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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Mistrial declared for Westland man accused in beating death of woman

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A five-day trial for a Westland man accused of beating a local woman to death in an alleged dispute over drugs has ended in a mistrial due to a hung jury.

The mistrial was declared Monday in the trial of Randy Batts, 31, who is charged with first-degree murder and also second-degree murder.

A new trial is scheduled to

begin July 13. Batts remains jailed in lieu of bond.

Batts is one of four Westland men who were charged in connection with the fatal beating of Westland resident Diedre Akins, 46.

Batts is the only defendant to go trial.

Dead from blunt force trauma,



Batts

ma, Akins' body was discovered laying in the street on Powers near John Daly in Dearborn Heights early Jan. 18. Testimony was that an argument over drugs at Akins' home on Grand Traverse escalated into a fatal beating.

Three other defendants — Terrence Johnson, 45, Michael



Akins

Bashlor, 34, and Joshua Hurston-Herron, 23 — all entered guilty pleas.

Johnson, who was Akins' live-in boyfriend, was scheduled to be sentenced July 1 after he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder. The charge carries a sentence of up to life in prison but unlike a first-degree murder conviction offers a chance for parole.

Bashlor and Hurston-Herron were each charged with

helping dispose of Akins' body. Both entered guilty pleas to charges of being accessories after the fact.

Bashlor was sentenced to 2-5 years in prison. Hurston-Herron was sentenced to one year in the Wayne County Jail with 103 days credit for time served and two years' probation.

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FILE PHOTO

Cruise fans will again get to see a Detroit Grand Prix car on display at the Westland Historic Village Park during the All American Cruise on July 11.



FILE PHOTO

Gil Quesada of Canton brought his 1985 El Camino to last year's Cruisin' US12 car cruise in Wayne.

All American Cruise coming to Wayne Road in Westland

Classic cars will take over the main drag of Westland next weekend with the return of the All American Wayne Road Cruise.

The third annual cruise will span two days and start with a kick-off event at the Wayne Ford Civic League on Friday, July 10. Cruisers will take over Wayne Road from Glenwood to Joy on Saturday, July 11.

The festivities on Friday will start at 4 p.m. with a concert and drive-in movies at the Civic League, 1661 N.

Wayne Road. Benny of Benny and the Jets will be the emcee for the concert that features Eddie Cooper and the Exit Band and Leah and the Troublemakers. At dusk, all eyes will move to the 55-foot portable movie screen for a showing of the Disney Pixar movie, Cars, for the kids followed by American Graffiti.

Interest in the cruise has been building, and organizer Don Nich-

See CRUISE, Page A2

Wayne ready for ninth annual Cruisin' US12

Classic and custom cars will again fill Michigan Avenue in Wayne with the return of Cruisin' US12 on Saturday, July 11.

The cruise runs from Merriman to Newburgh along Michigan Avenue from 10 a.m. to midnight with activities planned along the route.

"This is the most popular single-day event in Wayne," cruise volunteer Scott Gocaj said. "Last year we had more than 30,000 people come to downtown. The streets are lined with

spectators starting at breakfast time and once the cars start cruising through, the festivities didn't die down until midnight."

This year's cruise will celebrate the first anniversary of McDonald's opening in Downtown Wayne. To commemorate the event, McDonald's will host Ronald McDonald at the restaurant from 1-3 p.m. to visit with children, and there also will be free face

See US12, Page A2

Westland teenager to stand trial in death of Belleville man

A 17-year-old Westland man has been bound over for trial in Wayne County Circuit on charges that he fatally stabbed a Belleville man May 16.

Dion Patterson was in 18th District Judge Mark McConnell's courtroom Thursday for a preliminary examination. The teen has been charged with felony murder, second-degree murder, felonious as-

sault and home invasion in the death of Mathew Allen Green of Belleville.

Green, 33, was fatally stabbed in the early hours of May 16 at his girlfriend's home in 35000 block of Thames, south of Avondale and west of Wayne



Patterson

Road in Westland.

Green, his girlfriend and two other people returned home from the bar about 2:15 a.m. Westland Police said they were making some noise, which prompted Patterson's mother to open her window and exchange words with the quartet.

Police have said that Patterson was awakened by the noise and asked his mother

what had happened. He is charged with arming himself with a kitchen knife and going to the neighboring home where he forced his way inside, stabbing Green three times. Police said Green had tried to push Patterson back out of an unlocked side door he entered.

Green was transported to Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis where he later died of his

injuries.

After the incident, Patterson returned to his home where he was arrested by officers without incident.

Green is being held without bond in the Wayne County Jail. He will be arraigned on the charges in circuit court July 9. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

By Sue Mason



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Jackson named senior resources deputy director

Westland resident Donna Jackson has been hired as the new deputy director of the Westland Senior Resources Department.

Long active in Westland community affairs, Jackson previously served on the Westland Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

In addition to her volunteer work with the city, including assisting with events at the Friendship Center, Jackson has lent her expertise to the Salvation Army and Westland Civitans. Jackson has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University and spent 17 years working for Sky-net as the owner of an authorized AT&T wireless retailer.

"Donna Jackson will



WLND Jackson

make a fine addition to my administrative team,"

Westland Mayor William Wild said.

"She well understands customer service and how to apply that expertise to serving our senior population."

Wild added that he anticipates many additional programs and events at the Friendship Center with the combined strengths Senior Resources Director Barbara Marcum and Jackson.

Marcum also was enthusiastic about the addition of Jackson.

Jackson began her new position July 1.

Wayne probate judge named state court administrator

The Michigan Supreme Court has named Wayne County Probate Court Chief Judge Milton L. Mack Jr. as the State Court Administrator.

Mack has served as a Wayne County Probate Judge since 1990 and as Chief Judge since 1998. Elected to four terms on the bench, Mack has been a leader in advocating for reforms to help Michigan's judiciary be more efficient and accountable.

"Judge Mack has all the tools necessary to be a successful State Court Administrator," Michigan Supreme Court Chief



Mack

Justice Robert P. Young Jr. said. "But just as important as his impressive judicial and admin-

istrative skills are his ability to lead and his commitment to drive change in Michigan's judiciary to improve service to the public."

Judge Mack will join the State Court Administrative Office on July 27 as the Supreme Court builds on key initiatives to improve service to the

public. They include:

- » measuring performance to improve outcomes
- » implementing technology to enhance access
- » re-engineering court processes to increase efficiency.

In announcing the appointment, Chief Justice Young cited Mack's leadership role in proposing concurrent jurisdiction as a method to consolidate trial court operations. Three out of four Michigan counties now have concurrent jurisdiction plans that promote streamlining of court processes, balanc-

ing of workloads, sharing of resources and elimination of waste and duplication.

Mack is recognized nationally as a leader on issues related to mental health and frequently presents to judges and the legal community on topics ranging from end of life decisions to the use of technology to improve court efficiency.

Prior to joining the bench in 1990, Mack was an attorney in private practice and served as a Wayne County Commissioner from 1983 to 1990 and Wayne city councilman from 1979 to 1982.

Several groups, business donate bicycles to veterans

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Having a bicycle will change the way Southfield resident and Army veteran Jamila Coleman will get to work.

Her job at a Detroit post office is an 11-mile ride from her home, which she used to need help from friends getting to. On Wednesday, she became the recipient of a new Trek bicycle from several groups from Livonia and across Wayne County.

"I've never owned a bike," she said. "I'm excited."

Coleman was one of eight veterans who received a new bicycle during an event Wednesday morning at Qualigence International in Livonia. Several groups, including the Region 10 Veterans Community Action Team, Americorps, Real Estate Donations USA and Qualigence, were on hand to present several southeast Michigan veterans with bicycles to help them get

around to school, work and doctor's appointments easier.

Bicycles were selected because of their low maintenance and ability to be placed on a bus, said Bill Mowder, Americorps veteran resource navigator. While those donating would have loved to give cars or other larger items, bicycles were what could be donated.

"They'll also keep costs low, Mowder said. With maintenance, insurance and other expenses, using the bicycles will save the veterans a lot of money each month, he said.

"This will put \$437 back in your pocket every month," Mowder said. "Our goal is your success, not our success."

That wasn't getting in the way of a smile on Thomas Fields's face. The Detroit resident and Army veteran was just happy to have a bicycle to help him get around and begin exercising more, especially since his last bicycle was stolen.

"First, I'm going to join a bike club," he said. "This is my primary mode of transportation."

About 15 bicycles have been given out to veterans who need transportation. The goal is to eventually increase that number by finding even more veterans who need basic transportation needs across Michigan, using more than \$200,000 to do so.

Steve Lowisz, CEO of Qualigence International, said his company's foundation helped chip in the money for some of the bicycles and was happy to get involved with the project.

"I think it's great," he



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Veteran Demien Deyonte, of Detroit, speaks with Steve Lowisz, CEO of Qualigence International, who donated the eight bicycles.

said. "We're able to help eight people, and I think that is the biggest thing."

Bob Miller, president of Real Estate Donations USA and the former deputy supervisor in Redford Township, said it's imperative to help spread knowledge of the programs available to veterans.

There are plenty of programs for veterans

across Wayne County, it's just a matter of reaching those who need services and connecting them with the right people, Miller said.

"We have to get the word out," the Redford resident said.

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CRUISE

Continued from Page A1

olson is expecting to have at least 12,000 cruisers and cruise fans attend this year's event. Last year he passed out 15,000 green-paper All American Cruise slips.

"Every year this is getting bigger and bigger," Nicholson said. "Our hope always is that if you were there last year and had a good time, you'll come back and bring a friend."

Locations along Wayne Road will feature special events or happenings on cruise day. Cuda Automotive at 1136 N. Wayne Road will have

a swap meet and entertainment. St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting a family festival along with free classic car parking on the grass along Wayne Road. Auto specialty vendors will be at the Wayne Ford Civic League.

The Westland Historic Village will once again be hosting an open house and classic car parking. The first 100 classic cars that stop in and take a tour will receive a free commemorative dash plaque.

Back again this year will be the Detroit Grand Prix car. While guests won't be able to sit in the car, they will be able "get up-close and touch it and get a picture of

themselves with it," Nicholson said.

"They love coming to the cruise," he said, adding that while there, stop by the MotorCities National Heritage Area booth and find out why Westland is part of the National Parks Area.

For Nicholson, this year marks the first time the All American Cruise has been put on by an American. The Westland resident became an American citizen last month. Born in Canada, he's lived in the United States for 45 years.

For more information, contact Nicholson at 734-658-5296 or don@DonNicholson.net.

By Sue Mason

US12

Continued from Page A1

painting and kiddie cones for children under age 10.

"I'm excited that this year's cruise will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the McDonald's opening in downtown Wayne," Joni Thrower said.

"We're very pleased with the success and the turnout for the Cruisin' US12. WCSX will broadcast from our parking lot — they will have tons of giveaways — from noon

to 4 p.m. We will also have the Motown Corvette Club on site."

ICON Computer Solutions also will host the Just Hearse'N Around hearse club at its location at 35858 W. Michigan Ave.

"Every year we host the club with their popular Casketeria Grill at ICON Computer Solutions," owner Brian Ewanciw said. "We look forward to this event as our customers really enjoy all the classic cars."

Ewanciw is working with John Goci of the US12 Bar and Grill and

Wayne Main Street volunteers to organize the event.

"Downtown Wayne is the perfect venue for a cruise," Goci said. "For the past eight years we have celebrated our automotive heritage in Wayne."

"This is a great event for car lovers of all ages. We will have live music performed on the patio at US12 and it's all free."

For more information about the event and volunteer opportunities, visit www.cruisnus12.com or call 734-6371430.



Madonna University's Franciscan Center, Livonia's first LEED-certified building, opened in 2009. SUBMITTED



Michael A. Grandillo, Ph.D., on his first day as the new president of Madonna University. SUBMITTED

Madonna's first lay president assumes office

Michael A. Grandillo, Ph.D., assumed the office of president of Madonna University Wednesday morning, making him the first lay president in the Livonia university's 78-year history.

As Madonna's seventh president, Grandillo succeeds Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF, at the helm of the 4,500-student, liberal arts university. Over the last two

weeks he has attended conferences and worked closely with Sister Kujawa to get acclimated. Grandillo and his wife, Nancy were planning on hosting a July 4 Open House for Madonna faculty, staff and their families, and an inauguration is planned for Oct. 17.

"It is a distinct pleasure and a high honor to serve as leader of this fine Catholic and Fran-

ciscan institution of higher learning," Grandillo said. "The faculty and staff are stellar and they have welcomed me and Nancy into the Madonna family with genuine enthusiasm and kindness. Together we will continue to deliver the quality liberal arts education and career preparation that students and employers have come to expect."

Grandillo has more than 35 years of experience in higher education, including academic leadership, recruitment, enrollment management, public relations and advancement at colleges and universities. He's also served on the City Council of Tiffin, Ohio, where he and his wife

raised their children, Vincent and Gina. Grandillo grew up in Dayton, Ohio.

"I am committed to humbly building upon the legacy of excellence and community service developed by the Fel-

lician Sisters over the years," he said. "I was attracted to Madonna's simple, yet universal, Franciscan values, and I was equally impressed by the rigor and relevance of its undergraduate and graduate degree

programs." Most recently, Grandillo was a consultant with the Registry for College and University Presidents and served as interim vice president at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Livonia DAV chapter expands hours to serve veterans

The Livonia chapter of Disabled American Veterans is expanding its office hours to help veterans file for their benefits, Chapter 114 Com-

mander Thomas Dempster announced.

The office at 30905 Plymouth Road in Livonia is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednes-

days and Thursdays.

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For more information, call 734-522-9003.

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Schoolcraft College to offer bachelor's degrees

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

After several years in the making, Schoolcraft College will begin offering something it's never offered in its history this fall: a bachelor's degree program.

The Livonia-based college recently received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to proceed with offering the program, which will be a bachelor of science in culinary and dietary operations management. The college is the first traditional two-year institution in Michigan to offer this specific degree, college President Conway Jeffress said.

"This was a long long haul to get to this point. The work was difficult and frequently not that pleasant," he said. "I'm very very pleased with our getting started."

The degree builds onto what culinary students at Schoolcraft College will learn, combining business and science courses to provide the culinarian with knowledge and ex-



Pastry chef Heather Moore is a student at the college.

pertise in management, food science and nutrition. It's also expected to help prepare students for testing to be certified dietary manager credentialed from the Association of Nutrition and Food Service Professionals, a credential for students interested in food service operations.

They are important skills to have and build onto the foundation set up in the associate's degree in culinary arts the college already offers, Jeffress

said. "You're adding the whole issue of kitchen safety, the whole issue of really adding professionalism onto the degree of being a good chef," he said. "It's a bigger picture. It's for the food industry and not just for one chef."

Expanding offerings
The Michigan Legislature approved bills several years ago allowing community colleges the ability to offer bache-

lor's degrees in several specific subject matters, including culinary arts. Several other two-year colleges in Michigan already offer bachelor's degree programs: Jackson College in Jackson offers a four-year degree in energy production, while Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City offers a bachelor's degree in maritime technology.

The Schoolcraft program, which opens in August, will require students to first earn an associate's degree before enrolling in the additional two years of courses. Jeffress said he did not know the exact number of students enrolling in the additional courses this fall, but said they would be full enough for courses to take place.

At least one new faculty member has been hired to assist with the program, with the possibility of more if demand requires it, Jeffress said.

When it comes to cost, Jeffress said he's committed to trying to keep the price of tuition for those final two years the same as other credits earned at Schoolcraft.

"You don't want to match the cost of a university," he said. "What you want is to offer a unique advantage."

The cost per credit hour beginning this fall for in-district students is \$96. Out-of-district Michigan residents will pay \$139 per credit hour and out-of-state students will pay \$205 per credit hour.

Jeffress said he hopes the college will be able to launch other four-year degrees in the future, including one that's still being talked about in Lansing.

Bachelor's degrees in nursing are not able to be offered by two-year colleges, though that's a program supporters say they hope will be a reality in the future. If that's the case, Jeffress said that's a four-year program he'd desire for students at Schoolcraft.

"That's probably the one that really has my interest," he said. "You always want to look at those with good possibilities."

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

» Several Wayne, Westland and Garden City residents have been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring 2015 semester at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. To be named to the honor roll a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade-point average for the term.

Named to the honor roll were:

Garden City — **Joshua Piehl**, who is studying mechanical engineering; **Bailey Terrell**, media communication, and **Zachary Wardell**, mechanical engineering.

Wayne — **Matthew Castaldini**, computer science.

Westland — **Justin Hart-saw**, media communication; **John Marnon**, robotics engineering; **Mark Megdanoff**, computer engineering; **Mark Pisaneschi**, audio engineering

technology; **Zachary Rogers**, mechanical engineering; **Tyler Trombley**, English and communication arts, and **Jacob Ulrich**, computer science.

» **Emily Wilson** of Westland received her bachelor of science degree in hospitality and tourism management during commencement ceremonies in May at Northern Michigan University Marquette.

Wilson also qualified with a grade-point average of 3.25-3.99 to be named to the Dean's List for the winter 2015 semester.

» Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., has named **Olivia Wallace** of Westland to its Dean's List for academic excellence during the spring 2015 semester.

Dean's List honors are accorded to Carthage students

who achieve a 3.5 grade-point average while carrying at least 14 credit hours during a semester.

» **Michael Davis** of Wayne was named to the Culver-Stockton College Dean's List for work done during the spring 2015 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, Culver-Stockton College requires students to earn between a 3.5 and 3.99 grade-point average and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours, with no grade lower than a C.

Davis is senior and has an individualized major.

» **Andrew Barber** of Wayne was named to the Culver-Stockton College Honor Roll for work done during the spring 2015 semester. To be named to an honors list, Culver-Stockton College requires students have to earn a grade-

point average between 3.2 and 3.49 and enroll in a minimum of 12 hours, with no grade lower than a C.

Barber is a senior, majoring in criminal justice.

» **Jessica Drife** of Garden City is among 19 Alma College students who were recently awarded the President's Cup. The students earned the honor by achieving the highest academic standing in their respective classes at Alma.

The tradition of the President's Cup was started in 1968 by Alma's ninth president, Robert D. Swanson. Students earning the honor receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement and have their name inscribed on the appropriate class (freshman, sophomore or junior) President's Cup trophy.

A sophomore, Drife is a

2013 graduate of Lutheran High School Westland. She is the daughter of Carl and Joanne Drife of Garden City.

» **Wesley Russell** of Westland has graduated from the retail marketing training program at Michigan Career and Technical Institute in Plainwell. Operated by Michigan Rehabilitation Services within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, MCTI provides vocational training in 13 different career areas for adults with disabilities.

» **John Bohanon** of Garden City earned a bachelor's degree during spring commencement at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla.

Bohanon majored in aerospace engineering Florida Tech.



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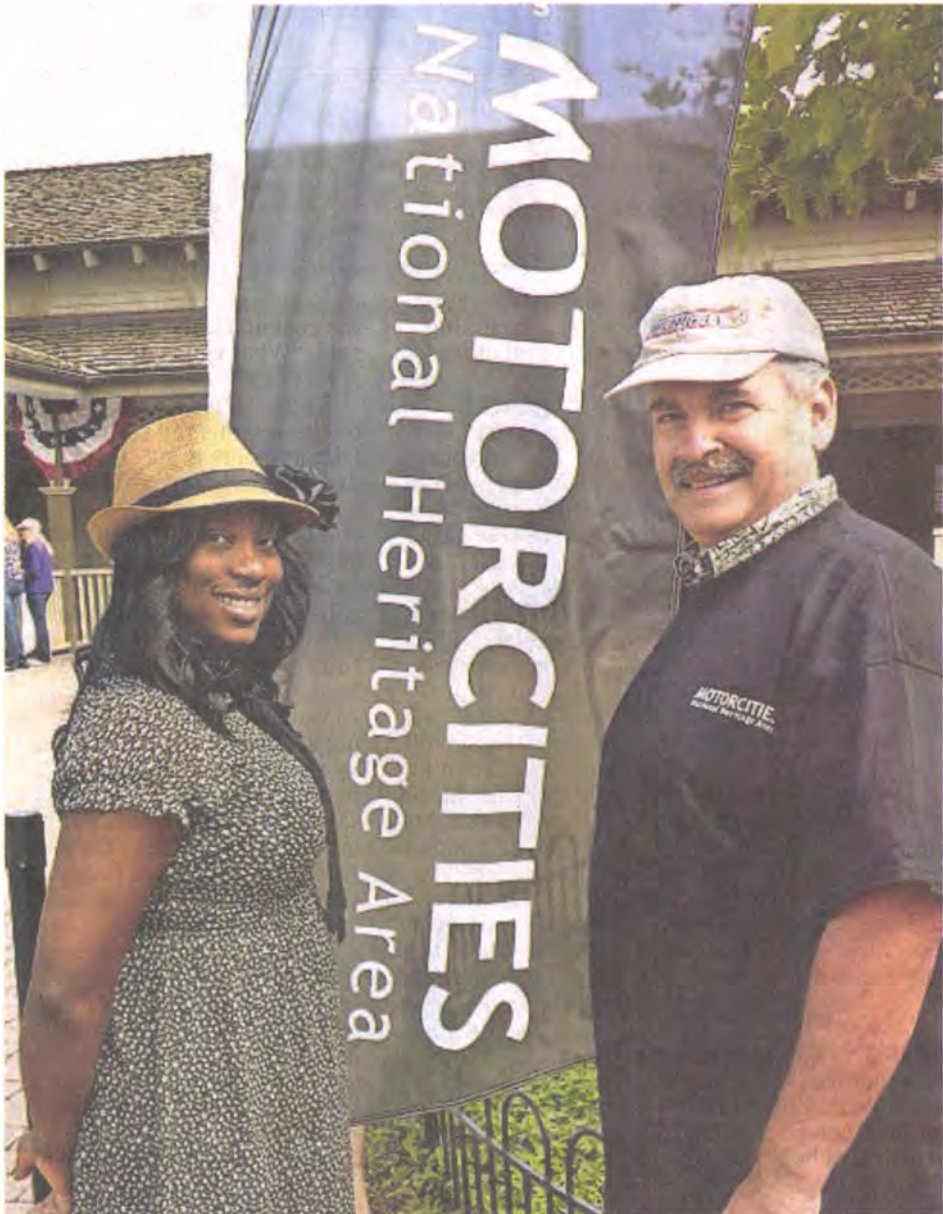
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Westland volunteer helps drive mission of MotorCities National Heritage Area



MotorCities coordinator Tiffany McFarland talks with volunteer Tony Tocco of Westland. He calls the MotorCities National Heritage Area the region's "best kept secret."

Like many nonprofits, the MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership relies on the passion of volunteers to help drive its mission and values.

One of those volunteers is Westland resident Tony Tocco who last year became involved with MotorCities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving auto and labor heritage in the region.

Tocco calls MotorCities the region's "best kept secret."

"This is one of the best kept secrets I've ever heard of," said Tocco as he staffed the MotorCities booth at the recent Sloan Museum Auto Fair in Flint. "MotorCities has been around since 1998, and I just got into it last year. I wish I would have gotten involved when it started in 1998."

"To be able to go to these events and see these kinds of cars and people, it's just wonderful. It's an honor to be here," he said.

Tocco's love affair with the auto began at a young age when he built model cars. Now he says he owns "big cars" and can't get enough of the multitude of car shows and cruises strung together and promoted under the Autopalooza banner. Autopalooza was founded some years ago in a joint effort between the MotorCities and the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitor's Bureau as a way to feature the region's premier auto shows and cruises under a single brand.

In May, Tocco was able to fulfill a dream when he volunteered for the Belle Isle Grand Prix, one of 16 world-class auto events under the Autopalooza flag.

"Going to the Grand Prix for the first time, as we were on the bus getting over there, my heart started to pump when I heard the engines roaring," Tocco said. "I thought this is it man, this is going to be quite an event, and it was. It's something I will remember for a long time."

Through its Autopalooza partnership, challenge grants, the Michigan Auto Heritage Day and many more programs, MotorCities inspires residents and visitors with an appreciation for how the automobile changed Michigan, the nation and the world.

MotorCities is an affiliate of the National Park Service and is one of 49 National Heritage Areas throughout the U.S. Projects are designed to deploy educational programs that tell the story of the American automobile industry and labor; encourage economic revitalization through conservation and preservation; and increase heritage tourism throughout the region.

Tocco said helping to promote auto and labor heritage in the region by volunteering his time is a source of pride.

For more on MotorCities, visit motorcities.org or [facebook.com/MotorCities](https://www.facebook.com/MotorCities). For more on Autopalooza, visit autopalooza.org.

Wayne County Parks invites kids to get dirty at Mud Day

Wayne County Parks is set to transform the Nankin Mills Area of Hines Park in Westland into a giant 75-foot by 150-foot mud pit playground Tuesday.

Children ages 12 and younger can get down and dirty in one of the messiest playgrounds southeast Michigan has ever seen.

"Mud Day is the one day of year that kids can have fun in the mud," Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans said.

"Every child should experience Mud Day at least once."

Thousands of kids will charge into the mud at 11 a.m. Youngsters will be separated into age categories for events such as Mud Limbo and wheelbarrow races. Also, the 2015 King and Queen of Mud will be crowned.

An annual rite of summer, Mud Day attracts families from throughout the tri-county area. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children should wear old clothes and shoes and bring a clean change of clothes. There are no showers on site; however, a clean-up area is available with hoses to aid in rinsing off the mud. Parents are also advised to bring towels.

Plastic bags will be provided to ensure that all dirty clothes are properly contained for the trip home.

Kona Ice will sell lunch items and flavored ice.

The Hines Park - Nanking Mills Area is located on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. Sponsors for Mud Day include: ITC Holdings, Community Alliance Credit Union, UAW Region IA, Fox 2 News, Friends of Wayne County Parks and the Western Wayne County HMRT.

For more information on Mud Day or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit parks.waynecounty.com.



Buster Wurm of Westland enjoys Mud Day in Hines Park.

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Teens drum up beats at Westland library

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

TEEN READING ACTIVITIES

The sound of drumming was all that was needed to bring Caitlyn Godin of Westland, Mikayla Saylor of Wayne and Kate Meyers of Garden City to the drum circle at the William P. Faust Public Library.

"I heard the drums and it got me excited," Godin said. "I had to come in here."

The teens formed their own drum line as they followed the moves of circle leader Lyndsey Fregonara who showed participants that a drum can be hit hard to mirror the sound of a ball hitting the ground or softly to show it rolling across the floor.

Fregonara, from Music with Miss Carissa, had the teens add "shaky eggs" to the sounds and even had them think of different things that can be used to make sounds.

"April gets an A-plus," she said when April Grace pulled a book from her bag to use to make noise. "When you play on a drum, even if you do something different, it sounds good. It's open-ended. You can play what you want."

"A drum lets energy go away. Any instrument does that, but a drum does that better," she said.

Godin and Saylor chose small African drums while Meyers opted for a larger version

As part of the Teen Summer Reading program, the library has a variety of activities planned. On tap are:

» Mask making and a masquerade ball, 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9, Grades 7-12

– Use glitter, feathers, sequins, and other materials to make an impressive mask, then try it out at a masquerade ball going on next door. There will be music, dancing, food and games. Fancy dress or cosplay is encouraged but not required.

» Circus Skills Workshop, 2-3 p.m. Thursday, July 16, Grades 7-12 – Here's a chance to try out a variety of circus skills. Instructors from Cirque Amongus will be on hand to guide teens through learning to tightrope walk, ride a unicycle, juggle and more.

» Superhero Cookie Decorating, 2-3 p.m. Thursday, July 23, Grades 7-12 – It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's SuperCookie! Join the library staff in transforming plain, boring cookies into your favorite superheroes and villains.

» Talent Show, 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, Grades 7-12 – Show off your talent. Sign up at the teen or adult reference desk for a chance to perform. Walk-in performers will be accepted if time allows, but priority will be given to those who register in advance.

to play during the hour-long program. April Grace opted for a bodhran, while her sister



Caitlyn Godin of Westland, Mikayla Saylor of Wayne and Kate Meyers of Garden City create their own drum line.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jackie selected a pair of Agogo bells.

Saylor plays the trombone, but while she enjoyed playing the drum, "I'm not giving that up for drums, I play in the school band," Saylor said.

"I play the piano, but playing a drum is easier," she said. "You can do anything on the drum and it sounds good, but with a piano if you hit two different keys, you have around a 50 percent chance of it sounding good."

Her sister Jackie was comfortable with the bells. She plays percussion for her school band as well as the piano.

While the turnout was light, that didn't affect the amount of drumming that took place. It's one of the many activities planned as part of the Teen Summer Reading

program. Youth have had a chance to learn about bats and test their skills with a Superhero Trivia Contest.

"The theme is 'Unmask,'" Teen Librarian Jody Wolak said. "There's a lot of activities for teens to be superheroes and unmask their hidden abilities."

Teens who sign up and read four "reasonably" age-appropriate books before July 31 will be invited to a private after-hours party featuring bubble soccer. They also have a chance to win \$2,500 worth of prizes, including a \$100 MasterCard gift card, a private bubble soccer party, the world's largest Gummi Bear (it weighs 5 pounds), passes to Air Time and Zap Zone and a Go Pro video camera.

Mike Dollani has read his way through three books and estimates he'll blow past the four-book minimum by two-three books. His choices have been Romeo and Juliet, Richard II and Hamlet.

"I read mostly Shakespeare and Sophocles," he said.

"We've had more teens sign up for the program this year. Last year we had 250 teens for summer reading, so far this year we have 300," Wolak said. "It's a great increase. The program has been growing every year for the last few years."

There's still time to get involved with the Summer Reading Program. Stop by the library at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road, or call 734-326-6123.



Sisters April and Jackie Grace make noise as part of the drum circle.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Lyndsey Fregonara of Music with Miss Carissa leads the drum circle. Lazaria Brown and Adora Jacobsen follow her lead.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2015-18
June 26, 2015
A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Friday, June 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Wayne Activity & Banquet Center, 35000 Sims Ave. MEMBERS PRESENT: Hawley, Monit, Rhaesa, James, Miller. MEMBERS ABSENT: Damitio, Rowe. APPROVED: Calling a special meeting and TEFRA Public Hearing for July 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Adjourned at 5:07 p.m.
Jennifer A. Wagner
Deputy City Clerk
Published: July 5, 2015 LO-000248913 2X3

Notice of Public Auction
Thursday, July 9, 2015
At or After 10:00 am
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Goods are to be sold to satisfy landlord lien. All goods will be sold to highest bidder for cash. 1-800-Mini Storage reserves the right to reject any bids and reserves the right to bid on unsold units. Contents include but are not limited to furniture, appliances, household goods, clothing, boxes & more.
Published: June 28 & July 5, 2015 LO-000248139 2x3.5

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
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TAMING PAIN
There are a group of medications called the Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) that physicians prescribe to treat pain and inflammation. Pain specialists and pharmacologists tell physicians that all NSAID's are alike. These medications stop pain by inhibiting the action of the chemical cyclooxygenase and all the drugs in the NSAID class are hard on the liver and potentially dangerous to the kidneys. Also, NSAID's accelerate coronary atherosclerosis.
In contrast to the warnings of experts, NSAID's occupy a strategic place in the medical community in the treatment of pain. These drugs include: ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac, celecoxib, indomethacin, meloxicam, and more. The reason why the medical community turns to these medication is because they work.
In order to reconcile the hazards of NSAID's with their value in practice, doctors must adopt a security guard attitude. In my practice I find that ibuprofen as Advil or naproxen as Alleve are helpful in providing pain relief for patients age 80 and older. However, the patient must strictly adhere to a restricted total dose each day and I must monitor how the liver and kidneys are responding by laboratory testing, doing so on a monthly basis.
Patients often question why a drug such as Advil or Alleve, that in the past they took without concern or supervision, now comes with such strict rules; patients particularly object to the requirement of frequent blood tests. I have to point out that the NSAID's for all their drawbacks are less a hazard to their health than narcotics, and that the cost of monitoring is far less than treating the patient for liver failure or kidney insufficiency.
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Canton-based Punjabi festival expected to draw thousands of visitors

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton-based Punjabi festival, billed as one of the largest of its kind in the Midwest, is expected to draw more than 2,000 people, organizers say.

The one-day Michigan Punjabi Khel Mela, featuring sports competitions, a Punjabi concert, ethnic food, vendors and camaraderie, happens from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 18, on athletic fields at Canton Sports Center in Victory Park, on Michigan Avenue east of Beck.

The festival, spearheaded by the nonprofit Punjabi Sports & Cultural Association of Michigan, is free and open to the public. Karn Gill, one of the organizers, said financial support for the event, in its eighth year, has grown to more than \$120,000.

Gill said the gathering is expected to draw people not only from across metro Detroit, but also from cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Toronto, Canada.

He said the mela is intended to show the traits – toughness, hard work, honesty and humbleness – to which he said the Punjabi people, with roots in India and Pakistan, aspire.

“This is for everybody,” he said. “We just want to show others what kind of people we are.”

Ann-Marie Carravallah, Canton Leisure Services recreation coordinator, said the festival occurs on athletic fields 9 through 12 at the Canton Sports Center.

“This has been a nice fit,” she said. “They need the space and we’ve got it. It’s a nice event for the community.”

TejKiran Singh of the Sikh Gurdwara Singh Sabha of Michigan said the mela is a family-friendly way for the community to come together to enjoy food, sports and the company

of others.

“It’s a festive mood,” he said, “and there is something for everybody. I really hope that we can expand this to the whole community.”

During a recent peace walk in Canton’s Heritage Park, Dr. Syed Taj, a former Canton Township trustee, said the Punjabi mela has become more successful over the years.

“It’s a very big deal,” Taj said.

The festival features four main sports competitions, including Kabaddi, which is a contact sport originating in India, volleyball, soccer and athletic events such as running. Gill, of Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors of Plymouth, said teams will compete for awards.

Gill said a Punjabi concert is expected to begin about 5:30 p.m. He said the mela has become successful amid strong financial support from hundreds of sponsors.

Among the largest:

- » Chain Sandhu of NYX, Inc. of Livonia.
- » Jerry Singh of RTI Laboratories of Livonia.
- » Harpreet Ahluwalia of AQL, or Automotive Quality & Logistics, of Plymouth.
- » Darshan Grewal of Singh Construction.
- » Rattan Sekhon, hotel owner.

Gill said some area public and elected officials are likely to attend the mela, which has more than doubled in attendance since it began eight years ago. Vendors also are expected to bring merchandise ranging from artwork to clothing.

This year, as in others, the Punjabi community is hopeful of reaching out to other segments of metro Detroit to build relations.

“Those who come will feel the humbleness of our people,” Gill said.

dclm@hometownlife.com
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734-972-0919



A group of men performs a cultural dance.

PSCA MICHIGAN



A game of Kabaddi is played at a previous Punjabi event in Canton.

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Volleyball is one of the activities at the Punjabi event in Canton.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAYNE,
COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN USE OF
CERTAIN BOND-FINANCED BUILDING AUTHORITY FACILITIES**

The City Council of the City of Wayne, County of Wayne, State of Michigan (the “City”), will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time on July 21, 2015 in the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center located at 35000 Sims Avenue, Wayne, Michigan 48184, in connection with the sublease of the Community Center owned by the City of Wayne Building Authority, County of Wayne, State of Michigan (the “Building Authority”) and leased to the City (the “Community Center”). The City and the Building Authority propose to sublease the Community Center to HYPE Athletics Community, Inc. (“HYPE”), an organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). The Building Authority will continue to own the Community Center and lease such facility to the City.

The costs of certain renovations and improvements to the Community Center were financed with the proceeds of the Building Authority’s 2008 Building Authority Bonds dated September 23, 2008 (the “2008 Bonds”) and refinanced with the proceeds of the Building Authority’s Building Authority Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A and 2012B dated February 28, 2012 (the “2012 Bonds”). Upon entry into the sublease with HYPE, the City and the Building Authority will be required to treat up to \$1,375,000 of the outstanding principal amount of the 2008 Bonds and up to \$650,000 of the outstanding principal amount of the 2012 Bonds (collectively, the “Reissued Bonds”) as reissued for federal income tax purposes because the proceeds of the Reissued Bonds were used to finance or refinance the costs of renovations and improvements to the Community Center proposed to be subleased by HYPE. Upon the deemed reissuance of the Reissued Bonds, the Reissued Bonds will be treated as “qualified 501(c)(3) bonds” within the meaning of Section 145 of the Code. The debt service on the Reissued Bonds will not be increased or accelerated as a result of entering into the lease with respect to the Community Center or the deemed reissuance described herein.

The 2008 Bonds and the 2012 Bonds are payable from and secured solely by contractual payments made by the City to the Building Authority.

The public hearing with respect to which this notice is given shall provide an opportunity for expression of opinion, arguments on the merits and introduction of documentary evidence pertinent to the lease of the Community Center to HYPE. Written comments will be accepted by the undersigned at City Clerk’s Office, Temporary Wayne City Hall (Vandenberg Elementary School) 32101 Stellwagen Street, Wayne, Michigan 48184, but must be received on or before the date and time of the hearing.

Jennifer A. Wagner
Deputy City Clerk

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Festival of Chariots highlights India's culture

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The 30th annual Festival of Chariots/Rathyatra parade will take place Sunday, July 19. Novi Mayor Bob Gatt and other dignitaries will help celebrate the event showcasing India's spirituality and culture.

"This year, we are expecting close to 10,000 people," said committee member Ganesh Kathiresan, a Novi resident. "They want to enjoy the culture. It's Indian culture (but) I think it's more than that. Everybody is a child of God. It

doesn't matter which religion or background you are from."

The focus is on helping the needy and working together, he said. "It explores Indian culture," including arts, music and yoga, "that oneness of being together and loving one another."


Festival of Chariots, one of India's most ancient and popular festivals, is celebrated in hundreds of cities throughout the world. The 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. event begins with a three-mile parade through major streets of Novi featuring a 40-foot



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Festival of Chariots rolls along 10 Mile in Novi in a previous year. This year's event is Sunday, July 19.

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The parade will begin at the Novi Civic Center on 10 Mile, east of Beck Road, and culminate at Fuerst Park, where more than 20 tents are set up with entertainment, a free lunch, yoga, live music, cooking demos, shopping and more. The Kirtan Yoga Fest, 2-6 p.m., will feature artists from New York, India and around the world. The festival wraps up around 6 p.m. It is open to the public and admission is free.

Festival of Chariots has been held the past six or seven years in Novi, said Kathiresan, who appreciates city of Novi support. It was earlier held on Detroit's Belle Isle.

"Novi is a great sub-

urb," he said, central to Canton, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield.

"There is a diverse group. It's a great place for people to enjoy the festival. They can all come to Novi and enjoy it. I think it's a great place."

"This festival is celebrated all over the world," said Kathiresan, who coordinates media efforts with volunteer committees totaling some 50 people. "People understand the significance."

A volunteer committee builds the 40-foot chariot, with other committees ranging from food to music. Work starts six months in advance, Kathiresan said, with details coming into focus closer to the date.

"It's really fun to see

such a big chariot and everyone pulling it. You're inviting God into your heart," he said.

Two Hindu temples, including one in Farmington Hills, are key to the annual event, he added.

More than one million people participate in this thousands-year-old Indian celebration.

"There is activities for people of all backgrounds and ages. You can just enjoy it at your own pace in a nice park," Kathiresan said. Yoga's popularity, physical and mental, brings attendees, he added.

The local event was moved this year to Sunday, he said, based on feedback. The Sunday date helps organizers with their legwork, which has also included

distributing many fliers to raise awareness.

The Festival of Chariots was first performed outside of India on July 9, 1967, in San Francisco, under the supervision of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada is the founder-Acarya of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. Today, the festival is performed down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along Pacific Coast Highway in Laguna Beach, through Trafalgar Square in London, England, and elsewhere. Detroit held its first Festival of Chariots in 1985 and it has become one of the largest celebrations outside of India.

For more information, go to www.thefestivalof-chariots.com.

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Oakwood Hospital-Wayne cardiac catheterization lab gets update

The cardiac catheterization laboratory at Oakwood Hospital-Wayne has expanded its services to better accommodate patients and emergent procedures.

The hospital spent about \$1.2 million in adding a second lab, which includes an upgrade of the equipment to improve efficiencies, reduce operating costs, enhance patient care and address any overflow of cardiac cases.

"This will be a significant improvement," said Dr. Chandrakant Pujara, an Oakwood-affiliated cardiologist with offices in Wayne and Canton. "This will provide us better service and better imagery than our old equipment, which was 15 years old."

The renovation brought all new state-of-the-art equipment into the lab, including new lighting, storage units and C arm with multi-directional table. The old monitors were replaced with a high-definition panel that includes four screens to give surgeons a better look at the heart and its surrounding area.

Pujara said the upgraded imaging equipment will help improve patient outcomes.

"When you're doing an intervention, it is essential to accurately gauge the size of the lesion," he said. "This new equipment will allow us to provide the very best in

patient care."

All the needed equipment will now be stored within the lab, which will help improve efficiencies and reduce costs. The upgrade will soon allow cardiologists to provide a new service to patients, too — Electrophysiology (EP) ablation, a process where electrophysiology equipment is used to scar small areas of the heart to treat abnormal heart rhythms.

"Oakwood has a long history of providing the highest level of care to the community," said Dr. Mohamad Kabbani, an interventional cardiologist with offices in Canton and the director of the Cath Lab at Oakwood Hospital-Wayne. "These new improvements will allow us to further enhance the care we provide."

Dr. Mansoor Naini performed the first procedure in the new lab last Tuesday. Dr. Naini also performed the first procedure in the lab 15 years ago.

Part of Beaumont Health, Oakwood Hospital-Wayne is a 215-bed community teaching hospital delivering quality care to its community. It is designated as a Level III trauma center and has been recognized by the Joint Commission as a Top Performer in the Key Quality Measures Program.

For more information, visit oakwood.org.



OAKWOOD HOSPITAL-WAYNE
Sandy Taylor (from left), administration, nurses Tessa Buhovecky, Hope Engle, Kristie Wilkes and Nicholas Mroz, Jay Bonnell, administration, Danny Polocoser, RCIS, nurse Paula Dillon, Cath Lab Coordinator, nurse Tiffany Sleprowski and charge nurse Cathy Slaughter celebrate the opening of the new Cath Lab at Oakwood Hospital-Wayne.



OAKWOOD HOSPITAL-WAYNE
Dr. Mohamad Kabbani, (from left), director of the Cath Lab, Dr. Ashok B Jain and Dr. Chandrakant Pujara said the new lab would help improve the care they provide to the community.



OAKWOOD HOSPITAL-WAYNE
Dr. Mansoor Naini (left) and Danny Polocoser, RCIS, led the Cath Lab team in the first procedure in the new lab. Dr. Naini also performed the first procedure in the lab 15 years ago.

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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.

FARMERS MARKET

Time/date: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday through Oct. 10.
Location: Wilson Barn, 29350 W. Chicago, Livonia.
Details: Locally grown produce, honey, home-baked items and American-made crafts. Free activities this year include a Kids' Corner with special craft projects from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 25 and Aug. 29 and pony rides from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 8. The market will be closed for the holiday Sept. 5.
Contact: wilsonbarn.com.

FARMERS MARKET

Time/date: 3-7 p.m. each Thursday, through Oct. 8 (no market Aug. 13).
Location: 1901 N. Carlson, south of Ford in Central City Park, Westland.
Details: A variety of food, craft vendors, special events and music is featured at the Westland Farmers and Artisans Market. EBT accepted.
Contact: 734-326-7222; westlandchamber@gmail.com.

GREENMEAD SUNDAY TOURS

Time/date: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, July 12, 19, 26; Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30.
Location: Greenmead Historical Park, Newburgh and Eight Mile roads, Livonia.

Details: All tours start at the Gift Shop, the building closest to the stop sign, about in the middle of the park. New this year the last Sunday in June, July, August and September have been designated as "Ice Cream" Sundays. The Livonia Historical Commission will be treating guests to an ice-cream novelty at the AJ Geer Store; just show your paid admission pass. Cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students. Tours will also be held in the fall on Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and Dec. 6 and 13.
Contact: 248-477-7375.

NORTHVILLE ANNUAL GARDEN WALK

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.
Location: Seven private gardens in and around Northville and Northville Township.
Details: Included in your ticket price are the options to experience a garden market, live music, a member plant sale and

a stroll through the 19th century village setting at the Historic Mill Race Village. Non-refundable tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Gardenviews Garden Gallery, 117 E. Main St., 248-380-8881, after June 8 and on the day of the walk at the gate at Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold St. in downtown Northville. This year ticket holders will also be able to enter a free drawing for gift certificates and garden items donated by local greenhouses, florists and garden centers.
Contact: mjmandell2012@gmail.com; 248-478-3391.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/date: 9 a.m. to noon July 13-17.

Location: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: "G-FORCE," VBS is open for potty-trained 3-year-olds through those entering sixth grade. Through song, crafts, snacks, science, recreation and interactive Bible story, kids will discover that they can use God's power in their lives to help them Move!, Act, Care!, Follow! and Share! Cost is \$10/child for the week, \$30 for families of four or more.
Contact: Church office at 734-422-6038.

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/date: 5-7 p.m. July 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 14 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 15.

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia.

Details: Early bird charge for July 13. Specials at end of sale. The sale is held in the lower level on the southeast side of the church.
Contact: 734-427-2290.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON RECYCLING

Time/date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16.

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability will hold a Community Conversation on Recycling in the library auditorium. Share your ideas for enhancing the refuse collection and recycling process in the City of Livonia. This event will be a participant-driven forum designed to gather feedback from city residents on this important community topic.
Contact: Jim Baringhaus/

Greenleaf Commission, 734-838-7957, jbaringhaus@gmail.com

CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Time/date: 7:30 a.m. Saturday, July 18.

Location: Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: The Society of Notre Dame de Bon Secours will hold its ninth annual Family Golf Outing with registration at 7:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Donation of \$75 per golfer includes 18 holes w/cart and meals. Foursomes and individual golfer registrations are welcome. Gift certificates, golf items and hole sponsorships. Funds raised will help local families in need.
Contact: Carrie Ryckman at 248-890-2872 or Paul Beaubien at 586-419-8955.

FUND-RAISER CAR WASH

Time/date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 18.

Location: Claude Alison Park, Redford.

Details: Money raised will benefit the Redford Township Sister City Organization. Any donation amount will be accepted.

VENDOR SHOW

Time/date: noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 18.

Location: AMVETS Post 171, 1217 S. Merriman, Westland.

Details: The Post Auxiliary is looking for vendors and crafters for the show. In addition to a variety of vendors, there will be food and beverages available for purchase and raffle items. Proceeds will benefit veterans and such causes as Paws for a Cause, bingo at the VA hospitals and Stand Down. Tables cost \$30.
Contact: amvetsauxpost171@gmail.com.

MOM 2 MOM SALE

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1.

Location: SS. Simon & Jude Parish, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

Details: Table space is available for the Mom 2 Mom sale. Cost is \$15 for an 8-foot table and \$5 for a card table. Food, drink and baked goods will be available. A 9-10 a.m. early bird admission is \$2, and \$1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Strollers welcome.
Contact: Carolyn G. at 734-728-1559 or cgregones@yahoo.com or Sandy K. at 734-721-4867 or sandrakopcak@gmail.com.

ST. RAFKA FESTIVAL

Wish You Were Here



Jill Hock of Milford (back row, from left), Lori Puckett of Canton, Sandy Samuels of Brownston, Michelle Devine of Livonia (front row, from left), Mary Karacason of Dundee, Leanne Wallace of Garden City, Lynn McMillin of Garden City and Sue Heidner of South Rockwood took the Garden City Observer on their annual trip to Mackinac Island. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

Time/date: 4-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, and 1-8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2.

Location: St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church, 32765 Lyndon St., Livonia.

Details: Middle Eastern food, kids' activities, live entertainment, Joseph Bishara Band, free parking. Raffle tickets, grand prize is \$2,500. Drawing held at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2.
Contact: saintrafkamichigan.com.

CRAFT SHOW

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: Tables available for \$25 each. Sponsored by St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women.
Contact: Mary Allsteadt at 425 4421 (vm#10).

ONGOING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Free domestic violence/sexual assault group meetings.
Contact: 734-524-0380.

SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD GAMES

Time/date: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Cost is \$5 per person. Angel House uses the money to give \$50 gift cards to a family in need weekly. Donations are also accepted via theangelhouse.org.
Contact: 734-524-0380.

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November.

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

Contact: Pat Ibbotso at 734-331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com.

LIVING ON GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 2-3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month.

Location: Oakwood Hospital-Wayne, 33155 Annapolis, Wayne.

Details: Hospice of Michigan grief groups provide a safe and supportive environment for participants to express their feelings and better understand the grief process. These services are offered at no charge to any

member of the community mourning the loss of a loved one. The group meets in Conference Room 2 on second level. Park at west entrance.
Contact: To register, call Margie Martin, Grief Support Services manager, at 734-769-5821.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Time/date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Location: Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

Details: T.O.P.S. is a nonprofit weight loss support group. Everyone is welcome.
Contact: Peggy Frankie at 734-730-1325 or frankiepeggy055@gmail.com.

LIVONIA CAMERA CLUB

Time/date: 8-9:30 p.m. the first two Thursdays September through May.

Location: McKinley School, 9100 Hillcrest, Livonia.

Details: A group of photographic enthusiasts dedicated to promotion of photography through displays, competitions, critiques and education.
Contact: Dennis Gelarden, president, at 734-591-2589; livoniacameraclub.com.

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INSIDE: COMMUNITY LIFE, B4 • OBITUARIES, B5 • HEALTH, B6

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YOUTH HOCKEY

AREA PLAYERS WIN GOLD

Observerland talent plays major role in Team Metro West winning tourney title

By Dan O'Meara
 Staff Writer

An all-star team composed largely of Observerland hockey players pooled its talent to win the gold medal June 25-28 at the annual Meijer State Games in Grand Rapids.

For three of the players – Farmington's Jason Petras, Hartland's Kyle Mazur and Salem's Evan Newel – it was their second championship in three years.

Team Metro West also included players from Livonia Franklin and Stevenson high schools, Novi, Farmington Hills Unified, Walled Lake Western and Northern and White Lake Lakeland.

The event was an Olympic-style tournament with eight teams in the 15-17 age group, each representing a different



Team Metro West hockey players and coaches celebrate their gold-medal victory in the Meijer State Games.

geographic region of the state. In the championship game June 28 at Southside Ice Arena, Petras and Stevenson's Nate Sudek scored goals as Team Metro West defeated

Metro South a second time, 2-1.

Hartland goalkeeper Christian Spangler made 28 saves for the winners. He backstopped the team to three

tournament wins; Farmington's Hunter Firestone had the other two.

Metro West's leading scorer in the five games was Franklin forward Chase Wallis, with

four goals and two assists for six points. Western's Joe Pace led the team with a plus-8 rating.

The all-Franklin line of Trevor Lassaline, Brendan Whitney and Wallis managed to go the entire tournament without allowing a goal to be scored against it.

Metro West began its 5-0 run through the round-robin tournament with a 5-3 win over Metro South in pool play. Wallis saw to it the local team had a good start with a three-goal hat trick.

Whitney also was instrumental in the victory with three assists. Hartland's Gabe Anderson and Newel scored the other goals. Spangler made 22 saves.

The all-Hartland trio of Blake Heier, Jacob Behnke and Anderson netted goals en route to a 5-2 defeat of Team North in the second game.

Unified's Joey Lajcaj and Whitney also contributed to

See HOCKEY, Page B3

DRAG RACING



JOHN FORE III

Posing beside her 1968 Chevelle, Karri Anne Beebe was named one of the 10 Hottest Women in Racing in 2013.

FROM NOVICE TO CHAMPION

Westland woman went from caring little about cars to being a first-rate drag racer

By Dan O'Meara
 Staff Writer

When Karri Anne Beebe's husband suggested she get behind the wheel and learn to drag race nine years ago, she was perfectly fine with that.

The 45-year-old Westland resident and grandmother has been driving her team's green 1968 Chevelle in competition for Beebe Motorsports ever since and loving the experience.

Beebe, who had been part of the crew and involved in

the sport, was more than willing to take up the challenge.

"I didn't look at it and say, 'I wish you'd put me in the car,'" Beebe said. "It was just, 'I'm going to put you in the car.' I've always been very competitive. It's not just racing cars. I'm competitive in every aspect."

"I like the atmosphere of the track. I like the camaraderie of the track, between the racers. For the most part, the men I compete with in my class are extremely nice men in this

area."

Beebe, who has a full-time job as an accountant, became quite good at racing and was named 2013 Female Driver of the Year at Milan Dragway. Though she was a quick study, it took a little time to get there.

With no particular interest or background in cars until she met her husband, Matt Beebe, she learned how to handle a powerful vehicle and drag race with his help.

"I've grown up with the Chevelle," she said. "With everything we've done to the

Chevelle to make it bigger, badder and faster, I have grown with it."

"When we started, it was a small-block, street-driven car. We took it out to Milan because it's close. For a couple weeks, all he had me do was burnouts, heat up the tires and roll out."

"He said, 'OK, the next step is to do burnouts and go to the light and, when it turns green, idle down the track.'

"Then he taught me how

See BEEBE, Page B3

JUNIOR GOLF

Young golfers demonstrate sharp skills

PGA's Drive, Chip & Putt event draws large turnout at Whispering Willows GC

By Dan O'Meara
 Staff Writer

Whispering Willows Golf Course professional Paul Worley marveled at the skill and ability of the young contestants in the Drive, Chip & Putt event June 27 at the Livonia facility.

"Some of them can't be any more than 50 or 60 pounds, but they hit it 150 yards or more off the tee," he said. "It's pretty amazing."

"It's kind of fun for us to be out there and running the event, just seeing the solid technique some of these kids have at such a young age, in their pre-teen years."

One of those young players

See GOLF, Page B3



TOM BEAUDOIN

Luke Aldrich of Plymouth checks the green for the break before making a putt.

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Mid American grand champions



The Stevenson High School varsity pom team received the Grand Champs Award – the highest award given – for their performance at the Mid American Pompon camp in June. The Spartans also received the Team Unity and Most Congenial Team awards. Team members include (front row, from left) Mid American staff member Amber Prong, Natalee Dagher, Caitlyn Regan, April Burling, Casey Figures, Jaime Roderick, Cady Ericson, Allison Paulus, Lauren Raden, Julia D'Orazio, Alaina Pierson and staff member Cassidy Koviak, (second row, from left) Alex Engle, Katie Orlich, Jocelyn Figures and Eva Koelzer, (third row, from left) Hope McMullen, Janine Shymanski, Keri Martin, Jenna Fisher, Jenna Roderick, Kelly Jarosz and Holly Cleaver and (fourth row, from left) Shelby Pelc, Caroline Kaniowski, Lexis Cholette, Maddie Dawson, coach Kelly Sikorski, coach Shaylyn Sikorski, coach Savannah Sikorski and coach Jessica Wilhoite.

State Cup soccer champs



JOHN SAVONA

Canton Celtic '99 Black, coached by Pete Alexander, became the first team in club history to win the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association under-16 State Cup with a 1-0 victory over the Grand Rapids Crew Juniors in the finals May 31 at the Saginaw Township Soccer Complex. Celtic went 7-0 during its tourney run, highlighted by a 4-1 semifinal victory over the Michigan Wolves '99 Black and a 2-1 win over the Michigan Wolves in the quarterfinals. Members of Celtic, which advances to the U.S. Youth Soccer Midwest Region II championships June 20-24, in Fox Cities, Wis., include: Cade Kozlowski and Justin Savona, Novi Detroit Catholic Central; Ryen O'Meara, Steven Page and Matthew Rockafellow, Canton; Matthew Weiner and Anthony Iacopelli, Plymouth; Austin Andres and Brian Schlientz, Plymouth Christian; Jason Figueroa, Dylan Stephens and Maxwell Tanau, Ann Arbor Pioneer; Sebastian Iniguez, Robert Rust, Christian Kotila and Sevrin Williams, Ann Arbor Huron; David Rubin, Ann Arbor Greenhills; and Riley Alexander, Pinckney. The team manager is Mike Rockafellow.

SUMMER BASEBALL

Rams celebrate with pair of wins

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

There were pre-holiday fireworks of a different kind Wednesday night at Bicentennial Park in Livonia, courtesy of the Michigan Rams baseball team.

The Rams went into the Fourth of July weekend on a celebratory note after sweeping a doubleheader and improving their record to 13-5-1 in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League.

They pounded eight hits and broke a 1-1 stalemate with a three-run fourth inning, defeating the Hurricanes in the opener, 5-2.

Jake Balicki struck out 10 batters and pitched a four-hitter as the Rams whipped the Storm in a short-ened, five-inning nightcap, 11-1.

Chase Flannery got the first-game victory, holding the Hurricanes to two hits and two runs over 4½ innings. Sean Martens pitched 2½ innings of one-hit, scoreless relief.

Danny Kerr and Western Price went 2-for-4 and Zack McGuire hit a solo homer for the Rams. Kerr knocked in two runs.

Price had a double, as did Ben Hart, who scored twice. James Hall and Anthony DiPonio had one hit, one RBI and one run scored apiece.

Dan Cameron had two RBIs and Jared Hagen scored both runs for the Hurricanes (9-10). Kyle Roberts allowed three runs on four hits and four walks over three innings.

In the nightcap, DiPonio went 2-for-3 and drove in four runs to lead the Rams. Kevin O'Malley knocked in two runs, Price and Zack Schmidtke one each.

Hart was 1-for-2 and scored three runs, Schmidtke two. Price and Nolan Page contributed a double to a seven-hit offense and scored one run each.

Timmy Lyons was 2-for-2 for the Storm (9-11). Marcus Doughton pitched 1½ innings and allowed two runs on one hit and five walks.

The Storm led 1-0 after one inning, but the Rams scored twice in the second and six times in the third.

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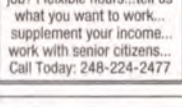
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BEEBE

Continued from Page B1

to use a trans brake. When you let go, your foot is all the way to the floor, so you take off. I had to learn to do that. It was an adding up of all the different pieces."

Iconic green car

When her husband planned to buy a car to race, he asked Karri Anne: If she could have any car in the world, what would it be?

Her answer was a '68 Chevelle, recalling the neat car a teenage girlfriend's brother drove, and the search for one began.

"We drove out to this guy's house," Beebe said. "He opened the garage door, and the angels sang. There sat this white '68 Chevelle with no motor, no trans, no interior. It was just a daily driver, never a race car."

Matt Beebe built it into one and outfitted it with all the necessary safety equipment. The car has become iconic at race tracks and its brand synonymous with the Beebe name.

Track champion

Beebe's best year was 2013, when she won the Nitrous Drag Radial championship at Milan. She also was named one of the The 10 Hottest Women in Racing that year by *Drag Illustrated*.

"We had struggled in the beginning of the year," she said, citing car problems. "It seemed every time we thought we were going to get ahead, we got kicked in the pants."

"It was more like the slow and steady. I think we only won one or two races, but we were consistent enough to accumulate enough points to win the championship."

"It came down to the last race, and we needed 30 points to win. When we could pause and celebrate, our team surrounded me with silly string and just buried me. It was really nice."

It takes a team

Beebe, who lived in Farmington Hills and attended North Farmington High School, emphasizes the team aspect of racing.

Her husband, who raced the car originally, is the crew chief and prefers that role. Other family members serve as part of the team, keeping the Chevelle in working order.

"Yeah, it's my name on the door," Beebe said. "I'm the one who goes down the track. I'm the one everybody knows, but I can't do it by myself."

"It's a 'we' - 'we' win; 'we' lose. 'We' did this; 'we' do that. It was a tough, tough battle. We worked the hardest for that championship."

Beebe has exceeded 180 mph, but her time record is 7.97 seconds at 179.9 mph on a quarter-mile track. Most races are now one-eighth of mile long. Beebe's best at that distance is 4.94 seconds at 145 mph.

"I still run a quarter of a mile. They just stop timing me at the eighth," Beebe said. "It does reduce the wear and tear on your car. It's cheaper because you're not using so much nitrous."

"But I don't think it's as exciting. I know a lot of fans don't like it. They say it's safer. I like the speed of a quar-



Karri Anne Beebe and her husband Matt, the crew chief for Beebe Motorsports, work together as a team.

JOHN FORE III



Karri Anne Beebe does a burnout as she gets ready to race.

MIKE GROSSO

ter-mile. But, if an eighth of a mile is what they're going to offer me, that's what I'm going to do."

Safe at any speed

Safety is a primary concern and something Beebe and her team take seriously. A 2010 crash destroyed the front end of the car, but she wasn't hurt due to the cage Matt installed on the interior.

"At the time, I was one of the first drivers to wear a Hans Device," Beebe said. "It goes over your shoulders and connects to your helmet. It holds your head to your body in case of an accident. If Dale Earnhardt had been wearing one, he'd be alive."

Beebe, who wears fireproof clothing like NASCAR and Indy car drivers, did suffer a broken ankle in 2009 when the transmission exploded at the start of a race and came through the floor of the vehicle.

"The only thing going through my

head was, 'Could I drive with a prosthetic foot?'" Beebe said, adding she has "never felt unsafe in the car, ever."

Not always accepted

While there is camaraderie among the racers, it hasn't always been easy for Beebe, being one of the few women in her class and sometimes the only woman racer at a track.

"It took the guys here a while to accept me," she said. "At one of the first races, my husband and I were standing next to the car. The driver I was supposed to race goes to shake my husband's hand and says, 'Good luck, be safe.'"

"My husband says, 'Thank you, but she drives.' I consider him a friend, but this wasn't something he was expecting or used to. Now we joke about it."

"When I go down south, I've had really dirty looks. I have gotten out of the car and gotten looks like, 'Who are

you? What are you doing here?' They're not surprised looks; they're nasty looks."

On another occasion, an opposing driver asked Matt Beebe if "she" takes a long time to get ready (to race).

Karri Anne's reply was: "First, I do an across-the-line burnout. Before I back up, I'm going to check my hair and makeup in the mirror. Then I bump-in the first bulb and check my nails. Is that enough time for you?"

Memorable win

Beebe is one of two women to win the Pinks All Out, a series of televised step-ladder races in Norwalk, Ohio. Through time trials, 32 cars are selected for the elimination rounds.

She received \$12,500 for the 2010 win, driving a car loaned to her team since the Chevelle was out of service.

"Because the car wasn't mine, I gave half that money to the guy who owned the car," Beebe said. "If it hadn't been for him, I wouldn't have been there in the first place."

"On the way home, the transmission went out on the truck used to haul the car, so the second half of it went to fix the trans. But it was fun; it was neat."

More than a racer

Beebe, who earned a degree in accounting from the University of Michigan, is more than just a racer. She also plays the flute in a three-woman trio, is an avid reader, makes quilts and likes history.

With all of those interests, she still finds time to drag race on weekends and be a success at it.

"I'm a doer," Beebe said. "I'm not a stand-around, doing-nothing person. I'm a horrible spectator. Now that I drive, other than going to watch the pros, I want to be in the action. I want to be down in there."

GOLF

Continued from Page B1

was Alana Jones of Farmington Hills. The soon-to-be 15-year-old was at the upper end of the age range and was arguably the most impressive golfer.

Jones, who attends North Farmington High School, had the highest score with 134 points and easily won the girls 14-15 age group.

"I was on my game," Jones said. "The strongest things about my game are chipping and putting, so that's why I did so well."

An all-Observer golfer last fall, she scored well in all three events, earning 43 points in the driving portion, 40 in chipping and 51 in putting.

"Since it was windy, I knew the wind was blowing into my back and the ball was going to travel far," Jones said as to why she did so well off the tee, too.

Jones, who plays in the Adams Junior Golf Tour this summer, will advance along with other qualifiers to a sub-regional Aug. 11 at Prestwick Village Golf Course in Highland Township.

"I think I'll do pretty well," she said. "It will depend on who I'm competing with. There might be some people older than me who have more power off the tee."

Numbers increase

Worley estimated 190 youths had registered for the event, sponsored by the Michigan PGA, and approximately 140 actually participated in the local qualifier. That was double the number from last year's inaugural event at Whispering Willows and a great turnout, considering the



Livonia resident Sean Goldsmith follows the ball off the tee at the Drive, Chip & Putt competition.



Alana Jones Christian Allen

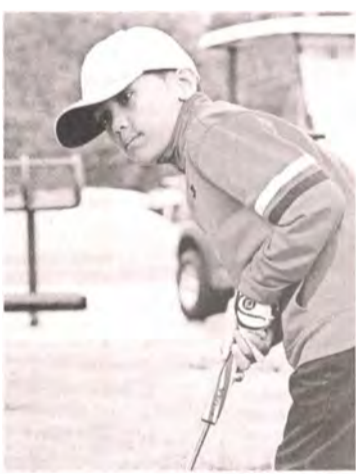
weather was awful, Worley said.

"If it was just windy and warm or just rainy with no wind, one of the elements would have been a lot easier to handle than both at the same time," he said. "But the kids didn't seem to mind. I think it was the parents who were more. 'Let's hurry up and get out of here.'"

Scoring points

Contestants made three drives, three chips and three putts, earning points for each one. The age groups for girls and boys were 7-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15.

Driving points were based on distance as long as the participants kept the ball with-



Troy Watson of Westland lines up a putt for the right tap on the ball.

in a 40-yard-wide fairway. They received no points if it was outside that boundary.

Each contestant had to make a putt from six, 15 and 30 feet. There were five rings around the hole and they earned so many points for being inside each ring. If they holed the putt, it was worth 25 points.

In the chipping portion, each youth had three shots from the same spot. The rings were bigger - two feet apart instead of one.

"If someone chipped into the hole, he or she got 25 points," Worley said. "Two feet from the pin was worth 20, four feet 15, six feet 10, eight feet five, 10 feet two. Anything outside of that was worth one point."

"There were a lot of talented kids out here. Then we had the novices as well. You don't have to be good to participate. It's a fun event. We were hoping to get some kids who weren't involved with golf before."

"The success of it was actually fantastic, given the weath-

GOLF RESULTS

Continued from Page B1

PGA DRIVE, PUTT & CHIP YOUTH GOLF QUALIFIER

June 27 at Whispering Willows

Girls 7-9: 1. Mia Melendez, Ann Arbor, 17-31-35, 83; 2. Caroline Kopymeyer, Bloomfield, 8-3-27, 38; 3. Campbell Conley, South Lyon, 5-7-26, 38; A-Katie Antosiewicz, Grosse Ile, 6-7-7, 20; A-Emily McQuade, Hartland, 5-3-7, 15.

Girls 10-11: 1. Jillian Fryia, Ontario, 23-31-21, 75; 2. Addalynn Delcamp, Rochester, 20-7-36, 63; 3. Elin Gebrowsky, Clarkston, 23-3-31, 57; A-Lily Bargamian, Grosse Ile, 15-17-16, 48; A-Alaina Harris, Temperance, 19-16-12, 47.

Girls 12-13: 1. Nicole Whitley, Northville, 37-35-31, 103; 2. Amaya Melendez, Ann Arbor, 17-26-36, 79; 3. Maggie Pietila, Brighton, 39-21-13, 73; A-Juanita Delacruz, Saginaw, 21-31-4, 56; A-Morgan Chaudhary, Birmingham, 10-4-41, 55.

Girls 14-15: 1. Alana Jones, Farmington Hills, 43-40-51, 134; 2. Annie Pietila, Brighton, 51-40-15, 106; 3. Abigail Livingston, Northville, 41-35-26, 102; 4. Sikha Jha, Troy, 37-30-31, 98; A-Sofia Elise Cueva, Livonia, 12-41-31, 84.

Boys 7-9: 1. Ben Scully, Carleton, 17-36-22, 75; 2. Daniel Rouleau, Bloomfield, 8-3-51, 62; 3. Lucas Ahrens, Wilcox, 9-4-35, 48; A-Alexander Pace, Livonia, 13-8-27, 48; Brayden Crowe, Brighton, 12-3-31, 46.

Boys 10-11: 1. Kaiden Rose, Waterford, 24-32-45, 101; 2. Christian Allen, Canton, 28-40-21, 89; 3. Drew Miller, East Lansing, 26-31-31, 88; A-Matthew Zwack, Monroe, 30-21-26, 77; A-Sajan Brouwer, Ontario, 12-13-51, 76.

Boys 12-13: 1. Neil Zhu, Novi, 24-55-45, 124; Kayden White, Ontario, 33-45-32, 110; 3. Max O'Rourke, West Bloomfield, 50-31-21, 102; A-Perry Johnson, Bloomfield, 20-40-35, 95; A-Tim Braun, Northville, 31-26-31, 88.

Boys 14-15: Jake Colley, Ontario, 36-40-36, 112; 2. Yugi Zhou, Rochester, 13-40-50, 103; 3. Satchel Brouwer, Ontario, 29-31-36, 96; A-Jamil Morgan, Detroit, 34-26-31, 91; A-Colin Christie, Royal Oak, 29-12-45, 86.

er and number of participants who braved the conditions. We had some 30 to 40 mph gusts and off-and-on rain. It felt more like the British Open."

Taylor Haudek of the PGA conducted the Whispering Willows event and another one Monday at Pheasant Run Golf Course in Canton.

The top three in each age group from each qualifying site advance to the sub-regional. The top two from there go to the regional at Medina, Ill. The finals will take place next April at the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Ga.

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

the scoring. Firestone was between the pipes and stopped 21 shots.

In the first of two games June 27, Metro West secured first place in pool play by downing Metro North, 4-2.

Petras, Wallis, Heier and Lakeland's Matt Kovach figured in the scoring. Spangler guarded the goal and recorded 24 saves.

In the medal round later that day, Metro West eliminated last year's champion, Team West, with a 3-2 victory.

Northern's Brody Dorner, Sudek and Petras put the puck in the net for the winners, while Firestone made 25 saves to pick up his second win.

Good defense was as much a factor in the Metro West success. In addition to Mazur and Pace, the goalies had help from Stevenson defenseman Zach Finzel and Kevin Stefanick, Novi's Ryan Fonda and Hartland's Zach Sexton.

"It's great when rival teams and players come together as one to compete and win a tournament," Metro West assistant and Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said. "They end up forging a bond for life. We didn't win last year, but the kids, when they see each other at the rink, it's still special. This will make it even more special, winning the gold."

The 20 players who comprised Team Metro West were among the 40 who attended a three-day tryout at Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton.

Hartland's Rick Gadwa was the team's head coach. Other assistants included Northville head coach Gordie Brown and Hartland assistants John and Ian McCullough.

LIVONIA CHURCH AIDS THE NEEDY



Kit contents include regular and sample-sized products.

Hygiene kits boon to homeless people

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Jim Morski and a crew of volunteers worked like an assembly line, packing personal care items into bags last Tuesday at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia.

The monthly work session is part of a church charity project that helps the homeless and working poor by giving them free hygiene kits. Holy Transfiguration sends 100 assembled kits to St. Dominic Outreach Center in Detroit every month and has distributed more than 4,000 of them since November 2011.

"It takes 20 minutes to set up and 20 minutes to assemble and I generally take it all to St. Dominic on Wednesday morning," said Morski, a Livonia resident who organizes each work session.

A typical kit includes toilet paper, shampoo, lotion, deodorant, a washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor and lip balm and costs the congregation approximately \$5. During the winter, the addition of a hat and gloves raises the cost to \$8.25 per kit.

Church members donate money, enabling Morski to buy items in bulk. Another parishioner, Elaine Rogozan of Westland, shops local sales for washcloths and Deacon Jacob Frimenko of Northville brings the toilet paper.

"We've found one of the most important items is the toilet paper," Morski said. "There are a lot of places to go to but not a lot of places provide toilet paper. If you're a homeless guy, you're living on the streets and a lot of gas stations are available, but there's not a lot of toilet paper."

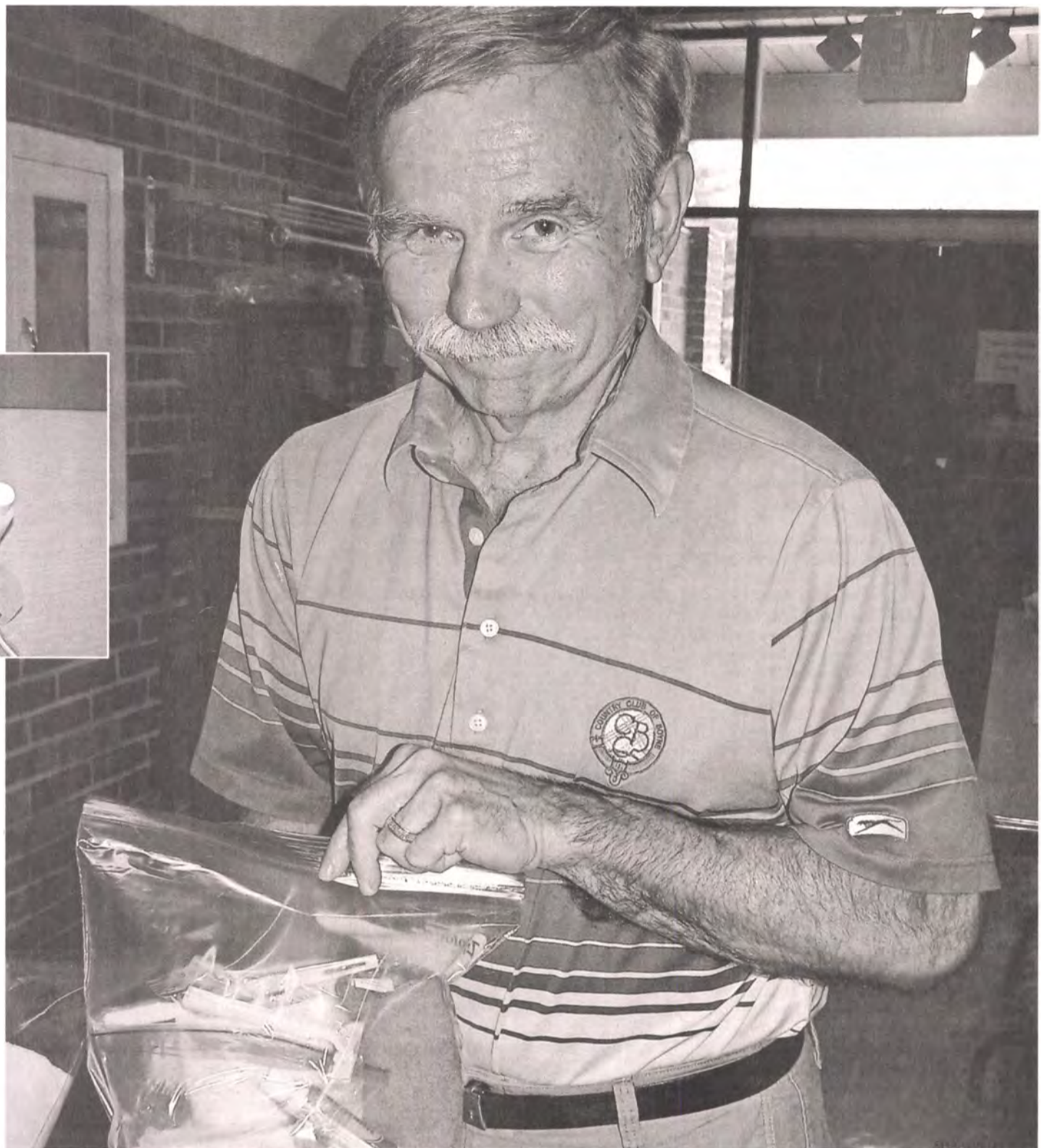
"Every time I go down to St. Dominic I ask if there is anything else we can do. Right now, we're also having an underwear drive. In August, we take 100 backpacks to them."

Morski said the project is easy to sustain and he hopes other churches, groups or individuals will start similar charity drives for the center.

"I'd encourage others. There is a need."

Food, cribs

Sherron Jenkins, St. Dominic Outreach Center executive director, said



Serge Barna, a member of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, shows a hygiene kit that will be given to a low-income or homeless person.



Sherron Jenkins is director of St. Dominic Outreach Center in Detroit.

the hygiene kits go to seniors and individuals who can't afford to buy personal products.

"We used to buy them ourselves and it had an effect on our budget. Sometimes we couldn't get everything we needed but because of Transfiguration picking it up, it allowed us to take the money we'd normally use for hygiene kits and put it toward food," Jenkins said.

St. Dominic Center is located west of the Lodge expressway near Trumbull and Warren Avenue. In addition to distributing hygiene kits, it runs a food pantry, clothing closet, offers household items at no cost and gives free cribs to families with newborns.

"The cribs are three-in-one cribs. That was important to me, to make sure they last the children three to four years," Jenkins said. "The crib turns



Jim Morski, left, and Serge Barna, both of Livonia, assemble hygiene kits.

into a toddler bed and then into a twin bed. The only thing the family has to do is to increase the mattress size."

A blessing

Jenkins said Holy Transfiguration is the only church making hygiene kits for the center, although St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia donates shampoo, soap, and other items for families. She's impressed that Holy Transfiguration, an Orthodox church, is eager to help St. Dominic Outreach Center, which is one of the Franciscan Ministries of Detroit.

"Holy Transfiguration has been a blessing to us. They are a lifesaver on the hygiene kits," she said, adding that an additional 50 kits per month would

help meet increasing demand.

Morski hopes Holy Transfiguration's project will inspire others. He welcomes questions and visitors to the assembly sessions which are held the third or fourth Tuesday of the month. See the church website at orthodox-livonia.org for updates.

"We may not have homeless people in our back yard, but I think we're all still obliged," Frimenko said. "Sherron is the one who (works) with the poor, but we're helping. I can't see calling myself a Christian if I'm not doing something like this."

For more on St. Dominic Outreach Center, visit stdominicoutreach.org or call 313-831-6070.

Baby sleeping in bed with mom raises concerns

I haven't been a mom that long. I am certainly no expert about parenting. But I have learned that it's OK to do things differently than what other parents have done.

Take, for instance, my daughter and her sleeping habits.

When she first came home from the hospital, she slept in her "monkey bed" which is a Rock 'N Play. The monkey bed was next to my bed, and it was very convenient when she would wake up frequently throughout the night. About two months in, I decided to start putting her into her crib. Welcome world of screams, tears, and more-sleepless-than-before nights. Being a single mom, there was no shot I was getting a night off for any much-needed sleep, so I resorted to trying out a co-sleeper.

The co-sleeper I used for my daughter was one that sat on my bed. Immediately, my daughter started sleeping more, and eventually, for what I consider to be "through the night." I was amazed and excited that finally I could actually get more than two hours of sleep in a row together. It wasn't two months later, however, that she quickly

outgrew her co-sleeper, and my daughter found a way to squirm out of it and snuggle up right nice and close to me. I am certainly not complaining about the heart-warming moment of my daughter first scooting across the bed to snuggle in closer to me. It was one of the best feelings I have ever had, and watching her sleep the rest of the night, all curled up into me, was pretty incredible.

But I knew it was time to make a change. We tried the crib again, but I'm telling you, this girl of mine has no desire to sleep in a crib. I've tried "crying-it-out" and having her fall asleep in my arms first. I have bought and read every book under the sun about sleep solutions, and tried diligently to follow every step listed in every book I read. But there was nothing that would get my precious angel to sleep in her crib.

Dog tired

We bought a dog bed and tried that for a while, using in place of the co-sleeper, since it was larger and could accommodate a bigger baby. But the doctor warned me this could be too soft and wasn't the safest solution, so out went the dog bed, and in went the two of us just sleeping next to each other in the bed. The doctor knows about this, too. His opinion was if she is sleeping in my that's totally up to me, and only

unsafe if she can roll off the bed or if I can roll onto her. But I have built her a "birds nest" out of pregnancy pillows, so she can't get out and I couldn't roll onto her either.

There are many people who think it's a terrible idea to let my 8-month-old daughter sleep in bed with me. But there are others who have been in my boat and have done the same thing. To me, the biggest struggle is accepting the fact that this is what works for us. Almost of all my mom friends have their babies trained to fall asleep on their own in their crib, by 7-8 p.m. It's nothing like that at all for me and my daughter.

Crying in crib

I can put my daughter into her crib at night, and regardless of whether she is barely awake or completely asleep already, she will instantly wake up and start screaming at the top of her lungs. This is not the baby-cry when a baby is hungry or needs a change of scenery. This is blood-curling, someone-save-me screams, with real tears pouring down her cheeks. As a mom, this is the worst feeling ever, to hear your child cry like that.

For example, here's what happened tonight. My daughter just finished her nighttime bottle and it was time to go to bed. This time, I decided to skip trying

the crib since I just didn't feel like dealing with the screaming and crying and really wanted to just let my daughter fall asleep comfortably. I lay her in my bed, kissed her on the forehead, and stepped out of the room. Literally, in two minutes, she was fast asleep. Why would any mother choose not to let her child sleep peacefully?

The choices I make as a mom may not be the choices that other moms would make. Some parents may judge me or ridicule me for not doing things the same way they have decided to. But those things cannot be things that affect me or bother me. Instead, they are reminders that we are not all the same. We have many things in common, us parents, but none of us will do things the exact same way as another. And that's OK. If we were all the same, the world would be pretty boring. What is important is that parents remember that everyone's situation is different, and we should find respect for everyone regardless of the choices they make.

Parenting is not easy. There are books galore to read about, but none of them will ever tell you how it really is. Do what works for you.

Sarah Davies lives in Livonia and writes about the ups and downs of motherhood. Contact her at sarahmari Davies@gmail.com.



Sarah Davies

THEN THERE WERE TWO

MILESTONES

ENGAGEMENT



Laurie Boore and Matthew Clor

BOORE-CLOR

Kenneth and Lorraine Boore of Livonia are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Laurie Boore, M.D., to Matthew Clor, son of Gordon and Karen Clor of Port Huron.

Laurie, a graduate of Ladywood High School, is employed as a geriatric psychiatrist at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor.

Matthew is employed in the Facilities and Design Department at Dart Container Corp. in Mason.

A September 2015 wedding is planned in Plymouth.

SUBMITTED

ENGAGEMENT



John W. Heathfield and Ashley C. Hatfield

HATFIELD-HEATHFIELD

Ashley C. Hatfield and John W. Heathfield announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mark and Melissa Hatfield of Livonia, graduated in 2007 from Livonia Churchill High School and in 2012 from Grand Valley State University. She is employed by Karsten Advisors, CPA.

Her fiancé, son of Mike and Lisa Heathfield of Grand Haven, graduated in 2005 from Forest Hills Central High School and in 2011 from Grand Valley State University. He is employed by CP+B Advertising.

A September 2016 wedding is planned in northern Michigan.

SUBMITTED

ENGAGEMENT



Jennifer Cordrey and Jon-Paul Martin

MARTIN-CORDREY

David and Rosemary Martin of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their son, Jon-Paul, to Jennifer Cordrey. The bride-to-be is the daughter of James and Margaret Cordrey of Palatine, Ill.

Jon-Paul is a graduate of North Farmington High School and the University of Michigan where he also received a master of accounting degree from the Ross School of Business.

Jennifer is a graduate of William Fremd High School and the University of Iowa where she received a degree in communications studies.

A July 2015 wedding is planned in Inverness, Ill.

SUBMITTED

Keep grill fires at bay with common-sense tips

Think fire safety when you light up the grill during the July 4 holiday weekend.

"Keep it safe at the cookout," said State Fire Marshal Richard Miller. "Before firing up the grill, use common sense and follow a few simple safety precautions to avoid serious burns and fires."

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, about 5,700 grill fires occur on residential property each year, causing an annual average of \$37 million in damage, with thousands of people visiting emergency rooms for grill-related injuries.

Miller said the majority of grill fires are caused by a leak or break in a gas grill hose or other equipment.

"So, maintenance is particularly important with gas grills to protect yourself and your family."

Before you light up the grill, remember these tips:

- » Always grill outdoors. Never grill indoors or in the garage. Grills are not only a fire hazard, they release carbon monoxide, a deadly, odorless, colorless gas.

- » Grill on a level surface at least 10 feet away from your house, garage, deck, overhanging eaves, branches, hanging baskets and backyard furni-



ARCHIVES

Don't let the grill get out of hand this holiday weekend. Think safety first.

ture. Never use a grill on a balcony.

- » Keep children and pets well away from the grill.

- » Keep a fire extinguisher close by and know how to use it; keep a spray bottle or bucket of water handy for minor flare ups.

- » Never leave the grill unattended.

- » Don't overload the grill with food. Excessive fat and grease dripping on flames can ignite large flare ups.

- » Clean your grill often, removing grease and fat buildup from the grates and in the trays below.

- » Never try and fight a fire yourself. Call 9-1-1 and let the firefighters do their job.

Gas grill safety

- » Check gas tank hoses for leaks before the first use each year. Applying a light soap and water solution will reveal any leaking propane. Never use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, turn off the gas immediately and don't use the grill until it's serviced by a professional.

- » Before filling an LP cylinder, check it for dents or gouges. Don't overfill the cylinder.

- » Never turn on the gas when the lid is closed. The propane may build up inside and when ignited, the lid could blow off or a fireball can explode in your face.

- » If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the

grill and call 9-1-1. Do not move the grill.

- » Never store propane gas cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

- » When finished with the grill, turn off the barbecue burners and the propane cylinder.

Charcoal grill safety

- » Use only charcoal starter fluid — never gasoline or kerosene — to light the grill.

- » If using an electric charcoal starter (which does not use fire) use an extension cord for outdoor use.

- » Always use charcoal grills in a self-ventilated area. Charcoal briquettes give off deadly carbon monoxide gas.

» Let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container or soak partially cooled ashes completely in water before disposal.

Visit the Bureau of Fire Services website at www.michigan.gov/bfs or contact the Bureau of Fire Safety at 517-241-8847.

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FELIKS, MABLE

June 30, 2015, age 81 of Garden City. Loving wife of Norman. Beloved mom of George (Julie) Yelick, Christopher (Karen) Yelick, Theresa Lenhoff, Helen (Jeffrey) Dundas, Mark (Teresa) Jacobs, and Kenny (Catherine) Jacobs. Proud Grandma of T. Andrew, Chris, Greg, Matthew, Nicole, Molly, Sarah, Joey, Anna, Katie, Brian, Chelsea, Mallory, Chloe, Noah, Maria, and Steven. Great Grandma of Frances, Eli, Saia, Matthew, Melanie, and Evander. Dear sister of Oscar (Pauline) Kanan, Linda Peoples, George (Marilyn) Kanan, Ann Fowlkas, Pete (Mary) Kanan, Mary (Gary) Frame, Joe (Heidi) Kanan, and the late Ray Kanan, Theresa Jacobs, and Yvonne Pryzowski. Visitation Saturday 6-9 p.m. and Sunday 1-9 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (btwn. Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Rosary Sunday 7 p.m. In state at church Monday 10 a.m. until the Monday 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial (at Beck), Plymouth. Entombment Cadillac Memorial Gardens West. Memorials may be made to the Servants of Jesus of the Divine Mercy Center, 33826 Beaconsfield, Clinton Twp., MI 48035. To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



SHIPPS, MAKAILA JESSIE

Age 31, passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2015. She was born in Birmingham, Michigan and had been a resident of Hampton for a year. For eleven years, Jessie served her country in the U.S. Air Force from September 2003 until September 2014 and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. Her last assignment was at the Defense Information School at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland as a photography instructor. Jessie also served as a forensic photographer at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickham, in Hawaii. During Operation Enduring Freedom, she served with the 455th Operational Support Squadron, at Bagram AB, in Kabul, Afghanistan as a weapons system video technician. As a photojournalist, she had also served with the 344th Wing Public Affairs, at Davis-Monthan AFB, in Tucson, Arizona. She was awarded numerous awards and decorations, including 2 Joint Service Commendation Medals, 3 Air Force Achievement Medals, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 2 AF Outstanding Unit Awards, a National Defense Service Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and an Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border. Jessie is survived by her spouse of 5 years, Leanna Shipp; daughter, Grace Taylor; parents, Richard and Patricia Shipp; and brothers, Alex and Zach Shipp. A memorial service celebrating Jessie's life was held on Monday, June 29 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, in Hampton. Friends are encouraged to visit www.parklawn-woodfh.com to share memories and words of condolence with the family. Arrangements are under the care of Parklawn-Wood Funeral Home, 2551 N. Armistead Ave., Hampton, VA 23666.

VERMEULEN-SAJEWSKI FUNERAL HOMES CREMATION SERVICES



NORTON, ELSIE R.

Age 86. Wife of the late F. Ronald Norton. 40+ year companion of Ben du Crocq. Beloved mother of Greg (Elissa) Norton. Loving grandmother of Kasey and Emma Norton. Dear sister of Pia (the late Josef) Krawciw. Aunt of Joey (Peggy) Krawciw, Renee (Kurt) Stracka, Debby (Chuck) Wiltzer, and Nickol (Bill) Allard. Elsie loved antiquing, being with her family, and was always up for a good party. Her family will miss her very much and have many fond memories of her. Final resting place Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Condolences to Charlesstepfuneralhome.com. Charles Step Funeral Home and Cremation Services

GARDEN & NATURE

Butterfly photography

Brendon Weil, vice president of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will lead a workshop on butterfly photography, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, at Brenda's Butterfly Habitat inside Barson's Greenhouse, 6414 Merriman, Westland. Bring your camera. 734-223-5510; www.sem-butterfly.org.

Friends of the Rouge

» Take a dragonfly walk with Julie Craves, Rouge River Bird Observatory manager, noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn. Register at dearhouse.org.

» The organization's annual butterfly walk is 3 p.m. Sunday, July 19, in the restored prairie in Rouge Park, Detroit. The group will meet in the park along the west side of Outer Drive just south of Joy Road. Long pants and covered shoes are



SUBMITTED

Kids can decorate a pot and create a container garden, July 7 at English Gardens.

recommended. To register, call 313-799-FORP, email rouge-park@gmail.com or visit rougepark.org.

Country walk

Country Garden Club of Northville's 22nd annual walk is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 8 and includes six local gardens, live music, homemade cookies and garden and craft vendors at Mill Race Village. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Gardenviews, 117 E. Main,

Northville; 248-348-3263.

Hydrangeas 101

Learn the basics of growing hydrangeas at a free session, 1 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at Plymouth Nursery, 9900 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. The event repeats Saturday, July 18. Call 734-452-5500 to register.

Master Gardener

Michigan State University Extension is accepting registration for the fall session of the Master Gardener program. Classes will meet 6-10 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31-Dec. 7, in Room 201 at Wayne County Community College, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville. Cost is \$300, which includes a training manual. Registration deadline is July 31 for payment by check and Aug. 14 for credit card payment. Visit msue.anr.msu.edu/events/master_gardener_program or call Shawn Turner at 734-729-3632.

English Gardens

» Kids will create a decorative pot and con-

tainer garden in a Painted Pot Pals workshop, 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 7. Fee is \$10.

» Learn about hydrangeas in a free workshop, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 18.

Create a Garden Game: Tic Tac Toe, is at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 21. Kids will create a game to play in the garden. Cost is \$15.

» Perennial Gardening 101 is a free presentation on perennial plant selection and care, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 25.

» Landscape designer Jamie Durie will sign his books, *Edible Garden Designs* and *The Outdoor Room*, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 25 at the Royal Oak store. The event is free.

Events are held at all stores, unless indicated. Nearby stores are located at 155 N. Maple at Jackson in the Maple Village Shopping Center, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.



Wishes of peace to you and yours in this time of sorrow.

Animated music video reminds: Get urine check

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The National Kidney Foundation is using an animated music video called Everybody Pees to raise awareness of kidney health and the importance of urine screening.

"This is the first campaign rolled out by the NKF that has stressed the importance of urine testing and the link between pee and kidney health," said Mary Hiller, communications coordinator for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

The video takes a humorous approach to motivate viewers to get tested. "Prevention is also at the core of our mission," Hiller said. "A urine test can estimate the



Animated characters encourage a urine check in "Everybody Pees."

amount of albumin in urine, which is a type of protein. High amounts of albumin is a common marker of kidney

damage. People who are at increased risk for kidney disease should be tested annually."

She said the foundation's Michigan office regularly promotes information about diabetes management and

prevention because diabetes is the No. 1 cause of kidney disease. Risk factors include high blood pressure, and a family history of diabetes.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, more than 900,000 adults in Michigan have kidney disease and many likely don't know they do because kidney disease often has no symptoms.

The Everybody Pees website has a list of urine colors and what they mean (good hydration is the key to pale yellow), tips for checkups, information about kidney function and the video that reminds viewers that "Everybody Pees so let's make sure to keep our kidneys healthy."

Visit kidney.org/everybodypees.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Bereavement Camp

Henry Ford SandCastles is accepting registration for its annual Camp Erin - Detroit grief support weekend for children and teens who have experienced the death of someone close to them. The free camp for youth in grades one-12 will be held Aug. 14-16 at Camp Tamarack in Ortonville. The camp will include fun activities combined with grief education and emotional support. A weekend highlight is an evening memorial service on the beach. Grief professionals and trained volunteers from the SandCastles Grief Support Program, part of Hospices of Henry Ford, lead the program. To register for camp or get information on volunteering, call 313-874-6881.

Breather's Club

The Breather's Club is free and for individuals with COPD, their friends and family members. Group members share ideas and learn coping skills from health professionals. The club meets from 6-7:30 p.m. July 7, at the Oakwood Cardiac

Rehab Center - Dearborn, 22060 Beech. For more information, call Darlene Lingenfelter at 313-562-4132.

Exercise for arthritis

St. Mary Mercy Livonia, in collaboration with the Arthritis Foundation, will offer exercise classes beginning in July for adults with arthritis and other related diseases. A general exercise program will run 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 14 through Sept. 3. Tai Chi classes are set for 11 a.m. to noon and advanced exercises, for those who have taken the general exercise program, will run 1-2 p.m. Classes will be held at the Wellness Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan, in Livonia. The general exercise and Tai Chi classes are free but registration is required. The advanced exercise program costs \$5 per session. Register by calling 734-655-1310.

Pink Out tickets

Tickets are available for the fourth annual Pink Out at the Park, the Detroit Tigers vs.

Kansas City Royals game, 7:08 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at Comerica Park in Detroit. The event raises awareness of breast health and helps raise funds for breast cancer research at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Ticket packages range from \$28-\$51 and include a free Pink Out at the Park T-shirt. Buy tickets at tigers.com/pinkout. The event will include a pre-game ceremony honoring breast cancer survivors. Survivors who plan to attend the game can visit karmanos.org/pinkoutsurvivors to find out more about being included in the ceremony.

Stop smoking

St. Mary Mercy Livonia offers a free, four-session smoking cessation program, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5-26, at Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center at the hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia. Participants will learn techniques for quitting and get help with challenges such as irritability, anxiety, increased appetite and cravings for cigarettes. Registration and attendance at all sessions is re-

quired. Call Michelle Eggenberger at 734-655-2973 or visit stmarymercy.org.

Walk with a Doc

Jennifer Beal, a geriatric medicine specialist, will talk about maintaining a healthy lifestyle as you age, noon, July 16, at Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. The session also includes a walk. Register by calling Botsford Hospital at 877-477-3621, option 1.

Ongoing

Ab-Anon

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An Ab-Anon meeting group is available for loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. Mindy at 248-672-9776.

Aquatic classes

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

Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.



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