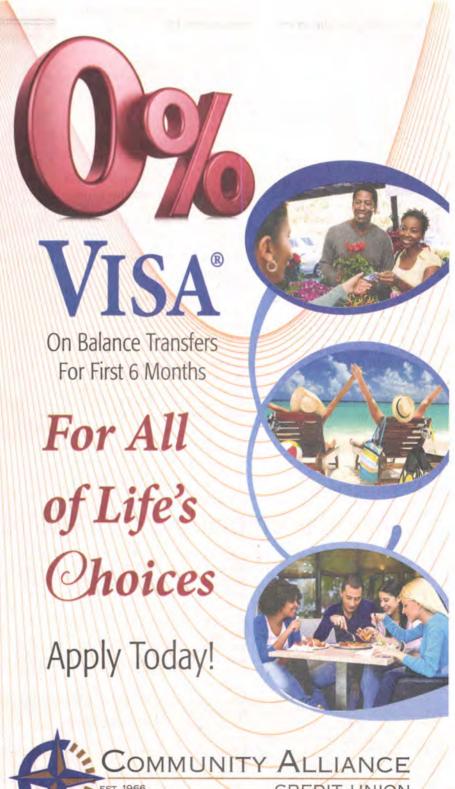
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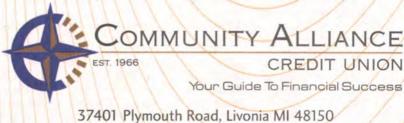




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PREP HOCKEY

Pats notch long-awaited win over Churchill

Coach: Beating Churchill means a lot

> By Ed Wright Staff Write

The Livonia Franklin hockey team's bounce-back season picked up more steam Wednesday night thanks to a bounceback - and somewhat historic - 5-3 victory over Livonia Churchill in a KLAA South Division game at Eddie Edgar

The Patriots' first triumph over Churchill in several years upped their record to 9-6-3 while the Chargers slipped to

"We haven't been able to practice the past couple of days due to the snow and it showed in the first period," Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said. "Once the guys got their boots moving, things started falling into place. We started getting some bounces because we earned the bounces.

"Beating Churchill means a lot. I'm very proud of the boys,



Livonia Franklin goalie Matt Monendo (31), with help from his defense, stymied this Livonia Churchill scoring threat Wednesday night.

proud of the program." Franklin, which won just nine games total one season ago, trailed 2-0 early after

Churchill's Sam Spayd ripped a high riser into the back of the net at the 9:41 mark of the first period and Charger senior captain Dylan Smith's humming slap shot from the top of the left circle snuck inside the right post with 9:29 remaining

in the second stanza.

Smith nearly added a firstperiod goal, but his back-hander off a break-away was deflected by Monendo.

The Patriots' comeback fire was lit with six minutes left in the middle period by Trevor Lassaline, who back-handed a bad-angle shot from just below the left circle between Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles'

glove and the left post to make

Franklin's Zack Nelson came within inches of deadlocking the game just before the second intermission, but his slick wrap-around threat was stuffed by an alert Broyles. The Chargers' penalty-kill-

ing unit was stellar throughout the first 34 minutes as they subdued four Franklin manadvantage chances, including one two-minute infraction that was smothered during the first 17 seconds of the third stanza.

However, just nine seconds after that penalty was killed off, the Chargers were whistled for having too many men on the ice. Eighty-nine seconds later, Franklin capitalized when Chase Wallis jammed home a power-play goal from Brendan Whitney and Lassaline to make it 2-all.

Four minutes later, a Lassaline slapshot from just inside the blue line tipped off Broyles' glove and into the top shelf of the net to give the Patriots the lead for good, 3-2. Whitney and Wallis earned assists on the goal.

The Patriots tacked on what proved to be a crucial insurance goal with 7:14 left when Cory Linsner's wrister from 10 feet out beat Broyles. Justin Makowski and Bailey DiClemente assisted.

Churchill battled to the end, cutting its deficit to 4-3 with 33.3 seconds to go when Parker Hodges battled for position in front of the crease before lifting the puck over Monendo just seconds after the Chargers pulled Broyles from the net. Smith assisted the goal.

Gagnon called a time-out following Hodges' late goal.

"It's hockey, so you can't draw something up like you can for football or even basketball, there are so many variations," Gagnon said. "We basically just told the guys to not let this one slip away, and they responded."

Franklin capped its memorable night with a nearly length-of-the-ice, empty-net goal from Jonny Parkinson. Monendo picked up his second assist of the season.

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PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Churchill overwhelms Pats on 'Senior Night'

By Ed Wright

Among the many things that came to light Friday night during the Livonia Churchill girls basketball team's 81-37 victory over Livonia Franklin was that Chargers senior forward Aaliyah Chisolm can sing and shoot.

Moments after delivering a stirring rendition of the "National Anthem" on "Senior Night," Chisolm knocked down four soft jumpers to help Churchill steamroll its cross-town hoops rival.

Charger senior guard Natalie Spala didn't sing, but she put on a harmonic shooting display by pumping in 26 points, most coming from midto long-range jump shots.

On a night when almost every Charger scored, Hannah Pummill and Jaelah Rivers both netted 10 points and Anne Yost

added nine. The result left Churchill with a 9-5 overall mark and 4-4 record in the KLAA South Division. Franklin slipped to 3-10 and 2-5, respectively.

"We started all five of our seniors tonight and it was nice the way they got us off to such a big lead," said Churchill head coach Matt McCowan, referring to Chisolm, Spala, Rivers, Pummill and Riley Fowler.

The first quarter proved to be a Cliff Notes version of the entire game as the Chargers surged to a 22-4 lead while hitting 10 of 20 shots. The Patriots, who committed 10 firstquarter turnovers, trailed 18-0 at one point and finished the eight-minute span by making just two of 10 shots.

Churchill led 46-21 at the half and 67-33 heading into the final

Franklin's Sarah Cramton turned in her usual spirited effort as she scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Rivers, who was sensational in the first quarter, led the

Chargers with nine boards. The victory completed a two-game season sweep for the Chargers, who visit Canton on Tuesday night.

On Wednesday, the Chargers recorded their "biggest win in the past four years," according to McCowan, as they outlasted visiting Westland John Glenn, 59-56, in overtime in a game played in the school's field

Trailing by four late in the contest, Spala drained a free throw before Alivia Kondrath swished a clutch three-pointer to force the extra session.

Spala finished with a gamehigh 18 while Kondrath netted a season-high 15.

RU nipped

Redford Union's frustrating pattern of leading late before getting passed at crunch-time continued Friday night in its 32-29 setback to Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

The Panthers led by four with less than two minutes to play before getting victimized by ill-time turnovers and dropping its third consecutive game by just three points.
"Our girls are learning how

to get the lead and keep it for most of the game; now we have to do a better job of closing," RU head coach Scott Purdy said.

Ball security was the Panthers' biggest issue as they turned the ball over 27 times.

Shae Smith led RU with 11

The Panthers travel to Redford Thurston on Tuesday for a 7 p.m. game that will determine the one-year owner of the traveling trophy.



Livonia Franklin's Erin McNally is surrounded by Livonia Churchill players (from left) Jaeleh Rivers, Hannah Pummill and Alivia Kondrath during the first quarter of Friday's game.



ED WRIGHT

Churchill's Natalie Spala attacks the hoop for two of her game-high 26 points Friday night.

Cougars defeated

Romulus built up a 36-14 halftime lead and never looked back Friday on the way to a 56-31 victory over Garden City.

The loss dropped the Cougars to 3-11 overall and 1-7 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's Blue Division. Romulus improved to 12-3 and

6-2, respectively. Jayla Nichols led the Eagles with 15 points.

Garden City was paced by Hannah Vera-Burgos, who scored nine points and had three steals. Lindsay Michalak added seven points and 13 rebounds for GC, while Amber Swisher scored six points.

The Cougars made seven of

15 free-throw attempts.

Rockets soar over Zebras

Nadia Reed scored 15 points Friday night to lead Westland John Glenn to a 59-15 victory over Wayne Memorial. Also contributing key efforts for the winners' cause were Sierra Moseley (nine points), Carly Loving (seven) and Kamia Stribling, who scored six.

Adrianna Gonzalez led the Zebras with seven points.

Salem rocks Spartans

Maranda Armstead scored 11 points to lead Salem to a emphatic 53-22 victory over visiting Livonia Stevenson Friday

"They beat us every way possible," Stevenson head coach Tim Newman said. "They were stronger, they shot better and they ran their sets better."

The lone bright spot for Stevenson was Diane Senkowski, who scored 12 points. The Spartans hit 6 of 13 free-

throw attempts. Salem was 14-for-21 from the stripe. ewright@hometownlife.com

COLLEGIATE SIGNING

Soccer star Emmanuel commits to St. Louis

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

In the months ahead, Livonia Churchill senior Erin Emmanuel will not only become a valuable addition to the St. Louis University women's soccer program, but also a productive re-addition to the Chargers' girls pitch squad.

During a "National Signing Day" ceremony held Wednesday morning at Churchill, Emmanuel signed a letter of intent to play college soccer for the Billikens.

Emmanuel, a member of Churchill's varsity soccer team as a freshman, also confirmed that she will be rejoining the Chargers after playing her sophomore and junior seasons with the elite Michigan Hawks

soccer club. "Everyone says that when you visit the college you're going to choose, you have an aha moment,' and that's exactly what happened to me when I saw the campus at St. Louis," Emmanuel said. "I love the

coaches, the environment there are about 14,000 students, which is a good atmosphere for me to be in."

Emmanuel has been a midfield catalyst for the Hawks as she helped lead them to an ECNL top-16 finish in 2014. She was a member of Michigan's Olympic Development Program in 2011 and 2012 and was invited to attend the 2012 ODP Region II camp.

She earned all-KLAA honors during her freshman season at Churchill while leading the Chargers in assists.

"We want to possess the ball as a program and Erin fits that model perfectly," St. Louis head coach Katie Shields said, according to the team's website. "She is a smart and tactically sophisticated soccer player with strong leadership qualities. Her soccer IQ and technical abilities will continue to push our program to a championship level.'

The recruiting process for Emmanuel started early in her high school career when she

started to attend prospect camp workouts that were watched by "50 to 70" college coaches, she remembered.

"There was definitely some pressure to perform well at those," she said, smiling. "All the coaches had their clipboards out and they would scribble something down every time a player took a shot."

Emmanuel said she is excited to play her final high school season for the Chargers.

"I really enjoy the environment and camaraderie of training with a group of teammates who I go to school with," she

An exceptional student who carries a 3.8 grade-point average and serves as the vice president on Churchill's Student Council, Emmanuel said her strong commitment to soccer has enhanced her academic marks.

"Having to balance school and soccer has taught me a lot about time management," she said. "I've found that I actually do better academically when



Livonia Churchill senior soccer standout Erin Emmanuel is pictured with her sister Michelle and parents Michael and Tracey during Wednesday's "National Signing Day" ceremony.

I'm in-season.

"Playing soccer has also taught me a lot about being a team player, trusting my teammates, dedication and commitment - all good traits that carry over to the rest of my

Emmanuel is the daughter

of Michael and Tracey. She has two sisters: Samantha and Michelle.

Her ultimate career ambition includes designing and conducting research in the field of prosthetics.

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CHURCHILL

Continued from Page B1

"Everything," he said,

smiling. Already athletic and armed with a stellar work ethic, Skibinski sprouted to 235 pounds his sophomore season before topping out at

6-5, 290 this past season. The RedHawks first appeared on Skibinski's radar last spring, and a trip to the Oxford, Ohio campus sealed the deal.

"I loved everything about the schools when I made my first visit," he said. "I loved the coaches, the environment. I

committed in June.' Other schools in the mix included Cincinnati, Toledo and Western Michigan

"Football has clearly changed my life," said Skibinski, when asked about the sport's impact. "It teaches you how to work, how to be a family. It's the greatest sport on

Skibinski, who owns a 3.78 grade-point average, will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Miami.

Skibinski is the son of Ken and Janice Skibinski of Livonia. He has two siblings: sister Nicole, who attends Central Michigan University; and younger brother David

Multi-threat standout

EMU should get full value from the scholarship it offered Alsobrooks, who can play quarterback, kick and punt - all at a high lev-

Prior to committing to the Eagles, Alsobrooks generated strong interest from most of the schools in the MidAmerican Conference, in addition to Illinois, Tulsa and Cincinnati.

"Eastern first started showing interest in me when their new coaching staff and coach (Chris) Creighton were hired last year," Alsobrooks said. "I really liked Eastern. It's close to home, I love the coaching staff there and I think we're going to turn the program around.

Alsobrooks said EMU assured him that he will get an opportunity to compete at quarterback, kicker and punter.

"It's a great opportunity for me," he said. Alsobrooks said he

initially realized he may have a chance to play college football shortly after joining Churchill's program.

"Once I got to high school, it really opened my eyes and realized that if I worked hard, I may get an opportunity to play at the next level someday," he said. "I'm very thankful that I have this opportunity."

An outstanding student and leader, Alsobrooks is the son of Larry and Karilyn Alsobrooks of Livonia. He has a younger brother, Drew, who will be attending Churchill in the

Tall order

The University of North Dakota will be getting the whole package with Dulin, a talented receiver who is tall (6-4), fast and blessed with good hands.

Considering he didn't start playing football until his freshman year at Churchill, Dulin's gridiron ascent has been impressive. He served as Alsobrooks' No. 1 receiving threat last fall, catching 51 passes, including a fourth-down, fourth-quarter 48-yard TD against Brighton that sent the Chargers' second game into overtime before they eventually won.

Dulin tasted modest success as a junior before turning on the workout after-burners prior to his senior sea-

"After my junior season, I really wasn't thinking about playing college football; I wasn't sure if I was good enough," Dulin said. "But I really worked hard during the off-season

and it has paid off. "My mom (Monique) is the one who always motivated me and made me believe. Anything I wanted to devote my attention to, she made sure it would happen."

With guidance from Elite Football Network president George Yarberry, Dulin ultimately attended a camp that drew the attention of UND's coaching staff.

"Then, after their coaches watched my film, coach Marty Rodgers came down and visited me," Dulin said. "We kept in touch until I made my official visit. As soon as I stepped on campus, I loved it. It's really a family-oriented environment. Even if I wasn't playing football, it's a place I'd want to

UND coaches told Dulin they want him to add some weight to his slender frame.

They want me to be a red-zone threat," he said. "They want me to be one of the guys who goes up and gets the jump balls in the end zone.

"I'm a skinny guy, but I feel like I'm elusive. I can only remember one time in four years of high school when I felt

hurt and that was my sophomore year when I took a shot to the ribs and the wind got knocked out of me."

The son of Larry Dulin and stepson of Tony Scofield, Dulin will pursue a degree in graphic design at UND, with a minor in business mar-

Bull-dozing blocker

Like Alsobrooks, Davis was appealing to college football programs thanks to his talent and versatility.

"I'll be primarily a guard at Wayne State, he said, "but they said they like that I can also play center and maybe even some tackle in an emergency," Davis said Davis initially drew

the interest of WSU at an EMU football camp he attended his sophomore year.

"They've been talking to me throughout the process and offered me in December," he said.

Davis credited his family - parents Bob and Carla and sister Gina - for much of his

success. "Ever since I was little, my parents have always supported me, he said. "When I wasn't sure I could play college football, they told me I could. My sister has always been there for

"Playing football has taught me the true meaning of character and it has helped me learn what it takes to succeed in life - dedication, hard work and commitment. It's helped me manage my time better. There were days I wouldn't get home from football practice until 7 p.m., but I knew I still had to study for a test."

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PREP BOWLING

John Glenn ladies crush Mustangs

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

It doesn't appear that the sharp groove the Westland John Glenn girls bowling team is in will dull any time soon.

On Wednesday, the Rockets rolled over Northville, 28-2 before taking care of Plymouth, 29-1, on Thursday.

Olivia Cabildo was the Rockets' igniter against the Mustangs as she registered a team-high game of 234. Julia Huren also brought her "A" game to the lanes as she contributed scores of 225 and 227

Emily Dietz was consistently stellar as well, tossing a 196 game at the Mustangs.

During Thursday's demolishing of the Wildcats, Huren turned in a team-high 214 game while Ashley Kolb recorded a fine 206. Cabildo and Dietz were also on the money for the winners, throwing a 197 and 191, respectively.

The pair of triumphs improved John Glenn's record to 13-0 overall and 9-0 in the KLAA Central Division. The Rockets are currently ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 1 by the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association, ahead of last year's state champion Davison.

Wayne wins twice

Its victories were not quite as convincing as John Glenn's, but Wayne Memorial's two wins this past week count just as much in the standings.

On Wednesday, the Zebras edged Canton,

16-14, before nudging Northville by the same count one day later.

Against Canton, Wayne dropped the first Baker game, 140-138, before battling the Chiefs to a 145-all draw in the second Baker contest.

Christina O'Harris paced the regular-game scoring as she rolled a 169 followed by a pinscrunching 245. Also scoring well for the Zebras were Hayley Gilbert (194 and 151), Kayla Thompson (159 and 152) and Gabby Charron, who rolled games of 146 and

"We pulled it off at the very end," said Wayne head coach Jackie Martin. "We had to win all of our individual games and win by 42 pins to take totals. Our girls did great in the ninth and tenth frames to pull it out."

Leading the Zebras' charge against Northville were Shaelyn Wojewski (212 and 192 games) and O'Harris. who registered scores of 180 and 247.

RU toppled

Redford Union's boys team lost to Annapolis 27-3 to drop to 4-8. Ryan Randall topped the Panthers with a 193.

The Panthers' girls team suffered a 22-8 setback to the Cougars. Carly Wasielewski was the top performer with a 148 game. The girls team slipped to 4-7-1 overall.

Both matches were held at Merri-Bowl Lanes, which is located in Livonia.

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SPARTANS

Continued from Page B1

petition thanks to strong efforts from James Ciolli (219.83 seconds), Nathan Pellerito (196.43) and Trey Richman (162.45).

O'Dowd helped the Spartans recapture some momentum when he touched first in the 100 butterfly (53.86 seconds) before Novi's Ryan Katulski earned his team first-place points in the 100 free.

Matthew LaPorte endured the field in the 500 freestyle by clocking a time of 4:58.57, which was 12 seconds faster than Novi's James Popyk.

Stevenson continued its strong performance in

Publish: February 8, 2015

the relays by placing first in the 200 freestyle, which was fueled by O'Dowd, Goeddeke, Ferrara and Lee.

The most exciting race of the night - and possibly the season to date - was the 100 breaststroke when Smith out-stretched Novi's Narayan Manivannan by one-hundredth of a sec-

The Wildcats' foursome of Siddhardha Kareddy, Arthur Shi, Toraki Maehata and Katulski put the lid on their team's victory by winning the 400 freestyle relay in 3:26.65. NOVI 108 STEVENSON 78

Thursday at Stevenson 200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Adam Goeddeke, Brian Smith, Parker Wasielewski, Jackson O'Dowd), 1 minute, 45.68 seconds; 2. Novi (Toraki Maehata,

Narayan Manivannan, Joey Berman, Siddhardha), 1:46.32; 3. Novi, 1:48.56. **200 freestyle**: 1. Ryan Katulski (N), 1:49.87; 2. Alex Lee (S), 1:49.89; 3. Eric Ferrara (S), 1:53.07. Jan. 29 at Stevensor 200 individual medley: 1. Matthew LaPorte (S), 2:08.53; 2. Alexander Yuan (N), 2:10.17; 3. Joey Berman (N), 2:11.18. 50 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (5), 21.27; 2. Siddhardha (N), 23.70; 3. Arthur

1-meter diving: 1. James Ciolli (N), 219.83 points; 2. Nathan Pellerito (N), 196.43; 3. Trey Richman (N), 162.45. 100 butterfly: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (S), 53.86; 2. Phillip Billiu (N), 58.83; 3. W Maxwell (N), 59.70. 100 freestyle: 1. Ryan Katulski (N) iu (N), 58.83; 3. William 49.74; 2. Alex Lee (S), 50.81; 3. Eric Ferrara 500 freestyle: 1. Matthew LaPorte (5), 4:58.57; 2. Jajmes Popyk (N), 5:10.54; 3. Siddhardha Kareddy (N), 5:16.93.

Siddhardha Kareddy (N), 5:10.95.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Jackson O'Dowd, Adam Goeddeke, Eric Ferrara, Alex Lee), 1:31.79; 2. Novi (Phillip Billiu, Arhtur Shi, Alexander Yuan, Ryan Katulski), 1:34.19; 3. Novi, 1:40.44. 100 backstroke: 1. Gordy Williams (N), 59.41; 2. Toraki Maehata (N), 1:00.88; 3. Parker Wasielewski (S), 1:00.91. 100 breaststroke: 1. Brian Smith (S), 1:06.13; 2. Narayan Manivannan (N), 1:06.14; 3. Edward Cheng (N), 1:12.03. 400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Siddhard-ha Kareddy, Arthur Shi, Toraki Maehad, Ryan Katulski), 3:26.65; 2. Stevenson (Matthew LaPorte, Parker Wasielewski, Eric

Ferrara, Alex Lee), 3:27.64; 3. Novi, 3:30.82 STEVENSON 107 SOUTH LYON 79

200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Adam Goeddeke, Brian Smith, Parker Wasielewski, Jackson O'Dowd), 1:45.73; 2. South Lyon (Connor Pogue, Brandon Bell, Max Kempisty, Nick VanDyke), 1:48.37; 3. South Lyon, 1:56.45, 200 freestyle: 1. Eric Ferrara (S), 1:51.74;

200 individual medley: 1. Matthew LaPorte (S), 2:09.03; 2. Max Kempisty (SL), 2:13.16; 3. Benjamin LaPorte (S), 2:14.35. 50 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (S), 21.61; 2. Adam Goeddeke (S), 24.21; 3. Connor Poque (SL), 25,11. 1-meter diving: 1. Matt Meadows (SL), 238.58 points; 2. Ethan Schmidt (SL), 209.08; 3. Max Hoom (SL), 119.18. 100 butterfly: 1 Jackson O'Dowd (S), 55.57; 2. Parker Wasielewski (S), 59.84; 3. Max Kempisty (SL), 59.88.

100 freestyle: 1. Alex Lee (5), 49.80; 2. Nick VanDyke (SL), 50.47; 3. Eric Ferrara (S), 500 freestyle: 1. Matthew LaPorte (S), 5:00.69; 2. Benjamin LaPorte (S), 5:12.41; 3. Oliver Joy (SL), 5:17.81. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Alex 200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Alex. Lee, Matthew LaPorte, Benjamin LaPorte, Eric Ferrara), 1:38.00; 2. South Lyon (Brandon Bell, John Perry, Oliver Joy, Connor Pogue), 1:38.99; 3. South Lyon, 1:47.32. 100 backstroke: 1. Nick VanDyke (SL), 57.01; 2. Adam Goeddeke (S), 59.48; 3. Parker Wasielewski (S), 59.87. 100 breaststroke: 1. Brian Smith (S), 1:08.43; 2. Brandon Bell (SL), 1:11.52; 3. Matt Setsuda (SL), 1:13.18.

Matt Setsuda (S.), 1.13.18.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson
(Jackson O'Dowd, Eric Ferrara, Adam
Goeddeke, Alex Lee), 3:24.62; 2. South Lyon
(Oliver Joy, John Perry, Max Kempisty, Nick
VanDyke), 3:33.63; 3. Stevenson, 3:48.42.

TRACK & FIELD

Jones accelerating during indoor season

Livonia Franklin senior long-distance running standout Keenan Jones is enjoying a productive first season with the Michigan Accelerators track-and-field team.

Competing in an invitation-only "Elite Mile" event hosted by Gazelle Sports at Grand Valley State University, Jones ran a personal-best time of 4:25.7 (which converts to 4:23.9 for 1,600 meters).

Jones was also recently selected to join an elite field of runners for an 800-meter race at the University of Michigan on Feb. 13 and a 3,200meter competition set for Feb. 21 at GVSU.



WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION RECORD OF ATTENDANCE 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

Pursuant to City of Westland Council Resolution No. 8-85-441, the following record of

Councilperson	No. of Sessions	Sessions Attended	Percentage
Christine Cicirelli Bryant	25	19	76%
Kevin Coleman	25	23	92%
James R. Godbout	25	23	92%
Adam Hammons	25	24	96%
Bill Johnson	25	16	64%
Michael Kehrer	25	24	96%
Dewey K. Reeves	25	24	96%
		EILEEN DeHART-SCHOOF, CMC WESLTAND CITY CLERK	



Notice to Taxpayers Charter Township of Redford March 2015 Board of Review

Notice is hereby given that the 2015 March Board of Review for the Charter Township of Redford will meet at the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road Redford, Michigan 48239 in the Board Room for the purpose of reviewing the 2015 Assessment Roll. Appeals will be heard BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. You must call the Assessor's Office at (313) 387-2730

THE BOARD WILL MEET ON THE DATES AND TIMES INDICATED BELOW.

Tuesday	March 3, 2015	Organization Meeting		11:00 A.M.
Wednesday	March 4, 2015	3:00 P.M.	to	9:00 P.M.
Thursday	March 5, 2015	9:00 A.M.	to	4:00 P.M.
Friday	March 6, 2015	9:00 A.M.	to	4:00 P.M.
Monday	March 9, 2015	3:00 P.M.	to	9:00 P.M.
Thursday	March 12, 2015	3:00 P.M.	to	9:00 P.M.
Friday	March 13, 2015	9:00 A.M.	to	4:00 P.M.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TAXPAYER TO PROTEST THE VALUATION PLACED ON THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE YEAR 2015.

NON-RESIDENT APPEALS BY MAIL WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 13, 2015.

ATTENTION POVERTY APPEALS: PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE FOR POVERTY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AT (313) 387-2730.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, CLERK

Publish: February 1, 2015; February 8, 2015; and February 15, 2015

WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING RECORD OF ATTENDANCE 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

Pursuant to City of Westland Council Resolution No. 8-85-441, the following record of attendance of Council members at regular and special meetings is published for the year

2014.			
Councilperson	No. of Meetings	Meetings Attended	Percentage
Christine Cicirelli Bryant	25	21	84%
Kevin Coleman	25	25	100%
James R. Godbout	25	23	92%
Adam Hammons	25	25	100%
Bill Johnson	25	19	76%
Michael Kehrer	25	25	100%
Dewey K. Reeves	25	24	96%
		EILEEN DeHART-SCHOOF, CMC	
		WESLTAND CITY CLERK	

Publish: February 8, 2015

Livonia Public Schools

Opens the Prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to Out-of-District Students in Wayne County

> Fifteen seats are open to students entering 9th grade in fall 2015 Eight seats are open to students entering 10th grade in fall 2015 Eight seats are open to students entering 11th grade in fall 2015

Limited Registration Window: March 2 - March 31, 2015

Livonia Public Schools is opening its International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) to Limited Schools of Choice students from Wayne County for the 2015-16 school year. This program is a two-year college preparatory plan of study that takes place during a student's junior and senior year of high school. Students entering the IB Program are encouraged to attend Franklin High School starting in the ninth grade. IBDP students are required to take IB exams in order to earn the highly acclaimed and internationally recognized IB diploma.

Registration will be open from March 2 - 31, 2015 at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday All candidates MUST meet the IBDP selection criteria.

For complete information on the IBDP program and application process, visit the Franklin High School website at http://www.livoniapublicschools.org/Franklin.cfm or contact Ms. Sunshine Weber at sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Chargers win, showdown with Chiefs next

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's "Black Hole" student cheering section will be ramped up Tuesday

The Chargers' surging boys basketball team made sure that Tuesday's home game against Canton will carry a ton of significance by winning two games in three nights: 51-23 at Livonia Franklin on Friday after edging host Westland John Glenn, 55-49, in a weatherdelayed make-up game on Wednesday. Churchill improved to 10-4

overall and 6-2 in the KLAA South Division. Canton was 6-1 in the division heading into Friday night's home game against Plymouth. Regardless of the outcome of that game, the winner of Tuesday's Churchill-Canton showdown will earn at least a share of the division crown.

Senior forward Brian Alsobrooks was the main man for the Chargers on Friday as he scored 20 points to lead his team over the Patriots. Jalen Davis added seven points for Churchill, which led 13-8 after one quarter and 22-13 at the half before ending the drama with an 18-6 third-quarter run.

Franklin, which slipped to 0-14 overall and 0-7 in the South, was led by freshman Mark Mettie's six points.

"I was very happy with our defensive performance in the first half, holding them to 22 points," said Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault. "But when you only score 13 like we did, you're not going to win very many games.

"We were 0-for-13 on threepoint shots and we missed a couple put-backs we should have made. Churchill's athleticism just took over in the second half."

Rheault said the Patriots have been energized recently by the promotion of juniorvarsity players.

"We have more competition in practice now and the guys are competing for minutes,



Livonia Churchill's Jalen Davis drives to the basket against Livonia Franklin's Nick Curtis during a game earlier this season.

too," he said.

Churchill won despite hitting just 2 of its 11 free-throw attempts. The Patriots made 5 of 9 freebies.

Franklin returns to action Monday with a make-up game at Plymouth.

On Wednesday, the Chargers posted a pivotal six-point triumph against the Rockets, who slipped to 5-8 overall and 4-3 in the South.

The game was knotted at 40-all heading into the fourth quarter when the Chargers outscored their hosts, 15-9.

Churchill was money at the free-throw line, knocking down 14 of 16 attempts. The Rockets made 14 of 21 freebies.

Dayton Davis stepped up big time for Churchill, scoring 26 points, eight of which came in the fourth quarter. The Chargers sealed the win thanks to cold-blooded free-throw shooting from Jon Hovermale and Jalen Davis, who canned 5 of 6 shots from the stripe over the final 50 seconds.

Mike Edwards led John Glenn with 17 points. Mychael Bradley scored 12.

Churchill made 18 of 43 field-goal attempts. The Rockets were 17-for-40 from the

One of the best starts to a season in the past decade for Redford Thurston continued Friday as the Eagles soared

Thurston sizzling

over host Garden City, 66-44. Thurston improved to 13-1 overall and 8-0 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's Red Division.

Thurston's lone loss this season (by six points) came against Walled Lake Western, which is currently unbeaten.

Senior post player Isiah Crofford tormented the smaller Cougars with 22 points and 15 rebounds, both team highs.

"Isiah is really active around the basket and he works hard," said Thurston head coach Brian Rickey Hudgens scored 10

points while Deaunte Jackson grabbed nine rebounds to go with his six points.

Travis Trigg led the Cougars with 14 points.

Thurston set the tone early by outscoring GC 19-7 in the first quarter before securing a 38-13 lead at the half.

The Eagles were respectable at the line, draining 11 of 16 free throws. The Cougars struggled mightily with the clock stopped, netting just 8 of 22 shots from

Salem edges Spartans

Livonia Stevenson played toe-to-toe with visting Salem Friday night before dropping a 73-70 decision.

The game was deadlocked at 21-all after one quarter before the Rocks earned slight leads of 41-37 at the half and 58-55 with eight minutes to play.

Jacob Dollar led the Spartans with 21 points. Noah Campbell added 18 and Jalen Webber netted 13.

Jake Stropes played well for Salem with 16 points.

Warriors triumphant

Lutheran Westland had way too much firepower Friday for Ypsilanti Calvary Christian as the Warriors recorded a nevera-doubt 64-15 victory

The Warriors, who improved to 5-6 overall, outscored Calvary 42-4 during the second and third quarters.

Brent Croft continued his strong play for the winners, netting 20 points. Luke Smith and Zach Burk both scored eight.

Kenny Warren led Calvary with eight points.

Other key performers for the Warriors were Kory Barikmo, who netted seven rebounds and five assists and Cleveland Tarp, who swiped three steals.

Smith was active all night, adding seven boards and three steals

The Warriors were 6-for-13 from the free-throw line. "It's tough to stay intense in

games when the score is so out-of-hand," said LW head coach Jim Hoeft.

Last week's scheduled makeup game against Huron Valley Lutheran has been re-scheduled for Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at HVL.

RU edged

Dearborn Heights Crestwood defeated Redford Union 48-46 Friday night in a WWAC Red Division contest. The loss dropped Ru to 6-9 while Crestwood improved to 11-4.

Jerrime Koger led RU with 17 points. Esa Adduljami led the Chargers with 18 points.

PREP GYMNASTICS

Livonia Blue posts two impressive victories

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Bri Rhoad compiled an all-around score of 36.50 Wednesday night to lead Livonia Blue's gymnastics team to victories over Northville and Waterford High School.

Blue totaled 138.250 to out-distance the Mustangs (131.150) and Waterford, which chalked up 129.750

Rhoad was sharp all night, scoring a 9.40 on the balance beam to finish behind only teammate Emily Chatterjee's 9.55. She also posted scores of 9.0 on both the vault and the floor exercise, and an 8.65 on the uneven bars.

Rhoad won the vault and was runner-up to Chatterjee on the floor.

Chatterjee stepped up big-time in the absence of Blue all-arounder Jess Weak as she earned an 8.4 on the vault and a 7.95 on the bars.

Blue's Catie McDougall scored well on the floor (8.80) and the beam (8.750) while Megan Lord impressed the judges to the tune of an 8.5 on the vault.

Other noteworthy performances for Blue included Jenna Burton's 8.6 effort on the vault and 8.1-worthy beam routine

Katie Grover scored an 8.4 on the floor in her lone varsity event.

Northville's lone varsity all-arounder wsa Claire Cotter, whose best event was the vault (8.50).

The Mustangs' Grace Jankowski and Alyssa Breen both recorded 8.7's on the vault.

Waterford, which fielded just five gymnasts, was by all-arounders Ciara Heintz and Deja Hunt.

ewright@hometownlife.com

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at 6:30 PM. Please bring your resume and be prepared to discuss your future at North Brother Ford. Interviews and applications are kept ne strictest of confider North Brothers Ford Career Night is on

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA

NEW SENIOR THEATER TROUPE TAKING DONATIONS ONLINE FOR NEW SHOW

By Sharon Dargay

The new senior theater troupe, Better Than Ever Productions, hopes to collect \$1,000 in online contributions by Feb. 16 to fund its upcoming production in Westland.

"It's a big number for our group," said Jeanne Pruett, troupe president, who designed an online Kickstarter fundraising campaign. "If you don't collect it all, you get nothing. It's a big risk.

"I'm keeping fingers crossed. Every day something trickles in. We had one donation from Australia."

On Friday, Feb. 6, with just 10 days to go, the troupe had collected \$471 and still needed \$529. Kickstarter requires participants to meet their goal in order to collect any of its donations.

Pruett, 58, a Canton resident, hopes that visitors to the Kickstarter page also check out the group's video showing its members in previous stage productions.

"I wanted people to see how good this group is. When they see the video and see people dancing around the stage, they know this is a group that is not just hobbling along," she said. "This group is active. I think people dismiss others when they get past a certain age. This group proves people can do more."

"We get good audiences. I refer to us as the premier senior acting troupe in Michigan."

New name, new start

Audience members may recognize the 23-member group from performances at the Village Theater in Canton. Nearly all of the actors were members of the Still Got It Players, an arm of Spotlight Theatre in Canton. They worked together for five years with their director, Debbie Lannen. Last summer, after she retired and moved to Florida, most of the actors decided to start their own troupe.

They'll present The Geezer Game, written by Herb McCollom, Jr., an 83-year-old playwright from Pennsylvania, 1 p.m. March 19 and 26, 7 p.m., March 20-21 and 27-28 and 2 p.m. March 22 and 29 at Inspire Theatre, 5767 Executive

Drive, Westland.
When the troupe first
staged the play — as Still Got
It Players in Canton — McCol-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

lom "brought his entire family to Michigan to see the play,"

Ray Fraser and Rich Pientak act out a scene in "The Geezer Game."

Pruett said.

"He absolutely fell in love with us," she said.

Honored in New York

When McCollom's play was selected for the Midtown International Theatre Festival in New York, N.Y., last summer, he requested the same cast.

"We had a blast. It didn't win, but it was nominated for best outstanding ensemble production, up against other professional groups. It was an honor."

In addition to presenting full-length plays at theaters, Pruett hopes Better Than Ever Productions also will reach out to seniors at senior centers, assisted living homes and other locations.

Jack Galazka, also a former member of the Still Got It Players in Canton, hopes the new troupe gets a "firm start." He's cast as "lovable" but poorly-dressed retired electrician in The Geezer Game, and has been involved in community theater as both an actor and director for years.

"I think the senior group by far is the most giving and caring group I've ever worked with. None of us is worried about the stardom we're about to achieve some day," he said, with a laugh.

"Inspire has been wonderful enough to allow us to come in. If this show is successful and the two groups meld nicely, maybe we'll do more together," he said. "At the same time, we're looking for other options. If someone has a space they'd allow a fledgling group to use,

we'd be very open to that."

To find the group's Kickstarter campaign, go to Kickstarter.com and type in Better
Than Ever Productions presents The Geezer Game in the search box.

To buy tickets to the show, go to inspiretheatre.com or call 734-751-7057.



Ray Fraser, Terry Viviani, Gary Turnquist and Jack Galazka in "The Geezer

BIRTH



Brooklyn Eve Bonga

SUBMITTED

BROOKLYN EVE BONGA

Brooklyn Eve Bonga was born Dec. 24, 2014 at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

Proud parents are Jessica Geiser and Christopher Bonga of Livonia.

Share your best wedding photo with O&E readers

What's your best wedding

Was it shot while you exchanged vows barefoot on the beach?

Did it show off your designer attire, with an entourage of bridesmaids and ushers in tow?

Maybe it captured the sweet romance of a kiss at the altar. Or the tradition of cutting the wedding cake together.

Whatever the setting, attire or activity, the Observer &

Eccentric wants to share your best wedding photo from 2014 and January 2015 with readers in its upcoming special section on weddings.

on weddings.

Tell us the names of the bride and groom, along with the date and place of the marriage. Send your best photo—in a large format—as a jpg email attachment to sdargay@hometownlife.com. The deadline is 5 p.m. Feb. 16.

Speed Queen bucks the trend with five-year washer warranty

f I were going to write a stage play today, I would title it "Copacetic" and have a few hundred members of the audience as the main characters. I'd be sitting in a small office with a computer and the walls decorated with a 1948 NHL calendar showing the many greats of that period, a Red Wing Alumni Jersey, a large picture of Lefty Wilson, the longtime trainer of our past Red Wing hockey team, and numerous framed photographs of former greats

in the NHL.

Homeowners would walk through a door and lie down on a leather couch and tell me about the failures of appliance products in their homes. Without a doubt, "Copacetic" would become the longest-running play in history because people want to learn what is good or bad in the world of major appliances and they certainly don't want to

waste their money on junk. In the past week alone I have received a few hundred emails from readers of this column and their horror stories about a washing machine that is working in their laundry rooms. It is just flabbergasting to an old appliance repair man hearing the words, "stinks," "repeated repairs," "not enough water," "junk,"
"help," "dirty," "very lengthy
cycles," "expensive," "lack of
quality," and so many more negative comments to express a consumer's true feelings. Now, take this circle of newspaper readers and multiple it a few thousand times and can you image what owners of



clothes washers are going through.

Machine warranties

My God, it's just a washing machine, not a ship to the moon. Someone has to build a new washing machine one of these days that they might call a "Copacetic" or has it recently been done? The Speed Queen Company has just announced that its top load washer with electronic control has a full five-year warranty. That means that parts and labor are covered. This is a very big issue with me and most consumers. All the manufacturers used to have five years of coverage on many parts, which was limited, meaning you end up paying the labor. Three years ago all manufacturers dropped that standard and went to just one year of coverage, leaving homeowners high and dry after one year. I complained back then that this was all done at basically the same time by all the companies. That is called collusion and it's against the law. Ask Ford Motors about that fact. To see Speed Queen reverse this with its five-year full warranty must mean that it has a lot of confidence in its product. But then again, it is an American product and the company can be proud of the quality we have always been

known for. Way to go, Speed Oueen, we might even include

you in the stage play. I don't want any of you to think that I don't appreciate all of your communications and please don't stop. What would I write about if you didn't write me? Now to another subject I'm hearing about. It's called the Smart Meter and boy has it become a controversial subject across America. A recent headline in my hometown paper of Timmins, Ontario, is "Thousands of smart meters are ordered removed in Ontario." My computer is jammed with people reaching out to me for help on many issues with these meters. If all goes according to plan I will already have done an interview with an expert from DTE on my radio show by the time you read this column. I have much to learn on this subject and will reserve judgment until I get smarter on the subject. I still make the claim that I can't see our utilities installing an appliance on our homes that is going to cause health issues. I am also wondering if a bill proposed in Lansing to hold the turbine companies immune from lawsuits in the future should a turbine cause a medical problem for property owners. Well, more to come. Stay tuned.

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

ANNIVERSARY



SUBMITTED Former Wayne residents Joe and Christine (Pedersen) Kadlec on their wedding day

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Joe and Christine (Pedersen) Kadlec will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Feb. 13. They were married in 1965 at First Presbyterian Church in Wayne.

The former Wayne residents reside on Lake Columbia in Brooklyn. They will celebrate their milestone event with a special dinner with family and friends.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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illuminated with dramat-

is at 6:30 p.m., speaker at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, at

Novi High School, 24062

Taft, at 10 Mile, Novi.

Media Forum Room

198C. Park in the staff

parking lot and enter

through door 43. Visitors

welcome. Nonmembers

pay a \$5 donation. garde-

nersnorthville-novi.org

Brenda Dziedzic,

Southeast Michigan

Butterfly Association

Monarch Butterflies,"

(SEMBA), will present

A Look Into the Lives of

exploring the Monarch's

life cycle and challenges they face, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Nankin Mills Nature

Center, 33175 Ann arbor

Trail, Westland. Parking

on Hines Drive or Ann

Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-

members. 734-223-5510;

sembabutterfly.org

author and co-founder of

Butterflies

The group meets in the

Sue Grubba will talk

about using low voltage

Gardeners of

life.com.

Take a guided walk noon, Saturday, Feb. 21, and learn to identify trees along the way. The walk is free and starts at the Nankin Mill parking lot on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County offers a series of Tuesday night classes, that meet 7-8 p.m. at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne, Cost is \$10 each.

» 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.



Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association meets Feb. 18 in Westland.

To register, email

mgwwcorg@gmailcom Educational conference

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Early bird tickets are \$70, \$80 after March 14. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. It

will include a garden market, presentations by Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power; Matthew Benson, photographer, writer and organic farmer; and Kerry Ann Mendez, who teaches lowmaintenance perennial gardening. Entertainment by Kerry Price and The Dave Bennett Quartet. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgsoc.org. No registration at the door.

English Gardens

» Learn about landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at a

free presentation. » The store's 13th annual Orchid Festival will include a free presentation on the introduction to growing orchids, along with a repotting demonstration, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. At 1 p.m., get free, advanced orchid tips. The Make It & Take It workshop at 2:30 p.m. costs \$49.99 and will include everything needed to make an orchid garden. Sign up for the workshop at englishgardens.com.

» Learn about fresh flower arranging, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Free

» Create a fresh flower arrangement to take home, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Fee is \$29.99. Sign up at englishgardens.com.

Classes are held at all stores unless noted. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

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



BLEICHNER

SALLY ANN (LICHT) Age 80, mother of Robert ((the Pam), (Beja)), Terry i), Patrick, Timothy (Susan), Patrick, Timothy (Lynne) and Mary Beth Davies. Wife of the late Robert Mlinarich and Donald Bleichner. Passed peacefully on February children and six great grandchil-dren. A resident of Redford for 50 years, but resided in California for the past 30, where private



EDWIN "FRANK"

A long time resident of Bloomfield Hills, passed away Sunday, February 1, 2015, at the age of 93. This beloved husband, father, grandfather and grandfather will be sorely missed by family. Born on March 31 1921, in Liverpool, England, Frank served in the Royal Cana-dian Air Force in WWII, and moved to the US in 1950 to start his own business. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean Elms, his three children, John, Glenn, and Lynn, and sister Dorothy McLennan. Frank will always be remembered for his devotion to family, love of knowledge, and sense of humor. For service information please contact Deanne Elms at (248) 941-5415

LANSING, ELAINE M. Age 81, of Livonia, died February 4, 2015. Arrangements by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home 248-474-4131.



MURCH, PHYLLIS

MARIE (WEEKS) Of Jackson, Michigan passed away at the age of 83, at home in hospice, after a number of years treating ovarian cancer. Phyllis was born in Battle Creek, MI to Vivienne (McInally) Weeks and Charles Weeks. Phyllis graduatin 1949, served two years in the US Navy as a dental technician, and graduated from the University of Detroit as a dental hygienist. She worked more than 30 years in that profession, including 13 years with the State of Michigan Department of Corrections. After retiring in 1991, she and her husband traveled to nearly every state in the US and to a few countries in Europe, and they spent 12 winters in Mesa, AZ. Phyllis was particularly proud of her entire family, her service in the navy, her 50 years as a member of the League of Women Voters and the three times she hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Donald H. Murch; her sister Marilyn Trapp of Pittsburgh, PA; her three children Kimberley (David) Huffman of Cortland, NY, Douglas (Claudia) Murch of Marshall, MI, and Eric (Michelle) Murch of Ypsilanti, MI; and seven grandchildren. Phyllis often states that the mu tual love, affection and respect she felt and received from her children and grandchildren Adrienne and Caitlin Huffman and Corrinne, Emily Stuart, Olivia and Nathaniel Murch, was one of the great pleasures of life. Phyllis selected to be cremated, and there will be no funeral services. However, memorial gatherings have been planned for the spring in Jackson, MI and later in the Boston, MA area.





OSBORN,

ELEANOR ESTHER

Age 99, died January 30, 2015 at her residence at Sunrise Senior Living, Carmel, Indiana. Eleanor was born in Goshen, Indiana on October 17, 1915, to Elwood E and Ruth (Lehman) Landis, and spent most of her adult life in Birmingham, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard J. Osborn, and son, Richard L. Osborn. She is survived by children, Victoria (Bill) Matishen of Somerdale, N.J., Joan (Rick) Henkle of Carmel, Indiana, and Mark (Thang) Osborn of Palo Alto, California grandchildren, and her seven Highland, UT. Rachel (Eric) Flickenger of Williamstown, NJ, David Matishen of Somerdale, NJ, Jeffrey (Sarah) Henkle of Zionsville, IN, Ben Henkle of Boston, MA, Greg Henkle of Chicago, IL, and Alison (Tom) Grant of Canterbury Kent, UK. Eleanor was also great grandmother ten greatto grandchildren. Eleanor was a beloved, longtime friend to an ex-traordinary number of people including extended family members and in-laws. She was an avid golfer into her late eighties, and was active in the events of Oakland Hills Country Club of Bloomfield, Michigan. She enjoyed traveling, sewing, knitting, bridge, and taking family vaca-tions with her children and grandchildren. She was well known as one who seldom complained and never had an unkind word to say about anyone A memorial service was held in St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel, on Saturday, January 31st. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to a charity of your choice. Leppert Mortuary - Smith Carmel Chapel, has been entrusted with memorial



SHAW, PAMELA

Age 46, February 4, 2015, of Westland, Michigan. Beloved daughter of Glenn (Patty) Shaw and the late Kathryn Shaw. One of a kind sister to Doug (Lori) Shaw, Lynette (Tony) Hobyak, Carl (Kris) Johnson, Steve (Sheila) Johnson, Holly (Frank) Cozza, Joelle (Steve) Boros. A fun and dearly loved aunt to Ryan, Trevor, Connor, Haley, Christian, Josh, Justin, Bode, Brogan and Bridger. Pam successfully started her own company Advanced Property Management. She enjoyed fishing, cooking, singing karaoke. When she was younger she took ice skating lessons, played softball and used her musical talent to master the violin. She loved anything purple and had a special love for her cats. Funeral Services were held Saturday at Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Donations may be made to the Westland Community Founda-tion, 38110 Executive Dr., Westland, MI 48185





SNYDER, VICE ADMIRAL EDWIN K., USN (Ret.)

Age 92, passed away peacefully

surrounded by family on 8 Janu-

ary 2015. A true patriot and admired leader, he embodied the

best of the Greatest Generation.

He will be deeply missed as a

father, and remembered fondly as a respected naval officer and Born in Birmingham, Michigan, on 12 February 1922, he was the son of Edwin Stahl Snyder and Helen Claire Knowlson. He attended Baldwin High School where he was an outstanding athlete student. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with the wartime accelerated Class of 1944 on 9 June 1943. Upon completion of submarine training, he joined the crew of the USS Hake, making six war patrols in the Pacific campaign. Admiral Snyder's submarine career included tours on four submarines, culminating as commanding officer of the USS Irex. In February 1968, he be-came the commanding officer of the heavy cruiser Newport News (CA-148) in ceremonies held at the DMZ in Vietnam. Shore duty assignments included graduate education at Stanford University and the Navy War College, staff of the Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and the Office of Legislative Affairs in the Pentagon. Upon his selec-tion to Flag rank in 1969, Admiral Snyder assumed command of the Amphibious Training Command, followed by command of Amphibious Group Four and Amphibious Group Two in Little Creek, Virginia. In September 1971, Admiral Snyder became the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs as the Navy's representative in all matters pertaining to Congress. On 31 August 1974, Admiral Snyder received his third star and assumed command of the U.S. Taiwan Defense ommand with headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of Chi-na. Following his retirement from the Navy, Admiral Snyder provided key congressional support services for nearly ten years to the Navy through his company Snyder, Ball and Kriser. Admiral Snyder was an outstanding athlete, keen competitor, avid golfer and a long-time member of the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. A dedicated Washington Redskins Football fan, he was a 30 year season ticket holder. His great sense of humor and engaging personality drew people around him wherever he went. Admiral Snyder was predeceased by his devoted wife of 48 years, the former Nancy McCarty of Birmingham, MI, in 1994. He later was married to Nancy Isaman for ten years. He is survived by sons, Stephen Snyder (Mary), Ed Snyder (BJ) and Charles Snyder (Connie);

daughter, Kathy Snyder; sister, Ann Snyder Aikens (Bob); seven

grandchildren; and seven great-

grandchildren. Admiral Snyder will be inurned with his wife,

Nancy McCarty at the Naval Academy Columbarium with full

military honors on 23 April



STEPHENSON, SHEILA KATHLEEN

Of West Bloomfield, died peacefully on January 16, 2015 at the age of 70. Sheila is survived by brothers, Mark G. Stephenson II of Grosse Pointe Woods and Neil H. Stephenson of Monroe. Her parents, father Philip G. Stephenson, her mother Blodwyn I. Stephenson, and her sister Faye M. Steuck, precede her in death. Sheila was born on 1944 in Detroit, August 4, Michigan. She graduated from The Juilliard School in 1969 with a degree in Piano Performance. In 1982 She received her Master of Arts degree from Oakland University. Sheila was an accomplished musician and performed locally both as a duo-pianist with her mother Blodwyn, and as a soloist. She also was active as a church pianist and organist. Sheila was a very well respected piano teacher and taught piano from her graduation from The Juilliard School until her passing. Sheila was a dedicated individual who lived her life surrounded by her passion for music. She was passionate environment and donated much to various animal support organizations. She was an active and dedicated member of the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in West Bloomfield and regularly accompanied the choir during Sunday service. memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, February 8 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 4800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Sheila's life. In lieu of flowers, please send to the Michigan Humane Society.



VAN BOVEN, CAROLYN DANT SNYDER

November 26th, 2014.

Carolyn lived a vibrant 81 years

Her genuineness, deep faith and thoughtful ability to communi-

cate well with people touched many lives in so many ways. Michigan on June 24th, 1933 to M.E. "Shorty" Snyder and Vivian Dant Snyder. She attended Adams Élementary, the Kingswood School in Birmingham and graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. There she met the love of her life, Peter John Van Boven, Jr. After Peter had a stroke, as a result of a sporting accident, she cared faithfully and lovingly for him for 20 years. They were married 3 weeks short of 50 years when Peter passed. She lived all of her adult life in Ann Arbor, Michigan and North Palm Beach, Florida. She was a faithful follower of Jesus, an optimist and philanthropist. Carolyn was generous with her time and and resources. energy enjoyed spending time laughing and living life to the fullest measure. Her accomplishments include, but are not limited to: membership of Kappa Kappa Gamma in college and served on the alumni board of the Beta Delta Chapter for many years. She served as President of the Thrift Shop in Ann Arbor, was a G Chapter member of PEO. Carolyn sat many years on the board of the Lost Tree Chapel in North Palm Beach, serving a term as president. She was on several organizing committees for numerous fund raising causes. Carolyn was an astute businesswoman, world traveler, and had a deep love for the ocean. She will be missed by many, but she leaves us all with her inspiring attitude of grateful-ness to God in every circumstance. Peter and Carolyn had three children. She was predeceased by Charles, and survived by Andrea Van Boven Madden of South Hamilton, MA and James of Chicago IL. Carolyn was a loving and proud grandmother to her two grandchildren Kathryn of New York, NY and Alex Madden of Columbus, GA. A celebration of Carolyn S Van Boven's life will be held Saturday, February 21st at 2pm, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor. The family requests wearing vibrant colors to celebrate her life and resurrection. Cards may be sent to 11270 Turtle Beach Rd #3, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. Instead of flowers, gifts may be sent to Lost Tree Chapel, 11149 Turtle Beach, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 or First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104.

May you find comfort in family and friends

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth-based foundation funds brain injury initiative at U-M

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

The University of Michigan Health System will open a new emergency center treatment area on Feb. 16 that will be equipped to offer the most advanced care to patients with a traumatic brain injury in the first crucial hours of their

"That is what I'm most excited about," said Brenda J. Massey of Plymouth, whose family foundation recently donated a significant gift to U-M Health System for traumatic brain injury research, technological innovation, and patient and family support. U-M Health System recognized the family's generosity by naming the new emergency treatment center in their honor. The Joyce and Don Massey Family Foundation Emergency Critical Care Center, or EC3, will be among the first of its kind in the United States.

"They now know there is a 'golden hour,' and if you can get to a person who is injured quickly and give them the most appropriate treatment, that's the best outcome," Massey said. "Instead of going to the ER and getting stabilized, you're already in a critical care area and there is no time lost in treating the patient."

Massey said the new ER area would have appealed to her father, Don, who was devoted to his



Joyce and Don Massey

wife, Joyce, a "quiet woman" who was the "music and joy" in the Massey family. Joyce sustained a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 1983 and died 10 years later. Don, who owned a network of car dealerships, including a flagship location in Plymouth, until they were sold in 2002, died in 2011.

"The purpose of the Foundation is to look for ways to improve treatment of closed head injury. It was my dad's mission to give generously to head injury (programs and research) so other people would have a better outcome than we had."

"It's really a part of their love story. They were two fortunate people who met the 'right one' and remained in love all through lives together," Massey said, adding that the work of the Foundation was "extremely important" to her father.

She said the Foundation began working with U-M Health System approximately a year ago to design a plan, the Joyce Massey TBI Program, that will accelerate improvements in traumatic brain injury treatment.

"I believe U of M is the finest hospital in Michigan and probably in surrounding states as well. We've had a very good relationship with University Hospital."

According to U-M Health System, the Joyce Massey TBI Program

Kyle Gunnerson, M.D., (right) the director of the EC3 at U-M Hospital, talks with a team of nurses and residents as they prepare for patients at the new EC3.

includes:

» A Massey EC3 Clinical Research Program, which will create the clinical infrastructure to evaluate and implement new diagnostic tools, monitoring techniques, and therapeutic strategies for ultra-early treatment of TBI and other critical illness and injury. It includes a database that will allow researchers to analyze data on all critically ill and injured patients treated in the Massey EC3. This program will be headed by Kyle Gunnerson, M.D., the emergency critical care physician and associate professor of emergency medicine who

oversees the EC3.

» A Massey TBI Technology Innovation fund, which will accelerate innovative research to produce the next generation of technologies to revolutionize the care of

TBI, helping to restore victims to their pre-injury status. Teams of U-M physicians, scientists and engineers will compete to receive technology development awards to fund work on devices, diagnostics, therapeutics and digital health. This program will be overseen by Kevin Ward, M.D., a professor of emergency medicine who directs the Michigan Center for Integrative Research in Critical

» A Massey TBI
Translational Research
Program, which will seek
to improve TBI patients'
long-term outcomes by
developing and testing
new diagnostic tools,
more sensitive monitoring techniques, and better early treatments that
can be used in the first
few hours of TBI treatment. This program will
be headed by Hasan

Alam, M.D., an acutecare surgeon who heads the Section of General Surgery in the U-M Department of Surgery.

» A Massey TBI Patient & Family Support Fund, which will assist patients treated in the EC3 and their families, giving need-based support to those who lack resources during a patient's hospitalization for such costs as travel, lodging and meals, as well as adapting their homes and buying special equipment not covered by insurance for post-TBI living. The U-M departments of Social Work and Emergency Medicine will oversee

this fund.

» An annual Massey
TBI Summit, featuring a
Massey Lecture and the
latest findings from U-M
teams and leading experts from across the
country working on cutting-edge TBI research.
The inaugural summit
will be held Sept. 25 in
Ann Arbor.

"With this generous gift, the Massey family and foundation have expressed great confidence in the ability of our researchers to change TBI care," said James O. Woolliscroft, M.D., the U-M Medical School dean, in a press release. "Their remarkable vision will enable our care teams to explore creative ideas that ultimately will lead to more effective treatments for TBI pa-

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