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Police seek driver in fatal accident

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Westland Police have released a description of a driver who struck a pedestrian who was killed while crossing Wayne Road on March 9.

Police are seeking the driver of a red or burgundy Chrysler Pacifica. The driver was described as a white male in his mid- to late-50s, 5-foot-8 with a medium build, a gray mustache and neatly trimmed gray beard. He was described as wearing a T-shirt and jeans.

Westland resident Marcia Japowicz, 53, died after being struck by at least two vehicles. Police said that Japowicz was

crossing Wayne Road at Schley and was standing in the left turn lane when she was bumped into northbound traffic lanes by a vehicle.

"A witness came forward. She saw the victim get bumped by the van and fall over into the roadway," Westland Deputy Police Chief Todd Adams said. "She stopped her car and went to help the victim."

That witness told police she was approaching the victim when Japowicz was struck by the Pacifica. The driver of the Pacifica stopped his vehicle, got out and walked back toward Japowicz, the witness told police.

"A second vehicle also ap-

parently ran over her (Japowicz). When he saw her run over, the man got into his vehicle and left," Adams said. "I don't know if he got scared or thought he couldn't do anything."

There was no description available of the second car that struck Japowicz and didn't stop at the scene, Adams said.

The 83-year-old driver of the van that initially struck Japowicz was slowing as she pulled into the left turn lane, Adams said, knocking Japowicz over. That driver stopped at the scene.

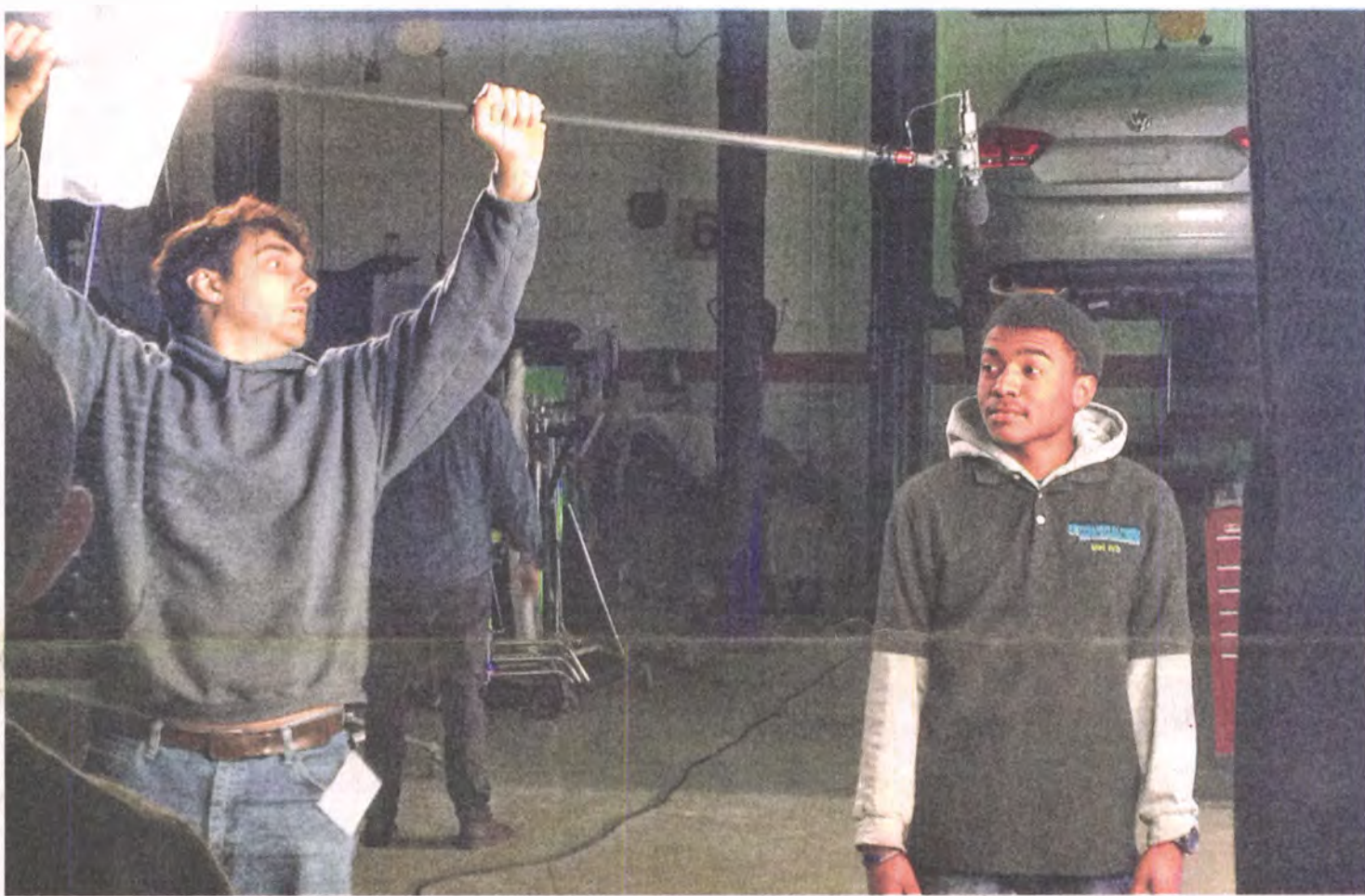
Japowicz lived on Schley

See **DRIVER**, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A memorial is stationed in front of the Westland Taco Bell where employee Marcia Japowicz was killed crossing Wayne Road on her way to work.



Student Juwan Jamison is interviewed during the filming at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

WWCSD

W-W students, staff show off work for Pure Michigan video

By **Sue Mason**
Staff Writer

The work being done on an IVD (Innovative Vehicle Design) project has caught the attention of more than the staff and students at the William D. Ford Career Tech-

nical Center in Westland. Royal Oak-based Avalon Films and the McCann Detroit Advertising Agency out of Birmingham transformed the Automotive Technology Department into a film set and the students and teachers into actors last week to begin

work on a four-minute career technical video for Pure Michigan.

"The main purpose of this is to change the perception of the auto industry," Principal Steve Kay said. "The goal is to transform how we look at the industry and see it in a

different light and see that there is more opportunity out there. This is the first time in eight years that I've seen something positive come out of Lansing supporting career technical education."

See **VIDEO**, Page A2

Four arrested in TV theft

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Four Inkster residents have been charged with shoplifting and are suspected of being involved in a shoplifting ring that struck stores in Westland, Canton, Garden City and Dearborn.

Westland Police began investigating after five suspects entered Kmart, 165 S. Wayne Road, March 1 and were reported to have stolen four televisions.

After investigation, detectives were able to obtain information on the suspects, resulting in a search warrant being executed in Inkster. Two of the stolen TVs were reported to have been recovered from that location.

Officers arrested four of the five suspects, all of whom share a home in Inkster, for retail fraud. Police report that further investigation led to the recovery of two additional televisions from local pawn shops.

According to police, the investigation found that the suspects were involved in a retail fraud ring that was targeting local area stores in not only Westland, but the surrounding communities of Canton, Dearborn and Garden City. Police are continuing to investigate.

Arraigned in Westland 18th District Court were:
» Frank Caudill, 34, charged with felony retail fraud. Bond

See **ARRESTS**, Page A2



Alghith



Brown



Caudill



Farley

Lighting upgrades to begin this month

DTE Energy will improve street lighting in Westland this spring as part of its efforts to continue to improve energy efficiency.

DTE will convert 166 streetlight fixtures to LED fixtures and will convert se-

ries street light circuits to multiple street light circuits along Wayne Road between Glenwood and Warren Road and between Central City Parkway and Parkgrove.

The total cost of the project is \$64,047. The cost to

Westland will be \$29,688 after a \$16,600 DTE Luminaire Credit and a \$17,759 DTE Energy Optimization Rebate. The city share will be paid out of Westland's Metro Act Fund.

This project will save the city \$23,136 annually with a

projected payback time of 1.2 years.

"The City of Westland is excited to partner with DTE Energy for this investment in our aging lighting infrastruc-

See **LIGHTS**, Page A2



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DRIVER

Continued from Page A1

and was crossing Wayne Road to go to her job at the Taco Bell on the east side of Wayne Road.

Family and friends gathered for a candlelight vigil Tuesday to remember Japowicz who had worked at that particular Taco Bell for nearly a decade and 26 years with the fast food

chain.

Japowicz's family established a Go Fund Me page to help cover funeral costs. For more information, visit www.gofundme.com/oerlx8.

Anyone with information about the accident is asked to call the Westland Police Traffic Bureau at 734-722-9600.

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ARRESTS

Continued from Page A1

was set at \$10,000/10 percent.

» Kenneth Brown, 24, Tabitha Alghithi, 26, and Tori Farley, 19, all charged with misdemeanor retail fraud/

receiving and concealing stolen property. Bond was set at \$1,000 cash for each.

Not guilty pleas were entered for all four defendants.

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Police seek suspect in credit card fraud case

The Westland Police Department is requesting assistance from the public to identify a suspect wanted for using a stolen credit card.

The suspect used an unknown victim's information at the Family Dollar store and a 7-Eleven store, according to police.

The suspect has illegally used a victim's credit card to spend thousands of dollars in Westland, Garden City,

Wayne and Taylor, police said.

Anyone with information regarding the identity of the subject is asked to contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or the Westland Police Detective Bureau at 734-721-6311.



Suspect

CORRECTION

The Park Players will reduce ticket prices for its production of *The Addams Family* only Sunday, March 15. Ticket-holders must bring non-perishable food items to the thea-

ter for donations to a food bank to get the reduced price. The show is at 2 p.m. at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit.

Topless dancer, family accused of extortion

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland couple and their daughter have been indicted on federal charges stemming from allegations that \$2.6 million was extorted from an Oakland County businessman over his sexual relationship with a young woman.

Jailed in lieu of bond after his arraignment Wednesday, Terry Tackett, 52, is named in a 119-count indictment. The charges against him include money laundering, tax evasion and

conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Tackett's wife Kimberly, 53, and daughter Jessica, 25, are charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice. They are both free on bond following their arraignments. All have pleaded not guilty.

The 37-page grand jury indictment outlines a case dating to 2008 when Jessica Tackett was reportedly providing income to the family while working as a topless dancer. During that time, she met a businessman identified in

media reports as Paul Vagnozzi of Orchard Lake but called Person A in the indictment.

Son of the late Farmington Hills mayor and state representative Aldo Vagnozzi, software engineer Paul Vagnozzi had sold his business and retired in 2005.

The indictment charges that Jessica Tackett worked as a prostitute getting paid for having a sexual relationship with Vagnozzi. That included Vagnozzi having a threesome with Jessica Tackett and her cousin, according to the

indictment.

It was reportedly threats to report the sexual encounter with the cousin, purported to be underage, that the indictment alleges Terry Tackett used to extort money from Vagnozzi. The indictment also alleges that Terry Tackett made a variety of threats against Vagnozzi, claiming organized crime and motorcycle gang connections.

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VIDEO

Continued from Page A1

The center was selected for the video because of its more than 14-year relationship with the Square One Education Foundation, which sponsors the IVD project that challenges students to construct vehicles with innovative features and then test them at an IVD Performance Day.

This year's competition is focusing on infotainment and safety, specifically an early warning system in the case of the William D. Ford students.

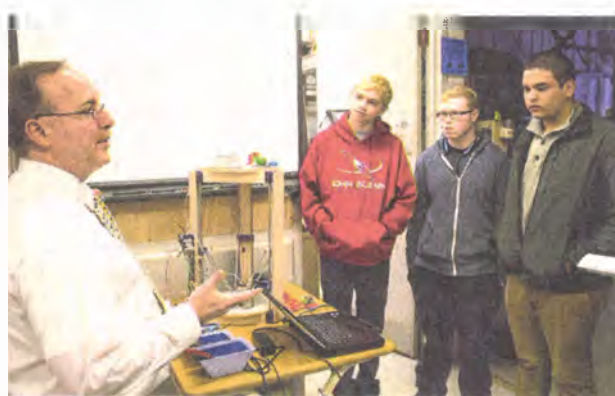
"We're focusing on the safety piece, the focus is on connectivity as an early warning system," Kay said. "They're working with technology that may not even be on vehicles right now."

The video is one of several being done for Pure Michigan. The focus is on trying to keep talent in the Detroit metro area and recruit talent as well as inspire youth to find a career in technical education as opposed to attending a four-year university.

The visit to the center was the first of two by Avalon and McCann Detroit. They will be back in May to shoot footage of the students testing their vehicle and then will be at Belle Isle on May 23 to film at Performance Day.

Volunteer effort

The IVD Project is all volunteer on the part of students who work on the vehicle after school with Auto Tech teacher James Schirmer and Game Design and Programming teacher JC



Teacher JC Irvine talks with Brandon Head, Pete Augustino and Yihweth Ponce De Leon about the 3-D printer.

wwcSD

Irvine. The students are transforming a dune buggy into their IVD. Meant for an 8-year-old, they've had to stretch the body to accommodate a much larger student, and are fabricating the parts needed to handle the technology.

Graphic design students like Brandon Head, Pete Augustino and Yihweth Ponce De Leon, all from Westland, have been using their skills to create 3-D images of holders for the safety sensors and sonar on the rear of the IVD and then fabricate them on a 3-D printer.

Instead of paper, it works with plastic thread that is heated and then placed on the printer surface to construct the object. Irvine had seen a 3-D printer at a conference last summer and talked to Kay about getting a kit. Two were purchased.

"We built the first one to see how it works; the next one will be built by the students," Irvine said. "I've seen different versions of this where they've engineered oars for boats and made buildings. I'm surprised this didn't come out soon-

er. When you think about it, it's quite simple."

"It was hard to believe at first," Head said. "How crazy is it to make something like this from a plastic string?"

For Rob Schneider of Westland, the IVD is a way of continuing his pursuit in coding that started when he was 6 years old playing video games. He's using Adreno, a graphics processing unit, to come up with the controls for the laser and sensors.

Malik Jordan of Wayne is doing research. Because of other after-school activities, he hasn't been available to be at the center. Instead he has done things as research 3-D parts for the holders and then send them to Irvine to see if they can be modified.

"I started with 3-D and I wanted to see it in action," he said of his decision to get involved with the IVD. "I wish I wasn't so busy or I'd be able to work around it, but doing the research allows me to contribute."

Unexpected

The students admit they didn't expect to be

LIGHTS

Continued from Page A1

ture," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

"These improvements are much needed and will address the safety concerns of our residents."

The current street lights pose problems

because when one street light goes out, other lights on the circuit can be affected. The upgrades to LED from mercury vapor will ensure that when there is a problem with one street light, other lights on the circuit will continue to operate. In addition, the new lights will be significantly more energy efficient.

To complete each phase of the project safely, DTE Energy will shut off power to impacted street lighting circuits for 30 to 40 days, beginning this month. Signs will be posted on street lights that are affected by the upgrade work and door hangers will be left at area homes and businesses to notify them that work is being

done.

As work on each circuit is completed, street lights will be restored as quickly as possible to lessen the impact on the community.

For more information, contact DTE Energy's Community Lighting Department at 800-548-4655 or visit dteenergy.com/lights for project status reports.

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Recently elected Congressman shares Washington experience at chamber event

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Dave Trott shared with Livonia Chamber of Commerce members Wednesday one of the few “thrilling” moments he said he’s had since joining Congress at the beginning of the year.

It wasn’t the address by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu given earlier this month, though he said he enjoyed sitting through the speech.

One of the thrilling moments, he said, came during a regulatory committee hearing for the RAPID Act where Trott arrived early enough to question a think-tank worker. There, Trott said he enjoyed having the opportunity to ask someone about business regulations proposed through the bill.

“My opening question to him was, ‘Have you ever owned or run a business?’” he said. “He said no. And from there, it was just good fun, because he had no clue about the impact of government delays on business and business people to execute a business plan.”

Trott spoke to several members of the Livonia Chamber on Wednesday morning at Schoolcraft College’s VisTaTech Center during a breakfast designed to allow chamber members to see and hear their new representative in Congress.

Trott, a Republican from Birmingham, replaced Kerry Bentivolio in January after defeat-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Congressman Dave Trott speaks at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Schoolcraft College.

ing him in a primary last fall and then defeating Democrat Bobby McKenzie in the November general election.

He represents the 11th Congressional District in Michigan, which covers parts of southern Oakland County and northwestern Wayne County, including Livonia, Plymouth, Northville and Canton.

Livonia mayor Jack Kirksey said while Trott has only been in Congress a few months, he sounds like he is experienced in the chamber.

“You speak as if you’ve been there a long time,” Kirksey told Trott.

DHS funding

He talked about some of the ups-and-downs of his time in Congress, including the issue of



Listening to Congressman Dave Trott.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

funding the Department of Homeland Security earlier this winter.

Many Republicans wanted to tie the funding to the issue of President Barack Obama’s executive order temporarily granting legal status to undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

Trott said because of issues between the House

of Representatives and the Senate, a last-minute vote was taken a few weeks ago to fund the department for one week.

The department was later funded through September after legislation was approved, something Trott also voted for. Trott said he had to weigh the issues before casting his ballot for the original

funding bill, which he said was for funding the department that oversees the Coast Guard and TSA.

“The question becomes: Do you think if we don’t fund DHS, more Americans are going to be upset about not funding DHS and protecting our country, or are more Americans going to be

upset about the president’s unconstitutional immigration executive orders?” Trott said. “In my mind, I think most Americans would be upset that the country’s not protected.”

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Cox to help create guidelines for sexual assault kits

State Rep. Laura Cox has been named to Gov. Rick Snyder’s Assault Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission.

The commission was created by law last year and is tasked with developing guidelines to effectively implement a state-wide system to track location, lab status and completed test results for sexual assault evidence kits.

“For too long, Michigan has had a disorganized and mismanaged system for the testing of this evidence and that is unacceptable,” said Rep. Cox, R-Livonia. “I look forward to working with the commission to find a way to ensure none of these kits are overlooked and that the money is spent wisely and efficiently.”

The commission was created after the discovery of 11,000 untested evidence kits in a Detroit Police storage facility. To date 10,000 of those kits have been sent for testing.

“The incident that occurred in Detroit absolutely cannot happen again,” Cox said. “Victims of sexual assault need assurance that the state will do everything they can to identify and prosecute their attackers. My hope is that the guidelines created by this commission will bring swift justice.”

Other members of the commission include the attorney general, the director of the Michigan State Police and representatives from various health and law enforcement organizations.



Cox

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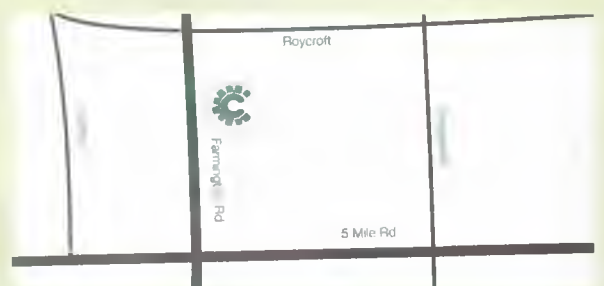
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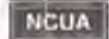


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The value of the incentive will be reported as interest income on Form 1099-INT. Employees and board members are ineligible for either offer.



Election complaint filed against LPS, teachers union

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Loyd Romick has filed complaints with the Michigan Secretary of State alleging that Livonia Public Schools and the district's teachers union violated campaign finance laws by sending campaign-related emails to LPS email addresses.

Specifically, the complaint against LPS says an email supporting certain LPS school board candidates for the November election was sent to LPS addresses. In

Michigan, it is a misdemeanor for a public body, or an individual acting on its behalf, to use or authorize the use of computer hardware or software, or other public resources, to make a campaign contribution or expenditure.

The complaint against the Livonia Education Association and the Michigan Education Association says they contributed to certain LPS candidate committees by sending a campaign-related email to their 1,000 or so teachers and storing campaign

materials. A knowing violation is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000.

LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa said Monday, "The school district was not involved in this. It was a simple mistake in which an MEA employee selected an incorrect email list when sending information. We do not believe it was intentional."

LEA President Joannary Nennering was unavailable for comment Tuesday morning.

Romick said "the email advises who the

union wants them to vote for, then offers them campaign materials."

Dated Oct. 14, 2014, the email recommended four of the eight candidates running: Mark Johnson, Colleen Burton, Liz Jarvis and Dan Centers. Only Centers ran unopposed. All four were elected; those who had opponents won by more than 2,200 votes each. The email also stated the MEA office had signs and literature "if you want to stop by."

Two district employees who are officials in the Livonia Education

Association union local, Nennering and Nancy Stramecki, signed the email.

Romick, who initially contacted the state back in October, said the complaint process was delayed, in part, because his father was gravely ill and died in the interim.

The district and unions have 15 business days from March 2 to respond to the allegations, according to letters sent to them by the Bureau of Elections.

Lori A. Bourbonais of the Bureau of Elections said in the letter that the

bureau neither is making the allegations nor accepting them as true but will investigate to determine whether there is reason to believe violations occurred.

If it determines that they have, the department's enforcement powers include referring the matter to the state attorney general for enforcement of the criminal penalty.

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Livonia school chief eliminated for top state job

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa has been eliminated as a candidate for state superintendent.

The State Board of Education decided Wednesday not to have him back for an additional interview after meeting with him and five other semifinalists this week.

Board members were asked to raise their hands for any of the candidates they wanted to have additional conversation with. Not one of the board members raised his or her hand for Liepa. All the other semifinalists received at least four votes.

The chosen candidate will replace Mike Flanagan, who leaves July 1.

Board members had previously narrowed down the field of 54 applicants to the six they wanted to interview. One board member said Wednesday that narrowing the list further to the three finalists was a tough decision, given their caliber.

Liepa said it "was a great honor to be considered for the position.



Liepa

"The board has great candidates to choose from and I am confident they will choose an outstanding leader for Michigan," he said.

Livonia school board president Colleen Burton said she was surprised Liepa was eliminated so quickly from the running. "Clearly the state board is looking for something other than in Dr. Liepa. I am really not sure what the state is looking for," she said.

She said she would be honored to have Liepa serve as Livonia's superintendent for as long as he is willing and able. "The state's loss is Livonia's huge gain."

Liepa said in a previous interview that becoming state superintendent was not a long-term goal of his but he wanted an opportunity to have more of a voice in Lansing on education policy — his passion.

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.

Liepa said previously he was 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 accounting. From 1984 to 1987, he was a Public Accountant for Plante and Moran.

The board on Wednesday narrowed the list of candidates to three: 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.

The other two semifinalists eliminated were Randy Davis, superintendent, Marshall Public Schools; and Alan Ingram, deputy commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Garden City resident Alayna Smith, a senior at Central Michigan University, has received the Women of Achievement Emerging Leader Award from the YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region.



Alayna Smith

The award honors women who have made outstanding contributions in business, health care, entrepreneurship, education, community leadership or lifetime achievement.

A Young Woman Leader must be a woman between the age of 20-30 who demonstrates emerging leadership skills and has exhibited through her leadership and activities a philosophy of empowerment of women and commitment to the community.

"Alayna was selected for this award because of her tremendous leadership skills exempli-

fied through her academic excellence and service to her global community," said Tony Voisin, CMU associate vice president for student affairs.

"Her commitment to the education and success of our youth makes her a caring citizen and deserving of this award."

Smith accepted her award Feb. 17 due to volunteer commitments on the day of the award dinner planned for Wednesday, March 11.

Four residents of Westland and Garden City were among nearly 1,000 students who graduated at the conclusion of the Fall 2014 semester in December at Grand Valley State University.

The graduates include Devan M. Dodge and Rebekah L. Manning of Garden City and Chelsea P. Romanczuk and Lindsay M. Welborn of Westland who all received bachelor of science degrees.



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Community Foundation to award \$27,500 in grants, honor founder

The Livonia Community Foundation will award a record \$27,500 in grants to 10 organizations and honor founder and former Mayor Robert Bennett later this month.

The ceremony, to which the public is invited, will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium.

Bennett will be honored for his role in establishing the foundation, which over the past 17 years has provided grants totaling \$326,050 to Livonia's charitable, cultural, arts, historical, educational and recreational institutions.

It was Bennett's vision and foresight that brought the team together to begin the foundation in the mid-90s and his leadership in the early years of the organization that helped build the foundation that exists today. While Bennett no



Former Livonia Mayor Bob Bennett will be honored for his role in establishing the foundation, which over the past 17 years has provided grants totaling \$326,050 to Livonia charities.

longer serves as president, he remains an active member of the board of trustees and in December was honored as the first life member of

the board of trustees. The Foundation is a permanent endowment, a trust fund, built by citizen and corporate donors. The Foundation

was chartered in 1995. Following its first full year, the endowment balance was \$32,000. In 1997, the first year funds were available for grants, they awarded \$1,500.

This year's \$27,500 award is a record. Foundation President Brian Meakin said the foundation's investments have been doing better, the result of the renewed investment environment and a very effective asset manager. He said that in 2012 the foundation's assets reached just over \$1 million and it continues to grow from donations and good investment strategy.

"We are pleased to fund these community efforts," said Meakin, who is going on his sixth year as president.

A committee, chaired this year by board member Mark Bublitz, reviews grant applications

to decide which ones most meet the foundation's mission to promote and develop community resources, properties and civic treasures; promote, support and develop public interest in the arts and other local cultural undertakings; and to promote programs that contribute to the welfare of the community and the needs of its citizens.

The organizations approved for grants this year are:

- Angela Hospice Bereavement Program
- First Step
- Greenmead Restoration Trust Fund
- Friends of Livonia Library
- Livonia Civic Chorus
- Livonia Family YMCA camp programs
- Livonia Goodfellows
- No Child Without A Christmas
- Livonia Kids and Families

■ Livonia Symphony Orchestra

■ Seedlings Braille Books for Children

The public is encouraged to attend the awards program at the Livonia Civic Center Library, located east of Farmington Road on Five Mile. The program will feature a short video about the organizations receiving the grants followed by a reception with light refreshments.

Committee chair Mark Bublitz said, "This event gives the public a chance to learn about the Foundation and the organizations serving the community. We are excited about being helping the organizations receiving the grants and showcasing the efforts of the Livonia Community Foundation."

To RSVP or for more information, call Charlie Mahoney at 248-474-0905.

St. Mary Mercy achieves NICHE 'Exemplar' status

St. Mary Mercy Livonia and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor achieved "Exemplar" status for their respective NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) program. NICHE is the premier designation indicating a hospital's commitment to excellence in the care of patients 65 years and older.

The "Exemplar" status — the highest of four possible program levels — was assigned following a program evaluation of the current state and future goals of the NICHE program at both St. Mary Mercy Livonia and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor.

The requirements

include implementation of the NICHE Geriatric Resource Nurse model and evidence-based protocols on all applicable units, including specialty units; implementation of systemic aging-sensitive policies; inclusion of the input of patient, families and community-based providers in planning and implementation of NICHE initiatives; and assuming regional and national leadership roles.

"The NICHE designation and the 'Exemplar' status signal our resolve to provide patient-centered care for older adults," says Joanne Grosh, regional director, Senior Services, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

"Through our participation in the NICHE program, we are able to offer evidence-based, interdisciplinary approaches that promote better outcomes, positive experiences, and improved care for the older adults in our care. This leads to greater satisfaction rates for our patients, their families and our staff."

The Annual Program Evaluation is used to determine the level of their NICHE program. The evaluation benchmarks program progress year-to-year, targets future care initiatives and provides data to use in gaining and sustaining support from institution stakeholders.

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New real estate service bringing 100 jobs to Livonia

A company that moved to Livonia only three years ago is already looking to work more than double its workforce, adding 100 new jobs.

Marketplace Homes recently announced a spinoff company, ZipTours, a mobile real estate platform designed to give home buyers an online view of homes, online scheduling of appointments and live-streaming discussions with an agent regarding the home during a visit. As a result, the company is looking to expand their office, adding 100 new jobs in a variety of areas, including in real estate, technology and support.

The service will also allow home buyers to place an offer on a home right from their computer or smartphone.

"Now, all of a sudden, we're going to need a

whole bunch of people to do that," said Dustin Bosscher, Marketplace Homes' CIO.

The company moved to Livonia in 2012 after sharing office space in Plymouth. Their offices currently employ more than 80 people, and all 100 new jobs will remain in their offices in Livonia, even though the company works in real estate all across the country. The new service will become a separate entity from Marketplace Homes.

CEO Mike Kalis said the company began just as home values, especially in Metro Detroit, began to drop. The next step after working as a brokerage, Kalis said, is to expand this service, developed completely in Livonia.

"It's been eight years," he said. "It seems like a really short time, but also

a really long time."

Kalis said he hopes the service, which is available online and in the Apple App Store and Google Play, will become a revolutionary next step in real estate, much like how websites Trulia and Zillow advanced the online listing of properties for sale.

"These companies transformed the way search happens," he said. "Today, ZipTours transforms the way people buy a home."

Those with experience working with Ruby On Rails, a web application development framework, are especially desired, Kalis said. The company is located on Laurel Park Drive and its website is ZipTours.com.

Company spokeswoman Elyse Sarnecky said the online system went live Thursday, and is specifically designed for



Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, left, and Marketplace Homes CEO Mike Kalis.

DAVID VESELENAK | STAFF WRITER

home buyers looking in southeast Michigan. The service is expected to expand to include rental properties for those not

ready to by a home.

It's a service, she said, that's truly unique.

"No one else offers this at all," she said.

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

How to calculate basis on an inheritance

Q: Dear Rick: My taxes are straightforward and I do them myself. All I have is the income from my job, as well as some interest. I take a standard deduction. All my money is in my IRAs and 401(k). Last year after reading one of your columns and attending one of your library talks, I decided to do a Roth conversion. At the time I did the conversion, I sold the one stock that I



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

owned to pay the taxes. I got that stock over 30 years ago when my grandmother passed on. I have no idea what she paid for the stock, but I do know what it was worth when I eventually received the stock after her estate

was in probate for over five years. Can you help?

A: The proper number to use for cost basis on an inheritance is not the value of the stock when you received it, but the fair market value when your grandmother died. The value of the stock on the day you received it or what your grandmother paid for the stock are not relevant when it comes to an inheritance.

What causes confusion is that there is different tax treatment between a gift and an inheritance. If your grandmother (while she was alive) gifted you

the stock, then for tax purposes your basis would be what she paid for the stock. For gifts which are transfers of property while both parties are living, the basis is what is known as a transfer basis. Therefore, if your grandmother had gifted you the stock and she had paid \$1 a share for it, that would be your basis for tax purposes. On the other hand, if she paid \$1 a share and upon her death the stock was worth \$100 a share, if you inherited the stock your cost basis would be \$100 a share. Many people are

sometimes in the situation where they did receive a gifted stock and have no idea of the true basis. After all, the person who gifted them the stock may not know what their basis is or may not be alive. In those situations, taxpayers need to guesstimate the basis.

I have found in those situations — where taxpayers are reasonable and have a solid reason for their guesstimate — if they are audited, the IRS is reasonable.

Many grandparents gift stock to their grandchildren. If you are a grandparent and you do

gift stock to your grandchild, then it would make sense to somehow document what your basis is so eventually when they sell the stock they won't have to go through any aggravation. After all, isn't the last thing that you want to do when you make a gift is cause someone grief? Good luck.

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

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Angela Hospice offers free grief support

Grief comes in all shapes and sizes, and so does processing it. No two people will experience it in the same way, which is why Angela Hospice offers a variety of grief support programs, all of which are free of charge to anyone in the community.

"We provide a safe environment where a bereaved person can express feelings of loss and receive understanding and the sense that they are not struggling alone," said Joan Lee, Angela Hospice bereavement social worker.

One of the reasons Kathy Bailey decided to attend grief support was to not feel alone with what she was going through after her husband Tom died in the Angela Hospice Care Center two years ago.

"When I started out I was feeling like I was



Social worker Joan Lee meets with Canton resident Kathy Bailey for a one-on-one session. Angela Hospice offers free support groups, as well as individual counseling, for those who are grieving.

kind of crazy," Bailey said. "You're going through something that is so different from anything else, so you want to talk to someone that's like, 'Are you experiencing this, too?'"

For about a year and a half, she's been attending the grief support group that meets twice a month for those who have lost a

spouse/significant other. She also attends one-on-one sessions with Lee.

During her time in the grief support group Bailey has found others who get exactly what she is going through, whether it be something emotional or financial. Going to the group has also helped Bailey better understand her grief, and that every-

thing she was experiencing or thinking was OK.

"I totally believe in the counseling and the support," Bailey said. "I'm glad they're here to do this."

While Bailey has found comfort at the group, she's also found some outside of it. She said she's formed a bond with a few women in her support group who have all become very close. They often have social outings, which Bailey says has been another benefit of attending the sessions, and one she didn't expect.

"I look forward to it (grief support) now," she said. "Before it was hard. Like, OK, I'm going to go and sob and everything. Now it's like, OK, I'm going to be with friends, people that I am comfortable with because we're all in the same

boat."

Angela Hospice also offers the following support groups and services at its Care Center, located at 14100 Newburgh Road in Livonia:

General Grief Support Groups — These groups are open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. They meet at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Grief Pathways: Beginning the Journey — This group meets at 1 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The group is intended for those who are just embarking on their personal path of grief, whether there was a recent death or a death from awhile ago.

Loss of a Spouse/Significant Other Group — Members must have lost a spouse or signifi-

cant other. The groups meet at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Grief Support Quilter's Group — Meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. No sewing skills required. You must register for this group by calling Joan Lee at 734-953-6012.

Individual Support Services — These services are provided to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. Call 734-464-7810 to speak with a licensed bereavement social worker for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Suicide Loss Support Services — For anyone who has lost a loved one through suicide. Contact Sheri Katz or Rebecca DeRaud at 734-953-6030 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Severe weather leaves Red Cross with urgent need for blood donations

Following round after round of snow, freezing rain and arctic cold in many parts of the country, the American Red Cross has an urgent need for eligible blood and platelet donors to give now to help restock its shelves.

March storms forced the cancellation of more than 200 blood drives, resulting in nearly 7,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations. This shortfall follows more than 26,400 uncollected blood and platelet donations in February due to severe weather across 27 states.

In the Southeastern Michigan Red Cross Blood Services Region — which serves Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Washenaw and Wayne counties — more than a dozen blood drives were canceled this winter, causing almost 600 blood and platelet donations to go

uncollected. Despite the weather, hospital patients still rely on transfusion.

"Blood products are being delivered to hospitals almost as quickly as they come in," said Jim Flickema, CEO of the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region. "Donors who give now aren't just restocking our shelves, they are making sure hope continues to be available for patients in need."

Residents in unaffected areas can help the Red Cross restock its shelves immediately. As a national network, the Red Cross can help ensure blood products are available for patients at local hospitals as well as hospitals throughout the country.

The Red Cross urges donors of all blood types to make and keep appointments in the coming days. Platelet donors, as well as blood donors with the most in-demand blood

types — O negative, A negative and B negative — are particularly encouraged to give now to help replenish the blood supply.

Platelets help prevent massive blood loss and are a vital part of cancer and organ transplant treatments. With a shelf life of just five days, platelet donations are especially needed. Eligible donors with types O negative, A negative and B negative blood are encouraged to donate double red cells where available. During a double red cell donation, two units of red cells are collected while most of the plasma and platelets are returned to the donor.

To find a convenient donation opportunity and schedule an appointment, donors can download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-

733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Wayne County include:

» St. Michael Lutheran, 7000 North Sheldon Road, Canton, 1:30-7:15 p.m. March 31.

» St. Raphael School, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. March 22.

» Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City, 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. March 26.

» St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, 1-6:45 p.m. March 19.

» Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. March 21.

» Madonna University, 14221 Levan, Livonia, 11 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. March 26.

» First United Meth-

odist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. March 21.

» St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Road, Plymouth, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. March 22.

» Plymouth City Hall, 201 South Main St. Plymouth, 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. March 23.

» Plymouth Library, 223 South Main St., Plymouth, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. March 26.

» St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 27101 W. Chicago, Redford, 7 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. March 29.

» St. Valentine Catholic Church, 25881 Dow, Redford, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. March 29.

Donation also can be made at American Red Cross Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile, Livonia, 12:45-6:45

p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

How to donate blood, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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Livonia Symphony presents three-part recital series

The Livonia Symphony will present the first in a three-part recital series at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

This is a change in the previous concert location site.

A violin quartet, under the direction of Linda Ignagni, will perform "American" quartet, op. 96 by Dvorak and the Gershwin - "Lullaby."

Ignagni received her first violin at age 9 from Jack Bosen, first violin-

ist of the Detroit Symphony, after he heard about Ignagni's talents. Following high school, Ignagni was awarded a full scholarship to Eastern Michigan University and later to Wayne State University where she completed her course studies in performance. She was then invited to continue her studies in Czechoslovakia. Ignagni performs in recitals, chamber music ensembles and orchestras, but her roots are in Livonia where she works with the Livonia Youth Sym-

phony and is a member and personnel manager of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

Cheryl Pope, second violinist, has been playing violin for almost 40 years. She studied privately throughout college where she earned a degree in music therapy. Pope now works in Saginaw as a consultant to students with autism and continues to perform locally with orchestras and chamber ensembles.

Timario Wilkins, viola, graduated from the University of Michigan

School of Music as a violist and later received his teaching certificate from Eastern Michigan University. Wilkins has more than 20 years experience leading and coaching individuals in Ann Arbor and Livonia. He is a member of both the Livonia Symphony and the Southern Great Lakes Symphony.

Cellist Merritt Taylor, a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, has studied with Richard Kapuscinski and Bernard Greenhouse and has participated in master

classes with Mstislav Rostropovich. Taylor has been active as a performing cellist and teacher in Minneapolis-St. Paul and in the Detroit Metro area for the past three years. By day, she is a home care nurse and lives in Livonia.

The next recital will be held at 3 p.m. April 12 featuring Ania Sorokhitei, piano, Lillian Fenstermacher, violin, and Stephanie Urban, viola, performing Brahms Sonata for Viola and Piano in F-minor and Mozart Piano Trio in

E-Flat Major.

The final recital will be held at 3 p.m. April 26 featuring the LSO Woodwind Quintet playing Bach-Haydn-Gossec-Mozart-Beethoven_reicha-Healy

All concerts are held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$10 and are available at www.livonia-symphony.org or at the door.

For more information, go to the Livonia Symphony 24-hour music line at 734-421-1111.

Entries sought for Three Cities Art Club show at Westland library

The Three Cities Art Club is seeking artists for its third annual show — both a juried and judged show — Friday-Monday, April 17-20 at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.

Well-known Michigan artist/instructor Edee Joppich of Farmington Hills will serve as juror and judge for the show. After getting her degree from Marygrove College, Joppich, who did graduate studies at Wayne State University, has been teaching, jurying and mentoring aspiring artists of all ages for five decades.

Artists wishing to submit original fine artwork — 2-D and 3-D — or photography for the April Exhibition at the library have a March 21 deadline. Download the entry form with rules and other important information by going to the Three Cities home page at www.threecitiesartclub.org.

Entrants must be at least 18 years old by the deadline to enter. Membership in Three Cities Art Club is not required; however, discounts apply. Mail entry form with payment and submit photos of the art on CD,



Joppich

flash drive or by email to marilynmeredith@wow-way.com.

Those attending the free exhibition during regular library hours will get to vote for their three favorites in the Popular Vote competition, which also will enter them in a drawing to win a piece of original fine art by Canton artist Ronald J. Warunek. The artist whose piece receives the most popular votes will earn the creator a prize.

The Westland library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. The free art and appetizers reception will be held



A painting by by Canton artist Ronald J. Warunek will be awarded in a drawing at the Three Cities Art Club show at the William P. Faust Library of Westland.

from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 19, with art awards presented at 2 p.m. Many

of the artists will be available to talk with visitors.

To learn more about entering artwork in the exhibition, attending the event or Three Cities Art Club, contact Marilyn

Meredith at 313-231-3939 or via email at marilynmeredith@wow-way.com.

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IKEA Canton to spruce up Starfish clinics – for free

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Starfish Family Services, a nonprofit agency that has helped vulnerable children and families across metro Detroit for 52 years, will get a free makeover of its Livonia and Westland clinics after winning an IKEA Canton contest.

"This is absolutely wonderful," said Marisa Nicely, Starfish vice president of clinical and youth services. "We're really excited."

Inkster-based Starfish, one of three nonprofits chosen to compete in IKEA Canton's Life Improvement Challenge, won the prize after accumulating the most votes during an online voting contest that ended March 2.

IKEA employees nominated Starfish, Friends of the Rouge and Developing K.I.D.S. of Detroit, who pushed for votes by rallying their supporters by email and social media.

Starfish clinics in Livonia and Westland, which offer services such as outpatient mental health treatment, early childhood education and family counsel-



IKEA Canton is giving a free makeover to Starfish Family Services clinics in Livonia and Westland.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ing, will have their lobby and waiting room areas spruced up with IKEA furniture, children's toys, new flooring and freshly painted walls, said Amanda Preston, IKEA Canton marketing manager.

Lobby areas are the first impression children and families get when they enter a Starfish facility, Preston said.

"We want to make it

comfortable for them," she said.

Starfish serves thousands of children and families at any given time, and Nicely said the money that the nonprofit receives isn't budgeted for remodeling projects.

"If we have a dollar to spend, that's not where we spend it," she said.

Nicely said IKEA Canton's help will make a huge difference by mak-

ing clinic waiting areas much more inviting to children and families. She said Starfish is grateful for all the votes its supporters cast during the Life Improvement Challenge.

"They really came together as a team," she said.

Preston said IKEA Canton will send a designer to Starfish to discuss the remodeling

project.

"We plan to have it done by July," she said.

While Starfish gets a makeover for an undisclosed price tag, second-place Friends of the Rouge will get to spend \$1,000 at IKEA while Developing K.I.D.S. will get \$500 in merchandise.

IKEA stores across the country participate in Life Improvement Challenge, Canton store

manager Matt Hunsicker said. He said it's an opportunity for employees to get involved in local communities.

"It's an opportunity for us to make a difference in our neighborhoods," he said. "These are our neighborhoods. We live here, too."

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

Detroit Storytelling League presents children's event at Livonia library

The Detroit Storytelling League will host its fifth annual Once Upon a Time Children's Story Concert at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Livonia Civic Center Public Library. Admission is \$3 per person.

Once upon a time, the Detroit Story League dreamed of hosting a story-telling event for children ages 4-10 to celebrate stories and

promote reading. Today that dream is a reality, with children invited from far and near to join in an afternoon of listening to stories told by expert storytellers.

"Our goal is to bring the joy and magic of storytelling to children so they aren't strangers to this long-standing oral tradition," current President Judy Sima said.

"With texting and tech-

nology, we want children to experience the beauty of face-to-face communication."

Featured performers include Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose, Judy Sima and Ivory Williams.

"The Detroit Storytelling League is a culturally and ethnically diverse group of talented Detroit area members who range in expertise in all kinds of telling," Sima said.

"We share a 103-year-old history in the Detroit area, since the founding of the league by Detroit's first children librarian Mary Conover in 1912."

Refreshments will follow the performance, which will take place in the library auditorium. The library is at 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

For more information, call 248-476-8515 or visit detroitstorytelling.org.



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Better Than Ever Productions presents 'Geezer Game'

Better Than Ever Productions, a group primarily made up of actors over the age of 50, is well-known for its high quality performances.

Nominated for Outstanding Ensemble Production at the Midtown International Theatre Festival in New York City last summer, the troupe is now proving that it still has it, by bringing its smash hit, *Geezer Game*, to Inspire Theatre in Westland.

Doc's depressed and his over-the-hill friends are out of shape. But they get hustled by a well-meaning reporter to play a charity touch-football game. Laughs abound as age, experience and cunning prove to be just as, if not more, important as physical fitness in this comedy.

The cast features Jack Alaska, Jeanne Pruett, Harry Stafford, Rich Pieta, Linda Trigg, Michael Burden, Beth Brooks, Jerry Carney, Terry Viviane, Gary Turnquist and Tom Strock. The comedy is directed by Michael Burden, who also plays the role of Frank.

Playwright, Herb McCollom Jr., a senior himself, felt his comedy is a perfect fit for senior actors. According to Jeanne Pruett, president of the group, *Geezer Game* is a perfect match for this group.

"Mr. McCollom's play is right on," she said. "It is an entertaining new work with laughs throughout. Our group had the pleasure of meeting Herb last year in Canton and again in New York City. He is a joy to work with. His optimism and sense of humor really come alive in this show."

"We're proud to know him and proud to be doing his play again. We know that audiences will enjoy it, even those who've seen it before,"



Jeanne Pruett of Canton and Jack Galazka of Redford play girlfriend and boyfriend in "Geezer Game."



Director Michael Burden of Redford also plays Frank with Beth Brooks of Northville playing his wife Kas.



Tom Strock from Canton plays Father Murphy and Terry Viviani of Westland is Doc in the Better Than Ever Productions' presentation of Herb McCollom Jr.'s "Geezer Game" at the Inspire Theatre in Westland.

she said. *Geezer Game* will be presented at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19 and March 26; 7 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, March

20-21 and March 27-28; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22 and March 29, at the Inspire Theatre, 5767 Executive Drive, Westland.

Tickets are \$15 and available at www.inspiretheatre.com or by calling 734-751-7057. For more information, call 734-306-7883.

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Save the Bomber Plant launches Willow Run Memories Project

A new element has been added to the ongoing Save the Bomber Plant Campaign that will preserve part of the historic Willow Run Bomber Plant to become the new home of the Yankee Air Museum.

The Willow Run Memories Project is collecting photos, stories and artifacts from all eras and all aspect of Willow Run history (pre-WW II boys camp, 1941-45 Ford Bomber Plant, 1946-53 Kaiser-Frazer, 1946-65 Passenger Airport, 1953-2010 GM Hydramatic).

"Regardless of the era, Willow Run has been pivotal for this region from the time Henry and Edsel Ford built the Bomber Plant, to the last transmission Hydramatic manufactured," said John Zajac, Michigan Aerospace Foundation Board member who is heading up the Memories project. "As keepers of that legacy, Yankee Air Museum and the future National Museum of Aviation and Technology call out to the community

for their stories, photos, and to let us know about any artifacts they might consider donating."

The Willow Run Memories project is also looking to find living workers — both male and female — who worked at the Bomber Plant (1941-45) to honor them at an event to be held later this spring.

"We also want to honor the men and women who worked in the wartime Bomber Plant (1941-45), so please let us know if you — or a living member of your family — worked there," Zajac said.

All Willow Run stories and photos collected will be archived to help inform the development of Willow Run-oriented exhibits and programs of the Yankee Air Museum. Selected material will also appear on an online Willow Run Memories Project Gallery.

To see some of the material that has already been submitted, go to <http://savethebomberplant.org/willow-run-memories-gallery/>



The online gallery includes this press photo of World War II Bomber Plant workers about to board the Willow Run bus owned by Richard S. Pilon Sr.

To learn more about the Willow Run Memories Project, including how to submit your/your

family's photos and stories, go to <http://savethebomberplant.org/willow-run-memories/>.

Thrivent Financial holding college-planning workshop at Westland City Hall on March 19

Thrivent Financial is hosting a free educational workshop to help parents of high school students with their college planning.

Called "College Planning Strategies," the 60-minute workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, in Meeting Room C of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road. The workshop will be presented by Alison R. Le Cloux, a certified college planning specialist and financial representative with Thrivent Financial in Ann Arbor.

The workshop, titled "College Planning Strategies," is designed to help parents and their students avoid costly mistakes that can arise

throughout the college admission and selection process. It also covers basic facts about financial aid; steps that parents and students can take to help save money by using admission and academic strategies; and discovering funding sources to help pay for your child's college education and other ways to help minimize out-of-pocket expenses.

"According to the College Board's *Trends in College Pricing, 2013*, total cost of attendance averaged about \$22,826 nationally at public, four-year, in-state undergraduate schools," Le Cloux said. "It's important that families provide a college education for their children without sacrificing

other financial goals or burdening their children with too much debt. This workshop can assist in those preparations."

To register for this free workshop, call host Jay Kempf at 734-455-9272, email huronvalleygroup@thrivent.com or respond online at thrivent.com/findaworkshop.

Complimentary refreshments will be served. Thrivent Financial is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. As a membership organization, it offers its nearly 2.4 million member-owners a broad range of products, services and guidance from financial representatives nation-

wide. For more information, visit Thrivent.com/ why. You can also find it on Facebook and Twitter.

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WHO DECIDES

A patient with a painful knee sees a doctor. The physician asks the patient about the nature of the pain, examines the knee, and takes an x-ray of the knee. Based on the information gathered, the doctor tells the patient that the cause of the pain is unclear, but the knee is good enough to allow the patient to continue present activities. The doctor recommends that the patient return in two weeks for a re-evaluation.

The patient responds: "I want an MRI of the knee."

A doctor sees a patient with pain in the neck, back, arms and legs; the patient has experienced this pain for years. The doctor does an examination and informs the patient that the condition is fibromyalgia.

The patient responds: "I want to be tested for Lupus."

Requests by patients telling doctors what to do annoy the profession. Physicians feel their training justifies the decisions they make taking x-rays, requesting referrals, and ordering laboratory tests.

On the other hand, doctors realize they cannot expect full cooperation by patients if the doctor is unwilling to work with them. However, granting a patient's request, recommendation or order is more than a matter of good will. For instance there is the matter of cost. A lab test may run \$16, but an MRI is \$1300 or more.

The doctor also needs to consider that the patient may have a point. At times doctors overlook a diagnosis that needs consideration. Sometimes a patient has not told their experience completely and the reason for wanting the additional test, say a test for Lupus, is that the condition runs in the family, but that point did not come out previously.

In short, acceding to a request or denying it is as much art as science.

CITY OF LIVONIA 2015 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Livonia is entitled to receive \$323,905 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2015 program year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). The City has prepared a "2015 Annual Action Plan" covering the program period for citizen comment. The Annual Action Plan details how the City proposes to utilize its 2015 CDBG estimated entitlement grant of \$323,905 in addition to \$366,000 in un-programmed funds from prior years and program income. The Action Plan is required by federal regulations in order for the City to continue to participate in the CDBG program. The Annual Action Plan provides for a consolidated application process for several federal formula grant programs, including CDBG. The Annual Action Plan represents an update to the City's five-year (2011- 2016) Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan consists of a Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment, Housing Market Analysis, Strategic Plan, Action Plan and Certifications. The Consolidated Plan sets forth priorities and lists activities to be pursued over a five-year period as well as a one (1) year Action Plan which includes Community Development Block Grant activities planned for the 2015-2016 program year.

The priorities and strategies stated in the five (5) year period found in the Consolidated Plan are summarized as follows:

- Provide rehabilitation assistance to low and moderate income homeowners
 - Major Home Rehabilitation Program (100 homes)
 - Minor Home Repair Program (250 homes)
- Reduce cost burden of renter households by providing affordable rental opportunities in safe, decent, sanitary housing
 - Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
 - Scattered Site Rental Housing
 - Low Rent Public Housing and Section 8 New Construction Housing
- Address infrastructure improvements to stabilize targeted neighborhoods
- Focus on public service programming that provides assistance to low and moderate households
 - Senior Citizen Transportation Program
 - Mental Health Counseling Program
 - Domestic Violence Prevention/Counseling Program
 - Emergency Assistance Program – Utility Shut Off Prevention
 - Referrals to various agencies for shelter and assistance with rent and mortgage payments (Participate in Wayne County – Continuum of Care Initiative)

The one (1) year Action Plan proposes the following projects:

- 2015 Program Year CDBG Program funds:**
- Major Home Improvement Program - 3-5 households
 - Minor Home Repair Program - 30-33 households
 - Emergency Home Repair Program - 3-5 households
 - Property Acquisition/Rehabilitation/Demolition - 1-2 homes/vacant parcels
 - Continue to fund various Public Service activities:
 - Senior Transportation Program - 465 elderly persons
 - Mental Health Counseling Program - 18 persons/ families
 - First Step – Domestic Violence Program - 157 persons
 - Emergency Assistance Program - 15 households
 - Maintain/Manage City-Owned Rental Homes - 15 homes
 - Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative –Improvements to Compton Park & Clements Circle Park
 - Economic Development
 - Public Facilities Improvement/Maintenance – expansion of existing low income senior development Newburgh Village
 - Fair Housing Initiative
 - Overall Grant Administration

Other Programs:

- Ongoing administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Public Housing modernization through the Capital Fund Grant program
- Provide referrals to the homeless and persons with special needs for shelter and other available services.
- Provide referrals to Counseling Agencies for persons seeking assistance with foreclosure and purchase of affordable housing

Copies of the Consolidated Plan and 2015 Annual Action Plan are available for review by interested citizens between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Housing Commission's Community Development Office located at 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia MI 48150, and on the City web site. (www.ci.livonia.mi.us). Written comments regarding the Consolidated Plan and 2015 CDBG program may be directed to Tracey Emmanuel, Community Development Supervisor, 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Comments will be received for a period of not less than 30 days, but not after April 14, 2015. The Consolidated Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on or about May 15, 2015.

James M. Inglis, Housing Director
 Jack Kirksey, Mayor

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

REDFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Time/date: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 15.
Location: Covenant Community Church 25800 Student Street, Redford.

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

Contact: 313-384-7204.

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.

FAMILY FEUD

Time/date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21.

Location: New Life Church, 33111 Ford, Garden City.

Details: Get a team of five together or join one at New

Life's fourth annual Family Feud fundraiser. Pastor Chris Smothers will be the game show host. Cost is \$10 per person. There will be food concessions.

Contact: 734-326-7000.

BUNNY BRUNCH

Time/date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21.

Location: Academic Pathways Preschool, 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast featuring "Flying Pancakes" by Chris Cakes as seen on the Food Network, sausage, orange drink, milk and coffee. Have breakfast, hunt for Easter eggs, take a picture with the Easter Bunny. Every child receives a mini Easter basket filled with goodies. Cost is \$5 for children ages 3-12, \$8 for ages 13 and older, free for ages 2 and under.

Contact: 734-383-4847; apcp1stv@gmail.com.

A NIGHT OF HOPE

Time/date: 6-11 p.m. Friday, March 27

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Details: Benefit for Cure HHT, an organization dedicated to finding a cure for HHT disease, a genetic blood vessel disorder. Tickets, \$150 each, include open bar, dinner and dancing.

Contact: <http://tinyurl.com/qaooxgz>

ST. GENEVIEVE OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison St., Livonia

Details: St. Genevieve offers preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and elementary school for grades K-8. Meet the teachers, tour the school, see the students work and learn about the countries they are studying.

Contact: 734-425-4420; www.stgenevieve.org/school.

Pothole season has returned as the counties begin implementing seasonal weight restrictions — temporary reductions in commercial vehicle weights intended to protect Michigan roads.

"As temperatures warm up this week and frost starts to leave the ground, weight restrictions are a sure sign that pothole season has returned to Michigan," County Road Association of Michigan director Denise Donohue said. "Due to the unusually deep frost this winter we're expecting a bumper crop of potholes."

According to the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council, 83 percent of Michigan roads are in poor or fair condition. These already-deteriorated roads are at their most vulnerable condition as frost is leaving the ground.

"As you drive through the state in coming weeks expect to see crews out patching potholes," Donohue said. "The reality is as one hole is filled another will open up during this freeze/thaw period of spring. Just like when roads are covered with snow and ice, motorists must take responsibility for their safety and slow down to avoid potholes."

While potholes appear on all types of roads, seasonal weight restrictions only apply to roads

not built for heavy truck traffic — a large portion of the county road network. The County Road Association offers the following information to help the public understand what we in Michigan now refer to as "pothole season."

Seasonal weight restrictions — frost laws — are designed to protect Michigan's local roads from excess weight at times when they are most vulnerable to damage. State law allows MDOT, counties and municipalities to reduce truck weights and speeds on roads that are not built to accommodate heavy truck traffic. During the weight restriction period, trucks traveling on "posted/restricted" roads must reduce speeds to 35 mph and carry lighter loads — a 25-percent reduction on concrete roads and 35 percent reduction on asphalt or gravel roads.

Frost Restricted Roads in western Wayne County include:

- » Ann Arbor Trail from Plymouth to Livonia.
- » Beck from Eight Mile to Six Mile and North Territorial to Ecorse.
- » Cherry Hill from Newburg to Napier.
- » Denton from Ecorse to Ridge.
- » Five Mile from I-275 to Northville Road, Northville Road to Sheldon and Beck to Napier.
- » Geddes from US-12 to the Washtenaw County line.
- » Haggerty from Ann Arbor Road to Five Mile.
- » Hannan from Palmer to US-12, US-12 to Van Born and Van Born to Waltz.
- » Inkster Road from Grand River to Seven Mile.
- » Joy from Ann Arbor Road to Wayne Road.
- » Lilley from Ann Arbor Road to US-12.
- » Lotz Ford from Ford (M-153) to Van Born.
- » Morton Taylor from Warren Road.
- » North Territorial



COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

A pothole begins with moisture seeping into the soil, below the surface. When the moisture freezes, it expands and pushes the pavement up. As the days become warmer and frost leaves the ground, the ground returns to normal, but the pavement remains elevated, creating a gap between the pavement and the ground below it. When vehicles drive over these gaps, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space.

from Sheldon to Napier.

- » Palmer from Canton Center to Westland city limit.
 - » Ridge from the Washtenaw County line to Seven Mile.
 - » Saltz from Canton Center to Denton.
 - » Sheldon from Seven Mile to Six Mile, Six Mile to Five Mile, Joy to Warren Road and Ford to Ecorse.
 - » Sheldon Center from Canton Center to Sheldon.
 - » Six Mile from Sheldon to Napier
 - » Venoy from Michigan Avenue to Ford.
 - » Warren Road from Canton Center to Napier, Morton -Taylor to Newburgh.
- Included in the list are all subdivision streets and gravel roads. No overweight permits will be issued while load restrictions are in effect, and size limits during restrictions are limited to 10 feet on a two-lane road and 12 feet on a four-lane road.
- A pothole begins with moisture seeping into the soil, below the surface. When the moisture freezes it expands and pushes the pavement up. As the days become

warmer and frost leaves the ground, the ground returns to normal, but the pavement remains elevated, creating a gap between the pavement and the ground below it. When vehicles drive over these gaps the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space.

The County Road Association also has an infographic that shows the process — Birth of a Pothole Square: www.micountyroads.org/pdf/BOPG_square.pdf, Birth of a Pothole Vertical: www.micountyroads.org/pdf/BOPG_vert.pdf and Birth of a Pothole Horizontal: www.micountyroads.org/pdf/BOPG_horiz.pdf.

The County Road Association provides a website — micountyroads.org/weight.php — to help commercial truck drivers comply with weight restrictions. The site is updated daily as restrictions are added and removed around the state.

By Michigan law road agencies enact and remove seasonal weight restrictions in March, April and May, or whenever conditions warrant.

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following item:

Petition 2015-03-02-05 submitted by Lormax Stern requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(m) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to construct and operate an auto repair facility (Goodyear) at 12661 Middlebelt Road, located on the west side of Middlebelt Road between the CSX Railroad right-of-way and Schoolcraft Road in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 26.

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

R. Lee Morrow, Chairman
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: March 15, 2015

LO-0000235154 3x3

Ford Motor Company, Michigan Assembly Complex, 38303 Michigan Avenue, Wayne, MI

proposes to file an application with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for designation as a Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) in accordance with Part 14, Clean Corporate Citizens, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA).

Clean Corporate Citizenship is a voluntary program that provides the opportunity for companies to be publicly recognized by the state of Michigan for demonstrating environmental stewardship and strong environmental ethics through their operations. Designation of Clean Corporate Citizenship requires a facility to demonstrate implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS), compliance to all Federal and State Requirements, and implementation of a Pollution Prevention Policy and Program.

Documentation related to the C3 application will be available for a 30 day public review beginning **March 17, 2015**, at the **Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd in Wayne, MI**.

Any comments, questions and/or concerns may be directed to:

Ford Motor Company, Michigan Assembly Complex
Attn: John Nowak
38303 Michigan Avenue
Wayne, MI 48184

OR

Mr. John Nowak
Plant Environmental Control Engineer
jnowak2@ford.com

Any such communications may also be submitted to:
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assistance
Attn: Clean Corporate Citizen Program
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, MI 48909-7957
Published: March 15, 2015

LO-00000984 3x4

ADOPTED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

At the Regular Meeting on March 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., the Redford Township Board of Trustees adopted the following ordinance amendment:

ORDINANCE NO. 339

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 82-1 OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE THAT AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WHO FAILS TO HAVE MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE FOR THE VEHICLE IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

This ordinance can be reviewed in its entirety online at www.redfordtwp.com or at the following public places within the Township Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at:

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

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, CLERK
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

Adoption: March 10, 2015
Publish: March 15, 2015

LO-0000235278 3x3

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

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

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

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

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk
Charter Township of Redford

Publish: March 15, 2015

LO-0000235280 3x3

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2015

The Redford Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Township budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, in the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly, Redford, MI 48239, on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection in the Clerk's Office, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning March 10, 2015.

I hereby certify the Redford Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, **March 24, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI, (313) 387-2700, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Act of Michigan, 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting notice by publication or posting at least eighteen hours prior to the time set for the meeting. **This meeting is open to all members of the public under the Michigan's Open Meetings Act 2410.02.**

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, CLERK
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

The Charter Township of Redford, (P.C., ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc) will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing, upon seven (7) days notice to the (PC, ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc.). Further, individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk by writing to 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48239, or by calling (313) 387-2754.

Publish: March 15, 2015

LO-0000235286 3x6

Clarenceville Athletic Booster Club

Invites you to our

Spring Craft Show

Saturday, March 21, 2015

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\$1.00 admission fee which enters you in all raffles
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LO-00000841 3x4

Arts council painting class a hit with kids, teens

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Painting Plus, Thursday Studio4 Art Classes, are meeting this month at the Plymouth Community Arts Council on Sheldon. The classes are for ages 7-17, with Christina Evans as instructor.

Heather Graham, 16, a Livonia Franklin High School student, was enjoying the first session after school March 5. "Because I really like art," the Livonia resident said of her reason for signing up. "I would like to pursue art as a major or minor when I'm older. I like photography, sculpting, painting, drawing, jewelry making, all of those."

Also in the first class that day was Keya Patel, 12, of Northville, a Meads Mill Middle School student. "Because I enjoy painting," Patel said of her reason for joining in. "The creativity" is what she likes.

Lisa Howard, PCAC executive director, said the Studio4 Art Classes are popular with families. She noted the previous longer classes were a challenge as kids got involved in myriad activities.

"Families can't commit to that anymore," Howard, a Plymouth resident, said of longer sessions. Of Studio 4, she added, "They're an extension of our studio classes where kids are learning new techniques."

She recently taught a four-week pottery class for kids, which drew well. An earlier "Faces" four-week class focused on drawing and painting with realistic features, "mixing skin tones, which is a really hard skill."

She and other art instructors have found by fifth grade, young artists want to do more realistic art and less of a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Heather Graham cuts out photographs for her project.



MATT JACHMAN
Instructor Christina Evans talks with the class about the work of Edee Joppich and Dan Joppich.

"cartooning" nature. "They're doing great stuff in (school) art class. They're doing more projects rather than that technique kind of instruction" in school, she said. Showing shadows, for example, is something young artists like to do starting around fifth grade.

The Painting Plus runs four weeks each Thursday after school at the PCAC through March 26. At the first session, Evans, a Plymouth native now calling Detroit home, said, "This class should be fun. I'm really excited. I love mixed media. I feel it's so free."

There's less concern about the end result for the artist, said Evans, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree with a photography concentration from Eastern Michigan University in 2011. She graduated from Plymouth Canton High School in 2006.

About self

The students worked on a self-based project. "Nobody knows you better than yourself," said Evans, who had students answer questions rang-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Instructor Christina Evans talks about composition to the class.

ing from their full name and initials to something that makes them happy, something they don't love and their favorite memory.

"It's all about the experiment," Evans told the students. She showed one artist's work who puts words into paintings.

The students looked through magazines for images. "Then we'll kind of go from there," Evans

said of the class, which uses acrylic paint.

"You can pick large images, small images" to place on the canvas later to arrange, Evans said during class.

Howard is also an artist who trained in graphic design. "Watercolor is my thing, as well," she said. "I do a lot of the graphics here at the arts council."

She previously worked for advertising agencies in Washington, D.C., Southfield and Birmingham and has been PCAC executive director about a year and a half. She took over when Jeff Burda left the executive director post. She'd earlier done PCAC programs, special projects and graphic design, as well as teaching preschoolers at the arts council.

"I did all of our exhibits, did all the posters," Howard said. She'd also worked with artists and did the marketing.

The PCAC has a website at www.plymoutharts.com, with online registration offered for some classes, including the Studio4 lessons. Howard encourages those who wish to

register to call the office at 734-416-4278 to sign up or get more information.

The PCAC also offers a lot of art, music and theater summer camps, as well as classes for adults. Howard and colleagues have been hard at work on the 31st annual Music in the Park in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park, with the first concert noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 17.

"All of our sponsors are back this year," she said. "We're really excited. Guy Louis (a veteran musician for kids of all ages) will be the performer (June 17). "Everybody loves Guy."

The free Music in the Park concerts continue noon to 1 p.m. each Wednesday in Kellogg Park through Aug. 26.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council March exhibit is "In Focus" by Edee and Daniel Joppich. Edee Joppich's work is composed of her Surface Series "collage paintings" that incorporate paint, drawing, photography, assemblage and encaustic methods. An artist behind the lens, son Dan Joppich's work includes industrial influenced urban pieces, as well as Michigan scenic and detailed wildlife photography. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF GARDEN CITY
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To all residents and interested parties:
Legal notices are available for review at our website.

The minutes (including approved ordinances) from regular and special Council meetings are available at:
www.gardencitymi.org/minutes

Current requests for bids and proposals are available at:
www.gardencitymi.org/bids

You may also access this information at Garden City City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Garden City Police station lobby 24 hours a day.

Publish: March 15, 2015 LO-000023137 2x2.5

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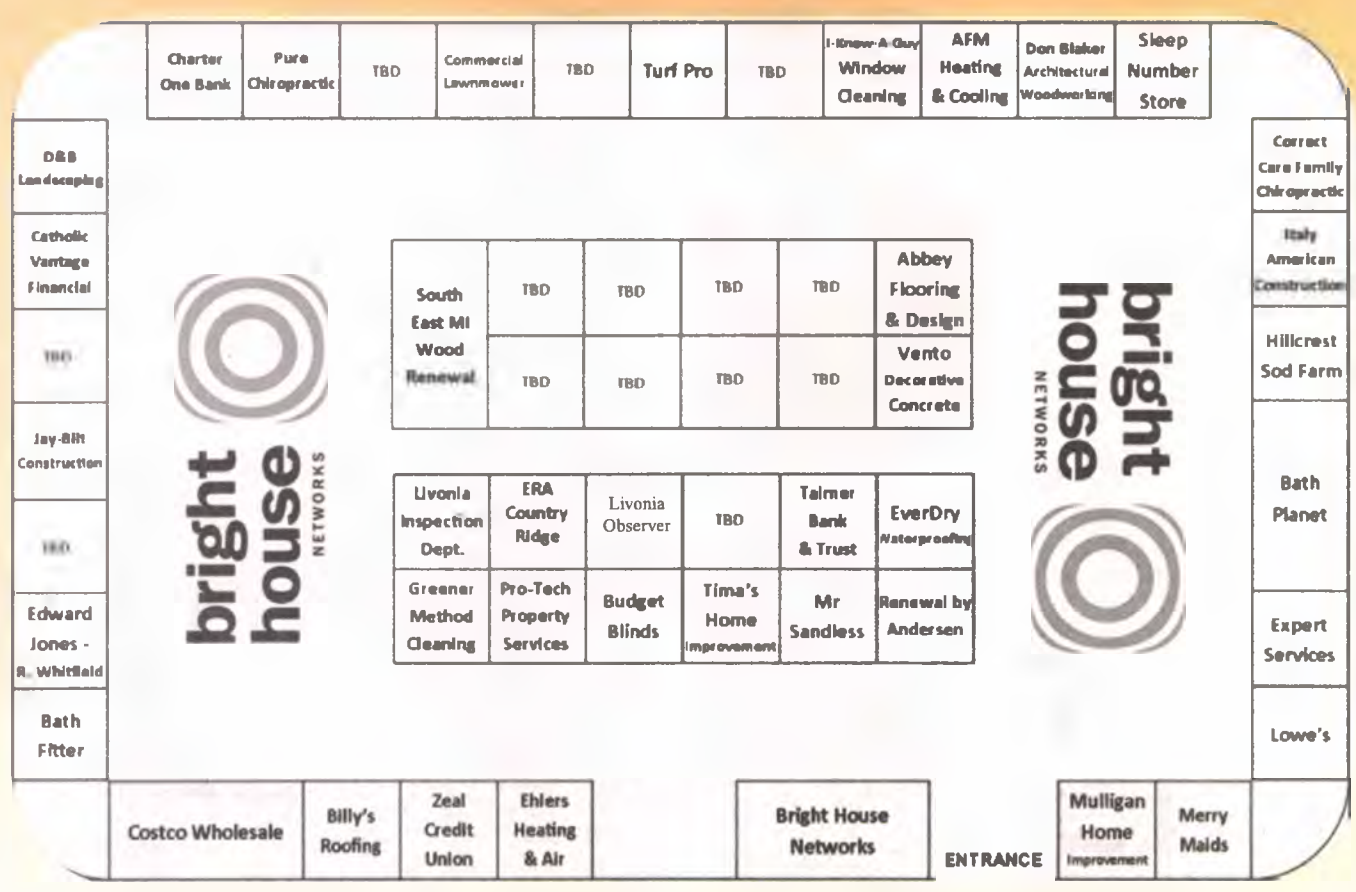
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- Correct Care Chiropractic
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SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM**SPORTS****ED WRIGHT, EDITOR**
EWRIGHT@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
734-578-2767**COLLEGE BASEBALL****Madonna's DeYonker no-hits Point Park**

Alex DeYonker picked the right time to chalk up his first collegiate baseball pitching victory Thursday in Grand Rapids.

The Madonna University left-hander no-hit No. 20-ranked Point Park University (Pa.), 4-0, in the first game of a double-header at Davenport University's Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex.

DeYonker (1-2), a sophomore from Livonia Franklin, made just 84 pitches over seven innings and faced 23 batters, just two over the minimum, while allowing just one walk and striking out four. The only two other Point Park run-

ners to reach base came via infield errors.

It was the first no-hitter by a Madonna pitcher since Jeremy Gooding and Dan Stoney combined for one on March 9, 2013 win against Avila University (Mo.).

Ryan Lambrecht paced MU's nine-hit attack going 2-for-3 with an RBI. John Lauro also knocked in two runs, while Shane Dokey contributed two hits.

Point Park (10-3) then bounced back to win the night-

cap, 8-6, as Demetrius Moorer went 2-for-3 with three RBI.

Winning pitcher Jarrad Brown (2-0) went the first five innings allowing five earned runs on six hits. Jake Horew came on to earn the save.

MU starter Todd Jones (1-1), who gave up four earned runs on five hits over four innings, took the loss as the Crusaders slipped to 10-7 overall.

Madonna returns to action 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 when they travel to Siena Heights for Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference twinbill.

MADONNA 9-10, HUNTINGTON (IND.) 7-2: On Wednesday, Taylor Grzelakowski went 5-for-8 on the day with three RBI as visiting Madonna University (9-6) took both ends of a non-conference double-

header against Huntington University (0-2) at Grand Park in Westfield, Ind.

MU scored once in the sixth and added two more in the bottom of the seventh to win the opener in eight innings, 9-7.

Top hitters for the Crusaders included Chase Dobbie (3-for-4, two RBI); Grzelakowski (2-for-4, two RBI) and Ryan Lambrecht (2-for-3). Also chipping in with an RBI each were John Lauro, Levi Lamour and Mike Tibbitts.

Bobby St. Pierre (1-1), who pitched 2½ innings of middle relief was charged with two runs on three hits, got the victory. He gave up a 3-run homer to Billy Geeslin in a 6-run fifth inning for the Foresters.

MU starter Adam Prashad, who was named WHAC Pitcher of the Week, lasted 4½ innings allowing three earned runs on four hits, a walk and six strikeouts. Patrick Wierimaa (Redford Union) picked up his first save with a scoreless eighth.

In the nightcap, Evan Piechota (Livonia Stevenson) worked six strong innings to improve to 2-1 as MU clipped the Foresters, 10-2. The junior struck out 11, scattered seven hits and did not allow a walk.

Top offensive performers for MU included Tibbitts (3-for-4, two RBI); Grzelakowski (3-for-4, RBI); Cole Rize (2-for-3, RBI); and Lamour (2-for-4, RBI).

Losing pitcher Tanner Wisse went all seven innings charged with five earned runs on 15 hits and seven walks while fanning seven.

Lynn starts strong for Northwood

Former Garden City softball standout Ashley Lynn is off to a solid start for Northwood University.

As of Friday, the sophomore middle infielder had compiled a .314 batting average and .380 on-base percentage in 13 games. Lynn had one double and two RBI for the 2-1 Timberwolves.

Bias update

Former Livonia Church Hill softball standout Casey Bias has earned the starting catching duties for Ferris State University.

A sophomore, Bias has played in all 16 of the Bulldogs' games through Friday. She is hitting .208 with one home run, one double and five runs batted in.

Stevenson pom clinic

Livonia Stevenson will host a varsity pompon clinic for students currently in first through 11th grades on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Stevenson field house.

Check-in time begins at 8:30 a.m.

The cost of the clinic is \$30, which includes a light snack and T-shirt.

The clinic, will be instructed by members of the Stevenson pom team's coaching staff and pom athletes, will provide a fun opportunity for new-comers to learn about the sport and for veterans of the sport to sharpen their skills.

The deadline for registering is April 15.

For more information, contact Stevenson varsity pom coach Shaylyn Sikorski at stevensonvarsity-pom@gmail.com or 248-880-1881.

Volleyball camp

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASS A DISTRICT BASKETBALL FINAL**Thurston crowned champion**

Eagles win fourth straight district title

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Basketball rarely fails to reward the team that plays 32 minutes with the valuable "nesses" that Redford Thurston owns in large quantities: aggressiveness and quickness.

Friday night's Class A district final at Livonia Franklin was no exception as the relentlessly get-after-it Eagles claimed the school's fourth consecutive district title with a 77-68 victory over Livonia Stevenson.

Now 19-2, Thurston advances to Monday's 7 p.m. regional semifinal at Southfield High School against University of Detroit Jesuit.

Stevenson's first season under the direction of head coach Kareem Smartt ended at 10-12.

Whether it was chasing down missed free throws, executing tenacious half-court traps on the Spartans' ball-handlers or pursuing rebounds like they were coated with gold, the Eagles' level of activity made life difficult at every turn for Stevenson, which hung around most of the night thanks to inspired efforts from seniors Noah Camp-

See THURSTON, Page B3

ED WRIGHT
Redford Thurston's Rickey Hudgens applies a defensive blanket on Stevenson's Noah Campbell Friday night.**MHSAA DIVISION 2 HOCKEY SEMIFINAL**

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Livonia Stevenson cheering section help the Spartans celebrate a goal during Thursday's 3-2 victory over Escanaba. View a photo gallery and finals coverage at www.hometownlife.com.

FINAL FRENZY

Stevenson icers derail Escanaba with total-team effort

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Dazzling Escanaba superstar Levi Wunder was outshone by Livonia Stevenson's galaxy of blue-collar gladiators during Thursday's MHSAA Division 2 semifinal game played at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

In an entertaining and always-tight duel played at a lightning-quick pace, the deep and diligent Spartans (19-5-5) outlasted the Eskymos, 3-2, to earn a berth in Saturday's against Birmingham Brother Rice.

It will be the Spartans' second appearance in the title tilt in the past three years.

While the 2012-13 team's state championship run was amazing, this year's Stevenson surge may be more compelling simply because the program was expected to be hobbled by the 2014 graduation of its high-scoring Production Line trio of Tyler Irvine, Devin Kelly and Dom Lutz.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson senior Mick Sinclair stays focused on his shooting form despite getting tripped by an Escanaba player.

Although it took a few games for the rebuilt Spartans to find their rhythm and learn their roles, they're a finished product now.

"I am so grateful right now and so proud of this team," Stevenson senior captain Mick Sinclair said, moments after he emerged

See SPARTANS, Page B2

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SCHOOL SUPPORT

EN-CHANT-ING MOTIVATORS

Student cheering sections inspire athletes, liven games

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

School spirit isn't just alive and well in Livonia, it's more invigorating than a tall bottle of Gatorade for many of the area's high school athletes.

Whenever fatigue, the opponent or the numbers on the scoreboard prove to be a little too menacing, players gain an extra boost of energy from student cheering sections that can number as high as 200 for big games.

"Our cheering section provides with a lot of momentum at home games," said Livonia Stevenson hockey player Shane Leonard. "We can't thank them enough for the energy they give us."

Led by seniors Derek Rotter and CJ Weiss, among others, members of Stevenson's "Blue Crew" are armed with a number of rhythmic chants for every Spartan hockey game — most designed to inspire the Spartans.

"I'd say we have at least 10 chants ready for every game, but we try to add new ones depending on the game situation," said Rotter. "We use social media — usually Twitter — to organize everyone the day of the game. Between fifth and sixth hour and after school we make sure everybody has a ride to the game. By the time the game starts, everybody is pretty hyped up."

Rotter emphasized that the "Blue Crew" always keeps its chants clean and respectable.



Members of the Livonia Churchill "Black Hole" cheering section often number close to 200 at home basketball and football games. ED WRIGHT



Stevenson senior Derek Rotter leads a chant during the school's hockey game against Escanaba Thursday night. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"[Stevenson athletic director] Ms. Hyman does a good job of monitoring us so we never get out of line," Rotter said, smiling. "We want to be a positive. We don't want to be known as the cheering section that is always insulting to the other team. We have a pretty good reputation."

Weiss said that the "Blue Crew" gets especially fired-up when an opposing school's cheering section dares to call it out during a game.

"Sometimes the chants go back and forth, like when one section chants 'We can't hear you!' when their team has a good play," said Weiss. "That's when it gets fun."

"We came up with one chant where everybody sings, 'If you're winning and you know it, clap your hands.' It's all good fun."

Dressed in nearly head-to-toe black, Livonia Churchill's "Black Hole" student cheering section often fills up an entire

section of bleachers at home football, basketball and hockey games.

The "Black Hole" also travels well as its presence at Wednesday night's Churchill-Thurston basketball game at Franklin demonstrated.

"We come up with a lot of our stuff on the fly," said Connor Pawlak, one of the leaders of the "Black Hole." "For big games, we try to plan a lot of what we're going to do in advance by using social media."

"We're always trying to come up with new chants. We get a lot of stuff from watching college games."

Pawlak and several of his "Black Hole" colleagues wear Churchill basketball jerseys with numbers that correspond to their friends on the team.

"The players always thank us and let us know they appreciate what we do," said Pawlak, who plays baseball at Churchill. "We keep it clean, but there are times we try to rattle players on the other team."

ewright@hometownlife.com

SPARTANS

Continued from Page B1

from his team's postgame locker room gathering. "Because we didn't have Lutz and Irvine this year, there were a lot of people doubting us and wondering how we were going to score. But this team has come together and used intangibles like hard work and determination to reach the state final."

"Our depth is so good right now. Everybody who steps on the ice for this team can be trusted to do his job. We can put anybody out there at any position and we know they're going to make plays. We don't have one top line like in years past. Our opponents have to account for all of our lines, because they can all score."

It didn't take long for the Eskymos to find out that Stevenson junior goalie Cullen Barber brought his 'A' game Thursday. Just 3:40 into the contest, a penalty shot was awarded to Escanaba's Hunter LaMarch, whose slick back-hander was defused by Barber's right pad.

"Making that save definitely gave me a lot of confidence moving forward," said Barber, who finished with 16 saves. "I don't know if the shot was on net or not, but either way it got me in a good mind-set."

With his team clinging to a 3-2 advantage with just under 10 minutes left in the third period, Wunder stole the puck off a Spartan's stick at the far blue line and motored up the ice uncontested toward Barber, who turned aside the attempt to deadlock the game.

"He's a great skater and he gets around the corner faster than most guys I've seen, but when he has the puck, you have to bear down just like you do with any other forward," Barber said.

Spearheaded by junior blue liners Zach Finzel and Nick Beers, the Spartans' defense played its second solid game without junior defenseman Adam Olson, who suffered a 60-stitch cut to his upper thigh during Saturday's 4-3 victory over Trenton.

"Obviously, we miss (Olson)," Barber said, "but a couple of our young guys really stepped up and got the job done."

Escanaba seized a 1-0 lead with 3:17 left in the first period, when Wunder secured a rebound off the boards behind the net, circled swiftly to the bottom of the left circle and delivered a tough-angled wrist into the top-right corner of the net.

Stevenson drew even midway through the second period, when Shane Leonard roped a searing rocket that didn't land until it ripped into the top of the twine just under the crossbar.

Just 42 seconds later, Vince Glenn's goal (from Nate Sudek) put the Spartans in front 2-1.

The lead evaporated less than three minutes later, when LaMarch netted a short-handed breakaway goal to make it 2-2.

The goal flurry escalated 26 seconds later, when Sudek executed a slick deke beside the net before tucking a power-play goal past Escanaba goalie Jack Valentine with what turned out to be the game-winner. He was assisted by Leonard and Alex DeFlorio.

Wunder, who entered the game with a state-high 92 points, went coast-to-coast — and zero to 60 in about two strides — with the puck with just over two minutes remaining in the middle period before his 15-foot slapper hit the mid-section of the perfectly-positioned Barber.

Although it didn't score, Stevenson owned the third period, outshooting the Eskymos 14-3.

Valentine, a 5-foot-9, 140-pound freshman, was extra sweet, turning away a barrage of Spartan shots, including two dangerous offerings from DeFlorio in the opening minute of the final period.

Stevenson appeared to score an insurance goal at the 13:54 mark, but it was disallowed due to an interference penalty.

Ultimately, it turned out to be a non-factor because the team with no superstars but plenty of team-first grinders played almost flawlessly down the stretch.

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HOCKEY FINALS

Scary injury won't derail Stevenson's Olson for long

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

As the final six minutes of last Saturday's intense Livonia Stevenson-Trenton Division 2 regional final hockey game played out at Eddie Edgar Arena, a medical-emergency drama was unfolding just off the rink.

As he skated off the ice following a late-game shift, Stevenson junior defenseman Adam Olson realized something wasn't right with the upper-thigh area of his right leg.

"When I got to the bench and I checked my thigh, I saw a lot of tissue and blood," he recounted. "I immediately told the coach and the trainers and I ran into the locker room."

"I wasn't in a lot of pain, but I was definitely in shock."

Olson had suffered a substantial cut that had been inflicted by the blade of his left skate during a third-quarter collision. Current Stevenson athletic trainer Jennifer Kramer and former trainer Joe Jankowski worked quickly to slow the bleeding by applying



Livonia Stevenson defenseman Adam Olson shadows a Trenton forward during the second period of last weekend's Division 2 regional final. Olson suffered a serious cut later in the contest. ED WRIGHT

a tourniquet, while an ambulance was summoned to the arena.

Accompanied by his mom Wendy, Olson was transported

to St. Mary Mercy Hospital, where his injury was treated with approximately 60 stitches.

"I blew out my knee playing

triple-A hockey, but I've never suffered an injury like this," Olson said, moments after the Spartans upended Escanaba in Thursday's Division 2 semifinal game. "I got cut in one of the few areas that isn't covered with padding."

"I definitely wanted to be out there playing today, but I realize my injury could have been a lot worse. The doctors tell me I'll be OK to start playing again by this summer."

An elite defender throughout the 2014-15 season, Olson said he has been overwhelmed by the amount of support he has received from friends and fans of the Stevenson hockey program.

Several of his teammates have made it a point to mention his name in post-game interviews in the wake of his injury.

"When you have to watch a state semifinal game from the stands like I did today, it makes you appreciate your health more," he said. "I'm sure when I return to the ice, I'll appreciate playing even more."

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Storm surge



The Livonia Storm 14U Black fast-pitch softball team won the championship at the Hoosier Open tournament held March 6-8 in Fort Wayne, Ind. Pictured are (back row from left) coach Scott DeBoer, Haley Bennett, Brooke Bauer, Rachel Klisz, Claire Hammons, Caitlin Brickey, Jeff Trujillo, (front row from left) Tara Trujillo, Brooke Hanson, Molly Padrock, Paige Hanson and Paige Ameel.

DISTRICT SEMIFINAL

Spartans bury GC with third-quarter avalanche

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The outcome of Wednesday night's Class A district semifinal game featuring Livonia Stevenson and Garden City was up in the air until mid-way through the third quarter when the Spartans' defense shifted into hyper-lockdown mode.

After Cougar senior Joe Pummill swished his fifth consecutive three-point bomb just under four minutes into the second half, Garden City trailed 48-46 to the taller, deeper Spartans.

But Stevenson put an end to the drama with a defense-instigated 14-2 run to close the quarter and ultimately GC's season in what ended up as a 81-56 victory for Stevenson in head coach Kareem Smartt's post-season coaching debut.

Stevenson (10-11) punched its ticket to Friday's 7 p.m. district championship game against Redford Thurston, which stifled Livonia Churchill, 55-38, in Wednesday's night-cap at Livonia Franklin. The Cougars' season ended with a 6-14 mark.

"At halftime we talked about pushing the ball more and playing tougher defense, which I think we did in the second half," said Smartt. "Getting out on the break like we did was a key."

"Garden City is a good offensive team; they're lightning quick. They were driving and kicking, and getting open threes in the first half. We didn't play exceptionally well and they did."

Stevenson senior guard Noah Campbell excelled at



Livonia Stevenson's Sam Davidek (left) and Hyder Mansour out-reached Garden City players for a third-quarter rebound Wednesday night.

ED WRIGHT

both ends of the court – he finished with 24 points and four steals – spurring coast-to-coast fast-breaks with defensive rebounds.

Senior forward Jacob Dollar cashed in 20 points while junior guard Gino D'Agostino added 13 points.

"Us seniors didn't want this to be our last game, so we knew we had to pick it up in the third quarter," Dollar said, when asked about his team's game-changing run. "We thought we were better than their team, but we had to go out and prove it."

Junior forward Sam Davi-

dek, a late-season addition to the Spartans' starting five, provided energy throughout the night, netting eight points and grabbing six rebounds.

"We put Sam in there late in the season because we needed another rebounder and so J.D. (Dollar) could focus more on scoring," said Smartt. "Sam can score when he wants, but he gives us a lot of energy."

The Spartans' third-quarter spurt coincided with the absence of Pummill (team-leading 15 points), who was forced to the bench less than a minute after canning his fifth triple while he committed his fourth

foul. By the time he returned to open the fourth, his team was in a tough-to-crawl-out-of abyss.

"It's a tough spot because if we keep Joe in after he gets his fourth foul and he gets a fifth, it doesn't do us any good," said GC head coach Ron Pummill. "By the time he got back in there, the flow of the game had chanced in their favor."

"I'm proud of my kids, though. The first half they played fantastic. At halftime, we talked about how we didn't want to get into a first-one-to-89-type game, because that's

not our strength, but Stevenson is a very, very good team and they got the tempo to where they wanted it."

GC junior guard Robbie Moyers was a scoring machine in the opening quarter when he netted eight of his 11 points. The Cougars led most of the first stanza until Dollar drained a trey with 14 ticks left to give his team a 20-18 lead.

Cougars seniors Travis Kidd and Travis Trigg – the team's leading scorer throughout the season – tallied 10 and eight points, respectively.

"I thought Stevenson's coaching staff scouted Travis Trigg well," said Pummill. "They gave him a little space because when he drives on you is when he's the most dangerous. They played off him and made him give it up, and he's an integral part of our offense."

The Spartans threatened to separate themselves from the Cougars late in the second quarter when Campbell's long three gave them a 30-25 lead. However, the scrappy Cougars drew even at 30-all on a Branden Grace drive at the 2:34 mark.

Stevenson countered with a 5-0 run of its own. Dollar gave his team momentum heading into the break when he knocked down a right-wing three just before the halftime buzzer sounded, putting the Spartans ahead, 38-32.

Stevenson made 16 of 22 free throws. GC connected on 3 of 7 shots from the stripe.

Trigg paced the Cougars on the glass with 11 rebounds.

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CLASS A DISTRICT BASKETBALL

Energizing 'D' powers Thurston over Churchill

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

When you throw a soft pass against Redford Thurston's boys basketball team, more often than not you learn a hard lesson.

During Wednesday night's Class A district semifinal game against Livonia Churchill, the Eagles – especially long-armed senior guard Rickey Hudgens – used picked-off passes as fuel for a dominating fast-breaks in their 55-38 victory.

Hudgens was a beast at both ends of the court for the Eagles, who held the Chargers to a season-low point total.

In addition to scoring a game-high 21 points – 12 the result of four triples – Hudgens snatched six steals and hauled in eight rebounds.

Churchill's high-scoring junior guard duo of Jon Hovermale (16 points) and Joan Andoni (10) accounted for all but 12 of their team's points, but the Eagles made them work for everything they got.

"We had a good scouting report on them," Hudgens said, referring to Hovermale and Andoni. "They like to come off screens and pop out for threes, so we had to pop out with them if we could."

"Offensively, we got out and ran better in the second half. We're best when we're running and getting into transition."

Thurston defeated Livonia Stevenson in Friday's 7 p.m. final at Franklin (see story, B1). The Eagles upended the Spartans by seven points back in December.

"We have to lock down on Noah [Campbell] and Jalen [Webber]," Hudgens said, when asked about the keys to beating Stevenson. "We play with them a lot up at the Livonia rec center, we know how they play and they know how we play."

Both teams played evenly throughout a sluggish first half that ended with the Eagles in front, 25-22. Both teams – who regularly exceeded the 60-point standard during the regular season – struggled to find an offensive rhythm.

Churchill trailed by just six with 6:10 to play after Andoni connected on a three-point rainbow, but Thurston – sparked by the aggressive two-way of Hudgens and Marquie'l Thomas – reeled off nine straight points to create a comfortable cushion.

"They just got after us tonight defensively," said Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak. "We tried everything tonight – screening sets, we tried spreading them out, we tried



Churchill's Joan Andoni launches a three-point shot over Thurston's Eric Bonner.

ED WRIGHT

some back-door cuts, but they showed up defensively tonight.

"The thing I'm most disappointed in was the number of lazy passes we had; our guards did things tonight they don't usually do, and Thurston turned them into fast-breaks."

Thomas and 6-foot-5 center Isiah Crofford both scored 11 points for the winners. Crofford also yanked down 11 boards. D'eaunte Jackson also played well, scoring six points to go with nine rebounds.

Thurston's Quran Kennedy didn't score, but he provided some game-changing hustle to the Eagles' cause during the pivotal second half.

"I was very proud of how the guys played defense tonight," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "To hold them to 38 points is something because they can score in bunches."

"Our plan was to get out on them with our hands in their faces and make them shoot over us. In the first half, every time they were open they made the shot. One possession we blew an assignment and [Andoni] made a three. The next time down our guy fell down and he made another three. We did a better job of closing out on them in the second half."

Bates said a similar caliber of effort will be required to beat Stevenson on Friday.

"Like Churchill, they have some really good shooters – [Noah] and No. 33 [Jacob Dollar]," Bates said. "We're going to have close on them and use our defensive quickness."

Thurston made 11 of 19 free throws. Churchill, which relied primarily on its perimeter-shooting skills, went to the line just four times and made two.

Churchill's Brian Albrooks closed out his high school career with a team-high 10 rebounds.

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GIRLS HOCKEY

Ladywood hockey team sidelined

Defending champs down blazers, 5-0

Livonia Ladywood's state title hockey hopes were dashed Thursday at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Defending Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 champion Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett turned the tables on Ladywood with a 5-0 victory after falling only a week earlier to the Blazers, 3-0.

Kara Francis notched a hat trick, while Haley Malewicz contributed a goal and assist for Liggett (19-3), which moved into Saturday's championship game at Edgar Arena.

Riley Marchin had the other goal, while Molly Murphy chipped in with two assists for the Knights, who scored three times in the second period and added two more in the final period.



Ladywood's Sydney Malek (24) fires a shot on Liggett goaltender Olivia Portillo in last week's 3-0 Michigan Metro Girls Hockey League win.

DIANE JACOBS

Olivia Portillo posted the shutout for Liggett, while Michaela Warner was in goal for the Blazers (17-6).

LADYWOOD 8, PIONEER 0: Sophomore Katie Hayward finished with five points with three goals and two assists as Livonia Ladywood (17-5) opened the Michigan Metro playoffs with a

quarterfinal victory March 9 at Livonia's Edgar Arena over visiting Ann Arbor Pioneer (6-17).

The Blazers, who led 4-0 after one period and 5-0 after two, put the game away with three goals in the final period.

Other top point producers for the Blazers included Cecilia Werner (one goal, two assists); Jackie Kristofik (two goals); Jill Jacobs (one goal, one assist); Mikayla Pearson and Sydney Pilot (two assists each); and Sydney Malek (one assist). Goalie Michaela Warner posted the shutout.

THURSTON

Continued from Page B1

bell, Jailen Webber and Jacob Dollar.

"Our coaches stress aggressiveness every day in practice," said Thurston junior point guard Brandon Marshall, who finished with a team-high 24 points. "Not just on defense, but offense too. Once we get a rebound we run, run, run and continue to put pressure on the other team."

The explosively quick Marshall is especially effective on offense when his team grabs a lead and he's able to pull the ball out near mid-court, drawing his defender with him.

"Brandon is so good at beating defenders off the dribble that other teams will pack it in to prevent his penetration," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "When we get the lead and they have to go out on him, it makes Brandon such a huge weapon because he can spread things out and he can drive the middle then either dish it to a teammate or take the shot himself."

Campbell was dynamite in his final high school game, ringing up 27 points despite having little room to operate. Dollar scored 13 points and Webber added 11 to go with eight rebounds and three steals.

Several of the Eagles and Spartans know each other well after playing pick-up ball together on a regular basis at the Livonia Recreation Center. "Noah and Jailen gave it



Members of Redford Thurston's boys basketball team pose with the program's fourth-consecutive Class A district championship trophy.

ED WRIGHT

everything they had tonight, and we knew they would," said Bates. "We've been fortunate enough to get by them the past couple years, so we knew we'd see their best stuff tonight. Jailen was diving all over the floor for loose balls and Noah was really attacking the basket. And Dollar did a good job of taking the ball to the basket against us, especially in the second half."

Thurston's starting five accounted for all but one of the Eagles' points. Marquie'l Thomas scored 20 points, Rickey Hudgens and Isiah Crofford pumped in 11 points each while D'eauntae Jackson scored 10.

Crofford led all rebounders with 10 boards, one more than Jackson, whose motor never stops.

Senior forward Nick Hitchcock grabbed a team-high nine rebounds for Stevenson. Ju-

nior forward Sam Davidek also played well for the Spartans, netting eight points on 4-for-5 shooting and five rebounds.

Led by Marshall's 11-for-12 effort from the line, Thurston made 22 of 34 freebies.

The game was nip and tuck throughout, with Thurston carrying a tenuous 39-36 lead into the half.

The Eagles threatened to run away a couple times in the second half, expanding their lead to 10 on four occasions, but the resilient Spartans never stopped hustling, getting as close as 74-68 on a Dollar free throw with 26.7 seconds left.

But Marshall answered at the other end with two free throws to pretty much put a lock on his team's latest district title.

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CLASS A GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICT SEMIFINAL

Arbor Prep too strong for Warriors, 69-50

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Lutheran Westland's boys basketball team played shot-for-shot for over three quarters with host Ypsilanti Arbor Prep during Wednesday night's Class C district semifinal game before eventually dropping a 69-50 decision.

The Warriors, who finished the season with an 11-11 mark, trailed just 46-42 after three quarters before getting outscored 23-8 down the stretch.

Arbor Prep moved on to Friday night's championship game against Ann Arbor Greenhills, which upended Whitmore Lake, 41-38, in Wednesday's second semifinal match-up.

Lutheran Westland was led by Zach Burk's 13 points. Also playing major roles in the Warriors' upset bid were Cleveland Tarp (12 points, seven rebounds) and Luke Smith, who contributed eight points, 10 rebounds and

three assists.

Adrian Harrison led the winners with 21 points.

"The final score will not tell the story of this game," said LW head coach Jim Hoeft. "We kept this game within striking distance for most of the game. In fact, we cut the lead to three with about six minutes to play. We then were able to turn them over three possessions in a row, but we came up empty on the offensive end."

"Our guys seemed to hit a wall midway through the fourth quarter. Regardless, our guys spent every ounce of energy they had. They played extremely well tonight - I am so proud of their effort! It was a successful season, and I'm looking forward to what's in store for us down the road."

The Warriors made 19 of 57 field-goal attempts and 10 of 17 free throws.

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CLASS A BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT SEMIFINAL

John Glenn rallies to upend Wayne, 56-53

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Host Westland John Glenn (11-10) advanced to Friday night's Class A district boys basketball game against Romulus after edging Wayne Memorial, 56-53, Wednesday night.

The Zebras held a 41-37 lead heading into the fourth quarter, however, that's when John Glenn senior guard Tyrikh Hunter went to work, scoring eight of his team-high 17 points over the final eight minutes.

Mychal Bradley and Jamie Melchor both scored 11 points for the winners. Mike Edwards added eight for the Rockets.

Marques Stokes and Kevin Woodhead both scored 13 points for Wayne. Stokes knocked down three three-point shots. Trevon Brown-Woods scored 10 for the Zebras while Juan Wise added nine.

John Glenn led 15-10 after one quarter

before Wayne stormed back to take a 26-24 halftime lead.

John Glenn made 20 of 31 free throws. Wayne was 10 for 17

from the stripe.

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TOM BUDAION

John Glenn's Jamie Melchor attacks the basket during Wednesday's win over Wayne.

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Carnival brings disabled persons together for food, fun, entertainment

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

D-MAN All Stars will keep listeners tapping their toes to the beat of soulful songs and rapid-fire rap, when its members perform at the ninth annual Carnival of Care in Novi.

When it's Len McCulloch's turn to take the stage with his choirs, singers of all ages will bolster spirits with a mix of traditional and contemporary songs.

Both groups will demonstrate how music therapy can increase self-esteem, improve memory, and enhance social skills, all while entertaining the crowd of an anticipated 1,000 disabled individuals, their families and caretakers.

The Carnival of Care runs from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. It's free and will include food, games, massages, clowns, balloon artists, games and entertainment to celebrate individuals with disabilities and rehabilitation. Vendor booths will offer resources for the disabled.

"For the majority of people who come out, they may not have a lot of social life. The only time they leave the house may be to go to medical appointments," said Zaid Kassab, whose D-MAN Foundation is presenting the event. "This is a day to get out and have fun, food, games, face painting."

Kassab has emceed the Carnival every year and watched it grow from 150 attendees in 2006 to approximately 900 last year. He started the Foundation in honor of his late brother, Danny, who lived with quadriplegia for 16 years after being hit by a car at age 7. Its mission is to enhance the lives of families and individuals living with physical and mental disabilities. Empowering its clients to overcome challenges and achieve personal goals is among its values.

Recording studio

"The reality is that people with disabilities are not different from me and you. We want people to see past the disabilities and highlight all the things they can do," Kassab said.

That includes recording music and singing solos in front of an audience. Kassab's Foundation opened a recording studio in Berkley two years ago, for music therapy. The D-MAN All Stars are current or former clients of the free program.

"There is an application online they can fill out. The client comes in and has a formal clinical assessment by a music therapist. We provide the therapist and the audio engineer," Kassab said. "We find out what goals they need to achieve, whether they are physical, social, or emotional. One little girl used a ventilator to breathe. After four months (on harmonica) she strengthened her diaphragm and was able to come off it and breathe without a machine."

At the end of 90 days, an evaluation determines if the client has met goals or should continue on the program another 90 days.

"Music is healing. We've had clients come in who are on the edge of suicide. Now they



Len McCulloch, director of The Therapy Choirs of Michigan, sings along with its youngest member, Nicholas Johnson, at the Carnival of Care last year.



Clowns always are on hand at the Carnival of Care.

have a purpose, they come to the studio," said Kassab, adding that the recording space is "hip and cool" with a clinical foundation. Some clients work in teams, writing lyrics, creating new songs. Some work individually. All eventually record.

Choir therapy

McCulloch tells similar success stories about his youth choir and three adult singing groups, known collectively as The Therapy Choirs of Michigan. They rehearse in Auburn Hills, Brighton and Farmington Hills and come together to form one group when they perform. An adjunct group of volunteers, The Volunteer Voices, sings and assists with physical tasks, such as turning music pages. The Therapy Choirs of Michigan will kick off the Carnival of Care at noon, with one of its youngest members singing *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

"I have a wheelchair-bound man who is paralyzed from a motorcycle accident. He was angry and suicidal. He didn't want to do anything with the choir," said McCulloch, a Farmington Hills psychotherapist and Choirs director. "I said, what if you could do a solo? He grumbled and sang for over a year and after that first (public) appearance, told the staff meeting and his family that he



Members of the D-MAN All Stars will perform at the Carnival of Care in Novi.

no longer wanted to kill himself. He found a reason for living — therapy choir."

McCulloch founded the Choirs years ago with just one man. The patient had lived in an institution for 18 years and wouldn't talk, but McCulloch encouraged him to sing.

"We'd sing back and forth to each other. He belted out *Amazing Grace* and I said, we have a choir now. It's you," McCulloch recalled. "We got five people together, learned five songs, borrowed five

robes from a church and were invited to sing at the Brain Injury Association annual conference."

The choir accepts singers with mental and physical challenges of all ages, from seniors with memory problems, to youngsters with developmental disabilities.

"Singing is not required to be in the choir," McCulloch noted. "We have people who can't speak but can tap a tambourine. We have paraplegic young women who will keep

the beat by bobbing their heads. We don't claim to create a musical masterpiece, but some people say what we do is more than a masterpiece. It's much more than just singing."

For more information about the Carnival of Care, visit mydman.org/carnavalofcare or call 248-267-0229. There's also a link on the site for the D-MAN music studio. For more about The Therapy Choirs of Michigan, or to donate to the group, visit therapychoirs.org.

Detroit Story League concert teaches kids to enjoy live performance

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Mother Goose and giant turnips will come alive — if only in the minds of listeners — at the Detroit Story League's fifth annual Once Upon a Time Children's Story Concert this month in Livonia.

"The best part of a story is when they are listening so intently, they are so completely still," said Judy Sima, League president, who plans to tell an interactive tale at the group's upcoming children's concert. "The kids looking up at me get so quiet they can hardly breathe. Or they laugh. The storyteller needs that live reaction."



Chrissy Begle



Trudy Bulkley



Judy Sima



Ivory Williams

Youngsters will play a farmer, his wife, and various animals in Sima's telling of an enormous turnip that won't budge from the soil without a little elbow grease. She'll recruit youngsters to act out her tale — "I always pick on a male parent to be the duck" — as she recounts the Russian tale.

Sima, of West Bloomfield, is

one of three Detroit Story League members, along with a guest storyteller who will perform at the League's annual spring children's concert, which starts at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia; 734-466-2491. Tickets are \$3. Each child at the event will receive a gift. Refreshments also will be

served.

Chrissy Begle of Livonia will introduce the storytellers and keep the show flowing in her role as concert "maestro."

Trudy Bulkley of Ann Arbor, a League member, will dress as Mother Goose to tell nursery rhymes.

"It appeals to kids older than just preschool," Sima noted. "She tells some history (of rhymes) and stories."

The guest artist is Ivory Williams of the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers. He promotes African and African-American storytelling and offers a wide repertoire of tales, Sima said.

"His stories usually have a lesson and they usually are

funny."

Sima and Bulkley will get 15 minutes each to tell a story or two. Williams will perform for 30 minutes. The concert is aimed at ages 4-10.

"The important thing is to educate the audience on how to sit and listen and enjoy a live performer," Sima noted. "It's important, and I think we're losing that. You can go on YouTube and see storytellers, but it's not the same. You need that interaction."

For more about the League's children's story concert, call 248-476-8515. Visit its website at detroitstorytelling.org.

Study tests music as a calming technique during surgery

Wearing headphones to drown out the drill and relax to music in the dentist chair is used in some dental practices. And now the calming technique is finding its way into the hospital operating room.

A Beaumont Health System anesthesiologist, Kathy Schlecht, D.O., became interested in the medical uses of music after a medical student suggested it can help students concentrate while studying. Schlecht wondered if music also might help patients re-

main calm and reduce their pain while in the operating room. Many medications typically used to help calm anxiety come with a series of side effects that might affect a patient's recovery.

She obtained a \$10,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation to collect data and study the concept. Patients participating in the study get randomly assigned to one of three groups. One group selects their favorite music. Another group listens to music

pre-identified as calming or relaxing. The final group does not listen to any music.

"Music can elevate people's moods, alleviate anxiety by serving as a distraction, increase their tolerance for pain, and decrease the amount of medications needed, thus decreasing the amount of side effects experienced by patients," Schlecht said.

Surgeons and most patients have been supportive and excited about the study.

"The preliminary results

have demonstrated that music is more beneficial than no music. Patients who listen to music of their choice have required the least amount of medications thus far, while the patients who listened to our 'research' music designed to be calming have experienced the least amount of anxiety. However, the sample size is still too small to be statistically significant," she said.

To measure whether music has an effect on the patient during and after surgery,

Schlecht is examining the amount of supplemental sedation medications administered, the amount time spent in recovery, and how patients rate or describe their anxiety and pain.

The study is ongoing. So far, Schlecht has analyzed approximately 20 patients, but aims to include 75 patients in this phase of her research.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Acupuncture

St. Mary Mercy Livonia's Center for Integrative Medicine will host a wellness seminar on chronic pain management with acupuncture, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 21, in the Wellness Center, located off the hospital's South Lobby, Levan and Five Mile, Livonia. Harsha Jayatilake, M.D., Center medical director, will explain how acupuncture works and its use to help alleviate stress, headaches, chronic lower back pain, neck and shoulder pain, irritable bowel syndrome and other conditions. Free, but registration is required. Call 734-655-1320.

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.

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

Colorectal cancer awareness

Tadd Hiatt, M.D., a gastroenterologist from the University of Michigan Health Center, will present a program for Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in rooms B and C, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. The program is free. For more information call 734-466-2490.

Dementia

Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free program about managing symptoms, treatment and physical therapy of dementia from 6-8 p.m. April 25 at Oakwood Hospital - Wayne, 33155 Annapolis St., Wayne. Two Oakwood physicians will lead the free program. Valet parking will be available at no charge at the West Entrance and a complimentary light dinner will be served. The session is expected to fill fast. Early registration is recommended. Call 800-543-9355 or visit oakwood.org.

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.

Healthy veins

Marshall Medley, D.O. will talk about the symptoms, complications and treatment of venous disease and wound care, 1-2 p.m. Saturday, March 28, in the east court at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. Call 734-458-4330.

Hearing loss

The Hearing Loss Association of America will focus on the topic, "What is aural rehabilitation and how will it help with my hearing loss?" 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. For more information, contact Tony at 734-664-3297, afe-rack@comcast.net.

Medical bill terminology

Botsford Hospital offers a free seminar, "Understand Your Medical Bills: Know the Terminology To Read Your Statements," 9-11 a.m. March 21, April 18 and May 16, in Classroom A/B in the hospital's Zieger Building, 28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills. The presentation will

answer common questions about medical bills. For more information, call Alonda Malvo-Beard at 248-888-6448.

Nutrition class

» Cooking Matters for Diabetes, presented by Oakwood Healthcare, provides specialized recipes and information for adults living with diabetes and their caregivers. The six-week course, which begins 2-4 p.m. April 13, at Maplewood Manor Apartments, 15270 Plaza South Drive, Taylor, is free and includes all groceries and cookbooks. To register, visit Oakwood.org under the Classes & Events tab or call 800-543-9355.

Prostate support group

US Too Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet 7-8:30 p.m., the fourth Wednesday of the month, beginning March 25, in the conference room at Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. The interactive format helps facilitate conversations to exchange information about common treatments, side effects and questions. For more information, call 313-585-1641.

Walk with a Doc

Patricia Schmidt, D.O., will lead a walk and talk about prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Heri-

tage Park, located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Register by calling 877-477-3621, option #1.

Weight loss surgery

Edward Mavashev, M.D., Oakwood bariatric program surgeon, will talk about weight loss surgery, 5-7 p.m. March 18 at Oakwood Hospital-Wayne, 33155 Annapolis, Wayne. To register for the free program, visit Oakwood.org under the Classes & Events tab or call 800-543-9355.

Women's health

Paul Makela, M.D., medical director of Gynecological Robotic Surgery at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will talk about bladder dysfunction and overactive bladder, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at Cantoro Italian Market II, 15550 Haggerty, Livonia. To register, call 734-655-1980. Registration is required.

Ongoing

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

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