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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Alternative school program revamped

School district converting Tinkham into school of choice

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has decided to restructure its alternative high school program to make it more cost effective and bring in more students.

Housed at the Tinkham Educational in Westland, the

high school has provided an alternative program for about 60 at-risk Wayne-Westland students. However, faced with a decrease in the availability of state at-risk money to run the program, Tinkham is being converted to a school of choice as of the 2015-2016 school year.

"The district has significant limited resources to run the

program," said John Albrecht, assistant superintendent for Educational Services. "Tinkham has to become self-sufficient with the foundation allowance provided. The program simply must reduce costs."

Over budget

In a presentation to the school board, Albrecht acknowledged that the state per-

pupil funding isn't enough to run the program with costs exceeding revenue by \$654,000. That deficit is being covered by the district's general fund and 31a at-risk money from the state, both of which have grown in the past few years.

As it is currently set up, Tinkham class sizes average about 15 students and there are more than 13 staff members.

The district has a foundation allowance of \$7,251 per student and spends \$7,575 per at-risk student. At Tinkham, however, the figure is \$18,476 per student.

Tinkham has only 1 percent of the high school enrollment but receives the lion's share of at-risk funding. Of the 19 percent of at-risk money spent

See TINKHAM, Page A2



Bob Gomez restored the truck for his daughter Gracie; she is 9, so it will be a while before Dad tosses the keys to her.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland man puts his all into 1951 beauty: a Ford F-100

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Bob Gomez has a philosophy about restoring a vehicle. It's the one he followed in the frame-off restoration of a 1951 Ford 100 that he pulled from a field in Texas, which he will have on display at Meguiar's Detroit Autorama at Cobo Center next weekend.

"My dad taught me that if you're going to build a car, you put the motor in that belongs in it," the Westland resident said. "If it's a Ford, it should have a Ford motor."

The truck will be making a second appearance at what is billed as America's greatest hot rod show, and under the hood is a Ford 302 roller motor. It also has Ford Mustang

2 suspension to give it power steering, four-wheel all-disc brakes, a nine-inch rear-end end an original bench seat.

Gomez got the truck from a cousin who said if he wanted it, he had to come and get it. It had sat in the field for at least 30 years and had no motor, no interior and no floor boards and was sitting on rotted tires.

"It was a wreck," Gomez said. "It was in bad shape all the way around."

Gomez loaded it on trailer and brought it back to Westland where it sat for a year while he gathered up everything her needed to do the restoration. All of the body is original, including the front

See F-100, Page A2



MICHIGAN LOTTERY

Steven Cosby Jr. matched five numbers to win \$1 million in the Saturday Powerball drawing. He purchased his winning ticket at Mitch's Party Store in Wayne.

Wayne party store sells \$1 million Powerball winner

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Business has been up at Mitch's Party Store in Wayne since word got out that the store sold a \$1 million Powerball ticket.

"It's exciting. It helps business. We've had a million phone calls, a lot of new people, new faces," said Sam Delly, who manages the store with his brother Michael. "Most of them come in for lottery, but they will grab a pop or chips. And we have a deli in here."

Located on Michigan Avenue west of Newburgh, Mitch's has been owned by Hani Delly for 20 years and is now managed by his sons.

The winning ticket was purchased by Steven Cosby Jr.

See LOTTERY, Page A2

Natural gas explosion blamed for Westland warehouse fire

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A natural gas explosion is being listed as the cause of a fire that destroyed a warehouse in Westland on Friday.

"We believe it was a natural gas explosion. We are still looking into it. The owner said the gas was shut off," Wayne-Westland Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said. "We know the gas wasn't turned off. We heard the hiss, and there were large flames."

The fire was at 33138 Beechwood near Ford and

Farmington Road, an address listed as Motorcycle Tire Center Inc.

"There were a lot of tires in there. No one was in the warehouse at the time of the fire," Eggers said. "There is an office in a separate building."

The quantity of tires in the warehouse contributed to the fire and the heavy black smoke that came from the building. Firefighters, including mutual aid from Garden City and Inkster, were on scene from 2-11 p.m.

"Tires are made from petroleum products. They are ex-

tremely combustible," Eggers said. "That can be extremely dangerous, and it can be extremely difficult to put out."

The warehouse is a total loss, Eggers said, with the roof collapsing. Detroit Metropolitan Airport firefighters brought a foam truck to the scene.

"Once the roof was removed, the foam did a great job of snuffing out the remaining fire," Eggers said.

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A natural gas explosion is believed to be the cause of a fire that destroyed a tire warehouse in Westland last Friday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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LOTTERY

Continued from Page A1

of Inkster who matched the first five numbers drawn on Saturday's Powerball. He won \$1 million for matching the five numbers but not the Powerball number.

"We will get about \$2,000 extra (for selling a winning ticket). It would have been \$50,000, if he'd matched the Powerball," Delly said. "We're the lucky store now."

Cosby's Powerball ticket matched the first five numbers drawn Saturday, which were 11-17-25-28-46.

"My dad called me Sunday morning screaming that he saw on the news that someone had won \$1 million with a ticket bought at Mitch's," Cosby said. "My dad was excited thinking I might be the winner. When I checked my ticket and told him I had matched five numbers, we both screamed and thanked God!"

The next phone call Cosby made to share his good news was to his mother, Monya Thomas.

"When I talked to my mom she couldn't believe what I was saying. She thought I was misreading the ticket," Cosby said. "She asked me to read the numbers on my ticket to her and my uncle, and as soon as I did that they knew I was a lucky winner."

Having a \$1 million winning Powerball ticket in his wallet made

the weekend seem longer than usual for Cosby Jr. and his parents.

"I think we are still in shock because it's so incredible to think that I won \$1 million," Cosby said. "I'm not sure if I will believe it until I get the check to the bank and see my account balance."

With his winnings Cosby said he plans to purchase the white Mercedes GL he has dreamed about owning since he began driving. He said he also plans to buy his parents each a new car, and take a trip out west to visit family before investing the remainder of his winnings.

"My parents have always taken care of me, and now I can take care of them," Cosby said.

Cosby plans to continue shopping at Mitch's Party Store and buying Powerball tickets.

"Mitch's is a great place to play. My dad has always played the Lottery there and the staff is always really friendly whenever I stop in," Cosby said. "I'm young, and it would be great to win again."

This isn't the first big winning lottery sold at the store, Delly said. The store sold another Powerball winner Nov. 15, 2014, he said, with a \$20 scratch-off \$1 million winner sold about two years ago.

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F-100

Continued from Page A1

and rear bumpers. However, the truck bed and tailgate he had to replace. Inside, the truck has an original bench he got out of Toronto.

"You can find the truck with no seats or with bucket seats; the bench is hard to find," he said.

Getting the parts

A buddy had the motor and did the drive train. Keith's Muffler in Westland did the exhaust system, which comes out of the side of the truck, running the pipes out of the side. Most everything else Gomez did, even the paint job and decals.

"I'm a welder, but I learned to paint," he said. "I took a paint gun and started. I painted it, rubbed it and wheeled it out. It took all summer."

He used YouTube to show him how to hold the paint gun and then started painting. He did the entire paint job, even applying six layers of clear coat and learning the proper mixture to get the finish to look like glass.

"There was a few times I had to redo things, but that's how I learned, that's how I got to be a painter," he said. "I kept it simple, there's very little pinstriping. Simple is best."

The truck also has very little chrome, but

the piece that jumps out is the five-tooth grill. The F-100 actually had a three-tooth grill, but Gomez crafted two more teeth to beef up the toothy look. It seems that the grill is the one thing people photograph the most.

The original truck had the fuel tank in the cab. Gomez moved it to the rear, leaving the throat in the cab to make it look like it was still there. He did it for the safety of his 9-year-old daughter Gracie. He built the truck for her. It is built to be driven and he enjoys taking his daughter out for rides.

He knows he did the right thing with the restoration. When they're out driving around they get a lot of thumbs up and he's been asked many times if it's for sale. His answer is always no, although the idea of possibly getting \$100,000 for it brought a grin to his face.

First-place finishes

The car also has been a winner at shows he's been in. It's taken first place two years in a row at the Livonia Spree and first at Autos for Autism. It also took first place in its first appearance at Autorama in 2012. That year he wasn't on the main floor, but downstairs with the rad rides.

"I had it downstairs (in Autorama Extreme) because that was where the party was and a few of my buddies," he said.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The F-100 was sitting in a field in Texas before Bob Gomez restored it.

"People kept saying I should be upstairs. This year I am."

And with the F-100 done, he has turned his attention to a 1955 Chevy he has sitting in his garage. His buddy has the engine, and he hopes he has it and the drive train in by October so he can work on it.

"I'm happy with how it turned out," Gomez said. "I put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into it. I like doing this, it's like a hobby."

Gomez won't be the only Westland resident at the show. Also there will be Brad Bellamy with his green and tan 1998 Chevy S10, Chris Cadotto with his red 1997 Dodge Ram, Steve Dienes with his silver 1996 Dodge Avenger, Mark Douglass with his aqua 1965 AMC 440 convertible, John Fitzer with his black 1948 Triumph motorcycle, Adam Galindo with his black 1978 Ford Mustang, Ron Homberg with his blue pearl 1969 Plymouth Road Runner, Dale Hunt

with his orange 1932 Ford Roadster, Tommy Jackson with his blue 2007 Dodge Charger and Tommy and Kristin Jackson with their candy apple red 2002 Chevy.

Doors open for Autorama at noon Friday for the weekend event, which will feature nearly 1,000 hot rods, customs, trucks and motorcycles from around Michigan, the country and the world, as well as five cars from the *Fast & Furious* movie series.

Presented by O'Reilly Auto Parts, hours are from noon to 10 p.m. Friday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Admission is \$19 for adults, \$6 for children age 6-12 years and children 5 and under free. Discount tickets are available at O'Reilly Auto Parts stores for \$17 for adults and \$5 for children.

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TINKHAM

Continued from Page A1

this school year on secondary support, the middle schools receive 28 percent, the high schools 28 percent and Tinkham 53 percent.

"We can't continue to use the general fund to offset a structural deficit created by the Tinkham program," Albrecht said. "The state may force the district to reprogram the at-risk money for other initiatives like third-grade reading. The program must be redesigned to operate at the current foundation allowance of \$7,251 per student."

Building and central office administrators, members of the Tinkham staff and union leadership have been meeting since November to develop a plan for the school. The committee researched state and national alternative programs, and did site visits

to local best practice programs.

The end result is a restructuring of Tinkham to service 16-19-year-old high school completers. As of the 2015-2016 school year, the program will be expanded to serve 200 students, have optimal class sizes for learning, focus on credit recovery and potentially offer online learning.

"We will define a mission and a vision and provide an education for the non-traditional student," Albrecht said. "We will define staff needs, rebrand the school, reimagine it through public relations and market it to local and surrounding school districts through schools of choice."

Build up program

He added that the goal for the first school year is to build capacity and refine the instructional program.

"We will market, recruit, refer and retain

students," he said. "We will evaluate our procedures several times during the school for effectiveness and modify as needed. The second year, our plan is to maximize operating capacity."

The plan was well-received by the school board.

"I think it's very important to capture those students and to respect and understand the need of those alternative education resources to keep moving forward and creating more opportunities," Trustee Sally Madison said.

"Money aside, this looks like an exciting time to find new things that service our kids better," board President Thomas Buckalew said. "I envy that opportunity."

The district has already started making changes. As of last week, it began accepting school of choice applications for the restructured Tinkham program. To register, students must be

residents of Wayne County.

Enrollment can be completed at the district's administrative offices at 36745 Marquette in Westland for residents of Wayne-Westland Community Schools. Non-resident Intra-County Schools of Choice applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning April 27 at the administrative offices.

Enrollment information is available online at the district's website at wwcsd.net/new-families, then click on "How to Enroll my Child." There also will be a link on the same page for non-residents.

For more information, call Wayne-Westland Community Schools at 734-419-2083 or visit the Instruction Department at the administrative offices.

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Man charged with robbing Wayne bank

A man with no fixed address had been charged with robbing a Chase Bank branch in Wayne on Feb. 29.

Mark Berisha, 37, has been charged with bank robbery and unarmed robbery. He was arraigned in Wayne 29th District Court. A not guilty plea was entered, and bond was set at \$100,000 cash.

A robbery was reported about 1:45 p.m. at the Chase Bank on Michigan Avenue. A man reportedly entered the bank, received an unspecified

amount of money from the teller and then fled.

No weapon was reported used in the incident.

Responding officers received a description of the suspect and located someone matching that description a short time later and made an arrest.

Jailed in lieu of bond, Berisha is due back in 29th District Court on March 10.



Berisha

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Mom of 2 pens 'edgy' novel for young adults

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

In her 30s and living "Groundhog Day," a Redford stay-at-home mom decided to use her imagination.

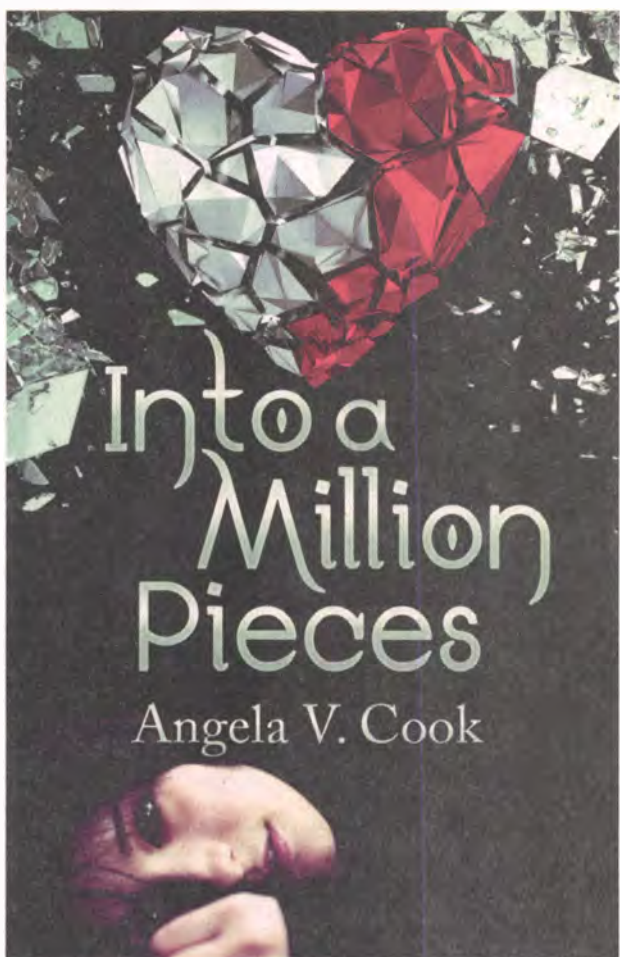
"I've always had an active imagination," Angela V. Cook said as she gets ready to sign copies of her new book from 2-4 p.m. March 7 at the Redford Township District Library.

Into A Million Pieces, published in January by Red Adept Publishing, follows Allison McKready on her summer break as she deals with the family curse that made her and her twin sister succubi like their mother, who committed suicide after abusing her powers over men.

Cook got the idea for the book after several years ago watching a short-lived TV show in which one of the characters on the show was a teenage succubus.

"Every time this girl kissed her boyfriend, she absorbed some of his life energy, which in turn weakened him. I didn't even know what a succubus was at the time, but I loved the idea of a teenage girl who was in love but couldn't so much as kiss her boyfriend without harming him. It was then the wheels of creativity started turning," Cook said.

The book is aimed at a young adult audience,



The cover of Angela V. Cook's newly published book.

which Cook says is a niche for her. "I'm actually a very sarcastic person. The voice comes to me naturally," she said.

Young love

"I like writing about young love," she said. "I think it's just beautiful."

For ages 14 and up, the book is "definitely on the edgier side," she said. "A succubus is a very sexy character."

Cook, a 1995 graduate of Livonia Franklin and a 13-year resident of Redford, has two kids, ages 13 and 9, who attend South Redford schools



Cook

IF YOU GO

Who: Angela V. Cook
What: Book signing for *Into A Million Pieces*
When: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Where: Meeting room at the Redford Township District Library, 25320 Six Mile.

and a husband who has been "remarkable" in his support of her work. Cook also works part-time in the records bureau at the Redford Township Police Department.

The journey from being home with two kids and wondering if this was all there is to life to

being a published author was a crazy one, Cook said.

"I don't regret staying home when they were little, but I needed to do something," she said.

She began by disciplining herself to write two pages a day after her kids were tucked into bed for the night. "I forced myself to write two pages each day. Actually, I still do that," she said.

She has now written four books.

Into A Million Pieces is her second book. She has now completed two more and is working on a sequel to *Into A Million Pieces*.

Everyone who reads *Into a Million Pieces* wants to know if there's a sequel, she said.

The first she wrote in 2009, but she said she made "rookie mistakes" and it was never published.

Getting *Into A Million Pieces* published was no easy task either, as publishers were inundated with paranormal books after the popularity of the *Twilight* series, Cook said.

She tried the "big six" publishers and some other large ones, but ended up finding Red Adept Publishing, which

she said is known for its beautiful book covers.

Great start

She submitted it in the fall of 2013 and then heard on New Year's Eve of that year that they agreed to publish it.

It was a great way to start 2014, she said, which was a year of doing edits.

The book just came out on Jan. 27 of this year and now she's busy promoting the book. Her publisher is setting up a blog tour with 30 "stops" during March and April. It's a virtual book tour, she said.

A blogger herself, Cook started *angelavcook.com* as a blog in 2010 and it is now her website. "It started out as a place to write about writing," she said.

She has also used it as a sounding board for her work and to promote the work of other writers.

"I'm part of an amazing writer's group," she said.

Learn more about Cook and *Into a Million Pieces* by visiting her website, www.angelavcook.com. She can also be found on Twitter at @AngelaVCook and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AngelaVCook.

Oscar contest winners announced

Cheryl Niemie of Highland won the top prize in the *Observer & Eccentric's* 2015 Oscar contest, sponsored in part by Buddy's Pizza.

Niemie, along with Bonnie Burkhardt of Canton and Mickey Skuratovich of Rockwood,

answered the seven selected categories correctly along with a tie-breaker. A random drawing was held to determine the prize placement.

Niemie wins a \$150 Netflix gift card, a \$50 Buddy's Pizza gift certifi-

cate along with popcorn and a box of movie candy. Burkhardt receives a \$60 Netflix gift card and a \$50 Buddy's Pizza gift certificate.

Skuratovich wins a \$30 Netflix gift card and a \$15 Buddy's Pizza gift certificate.

Motor City Players present 'Dirty Work at the Crossroads'

The tear-jerking story of an innocent country girl is told in a laughable way in a new Motor City Theatre adult production opening this weekend.

"Dirty Work at the Crossroads" is a family-friendly melodrama to be performed March 6-8 and 13-15 at the theater, located at 27555 Grantland in Livonia.

Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. while Sunday performances are at 2 p.m.



SUBMITTED
Rachel Thomas as Ida Rhinegold and Russ Facione as Munro Murgatroyd perform in the Motor City Players' version of "Dirty Work at the Crossroads" opening this weekend in Livonia.

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Discover Remarkable

Westland man among 17 indicted in smash-and-grabs

A Westland man is among 17 people from the Detroit area who have been indicted for allegedly orchestrating smash-and-grab jewelry heists across the country.

Kordaryl Cross, 25, of Westland, was named in the indictment, announced by the U.S. Attorney's office last Friday.

According to the indictments, crews from the metro-Detroit area planned and executed six robberies. The crews allegedly traveled across the country to jewelry stores that sell Rolex watches and other jewelry. Several members of the crew allegedly entered the jewelry stores while they were open for business, smashed the Rolex display cases with

sledge hammers and fled the store with Rolex watches valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. The alleged robbers reportedly escaped into waiting, stolen vehicles and returned to Michigan with the stolen watches.

"These crimes, committed during business hours, are serious because of the danger and trauma they create for the victim, customers and sales clerks," U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade said. "These defendants (traveled) around the country to commit their crimes in hopes of dividing and conquering witnesses and investigators, but with the collaboration of law enforcement agencies across the country,

those schemes have been thwarted."

"The defendants in this case intentionally targeted jewelry stores across the country, exposing the public to danger and attempting to thwart the efforts of law enforcement," FBI Special Agent in Charge Paul M. Abbate added. "Together, law enforcement at every level, through shared intelligence, resources, and evidence, brought their crime spree to a halt."

Three federal indictments, related to six robberies and charging conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, were filed separately during the last month. But the indictments focus on just a fraction of the alleged criminal ac-

tivity.

"These indictments follow a series of investigations nationally by various state, local and federal law enforcement agencies involving approximately 40 smash and grab robberies in 2014. In Michigan alone, between 2012 and 2014, approximately 25 smash-and-grab jewelry store robberies were committed," the release said.

The case is being investigated by the FBI Oakland County Gang and Violent Crime Task Force, which involves agents and officers from the FBI, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, Southfield Police, Bloomfield Township Police,

Royal Oak Police, Waterford Police and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

In addition to Cross, also indicted were: Elijah McKinney, 24; Darius Ellis, 30; Latrina Williams, 38; Lorenzo D. Terry, 21; DaJuan C. Marcellus, 24; Brandon P. Wilkerson, 24; Marquis W. Cheatham, 24; Darien S. Thompson, 21; Britnei Rodgers, 29; Ernie T. Evans, 25; Darrick Adams, 29; Brandon Mayes, 20, and Shaquita Wyatt, 24, all of Detroit, as well as Anthony J. Browner, 24, of Farmington Hills; Bria Jackson, 22, of Shelby Township; and Bria Stanford, 21, of Belleville.

"It's very difficult for a local agency to address the problem by itself, but when the FBI — with its

national and international scope — assists, the overall law enforcement effort is more effective," said John Kennedy, head of the Jewelers' Security Alliance.

The JSA, which represents the interests of 21,000 retail jewelry stores, and an industry consortium are offering a combined reward of up to \$45,000 for information leading to the arrest of other individuals responsible for the robberies.

"Clearly, as evidenced by this case, criminals do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "Therefore, it is imperative for all agencies to work together to defeat complex criminal activity."

Faulty furnace blamed for fire at Westland church

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A faulty furnace has been identified as the cause of a fire that damaged Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church in Westland on Feb. 25.

"It looks like the furnace had a little housing unit where the gas is exchanged," Wayne-Westland Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said. "That wasn't there. That's where it had to have happened. There was a small explosion with the gas and the opening in front of the cover."

Based on evidence at the scene, Eggers said it appears that there was enough gas for a deflagration — not a detonation.

"It's more like a chemical chain reaction, not natural gas collected, it flashed," Eggers said. "Housekeeping was also an issue. There were the remains of several boxes in close proximity to the furnace."

The sanctuary of the church remains a viable



A faulty furnace is blamed for the fire that damaged Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church in Westland on Feb. 25.

FILE PHOTO

structure, but the adjoining building, including a community meeting room, was destroyed, he said.

"Our guys did a great job stopping the fire. The way the church was built, they will be able to clean the sanctuary and utilize it," Eggers said. "The other half of the building will have to be demolished and rebuilt."

Eggers estimated the building and contents loss for the church, located on Eton east of Middlebelt and south of Annapolis, at \$500,000.

There were three furnaces in the church, he said, with the one that caused the fire being

installed five years ago.

"I don't believe it was a brand-new furnace. The (church) insurance company intends to pull out the unit and have engineers look at it to get the exact cause of the fire," Eggers said. "They can identify the unit by its serial numbers and see when it originally hit the streets."

Suffragan Bishop Luke McClendon, pastor of the Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church, didn't return calls seeking comment.

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734-883-9039

Twitter: @LRogersObserver

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Attempted vehicle theft

About 4:30 a.m. Feb. 25, a resident in the 29000 block of Currier told police he and his wife were awakened by a loud sound in front of their home. The resident said he looked outside to see three unknown males attempting to remove his Polaris 400 Sportsman ATV from a trailer connected to his pickup truck.

When he went outside to confront the three, he said they ran in separate directions toward the rear of his home and into a wooded area. The resident said one man got into a gray Ford F-150 pickup truck parked at the end of the street. He said all three men were wearing hooded sweat-shirts.

Shots fired

Another resident in the 29000 block of Currier told police he was awakened by the sound of gunshots about 3 a.m. Due to his home's proximity to Inkster, the resident said he didn't think anything of the noise.

Later in the day, he said he was putting gas into his vehicle when he

noticed the rear passenger-side window was broken. He said he also found a bullet hole in the driver's-side rear interior panel. The officer was unable to locate the bullet.

Vandalism

A resident in the 29000 block of Currier told police Feb. 26 that someone damaged the door handle/lock on her vehicle while it was parked in her driveway. The vehicle had been rummaged but nothing was reported missing.

Fraud

On Feb. 26, a Westland woman told police she received a call regarding an overdue pay-day advance loan of an unspecified amount. She said she had never opened the account, which was apparently a telephone transaction. The loan was opened in 2011 but the woman said she just found out about and had never authorized it.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 30000 block of Marshall Court told police Feb. 25 that overnight someone

had been inside his vehicle while it was parked in the driveway. He said he was unsure if the vehicle had been locked. Reported missing was a three-inch folding knife with a seat belt cutter on the end.

Fraud

A Westland man told police Feb. 26 that he received a call from Credit Union One about possible fraudulent activities. He said someone charged \$164 at Meijer and McDonald's. He said he had the card in his possession and hadn't made the charges.

Larceny from a vehicle

On Feb. 27, a Garden City man told police that he was at Malarkey's, 35750 Warren Road, and found someone had smashed a window on his vehicle. He said a credit card was taken from a briefcase inside the car.

Fraud

A Westland man told police Feb. 27 that he had gone to H&R Block to get his taxes done and was told that someone already filed using his personal information.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny

A resident in the 32000 block of Carlisle Parkway told police Feb. 26 that she ordered a pair of high-heeled boots and a coat valued at \$72 on Jan. 20.

The woman said the package hadn't arrived, but because it was coming from China, she thought there was a delay due to Chinese

New Year. By Feb. 26, she found that UPS had reported the package delivered to her front porch Jan. 28.

The package wasn't received, said the woman, adding that she uses her front door and would have noticed a delivery.

Vandalism

On Feb. 26, police were called to Mark Chevrolet, 33200 Michi-

gan Ave., after all four tires and rims, valued at \$2,400, were reported stolen from a 2015 Chevrolet Impala parked on the lot. The vehicle was left sitting on bricks.

An employee discovered the theft and also a window smashed on the vehicle. The theft was believed to have occurred during the previous week.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Hit and run

A 21-year-old Canton Township man said a driver struck his 2014 Chevy Silverado about 6:30 p.m. Feb. 25 and left the area without exchanging information.

The driver of a Hyundai was coming out of the 7-Eleven at Ford and Merriman when he hit the passenger side of the truck.

The Hyundai driver stopped to talk to the truck driver. He said that while he was calling the police, the Hyundai driver said that he would wait for the police in the nearby Walgreens parking lot.

As the truck driver waited for police to arrive, he saw a passenger get out of the Hyundai, go into Walgreens and return holding something. The Hyundai driv-

er then left the Walgreens parking lot and didn't wait for police to respond.

Break-in

Garden City police and the business owner at 155 N. Inkster Road responded to an alarm at about 3 a.m. March 3. They found damage to a window and a door.

Checking the premises, they found nothing disturbed. The officer noted there was still money in the register.

Police also contacted a driver making a delivery to the nearby Wendy's restaurant about the same time for information, but that driver said he did not see any unusual activity.

Theft

A resident in the 32000 block of Kathryn reported about 1:45 a.m. March 3 that an acquaintance stole prescription medication he had just filled and left in his unlocked car. The suspect later called the victim to say that he planned to sell the medication.

While the police officer was writing out the police report, the thief called the victim who handed the cell phone to the officer. The suspect denied involvement.

Someone claiming to be the suspect's brother took the phone and began cursing at the police officer at which time the officer ended the conversation. The victim wanted the police report so that he could get the prescription refilled.

By Sue Buck



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Culinary Tour coming to Franklin High School



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Culinary student Arryn Dochenetz, from Stevenson High School, works on a recipe during a recent class session in the LPS Hospitality Management course offered through the Livonia Career Technical Center.

Franklin High School will be a culinary melting pot when local restaurants bring their popular dishes to a special event called the Livonia Culinary Tour, set for 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

Hosted by the Livonia Public Schools Hospitality Management Program, the event will feature food samples from a variety of area eateries and will serve as a fundraiser for the program.

This first-time event will provide needed funds for the Hospitality Management Program to replace old equipment and purchase some needed equipment.

"We are trying to have an exemplary program, to allow students to either further their education or find a job after school. Unlike other programs in the area, we are behind the times," program instructor Christine Bednarczyk said.

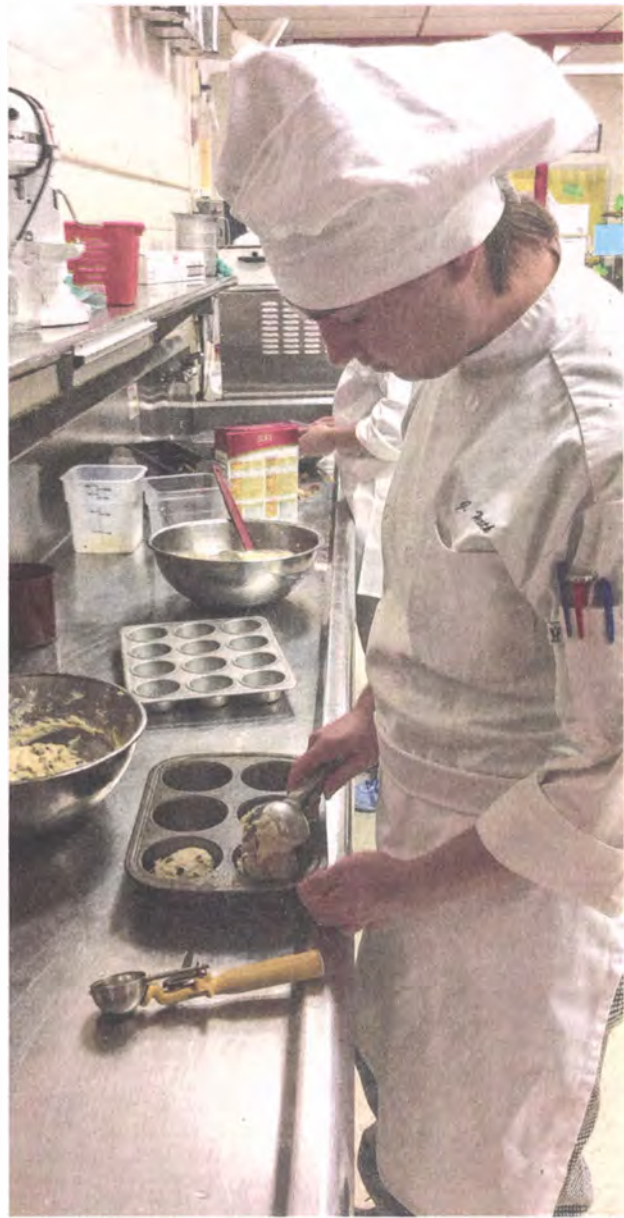
The Hospitality Management Program for high school students in Livonia Public Schools offers hands-on instruc-

tion and experience in food preparation, food safety and hospitality management.

For the Livonia Culinary Tour, students are recruiting local restaurants to participate and they are seeking donations. They will also be working as hosts at the event.

Participants will include more than 20 restaurants, including Coach Insignia and Glass House Cafe, plus the culinary programs at Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College and Oakland Community College. Chefs from around the Great Lakes region will also be on hand.

The event will take place in the south cafeteria; enter front doors at Franklin High School, located at 31000 Joy Road, just east of Merriam. Tickets are \$15 in advance (available now at FHS and at the Livonia Career Technical Center) or by calling 734-744-2655 ext. 47184. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$20.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Josh Heath is busy in the kitchen, during a recent class in the LPS Hospitality Management program.

Area Salvation Army thrift stores holding clothing sales

Bust out of the winter blues with The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) family thrift stores during an exclusive 50-percent off clothing sale Saturday, March 7.

Doors will be open at the nonprofit's 32 metro Detroit thrift stores from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at its two dollar stores in Pontiac and Detroit.

"Spring is around the corner, but with Michigan's ever-changing weather it's difficult to predict the type of clothing you'll need for outdoor conditions," said Merle Miller, administrator of The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center.

"At The Salvation Army thrift stores, we're pleased to provide affordable, high-quality clothing, so families

around the metro area can stay comfortable each and every season."

In addition to 50-percent savings on clothing, shoppers can pick up great deals on shoes, accessories, home goods, furniture and more during bonus sales announced throughout the day.

Locally, the deals can be found at the:

» Canton Thrift Store, 43403 Joy, near Sheldon, Canton; 734-416-1925.

» Garden City Thrift Store, 28982 Ford, east of Middlebelt, Garden City; 734-261-7175.

» Livonia Thrift Store, 33600 Plymouth Road, west of Farmington Road, Livonia, 734-425-7573.

» Redford Thrift Store, 27170 Grand River Ave. and Eight Mile, Redford, 313-255-0777.

Proceeds from all stores benefit The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabili-

tation Centers, independently funded, 180-day residential rehabilitation program for adults.

The ARC is an integral part of The Salvation Army's mission, and offers substance-abusing adults the opportunity to rebuild their lives through a voluntary, short-term residential self-help program designed to establish a sense of dignity, self-esteem and personal strength that will allow

them to resist the desire to abuse a substance and regain their rightful place as contributing members of society.

Completely self-funded, the ARC draws its entire operating budget from the revenue of the 34 Salvation Army Thrift Stores in Southeast Michigan.

For more information, visit www.salarmythrif.com or call 313-965-7760.

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FOR THE WAY IT'S MADE!






City, businesses meet to connect

Diverse group turns out at Westland City Hall

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Banks, a bowling alley, a greenhouse, restaurants, a tire store, high-tech businesses. All types of businesses were represented as Westland hosted Business Connect.

Representatives from more than 100 businesses filled the meeting room at Westland City Hall for a meeting giving information on Westland's Youth Works Program, Westland Works, the Fast Track Program, City Wide Marketing opportunities, Downtown Development Authority grants and the city's local preference ordinance that gives Westland businesses a competitive advantage in the bidding process.

"Westland is open for business. It's easy to say, but you've got to back it up. I think we do," Westland Mayor William W. Wild said. "We have a strong future."

Everyone in attendance was asked to stand and introduce themselves. "We have such a diverse crowd. I'm so pleased," Wild said.

Attendees saw videos about the youth works program, marketing opportunities and recent new investment in the city, municipal and private. There was also a

focus on how the city facilitates and partners with businesses ranging from employment programs, Downtown Development Authority incentives and Commercial Redevelopment Districts.

"I loved it, especially the part about the DDA district. I'd be very interested in incentives for facades," said Gloria Mrozek, banking center manager/vice president at America Bank on South Wayne Road. "We're in the CRD. We need it in our area. That was my biggest takeaway today."

Accompanied by her branch business relationship banker Jeff Robbins, Mrozek said having everyone introduce themselves helped them get to know about businesses in the area.

Wireless infrastructure manager for 123Net, Jim Hart said the Business Connect was really great.

"I'm looking forward to see what happens with things like Youth Works. I'd like to look into it," he said. "I'm very excited at what the mayor and council have already done."

Members of the city's economic development team took questions and talked about the city's efforts to facilitate new business and growth for



Representatives from more than 100 businesses attended the Westland Business Connect.

WLND

existing businesses.

"Economic development didn't stop when the economy crashed," said Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale, adding city representatives annually attended the International Conference of Shopping Centers to market Westland.

Those efforts are paying off, Fodale said, with recent addition of stores, such as Charming Charlie, Shoe Carnival and Ulta at Westland Shopping Center. Bed, Bath & Beyond is relocating to Warren Road, spurring other retailers to open in the Westridge strip center, she said. Other busi-

nesses already interested in the soon-to-be vacated spot next to Best Buy.

Among a number of developments, Wild cited the rapid sales of new homes under construction at the new Clyde Smith Farm subdivision. The development, on Newburgh south of Joy, will have nearly 200

homes.

"I believe they sold 15 homes in two weeks. It's a real bellwether for the city," Wild said. "Those are young families that will fuel our city and schools."

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Lawmakers hold local office hours

Local lawmakers will hold district offices hours next week.

State Sen. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, will be hosting an office hour Monday, March 9, in Garden City with State Rep. Julie Plawecki and Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc.

They will be at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Residents will have the opportunity to meet with Knezek, Plawecki and LeBlanc to discuss their concerns about state and county govern-

ment. Plawecki also will hold office hours from 9-10:30 a.m. March 9 at Mr. Mike's, 6047 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

They also can contact: » Knezek by phone at 517-373-0994 or by email at sendknezek@senate.michigan.gov.

» Plawecki by phone toll-free at 844-347-8011 or email her at julieplawecki@house.mi.gov.

» LeBlanc by phone at 313-224-8855 or by email at District12@wayne-county.com.

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck and District Manager Penny Crider

will conduct monthly office hours for March in Wayne from 4-5 p.m. Friday, March 13. The office hours will be held at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, and will be open to the public.

Colbeck will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. No appointment is necessary.

For more information or to contact Colbeck, call 517-373-5713 or visit www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com.

Westland pastor gives invocation before Michigan Senate

Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, welcomed local pastor Tyson Nofzinger to provide the invocation for the opening of the Feb. 11 Senate session. Nofzinger is the lead pastor at Westland Free Methodist Church.

"I was very pleased to welcome Pastor Nofzinger to the Senate floor today," Hopgood said. "His words of encouragement and blessing remind us of the great responsibility we have as lawmakers to lead people, create smart policies and manage resources for our state."

Nofzinger was raised in Ohio and entered the



Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood joins Pastor Tyson Nofzinger of Westland Free Methodist Church as he delivers the invocation for the opening of the Senate session on Feb. 11.

ministry full time in 2005 after working as the director of technology and as a part-time instructor at a community college. He and his wife Bethany have three daughters. He has served

Westland Free Methodist Church since June 2012.

Senators are able to invite individuals from their districts to lead the chamber in an invocation at the beginning of every session.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Shamrock Shuffle

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will hold its annual Shamrock Shuffle card Party at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in the St. Raphael Activities building, 31530 Merriman, Garden City.

Tickets are \$8 and include dessert, coffee, Blarney bags, and table and door prizes. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, pop, ships and water will be available for purchase.

For more information, call 734-427-1533 or 734-422-8465.

Easter activities

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will hold an "EGG" Stravaganza from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the church at 3 Towne Square, Wayne.

There will be snacks, crafts, Bible stories, songs and egg dying. Bring a dozen hard-boiled eggs. The event is for children ages kindergarten through fifth-grade.

For more information, call the church at 734-722-4672 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Thursdays.

» The Westland Area Jaycees will hold their annual Easter Egg-Stravaganza from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1661 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

A pancake breakfast will be served at 10 a.m. Following breakfast, there will be indoor crafts and complemen-

tary photos with the Easter Bunny. Outdoor Easter Egg Hunts, grouped by age for children 2-12, will start at 11 a.m. During the event, there will be a DJ, cake walk, face painting, fire trucks and more.

Dress for the weather as this is a rain or shine event. Tickets are \$2 for children ages 2-12 and \$1 for adults and children over age 12.

Soccer signups

Westland Free Methodist Church presents Upward Soccer, a fun, fair, and competitive soccer league for kids ages 4 through sixth-grade.

Practices start the first week of April and the first game is April 18. The cost is \$65 per child. For more information or to register, call 737-728-2600 or visit www.live-sare.changing.com.

The church is at 1421 Venoy, between Cherry Hill and Palmer, Westland.

Trains of Wayne

The Wayne Historical Society will present "The Trains of Wayne," with local train historian Richard Andrews, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square.

Doors open at 7 p.m. There is no charge for this program and all are welcome.

Join the Wayne Historical Society and share the history. Membership dues are only \$10 per

year.

Business Alliance

The Garden City Business Alliance will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, March 13, at the Straight Farmhouse Museum, 6221 Merriman, Garden City.

The business group meets on the second Friday of each month. For more information, visit the alliance website at gcbiz48135.org or email gcbusinessalliance@gmail.com.

Youth Assistance

The Westland Youth Assistance Program and the Taylor Teen Health Center is hosting a "Be Proud! Be Responsible!" workshop for youth from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 14 and March 28 and April 18, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy, Westland.

"Be Proud, Be Responsible!" is a pregnancy and HIV/AIDS prevention program for adolescent youth ages 12-18. It is interactive, fun, and most importantly, it works. All participants will get a free snack in the morning, free lunch and free prizes.

For more information or to register, call the Westland Youth Assistance Program at 734-467-7904.

Bowling fundraiser

Time to spare? Enjoy some bowling while helping the Westland Historic Village Park from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March

21, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and include two games with shoes, pizza and pop. There also will be raffle prizes for adults and children. Tickets are available from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill or by calling Ryan at 734-756-0769.

Mom 2 Mom sale

Garden City High School will have a Mom 2 Mom sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Early-bird is at 8:30 a.m.

The price is \$25 for an 8-foot table, including space for a standard-size clothes rack that you provide or a small shelf. The seller keeps all the profits from everything sold at their table. A large-item area will also be available for items (high chairs, strollers, exersaucers, swings, etc.) that do not fit on or under your table. There will also be a pre-sale for those who reserve a table. There will be more than 75 tables.

A concession stand will be open throughout the sale as well as a bake sale. Admission to the sale is \$1 (early bird is \$2). All profits from this sale will go to the GCHS PTSA. For more information or to reserve a table, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale for a

table agreement, send an email to Gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com or call 734-277-0791 and leave a message.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland is holding its monthly spaghetti dinner from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 27. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert for \$8 for adults, \$4 for children age 12 and under. Children age 3 and under are free.

In March, the center will hold its monthly game night at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12. The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh. For more information, call 734-419-2020.

Google workshop

People in Wayne are looking for what downtown businesses offer — and they're looking online. That's why Wayne Main Street is teaming up with Google to host a free workshop to help businesses get online and on the map. The Let's Put Wayne on the Map! Workshop will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at the Wayne Fire Station, 3300 S. Wayne Road, south of Glenwood.

To reserve a spot, call 734-629-6822 or email director@downtown-wayne.org.

Family Feud

New Life Church of Garden City will host its fourth annual Family

Feud fundraiser at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at New Life, 33111 Ford, and Garden City.

Get a team of five together or join one of ours. Pastor Chris Smothers will be our game show host. The cost is \$10 per person. There will be food concessions available.

For more information, call the church at 734-326-7000.

Trivia Night

The Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Community will hold a trivia night at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the church, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m. Preregister for \$20 per team (maximum of four persons). At the door the cost is \$30, if space available. It includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn and one food choice for each team. Food choices are four hot dogs and four chips or one pepperoni or cheese pizza from Marina's. Additional food items and beverages (beer, coolers, pop, water, coffee) will be available for purchase.

There will be a 50/50 raffle (tickets are \$1 each, three for \$2, 10 for \$5 and 25 for \$10) and prizes — mystery prizes, \$100 for first place, \$80 for second place, \$60 for third place and \$20 for last place.

For more information, call Kathy Hansen at 734-716-4436.

Greenmead Historical Park hosts vintage wedding dress display

Happily Ever After, an event showcasing antique and vintage wedding gowns and photos, will take place from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

The gowns will be from the 1890s to 1974. The exhibits will include the wedding gown, shoes and wedding planning book from the 2002 movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Attendees will begin at the decorated Historic Newburg Church for a presentation of wedding music and traditions, followed by a "reception" at the Alexander Blue House featuring hors d'oeuvres, sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.



This wedding gown from 1956 will be among the vintage dresses on display.

There will also be door prizes from area businesses. Tickets are \$15 each, and must be purchased in

advance. Proceeds benefit Greenmead Historical Park. Call 248-477-7375 for more information.

Proposal 1 wording approved

Wording was approved Feb. 25 for Proposal 1, a tax issue headed for the May 5 ballot, but a local activist remains unhappy over what it will say.

If approved, Proposal 1 would increase the state sales tax to 7 percent to pay for road repairs as well as set aside money for public schools, local government and other projects.

But Wes Nakagiri, of Hartland Township-based RetakeOurGov, said the proposal offers no guarantees the money would be used as indicated.

"Prop 1 provides no constitutional guarantees that funds won't be diverted to legislative pet projects," said Nakagiri,

who was among those testifying at last week's hearing before Michigan's state board of canvassers.

The board voted 3-1 in favor of the wording.

This is how Proposal 1 will appear on the May 5 ballot:

"A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

Eliminate sales/use

taxes on gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles on public roads.

Increase portion of use tax dedicated to School Aid Fund (SAF).

Expand use of SAF to community colleges and career/technical education, and prohibit use for 4-year colleges/universities.

Give effect to laws, including those that: Increase sales/use tax to 7%, as authorized by constitutional amendment.

Increase gasoline/diesel fuel tax and adjust annually for inflation, increase vehicle registration fees, and dedicate revenue for roads and other transportation purposes.

Expand competitive bidding and warranties for road projects.

Increase earned income tax credit.

Should this proposal be adopted?"



Wes Nakagiri



Suzan Beydoun, MD
Family Medicine



Pamela Geppert, DO
Family Medicine



Indrani Nimmagadda, MD
Internal Medicine



Letacia Thomas, MD
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 30 tables. Guests include actor/inventor Ron Baraton, a local actor who has appeared in *Oz the Great and Powerful* and *Ideas of March* with George Clooney and the TV show *Detroit 187*. Admission is \$2. Age 10 and under are free. Concessions available until 2 p.m. The admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home.

Contact: 734-258-5026.

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 including jewelry, beauty products, hats, gifts, ceramics, t-shirts and more at the Michigan Crafters Marketplace. Tables spaces are available for \$75 each for up to 100 vendors.

Contact: www.MichiganCraftersMarketplace.com.

MINERAL AND LAPIDARY AUCTION

Time/date: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

Location: VistaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Details: Sponsored by the Roamin Club, the event includes hourly silent and verbal auctions for crystals, fossils, slabs, cutting rough and more; special auctions for children, hourly door prizes and daily grand prizes. Free admission and parking. Auction benefits the Roamin Club Endowment Fund and Tom Williams Scholarship at Schoolcraft.

Contact: 248-348-5093; 248-981-9673.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7.

Location: McKinley Cooperative Preschool, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: Open house for McKinley Cooperative Preschool.

Contact: Erin Gibbons, 734-729-7222; <http://mckinleypreschool.org/>.

WILLOW CREEK PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10.

Location: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, 36660 Cherry Hill Road, Westland.

Details: Willow Creek Coop Preschool has classes for 4-year-olds, 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds for the 2015-16 school year.

Contact: 734-326-0078.

LIVONIA NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10.

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club in Livonia, will hold its general meeting followed by a club favorite, pizza and bingo. Livonia Neighbors and Friends is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. Special activity groups continue to meet year round. New members are always welcome.

Contact: livonianighborsandfriends.tripod.com.

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 for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish for its annual Shamrock Shuffle card. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, pop, chips and water will be available for purchase.

Details: For more information, call 734-427-1533 or 734-422-8465.

3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Time/date: 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

Location: Livonia Civic Park

Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: See great 3D images, and learn how to make your own 3D pictures. Meetings include a 3D program, refreshment break, and a competition among members. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to rent. The highlight of the meeting will be the premiere of "Ireland in 3D," a program about the recent travels of the Irish band Blackthorn around the Emerald Isle, by one of its members. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.

Contact: www.Detroit3D.org, or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

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 Administrator. Includes boat handling, seamanship, radio procedure, trailering and legal requirements. Meets Michigan jet ski requirements. Certificate based upon completion. Minimum age: 13 years without parent. Cost is \$45.

Contact: Larry Dunn, dunnlarry@att.net; 313-529-8453.

REDFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Time/date: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

Location: Covenant Community Church 25800 Student Street, Redford.

Details: The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will present a concert featuring the works of German masters. Admission is free.

Contact: 313-384-7204.

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. Pastor Chris Smothers will be the game show host. Cost is \$10 per person. There will be food concessions available.

Contact: For more information, call the church at 734-326-7000.

Spring Celebration!

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Saturday, March 7, 2015
9:00am-4:00pm

\$2.00 Admission
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Beaver Creek adds Sunday brunch to its menu

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

James Papadopolous has a plan to make Beaver Creek Saloon and Grill a destination on Sundays, and it starts this Sunday, March 8, with the launch of a Sunday brunch buffet.

"It's going to be the best brunch in the universe," Papadopolous said. "I love brunches, I go to them all the time, but this is going to be so good that everyone will come."

Papadopolous's goal is to start off perfect and then fine tune Beaver Creek's Sunday Brunch Buffet. It will be served from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays and feature a prime rib carving station, breakfast, hot lunch, omelet, waffle and dessert stations, salad and pasta bars and fresh fruits.

He's also offering what he believes is one-of-a-kind in the metro



Preparing for the launch of a new Sunday brunch at Beaver Creek in Westland are manager Misty Lindquist (from left), owner James Papadopolous, chef Shane Cupps and Cleo Papadopolous.

area, a Bloody Mary bar. It's a build-your-own meal on top of a Bloody Mary. Anything and everything is game, and Papadopolous has a grocery list of items that will be available to gussy up the drink.

"Bloody Mary bars are a huge trend," Papadopolous said. "You set it up and put anything you

want on your Bloody Mary."

The all-you-can-eat brunch costs \$17.99 for adults, \$14.99 for seniors and \$11.99 for children ages 5-12. Children age 4 and under are free. Add the Bloody Mary bar for \$6 per glass or a Marmoset with fresh orange juice and fuzzy champagne for \$5.

Changing style

Papadopolous took over Beaver Creek last September and has transformed it. A western theme has replaced the woody outdoor style and the menu has been revamped to feature longtime favorites and new additions with a western bent. It also is offering live bands after 9 p.m. on weekends to increase the night life, and added a salad bar as part of the Pony Express lunch menu, which comes with a 15-minute guarantee.

The addition of the Sunday Brunch is part of its evolution.

Beaver Creek has an early liquor license, allowing it to serve alcoholic beverages before noon. It sampled the brunch waters last October when the Detroit Lions played the Atlanta Falcons in London at 9:30 a.m. The main floor of the restaurant was full

as people came in to eat, drink and cheer on the home team, according to general manager Misty Lindquist.

"The other restaurants had brunches and I always wondered why we didn't one," Lindquist said.

Getting help

Papadopolous, who grew up in Royal Oak and now lives in Shelby Township, is getting help with the restaurant from his aunt, Cleo Papadopolous. A former restaurant owner, she got him his start in the business working for her as a dishwasher and bus boy many years ago.

"The only reason I got into the restaurant business was to have an awesome Sunday brunch," he said. "Brunches are a destination point."

Working with Chef Shane Cupps, Papadopolous and Lindquist are preparing for Sunday's launch, all with one goal

BEAVER CREEK SALOON & GRILL

Location: 1609 Wayne Road, Westland
Hours: 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Sunday.
Details: Dine in or call for carry-out orders. Call ahead for reservations. Beaver Creek also offers catering, with a \$3 delivery fee. Orders must be over \$25 and delivery within a five-mile radius.
Phone: 734-722-5330 or at www.facebook.com/beavercreek1609

in mind.

"I hope every seat is filled and there's a line out the door," he said.

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

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Children's Film Festival

Bloomfield Hills-based MJR Digital Cinemas will offer its Free Spring Children's Film Festival every Saturday and Sunday, from Saturday, March 7, through Sunday, March 29, at the Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne Road.

The film festival is totally free to children age 12 and under is \$1 for parents. Advance tickets are not available, and tickets are distributed on a first-come, first served basis.

The film lineup is *Box Trolls* (PG) March 7-8, *Annie* (PG) March 14-15,

Night at the Museum (PG) March 21-22 and *Book of Life* (PG) March 28-29.

Call the theater at 734-298-2657 for show times or visit mjrtheatres.com on the Tuesday prior to the show.

Business Alliance

The Garden City Business Alliance will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, March 13, at the Straight Farmhouse Museum, 6221 Merriman.

The business group meets on the second Friday of each month. For more information, visit gcbiz48135.org or email gcbusinessalliance@gmail.com.

How does learning to cook improve productivity?

At the end of a busy week when I wish I'd accomplished even more, I find myself fishing for ways to be more efficient and effective. Fortunately a great source of good advice is right at my fingertip - Tim Ferriss' book, *The 4-Hour Chef*, which was recommended to me by a great friend a couple years ago.

What does learning to cook have to do with improving productivity? Cooking is a delightful vehicle that Tim uses to present a basic, four-part framework you can apply to learning any



By Clarity Patton Newhouse
A SUNNY NOTE

skill.

» Deconstruct — "What are the minimum learnable units, the LEGO blocks, I should be starting with?"

» Selection — "Which 20 percent of the blocks should I focus on for 80 percent or more of the outcome I want?"

» Sequencing — "In what order should I learn the blocks?"

» Stakes — "How do I set up stakes to create

real consequences and guarantee I follow the program?"

Source: *The 4-Hour Chef*

Over the years, everything I've read by Ferriss has been beneficial. Besides, you've got to love a plan that begins with LEGOs! Happy learning — and have a sunny weekend.

Clarity

P.S. "Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

P.P.S. You can read more Sunny Notes at www.SunnyNotes.com

and new readers can subscribe at www.JoinSunnyNotes.com. I appreciate your feedback and I hope Sunny Notes brighten your day.

Clarity Patton Newhouse is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond. To reach her, call 734-855-4728 or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sunnynotes.

THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH TRUST.



Under New Leadership, Mass Mutual Southeast Michigan Seeks Growth Through Community Outreach

Southfield, Mich., Feb. 22, 2015 —When Colleen Schueneman took over full leadership of MassMutual Southeast Michigan last summer, she immediately set about building relationships with different segments of the community.

Schueneman, the new General Agent, and a growing staff of financial professionals are intent upon building meaningful connections, whether it's meeting with leaders of the Detroit Economic Club, local African-American organizations, or the Belle Isle Women's Committee.

"The fact is, you need to build trust in a community before you can start doing business there," Schueneman said. "We have been working very hard to get our feet firmly planted here."

"We are very excited to have Colleen at the helm of MassMutual Southeast Michigan," said John Vaccaro, Senior Vice President and Head of USIG Sales & Distribution for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual). "Colleen is an innovative and visionary thinker who will be a strong leader for her agency, as well as the larger community."

For Schueneman immersion in the community has been a winning strategy. When she became Managing Director at MetLife in Chicago, Schueneman quickly realized that the company was not adequately serving the large multicultural community in the area.

Schueneman reached out to top leaders in the African-American community, invited them to a meeting, and just listened. The leaders told her they felt that the company had no presence locally, and that their constituents weren't being adequately supported or educated about financial matters. Schueneman continued to hold meetings over the next several months to hear about what they wanted and needed. From those conversations, Schueneman

began to support various community groups, sponsored art and theater events, and backed educational events through the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

The goal was both to provide important support to the community and to recruit new African-American financial professionals.

Schueneman learned valuable lessons from that endeavor and is employing a similar approach to her leadership at MassMutual Southeast Michigan.

"We recognize that in general, the multicultural market is vastly underserved," Schueneman said. "Just as I did in the Chicago area, I am meeting with leaders in this community and just listening to what their needs are."

In her new position, Schueneman has spent considerable time meeting with leaders of the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce.

"What came out loud and clear is that the community needs more education about basic financial planning, debt reduction, college funding, and the danger of overusing credit cards," she said. Schueneman is working to develop an educational series through the chamber on these topics.

In addition to multicultural groups, Schueneman also is reaching out to women and to Millennials. She has recently brought on five women for staff positions and another nine women as financial professionals. Schueneman has spoken at various women's organizations and events in hopes of recruiting more women.

"A lot of our top producers are women," she said. "The job is appealing to women because it offers a lot of flexibility and opportunities for development, growth and advancement."

Under Schueneman's leadership MassMutual Southeast Michigan also is reaching out to Millennials, both in terms of recruiting and to develop a younger clientele. She has spoken at college campuses and to alumni groups, and is using newer technologies, such as video conferencing and social media to reach this tech-savvy audience.

Overall, Schueneman is creating an innovative vision that brings MassMutual Southeast Michigan squarely into the 21st Century. She has created a one-stop shop at her agency, where clients can access an array of services under one roof.

She and her staff have also thrown themselves headlong into community service projects, including volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Race for the Cure, and at Genesee Resources, a program that helps homeless women in the area. Schueneman also is active with The Make A Wish Foundation, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House, the Judson House, Jewish Vocational Services, Cal's Angels and WASC Development of Girls, among other charities. Schueneman also serves on the Board of Trustees for the GAMA Foundation for Education and Research, where she develops research to educate future leaders in the financial services industry.

"I have been out and about in the community, building trust and rapport among people because that is the starting point," she said. "If you want to be engaged in the community, you also need to give back."

But for all the new relationships she is building, Schueneman's role as the new General Agent of MassMutual Southeast Michigan is a homecoming of sorts. A Michigan native, she has been in the financial services industry for nearly 30 years. Schueneman began her career as a financial services representative and has represented Prudential, Mutual of New York and MetLife, and headed her own firm before joining MassMutual. After spending 20 years in the Chicago area, Schueneman has returned to the area with her husband and three children. She is an avid golfer and sports enthusiast, and enjoys her time as a Fast Pitch softball coach.



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Colleen Schueneman, CLF, LUTCF
General Agent

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248-208-2706

Know your rights when a collection agency calls

The other day when I listened to my message there was a call from a collection agency. The message said the normal stuff — that I was seriously delinquent and if I don't immediately contact them and submit a payment my credit rating would be ruined.

Normally, if I get a call like that I know it's bogus and I don't return it. However, I thought for research purposes I would call and try to find out the story.

I contacted the collection agency and was given the name of the company that supposedly I owed money to. I recognized the company as my old cable provider. I had not used that cable provider for a decade. In addition, I never in the last decade have received an invoice from the company. When I was a customer, I used the automatic billing program.

I knew that I did not owe the money. I told the rather forceful person on the phone that I doubt the legitimacy of the bill and that before I would proceed further I would need a copy of the original bill. Not surprisingly, I have yet to receive a



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

copy of the bill. I don't think I ever will.

There are legitimate collection agencies that attempt to collect debts on behalf of companies. Sometimes, however, these companies will buy old account receivables that companies have written off and attempt to collect.

However, it doesn't mean that just because a collection agency contacts you they are legitimate. And even if the agency is legitimate, the debt may not be valid.

Remember, despite a company's threats and strong-arm tactics, you do have rights. Don't let a collection agency intimidate you into paying a debt that is not yours.

Collection agencies must comply with federal and state laws. These include things such as protection against harassing phone calls and phone calls that come all hours of the day.

If you are being harassed by a collection agency, keep a diary of

information. Keep track of the name of the person who called you, the time and the content of the conversation and if any threats were made.

If you decide to pursue an action against the debt collection agency through legal or administrative action, having the diary will be helpful.

One threat that collection agencies make is putting something on your credit report to ruin your credit scores. Remember, when someone puts something on your credit report you have rights.

I recommend that everyone review their credit reports at least once a year. Go to annualcreditreport.com for a free copy by each of the three major credit reporting agencies — without strings attached.

We should all pay our bills. However, don't let a debt collection agency coerce you into paying a bogus debt.

Good luck.

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.

Keep data safe, follow password etiquette

When the Sony Pictures Entertainment hack became public in the fall 2014, leaked emails and accusations of North Korea involvement dominated headlines. But the most egregious error of the fiasco was that a collection of employees had saved company passwords in a folder named "passwords."



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

Inside the Sony "passwords" folder were endless documents such as "YouTube login passwords" that were as descriptive as they were dangerous. The set up was a data thief's dream and likely aided the crooks in acquiring data and compromising social media accounts.

It was also a reminder that even large corporations are sometimes oblivious to following proper password etiquette. But, if a multinational media conglomerate fails at properly developing and storing their passwords, what does that say about the general public? I'm led to believe many people do not treat their passwords with the extreme care they deserve.

If you fall into the category of someone who has neglected passwords over the years, follow these steps to lock down your computer, social networks and most importantly, financial accounts.

Make your passwords strong: Most companies require employees to create passwords that are at least eight characters in length and include a letter, number and a character, so why

shouldn't you do the same for personal accounts?

Some online banking sites or social networks already require certain measures like one number or one capital letter in each password. The more challenging you make your password by including numbers, capital letters and special characters, the harder it is for a hacker to compromise your account.

Change passwords regularly: You don't necessarily need to switch your passwords every 90 days like many people must do at work. But it certainly doesn't help to keep the same password for years on end, especially if the site has recently been hacked. For example, if you find that Facebook has a data breach (which it has in the past), change your password just to be safe.

Use different passwords: Having one of your accounts unlawfully accessed due to a data breach is bad. Having all of them unlawfully accessed would be the worst. Having different passwords for different sites may protect you if one password gets into the wrong hands.

Protect your email: Your email password is the most important password you will ever have. So take proper precautions. If someone gains access to your email, they can

begin requesting "password reset notifications" for social networks, banking sites and more. And in no time, someone could conceivably reset passwords and even email addresses leaving you vulnerable and not in control.

Store passwords safely: It's safe to say you may have too many passwords to remember. If so, write them down on a piece of paper and put them in a safe, or a safe place. If you store password reminders on your computer or phone, store them in a manner that you understand, but a thief will not. For example, avoid naming documents or folders "password" just as Sony did.

Use password managers: One tactic to help remember many passwords and also avoid storing them inappropriately is to use a free password manager such as LastPass. The free service allows you to use one master password to log into the site. Then, as you log on to secure sites, it saves your old password and re-encrypts it to something much more secure.

LastPass will also change your passwords regularly for added safety measure. With LastPass, a consumer only needs to remember a master password — which should be strong and stored properly.

Be safe, not sorry, when it comes to passwords.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.

Knights of the road: UPS drivers lauded for 25 years of safety

Several western Wayne County UPS drivers were recently lauded for 25 years of safe driving.

They are William Beveridge of Westland, Paul Cutsy of Westland, Thomas Haar of Canton, Bryan Laskowski of Livonia, Keith Michalak of Westland and Michael Wheeler of Livonia.

UPS recently announced 57 elite drivers from Michigan are among 1,445 newly inducted worldwide into the Circle of Honor, an honorary organization for UPS drivers who have achieved 25 or more years of accident-free driving.

Michigan boasts 251 active Circle of Honor drivers with a combined 7,015 years of accident-free driving. Thomas Camp of Livonia is the state's senior safe driver,



Wheeler Michalak Cutsy Laskowski



Beveridge Haar

racked up more than 221,000 years and more than 5.3 billion safe miles during their careers. That's enough miles to travel to Mars and back 36 times.

"My thanks go to all of them for their dedication and focus and for the countless lives they've saved," said Stefan Wilson, president, UPS Great Lakes District.

UPS's 102,000 drivers are among the safest on the roads, logging more than three billion miles a year and delivering more than four billion packages safely.

with 52 years of accident-free driving under his belt, ranking him the safest driver among 102,000 drivers for UPS. There are 2,894 total UPS drivers in Michigan.

Globally, 7,878 active UPS drivers are members of the Circle of Honor. Collectively they've

CITY OF LIVONIA REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS: 02/02/2015

Present: Nash, Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Brosnan
Absent: None
Items were received and filed.
#27-15 Approving the minutes of meeting on 01/21/15.
#28-15 Approving request from Irene Vaughn to close Arthur Street on June 13, 2015 for a graduation party.
#29-15 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Livonia and the State of Michigan for full access to the Michigan Centralized Birth Certification System.
#30-15 Approving the appointment of Cathryn White to the Board of Review for a term of three years.
#31-15 Approving an application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for ActuaPlast NA Inc.
#32-15 No Further Action with respect to an Application for Exemption of Personal Property submitted by ActuaPlast NA Inc.
#33-15 Approving Petition 2014-11-01-07, submitted by NPM Acquisitions, LLC, to rezone properties on the corner of Schoolcraft and Inkster Roads and to refer the matter to Law to prepare an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.
#34-15 Authorize the Department of Law to resolve claims on behalf of Robert Domino et al. and Auto Club Insurance Co. et al., as well as improvements to the Sanitary Sewer System over the next two years.
#35-15 Suspend the rules to permit items that do not appear on the agenda.
#36-15 Approving a Notice of Intent Resolution to issue Revenue Bonds for improvements to the Water Supply System of the City's existing Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System.
#37-15 Approving an extension of contract between the Conference of Western Wayne and Livonia Youth Assistance Program through September 30, 2016.
Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes available in the Office of the City Clerk.

Susan A. Hoff
Livonia City Clerk

Publish: March 5, 2015

CITY OF WESTLAND 2015 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Westland Board of Review will be conducting the 2015 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Council Chambers at 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan 48185.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

APPEAL HEARINGS BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY

Monday, March 9, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MAIL-IN APPEALS REVIEW ONLY

Thursday, March 12, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor's Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by Wednesday, March 11, 2015 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 467-3160.

Eileen DeHart, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 19, 26, and March 5, 2015

Canton's HOME Improvement EXPO

March 7-8

- FREE ADMISSION!!!
- Over 150 Exhibitors
- Multiple Raffles
- Kids Project Center - Sponsored by Home Depot
- Variety of Workshops*
- "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon Broadcasting Live on Saturday
- Free Home Improvement Tips & Coupon Booklet
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Expo Hours:
Saturday 9am - 5pm
Sunday 11am - 3pm

Sponsored by:

*For a complete list and times of workshops offered visit:
www.canton-mi.org/homeexpo.aspx

Visit www.canton-mi.org or call 734/394-5200

OUR VIEWS

School organizations help students question, challenge, change society

In his *Gen Y Observations from Someone Actually Part of the Generation*, Adam Singer noted that Gen Y is "colorblind, race blind and open to all lifestyle choices."

Posted on the Future Buzz web page, Singer wrote that "Gen Y doesn't segregate human beings the way previous generations do. We don't view the world in races or colors and we don't judge people based on lifestyle choices and try and tell them what they can and cannot do."

"Despite the backwards decisions of our current society, in the not-so-distant future when everyone is given the same set of rights, we will look back on today the same way we currently look back at a generation which gave people rights based purely on color."

Gen Y, or the Millennials, like every generation before it has questioned, challenged and changed society. They have looked at life and asked why and then created their own version. Certainly, this forward thinking and accompanying behavior has given parents fits, but in the end, each generation has advanced our culture.

In the past few weeks, we have had the opportunity to see the next generation in action at Garden City High School. What we saw were young people who are embracing the world around them and working to make it a better place for all concerned.

The high school's Social Justice Club and Gay/Straight Alliance are not what some would consider typical high school clubs, but these two groups are

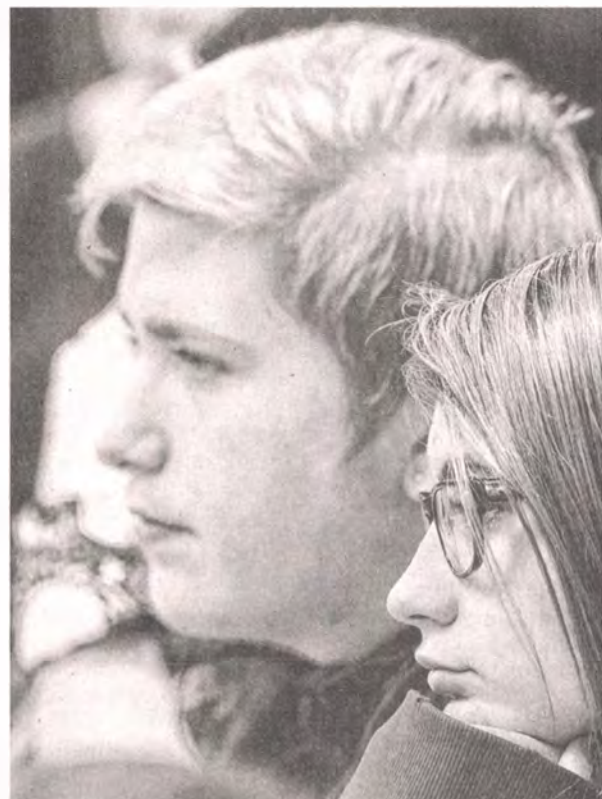
taking on real issues in our state, the country and the world.

The Social Justice Club has been raising awareness around the high school. Their conversations have touched on immigration reform, deportations, asylum, gay marriage/rights for children of gay marriage and the crisis in the Middle East. There are those who may have cringed seeing our report Sunday on Joanna Hill, a transgender woman who spoke to the Gay/Straight Alliance at the high school last week. It was a frank conversation about being different in a world that isn't all that accepting. It was both insightful and educational.

Many of the issues these groups are looking at are in the forefront of today's news. In Washington, D.C., lawmakers have locked in a battle over funding, and at the heart of the squabble is the President's immigration reform. The issue of same-sex marriages will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, and it seems no common ground can be found to resolve the decades-old dispute between Palestine and Israel.

High school isn't the same as it was 50 years ago, let alone 10 years ago, and nor is the world. Teachers have been challenged to adequately prepare their students for college and careers when they leave high school.

That preparation also needs to include the tools to deal with a society that is ever changing. Teachers like Vicki Echegoy and Joanne Marsh, who lead the Social Justice Club and Gay/Straight Alliance respec-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Students Darian Sarten and Nick Leon listen to Joanna Hill's presentation to the Gay/Straight Alliance, which meets Thursdays after school at Garden City High School.

tively, are providing those tools.

Today's young people are doing what other generations have done — questioned the status quo — and it's good to see that schools like Garden City High School and teachers like Echegoy and Marsh are helping them find their answers. What they decide will shape the future for the next generation.

The only question we have is what that future will look like.

Health care mandate results in few fines

The 2009 Congress sure made it sound simple: Require Americans to obtain health insurance or face a financial penalty. Of course, there is nothing simple about the Affordable Care Act's individual insurance mandate. Millions of Americans are being reminded of that this tax season.

If any member of your household was uninsured last year, filing taxes includes filling out a worksheet providing month-by-month details about coverage. More than 6 million Americans obtained insurance through exchanges created by Obamacare. The vast majority of them received subsidies in advance to pay for the coverage. Because those subsidies were based on projected income, people may have to repay Uncle Sam if they earned more. And claiming tax credits for insurance requires filling out a form with 72 boxes.

Not complicated enough? Well, you might qualify for one of more than 30 exemptions to the penalty authorized by the federal government over the past few years. For example, if you're poor and your state chose not to expand Medicaid, you might be able to avoid the fine. If you're not exempted, the fee for being uninsured can be as much as 1 percent of your household income. It must be paid by April 15, and the

penalty next year increases to as much as 2 percent of your household income.

(If you have questions about what to do, good luck getting a hold of someone at the Internal Revenue Service. Cuts to the agency's budget means there may be no one to help when you call.)

While a single-payer health insurance system is looking pretty good right about now, the Obama administration can't create that on its own. So it's considering crafting more exemptions so more Americans can avoid paying penalties. The White House is concerned the complexities and fines will create additional frustration about the health-reform law.

People may certainly be frustrated. Health insurance and taxes were complicated enough before all this. However, the Obama administration should not work unilaterally to shelter Americans from unpopular aspects of ACA. The mandate is part of the current law. Penalties are part of the revenue intended to help pay for the law. Americans should pay them unless Congress revisits the ACA, nixes the mandate and finds a way to make up for the loss of revenue to the government.

That is certainly an idea worth considering. Requiring Americans to purchase health insur-

ance was a bad idea from the beginning. If people have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance, they don't need to be forced to buy it. The mandate was a gift from Congress to private insurers. It doesn't get any better than the government requiring Americans to buy your product and even using public money to help them pay for it.

Many aspects of the reform law can work without the insurance mandate. Americans will be protected from unfair insurance practices. They will still have the option of buying affordable coverage, regardless of health problems. Adult children can remain on their parents' plans. Millions of poor Americans can be covered by Medicaid if they choose to sign up. And on and on.

For the past five years, the Obama administration has bent over backwards to try to smoothly implement the health-reform law. Yet its power is limited and lawmakers have refused to make even the simplest of tweaks to help.

Until Congress is willing to revisit the law, the administration should follow it. Like it or not, that means enforcing the mandate and imposing penalties on the uninsured.

GUEST COLUMN

Fix Michigan's dangerous roads; vote yes on Proposal 1

On May 5, you can vote to fix Michigan's unsafe and embarrassing roads and bridges.

Lousy roads are hurting Michigan's economic recovery and are putting safety at risk for all. Fillings from my teeth are being rattled loose and front-end alignments, blown tires and destroyed rims are as nearly a painful occurrence as filling my gas tank was when gas topped \$4 per gallon.

The May 5 ballot question, Proposal 1, hikes the state sales tax to 7 percent from 6 percent, while removing the sales tax from fuel sales and replacing the sales tax with wholesale fuel tax that would be spent on roads. This change is expected to raise an additional and much-needed \$1.2 billion a year for roads, \$300 million for public schools, \$100 million for mass transit and about \$95 million for local governments. The proposal would fully restore the Earned Income Tax Credit for the working poor. All would greatly benefit the citizens of Michigan.

It is essential that everyone is aware of the benefits of the proposed gas reform tax but also understand the ramifications if the proposal fails.

This proposal goes beyond simply fixing our crumbling, unsafe roads. Our children will be supported through additional funding for public education, many low-income families will benefit from the restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit and our communities will prosper with a modest restoration in state revenue sharing. Investing in the people of this state is a wise investment.

There is fear in the health and human services community that if Proposal 1 is voted down in May, the state Legislature may turn to reducing funding previously allocated to programs that help support some of the state's most vulnerable citizens — children with emotional disorders and those with serious men-

tal illness, substance use disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cuts to vulnerable people to fill potholes should be avoided at all costs.

Clearly it is necessary to repair our crumbling roads, invest in public education and help stimulate job growth. However, mental health care for those most in need should not be collateral damage if the measure fails.

I am dedicated to ensuring the success of Proposal 1 and will educate teachers, social service workers, mental health therapists, PTO groups, first responders, business leaders and anyone else who will stand still long enough to listen.

We need to fix our broken roads and bridges for obvious reasons — they are a mess. Yet failure to pass Proposal 1 could have devastating consequences to the people most in need of government's help: our children, our communities and people who work 40

hours a week, play by the rules and don't earn enough to escape poverty.

Gov. Rick Snyder is to be commended for his leadership to push for funding that invests in our collective future as a state. We applauded all legislators, Republican and Democrats, who are supporting safe roads.

The plan and vision of Proposal 1 offers aid in so many ways to Michiganders. We owe it to ourselves to be educated on what supporting Proposal 1 means and the many lives that may be impacted by the outcome. Put simply, Proposal 1 strengthens the great state of Michigan.

Northville resident Tom Watkins served the citizens of Michigan as state superintendent of schools and state mental health director. He can be reached at tdwatkins88@gmail.com or follow on Twitter: [tdwatkins88](https://twitter.com/tdwatkins88).



Tom Watkins

LETTERS

Bring in the EFM

It's time to call in an emergency financial manager! The Wayne City Council cannot keep putting Band-Aids on the problems.

Wayne does not receive any funds from Westland to help subsidize the Community Center, yet Westland residents enjoy the amenities offered by the taxpayers of Wayne.

Mayor Wild has refused to send funds to the City of Wayne to help offset maintenance and repairs.

Wayne needs a new City Council!

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

Editor's Note: Westland and Wayne agreed to charge resident rates to people in each city, but there was no plan for Westland to ever subsidize the maintenance and operation of the community center.

It's millage time again

It's that time of the year again, when our mayor and coun-

cil are having budget workshops to discuss and plan how much they will have to ask the hard-strapped residents for another millage.

Will it once again be a 3.5-mill for the safety millage (police/fire) that expires in 2016? Or will they be going for a larger millage that will get our streets fixed and fund the \$160 million unfunded legacy cost (pensions) that is growing by millions per year?

Legacy cost or pension cost: A burden for our city now and in the future. Nothing is ever said about the legacy cost from our three-term mayor (Walker), which has increased approximately \$90 million under his administration. And how about our Chief of Police/City Manager Bob Muery? He hasn't presented a plan to counsel or spoke about it. Why is that? Because we have no true knowledgeable leadership in this city!

The legacy cost is growing by millions per year and yet we have no plan. It is not going

away. That is one of the main components that caused the city of Detroit, Inkster, Benton Harbor, Lincoln Park and five other cities to go bankrupt in Michigan.

Each year it takes a roughly \$16 million budget to operate our city, and yet we have a \$160 million future unfunded in our legacy cost. It doesn't take a genius to see the writing on the wall for our fine city.

And what about our streets? Is it more important to pave the city parking lots of over \$600,000 then to fix our potholes filled streets? If you ask me, fill the potholes in the parking lot and fix our streets.

Mayor Walker, tell the residents your plan to fix our decaying streets and your plan to finance our unfunded legacy cost because the millage passage may not be so easy this time around.

Al Bruckner
Garden City

OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

Astronomy Club holds conference, swap meet

The Henry Ford Astronomy Club will have its annual Astronomy Conference and Swap from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Holy Cross Church in Livonia.

There will be presentations, workshops, vendors and a swap meet. The speakers will include a presentation on wide-angle binoculars. Michigan's Own Meteor Man, Mark Jefferies, will discuss meteors and meteor collecting. Workshop topics include "How to Maintain your Telescope" and "Telescope Tune-ups."

The cost of admission is \$5 for adults. Children 15 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

The event is sponsored by Telescope Support Systems.

Holy Cross Church is at 30650 Six Mile Road between Merriman and Middlebelt in Livonia.

For more information, call Frank Ancona at FrankAncona34@yahoo.com or 248-345-0176.

Sports galore for moms and sons

A couple of weeks ago, just in time for Valentine's Day, the Wayne Community Center held a Daddy-Daughter Dance.

An annual event, it involved dressing up, dancing and corsages — just the kind of things young boys don't get too excited about.

So, when it was time for moms and sons to have their night out the focus was on sports, and the ladies and gents enjoyed Human Foosball, wallyball, pool time and other sports.

The evening, which included a snack and prizes, ended with a tug of war — moms versus sons. After a hard-fought competition, the moms won.



Corrine Smyth of Westland gives her son Conner a high five as he practices floating skills at the Mother-Son Sports Night held at the Wayne Community Center.



Tyler Radley of Westland take part in the Human Foosball during the Mother-Son Sports Night at the Wayne Community Center.

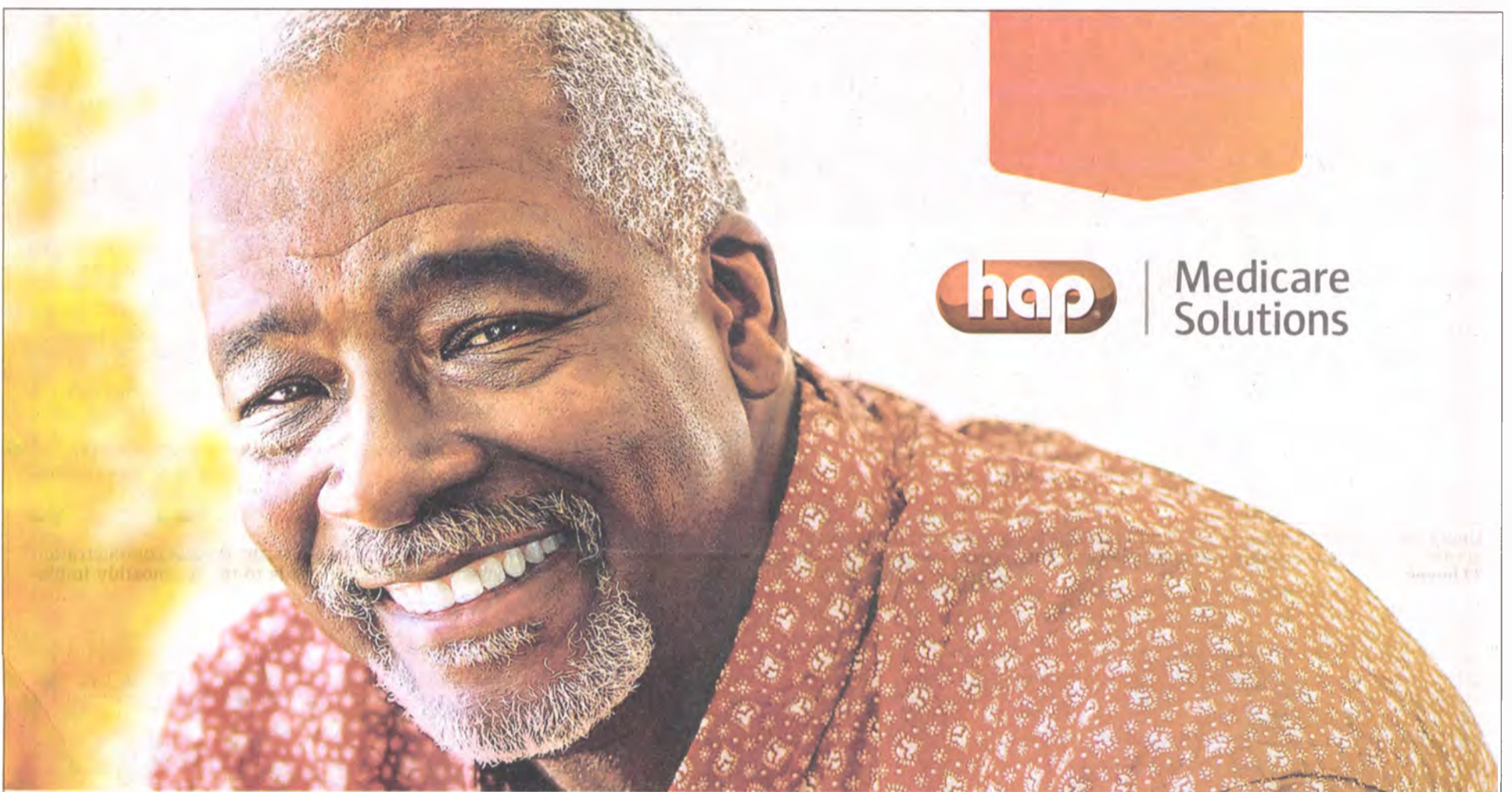
TOM BEAUDOIN

Westland resident Shelly Cox plays goalie as son Nicholas takes a shot at the net at the Wayne Community Center.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Wayne's Mother-Son Sports Night ends with a tug of war as the moms take on the sons. It was a tough battle but the moms won.



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PRE-REGIONAL HOCKEY

Churchill edges Franklin in 3 OTs, 4-3

Charger senior captain Smith nets dramatic game-winner

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

With Monday night's three-overtime Division 2 semifinal pre-regional epic featuring Livonia hockey rivals Churchill and Franklin begging for a hero, the captain who was celebrating his 18th birthday answered the call.

Just 10 seconds into the third eight-minute extra session, Charger senior forward Dylan Smith flicked a rebound shot from a few feet left of the goal crease over Franklin goalie Matt Monendo's outstretched pad to give his team a 4-3 victory and a berth in



Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles spears a up-close Franklin shot during Monday's triple-overtime game.

Wednesday's pre-regional final against Livonia Stevenson.

Churchill improved to 8-13-3 while Franklin finished with an 11-12-3 mark.

Smith's game-winner – which was set up by teammate Justin Reinholtz's right-side rush and eventual sizzling shot from the point – came 67 min-

utes and 10 seconds of game time – and approximately three hours of real time – after the opening face-off was dropped just after 7 p.m. at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Once Smith realized his shot had settled into the net to end the longest game he – and many of his teammates – had ever played in, the senior birthday boy skated triumphantly back down the freshly re-surfaced rink toward Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles, who had played brilliantly while blanking the Patriots over the game's final 34 minutes.

The pair were then buried by an avalanche of ecstatic (and exhausted) teammates.

"The feeling I felt when I saw the puck go in was indescribable, really," Smith said. "I was just excited to be able to

See DRAMATIC, Page B4

Blazers ousted

Taylor Williams nailed the two game-winning free throws with only seconds remaining Monday night to give host Detroit Henry Ford a first-round 35-33 triumph over Livonia Ladywood in the Livonia Clarenceville Class B district.

Williams finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds as the Trojans improved to 11-7 overall and advanced to the district semifinal Wednesday against Southfield Bradford Academy at Clarenceville.

Junior Erika Selakowski paced the Blazers (5-16) with 11 points.

On Feb. 26, the Blazers ended their regular season with a two-game winning streak defeating visiting Detroit Collegiate Prep at Northwestern, 55-30, as Selakowski had 19 points, 11 rebounds and three steals.

Earlier in the week, Ladywood defeated Wixom St. Catherine of Siena Academy, 54-50, as senior Amber Riethmiller scored 17 points, while sophomores Ally Audia and Maggie Shirk contributed nine and eight, respectively.

Selakowski grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Jones thriving

Livonia Franklin long-distance runner Keenan Jones is having an outstanding indoor season for the Michigan Accelerators Track & Field Club.

Jones, a stand-out member of Franklin's cross country team and a long-distance events points producer for the Patriots track team, recently qualified for five events in the indoor state finals: 3,200-meter relay, 1,600 relay, 800 relay, 1,600 run and 3,200 run.

At the state meet, Jones helped his team place third (out of 17 teams) in the 3,200 relay with a time of 8 minutes and 16 seconds. He also placed seventh in the 800 with a time of 1:58.8. Both efforts earned Jones All-State status.

Volleyball camp

Livonia Stevenson will be hosting a volleyball camp July 21-23.

The camp will run from 4-7 p.m. for incoming eighth-graders (in 2015) and younger players, and 5-8 p.m. for players who will be in high school this fall.

The cost is \$95 for players who register before June 1 and \$100 after that date. Those who register before June 1 will receive a T-shirt.

The camp is open to girls of all skill levels and from all schools.

New Stevenson coach Beth Bushey, her staff and alumni will be teaching fundamental skill development, strategic game play and having fun while playing volleyball.

For more information, contact Bushey at e5bushy@gmail.com.

COMPETITIVE CHEER



Members of the Livonia Stevenson varsity competitive cheer team were all smiles Saturday after placing second in their regional competition.

WORTH THE WAIT

Stevenson earns first trip to state meet in program's history

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Sometimes, the waiting is the hardest part – no matter if the wait is just a few minutes or close to forever, which it was, in a way, Saturday afternoon for members of the Livonia Stevenson competitive cheer team.

Almost one year to the day it missed qualifying for the school's first-ever appearance in a Division 1 state meet by just one heart-breaking fraction of a point, the 32-member team huddled together anxiously on the Macomb Dakota High School gymnasium floor to

find out if the judges thought they had made a loud enough "state"-ment during the day's three-round performance.

Just four of the 12 teams competing at Dakota – some of them perennial juggernauts in the competitive cheer world – would move on to Friday's finals at the Deltaplex Arena in Grand Rapids.

"At the end of the day, all the teams come together and they announce the placing, from 12th to first, so it's pretty dramatic," said Stevenson head coach Blair Koon. "The girls – especially the seniors – were so emotional as they're calling off the teams because they don't know if it's their last competition or not.

It was pretty intense.

"When they called out the fifth-place team, and they still hadn't called our name, the girls just erupted. Girls were hugging, sobbing – pictures don't do the moment justice; you have to see the video. Then when they called the fourth-place team and it wasn't us, and then the third-place team and we still hadn't been called, and the girls realized they had placed first or second, it was such an awesome moment."

Stevenson compiled 784.12 points to finish as the regional runner-up behind

See CHEER, Page B4

DISTRICT BASKETBALL

Garden City's inside game too much for Eagles

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

When the Garden City girls basketball team's trademark three-point assault came unhinged a little Monday night, the Cougars turned to a new strategy – and it worked, to the tune of a 63-20 victory over Redford Thurston in a Class A district game hosted by Livonia Stevenson.

"We probably had our worst three-point shooting night all season, so we decided to start penetrating more and getting the ball to our post players," said GC head coach Michele Tyree. "The combination of our three fives – Kelli McDaniel, Cassie Leleniewski and Tatum Spears – scored 29 points, so they adjusted well."

McDaniel, a senior, led all scorers with 16 points in addition to pulling down seven rebounds. Another inside presence, Alea Montgomery, scored 13 points for the winners.

Senior point guard Rachel Spellman did what she does

best, distributing eight assists, while senior guard Hannah Vera-Burgos registered nine rebounds and seven assists.

Junior forward Lindsay Michalak threatened to post a triple-double, as she recorded eight points, seven assists and 10 rebounds.

Sydney Taylor led the Eagles with nine points.

"You could tell right away when we came out that we were a little tight, a little over-excited on our threes," Tyree observed. "Nothing was going in from the perimeter, so we decided to go inside, and it worked out well."

Garden City led 15-4 after one quarter, 27-9 at the half and 46-14 with eight minutes to play.

The Cougars swished 6 of 12 free throws while Thurston was 7 of 14 from the line.

Now 8-12, GC was scheduled to play Livonia Franklin 7 p.m. Wednesday semifinal game at Stevenson. Livonia Churchill and the host Spartans were scheduled to tangle in Wednesday's 5:30 p.m. game.



Garden City's Hannah Vera-Burgos, pictured during a game earlier this season, played well in the Cougars' 63-20 victory over Thurston.

Redford Little League registration

In-person registration for the Redford Little League will be held March 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and March 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Redford Community Center, located at 12121 Hemingway in Redford.

Those who can't attend the walk-up registrations can register online at RedfordLittleLeague.com.

The league offers opportunities for kids from 5 to 16 years old.

The RLL's boundaries for eligible players encompass all of Redford and a good portion of Livonia.

Families that register online will receive a Dick's Sporting Goods discount card.

PREP BOWLING

John Glenn girls and boys set for D1 state meet

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Things are rolling right along on schedule for the No. 1-ranked Westland John Glenn girls bowling team, which advanced to this weekend's Division 1 state meet in Sterling Heights after winning Friday's regional tournament at Canton's Super Bowl.

The Rockets' boys squad also earned a berth at the season's elite high school tournament by placing third at Friday's regional. The top three teams in each region advance.

Each of the teams at the regional tournament — there were 12 girls teams and 14 boys squads — bowled six Baker



Julia Huren led the John Glenn girls bowling team at this past weekend's Division 1 regional tournament.

games and three traditional games. The Rocket girls crunched 4,141 pins to easily out-distance runner-up Belleville (3,599) and third-place Farmington (3,536). The Rockets got better

as the day drew longer as they racked up scores of 235 and 247 in their final two Baker games. John Glenn also improved steadily in the traditional-scoring rounds as they posted scores of 957, 990

and 1,012. Wayne Memorial's girls team placed fifth with a total score of 3,265. Farmington Hills Mercy just missed advancing to Sterling Heights with a fourth-place pin count of 3,480.

High games for the Rockets in the team regional were turned in by Emily Dietz (264 and 214), Olivia Cabildo (222 and 216), Julia Huren (203 and 202), Ashley Kolb (207) and Jessica Pate, who registered a 200.

Four of the Rockets' six competitors finished among the top 10 Saturday to earn berths in this weekend's individual state meet.

Canton's Meghan Mancovich was the individual regional titleist

thanks to a six-game series of 1,345. Huren wasn't far behind, knocking down 1,333 pins. Huren posted three games of 234 or better, including a final-game total of 247.

The other three individual qualifiers for John Glenn were Pate, who placed third overall with a score of 1,245; Cabildo (fourth with 1,216) and Dietz, who was eighth with 1,183.

The other five individual qualifiers were Farmington's Rachel Doran (1,194) and Dana Iles (1,192); Mercy's Ashiel Brooks (1,193); Ann Arbor Huron's Allison Morris (1,179); and Belleville's Victoria Perez (1,167).

Doran, a freshman, bowled the highest game during the regional, a 259.

Wayne's top individual performer was Christina O'Harris, whose 1,090 series was good enough for 14th place.

Boys results

Canton captured the regional team title with a final tally of 4,231, just ahead of runner-up Wayne Memorial (4,108) and John Glenn (3,985).

A pair of Rocket boys qualified for the individual state tournament: Brian Martin (eighth place with 1,296 pins) and Jake Preiss, who was ninth with 1,270.

Wayne's Andrew June (12th place with 1,241 pins) and Ty Weber (14th with 1,237) just missed making the state-meet cut.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Stevenson senior icers recognized

Livonia Stevenson's varsity hockey team recognized nine athletes during its "Senior Night" ceremony held prior to its game Feb. 25 against Dearborn Divine Child. The Spartans' senior contingent includes Vince Glenn, Mick Sinclair, Alex DeFlorio, Andrew Nowak, Randy Maples, Josh Denomie, Andrew Rozenbaum, Alex Hunt and Stephen Olschanski.



HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Livonia Ladywood topples Pioneer, 7-3

Jacobs, Hayward, Malek fuel Blazers

Jill Jacobs, Katie Hayward and Sydney Malek each tallied a pair of goals Saturday as host Livonia Ladywood scored six times in the opening period and went on to post a 7-3 Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 victory Saturday over Ann Arbor Pioneer at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

The Blazers, who improved to 15-5 overall and 14-5 in Division 1 of the Michigan Metro, also got a goal and two assists from Cecilia Werner.

Jackie Kristofik chipped in with two

assists, while Claire Doyle, Colleen Lynch, Cristina Rotondo, Jacobs and Hayward had one apiece for Ladywood.

Kathryn Wissman scored twice, while Maria Yenkel contributed a goal and assist for Pioneer (5-14, 5-14), which trailed 6-0 after one period and 7-3 after two.

Ladywood netminders Michaela Warner (first period) and Samantha Erickson (two periods) combined for seven saves.

The third-place Blazers close out the regular season at 4 p.m. Thursday at Arctic Pond against second-place Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett.

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CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Wayne will meet in the Conference Room at City of Wayne, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:

Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 12, 2015	Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 16, 2015	Monday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Commercial/Industrial Residential
March 17, 2015	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Poverty/Residential Residential
March 19, 2015	Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Wrap Up NO NEW APPTS

Your 2015 Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classification will be mailed to you the last week of February 2015. The inflation rate, expressed as a multiplier, to be used in the 2015 Capped Value Formula is 1.6. The Inflation Rate Multiplier Calculation is outlined in Bulletin No. 13 of 2014 by the State Tax Commission on the State of Michigan website.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Petition to Board of Review Form 618 (Former number L-4035). The Petition Form approved by the State Tax Commission is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search for Forms [618] (GO). Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with original signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

If you desire an appointment, please call the Finance Department at 734-722-2000 Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: March 1, 5, 8, 2015 LO-0000232384 3x5

JAMES M. INGLIS, Director; CARL DEAL, DARRI MOSES, BETTY BLACK, RUSSELL BERTH; JACK R. KIRKSEY; PATRICK V. MCFARLANE TOWERS, 18000 PLYMOUTH/ROCK ROAD, LIVONIA, MI 48150-8902, (568) 477-7088, (568) 477-7048 TDD, (568) 477-0175 FAX

CITY OF LIVONIA LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION ADVERTISEMENT/REQUEST FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia Housing Commission, Michigan as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at the office of the Livonia City Clerk, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

DISPOSAL OF VACANT CITY OWNED PROPERTY: 33916 AND 33964 FIVE MILE ROAD, LIVONIA, 48154, LOTS 144-148, R-4 ZONING ONE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, COVENTRY GARDENS SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 16, MINIMUM BID AMOUNT IS \$30,000.00

The proposal package, bid requirements, bid form and certified site survey will be available beginning Wednesday, January 23, 2015 at the office of the Livonia City Clerk, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154. All proposals are to be submitted on the forms furnished by the Director of Housing which are attached to this invitation.

All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the property bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to Susan Hoff, City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154. Bids must be on the form provided in the proposal package accompanied by a non-refundable affidavit and bid bond.

Interested parties that have questions regarding the city-owned property or bid requirements may contact James M. Inglis, Director of Housing at 248-477-7086 ext. 5.

The City of Livonia Housing Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award the bid to the responsive and responsible bidder and to waive any informality in the bids received. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the City of Livonia Housing Commission.

JAMES M. INGLIS, Director of Housing
JACK KIRKSEY, Mayor
CITY OF LIVONIA

Published: March 5, 2015

PROOF O.K. BY _____ O.K. WITH CORRECTIONS BY: _____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY - SUBMIT CORRECTIONS ONLINE

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DISTRICT BASKETBALL

Warriors' fine season dimmed by Stars

Huron Valley Lutheran sidlined by Taylor Baptist Park, 66-56

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Lutheran Westland girls basketball team's championship season was derailed Monday night in a Class C district opener hosted by Ypsilanti Arbor Prep.

Fresh off winning their first Michigan Independent Athletic Conference division title since 1998, the Warriors battled Wixom St. Catherine to overtime before falling, 38-30.

Lutheran Westland, which finished 13-8, battled back from a nine-point third-quarter deficit to force the extra session, but it got shut out in the four-minute OT.

"I'm proud of the way my girls fought tonight," said Lutheran Westland head coach Sandi Wade. "It was a hard-fought game. In overtime we had a combination of too many turnovers and not executing when we had to."

"It was a tough loss but we had a great season, winning a conference title for the first time in 17 years and going 13-5 over our last 18 games after a 0-3 start. We came a long way and I'm very happy with the way the season went."

Sophomore guard Taylor Jones led the Warriors with eight points. Freshman Rachel Reddeman added seven points and 15 rebounds, while Bethany Hoehne and Claire Gordon scored five points each.

The Warriors were ultimately done in by a poor shooting night. They connected on just 10 of 35 field-goal attempts and 7 of 17 free throws.

St. Catherine led 9-4 after one quarter, 14-9 at the half and 28-22 with eight minutes to play before the Warriors outscored their foes 8-2 down the stretch.

The Stars were scheduled to play Ann Arbor Greenhills on Wednesday.

Hawks sidlined

An outstanding 24-point outburst by Huron Valley Lu-



Huron Valley Lutheran's Sam Golchuk scored 24 points in the Hawks' loss to Taylor Baptist Park.



Lutheran Westland's Taylor Jones (25), pictured during a game earlier this season, scored a team-high eight points Monday night.

theran guard Sam Golchuk wasn't enough to prevent a 66-56 setback to Taylor Baptist Park in a Class D district game played Monday night at Baptist Park.

Baptist Park improved to 12-9 and advanced to Wednesday's scheduled semifinal game against Plymouth Chris-

tian while HVL's stellar season ended with a 14-7 mark.

The Wildcats led throughout, gaining a 19-8 advantage after one quarter before carrying a 36-26 lead into the half.

The Hawks were on fire from the free-throw line, draining 15 of 19 attempts. Baptist Park, on the other

hand, made just 16 of 31 freebies.

Julie St. John played well in the post for HVL, netting 15 points.

Freshman Mikayla Thompson tossed in a team-high 20 points for BP while Mikaylah LaPlante added 18 and Betsy Posant scored 14.

"We struggled with the tempo and pressure that Baptist Park came out with in the first quarter," said HVL head coach Kris Ruth. "After we got past that learning curve, we tied it up at 26-all in the second quarter. We got in a little foul trouble at the end of the half and let them go on a 10-0 run."

"Baptist Park's pressure forced us into too many turnovers. We attacked the basket aggressively in the offensive set, and we shot free throws real well. Julie St. John did a great job of rebounding."

"I was pleased with the effort we left on the floor. We fought hard for the entire game."

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COLLEGE SOFTBALL

MU spring softball trip altered by rain

Snow interrupts baseball team schedule

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

In the shadow of Cape Canaveral, inclement weather has been keeping the Madonna University's softball team in a holding pattern during the past two days on its Space Coast Spring Trip.

On Saturday, MU moved to Chain of Lakes Park in Titusville, Fla. and was leading Warner University, 5-2, with two outs in the top of the eighth inning when the rains came.

If the eighth inning of that game is not completed at another date, it will remain 2-2 deadlock and recorded as a tie.

In that game, Kayla Rebain (Plymouth), Morgan Kaiser and Emma Cook each collected two hits for the Crusaders, while starting pitcher Bree Crampton went seven strong innings allowing one earned run on five hits. The senior right-hander struck out six and walked only one.

On Sunday, wet weather canceled Madonna's doubleheader against host Northwood University (Fla.).

The Crusaders (1-1-1) opened their 2015 season Friday in Daytona Beach, Fla. by splitting a doubleheader with host Embury-Riddle, losing the opener 2-1 before capturing the nightcap, 14-8, as Rebain went 2-for-3, including a pair of homers and five RBI.

Also chipping in offensively for the win was Mickey Kish (3-for-3, two RBI); Cook (3-for-4, four RBI) and North Farmington's Karleigh Creighton (2-for-2, RBI).

MU starting pitcher Erin Combs went the first five innings allowing six earned runs on eight hits to pick up her first win. Crampton finished up giving up one earned run over the final two innings.

Crampton (0-1) took the loss in the season opener despite giving up just two runs on five hits and two walks while fanning nine over six innings.

Winning pitcher Robi Zimmerman (2-4) scattered five hits, walked two and struck out five in going the distance.

Anna Battison and Kailah Rain each knocked in a run for Embury-Riddle (4-8).

Meanwhile, Rebain went 2-for-3 for the Crusaders, who are scheduled to return to action with a triple-header Monday, March 2 in Titusville against Concordia (Ill.), Cardinal Stritch (Wis.) and St. Catharine (Ky.).

Baseball rescheduled

Mother Nature has forced another change for the Madonna baseball team's schedule as the Crusaders' spring break trip south has been altered due to inclement weather before it even gets started.

MU was slated on Wednesday to take on No. 8-ranked Georgetown (Ky.), but snow on the field has forced that game to be canceled.

The Crusaders will travel instead to Atlanta, Ga. and take part in a round-robin event at Georgia Gwinnett College starting on Thursday. MU opens with a split doubleheader, against No. 6 and host Grizzlies before facing off with familiar foe Lindsey Wilson (Ky.).

On Friday, MU faces Toccoa Falls (Ga.) College before another split doubleheader on Saturday against Lindsey Wilson and Georgia Gwinnett.

All five games will be played at the Grizzly Baseball Complex in Lawrenceville, Ga.

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS

Sport embedded in pair of Spartans' DNA

Guided by coaching dads, Stevenson's Vaughan, Scott headed to Palace

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

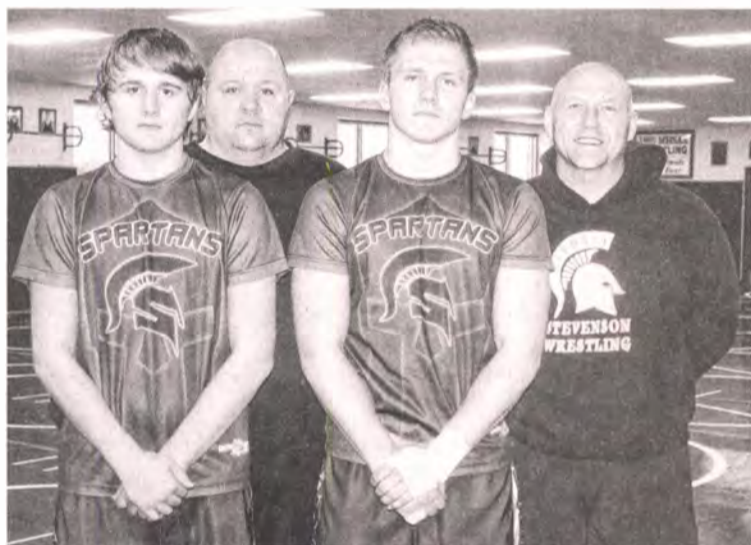
When Livonia Stevenson wrestlers Connor Vaughan and Brad Scott tell people they have their dads in their corner, they're not speaking in cliches.

Ever since they acquired a passion for the sport at the age of 5 or 6, the Spartans' state meet-bound gladiators have been guided by their fathers - Dan Vaughan and Dave Scott, whose positions as head and assistant coach, respectively, at Stevenson have put them in their sons' corner during varsity matches the past four seasons.

"It's been a great experience wrestling for my dad because he's someone I can always trust; I have no doubts when he tells me how to do something," said Connor Vaughan.

"It works out well with our dads coaching us because they know better than anybody else what we do well and how we operate," said Brad Scott.

A first-time state-qualifier,



Livonia Stevenson's wrestling team includes two father-son combinations. Pictured from left are Connor Vaughan, head coach Dan Vaughan, Brad Scott and assistant coach Dave Scott.

Scott will carry a 39-6 record into Thursday's first-round Division 1 215-pound match against Warren DeLaSalle junior Eric Rogers, who is 24-12.

Although the two-sport star - Scott recently committed to play college football for Walsh College - won't be satisfied to just show up at the Palace on Thursday, making it to the elite

meet with his final chance was satisfying.

"I lost in the blood round at the regional last year, so being so close made me that much more determined to get there this year," said Scott. "I think the biggest key to my success this year was putting on more weight. Last year, even though I was wrestling at 215, I only weighed about 190, so I was

undersized. This year, I'm right at the weight I'm wrestling at."

After qualifying for the state meet last year at 171, Vaughan said this year's quest to return has been rewarding for a number of reasons.

"I was pretty motivated at the regional because most guys in the area weren't picking me to make it out," said Vaughan. "Just to prove them wrong and make it back feels great."

It was only natural that the Stevenson coaches' sons would follow in their footsteps, Dan Vaughan said.

"Wrestling is such a family-oriented sport," he said. "Dave wrestled at Eastern (Michigan University) and I wrestled at Wayne Memorial, so we know all the benefits the sport offers young men. Once we introduced our sons to the sport, they loved it, even at a young age."

Vaughan said both Connor and Brad have mat styles that are conducive to success.

"They're both pinners, which is what you want in wrestlers," he said. "They don't get a ton of take-downs, but when they do, they know how to close the door."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Thurston finishes 17-2 after 18-point rout of Carlson

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The most promising statistic Redford Thurston's boys basketball team chalked up during its final regular-season game Tuesday night against visiting Gibraltar Carlson was compiled while the clock was stopped.

A week before their Class A district tournament at Livonia Franklin - when free throws often decide down-to-the-wire games - the Eagles buried all 10 of their shots from the charity stripe as they romped past the Marauders, 76-58, to finish their 2014-15 season with a 17-2

record.

The Eagles could have matched the 18 wins the 1998-99 team compiled, however, their final game against Hazel Park was canceled because the Vikings have already played the maximum 20 regular-season games allowed under MHSAA rules.

Thurston will be idle - at least in terms of playing games - for more than a week as its first district game is set for Wednesday against the winner of Monday's Livonia Churchill-Livonia Franklin match-up.

Thurston head coach Brian Bates said Tuesday's victory wasn't as easy as the final

score may indicate - at least early on.

"They came out and actually had the lead on us early," said Bates. "Then we started pressing a little bit and getting some easy baskets. We led by 22 at the half, but they came out in the third quarter and took it to us."

The Eagles owned a 21-11 lead after one quarter before expanding their cushion to 43-21 at the break.

The Marauders played inspired hoops in the third stanza when they outscored their hosts, 25-17, to scrap back to within 60-46.

Thurston played lock-down

defense down the stretch, limiting the Marauders to just eight fourth-quarter points.

Senior Isiah Crofford led the winners with 26 points and seven rebounds. Other key contributors were D'eauntae Jackson (14 points), Treven Gary (10 points), Brandon Marshall (five assists) and Marquie'l Thomas (four steals).

Atkinson Warren paced the Marauders with 21 points.

Spearheading the perfect night from the free throw line were Jackson and Crofford, who both drained all four of their freebies.

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POST-SEASON BASKETBALL AWARDS

Five local players earn all-KLAA first-team honors

Four seniors, one frosh recognized

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Led by Livonia Churchill's pair of honorees, five Livonia and Westland girls basketball players earned KLAA Kensington Conference first-team nods in the wake of their eye-opening performances during the recently-completed regular season.

The Chargers (13-7 overall, 6-4 in the division), who placed third in the KLAA's South Division behind first-place Plymouth and runner-up Canton, are represented on the first team by seniors Hannah Pummill and Natalie Spala.

Pummill averaged 6.6 points and 5.5 rebounds per game while swatting away 23 shots.

Spala pumped in 15 points per contest while shooting 37 percent from beyond the three-point arc. She also averaged three steals per game and five rebounds.

"Hannah is a great in-game leader," said Churchill head coach Matt McCowan. "Her teammates look to her for guidance and assurance. She is also a strong threat down low and demands attention. Her success down low helps free our guards on the



John Glenn's Carley Loving earned all-conference honors even though she is just a freshman.

outside. Defensively, she protects the basket and she's been a key to our success.

"Natalie is a great kid on the court and off. She is a pure shooter and leader on the court as well as being an honor roll student. She has improved tremendously as a three-year starter, and that is because of her great work ethic and positive attitude. Natalie takes pride in everything she does on the floor."

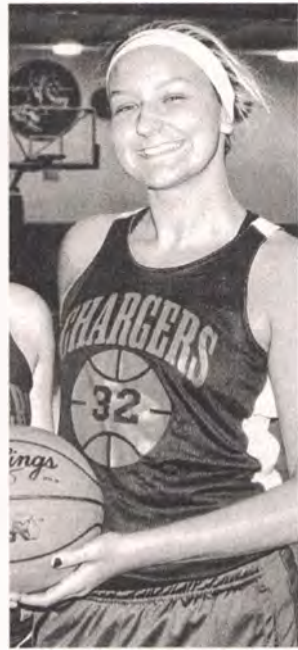
Westland John Glenn's



Livonia Franklin's Sarah Cramton led the Patriots in scoring and rebounding.

lone representative on the first team is freshman Carley Loving, who posted six points and nine rebounds per game. Loving posted three double-doubles this season, including one game in which she notched 12 points and 15 boards.

"Carley is a very talented young lady who has consistently contributed to her team with tough rebounding and timely scoring," said John Glenn head coach Derrick Jordan. "Al-



Hannah Pummill has been a leader both on the court and off for Livonia Churchill.

though she is only a freshman, her basketball IQ is extremely high and I anticipate her being an excellent player over her career."

Livonia Franklin senior forward Sarah Cramton earned first-team accolades after averaging 13.4 points and 7.5 rebounds during the regular season.

"Sarah, without a doubt, is the team leader in most offensive categories," said Franklin head coach Jim Milican.



Natalie Spala was one of the top scorers in the KLAA's Kensington Conference this season.

"She can play forward and guard, and she has a great defensive presence in the paint as well as on the perimeter. As a team captain, Sarah demonstrates leadership on and off the court."

Stevenson's energetic Arryn Dochenetz is productive at both ends of the court. Offensively, she averaged 10 points and two assists per game.

"Arryn led our team in scoring average while being asked to play both



Livonia Stevenson's Arryn Dochenetz lines up a jump shot during a game against Churchill.

guard positions," said Stevenson head coach Tim Newman. "She has handled both positions effectively. She is our team leader on the court and our success has run through her."

Earning Kensington Conference honorable mention laurels were Churchill's Alivia Kondrath, John Glenn's Alexis Gardner, Stevenson's Grace Lamerson and Franklin's Erin McNally.

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Calhoun's 41 points ends MU's season

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Sierra Calhoun is the main reason why the season came to an end Saturday night for a heartbroken Madonna University women's basketball team.

The 5-foot-7 senior guard Toledo Central Catholic poured in a school record 41 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out six assists to lead 20th-ranked Siena Heights University to a 95-87 overtime triumph over the visiting Crusaders in the semifinals of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference

playoffs. Siena Heights, 26-6 overall, clinched a berth in the NAIA Division II National Tournament and a spot in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championship game against No. 1 seed and No. 2-ranked Davenport University (30-0) beginning at 7 p.m. Monday in Grand Rapids.

Mackenzie Tomasik and Jessie Arnold added 12 points apiece, while Alessis Khamlein and Najee Brazzle chipped in with 11 and 10, respectively, for the victorious Saints.

Senior forward Rachel Melcher and junior

guard Michele Hayes, the WHAC Player of the Year, each tallied 28 points in a losing cause. Both played the entire 45 minutes.

MU, which led by as many as 14 points in the first half and by eight at intermission, 43-35, also got 11 rebounds and eight points from Justice Dean (Garden City), while Lindsey Hernden dished out five assists. Melcher also contributed 10 rebounds.

It was Melcher's two free throws with just 29 seconds left in regulation which sent the game into OT with the score knotted at 75-all.

Brazzle then came out during the five-minute OT and hit a three-point-er as the Saints were never headed outscoring MU 20-12 in the extra session.

Siena Heights made 36-of-73 shots from the floor (49.3 percent) and 17-of-24 free throws (70.8 percent). The Saints also outrebounded MU, 49-29.

The Crusaders, who had defeated Siena Heights twice during the regular season, shot 39.4 percent from the floor (28-of-71) and 76.7 percent from the foul line (23-of-30).

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DRAMATIC

Continued from Page B1

get back into the locker-room to celebrate with my teammates. We all worked so hard all night, and we are all so exhausted."

Smith calmly recounted the goal that he'll never forget.

"I came out of the corner, I saw the shot come from the point and the rebound came right to me," he said. "The goalie's pad was out, so I just lifted the puck a little bit."

One small lift for Smith, one giant goal for a Churchill team that earlier this season had lost its first game against Franklin in several seasons.

"It was a treat being a part of an event like this," said Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds. "Dennis



Churchill players pile on Dylan Smith after the senior captain netted the game-winning goal.

Gagnon and his staff deserve a lot of credit for making that program very respectable again. We really take pride in victories against them now.

"When we lost to Franklin the second time we played them this season, it really motivated us throughout the rest of the regular season. Tonight we emphasized coming out with high energy and maintaining it."

Gagnon was nothing but classy in the wake of

the brutally-tough loss.

"I'm extremely proud of my boys in there," Gagnon said, motioning toward the Patriots' locker room. "It's very tough, obviously, for them right now, but I told them they need to use this as a learning experience and grow as an athlete from it. Do an extra five push-ups the next time you work out or climb an extra set of stairs. Make this bad feeling in your stomach work for you, not against you."

The Chargers were ramped up early as they bolted to a 2-0 lead in the game's first 10 minutes. Nolan Cioch lit the lamp 24 seconds into the contest with a rebound shot from the left door-step.

Senior Parker Hodges made it 2-0 at the 7:31 mark when he stole a Franklin pass near midice, sprinted up the right boards, cut toward the middle and executed a slick deke before he tipped the puck past Monendo to tally a short-handed goal.

Jack Engel helped stop the bleeding for the Patriots when he scored with 5:47 left in the opening period to cut his team's deficit in half, 2-1.

Engel struck again at the 6:35 mark of the sec-

ond period when he banged home a power-play goal (from Brendan Nutting) to make it 2-2.

Franklin's Trevor Lassaline broke the tie 2:24 before the second intermission when he lased in a shot from 10 feet out.

"During the intermission before the third period, we just talked about winning the period," shared Hodges. "We didn't talk about overtime or anything else, just winning the next period."

Which the Patriots did thanks to Justin O'Brien's game-tying goal with 15:05 left in regulation.

With the large crowd roaring with every solid check and well-struck slap shot, the teams played two scoreless eight-minute overtimes - with a two-minute break between to allow the players to catch their breath - before a 10-minute intermission prior to the third extra period.

"My message during the last intermission was simply to stay the course," said Reynolds. "We had a lot of opportunities in the first two overtimes that we either missed by inches or the puck slid just wide of the net. We knew if we came out and continued to play with a high energy level, we'd get more opportunities."

"We were all pretty fatigued in the overtimes," Hodges said, "but we just kept going out and putting everything we had into every shift."

Smith made sure the final shift was short and sweet for the Chargers.

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CHEER

Continued from Page B1

only Rochester, which earned 790.18 points. Also qualifying from Dakota were third-place Stoney Creek and fourth-place Sterling Heights Stevenson.

The Spartans outscored all four state-qualifying teams that advanced from Saturday's Novi regional, making them a force to be reckoned with in Grand Rapids.

"These girls have worked so hard to get to this point, I can't put into words how proud I am," said Koon, who was named the regional coach of the year by her fellow coaches. "The last two weeks, especially, they've been practicing two to three hours every night. They condition for the first half of practice then work on routines the second half - whatever it takes to be both physically and mentally prepared."

"Missing the state meet by less than a point last year made the girls very, very hungry coming into this year."

The first round of cheer competitions includes 16 athletes, who are judged on two jumps. Points are rewarded based on vocals, team coordination and execution.

Round two requires that 12 athletes from each team complete five skills, while round three consists of stunting, with judges looking for creativity, variety,

choreography and degree of difficulty.

"Round three is our girls' favorite round because it really lets their talent shine through," said Koon. "We'll work on a stunt for a few minutes, then they'll nail it the first time they try it."

Koon competed in pom at Plymouth High School before graduating in 2006, but she had no previous competitive cheer experience.

"My background was in choreography, so I really enjoy coming up with new routines," she said. "I absolutely fell in love with coaching once I started here. I love making a difference in these athletes' lives."

Stevenson will enter Friday's state meet with a ton of momentum, but no out-of-this-world expectations, Koon said.

"Our thinking is let's go out and put together three great performances and see where that puts us," she said. "We're not going in with a 'We have to win' mentality."

Koon said the level of support her team has received from members of community, Stevenson alumni and the city's other two cheer programs has been overwhelming.

"Our cheering section last week was incredible," she said. "We definitely feel the love."

Friday's state meet will be broadcast on mhsaa.tv beginning at 6 p.m.

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Livonia Stevenson's competitive cheer team is pictured performing a routine during last weekend's Division 1 regional at Macomb Dakota High School.

The application period for eligible candidates to apply for the Entry Level Position of Firefighter for the City of Westland has been extended to Monday, March 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Westland City Clerk's office located at 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185 and the age requirement is lowered to 21 at time of job offer.

Publish: March 5, 2015 LO.0000234014 2X1

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **March 23rd, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

Jefferson Barns Community Center - Renovation Project (Plumbing, Electrical, Security Doors, and Interior Demolition)

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

This project is a federally funded, Davis Bacon Prevailing wages will apply.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: March 5th, 2015 LO.0000233891 2X2.5

Realtors recommend staging when putting a home on the market

Most homeowners know it is important to keep a home clean, bright and free from clutter while it is on the market for sale. But sometimes, Realtors say, taking the extra step to stage a home can make a difference in how a buyer values it and the price a seller might get for it, according to the National Association of Realtors 2015 Profile of Home Staging.

"Realtors know how important it is to have a home in the best shape possible when showing it to prospective buyers," said NAR President Chris Polychron, executive broker with 1st Choice Realty in Hot Springs, Ark. "At a minimum, homeowners should conduct a thorough cleaning, haul out clutter, make sure the home is well-lit and fix any major aesthetic issues. Another option is staging a home, which Realtors often suggest to sellers to help prospective buyers better visualize themselves in the home and could modestly increase the home's value for both the buyer and seller."

The report, the first of its kind from NAR, found that 49 percent of surveyed Realtors who work with buyers believe staging usually has an effect on the buyer's view of the home. Another 47 percent believe that staging only sometimes has an impact on a buyer's view of the home only. Only 4 percent of Realtors said staging has no impact on buyer perceptions.

Realtors on the buyer side believe that staging makes an impact in several ways; 81 percent said staging helps buyers visualize the property as a future home, while 46 percent said it makes prospective buyers more willing to walk through a home they saw online. Forty-five percent said a home decorated to a buyer's tastes positively impacts its value; however, 10 percent of Realtors said a home deco-



Most Realtors believe that staging has a positive impact.

GETTY IMAGES

rated against a buyer's tastes could negatively impact the home's value.

From the seller side, a majority of Realtors use staging as a tool in at least some instances. Just over a third of Realtors (34 percent) utilize

staging on all homes, while 13 percent tend to stage only those homes difficult to sell, and another 4 percent will do so only for higher priced homes. The median cost spent on staging a home is \$675. Sixty-two percent of Realtors

representing sellers say they offer home staging service to sellers, while 39 percent say the seller pays before listing the home.

Realtors representing both the buyer and seller agreed on two major points in the report — which rooms should be staged and the change in dollar value a buyer is willing to offer for a staged home compared to a similar not-staged home. Realtors ranked the living room as the No. 1 room to stage, followed by a kitchen. Rounding out the top five rooms were the master bedroom, dining room and the bathroom.

Realtors believe that buyers most often offer a 1 to 5 percent increase on the value of a staged home (37 percent from Realtors representing sellers and 32 percent from Realtors representing buyers). Additionally, 22 percent of Realtors representing sellers and 16 percent of Realtors representing buyers said the increase is closer to 6 to 10 percent.

"Working with a Realtor gives buyers, sellers and investors the advantage they need to succeed in today's market, as they know what buyers want and how to best market and stage a home for sale," Polychron said. "While many factors play into what a home is worth and what buyers are willing to pay for it, staging is an excellent tool that can be used to give a home a little extra push for sellers. Staging isn't used by every Realtor in every situation, but the impact it may have and the value it can bring is clear to both home buyers and sellers."

The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing one million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

Foreclosure could be an issue, so ask attorney

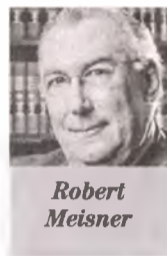
Q: Can a sale and lease-back be made instead of a mortgage so as to avoid the need to foreclose if the lessee defaults?

A: Not necessarily. Sale and leaseback arrangements may be deemed to be "equitable mortgages" which would still require the "purchaser/lessor" to foreclose in order to obtain title to the property. When deciding whether an equitable mortgage exists, courts look not only to the form of the transaction, but also to the circumstances that might

motivate the parties to disguise what is really a mortgage as a sale. You are best advised to consult with an attorney before entering into such a transaction.

Q: I have a problem with a nearby coal burning dump spewing black smoke which drifts into my yard. Is there anything I can do about this?

A: Probably, yes. You may have a cause of action for a "private nuisance" which is defined as one affecting a single person or limited number of people in their enjoyment of a private right, not common to the public. Depending on the extent of the problem, it could also be deemed to be a "public nuisance." A public nuisance, by contrast, affects an entire neighborhood or considerable number of people. In a public nuisance case, however, a private party plaintiff, as opposed to a municipal entity, must prove "special injury" to their person or property; this is, damage which is different in kind, not degree, from the general public, in order to prevail. You are best advised to consult with an attorney before undertaking such a lawsuit.



Robert Meisner

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

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

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 6-10, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

31780 E Bell Vine Trl \$260,000
32420 Sheridan Dr \$330,000
31526 Sunset Dr \$325,000
20255 Wellesley St \$565,000

BIRMINGHAM

1447 Chapin Ave \$187,000
687 Emmons Ave \$540,000
1796 Graefield Rd \$130,000
525 Graten St \$370,000
475 N Eton St Apt C2 \$113,000
1115 N Old Woodward Ave Unit 58 \$260,000
1832 Winthrop Ln \$415,000
1595 Yosemite Blvd \$770,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

1215 Hidden Lake Dr \$825,000
2199 Lancaster Rd \$145,000
995 Stratford Pl \$270,000
2625 Vhay Ln \$435,000
705 Westview Rd \$381,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

2640 Bridle Rd \$215,000
6529 Cathedral Dr \$355,000
941 Dursley Rd \$318,000
488 Fox Hills Dr S # A-6 \$65,000
1233 Indian Mound E \$775,000
507 Kendry \$160,000
7388 Lindenmere Dr \$340,000
260 Manor Rd \$625,000
4364 Meadowlane Dr \$215,000
5631 Pebbleshire Rd \$243,000
3647 Shallow Brook Dr \$290,000
4296 Stoneleigh Rd \$535,000

1748 Timson Ln \$378,000
4041 W Maple Rd Apt E204 \$90,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

4635 Alban St \$149,000
1781 Applebrook Dr \$50,000
8634 Buffalo Dr \$163,000
730 Commercial St \$103,000
730 Commercial St \$83,000
8401 Hummingbird \$340,000
6157 Lochmore Dr \$277,000
1807 Luneta Ct \$190,000
4682 Newcroft St \$149,000
8609 Palomino Dr \$95,000
2168 Sunnybrook Rd \$297,000
1600 Vanstone Dr \$750,000

FARMINGTON

22163 Abington Dr \$325,000
23995 Colchester Dr \$145,000
33988 Glenview Dr \$142,000
32379 Leelane \$178,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

31142 Applewood Ln \$318,000
37816 Baywood Dr \$258,000
30384 Castleford Ct \$260,000
31196 Country Way \$110,000
26860 Drake Rd \$810,000
27238 E Skye Dr \$220,000
37735 Eagle Trce \$470,000
22462 Haynes Ave \$37,000
28270 Herndonwood Dr \$231,000
35928 Johnstown Rd \$259,000
29438 Laurel Dr \$114,000
24521 Martel Dr \$220,000
22334 Nearbrook Ct \$371,000
29628 Nova Woods Dr \$260,000
29449 Parkside St \$290,000
30945 Perrys Xing \$265,000
26270 Power Rd \$315,000
35036 Quaker Way \$320,000
25416 Ranchwood Ct \$260,000

30416 Scotshire Ct \$268,000
27575 Spring Valley Dr \$165,000
32542 Sprucewood St \$175,000
29498 Sugar Spring Rd \$130,000
29498 Sugar Spring Rd \$180,000
21956 Tredwell Ave \$162,000
21652 Tulane Ave \$108,000
33337 W 11 Mile Rd \$174,000

HIGHLAND

1020 Beaumont Rd \$425,000
3131 Bel Aire Dr \$303,000
4510 Chevron Dr \$625,000
2549 E Highland Rd \$195,000
603 Fisher Rd \$119,000
4728 Hickory Dr \$100,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

26747 Bloomfield Dr S \$160,000
28100 Goldengate Dr E \$186,000

MILFORD

900 E Dawson Rd \$280,000
1722 Hidden Valley Dr \$647,000
771 Milford Glen Ct \$307,000
927 S Main St \$237,000
706 S Milford Rd \$122,000
2905 Shirley St \$161,000
2950 Shirley St \$218,000

NORTHVILLE

21282 Bridle Run \$930,000
23192 Chelsea Ct \$100,000
379 Welch Rd \$222,000
22249 Barclay Dr \$435,000
24650 Bashian Dr \$118,000
50917 Chesapeake Dr \$580,000
25513 Dogwood Ln \$558,000
41606 Hamlet Ln \$168,000
41820 Independence Dr \$200,000
24461 Kings Pointe \$265,000
40648 Lenox Park Dr \$280,000
26461 Mandalay Cir \$785,000
41667 Sleepy Hollow Dr \$250,000

27564 Sloan St \$306,000
40965 W 10 Mile Rd \$131,000
48100 W Nine Mile Rd \$600,000
23898 W Le Bost \$150,000
29342 Weston Dr \$230,000
44896 Yorkshire Dr \$225,000

SOUTH LYON

52689 Aspen Dr \$459,000
23851 Bayberry Ct \$386,000
1347 Coach House Ln \$345,000
22962 Fremont Dr N \$604,000
27901 Galien Dr \$352,000
999 Hidden Creek Dr \$275,000
57611 Hidden Timbers Dr \$365,000
23881 Maple Ct \$366,000
1016 Paddock Ln \$208,000
24431 Ravine Dr \$575,000
24891 Ravine Dr \$600,000
897 Stoney Dr \$208,000
61130 Topsfield Ln \$173,000
24884 Valleywood Dr \$273,000
847 Westbrooke Dr \$218,000

SOUTHFIELD

28132 Brentwood St \$70,000
24435 Connecticut Dr \$85,000
17231 Coral Gables St \$204,000
23346 Graydon Dr \$175,000
19151 Middlesex Ave \$45,000
25140 Parsons Dr \$175,000
20530 Secluded Ln \$57,000
28049 Selkirk St \$83,000

WHITE LAKE

2525 Blair St \$256,000
8624 Brazos Ct \$226,000
396 Dakota Ln \$180,000
9039 Mandon Rd \$127,000
8613 Newport Dr \$320,000
10710 Oxbow Hts \$200,000
8151 Springdale Dr \$215,000
8774 Townsend Dr \$305,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 27-31, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

43298 Candlewood Ct \$248,000
7828 Capri Dr \$250,000
1728 Christopher Dr \$120,000
1374 Elmhurst St \$150,000
378 Filmore St \$135,000
47033 Glastonbury Dr \$399,000
848 Kings Way \$136,000
7398 Kingsbridge Rd \$216,000
42483 Lilley Pointe Dr \$U,000
45716 Morningside Ct \$341,000
6850 New Providence Way \$60,000
3902 Norwich Dr \$129,000
1771 Peerce Ct \$95,000
47736 Pembroke Dr \$144,000
45091 Rudgate Rd \$175,000
416 Stonehenge Dr \$237,000
4211 Timberline Dr \$235,000
345 Troon Ln \$287,000

GARDEN CITY

29648 Beechwood St \$125,000
854 Belton St \$103,000
33544 Brown St \$68,000
528 Cardwell St \$95,000
31941 Chester St \$31,000
1237 Gilman St \$50,000
6417 Henry Ruff Rd \$99,000
32503 James St \$45,000
32742 Marquette St \$100,000
6581 Sterling Ct \$90,000
15429 Ashurst St \$186,000
28665 Bayberry Park Dr \$160,000
14519 Berwick St \$237,000
30157 Bretton St \$60,000
12403 Cardwell St \$80,000
11853 Chase Blvd \$182,000
9740 Eckles Rd \$139,000
19423 Fairlane Ct \$300,000
16922 Farmington Rd \$155,000
19123 Gary Ln \$240,000
33901 Hathaway St \$182,000
11317 Hubbell St \$215,000
9539 Inkster Rd \$118,000
17964 Levan Rd \$252,000
17964 Levan Rd \$243,000

18741 Levan Rd \$208,000
38351 Mason St \$98,000
20461 Millburn St \$150,000
9065 Newport Way \$113,000
34054 Parkdale St \$155,000
18546 Parklane St \$200,000
31520 Pembroke St \$155,000
31555 Pembroke St \$139,000
18612 Shadyside St \$143,000
16504 Surrey St \$193,000
31119 W Chicago St \$130,000
19984 Weyher St \$150,000
46605 Seven Mile Rd \$170,000
42440 Bradner Rd \$372,000
50241 Briar Ridge Ln \$615,000
50841 Briar Ridge Ln \$750,000
15993 Cog Hill Dr \$651,000
561 Grace St \$130,000
39825 Rockcrest Cir \$183,000
370 S Rogers St \$610,000
45457 Tournament Dr \$715,000
43762 Wabeek Ln \$625,000
20209 Woodcreek Blvd \$435,000

PLYMOUTH

9044 N Sheldon Rd \$125,000
1174 Palmer St \$246,000
101 S Union St \$280,000
376 W Spring St \$177,000

REDFORD

14336 Beech Daly Rd \$122,000
25959 Dover \$101,000
26013 Fordson Hwy \$43,000
13201 Hemingway \$45,000
18369 Macarthur \$99,000
4214 Cadillac Ave \$56,000
35336 Elm St \$134,000
33252 Gerald St \$70,000

WESTLAND

37155 Baker Dr \$255,000
35636 Canyon Dr \$135,000
7370 Central St \$33,000
32302 Glen St \$87,000
32720 Grandview Ave \$95,000
35797 Hunter Ave \$78,000
29934 Lonnie Dr \$114,000
7300 Mohawk St \$65,000
6926 Mohican Ln \$130,000
492 N Bryar St \$152,000
5884 N Newburgh Rd \$118,000
254 S Byfield St \$146,000

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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.625	0	2.875	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.625	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.625	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.625	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.5	0	3	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.125	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	1	2.875	1
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0

Above information available as of 2/27/15 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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The Observer & Eccentric, part of michigan.com, a Gannett Company, is seeking a Multi-Media Sales Representative for our Milford/Highland/White Lake territory who will be responsible for developing relationships and consulting with clients while providing an opportunity to contribute to the long-term success of a high growth and progressive company. Our ideal candidate will be an innovative, result driven, high energy, creative sales representative with the ability to think strategically and to assist clients by developing strategic, multi-media advertising campaigns.

Must be able to manage multiple priorities, requests, programs and be dedicated to exceptional customer service. Develop new business and grow market share by using a variety of customer centric sales programs and audience solutions. Make solid marketing presentations that sell the value, provide customer centric audience solutions and close the sale.

If you are seeking a position that will allow you to be a strategic seller working with a multi-platform, market leading team in a culture that thrives on creating and executing big ideas that provide solutions to benefit the prosperity of customers, then we encourage you to apply today to join our team!

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in marketing, advertising or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- 3+ years of related experience is required.
- A strong understanding of digital media platforms to include search engine marketing, social media, online display, mobile & other digital solutions.
- Documented record of success in a goal-oriented, highly accountable environment.
- Ability to conduct a needs assessment, identify marketing and advertising solutions for clients, develop proposals and experience in delivering sales presentations.
- Technical proficiency in Microsoft Office especially PowerPoint and Excel.
- Experience with CRM technology, Salesforce.com preferred

This opportunity offers competitive compensation and benefits package including 401(k), health, dental, three weeks paid vacation, and more. If you meet the above criteria, we encourage you to apply for this position at: <http://bit.ly/1vmiEhu>. EOE

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Help Wanted - General

BOOKKEEPING ASSISTANT

Farmington Hills, MI

Established company seeks bookkeeping assistant with prior experience for assistant position to the company controller. Candidate should possess excellent communication skills and knowledge of QuickBooks is a plus.

Proficiency in excel and Microsoft Word is a must. This bookkeeping position would assist controller with data entry, work on the company database and other clerical duties as directed. Must be a self-starter. Pay will be commensurate with experience.

Send resumes to: Bookkeeping Assistant P.O. Box 3460 Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Fax: 248-442-1180 sguzak@digitalsinc.com

Help Wanted - General

SUMMER HELP

Parents, will your students be returning home from college this summer and need a temporary job? Students are you looking for some extra cash this summer? If so, DADCO is an innovative manufacturing company located in Plymouth, MI and we are seeking conscientious, dependable students, at least 18 years of age, for temporary summer work in our state-of-the-art facility. Positions are available Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:00pm in our Assembly, Machining, Milling and Polishing Departments. No experience is necessary - we will train. Please, only students apply. EOE

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Please reference "Summer Work" in the subject line.

DADCO

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- Basic Assembly
- Machine Operation

Looking for long term employees at one of our client company's located in Brighton. All three shifts are available for entry level positions and the duties would include: Basic assembly and machine operation. There is no past experience needed. Over-time is available as well, along with the opportunity to be hired in.

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Active Southfield collections Law Firm looking for a payment processor and assistant to answer phones, & generate legal process. Collection procedure & experience important.

Email resume to cummers@wifirm.com Attn: Colleen

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Sat. 3/7 9am-3pm. Jewelry, furniture, household items, tools, electronics & car. 6229 Lathers

LIVONIA

10010 Harrison St. Fri-Sun 9-5pm (S. off Plymouth Rd., E. of Middlebelt Rd.) Collectibles, Furniture & More! pics @ actionstate.com 586-228-9090

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Birmingham: Estate Sale: Sat, 7, Sun, 8, Mon, 9, Sat, 14, Sun, 15. 10-4 pm all days. Ethan Allen Designer Living Room Furniture Horchow Family Room and Master Bedroom Furniture - Designer Clothing - Size 6 and 8. (248) 202-1800

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PERSONALS

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LazyBoy Recliner with matching Oak storage bench 75 dollars. Vertical Blinds (off white) 115 inches wide 56 inches long 60 dollars. Lined wicker basket 30 inches wide 17 inches tall 25 dollars. (810)334-8015

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Mission Style furniture (greens, browns, rusts) includes sofa, chair, ottoman and cocktail table. Great condition. Asking \$400.00. Must Sell! 734-416-1015 (734)416-1015 rocal@wowway.com

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CHEY SIERRA 1500 2012 Crew cab, short box, 4x4, SLT, leather, back up camera. \$31,585

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC SIERRA 2010 Crew Cab, short box, 4x4, SLE, ABS, traction control. \$21,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

RAM 1500 2012 4wd, Crew Cab, 5.7 ft. box ST. Only 22k miles! 1 owner. \$25,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

4 Wheel Drive

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2009 - 4wd, 4dr, V6, Ltd heated front seats. \$21,000

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Sports Utility

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Airplanes

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Auction Hadley's Towing 24825 Hathaway St. Farmington Hills, MI. 48335

March 11, 2015 10:00 AM

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O&E Media Classifieds Just a quick call away. 800-579-7355

FISH FRY

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club serves fish fry dinner, 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, through March 27, at the church, 32500 Palmer, between Venoy and Merriman, Westland.
Fried and baked fish are available. Adult dinners are \$8.50 for fish and \$10.50 for a combination of fish and shrimp.

Grilled cheese with french fries (no roll) and macaroni and cheese dinners are \$6. Dinners include coleslaw, role, beverage and dessert. Carry-outs are available.
Stations of the Cross also will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday through March 27.
For more information, call 734-722-1343.

MARCH BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 15
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; cost is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

RELIGION CALENDAR

Contact: 734-425-4421
CHURCH MISSION
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m., March 22-25
Location: St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, located at West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford
Details: Sponsored by the clustered parishes of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. John Bosco, topics include "Jesus, How Do We Come To Know You?" March

22; "Come, Follow Me," March 23; "Reconcile and Forgive," March 24; "Become A People of Purpose," March 25. Reconciliation will be offered March 24
Contact: 313-937-1500
COMIC BOOK, CARDS
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daley, between Plymouth Road and West Chicago Road, Redford
Details: More than 34 tables of comic books action figures, books and more. Tony Baratonio, local actor and inventor, will be on hand. Admission is \$2; free for age 10 and under. Admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home in Livonia
Contact: 313-937-3170

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne
Contact: 734-728-3315
LENTEN SERVICES
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Theme is "I Tell You The Truth." Free treats after the service
Contact: 734-968-3523, 313-532-8655
SPRING CARNIVAL/OPEN HOUSE
Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Location: Concordia Lutheran School - South Campus, 9600 Leverage, Redford
Details: Tour the classrooms, meet administrators and faculty members, and parents of students. Prospective students can enjoy carnival games, book fair, food and more
Contact: 313-937-2233; www.concordials.org

Passages
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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www.hometownlife.com

BROWN, JANE INGRID ERICKSON

Age 72, March 1, 2015. Retired school teacher of Birmingham Public Schools. Until recently, active member and flutist of Birmingham Concert Band. Ms. Brown, a graduate of Dondero High School, class of 1960. She then graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in 1964, then later there she received her Master's of Education in 1979. Also held a Master's of Music from U of M. She is the granddaughter of Wm. O. Hullinger, former owner of what originally was The Royal Oak Weekly Tribune, now The Royal Oak Daily Tribune. Both of Jane's parents were former Royal Oak School District teachers. Beloved mother of Ingrid L. (Ray Andresen), Richard A., and Toby S. (Brooks) Hopkins. Dear sister of John A. (Martena) and James W. (Evelyn) Erickson. Loving step-grandmother of; Samantha Jo and James M. Andresen. Memorial Gathering will be held Saturday, March 7th from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. memorial service and a dinner served thereafter at Royal Oak Elks Lodge, 2401 E. 4th St., Royal Oak. Memorials suggested to the Alzheimer's Foundation. Arrangements by Fisher Funeral Home, Redford Twp. (313) 535-3030.



FONDE, DR. KAREN RHEA

At 40, Karen Rhea Fonde achieved a longtime ambition: She walked across the stage at Hill Auditorium to receive her diploma as a medical doctor from the University of Michigan. Dr. Fonde loved teaching. She was mother, humanitarian, healer, scientist, feminist, Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, and teacher in a juvenile home before she became a family medicine physician and assistant professor at UM. Dr. Fonde died March 1 of complications from Alzheimer's disease. She was 65. Dr. Fonde was valetudinarian of her 1967 Ann Arbor High School class. She was a presidential scholar and shook hands with President Lyndon Johnson at the White House. She was high school editor of the Ann Arbor News and while studying at UM was an intern reporter at that newspaper. She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UM in Russian Studies and served as a health educator with the Peace Corps in northern Togo. Dr. Fonde and Joel Thurtell were married in 1974. For three years, she taught at the Berrien County Juvenile Center. After the couple's first son, Adam, was born in 1980, she decided to attend medical school. But first, she and Joel had a second son, Abe, in 1983. While studying science at Western Michigan University, she won the Freshman Chemistry Prize at age 32. At UM Medical School, she was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society. She received her MD from UM in 1990, and graduated from the UM Family Medicine residency program in 1993. She helped open a new UM family medicine clinic in Ypsilanti, where she treated patients and taught until 2008. Dr. Fonde was dedicated to helping new physicians cope with the pressures of medicine and presented a research paper on "The Resident in Difficulty." By 2008, she herself was a physician in difficulty, with memory and cognitive problems that eventually were diagnosed as Alzheimer's disease. In a family gathering, one could always locate Dr. Fonde by the sound of her infectious laughter. Long after she lost the power of speech, Dr. Fonde could still find things to make her smile. She loved her sons, her husband, her parents and siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She loved to swim and ski, and enjoyed sailing around the family's island in McGregor Bay, Canada. In addition to her husband and sons, Dr. Fonde is survived by two sisters, Julia Davis (Max), of Howell and Anne Potter (William), of Dayton, Ohio; and a brother, Charles Fonde (Linda), of Carmel, Indiana; a second brother, Mark Fonde (Stacey), of Ann Arbor, died a week earlier, on February 22. Memorial visitation Friday 6-9 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Friends are also invited to gather with the family Saturday 10 a.m. until the Saturday 11 a.m. Memorial Service to be held at Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor. Memorials may be made to Arbor Hospice or Planned Parenthood. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com



JONES, PATRICIA G.

Age 72, February 28, 2015. Beloved mother of Jennifer Jones. Loving grandmother of Lily. Dear sister of Dale (Diane) and the late Gary Shomo. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington, Saturday, March 7, at 11:00 a.m. Memorials may be directed to St. Gerald-St. Vincent de Paul. Please share a memory at www.rgrgharris.com



VAN CONANT, DARREL LEE

Son of the late Ivy and Myrtle Van Conant, was born December 8, 1934 in Detroit, Michigan. After awhile the family moved to a farm in Berville, MI. He graduated from Capac High School in 1953. He attended Michigan State University until the end of his Junior year. He was accepted into the Wayne State College of Medicine. After one year at Wayne State, he returned to Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Math and Minors in both Physics and Chemistry. After graduating from Michigan State University, he taught math for 4 years in Marysville, MI and Fremont, MI. In Fremont, he met Linda Oppenhuizen. They were married in 1963. He received his Masters in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University in 1973. During his lifetime he also worked for Consumers Power, Burroughs Corporation and Kmart Corporation. He is survived by four children, Susan Gears (Bill), Pete (Sandy), Ruth Tarrow (Roland) and Matt. As well as three grandchildren Wade, Grayson, and Amelia. He passed away on March 1, 2015. Visitation Friday 5-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Saturday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral Service at First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Interment United Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to the church or the American Cancer Society. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com



MYERS, RODMAN N.

Beloved husband of the late Jeanette P. Myers. Cherished father of Jennifer Myers (Chris) Grabenstein and Rodman Jay (Patricia) Myers. Loving grandfather of Rodman John Myers and Sarah Clare Myers. Dear brother of Helen (the late Gilbert) Gilbert and the late Julian (the late Patsy) Myers. **SERVICES WERE HELD TUESDAY AT THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL. 248-569-0020. INTERMENT AT BETH EL MEMORIAL PARK. www.irakaufman.com**

RAUB, BETTY

Of Wayne passed away peacefully in her home March 2, 2015 at the age of 88. Loving wife of the late Joseph. Beloved mother of Lynn (the late Mike) Neveu, Andrea (John) Collium and Jodi (Rick) Loftis. Proud grandmother of four and great grandmother of five. Arrangements by Husband Family Funeral Home in Westland (734)331-3349. Final rites through cremation per her wishes.

REDICK, JOYCE C.

Age 79, March 2, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Darrell D. Dear mother of Darrell E. and Dale (Mimi). Loving grandmother of Drew (Samantha), Nicki (Dan) Bobek, Dave, Jonathan and Danielle. Dear great-grandmother of Iris. Beloved sister of Clarence Jennings. She will be dearly missed by her niece, nephew and many family members. Visitation Friday 10 a.m. followed by the 1 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Memorials may be made to the family.
www.santeiufuneralhome.com
Santeiu Funeral Home



WHITEFIELD, CONNIE

A resident of Novi and former resident of Milford, died on February 28, 2015 at the age of 75. She is survived by Art, her beloved husband of fifty-six years; her mother, Clara and George Goodling; sons, Derek Whitefield and Gary Dahle, Greg and Debbie Whitefield, Jeff and Theresa Whitefield, and Curt Whitefield; grandchildren, Corinne, Brett, Collier, Taylor, Caille, Sydney, Colton, Jason, and Bryan; great-grandchildren, Nolan, Amanda, Caleb, Grace, Brecken, Elizabeth, Kaylin; and many dear friends. Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Wednesday, March 4 from 6-9 p.m. and on Thursday, March 5 from 2-9 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held at Harvest Christian Church, 24400 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit, on Friday, March 6, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Bob King officiating. A luncheon will follow at the church. Burial Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. Memorials may be made in her name to the family. For further information please phone, 248-684-6645, or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com.
LYNCH & SONS
Funeral Directors

DISLER, RICHARD CHASE

Age 85, died at Boisford Commons Senior Community Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, on Sunday, February 8, 2015. Born November 18, 1929, in Canton, Ohio, he eventually moved to Detroit where he started a career repossessing cars for GMAC. Forty three years later, he retired as a GMAC executive, living in Livonia. He was a caring husband and father of three. He was a great mentor throughout all of his years. He was well known for his passion for fishing and fished right through his last years, reeling in a big Muskie just last summer. Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Anne. He is survived by three children, Cheryl Hunter of Plymouth, MI; Corey Disler of Tulsa, OK and William Disler of Livonia, MI. He is also survived by eight grandchildren. A small service was held at Boisford Commons. Private memorial gatherings will also be arranged with family and friends. He will be laid to rest at Roseland Memorial Gardens in Jackson, MI, right next to his wife, Anne. Memorial contributions are welcome and should be either mailed to Angela Hospice at 14100 Newburgh, Livonia, MI 48154 or online at Angelahospice.org

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

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. 4 different music styles from classic to modern www.wardchurch.org LO-000018424</p>	<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. AT150641</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p> <p><i>A Church for Seasoned Saints</i> OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Wednesday 7 pm Pastor Grady Jensen & Music Minister Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282 Church As You Remember it!</p>	<p>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-926-2219 or e-mail: ssare@michigan.com</p>
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Geology for the masses: Roamin Club auctions rocks, fossils, for the whole family

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

If you're looking for a family activity that rocks, head to Schoolcraft College this weekend for the Roamin Club's annual auction.

"The children's area is wonderful. There's all sorts of cool stuff for kids," said Lisa Radwick, a Canton resident and longtime club member. "It's a different kind of activity to do if you have little kids. It's a really good family event and a great thing to take kids to."

Kids will find glittery minerals, shark's teeth, fossil shells, pretty rocks, jewelry, animal carvings, and more as they browse silent auction tables in the children's area.

"Most kids pick up stones and rocks at some point. If you have a kid who's interested in that, you can give them a couple of bucks and they can have a great time. Bids might start at 10 cents and go up in five-cent increments. They might bid up to 25 cents and for that price they are getting some cool stuff," Radwick said. "For them, it's like a game. Did they win it? Did they get it?"

While youngsters look for bargain-priced treasures, their parents can scout adult tables or bid on live auction items. Roamin Club, a group that focuses on collecting and studying rocks, minerals, fossils and lapidary arts, buys hundreds of items from wholesale dealers for its annual auction. All of the items are identified and many were found throughout the world.

"Everyone is looking for something different. There are people who are interested in the healing power of crystals.



A rock hunter bids in the silent auction while a line of other bidders wait their turn.

They assess specimens differently from the people who want a pretty show piece in their home," Radwick said. "People come because they are interested in crafts or jewelry. There are people who are interested in specimens to put in their collection."

The show runs 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 8, in the VisTaTech Center, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Admission is free. Three auctions are held every hour.

Roamin Club, sponsored by Livonia Parks and Recreation and founded in 1967, started the auction to fund a scholarship at Schoolcraft. Proceeds buy rocks and minerals for the auction, in addition to sustaining the scholarship fund.

Something for everyone

Todd Gall, club treasurer and a Northville resident, said attendees can expect to find both common and unusual items at the auction.

"A few years ago, one of our members brought in a sculp-

ture that had geodes in it," Gall said. "There is carved stone, like goblets and cups, things like that. Mortar and pestle made out of stone. We've had a few carvings of birds.

"One thing I knew we've got is pyrite dollars or suns. Pyrite is called 'fool's gold.' It looks like a sun burst and a lot are silver dollar size. Those are pretty interesting and I know we have a couple of those. We have thousands of items. The one thing I like about the auction is there there is stuff for all budgets. If you've only got a



Ammonite fossils

few dollars you can get something."

Radwick said even the live auction items are reasonably priced, with bidding that starts as low as \$10 and as high as \$20-\$30.

Young fossil hunters

Both Radwick and Gall said they are most interested in fossils. Gall remembers looking for Petoskey stones in state parks with his family when he was a kid. As an adult, he went to the club's annual auction and took a geology class.

"Somewhere along the line I joined the club," he said. "It's been 20 years at least."

Radwick, who has loved fossils since attending summer camp as a kid, also joined the Roamin Club after attending its auction. She has been a member since the early 1990s and greets attendees at the auction.

"There are kids there we've seen grow up at the auction," she noted. "There are adults that started coming as kids with their moms."

In addition to the auction, the club takes field trips to rock-hunting sites, and offers workshops. Visitors are welcome. Find Roamin Club on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

McLaughlin's Alley is Maureen Paraventi (left), Rebekah Poxson, Stuart Tucker, Norm Andresen, and Tina Paraventi. The band will play Saturday, March 7, at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

Sing along to Irish tunes at McLaughlin's Alley concert

McLaughlin's Alley band returns to Barefoot Productions in Plymouth for an evening of Irish music, 8-10 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

The concert will include rousing numbers like *Whiskey in the Jar* and *Goodbye Mrs. Durkin*, a particular favorite of the band, as well as the poignant *Fields of Athenry* and the playful *Gypsy Rover*.

Singing along is encouraged, and lyrics to some of the songs will be projected onto a wall.

McLaughlin's Alley consists of Maureen Paraventi of Redford on vocals and flute; her sister, Tina Paraventi, on vocals and guitar; Stuart Tucker on drums, Norm Andresen on bass and Rebekah Poxson on vocals and ukulele. The band is known for its rich harmonies and lively performances. The McLaughlin's Alley repertoire includes rock and pop covers and original songs, but its roots are in Irish music. The Paraventi sisters originally formed an acoustic duo playing Irish music in local pubs. They called their act the McLaughlin Sisters, after their mother's maiden name, before expanding the duo into a full band.

"The great thing about this music is that you don't have to be Irish to enjoy it," said Maureen Paraventi. "Its appeal is



McLaughlin's Alley will perform Saturday, March 7, at Barefoot Productions in Plymouth.

universal, because it tells stories and strikes emotional chords that resonate with everyone. It either has you laughing out loud or crying in your beer."

This is the band's second performance at Barefoot Productions, 420 N. Main, Plymouth, and will raise money for the theater.

The band's CD also will be available for purchase in the lobby.

Tickets are \$20. Buy them at the door or at justgobarefoot.com.

For more information about McLaughlin's Alley, visit: www.mclaughlinsalley.com.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Wild Winter Weekend: Ice cream and hot cocoa will be available for purchase at a discount. Event includes animal arts and crafts, face painting, animal enrichment activities, talks by the zoo's expert keepers and a winter safari scavenger hunt, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7-8, at the Ford Education Center. Free with zoo admission

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through March 31

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Narrative Quilts: Works by Pauline Parker," is a solo show of wall hangings and watercolors

Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillage-theater.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6-28; artist reception runs 6-9 p.m. March 6

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "the mystery lesson," paintings by Kate Paul

Contact: 248-344-0497

CALL FOR ENTRIES REEL MICHIGAN FILM FESTIVAL

Time/Date: Entry deadline is April 17; film festival screening is June 20

Location: Screening at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville

Details: The Festival is accepting Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films, less than 20 minutes. Entry form is available at northvilleart-house.org/special-events/reel-michigan/.

Contact: reelmichigan@gmail.com

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: Submission deadline is March 21; art show reception is Sunday, April 19

Location: Art will be displayed at Westland Library meeting room, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland

Details: The club seeks original art work, including oils, watercolors, acrylic, pastels, collage, photo art, pottery and more. Submit up to three entries for \$30; \$5 for each additional piece. Submit photos for judging on CD or flash drive. Download an entry form at threecitiesartclub.org.

COMEDY JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday, March 5; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 6-7

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Ron Feingold; tickets are \$12 for show only or \$25 for show and a dinner on Thursday; \$16 for show or \$29 for show and dinner, Friday-Sunday

Open mic: Each comedian gets five minutes of stage time. Open mic begins at 8 p.m. every Tuesday. Call the box office Tuesday through Thursday, to get on the performer list

Contact: 734-261-0555; catchthefun-ny.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, March 5-6 and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Location: Fourth and Troy streets in downtown Royal Oak

Details: Shane Mauss; tickets \$10 Thursday, \$18 Friday-Saturday

Contact: 248-542-9900; info@ComedyCastle.com

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Second City Touring Company; tickets are \$25 per person

Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillage-theater.org

EXPO HOME IMPROVEMENT EXPO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8

Location: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

Details: Live broadcast from Joe Gagnon "The Appliance Doctor" from 1600 WAAM; how-to workshops on a variety of topics; live wood carving demonstrations; a hands-on children's project center; and multiple raffles throughout the weekend, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters. Free parking and refreshments

Contact: canton-mi.org/940/Canton-Home-Improvement-Expo

FILM MJR CINEMA

Time/Date: Saturday-Sunday through March

Location: Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne road, Westland

Details: Free children's film festival with *Box Trolls*, March 7-8; *Annie*, March 14-15, *Night at the Museum*, March 21-22, and *Book of Life*, March

28-29. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Free for children 12 and under; parents pay \$1. Call theater for show times

Contact: 734-298-2657

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday, March 6; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8; and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: *Into the Woods*; admission \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 6, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 7; vintage fashion market, 1-9 p.m. Saturday

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 3

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: "Death Dogs: The Jackal Gods of Ancient Egypt," will explore the mysterious ancient Egyptian jackal-headed gods associated with death and the afterlife. The exhibition features approximately 40 artifacts, some never before displayed.

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Creative Hands: Busy Hands" is the new exhibit, which runs through June 14. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show runs 7-9:30 p.m., third Saturday of the month through May

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: \$5 at the door.

Contact: BFSpresident@aol.com

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Time/Date: 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. show, Saturday, March 7

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Event includes performances by Fang Shubo, the Canton Philharmonic choir, the March Wind Choir, the Michigan Chinese Choir, Yangtze Melody Group, the Spring Group. \$2 at the door

Contact: 734-394-5300; CantonVillageTheater.org

MAPLE SYRUP

sweetens dinner fare, drinks, desserts

March is maple syrup time — and there are plenty of ways to celebrate.

Start by checking out what it takes to turn sap into syrup, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday this month, beginning March 14 at Maybury Farm, 50165 Eight Mile, Northville; 248-374-0200.

Kensington Metropark, also offers a trip to the sugar bush and sugar shack, noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March 29, at the park, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford; 248-684-8632. Cost is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children, 3-12.

Next, find out what it takes to tap a tree and make your own maple syrup.

You'll learn to identify a maple tree, col-

lect sap, boil it, taste it and you'll receive materials to help you get started at home, at "Maple Sugaring in Your Own Back Yard," 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. March 8 and 22, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Cost is \$7 per person or \$21 per family of four. Pre-registration is required at <http://re-creg.fhgov.com> or by calling 248-477-1135.

Finally, after you've produced your own maple syrup — or bought it from the market — it's time to cook.

According to the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, maple syrup contains phenolic compounds, a source of antioxidants, commonly found in products such as blueberries, tea, red wine and flaxseed. It's

also a source of naturally-occurring minerals, including calcium, manganese, potassium and magnesium.

The Michigan Maple Syrup Association suggests glazing carrots with maple syrup, butter and a pinch of dry mustard. Or bake acorn squash with 2 tablespoons maple syrup, salt and pepper. Try blending a small amount of maple syrup with commercial marshmallow cream for a sundae sauce.

For more on cooking with maple syrup, including links to cook books, visit www.mi-maplesyrup.com or vermontmaple.org.

— By Sharon Dargay

VERMONT MAPLE CHUNKY BEEF STEW

Serves 6

¼ cup of flour
Salt and pepper to taste
2 cloves chopped garlic
1 large onion, sliced
1 stalk of chopped celery
1 ½ pounds beef, cut into half-inch cubes
1 19-ounce can of tomatoes
½ cup dry red wine
½ cup pure maple syrup
4 medium size potatoes, cubed
2 large carrots, sliced

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Combine flour, beef and seasonings in a plastic bag and shake to coat beef. Saute garlic and onion together in 1 tablespoon of olive oil until tender. Combine all ingredients into a casserole dish, pour in ½ cup of water, cover and bake for four hours. Also works well in a slow cooker.



MAPLE AND MUSTARD ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLES

Recipe by Jolinda Hackett, vegetarian food expert at vegetarian.about.com
Yields 6 servings

¼ cup maple syrup
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon garlic powder
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ cup coarsely chopped onion or 20 pearl onions, peeled

5 cups coarsely chopped or sliced veggies of your choice; turnips, parsnips, rutabaga, carrot, potato, yams, beets and/or golden beets.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Toss veggies and onions with the olive oil, salt and pepper on a baking pan. Roast in oven for 20 minutes, then remove and re-toss on baking sheet. Cook 15 minutes more. Toss again. Cook another 15 minutes.

Combine maple syrup, Dijon mustard and garlic powder in a small bowl. Drizzle the maple mixture over potatoes and veggies and mix to coat well.

Cook again until veggies (beets and potatoes will take the longest) are soft and glaze starts to caramelize and brown a bit. Serve and enjoy!



SUGARHOUSE STEAMER

Serves 1

2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
Pure granulated maple sugar
Whipped cream
Viennese coffee (prepared instant or with an espresso machine)
Steamed or scalded milk

Pour the maple syrup into the bottom of a mug. Add coffee and pour in the milk. Top with whipped cream and a generous sprinkling of granulated maple sugar. Enjoy!



MAPLE HARVEST CUSTARD

Yields 7 servings.

8 egg yolks
½ cup pure maple syrup
1 ½ cups pumpkin puree (not pie filling)
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground ginger
Pinch ground allspice
Pinch ground nutmeg
2 cups half and half

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat egg yolks in with the maple syrup. Add pumpkin and spices, mix until blended.

Heat half and half over medium heat until tiny bubbles form around the edge. Stirring constantly, gradually add half and half to pumpkin mixture. Pour into large shallow glass baking dish or divide into heat-proof custard cups.

Place cups or dish in a larger pan of hot water and bake in a preheated oven for 30 minutes or until knife blade inserted near center comes out clean. Remove from water and let stand 30 minutes. Serve or refrigerate up to one week.

Before serving, heat one cup of maple syrup in a sauce pan until it boils. Continue to heat syrup until it becomes thick. Pour over custards and serve.

Tip: For variation, use cooked, pureed winter squash instead of pumpkin.



CITY BITES

Vegetarian cooking

Plymouth — Learn to integrate plant-based cooking into holiday meals through Better Living Seminar's class, 2:30-5:30 p.m. March 15, in the gym at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist, 15585 N. Haggerty. Local chefs who previously worked with the annual

Holiday Tasting Extravaganza in Plymouth will demonstrate recipes for the Easter table. Fitness trainers, dietitians and physicians also will answer questions. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$50 for two. Attendees will receive all recipes from the demonstrations, a full meal and tastings. Registration, noon March 11 and pay at the door. Reserve

at veggieholiday.com or email holidaytasting@gmail.com or call 248-446-9176.

Cooking with McCargo

Livonia — Chef Aaron McCargo will share dialysis-friendly cooking tips and recipes in honor of National Kidney Month, 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 18,

at Fresenius Medical Care, 32423 Schoolcraft; 734-525-0780. In addition to McCargo's cooking demonstration, the event will include kidney-friendly food and refreshments, clinic tours and talks about nutrition and fitness. McCargo is host of *Big Daddy's House* on the Food Network. For more, see ultracare-dialysis.com.