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Water meter project about to begin

Commercial units will be replaced first, then residential

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

In a matter of weeks, a two-year program to replace water meters at all Westland homes and businesses will be getting underway.

The Westland City Council recently got an update on the nearly \$10 million project, which will replace approxi-

mately 36,000 meters, including 26,000 residential units. Plans call for commercial meters to be replaced first, followed by residential work.

The project is a significant investment for the city, which will be replacing meters that are past the end of their useful life, said Wayne-Westland Department of Public Services Director Ramzi El-Gharib.

"We can't get parts for the meters from the manufacturers anymore," he said.

The exterior reading devices are also being replaced as part of the project. The faulty readers are causing the city to estimate or do re-reads on about 7,000 water bills per month, El-Gharib said.

"This is a state-of-the-art system. It has been tested. It works," he said, adding Livonia, Canton, Taylor and Bir-

mingham are among the communities already using the system.

The new meters are digital, have no moving parts and come with a 20-year warranty, El-Gharib said. Any faulty meters will be replaced at no charge during the first 10 years and on a pro-rated basis during the second 10 years.

"The meters have been tested and are very reliable. We're getting the cream-of-

the-crop system," he said.

Remote reading

The new water meters will be read remotely, automatically sending data to towers at the Westland Police Department and at Middlebelt and Ann Arbor.

Etna Supply is the contractor providing the meters and remote readers, while Van-

See METERS, Page A2

Superheroes fighting to end cancer kick off Relay for Life

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

With decorations featuring the Hulk, Wolverine and Spider-Man, it was a gathering of superheroes as Westland-Wayne Relay for Life officially kicked off.

"Thank you so much for joining us and other superheroes," said event chairperson Carol Nelius, speaking to the crowd gathered at Westland City Hall.

Last year over 440 people participated in the American Cancer Society event, raising nearly \$77,000. With an \$80,000 goal this year, the Westland-Wayne Relay is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, in the Farmers Market Pavilion.

Along with supporting cancer patients and caregivers, Relay remembers those lost to cancer and features a special lap for survivors.

A nearly five-year breast cancer survivor, Kathy Graham recounted getting her diagnosis at her regular annual examination.

"I was told to return for an ultrasound of a suspicious mass. I never suspected cancer," Graham said. "They called me into a conference room and were talking about a biopsy, getting a surgeon and a plastic surgeon. They asked if I had any questions. I think you go into shock when you hear it (the diagnosis)."

During the time since she was diagnosed and undergoing treatment, Graham said she lost several family members to cancer.

"I consider myself the

See RELAY, Page A2



Westland Jaycees team member Andy Beresford and the littlest hero, his son Percy, gather at the Relay for Life kick-off held in Westland.

Wayne Rec offering refunds, discounts on memberships

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A couple weeks after the aquatic center was closed, the Wayne Community Center is offering pro-rated membership refunds and discounted memberships.

The recreation and fitness areas are open at the community — the ice arena has been closed since last year. The meeting and banquet rooms are also still available for rental.

For those wanting a membership refund, Wayne Interim Parks and Recreation Director Juan Bradford said the refund will be pro-rated based on when the membership was purchased and when it expires. The refund will not be based on a percent credited due to the pool closing.

At last week's council meeting, Bradford announced a March Madness discounted membership program. A one-month membership — which is \$25 for Wayne and Westland residents, \$30 for non-residents — would be discounted \$5.

The one-year memberships — \$225 for residents and \$260 for non-residents — would be discounted \$10. A \$15 discount is offered for a husband/wife annual membership at \$396 resident/\$470 non-resident rate. The discounts are available through March 31.

"We will have the same price for memberships (without a pool). We are trying to keep business coming through the doors," Bradford said.

The council will have to make decisions regarding the budget deficit in the current year and the projected shortfall of more than \$2 million in upcoming year. Those decisions include the recreation center, which runs at a large deficit.

Mayor James Hawley questioned whether any council members had a problem with selling memberships in light of the decisions council will need to make that could further impact the community center.

See REC, Page A2

2 Westland voter precincts forced to move for primary

Voters in two Westland precincts will have to cast their ballots at a new location but only for the Aug. 4 primary election.

Hayes Elementary School in the Livonia School District houses Westland precincts 30 and 31.

However, for the primary election the school will be closed for renovations.

As a result, the two precincts will move to Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail, for the primary election.

For the general election in November, the precincts will

be back at Hayes, located at 30600 Louise.

"Two and a half years ago, Livonia Public Schools approved millage to work on their buildings," Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof said.

"Last year, Cooper (pre-

incts) went to Hayes. This is the opposite."

As required by state law, precinct 30 and 31 voters will receive new voter identification cards for the single election, Schoof said, and again for November as they return to their original precinct.



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Westland woman, 22, dies after traffic accident

A Westland woman was killed Tuesday in a traffic accident in Commerce Township.

McKenna Rae Kreischer, 22, was driving a 2003 Ford Ranger southbound on Welch Road near Stony Lane just after 2 p.m. Kreischer lost control of her vehicle on a slushy roadway and went left of the center line, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

The truck slid sideways into the path of a northbound 2009 Chevrolet Silverado driven by a 45-year old White Lake man.

Kreischer was treated at the scene by the Commerce Township Fire Department and

Community EMS. She was transported to Huron Valley Hospital where she later succumbed to her injuries.

The driver of the Silverado was also transported to Huron Valley Hospital and is listed in stable condition.

Alcohol does not appear to be a factor, according to the sheriff's department, and seat belts were worn by all parties in this crash.

The accident remains under investigation.

The sheriff's department Crash Reconstruction Unit is assisting deputies from the Commerce Township Substation with the investigation

METERS

Continued from Page A1

guard Utility Service has been hired to do the installations.

The city would be divided into six sections — two commercial and four residential. Once the commercial meter installation is complete, El-Gharib said work would begin at homes in the northeast part of Westland.

Residents would be sent post-cards asking them to call and set up an appointment for the meter installations, which are mandatory. If the resident doesn't respond, door hangers would be left and an installer might knock on the door.

Installers would not only have marked vehicles, uniforms and photo identification, but customers

would also be able to look on the city website to see a photo of the installer. The police department could also do the same type of verification.

Westland's website will provide information about the meter replacements, including frequently asked questions, online installation scheduling and a map showing where in the city the installers are working.

Accurate, reliable

By providing the city with more accurate and reliable meter reads, Finance Director Steve Smith said the system will mesh with the new billing software.

"The more you estimate, the less accurate the bill. When the bills go out estimated, we get calls to schedule reads," Smith said. "DPS goes out and manually reads

the meter, then puts it into the computer. That causes uneven billing (periods)."

On the next water bill following the new meter/reader installation, Smith said there will be a line reflecting the final read on the old meter plus the reading from the new meter.

Commercial water customers should be getting installations by the end of the month or early April.

Westland has done bond sales to generate \$17 million that will, in part, be used to pay for the city-wide water meter replacement program. Other projects will include improvements to the Inkster Road and Middlebelt lift stations.

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REC

Continued from Page A1

"I don't see any problem. I like to go up there (to the community center)," Councilman Albert Damitio said.

Councilman Anthony

Miller commented that he was concerned the city was sending out mixed messages regarding the community center because it wasn't clear what will happen with the facility.

"We're not up here thinking we will close the community center. It's a

viable operation there," Damitio said. "We will keep operating it. We don't want to send mixed messages that we are closing it. We will be dealing with a lot of issues."

"Maybe we should stop picking up trash. We've got to make a deci-

sion there. Come on, mayor," Councilman David James added.

Damitio and James were among the council members who didn't support closing the pool.

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RELAY

Continued from Page A1

lucky one — that I made it. Advances have been made in treatment," Graham said. "The number of survivors will continue to get larger and larger. We have gathered to fight cancer — you are all superheroes."

Relay for Life is a family affair for Graham who has a team, Kathy's Cancer Kicking Krew. Her husband of 47 years Ron is involved and one their daughters, Rhonda, heads the 2015 Fund the Cure effort.

"I get a great feeling (participating in Relay). It's for my wife and those who have cancer," said Ron Graham, who lost a brother and two sisters-in-law to cancer. "This will be my fifth year. The people are super friendly in this — it's like we have been friends for years. Everyone has their own



TOM BEAUDOIN

Cancer survivor Kathy Graham, from Kathy's Cancer Kicking Krew, talks about her journey surviving beating cancer.

chael Cook talked about the Road to Recovery Program that matches volunteer drivers with cancer patients needing rides to treatment.

"Some people call for one ride, others for 25 rides. People are too sick to drive or family members need to work," Cook said. "We have over 100 drivers to serve nine counties. We provided 4,227 rides to 417 patients last year."

In Wayne County, she said the Road to Recovery provided 705 rides to treatment for 57 patients. But more drivers are needed, she said, because 1,700 rides were requested.

For more information Westland-Wayne Relay for Life visit <http://main.acevents.org/site/> or the Westland Wayne Relay for Life Facebook page.

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story and each one is different."

Along with inviting more fundraising teams, participants and sponsors, Nelius also encouraged everyone to join the Cancer Action Network,

which works to make cancer research a national priority.

To highlight a program helped by Relay fundraising, American Cancer Society Patient Program Manager Ra-

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Community Choice Credit Union breaks down banking barriers with new Member Center

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

It used to be customers had to go to two or three people to take care of their financial transactions when visiting Community Choice Credit Union in Livonia, stopping at the teller window to make a deposit and then meeting with another employee if they wanted to open a new account or take out a loan.

Now, they can go to one personal advisor, who can handle everything for them.

Community Choice held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday for its newly renovated Member Center at 15420 Farmington Road.

"It's very innovative for this industry," said branch manager Holli Kerkhof, adding that Community Choice is the first financial institution in Michigan to break down the physical barriers of traditional banking in favor of a more relationship-focused concept with low-profile kiosks.

The Livonia Member Center, which underwent seven months of renovations, is one of three Community Choice locations debuting the new concept this month. The others are in Milford and Northville.

"Most members aren't going to their credit union to deposit a check or make a transaction anymore — that's all being done online or on a smartphone app," said Philip Cooper, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Community Choice Credit Union. "Instead, they're coming to us for personal financial advice. Our new Member Centers pro-



Credit Union branch manager Holli Kerkhof welcomes the morning crowd.

mote this type of relationship-focused environment."

Kerkhof said the turnout for the ribbon-cutting ceremony was great. "We had incredible support from the community," she said, including visits from many from the business community.

In addition to self-serve kiosks, customers can help themselves to free coffee and, on some days, free popcorn.

Community Choice invites the entire community to an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21. The day will include food, prizes, giveaways, as well as several promotions, including \$100 for new members who sign up for checking and direct deposit and \$100 for financing a vehicle with Community Choice.

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Credit Union vice chair Brian Wilson, Member Center Manager Holli Kerkhof, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, and President and CEO Robert Bava cut the ceremonial ribbon.



Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey offers a few remarks. Chamber of Commerce President Dan West is at left.



People gathered at the Community Choice Credit Union to celebrate its new design.

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Livonia school chief a semifinalist for state superintendent job

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa is one of six semifinalists for state superintendent.

The state board of education last Tuesday narrowed a field of 54 applicants for a successor to State Superintendent Mike Flanagan, who will vacate the position by July 1.

Liepa is expected to be interviewed this week.

Liepa said becoming state superintendent has not been a long-term goal of his.

But the job opening is an opportunity that would give him more of a voice in Lansing on education policy — his pas-

sion.

“That’s what this is all about,” he said.



Liepa

As LPS superintendent, Liepa has advocated in Lansing for funding for all Michigan students. Last spring, he was instrumental in the “Classrooms and Kids” budget proposal that would have redirected more money into classrooms without raising taxes.

Livonia Public Schools board president Colleen Burton said she is not surprised Liepa is one of the semifinalists.

“I would have been shocked if he weren’t,” she said, citing his accomplishments at keeping LPS “in the black through a nightmare of school funding.”

She said she found out just recently he was going for the job and has mixed emotions about it.

“On one hand we would be thrilled to have a gentleman of his caliber leading the state,” she said. “At the same time, he would leave enormous shoes to fill because he has set the bar so high.”

She said if he gets the position, Livonia students will still benefit “because he can continue to do terrific things for Livonia and all kids.”

Liepa said he is honored to be one of the semifinalists, but he remains as dedicated and committed to Livonia as he has always been. “This is my home. I’m happy to work here until retirement,” he said, if the LPS board allows.

Liepa has been with LPS, one of the top 10 biggest districts in the state, since 1994. He has been superintendent since 2003. The board in December extended his contract by another year to June 30, 2018.

Before coming to LPS, Liepa was Wayne-Westland Community Schools assistant superintendent for business and operations after joining that district as supervisor of ac-

counting. From 1984 to 1987, he was a Public Accountant for Plante and Moran.

The other candidates are: Randy Davis, superintendent, Marshall Public Schools; Alan Ingram, deputy commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Vickie Markavitch, superintendent, Oakland Schools, intermediate school district for Oakland County; Scott Menzel, superintendent, Washtenaw Intermediate School District; and Brian Whiston, superintendent, Dearborn Public Schools.

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Authors introduce their new book at Edison Elementary Family Night

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Three years ago, Joe Kelley and Nick Rokicki introduced their first children’s book, *Pete the Popcorn*. The authors were at Edison Elementary School in Westland on Monday to introduce their latest work, *The Ideaparnockolis*, to kick off March Is Reading Month.

Kelley handled the PowerPoint, while Rokicki read the book to students and their families who had gathered at the school for a family reading and game night. The evening included the story telling, cupcakes and prizes in the cafeteria and literacy games provided by the Family Resource Center in the library.

“This was a very good turnout for an evening program,” Swanson said. “It was a big nighttime event and a big turnout. It was truly a community event with families coming from throughout the district. We had at least 70 kids and 50 families. We had a high number were from Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth-Canton.”

Kelley is a Westland native who attended Edison and identified himself as “an Eagle,”

the school’s mascot, while Rokicki lives in Toledo. They have collaborated on 10 children’s books, the latest being *The Ideaparnockolis* and their first chapter book, *The Trashy Hootenanny*, which they released simultaneously on March 2 “to reach as many children as possible.”

“This is our first time reading this out loud to kids with adults in the room,” Rokicki said.

Kelley told his audience that “creativity is cool and art is your imagination.” The two men have read their stories to 100,000 children in 25 states. Their latest book is a “fantastical picture book in the style of Dr. Seuss. *The Ideaparnockolis* is the story of “imaginary creatures who store ideas inside coconuts.” It was inspired by a friend of Kelley’s who works at a Starbucks in Naples, Fla.

“A woman with bags that he thought was homeless would buy coffee and pay with a \$50 bill,” Kelley said. “She’d say she was going to take her brain and put it in a coconut and put it in a non-coconut tree.”

The pages of their books have “secrets” on them. The



Author Nick Rokicki reads “The Ideaparnockolis” to youngsters at Edison Elementary School’s Family Reading Night.

images that lead youngsters to their other books, including *Gilbert the Grasshopper*, which transitions readers to chapter books and their “first full-fledged, 14,000-word chapter book, *The Trashy Hootenanny*.”

Joining Kelley and Rokicki for the program was Megan Jurek, a seventh-grade middle school student from Toledo who illustrated *Hootenanny*. She told students she practices drawing every day and that it

wasn’t hard to work with the authors. The challenge, she said, was finding a picture of maggots and drawing them.

“It feels great to do the illustrations,” she said. “I was shocked when they asked me to illustrate the book.”

“It’s great to have a child illustrator because she’s able to inspire other kids,” Kelley said.

Pete the Popcorn deals with bullying, and the authors knew

they had hit a chord when they started visiting schools and teachers and parents would come up to them.

“At P.D. Graham (Elementary in Westland), a mom came up crying because her son was overweight,” Rokicki said. “We always try to weave personal stories into our books.”

Rokicki admits that he thought *Pete the Popcorn* would be a “one-time hobby,” but once it was published, “everything snowballed from there.”

Carrie Jamrog was there with her daughter Midori to buy copies of the books, especially *Gilbert*, which features her grandmother, Cindy Stewart, as the little girl. Kelley went to school with Stewart and they’re good friends, he said.

“She (Stewart) was very excited to have that happen to her,” Jamrog said.

Midori likes to read books with her buddy at school and picked out a story about animals. Her favorite animal is a cat, she said.

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Livonia students raise hundreds for Blessings in a Backpack

Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia has some very hard-working friends. Last month, two Livonia fifth-graders, Natalie Wilson and Rayna Olver, were each given \$20 and challenged by their church group to increase the money and do something good with it for others.

According to the mother of one of the girls, Jan Wilson, the girls discussed several ideas, and finally settled on having a Penny War at their school, Riley Upper Elementary, to support Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia.

Flyers went home to parents of students in four fifth-grade classes. Pennies were counted as positive, while silver coins and bills were negative.

This clever method challenged the students to bring in money other than pennies to put in other classes' containers

in order to decrease their total amount. It was, after all, a competition among the classrooms. And in two weeks they raised \$750. Natalie and Rayna, the two girls who started it all, each put back in their \$20, plus another \$150 that they earned. "It was a great experience," Jan Wilson said.

Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia is a community-based program run by volunteers to address the problem of weekend childhood hunger in the Livonia Public School System. Each week backpacks are filled with six meals, consisting of foods such as tuna, chicken, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, oatmeal, fruit juices, soup, beef ravioli, canned fruit and granola bars, by volunteers and distributed Fridays to the participating "at-risk" students at Garfield Elementary. The



Natalie Wilson, left, and Rayna Olver raised \$750 with a Penny War at their school to help address the problem of weekend childhood hunger in the Livonia Public Schools system.

program plans to add another one or two elementary schools next

fall. To learn more, to donate, or to volunteer,

visit Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia's Facebook page or connect with

BIAB-Livonia through Twitter or Instagram (/BIAB_Livonia).

Local residents among new state police recruits

A Livonia man is among 85 prospective troopers who reported this week to the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing for the first day of the 128th Trooper Recruit School.

For the next 21 weeks, between wake-up at 5 a.m. and lights-out at 10 p.m., the recruits will receive training in firearms, water safety, defensive tactics, patrol techniques, report writing, ethics, first aid, criminal law, crime scene processing and precision driving.

"The start of a new recruit school is an exciting time for the department," Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the MSP, stated in a release. "It is our hope these recruits will successfully meet and ex-



Several local students just began school with the Michigan State Police.

ceed the challenges they will face during these next few months and come July, we will welcome each of them to the ranks of the Michigan State Police."

In addition to Tyler

Cotter of Livonia, other recruits from surrounding areas include Christopher Proctor of Canton, Thomas Markey of Farmington Hills, Andrew Tower of South Lyon, Nicholas Talbot of

White Lake and Austin Wonfor of Wixom.

Recruits who successfully complete recruit school will graduate on July 24.

In order to be selected to attend the 128th Trooper Recruit School, recruits had to pass a stringent selection process that included a physical fitness test, background investigation and hiring interview.

Since 2011, the state police hired 430 state troopers, bringing the total number of troopers statewide to 1,023. The MSP is actively recruiting for future recruit schools.

To learn more about a career with the MSP, interested candidates should visit www.michigan.gov/mspjobs or follow the recruits' blog at <http://msprecruits.wordpress.com>.

Colbeck to hold March office hour in Livonia

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck and District Manager Penny Crider will conduct a monthly office hour from 11 a.m.

to noon Friday, March 20, in Livonia.

The office hour will be held at the Livonia Civic Senior Center 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.

Colbeck represents Michigan's 7th State Senate District, which includes Canton Town-

ship, Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Wayne.

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



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Community Opportunity Center celebrates 50th year

Randy Lewis, a national trailblazer in providing jobs for adults with special needs, will be the keynote speaker April 18 in Livonia at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Community Opportunity Center (COC).

COC, a Livonia-based nonprofit organization that provides housing and support for persons with developmental disabilities in Western Wayne County, will celebrate its 50th year of service beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center in Livonia.

Lewis is author of *No Greatness Without Goodness*, a book named by Fast Company as one of the "Ten Books You Need

To Read This Year," which describes how a father's love changed a company and sparked a movement to employ persons with disabilities, many of whom had never been offered employment.

Under Lewis' leadership as senior vice president, Walgreens grew from 1,500 to 8,000 stores. During that time Lewis introduced an inclusive model in Walgreens distribution centers that resulted in 10 percent of its workforce being staffed by persons with disabilities — employees

who are held to the same standards as those without disabilities and receive the same pay and benefits.

"The success of this initiative has changed the lives of thousands of people and serves as a model for other employers in the United States and around the world," says Lewis, whose program serves as a model for other companies in the United States and abroad including large employers such as Proctor & Gamble, Lowe's, UPS, Marks & Spencer in the United Kingdom, Natura in Brazil and Ica in Sweden.

The dreamers who helped form COC 50 years ago when the institutions were closing

and emptying its rooms, creating a critical need for housing for persons with developmental disabilities, also will be honored at the April 18 celebration.

A dinner of filet mignon and chicken del signore will be served. Non-alcoholic beverages are included in the ticket price of \$40 per person and a cash bar will be available. After the program there will be dancing to the music of The Relic Band, a classic and modern rock band.

"This is an exciting event as COC celebrates this very special milestone in serving adults with development disabilities," says Denise King, executive director of COC, which is head-

quartered in Livonia. "We look forward to the opportunity to recognize those citizens who stepped forward and helped provide a very important need — housing — when it was such a critical need."

COC has homes for almost 90 persons with developmental disabilities in Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City, Redford plus apartments and other residential settings in Westland, Canton and other communities in Western Wayne County.

Among those expected to attend will be Pat Babcock, who was state director of mental health at the time of COC's founding, and helped lead the reform movement to end the institutional living

style relegated for special needs citizens and offer them the opportunity to live in residential settings with the comfort of home. COC's Plymouth House was one of 24 group homes initially opened in Michigan under Babcock's leadership.

Community Opportunity Center was founded in 1965 and began with one home. Today, COC comprises almost two dozen homes in northwestern Wayne County, including houses and apartments owned by COC, rented or leased homes, and a condominium owned by a family member for the benefit of a loved one. COC's primary aim is to encourage greater independence for each individual.



Lewis

She did what? Area firefighter climbs Ren Cen stairs — fast

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton Firefighter Maureen Stoecklein climbed 70 flights of stairs to the top of the Detroit Renaissance Center in just 13 minutes and 49 seconds.

She did it wearing 70 pounds of firefighter gear.

That placed Stoecklein first among 25 female firefighters — and 33rd among all 350 firefighters across southeast Michigan — who climbed Detroit's tallest skyscraper during the Fight for Air Climb charity event for the American Lung Association.

"I work out quite a bit, but I didn't really



CANTON FIREFIGHTERS

Canton Firefighter Maureen Stoecklein after she climbed 70 stairs inside the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

know what to expect," said Stoecklein, a Westland resident. "It was hot because we had our gear on. I just put my head down and went. I knew a slow, steady pace would be the way to go."

Stoecklein was among a team of eight Canton firefighters who climbed the Renaissance Center last Sunday, posting an average time of 24 minutes.

Canton raised \$2,415 for the American Lung Association. Jessie Jimenez-Schlicht, development director for the Madison Heights-based chapter, said area firefighters were among some 1,600 participants who raised over \$344,000.

From Canton, Stoecklein joined Firefighters Duane Lowe, Ryan Molina, Jim Harrison and Brian Switzer, Capt. Nick Lombardi and Kevin Henderson, and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein, Maureen's husband. "I'm incredibly proud of all the participants,"

Fire Chief Joshua Meier said. "They worked hard. They trained hard and they did it for charity."

Meier commended Maureen Stoecklein's strong showing in the event.

"That's a huge accomplishment for her," he said. "The department is incredibly proud of her efforts for achieving that."

Stoecklein, in her 15th year as a Canton firefighter, formerly worked as a dietician for a cardiac rehabilitation facility. She understands the importance of staying healthy.

"I work out every day and do yoga," she said. "More recently I've been doing strength training. I feel it's important for me in this job as a firefighter to stay physically fit."

"The climb was great camaraderie for our department," Stoecklein said, "and I am proud to represent Canton and the fire department with such a great group of coworkers."

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

Wish you were here



Mary, Gwen, Madalynn and Michael Kinney vacationed with their Livonia Observer in the Bahamas for mid-winter break.

Unwanted electronics can benefit Michigan Humane Society

Looking for something to do with that old smartphone, laptop or tablet? Are old electronic devices collecting dust and taking up space in your home?

Now you can clear out the clutter and recycle those unused items while also helping homeless animals at the Michigan Humane Society. Plymouth-based Tech Karma is collecting used electronic devices at all MHS locations, recycling them and making a donation for each item to MHS.

Donation boxes are located in the lobby of the Berman Center on Newburgh Road in Westland and at MHS locations in Detroit and Rochester Hills, as well

as Petco in Sterling Heights. Items collected do not have to be in working condition. All electronics will be professionally cleaned and data cleared.

Items collected for recycling include:

- » Cell phones, smartphones and PDAs.
- » Audio/Video equipment — stereo equipment, video cameras, camcorders, digital cameras, VCRs.
- » Medical and lab equipment.
- » Computers — laptops, desktops and tablets.
- » Circuit boards.
- » Rechargeable dry cell batteries (nickel metal hydride, lithium ion).
- » Cable and wires —

power strips, cords.

- » Servers and IT equipment.
- » Communications equipment.
- » Computer accessories.
- » MP3 players.

The Michigan Humane Society is the largest and oldest animal welfare organization in the state. MHS works to end companion animal homelessness, provide the highest quality service and compassion to the animals entrusted to its care, and to be a leader in promoting humane values.

For more information, call 1-866-MHUMANE (648-6263) or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

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.

MINERAL AND LAPIDARY AUCTION

Time/date: 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.

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 sur-

See CALENDAR, Page A10

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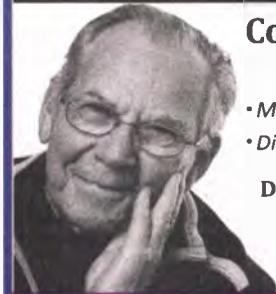
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Maundy Thursday - 12:10p.m. - Holy Communion

Good Friday - 12:00 - 3:00p.m. Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday - Festival Choral Eucharist - 8:30 & 11:00a.m.

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File an amended tax return when errors are found

Q: Dear Rick: I just had my 2014 tax return prepared and my tax preparer noticed a mistake on my 2013 return. It dealt with the sale of a mutual fund that I had owned for years. My preparer used the wrong cost basis so as opposed to reporting a gain I reported a loss. My tax preparer recommended that I immediately file an amended return. My thoughts are that since I have not heard from the IRS, why do anything. If the IRS



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

contacts me in the future I will deal with it then.

A: It makes sense to file an amended return. As a taxpayer it is your responsibility to file fair and accurate returns. As a result, when you discover an error, whether it's in your favor or not, it is your responsibility to

correct the error. The fact that the IRS has not discovered the error does not mean that it won't — particularly in your situation, where the issue was with the basis. In the past, basis was not reported to the IRS and the likelihood of discovering an error was minimal. However, that is no longer the case. Over the last few years, basis has been reported to the IRS. The IRS will discover the error. It is always better for you, the taxpayer, to correct the

error before the IRS gets involved. If the IRS discovers the error, in addition to interest that you would have to pay, there is a greater likelihood that they will assess penalties. If you voluntarily report an error to the IRS, you have a greater chance of avoiding any penalties. In addition, if the IRS discovers the error, there's a chance it will look at past years' tax information, which could lead to audits.

Trust me — no one wants an audit from the IRS. When it comes to mistakes on tax returns, the issue isn't whether or not a taxpayer should file an amended return, but rather, what are their chances of being caught. That is a difficult question. However, over the last few years more information has been reported to the IRS. The chance of the IRS discovering the error is much greater than it was in the past.

I believe it isn't whether the IRS will catch you, the real issue is your responsibility as a citizen — to file fair and accurate returns and to correct any errors that are discovered. When it comes to taxes, those that play by the rules tend to sleep better at night. Good luck.
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond, email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rhino will mark his 20th anniversary as a professional wrestler with a match to benefit Westland's Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post.

Rhino wrestles at VFW fundraiser on March 12

It has been 20 years since the man known as Rhino made his first professional wrestling match. Starting off using the name Terry Richards before becoming more widely known as Rhino, the Dearborn Heights native worked his way through local wrestling promotions on his way to national prominence and the WWE Hardcore Championship. Rhino is still wrestling and winning all over the country, appearing most recently on TV for the WWE's NXT division. His 20-year anniversary as a wrestler will be recognized at a pro wrestling exhibition to benefit the VFW on Thursday, March 12, at the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Hall at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, in Westland. Doors will open at 7 p.m. with matches starting at 7:30. Admission is \$5. Rhino's 20th anniversary match will be the main event, with his opponent being Tyson Dux, another seasoned competitor who has also performed in the WWE and with the national Ring of Honor promotion. Rhino has asked Gary

Woronchak, chairman of the Wayne County Commission, to accompany him at ringside for his milestone match. One of Rhino's first matches when he was starting his

career 20 years ago was for a wrestling promotion that Woronchak ran in Taylor. Ringside manager Truth Martini will accompany Tyson Dux at ringside.

The tag-team co-feature will match the Scarboni Brothers, who are also managed at ringside by Martini, against the team of D.B.A. and Malcolm Monroe III.

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Detroit Metro Airport holds volunteer recruitment fair

Want to learn how to become a Detroit Metro Airport customer service ambassador? How about sharing extra time with Wayne Main Street, the American Red Cross, Gleaners Food Bank, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy or Ann Arbor and Detroit Convention and Visitor.

On Friday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, Detroit Metropolitan Airport will be hosting a first-of-its-kind volunteer recruitment fair to provide information on how individuals with a

little extra time can find a worthwhile passion they enjoy, and help give back to their community.

The recruitment fair will be held at Detroit Metropolitan Airport's NOMADS building at 10100 Middlebelt, Romulus.

"We have a strong history of great partnerships here," Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton said. "The airport is a community, and we pull in travelers, customers, employees, and volunteers from all over. The nature of what we do is helping facilitate connections — what

better place to illustrate that we are stronger when we work together and that there are tremendous opportunities to give back and help contribute to many worthwhile causes throughout our region?"

Twenty-five local organizations will be participating in the recruitment fair, and each will have a table and representatives on hand to answer questions from potential volunteers. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the groups listed below, understand more about their organi-

zations and learn about volunteer opportunities and how to get involved.

In addition to Wayne Main Street, the other organizations include the Airport Ambassador Volunteer Program, American Red Cross, Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau, the AYUSA - Academic Year, U.S.A. - nonprofit Foreign Exchange student program, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Romulus Animal Shelter, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, Detroit River-

front Conservancy, Detroit Zoological Society, Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry, Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, Freedom Center, Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter, Gabrielle's Angels, Girl Scouts of SE Michigan, Gleaner's Food Bank, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Old Newsboys Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, Paws With a Cause, RSVP - Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Stop the Violence, The Parade Company and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/International Wildlife Refuge Alliance.

"We are always looking for opportunities to recruit new volunteer customer service ambassadors here at the airport," DTW Customer Service Manager Fran Wood said. "Finding passionate and committed volunteers is our challenge; but there wasn't a shared local venue or platform to find new recruits, so we thought we would create one. Many of the organizations we have worked with over the years thought it was a great idea as well, and the response has been wonderful."

Relay For Life of Livonia kicks off, wins award

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Livonia held its 17th annual Kickoff Party on Tuesday at One Under Banquet Hall in Livonia.

The program honored cancer survivors and caregivers and featured the Society's mission to save lives from cancer.

It also celebrated Relay For Life of Livonia's success as winner of the Southeast Michigan, Territory B, Pack the Track Challenge. Relay For Life of Livonia had the largest percentage of growth in participants signed up online between Jan. 26 and Feb. 3, growing from 70 participants to 251 — a 259-percent increase.

Guest speaker Jennifer Nagy, a cancer survivor who started the very first Relay For Life of Livonia in 1998, talked about the American Cancer Society's Cancer Resource Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

This year's Relay for Life of Livonia will take place on Saturday, June 13, at Bentley Field. Relay For Life is a community event where teams and individuals camp out



Relay For Life of Livonia won the Southeast Michigan, Territory B, Pack the Track Challenge with the largest percentage of growth in participants signed up online between Jan. 26 and Feb. 3, growing from 70 participants to 251.

at a school, park or fair-ground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team has at least one participant on the track at all times and participates in fundraisers that supports the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives and finish the fight against cancer. Four

million people participated in more than 6,000 events worldwide in 2014.

Last year, 400 people participated in Livonia's event and raised more than \$111,000.

"The Relay For Life movement unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer,

remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all," said Liz Evans, the American Cancer Society's community manager for the city of Livonia. "This is our community's opportunity to fight back against cancer."

Visit relayforlife.org/livonia to learn more. Or contact Liz Evans at Elizabeth.Evans@cancer.org or 248-663-3452.



From left, survivor Rose Cerroni, with committee members Simone Lloyd-Smith and Linda Mitchell.

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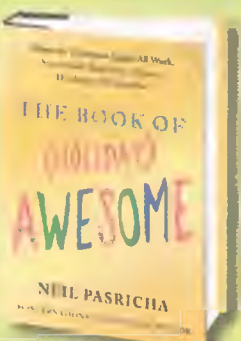


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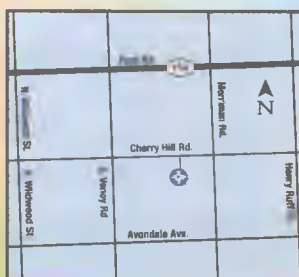


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Residents react to Ford Road traffic solution

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Linda Long remembers Haggerty as a dirt road when she and husband Amos bought their Canton home 35 years ago.

Now, traffic congestion has gotten so bad, she said, they have to take detours driving from the I-275 interchange to their home off Haggerty, south of Ford Road.

"We're right in the thick of it," Long said.

Most times, the Longs don't even try to turn left from westbound Ford onto Haggerty. It's too frustrating, too dangerous. So, they use the IKEA parking lot as a detour and circle back to southbound Haggerty.

Linda Long was encouraged Wednesday evening after she learned of \$8.7 million in road improvements that the Michigan Department of Transportation and Wayne County plan to make this year to one of the state's most accident-prone areas, used by 50,000 motorists a day.

Specifically, Long supports plans to lengthen the left-turn lane from Ford onto southbound Haggerty and to have what Mike Bellini,



DARRELL CLEM

Longtime Canton resident Linda Long is hopeful the Ford Road work, intended to ease traffic congestion, will make it easier to get to her home.

MDOT transportation engineer, said will be a continuous third lane along westbound Ford from Lotz to Lilley.

"I think it will help," Long said, as MDOT and Wayne County formally unveiled a plan to help ease traffic woes during a public meeting at Summit on the Park. "I think it's an awesome idea. It's a huge plus."

Canton resident Ron Fisher Jr., among 50 people who came out to see project drawings and talk with transportation officials, said he welcomes the plans, but ideally he would prefer a

new interchange at I-275 and Cherry Hill or, at a minimum, a service drive along the interstate.

"I pretty much liked everything I saw," Fisher said.

And while he realizes it's a separate issue, he said he remains worried about deteriorating conditions of subdivision streets in places such as Parkview Estates, off Palmer between Lilley and Sheldon, where he lives.

One major component of the latest road work involves paving Lotz, between Ford and Cherry



DARRELL CLEM

Local residents pore over plans to improve Ford Road traffic congestion.

Hill, and giving motorists another north-south route to pull traffic away from the Ford-Haggerty area. The \$5 million county project is expected to begin in June and end in November.

Ronald Agacinski, Wayne County director of engineering, said the effort includes building a three-lane paved road, smoothing-out curves, installing sidewalks and eliminating roadside ditches.

"All the ditches are going away," he said. "It's a safety hazard."

Bellini said MDOT's \$3.7 million project along Ford could begin as early as April and be complet-

ed by late August. He said motorists can expect detours and sporadic, staggered closings of I-275/Ford ramps on weekends.

According to MDOT, the Ford Road work involves the following:

» A continuous, third westbound lane from Lotz to Lilley, which Bellini said should help to ease traffic congestion.

» Resurface the stretch of Ford between Lotz Road and Marlowe Street, which is west of Morton Taylor near the Rusty Nail Lounge.

» Convert right-turn-only lanes for eastbound and westbound Ford at the Haggerty intersec-

tion into a shared turn/through lane by modifying pavement markings, signs and traffic signals.

» Extend the right-turn lane for eastbound Ford at Haggerty.

» Extend the left-turn lane from westbound Ford onto southbound Haggerty, hopefully easing traffic problems for residents such as the Longs.

» Add pavement markings to improve turn lanes from the northbound and southbound I-275 exit ramps onto Ford.

» While having three through lanes on westbound Ford, also maintain a dedicated lane for westbound Ford motorists to enter the loop ramp onto southbound I-275.

» Add sidewalks along eastbound and westbound Ford Road to connect those already there, improving access to places such as the I-275 Metro Trail that runs alongside the interstate.

» Provide an optional second exit lane at the southbound I-275 exit ramp to Ford Road, allowing motorists to more easily exit the interstate.

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734-972-0919

MDOT officials say long-term fix to Ford Road woes on hold

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Funding appears elusive for a massive, long-range plan to ease traffic problems by converting Ford Road into a boulevard in Canton, officials say.

Michigan Department of Transportation officials have called the boulevard plan the best fix for traffic congestion, though they say smaller-scale efforts to improve Ford Road this year should provide some relief.

Gorette Yung, manager of MDOT's Transportation Service Center in Taylor, said Ford, eventually, could be transformed into a boulevard from the I-275 interchange west to Sheldon — a plan officials have singled out among several earlier proposals.

The plan would separate opposing lanes of traffic with a median, eliminate left turns at major intersections, install boulevard-style turnaround lanes and improve intersections and lanes.

The problem for Ford, much like roads across Michigan, comes down to

money.

"We don't have the money for it," Yung said.

Her remarks came Wednesday evening as MDOT and Wayne County had a joint meeting in Canton to unveil first-phase Ford projects this year, such as having a continuous third lane on westbound Ford from Lotz to Lilley and lengthening turn lanes near the I-275/Ford interchange.

Earlier Wednesday, Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy mentioned the first-phase improvements during his State of the Township address, but he voiced frustration over a long-term fix that local officials have sought for more than a decade.

Though grateful for this year's work, LaJoy said the bigger fix has proved frustrating, despite two MDOT studies he said have totaled nearly \$1.5 million.

Moreover, he said Canton officials have been rejected six times by federal officials for Ford-fixing grant money from the TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, program.

"We are not giving up," LaJoy said, citing yet a seventh round of applications for TIGER money.

LaJoy said federal transportation officials have allocated over \$4.1 billion for the first six rounds of TIGER money. Canton has sought \$20 million or more for Ford Road.

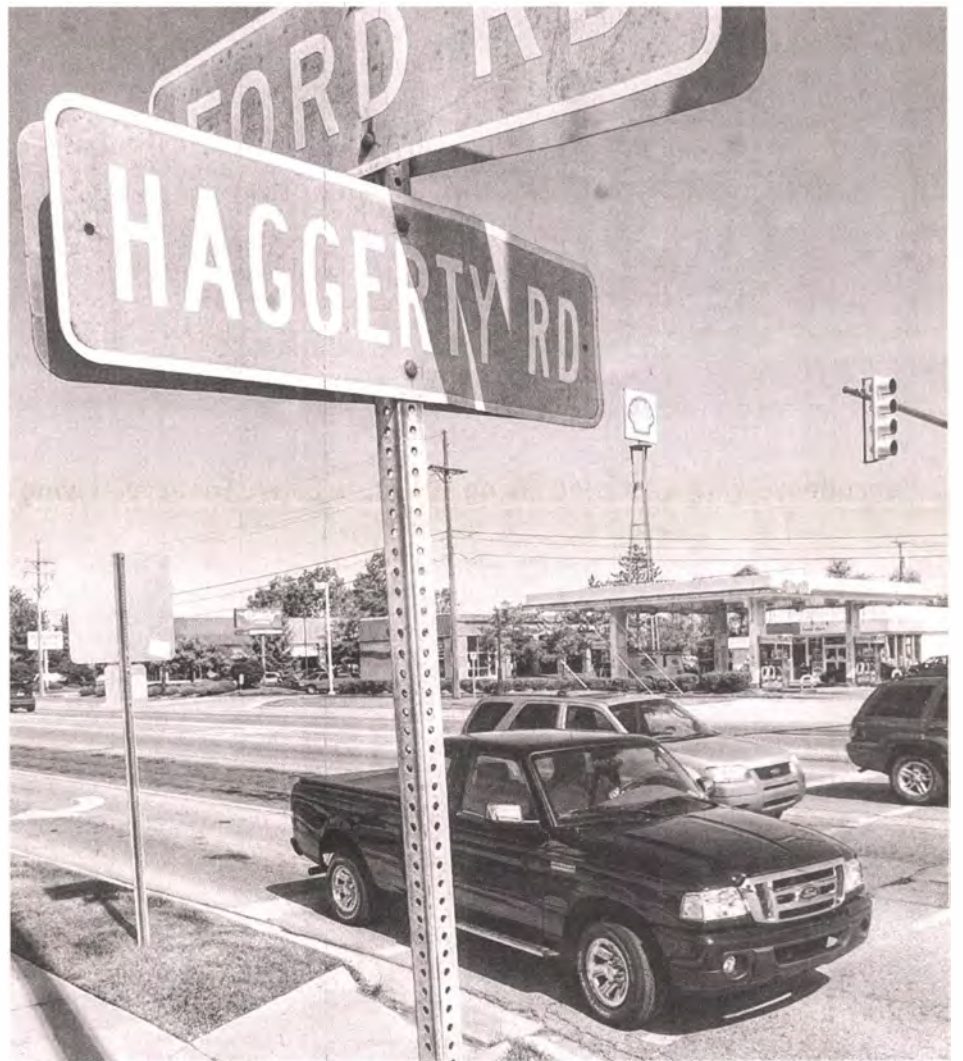
"We are determined to get our hands on some of those funds," LaJoy said.

He recently went to Washington, D.C., with a delegation from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and, while there, pushed for a Ford Road fix with legislators. He said he was assured by U.S. Rep. David Trott, R-Michigan, that Canton's traffic problems and potential solution "are a top priority" for him.

After six rejections, LaJoy and others are hopeful the latest TIGER round will be the lucky seven.

"As they say," LaJoy said with a shrug during his State of the Township address, "the seventh time's the charm."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State officials say money for a larger fix to the Ford/I-275/Haggerty area isn't available.

DIA's traveling art classroom is headed to Madonna University's campus

The Detroit Institute of Arts is bringing its traveling art classroom to Madonna University, *DIA Away: Think Like an Artist*, on Thursday,

March 19.

Visitors will discover the way artists think, and they will also be able to use creative thinking skills at digital and

hands-on station in a vibrantly designed 53-foot trailer parked in the university's southeast parking lot, at I-96 and Levan Road, in Livonia.

The creative exploration space for people of all ages is open to guests from 1-4 p.m.

Area school children will visit the interactive

classroom throughout the day Friday, March 20. DIA Away is made possible with support from residents of Wayne, Oak-

land and Macomb counties.

For more information, call 734-432-5781 or visit www.madonna.edu.

LJAL Baseball & Softball Registration

**Walk-In
March 10th
7-8:30 pm
Dickenson Center
18000 Newburgh Road**

Boys & Girls Age 8-14
All Participants must live in Livonia
or attend Livonia Schools

For more information and to Pre-register:
www.LJAL.com

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
248-478-7860

WHEN PART IS MORE THAN WHOLE

Everyone has heard the adage that 'the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.' However, in arthritis it is possible that the part is greater than the sum of the whole.

To illustrate: doctors will see patients who ache throughout their body, have a difficult time arising and moving about in the a.m. and who are always fatigued. A person hearing such a story might believe that the patient is experiencing fibromyalgia. But doctors do physical examinations; that evaluation often reveals why the patient hurts so badly and is fatigued.

Ambulation reveals the patient has an impaired gait. Either a hip or knee is arthritic; at times the ankle or foot is at fault. It is the disturbance in gait, putting strain on the back, pelvis and even into the shoulders and neck that causes the patient to ache all over and always feel tired.

Then, the doctor's role is to establish which joint that is impaired i.e. the hip, knee, ankle or foot. Then he must obtain information by x-rays, MRI, joint fluid analysis or a trial of medication to determine the arthritic condition and its extent.

When the impaired joint again becomes whole, then the physician can re-access the patient's total pain. In most instances with knee or hip replaced, the patient finds the body has resolved its pain or it is minor enough to live with.

The same sequence holds for shoulder problems. Pain radiates down the arm, the patient assumes the cause is a pinched nerve in the neck when the impairment comes from a shoulder needing replacement. With successful shoulder surgery, the neck pain ends.

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DTE Energy, Consumers Energy sound alarm on impending energy shortfall

The state's two major electricity incumbents have told a House panel that the forced shuttering of coal-fired plants is creating a costly energy shortfall that could hit the wallets of those in the electric choice market the hardest.

Impending federal clean-air regulations and old age are forcing nine Michigan power plants to be mothballed in 2016, meaning DTE Energy and Consumers Energy will need to buy more power off the "grid."

Tim SPARKS, vice president of energy supply operations for Consumers Energy, and Irene Dimitry, vice president of business planning and development, compared the situation in the Lower Peninsula to the energy concerns facing the Upper Peninsula.

From their standpoint, Consumers and DTE are planning to have capacity for its existing companies, according to the Michigan Press Association's weekly Michigan Capitol Press Report.

But the 10 percent of Michigan electricity users who purchase power from one of the roughly six or seven choice providers are on their own if the price of power purchased off the regional pool — called the Midcontinent Independent System Operator or MISO — spikes from lower production and higher demand, they said.

As it stands now, MISO is trying to encourage operators to provide electricity for the grid to prevent potential spikes, Sparks said.

"These issues are real. They are urgent. And the time to address



Consumer's Energy J.R. Whiting Generating Complex on an 875-acre site along the Lake Erie shoreline in Erie is one of the smallest coal-fired plants in the company's fleet. It began producing electricity in 1952.

them is now," Dimitry said.

State policy

The comments in front of the House Energy Policy Committee kicked off discussion about a likely rewrite in the state's electricity policy in 2015 that will center around the future of the 10 percent cap on electric choice providers.

As in prior energy-policy discussions in 2008 and 2000, the two incumbent utilities claim the more the electricity market is opened up to competitors, the less certainty they have in the market and the less likely they'll invest in more electricity generation.

The choices, as the incumbents see it, are either getting rid of the state's electric choice program or creating a mechanism where choice customers — startled by the spiked rates from their provider — could return to the incumbent at a cost or not be allowed to return at all.

"We'll have resource issues because we're not planning for them to come back," Sparks

said.

Wayne Kuipers of Energy Choice Now and former vice chair of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee said the "scare tactics" the incumbent utilities are using are not new. If they truly are not preparing themselves for different alternatives in regards to the future of energy production, the aforementioned attitude is "dumb in every sense of the word."

The fact Michigan had one of the country's oldest generation fleets is not a big secret to anyone, and if federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations didn't shut down these aged plants in 2016, they would have gone away soon due to old age, Kuipers said.

"It's like crying fire in a crowded theater multiple times," Kuipers said. "At some point, people don't listen. The unfortunate thing is that with term limits you have some lawmakers who haven't heard this before ... there's nothing new here."

The truth is monopolies don't react well to change, Kuipers added. What needs to happen is

if the Michigan Public Service Commission believes more electric-generators are needed, all companies should be allowed to put in electric generation bids. If Consumers and DTE can produce electricity at the best price, they should have nothing to worry about.

"We need to explore our options here and try to provide the citizens of Michigan with the cheapest energy we can in a reliable fashion," he said.

Shortfall is 'significant'

Dimitry said the power shortfall coming in 2016 is significant. The three-gigawatt shortfall projected for 2016 is enough to provide power for 2.1 million homes for a year. That's about three times the size of the city of Detroit.

The shortfall will come through the estimated retirement of about 100 coal-fired generation units by spring 2016.

Alternative energy is an option, they said, but in a limited way. For example, all of the utility's wind turbines were at full capacity Feb. 24 due to the gusting winds. But that doesn't help anyone in July and August when the wind is still and something needs to power the air conditioners.

The future is not coal-powered production, but natural gas.

House Majority Floor Leader Eric Nesbitt, R-Lawton, the chair of the House Energy Policy Committee, said he believes that as a peninsula state, Michigan should be energy independent. The best way to make that happen is to go back to a completely regulated market, he said.

"I think that will provide the long-term investment that is needed here in Michigan to

make sure we have the right energy capacity," Nesbitt said.

The House energy chair pointed to Great Britain, which went to 100 percent retail choice in the late '90s and are now in a situation where they only have a 2-3 percent reserve market because no one is building new generation. The ideal reserve market is 14-17 percent.

Let market decide

But Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, the vice chair of House Energy, said he isn't going to presume the two incumbent utilities have the exclusive right to address the upcoming energy capacity shortfall. Rather, he asked about a competitive bidding process for all electric providers and let the market decide what is a "competitive" electric rate, not what is an "affordable" rate, which is determined by what they "believe it costs them to do business."

"Both utilities insist they would win these competitive bid processes," Glenn said. "If that's true, then why would they not support an open competitive bid process?"

As it stands, Michigan has the highest residential electric rates in the Midwest and the country's 11th highest, Glenn said. That's why he'd like to explore opening up the market to multiple providers to compete and whether that process would be better for ratepayers.

"You can not fault the utilities for wanting to maintain the system or go to a completely regulated market," he said. "Who can blame a business for wanting to have the government guarantee them a customer base for the next half century?"

CALENDAR

Continued from Page A6

rounding 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: 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.

ALFRED NOBLE AND THE PANAMA CANAL

Time/date: 2 p.m. Monday, March 16.

Location: Judge Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park, Eight Mile and Newburgh roads, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Historical Society will present "Livonia's Alfred Noble and the Centenary of the Panama Canal." The speaker is Joe Neussendorfer, who has been writing and reporting on construction-engineering-planning-architecture news and history for the past 40 years and received the Boger Award for Outstanding Construction Journalism in the United States. The public is welcome and there is no charge to attend.

Contact: 734-591-6845; 734-464-0450.



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Livonia Home Show



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Livonia Public Schools Announces Section 105c Limited Schools of Choice To Out-of-District Students for 2015-16 School Year

Accepting from Wayne County and contiguous Intermediate School Districts (Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw)

50 seats are open to students entering level K-4

20 seats are open to students entering Kindergarten

10 seats are open to students entering grade 1-2

10 seats are open to students entering grade 3-4

Application dates: March 2, 2015, 8 a.m. to March 31, 2015, 4 p.m.

FAXED AND EMAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Applications and information available at www.livoniapublicschools.org/Choice

Return completed forms to: Livonia Public Schools Personnel Office,

15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154

A random draw selection will take place April 2, 2015

if the number of applicants exceed seats available.

LO-000234429

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA

Zoning Board of Appeals

March 24, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)

33000 Civic Center Drive

Livonia, MI

(734) 466-2259

APPEAL CASE 2015-03-09: Bell Creek Community Church, north side of Five Mile, (30000) between Oporto and Hidden Lane, seeking to erect a ground sign which includes a portion that shall contain an electronic message board, which is not allowed in this zoning district.

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

Publish: Sunday, March 8, 2015

Livonia Observer

LO-000234555 2x2

Notice of Public Auction

Thursday, March 12, 2015

At or After 10:00 am

1-800-Mini Storage of Redford

15440 Telegraph, Redford MI 48239

1203	Keith Jones	3411	Alma Collins
1403	Charles Douglas	3507	DeAndre Witherspoon
1404	Sandra Smith	3522	Steven Taylor
1808	Cordell White Jr	3624	Lois Garrett
2006	Natalie Davis	3625	Marcie Roszko
2008	Tuniesia Nelson	3712	Ellis Currie
2016	John Harrison	3715	Michelle Render
2017	Eleanor Smith	3721	Andre Akram
2103	Charlene Johnson	3826	Gladys Huddleston
2217	Kenneth Moody	3827	John Weiss
2527	Starletta Banks	3901	Starletta Banks
2636	Ward Jacqueline	4338	Michael Tucker
3020	Mark Lewis		

Goods are to be sold to satisfy landlord lien.

All goods will be sold to highest bidder for cash.

1-800-Mini Storage reserves the right to reject anybids and reserves the right to bid on unsold units.

Contents include but are not limited to furniture, appliances, household goods, clothing, boxes & more.

Published: March 1, 8, 2015

LO-000232280 2x4

BOYS HOCKEY

Second-period spree propels Spartans

Stevenson upends Churchill to move on in D2 regional

By Mike Rosenbaum
Correspondent

Two Livonia hockey programs – Stevenson and Churchill – can both look ahead optimistically. But Churchill's brighter future must wait until next season, while Stevenson can focus on continuing its tournament run after defeating Churchill 7-2 Wednesday night in a state high school Division 2 regional contest.

to 16-5-5, will face Trenton in Saturday's regional final, at Livonia's Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Stevenson dominated play for most of Wednesday's contest and out-shot the Chargers 47-19. Nevertheless, Churchill remained close most of the way and trailed just 3-1 until a late second-period burst gave the Spartans some breathing room.

The game's tone was set immediately, as Stevenson used an aggressive forecheck to maintain possession in Churchill's zone for long stretches of the opening period. None of those extended possessions resulted in goals during the



Livonia Stevenson's Stephen Olschanski looks to finish a strong rush against Livonia Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles.

CHRIS GUDECK

See SPARTANS, Page B2

Free girls hockey program

The Livonia Hockey Association in conjunction with the LHA's girls hockey coaches will be hosting a free, four-session introductory program for girls beginning Tuesday at Eddie Edgar Arena, which is located at 33841 Lyndon St. in Livonia.

Tuesday's 50-minute session will begin at 5 p.m. The ensuing sessions – set for March 17, 24 and 31, will begin at 7 p.m.

There will be a registration booth at the sessions for girls who are interested in joining teams (there are 10u, 12u, 14u and 16u age groups available).

The minimum equipment required for the first session is a helmet (a bike helmet is acceptable), however, participants should wear any hockey equipment they may own. A limited amount of equipment will be available prior to the session on a first-come, first-served basis.

The sessions will be orchestrated by experienced hockey coaches, who will be assisted by current players from the LHA.

For more information, visit www.livoniagirlshockey.com.

District hoops

Livonia Franklin will host a Class A boys district basketball tournament this week.

On Monday, the host Patriots will take on Livonia Churchill in a 7 p.m. match-up. The winner of that game will advance to Wednesday's semifinal game against Redford Thurston, which drew a first-round bye.

Wednesday's other semifinal game will pit Garden City against Livonia Stevenson.

The championship game is set for Friday at 7 p.m.

GC football meeting

The Garden City High School Cougar Football Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 11, in Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

Several new items are available for the 2015 season and will be on display at this meeting. Jerseys, along with other items, will be for sale. Visit gccougarcountry.com for more information.

Redford Rangers update

The Redford Rangers youth football organization will be hosting an open registration for the 2015 season on March 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Redford Community Center.

Beginning with the 2015 season, the teams will be known as the Redford Eagles in conjunction with a new partnership with the South Redford School District.

CLASS A DISTRICT HOOPS FINAL



Members of the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team celebrate with their newest piece of hardware – a Class A district championship trophy.

ED WRIGHT

THE HOST WITH THE MOST

Stevenson downs Pats to complete impressive championship run

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The fuse that lit the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team's championship performance Friday night against

Livonia Franklin was approximately 20 feet long and it stretched in a rainbow arc from the fingertips of Arryn Dochenez's right hand to the nylon net at the south end of the Spartans' gymnasium.

Following a shaky first-half shooting performance when Stevenson made just 7 of 30 shots, Dochenez's straight-on, back-spinning three-point swish in the opening seconds of the third quarter turned out to be the catalyst in the Spartans' 49-27 victory in the Class A district title game.

"Arryn came out and put us on her shoulders in the second half," said Stevenson head

coach Tim Newman. "She started driving more and attacking the basket."

"Franklin mirrors us in a lot of ways. They're aggressive and they work hard. They run and they cut. They're not a pattern team, but they make what they do work. We're better when we're running. In the second quarter I think we were

See CHAMPS, Page B4

CLASS B DISTRICT HOOPS FINAL

Lady Trojans hold off Panthers, 42-30

Inspired second-half effort falls short for Redford Union

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

If Redford Union's girls basketball team would have played as loose and fast in the first half Friday night as it

played in the second, the Panthers maybe practicing on Monday for the program's first regional contest in over a decade.

However, like a lot of young and growing teams, RU was plagued early on by nerves and turnovers before getting sidelined by Detroit Henry Ford, 42-30, in a Class B district final played at Livonia Clarence-

See PANTERS, Page B3



TOM BEAUDON
Redford Union's Cashmere Jones drives to the basket during Friday night's Class B district title game against Detroit Henry Ford.

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COLLEGE SIGNINGS

Wayne harriers set to conquer bigger trails

Four Zebras officially commit to WHAC programs

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Just a few months after leaving several sets of history-making footprints for their high school cross country program, a quartet of Wayne Memorial harriers revealed their plans for the next level Thursday afternoon in the school's media center.

Surrounded by family members and coaches – both current and future – Zebra seniors (and twin brothers) Devin and Michael Gibson signed letters of intent to run competitively beginning in the fall for Madonna University.

In a joint signing ceremony, Wayne seniors Malik Jordan and Uriel Figueroa forged their commitment to compete at the college level for Southfield-based Lawrence Tech.

Madonna and Lawrence Tech are members of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

In the fall, the foursome led the resurgent Wayne cross country program to its first division title when the Zebras



Wayne Memorial twin brothers Devin (seated left) and Michael Gibson signed letters of intent to run cross country for Madonna University. Also pictured are MU head coach Patrick Daugherty and the Gibsons' parents, Lisa and Tom.

captured the highly-competitive KLAA South.

Wayne head coach Tom Gibson, whose is the father of Devin and Michael, said the college-bound runners made as big of an imprint off the trails as on.

"The biggest thing with these four guys was the leadership role they accepted and how they grew as leaders of the team," said Gibson. "They really took the bull by the horns and ran with it."

"They not only gave me

guidance of how the team was feeling, but they taught the younger kids the strategies of running a race, how and when to push themselves and when they needed to take it easy, and why. To get four kids running in college from a program that's only had one in its history prior to now says a lot about how hard these guys worked."

The Gibson twins, who also excel in swimming and track at Wayne, chose Madonna for similar rea-



Wayne Memorial seniors Malik Jordan (seated left) and Uriel Figueroa signed to run cross country for Lawrence Tech. Also pictured are Lawrence Tech head coach Eric Green, Wayne head coach Tom Gibson, Sofia Figueroa, Brenda Figueroa and Nicolas Figueroa.

sons. "I liked the atmosphere there, along with the staff and the students," said Devin Gibson, who was the Zebras' pace-setter for most of his senior season. "When I hung out with the guys on the cross country team, it felt like a family."

Devin Gibson, who has a 3.4 grade point average, is planning on pursuing a degree in sport management.

Michael Gibson, who has a 3.67 GPA, has his sights set on earning a psychology degree at MU.

"The guys on the team and the coaches were very welcoming," said Michael Gibson. "I like the fact that it's close to home, too, but far enough away that we'll be living on campus. I visited Madonna several times for

middle-school trips and always liked it."

Both the Gibsons said they enjoyed running in high school for their father.

"He treated everybody like they were his son; he didn't favor my brother and I," said Michael Gibson. "He was very understanding, too. If we had a hard practice one day, he'd go a little easier on us the next day."

Figueroa, who is the son of Fernando and Brenda, said Lawrence Tech was his No. 1 college choice during his sophomore year at Wayne.

"The No. 1 reason I liked Lawrence Tech is because they offer the major I want to pursue – architectural engineering – which few schools in Michigan do," he said.

"The fact that they offered me a scholarship to run made my decision easy."

Jordan, who was the Zebras' No. 2 runner behind Devin Gibson, said Lawrence Tech's outstanding reputation in academics appealed to him.

The owner of a 3.3 GPA, Jordan plans to study business and ultimately own his own video-gaming company.

"I tried out for the track team my sophomore year and at first I wasn't real good at it," Jordan said. "But after a while, I realized that it's what I was best at, so I kept going."

Jordan is the son of Sheila and Marcus.

ewright@hometownlife.com

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS

Mars, Atienza advance to finals

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin sophomore Nathan Atienza and Westland John Glenn freshman Mike Mars were one victory away from earning individual state wrestling titles

following Thursday and Friday's intense MHSAA Division 1 individual championships at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Atienza (52-3) pinned Robbie Keyes in a first-round match before winning a 15-4 major decision over David Joyner.

Atienza advanced to the title match with a 3-2 decision over West Bloomfield's Matt Gudeanu and was scheduled to face Grand Ledge's Dylan Steward in Saturday's final match.

Mars improved to 53-2 heading into Saturday's

title showdown against Elijah Weaver (32-3). Mars opened with an 8-0 victory over Oxford's Ryan Miller before sidelining Nick Freeman of Walled Lake Central, 9-2. He earned a title shot with a convincing 15-6 triumph over Ann Arbor Pioneer's Rayvon Foley.

Among the local grapplers who were still alive to place heading into Saturday's action was

John Glenn's Chase Spanos, who won his first two matches at 125, 15-9 over Tyler Mack of Berkeley and 18-2 over Port Huron's Doug Ferrara, before dropping a 3-0 decision to Romeo Riley.

Livonia Churchill's Baker Hadwan pinned Logan Shadaig in the first round of his initial match before getting nipped, 3-2, by Jake Ellis. Hadwan bounced back

nicely with a 4-1 decision over Dakota Powers.

Lutheran Westland's Thomas Krueger was the lone area Division 4 wrestler still battling for a state placing as he overcame an opening-round loss to Charles Rodriguez by pinning Spencer Bruce and decisioning Josh Jackson, 6-3.

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SPARTANS

Continued from Page B1

first 17 minutes, but the Spartans finally got on the board when junior defenseman Adam Olson grabbed a loose puck at center ice, deked two defenders to break in on Churchill goalie Drew Broyles, then scored on a backhand to give the Spartans a 1-0 lead at the 9:10 mark.

Stevenson put plenty of pressure on Broyles for the remainder of the period, but the sophomore made several sharp stops to help keep the game close.

The Chargers, who were coming off of a triple-overtime victory over Livonia Franklin on Monday, still brought plenty of energy to the contest and had a chance to tie the game in the final minute of the first period.

"Churchill had some opportunistic chances tonight," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell. "They have some guys on that team that can score some goals. And a lot of their chances were good-quality scoring chances ... and Cullen Barber did a very good job of keeping them limited tonight."

Many of the Chargers' best chances came on the

counterattack, as they tried to turn the Spartans' aggressiveness against them.

"We definitely wanted to clog up the neutral zone, look for opportunities to turn the puck over and get a fast break," said Churchill coach Jason Reynolds. "Credit to Stevenson – they've got a lot of speed, they're very aggressive. So it was a challenge for us. But overall I'm proud of the effort the boys put together."

Churchill began the second period with another counterattack opportunity, but after Barber made the initial save, Churchill's Justin O'Brien pushed a backhand wide. Several minutes later the game opened up with three goals in a 1:47 span.

With the game still in doubt, Stevenson finally broke things open in the final two minutes of the period. First, junior Joe Alcantara backhanded in a rebound with 1:35 left, with assists going to Olson and Leonard. Just 21 seconds later, senior defenseman Andrew Nowak pounced on a loose puck at the top of the right faceoff circle and fired a high slap shot past Broyles for a 5-1 lead.

The Chargers got another last-second chance at the end of the

period when Hodges broke loose, fought off a check from Allen and drove to the net, but Barber knocked his backhand away. Allen was called for a hooking penalty, allowing Churchill to begin the third period with its first power-play chance.

"We try, no matter when a goal is scored – whether it's our team or another team – we try to have a bump-up shift," explained Mitchell. "We try to bring energy. No matter who scores, we try to make sure to bring a lot of energy to the next shift."

The Spartans' energy soon led to a goal as Leonard knocked down an attempted clearing pass and fired the puck home for an unassisted goal. Olschanski capped the scoring with a break-away goal at 9:42, from Josh Denomie and Nick Beers.

"They capitalized on our mistakes," summed up Reynolds. "There were times over the course of the game (when) we showed our youth a little bit. We're a very young team."

Saturday's regional final is scheduled to face off at 7 p.m., with the winner advancing to the state quarterfinal on March 10 at Ann Arbor's Yost Ice Arena.

City of Livonia Regular Meeting Synopsis: 02/18/2015

Present: Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Nash, Brosnan
Absent: None
Public Hearings Announced – Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7PM with the subjects of an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for IPS Assembly and to establish an Industrial Development District at the request of McLaren Performance Technologies, Inc.
#38-15 Approving the minutes of meeting on 02/02/15.
#39-15 Granting a waiver of the Noise Ordinance to the Department of Transportation for the crack treatment on Old m-14 to start operations at night.
#40-15 Approving a lease agreement with Burr Enterprise for the operation of the restaurant at Whispering Willows Golf Course for a period of 8 months.
#41-15 Accepting the bid of AmComm Telecommunications, Inc., for the expansion of the city fiber network.
#42-15 Approving the proposed program and budget for the 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and setting a public hearing for the same.
#43-15 Approving Petition 2014-12-02-15, submitted by Matthew Adamcheck to operate 4 Star Strength & Conditioning.
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes available in the Office of the City Clerk.
Susan A. Hoff
Livonia City Clerk

COLLEGE RECRUITING

Social media vital in Spartan's next-level quest

Stevenson junior Ackman utilizes YouTube to catch coaches' eyes

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In her pursuit to someday play soccer in college, Livonia Stevenson junior mid-fielder Paige Ackman has caught the attention of next-level coaches by being active on the pitch and proactive off it.

With the assistance of her dad, Blair, a hand-held Sony video camera and the Windows Movie Maker program, Ackman has exposed her vast soccer skills to a broad array of collegiate soccer coaches, who due to recruiting-budget constraints, might otherwise not be aware of the talented Spartan.

When Ackman participates in the Jefferson Cup showcase event in Richmond, Va., later

this month, she'll be more than just another face in the crowded midfield thanks to a four-minute YouTube video that she adeptly marketed to next-level coaches.

"Paige wants to play college soccer somewhere on the East Coast, and with college soccer coaches restricted by recruiting budgets, we thought it would be a good idea to make a highlight video and distribute it to the programs she was interested in playing for," said Blair Ackman. "Some of the coaches who saw the video were so impressed that they've contacted her [via e-mail] and told her they're very interested."

The video-making process was painstaking at times, but ultimately worthwhile, the Ackmans agreed.

"We probably spent close to 15 hours just editing the game tapes," Paige Ackman said. "Originally, we had an 11-minute highlight video, but we figured a coach isn't going to



Livonia Stevenson junior midfielder Paige Ackman advances the ball during a game last spring against Northville.

have that much time to watch it all, so we cut it down to four minutes.

"Since my dad and I had never really used Movie Mak-

er before, we struggled a little bit at first, and we probably deleted things we didn't mean to delete, but after we used it a while, we got pretty good at it."

"We've been told that you really need to grab the coach's attention in the first 20 seconds of the video, or they may not bother to watch the rest," said Blair Ackman. "We made sure to include highlights of her trapping the ball, how she moves without the ball - all the skills that would make a college coach interested."

After the Ackmans created a YouTube file of the finished product, Paige authored letters to the coaches of the soccer programs that were high on her list, incorporating the YouTube link in the letter.

Within a few weeks after distributing the letters, coaches from several schools - including Wagner College, Loyola University Maryland and Sacred Heart University - responded with glowing emails.

"Basically, they told me they liked my skills, they were interested [in potentially signing her], and they would watch me closely at the upcoming showcases," she said.

In the wake of her marketing success, Ackman has become somewhat of a recruiting consultant for her friends and teammates.

"They'll ask me what they should put in the letters, what they should do if they don't hear back right away from a coach, things like that," she said, smiling. "It's been a fun experience."

An outstanding student with a 4.2 grade-point average, Ackman's interest in playing for an East Coast school was ignited by her love of history.

"Even before I had an interest in playing college soccer, we visited Boston last summer and I loved it," she said. "I'd like to major in history and eventually get into law."

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DISTRICT SEMIFINAL

High-energy Spartans topple Churchill, 45-32

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Zippering around the court like Energizer Bunnies, the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team's trio of high-motor guards short-circuited a very talented Livonia Churchill team Wednesday night in a Class A district semifinal game played at Stevenson.

Sparked by the relentless efforts of back-court dynamos Arryn Dochenetz, Grace Lamerson and Diane Senkowski, the Spartans handed the 13-win Chargers a 45-32 setback to advance to Friday's 7 p.m. final against crosstown rival Livonia Franklin.

Churchill upended Stevenson by 15 points in the two teams' first encounter back in December.

Led by the 17-point performance of Dochenetz, the threesome accounted for all but 14 of their team's points, but it was at the defensive end of the hardwood that the slender spark plugs really showed their heart as they took turns clamping down on Churchill sharp-shooter Natalie Spala, who finished with just seven points (on 2-of-11 shooting) - eight below her season average.

Overall, Churchill made just 13 of 45 field goals (28.8 percent) and misfired on all 10 of its shots in the pivotal third quarter when the Spartans turned a 16-14 halftime

deficit into a 25-17 lead.

"They beat us pretty badly the first time we played them, so this feels good," said Senkowski. "We've been working hard at practice on switching on every pick, and Churchill sets a lot of them for Natalie Spala. There wasn't one of us who was in charge of guarding her; it was a team effort."

Senkowski's all-out hustle was never more evident than late in the third quarter when she sprinted across the court and into the corner to chase down a missed free throw by Lamerson.

The 5-foot-7 sophomore then threaded a pass at the top of the key to Dochenetz, who calmly drained a triple to up the hosts' lead to 23-17.

"Matt [McCowan] did a great job of changing up his defenses on us tonight," said Stevenson head coach Tim Newman. "They ran a lot of triangle-and-two, which meant we needed a third guard to step up tonight, and Diane definitely did that. She had a great game."

"We decided we were going to switch on all screens tonight and I was very proud of how the girls handled that and prevented back-door cuts. We go as our guards so, and tonight they were going hard."

Stevenson sealed the deal with a 20-point fourth quarter, despite making just three



Stevenson's Grace Lamerson converted this layup while getting fouled during the fourth quarter of Wednesday's victory over Churchill.

of five field-goal attempts. After struggling at the free-throw line in the first half, Dochenetz was money down the stretch, finding twine on 8 of 10 tries.

The senior leader also connected on two three-point daggers in the third quarter that got the Spartans' mojo in motion.

"Churchill switched to a zone, but they were coming out and guarding the three pretty well," Dochenetz said. "Coach Newman tells that even if we're not wide open - if we have a little bit of space - take the shot."

The Chargers stayed in the game for three quarters and some change thanks in large part to Anne Yost, who

scored a team-high 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Junior guard Molly Pummil made all three of her field-goal attempts - including a left-wing three - to finish with seven points.

Although she struggled with her shot, Spala played hard all night and finished with three steals and five rebounds.

Audrey Staharr was the winners' most productive post player as she racked up five points, six rebounds and three steals.

Leading 25-17 after three quarters, the Spartans opened the final stanza with an 8-3 run to grab a double-digit lead they'd never relinquish.

PANTHERS

Continued from Page B1

ville.

The Panthers, who outscored the Trojans 19-16 over the final 16 minutes, finished with an 8-14 mark. Henry Ford improved to 13-7.

"Being a young team and playing on a big stage like we were, I think nerves got too us a little bit in the first half," said first-year RU head coach Scott Purdy. "We had 16 turnovers in the first half alone. We were doing OK against their pressure, but passes were going right through our hands. And we missed 13 layups in the first half, so emotions got the best of us."

The game was the high school finale of RU senior Renee Reed, who scored a team-high 15 points. Sophomore guard Shae Smith netted eight points while senior post player Alana Ray-Davis closed out her career in style by grabbing 15 rebounds and blocking four shots.

"We moved Alana down low a few games ago, and now I wish we would have done it sooner," said Purdy. "We usually only get one or two blocks a game, but we had 10 tonight."

Trailing at one point in the second half by 26, the Panthers showed their character by storming back to within seven with a minute to play.

But Henry Ford drained four free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

Prior to Friday's game, RU had held opponents to 40 points or less in eight straight games, including the first two rounds of the district tournament when it beat Detroit Community, 57-17, and Detroit CMA, 43-26.

"I'm very proud of this team," said Purdy. "I told the girls after the game tonight that they should hold their heads high because they played as hard as they could."

Purdy said the last time an RU girls basketball team won a district championship was 2003.

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GIRLS DISTRICT SEMIFINAL

Cramton-led Pats outlast Garden City

Seniors spearhead Franklin's run to championship game

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Could March be a magical month for the Livonia Franklin girls basketball team, which won just four games during the 2014-15 regular season?

It's definitely off to a good start following the Patriots' wall-to-wall 55-49 victory Wednesday night over never-say-die Garden City (8-13) in a Class A district semifinal game played at Livonia Stevenson.

Thanks to a spirited effort at both ends of the court against a team that refused to give in, the now 5-16 Patriots punched a ticket to Friday's 7 p.m. final against the host Spartans, who surprised Livonia Churchill, 45-32, in Wednesday's first game.

Fueled by a 19-point, 10-rebound performance by senior catalyst Sarah Cramton, Franklin never trailed after seizing a 17-13 first-quarter lead - but at the same time, the Patriots were never able to relax against a Garden City team that needed just over two minutes to chop an 11-point deficit down to

51-46 when junior guard Amber Swisher converted and-one lay-up off a mid-court steal with 56 seconds left.

But the Patriots closed the door on the Cougars' late heroics when senior guard Becky Giacobbi scored four points in 20 seconds - two on a pair of free throws and another deuce with a lay-up off a steal.

"I thought we passed well tonight and we ran our offense like we're supposed to," said Giacobbi, who scored 12 points and swiped three steals. "I tried to cut down the middle of the lane more than I have been lately, and then either shoot or get the ball to an open teammate."

Cramton was rarely open, but it didn't matter given the senior's lightning-quick release and dead-on shooting accuracy. She ignited her team's 17-point first-quarter surge with eight points.

Senior forward Tyonna Tate also excelled for Franklin, nearly notching a double-double with 10 points and nine rebounds.

"Tonight was one of Tyonna's best games of the season," said Franklin head coach Jim Milican. "She was tough around the basket, she rebounded well and she ran the court."

Milican also praised the

effort of senior Erin McNally, who spiced up her fourth quarter night with seven rebounds and several hustle plays that didn't reflect on the stat sheet.

When the Cougars are tossing in threes at a steady clip - they often drain at least 35 percent of their three-point tries - they're tough to beat, but Wednesday wasn't one of their Stephen Curry-like showings.

The Cougars found twine on just three of 19 shots from beyond the arc and they missed the first seven of their long-range rainbows.

"I thought Franklin came out and played us tough right from the start, and it didn't help that we weren't making our threes," said GC head coach Michele Tyree. "Once we realized we were off a little from the perimeter, we started driving, but then we had a tough time finding a handle on some very good, catchable passes underneath."

"Our kids played hard; they never gave up. We were down 10 at halftime and got it down to five, so they kept battling."

Forward's Lindsay Michalak and Aleea Montgomery helped keep the Cougars in the game. Michalak scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds while Montgomery came off the bench to pump in seven points and grab five caroms.



Garden City's Aleea Montgomery has her path to the basket blocked by Franklin's Sarah Cramton during Wednesday's Class A district semifinal game.

Hannah Vera-Burgos, the Cougars' most-dangerous three-point stretch, finished her high school hoops career with seven points and four rebounds.

The Patriots complicated matters for GC by shuffling up their defensive formations throughout the night.

"We wanted to switch things up as much as we could to keep them guessing," said Milican. "We went from a half-court

man to a full-court press to a 3-2-one and even some box-and-zone. I think that helped stop some of their three-point shooting."

Friday night's district championship game will be a rematch of a Feb. 19 KLAA cross-over game that Stevenson won 64-50. The Patriots actually led that contest 48-47 with 5:29 left before the Spartans reeled off a late-game scoring spree.

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Patriots win first on senior Keith's last-second drive

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

With just a few seconds separating the Livonia Franklin boys basketball team from a winless regular season, Charles Keith made a play he and his teammates won't soon forget Thursday night against Waterford Kettering.

Keith's full-court dash and layup as the seconds on the fourth-quarter clock expired gave the Patriots a 44-43 victory over the host Captains.

Both teams entered the KLAA cross-over clash with 0-19 records.

The Patriots were bolstered by a balanced scoring ledger that was topped by Joe Chinavare's 10 points. Freshman Mark Mettie scored nine points while Keith and David Milican added eight points each.

The Captains were paced by Noah Holly and Justin Bonner, who both scored 15 points.

Franklin shot a sold 14-for-20 from the free-throw line. The Captains made 13 of 19.

The Patriots open Class A

district action Monday at 7 p.m. at home against Livonia Churchill.

Spartans triumph

Livonia Stevenson closed out its regular season Thursday night with an impressive 53-47 road win at Lakeland.

Senior guard Noah Campbell led the winners with 18 points. Senior Jacob Dollar added nine points.

The Spartans led 9-2 after one quarter and 23-14 at the half before the Eagles stormed back to take a 36-33 lead with eight minutes to play.

Warriors tumble

Lutheran Westland will take a 10-10 record into next week's Class C district tournament following Thursday's 68-24 loss at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood (13-7).

"We played tough tonight, however, they just had too much firepower for us," said LW head coach Jim Hoef. "They outmanned us in the post and we were unable to defend the perimeter. Our intensity was fine tonight, but we made too many mistakes. You just can't commit



Franklin's Charles Keith, pictured defending a Walled Lake Western player during a game earlier this season, made the game-winning basket in Thursday's one-point victory over Waterford Kettering.

this many turnovers and expect to win against anybody. Give them credit, they have a good squad."

The Warriors were led offensively by Zach Anger and Luke Smith, who scored six points a piece. Zach Burk added five points for the visitors. Anger led his team

with five rebounds.

LW hit four of seven free throws, but converted just 10 of 43 shots from the field.

Cranbrook led 17-7 after one quarter, 31-11 at the half and 48-19 with eight minutes to play.

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KLAA SWIM & DIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

Livonia Stevenson takes third place; Burke wins diving

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Led by first-place Northville and runner-up Novi, teams from the Central Division earned the top four places at last week's KLAA Conference Championship meet that was hosted by the Wildcats.

Northville earned 950 points to edge the hosts by 14. The Spartans compiled 522 points, two more than fourth-place South Lyon.

Livonia Churchill placed eighth with 257 points; Wayne Memorial (181) was ninth; Westland John Glenn finished 10th (113) and Livonia Franklin was 11th with 100 points.

Stevenson's Alex Lee placed first in both the 100- and 200-freestyle races while teammate Jackson O'Dowd won the 50 free and the 100 butterfly.

Spartan senior Matt LaPorte touched first in the 500 free, out-stroking Northville's Matthew Scahfer by just under 4 seconds.

Churchill's Ethan Burke continued his season-long victory parade by taking the 1-meter diving competition with 443.10 points.

KLAA SWIMMING & DIVING CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 950 points; 2. Novi, 936; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 522; 4. South Lyon, 520; 5. Plymouth, 455; 6. Salem, 429; 7. Canton, 322; 8. Livonia Churchill, 257; 9. Wayne Memorial, 181; 10. Westland John Glenn, 113; 11. Livonia Franklin, 100.

200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Joey Berman, Narayan Manivanan, Arthur Shi, Ryan Katulski), 1 minute, 37.87 seconds; 2. Northville, 1:37.99; 3. Salem, 1:40.96; 4. Stevenson, 1:41.18; 5. Plymouth, 1:42.53; 6. South Lyon, 1:43.12; 7. Canton, 1:46.48; 8. Churchill, 1:51.14.

200 freestyle: 1. Alex Lee (LS), 1:46.89; 2. James Popyk (NOVI), 1:47.32; 3. Phillip Billiu (NOVI), 1:47.57; 4. Daniel Mullen (C), 1:47.80; 5. Matt LaPorte (LS), 1:47.92; 6. Matthew Schafer (NRV), 1:48.77; 7. Eric Ferrara (LS), 1:49.48; 8. Max Kempisty (SL), 1:50.27.

200 individual medley: 1. James Xue (NRV), 1:58.78; 2. Siddhartha Kareddy (NOVI), 1:59.15; 3. Gerard Niermann (C), 2:00.93; 4. Chris Geng (NRV), 2:02.88; 5. Joel Kotyk (NOVI), 2:03.34; 6. Kevin Taylor (LC), 2:04.04; 7. Charles Liu (S), 2:04.18; 8. Yash Bajaj (NRV), 2:04.28.

50 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 21.05; 2. Ryan Katulski (NOVI), 21.42; 3. Kirk Maibach (NRV), 21.53; 4. Noah Karson (WV), 22.68; 5. Michael Wischer (P), 22.75; 6. Adam Goeddeke (LS), 22.80; 7. Arthur Shi (NOVI), 22.83; 8. Brandon Burger (P), 23.96.

1-meter diving: 1. Ethan Burke (LC), 443.10 points; 2. Matt Meadows (SL), 429.70; 3. Ethan Schmidt (SL), 392.15; 4. James Ciolli (NOVI), 341.95; 5. Nathan Pellenio (NOVI), 312.85; 6. Christian Field (NRV), 275.40; 7. Jordan Groves (P), 274.55; 8. Kevin Tarta (LC), 258.50.

100 butterfly: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 52.73; 2. James Xue (NRV), 53.12; 3. Siddhartha Kareddy (NOVI), 53.19; 4. Brendan Wellman (S), 54.11; 5. Arthur Shi (NOVI), 54.92; 6. Phillip Billiu (NOVI), 55.04; 7. Logan Boals (SL), 56.10; 8. Parker Wasielewski (LS), 56.39.

100 freestyle: 1. Ryan Katulski (NOVI), 47.54; 2. Alex Lee (LS), 48.91; 3. Gerard Niermann (C), 49.45; 4. Ryan Heinze (P), 49.51; 5. Fred Schulz (NRV), 49.58; 6. Nick VanDyke (SL), 49.76; 7. Mark Kaminski (NRV), 49.84; 8. Larry Zhao (NRV), 50.39.

500 freestyle: 1. Matt LaPorte (LS), 4:45.62; 2. Matthew Schafer (NRV), 4:49.05; 3. Trevor Degroot (NRV), 4:54.50; 4. Joey Berman (NOVI), 4:57.67; 5. Jack Breuch (NRV), 4:58.01; 6. Phillip Collingwood (S), 4:58.57; 7. Oliver Joy (SL), 4:59.89; 8. Daniel Mullen (C), 5:00.10.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Adam Goeddeke, Parker Wasielewski, Eric Ferrara, Jackson O'Dowd), 1:29.19; 2. Novi, 1:31.01; 3. Plymouth, 1:31.15; 4. Northville, 1:31.69; 5. Salem, 1:31.75; 6. South Lyon, 1:33.63; 7. Wayne, 1:34.51; 8. Canton, 1:37.60.

100 backstroke: 1. Joey Berman (NOVI), 53.91; 2. Brendan Wellman (S), 54.19; 3. Nick VanDyke (SL), 54.51; 4. Kirk Maibach (NRV), 54.76; 5. Maxwell Williams (NOVI), 55.25; 6. Parker Wasielewski (LS), 56.80; 7. Logan Boals (SL), 56.81; 8. Patrick Casey (S), 56.93.

100 breaststroke: 1. Chris Geng (NRV), 1:00.48; 2. Yash Bajaj (NRV), 1:01.95; 3. Nikolai Arton (NRV), 1:02.18; 4. Narayan Manivanan (NOVI), 1:02.31; 5. Roman Grossi (NRV), 1:03.04; 6. Alexander Yuan (NOVI), 1:03.09; 7. Bradley Huang (NOVI), 1:03.27; 8. Kevin Taylor (LC), 1:03.33.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville, 3:13.91; 2. Novi, 3:14.29; 3. Stevenson, 3:14.87; 4. South Lyon, 3:18.99; 5. Plymouth, 3:21.74; 6. Canton, 3:22.28; 7. Salem, 3:23.63; 8. Wayne, 3:34.47.

CHAMPS

Continued from Page B1

walking the ball up a little bit too much."

With her team securing a precarious 23-17 lead at the break, Dochenetz emerged from the locker-room after halftime with an eye-of-the-tiger look, as she scored nine points in the pivotal third quarter, which the Spartans won 17-6 while holding the Patriots to just one basket on eight shots.

Dochenetz led all scorers with 24 points. Audrey Stahrr also played brilliantly, adding seven points, 10 rebounds, three steals and a block shot, as did Paige

Ackman, who scored just one bucket, but contributed nine boards and four thefts.

Although the Spartans struggled to win the first half of the season, they jelled like a well-oiled machine down the stretch.

"This feels incredible," Dochenetz said. "Honestly, I thought anyone had a chance of winning this district. Crazy things happen this time of year. Novi beat Northville, which I didn't expect, so we figured if they can do that, we can beat Churchill and Franklin."

Stevenson's defense was sticky good all night as they forced Franklin into 31 turnovers while limiting the Patriots to a 7-for-32 shooting night.

To their credit, the Patriots attacked the basket and were rewarded with 38 free throws, but they could only knock down 13.

The Spartans' third-straight Class A district title improved their record to 10-12 and catapulted them into Tuesday's regional semifinal game at Southfield High School against 19-4 Farmington Hills Mercy.

Senior Tyonna Tate led the Patriots with eight points. Becky Giacobbi added six.

Franklin's season-long scoring leader Sarah Cramton was held to just five points by a series of Stevenson defenders, most notably sophomore Diane Senkowski.

Cramton rarely had an open look at the basket as she drained just one of eight field-goal attempts.

"Unlike against Churchill, we weren't switching on picks tonight," said Dochenetz.

Newman said the Spartans grew progressively better as the season wore on, particularly over the last half of February.

"At the beginning of the season, we really didn't have an identity," he said. "We had some big kids and some good guards, but we weren't playing consistently well together. The last three weeks we started turning it on, which is good for the young players who will be coming back next year."

Tipton Academy will hold Open Enrollment in grades Kindergarten - 7 for the 2015-16 school year on March 16-31, 2015. The school is located at 1615 Belton Rd. in Garden City.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

MU spring softball trip ends on sour note

They'll certainly miss the sun and the 74-degree temperatures as the Madonna University women's softball team returns home with a 9-4-1 overall record following a triple-header Thursday at two different Florida sites.



Combs

The day started at Chain of Lakes Park in Titusville with a 6-3 triumph over Southeastern (Fla.) as Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill) paced MU's 10-hit attack going 2-for-4 with two RBI.

Emma Cook and Kasey Trierweiler each added two hits and an RBI, while winning pitcher Bree Crampton scattered five hits and four walks while striking out six over seven innings.

The loss dropped Southeastern, a team that received votes in the inaugural NAIA Coaches National Poll, to 11-6 overall.

The Crusaders then moved to finish off their spring trip at Hancock Park in Clermont falling in the middle game to Point Park University (Pa.), 7-4, and Saint Thomas (Fla.) in the final game, 5-0.

Five MU errors and four-run fourth inning enabled Point Park (3-4)

to earn the victory. Gabi Vogt went 3-for-4 with two RBI, while Alyssa McMurtrie added two hits, including a solo homer for the victorious Pioneers.

Winning pitcher Kate Reese went the first 5½ innings before Hannah Harley came on to pick up the save retiring the final five MU batters in order while striking out three.

Losing pitcher Erin Combs (4-2) allowed one earned run on seven hits and three walks.

Morgan Kaiser and Combs each collected two hits, while Emma Cook hit a solo homer and Breanna Keethler added an RBI in a losing cause. And in the nightcap,

Saint Thomas (2-6) received a five-hit shutout from pitcher Carson Catusas. She also helped her own cause going 2-for-3 with two RBI. Teammate Christina Horton also went 3-for-3 with an RBI.

Crampton, roughed up for four earned runs on nine hits in four innings, dropped to 5-2 on the season. Relievers Paige Montague and Erika Randall (Livonia Stevenson) each pitched a scoreless inning in mop up duty.

MU is scheduled to return to action with a pair of double-headers Friday-Saturday, March 13-14, in Kentucky against No.4 Lindsey Wilson and Campbellsville.

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 11:30 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

DORSEY CENTER LEASE

THE CITY OF WESTLAND SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR THE LEASE OF THE DORSEY COMMUNITY CENTER. THE RESPONSE MUST INCLUDE USE FOR BUILDING AS WELL AS THE PROPOSED MONTHLY LEASE OFFER.

A WALK THROUGH WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 11TH AT 11:00 A.M.

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.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Published: March 8th, 2015

JAMES M. INGLIS
Director

LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION

JACK E. KIRKSEY
Mayor

Members
JOHN BRYAN
CARL DEAL
DALE MOSER
BETTI SLACK
RUSS SMITH

PATRICK V. MCNAMARA TOWERS
19300 PURLINGBROOK ROAD
LIVONIA, MI 48152-1902
(248) 477-7086
(248) 477-5494 TDD
(248) 477-0172 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 offices 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 21, 2015** at the offices 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-collusion 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 informalities 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 8, 2015

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

Published: March 1, 5, 8, 2015

Canton Township woman seeks financial help for volunteer trip abroad

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Meghan Montgomery Jones has never met a kiwi bird, but she'll spend a few weeks this summer safeguarding its habitat.

"I am passionate about the Earth and I do my part with recycling and I garden," said Jones, a Canton resident and a junior at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. "The kiwi is the national bird of New Zealand. They are endangered. I'm happy to get to work with them."

After a representative from International Student Volunteers (ISV) spoke at her college last year, Jones, for whom volunteering has been second nature since childhood, researched the organization, spoke with her parents and jumped at the chance to volunteer abroad. Initially, she considered working with elephants in Thailand through ISV, but discovered the weather would be too hot in July, when she plans to travel.

"I have to think of my health," said Jones, who has lupus and arthritis. "In New Zealand, it will be winter there when I go. I tend to do better when it's cooler out."

Lupus kept her from traveling with her church youth group to Spain and with a school group to England a few years ago. She has the OK from her doctors to volunteer in New Zealand this summer, but she could use financial help for the trip. She has raised \$390 of her \$1,000 goal through an online crowd-funding site, volunteerforever.com.

"I'm paying for most of it myself. I have two jobs and have been saving. And my parents are helping. I'm fundraising for transportation."

Jones offers perks, ranging from a thank you letter and postcard sent from New Zealand, to a personal video and a souvenir, to her benefactors, for various donation amounts.

Books, volunteering

Jones, a 2012 Salem High School graduate, calls herself an "eco geek" and "book nerd" who has always loved reading, volunteering and working with children. She's studying children's literature and drama for children at Eastern, and plans to make a career in publishing where she hopes to diversify the content of children's books.

"I liked books when I was younger, but when I was 11 I became hard core. I realized I loved reading. My childhood was volunteering at the li-



Meghan Montgomery Jones and her young campers from the YMCA Summer Camp at Achieve Charter Academy, have fun at a Detroit Tigers game last year. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

brary."

She spent so much time at the Canton Public Library, she asked if she could help. She shelved books and joined a book club there, later volunteering at the Plymouth District Library, where she also served on a teen advisory board.

"I will read anything, fiction and nonfiction. I read three to four books at a time. I just read *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*, which was so good. I'm reading *If You Could Be Mine*, about two girls in love with each other in Iran," she said. "And I'm reading a book for fun about children's literature and the history of it."

Writer, activist

She writes for the SPARK Movement at sparksummit.com. SPARK is a coalition of organizations training teenage girls and young women to become "media activists and leaders in the fight against sexualization" of girls, according to its website.

"I run an online book club via that. We have an app that just came out, we partnered with Google, and it will help you find the history of influential women near you," she said. Her own idols are Helen Keller and Mother Teresa.

She also writes for a website that focuses on book-to-film story adaptations and is



Meghan Montgomery Jones of Canton plans to volunteer in New Zealand this summer. She is raising money for the trip through a website, volunteerforever.com.

managing editor of pulpzine.com, a website that celebrates "girl power" along with music, fashion, and other topics.

She volunteers as a Brownie troop leader in Canton, and works as a supervisor at an after-school program administered by the YMCA at Achieve Charter Academy.

"I just love anything that's structured, as far as a place for kids to grow. I've always loved after-school clubs, anything creative that allows someone



Meghan Montgomery Jones has used a walker occasionally because of her lupus and arthritis. She won't let that stop her from volunteering in New Zealand this summer.

to find themselves."

To help Jones meet her fundraising goal, visit volunteerforever.com, click on the

volunteer tab and then type "montgomery jones" in the search box.

New water heaters will be bigger, more difficult to install

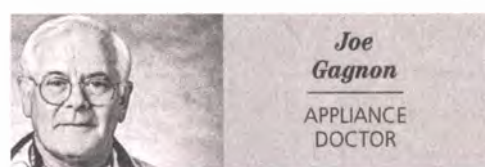
After April 15 when you have a hot water heater installed it will cost you a lot more money — and this is no April Fool's joke.

The protector of energy standards in Washington, who continues to modulate the savings of products, has done it again. The new water heater will be much larger and have added components to ensure they operate on the new energy standards set forth by the U.S. Department of Energy. Now we have a water heater that will not fit in the current space you have and because it is going to be more complex, you might not be able to install the heater yourself.

It was not so long ago that because of new energy standards the water heater was changed in design and here we go again. The water heater with new energy standards became a burden to homeowners and a boon to the plumbing industry. They had to be vented to the outside; you couldn't simply change the thermocouple when the pilot wouldn't stay lit because the thermocouple was no longer sold in the hardware stores for \$10-\$15.

It had a screen at the bottom which had to be kept clean and sensor to smell anything that could explode and the list goes on. But, keep in mind that the average life span is seven to 10 years and that won't change.

I believe that there are only five manufacturers of hot water heaters in this country and they produce many brand names and from what I read and hear, they are all the same. My heater is 11 years old and it is a shame to replace something that still works perfectly fine, but this news is food for thought.



Garage refrigerators

Cookie writes: "I would appreciate your advice. I have a 25-plus-year-old Kenmore refrigerator. We have used it in our unheated garage for many years. It now needs to be replaced as the freezer is no longer working well. I have heard that new refrigerators don't do well in a garage as the compressor does not hold up in the cold. Is this true and if so is it all brands or are there any that do work in that environment? We depend on both the refrigerator and freezer compartment to supplement our indoor refrigerator."

Reply to Cookie: I would like you to wait until the outside temperature warms up (one of these days) and see what happens. When the temperature in the garage is colder than the setting on the thermostat control, food will start to thaw in the freezer section. This is a normal condition. If you purchase a refrigerator/freezer for a garage it probably will be made by Whirlpool and be very costly. Buying a regular refrigerator and placing it in an unheated garage can be very costly if the compressor should fail. Especially in the first year of ownership. The warranty reads that the refrigerator must be installed inside the home and a compressor replacement is over \$600.

Some 20 years ago, I found an old Philco refrigerator, (1948 model) with the rounded door and a door handle that moves and latches shut. I replaced a little



Newer, bigger hot water heaters may not fit into existing cramped basement spaces. SUBMITTED

wiring around the compressor and this refrigerator has never quit running. It uses less energy than the energy-saving models of today and keeps the pop and beer colder than Alaska. I'll bet money that I'll be in appliance heaven before it gets there. I only wish that appliance manufacturers would build a product that could last as long as some of the hot water heaters and refrigerators that were made years ago. The new technology of today which is all set according to new energy guidelines is only costing the end user a lot more money in repeated purchases of the same products. Stay tuned.

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

Agency helps job seekers hone skills

Women and men who've been out of the workforce awhile can sign up for help with resumes, job interviewing and related topics through Women to Work, a program of JVS. The sessions have been held at the JVS Southfield office for many years, with the next beginning in April.

"We are now also offering the program in Detroit," said Judy Richmond, Women to Work coordinator for the agency, which in the past was known as Jewish Vocational Services. "Typically they're women who have not worked in awhile or have worked sporadically."

The free job-seeking help is available to men as well and to those of all faiths. Advance registration is needed and should be done by contacting Richmond at 248-233-4232 or jrichmond@jvset.org.

The Detroit-based Women to Work will also begin in April. There is an information session needing advance sign-up through Richmond, set for April 7 for Southfield participants and April 8 for Detroit participants.

Sessions will start at both locations the following week in Southfield from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays for five weeks. In Detroit, they will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Wednesdays for five weeks.



JULIE YOLLES

Ted Setlak (left) of Warren, FAR President Emerita Jody Wachler of Troy and Steve Lipsen of Livonia attended Sing Out 4 Kids on Saturday night to benefit the FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts.

Events raise funds for kids' programs

It was karaoke at its finest on Saturday night at the Imagine Theatre Royal Oak. Standing ovations all around for the 11 performers including the musical lawyers of A (Habeas) Chorus Line, who were this year's "Sing Out 4 Kids" participants. The third annual event, attended by 150 donors, raised more than \$40,000 for FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts in Birmingham. The funds will help provide art, music, dance, recreation and sports therapy to children with special needs.



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

Thursday, March 12, Variety, The Children's Charity invites you to its Big Bowl Tournament at at Imagine Lanes in Royal Oak. Tickets are \$50 and include bowling, dinner, drinks and entertainment. www.variety-detroit.com

Contact Julie Yolles, Social Scene columnist, at socialsceneljulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.

Next up, at 7 p.m.

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

Butterflies

Brendon Weil, vice president of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA), will discuss the Lycaenidae family, the second largest family of butterflies, including the blues, coppers, hairstreaks, and harvesters, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. \$3 for non-members. 734-223-5510; sembutterfly.org.

Northville, Novi

Ed Blondin, a Master Gardener with horticultural training from Michigan State University, will talk about Persian gardens, 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, in Media Forum Room 198C, at Novi High School, 24062 Taft, at 10 Mile, Novi. Blondin will be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Gardeners of Northville & Novi (The No-No's), which will start with a social mixer at 6:30 p.m. Park in the staff parking lot and enter via door 43. Visitors pay \$5; gardeners-northville-novi.org

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR



SUBMITTED

Learn how to keep your lawn healthy at a free presentation, March 14 at English Gardens stores.

Mushroom hunters

Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club offers a seminar by Timothy James of the University of Michigan on fungal diversity and taxonomy, 1-15 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty, Farmington. A potluck starts at 1:15 p.m., followed by the lecture. The public is welcome. For more information, call Phil Tedeschi at 734-355-0359.

Holiday Nature Preserve

Celebrate spring with a guided walk noon Saturday, March 21, starting at the preserve's Hix

entrance on Hix Road, north of Warren Road, in Westland. The walk is free.

English Gardens

» Learn how to keep your lawn healthy throughout the season at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14. » Get a head start on gardening and learn how to grow your own transplants at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21. » Kids, ages 3-12, can plant a salad bowl to take home, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Cost is \$10. Sign up in the store or online at englishgardens.com. Classes are held at all

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

Educational conference

Tickets are available for the Master Gardener of Oakland County third annual Educational Garden Conference, "Gardening and All That Jazz - Innovation and Sustainability For Your Garden." Early bird tickets are \$70, \$80 after March 14. The event runs 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. April 25 at the Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. It will include a garden market, presentations by Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power; Matthew Benson, photographer, writer and organic farmer; and Kerry Ann Mendez, who teaches low-maintenance perennial gardening. Entertainment by Kerry Price and The Dave Bennett Quartet. Pay online or download a form for mailing. Visit mgsoc.org. No registration at the door.

Spotlight Players offers two student scholarships

Spotlight Players is accepting applications for its annual scholarships.

The community theater group will award two \$250 scholarships. Recipients may apply the money toward any arts-related training program they choose. Applicants must be Michigan residents and in high school or middle school when

the scholarship is awarded, but they don't have to be associated with Spotlight Players.

Applications must be submitted online through SpotlightPlayersMI.org. Or type <http://goo.gl/mxTOZV> into your url. Applications deadline is April 1.

The Spotlight Players Board of Governors will review applications and

announce the two winners on April 6. The winners will be invited to a matinee performance on Sunday, April 19, of *Young Frankenstein* where they will be called on stage for recognition of their achievement and be presented with a certificate.

Spotlight Players is a nonprofit organization based in Canton.

Carson's collects donations for Goodwill

The Goodwill Sale at Carson's kicks off on Thursday, March 12, with a "Stuff the Truck" event at the store, located at Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile, Livonia.

During the sale, which continues through Saturday, March 28, Carson's will accept clothing and household textiles such as apparel, outerwear, shoes, hand-

bags, blankets or comforters. In return, shoppers will receive a coupon for up to 25 percent off of new spring products at Carson's.

Additionally, customers will receive a 15 percent discount on cosmetics and fragrances, available exclusively during the Goodwill Sale. The donations will be

sold at local Goodwill stores.

The revenue generated will fund job placement, job training programs and community-based support services, such as child care, financial education, mentoring and transportation for people looking for employment.

Guide to Employment

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

Help Wanted - General

Hilliers
All locations hiring:
• Baggers
• Cashiers
• Stock Personnel
• Service Clerks
• Meat Cutters
Inquire in the store or apply online at hilliers.com/employment

Help Wanted - General

CENTERLESS GRINDER
Experienced. General Shop Knowledge needed in Howell. Hours must be flexible. Pay contingent on experience. Fax resume to: 517-450-0228

Help Wanted - General

Drivers w/CDL
Lease to Own a Freightliner One All-inclusive Payment. Earn \$1,400+/week! Contract rates up to \$3/mile. 888-796-4576

Help Wanted - General

Manufacturing ENTRY LEVEL:
• Basic Assembly
• Machine Operation
Forge Industrial Staffing is 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. Overtime is available as well, along with the opportunity to be hired in.
Please contact Forge Industrial Staffing for an immediate interview! (734) 458-7300 njakowski@forgestaff.com
Forge INDUSTRIAL STAFFING

Help Wanted - General

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, Ann Arbor/psilanti, Northville areas. Rewarding positions serving persons with special needs in their homes or in group homes. Must be 18. Paid training.
QUEST inc
Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor 734-239-9015 or email: glengary@questserv.org
New Hudson: 248-437-7535 or email: trilawney@questserv.org
South Lyon: 248-573-5023

Help Wanted - General

Seasonal Laborer \$10 per Hour
Seasonal through October
The City of Novi
For job description and application visit:
www.cityofnovi.org
Submit completed City application to: HumanResources@cityofnovi.org
Or fax: (248) 735-5698 Apply promptly. EOE

Help Wanted - Medical

Caretel Inns of Brighton has a great opportunity for **MDS COORDINATOR**
Fast paced post acute rehab admission/ discharge program! Strong Medicare background, RN, MDS & PPS assessment experience required.
We offer an excellent MDS team, competitive pay, excellent benefits and work environment.
Apply in person at: 1014 E. Grand River Ave Brighton MI
Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com
You'll Want to Work Here!

Help Wanted - Medical

Caretel Inns OF BRIGHTON
is seeking a dynamic leader to fill this important role:
WEEKEND MANAGER RN: Part Time
12-Hour Shifts, Days/Afternoons Reporting to the DHS, this person will represent leadership in absence of administration on weekends, support the clinical staff, and function as the admission coordinator.
Qualified RN candidates must be both clinically knowledgeable and administratively competent. MI RN license, outstanding customer service, organizational skills, MS Office & computer literacy all required.
Apply in person at: 1014 E. Grand River Ave Brighton MI
Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com
You'll Want to Work Here!

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

TEAM REHABILITATION PHYSICAL THERAPY
is seeking highly motivated and qualified individuals for full and part-time Physical Therapist positions at our Livonia clinic. We offer a competitive salary, excellent benefit package and bonuses. Apply online at: www.team-rehab.com

WOODHAVEN

RNS
FT (8a-6:30p) & PT (6p-6:30a)
Activity Assistant
FT, bachelor's degree preferred.
CNAs
PT & FT (need 12 or more months at most recent job to apply)
Apply online at: <http://woodhaven.squarespace.com/apply-for-employment>

ASSEMBLY

DAVCO
DAVCO, Inc., the global leader in nitrogen gas spring technology, is growing! We are looking for dependable, bright individuals with a strong work ethic to train for full-time, day-shift, positions. Job responsibilities include part quality inspection, sub and complete product assembly build, final product inspection and order packing. Qualified candidates will be quick learners with a high school diploma, technical aptitude, and strong attention to detail. Come and work with our talented team in our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. We will offer you training, competitive wages, and benefits, including 401(k), EOE.
Email resumes to: plymouthjob@yahoo.com

CNC OPERATOR/PROGRAMMER

ACE
ACE Controls, a leader in velocity controls, is seeking CNC Operators for our day and afternoon shifts to set up, change over and operate various CNC 3-axis mills and lathes. Experience with manual lathes and bridgeports a plus. Must be able to program using G&M codes. Minimum 3 years CNC programming experience.
Interested candidates should send resume to accareer@acecontrols.com

DATABASE OPERATIONS I/II

Washtenaw
WASHTENAW COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Responsible for providing technical & organizational leadership for the organization which consists of both Oracle & SQL Server databases. Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Information Systems or a related field.
Info & an online app: <http://www.washtenaw.org>
or by visiting the Washtenaw County Human Resources Dept. 220 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Diesel Mechanic:

Great Pay / Benefits. APPLY: durhamschoolservices.com
24666 Lahser Road, Southfield, MI 48033
248-352-8755

DRIVER - EXP'D.

Class A Semi/Rock box dump. Clean driving record. Must have DOT medical card. Call: 734-697-1183

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TRUCK DRIVERS-OTR/CLASS A CDL

ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES
in Romulus, MI seeks:
LTL TRUCK DRIVERS
(Multiple stop loads to retail stores) Earning potential avg. \$81,000 year - Ability to Enter Canada
•Home Weekly
•Paid Vacation
•Full Benefit Package
Class A CDL & at least 1 year current OTR exp. Clean MVR/PSP Reports. Call 1-800-837-2241 8AM to 4PM
CST for info & app or email: jobs@ashleydistribution.com
or www.ashleydistribution.com to apply under jobs.

HAIRDRESSER

Plymouth Senior Facility 1-2 days/wk. RELIABLE, experience roller sets.
Call 734-604-3518

HAIR STYLIST WANTED

With clientele. Relaxed atmosphere, flexible schedule, no Sunday/Monday. Your Total Image 8037 Middlebelt Rd Westland 48185 734-425-9430

HVAC SERVICE TECH

SIGNING BONUS avail to HVAC Service Tech w/min 5 yrs. exp in comm service. Exc. wages & fringe benefits. 248-673-7900

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

West Hickory Haven
A 101 bed, skilled nursing center, is accepting applications for a full-time maintenance assistant. We are looking for a dynamic individual with a background in general maintenance and repairs. Previous work in healthcare setting preferred but will train the right candidate.
Please apply in person at West Hickory Haven 3310 W. Commerce Rd. Milford MI 48360 No phone calls please.

Building Maintenance Director

Have basic exp in HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing & Carpentry. 40 hrs + full benefits (Health Ins, Vacation, Holidays Paid). Top Pay for Right Person. Resume: asthaper@aol.com

HOUSEKEEPERS

Caretel Inns OF BRIGHTON
We have expanded and have IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for
HOUSEKEEPERS
For Day Shift, Part Time and Full Time. Must be friendly, outgoing, and enjoy working with the elderly. Experience preferred. High School Diploma or GED required.
Apply in person at: 1014 E. Grand River Ave Brighton MI
Or email resume to: hrcaretelbrighton@gmail.com
You'll Want to Work Here!

OFFICE CLEANING CORPORATE CLEANING GROUP

Is expanding in the Novi, Farmington Hills & West Bloomfield areas. Evening cleaning positions available.
Mon-Fri 248-313-9485

OPERATORS & LABORERS

Underground Sewer & Water Work, Directional Drilling. Must have valid Driver's License with reliable transportation. Hard working individuals need only apply. Apply Mon-Fri., 8-4 at: 50850 Bemis Rd, Belleville, MI 48111

VALET PARKING ATTENDANTS

Must have own transportation. The ability to run 2 miles a night. Clean and professional appearance. Part or Full Time. \$9/hr. Call: 248-682-1800 patrickdoty@me.com

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

QUALITY INSPECTORS

Downriver. Inspect/rework auto parts. Driver's lic., reliable car, working phone/voicemail, attention to detail, neat appearance required. Call 313-382-6934 For appl Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

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•Be Your Own Boss
•Work Your Schedule
•You Determine Your Income
•Bonus Programs
•Health/Life/Disability/Retirement
•Full Time Support Staff
PAT RYAN, REALTOR (734) 591-9200 PatRyan.com
RealEstateOne.com

Screw Machine Operators and Set-up Operators

Master Automatic
Master Automatic, a precision machining company, is seeking Screw Machine Operators and Set up Operators. Must have Prior experience on Acme Gridley Screw Machines.
Please complete application or send resume to: Master Automatic, Inc. 40485 Schoolcraft Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170 Attn: Human Resources hr@masterautomatic.com www.masterautomatic.com

Teacher/Teacher Asst

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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

CHURCH ASSISTANCE

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

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14
Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: The combined choirs of St. John Neumann and St. Mary's of Wayne will perform *Mass in G* by Schubert. St. Mary's will present the concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15. Free

CONCERT

Time/Date: 3 p.m. March 15
Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
Details: "Footprints in the Sand," with words by Joseph Martin and music by Joseph Martin and David Angerman, will be presented by the choirs of Newburg United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of Garden City, directed by Richard Lenz with Bev Ratcliffe accompanying

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 19-21
Location: Trinity in the Woods, 26880 La Muera, Farmington Hills
Details: "A Call to Peace," with reception to follow. Tickets, \$10

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 15
Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21915 Beech Street, Dearborn
Details: Requiem for the Living, by Dan Forrest focuses on grace and redemption. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for seniors and students, 12 and over. Children under 12 are admitted free. Buy tickets online at detroitlutheransingers.com or at the door

EVANGELIZATION SERIES

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, March 8-10
Location: Our Lady of Loretto, corner of Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Deacon Alex Jones leads the series

GUEST SPEAKER

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12

Location: St. Priscilla Catholic Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia
Details: Catherine Lanni, author of *A Call to Trust*, will talk about her life-changing experience, St. Faustina, and the Divine Mercy Centers. Prayer ministers will be available for private prayer and books and religious items will be sold

JEWES FOR JESUS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Alexander Adelson will present "Christ in the Passover"

LENTEN SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne
Details: Theme is "I Tell You The Truth." Free treats after the service

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

VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 8
Location: St. Gregory Palamas, 14235 E. 11 Mile Warren
Details: The second of five Vespers services sponsored by The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit. Services conducted by members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit. The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit will sing responses during the service. The homilist will be the Very Rev. Radomir Obsenica, pastor of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Monroe

APRIL RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 17
Location: Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: Rent a table or space and sell your own stuff; tables are \$20. Proceeds to Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group

ONGOING CLASSE/STUDY

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

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study

FAITH COMMUNITY WESLEYAN

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday
Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if

you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476
CLOTHING BANK
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last

Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton
Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL
Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: Salvation Army,

27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

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CHAPEKIS, THEODORE

January 31, 2015, Age 86. Husband of the late Cleo for 62 years. Dear father of Anthony "Andy" (Cheryl), Nicholas (Carole), and Philip (Alison). Loving grandfather of Melanie, Meredith, Kelsey, Sarah, and Robert. Brother of Nick (Marina), Fred (late Helen), Jim (Jean), Georgia Vezane (late John), and the late Kaye Kolovos (late Nick) and Mary Paige. Brother in law of Kay Vlachos (late John) and the late Angie Vlachos. Memorial service Saturday, March 14th, 2015 at 3p.m. at Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to Regents of the University of Michigan, DEPT CH 10189, Palatine, IL 60055-0189. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com 248-549-0500



GAGNEUR, BRUCE EDWARD

age 52, passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at Maury Regional Medical Center. Bruce was born on February 2, 1963 to the late Roland Gagneur and Joyce Case Gagneur in Wayne, Michigan. As a little boy, he loved to play in the dirt with his toy cars and his passion for dirt continued throughout his life. Bruce had the absolute best smile. He was the youngest of seven wonderful children. Bruce was a family man and deeply loved his family. He has a big heart and treated everyone as family. He adored his nephews and nieces. The family will visit with friends at Williams Funeral Home in Columbia, Tennessee on Friday, March 6 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held in the Chapel of Williams Funeral Home on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Polk Memorial Gardens. Bruce is survived by his loving wife Carol Gagneur of Columbia; sons Rodney DeWire and Justin Gagneur both of Columbia; grandchild Keeley DeWire of Columbia; sisters Karen Serra of Westland, Michigan. Sandra Kleven of Holly, Michigan, Teresa (Thomas) Smith of Allen Park, Michigan, and Lynne (Frank) Ouellette of Holly, Michigan; brothers Tom (Suzanne) Gagneur and Christopher Gagneur of Columbia; brother-in-law Tommy Childrey of Fayetteville, Tennessee; nephews Kevin (Amanda) Serra of Westland, Michigan, Andrew (Christa) Ouellette of Holly, Michigan, and Jeremy Gagneur of Fayetteville, Tennessee; and nieces Crystal Hall of Tullahoma, Tennessee and Cassie Blalock. Williams Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.williamsfh.com.



CORTRIGHT, CHARLES ROBERT "BUCK"

Age 97, born in Great Meadows, New Jersey on February 20, 1918 passed away March 4, 2015. WWII veteran of the Army Air Transport Command. Charles was a resident of Farmington Hills, Michigan for the last 49 years. Loving husband of the late Pearl Cortright for 49 years and Phillisha Cortright for 10 years. Dearest father of Sandra Cortright (Bob Frankenfield) of Vienna, New Jersey and Debra (Brent) Stoops of Plymouth, Michigan. Proud grandfather of Jennifer (PJ) Scott of Hudsonville, MI, Karen (James) Dolezky of Rockford, MI, Jason (Kristin) Stoops of Northville, MI, and Matthew Stoops of Livonia, MI. Great grandfather of nine. Member of VFW, Elks and Danish Brotherhood. Funeral service Saturday 11:00 a.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave, Downtown Farmington. Visitation Friday 4-9 p.m. Burial at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia, Michigan. Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675. www.thayer-rock.com



GIACOMIN ABELINO ANTONIO

1924 - 2015
 "Abe"
 Abelino Giacomin, 90, of Palatine, IL passed away peacefully Tues., March 3, 2015 at Oakton Pavilion Hospice in Des Plaines, IL. Born in Johnston City, IL, June 2, 1924, but lived his childhood in northern Italy (Fonzaso & Pordenone) from age 6, returning to the United States at age 15. Abe was so proud to be an American and fought bravely in WWII with the Army First Division (The Big Red One) fighting 3 days with General George Patton. He was severely injured during the Battle of the Bulge losing a leg at 19 years old. Abe was very active in the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and Purple Heart organizations...including being past Wisconsin State Commander of the Purple Heart. Despite his handicap he was faithful to his church and was active in the construction of its building. Abe spent his working career in the automotive engineering division with American Motors, Kenosha, WI and Chrysler, Detroit, MI. Married for 52 years to his loving wife Christine Seeger from Kenosha, WI who preceded him in death in 1998. Abe loved his country and family, sister Silvia Misurelli from Kenosha, WI, daughter Elena (Joe) Giacomin Dennis from Santa Fe, N. M., son Vince (Ramona) Giacomin of Rolling Meadows, IL, granddaughters Tyra (Donald) Poyner from Jupiter, FL, Elizabeth (Ross) Fiersten from Chicago, IL, Cara Knutson from Naperville, IL, grandson Anthony Giacomin from Chicago, IL, five great-grandchildren, Mia, Josh, Max, Giavana and Alistor, he was uncle and cousin to many. He was loved by his family and friends and will be greatly missed. Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 9th at 12:00 Noon at Proko Funeral Home. Interment followed by military honors at Green Ridge Cemetery. A Visitation will be held on Sunday from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. and will continue on Monday from 11:30 A.M. until the time of the services at Proko Funeral Home. Proko Funeral Home & Crematory 5111 60th St., 262 654 3533 Visit Abelino's Online Memorial Book at: www.prokofuneralhome.com



RANDAZZO, SHARON JEAN (NEE FAIRFIELD)

Age 66, of Livonia. Passed away peacefully February 23, 2015. Beloved wife of Joseph Sr. Dear mother of Dionne Ciaramitaro and Lisa Pisano. Nonna of Adrianna, Darian and Rocco. Dear step-mother of Michelle, Cindy, Christy (Danny) and Joseph Jr. Plus grandmother of ten and three great grandchildren. Dearest niece of her devoted Aunt Adline (Kenny) Vahle and many relatives in Ohio and Michigan. Sharon leaves many dear life long friends (Elaine, Laura, Judy, Louise, Sharon) and her devoted dog Sophia. Preceded in death by parents Robert and Tressie Fairfield and brother Edward Fairfield. Sharon was a proud letter carrier and union member in Livonia for 35 years, with a winning smile, bright blue eyes, sense of humor, generosity, sharp wit and energetic spirit that will be greatly missed but never forgotten. "A woman who loved life and lived it." Sharon's wishes were to be cremated. A memorial visitation will be held at 9:00am March 21, 2015 at SS. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer Rd., Westland, MI until time of Memorial Mass at 10:00am. A luncheon will be served in the church hall following the mass. The family requests that memorial donations be made to SS. Simon & Jude building fund. Please share a memory and sign online guest book at www.rggharris.com



SEAVITT, EMILY LOUISE (MATTHEWS)

Emily Louise (Matthews) Seavitt passed peacefully the morning of February 25 in Saline, Mich. where she continued to share her bright smile with the attentive staff at the Saline Evangelical Home who cared for her the last few years of her 7-year duel with Parkinson's Disease. She was 88. Emily was born May 20, 1926 in Highland Park, MI to Sue Gay Short Matthews and James Gordon Matthews. She survived her adoring older siblings, James G. David O., Sue G. Jean S., and her youngest son, Daniel E. Sparling. Emily grew up in Royal Oak, Mich. and graduated from Albion College in 1946. She met Bob "Spud" Sparling (d. 10/6/1999) in Bay View, Mich. the summer of 1946, marrying him the next year; beginning their 36-year life together in Detroit and later Plymouth, Mich. Together, they raised six children, Robert (Susan VanAntwerp) Sparling, Peter (John Gutoskey) Sparling, Tim (Lynne Tobin) Sparling, Dan, Sue Gay (Jim Collins) Sparling Collins and Julie Sparling. Emily sang in the choir at Strathmoor Methodist Church in Detroit and the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, raised funds for the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and supported her children through their violin, dance and piano lessons, play practice, scouting, swim practice and life celebrations and challenges. She taught 26 years at the Plymouth Children's Nursery. Emily later married Richard Seavitt of Dearborn (d. 1996). She is survived by nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many cherished nieces and nephews. Memorials are planned for Ann Arbor in May and also for Bay View this summer. Nie Family Funeral Home in Ann Arbor has details.



TURF, ANNE M. KOCZMAN

April 19, 1919 - March 2, 2015, age 95, of Birmingham, Michigan. Born in Cleveland, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Louis R. Turf II, parents Gustave J. Koczman and Margaret Krivjansky Koczman and brother Gus. Survivors include four children: Sandy (David) Spaw, Louis R. Turf III, Alan (Betsy) Turf and Denise (Greg) Penttiak, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was a 1937 graduate of Milan High School and received her nursing degree from St. Joseph Mercy College in Ann Arbor, MI. She lived in Milan, Saline, Three Oaks and Birmingham, MI. She loved to garden, and was a member of the Birmingham Estates Garden Club. Anne was also a member of Holy Name and later St. Thomas More Catholic Churches. A Memorial Mass will be held at 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 9th at St. Anne's Mead, Assisted Living, 16106 West 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI.



SCOTT, BARBARA P.

Age 75. March 2, 2015. Beloved wife of Gene. Dear mother of Ann (Steve) Fabirkiewicz, Eugene (Karen), Janet (Chris) Roos and Rose. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of one. Visitation Sunday and Monday 4-8 p.m. with Scripture Service Sunday 7 p.m. and Rosary Monday 7 p.m. at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Tuesday 10 a.m. followed by the 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at St. Theodore Catholic Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, (bet. Warren and Joy). Family suggests memorials to the American Red Cross or St. Vincent dePaul. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

BIRTH



Thayer Thomas Pomerson

THAYER THOMAS POMERSON

Thayer Thomas Pomerson was born Feb. 11, 2015, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Proud parents are Anthony and Claire Pomerson of Ann Arbor. Grandparents are

Michael and Donna Pomerson of Canton, and Tom and Gwenn Marchesano of Plymouth. Great-grandparents are Janet Pomerson of Huron, Ohio, Salvatore and Nina Rabbio of East Harwich, Mass., and Roger and Joyce Rehfeld of Guntersville, Ala.

DISLER, RICHARD CHASE

Age 85, died at Botsford 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 Botsford 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 your loved one... bring you peace.

May you find comfort in family and friends

Health research: New study indicates nondrug method best for calming dementia patients

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

A University of Michigan clinical trial starting next month will test a nondrug approach to dealing with dementia symptoms.

The computer program, called WeCareAdvisor, will help families and other caregivers prevent or mitigate the triggers for common dementia symptoms such as repetitive questioning, pacing, irritability, aggression, and apathy. Triggers can be anything from a loud telephone ring to clutter in the home to an argumentative caregiver.

"The WeCareAdvisor will have two parts. It will be installed on an iPad and one part is a survival guide with a myriad of resources for caregivers in one place," said Helen Kales, M.D., head of the U-M Program for Positive Aging. Participants will have at their fingertips information on understanding dementia, legal advice, financial resources, and more.

The other part of the program is based on a nondrug approach to addressing dementia called DICE. The model encourages patients, doctors and caregivers to "describe"



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO
A U-M researcher says a nondrug approach called DICE is more effective and less risky than medication, for calming dementia patients.

situations where behavioral problems occur, along with their context; to "investigate" medical problems, such as urinary tract infections or other physical factors that might lead to behavioral problems; to "create" a plan to prevent or respond to behavior issues; and to "evaluate" how the plan is working and if it needs to be changed.

"The caregiver comes to the WeCareAdvisor tool with a symptom — for example, maybe the person is agitated and aggressive during bath time — the tool walks (the caregiver) through the DICE process, so at the end they get a tailored prescription to mitigate that

symptom.

"We're taking the DICE approach and combining it with technology. We've built 1,000 tips and strategies into it. We're really excited about it."

DICE, not drugs

Kales and Laura Gitlin, Ph.D., and Constantine Lykets, M.D., both from Johns Hopkins University, are working with the U-M Center for Health Communications Research to launch the clinical trial, which is funded through the National Institute of Nursing Research.

The DICE approach came out of an expert panel, including nurses, pharmacists, social workers and other health professionals that Kales, a geriatric psychiatrist, Gitlin and Lykets convened in 2011.

Kales and her two co-authors recently published a paper in the *British Medical Journal*, asserting that nondrug approaches, like DICE, work better and are less risky than drugs in addressing dementia behavior symptoms. They reviewed 20 years worth of research in comparing drugs, such as antipsychotics and antidepressants, with nondrug approaches to reach their conclusions. They found that caregivers trained to identify

and stop behavioral triggers, can be more effective than drugs in treating dementia symptoms.

"Medications do work on some people," Kales noted. "There are scenarios where they would be used as the first line of treatment — if someone is depressed and may be at risk of suicidal thoughts or actions. Or if someone is aggressive to the point they put others or themselves in danger. Medication may be necessary in the short run.

"But in many other cases behavioral and environmental (intervention) should be used first."

Key factors

She said caregivers need to be trained in identifying and then mitigating the triggers of behavioral symptoms. They need to look at the patient, themselves, and the environment.

"Things may be going on with the patient themselves. They may have developed a urinary tract infection, they may be dehydrated. The caregiver is a factor. They may be stressed, frustrated and angry," she said, adding that a caregiver's "negative reaction" can trigger symptoms.

"The environment is a huge factor in all this. If they are over-stimulated — too much noise, clutter, people coming in and out of the house — that can set off agitation." She pointed out that medication may sedate a dementia patient but doesn't fix the trigger that causes behavioral symptoms, such as anger or agitation.

"The issue and the challenge is that our health care system has not incentivized training in alternatives to drug use, and there is little to no reimbursement for caregiver-based methods," Kales noted. She said the U.S. can take a cue from Japan, which has a high rate of dementia among its elderly population and "as a society has made a decision to deal with it."

"They are developing community health-focused centers for people with dementia. They're training people to be dementia supporters. They're training transportation workers," she said. "We can learn something from looking at their culture. As a society, it's important we speak about these issues."

Caregivers interested in joining the clinical trial can email Kales at kales@umich.edu.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Blood drive

Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Classrooms 1-4 in the Allen Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Call 734-458-4259 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

Breastfeeding clinic

Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, offers a

class for new moms who need assistance nursing their babies, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, March 9. Participants will get a chance to examine various products and supplies. Cost is \$35. Register for Breastfeeding Basics at 248-888-2500 or botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html.

Celiac support

Kelly Dorfman, an expert on using nutrition therapeutically to improve brain function, energy and mood, will speak at the next meeting of the Tri County Celiac Support Group, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 30, at the First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Her topic will be "Beyond Celiac: When Removing Gluten Is Not Enough." tccsg.net

Childbirth Class

Learn about the stages of labor, managing discomfort, relaxation and breathing methods, the partner's role in labor and delivery, medications and anesthesia, C-Section deliveries and more, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farming-

ton Hills. Cost is \$75. Register by phone, 248-888-2500, or online, www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html.

Diabetes management

» Link Up with Diabetes, a Garden City Hospital support group with a focus on living a healthy lifestyle, will focus on Internet health literacy, 2 p.m. April 1, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. For more information, call the hospital at 734-458-4330.

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