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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015 • hometownlife.com

City replacing defective trash carts

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland residents who have noticed cracks or holes in their black trash carts are being asked to contact the city for replacements.

Last August, the city purchased more than 25,000 carts from Toter, LLC, which provid-

ed a 25-year warranty on the carts known as toters. Like the recycling carts, the toters are made to be picked up and emptied by an automated arm on one-worker trucks.

"We're working with Toter. They had a batch that wasn't up to standard. I think there are about 2,500 in a batch," Wild said. "They will replace

the toters at no cost to the city."

The quality-control issues with the resin toters was likely exacerbated by the recent extreme cold temperatures, Wild said. The city hasn't had similar problems with the recycler toters, which have been in service for more than five years.

Toter had already supplied some replacement carts earlier as complaints about cracking carts were received by the city. The new toters will have an "R" in their serial number to help identify replacement carts.

"Toter staff will be following the garbage trucks around. There was sub-zero weather

when we saw most of the problems," Wild said. "People just need to call if their toter is cracked or beginning to crack."

The city has some replacement toters on hand, but the new toters are to begin arriving in the city within two

See CARTS, Page A2



Seniors form an assembly line to fill bags for incoming kindergarten students.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

W-W seniors prepare backpacks for Kindergarten Roundup

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Dyer Senior Center members made quick work Tuesday by filling 1,200 drawstring backpacks destined for youngsters at Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Kindergarten Roundup later this month.

In a tradition that goes back more than a decade, seniors worked in assembly-line fashion, filling the packs with items that members of

the class of 2028 can use this summer to prepare for the first day of school. This year's packs included a story book, *The Night Before Kindergarten*, magnetic letters and numbers and a coloring book and crayons.

"They love it," said Mary Browe, Dyer Center director. "This isn't just work for them, it's about the camaraderie. There's laughing and joking going on while

See BACKPACKS, Page A2



Each bag holds an assortment of items that will give kindergarteners a good start.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Police investigate teacher misconduct allegations

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board assured two women that their concerns will be heard; however, there will be no public comment about an investigation into allegations that an art teacher had inappropriate contact with young students at Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School.

"This is not something we're not aware of; this is not something that will be swept under the rug," school board President Thomas Buckalew said. "This is being investigated."

The women — a parent and a grandparent — addressed the board at its meeting Monday evening about their concerns regarding the investigation. The grandparent, who identified herself as a former Romulus school board member, said she was expressing the concerns of her daughter who has a student at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton.

"She is concerned about the procedures; she's concerned about who was notified and when," she said.

Parents were notified Friday of a police investigation into allegations leveled by several parents that a teacher had inappropriate contact with their children. The parents, in television interviews, claimed they raised the issue with school officials several weeks ago but nothing had been done.

School Superintendent Michele Harmala sent a letter to

See TEACHER, Page A2

Bailey gym flooring will be installed at new Norwayne community center

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The gym at the former Jefferson Barns School — soon to be a new Westland community center — is getting a wooden floor through a joint effort that includes construction technology students and the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

The new floor for the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center is actually the old gym floor from the closed Bailey Recreation Center. The three-quarter-inch solid maple floor will be installed by students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

"I just delivered two floor staplers and staples that were

donated by the Wayne-Ford Civic League, which covered the \$890 cost," said Vic Barra, the league president who is overseeing the gym renovation.

Barra is also a member of the newly created board of directors for the Norwayne Community Citizens Council. The Jefferson Barns gym

floor will have a rubber layer with two layers of plywood — one installed at a 45-degree angle — below the solid maple gym floor.

"The gym will have a solid three-quarter-inch maple floor, but it won't be attached to the concrete below," construction trades instructor Mark Valchine said. "We do wood floor-

ing, and this process will be no different."

The 80-90 high school students enrolled in the construction technology program haven't started working at Jefferson Barns yet, although the adult education students are already working on site.

See FLOOR, Page A2



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Judge sends 'coward' killer to prison

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Demanding that a murderer "look me in the eye like a man," a Wayne County judge sentenced Andrew Nutt, 22, of Westland, to at least 27 years in prison for the killing of Plymouth Township resident Kenneth LaBita. LaBita, 76, was shot once in the back of the head in his house on Gilbert, east of Haggerty, last October. Nutt, who had faced charges of felony murder and premeditated murder, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and using a gun during a felony.



LaBita



Nutt

Pisarski

"This is one of the most despicable acts that I've ever seen," said Wayne County Circuit Judge Mark Slavens, who repeatedly called Nutt a "coward." "I think that the act that you committed was evil." Slavens, who had threatened to throw out the plea agreement that gave Nutt a sentence of between 27 and 60 years and send him trial for first-degree murder, said he would be watching the imprisoned Nutt "like a hawk." Assistant prosecutor

Trisha Gerard had earlier told Slavens about recorded phone conversations Nutt had while in the county jail in which threats against co-defendant Miriah Pisarski, his girlfriend at the time of the murder, had been made. "If anything happens to her, we're coming after him," Gerard said. Pisarski, 20, was sentenced last Thursday by Slavens to between two and five years in prison for her role in the killing and robbery of LaBita. She had pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact to a felony and larceny of firearms and had been prepared to testify against Nutt. A murder charge against her was dismissed. Nutt offered a halting apology last Friday, looking down several times,

prompting Slavens to hide him. "Mr. tough guy, look me in the eye," Slavens said. "I know that I made a huge mistake and I'm willing to pay the price," Nutt said. LaBita's sister, Sally Lemus, was in the courtroom with Ronan Kennedy, a neighbor of LaBita. Lemus did not want to address the court, but had given some notes to Gerard, which the assistant prosecutor read aloud. Lemus, who had been at many court proceedings, wrote that Nutt's "cavalier attitude toward that life and death of my brother is frightening" and that he had been "glaring at me" in the courtroom. "He has never shown any remorse whatsoever," she wrote.

TEACHER

Continued from Page A1

parents and posted it on the district's website Friday. In it, she acknowledged that the district is aware of a police investigation into alleged inappropriate behavior by a staff member. She said school officials are conducting an internal investigation and cooperating with the Wayne Police Department. "Thus far, our investigation has revealed no evidence which would support the allegations," Harmala said. "Nevertheless, while those investigations are pending, the individual involved has chosen to take a leave of absence until such time as these

matters are brought to a conclusion." Wayne police began actively investigating the allegations last week and declined to "release any information at this time." "No charges have been issued in this case; it is a continuing investigation," Wayne Police Sgt. Matthew Spunar said. Harmala said she shared all of the information that the district is currently able to and assured parents in the letter that "we will continue to update the community as soon as we are able and are asking your patience as we proceed," she said.

Staff Writer LeAnne Rogers contributed to this story.

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BACKPACKS

Continued from Page A1

they do this." A committee, led by Principals Jennifer Curry and Jennifer Chambers, looked at the backpacks and their contents and decided to change things, according to Mary Jane Mielke, director of Professional Development. In the past, the district gave out zippered backpacks, but they switched to the drawstring backpacks, saving the district money and making the assembly process easier on the seniors who had had problems with the zippers. "We moved up to the drawstring packs because they're a better fit for the kindergartners," Mielke said. The packs, decorated with a lion design by Stephanie Fleischer, graphics technician in the district's communications office, will be given out along with Class of 2028 T-shirts at the Kindergarten Roundup at the district's 11

WHAT'S NEEDED

Parents who attend the Wayne-Westland's Kindergarten Roundup, at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, will need to bring a few things with them to register their child. In addition to bringing their child — who'll get to tour the school, meet the teachers and visit the classrooms — parents will need to have:

- » An original birth certificate (with raised seal).
- » Immunization records.
- » Valid driver's license or state ID.
- » Three proofs of residency, including a signed lease or mortgage document and two pieces of business mail that are not more than 30 days old.
- » A completed physical form available on the website.

Parents can find out the school their child will attend by logging on to the district's website at www.wwcsd.net on the Kindergarten Roundup page under the Parents and Students tab or by calling 734-419-2083. For parents who can't make it to the roundup, the school offices will be open from 6-7 p.m. that evening.

elementary schools. The program will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, and provide parents with an opportunity to tour the schools, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, discuss the curriculum and review registration materials. The backpacks and T-shirts also will be given out in the school offices, which will be open from 6-7 p.m. that day for parents who can't make the roundup, and

in the instruction department at the district's administrative offices, 36745 Marquette, for parents who register their children there. Other changes this year are the use of banners at the schools in lieu of yard signs to promote the roundup and a video, *A Day in the Life of a Kindergartner*, made by the communications department. The video can be found on the New Parents tab of the district's website at

www.wwcsd.net. Sandy Kulka of Westland was among the 30-plus seniors who assembled the packs. For her, the work is a chance to give back to the district which provides the Dyer Center for seniors. "It's a community thing, it's intergenerational," she said. "It's more than just about the backpacks. We have the high school orchestras and choruses come and perform for us, the ROTC comes and helps with the spaghetti dinners." "I do this to help the kids, but I think the seniors should have these backpacks so we can carry all of our junk," said Sandie Owsuik of Garden City who cast her vote for this year's packs. "No zippers, it's easier on the hands." Jenny Johnson who does video production for the district, agreed. "The packs are easier for the kids, easier for us and super cute," she said. smason@hometownlife.com
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CARTS

Continued from Page A1

weeks. Residents can call the Department of Public Service at 734-728-1770 if they have a defective toter. DPS will deliver the new replacement toters. "I'm pleased that Toter, LLC is taking responsibility for the defective toters and once the problem was identified, moved quickly to resolve this issue," Wild said. The original toters were delivered to resi-

dents in late summer 2014 as part of a multi-year Mission Green initiative aimed at encouraging recycling, reducing waste and providing a more visually appealing method for disposing of household waste and recyclables. Once the defective toters are identified and replaced, Wild said the wheels and lids will be left with the city as replacement parts. Irogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

FLOOR

Continued from Page A1

"With the high school students, the installation should take one and a half to two weeks to complete," Valchine said. An area church is expected to run a basketball program in the gym along with other programs that may be offered. The Nankin Transit Authority, which offers bus service to seniors and handicapped residents,

will be moving to Jefferson Barns from their current offices at the Westland Department of Public Services address on Marquette. The citizens council is also working on establishing some type of free lending library inside Jefferson Barns. The community center is scheduled to fully open in the spring. The Norwayne Boxing Club has been open for several months. Irogers@hometownlife.com
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jamie Bollerud is a tattoo artist with her husband at Suicide Kings.



Suicide Kings owner Chris Bollerud talks Van Gogh and Dali as he works.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Suicide Kings tattoo shop full of life, art

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Chris Bollerud has left his mark, literally, on lawyers, cops, grandparents, teenagers – even a priest.

He's a tattoo artist. Bollerud, 44, grew up in Canton around leather-clad biker types and Native American rela-

tives who proudly wore their ink art, although his father, a Ford Motor Co. retiree, and his mother, who dabbled in artsy hobbies, have never had a tattoo.

Bollerud got his first tattoo, a skull and crossbones, when he was 20 years old.

"My mother hated it," he said.

Some 70 tattoos later, Bollerud has marked his 10th year owning Suicide Kings Tattoo & Piercing, off Ford Road near Lilley, where he talks Vincent Van Gogh and Salvador Dali as he tattoos lilies on the top of Stephanie Jones' feet.

"I'm getting flowers with my kids' names," said Jones, who has two daughters, Allyson Lynn, 7, and Leah Marie, 3.

Good reputation

Jones drove from Ypsilanti, where Bollerud's reputation as a tattoo artist first took root. He had an apprenticeship there with a friend who eventually helped him choose Suicide Kings as the name for his business.

It didn't arise from a morbid discussion of self-inflicted death, but from a conversation about poker and the king of hearts who, it appears, is sticking his head with a sword.

Bollerud, a Redford resident, likes the name Suicide Kings: "It's ed-

gy."

He opened his shop 10 years ago in Belleville and moved in 2010 to Canton. Before he dabbled in ink, he drew designs that his friends took to tattoo artists.

"I always felt that I could have done a better job," Bollerud said.

So he did. Now he is among seven tattoo artists, including wife Jamie, and one piercer working at Suicide Kings. He taught his wife the art.

"It's very creative," she said. "I work with some really good artists. It's inspiring to come in here every day and do art."

Bollerud estimated he alone creates 1,000 tattoos a year. He has drawn art as small as a fake mole to a tattoo covering someone's entire back – an endeavor that can take as long as 60 hours spread over multiple visits.

New image

Bollerud said most tattoo shops have shed an

image once associated with bikers and motorcycle clubs.

"Nowadays, they're run by artists," he said.

One of his most difficult tattoos involved recreating "The Starry Night" by Van Gogh around someone's arm, accompanied by a small image of Van Gogh on the inside of the arm.

"You start with the darkest color of ink and end with the lightest," Bollerud said. "It's like paint by numbers without the numbers."

Among his and wife Jamie's tattoos are images representing their children, Autumn, 8, and Christopher, 5. And no, the children don't have tattoos. Truth is, Bollerud only accepts customers 18 and older – and some have been in their 80s.

For him, representing a new breed of tattoo artist means helping the community where his business earns \$100 an hour from its customers. His business has become involved for a second year raising money for

Relay for Life of Canton, an American Cancer Society fundraiser.

Certain days, 20 percent of Suicide Kings' revenue goes to Relay, but the cancer event gets 100 percent of the money if a customer gets a tattoo of a cancer ribbon. Bollerud's business also has collected canned food, coats and blankets for St. Anthony Parish in Belleville.

Looking ahead, Bollerud sees no signs of the tattoo business easing up.

"It's growing and growing and growing and growing," he said.

Suicide Kings is located at 42122 Ford Road. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, one of the busiest days. The business can be found at facebook.com/suicidekingstattoo, on Twitter @CantonTattoo and on Instagram.

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'It will always be murder in my eyes'

Man who struck, killed referee receives 8- to 15-year prison sentence

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

It wasn't until the end of Kris Bieniewicz's address in Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron's courtroom that she reached into her pocket, pulled out a red card and lifted it above her head in the direction of the man convicted of killing her husband.



Bassel Saad enters court for sentencing in the death of soccer referee John Bieniewicz.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"My husband should have been able to go on and referee the game he loves," she said in her address. "There are five

kids right now, two of mine and three of his, that might as well be without a father."

Bassel Saad, 36 of

Dearborn, was before Cameron for his sentencing last Friday after taking a plea deal, pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of Westland resident John Bieniewicz, whom Saad struck while Bieniewicz was refereeing an adult league soccer match Saad was a participant in last summer at Livonia's Mies Park. Saad was sentenced to serve between 8-15 years in prison as a part of the agreement.

Several witnesses have said John Bieniewicz was in the process of showing Saad a red card, indicating he was about

to be ejected from the match. Bieniewicz was then struck by Saad in the head and neck region, a punch that led to his death two days later.

Despite the charge of involuntary manslaughter Saad pleaded to, Kris Bieniewicz said she believed Saad's action was nothing short of murder. "It's murder in my eyes," she said. "It will always be murder in my eyes."

Saad will receive 256 days credit on his sentence for time served in the Wayne County Jail. He was also ordered by the court to pay John Bieniewicz's funeral

costs, which totaled more than \$9,200.

Saad spoke at the end of the hearing, saying he was remorseful for what had happened and that he planned on keeping John Bieniewicz and his family in his thoughts.

"I'm so sorry from the bottom of my heart," he said. "I'm going to continue to pray for him and his family."

Members of the Bieniewicz family sat in the back row of the courtroom during the hearing.

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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Vandalism

Police were called to the 35000 block of Schley about 1 a.m. March 13 about loud explosions that turned out to be fireworks. Upon arrival, officers found that eight vehicles parked on the south side of the street had multiple tires slashed.

Owners of some damaged vehicles were from Dearborn, Novi, Rockwood and West Bloomfield.

» A resident in the 600 block of South Carlson told police March 14 that overnight someone had thrown a landscape ornament from the neighbor's yard onto the roof of his truck, scratching it. Police said other acts of vandalism were reported in the area.

Larceny

» A contractor remodeling a vacant home in the 30000 block of Hively told police he arrived March 15 to find the lock

box with the key missing. He said he then found someone had stolen the central air conditioning unit from the rear yard and all the copper plumbing from the interior of the house. The stolen items were valued at \$4,000.

» On March 13, a contractor told police he arrived to work at a vacant home in the 1400 block of Woodbourne to find the central air conditioning and copper plumbing had been stolen. He said the house was intact the previous day and the lock box was also missing.

Hit and Run

» A Westland woman told police March 15 that someone hit her vehicle while it was parked at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road. The officer noted the left fender was damaged on the vehicle.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny

Eight semitruck batteries and seven miscellaneous used tires, valued at \$3,000, were reported stolen March 9 from LKQ, 35660 Clinton. A supervisor told police that he was checking the lot just after 4:30 a.m. and noticed the items missing.

A surveillance video from just before 3 p.m. March 7 showed an unknown man entering the parking lot in a black Ford F-150. The video shows the man loading the tires, then moving near the semitrucks on the south side of the building.

Fraud

On March 13, a Wayne woman told police that someone used her debit card to make an unauthorized purchase at the Mobil gas station, 32719 E. Michigan Ave. The purchase was \$68.68

and two other charges were pending.

The resident said she had her card with her, so someone had used her information fraudulently.

Larceny

A resident in the 35000 block of Hillcrest told police March 16 that someone stole a Troy-Bilt gas edger valued at \$260 from the shed in his backyard. He said it had been stolen since Feb. 16 and was unsure if the shed had been locked.

Hit and run

On March 15, a resident in the 4800 block of Mildred told police that a white van struck her vehicle while it was parked in the street in front of her home and didn't stop.

She said her daughter witnessed the accident, which happened about 5:30 p.m.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Theft

A man and woman in the 28000 block of Sheridan reported theft from their vehicles about 7 a.m. March 16. Both vehicles were unlocked.

The man said a bottle containing \$15 in quarters was stolen from his Chevy Silverado, which was parked on the street. Papers were disturbed inside the vehicle, but nothing else was missing.

The woman reported that about \$100 was stolen from inside her Ford Taurus, which was parked in the driveway.

» A woman who works at a group home in the 32000 block of Hennepin maintains that her co-worker took her \$600 tablet, which she left on a couch March 14.

That co-worker denies the accusation.

The woman who notified the police said that the two residents present couldn't take the

tablet because of their mental condition and the fact that they are in wheelchairs.

IRS scam

A 59-year-old Garden City man was scammed out of \$5,000 after he received a phone call from someone posing as an agent for the Internal Revenue Service.

The man, who lives in the 6000 block of Middlebelt, reported March 16 that the person who called him said he still owed \$5,259 on his 2011 income taxes and if they weren't paid, he would be arrested.

The caller instructed him to purchase a TracFone so that he could talk to the victim during the transaction. The victim did so and then went to Bank of America and withdrew the money.

He was given the name of a woman to transfer the money to and obtained a FedEx deposit receipt.

By Sue Buck

Grillin' & Chillin'

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Murder mystery dinner to benefit Anna K. Bonde CAPA Scholarship Fund

Dance with Death - A 1950's Murder Mystery Prom will be presented by Livonia Churchill High School's CAPA program and the Murder Mystery Co. from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at Burton Manor, Livonia.

Dinner will be served, and a silent auction and 50/50 raffle will be held as well. Tickets, on sale now, are \$25 each and include dinner and the show.

The Murder Mystery Dinner will benefit the Anna K. Bonde CAPA Scholarship Fund, which has awarded more than \$30,000 during the past five years to graduating seniors in the Creative And Performing Arts program at Churchill.

The scholarship was created in memory of Anna Bonde, a 1999 Churchill grad killed at age 19 by a drunken driver.



Anna Bonde played Peggy in CAPA's performance of "42nd Street" in April 1998.

To purchase tickets, visit www.grimprov.com/the-anna-bonde-benefit, call 888-643-2583, ext. 1, email grimprov@gmail.com or make a check payable to Emmanuel Lutheran Church and mail it to Debra Bonde, 34721 Pembroke Ave., Livonia MI 48152.



Wayne County Parks Naturalist and families collect sap during the Maple Sugaring Program at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

Tap into Wayne County's sweet maple sugaring program

March is maple-sugaring month in Michigan, and Wayne County Parks has a sweet Saturday program available for the entire family on Saturday, March 21 and March 28.

Bundle up and join the park naturalists for the annual Maple Sugaring program at the Cass Benton Park picnic shelter in Northville, where a historic "sugar bush" still exists.

Learn the history of maple sugaring and take a short hike into the woods for an actual tree-tapping demonstration. In celebration

of this early spring ritual, the group will enjoy pancakes topped with the "real thing" afterward.

"The Maple Sugaring program is one of many diverse activities Wayne County Parks offers for the entire family," Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said. "This is a great opportunity to experience a unique, hands-on, educational program that is exclusive to our region during the early spring."

The practice of maple sugaring dates back to when Native Amer-

icans taught early settlers how to collect and boil sap. The freezing nights and warm sunny days of spring create pressure and force sap out of the maple tree.

The program lasts approximately 90 minutes. Register for either March 21 or March 28, and choose a start time of 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

Dress accordingly, as this is an outdoor program and the trail may be muddy. All ages are welcome. The program fee is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult for Wayne County residents. Add \$1 per person for non-

Wayne County residents.

Advance registration and payment is required at the Wayne County Parks office, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, or by phone at 734-261-1990. Cash, credit card or check payable to Wayne County Parks is accepted.

Cass Benton Park is located off of Northville Road, north of Six Mile Road. For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.

Michigan Collegiate Job Fair is Friday in Livonia

College seniors and alumni from Michigan's two-and-four year colleges can meet with prospective employers from a variety of fields at the biannual Michigan Collegiate Job Fair on Friday in Livonia.

Sponsored by Eastern Michigan University, the event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road.

The event is one of the state's largest career fairs, with 130 employers currently registered. Employers include Bronson Health Care Group, Coca Cola, General Electric, Johnson Controls, Quicken Loans, NSF International, Pepsi Beverage Co., Thomson Reuters and various state of Michigan and federal departments and agencies.

Candidates can view a list of participating employers. Walk-in registration is \$15. More than 600 candidates are expected to attend.

"Many employers want to hire entry-level candidates with degrees in business, technology, engineering, human services and allied health," said Ebony Jones, senior corporate relations manager at Eastern Michigan University. "Employers also need candidates from all areas of liberal arts, particularly the government jobs, because these students and alumni have transferable skills."

"The good news is that we're seeing an increase in the number of employers participating over the last couple of years."

Jones recommends that candidates dress in professional business attire, bring several copies of their resume and research the employers they are interested in speaking with prior to the event.

One distinct offering for candidates is the ready room, Jones said. The room is staffed by career services professionals who can prepare candidates prior to entering the fair.

"The ready room booths provide help with practicing handshakes, with LinkedIn photos,

company research, job fair success tips and wardrobe touchups," Jones said.

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Our newly-remodeled member center in Livonia is different, too. Team members help you with your transaction in an open-concept environment that feels inviting and relaxed—no teller lines, no stress, just take a seat and have a chat.

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Join us on Saturday, March 21 at 9 a.m. for our grand re-opening get together!

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We're proud of the new open-concept layout of our Livonia Member Center, and we want to share it with you! Join us from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for fun, food, festivities, and the opportunity to win great prizes like²:

- A \$500 shopping spree
- One of two Apple iPad mobile digital devices
- One of ten Visa gift cards

Also, take advantage of these event-only special offers:

- \$100 for new members when you sign up for a checking account with direct deposit¹
- \$100 when you finance your new or used vehicle³

Come see what happens when Community Choice opens the doors to a new experience.



SATURDAY, MARCH 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Livonia Member Center
15420 Farmington Rd.
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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Sweepstakes begins on or about 3/21/2015 at 9:00 a.m. ET and ends on 3/31/2015 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Open to legal residents of Michigan who are at least 18 years of age at the time of registration. See Official Rules at www.CommunityChoiceCU.com for additional restrictions and complete details. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Void where prohibited.
¹ New members only. \$100 minimum to open account. APT paid on purchase of \$300 or more. Offer will be disbursed into account within 30 days of direct deposit. Federally insured by the NCUA. Offer only valid on 03/21/2015.
² \$100 minimum to open account. \$5,000 APT cash on balance of \$100 and above. Minimum loan amount \$4,000. Offer valid on purchase of new or used vehicle and on a qualified loan agreement from a participating lender. Does not apply to existing Community Choice CU car, SUV or motorcycle financing. Offer only valid on 03/21/2015.
³ The value of the incentive will be based on interest income for Form 1099-INT. Employees and board members are ineligible for either offer.



Stevenson Middle School staging 'There's a Ghost in My Locker'

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

If you had three wishes, what would you wish for?

That's the question asked and answered in the Stevenson Middle School Drama Club production of Christopher Burruto's *There's a Ghost in My Locker*, which will be staged Friday, March 20.

"It's a quirky take on *It's a Wonderful Life*," director Kevin Scollin said. "Jason Henshaw thinks he has problems, but when he conjures up a ghost/genie/being who grants him three wishes, things don't go right and he ends up wishing everything away. It's a comedy with a serious twist at the end."

"It's pretty exciting with a lot of lighting and sound effects," he added.

The one-act comedy will be presented at 7 p.m. at the school. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted at the door. The show will include an intermission with T-shirts, cast and crew photos and refreshments on sale.

Ryan Erickson plays Jason Henshaw, a teenager with problems.



Mitchell Barber, Ryan Erickson and Sadie Sindone play Dewey, Jason and Monica in Stevenson Middle School's production of "There's a Ghost in My Locker."

Mitchell Barber and Sadie Sindone play his friends Dewey and Monica, while Kailey Soyoko plays the ghost Jason mysteriously summons a ghost from another dimension while trapped in his locker.

In all, 24 students are

in the cast and seven are in the crew. They've been meeting twice a week after school since just after Thanksgiving. Up until mid-winter recess in February, the students worked on the basics. After mid-winter recess, they started add-

ing in set pieces.

"We're doing dress rehearsal right now, and they have to give 100 percent," Scollin said. "They have to work on staying on focus. They have to make sure their energy is up and communicate that to their audi-

ence."

The one-night-only production attracts 200-300 friends and family members as well as the public. The donations and proceeds from intermission sales are put back into the club to be used for the next produc-

tion.

This year the students have raised several hundred dollars through the sale of ads in the program. Scollin would like to use the money to upgrade the lighting and is hoping to get some grants.

"You have to start someplace," he said.

This is Scollin's fourth year with the club. He alternates between comedy and drama so the students get to experience each style before heading to high school. Scollin already has the drama selected for next year. He'll announce it after the show on Friday.

Because there is only one performance, the cast and crew will gather before the show for a party to make it a special night.

"Sometimes I push them hard, but it's a good experience," he said. "I see kids break out of their shell and go into high school with new confidence."

Stevenson Middle School is on Palmer west of Newburgh in Westland.

smason@hometownlife.com
734-674-2332

Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bowling fundraisers

Enjoy bowling and help Westland Historic Village Park from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and include two games with shoes, pizza and pop. There also will be raffle prizes for adults and children. For tickets, call Ryan at 734-756-0769.

» The Garden City 10U Gladiators baseball team is holding a bowling fundraiser Saturday, March 21, at Cherry Hill Lanes, 300 Inkster Road, just north of Cherry Hill.

Registration starts at 7 p.m., bowling at 8 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. In addition to bowling, there will be door prizes, basket raffles, 50/50 raffle, basket of cheer and optional jackpots.

Easter activities

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

A pancake breakfast will be served at 10 a.m. Following breakfast, there will be indoor crafts and complimentary photos with the Easter Bunny. Outdoor Easter Egg Hunts, grouped by age for children 2-12, will start at 11 a.m. During the event, there will be a DJ, cake walk, face painting, fire trucks and more.

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

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

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

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

Westland Area Jaycees head to national competition

Members of the Westland Area Jaycees will be in Nashville later this month to represent Michigan at the U.S. Jaycees competition.

The club, which represents Westland, Wayne and Garden City, won the right to represent the state after being selected as the overall year-end winner at the Michigan Junior Chamber's meeting held last month.

"The Westland Area Jaycees have been an inspiration statewide with their success in the competitions program," said Jay Johnson, 90th president of the Michigan Junior Chamber. "As president of the Michigan Jaycees, I am honored to have the Westland Area Jaycees represent us at the national conference in Nashville, Tenn. I am confident that they will have the unique opportunity to bring national recognition home to Michigan, and their home communities."



Recognizing the Westland Area Jaycees were: Jay Johnson (from left), 90th president of the Michigan Jaycees; Jennifer Mansfield, competitions chairperson; James Hart, 58th president of the Westland Area Jaycees; and Tom Quackenbush, programming director.

The weekend program was held in Troy and included professional training, awards and recognition. Chapters from across the state were honored for their work in 2014 and their accomplishments.

Several competitors were selected as winners

of the third Trimester competitions. The Westland area had two winners of Trimester awards who were selected as the overall year-end winners. April Hendryx received the third Trimester Awards for her Film-it and Impromptu Write-up submissions. Jim Hart

won third Trimester awards for Impromptu Speak-Up and the online professional networking category.

Their submissions for Impromptu Speak-Up and Impromptu Write-up were selected as the overall winners for the 2014 year and will head to

Nashville in late March to represent Michigan and the Westland area as they compete for the top spots in the U.S. Jaycees competition.

The Impromptu categories are competitions on categories that are unknown to the participant until a few moments before the event. The competitor has a few moments to formulate their presentation and deliver it to a panel of judges either in a speech — Speak-up — or begin writing — Write-up. Both events are timed and judged on content, delivery, salesmanship, professionalism and appearance.

The Westland Area Junior Chamber is open to active young people ages 21-40, who bring energy and insight to solving problems. Its mission is to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change in their communities.

Bracket Fever: There's more than one March Madness

If you get excited about March Madness but not necessarily the basketball part of it, here's something else you might want to consider: Mammal March Madness.

Although MMM may be a recent entry into the world of bracketed contests, it has taken off like rodents. Sixty-five animals will be pitted against one another in imaginary battles based on the species' real characteristics.

This alternative to the excitement associated with the NCAA tournament, was the brainchild of assistant professor of human evolutionary biology Katie Hinde of Harvard, who organized the first MMM in 2013.

Basketball fans are not the only ones who painstakingly analyze individual player performance, mammal lovers do the same.

But instead of pouring over field goal percentages, offensive rebounds, frequency at the foul line and turnovers, MMM fans have

their own set of performance goals to help determine who will win when "pitting mammalian species against each other in simulated combat," as reported in the *Harvard Gazette*.

This year's MMM's posted brackets include Mighty Mini Mammals, Critically Endangered, Mythical Mammals and Sexy Beasts, (animals shaped by sex selection), plus a wild card match pitting the bumblebee bat against the pygmy jerboa. Animals are linked according to their temperament, weaponry, body armor, fighting style and habitat. Battles are based on the mammals' real attributes, according to Barbara Brotman of the *Chicago Tribune*.

So why not get started now by brushing up on your mammals and then go to mammalsuck.blogspot.ca/2015 There you will find the brackets, including both the common and scientific name of each mammal, the scheduled battles and, according to Hinde, "we'll live tweet the battles in the evening (8 p.m. Eastern, #2015MMM) and then the Storify will be posted here. Everyone will be able to see this permanent record of the

throwdowns and outcomes."

The library has several sources to get you started. Why not check out the comprehensive *Encyclopedia of Mammals*, *The Smithsonian Book of North American Mammals* edited by Don E. Wilson and Sue Ruff, or the phenomenally researched *Amazing Mammals* edited by the National Wildlife Federation. If videos are more your style, then you're in luck with *The Life of Mammals* Volumes 1-4, or just stay at your computer and check our online sources, such as General Science Collection and *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia* found in the Gale Virtual Reference Library, at westlandlibrary.org/research.

So whatever quells your "March Madness," the library has what you need. Remember you can stop by from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. You can always visit us online at westlandlibrary.org or call us 734-326-6123.

Just remember to wage responsibly.

Highlighted Events
Open Mic, 7 p.m.
March 19 — Let your

muse run wild, coffee-house-style, with singer-songwriter Dave Boulette as your emcee. Writers, poets, singers/rappers, bands, performers of all sorts are welcome.

Friday Night Movie, 7 p.m. March 20 — Join us for the Friday evening institution known as Friday Night Movies. Tonight's movie *Birdman Or: The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*, is about "a washed up actor, who once played an iconic superhero, battles his ego and attempts to recover his family, his career and himself in the days leading up to the opening of a Broadway play. — (IMDB) Rated R. Snacks and refreshments are provided on a donation basis. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m.

Family Movie, 1 p.m. March 22, kids of all ages — Join us for a free family movie at 1 p.m. Movies are rated G or PG and run approximately 90 minutes. No registration is required. Light refreshments will be served.

Children under age 10 must have an adult present. Call the Youth Reference Desk at 734-326-6123 for more information.

Intro to Video Chatting, 7 p.m. March 23 — Video chatting allows you to connect with faraway friends and family.

In this course, we will cover the basics of video chatting, including the computer hardware and software you will need to get started, and the top free services for video chatting, such as Skype video calls, Google Hangouts, Apple FaceTime, and Facebook Video Chat. This is our Internet Special Topics course for March. Prerequisite: Internet Basics or some previous internet experience. Register in advance at the Reference Desk.

Tween program Origami Bunnies and Boxes, 6 p.m. March 24, fifth-eighth-graders — Tweens, learn how to create some origami designs for spring that will make clever hiding spots for your "Easter eggs." Walk-ins accepted for fifth-eighth-graders, only if space allows.

Information Central was compiled by Marilyn Kwik. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

Livonia Optimist Club collecting children's books

The Livonia Optimist Club is continuing to collect new and gently used books for the fifth year in a row to promote summer reading for children in kindergarten through fifth grades at Grandview and Botsford elementary schools in the Clarenceville School District.

Book donations will be collected until April 22 at the following locations:

- Livonia Chamber of Commerce (Five Mile and Farmington)
- Livonia Recreation Center (Five Mile and Hubbard)
- The UPS Store (Five Mile and Newburgh)
- Embassy Title (Farmington and Five Mile)
- MJ Creative Printing (Seven Mile and Farmington)
- City Cleaners (Five Mile and Merriman)
- Senate Coney Island (Plymouth and Stark)
- Valentino's Pizza (Plymouth and Merriman)
- Panera (Schoolcraft and Middlebelt)



The Livonia Optimist Club has placed collection boxes like this one at businesses throughout town.

- Thomas's Family Dining (Plymouth and Stark)
- Ford Motor Transmission Plant (Plymouth and Levan)
- YMCA (Stark and Lyndon)
- Archie's Restaurant (Plymouth and Merriman)
- Biggy Coffee (Ann Arbor Road and Newburgh)



Last year's winners Ryan Pace, left, a Franklin High School graduate, and Anthony Davis Jr., right, of Henry Ford Academy. In the middle is Parkside CEO Martin Carter.



Kayla Dempster, a Ladywood High School graduate, was one of the three winners for 2014.

Parkside Credit Union offers three \$1,000 scholarships

Livonia-based Parkside Credit Union once again offering scholarships to assist community members in financing their education.

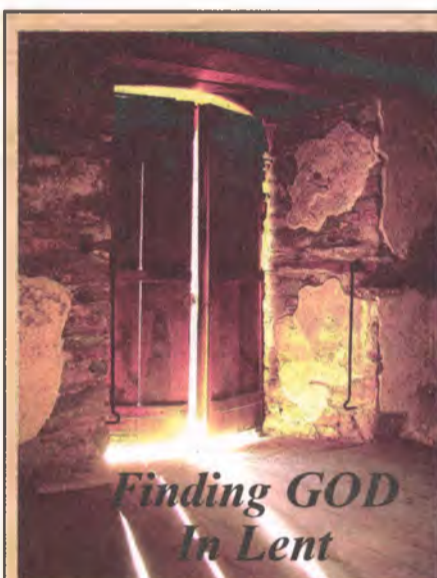
This year's scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate college students who live within Parkside

Credit Union's service area. Two scholarships will be awarded to current Parkside Credit Union members and one scholarship will be awarded to a non-member.

Applications are available at Parkside Credit Union branches as well as online at <http://tinyurl.com/nplewl>.

Applicants should submit required documents to Parkside Credit Union's Main Office by April 1.

Parkside Credit Union is a nonprofit financial institution that has been serving the community since 1953.



You are invited to a
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Best-selling author and founder
of "Grace Before Meals",
Fr. LEO PATALINGHUG

March 22nd, 7 PM
Finding God through the
Communion of Saints

March 23rd, 7 PM
Finding God through His Mother

March 24th, 7 PM
Finding God at the Lord's Table

Father Leo Patalinghug is a parish priest and host and founder of Grace Before Meals, an apostolate to strengthen families and communities by bringing them back together around the dinner table. He is an internationally known speaker, author, and radio host with a proven knack for reaching others. Using his unique background as a chef, a 3rd degree Black Belt martial arts teacher, and award winning choreographer and break dancer, Fr. Leo's parish missions definitely offer something special for everyone.

All talks will be in the Church, with a reception immediately following in the School Cafeteria. Childcare is available by reservation, which may be made at www.livoniastmichael.org. All are welcome!

St. Michael the Archangel Parish
11441 Hubbard Rd., just south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI
734-261-1455, ext. 200

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Mark Chevrolet supports youth baseball

Mark Chevrolet is partnering with the Wayne and Westland Youth Athletic associations to provide new equipment, a monetary contribution and invitations to free instructional clinics.

"Playing the game of baseball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation and

sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support," said Trish Hampton, Mark Chevrolet sales associate. "Mark Chevrolet and Chevrolet Youth Baseball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Wayne and West-

land." Chevrolet's Youth Baseball is in its 10th year. Since its introduction, the program has helped aid local teams, benefiting more than 3.5 million young people in communities where Chevrolet's customers live, work and play. In 2014, more than 1,600 Chevrolet dealers partic-

ipated across the country.

Mark Chevrolet will present the Wayne and Westland Youth Athletic Association with an equipment kit that includes bags, batting tees, catcher's gear, water bottles and Chevrolet Youth Baseball T-shirts. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics,

featuring current and former MLB/MLB players and coaches, and instructors from Ripken Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association.

In addition, Mark Chevrolet will present a check representing a one-time monetary contribution to Wayne and Westland Youth Athletic

Association. "Chevrolet believes that in play, there are possibilities and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball instills in its players," Hampton said. For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball, visit www.youthsports wired.com.

It's timely: Act now to claim your 2011 income tax refunds

I'm like most people, I hate to lose money.

I bring this up because of the Internal Revenue Service recently announced it had more than \$1 billion in unclaimed refunds for 2011. Those refunds will soon become property of the U.S. government unless the taxpayers affected do something.

According to the IRS there are more than a million households that did not file a tax return in 2011 but who are entitled to refunds.

For example, a student worked part time and felt he/she didn't have to file a return because nothing was owed.



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

However, if they file they would be entitled to a refund of their withholding.

In addition, low and moderate income people could be eligible for things such as the earned income tax credit but unless they file a return, they will not get it. According to the IRS the average refund owed is nearly \$700.

There is still time to file a 2011 tax return and receive a refund. For

those who choose not to file a return, the U.S. government thanks you for your voluntary contributions.

Tax refunds are just one place where people leave money on the table. Unfortunately, it is not the only place. States have billions of dollars in lost and forgotten assets. Money left in dormant bank accounts, valuables left in safety deposit boxes and uncashed checks are just a few of the sources of unclaimed cash that states have. However, you have to be proactive to get it.

In order to determine whether you have any unclaimed assets, the go

to the Michigan Department of the Treasury website (www.michigan.gov/treasury) and click on "unclaimed property." You can do a free search of the state's database to determine whether you have any unclaimed property. If your name shows up, then the state has a relatively easy procedure to claim your assets.

Another place to check is www.missing-money.com. This is a national database endorsed by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. It allows you to search for assets throughout the United States and Cana-

da. Also visit www.unclaimed.org. This site connects you to each state's database.

There are also other assets that you may have misplaced or forgotten about but you can still claim. For example, you may have been a participant in a pension plan but the company went out of business, or for some reason a former employer can't find you. In many of those situations, the monies go to the Pension Benefit Guaranteed Corporation (PBGC), a government agency. Go to PBGC's database to see if you have an unclaimed pension.

In addition, don't forget savings bonds that may be long forgotten about. Once again, do a search for those assets as well through the U.S. Department of Treasury. We all work hard for our money and there is no reason to leave it on the table. Do the searches to determine if you have any unclaimed or forgotten assets. After all, the money you find looks better in your pocket.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Make Internet safety a priority at all times

The Internet seems to routinely turn valuable resources into cause for concern. Email, for instance, brought us a quicker, easier way to communicate, but also brought us the risk of hacks, spam and viruses.

Online banking became mainstream, saving consumers countless trips to the bank, but added the burden of data breaches and financial scams.

The worst offender may be social media. It's transformed the way we interact, keep in touch with family, plan events and document our lives. But ease at which we can share our private information has left us vulnerable for data thieves who are waiting for consumers to make a mistake.

Facebook, the largest social network, has a built-in event application. It's a seamless way to invite Facebookers to your next get-together. The security settings also defaults to showing profile visitors what upcoming events you are attending. If you don't make your settings private, all of your "friends" can see upcoming events you plan



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

on attending.

I use the term "friends" loosely, as everyone knows Facebook has grown from a place where friends connect to a place where everyone you have ever come in contact with tries to "friend" you.

I don't know about you, but I prefer to not tell large groups of strangers on the Internet my social plans or when my home will be empty.

Another tactic to prevent people knowing when you aren't home is to block friends from "tagging you" at locations when you are together. You can also make your profiles private on Instagram and Twitter to prevent the public from seeing your geo-located photos or tweets.

While Facebook's privacy settings can be easily changed to prevent the spread of personal life details, the same can't be said for networks that exist for the purpose of telling

The worst offender may be social media. It's transformed the way we interact, keep in touch with family, plan events and document our lives. But ease at which we can share our private information has left us vulnerable ...

people who you are.

One of the most popular social networks is the six-year-old mobile-based app named Foursquare. It does nothing besides allow you to "check in" to places that aren't home, thus telling all your connections you aren't home.

Not using Foursquare is a no-brainer. But what about sites that aren't so obviously dangerous? Take theknot.com, for instance, where tens of thousands of engaged couples flock each year to create custom wedding websites. Often times, those sites sell your personal information to vendors so they can send you information on tuxedo discounts and limousine rentals. The real danger, however, lies in the wedding site creation where couples post their wedding dates and honeymoon

plans.

Unless a website is password protected, anyone can find it, even if they don't have the URL, as the site will come up in search engine results.

Additionally, more seasoned Internet users could just scour wedding sites for local weddings.

There is good news. By making profiles private, checking security settings regularly and not offering up personal information like vacation plans or where your hide-a-key is located, predators may focus on taking advantage of someone else who isn't so careful.

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

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



A new P.F. Chang Restaurant has opened in the McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

P.F. Chang's opens at Metro

Detroit metropolitan area residents and those traveling through the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) have a fresh option for made-to-order Asian fare with the opening of a new P.F. Chang Restaurant. The location is the second airport site for the popular Asian chain, following the successful launch of the first at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in August 2013.

The new location is located in the center of the McNamara Terminal, across from Gate 38. At 4,684 square feet, the restaurant can seat 166 guests. P.F. Chang's is open from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. For more information, visit pfchangs.com or call the restaurant directly at 734-941-1101.

Ladies' Day Out

Designer Duds' n' Infant Treasures Children's Boutique is holding a Ladies Day Out Vendor and Networking Event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the store, 815 N. Wayne Road, north of

Cherry Hill, Westland. Ladies' Day Out is for DDT friends, family, associates and fellow mommies who don't "get out much." Stop in and grab a bite, meet new friends, shop, get a message or taste wine. Many vendors will have cash-and-carry items. In addition, there will be raffles. Designer Duds' Ladies Day Out Events are held on the fourth Saturday of the month and are free for the public. Kids also are welcome also.

This month's vendors include Mary Kay with Ellen DeFay, Juice Plus with Angie Grant Wilson, Papparazzi with Melanie Harvell Burt, Tupperware with Leslie Hancock, Pure Romance with Jennifer Shepardson Ganzberger, Jamberry with Lauren Jane Alexander and Younique with Kristy.

The cost to display/sell is \$25 plus a raffle item. Reserve a space by calling 734-331-2519 with a credit card or PayPal (as a gift) to taylorsskkt@gmail.com. Spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All vendors must supply their own table and chairs.



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Annual coin show



DAVID MALHALAB | MNS PHOTO / M NEWS SERVICE

Coins, currency, medals, tokens and other numismatic items will be for sale, barter or trade at the 53rd annual NorthWest Detroit Coin Club Coin Show from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road at Five Mile. Admission is free. There will be raffle drawings for gold and silver coins, free appraisals, free parking and more.

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan presents diabetes prevention program

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan will present the My Choice ... My Health: Diabetes Prevention Program in Westland in April.

My Choice ... My Health is a 16-week course that helps those at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

An hour-long information session will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, where prospective participants can learn more about My Choice ... My Health. Regular sessions will be at 5:30 p.m. beginning Monday, April 20. They will be held at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church at 29066 Eaton St. in Westland.

Weekly meetings are one-hour long and take place in a group setting where a trained lifestyle coach helps participants

learn about behavior changes, including eating properly and increasing physical activity.

After the 16 sessions, participants will also meet for six monthly meetings for additional support.

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, causing more than 40 percent of all kidney failure cases. However, type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed. Research shows that losing a moderate amount of weight and being physically active can help delay type 2 diabetes among those who are at risk.

"Diabetes is one of the most serious health chal-

lenges in America today," said Dr. Art Franke, senior vice-president and chief science officer at the NKF. "My Choice ... My Health is a powerful answer because it provides participants with the tools to take greater control over their health and work toward staying diabetes-free."

My Choice ... My Health's results show that by modifying diet and exercise, participants can lose a small amount of weight — 5-7 percent of starting body weight — and reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58 percent.

This session of My

Choice ... My Health is supported by the Office of Women's Health and is offered at no cost to qualified participants. To qualify, participants must be overweight and at a high risk for developing diabetes, or overweight and diagnosed with prediabetes.

For those interested in participating, a doctor can tell if you're at risk for diabetes, or you can find out if you're at risk with a screening assessment. Participants are encouraged to register by contacting the NKF at 800-482-1455 or by emailing preveniabetes@nkfm.org. For more information, visit www.nkfm.org/dpp.

Friends of Rouge need spring bug hunters

Friends of the Rouge needs volunteers to help look for stoneflies, mayflies and other aquatic insects at the annual Spring Bug Hunt on April 18. Interested volunteers must pre-register by April 3. Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn. Volunteers are assigned to teams of four-eight people that each travel to two sites where they look for living things in samples collected from the river under the direction of a trained team leader. The number and type of bugs found is used to assess each site, and data



Stoneflies will be among the items being sought during the Friends of the Rouge's Spring Bug Hunt.

are submitted to the state and Rouge communities. The Spring Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program that was created in 1998 to train local residents to collect information about the health of Rouge

streams. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and supported by the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

Twice a year, teams of volunteers visit sites throughout the headwaters of the watershed and search for mayflies, stoneflies and other aquatic invertebrates. The presence or absence of these streambed creatures reflects the quality of the water and habitat. The information is used to track changes in the river quality over time.

FOTR is offering training for Bug Hunt team leaders from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 28 at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty. Register by March 21.

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.



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Dr. Makela is a member of St. Mary Mercy Medical Group, a group of primary care and specialty physicians who provide comprehensive medical care, health maintenance and preventative services to help you and your family stay healthy.



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OUR VIEWS

Skilled work force has key place in state's recovery

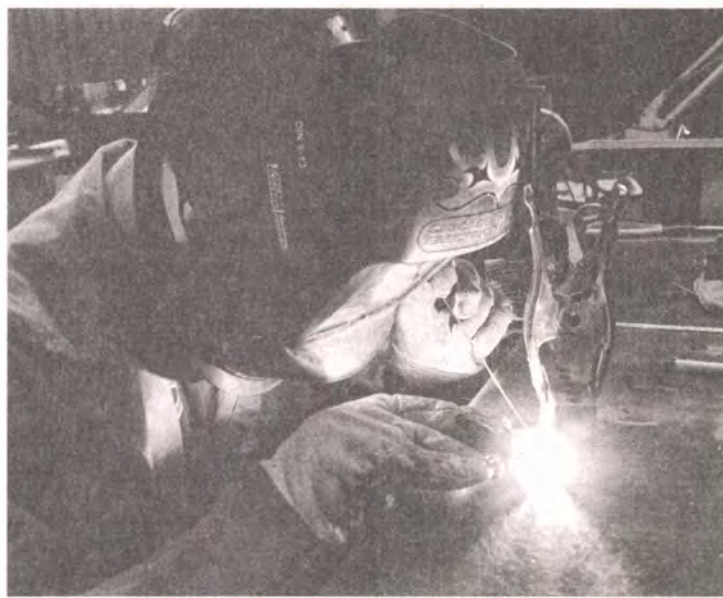
From the halls of Congress to the State Capitol, the buzz word these days is career technical education. Elected officials at all levels have come to the realization that the blue collar worker is an important part of a healthy economy.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, told his colleagues recently that "This country has wrongly stigmatized technical education. We've created this idea that unless you get a four-year degree, you are somehow not successful."

Gov. Rick Snyder made it a part of his State of the State address this year and budget presentation, which proposes more money for career technical education, including \$10 million more for the state's Skilled Trades Training Fund.

Ten years ago the talk was about all higher education and increasing the number of college graduates in Michigan. At the time, then Gov. Jennifer Granholm was talking about "putting a degree in the hands of every single child ... to help prepare our students for success in school, success in college, and we'll help our economy succeed."

Enrollment in college, both two-year and four-year, has shown a steady increase since then, but the state has suffered from brain drain. A survey of 7,054 May 2012 graduates conducted by iLabs, the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Re-



Students can learn such skills as welding in programs offered at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland.

search, found that nearly 40 percent moved outside of the state, leading Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan to say that going through a 10-year recession has left the image of Michigan as "a place that doesn't have jobs."

Two years ago, Roth observed that many of the job openings available fall into fields like automotive manufacturing that aren't seen as attractive options for students even though they offer good wages and highly skilled opportuni-

ties. His observation is spot on.

Today, in Michigan, there are more than 90,000 job and internship opportunities across a wide variety of industries listed on Pure Michigan Talent Connect (www.MiTalent.org), and many of those jobs fall into skilled trades, engineering, information technology and manufacturing. Michigan, if it is to continue its economic recovery, needs to start filling those jobs with a well-trained work force.

What elected officials are saying now is what career

technical educators have been saying for years. Not every student needs four years of college. The skills for a successful career can be found in high school career technical classes, community colleges and technical institutes and through apprenticeships.

Skilled-trade jobs require education beyond high school, but not a four-year degree. The career range includes jobs in health care (lab technicians, dental hygienist), maintenance and repair, public safety, manufacturing (machine operators, welders), along with work as carpenters, plumbers and electricians. Collectively, these jobs represent about one-third of the state's employment.

The need is being addressed. Henry Ford Community College has a Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Division that offers training programs for people employed in skilled industrial occupations (primarily the apprenticeable skilled trades) and for people interested in entry into skilled trades occupations. Oakland Community College offers the required related instruction classes for apprentices from area industries.

Even the state has gotten on board with MAT² — the Michigan Advanced Technician Training Program, an innovative, industry-driven approach to education. MAT² combines theory, practice and work to

train a globally competitive workforce. It also addresses two critical issues facing the manufacturing and technology industries: a widening skills gap and an aging workforce.

Steve Kay, principal of Wayne-Westland Community Schools' William D. Ford Career Technical Center, said all the talk is "the first time in eight years that I've seen something positive come out of Lansing supporting career technical education." His students are being featured in a Pure Michigan four-minute video about career technical education, which is meant "to change the perception of the auto industry."

"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," he said.

As much as Michigan has tried, it remains closely linked to manufacturing and the automobile industry. Even agriculture needs a skilled work force. Certainly, there is opportunity for college graduates out there, but if Michigan wants to continue its economic recovery, it now must create a work force that is capable of doing the jobs of the 21st century.

Michigan needs to be "number one in the skilled trades," and that will happen with this new emphasis on career technical education.

GUEST COLUMN

A media conspiracy that's good for you

Each spring for 10 years now, a vast media conspiracy has rolled across the hills and plains of this nation. Journalists of every stripe — cartoonists to commentators to hard news reporters — have been in on it. And not just journalists, but politicians, educators and librarians, as well as members of nonprofits and civic groups.

What's the conspiracy? It's called Sunshine Week, and it is built around the birthday of James Madison, the father of the Bill of Rights. This year, the week is March 15-21.

The agenda: to brazenly promote your right to know. Open government, we argue, only works when public information flows freely. As Madison himself explained nearly two centuries ago: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Grants from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation,



By Eric Newton

GUEST COLUMNIST

where I work, launched and have helped sustain Sunshine Week. At the start, in a speech to roughly 100 open government advocates, I said the foundation could support them only if they could find a way to work together. They did.

After a decade, can we say that Sunshine Week is working? Yes. And no.

Search Google and you'll see hits tripling over the years. That's the work of the American Society of News Editors. Millions of people read stories about open government. New openness laws pass. Cities, states and the feds issue proclamations. This year's California bill officially recognizes Sunshine Week as "a celebration of the public's commitment to openness and an exploration of what open govern-

ment means in a technology-enhanced future."

Experts like Rick Blum of the Sunshine in Government Initiative testify about how freedom of information saves lives, of how it tells us, for example, when our Marines have been issued body armor with life-threatening flaws. Today, says Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists, we have more access than ever to official information about topics like intelligence spending and the size of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Overall, access seem much better than in the day after the 9/11 attacks, when public documents vanished from websites like so many fireflies blinking out.

Unfortunately, examples also abound of closed government, of public information held hostage. This week, major news organizations are reporting that too many government agencies are trying to block the public's access to its own information by charging exorbitant fees. Or turning our

information over to businesses that are not transparent. Or muddying up freedom with restrictions that display an ignorance of what freedom really means.

Secrecy is a bipartisan proposition. Hillary Clinton's hidden emails? George W. Bush did the same kind of thing. All over Washington, documents are stamped "classified" for no good reason. Governments big and small are affected. Virginia, by not paying attention to just one of its own data files (according to Waldo Jaquith of U.S. Open Data) was leaving millions of dollars in revenue uncollected. In Maryland, Fredrick County Councilman Kirby Delauter went so far as to threaten to sue if his name was printed in the newspaper.

So the battle continues. Always there have been those who would hide the truth and seek personal advantage in the darkness. We can't stop fighting for sunshine because they won't stop fighting against it.

In the end, the American

experiment will fail unless the people who run this country — us — know nearly as much as the people who work for us — our employees, the government.

But is sunshine by itself enough? Madison said, we must "arm ourselves with knowledge." We can't just know that our government disregards its own Freedom of Information laws. We have to do something about it.

This year, during Sunshine Week, consider joining us at sunshine events in your community or online. Yours are the laws being broken. Yours is the information being stolen. Yours are the truths being bludgeoned. In the long run, your participation is the only thing that really matters. If you see public information go into hiding, complain, complain, complain.

It's your right.

Eric Newton is senior adviser to the president of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Miami, Fla.

LETTERS

End film incentives

Michigan needs to end the incentives for the film industry, and here are three reasons why.

1. No increase in film jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are fewer film jobs in the state today than when the film incentives began in 2008.

2. No permanent jobs. According to the Michigan Film Office (which distributes the subsidies), there were zero full-time jobs created from the program last year.

3. No money. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, the incentives bring in only 11 cents on the dollar spent — a huge loss for taxpayers.

By all fair measures, the nearly \$500 million devoted to the film incentive program has been a waste. It should be ended and the money redirected to better priorities. That \$500 million combined with plans from Sen. Patrick Callback would close the gap on the road budget problem and without

raising taxes.

Phil Solarz
Westland

Interesting information

At the last untelevised council budget workshop the few citizens that came out got to hear some very interesting information. It is amazing when the cameras are not rolling how open the council members can be.

Here are just three highlights:

» Transfer \$1 million to balance budget every year.

» Spend \$400,000-\$600,000 to pave city parking lots.

» New safety millage from 3.5 percent to 8 percent.

The last five years the mayor and council have approved for the City Clerk Treasurer Miss Bettis to transfer money from the fund balance to balance the budget each year at a tune of \$1 million per year. Already projected, another \$500,000 to balance the budget for 2016.

I don't know about you, but in my household I have to bal-

ance my budget monthly, otherwise I would be deep in debt.

If Mayor Walker can't run the city on a balance budget without transferring from the fund balance every year, then it's time for a change in our city government. And when I say a change, I mean we need a new city clerk and new treasury in City Hall, so we can have true checks and balances. How can you have a true check-and-balance system when you have the same person as the city clerk and treasurer?

We also need a mayor that is knowledgeable — a true leader and not just a photo-op person. We need solid council members that are knowledgeable and understand how to run city government. We need a city manager who is full-time and not a chief of police/city manager doing the union bargaining for the city when he will benefit from the contract.

The most important thing that is plaguing our city is the blight of our neighborhood, streets full of potholes and yet not a word from the workshop was mention about a plan to fix our streets. How about the legacy costs (pensions)? Not one mention of a plan to deal with the \$160 million that's looming in the background.

We're headed for bankruptcy people. Wake up, get out and vote this year so that we can get our city back to be the Garden City that we love and know it can be before it's too late.

Al Buckner

Garden City

School food dictator not needed

Everyone knew that the First Lady got involved in school lunches, even disapproving of some dishes served. But I didn't know that she could dictate to the schools as to what would be allowed in bake sales. Am I oversimplifying the fact that schools can no longer decide what can be sold? If it isn't on the federally approved "smart snack" list, it will not be in a bake sale. In discussing this with a few younger mothers — I'm 80-years-old with no children in school — I was told that children brown bagging their lunches sometimes have items removed from them — not on the approved list.

This is outrageous. A dictator of school food is not needed. Thank you state Sen. Patrick Colbeck for bringing this to our attention. Good luck with Senate Bill 139 and House Bill 4202.

Loretta Stringer
Livonia

Election complaints not new for LPS

After reading your story "Election complaint filed against Livonia schools, union" and the comments posted online, I must add this is not new problem.

In 2005, I filed a complaint in which the union was supporting a millage and the campaign material was mailed out by LPS. This was verified by the

Livonia postmaster and the person responsible was identified and was required to reimburse the costs.

The election commission would not pursue the issue and indicated I should follow up with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, which I did not.

Good luck on this story, as like others who have commented, this is not a new problem and no action will be taken.

Tony Latarski
Livonia

Move to popular vote in the United States

I am so glad that a recent letter writer pointed out to me the inequities in the current system of electing a president using the Electoral College. It sounds like the winner in each state takes all the electoral votes.

So, according to her, everyone in Michigan who voted for Romney in the last election lost their vote and it was given to Obama by the Electoral College. And she thinks that this is a fair way to run an election.

The only fair way to run an election is to simply count the popular vote nationwide.

The candidate with the majority of votes, nationwide, is the winner. This method would reflect the will of the majority. No one would lose their vote.

We need to do away with the outdated and unfair Electoral College system.

Carol Maynard
Northville

OBSERVER

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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.

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. Food concessions will be available.

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; apc1stvp@gmail.com.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/date: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 22.

Location: St. Simon & Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland.

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer support group, will meet for Mass at St. Simon & Jude Church, then have brunch at Mr. Mike's Restaurant, 6047 Wayne Road, Westland. Come learn about our other social activities. RSVP for brunch at 734-728-6967.

Contact: www.widowedfriends.org.

COTTAGE FOOD LAW

Time/date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Michigan State University Extension will offer a presentation on the Michigan 2010 Cottage Food Law that allows individuals to manufacture and store certain types of foods in an unlicensed home kitchen. Upon completion of the program a Certificate of Completion will be available to display wherever the

cottage foods are sold. The cost for the program is \$10. Pre-registration is required.

Contact: 810-667-0341; http://events.anr.msu.edu/

COTTAGEFOODLAWHOLYCROSS/SPRING CAREER FAIR

Time/date: 3-5 p.m. Thursday, March 26.

Location: Madonna University, Livonia.

Details: College students and Madonna alumni are encouraged to dress for success and bring copies of their resume to a career fair in the Activities Center at Madonna. Hosted by Career Services, this event features more than 40 employers who are seeking interns and part- and full-time employees.

Contact: 734-432-5623; www.madonna.edu/careerservices.

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://curehht.org/get-involved/fundraising/hht-fundraising/.

ANNUAL TREE SALE

Time/date: Order deadline is March 27.

Pickup location: The "Barn" at the end of the drive into 5454 Venoy Road, Wayne, or make special pickup arrangements.

Details: The Wayne County Conservation District is hosting its annual Tree Sale, serving residents for over 45 years with low-cost trees in an effort to preserve and improve the soil, air and water. Trees available include varieties of maples, oaks, black cherry, hybrid poplar (new!), conifers, native trees to attract birds and wildlife, and fruit trees (honeycrisp and other apples, plums, peaches, pears, and cherries).

Contact: waynecd.org; 313-418-0700.

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

Wish you were here



Mike and Christina Martin, and Len and Maureen Wilkie of Livonia recently returned from a Caribbean cruise to Cozumel, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Haiti. "Seven days of sun and fun," reports Len Wilkie.

work and learn about the countries they are studying. The theme is Travel Around the World.

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

SPRING COIN SHOW

Time/date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

Location: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15128 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: The Northwest Detroit Coin Club is hosting its 53rd annual Spring Coin Show. Coins, currency, medals, tokens and other numismatic items will be for sale, barter or trade. Admission is free. There are raffle drawings for gold and silver coins, free appraisals, free parking and more. The NWDCC meets 7:30-9 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center. New members are always welcome.

Contact: nwdccboardchairperson@gmail.com; 512-522-3743.

TRI COUNTY CELIAC

Time/date: 7 p.m. Monday, March 30.

Location: The First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington.

Details: Tri County Celiac Support Group will have Kelly Dorfman — an expert on using nutrition to improve brain function, energy and mood — as guest speaker at its general meeting. The title of her presentation is "Beyond Celiac: When Removing Gluten Is Not Enough." The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7 p.m.

SPRING COMEDY KICK START

Time/date: 6 p.m. cocktails and dinner; 7:30 p.m. showtime Saturday, April 4.

Location: American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: Sponsored by the American Legion Post 32 Riders, this comedy event features special guest host Mike Neubecker, a primo pasta dinner, salad and dessert buffet; door prizes and 50-50 raffle. Ticket sales after expenses support Post 32 American Legion Riders. Tickets are \$30 per person. Tickets are available from the post bar until April 2 or when sold out. No ticket sales at the door.

Contact: Trish Pellerito, 734-858-7956.

FASHION DOLL SHOW AND SALE

Time/date: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 12.

Location: Livonia Marriott, 17100 Laurel Park Drive North.

Details: Vintage and modern dolls and accessories. Barbie displays. Hosted by the Great Lakes Doll Club, this Grant-A-Wish Fund event will benefit Masonic Children's Learning Center, Leader Dogs for the Blind and Camp Casey.

Contact: www.gawfund.org; info@grantawishfund.org.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 18.

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

Details: Open house for McKin-

ley Cooperative Preschool.

Contact: Erin Gibbons, 734-729-7222; mckinleypreschool.org.

SERVS SAFE TRAINING

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 23 and April 30.

Location: Holy Cross Church, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Lapeer County Michigan State University Extension is offering Manager Certification classes through the ServSafe program developed by the National Restaurant Association. The cost is \$145. Upon successful completion of an exam, managers will receive a certificate verifying they are a certified ServSafe Food Protection Manager. Participants must attend both sessions.

Contact: 810-667-0341; msue.anr.msu.edu/events.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: St. Simon and Jude Catholic, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m. Preregister for \$20 per team (maximum of four persons). At the door the cost is \$30, if space available. It includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn, and one food choice for each team. Food choices are four hot dogs and four chips or one pepperoni or cheese pizza from Marina's. Additional food items and beverages (beer, coolers, pop, water, coffee) available for purchase. There will be a 50/50 raffle (tickets are \$1 each, three for \$2, 10 for \$5 and 25 for \$10)

and prizes — mystery prizes, \$100 for first place, \$80 for second place, \$60 for third place and \$20 for last place.

Contact: Kathy Hansen, 734-716-4436.

CRAFT-VENDOR SHOW

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Levee, west of Beech Daily and north of West Chicago, Redford

Details: The Garden City American Legion Auxiliary Unit 396 will hold a spring craft and vendor show. Admission is \$1. There will be food available and a bake sale. All proceeds will help local military and their families, including veterans. Table space is \$30 for an approximately 8x10 space, with an 8-foot table and two chairs. Indicate on application if electricity is needed. If electricity is needed, there will be an additional \$5 charge.

Contact: detnana@sbcglobal.net; 248-477-8594.

SENIOR ALL-NIGHT PARTY

Time/date: 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 28

Location: Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia

Details: Discounted tickets are \$60 until March 7 for the Class of 2015 All-Night Party. For further information and to obtain a ticket order form, visit http://stevenson.livoniapublicschools.org then click on the PARENTS tab and select "Senior All Night Party."

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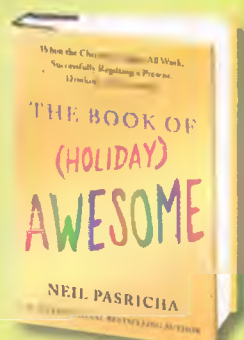


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MHSAA DIVISION 2 HOCKEY FINAL



Members of the Livonia Stevenson hockey team gathered for a team photo in the moments following Saturday's 6-3 loss to Birmingham Brother Rice in the Division 2 championship game.

TOM BEAUDOIN

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Stevenson icers battle Warriors to the brink before falling, 6-3

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The second-period momentum shifts that rocked Saturday morning's MHSAA Division 2 hockey final were so ground-shaking that the foundation upon which Plymouth's Compuware Arena rests may have rattled ever so slightly.

Trailing No. 1-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice 2-0, No. 2-ranked Livonia Stevenson stormed back with two goals (on two shots) in a two-minute span that deadlocked the score and energized the already jacked-up crowd like a double jolt of extra-strong java.

However, the Warriors (24-6) closed out the monumental period with two power-play goals from Brendan Pyc that ultimately led to a 6-3 Brother Rice victory and the school's fourth state championship.

"Once Stevenson got that second goal to tie it up, we knew we had to get the next one to regain the momentum," said Brother Rice senior captain Nick Rosa. "That third goal was big. I'm so glad the boys were able to do it and get us back on the right track."

"I'm sure all the momentum shifts in the second period made things interesting for the fans, but not so much for the coaches," quipped Warriors head coach Lou Schmidt. "The playoffs have been a



Stevenson goalie Cullen Barber makes a save during Saturday's game against Brother Rice.

TOM BEAUDOIN

grind for us, but we played well when we had to. We had a tough game against Berkeley (a 4-3 regional semifinal win) and we beat Hartland in overtime (4-3). We were battle-tested coming into today, which helped us defeat a very talented Steven-

son team.

"I can honestly say that this team has worked hard every single game this season. They didn't take one day off. We may

See SEASON, Page B3

CLASS A REGIONAL SEMIFINAL

Thurston pushes state-ranked Cubs to the limit

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer



TOM BEAUDOIN

Thurston's Quran Kennedy releases a floating runner during Monday's game against U-D Jesuit.

The No. 8-ranked University of Detroit Jesuit boys basketball team was sweating during the fourth quarter of Monday night's Class A regional semifinal game against underdog Redford Thurston - and the perspiration was caused as much by the Eagles' fearless effort as the steamy conditions inside the Southfield High School gymnasium.

Relentless warriors to the end, the Eagles chopped a 47-29 third-quarter Cubs' lead down to 56-49 with 3:55 left before dropping a 66-51 decision that was deceptively more one-sided than the action that unfolded on the hardwood.

The Eagles also mounted an impressive rally at the end of the first half when they scored the final 10 points to head to the half trailing by a manageable 36-27 instead of the daunting 36-17 score they

faced two minutes earlier.

Stocked with highly-recruited point guard Cassius Winston and 6-foot-9 match-up nightmares Ikechukwu Eke and Gregory Eboigbodin, the Cubs proved to be too tall and too talented for the Eagles - but not by much, thanks to a lights-out shooting night by senior guard Marquie'l Thomas and a couple of gutsy rallies that left the game in doubt until late.

Thomas scored 23 points and knocked down five three-point shots despite rarely shooting without a Cub's hand planted about three inches from his face.

Wearing black-rimmed glasses as he exited the post-game locker-room, Thomas resembled a young Clark Kent - but he played more like Superman.

"I think we were excited and nervous at the same time before the game," Thomas shared. "We were playing one of the best

See THURSTON, Page B2

Elite eight

The elite eight beckons Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team, which keeps moving up the ladder with victories.

Having already conquered the Michigan Community College Athletic Association and NJCAA District 10 tournament, the Ocelots kept things moving forward at the NJCAA Division II national tournament in Danville, Ill.

Schoolcraft, ranked No. 1 in its division, earned a 79-69 victory Tuesday night over Genesee (N.Y.) Community College.

The Ocelots (30-3) advanced to play at 6:30 p.m. Thursday (today) against either Olive-Harvey (Ill.) College or John Wood (Ill.) CC.

Schoolcraft was paced to the victory by guard Ja'Christian Biles, who poured in 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Biles hit 6-of-10 from beyond the 3-point arc to spark the Ocelots' attack.

Contributing 14 points was guard Lito Booth, while forward Javan Thomas (13 points, 14 rebounds) also was stellar. Forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz added 10 points and six rebounds.

Lady Ocelots lose

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team made it to Kansas for Tuesday's first-round NJCAA Division II tournament game against Guilford Technical (N.C.) Community College.

But the Lady Ocelots couldn't make it past their first-round opponent, losing 75-64 to fall just shy of a berth in the elite eight.

Schoolcraft (21-10) trailed by as many as 21 points, but cut that deficit to 37-30 at halftime at Overland Park, Kan.

Then, led by T'era Neshitt's scoring touch (she led all players with 23 points), the Lady Ocelots roared back to take a 52-51 lead.

Guilford (28-3) grabbed it right back, however, and never trailed again.

All-State icers

Several Livonia high school hockey players were named to the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association's Division 2 All-State team, which was released last week.

Livonia Stevenson, which lost in Saturday's D2 state championship game to Birmingham Brother Rice, had six players earn All-State recognition. First-team Spartans include forward Alex DeFlorio, goal-tender Cullen Barber and defenseman Alec Allen.

Stevenson senior forward Mick Sinclair earned second-team accolades while junior forward Ben Kowalski was an honorable mention choice.

Livonia Franklin's All-State headliners included second-teamers Brendan Whitney, a junior forward; Justin Makowski, a senior defenseman; Matt Monendo, a senior goalie; and honorable-mention honorée Chase Wallis, a junior forward.

Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon was named the D2 coach of the year.

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YOUTH SPORTS

Little League sets final evaluations for Sunday

Redford Little League is hosting its final player evaluations for this season from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Redford Union High School.

The event will be held in the gymnasium at RU High School, which is at 17711 Kinloch.

Players only need to attend one evaluation. All registered players are encouraged to be evaluated.

Players ages 7 and 8 registered for Coach Pitch who would like to play in the Minor Division must be evaluated. Evaluation does not guarantee a roster spot in the Minor Division.



Evaluations provide coaches the opportunity to see players and build their rosters for the season.

Each age group is evaluated separately. Once evaluations have been completed, each division will draft teams according to age.

Also, under the League bylaws, any 10-year-old not drafted

to a Major team will be placed in the Minor Division. Any 7 or 8-year-old not drafted to a Minor team will be placed in the Coach Pitch division.

Evaluations are scheduled by age group:

- » 12-year-olds: 10:10-10:30 a.m.
- » 11-year-olds: 10:30-11 a.m.
- » 10-year-olds: 11:11-11:30 a.m.
- » 9-year-olds: 11:30 to noon
- » 7- to 8-year-olds: noon to 1 p.m.

Walk-in registration will also be held Sunday. Online registration is open until April 1 at www.redfordlittleleague.com

GC's Clark Olivet-bound



Garden City senior Nick Clark (center), pictured with family members (from left) mom Kris, sister Taylor, brother Cody and dad Brian, recently signed a letter of intent to play football for Olivet College beginning in the fall. Clark was a hard-hitting defensive back for the Cougars and a two-year starter on defense.

YOUTH SPORTS

Hawks soar to hoops title

Fourth-graders earn Big Cat championship



The Livonia Hawks fourth-grade travel basketball team recently captured the championship in the Big Cat Basketball League and the post-season Rumble in the Jungle tournament.

The Hawks finished with a record of 13-1 in the league that includes teams from South Lyon, Novi, Plymouth, Canton, Milford, Brighton and Walled Lake.

The team was formed with tryouts beginning in March of 2014. Following light practices in October and November, the Hawks started two-days-a-week practices in December leading up to the

Pictured (front row from left) are Mac Muszynski, Dylan McGlinch, Johnny Morris, Bailey Way, Caeden Stout, (second row from left) Lucas Young, Anthony Grech, Marcus Dochenetz, Andrew Matukaitis, Jacob Rumberger, (back row from left) coaches Eric Young and Aaron Rumberger.

league tip-off in January. In addition to winning the on-court championship, the Hawks are

also stellar students.

ewright@hometownlife.com

THURSTON

Continued from Page B1

teams in the state, so we knew we had to come out and play with a chip on our shoulder. Coach told us to go out and play the best game we could, and I think we did."

"Marquie'l was unbelievable tonight," Thurston head coach Brian Bates said. "He was draining everything. But we weren't surprised because he shoots like that in practice every day."

Winston, a 6-foot junior who is reportedly being pursued by several big-name Division 1 hoops programs, scored 19 points - 11 during the first quarter when he attacked the rim with a vengeance.

Eboigbodin was a beast in the paint, netting 20 points and 17 rebounds.

"Every time Thurston started to come back, that's when we'd lose our focus," said Winston. "They'd get the momentum and get it under 10. Once we regained our focus, we were fine."

In addition to engineering the Cubs' offense, Winston played exceptional defense on Thurston's usually highly-productive junior point guard Brandon Marshall, who was limited to just three points.

"We really didn't know much about Thurston coming in," Winston admitted. "We knew we just had to respect everybody and try to lock them down."

Senior Rickey Hudgens and junior Deaunte Jackson both scored eight points for the Eagles. Hudgens, arguably Thurston's most complete player, fouled out in controversial fashion with 3:32 left and the



TOM BEAUDOIN
Thurston's Marquie'l Thomas had a hot hand Monday, scoring the nets for 23 points.

Eagles within seven points.

A fourth-quarter foul originally called incorrectly on Thurston's Isiah Crofford was transferred to Hudgens' ledger without the Eagles' coaching staff being alerted to the change, giving the senior four fouls.

Thus, when Hudgens committed an aggressive foul during the Eagles' late comeback bid, he was stunned to learn it was his maximum-allowed fifth, not the fourth he and everyone else on the Thurston bench thought he had.

"I'm thinking, 'How did I go from three to five [fouls],'" Hudgens recounted through tear-stained eyes during the game's aftermath.

"Rickey's a smart player - he played the entire fourth quarter of Friday's game with four fouls - so he wouldn't have made the foul he did - and we wouldn't have let him - if we knew he had four fouls," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "That didn't cost us the game, but it didn't help, that's for

sure." Much like it did during last year's regional semifinal game against highly-touted Detroit Cass Tech, Thurston caught the crowd's attention quickly when it jumped to a 10-9 lead after the 6-5 Crofford rejected two of the the 6-9 Cubs' near-the-rim shots.

"We wanted to come out right from the start and prove to them that we could play with them," said Crofford. Hudgens buried a triple just before the buzzer to bring his team to within 19-15 after one.

Jesuit opened the second quarter with a 17-2 stretch, and it appeared the Cubs' could start making plans for Wednesday's regional final game against North Farmington.

But the Eagles closed the half strong when Marshall and Thomas swished back-to-back threes and Thomas finished a fast-break layup off a long pass from Crofford with 1 tick on the first-half clock.

The Cubs got rolling again to start the third as they scored the first eight points. However, the Eagles clawed back, just not quite far enough.

"I'm very proud of this team," said Bates. "They played their butts off the entire night. They came out and set the tone that they came to play. Isiah blocked a couple shots, Marquie'l and Rickey hit some threes. They had a couple runs here and there that we weren't able to answer."

"We finished the season strong at 19-3, which is a good record to end my high school career," said Thomas. "I'm just glad I got to do it with a great group of guys like this."

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**CITY OF WAYNE
NOTICE OF LAST DAY
TO FILE PETITIONS FOR
MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTION**

The City of Wayne will hold an election on November 3, 2015, for the purpose of electing a Mayor, one councilperson at large and one councilperson each from Wards 1, 2, & 3 to the City Council. A nominating petition and Affidavit of Identity with Campaign Finance Act Compliance Statement, must be filed with the City Clerk in order for a name to be placed on the ballot. Also, persons who wish to be a candidate for office may not be in monetary arrears to the City. Nominating petitions are available at the City Clerk's Office. Petitions must be submitted with a minimum of 25 but no more than 50 signatures of persons registered to vote in the City of Wayne.

Petitions may be filed at the City Clerk's Office no earlier than April 7, 2015, but no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 21, 2015. Persons, who wish to withdraw their petitions after filing, must do so by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2015. If more than two persons file valid petitions for the office of Mayor or more than two persons file valid petitions for each open council seat, a Primary Election will be held on August 4, 2015. The petition dates of the filing, withdrawal deadline and the date for a Primary Election, are according to recently enacted election consolidation legislation by the State Legislature.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: March 19, 2015 LO-000235156 3x3

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- 5 seats are open to students entering grade 3-4

Application dates: March 2, 2015, 8 a.m. to March 31, 2015, 4 p.m.
FAXED AND EMAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
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Return completed forms to: Livonia Public Schools Personnel Office,
15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154
A random draw selection will take place April 2, 2015
if the number of applicants exceed seats available.

LO-000234429

KLAA POST-SEASON BASKETBALL AWARDS

Local hoops stars earn all-conference honors

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Several area boys basketball players were recently named to the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's all-conference teams following all-star seasons.

Livonia Churchill and Westland John Glenn topped the list of local teams with two first-team honorees each. Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Franklin and Wayne Memorial each had one player make the elite post-season squad.

The Chargers were represented by junior guards Dayton Davis and Jon Hovermale, both of whom were instrumental in leading Churchill to a 14-6 regular-season record and co-second place standing in the competitive KLAA South Division.

Davis averaged 10 points, four rebounds, three assists and over two steals per game.

"Dayton is just a ball of energy at both ends of the floor," said Churchill head coach Jim Solak. "He rarely comes out of games and is capable of taking over the game at any moment. He's intense and plays much bigger than his small stature."

Hovermale rarely left the court for the Chargers, averaging 11.5 points, five rebounds two steals and two assists each game.

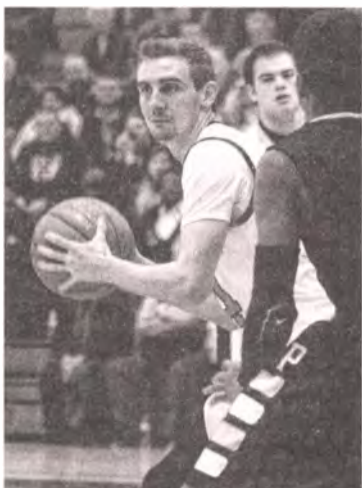
"Jon is a tireless worker and extremely versatile," said Solak. "He's a three-year start-



Sophomore Johnny Cantrell led Livonia Franklin in scoring with a 10-points-per-game average.



John Glenn's Mike Edwards throws down a slam during an early-season victory over Stevenson.



Jon Hovermale looks for an open teammate during a game against Plymouth.



Noah Campbell averaged a team-high 16.8 points per game for Stevenson.

er and his overall skills have improved every year. He's our leader and one of the best athletes in the school."

John Glenn's Mike Edwards, a 6-10 senior, emerged as one of the area's most dominating big men this winter, putting up 18.8 points per game to go with 10.3 rebounds, two-plus blocked shots and over two steals.

"Michael is a very hard and productive player," said John Glenn head coach Rod Watts. "Statistically, Michael is five times the player he was from last season. Michael is being recruited by colleges from several different conferences."

Like Edwards, Mychael Bradley could do it all for the

Rockets, putting up 10.7 points and five rebounds per game.

"Mychael is a very productive player and has been a very important part of our success," said Watts. "He is being recruited by several Division II, III and NAIA schools."

Stevenson's Noah Campbell was tough to guard, given his well-balanced driving and perimeter skills. The senior pumped in 16.8 points per game for the Spartans.

"Noah is a humble guy who is very unselfish and cares about his team and teammates," said Stevenson head coach Kareem Smartt.

Only a sophomore, Livonia Franklin guard Johnny Can-

trell's future is bright. His presence is also pretty glaring judging by his 10-points-per-game scoring average.

"Johnny has all the skill sets of becoming a tremendously good guard," said Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault. "He is consistent and improved throughout the season."

Senior guard Kevin Woodmore, Wayne Memorial's lone first-team representative, had a stellar final senior, per-game averages of 11.2 points, 2.1 assists and 2.5 rebounds.

"Kevin is a good catch-and-shoot shooter," said Wayne head coach Kwane Brown. "He carried us in scoring at the start of the season."

The Kensington Conference first-team roster also included Canton's Greg Williams, Logan Ryan and Obi Okoli; Northville's David Morrissey and Ryan Roberts; Novi's Max Yanke and Naji Ozeir; Plymouth's Josh Reynolds; Salem's Jon Swift, Jakob Lenders and Allante Wheeler; South Lyon's Joe Newman; and South Lyon East's Trent Willenborg.

Local all-conference honorable-mention honorees included Churchill's Jalen Davis, Franklin's Joe Chinavare, Stevenson's Jailen Webber, Wayne's Trevon Woods and John Glenn's Tyrrik Hunter.

ewright@hometownlife.com

YOUTH SPORTS

Rockets soar to national title

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Members of the '07 Livonia Rockets hockey team can enjoy the rare distinction of being called "national champions" while still attending elementary school.

On March 8 in Eden Prairie, Minn., the Rockets overcame a 7-3 third-period deficit to defeat Minnesota Made Blue, 9-8, in overtime to capture the 2015 AAU North American Mites Championship.

The Addison Grizzlies from suburban Chicago earned the tournament's bronze medal while Minnesota Made Red placed fourth to take home the copper medals.

The Rockets, who are coached by Jeff King (head coach), Kevin Yudt, Kris Johnson, Lee Brees, Bob Stroble and Chris Mitchell, earned a berth in the national championship tournament by winning last spring's Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League title with a 13-0-1 record.

The team finished the 2014-15 campaign with a 40-12 mark, with the bulk of its losses coming against older teams.

"The real story of this team is how it was able to come back from being down 7-3 in the third period of the championship game and eventually win in overtime," said King. "We were down 8-6 with less



Pictured are (front row) goalie Dougie Fretter, (second row from left) Andrew Brees, Griffin Mitchell, Ethan Drabicki, Jake Rand, Dawson Wallis, Jack Johnson, Stephen King Jr., (third row from left) Nolan Davis, Lauren Waldo, Colin Stroble, Braden Yudt, Jack Janda, Jason King, (fourth row from left) Kevin Yudt, Kris Johnson, Jeff King, Lee Brees, Bob Stroble and Chris Mitchell.

than a minute to play in regulation and scored with 38 seconds left and 13 seconds left. It was pretty remarkable what these young kids were able to accomplish."

The championship-clinch goal was scored by Jack Janda at the 3:30 mark of overtime.

"It was mass pandemonium when we scored the winning goal," King recounted. "Everybody was piling on the goalie, the parents ran onto the ice; it was very cool."

Although the Rockets - 11 of 14 of whom live in Livonia - are just second- and third-

graders, their hockey skills are top-notch, said King.

"Some of these kids started skating when they were 2 years old and started playing hockey at 4 at the latest, so they're all very good players," he said.

King said most, if not all, of the Rockets play multiple sports, "which we strongly encourage."

The MAYHL consists of teams mostly from the metropolitan Detroit area, however, there is one team based in Ohio, King said.

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SEASON

Continued from Page B1

not have played great in every game, but it wasn't because they weren't working."

The fact that the 19-6-5 Spartans' season ended with a loss doesn't diminish the accomplishments they managed to pile up, emphasized Stevenson head coach David Mitchell.

"I know it's tough for the guys that they didn't win the last game, but I think they're all winners just for being in the last game," said Mitchell. "I really, really believe that."

"We lost 80 percent of our scoring from last year's team [to graduation], so for these guys to take on the responsibility they took on and get to this level is very, very impressive. I could not be more proud of them."

The Warriors owned a 1-0 lead after one period thanks to a power-play goal by Nick Bowman 9:05 into the contest. Jaret Koger assisted on the junior forward's low, ice-gripping liner that found a gap between the left post and Stevenson goalie Cullen Barber's extended right skate.

The Spartans misfired on a two power-play opportunities later in the period as they failed to unleash even one shot during the pair of two-minute man-advantage chances.

Only a stellar stop by Barber on a point-blank short-handed attempt by Rice's Joey Vassallo kept the Spartans' deficit at one goal.

Rice appeared primed to roll to a comfortable victory after Vassallo nine-ironed a lamp-lighter past Barber 53 seconds into the second period to make it 2-0. Rosa assisted.

However, the ice surface started to slant a few degrees toward the Spartans' favor moments later when - 69 seconds into a power play - Stevenson's Shane Leonard slid a pass just inside the blue line to Alec Allen, who ripped a one-timer past Warrior goalie Nicholas Macina to tighten the score at 2-1. Assistant captain Ben Kowalske also garnered an assist on the goal.

The revitalized Spartans posted the equalizer just under two minutes later when Joe Alcantara redirected a sizzling shot by Allen into the net's left-side top shelf.

Rice seized the lead for good with 4:02 left in the period when the 5-foot-10, 175-pound Pyc circled around to the front of the net unattended on a power play and wristed the puck past Barber to give his team a 3-2 edge. Dane Reinhart and captain Matthew Manning picked up helpers.

Just 25 seconds after Barber made a sensational pad save on Rosa, Pyc struck again (from Bowman and Rosa) with a power-play goal with just 40.2 seconds showing on the second-period clock.

A resilient bunch, the Spartans rebounded quickly when Vince Glenn's power-play goal from Leonard and Alex DeFlo-



Stevenson's Andrew Nowak advances the puck up the ice during Saturday's Division 2 title game.

rio cut their deficit to 4-3.

But Rosa's even-strength goal from Michael McInerney and Vassallo at the 8:58 mark, followed by an empty-netter by Jack Dansbury (from William Vanderveen and Tommy Theoharis) proved to be syrup on the pancakes.

Although his name didn't pepper the post-game stat sheet, both coaches agreed that Manning was a force throughout the showdown for Rice.

Just five months removed from a broken collarbone that he suffered during his team's first pre-season scrimmage, Manning cast an ominous shadow across the Computware ice surface.

Manning was sidelined during the Warriors' 4-3 victory over the Spartans in the November season opener for both teams.

"Matt is the smartest player I've ever played with in my life," said Rosa. "Getting him back as soon as we did was huge."

Schmidt said Manning's return was as remarkable as his top-notch skill set.

"In all my years of coaching hockey, I've never seen a kid come back as quickly and as effectively from injury like the one he suffered," Rice's coach revealed. "Usually, when a kid comes back from a serious injury, there's a cautionary period where he doesn't want to get hit, but not for Matt. As soon as he started skating (about five weeks after the injury) he was his old self."

"He just takes our team to a different dimension."

Stevenson senior captain Mick Sinclair, who was a solid contributor on Stevenson's 2013 state championship squad, said the quality that made this year's team special was its depth and chemistry.

"In 2013, one line would shut down, and the other would shut down," he said. "Each line had a separate role. This year everyone had the same role, which I think added to our team's chemistry."

"Every line could score, every line could shut the other team down and every line could create chances. You couldn't just stop one line with us this year, you had to stop us all."

Macina racked up 18 saves, 16 of which came during the final two periods. Barber, who will return to anchor the Spartans' defense next season, stopped 20 Warrior shots.

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St. Edith basketball teams takes gold



The St. Edith's Varsity 2 boys basketball team captured the CYO title Saturday after defeating St. Lawrence, 33-28, in the championship game. The team finished 25-2 and closed the season with a 24-game winning streak. The Eagles' post-season success started with victories over Sacred Heart and University of Detroit Jesuit (40-22). St. Edith then survived a physical 27-25 contest against St. Joe's before advancing to the final with a 31-21 win over St. Anthony.

DIVISION 1 STATE SWIMMING & DIVING MEET

O'Dowd leads Stevenson to ninth-place showing

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

There's no doubt about it: Livonia Stevenson's Jackson O'Dowd will enter the 2015-16 boys swimming season as one of the state's best freestyle sprinters following his sterling performance at this past weekend's Division 1 state meet hosted by Eastern Michigan University.

O'Dowd, a junior, cemented that honor by placing third in both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events as he led the Spartans to a ninth-place finish (86 points).

Birmingham Brother Rice dominated the meet with 358 points while Holland West Ottawa was second with 247. Livonia Churchill placed 28th with 11 points, all earned by eighth-place junior diver Ethan Burke.

The sprinters who finished ahead of the speedy Spartan at EMU are all seniors.

"Knowing I'll be one of the fastest freestylers returning next year will definitely give me motivation to work that much harder during the off-season," said O'Dowd, who also anchored both of the Spartans' state-qualifying freestyle relay contingents.

Holland West Ottawa senior Tabahn Afrik touched first in both the 50 and 100 during Sat-

urday's finals, edging runner-up Will Brenner of Ann Arbor Huron and O'Dowd in the 50 by just a fraction of a second.

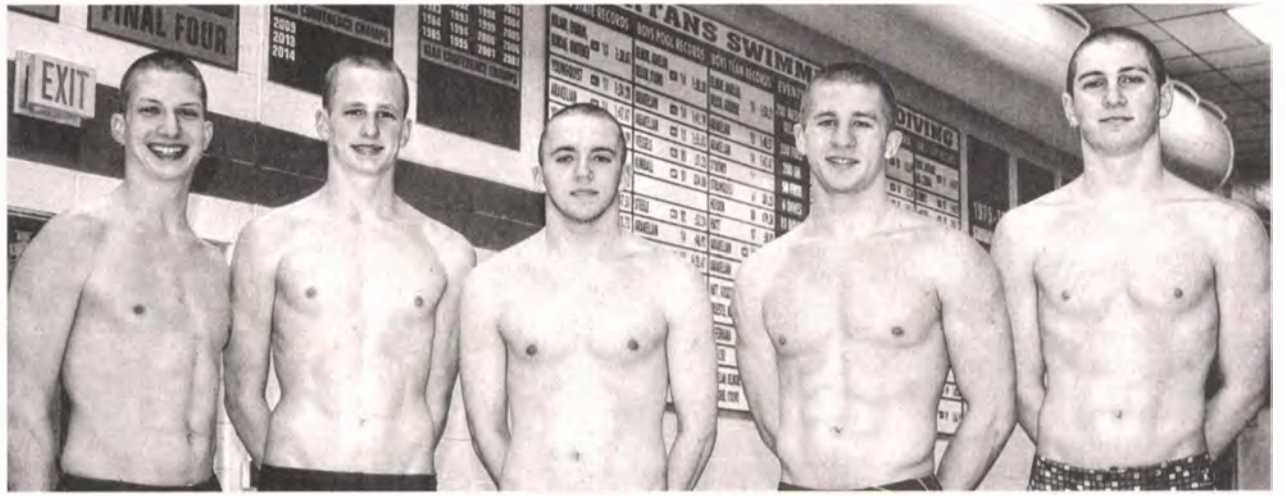
O'Dowd posted a time of 20.60 in the 50 final. Afrik breezed through the race in a state-meet record of 20.26.

"Jackson is very powerful, very strong," said Stevenson head coach Jeff Shoemaker, when asked about O'Dowd's success. "He's over to turn over real quick and he has a competitive edge to him. He doesn't like to lose, which is something that makes him one of the premier swimmers in the state and the nation, for that matter."

"We've set some very high goals for Jackson for next year and there's no reason why he can't achieve them. Most years, the times he put up this year would have won."

Stevenson senior Matt LaPorte capped his outstanding high school swimming career by earning an eighth-place finish with a time of 4:42.77 in the 500 freestyle.

"Through hard work, Matt has been able to consistently not get tired and increase his speed over and over," said Shoemaker. "He's a seven-days-a-week swimmer, so he's earned his success."



Pictured from left are Livonia Stevenson Division 1 state meet scorers Matthew LaPorte, Adam Goeddeke, Alex Lee, Jackson O'Dowd and Parker Wasielewski.



Stevenson senior Matt LaPorte placed eighth in the 500-yard freestyle at Saturday's Division 1 final at Eastern Michigan University.

The Spartans also received fifth-place points from the 200-yard freestyle relay foursome of Adam Goeddeke, Alex Lee, Wasielewski and

O'Dowd. Stevenson continued its decade-long streak of top-10 finishes at the D1 state meet despite a shrinking roster.

"I'm happy with how we ended up, especially considering how small our team was this season," said Shoemaker. "We had one of the smallest teams in the KLA, which is why we didn't do great at the conference meet where numbers count. We did well at the state meet because that is where better swimmers count."

Shoemaker said Stevenson isn't the only school suffering from decreased interest.

"Boys swimming as a whole is down," he said. "Livonia doesn't have a middle-school swimming program, so it's hard to get kids interested once they start high school. There is a lot of hard

work involved, too. But we've finished in the top 10 for at least the past decade, so we're making do."

Stevenson swimmers who qualified for the state meet but didn't place included Brian Smith, Benjamin LaPorte and Eric Ferrara.

Burke's placement in the diving standings ascended as the state meet moved along. He was 14th after the preliminaries, before jumping into the top-eight during the semifinal round. He finished with 427 points. Rockford's Jake Herremans won the competition with a record-setting total of 528.45.

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Ripping a one-timer into the Saginaw net is Plymouth Whalers forward Mathew Campagna (No. 90).

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

KNOCKOUT PUNCH

Saginaw sweeps weekend to snuff out Whalers' playoff hopes

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers entered the weekend with a chance to make up valuable ground against Saginaw in their bid to make it 24 consecutive seasons in the Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

But the way the back-to-back match-ups went for the Whalers was fitting for how the entire season unfolded on and off the ice.

Saturday in Saginaw, the Whalers led 5-4 in the final minute before the Spirit netted the equalizer. Saginaw won in overtime, 6-5.

The following afternoon, before 2,750 fans at Compuware Arena — with many wearing uniforms of former stalwarts such as Stephen Weiss and Scott Wedgewood — the Spirit earned a 6-3 victory to eliminate the Whalers from playoff contention.

Two days before St. Patrick's Day and with the finality of the franchise's situation sinking in (it recently was sold to a Flint ownership group), one fan said the atmosphere inside the arena resembled being at an "Irish wake."

Still, the Whalers gave it their best shot to en-

sure the upcoming Saturday home game against Erie wouldn't be the last one in franchise history.

Both Victor Crus Rydberg and Mathew Campagna tallied a goal and an assist for Plymouth (23-36-4-2) and Yannick Rathgeb also scored.

Countering their production for Saginaw (28-35-2-1) were Tye Felhaber and Jesse Barwell (two goals each).

Tough to recover

The Whalers entered Saturday's game trailing Saginaw by four points (55-51), needing to win both games to have a realistic chance of catching the Spirit for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"(Saturday) hurt; that was a big one, it was hard for us to recover from," Plymouth head coach Don Elland said about the OT loss. "The effort's been there. I couldn't be more disappointed that we're missing the playoffs."

"But I couldn't be more proud of the guys, how hard they worked all year. This was not an easy year for a lot of reasons that a lot of people will never know about."

Even Sunday, the Whalers showed plenty of resilience. Saginaw scored twice in the first three minutes, but Plymouth rallied to make it 2-2 before the end of the first on goals by Crus Rydberg and Campagna.

Then came the turning point. Sonny Milano sent the puck in front to Vincent Scognamiglio with about 15 minutes to go in the middle period. Scognamiglio had a chance to put Plymouth in front for the first time, but Saginaw goalie David Ovsjannikov robbed the Whalers forward.

And, epitomizing the "ifs and buts" season the Whalers have endured, the Spirit went right down the ice and scored. Connor Brown buried a centering pass from Kris Bennett.

So instead of Plymouth taking the lead, the Spirit went in front and never looked back.

Chance denied

The Whalers gave it one more try to rally when Rathgeb's shot from the left point found the mark at the 10-minute mark of the period.

Moments later, center Cullen Mercer had a shorthanded breakaway that would have set up quite a finish had he been able to beat Ovsjannikov.

Instead, the Saginaw goalie flagged down Mercer's bid. For the only time since the franchise moved to Plymouth, there will not be a playoff berth.

"That's something that's going to haunt me for a bit here," Mercer said, taking a break from the post-game skate with Whalers fans. "I tried to put it over his glove. If that would have went in, it could have been a bit of a different game there."

Still, Elland made sure to praise his team during a post-game interview in the empty locker room (the players were out skating with fans). He pointed out the 240 games lost to injury, far above the league average of about 90.

All season, key players were sidelined.

"You don't ever want to make excuses," Elland said. "But the fact we got this far into the year before we were eliminated says a lot about these guys."

"A month ago, two months ago, we could have cashed it in."

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**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2194, Proposed Land Division, Parcels #028-04-0043-002 and 028-02-0005-000, West Side of Executive Drive, East Side of N Hix Road, 6000 N Hix Road, William R. Brown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: March 19, 2015

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2132J, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Body Art Studio, 1939 N Wayne Road, Parcel #045-99-0004-001, South Side of Ford Road and West Side of Wayne Road, Westland Town Center, Scott Kneeshaw (Vincenzo DiDomenico).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: March 19, 2015

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1095B, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Mad Professor Customs and Hot Rods, 5747 Executive Drive, Parcel #028-04-0039-000, West Side of Executive Drive, North of Ford Road, Christopher Chytry

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: March 19, 2015



Saginaw goalie David Ovsjannikov foils Plymouth Whalers forward Cullen Mercer on a shorthanded breakaway during the third period.



Realtors Noel and Lee Bittinger are The Bittinger Team of Canton.

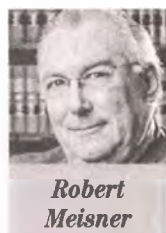


Realtor Terry Lewiston is with Coldwell Banker Preferred. The Canton resident was at the Canton Home Improvement Expo.

Tobacco allergy? Proceed with caution on purchase

Q: We are thinking about purchasing an apartment-style condominium, but are concerned because we are both allergic to tobacco smoke. What should we do?

A: Hire an attorney to carefully review all of the condominium documents and rules before you purchase the condominium. Make sure the documents or rules prohibit smoking in the condominium project, or limit smoking to only certain parts of it.



Robert Meisner

Have your attorney speak with the Board of Directors of the condominium association to make sure that any past violations of a smoking ban have been actively and swiftly enforced. But if there are no prohibitions on smoking, consider a detached dwelling in a "site condo."

Q: We have owned our land for a number of years and we are in the process of trying to sell it, but we obtained a title commitment, and found out that there are competing interests on the property. We have tried to work it out amicably, but to no avail. What should we do?

A: If you purchased title insurance when you bought the property, you should contact your insurer immediately. If not, or if the title insurance company will not assist you, you may need to institute a quiet title action, which brings all of the interested parties into the lawsuit to determine their respective rights and, hopefully, you will come out on top. You need to find a good real estate-commercial litigation lawyer who can aggressively pursue the resolution for you after he or she has made attempts to resolve the matter amicably, if at all possible.

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

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

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

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

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

Investors

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

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

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

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

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

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Realtors find Home Improvement Expo a win-win for business

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Realtors were out in full force at the Canton Home Improvement Expo Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8.

Noel and Lee Bittinger of Canton are The Bittinger Team. "We live and play here," Noel Bittinger said of Canton, where they've worked together in real estate 31 years.

"It's picking up really nicely," husband Lee said of the market, now a seller's market with limited inventory. She added, "The inventory has been low since probably January of last year."

The couple handled short sales through the recent recession. "That was the market," she recalled of 2007-11. "We've weathered a lot of markets in 31 years."

What she tells sellers is "first and foremost is to make it as showable as possible."

That means, for example, on a higher-end home replacing Formica countertops with granite, "things we know are going to help get the best dollar possible."

"They've been working together a long time, with Lee noting, "The real estate business is not marriage-friendly," with long hours and unpredictability. "The fact that we're both in it we understand it," he said, and that's strengthened their marriage.

"The market is still appreciating," Noel Bittinger said, which means fewer deals for buyers now. The Bittings focus on Plymouth-Canton-Northville, which was less hit in housing by the recession.

"Everything got hit all over," he said. "Those communities seemed to recover."

Nearby at the Expo was Terry Lewiston of Canton, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred. She's got 14 years

in the business, and was doing well at the Expo, including describing ways to upgrade homes to help them sell.

Lewiston was also giving out information on area home values, which are increasing, such as 3 percent in Canton for the year 2013 to 2014.

"Westland actually came up 7 percent," Lewiston said. The top price point average for 2014 was Northville at \$506,505, compared to \$256,690 for Canton (Plymouth-Canton schools, with \$223,117 in Wayne-Westland or Van Buren schools). Plymouth and Plymouth Township rose 5 percent in sale price average, with the 2014 price point at \$306,529.

Livonia rose 4 percent, with a 2014 price point of \$179,782. Westland's 7 percent was recorded in the Wayne-Westland school district, with price points of \$138,974 in Wayne-Westland, and \$145,584 in the

Livonia district portion of Westland, according to the figures shared by the firm at the Expo.

Lewiston was joined by assistant staffer Julie Ertman of Plymouth at the Coldwell Banker Preferred booth. "I did a lot of leasing" during the recession, Lewiston said. She also handled short sales, as well as transferrees leaving Michigan.

"I dealt with relocation. Now we have transferrees coming to Michigan. I would say a lot," said Lewiston, agreeing her work is now more pleasant.

The Canton Home Improvement Expo is sponsored by Canton Township, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and O&E Media.

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HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 20-24, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
32780 Eastlady Dr	\$405,000
16000 Hummel Dr	\$280,000
32444 Sheridan Dr	\$415,000
30255 Woodhaven Ln	\$610,000
BIRMINGHAM	
268 Abbey St	\$469,000
1628 Graefield Rd	\$120,000
1336 Humphrey Ave	\$509,000
615 Oak Ave	\$420,000
751 S Bates St	\$320,000
1808 Stanley Blvd	\$225,000
650 Wallace St	\$468,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
150 E Long Lake Rd Apt 9	\$135,000
381 Keswick Rd	\$1,318,000
1735 Tiverton Rd Unit 12	\$165,000
100 W Hickory Grove Rd	\$60,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1725 Beechwood Way	\$595,000
3039 Berkshire Dr	\$944,000
2756 Brady Dr	\$235,000
1001 Forest Ln	\$300,000
2329 Heronwood Dr	\$810,000
1679 Hoyt Tower Dr	\$340,000
1997 Klingensmith Rd	\$87,000
Unit 53	
1641 Lone Pine Rd	\$546,000
7470 Pinehurst Cir	\$450,000
3673 Quail Hollow Dr	\$350,000
1775 Schoenith Ln	\$815,000
3623 W Bradford Dr	\$330,000

42160 Woodward Ave Unit 37	\$94,000
42160 Woodward Ave Unit 88	\$128,000
6065 Worlington Rd	\$463,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
5510 Bridge Trl E	\$375,000
1720 Carriage Hl	\$410,000
5565 Deenwood	\$730,000
1785 Medler Rd	\$95,000
1849 Point St	\$75,000
2065 Winston Dr	\$414,000
FARMINGTON	
23720 Ely Ct	\$145,000
32116 Leelane	\$165,000
22624 Power Rd	\$127,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
28636 Alycckay St	\$173,000
29448 Arlington Way	\$325,000
21419 Averhill St	\$103,000
21010 Colwell St	\$33,000
36219 Crompton Cir	\$299,000
29304 Earth Ln	\$600,000
23197 Elmgrove St	\$190,000
30157 Fiddlers Grn	\$229,000
30579 Fox Club Dr	\$331,000
31525 Franklin Fairway St	\$463,000
23815 Glencreek Dr	\$180,000
28642 Grayfield Dr	\$170,000
32349 Hull Ave	\$154,000
29684 Kenloch Dr	\$382,000
21924 Leyte St	\$156,000
39387 Lilly Ct	\$325,000
23460 Middlebelt Rd	\$123,000
29784 Minglewood Ln	\$172,000
20813 Ontaga St	\$105,000
28515 Quail Hollow Rd	\$180,000
34695 Ramble Hills Dr	\$690,000
21602 Roosevelt Ave	\$164,000
38437 Saratoga Cir	\$190,000
30464 Sunderland Dr	\$259,000

29850 W 12 Mile Rd Apt 506	\$50,000
32013 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 305	\$45,000
FRANKLIN	
30765 Roberts Dr	\$500,000
HIGHLAND	
826 Gleneagles	\$525,000
3964 Hillcrest	\$280,000
2375 Lakeside Dr	\$195,000
3210 Lakeview Dr	\$380,000
4002 Loch Dr	\$260,000
1085 N Park St	\$102,000
1315 Plover Dr	\$264,000
2710 Vero Dr	\$899,000
MILFORD	
510 Caroline	\$145,000
1059 Deep Valley Dr	\$373,000
1755 Kurtz Dr	\$360,000
1352 Rowe Rd	\$245,000
336 S Garner Rd	\$284,000
531 W Huron St	\$75,000
1335 Yosemite Valley Dr	\$297,000
NORTHVILLE	
23139 Chelsea Ct	\$125,000
21765 Cumberland Dr	\$215,000
20720 Taft Rd	\$118,000
21122 W Glen Haven Cir	\$137,000
NOVI	
21880 Arbor Ln	\$200,000
22725 Denby Ct	\$464,000
50567 Glades Ct E	\$100,000
51072 Glades Ct W	\$100,000
26669 Island Lake Dr	\$341,000
23600 Meeting Hall Ln	\$114,000
23801 Nilan Dr	\$114,000
178 Penhill St	\$265,000
24855 Reeds Pointe Dr	\$510,000
2465 Shawwood St	\$215,000
41655 Sleepy Hollow Dr	\$229,000
22840 Vasilios Ct	\$610,000

SOUTH LYON	
412 Cambridge Ave	\$160,000
24842 Carriage Ln	\$73,000
22850 Chubb Rd	\$225,000
26100 Daria Cir W	\$281,000
116 Eagle Way	\$212,000
24080 Griswold Rd	\$265,000
948 Hearthside St	\$170,000
1168 Shetland Dr	\$283,000
52905 Trailwood Dr	\$525,000
58618 Winnowing Cir S	\$76,000
58648 Winnowing Cir S	\$77,000
58767 Winnowing Cir S	\$98,000
SOUTHFIELD	
27140 Aberdeen St	\$169,000
27615 Aberdeen St	\$150,000
27299 Apple Blossom Ln	\$88,000
29050 Brooks Ln	\$65,000
28449 Everett St	\$53,000
26484 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$61,000
27106 Marshall St	\$124,000
23185 Morningside St	\$245,000
15662 Mount Vernon St	\$99,000
19418 Nadol Dr	\$94,000
29446 Somerset Dr	\$155,000
21549 Virginia St	\$203,000
WHITE LAKE	
9562 Carol Ct	\$218,000
8787 Cedar Island Rd	\$126,000
10386 Cedar Island Rd	\$240,000
4805 Cuthbert Rd	\$265,000
910 Pembroke Dr	\$406,000
8365 Pontiac Lake Rd Apt 1	\$58,000
10357 Riverwood Ct	\$50,000
350 Rosario Ln	\$250,000
60 S Hulbert St	\$170,000
9426 W Shady Grove Ct	\$263,000
8786 Woodshire Dr	\$185,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 10-14, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
2321 Arcadia Dr	\$135,000
43586 Champlain Ct	\$145,000
2160 E Roundtable Dr	\$198,000
46301 Gainsborough Dr	\$228,000
46400 Glenarry Blvd	\$363,000
47023 Glenhurst Dr	\$269,000
50020 Hancock St	\$306,000
42088 Hanford Rd	\$245,000
3992 Hunters Cir W	\$112,000
45506 Michael Ct	\$210,000
45447 Muirfield Dr	\$377,000
843 Reagan St	\$267,000
45066 Rector Dr	\$177,000
3185 River Meadow Cir	\$230,000
43970 Saltz Rd	\$170,000
44266 Sheridan St	\$216,000
44739 Twyckingham Ln	\$147,000
2101 Vine Way Dr	\$85,000

GARDEN CITY	
31773 Balmoral St	\$50,000
29046 Block St	\$46,000
33031 Brown St	\$99,000
33511 Brown St	\$104,000
6694 Harrison St	\$83,000
32555 Leona St	\$58,000
580 Lytle Pl	\$98,000
LIVONIA	
15069 Auburndale St	\$34,000
30446 Barkley St	\$150,000
19444 Brentwood St	\$52,000
35030 Elmira St	\$143,000
11720 Farmington Rd	\$130,000
11141 Garden St	\$150,000
9031 Hanlon St	\$145,000
15081 Houghton St	\$135,000
14035 Ingram St	\$167,000
8964 Lamont St	\$123,000
35711 Minton St	\$167,000
9219 Newburgh Rd	\$199,000
36228 Northfield Ave	\$128,000
27447 Oakley St	\$174,000
19998 Purlingbrook St	\$214,000
38754 Reo Ct	\$260,000
NORTHVILLE	

48564 Seven Mile Rd	\$386,000
475 River St	\$155,000
19776 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$275,000
39828 Village Run Dr	\$310,000
49564 Waterstone Estates Cir	\$575,000
302 Yerkes St	\$225,000
PLYMOUTH	
50581 Beechwood Ct	\$213,000
835 Deer Ct	\$207,000
50600 Graefield Cir	\$354,000
8903 Manton Ave	\$250,000
51137 Plymouth Valley Dr	\$650,000
46077 Quail Ridge Dr	\$323,000
11745 Wildwing Rd	\$332,000
REDFORD	
15016 Beech Daly Rd	\$33,000
16910 Beech Daly Rd	\$47,000
11731 Centralia	\$45,000
11399 Columbia	\$85,000
20548 Delaware Ave	\$35,000
17693 Gaylord	\$64,000
19342 Kinloch	\$32,000
17394 Norborne	\$106,000
18807 Norborne	\$75,000
14233 Seminole	\$50,000

14233 Seminole	\$64,000
11424 Virgil	\$59,000
25200 W Six Mile Rd	\$146,000
26442 W Six Mile Rd	\$70,000
25110 W Chicago	\$110,000
19443 Woodworth	\$30,000
WAYNE	
36828 Greenbush Ct	\$105,000
3116 Rivers Edge Dr	\$160,000
WESTLAND	
32668 Avondale St	\$105,000
211 Carson Dr	\$127,000
450 Carson Dr	\$144,000
35952 Central City Pkwy	\$47,000
27512 Eton St	\$30,000
35522 Fernwood St	\$98,000
33204 Hiveley St	\$60,000
39097 Huron Pkwy	\$187,000
35122 June Dr	\$43,000
7304 Manor Cir	\$92,000
7471 N Farmington Rd	\$185,000
1697 Rose Ln	\$145,000
2200 S Harvey Ave	\$130,000
1174 Shoemaker Dr	\$45,000

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.625	0	2.875	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.625	0	2.875	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.75	0	2.875	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	3	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.5	0	3	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.875	0	3.25	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	3	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0.25	2.875	0.25
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4	0	3.375	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0

Above information available as of 3/13/15 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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SUN HOMES

\$398 MOVES YOU IN!

Free rent until May 1st, 2015

BRAND NEW HOMES IN CANTON

3 bedroom / 2 bath with all appliances including washer/dryer
Homes starting at \$899
Call us today!
(888) 272-3099

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41021 Old Michigan Ave. • Canton
*Offer valid on select homes only.
Expires 3/31/2015 EHO
www.academywestpoint.com

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

FITTER/WELDERS HELPERS

Structural steel & stair fabrication. Full fringe benefits. Overtime program.

DAVIS IRON WORKS, INC.
Walled Lake, MI
(248) 624-5960

Fleet Maintenance & Driver Positions

GREAT OAKS LANDSCAPE
Located in Novi, MI is a recognized leader in the landscaping industry. We provide landscape design/build & landscape maintenance services. We are currently seeking candidates for the following positions.

FLEET MAINTENANCE MANAGER:
Responsible for 75 vehicles plus heavy/light landscape equipment.

MECHANIC (Vehicle & Equipment):
Responsible for the maintenance and repair of the vehicles & equipment. Must have a valid driver license.

CDL DRIVERS:
(Class A, T Endorsement a plus)
Work for our nursery division transporting landscape materials. Valid CDL license & medical certification req'd.

Interested candidates please submit your contact information and resume or summary of exp & skills to resume@greatoakslandscape.com (248) 349-8555

HOMES

apartments.com . HomeFinder

Homes For Rent

Move in for as low as \$699

FREE RENT until MAY 2015*

Rentals starting at \$799 for 3 bed, 2 bath CHILDS LAKE ESTATES homes.

All appliances including washer & dryer.
4377 Old Plank Road Milford
248-778-4009
meritusmh.com

DRIVER

Highway Coach Operator Must have CDL A or B with P Endorsement Experience Preferred but will train the right person with the correct license.

NATIONAL TRUCK TRAINING
Mon-Fri. 9-5
248-353-9510

DRIVER

LIVONIA SCHOOLS 3 bd, 2 car garage, c/a, fully renovated, 2 year lease. No smoking/pets. \$1050/mo. 248-569-4751

SERVICES

hometownlife.com

Drywall

COMPLETE DRYWALL SRV.
Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 30 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

Handyman Male - Female

Chuck's Handyman Service
All home repairs. No job too small. 248-535-1130

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PAINTING BY ROBERT
• Wallpaper Removal • Int • Ext • Plaster/Drywall Repair • Staining 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

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Residential Cleaning
at its best! 30 years of experience. Lic. & Ins. Call Rachel 734-363-0839 or 734-879-1978

RENTALS

apartments.com . HomeFinder

Apartments For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS MAPLE RIDGE APTS.
Spacious 1 & 2 bd rms, 2 baths, c/a, \$570-\$660 w/ special 50% off 1st 3 mos. with approved credit
248.473.5180

GARDEN CITY: 1g 1 & 2 bd rms, appl., heat/water Free. \$560/\$600 + security deposit. 734-464-3847, 734-513-4965

Homes For Rent

WESTLAND: 3 BR brick ranch, 1.5 bath, C/A, crpl, bsmt, no pets. Really nice area! Ford Rd area \$895. 734-591-9163

DISCOVER Your Home Sweet Home

in the Observer & Eccentric classifieds

To advertise, call: 800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General

Boring Mill Operator & CNC Operator - 3 Axis
Experienced only. Benefits & Overtime! Start immediately. Livonia. Call: (734) 425-3920 or email: welztoi@yahoo.com

Concrete Finishers - Exp req'd.

Action Concrete
dennybys@wowway.com
734-216-3885

DRIVER

Highway Coach Operator Must have CDL A or B with P Endorsement Experience Preferred but will train the right person with the correct license.

NATIONAL TRUCK TRAINING
Mon-Fri. 9-5
248-353-9510

DRIVER

LIVONIA SCHOOLS 3 bd, 2 car garage, c/a, fully renovated, 2 year lease. No smoking/pets. \$1050/mo. 248-569-4751

DRIVERS

NOW HIRING PART-TIME SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS
Redford Union School District

\$250 Sign on Bonus
for current CDL holders with B,P&S Endorsements

*\$14 Starting Wage
*Part-Time
Morning & Afternoon Hours
*Guaranteed 4 hour day
*Benefits & Paid Holidays

Apply online at: www.durhamschoolservices.com Under "Careers"

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Redford MI 48239
(313) 242-4403

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EDE

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\$250 SIGN ON BONUS
for current CDL holders w/P&S Endorsements
\$15.25 Starting Wage

* Training Provided
* Part-Time
Morning & Afternoon Hours
*No experience necessary
*No Nights & Weekends

Apply online at: www.durhamschoolservices.com

Or in person:
504 W. Eighth Mile
Northville MI 48167
(248) 465-2070

DURHAM SCHOOL SERVICES
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DRIVERS

NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS
Northville School District

\$250 SIGN ON BONUS
for current CDL holders w/P&S Endorsements
\$15.25 Starting Wage

* Training Provided
* Part-Time
Morning & Afternoon Hours
*No experience necessary
*No Nights & Weekends

Apply online at: www.durhamschoolservices.com

Or in person:
504 W. Eighth Mile
Northville MI 48167
(248) 465-2070

DURHAM SCHOOL SERVICES
EDE

Help Wanted - General

HAIRDRESSER
Plymouth Senior Facility. Thurs. & Fri. Call: 734-604-3518

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GREAT OAKS LANDSCAPE
Located in Novi, Michigan is a recognized leader in the landscaping industry. We provide landscape design/build and landscape maintenance services. We are currently seeking candidates for the following positions.

- Foreman - Landscape Construction/Installation
- Foreman - Landscape Maintenance
- Operators - Light & Heavy Equipment
- Laborers - Maintenance & Construction/Installation
- Spray Technician - Tree & Shrub (3a, 3b, 6)

Interested candidates please submit your contact information and resume or summary of exp & skills to resume@greatoakslandscape.com (248) 349-8555

Leasing Consultant

Part time
Apt/rental Community
Must be able to work these hours: Fri. 9-6, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4, Mon 9-6
Apply if you have:
• Exc Verbal & written skills
• An ability to multi-task
• A sparkling attitude
• Sales, restaurant or multi family experience.
Email resume to: mgr.coachhouse@maill.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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Churchill Transportation is looking for experienced full time mechanic to help maintain our fleet. Clean shop great work environment. Pay is based on experience. Must have own tools.
Call Bill Evans at 313-475-0231 today or fax your resume to 313-447-2949
randyr@churchilltrans.com

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zeal
Professional with at least 2 yrs. of mortgage or real estate collection exp to join our Financial Resolutions team. Must be enthusiastic & highly motivated to build trusting relationships by providing members with superior financial solutions & outstanding service. For a detailed description & qualifications visit <http://www.zealcreditunion.org/about-us/careers.html>

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Afternoon & Midnights
Apply in person:
PLYMOUTH INN ASSISTED LIVING
205 Haggerty Rd. Plymouth

SEEKING: Multi-Media Sales Representative

michigan.com
A GANNETT COMPANY

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

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

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

Requirements:

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

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

CONTACT US AT:

Phone: **800-579-7355**
Fax: **313-496-4968**
Email: eads@hometownlife.com
Online: www.hometownlife.com

DEADLINES:
Fri. at 4PM for Sunday
Tue. at 3PM for Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING POLICY
All advertising published in HometownLife/O&E Media newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate cards. Copies are available from the classified advertising department: 6200 Metropolitan Pkwy, Sterling Heights, MI 48312. or call 800-579-7355.
The Newspaper reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. The Newspaper reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. All ads are subject to approval before publication.
Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.
Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads (the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first incorrect insertion will be credited. The Newspaper shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds for early cancellation of order.
Publishers Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72).
Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage & support an affirmative advertising & marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin.

03-2015

Help Wanted - General

NOW HIRING!
We are currently taking applications for an energetic:

- Cashiers
- Produce Openers & Closers
- Deli Counter
- Barrista

Please apply in person at: 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia

ESTATE AUCTION

Sat - March 21st - 7pm
Plymouth Community Center
525 Farmer, Plymouth, MI
Antiques & Collectibles
Furniture, Glassware
Pottery, Ceramics
Porcelains
Cash/MC/Visa
Bank Debit Cards
No Checks
Doors Open 6pm
Joe Carl, Professional Auction Service
734.451.7444
www.jcauctionservices.com

SUMMER HELP

Parents, will your students be returning home from college this summer and need a temporary job? Students are you looking for some extra cash this summer? Do you want to gain valuable work experience in a manufacturing setting? If so, DADCO is an innovative manufacturing company located in Plymouth, MI and we are seeking conscientious, dependable students, at least 18 years of age, for temporary summer work in our state-of-the-art facility. Positions are available Monday through Friday 6:30am-4:00pm in our Assembly, Machining, Milling and Polishing Departments. No experience is necessary - we will train. Please, only students apply.
Send resumes to: law@dadco.com
Please reference "Summer Work" in the subject line.
DADCO

WINDOW CLEANER

No exp necessary. Will train right person. Must be able to work Saturday's/overtime.
Email resume: linkenstein@lve.com

RECEPTIONIST

Leader in the automobile warranty industry is seeking a full time receptionist. Must be proficient in all facets of MS Office. Must have sharp verbal and written communication skills. Punctuality, coordination, and self-starting required. Good salary and benefits are available to the right candidate. Non-smoking office.
Please fax resume to: 248-412-8622

Help Wanted - Dental

Dental Assistant

FULL-TIME
In Livonia/Dearborn offices. Pay to commensurate with experience. Experience only need apply. Call: (313) 565-3131

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Needed with Surgical experience at a high quality specialty practice in Southfield. Excellent salary & excellent working conditions.
CALLS ONLY
No resumes accepted
Full or part time
Call 248-357-3100

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CNAs & Home Health Aids

IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS!!!
Apply in Person
Dyverse Management Home Care
28475 Greenfield Rd. Southfield, MI 48076
Compensation: Competitive

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Full-Time needed for a busy family medicine office. 2 yrs. exp. necessary. Mail/Email Resume: Western Wayne Physicians 37650 Professional Ctr. Dr. Suite 1000 Livonia, MI 48154 wvplivonia@hotmail.com

OPTICIAN

Up to 30 hrs. Nice office setting in an Ophthalmology practice. Computer exp req. Must be able to perform manual lensometry. Must be knowledgeable in all aspects of running an optical shop & maintaining records efficiently. Requirements: AB0 certified. Wayne City. Resume: eyecare34@yahoo.com

BUY & SELL

hometownlife.com

Auction Sales

NOVI - Rummage Sale

Friday, March 20, 9a-4pm and Saturday, March 21st, 9a-4pm, 9a-noon
Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., between 8 & 9 Mile Rds.

ESTATES SALES

ESTATE ANTIQUE Auction
Friday March 20th 6 p.m. 11580 Olga Rd. Romulus
Indian Items, Western, Military, Sports, Decoys, Furniture, Lamps, Carnival Glass, Toys & More.
See photos and list at DougDaltonAuctioneer.com
800-801-6452

Garage/Moving Sales

Garage Sale 'Cruisin' is Coming!
It's starting to warm up, which means everyone will be looking for GARAGE SALES!!
Now is the time to Get your ads into MICHIGAN.COM Observer & Eccentric and "they will come" Ask about our special garage sale ad rates!
Contact us at 1-800-5797355

Howell - 170 Lane

Lawson & Golf Club 3/20 & 3/21 10-4pm
Huge sale - Household, oak BR set, patio furn., guitars, kayak & more.

NEVER WORN WOMEN'S CLOTHES:

Blouses, pant suits, sweaters (size L) & 75 (sz 8.5-9) pairs of shoes. Also 2 fur coats for sale. Pnced to sell! (248) 476-9398

Household Goods

Redford - SIMMONS - Olympic Queen, fits queen frame. Firm springless, cost \$1600/cbo. compl. surround sound syst. antiques signer sewing mach. in desk, antiques hoosier cab. over 110y.o., 4 lthr brown office chairs, 3 lthr 532.9681

Bargain Buys

If you're selling an Item for \$100 or less RUN YOUR AD UNDER BARGAIN BUY CLASS 7200 AT A SPECIAL RATE Michigan.com Observer & Eccentric Call 800-579-7355! *Some restrictions may apply

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with O&E Media's CLASSIFIEDS 800-579-SELL

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Hospital Medical Equip

★ Electric Scooter Rascal Model 600T, red, top of the line convertible, take apart with all access. new battery, built in battery charger. Newer Model, Warranty, List \$5495. Special \$1495. 313.515.3330 or 313.543.3336

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Musical Instruments

Certified Taylor GUITAR Repairman. 10yrs Exp. We sell and repair all types! Call us today! BO WILLIAMS GUITAR DAN 517-223-4222

Gun & Knife Show - Davison

Sun March 22, 9-3p
Kraft Hall, 8428 Davison Rd. info 989-798-8709.

Woodworker?

Shopsmith Mark V with acc., Craftsman oscillating sander & more! 248-437-6326

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To advertise, call: 800-579-7355

DISCOVER Valuable Treasures

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In Print & Online

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ADOPTION: HEARTS FULL of love. Arms full of hugs. security & absolute devotion await your child. Expenses paid. Please contact Kim or Ronald at 1-877-891-8929 (MICH)

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CORVETTES WANTED
1953-1972 Any Condition. Courteous, Fast, Professional Buyer in the Corvette Business for 26 years Licensed and Bonded. Vince Conn Corvette vincedconn@vervetta.com 1-800-850-3656 (MICH)

FOR SALE - MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00 - MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - Cut lumber any dimension In Stock, ready to

ship FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1368 Ext.3008 (MICH)

HELP WANTED - TRUCK DRIVER

\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS! Class A CDL Drivers, We Offer Great Home Time, Excellent Benefits and \$65-\$75K Annual Earnings! Call Today 888-409-6033, Apply Online www.DriveForRed.com (MICH)

25 DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a driver for Stevens Transport! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! New Drivers earn \$800+ per week! PAID CDL TRAINING! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-8864

\$1,000/WK GUARANTEED! Dedicated nurses for Class A CDL in Michigan. Great Home time/ pay. 2015 trucks. Full benefits

Industry Leading Lease program Hirschbach 800-208-9490 www.drive4hmi.com (MICH)

TRUCK DRIVERS GTI - NOW HIRING! Top Pay for CDL A Drivers! Dry Van or Reeler you choose! Frequent time at home. Well-appointed trucks. EOE. 866-950-4382 GordonCareers.com (MICH)

Tri-State Expedited has immediate openings for Company OTR & Team Drivers. New equipment, 401k, Benefits, Sign-On Bonuses Available 888-888-7896 (MICH)

INSTRUCTION, SCHOOLS

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a Medical Office Assistant! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Online training can get you job ready! HS Diploma/GED & PC/Internet needed! 1-877-253-6495 (MICH)

AVIATION Work with NASA, others start here hands-on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 1-877-891-2291 (MICH)

MISCELLANEOUS

This classified spot for sale. Advertise your EVENT, PRODUCT, or RECRUIT an applicant in more than 130 Michigan newspapers! Only \$299/week. To place, Call: 800-227-7636 (MICH)

OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR

INGENONE - Regain Independence. Enjoy Greater Mobility. NO more Tanks! 100% Portable Long-Lasting Battery. Try it Risk Free! For Cash Buyers Call: 800-525-9132 (MICH)

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Fawn or doe
- Blonde's shade
- Table-tennis divider
- Like days of yore
- Glamorous wrap
- Ms. Thurman
- Pizza order
- More populated (hyph.)
- "Time in a Bottle" singer
- Canyon edge
- Oz canine
- Yes, in Edinburgh
- Athena's father
- Firebug's crime
- Hero sandwich
- Truck mfr.
- Providence loc.
- Heifer's hello
- Where Ipanema is
- Hawkeye st.

DOWN

- Windows predecessor
- Plumbing bend
- Laws
- TV site, often (2 wds.)
- Monk habitats
- Old French coin
- Head covering
- Spice rack item
- Trendy meat
- Knock politely
- Opposite of "paleo"
- Cleo player
- LA and SF state
- Dainty pastries
- Sky hunter
- NATO turf
- Kayak's kin
- Glances
- Festive quaff
- College maj.
- Dinny's rider
- Fall month
- Aerie hatchling
- Popular hound
- Villa
- Understood
- Ga. neighbor
- Fixes a squeak
- Dinghy's need
- de-sac
- Use sparingly
- High note
- Mexican Mrs.
- Coal scuttle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Q	U	I	Z	B	U	S	B	R	E	A
T	H	O	U	O	N	T	E	A	R	L
Y	O	W	L	S	A	U	S	A	G	E
H	A	U	L	S	P	H	D			
				Y	A	H	O	O	W	O
				Y	I	P	E	A	R	E
W	O	O	S	S	R	S	V	E	R	B
A	R	T	I	C	L	E	L	E	N	S
T	E	A	A	E	S	O	P			
				U	T	E	G	S	U	I
A	P	P	R	O	V	A	L	S	N	O
P	U	R	E	N	E	D	G	E		
O	B	E	Y	S	A	D	R	Y	A	N

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WHEELS

cars.com

Airplanes

SELL YOUR CAR FOR ONLY \$35.00!

Are you looking to sell your used vehicle and would like to reach over 140,000 potential buyers and have it a nationwide website to even widen the opportunity of selling it?

Then MICHIGAN.COM Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Media is the place to advertise!!!

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18 ft Larson Fiberglass, 50 hp Johnson, Trailer. All equip. Great condition. \$2500. 248-935-8835

Motorcycles/Minibikes Go Carts/Off Rd

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Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012 FWD, leather, rear view camera, heated seats. Bluetooth. \$25,995

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Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012 FWD, leather, rear view camera, heated seats. Bluetooth. \$25,995

Mini-Vans

Sports Utility

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BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CADILLAC ESCALADE 2011 AWD Luxury, Leather, Reclining rear seats. \$40,995

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CHEVY EQUINOX 2013 FWD, LS, 20K miles, ABS, traction control, security system. \$16,595

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BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

FORD EXPLORER 2012 FWD, 4 door, XLT rear parking sensor \$21,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC ACADIA 2011 AWD, 4 dr., SLT1, leather, rear view camera, loaded! \$18,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC ACADIA 2012 AWD, 4 dr. Denali, Rear view camera & monitor \$27,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

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GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, 42K one owner, extra clean! \$17,995

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GMC YUKON 2011 AWD, 4 dr., 1500 Denali, rear view camera, pking sensors, heated seats. \$35,995

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LACROSSE 2012 FWD, Premium 3, leather, heated seats, power sunroof \$21,595

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REGAL 2014 4 dr. Sedan, Turbo, FWD, 19 miles, heated seats. \$22,995

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VERANO 2014 1,778 miles, rear camera, crumple zones, s/wheel cont. \$17,495

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BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

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BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

CTS 2009 3.6L V6, AWD, Options galore! \$14,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

COBALT 2008 2 Door Coupe Sport, ABS, Air, Sunroof. \$8,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

MALIBU 2014 1LT, 1400 miles, 1 owner, loaded. Just like new except the price! \$18,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

MALIBU LS 2013 24K miles, Bluetooth, 1 owner, ABS \$15,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Chevy 2013 Sonic Hatch - back LT, turbo, auto, 22k mi, white ext, blk int, immaculate \$12,300. 734-320-9500

GMC

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 Door, SLE-1, ABS Privacy Glass \$12,995

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

Kia

BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

RIO 2013 4 dr sedan, auto Ex, ABS, MP3 player, lots of extras! \$12,995

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BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC

SUDOKU

4		9	8	2			5	
8	2	1		3	7			
	5			9		8		1
5		8	4	7				
	3				6			
7		6		1				3
		3		8				
9			1		2			
	7				5			6

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

POISON PREVENTION WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

L	B	E	Y	P	R	O	G	N	O	S	I	S	H	S	A	W	V	Y	D
A	U	C	S	A	C	E	P	I	C	A	U	T	I	O</					

EWTN's 'cooking priest' will lead mission in Livonia

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Rev. Leo Patalinghug, known for his Grace Before Meals movement to strengthen families and relationships through family meals, will lead a three-day mission, "Finding God in Lent," at St. Michael the Archangel in Livonia.

But don't expect him to whip up any recipes as he does on his Grace Before Meals webisodes, his EWTN show, *Savoring our Faith*, or in his books, notably his *Grace Before Meals Cookbook*. Patalinghug, a Catholic priest, will talk about "Finding God through the Communion of Saints," 7 p.m. March 22, "Finding God through His Mother," 7 p.m. March 23, and "Finding God at the Lord's Table," 7 p.m. March 24, at the church, 1141 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road.

"Usually during Lent I go deeper in spiritual thoughts," Patalinghug described his upcoming mission during a recent phone interview. He said attendees "come from all over" to attend his programs. "It gives them a chance to dialogue and learn and laugh. It's a revival but without all the screaming and talking about hell."

Patalinghug, whose full-time work is evangelizing, likes to "think outside the box" when reaching out to listeners. He said his missions are filled and often only standing room is available.

A native of the Philippines, he was raised in Baltimore-area in Maryland, and honed his cooking skills while attending the seminary at the North American College in Rome. He's a member of a community of consecrated life called Vol-



Submitted Photos
The Rev. Leo Patalinghug will lead a mission March 22-24 at St. Michael the Archangel in Livonia.

untas Dei, a Secular Institute. Through his television show, books and missions, he strives to use food, faith and fun to bring families together.

"The idea of becoming a chef is that I love food and making people happy. As a priest I'm responding to God's call," he said. "What do priests do? Feed the people.

We're touching people's hearts and minds."

Patalinghug co-hosts a radio show, *Entertaining Truth*, on Sirius XM Radio and has a background as a parish priest, a black-belt martial arts instructor, a restaurant critic and choreographer for a break-dancing troupe. He even beat Bobby Flay in the Food



The Rev. Leo Patalinghug's Grace Before Meals promotes the importance of families dining together.

Network's *Throwdown with Bobby Flay*.

The mission at St. Michael's is free. An informal reception will follow each presentation in the school cafeteria. Child care will be available by reservation only

at www.livoniastmichael.org. For more information, call the parish office at 734-261-1455, Ext. 200 or 207, or see the parish website at www.livoniastmichael.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH

CAREER NIGHT

Time/Date: 6 p.m. March 19
Location: Concordia University, 4090 Geddes, Ann Arbor, and 22720 Michigan Ave., Dearborn
Details: Prospective students will have the opportunity to talk with admission counselors to learn more about admission requirements, financial aid, program and degree options. They also can tour the campuses

Contact: cuaa.edu/career; 734-995-7300

CHURCH MISSION

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. March 22-25
Location: St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, located at West Chicago Road and Inkster Road, Redford
Details: Sponsored by the clustered parishes of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. John Bosco, topics include "Jesus, How Do

We Come To Know You?" March 22; "Come, Follow Me," March 23; "Reconcile and Forgive," March 24; "Become A People of Purpose," March 25. Reconciliation will be offered March 24
Contact: 313-937-1500

CONCERT

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

reception to follow. Tickets, \$10
Contact: trinityinthewoods.org

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22
Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 N. Venoy, Westland
Details: *Requiem for the Living*, by Dan Forrest focuses on grace and redemption. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for seniors and students, 12 and over. Children under 12 are admitted free. Buy tickets online at detroitlutheransingers.com or at the door

Contact: detroitlutheransingers.com
LENTEN SERVICES
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 3003 Hannan, Wayne
Contact: 734-728-3315

LENTEN SERVICES
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 25
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Theme is "I Tell You The Truth." Free treats after the service
Contact: 734-968-3523, 313-532-8655

VESPERS
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 22
Location: Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.
Details: The fourth of five Vespers services sponsored by The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit. Services conducted by members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit. The Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit will sing responses during the service.
Contact: Richard Shebib, at 248-345-9346 or schabooks@sbglobal.net

APRIL EASTER SERVICES

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m. April 2; Good Friday Liturgy, 12:45 p.m. April 3; Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m. April 4; Easter Sunday Masses, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Contact: 734-464-4433; stcolette.net

EGG HUNT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 4
Location: Crossroads Church, at Sacred Heart Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: For ages 12 and under. Hunt for eggs, win prizes, eat sweet treats, and more. To pre-register, email your child's name and age to info@crossroadsnow.org
Contact: www.crossroadsnow.org or call 248-890-5718

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 17
Location: Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: Rent a table or space and sell your own stuff; tables are \$20. Proceeds to Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group
Contact: 734-453-5464, Ext. 22

SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 2
Location: Crossroads Church, in the Sacred Heart Conference Center, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: A Night to Remember includes a Passover meal and a special "Service of Shadows."
Contact: www.crossroadsnow.org or 248-890-5718.

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township
Details: Scripture study
Contact: 313-534-9000

FAITH COMMUNITY WESLEYAN
Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday
Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome.
Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton
Details: No documentation needed
Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday
Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month
Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia
Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.
Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available
Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday
Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching.
Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.
Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304
Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.
Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Passages

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BROWN, DYPNA (DEE)

The world lost a remarkable woman when Dee Brown passed away in her sleep on March 12, 2015 at the age of 96. She was born on June 9, 1918 in Belding, Michigan with the beautiful Irish name of Dympna Amata Byrnes and grew up on a farm with eight brothers and sisters. In 1940, she married James Hill from Lowell, Michigan and started a family of her own. Eventually, they settled in southeastern Michigan. After many years together in Wayne, James passed away. In 1990, Dee married Thomas Brown, a very popular Westland mayor and State Representative.

Dee, who also had the nickname "Dimples", was well known for her sparkling blue eyes, endless energy and zest for life. She loved words, music, gardening and was a devoted Detroit Tigers fan. Dee always looked forward to going to the casino or playing cards with her family. At 96 years old, she still lived independently, drove her own car and surfed the Internet.

Dee will always be remembered with love by friends and family. She is survived by her beloved children, Thomas Hill (Karen), William Hill (Susan), Gerald Hill (Sharon) and Linda Hill-Lindsay (Joe) as well as nine cherished grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. In accordance with her wishes, no funeral is planned. A Mass will be held in her honor at St. Mary's Church in Wayne on Friday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. An informal Celebration of Life will follow at 11:30 a.m. in Haney Hall at the adjacent St. Mary's School.



CHAPIN, RICHARD E.

Age 84, March 15, 2015, of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Lois. Loving father of Gary (Mona), Bruce (Jennifer) and Kirk (Julie) Chapin, and Sally (Douglas) Freed. Dear grandfather of David, Scott and Mackenzie, Alyssa and Matthew, Thomas, Amy, James and Kimberly. Dear great-grandfather of Maiya, Jackson, Parker and Liana. Richard was the CEO of Document Processing Systems, a Navy Reservist who served on the USS Grand Canyon, Past President of the Michigan Mortgage Bankers Association, Chairman of the US Olympic Committee Fundraiser and a Board Member of William Tyndale College and Presbyterian Village. He was also a youth sports coach for many years. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Thursday 2-9 p.m. In state at the Fellowship Presbyterian Church (St. Andrew Episcopal Church), 16360 Hubbard Rd., Livonia, Friday from 10 until Funeral Service at 11 a.m. Memorials may be directed to Fellowship Presbyterian Church. Please share a memory at www.rgerharris.com



McCURREN, MAUREEN ANN (ENGLISH)

Age 42, passed away Sunday, March 15 surrounded by her loving family. She lived life with love, beauty and grace even as she boldly faced breast cancer. Maureen is survived by her husband Rob, daughter Fiona, stepchildren Seamus, Hughie, ZoeAnne, mother Mary English, siblings MaryEllen (Randy) Ritsema, Joseph (Lynn), Daniel (Donna), Michael (Judy), Thomas, Anne (Dale) White, mother-in-law, Paula McCurren, father-in-law, Robert McCurren and sister-in-law, Robyn (Don) Freeman, brother-in-law Nick. Maureen was preceded in death by her father, Robert and brother John. A celebration of Maureen's life will take place on Thursday, March 19 at Misty Farm Events, 8040 ScioChurch Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103. A Catholic memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 at St. Suzanne church. "The question is not how to survive, but how to thrive with passion, compassion, humor and style." Maya Angelou In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the name of Maureen to the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor 2010 Hogback Rd #3 Ann Arbor, MI 48105



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Mary Poppins flies in on a breeze at Village Theater in Canton

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Forever After Productions will bring Disney's *Mary Poppins* to the stage March 26-29, with two actresses sharing the iconic nanny role.

Kari Schoen of Plymouth and Sophie Szczotka of Canton will take turns playing Mary Poppins in the musical that features a cast of more than 40 young actors, ages 6-16. The show is at 7 p.m. March 26-27 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 28-29 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton.

"We double cast. There are so many students in the Plymouth-Canton area who are so excited about theater and are very talented. Because we're an educational theater company, we want to give as many kids the opportunity to be in roles to promote learning and growth for them," said Brandon Waldemayer, a Canton resident and director of the show.

The company often double casts lead roles and sometimes creates two separate casts, depending on the number of youngsters that audition. Double-cast lead actors participate in chorus parts during performances when their counterpart is on stage. Waldemayer said that reinforces the idea that "everyone is important," whether playing a major role one night and a chorus part the next. He also encourages lead players to "make the character your own."

"I'd never want them to feel they need to mimic each other. You look at the story, the direction and you make Mary Poppins your own," he said. "Kari and Sophie are not extremely different but there are subtle differences. I think with Sophie, her attitude is a bit more mature and serious, not that she isn't fun, but she has a serious, down-to-business attitude. Sophie is older than Kari. Kari has more playfulness to her Mary Poppins."

Disney's *Mary Poppins* is Waldemayer's fifth production



Kari Schoen (left) and Sophie Szczotka portray Mary Poppins March 26-29 at the Village Theater in Canton.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

as a director at Forever After Productions, a youth theater for ages 6 through college students. Waldemayer, 20, an Eastern Michigan University junior studying public administration, and children's literature/children's theater, also recently performed in *A Christmas Carol* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at Forever After Productions. The 2012 Salem High School graduate works as a house technician in the school's theater. *Star Search*, a play he wrote and submitted to EMU's one-act festival was staged twice this month, first as a drama and then as a comedy. He said he's drawn to Forever After Productions because it has "a great sense of community and family."

"I haven't found that anywhere else. They (students)

really want to learn. It's not just about being on stage and being the star. It's a unique group."

Waldemayer said fans of the movie, *Mary Poppins*, will recognize favorite songs and characters in the staged musical version. They'll also see special effects, such as Mary Poppins' magic carpet bag and an umbrella that helps her drift along with the breeze.

"I think what is special about Mary Poppins is that it is such an iconic story that has been reinvented as a (stage) musical," Waldemayer said. "There are a lot of new songs and characters. The dancing is challenging. And we do a nice job."

Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased at www.iheartforeverafter.com or by calling 734-547-5156.



Brenden Kaiser (left) as Michael Banks, with Kari Schoen as Mary Poppins, Courtney Perttula as Jane Banks and Lloyd Platis as Bert, in "Disney's Mary Poppins."

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking
Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public events, through March 31
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: "Narrative Quilts: Works by Pauline Parker," is a solo show of wall hangings and watercolors
Contact: 734-394-5300; cantonvillage@village.theater.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through March 28
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "the mystery lesson," paintings by Kate Paul
Contact: 248-344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 20
Location: 774 Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Details: Drawn To The Night is an unstructured, open life drawing event for artists of all ages to practice drawing the human form. The monthly event features costumed models in a themed set with timed poses. This month's theme is yoga and will feature Rachel Koelzer. Bring your own art supplies and a camera to capture short poses to help complete your work. \$10 at the door; \$5 for students
Contact: plymoutharts.com

CALL FOR ENTRIES REEL MICHIGAN FILM FESTIVAL

Time/Date: Entry deadline is April 17; film festival screening is June 20
Location: Screening at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville
Details: The Festival is accepting Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short



SUBMITTED

Rachel Koelzer will strike yoga poses March 20 for artists at Drawn To The Night, a monthly life drawing event in Plymouth.

films, less than 20 minutes. Entry form is available at northvillearthouse.org/special-events/reel-michigan/.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: Drop off pieces March 30-31; exhibit runs through April 30
Location: 774 Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Sixth annual Open Juried Exhibit is for artists, 18 and older. They may submit 2-D works and hangable 3-D art along the theme of duplicity, such as two of a kind, two media, two artists on the same canvas, two points of view, an object reflected, a dynamic duo, seeing double, a duet. Entry fee for up to two pieces is \$25 per artist. Entries may be dropped off at the council or emailed.
Contact: lisa@plymoutharts.com; 734-416-4278

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: Submission deadline is March 21; art show reception is Sunday, April 19
Location: Art will be displayed at Westland Library meeting room, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland
Details: The club seeks original art work, including oils, watercolors, acrylic, pastels, collage, photo art, pottery and more. Submit up to three entries for \$30; \$5 for each additional piece.

Submit photos for judging on CD or flash drive. Download an entry form at threecitiesartclub.org.

Contact: Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939

FILM MJR CINEMA

Time/Date: Saturday-Sunday through March

Location: Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Free children's film festival with *Night at the Museum*, March 21-22, and *Book of Life*, March 28-29. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Free for children 12 and under; parents pay \$1. Call theater for show times

Contact: 734-298-2657

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, March 20; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 21-22; 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*; admission \$3

Coming up: *Selma*, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday, March 27; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29; 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 20, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 21

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: Three Stooges Festival; \$5
Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 3

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor
Details: "Death Dogs: The Jackal Gods of Ancient Egypt," will explore the mysterious ancient Egyptian jackal-headed gods associated with death and the afterlife. The exhibition features approximately 40 artifacts, some never before displayed and many coming from University of Michigan excavations in Egypt, along with archival photographs and explanatory graphics.
Contact: 734-764-9304

EASTER FUN

Ready to meet the Easter Bunny and hunt for eggs? Here's a sampling of local events.

Easter Bunny

» Visit the Easter Bunny 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, through April 4 near the food court at Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile, Livonia. All children who visit will receive a coloring sheet with offers from mall stores. Visit free. Professional photo packages start at \$22.

» The Easter Bunny holds court 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, through April 4, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. Photo packages start at \$22.

» Bunnville runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 3-4, at the

Detroit Zoo, located at Woodward and 10 Mile, Royal Oak. Bunnville will include a golden egg hunt, the Jelly Bean Jamboree, Funny Bunny Games, springtime crafts, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, zookeeper talks, treats and live entertainment. Bring a canned food item and get a reduced admissions price of \$8, parking not included. For more information, call 248-541-5717 and press 9.

Egg hunts

» 10 a.m. April 2, at Kensington Metropolitan Farm Center, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford; 810-227-8917. \$5 (cash only) per child; free for children, 12 months and younger.

» 11 a.m. April 4, in the Maple Beach area, at Kensington Millpark, 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford; 810-227-8917. \$5 per child; free for children, 12 months and younger. Look for eggs and pose for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Farmer John and the Barnyard Express presents an animal show at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

» Easter Eggstravaganza includes Easter and spring-themed activities, including egg hunts, 10:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. March 28, at Heritage Park, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton; 734-394-5472. \$5 per family. Register on site.

» Youngsters, ages 10 and under, may search for egg beginning at noon, Saturday, April 4, in this free event co-sponsored by Livonia Rotary Club, Busch's Fresh Foods Market and Livonia Parks and Recreation. Register 11:15-11:45 a.m., at the event.

» The Westland Area Jaycees will serve breakfast at 10 a.m., followed by indoor crafts, photos with the Easter Bunny and an outdoor egg hunt for children 2-12 at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at Wayne Ford Civic League, 1661 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Tickets are \$2 for children, 2-12 and \$1 for adults and children over 12. Register at westlandareajaycees.org. For more information, call 734-392-7729 or email VP1@WestlandAreaJaycees.org.

» Plymouth Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Saturday, April 3, at Plymouth Township Park, 46640 W. Ann Arbor Trail, is free but donations will be accepted. Sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club.

An egg hunt, crafts, a movie, treats and the Easter Bunny are part of the fun at Easter Eggstravaganza, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 28 at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City. Tickets are \$3 per child or \$6 for a family of four. They're available at the library. Call 734-793-1830 for more information.

» Pizza & Eggs, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, includes an egg hunt, goody bag and pizza lunch. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$7 for residents, \$12 for nonresidents. Register by March 20. Call 248-473-1800 for more information.

Marshmallow Drop

Bring a basket to catch marshmallows dropped from a helicopter, 11 a.m. Friday, April 3, at Nankin Mills Park, Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Call 734-261-1990 for more information.





HOP INTO SPRING

WITH EASTER DESSERTS

From full-course brunches to simple sit-down dinners, Easter celebrations are a time to enjoy family, friends and the delicious tastes of spring.

However elaborate the festivities, a rich and creamy dessert is the perfect finale to any Easter gathering.

These fresh dessert ideas all feature everyone's favorite indulgence — cheesecake — along with other lively flavors, such as coconut, lemon and blueberry. Desserts this delicious will have your guests hopping up for seconds. For these and other recipe ideas, visit www.creamcheese.com.

Courtesy of Family Features



EASTER MINI CHEESECAKES

Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 3 hours, 20 minutes
Servings: 18

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
3 packages (8 ounces each) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 eggs
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons Baker's Angel Flake Coconut, toasted
54 speckled malted milk eggs (about 9 ounces)

Heat oven to 325°F.
Mix graham crumbs, 2 tablespoons sugar and butter; press onto bottoms of 18 paper-lined muffin cups. Beat cream cheese, vanilla and remaining sugar with mixer until blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Spoon over crusts. Bake 25–30 minutes or until centers are almost set. Cool completely. Refrigerate 2 hours.
Top each cheesecake with 1 tablespoon coconut; shape to resemble bird's nest. Fill with malted milk eggs. Note: To soften cream cheese, place completely unwrapped package of cream cheese in microwaveable bowl. Microwave on high 10 seconds or just until softened. Add 15 seconds for each additional package of cream cheese.



BLUEBERRY STREUSEL CHEESECAKE

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 6 hours, 45 minutes
Servings: 16

1 ½ cups plus 3 tablespoons flour, divided
1 ½ cups sugar, divided
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ cup cold butter, cut up
4 packages (8 ounces each) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 cup sour cream
4 eggs
2 cups fresh blueberries

Heat oven to 325°F.
Mix 1 ½ cups flour, ½ cup sugar and cinnamon in medium bowl. Cut in butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Reserve ½ cup; press remaining onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Beat cream cheese, remaining flour, remaining sugar and vanilla with mixer until well blended. Add sour cream; mix well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust. Top with berries and reserved crumb mixture. Bake 1 hour 25 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes or until center is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours.
Note: You can substitute cream cheese with Neufchâtel cheese, or fresh blueberries with 1 (16-ounce) package frozen blueberries. Garnish with additional berries or cinnamon just before serving.



DOUBLE LEMON CHEESECAKE BARS

Prep time: 35 minutes
Total time: 7 hours, 15 minutes
Servings: 16

52 vanilla wafers, finely crushed (about 2 cups)
3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
4 eggs, divided
4 packages (8 ounces each) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
1 ½ cups sugar, divided
3 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon lemon zest
½ cup lemon juice (about 2 lemons), divided
½ teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons cornstarch
½ cup water

Heat oven to 325°F.
Line a 13-by-9-inch pan with parchment paper, with ends of paper extending over sides.
Mix wafer crumbs and butter until blended; press onto bottom of prepared pan. Bake 10 minutes.
Separate 1 egg; refrigerate yolk until ready to use. Beat cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, flour, lemon zest, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add egg white and remaining 3 whole eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each until just blended. Pour over crust.
Bake 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool 1 hour. Refrigerate 4 hours.
Mix cornstarch and remaining sugar in medium saucepan; gradually stir in water and remaining lemon juice until blended. Bring just to boil on medium heat, stirring constantly; cook and stir until clear and thickened. Lightly beat reserved egg yolk in small bowl with fork until blended; stir in 2 tablespoons of hot cornstarch mixture.
Return to remaining cornstarch mixture in saucepan; stir until blended. Cook 1 minute or until thickened, stirring constantly. Cool slightly. Spoon lemon glaze over cheesecake. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. Use parchment handles to remove cheesecake from pan before cutting to serve.
Note: This lemon glaze can be prepared ahead of time. Cool, then refrigerate up to 8 hours before spooning over individual slices of cheesecake. Garnish with ¼ cup blueberries, lemon peel and fresh mint leaves.