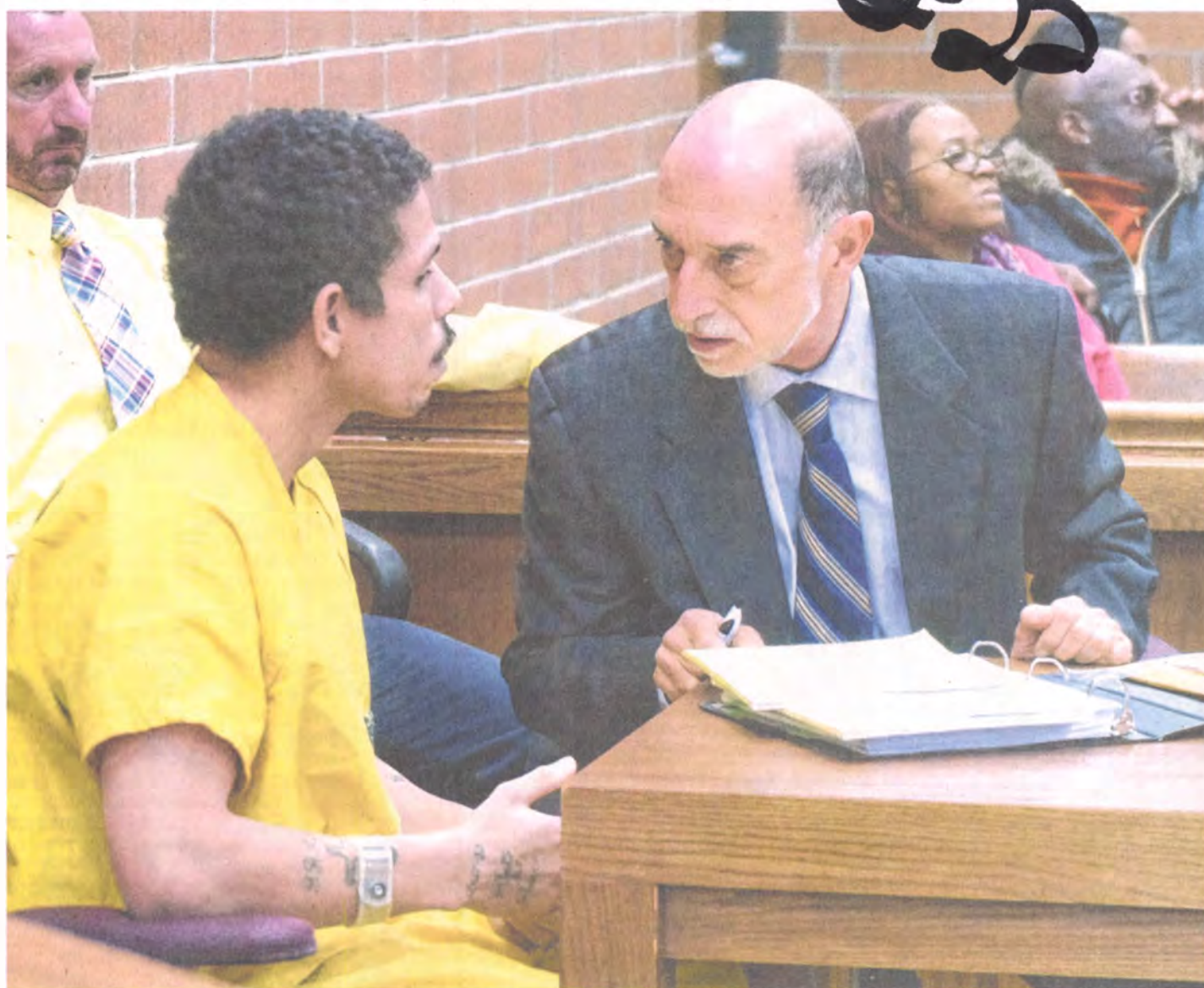


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Defense attorney Martin Magidson confers with defendant Randy Batts during the preliminary examination.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne hires firm to handle benefits, health care

Plante Moran review will focus on finding savings

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Wayne's health care and benefit plans will be managed and reviewed by Plante Moran with an eye on finding cost savings.

Plante Moran has already been hired to reconcile the city's banking records — Wayne has been without a finance director since August — and effectively is working as the finance director.

As part of the original finance director engagement letter, the firm was to look at other (budgetary) structural issues, said Brian Camiller of Plante Moran. One of the first issues was the agreement with the insurance carrier, he said.

"We're trying to correct the structural issues and deficit for 2015-16. I made the comment that there is no magic bullet," Camiller said. "Not one thing will solve it. A combination of things is needed. You need long-term solutions to the problem."

The city has a deficit of more than \$600,000 in the current fiscal year and projects a \$2 million shortfall in 2015-16.

The city's insurance for employees and retirees is a big issue for the city, but not the biggest issue, Camiller said. Under the agreement, Plante Moran will serve as the city's agent of record for insurance.

"You need an advocate, not just an insurance salesper-

See REVIEW, Page A2

Wayne Main Street hosting 'getting found' workshop

Wayne Main Street will help small businesses build their online presences at a Let's Put Wayne on the Map workshop in March.

Wayne Main Street is hosting the workshop, which will feature a lesson titled *Getting Found on Google Search and Maps* at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at the Wayne Fire Station, 3300 S. Wayne Road.

Let's Put Our Cities on the Map is part of Google's Get Your Business Online Program and aims to bring community members, business owners and civic leaders together to help small businesses succeed on the web.

"Wayne Main Street is excited to partner with Google on this initiative," said Lindsey Wooten, executive director of Wayne Main Street. "We view it as a perfect opportunity to provide free assistance to our business community that will be of equal benefit to any type of company operating or servicing the city of Wayne."

While 97 percent of Internet users look online for local products and services, 55 percent of small businesses do not have an online presence. Small businesses need to be online because that's where their customers are searching. Get Your Business Online provides small businesses

See WORKSHOP, Page A2

TWO WESTLAND MEN FACE TRIAL IN BEATING DEATH

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer



Terrence Johnson is one of two men charged with fatally beating a Westland woman, his girlfriend for over two years.

Two Westland men have been bound over for trial on charges that they beat to death a local woman, whose body was found in a Dearborn Heights street last month.

Terrence Harold Johnson, 44, and Randy Batts, who turns 31 next week, are charged with first-degree murder and torture in the death of Diedre Akins, 46. Johnson was Akins's live-in boyfriend, sharing a home on Grand Traverse in Norwayne.

The medical examiner's autopsy report found Akins, whose body was found on Powers near John Daly early Jan. 18, had died of multiple blunt-force trauma injuries, including to her head, and had suffered several broken ribs.

LaDarin Best testified that he had been renting a room at the home on Grand Traverse from Akins, whom he had known for more than 10 years. Due to mobility issues, Best said he primarily stayed in his room and never went down into the basement of the home where Akins was reportedly killed.

Best described an escalating dispute between Akins and Batts, who had accused Akins of stealing narcotics from him. Specifically, Batts was upset over some missing cough syrup, Best said.

Akins denied taking any drugs but gave Batts \$10, Best said, but the dispute continued, becoming physical. When Batts appealed to Johnson to get Akins to return his missing drugs, Best

See TRIAL, Page A2

DECA students set for state conference

John Glenn sending 11 to compete in Grand Rapids

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Marketing a trip to Costa Rica? That shouldn't be such a hard sell when it's winter in Michigan.

And it appears it wasn't for Brandon Allen, who spent several months putting together a PowerPoint presentation on such a trip for judges at the district DECA conference last month.

Allen was among 11 John Glenn High School students who will be competing in the state conference in Grand Rapids next month in hopes of advancing to the international event in Orlando, Fla., in April.

"I did a written event," the

See DECA, Page A2



SUE MASON

Preparing for the state DECA competition in Grand Rapids next month are (from left) John Glenn High School students Jay Patel, Hailey Doyle, Brandon Allen, Grace Mortson, Jacob Manning, Valerie Vuljaj, Shyanna Steele, Camille Hollins and Alexandria Diaz. Also in the group are Caleb Woodard and Adaeze Ogbuaku.



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DECA

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Westland resident said. "You get 2-3 months to prepare and create a visual aid. You don't have to do it on the spot. You have more time to prepare, but you have to come prepared."

As an association, DECA, formerly the Distributive Education Clubs of America, prepares high school and college students for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management and other business areas. Students compete as individuals and teams, taking written tests, doing role plays and presentations.

While Allen opted for the marketing presentation, Hailey Doyle and Grace Mortson, both of Westland, took a different approach with travel and tourism. At the district conference, they did a role play on promoting a small airport.

"We had to come up with a plan on how to promote the airport to bring in customers and why they should fly out of that airport," Mortson said. "We did better than I thought. I was really nervous about going to district, you don't know what to expect."

"It was difficult, but not impossible," Doyle said.

Valerie Vuljaj of Westland only had 10 minutes to prepare her role play on uniforms at district and qualified for the state conference.

"I hadn't done role playing before," she said. "You get a scenario and you have to act it out. You have to think on your feet. You get 10 minutes; you have to manage your time."

Jacob Manning of Westland competed in finance, doing a role play before a judge. He had 10 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to explain what would be the best form of payment would be best for the company.

"I'm really interested in business and all the numbers that revolve around making money,"

he said. "I want to go to college and do business. DECA is about how you work, helps you be more professional and do networking. It's showing me what I want to do."

Marketing experience

The DECA Club is led by marketing teacher Beth Johnson. Students who are in Marketing 3 and 4 are required to join, but she does get students who join on their own. The marketing classes operate the school store, The Gantry. Johnson runs three shifts during lunch when the store is open. At any given time, one-third of students are in class, one-third are at lunch and one-third are working in the store, which sells healthy snacks, beverages and clothing.

They bake cookies, operate the cash register and even learn how to sweep and mop floors. On Friday, the spent their time cleaning walls and packing up food in preparation for this week's mid-winter recess.

The club sponsored a 5K run in the fall to cover membership fees and used a bake sale to help pay for district. They have a dine and donate at the Westland Buffalo Wild Wings from 11 a.m. to midnight Monday, March 9, to help with the state conference.

"Hopefully, with Buffalo Wild Wings we'll raise enough money," Johnson said. "Those students who qualify for Florida — I know I'll have some — we'll have to find sponsors."

Last year, Jay Patel of Westland competed in sports and entertainment management but switched to quick-serve restaurant management.

"I wanted to do something different," said Patel, who has a working knowledge of the fast-food business. He worked for his father who owns a Subway restaurant in Detroit but now works elsewhere.

"I was a manager and had an issue with an employee on a promotion we were doing. I had to work with the employee on what to do and what

not to do," he said. "It was pretty easy, it was basically common knowledge."

DECA fits in with Patel's future plans. He wants to go into business and he wants to own his own business and be an entrepreneur.

"I want to take over my dad's business and also have my own manufacturing company," he said.

Shyanna Steele of Canton will compete in the principles of business management. She was directed to that category by Allen.

"There's a lot of talking in it," she said. "He suggested I do it because I talk a lot," she said. "I'm very comfortable with public speaking. I've been like that since I was little."

This is her first year in DECA. She heard about it from Allen and talked to Johnson.

"I want to be in marketing, and once I talked to Mrs. Johnson, the more I wanted to do it," she said.

Waiting to hear

Cayla Phillips won't be going to Grand Rapids but she'll be paying close attention. She applied for DECA's Leadership Development Academy at the international conference in April.

"It teaches leadership and more skills in the business world," she said. "It gives you networking connections and entrepreneurial skills. I've got everything I can cross to be accepted. I'll be waiting for Mrs. Johnson to call me when it's announced."

Allen also will be waiting for an announcement. He's looking at getting elected to a DECA office. He'd like to be president but will settle for vice-president of career development. It's taken a lot of work. He needs to know 50 different words, be prepared to answer any of 50 questions he might be asked and do a two-minute speech on what DECA means to him.

If he gets picked, he'll have to send out campaign materials to get votes.

"I want to inspire students and students who aren't in DECA," he said. "I'm into politics. Actually campaigning and speech writing are like my hobby. I enjoy doing them."

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Defendant in ref's death to serve 8-15 years in plea

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The man whose punch killed a soccer referee in Livonia last summer has taken a plea deal with prosecutors and will serve at least eight years in prison.

Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter Friday morning. That plea will result in a prison sentence of 8-15 years, according to the plea deal. Saad was originally charged with second-degree murder, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

The deal in Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny's courtroom at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice took place just one business day before a jury trial was scheduled to

begin. Jury selection in the case was scheduled for Monday in Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron's courtroom in Detroit.

"I believe it is Mr. Saad's wishes to move forward with the plea agreement," said Brian Berry, one of Saad's attorneys.

Saad was arrested one day after striking Westland resident John Bieniewicz, a soccer referee, during an adult league soccer match at Livonia's Mies Park. Witness testimony from Saad's preliminary examination stated Saad struck Bieniewicz while the referee was in the process of ejecting him from the match. Two days later, Bieniewicz died from the injuries sustained in the punch, leading prosecutors to file murder charges against Saad.

Saad appeared in court wearing a white shirt, gray pants and black tie. He spoke for the first time in the proceedings, answering Kenny's questions and admitting he did strike Bieniewicz that day.

Wayne County assistant prosecutor Erika Tusar said the plea deal offers had changed several times during the case, including with Saad's former attorney. Offerings began at a minimum of 10 years under the second-degree murder charge before being negotiated to the 8- to 15-year agreement under involuntary manslaughter.

Kenny also informed Saad that since he is not a U.S. citizen, the charge could lead to a possible deportation. Saad said he understood and wanted to move forward with the plea deal.

TRIAL

Continued from Page A1

said, Johnson responded that the situation had nothing to do with him.

"He (Batts) was upset and saying someone better find it (his drugs). He grabbed her (Akins) coat and shoved her up against the wall," Best said.

As the argument continued over an extended period time and more alcohol was consumed by the trio, Best said he tried to convince Akins not to keep going down into the basement where the two men were during much of time.

Batts struck Akins in the face with his fist a couple of times and ended up wrestling with her on the floor, Best said.

"I tried to grab him and break it up. I don't move too good. I kept telling her to stay upstairs," Best said. "I was telling her (Akins) to call 911. The phone wasn't charging. I told her to get the charger."

The last time Akins went into the basement of the home, Best said, he heard a series of loud booms, a male voice yelling he wanted his drugs and then, Akins saying "Get out."

"It got quiet. There was talking but for 10 or

15 minutes there was no argument," Best said. "I heard Batts say 'You better get her before she gets hurt.' Terrence (Johnson) said, 'She's OK, she's faking.' I heard her say something, then nothing more."

Best testified that he never saw Akins again. The following day, Best said he asked Johnson about Akins.

"He said she probably was at the hospital. Terrence went to the store. When he came back, he asked if she (Akins) had called," Best said. "About half an hour later, the police came."

Two other Westland men, Michael Bashlor, 34, and Joshua Hurston-Herron, 23, are charged with being accessories after the fact. The charges are that Bashlor and Hurston-Herron helped dispose of Akins' body. Both have already been arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court and are jailed in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond.

Dearborn Heights Police began investigating the case after Akins' body was found without any identification.

Westland Police Sgt. Jon Torolski testified that later that day Bashlor, accompanied by a cousin who is a Detroit Police officer, came to the Westland Police

Department to provide information in the case.

As officers executed a search warrant at the home on Grand Traverse, Torolski said he went to interview Johnson at the Dearborn Heights Police station. Noting a fresh scratch on his face, Torolski said Johnson gave an inconsistent account of what had happened over two interviews.

Johnson placed most of the blame for Akins' death on Batts, Torolski said, but he also described tying Akins with rope and putting tape over her mouth after she was injured and bleeding.

"In his Jan. 20 statement, Johnson acknowledged that it was due to his and Batts' actions that Diedra had died," Torolski said. "Her body was kept in a closet, wrapped in a hospital-style blanket, he agreed, for at least 12 hours until they moved the body."

Both men were ordered bound over for trial as charged and remain jailed in lieu of bond.

The preliminary examination had been delayed two weeks due to issues with material not being provided to the defense.

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WORKSHOP

Continued from Page A1

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"Businesses that are online are expected to grow 40 percent faster than those who aren't," said Soo Young Kim, marketing manager for Google's Let's Put Our Cities on the Map Program. "Small businesses are the engine of local economies and when they flourish, their communities do as well."

For more information about the program, visit www.gybo.com/MI/Wayne or call 734-629-6822.

REVIEW

Continued from Page A1

son," Camiller said.

Core components

As the insurance agent of record, Jonathon Trionfi of Plante Moran said the firm will apply three core components: compliance, cost and administration.

"All three need to be addressed for any benefit package to work successfully," he said.

"The city asked for guidance on shorter- and longer-term ways to make sure the benefits are provided in the efficient manner." The city has many

different insurance plans for employees, Councilman Albert Damitio said, adding he hoped there would be some consolidation of plans.

"I also look forward to other savings like a self-insurance plan for the city," he said. "Right now, there are a lot of carriers for health care and options. The city needs guidance and help for selecting the optimum program so we can control health care costs."

Plante Moran is charging the city a bit less than the current agent of record — \$58,000 a year compared to the current \$66,000 annually.

"Short-term, the savings is administrative costs. Longer term, the savings will

be in the form of the actual health care benefits packages," Trionfi said.

The goal is to manage health care benefits in an effective way to save money but not change the benefits offered, he said.

"The (health insurance) industry tends to be very fluid with all the changes at the federal level. This tends to be an ongoing process," Trionfi said.

Working with Blue Cross, Trionfi said he is looking at reducing costs \$100 per employee per month. He said there will also be negotiations on fees to bring the city more in line with the private sector.

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Teacher Yuko Hasegawa leads her first-grade class through a sing-along to a Japanese language video.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Immersion school enrolls for 2nd year as Hinonki reopens

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Shelli Ueno of Ann Arbor and Yasuko James of Farmington Hills enrolled their children in Livonia Public Schools' new Japanese Immersion School last fall after Hinoki International, the charter school with a similar program, closed.

Hinoki is reopening again next fall, but they'll keep their children in the LPS school, Niji-Iro.

"I've been very happy with the program, the staff and the principal," Ueno said. "I think (Principal) Karen (Young) has been working really hard to build a good school."

"He is happy now, why would I move him?" James

asked of her son Cloud, a second-grader.

But Anne M. Hooghart, president of the Hinoki International school board, will be taking her two children out of Niji-Iro and putting them back into Hinoki, saying while LPS' math program was stronger than Hinoki's, her children are

See SCHOOL, Page A11



Student work on display in the halls.

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Discover Remarkable

Student reporters test skills at Wings Journalist Day

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

For Samantha Aneed, journalism "is all I've ever wanted to do." Meagan Dowell is looking at it "as a secondary career."

The teens got to see what it's all about at the Detroit Red Wings' recent High School Journalist Day. Presented by Michigan Office Solutions (MOS), the event let 63 high school freshmen to seniors experience a day in the life of a sports reporter covering the Red Wings.

"I think it was the best," said Dowell, a junior at Wayne Memorial High School. "I was very impressed. It was way more professional than I thought it would be. They had their rules. It was really done nicely."

"It was very interesting to see how press conferences worked," said Aneed, a junior at Garden City High School. "It was very professional and seemed like what professional journalists would do."

Held annually, the students did a question and answer session with Kevin Allen of USA Today, Michael Caples of

Michigan Hockey, Dana Wakiji of FoxSportsDetroit.com and Ken Kal, the play-by-play voice for the Red Wings, who shared their personal experiences and offered advice on breaking into sports journalism.

They also had an opportunity to watch the Wings practice and participated in three mock press conferences with Coach Mike Babcock, assistant to the general manager and former Red Wings star Kris Draper and players Dan Cleary, Stephen Weiss and Luke Glendening.

Aneed was approached by yearbook adviser Robert Fulton who asked if she would like to attend. She had taken writing for publication class with Fulton last year and is working with him on the yearbook. The answer was an easy one for her.

"Of course, I said yes; it was an amazing opportunity," said Aneed, who went to the event with Fulton's camera. "Journalism is all I have ever wanted to do since eighth grade. My favorite thing was to go to concerts, write about them and do reviews."

Dowell is the sports editor for the school newspaper. She,



DETROIT RED WINGS
Meagan Dowell from Wayne Memorial High School was among 63 high school reporters at the Detroit Red Wings High School Journalist Day.



DETROIT RED WINGS
Samantha Aneed from Garden City High School takes a photo during a practice at Detroit Red Wings recent High School Journalist Day.

too, learned about the event from her adviser and immediately said yes.

"At first I was very nervous, I just had to get up my courage to ask a question," she said. "I asked a question of Coach Babcock, but it felt different than when I talk to my school coaches."

Both teens are crafting stories about their experiences for their school publications and for a contest sponsored by the Red Wings. The challenge for Aneed is the lead and closing paragraphs of a story, Dowell is working on making her stories longer.

After the stories have been

published and submitted, the top three entries will be selected by the Wings' PR department. The grand prize winner will have his or her story posted on www.DetroitRedWings.com and will get to spend a 2015-16 Red Wings practice, lunch and home game shadowing Allen, an USA Today hockey reporter. The second-place writer or broadcaster will win two tickets to a 2015-16 home game and the third-place writer will receive a puck or photo signed by his or her favorite player.

"I'd love to shadow Kevin Allen," said Dowell. "He went to my school. He said it was 100 years ago."

Aneed got help from her friends. She doesn't know a lot about hockey, so they gave her tips so she could ask some "hard hitting questions."

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Schoolcraft offers fast track to get potential teachers into classroom

Schoolcraft College is the only community college in Michigan that has received approval to offer a new Alternative Route for Interim Teacher Certification program.

The ARC provides the opportunity to complete an expedited, alternate route of study for those who want to transition from a previous career and/or undergraduate or graduate degree program into

teaching.

Schoolcraft's program is designed especially for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher and who may be allowed to teach full-time while completing approved teacher preparation requirements.

The intention of the program is to enable those who commit their knowledge, skills and preparation to become

successful, fully certified classroom teachers through a quality, rigorous alternative route program.

Applicants are currently being considered for admission to the program for which classes will begin in May. The coursework and field experiences are designed to prepare the candidate to make a successful and seamless transition into the classroom as an effective

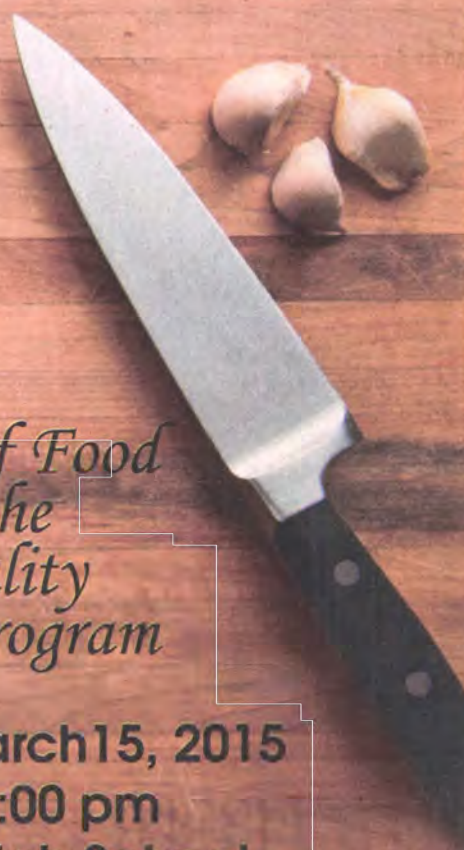
teacher. Students who successfully complete the coursework during the Spring term (May-August) can then arrange for a classroom placement as a certified teacher, under the Michigan Interim Teaching Certificate.

Students will work with a mentor in their building and be involved in continuous professional development for three years, while working as a full

time classroom teacher and completing the remaining coursework during the three summers of the program.

Following three years of successful teaching and meeting all program requirements, candidates will be eligible to be recommended for the Michigan Provisional Certificate. Call 734-462-4400 ext. 4335 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/arcteacher.

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State Rep. Laura Cox, far right, and her fellow committee members listened to presentations from the Citizen Research Council and local government officials during the General Government Subcommittee meeting on Feb. 18.

Cox gathers new ideas for local government funding

State Rep. Laura Cox on Wednesday hosted the Livonia-based Citizens Research Council for its testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on new alternatives and recommendations for local government funding.

"I was pleased to welcome CRC to the meeting because they have a history of providing unbiased information on many hotly debated issues in Michigan," said Cox, chair of the subcommittee. "The committee is tasked with creating the best possible budget for Michigan's state agencies in addition to identifying an equitable revenue sharing model for local governments. I was pleased to hear their ideas and recommendations and look forward to discussing them as we move forward in the budget process."

In addition, the committee welcomed other local government groups to hear their suggestions for the state's revenue-sharing

program that can be taken into consideration for future budget deliberations.

"After today's meeting, I am looking forward to exploring new ways to update and modernize the state's revenue sharing programs," said Cox, R-Livonia. "Many of the current allocations are based on decades-old information and it is time that this is brought in line with current programs and data."

Cox said she is especially interested in investigating a more equitable funding approach based on services provided to residents by cities, townships, villages and counties.

"Local governments are just as important to Michigan's continued recovery as the state government," she said. "It is important that we focus on solutions that will best help the local communities because our state is many small communities fitting together into one and we need all those parts to be working well for the state as a whole to succeed."

Traditional IRA or Roth: What's best for this twenty-something?

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my mid-20s and currently still live at home. I virtually have no expenses and I am able to save money. I just got done doing my tax return online. I don't have a 401(k) or anything like that at work and I've never made an IRA contribution in the past. My dilemma is whether I use a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. If I did the calculations correctly, a traditional IRA will save me over \$700. My dad wants me to do a Roth IRA. What type of IRA should I use?



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

being able to deduct your contribution. However, instead of the money growing tax-deferred, it is growing tax-free. In other words, when you withdraw the money from a Roth IRA, your entire withdrawal is tax-free. In addition, there are no required minimum distributions, and thus you don't have to begin to withdraw the

money when you're 70%. Even though you take a short-term tax hit today, down the road when you retire you will be in significantly better shape. You will have greater flexibility as to when you can withdraw the money and it would be tax-free.

You may save \$700 today with a traditional IRA, however, down the road when you withdraw the money by using a Roth, you will literally save thousands.

Congratulations for beginning to save for your retirement. I wish

more people in their 20s were like you.

One last note. Those of you lucky enough to have a salary deferral program at work such as a 401(k) plan should maximize your contribution and also consider Roth IRA contributions. You can't have too much money saved for your retirement.

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

A: There's an old saying and it applies in this situation: father knows best.

I agree with your dad that in your situation it would be much better to do a Roth IRA versus a traditional IRA. Even though the traditional IRA will give you some current tax benefits, it will cost you in the long run.

It is important to understand the difference between a traditional and a Roth IRA. In a traditional IRA you can deduct your contribution on your tax return. All the money in the IRA would grow tax-deferred. When you withdraw the money, the entire withdrawal would be subject to income tax at your ordinary income tax bracket. In addition, traditional IRAs are subject to required minimum distributions, which means at age 70½ whether you are required to take some of the money.

The initial disadvantage of a Roth IRA is not

You are invited to taste (and judge) the best chili in town!



Friday, February 27 | 2:00 p.m.



Call (734) 464-9494, ext.2 by February 22 to reserve your spot at this FREE event.

Sanctuary at Villa Marie, 15131 Newburgh, Livonia, MI 48154

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Agency lauds youths who overcame obstacles

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Growth Works began in 1971 as a Plymouth-based agency to help young people. Dale Yagiela, executive director, has been there all that time.

"We like to honor people who have helped the organization," Yagiela said of the agency's 26th annual recognition dinner, held Feb. 19 at Fox Hills Banquet Center. Local young people who've handled substance abuse or other problems well are also lauded.

"We like to acknowledge the changes they've made in their lives," he said.

The agency started as Plymouth Youth Inc. in 1971 and five years later became Growth Works. At that time, it was mainly for Plymouth and Plymouth Township young people.

"There wasn't much of a Canton at that point," he recalled. "It was a really different community then."

As youth culture expanded in the 1970s, drug use became a problem. "There wasn't a lot being done about it," said Yagiela, adding some hard drugs like LSD were used locally with marijuana and alcohol most often the problem. "People weren't really tuned into it" as a problem.

The youth activity



Honorees lauded at the Feb. 19 dinner included (from left) Draque Gamsjager of Howell, Sebastian Campbell of Ypsilanti and Taylor Struna of Livonia.

center was followed by alternative education in the mid-1970s. Agency leaders realized young people with substance abuse issues didn't do well in school, which needed to be addressed.

Combining forces

Growth Works started Learning Options, the alternative school program, in 1977 in conjunction with Plymouth-Canton Schools. The agency obtained the federal grant along with the district to develop a way to re-integrate teens into the high schools that had been essentially removed from the regular school setting for an array of disciplinary matters. That effort led to a better understanding of the way drug use interfered with school performance and the first efforts to connect kids with hospital-based inpatient drug treatment programs, Yagiela explained.

Youth after-care for recovery soon followed. That initial aftercare program paved the way for the joint venture residential adolescent drug treatment program Growth Works has with Wolverine Human Services, called WCARE/I in Vassar, Mich., the two outpatient endeavors in Livingston and Washtenaw counties, tied to their respective Juvenile Drug Courts and the 10-bed residential program Growth Works operates in the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Facility.

The juvenile justice focus started in the mid-1980s with the Youth Assistance program. That initial program relied on mentorship opportunities to help kids diverted by the local police agencies and the 35th District Court, which had just been allowed to serve local teens charged with misde-



Rick and Cindy Bergquist of Livonia are shown with their daughter, Tori Bergquist, and her fiancé, T.J. Elliott, at the Growth Works dinner. Rick and Cindy presented a Growth Works scholarship to Taylor Struna at the Feb. 19 dinner in honor of their late son.

meanor and ordinance violations.

That experience allowed Growth Works to become one of Wayne County's Care Management Organizations when the county developed its own juvenile justice program in 1999. Growth Works is one of five CMOs that provide probation and case management services to every youth tried in the Wayne County Juvenile Court. The Growth Works CMO service area entails 17 western Wayne County communities.

Services are provided in the community and youth are also placed in residential rehabilitation settings, Yagiela said. Close work with police agencies is a key part of helping young people become and stay crime-free.

Branching out

Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston counties now use Growth Works services, with the adult treatment program for substance abuse having mostly Wayne County residents. Some 80 such adults are about evenly split between inpatient and relapse prevention, he said. The Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Authority is the fund source.

In addition to primary

treatment for adult substance abusers, mainly young adults, a second component of the program focuses on relapse prevention and how to maintain sobriety once it's achieved.

He noted young people from poorer communities tend to have less in the way of resources to help them, putting them more often in the juvenile justice system. "Generally speaking, I think we could do a better job of that," he said. "Typically, they don't have access to the same services."

The recent recession also impacted law enforcement, Yagiela noted, with less policing meaning more criminal activity, including among teens.

Yagiela also pointed to newer research on adolescent brain development. Adolescence is starting earlier, he said, and going into the early 20s. Drug use interferes with brain development, and things like impulse control are impacted.

The annual awards dinner is a great chance to acknowledge young people, the staff and the Growth Works Board of Directors, he said. Some former clients, now adults, serve on the board. Stephen Harper is the board president.

"The board's been

GROWTH WORKS HONOREES

In honor of their late son, Cindy and Rick Bergquist of Livonia, presented the inaugural Rick Bergquist Memorial Scholarship to Taylor Struna of Livonia for his special achievement and outstanding efforts in Growth Works' Western Wayne Care Management Organization. Awards were presented to Adam Turner of Canton and Smeet Parikh of Canton, for continued commitment to recovery and outstanding achievement in Community Intervention & Treatment; and, Draque Gamsjager of Howell, Sebastian Campbell of Ypsilanti and Ter-Ri Upthegrove of Ann Arbor, for outstanding efforts toward recovery and outstanding achievement in Aftercare & Residential Treatment. Community awards for efforts to improve the lives of young people were given to state Rep. Laura Cox, as well as former Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara. Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, a Growth Works board member, was lauded for 10 years of service.

great," Yagiela said. "We have a really engaged Board of Directors."

Of his staff, Yagiela said, "they have extremely hard jobs and face difficult challenges. I'm quite proud of the efforts they undertake to improve the lives of their clients and the willingness to take on tough assignments. The staff is very dedicated and highly competent. Most importantly, they are good-hearted people that really care about what they do."

Abandoned vehicle auction: Saturday February 28 @ 12pm Sparks Auto and Towing, 34043 Ford Road, Westland MI

1.	2002	Chevrolet	1GNDX03E42D201634
2.	1999	Pontiac	1G2NW12E5XM840074
3.	1997	Plymouth	1P4GP44R0VB440382
4.	1997	Cadillac	1G6KY5291VU832525
5.	1990	Ford	1FTCR10A5LUB57182
6.	1997	Chevrolet	1G1JC524XV7281188
7.	1999	Mercury	1MEFM53S1XG649380
8.	1999	Chevrolet	1G1NE52M1X6129868
9.	2002	Pontiac	1G2NE52F82C124996
10.	1999	Chevrolet	1Y1SK5287XZ408032
11.	2001	Ford	1FMYU70E61UA48569
12.	2000	Chrysler	2C3HE66G7YH148024
13.	2007	Chevrolet	1GNDV23167D155679
14.	2004	Dodge	1B3EL46X64N209200

Publish: February 22, 2015

LO-000223025 3x2.5

PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved Minutes for meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of January 2015 are posted at the following public places within the Township:

- Community Center, 12121 Hemingway
- Fire Department, 15145 Beech Daly
- Library, 25320 Six Mile Road
- Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly
- Police Department, 25833 Elsinore
- Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved Minutes may also be viewed on-line at www.redfordtp.com

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk
Charter Township of Redford

Publish: February 22, 2015

LO-000223161 3x2.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INVITATION TO BID FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION AND ADDITION

The Board of Education of Livonia Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor bids for all labor, material, equipment and all other services to complete the work at Livonia Public Schools Franklin High School.

Plans and specifications may be obtained electronically via PlanWell through George W. Auch and are available for review at the office of the George W. Auch Company, 735 S. Paddock Street, Pontiac, MI 48341 248.334.2000, on or after **February 17th, 2015**. The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by Stantec. Complete sets of printed documents may be purchased from DunnBlue/ARC, 1009 W. Maple St., Clawson, Michigan 248-288-5600 or email michigan.troy@e-arc.com.

The envelope bearing your proposal must identify your company and the proposal being bid and addressed to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Administrative Offices, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Bids must be delivered no later than **12:00 pm, March 10, 2015** to Livonia Administrative Offices (address above), Attn: Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms furnished by the construction manager and must be completed in full. Each proposal shall be sealed in an opaque envelope and marked with the name of the bidder. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

A Bid bond executed by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company acceptable to the owner, or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal payable to Livonia Public Schools shall be submitted with each proposal in excess of \$23,126.00. All proposals shall be firm for a period of ninety (90) days. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

Contractors will be required to meet the Prevailing Wage requirements which are provided with the project manual.

A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 24, 2015** at 3:00 pm at the Franklin High School (31000 Joy Road, Livonia, MI 48150). Please meet in the South Cafeteria. **This walk through is not mandatory, but highly recommended.**

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a meeting convened at the Livonia Administrative Offices (Board Room to be determined) starting at **2:00 pm March 10, 2015**. Post-bid interviews will be held on March 11th - 18th at the office of the George W. Auch Company OR Livonia Administration Office; the low responsive bidder must be prepared to meet on these days.

Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of the Bond shall be included in each proposal.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or Superintendent of the Livonia Public Schools. All bids must be accompanied by a signed and notarized statement to comply with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act of 2012. Also include the Equal Opportunity Form. Forms are included in the bid proposals.

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

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance

Publish: February 22, 2015

LO-000223014 3x7.5

WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION - 5-YEAR AGENCY PLAN 2015 - 2020 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICE

The Westland Housing Commission (WHC) is developing the fiscal year 2015 and 5-Year Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Agency Plan reflects the goals and objectives of the WHC and the administration of housing and community development programs. The Agency Plan is available for public review for a period of not less than 45 days at the Westland Housing Commission, Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Submit written comments to the WHC. The comment period will end on April 10, 2015. The WHC Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing to obtain citizen comments on the Agency Plan on March 17, 2015, 5:30 pm, at the Dorsey Center. The Agency Plan will be submitted to HUD no later than April 21, 2015.

Joanne Campbell, Director
William R. Wild, Mayor

Publish: February 22, 2015

LO-00022357 3x3

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIVONIA, MI 48154

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Livonia Public Schools, consisting of Renovations Projects at:

- Hayes Elementary School
- Kennedy Elementary School
- Roosevelt Elementary School

will be received by Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 until **12:00 P.M. (noon), local time on Wednesday, March 4, 2015**. Bids will be opened and read publicly immediately following at the Administrative Offices in the Livonia Public Schools Board Room.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

121	Visual Display Boards	185	Test and Balance
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Bidding documents prepared by French Associates will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents for a non-refundable \$80.00 deposit, beginning at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Checks should be payable to Livonia Public Schools.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 00 42 05), the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit (Section 00 42 10) and the Equal Opportunity Statement.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond (by a listed U.S. Treasury surety company) or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Livonia Public Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

Contractors will be required to meet the prevailing wage requirements. If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Livonia Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools, Board of Education

Publish: February 22, 2015

LO-000223048 3x7.5

Greens fees expected to increase at city courses

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Golfers who frequent the three courses in Livonia can expect to see an increase in green fees when the season begins this spring.

The city council is expected to approve an increase in green fees at the three city courses — Idyl Wyld, Whispering Willows and Fox Creek — at its next meeting after being presented the new rates Wednesday night by parks and recreation interim superintendent Dave Varga.

The increase, the first since 2012, will raise fees by either 50 cents or \$1 per round, depending on the course, golfer residency status and time of year.

"We expect they will be an acceptable way to keep the courses up with our increasing costs and needed improvements," Varga said, "and still remain competitive as you'll see with the comparison figures that are presented."

Also proposed to increase are senior cart fees at the three courses, fees that



FILE PHOTO

The rate increase will help maintain the city of Livonia's three golf courses, including Whispering Willows.

have not been raised since 1996. Senior cart rates will increase \$1 at the start of the 2015 season. Both the green fees and senior cart increases will be voted on the city council's consent agenda at its March 2 meeting, meaning they will most likely be approved.

What is not changing are costs for leagues at the courses: Varga said those will remain unchanged this year. Rates for outings are also expected to increase

as well.

The rate increase is being done more so for maintenance and upkeep of the courses, Varga said, and is not related to the recent termination of the contract of the Tin Cup Bar and Grill at Whispering Willows. That contract was terminated in December after the restaurant was not making adequate rent payments to the city.

Varga said the anticipated increased revenue from the raised fees would total roughly \$8,700 at Idyl Wyld and \$56,000 at Whispering Willows and Fox Creek combined, based on the number of golfers who played in 2014.

Despite the increase, green fees at the courses will remain below average from surrounding courses in other communities, including Farmington Hills, Novi, Plymouth and Salem Township. Senior cart fees will also remain below average.

There are changes to both resident and non-resident fees at Whispering Willows and Fox Creek. Only one fee is being charged at Idyl Wyld because of

stipulations in a grant received from the county for work done on the course, Varga said.

"There's only one fee for Idyl Wyld, because we accepted a county grant on work that was done stabilizing the stream bank in the golf course to the tune of \$60,000," he said. "Because of that, we couldn't provide a different rate for residents within the city from outside the city."

Council president Maureen Miller Brosnan noted the rate increase at Fox Creek and Whispering Willows for this year is close to the total amount of money received from the county for that improvement several years ago.

"It appears that over the course of between 2012 and now in 2015, a three-year time period, you've seen that you've needed to raise rates in order to accommodate some of the expenses," she said. "Yet we're not going to be able to put another rate pattern in that would help us bridge that rate gap easier."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com | 734-678-6728

Better Business Bureau's list of 10 most pervasive scams

The Better Business Bureau hears from thousands of consumers and business owners every year about a variety of scams and frauds. Many are new twists on existing scams, but scammers get more sophisticated every year in how they spoof trusted names and how they fool consumers.

While BBB doesn't have specific numbers about how many people were defrauded or for how much, here are the scams the BBB thinks were most pervasive this past year:

10. Sweepstakes scam: You've won a contest or the lottery, but you must pay fees or taxes in advance so they can release your prize.

9. Click bait scam: Social media posts show pictures of Malaysian Airlines, celebrity images and fake news to get you to unintentionally click and download malware.

8. Robocall scam: This scam claims to be able to lower your credit card interest rates and takes credit card information then charges fees to your card.

7. Government grant scam: You get a call saying you've been awarded a government grant for thousands of dollars but you need to pay fees by wire transfer or prepaid debit card.

6. Emergency scam: You get a call or email from your grandchild or other relative who was injured, robbed or arrested while traveling overseas and needs money ASAP.

5. Medical alert scam: A caller states a concerned family member ordered you a medical alert device, but need your credit card information to complete the order.

4. Copycat website scam: You get a message about a sale. You click through and order, but

you either get a cheap counterfeit or nothing at all.

3. Are you calling yourself? scam: Scammers can make a call look like it's coming from anywhere. The latest trick puts your number in the Caller ID.

2. Tech support scam: Call claiming to be from Microsoft about a problem on your computer they can fix, but they install malware on your computer instead.

1. Arrest scam: Call from someone claiming to be a police officer or government agent (often the IRS) stating they are coming to arrest you for overdue taxes

Why Scams Work

There is a science to scams, and it may surprise you to know that scammers use many of the same techniques as legitimate sales professionals. The difference, of course, is that their "product" is illegal and

could cost you a fortune. Here are the major techniques they use to draw you in:

» Establishing a connection — The scammer builds rapport and a relationship with you. This is usually used face-to-face, as in home improvement scams and many investment scams, but also online romance scams.

» Source credibility — The scammer uses techniques to make themselves look legitimate, such as fake websites or hacked emails that come from a friend's account. Most email phishing scams spoof real companies, and many scammers pretend to be someone they are not in order to add credibility.

» Playing on emotions — Scammers rely on emotion to get you to make a quick decision before you have time to think about it. An emergency situation or a lim-

ited time offer is usually their methodology. They count on emotional rather than rational decision-making.

What You Can Do

» Don't be pressured into making fast decisions.

» Take time to research the organization. Check them out on bbb.org, search online, etc.

» Never provide your personal information (address, date-of-birth, banking information, ID numbers) to people you do not know.

» Don't click on links from unsolicited email or text messages.

» If you are unsure about a call or email that claims to be from your bank, utility company, etc., call the business from the number on your bill or the back of your credit card.

» Never send money by wire transfer or prepaid debit card to some-

one you don't know or haven't met in person.

» Never send money for an emergency situation unless you've been able to verify the emergency.

For more information on these and other scams, go to BBB Scam Stopper (bbb.org/scam). Sign up for the weekly Scam Alerts to learn about new scams. You can report scams there, too.

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CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #2 ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (2015-2016) FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

The City of Livonia Housing Commission will hold a second Public Hearing at 6:00 pm, Thursday, March 5, 2015, at their offices located at 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. The first Public Hearing was held on February 2, 2015. The City Council has given preliminary approval of the 2015-2016 CDBG program and budget at their February 18, 2015 regular meeting. The purpose of this second hearing is to again obtain the views of citizens, public agencies and other interested parties regarding the preliminary 2015-2016 CDBG budget and past program performance. An additional purpose of this public hearing is to obtain views on housing needs, homeless needs, and other public facility needs in the community, particularly as they relate to low and moderate income persons and households. The hearing is required in order for the City of Livonia to receive Community Development Block Grant funds starting with the 2015 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015).

Written comments regarding proposed activities and past performance issues may be directed to the Livonia Housing Commission at 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Copies of materials to be discussed during the public hearing are available for examination at the Housing Commission-Community Development Office during normal business hours. For additional information please contact the Housing Commission-Community Development Office at (734) 421-6450 ext. 103.

James M. Inglis, Housing Director

Jack Kirksey, Mayor

Publish: February 22, 2015

LD-00022183 3x4

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA Zoning Board of Appeals

March 10, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466-2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2014-09-47: Marck Properties, LLC, north side of Schoolcraft, (35000) between Ellen and Yale, seeking to maintain the location of a dumpster and enclosure which is located in the front yard, which is not allowed.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2015-01-02 (Tabled on January 6, 2015): Middlebelt Retail Development, LLC, 1260 Library St., Ste. 300, Detroit, MI 48226, on behalf of Lessee The Vitamin Shoppe, west side of Middlebelt, (12687) between Industrial and CSX Railroad, seeking to erect an additional wall sign on the north elevation, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall sign area.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2015-02-05: Preferred Real Estate, LLC, 38000 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI 48150, on behalf of Lessee Preferred Dental Group, north side of Ann Arbor Trail, (38000) between Ann Arbor Road and Hix, seeking to replace two existing ground signs and have one sign with electronic display of time and temperature. This type of display is not allowed in this zoning district. The existing signs are nonconforming to the current allowances provided in the sign ordinance and are under a previous variance granted by the Zoning Board (case# 8104-41).

APPEAL CASE NO. 2015-03-08: Indy-C-Kal, Inc., 2500 Westmont Circle, Sterling Heights, MI 48310, on behalf of Lessee Starbucks, west side of Middlebelt (12679) between Industrial and CSX Railroad, seeking to erect an additional wall sign on the south elevation, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall sign area.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2014-06-28 (Tabled on June 3, 2014): Kordoba, LLC, 7578 Windgate Circle, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, on behalf of Lessee Masri Orthodontics, east side of Levan (15230), between Jamison and Five Mile, seeking to erect a second wall sign upon a multi-tenant office building, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall sign area.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 – all comments must include name, address and signature.

Publish: Sunday, February 22, 2015

LD-00022336 3x6.5



CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 3, 2015	9:00 a.m.
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The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 09, 2015	9:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday	March 10, 2015	1:00pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday	March 11, 2015	1:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursday	March 12, 2015	9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday	March 13, 2015	9:00am - 4:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Friday March 13, 2015.

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is 1.6% for 2015.

The 2015 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection March 4, 2015 and March 5, 2015 in the Assessment Office from 9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ALLYSON BETTIS
TREASURER-CLERK

Publish February 22, 26, and March 1 2015

LD-00022269 3X4.5

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF LIVONIA BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING - 2015

You are hereby notified pursuant to chapter VIII Section 6, of the Charter of Livonia, the Board of Review will conduct Public Hearings on the following dates in the Board of Review Conference Room of the Assessor's Office in the City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan and such additional meetings as may be necessary for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll for the year 2015 and hearing any taxpayers deeming themselves aggrieved by the said assessments.

The meetings of the Board of Review provide the only opportunity after March 3, 2015 for property owners to present protests or suggestions relative to the assessed valuation placed on property by the Assessor for the year 2015. Property owners deeming themselves aggrieved by the assessments will have the opportunity to be heard and may obtain further information from the Office of the City Assessor.

First Session			
Tuesday	March 3, 2015	Organizational Meeting	9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.
Thursday	March 5, 2015	9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.	1:30p.m. - 4:00p.m.
Friday	March 6, 2015	9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.	1:30p.m. - 4:00p.m.
Second Session			
Monday	March 9, 2015	9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.	1:30p.m. - 4:00p.m.
Tuesday	March 10, 2015	9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.	2:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Thursday	March 12, 2015	9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.	2:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Friday	March 13, 2015	9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.	1:30p.m. - 4:00p.m.
Monday	March 16, 2015	9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.	

Pursuant to Public Act No. 165, Public Acts of 1971, we hereby give notice that the following tentative ratio and multipliers will be used to determine the State Equalized Value (S.E.V.) for the year 2015.

CLASS	RATIO	S.E.V. FACTOR (MULTIPLIER)
Agricultural	50.00	1.0000
Commercial	50.00	1.0000
Industrial	50.00	1.0000
Residential	50.00	1.0000
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Note: Appointments for the Board of Review may be made beginning Monday, February 23, 2015 by calling the Assessor's Office at 734.466.2220.

Linda Gosselin, Assessor
Susan A. Hoff, City Clerk

Publish: February 22, 26, and March 1, 2015

LD-00022822

Canton's 'Sprice' busy since achieving TV stardom

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton's Steve Price gained a national fan base after his chain-reaction machines landed him on NBC's *America's Got Talent* in 2013.

Using dominoes, soccer balls, strings, pulleys, an umbrella, mousetraps, fly swatters, fireworks and other props, Price — stage name "Sprice" — was called a "genius" by judge Howard Stern for his Rube Goldberg machines.

Now, Price has a new vision. He hopes to pool the talents of the nation's best dominoes-and-machine builders to create a huge chain-reaction event inside a warehouse his father, owner of a carpet-cleaning business, has in Wayne. He's aiming for summer with a big audience.

"I'm guessing it would be one of the biggest domino events in America in the last 30 years," Price said, possibly even leading to "some sort of

domino world-record attempt."

Price, a 20-year-old mechanical engineering student at Michigan State University, has begun amassing a talented team that he expects to number 10 to 15, many in their teens. But he said he needs to raise about \$3,000 to bring them in from places as far away as New England and North Carolina.

"It's a lot of work and a lot of travel," he said.

Sponsors sought

That's where Price's business acumen comes in. He's hoping for sponsorship help from area companies that, in return, would have their logos — made with thousands of dominoes — displayed before a live audience and in a potentially viral video on YouTube, where Price already has a channel, www.YouTube.com/TheSprice17. Price can be reached by email at spicemachines@gmail.com.



Canton's Steve Price, or "Sprice," in a photo provided by NBC during his stint on "America's Got Talent."

Price has been in demand since *America's Got Talent*, where he won accolades even though he didn't win it all. One of his Canton fans, Jon Hicks, said through his @gemguyjon Twitter account that Price made Canton proud, because "there's now something

more than IKEA to put us on the map."

Price, indeed, has become a good ambassador.

He appeared last fall on Rachael Ray's cooking and talk show, where he built a chain-reaction machine that made a kitchen mess by break-

ing a glass, spilling wine, burning a pot and spilling hot wax — all for a segment on cleaning up after a party.

Price has built chain-reaction machines at museums such as The Strong, or The National Museum of Play, in Rochester, N.Y., where he was

featured in the Toy Hall of Fame. He also has sold his products on his website, www.spricemachines.com.

"It's doing really well, even though I only have a few products up right now," he said.

Price has remained focused on his MSU studies and he hopes to use his talents and his mechanical engineering studies as a springboard to a career using his dominoes-and-machine talents.

In the meantime, he is continuing to perfect some of his inventions. One, dubbed the Rise-n-Shine Coffee Shop, uses a chain-reaction machine to brew coffee and make toast. He's still working on a plan to make an egg slide down a chute, crack the shell and empty it into a frying pan that turns on.

Chances are it will be well-done.

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

Wii not? Exercise, friends add up to make aging easier

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Wii bowling is one of many ways seniors — and those of all ages — can have fun and shape up.

"This is my first time at Wii bowling," said Barbara Bushta of Livonia, at a recent Plymouth District Library Wii bowling session. "It sounded like fun, and try to get out in this weather and do something. A little exercise and meet new people"

Kathy Knezek of Plymouth Township said, "We've been coming a couple years." She and neighbor/friend Sue Baumgartner of Plymouth Township missed about five months but ventured out on a recent chilly Thursday.

"We bowl and then go to lunch," Knezek said. "We saw

it in the paper and we thought it'd be fun to do."

The women enjoy their lunch after, varying the restaurants. "It's always a tough decision where we're going to go," Knezek said.

"She bowls a 200 game," Baumgartner said of Knezek, noting Wii is scored like traditional bowling. Knezek added, "They score it for you."

The Wii bowling meets 11 a.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Plymouth library, 223 S. Main. It usually draws about seven, and "once we had a request to tone down the noise," Baumgartner said with a smile.

The women acknowledge the Wii bowling isn't exhausting exercise but is enjoyable. Research backs them up, with the Mayo Clinic website (www.mayoclinic.org) touting

the benefits of both exercise and socializing as you age. The website recommends you:

- » Keep your mind active. Mentally stimulating activities, such as puzzles and word games, and memory training may delay the onset of dementia and help decrease its effects.

- » Be physically and socially active. Physical activity and social interaction may delay the onset of dementia and reduce its symptoms.

- » Quit smoking. Some studies have shown smoking in middle age and older may increase your risk of dementia and blood vessel (vascular) conditions. Quitting smoking may reduce your risk.

- » Lower your blood pressure. High blood pressure may lead to a higher risk of some types of dementia. More re-

search is needed to determine whether treating high blood pressure may reduce the risk of dementia, the website reports.

- » Pursue education. People who have spent more time in formal education appear to have a lower incidence of mental decline, even when they have brain abnormalities. Researchers believe that education may help your brain develop a strong nerve cell network that compensates for nerve cell damage caused by Alzheimer's disease.

- » Maintain a healthy diet. Eating a healthy diet is important for many reasons, but a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and omega-3 fatty acids, commonly found in certain fish and nuts, may promote overall health and lower your risk of developing dementia.



At the recent Wii bowling at the library in Plymouth were (from left) Barbara Bushta of Livonia, Kathy Knezek of Plymouth Township and Sue Baumgartner of Plymouth Township.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wish your were here



Bill and Vicki Wettach of Livonia with the Observer in Lapataia Bay, the last stop on the Pan-American Highway, or the "end of the world," Tierra del Fuego National Park, in Ushuaia, Argentina, on Feb. 8.

The Community Calendar runs in the Observer as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events...

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. Location: Academic Pathways, 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Details: See what a cooperative preschool has to offer...

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

Time/date: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Location: Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Details: Get pertinent information on getting back into the market after a bankruptcy...

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Location: Holy Trinity Tiny Tots, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Details: Holy Trinity Tiny Tots offers a quality preschool program...

COMIC BOOK, CARD, COLLECTIBLE SHOW

Time/date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford. Details: More than 34 tables. Guests include actor/inventor Ron Baraton...

MICHIGAN CRAFTERS MARKETPLACE

Time/date: Saturday, March 7. Location: Laurel Park Place mall, Livonia. Details: Michigan artist, crafters, designers and micro-enterprises are invited to sell their products...

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

Time/date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11. Location: St. Raphael Activities building, 31530 Merriman, Garden City. Details: Tickets are \$8 and include dessert, coffee, Blarney bags, and table and door prizes...

FISHER FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

Advertisement for Fisher Funeral Home & Cremation Services, featuring Michael J. Fisher, Manager & Owner. Services include traditional service with burial (\$3300) and basic cremation (\$695*).

BOATING SAFETY

Time/date: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 12 to May 7. Location: Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Details: Eight-week course approved by National Association of Boating Law Administrators...

FAMILY FEUD

Time/date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Location: New Life Church, 33111 Ford, Garden City. Details: Get a team of five together or join one at New Life's fourth annual Family Feud fundraiser...

ST. GENEVIEVE OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29. Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison St., Livonia. Details: St. Genevieve offers preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and elementary school for grades K-8...

TRIVIA NIGHT

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Location: St. Simon and Jude Catholic, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. Details: Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m. Preregister for \$20 per team...

sons). At the door the cost is \$30, if space available. It includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn, and one food choice for each team...

CRAFT-VENDOR SHOW

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 16. Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverage, west of Beech Daly and north of West of Cooch, Redford. Details: The Garden City American Legion Auxiliary Unit 396 will hold a spring craft and vendor show...

space, with an 8-foot table and two chairs. Indicate on application if electricity is needed. If electricity is needed, there will be an additional \$5 charge.

ONGOING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Contact: 734-524-0720.

SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD GAMES

Time/date: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Details: Cost is \$5 per person. Angel House uses the money to give \$50 gift cards to a family in need weekly...

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November. Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

LIVING ON GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 2-3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month. Location: Oakwood Hospital-Wayne, 33155 Annapolis, Wayne. Details: Hospice of Michigan grief groups provide a safe and supportive environment...

LIVONIA SAVE OUR YOUTH

Time/date: First Wednesday of every month; time rotates monthly between morning (9-11 a.m.) and evening (6-8 p.m.). Location: Livonia City Hall Annex Conference Room, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday of the month. Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia. Details: Widowed men are invited to attend men's breakfast and learn about other co-ed activities.

CO-ED WIDOWED BREAKFAST

Time/date: 9 a.m. first Thursday of the month. Location: Richard's Restaurant, Plymouth Road at Eckles Road, Plymouth. Details: All widowed welcome. Come and meet new friends.

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursday. Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland. Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome.

Large advertisement for Quick Lane Tire & Auto Center. Features 'Ready to Serve' slogan, 'FREE Multi-Point Inspection' offer, and 'The Low Price Tire Guarantee' for 13 major brands. Includes contact info for Bill Brown Ford at 32330 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150.

Advertisement for 'The Works' offering a \$10 Mail-In Rebate. Services include Synthetic Blend Oil Change, Tire Rotation and Pressure Check, Brake Inspection, Vehicle Check-Up, Fluid Top-Off, Battery Test, Filter Check, and Belts and Hoses Check.

Advertisement for 'Have Your Brakes Inspected for FREE'. Performed by a Factory Trained Technician. Includes details on inspecting brake friction material, caliper operation, rotor, drums, hoses and connections.

Advertisement for 'Low Price Tire Guarantee'. We'll beat any price on the 13 major tire brands we sell. GUARANTEED! See Quick Lane Manager for details through 12/31/15.

Advertisement for 'Pol Hole Season Special \$129.99'. Includes 4 Wheel Alignment, High Speed Balancing, and Tire Rotation. Taxes extra. Exclusions apply.

Advertisement for 'PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$20 OFF'. Includes 4 Wheel Alignment, High Speed Balancing, and Tire Rotation.

Advertisement for 'Motorcraft Complete Brake Service, \$179.95 or Less'. Includes Brake Pads or Shoes, Machining Rotors or Drums, and Labor Included.

Advertisement for 'Cooling System Service \$99.95'. Includes Synthetic Blend Oil Change, Fluid Top Off, Tire Rotation, Battery Test, Tire Pressure Check, Filter Check, Brake Inspection, Belts and Hoses Check, and Vehicle Check-Up.

Advertisement for 'Motorcraft Tested Tough PLUS Batteries, \$99.95 MSRP'. Includes 84 Month Warranty.

Advertisement for 'Motorcraft Tested Tough MAX Batteries Starting at \$119.95 MSRP'. Includes 100 Month Warranty.

Advertisement for 'Motorcraft Premium Wiper Blades with Wear Indicator, \$19.96 MSRP'. Includes details on wiper blade types and pricing.

Advertisement for 'Dealership Quality at After Market Prices!'. Includes details on tire selection and pricing.

Shipwreck explorer to speak at Livonia Town Hall

Dr. James Delgado, a maritime archaeologist who is director of maritime heritage in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will be the featured speaker at Livonia Town Hall on March 18.

Delgado has nearly 40

years of scientific expertise in deep-sea exploration, history, museums, films and TV.

He will relate his stories about exploring shipwrecks and speaking about the history of them, writing books about his adventures and telling audiences about the importance of arche-

ology and the need to preserve and protect the oceans and historic sites in it today.

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 181 Meriman Road.

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



Dr. James Delgado, a maritime archaeologist, is director of maritime heritage in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Knit, purl: Lessons at Friendship Station Senior Center offer fun, learning

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dori Mefford of Plymouth Township heard from people who'd grown up knitting. "Oh, I forgot how to cast on." She's now giving lessons 1-2 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Friendship Station Senior Center on Schoolcraft in Plymouth Township.

"This is basically very much in the beginning stages," Mefford said of the lessons. "They have fun when they come here." She finds those who learned to knit or crochet as children often have the skills come back to them.

"I always have yarn and stuff with me," said Mefford, who can provide attendees with straight needles. "I have enough to start them out. I have taught them as young as 7."

She recalled teaching a grade school girl the slip knot. "She went home and showed her mother how to do it," said Mefford, who also teaches through Plymouth-Canton Community Education. She's patient in her teaching and explains things in varied ways to get her message across.

Faye Lindsay of Plymouth, on a recent Tuesday, said, "About four months. Dori just taught me" of her crocheting. "Dori is very patient."



Faye Lindsay of Plymouth shows a knit hat.

JULIE BROWN

Next to her was Sharon Lomske of Plymouth, showing a part of a sleeping mat for the homeless made from

plastic bags. "It's nice and soft," Lomske said, with the instructor pointing out its utility for people who

must sleep outdoors on the ground.

"I'm learning to knit, but I do crochet," Lomske added.

Linda Robertson of Plymouth Township said, "I'm just a very beginner. I saw the ad in the Observer, so I don't know what I'm going to do. I see there are a lot of options."

Cheryl Zepp of Plymouth Township, also hard at work, said, "My husband found this for me. He's our social director."

Zepp learned some basic skills from a neighbor at age 9 and grew up doing macrame and crocheting afghans and vests. "It's a creative thing you can do," Zepp said, noting newer equipment helps with things like projects not unraveling.

Debra Tucker of Westland said, "Right now, I'm working on a hat with a scarf attached to it." Tucker also made some fingerless gloves.

"They're just decorative," she said. "Mostly they're just an accessory." Tucker had done knitting as a teen and is now on a project with five needles and a complex pattern. She'll do some crocheting so it will lay better.

Her sister, Janis Cross of Plymouth, joined her at the Friendship Station. Cross did more macrame growing up and the recent Tuesday found her working on a mat to practice. Her goal is to make tote bags, she said, showing one made by

someone else from Meijer bags.

"This is what I want to do," Cross said.

"I've done macrame, I've done embroidery," Mefford said. She's been knitting more than 25 years "and still learning. That's one of the good things."

She attends seminars to learn. "And have fun doing it," said Mefford, who's had male students. "Men are good at it. And they learn fast."

The knitters work on different projects, with Mefford wishing to avoid competition, as some have more time and advance more rapidly. She can help if they're unsure about a project's complexity.

"If somebody has to struggle too hard, they sometimes give up. I don't want them to give up," she said.

Those who wish to attend the Tuesday monthly lessons are asked to first call Bobbie Pummill at 734-453-1234, ext. 236.


Participants at the Friendship Station pay \$2 a session. Mefford said they usually start with a scarf. Some use cloth yarn for usable items that are not too difficult, such as dish cloths or potholders.

"I have enjoyed teaching knitting," Mefford said.

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page A3

speaking less Japanese now than she wants.

Open houses this week

Both schools will hold open houses this week. Niji-Iro will hold an open house 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at its school, located at 36611 Curtis Road, Livonia. Hinoki International will hold an open house 6-8:30 p.m. the day before, Tuesday, Feb. 24, at its new location at 29230 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills.

The Livonia school board voted July 28 to revoke its contract with Hinoki International School, saying the charter school it had authorized since 2010 had defaulted on the contract by not having a facility and not enrolling students for the 2014-15 school year. LPS then started its own Japanese Immersion Magnet Program in the same elementary school building in which Hinoki operated.

Some Hinoki stakeholders viewed the Livonia board's actions as a hostile takeover of their school, recruiting teachers and students without the Hinoki board's knowledge. A spokesman for the Michigan Department of Education said at the time LPS revoked Hinoki's contract that it had the right to do so and the right to open a magnet school with the same Japanese immersion program.

Nearly 100 former Hinoki students enrolled in LPS' Niji-Iro this school year, Young said. The school has a total of 125 students in grades K-4. Next year, Niji-Iro hopes to expand by another 35-40 students and add a fifth grade. The year after that, it plans to add a sixth grade.

Friendly competition

Young said she isn't concerned that Hinoki is reopening and will be competing with Niji-Iro for students. "We're excited about our school here," she said. "Our focus is on the wonderful things we're doing here."

Hooghart expects any competition to be friendly. "We will do our best to serve families that aren't being served now," she said, adding that market research shows there are more



Amanda Finn teaches second grade.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

native Japanese speakers in Metro Detroit than originally thought.

The fact there will be two dual-immersion Japanese elementary programs operating in neighboring cities may create the need for a middle school one day, something Hinoki may be interested in providing, Hooghart said. "I think it will all work out well for everyone involved."

Hooghart, a Ypsilanti resident, said there's good and bad in every kind of program. She said Kasey, her third-grader, and Cassidy, her second-grader, had a better math curriculum at Niji-Iro, but they started speaking more English.

Hooghart and her husband are native English speakers but they studied Japanese for 30 years and speak only Japanese at home to make it easier for their children to learn the language. She said last year, Kasey's class was split 50-50 between Japanese-speaking and English-speaking students. This year it's about one-third Japanese speakers and two-thirds English speakers so she has fewer opportunities to learn Japanese.

Niji-Iro and Hinoki are two of just four dual-immersion Japanese programs in the country.

Native English-speaking students and native Japanese-speaking students learn side-by-side in the same classroom, with lessons alternately being taught in English and Japanese.

Niji-Iro's program

At Niji-Iro, the overall goal is for students to become bilingual, respectful of other cultures and globally-minded. Students learn perseverance, open-mindedness and critical thinking skills, Young said, as they are challenged to think and speak in a non-native language.

"It does get confusing and it can get frustrating," Young said. But things eventually click and native-English speaking students start thinking and explaining themselves in Japanese and vice versa.

Young did not previously work for Hinoki or LPS before joining Niji-Iro this year. She was a teacher and administrator for 11 years at K12, an online charter school. She

knows a few Japanese words, taught to her by the students at Niji-Iro.

She said Niji-Iro is a brand-new school with its own curriculum that combines common core state standards, Michigan grade level expectations and Japanese standards. She said she loves that it's a magnet program, giving the parents the choice of whether they want their children to attend, but that it also has the support of a large public school district.

Most of the families are attracted to Niji-Iro because it is a school of choice, Young said. They also like that it's nontraditional and challenging.

Roughly half of the students are native Japanese speaking with the other half English speaking, though they aren't always as evenly split in every classroom. Some of the Japanese students are children of Japanese parents working in the United States for a few years.

Loves culture

Debbie Davison of Plymouth enrolled her kindergartner, Julian, in the program for

several reasons, including her family's love of the Japanese culture.

"My husband, although not Japanese, speaks Japanese," she said. "He can say phrases to Julian. We love Japanese food, love the crafts, origami, we love the culture. What I'm finding out is the sense of community within the Japanese culture is just amazing."

Davison knew Young from the former charter school Julian's 13-year-old brother attended - that is how she found out about Niji-Iro.

She said she wanted a challenging but respectful environment for Julian. "It's such a unique program and we absolutely love everything about it," she said.

Davison said she likes that Niji-Iro can make its own decisions about curriculum, policies and the like, but it's also fully funded by LPS, providing it stability.

"Many parents appreciate what LPS has done for the school; they realize that and want to stay," Davison said.

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FEEL-GOOD FUNDRAISER

Spartans make heart-felt donation

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Not long after Livonia Stevenson senior hockey forward Alex DeFlorio found out his aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer, he put the wheels in motion for the most significant assist of his season.

With the help of Stevenson head coach David Mitchell and his Spartan teammates, DeFlorio orchestrated a fundraiser that was centered around the production and sale of pink T-shirts that featured the team's logo and the words "Stevenson Hockey" on the front.

With a price tag of \$15, the shirts were an instant hit for members and fans of the Spartans' program.

The end result of DeFlorio's noble extra-curricular project unfolded prior to Friday night's



The Livonia Stevenson hockey program presented Karmanos Cancer Institute representative Christina Venditti with a check for \$1,000 prior to Friday's game against Plymouth. Pictured are (from left) Alex DeFlorio, Tony DeFlorio, Vickie DeFlorio, Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman, Venditti, Mick Leonard and Ben Kowalske.

KLAA cross-over game against Plymouth when the team presented Karmanos Cancer Institute representative Christina

Venditti with a check for \$1,000. The money will go directly toward breast-cancer research, the institute's supportive ser-

vices fund, which helps underfunded patients, or into the Karmanos general fund — it's up to the players.

"Fundraising efforts like the one the Stevenson hockey players generated are incredibly important to the Karmanos Cancer Institute," emphasized Venditti. "The financial support is very important, but the awareness these efforts bring to the fight against cancer is also very beneficial."

"This is the favorite part of my job — attending presentations and meeting the people behind the fundraising."

Venditti encouraged anyone who may want to organize a fundraiser to contact her at vendittc@karmanos.org.

For a recap of Friday night's game, see page B4.

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Local players at UM-D

A pair of area players are making solid contributions to the University of Michigan-Dearborn men's basketball program.

Garden City graduate Brandon Kennedy, a senior at UM-D, started and scored five points for the Wolverines in their 71-53 victory over Indiana Institute of Technology on Feb. 18. In addition to draining his only three-point shot, Kennedy added an assist and a steal.

Former Redford Thurston standout Anthony Barley is also playing well for the Wolverines. In the Feb. 18 win, Barley scored nine points in a reserve role.

UM-D was 11-18 overall and 7-14 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference as of Thursday afternoon.

GCYAA registration

The Garden City Youth Athletic Association will be holding walk-in registrations for the 2015 T-ball, baseball and fast-pitch softball season on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Maplewood Community Center, which is located at 31735 Maplewood in Garden City.

Online registration will be available from through Feb. 27 at www.gcyaa.com, which also offers information on age levels and fees.

For walk-in registration, players must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and have a copy of their birth certificate. Only cash or checks will be accepted to pay registration fees. Credit cards will be accepted for online registration.

The GCYAA needs managers and coaches in all leagues. Interested coaches can volunteer at the registration.

Reporting results

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

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

JUST ENOUGH ROCKET FUEL

John Glenn withstands Northville's all-out rally for 47-45 victory

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

When the seas got a little stormy Friday night for Westland John Glenn's boys basketball team, Tyrikh Hunter did what captains do — he righted the ship.

With 6-foot-10 teammate Mike Edwards forced to the bench with his fourth foul midway through the third quarter of the first-round KLAA Kensington Conference contest against visiting Northville, and the Rockets clinging to a 24-23 lead, Hunter — a 6-foot senior guard equipped with serious springs and a fearless persona — scored six of his game-high 13 points over a two-minute span to keep the Mustangs at bay in what ultimately evolved into a 47-45 John Glenn victory.

Following two missed Rocket free throws with 5.4 ticks left, Northville's Ryan Roberts

grabbed a rebound and fired the ball to Justin Zimbo, whose just-inside mid-court heave at the buzzer tickled the wrong side of the twine.

John Glenn improved to 9-8 while Northville slipped to 11-6.

Hunter was "The Man" for the winners, adding nine rebounds and four steals.

Hunter said his role changes depending on the situation.

"I'm whatever my team needs me to be," he said, smiling. "If they need me to be a rebounder, I'll rebound. If they want me to be a lock-down defender, I'll do that. They needed me to score at that moment, so that's what I did."

"It was a team effort tonight, but I'm a captain, so I feel obligated to step up and try to lead the team to victory."

Senior guard Mychael Bradley carried the Rockets' load early,

See **ROCKETS**, Page B3



Westland John Glenn's Mychael Bradley drives to the basket during the third quarter of Friday night's victory over Northville.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lutheran Westland close to first title since '98

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The last time Lutheran Westland's girls basketball team won a league championship — 1998 — most of its current players were firing up jumpers at Little Tikes hoops, if they were born at all.

Fueled by Thursday night's 16-2 first-quarter run, the Warriors chiseled out a 47-38 victory at Huron Valley Lutheran to inch to within one win from clinching at least a share of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division championship.

Now 12-6 overall and 9-1 in the Red, the Warriors have tasted the long-time-coming success by not looking ahead.

"We've really stressed to the girls this season to focus on one

quarter at a time," LW head coach Sandi Wade said. "Once one eight-minute quarter is done, forget about it and move onto the next one, and they've really bought into it."

Trailing 28-12 at the half, the Sam Golchuk-led Hawks stormed back to within 35-26 at the end of the third quarter.

But heeding the advice of their coach, they put the poor stretch behind them and outscored their hosts 10-4 at the outset of the final stanza to put the game on ice.

Orchestrating the final surge was point guard Sabrina Morrison, who scored back-to-back buckets in a 30-second span to ignite the momentum-cementing surge.

See **WARRIORS**, Page B2



Huron Valley Lutheran's Sam Golchuk pushes a pass around Lutheran Westland's Sabrina Morrison.



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CYO BASKETBALL

Hard work keys St. Edith's rise to top of standings

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The St. Edith varsity boys No. 2 basketball team has blended all the ingredients necessary for success — a lot of hard work and chemistry, and a little bit of good fortune — to cook up a season to remember this winter.

Heading into Saturday's game against Dearborn Divine Child, the Eagles — who are made up almost exclusively of seventh-graders — were 19-2 overall, with their only two setbacks coming against eighth-grade squads.

At 11-0, the Eagles sit atop the Catholic Youth Organization's "S" Division standings, two games ahead of always-tough U of D Jesuit, whose only two losses have come to St. Edith.

"Our kids really have bought into practicing hard, setting the tempo with their defensive energy and play, and really doing a great job understanding their roles each game," St. Edith



The St. Edith varsity No. 2 team consists of (back row from left) coach Rob Drabicki, Josh Carver, Nathan Eklund, John Briden, Mark Setlock, Dawson Stec, Evan Bradford, coach Dustin Hess, (front row from left) Michael Roland, John Roland, Alex Sugg, Joe Apap, Nathan Drabicki and Steven Shimko.

head coach Rob Drabicki said.

"We've been fortunate, in a way, because unlike past years we've been able to keep all the seventh-graders together. Usually, we'll lose a couple seventh-graders to the No. 1 team, but since our other team is so strong, we were able to keep everybody."

Drabicki praised coach Dustin Hess — a former standout at St.

Edith — for the role he's played in helping the Eagles reach their potential.

"Dustin is really a testament to everything that's good about the CYO," Drabicki said.

Although they reside in several Observerland-area communities, the Eagles have meshed on and off the court, Drabicki said.

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Rollins accepts 'Panther of the Year' award



TOM BEAUDOIN

Longtime Redford Union athletics fan Jimmy Rollins was presented with the "Panther of the Year" award on Feb. 11 by the school's Blue & Gold Club. Rollins, who is pictured with the award and several RU students, attends practically every home event at RU and several of the Panthers' away contests.

Banner day for RU baseball team



Members of Redford Union's baseball program celebrated the end to a 15-year championship drought during a banner-hanging ceremony held Feb. 13 prior to the Panthers' boys basketball game against Livonia Clarenceville. Under the direction of head coach Bob Miller, the Panthers won the Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division. Pictured (top row from left) are Miller, Vince Diaz, Brendan McGurk, Dionne Gitchaway, Jackson Allison, Andrew Mersman, Nick Laidler, coach Jerry Mersman, (bottom row from left) Brendan Kirkoff, Tyler Hathaway, Keith Boggs, Corey Davis, Collin Dzadzio, Brandon Pratt, Tommie Lewis and Jimmy Rollins. Not pictured are Pat Wierimaa, Alex Shimmans and Jake Wakefield.

PREP WRESTLING

Catholic Central grapplers Battle Creek-bound again

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central's wrestling team appears to be on the fast track once again.

The Shamrocks secured their seventh straight trip to the MHSAA Division 1 Elite Eight next week in Battle Creek by dominating Livonia Franklin, 75-6, in the Region 107 final Wednesday night at Westland John Glenn.

The three-time defending state champs, who improved to 22-3 overall, also routed Salem in the semifinals, 69-9, while Franklin advanced with a 47-30 semifinal win over Dearborn Fordson.

"We're healthy, that's big, and we're confident," CC coach Mitch Hancock said. "I love this team. We're 22-3 on the year. And I look back on last year's team and we went to the state tournament at 15-4, so for this team to be 22-3 ... we just found out we beat the Ohio Division 1 champion Brecksville, beat a good Dundee team, beat a good Hudson team and we beat some really quality teams. I'm proud of this team. They had a nice year so far, but we're not done."

The Shamrocks, currently ranked No. 4 in Division 1 by Michigan-Grappler.com, was seeded third a year ago heading into the quarterfinals at Kellogg Arena, the annual site of the team finals.

This year the Shamrocks will be joined by regional champions Brighton (No. 1), Anchor Bay (No. 2), Hartland (No. 3), Davison (No. 5), Grand Haven (No. 7), Monroe (No. 10) and Oxford (unranked).

"It may matter to others," Hancock said of the upcoming seedings, "but we sort of have the mindset that you've got to line them up. We're going to wrestle anyone they put in front of us. To us it doesn't matter. We'll wrestle anyone in the

state. I think we showed that when they seeded us at three and we had a good state tournament. We got a little bit a work to do and we got to stay healthy and get these guys ready to go."

Scoring two pins on the night for the Shamrocks included Trevor Zdebski (130-135 pounds), who was a state champion last year at 119; Nick Giese (189-215), who was third at 189; and Tyler Morland (171-189). Heavyweight Nick Jenkins also won both his matches.

Meanwhile, Myles Amine (160), who was state champ last year at 140, never touched the mat as Franklin voided four weight classes in the regional final after falling behind 39-0 following the first seven matches.

In lieu of Saturday's Division 1 individual regional at Saline, Franklin coach Dave Chiola opted not to put any of his six individual regional qualifiers on the mat.

Collin Smith registered the lone win on a pin at 145 for the Patriots. "Once it got out of hand, I didn't see any point of putting them out there," Chiola said. "We were down 40-0 or so by the time we had gotten to them. We didn't have a 119 weigh in or a 125, and our 103-pounder (Antonio Herrera) is not even wrestling Saturday, so we had to put two freshman out there, so we were basically given them 28 points right there. And we lost at 215 so there was no point of risking injury. It would be pretty stupid if they got hurt."

And the CC coach had no qualms with the decision made by Chiola, who has guided the Patriots to 10 straight district team titles and a berth in last year's Elite Eight.

"I give Dave (Chiola) all the credit in the world," Hancock said. "He's done a remarkable job at Livonia Franklin. He's doing what is best for his team and just like I do what is best for my team also. If he felt the

voids were best for his team, so be it. He's shown he can coach at the highest level and he has. There's no hard feelings here."

CC also won by four voids in its semifinal match against Salem, which received its only victories from Seth Dunn on a pin at 145 followed by a 14-10 decision from Caleb McCabe at 152.

"They're the returning three- or four-year in a row state champs, so I just wanted my guys to go out there and give it their best shot, wrestle tough," Salem assistant coach Jeremy Henderson said of the Shamrocks.

The Rocks ended their season at 16-7 overall.

Meanwhile, Franklin got off to a 18-0 lead against Fordson, only to fall behind 30-27 before regional champion Nathan Atienza (145) put the Patriots ahead to stay with a pin.

"On paper we thought it was going to be close, but we had a couple of kids out of our lineup because of injuries and they (Fordson) had a couple of kids not show up," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "It could have gone either way, but we ended up winning more matches."

Franklin ended its dual meet season with a 15-7 record.

"It was about what I expected," Chiola said. "Basically it was going to be a rough season to begin with because we had a lot of guys at the same weight. We had some days that were really good and some days that were really bad. It was really up-and-down. We've got to get some more consistency for sure. Winning Observerland (Invitational) ... I don't think we planned on winning that this year and we won our district. It was kind of in the middle, I thought. We had six seniors, but the nucleus of our team is coming back, so we're pretty happy about that."

WARRIORS

Continued from Page B1

"During the time-out between the quarters, we just finally decided that at some point there has to be a stop to their comeback," said Morrison, who led a balanced LW scoring ledger with 13 points. "It started with us pressuring them more on defense and making them nervous instead of the other way around."

Golchuk was phenomenal in the losing cause, scoring a team-high 17 points while starting several fast-break opportunities with nine steals.

The setback dropped HVL to 11-6 overall and 6-4 in the division.

"We came out tentative in the first quarter, and really looked unsure of ourselves," Hawks head coach Kris Ruth said. "We did not shoot the ball real well, but I think we even passed up some shots that I think we should take."

"I was pleased with how we came out in the second half. We talked at halftime about playing hard, and doing what we do well. The intensity and effort was better in the second half."

Shadowed by Warrior freshman sensation Rachel Reddeman (11 points, 10 rebounds), HVL's Julie

St. John contributed nine points and a team-high 12 rebounds.

"We put Rachel on No. 23 (St. John) because she's our best post defender, and I thought Sabrina did a good job covering their No. 10 (Golchuk). She made her work for her points."

Bethany Hoehne keyed the winners' quick start as she made all three of her first-quarter field-goal attempts (including one triple). Hoehne finished with 10 points. Taylor Jones also played well for LW, scoring six points and netting three steals.

LW made 9 of 16 free throws. HVL was 8-for-11 from the stripe.

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COLLEGE HOCKEY

Ex-Patriot setting the 'Pace' for Grand Valley State icers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The odds were stacked against Ryan Pace during last fall's tryouts for the Grand Valley State University club hockey teams — kind of like the odds he would face if he was the '1' in a 4-on-1 break-away.

Close to 200 skaters, including the former Livonia Franklin blue-liner, were looking to fill just 50 open spots and keep their competitive hockey careers alive for the Lakers' Division 2 and 3 teams.

Unfazed, Pace not only made the school's D3 club team, he is excelling as a defenseman for the squad that took a 20-13 record into Friday night's American Collegiate

Hockey Association playoff game against Saginaw Valley State University.

A pair of victories this weekend in Farmington would propel the Lakers into the ACHA Division III national tournament set for later this month in Pelham, Ala.

"There is really a high level of hockey played in this league, so I've definitely enjoyed it," said Pace, a freshman majoring in nursing. "We'll end up playing around 35 games against some good teams."

Pace started playing "house" hockey in elementary school in Dearborn Heights. As his skills sharpened, he was promoted to travel teams in Farmington before playing three seasons at Franklin.

He had an up-close perspec-

tive on the steady rise to respectability for the Patriots, who have already carved out 10 victories during the 2014-15 campaign.

"We struggled my first year at Franklin, but then we started to turn the corner when coach (Dennis) Gagnon came on board," Pace said. "I'm not surprised they're doing as well as they are this season."

Pace said his on-ice minutes have increased steadily throughout the season.

The defenseman's strong play during his initial season at GVSU will help his stock during next fall's tryouts, during which he will compete for a roster spot on the school's D2 roster.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Ryan Pace

BOYS BASKETBALL

Churchill runs past Novi in KLAAs playoff opener

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Going forward in the KLAAs boys basketball playoffs, Livonia Churchill coach Jim Solak would like nothing better than to clone this one.

That because the host Chargers put together their most complete outing of season Friday night by dismantling visiting Novi, 74-49, to advance to Wednesday's Kensington Conference semifinal.

"If we can play like this we can beat anybody, I don't care who you are," said Solak, whose team improved to 12-5 overall. "We know our next opponent (Livonia Stevenson) is going to be difficult. We got to enjoy it, still learn from it and still keep it going. It's nice to have a performance like this against a really good, well coached Novi team. It's big win for us."

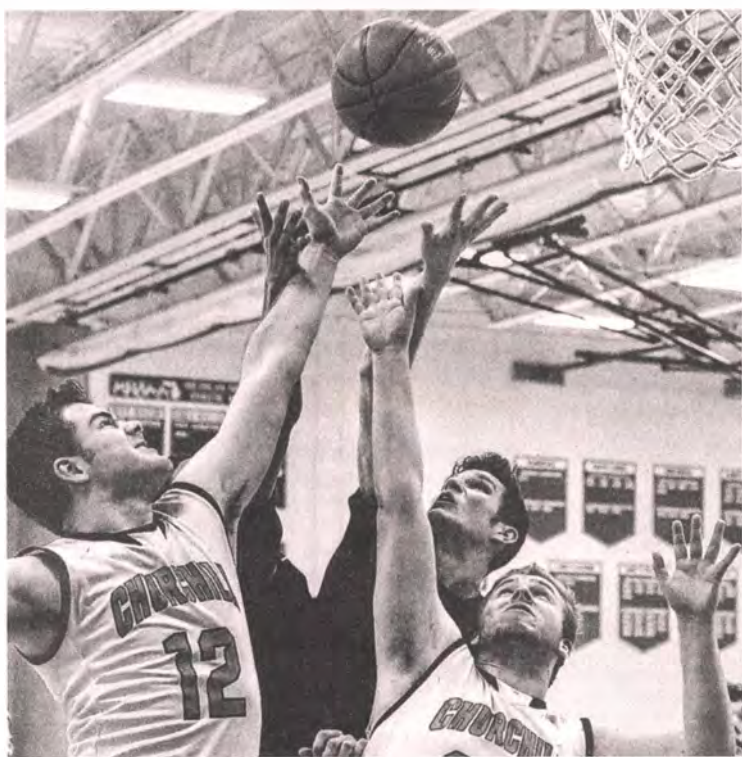
None was better on this night offensively than 6-foot-2 junior guard Joan Andoni, who seemed like his old self after battling season-long injuries.

Andoni, who set the school scoring record last year as a sophomore with 39 points against Wayne Memorial, scored 18 of his game-high 27 in the first half as the Chargers roared out to a 44-21 halftime advantage.

Normally a three-point shooting specialist, Andoni made a living this night at the foul line going 18-of-21.

"Joan has been fighting injury and he's been doing the things he needs to do to get back on the floor," Solak said. "Every week his minutes have increased. And we were waiting for that day and today was it. He got to the free throw line. That's triple of the amount of free throws he's had all year that he shot today. He can play like that and we've been waiting for it all year. We didn't push it. The biggest game of the year he stepped up, and I'm proud of him."

Not to be outdone was 6-2 junior swingman Jon Hovermale, who finished with 18



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Jay Duarte (center) goes up for a rebound contested by Churchill's Brian Alsbrooks (left) and Brett Bonarek (right) during Friday's KLAAs playoff opener.

points, five steals and four assists. Hovermale and senior forward Brett Bonarek (nine points) each connected on three of Churchill's 10 triples on the night.

"Jon has been struggling a little bit, but he stayed within himself today," Solak said. "And he played like the three-year starter that he is today. He made some big shots. He led the team when Dayton Davis got in foul trouble early. He did everything he needed to do tonight. He refused to lose."

Novi, which dropped its fourth straight after winning 10 in row, slipped to 11-6 overall.

The Wildcats got six first-quarter points from senior guard Max Yanke, but still trailed 22-11.

"They played much, much harder than we did," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said of the Chargers. "That's my take from it. They had some great offensive performances. Andoni hit 18 free throws tonight, so he was getting to the basket with ease. So when you go out and play hard as a team, you're probably going to win most games. Churchill did a great job of proving that tonight."

Junior point-guard Kam Hankerson scored a team-best 14 for Novi, while Traveon Maddox, Jr. added seven.

Churchill, however, bottled up Novi's top scoring threats by switching early to a zone

defense.

"Our plan was to change up defenses a lot," Solak said.

"They were struggling shooting and we thought maybe we could give different looks at them. Their man-to-man offense is much better than their zone offense. They were getting to the basket on us and they're big guys got some looks inside on the seal, so we had to make a change and the boys executed the change."

Novi committed eight turnovers alone in the second quarter while being outscored 22-10.

"It's funny, we practiced it yesterday," Sinawi said. "We knew they run that '13,' that little 1-3-1 (zone) and kind of match-up zone. We knew they run it. I hadn't played against Jimmy (Solak) for a long time. We prepared for it. We just didn't execute. It gave us trouble. It frustrated our players and it frustrated me more because we planned for it. That's why I was upset."

The Wildcats were unable to cut into Churchill's big half-time lead during the third quarter as the Chargers nailed three more triples to take a commanding 59-34 advantage heading into the fourth.

Novi was whistled for three technical fouls in the second half, including two on the bench as they could only watch helplessly as the Chargers dissected them from all angles.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Lutheran Westland strikes it rich at charity stripe

Warriors can 37 free throws in 62-51 victory over HVL

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The bottom line in Thursday night's compelling boys basketball encounter between Lutheran Westland and Huron Valley Lutheran turned out to be the one 15 feet from the basket that the Warriors squared their toes up with 46 times.

Defying their average-at-best season-long performance at the free-throw line (56 percent), the Warriors cashed in on 37 of their 46 freebies (80 percent) on the way to posting a 62-51 victory over their Cowan Road neighbors.

Powering the Warriors' typical night at the stripe were leading scorer Zach Burk (20 points) and Luke Smith (16 points), both of whom swished 10 of their 13 attempts.

Zach Anger was a perfect 8-for-8 from the line — just a little better than teammate Kory Barikmo, who missed only one of his eight tries.

The victory improved the Warriors' record to 8-7 overall and 6-4 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

HVL, which is still looking for its first-ever victory over the Warriors, slipped to 4-11 and 3-6, respectively.

What led to the winners' blizzard of free throws was a 44-27 rebounding advantage, which forced the smaller Hawks to foul at an accelerated rate.

"It was an absolute battle around the basket to get rebounds," LW head coach Jim Hoefft said. "We were just trying to protect the ball after we secured the rebounds. I think the refs did as good a job as they could to keep from calling even more fouls than they did."

Fittingly, the Warriors' 46th and 47th free throws came with just 0.4 seconds left on the clock when Brent Croft was fouled near mid-court.

The Warriors are fortunate their marksmanship from the line was as proficient as it was considering they made just 27



ED WRIGHT

Lutheran Westland's Zach Anger draws a foul while driving to the basket Thursday night against Huron Valley Lutheran.

percent of their two-point tries and only 1 of 5 three-point shots.

Senior guard Austin Bell led the Hawks with 27 points, but it took him 34 shots to do so.

"We played a 1-3-1 zone for the most part because we knew [Bell] liked to penetrate the middle and either pull up or try to get to the rim," Hoefft said. "Sometimes it's OK if a guy like that gets his points, as long as somebody else doesn't get going too."

Jordan Runstadler scored nine points for the Hawks while Nick Doletsky netted seven. No other Hawk scored more than three.

LW led by as much as 18-9 in the first half before HVL battled back to within 28-24 when Bell converted a layup off a steal just a few seconds before the halftime buzzer sounded.

HVL drew even at 29-all with six minutes left in the third stanza when Runstadler swished a slick eight-foot tear-drop.

But after Anger drained two free throws — what else? — 14 seconds later, the Warriors would never trail again.

The hosts trailed by a manageable 52-47 deficit with 2:10 to play, but the Warriors twined six consecutive free throws to seal the deal.

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ROCKETS

Continued from Page B1

scoring 11 first-quarter points (before finishing with 12) to help stake his team to a 14-11 advantage.

Foul-plagued Edwards played less than half the game, but managed nine rebounds and nine points — six the result of three monstrous dunks.

The bulk of Northville's offense came from the inside-outside duo of David Morrissey, who drained five triples and scored 22 points, and Nathan Kellum, who netted 17 points in his first action since he suffered a dislocated knee in game five.

"Their pressure defense affected us and made it hard for us to run what we were trying to run," said Northville head coach Todd Sander. "They play such sticky defense. We don't see a lot of that and we had a lot

of young kids out there, who we were asking to do a lot. Tonight will make us better in the long run."

Whenever Morrissey was able to set his feet and square his shoulders — which was often — he was a perimeter nightmare for the Rockets.

"David is a special player," Sander said. "He's been our leading scorer all season. He's more than just a shooter; he's a terrific player. He played his guts out tonight like he always does."

The 6-foot-8, long-armed Kellum provided an added dimension for the Mustangs, who will be a dangerous team to encounter down the stretch.

Northville made just 8 of 17 free throws while the Rockets were only 7-for-21 from the stripe.

Nick Wilds grabbed nine rebounds for the Mustangs while Roberts snatched seven.

The Rockets' relentless pressure-packed defense created 22

Northville turnovers.

Spartans surprise Chiefs

Just weeks after suffering a 28-point loss to Canton, Livonia Stevenson registered a 76-67 victory over the Chiefs in Friday night's first round Kensington Conference playoff match-up featuring the fourth-seed Spartans and top-seed Canton.

"Even though we lost by 28 points the first time we played them, I felt good going into tonight's game," revealed Stevenson head coach Kareem Smartt, whose team improved to 8-9. "I told our guys all week that nobody is 28 points better than us. Even though their best player (Greg Williams) scored 39 points, I thought we played good defense because we shut everybody else down."

The Spartans' big win sets up a highly-anticipated semifinal game against Livonia Churchill, which knocked off Novi on Friday (see related story on B3). Smartt said the crosstown class

is tentatively set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Stevenson.

Stevenson was paced by a likely source of points — senior guard Noah Campbell, who scored 26 — and an unlikely one — sophomore guard Ian Knoph, who torched the nets for a career-high 21 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter.

Unlikely at least to those not familiar with the Spartans' program.

"Being a sophomore, Ian wants to do the right things every game so he can keep playing," Smartt said. "But tonight we told him there were no restrictions and to just go out and play. Everybody who watches him in practice every day knows that he's capable of what he did tonight."

Williams did everything in his power to help the Chiefs advance as 14 of his points came during the final eight minutes.

Stevenson grabbed a 20-13 first-quarter lead before carrying a 38-33 edge into the break.

The Spartans kept the pressure on their hosts in the third quarter when they built a 55-41 lead.

The Spartans were sizzling at the free-throw line, where they buried 26 of 31 attempts.

Gino D'Agostino scored eight points for the winners, who were also bolstered by strong second-half play from Nolan Bradford and Jaielen Webber.

Patriots upended

Milford defeated host Livonia Franklin (0-17), 60-48, Friday night in a KLAAs consolation game.

Freshman Mark Mettie and junior Joe Chinavare led the Patriots with 11 points a piece. Sophomore guard Johnny Cantrell added eight for the Patriots, who also received a strong debut effort from freshman Paytin Harris, who scored six.

Milford led 13-11 after one quarter, 22-19 at the half and 39-31 with eight minutes to play.

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KLAA TOURNAMENT

Rose thorn in Churchill's side

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For a while Thursday, it seemed Plymouth's Kendall Rose was supplying the only heat on an Arctic-like evening in metro Detroit.

Rose set a new team record with 33 points — including 23 in the first half — to spark the host Wildcats to a 55-40 victory over Livonia Churchill in a KLAA varsity girls basketball second-round playoff game.

Yet after the contest, the soft-spoken Rose wanted none of the spotlight, instead deflecting praise to her hard-working teammates.

"I was just happy that my teammates were able to get me the ball, and they were getting open too," Rose said. "And them driving and kicking it (out) to me gave me the ability to have open shots."

Wildcats head coach Nick Brandon, whose team (16-2) will face campus-rival Salem 7 p.m. Tuesday in the conference title matchup, praised Rose for still knocking down shots even with the Chargers trying to get in her face.

"She's had an amazing season," Brandon said. "What's really incredible about what she's able to do is other teams know that. I know for a fact that Churchill is a very, very well-coached team and they know what No. 11 is able to do."

Contributing 12 points and a team-leading six rebounds was Plymouth senior post Patti Begoske while senior point guard Courtney LaVallee scored five.

For the Chargers (11-6), sophomore center Anne Yost registered 13 points and eight rebounds. Senior guard Natalie Spala chipped in with 10.

Smashing success

It actually was the second time this season Rose set a new Plymouth

scoring mark. She tallied 32 points earlier this season against Livonia Franklin.

Brandon added that "the best part about Kendall is I know the school record doesn't mean as much to her as the win does and I know she's genuine about that. She's a real team player. She's going to credit her teammates and she should, because her teammates did an excellent job."

They did, especially with hard-charging defensive pressure that forced Churchill into turning the ball over on 20 occasions. Yet Rose still had to display the finishing touch, which she did time after time.

"We know how good a shooter Kendall is and we needed to make sure that we closed out on her at all times in the first half and we didn't do that," Chargers head coach Matt McCowan said. "She took advantage because she's a really good player."

In the first half, the Chargers (11-6) got off to a quick 4-0 lead on buckets by Jaelah Rivers and Natalie Spala before Rose scored to put the Wildcats on the board.

Rose gave Plymouth its first lead of the night at 5-4 midway through the quarter when she drained a trey from the right wing.

She followed with another 3-ball from the opposite side of the floor with 2:41 to play in the first, making it 9-4 with Rose scoring all of her team's points.

On target

Plymouth carried a 15-6 lead into the second quarter and Rose continued her onslaught with a jumper and two more triples — both from the left corner.

Her fifth 3-ball of the opening half gave the Wildcats a 29-13 cushion; she scored 22 of those points.

It was a 34-15 Plymouth lead at halftime,

and that's when McCowan made some adjustments to give Rose a little less room to work her sweet string magic.

"We put a little more pressure on her and she still had 10 in the second half because she's a good player," McCowan said. "We just put ourselves in a huge hole in the first half, that's two games in a row now that we've come out and not played well in the first half."

Churchill tightened up considerably on defense in the third, shutting down Rose until 10.2 seconds remained in the frame (when she made two free throws).

In the meantime, the Chargers started to dominate in the paint, with strong work by Yost and senior center Hannah Pummill (seven rebounds).

Churchill sliced the deficit to 38-31 with 1:09 remaining in the third on a layup by Pummill.

Too many freebies

But the Wildcats bumped that up to 40-31 entering the fourth and benefited from the Chargers being in early foul trouble.

Plymouth kept going up to the charity stripe and expanding the lead. For the game, the Wildcats hit 24 of 32 free-throw attempts; Churchill made just three of 13 tries.

"We spent too much energy coming back," McCowan said. "There was a point where we got it back to (seven) ... we fouled too much and they made their free throws."

Brandon said his team "definitely grinded" out the victory in the second half.

CANTON 43, WLN 25: In a KLAA tournament consolation game Thursday, the Chiefs held Walled Lake Northern to just six points in the second half.

Erin Hult (15 points), Madison Archibald (13 points) and Brianna Finn (eight points) led the Canton offense.

"Extremely happy with how the girls played defensively," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "Offensively we were playing against zone, which is something we normally struggle against."

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PREP SWIMMING

RU swimmers aren't just treading water

Panthers showing steady improvement under new coach Mair

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

One precision-coated stroke at a time, Redford Union's boys swimming and diving team is regaining its footing under first-year head coach Stuart Mair.

The short-handed Panthers — who have competed most of this season with just seven athletes — are making slow but steady progress as they navigate through a schedule that is jam-packed with deeper, more-experienced opponents.

Earlier this month, the team's progression was reflected in its first victory over Redford Thurston in several years.

"We enjoy each other; it's a tight-knit team because of our size," said Mair, a Redford Township resident who coached the Panthers in the 1990s before founding a year-round swimming club in Walled Lake. "If we had two more swimmers, we could have four or five more wins."

"My style is to focus on technique and to not over-train. I don't believe in the boot-camp approach. If you teach them to swim the strokes properly and don't over-work them, they'll stay enthusiastic and more fresh than they would be otherwise."

While the Panthers have received most of their point production this winter from their three seniors — Luke Hebnar, Andrew Mersman and Jimmy Smith — Mair emphasized that it's been a complete team effort from the first day of practice.



Pictured (from left) are Redford Union swimming-and-diving team members Luke Hebnar, Andrew Mersman, Josh Smith, Stuart Didonato (team manager), Jamison Ortiz, Ray Samuel, head coach Stuart Mair and Jimmy Smith. Not pictured is assistant coach Austin Abair.

"The seniors have done a great job, but everyone has had to be their own leader," said Mair, who is assisted by RU graduate Austin Abair. "Other than our three seniors, not of our guys had any competitive swimming experience prior to this season. We've actually been able to hold our own and stay close to teams lately. You can definitely see improvement."

In addition to the seniors, the Panthers' roster is filled out by freshman Josh Smith (the younger brother of Jimmy), sophomores Jamison Ortiz and Ray Samuel, and Mac Keyandwy. Stuart Didonato has served as the team's manager.

After competing for Wayne State University's swimming-and-diving team, the Detroit Catholic Central graduate served as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Michigan, where he soaked in specific training philosophies practiced by many of the country's top coaches, including U of M's Jon Urbanek.

"I learned their high-quality, high-technique

program that doesn't emphasize quantity," Mair said. "You teach the athletes to swim smart and stay fresh. You want to create a passion for the sport, not burn them out."

After coaching at RU in the mid-90s, Mair took his coaching skills to Walled Lake, where he helped mentor middle school and high school swimmers for approximately seven years. He then founded the Lakes Area Tridents, a year-round club that has helped several swimmers earn college scholarships.

"Starting a club was always my dream, and I really enjoyed my time there," he said. "But I live in Redford, so I'd get home most nights at 10 p.m. and I was away most weekends, so I felt it was time to step away."

"I had no intention of getting back into coaching until I saw an ad in the paper about the opening at Redford Union. I ignored it the first time I saw it, but I decided to look into it eventually, and I'm glad I did. It's worked out really, really well."

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PREP HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Spartans, 'Cats tie 1-1

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Nate Sudek's short-handed goal in the second period helped Livonia Stevenson earn a 1-1 draw with visiting Plymouth in a KLAA cross-over game played Friday night at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Following a scoreless first period, Josh Smith scored a goal to give the Wildcats a short-lived lead.

Cullen Barber was in goal for the Spartans, whose record stands at 14-5-5. Plymouth is now 13-7-3.

Chargers clipped

Host Walled Lake Northern scored a goal with less than a minute to play Friday night to edge Livonia Churchill,

4-3, in a KLAA cross-over game.

The loss left the Chargers with a record of 6-12-3.

Senior captain Dylan Smith had a stellar game for the Chargers, netting a goal and an assist.

Churchill's first goal was scored by Justin Reinholtz and assisted by Smith. Parker Hodges tallied the Chargers' second lamp-lighter off a helper from Justin O'Brien.

Smith then scored in the third period off a pass from Reinholtz.

The Chargers return to action on Wednesday at 6 p.m. when they host West Bloomfield at Eddie Edgar Arena. Churchill will be celebrating "Senior Night."

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MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned in the Township of Redford by the Redford Township Police Department and are to be sold, as is, at open auction on Saturday, the 28th day of February, 2015, at North Redford Towing, 25215 Glendale, Redford, MI 48239. Vehicles can be viewed on the auction date. Registered owners will be allowed to pick up their vehicles prior to the start of the auction. Check www.nrtowing.com for the current list.

2004 BUICK	4D	1G4HP52K244144038	LESABRE	FORFEITURE	1404865	1
2002 CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WH55K029151397	IMPALA	ABANDONED	1408473	2
1996 DODGE	4D	1B3EJ56H4TN234941	STRATUS	ACCIDENT	1408707	3
2004 FORD	VA	1FTNE24W44HB47866	E250	ACCIDENT	1408800	4
2001 CHRYSLER	SW	2C8GP74L71R407939	TOWN&CON	ARREST	1409024	5
2002 CHEVROLET	SW	1GNCS18W92K179515	BLAZER	ARREST	1409062	6
2001 SATURN	4D	1G8JU52F81Y505188		ARREST	1409082	7
2000 FORD	4D	1FAPP56SXYG125723	TAURUS	ARREST	1409084	8
2003 DODGE	2D	4B3AG42G13E085701	STRATUS	ACCIDENT	1409087	9
1998 FORD	2D	3FAKP1138WR214221	ESCORT	ABANDONED	1409195	10
1999 BUICK	4D	2G4WB52K4X1621512	REGAL	ABANDONED	1409220	11
2004 HONDA	4D	JHMES96684S016536	CIVIC	ARREST	1409349	12
1995 CHEVROLET	2D	1GNCT18W5S2148131	BLAZER	ARREST	1409498	13
2001 MERCURY	4D	2MEFM74W41X652319	GRANDMAR	ACCIDENT	1409560	14
2000 PLYMOUTH	4D	1P3ES46C7YD635410	NEON	ACCIDENT	1409583	15
2006 CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ZT51806F174116	MALIBU	ARREST	1409624	16
2005 FORD	4D	1FAPP34N05W241208	FOCUS	ACCIDENT	1500100	17
2001 FORD	4D	1FAPP38301W315360	FOCUS	ACCIDENT	1500193	18
1999 BUICK	4D	1G4HP52K6X40068	LESABRE	ARREST	1500198	19
1999 CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ND52T1X6250426		ACCIDENT	1500210	20
2003 CHEVROLET	4D	1G1JC52F737278134	CAVALIER	ARREST	1500346	21
2007 PONTIAC	4D	2G2WP552071125368	GRANDPRIX	FIRE	1500396	22
2001 OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3GR64H614108401	ALERO	ABANDONED	1500490	24
2004 FORD	4D	1FAPP53U84G104689	TAURUS	ABANDONED	1500494	25
2008 DODGE	4D	2B3LA43R5H313582	CHARGER	ACCIDENT	1500569	27
2001 OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3GS64C714142808	AURORA	ARREST	1500573	28
2004 PONTIAC	4D	1G2NE52F84C194730	GRANDAM	ABANDONED	1500606	29
1995 CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WL52M1S1185609	LUMINA	ACCIDENT	1500607	30
2004 CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WF52E249456729	IMPALA	ARREST	1500624	31
2007 MERCURY	4D	4M2YU81177KJ14017	MARINER	ARREST	1500712	32
2002 DODGE	PU	1D7HA16K42J228018	RAM	ABANDONED	1500719	33
2008 DODGE	4D	2B3KA43R78H113041	CHARGER	ABANDONED	1500720	34
2002 FORD	SW	2FMZA52412BB68955	WINDSTAR	ABANDONED	1500752	35
2000 CHEVROLET	2D	1G1JC124XY7233378	CAVALIER	ARREST	1500797	37
1998 LINCOLN	2D	1LNFM92V8WY605627		ABANDONED	1500871	41
2003 FORD	4D	1FAPP5223G184873	TAURUS	ARREST	1500871	42
1996 MERCURY	4D	2MELM75W9TX663644	GRAND MAR	ACCIDENT	TITLE	43
1999 PONTIAC	2D	1G2NE12TXM808572	GRAND AM	ACCIDENT	TITLE	44
2003 ISUZU	SW	4S2CK58W134305571		ACCIDENT	TITLE	45
2002 BUICK	4D	1G4HR54K92U125569		ACCIDENT	TITLE	46
2002 CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ND52JX2M519347	MALIBU	ACCIDENT	TITLE	47

CITY OF WESTLAND 2015 ANIMAL LICENSES

Licenses must be obtained on or before Monday, March 2, 2015 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccination must be presented upon applying for an animal license. Beginning Tuesday, March 3, 2015, a \$5.00 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at:

WESTLAND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 36300 Warren Rd.
OR
MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY, 37255 Marquette

EILEEN DeHART-SCHOOF, CMC
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: February 22 & 26, 2015

AMERICAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY

American Montessori Academy, a Tuition-Free Public School Academy, announces its Open Enrollment period for the 2015-2016 school year for grades K-6. Applications may be picked up at the Academy lower campus: 14800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI, 48154.

3/9/15 - 3/23/15 Open Enrollment for new applicants

3/9 - 3/23, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
* 3/14 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
* 3/16 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

If enrollment applications exceed the number of available spaces, a random selection will be held at AMA lower campus, 14800 Middlebelt Road on March 31, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Publish: February 22, 2015



SUBMITTED

Ramsey Dowgiallo of Westland soaks up the scenery in Minnesota.

WESTLAND MAN SHARES LOVE OF THE WILD THROUGH CANOE TRIPS

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Attitude is everything in the wilderness.

A positive attitude can help you keep a cool head when a 1,000-pound bull moose charges straight for your canoe. It can quell nerves as firefighters help you portage while 100,000 acres of forest burn all around you.

And it will keep spirits high when rain soaks through your leaf-and-fern-lined shelter.

"Attitude, it's huge," said Ramsey Dowgiallo, a Westland resident who leads trips through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota. "I had a couple book a 14-day trip for their 30th anniversary. They had never done anything like that. They did great, even when we had tough weather and wind. They were trouper."

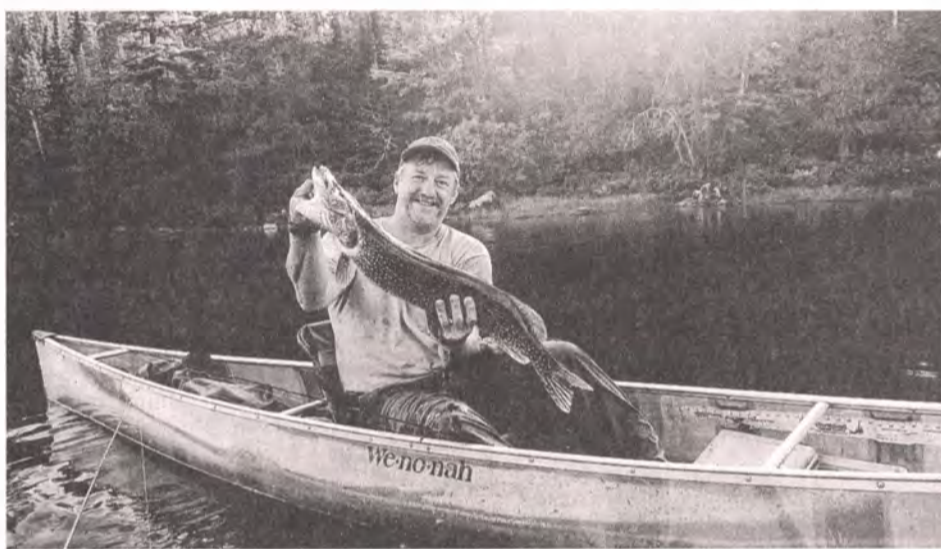
"I've been very lucky in all these years," he said, recalling only one difficult client since opening his business, Wilderness Journey, 10 years ago in Novi. "Only one person wouldn't pitch in and I like to see everyone pitch in. But that is one out of about 1,000 people that I've ever had a problem with. Most people have a great attitude."

"I'm always trying to teach them. I'm always upbeat. I'm an interpreter between modern man and the wilderness. It's my job to teach people how to respect wildlife, wilderness, weather. It's not like we're just going out to the beach."

Variety of trips

Dowgiallo tailors trips to suit his customers' interests and outdoor skills. He brings fresh food on the journey and cooks up fish caught along the way. Clients sleep in tents and learn wilderness skills as they paddle along with fishing gear or cameras. Approximately 75 percent of the trips he leads from May-October are fishing-related. His company also attracts wildlife lovers eager to photograph animals and the dramatic scenery, while enhancing their survival skills.

He'll talk about topwater fishing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Outdoorama, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. The show will include more than a dozen speakers on topics ranging from the art of deer calling to mushroom hunting, along with a jet ski simulator, deer processing



SUBMITTED

Ramsey Dowgiallo of Westland shows off a pike he caught in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. He leads canoe trips to the area May-October. His guide and outfitter company is Wilderness Journey in Novi.



SUBMITTED

A moose takes a bath in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota.

demonstration, trained dog sport show, a trout pond and more. The show runs 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, noon to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children, 6-14, and free for ages 5 and under.

Dowgiallo is a frequent speaker at outdoor events, clubs and conferences during the winter. He also runs a part-time flooring business during the off-season.

When the weather begins to warm in mid-May, he returns to Minnesota's 1.3

million-acre Boundary Waters, with its 1,000 lakes and rivers. He has canoed on 220 lakes since he began visiting the area 25 years ago.

"You can spend the whole summer and not go over the same piece of water."

Survival skills

He credits his father for taking him fishing when he was a boy and his brothers for introducing him to mountain climbing and camping when he was a teenager.

"I've had just about everything happen. That is one thing that keeps me going. Every trip is different. ..."

RAMSEY DOWGIALLO

"I was always into the outdoors, but as far as primitive camping goes, I read a lot and watch a lot of survival shows and YouTube."

He practices survival skills when he takes primitive trips alone, two-three times each season.

"I go into the woods with a quart of water and two power bars, a magnesium striker, no matches and no sleeping bag," he said. It was during solo trips that Dowgiallo, 52, faced a menacing moose along the water and at his rain-soaked fern-and-leaf-lined shelter at night.

"Both times it was during the rut and I had been warned," he said, recalling the loud bellow he heard while paddling alone years ago. "I had never heard a moose before. I responded by making the same noise. Yeah, that was a huge mistake. I backed up and hit the shore. When it was five feet from me it stopped. I've been in close proximity to bear and wolves, but my moose interaction was the most scared I ever was."

"I've had just about everything happen. That is one thing that keeps me going. Every trip is different. You never know what you'll run into."

Reality show

He hopes his wilderness experiences and skills will help him land a spot on the Discovery Channel show, *Naked and Afraid*, which pairs naked men and women to survive 21 days in the wilderness. Teams find food, make shelter and clothing from nature.

"I think I'd do well on that show. I get along with everyone — it's part of being a good guide. You have to be a good listener and know how to talk with people, not at them."

Another of his dreams is to book deaf and hearing impaired clients for trips through the Boundary Waters. Dowgiallo is fluent in sign language and both of his parents were deaf. He hopes to work through clubs for deaf and hearing impaired to line up trips.

For more information about Dowgiallo's Wilderness Journey, visit go-wildernessjourney.com

Woman finds new washer after much research

Let me begin way back in the history of this column when I used to mention names of certain businesses which I thought to be honest and deserving of some ink. That ended abruptly when an editor took me aside and explained that the intent of my column should have a purpose of always educating the reader.

So, I dropped the commercial aspect immediately and have stuck to the informative side as best I can. You just have to respect the viewpoint of this paper to no end and although I have been asked to write for some other papers, I'm still here and proud of it.

During the last year, I mentioned the controversy in our home caused by a certain washing machine and tried to keep our new washer out of the picture. Before I tell you what that washer is I would like to thank the several hundred readers who sent me an



Joe
Gagnon
APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

email asking the name brand. You have made me feel very important in providing you with information that makes you a smarter consumer. To all those folks who come to the local home improvement shows and introduce themselves and mention this column, you give this column a serious consequence.

Many of you remember the days I owned an appliance store and sold a ton of Maytag washers for many years. In those days I gave away a commitment of a free five-year warranty on those products, and trust me, it didn't hurt my bottom line at all. In essence, they made the best washer in the industry at that time and today every service technician in Amer-

ica would tell you that is not the case today.

New washer

Let me inject an email I received from Debra in Plymouth who makes a solid case for the clothes washer in our laundry room today.

Debra writes: "Just read your column in the *Observer* about Speed Queen and their five-year warranty. I recently had to say good-bye to my 27-year-old Maytag washer and began the arduous task of looking for a replacement. The more research online that I did and the more I spoke with various salespeople, the more despondent I became that I would not find a washing machine like I was used to using. I kept hearing about "high efficiency" coupled with complaints about water levels and clothes needing two or three rinse cycles to get all of the soap residue out, about how they "don't make them like they

used to," and that the new models only last (if you're lucky) about eight to 10 years. About locking lids and fancy digital displays (more to go wrong).

"I didn't know what to do! Then I spoke with a very knowledgeable salesman at a certain store who showed me a Speed Queen washer. Simple to use, a large enough tub for my needs and one of the last machines "made like they used to." I was sold! I love my new Speed Queen! I encourage anyone who is in the market for a new washing machine to consider a Speed Queen. But get them while you can before government regulations force them to change like all the others. After all, the bottom line is clean clothes and my new washer does just that with a minimal of fuss."

Keeping it ethical

Now, doesn't Debra's email hit the message right

on the nose? One final note that makes this column all above board. Speed Queen does not advertise on radio or television, and their quality of manufacturing doesn't require that they do so. Their recent announcement that their products carry a five-year full warranty shows their confidence in their products.

Speed Queen does not spend a penny with Joe Gagnon and apparently they do not know my stand on ethics. Their sales manager sent me an email to inform me that my recent purchase was for free. I have not replied to him and will tell you that I paid full retail price for the Speed Queen. I think I'll just let him believe he gave it to me and keep it between you and me. Stay tuned.

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

Therapy Choirs of Michigan sets annual Capitol Concert

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan (TCM) is gearing up for two of its major annual concerts, along with an open house.

The Farmington Hills-based organization, which brings individuals with developmental disabilities together to sing, will hold an open house for a start-up therapy choir in Brighton, 3-3:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at 2/42 Community Center, 7526 West Grand River

Ave., Brighton. TCM will demonstrate what it does and will offer information about scheduling, funding and how to sign up. The choir is open to special needs individuals.

TCM's 17th annual Capitol Concert is set for noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, in the Capitol building, 100 North Capitol Ave., Lansing; 517-373-0184. The concert marks Choir Therapy Awareness Week in Michigan, which is the

first week of March. Performers will include The Original Therapy Choir, The MORC Singers, The Livingston County Area Youth Singers and Volunteer Voices, conducted by TCM founder and director, Len McCulloch. Sherry Cantrell will serve as master of ceremonies. Admission is free, but goodwill donations will be accepted.

TCM also will sing at noon, Sunday, March 22,

at the Carnival of Care, an annual event that celebrates rehabilitation. It will be held at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. The event is free. TCM also will staff a booth with information about choir therapy.

For information about Therapy Choirs of Michigan, call Len McCulloch at 248-476-9329 or Sherry Cantrell at 248-435-7031. Visit its website at therapychoirs.org.

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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.

ALTMAN, ANN LOUISE

Of Eaton Rapids, Michigan (formerly of Brighton, Michigan), was born March 14, 1928 to Henry and Viva Ray, and passed away peacefully February 15, 2015 at age 86. Ann is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Altman Jr. and daughter, Susan (Altman) Merkle. Left to cherish her memory are Roger and Kaylee Altman; son and daughter-in-law, Eaton Rapids, MI.; Ronald R. Merkle, son-in-law, Howell, MI.; Justin Merkle, grandson, Tampa, Florida; Lauren (Roy) Alisoglu, granddaughter, Metamora, MI. Ann married Charles Altman in 1948 and was a loving wife for 65 years. Over the years Ann was an active member of the Hartland and then the New Hudson United Methodist Church. She was a caring woman with a kind heart. A Funeral Service celebrating Ann's life will be at the New Hudson United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. With a meal following. Donations can be made to the New Hudson United Methodist Church, 56730 Grand River Avenue, New Hudson, MI 48165, (248) 437-6212, http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Ann-Altman-102197840.



REININK, BERNARD ERWIN

Bernard Erwin Reinink Passed from this earth early Tuesday morning, February 17, 2015. Bernie was born June 19, 1929, the eldest of four boys to John Reinink & Velzie (Corwin) Reinink Brown. He married his childhood sweetheart Helen (Watson) Reinink on February 17, 1947, and she survives. In 1968 Bernie and Helen and their family of 5 kids left the suburbs of Detroit for the country life and moved to the Irish Hills where in 1969 they began the business of Bernie's Country Store on US 12. Bernie was preceded in Death by: his father John, and mother Velzie; his stepfather Raymond Brown; and his brother Ronald Reinink, of Stevensville, MI. Bernie is survived by his wife of 68 years, Helen (Watson) Reinink of Provincial House Adrian, and their five children and their families: Son B. Rex and Susan Reinink of Tipton, MI and their two sons: Andrew (Michelle) Reinink of Ann Arbor, MI and Ford (Kristin) Reinink of Grand Rapids, MI. Son Barry and Candy Reinink of Brooklyn, MI and their three children: Barry (Colleen) Reinink of Idaho and their daughter Anna. Bert Reinink of MI. and his children Dustin Reinink & Savannah Reinink of Virginia. Sally (Tony) Vermilya of Brooklyn, MI. Son Keith (Susie) Reinink and their daughter: Jenna Reinink (Jeff Pyciak) of Manistee Michigan. Daughter Roxanne "Penny" Helinski and her husband Terry Helinski of Brooklyn, MI and their four children: Amanda Helinski of Brooklyn, MI and her son Gabe Helinski. Clint Helinski (Lori Mason) of Brooklyn, MI. Tara (Joshua) Nance of AZ. and their daughters Cloie and Zoe. Daughter Stacy Handy and her husband George Handy of Brooklyn, MI. and their two daughters: Laura (Phil) Wright of Cement City, MI. and their daughter Macy. Monica Handy of Brooklyn, MI and her daughter Mya. Other survivors include Bernie's two brothers: John "Jack" (Marilyn nee Zschunke) Reinink of Westland, MI and their families. Robert "Bobby" (Dora nee Snyder) Reinink of Garden City, MI and their families. Sister-in-Law: Lucille (nee Neibauer) Reinink of Stevensville, MI and her families. Also survived by many relatives and friends who will cherish fond memories of Bernie in their hearts. According to Bernie's wishes he has donated his body to: The University of Michigan Medical School. A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions are suggested to: Arbor Hospice, The University of Michigan Medical School or a charity of your choice. For a full obituary and offer your condolences to the family, please visit: www.PurseFuneralHome.com

ANNIVERSARY

John and Lenore (Arreola) Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills will mark their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 27. They were married in 1965 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Detroit.

Their children are Alex Ambrozaitis of Texas, Erik Ambrozaitis of Rochester Hills, Ryan Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills, Stase Wendland of Canton. They also have seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

John retired from the Cadillac Division of General Motors after 30 years as hi-lo driver.



John and Lenore Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills

Lenore is a retired school lunch room aide. John enjoys painting houses and doing various



John and Lenore Ambrozaitis of Farmington Hills on their wedding day in 1965

kinds of handiwork. Lenore loves to cook for others. Together they

have volunteered at various schools, churches, and for St. Vincent De Paul.

They built a home in Houghton Lake where they lived from 1998 to 2013. They have relocated to Farmington Hills to spend more time with their family. The couple traveled over the years throughout the United States, including trips to Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, Washington D.C., Arizona, Texas, Kentucky and New York City.

They plan to renew their wedding vows at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington and take a trip to West Virginia.

BIRTH



Julia Nicolette Kramer

JULIA NICOLETTE KRAMER

Julia Nicolette Kramer was born Jan. 21, 2015 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. She joins her parents,

Joel and Katie Kramer, and sister, Rose, 3, at home in Livonia.

Proud grandparents are Katherine and Richard Brown of Livonia and Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy.

ENGAGEMENT

RUIS-GRAHAM

Kristina Nicole Ruis and Joshua Thomas Graham announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Barb and Randy Ruis of Grandville, is a 2007 graduate of Grandville High School. She earned a bachelors degree in music performance and music education in 2011 from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, and a masters degree in music performance in 2014 from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. She performs for local symphonies.

Her fiancé, son of Janene and Greg Graham of Livonia, is a 2007 Churchill High School graduate. He earned a bachelors degree in music in 2011 from Central Michigan University and a masters degree in music performance in 2013 from the University of



Kristina Nicole Ruis and Joshua Thomas Graham

Michigan, Ann Arbor. He teaches students and ensembles in a home studio and at local schools. He plans to pursue doctorate studies in fall 2015.

A June 2015 wedding is planned. The ceremony will take place in the bride's grandmother's church in Grand Rapids, with the groom's cousin officiating. The couple plans to honeymoon in France.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Livonia Garden Club

Chris Lipinski, a Master Gardener, environmental consultant and co-chair of the Birds, Bees & Butterflies Committee, will talk about raising bees for pollination, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Lipinski also will identify the native plants that attract friendly pollinators, Mason bees. Visitors are welcome; livonia-gardenclub.org

Holiday Nature Preserve

Celebrate spring with a guided walk noon Saturday, March 21, starting at the preserve's Hix entrance on Hix Road, north of Warren Road, in Westland. The walk is free.

Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County wraps up its series of Tuesday night classes 7-8 p.m. Feb. 24, at the Wayne County Extension Office, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Kevin Collins, garden center manager at Ray Hunter Flower & Garden Center in Southgate, will talk about hydrangeas. Cost is \$10. To register, email mgwww.org@gmail.com

Educational Conference

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainabil-

ity 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 low-maintenance perennial gardening. Entertainment by Kerry Price and The Dave Bennett Quartet. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgso-c.org. No registration at the door.

English Gardens

» Learn about fresh flower arranging, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield stores. Free
» Create a "Zen Artistry" 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.
» Learn the ABC's of growing herbs, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Free
» Make a kitchen herb garden to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Cost is \$24.99. Sign up in the store or online 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.

Trade Secrets fundraiser benefits JVS' Women to Work program

Melanie Bergeron, chair of Two Men and a Truck, will share her trade secrets of success at JVS's 7th annual Trade Secrets fundraiser March 18.



Bergeron

The event is at 6 p.m. at Knollwood Country Club, 5050 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Proceeds will benefit the JVS Women to Work Program, which helps women re-invigorate and re-invent themselves through career counseling, computer training and job search strategies.

In her keynote address, Bergeron will relate her family's story, which mirrors that of many Women to Work participants. Divorce left her mother, Mary Ellen Sheets, scrambling to provide for her family. Sheets launched a small moving business with an old green pickup truck left behind by her husband. As her business steadily grew, she awarded the first franchise to her daughter, Melanie Bergeron, who now serves as chair of the board of directors and has helped build the

company into an international corporation with more than 1,900 trucks and 300 locations worldwide.

Women to Work helps those who need immediate employment after drastic life changes, such as divorce or the death, disability or unemployment of their spouse or partner. The program includes individual and group support, job search assistance, financial education and other services to help participants overcome challenges, build self-confidence and become successfully employed.

"After completing the program, 85 percent of participants are employed or enrolled in further training or education," said Judy Richmond, Women to Work coordinator. "The program has changed the lives of thousands of women and their children, making a cross-generational difference for families throughout southeast Michigan."

Tickets are \$150. For ticket and sponsorship information, visit www.jvsdet.org/tradesecrets or contact Fran Victor, chief development officer, at fvictor@jvsdet.org or 248-233-4290.

KORTE, AUGUST "GUS"

Age 92. February 16, 2015. Beloved husband of Doris for 54 years, dear father of Kenneth (Wendy), and cherished grandfather of Melissa and Jonathan. Gus was a proud veteran of WWII and a member of American Legion Post 271 and VFW Post 3941. He worked as a Meteorologist for NOAA for 35 years. A service with military funeral honors will be held at Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



SCHMITT, MARGARET "PAT"

Age 88 of Sun City Center, Florida (formerly Livonia, Michigan) passed away on February 10, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Judge Marvin Schmitt; loving mother of Claudia (Clark) Doughty and John (Brenda) Schmitt; cherished grandmother of Brian (Sarah) Doughty and Christopher (Veronica) Doughty and proud great-grandmother of Reese Doughty. Funeral Mass will be celebrated March 7th, 12 Noon at Saint Anne Catholic Church, Ruskin, Florida.

STENROSE, LENA

February 16, 2015. Age 89. Wife of Edwin (deceased) and mother of Jerome (deceased) and David. Loving grandmother of Kenton, Devin, Kieth (deceased), Tammy, and Daniel, and four great-grandchildren. Loved by all who met her including a wonderful church family. Memorial Service to be held February 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 N. Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Please, in lieu of flowers, a contribution to the church for a living memorial to "Louise".



Researchers create focused diabetes prevention

University of Michigan researchers have developed a new approach to type 2 diabetes prevention that could keep more individuals from acquiring the disease.

Their new "precision medicine" model may allow better targeting of drugs and lifestyle changes to those who can benefit most.

Researchers looked at 17 different health factors, in an effort to predict who stands to gain the most from a diabetes-preventing drug, or from lifestyle changes like weight loss and regular exercise. Seven of those factors turned out to matter most. They are fasting blood sugar, long-term blood sugar (A1C level), total triglycerides, family history of high blood sugar, waist measurement, height, and waist-to-hip ratio.

"Simply having pre-diabe-



Sussman

tes is not everything," said lead author Jeremy Sussman, M.D., M.S. "This really shows that within the realm of pre-diabetes there's a lot of variation, and that we need to go beyond single risk factors and look holistically at who are the people in whom a particular approach works best." Sussman is an assistant professor of general medicine at the U-M Medical School and a research scientist at the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

The team developed and tested the model by analyzing data from more than 3,000 people in the study, all of whom had a high body mass index and abnormal results on two fasting blood sugar tests.

Most also had a family history of diabetes, and more than a third were African American or Latino — all known to be associated with higher risks of diabetes. In all, they looked at 17 factors that together predicted a person's risk of diabetes — and his or her chance of benefiting from diabetes-preventing steps.

They developed a scoring scale using the clinical trial data, assigning points to each measure to calculate total score.

Fewer than one in 10 of trial participants who scored in the lowest quarter would develop diabetes in the next three years, while almost half of those in the top quarter would develop diabetes in that time.

Risks, benefits

"Our research has found that it is common that, al-

though the average benefit in a clinical trial might be moderate, in reality those patients at high risk for a bad outcome get a lot of benefit, the average patient has modest chance of benefiting, and lower-risk patients may have little to no chance of benefiting, or are being harmed," said co-author Rod Hayward, M.D., a professor of medicine and public health at U-M and a senior research scientist at the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

The team found that metformin, a drug used to treat type 2 diabetes, benefited only the people who the model showed had the very highest risk of developing diabetes. But for them, it made a difference, bringing down their risk of the disease by 21 percentage points.

By contrast, exercise and

weight loss, with encouragement from a health coach, benefited everyone in the DPP study to some extent, the new model shows.

For the one-quarter of study participants who the model says had the highest risk of diabetes, this lifestyle intervention cut their chance of developing the disease by 28 percentage points. For those who had the lower diabetes risk, this same intensive lifestyle change brought down their risk too — but only by five points.

The researchers hope to turn the new approach into a tool for doctors to use with patients who have "pre-diabetes." They also hope their approach could be used to develop similar precise prediction models for other diseases and treatments.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Balance class

St. Mary Mercy Livonia presents a free eight-week workshop for seniors, ages 60 and older, called "A Matter of Balance," 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, beginning Feb. 25, in the St. Mary Mercy Livonia Wellness Center, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Participants will learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risk at home and exercise to increase strength and balance. To register, call 734-655-1310

Blood drive

» 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 2, Providence Hospital Fisher Center Auditorium, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Sign up at redcrossblood.org and enter the code, PROVSFLD or call Abbie at 248-849-3067

» Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in classrooms 1-4 in the Allen Breakie

Medical Office Building, located on the hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Call 734-458-4259 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Childbirth Class

Learn about the stages of labor, managing discomfort, relaxation and breathing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-Section deliveries and more, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Cost is \$75. Register by phone, 248-888-2500, or online, www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html.

Diabetes management

» Oakwood Healthcare offers a free seminar on managing your diabetes through meal planning, blood sugar control and other resources, 5-7 p.m. Feb. 25, at the Oakwood Physical Therapy and Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda

Dr., Dearborn. To register, visit Oakwood.org under the Classes & Events tab or call 800-543-9355.

» St. Mary Mercy Livonia will present a free six-week workshop for adults with diabetes, 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4-April 8, at the Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, Redford. The workshop, called, Diabetes PATH (Personal Approach Toward Health), will teach participants to handle the challenges of diabetes, manage symptoms and communicate more effectively with physicians and family members. Participants will develop weekly action plans, share experiences and help others solve problems encountered during their self-management program. Register with the library at 313-531-5960, Ext. 103.

Heart month

» Board-certified cardiologist and Garden City Hospital health expert, Dr. William Nazzaro will discuss the latest

guidelines for preventing heart disease, screening for early detection, maintaining a healthy heart and common and uncommon indications of a heart attack, noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at Westland Shopping Center's east court, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. For more information, call 734-458-4259.

» Syamasundera Zampani, M.D., will provide advice on preventing heart disease at Lunch n' Learn, noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 25, in the north auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, Livonia. Bring your lunch and learn how you can begin making healthy choices for your heart.

Mental health

Botsford Hospital's new support group, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI, will meet 7-9 p.m. March 5 — and will continue meeting the first and third Thursday of the month — in Classroom A/B, Zieger Building, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The free NAMI

Metro Connection Support Group is for people living with mental illness. They can learn from each others' experiences, share coping strategies and offer encouragement and understanding. A trained volunteer facilitates. Call Nikki at 248-752-3381.

Shoulder pain

William Kesto, M.D., talks about causes and treatment options for shoulder pain 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Fisher Auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile. Register by calling 888-751-5465.

Walk with a Doc

Patricia Schmidt, D.O., a board-certified internist, will lead a walk and talk about prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Register by calling 877-477-3621, option #1.

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