

New meters to end estimated bills

LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

With the installation of new meters and remote reading devices, Westland municipal water customers will see an end to estimated water bills.

"As the remote readers failed, we'd estimate the bills. As we replace the meters, there will be no more estimates," Westland Finance Director Steve Smith said. "The new meters are more accurate. It may show that the usage is going up but they are just getting a more accurate reading billed."

As the city moves ahead with replacing the 27,000 water meters, water customers will receive a final bill for their old meters along with the first bill using the new meter and remote reader.

"If the final bill is larger than their normal bill, we offer a rollback credit or an interestfree payment plan," Smith said. "We will use the rate back when the bill was estimated. They didn't use the water in the last two months, so we will do a rollback credit."

Customers who overpaid

will have a credit or, upon request, a refund issued, Smith said, adding that he expects most calls to the city will come from people who receive higher bills.

The meters are being replaced in a two-year program that first addressed the 5,000 commercial meters — including businesses, condominium and apartments. About 4,500 commercial meters have been replaced.

"The other 500 meters are exceptions — there was a plumbing problem (at the building), there wasn't a shutoff valve or it was inaccessible to the installer," Wayne-Westland Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-

See METERS, Page A2



Karen and Carl Stribrny of Westland find the 49-inch TV they were looking for at Kohl's at the Westland Shopping Center Thursday night.

Black Friday shoppers flock to Westland Center for deals

Officers train for mental health aid

LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Westland Police officers Joseph Reardon and Michael Stechly recently participated in week-long training on Mental Health First Aid. They joined about 24 other

They joined about 24 other police officers and first responders who

work in Wayne County in undergoing the training. "We're hop-



officers will come back as instructors with the police department," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "They will be able to diagnose if there is

mental illness quickly and



Stechly

hope to defuse a situation so we can get the person help. I'd like the fire department to do it, too." This training is being provided through a partnership between Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and the Flinn Foundation. The authority has trained 10,000 people locally in mental health first aid since 2013. This particular training focused on first responders as they have regular contact with people struggling with mental illness. Upon completing this training, the officers will be certified, allowing them to bring the information back to their departments and share it with their colleagues in eight-hour sessions. Reardon and Stechly are younger members of the de-partment. "The chief picked two guys who are up-and-comers — they're sharp guys and will make good instructors,' Wild said. "The Westland Police Department's commitment to train and to certify our own police officers as Mental Health First Aid instructors will not only be a valuable

Julie Brown Staff Writer

Diana Olds of Canton was out early shopping on Black Friday at Kohl's at Westland Shopping Center.

"Mostly my friend. I haven't been out in a few years," Olds said of hitting the stores. "She's here somewhere."

The women started about 5 a.m. at nearby Toys R Us. "I have a lot of nieces and nephews," explained Olds, a second-grade teacher at Hoben Elementary in the Plymouth-Canton district. She also bought some teacher gifts.

"I avoid the Thursday," she said of Thanksgiving Day shopping. "Friday's been going on a long time. I want people to be with their



TOM BEAUDOIN

Livonia residents Kirsti Maliszewski and dad Alan shop for gifts for family members and themselves at Westland Shopping Center Thanksgiving night.

families," added Olds, a theme echoed by other Friday shoppers at Westland Shopping Center. "Just good deals," Olds said of shopping for nieces and nephews. "The temperature's great. I just have a T-shirt and vest on. I don't care about the rain.

"We're going to check out the mall. It's just kind of a fun day, a girl thing. It's just kind of a social event," added Olds. "I'm a mom and a teacher so I don't get out much."

Nearby at Kohl's was Amy Morse of Westland, shopping with mom Karen Gutowski of Canton. The women started "like 5," said Morse. "We don't go overnight. I was cooking" Thursday.

Morse and her mom have gone shopping on Black Friday "my whole life basically," starting earlier with her grandma. The women were seeking 3DS games for Morse's two sons,

See SHOPPING, Page A4

See TRAINING, Page A2

HYPE helps Wayne-Westland families

Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Michele Harmala estimates that about 70 percent of families in the 12,000-student district are in some sort of need.

For the fourth year in a row, HYPE Athletics helped fill some of that need during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Partnering with the Lebanese American Heritage Club, HYPE provided Thanksgiving meals to 150 of the district's families. Amanda Dybus, Family Resource Center director, and Kelly Bohl, assistant superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools attended the distribution in Wayne.

Harmala said she was thankful to HYPE chief executive officer Ali Sayed and his partners "for helping those in our community."

Sayed said HYPE has distributed approximately 800 Thanksgiving meals to those in need between their Dearborn and Wayne location. He thanked the Lebanese American Heritage Club for partnering with HYPE to serve the community.

"It is called partner or perish," Sayed said. "When you come together, you succeed."

Wassim Mahfouz of the Heritage Club said: "We joined forces to serve the greater good of the community. Thank you for allowing us the honor and privilege of serving you."



SUBMITTED

Helping pass out the Thanksgiving meals were volunteers (from left): Corky Hayes; John Rhaesa; Amanda Dybus, Family Resource Center; Brian Haddad; Kelly Bohl, assistant superintendent, WWCS; Ali Sayed, chief executive office of HYPE; Irene Ivanac of HYPE; and Pat Hartford.





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INDEX		
Community Life B6	HomesC4	Services C4
Crossword Puzzle C2	Jobs C1	SportsB1
HealthB8	Obituaries B5	Wheels C3

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TRAINING

Continued from Page A1

teaching resource for our entire Police Department but also for our neighboring law enforcement partners and the Westland Community," Westland Po-lice Chief Jeff Jedrusik said.

Wild spoke at the press conference about emergency first-responder mental health training, sharing the podium with Tom Watkins, president and CEO of DWMHA; Detroit **Police Chief James** Craig; Detroit Fire **Commissioner** Eric Jones; and former Detroit FBI agent in charge and current Executive Director of the Detroit Crime Commission Andrew Arena, among others.

"The ability to identify risk factors and men-tal health problems and disorders require training beyond what is learned in the acad-emy," Wild said. "This Mental Health First Aid will give our officers the knowledge of warning signs for a range of mental health problems.'

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Wayne County offers free HIV testing on World AIDS Day

The Wayne County Department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness' Wellness Services Division will offer free HIV testing and counseling on Tuesday, Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. The testing will take

place at the Wayne County Health Clinic, 33030 Van Born in Wayne from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The clinic is closed between 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch. Testing is open to all Wayne County residents on a walk-in basis and no appointment is necessary.

Observed annually on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising

METERS

Continued from Page A1

Gharib said. "There will be exceptions in the residential meters. The contractor will work on those.

The installation contractor, Vanguard Utility Services, began replacing residential meters about a month ago in Norwayne. El-Gharib said the next phase is replacing meters in the northeast section of the

city. "About 300 meters are being replaced each week by the contractor. Close to 1,500 business meters were replaced at the final by city crews,' El-Gharib said. "The contractor will be getting to 500 meters per week soon.'

Contractors take a photograph of each old meter as it is replaced to show the reading, he said. In addition, the city will keep the old meters for two billing cycles about four months — in

awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of the HIV infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV and almost one in eight people are unaware of their infection.

People getting tested can expect a brief screening process, which includes a series of questions to assess their risk level for having contracted HIV. All testing records are kept confidential. Blood is taken from a finger prick and results are provided within 30

minutes.

If the test is positive, a venous blood draw is taken, with the sample sent to the state lab for confirmation. The Wayne Clinic will follow up with the client on the results of the test sent to the state lab.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of the risk of HIV through education, outreach, testing and counseling," said Dr. Mouhanad Hammami, director of the Wayne County Department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness. "Our department has administered nearly 1,000 HIV tests since January

2015. HIV/AIDS is a real threat in our community and we must continue our advocacy and push towards greater access to treatment for all."

The CDC recommends that those 13 and older get tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime. Getting tested for HIV is the only way to find out if you have HIV. Getting tested is the first step to accessing medical care and preventing the spread of the virus. Without medical care, HIV leads to AIDS and premature death.

For more information, call the Wayne Health Clinic at 734-727-7100.

charges) with a leaky toilet.

The meter replacement program is still on track to be completed by April 2017, El-Gharib said. The city website, www.citvofwestland.com , includes a list of frequently asked questions and a map showing the installation areas by sections of the city.

Earlier this year, \$11.8 million in bonds were issued to fund the meter replacement program and improvements to the Inkster Road pump station

Wayne, which recently approved an agreement to share the new tower on Middlebelt and Annapolis with Westland, is expected to start a similar meter replacement program in early 2016. Wayne has about 1,500 commercial meters and under 6,000 residential meters.

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CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2015-11-01-10 submitted by McLaren Performance Technologies pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone a portion of the property at 32233 Eight Mile Road, located on the south side of Eight Mile Road between Parker Avenue and Hubbard Road in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, from R-3, One Family Residential, to P, Parking.

Water meters are being replaced in a two-year program that first addressed the 5,000 commercial meters.

case residents want to question their final bills. "We will eventually

scrap the meters - the city will get that (revenue)," El-Gharib said.

The readers will send frequent digital watermeter readings to cell towers and then transmit the information to the

city for billing. As a result, water customers can find water leaks by usage when no one is home.

> "We are finding that landlords are responding to complaints about leaky toilets," Mayor William Wild said. "It can be \$10-\$15 per day (water

FILE PHOTO

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Petition 2015-10-02-23 submitted by Panera Bread, L.L.C. seeking waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(c)(1) of the Livonia City Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to add a drive-up window facility to an existing full service restaurant (Panera Bread) at 28551 Schoolcraft Road within the Millennium Park retail center, located on the south side of Schoolcraft Road between Middlebelt Road and Inkster Road in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 25.

Petition 2015-11-02-24 submitted by Action Paintball Park, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 16.11(f) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate an indoor recreational facility at 11845 Mayfield Avenue, located on the west side of Mayfield Avenue between Plymouth Road and Capitol Avenue in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 27.

Petition 2015-11-02-25 submitted by Sheldon Center, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(c)(1) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to construct and operate a freestanding full service restaurant with drive-up window facilities (Jimmy John's) at Shelden Park Village (33111 thru 33251 Plymouth Road), located at the southeast corner of Plymouth and Farmington Roads in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 34.

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

> R. Lee Morrow, Chairman CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: November 29, 2015

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LOCAL NEWS

Local singers hit the stage for shot at The Met

Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Katrina Van Maanen and Matthew Konopacki studied music together when both attended the University of Houston in Texas.

They were together again Nov. 21, this time on a stage that was, metaphorically at least, much bigger than the physical one at Madonna University.

Van Maanen, a Birmingham native, and Konopacki, a Stevenson High School graduate from Livonia, were among three dozen singers auditioning for three spots with The Metropolitan Opera.

Neither one made it, but both were happy to have had the chance.

"I sang well ... everyone sang well," said Konopacki, who earned his bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan. "Overall, I'd say it was a good experience."

Local auditions

The district auditions came to Madonna after the Livonia school was suggested by Barb Wilt-sie, associate professor of voice at Madonna, who is also co-chair of the Michigan Committee of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions.

Having the auditions so close to home — sing-ers usually have to travel to some far-off regional location - made it a natural for both singers.

The competition has always been on my radar, but this was my first year participating," Van Maanen said. "It is great that they come to Livonia, because it is so close to home."

When he saw the auditions scheduled for his hometown, Konopacki decided to throw his voice into the ring.

Serious study

He had, of course, know about The MET competition since he started serious classical study, so this year he decided to follow the leads of friends who've tried it.

"I have several friends who have competed in other districts and I have wanted to give it a shot for a while," Konopacki said. "I now feel like I'm at a point in my technique that I feel ready to do so, representing myself in the best way I possibly can.

He's been working on developing that technique for a while now. After getting his undergraduate degree from EMU, Konopacki did his graduate study at The

Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, where he finished last year.

Different journey He spent eight

months as a young artist with the Pensacola Opera in Florida, then spent the summer in Brevard, N.C., singing roles in Cosi Fan Tutte (Mozart) and The Ballad of Baby Doe (Douglas Moore). He's currently singing with the Michigan Opera Theatre Chorus and is in the midst of a run of The Passenger by Weinberg.

"I have been singing my entire life, in different capacities other than classical/opera, but singing nonetheless," Konopacki said. "I ... started serious voice study my senior year of high school. It was there that I fell in love with classical music."

Van Maanen's journey was slightly different. She got her bachelor's degree at Western Michigan, then was at Houston the same time as Konopacki. Van Maanen, who teaches private voice lessons in her native Birmingham and is director of development for Opera MODO, a new opera company in Detroit, didn't study opera seriously until she got to Western Michigan.



Stevenson grad Matt Konopacki (left) sang Guglielmo in "Cosi Fan Tutte" at the Brevard Music Festival in July.

Every singer's dream

She started as a music therapy major, a course of instruction that included lessons in classical music.

"I fell in love with singing classically and decided to switch my major to voice performance," Von Maanen said.

Both singers agree The Met is a goal for all of them and were looking forward to the opportunity to audition.

"I think The Metropolitan is every singer's goal," Von Maanen said. "It is the biggest opera company in the country and probably the most renowned company in the world."

Konopacki was disappointed not to make the final cut, but will still be happy doing what he loves to do.

"I think every young singer hopes to one day

make it onto (The Met's) roster and I know there are some young singers who have done that through their successes in the MET competition,' the Livonia native said. "Of course, I would love to sing for the MET one day, but as long as I get to do what I love at a high artistic level for the rest of my life, I feel that that would be a success.

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Retail fraud reported

Police were called Tuesday afternoon to Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody.

When police arrived, they spoke to a store employee, who said the suspect came into the store and was watched because he had been suspected of committing other retail frauds. He was seen selecting several items, including some paint and an electric fireplace, and placing them on a cart. He reportedly tried to leave the store without paying and was stopped. He was detained until police arrived.

Shoplifting suspect flees store

Livonia police were called Monday evening to Menards, 12701 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect who had fled the store.

POLICE BRIEFS

The suspect was reportedly seen by store employees fleeing toward Del Taco, and later seen near the Outback Steakhouse across Middlebelt. Police could not locate him. A store employee told them the suspect was seen selecting copper piping and concealed it in his sleeves. He then noticed he was being watched and went into the bathroom and removed it. He then fled the store before he could be stopped by

store security. It was unknown whether the suspect had any other items on his person when he fled that he did not pay for.

Vehicle damaged

Police were called Tuesday afternoon to a business in the 31500 block of Industrial where a vehicle had been reportedly damaged.

The vehicle's owner told police someone scratched the side of her vehicle sometime earlier

that morning while it was parked in the lot. No suspect information was available.

Wallet stolen from vehicle

A resident who lives in the 36200 block of Club Drive came into the police station Monday evening to report her wallet being stolen from her vehicle.

She said she parked the car in her driveway and left it unlocked overnight. She came out the

next morning and found the overhead light on and the center console and glove box rummaged through. She discovered her wallet was missing, which contained her driver's license and some credit cards. She said it appeared one of her cards were used at a gas station on Eight Mile in Detroit before she could cancel them.

- Compiled by David Veselenak from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

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LOCAL NEWS

SHOPPING

Continued from Page A1

ages 9 and 6 Friday, along with sheets and clothes for men and kids.

"This is our first store," Morse said around 7:30 a.m. "We've been here for awhile." She likes, "the deals and the tradition."

Ronda Urso of Redford was also at Kohl's, starting about 6 a.m. Friday and not on Thanksgiving. "That's a day for family. I don't do that day," said Urso, who was getting shopping help from her husband.

They were looking for clothes for themselves and the kids, and planned to hit the mall. "Just came to this one first," said Urso, who found some deals, and some normal-day prices.

Their three kids are ages 4, 2, and 3 months, so clothes are a definite necessity. Urso and her husband were mainly "Just trying to get in and out" on Black Friday.

At Westland Shopping Center in front of Sears were Cheryl Brayman of Brownstown Township, Ann Sarman of Westland, Dawn Burns of Canton and Terry Smith of Canton. "We all shop together," said Brayman. "It's been over 20 years doing this.'

Smith and Burns are sisters, Sarman a cousin in the family-friend mix. Burns was concerned that Thursday deals were better: "And it's so disrespectful to the holiday," she added, noting, "I helped and she cooked," Thursday with her sister and other family.

Added Burns, "Black Friday should not be in the stores on Thanksgiving.

"It's the girls' day out we look forward to," said Smith of Black Friday. Added Brayman, "It's fun and traditional and good memories.

They were accompanied by Mary DiLaura of Brownstown, Cheryl's

sister, and soon ran into Jason Wilhoite of Wayne, an in-law out shopping at Westland Center.

'I got like two more things to do," said Wilhoite. "Every year Black Friday I'm done Christmas shopping. I went to IHOP around 3 o'clock this morning," he added of early breakfast.

Wilhoite hit Kmart, Meijer, Target, Lowe's and Livonia's Laurel Park Place in his retail quest. "It's absolutely full," he said of his car trunk.

Outside Macy's on Black Friday were Jim Hart, president of the Westland Area Jaycees, and fellow Jaycees encouraging shoppers to send holiday cards to U.S. troops.

"This is our 13th year doing this," said Hart, a Westland resident and 15-year U.S. Army veteran. The project gives thanks and encouragement to deployed troops, as well as a small amount of cards for a VA hospital

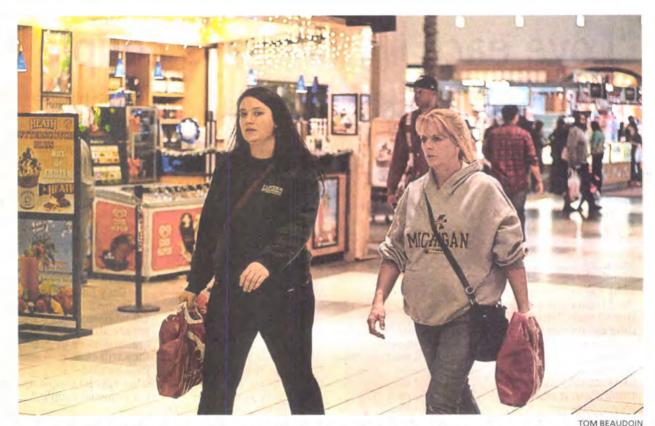
'Our particular chapter's very supportive of troops," said Hart, of the some 3,500 cards at the mall that day. There was no charge to shoppers, who wrote out and signed encouragement cards for the Jaycees to mail.

"Our newer membership enjoys doing it as well," said Hart. He recalled being in Korea and getting a package of encouraging cards.

"We all put the cards up and we put them in the barracks," he said. Of Friday shoppers, "The ones that are awake are excited to do this. The reception we get has always been very positive" at the mall.

He thanked sponsors Men on the Move and chiropractor Amanda Apfelblat. "We're happy to do it. We'll be back next year. Being out in the community's very important to us, too," said Hart.

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Westland residents Emily Fox and mom Rebecca shop Thanksgiving night at Westland Shopping Center as they already made one trip to the car with gifts and are on round two.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Bryan Browne of Garden City and Raven Azure of Livonia check out the many great deals to be had as they shop Thanksgiving at Kohl's at Westland Shopping Center.



Canton residents Betty Lockhart and son-in-law Pat Goetz wait as Pat's wife shops for the many sales at Westland Shopping Center Thursday night.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Robert Simon of Redford watches the packages as his wife and daughter shop Thanksgiving night at Westland Shopping Center.



Praveena

Praveena Vellanki sensed something was wrong but she didn't say anything - it was too difficult to open up about such a private matter. She held in her fears and silently worried. In time, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and quickly began treatment at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. Four years later, after eight cycles of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation - a treatment plan spanning 16 months - Praveena is cancer-free. She is once again volunteering at her Temple and cooking for family and friends. She credits the care team who stood by her during her toughest days.

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LOCAL NEWS

'Love each other,' says couple married 75 years

David Veselenak Staff Writer

Mary Minnini's eyes still light up when she hears her husband Sam tell the story of how they met more than 75 years ago.

He came over to her house in 1940 with a friend, and she was doing housework. The two met and were married three months later on Nov. 16, 1940. Earlier this month, the Livonia couple celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

It's a milestone, Mary Mininni, 93, said, that seemed so far in the distance they didn't even think about it when they were younger.

"When we were first married, I would say to him, 'Will you love me when we're married 25 years?' Because 25 when you're 18 and 20, that seems like a long time," she said. "And he'd say, 'Oh yeah, I will.' And here we are at 75."

It was a different time



then, she said, with court-

ing involving chaperoned

"At that time, I was

raised in a very strict

ni said. "This friend of

our family, when he

Italian family and there

was no going out with boyfriends," Mary Minin-

brought Sam over - and

I really was on my hands

and knees scrubbing the

floor - I looked up, and

looked at him and that's

he looked at me and I

when we connected."

dates until the pair mar-

ried

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Sam and Mary Mininni married 75 years ago.

Close family ties

The couple moved to Livonia 18 years ago after living in Dearborn for many years. They still live in their home off Five Mile and continue to have family over every Sunday, with family members living nearby in Livonia and Dearborn Heights.

Rosemary Mitchell, one of the couple's children who lives around the corner, said the family still is very close, with frequent visits to her parents' house.

"The grandchildren love coming and listening to the stories my dad will tell," she said. "My mother is just exquisite. She sews, bakes, crochets."

One of their grandchildren, Livonia resident David Mitchell, said their reach during their lives had affected everyone in their family and beyond.

"They have helped make me and many others who we are and what we are about, they have touched more lives then they will ever, ever realize," he said. "They are truly special people and a very special couple."

Mass applause

To celebrate their anniversary, the couple went to Mass the following Sunday with many family members at St. Edith Catholic Church and received a blessing from the Rev. Jim McNulty.

"He announced it was

our 75 years and the whole congregation clapped, and then after the Mass, we had another celebration," Mary Mininni said.

That following celebration was Sam Mininni's 95th birthday, which was that weekend.

Their whole family then went out to breakfast afterward to celebrate and the couple treated everyone.

"And guess what? I had to put up the bill," Sam Mininni said, jokingly.

A party celebrating their anniversary was planned for the couple at Laurel Manor, but some health issues with Sam prevented it from taking place.

Still in love

Sam Mininni was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1935 when he was 15. He later was drafted and served several years in the Army, spending time in Iceland during World War II. He later became a truck driver and retired in the 1980s. Mary Mininni worked as head, baker at Fordson High School in Dearborn and ' has volunteered at Henry Ford Hospital Fairlane for many years.

It's still very clear that even in their mid-90s, the two are still very much in love with each other.

Sam Mininni even shared his advice for couples looking to stay together as long as they have.

"Just love each other," he said. "Communicate with one another. If you get mad, just walk out of the house. Stay about five minutes outside and walk in, kiss and make up." It's advice Mary

Mininni can vouch for. "It's true, he does

make up fast," she said.

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Former FBI agent talks art crime at Livonia Town Hall

David Veselenak Staff Writer

Robert Wittman knows how important art is to society. That's why he willfully worked undercover to try to recover it for many years, including a self-portrait done by Rembrandt stolen from a Swedish museum.

Working as an FBI agent, he and authorities from Sweden and Denmark worked back in 2000 to recover the painting, valued at \$35 million. "I don't know of any

"I don't know of any other property that three nations would try to get together to recover," he said. "It means something to all of us, not just one country. While it's owned by the museum, we all have a stake in it. And that's why it's important."

Wittman spoke Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Cultural Center as a part of the Livonia Town Hall series



Retired FBI investigator Robert Wittman talks about tracking stolen art.

chase the Rembrandt from some individuals suspected of stealing it several years earlier from a museum in Stockholm.

The painting, he said, is a target especially because of how easy it is to transport it.

"What else can you take that's that portable and that small that's Forty percent of that, he said, funnels through the United States. Art crime accounts

for about \$5 billion a year, Wittman said.

"It's a big deal," he said. "It's a big business." The Art Crime Team at the FBI was created under his watch in 2005

at the FBI was created under his watch in 2005 and continued even after he retired from the agency in 2008. Wittman now Even with the seriousness of the subject matter, Wittman was able to inject some humor into his talk, including showing part of his interview with late-night personality Stephen Colbert on Comedy Central's *The Colbert Report* from 2011. Canton resident Dottie

Sypher said that wasn't something she expected from his talk. "He had a great sense of humor," she said.

'Don't buy it as an investment'

Many of the calls Wittman said he has received when it comes to art or art fraud he unfortunately could not help, because there wasn't a criminal element to them. Being vigilant when purchasing pieces in the U.S. or abroad is an important skill collectors need to have to make sure the piece is authentic and legal.

He shared the story of a man who took out a loan of \$350,000 and purchased pieces of art with it on eBay, only for many of the pieces to be faked. Going after those sellers, Wittman said, would have a high price tag to go state-by-state.

The best advice he had for aspiring art collectors? Buy a piece out of love of it and not as an investment.

"You have to be very careful before making that big purchase," he said. "Buy it because you love it. Don't buy it as an investment."

Livonia resident Diane Guzik said hearing stories of such exhaustive efforts to recover famous art pieces wasn't something she expected was such a high priority, She said seeing that the government values cultural pieces as much as confiscating contraband was interesting to see.

"You didn't think art theft was such a major thing. You think of more rugs and everything," he said. "The FBI would be dealing with more drugs instead of art and they're considering culture an important thing, too."

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nia Town Hall series about his time with the FBI, investigating art crime for several decades. He shared stories of working undercover, including showing hidden camera video clips of him in a Danish hotel room, attempting to pur-

worth that much money?" he said. "Very few things."

Wittman said investigating art crimes is a big player in the global economic world, with the art business totaling about \$200 billion each year.

Winter Wonderland

operates a private firm dealing in art security and recovery and has written a book about his experiences that he said is being looked at for a major motion picture in the future.

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County commissioner thanks GC leaders, residents; retired editor Mason lauded

Julie Brown Staff Writer

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc was cheerful at last Monday's Garden City Council meeting.

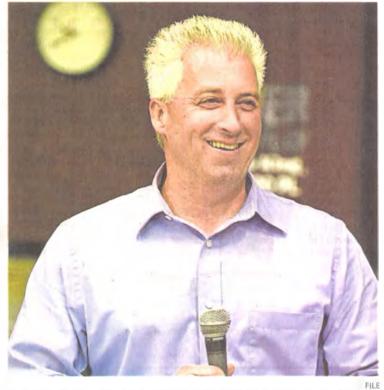
"It's really been a joy," he said of having served as a Wayne County commissioner for a district that includes Garden City along with Inkster and part of Westland. "This community has a lot going for it."

He praised Garden City's big heart, and recalled getting involved with the Garden City Garden Club. "I joined the Garden City Garden Club," recalled LeBlanc, who was elected Nov. 3 as Westland's new city clerk.

A co-ed fundraising calendar idea came about for the club. "In a secluded backyard, a number of us had photos taken," recalled LeBlanc, who was later greeted at a community function as "Mr. October."

On a more serious note, he told the City Council and audience that Wayne County was \$220 million in debt when he started there in January 2013. "The county will have erased its debt. The structural deficit has also been addressed."

LeBlanc cited funding for parks that's discretionary,



Outgoing Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc, recently elected clerk in Westland, told the Garden City Council it has been "a joy" to serve.

including a local skate park built before he took office. Garden City Ice Arena improvements have also taken place, said LeBlanc, who also touted work on Cherry Hill Road.

"I'll just say the party atmosphere of this town is pretty impressive," he added. "I wish to thank all of you for making my job easier and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

hometownlife.com

Retired Observer Editor Sue Mason drew praise at the recent meeting of the Garden City Council.

better."

Also at the Nov. 23 meeting, Sue Mason of Westland, who recently left her post as editor of the *Garden City Observer* and *Westland Observer*, received a city resolution.

"Sue's writings always brought true meaning to the term professional," Mayor Randy Walker said in his presentation. He told Mason, "We had our differences, but you covered Garden City great."

Mason said, "I have enjoyed every minute I have been in the city. It truly is a unique community, close knit."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com Twitter: @248Julie

Firms reach out to help developmentally disabled people

Yazaki North America, Iron Mountain and Image Business Solutions are assisting families supported by Friends of Community Living Services this holiday season.

Every year, Friends of CLS displays a Giving Tree in its Wayne office lobby, filled with names and wish lists of items they would like for Christmas. The public is invited in to take a name or two from the tree and buy gifts. This provides an opportunity to the public to make a difference in the lives of people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The charitable donations from Yazaki North America, Iron Mountain and Image Business Solutions make it possible to support more families during the holiday season.

"The Yazaki Corp. has been a charitable giver to Friends of CLS for over a decade and this year donated an additional \$1,000 to support families during the holiday season," CLS public relations director Tiffany Devon said. "They truly exemplify their mission of 'supporting the communities where they live and work' and we are honored to have been selected to participate in their holiday giving initiative."

Yazaki North America is part of the Yazaki Group, an independent automotive component maker in Canton and a global leader in the research, development and delivery of vehicle power and data solutions for automotive applications.

http://www.yazaki-na.com/ Iron Mountain is a storage and information management company, assisting more than 156,000 organizations in 36 countries on five continents with storing, protecting and managing their information. http://www.ironmountain.com/ Company/About-Us.aspx

Image Business Solutions is one of southeast Michigan's leading suppliers of office automation products including digital copiers and printers, faxes, network printers, imaging, scanning and document management systems. http://www.image businesssolutions.com/

CLS is a private, nonprofit organization that provides supports and services to more than 4,000 children and adult with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. CLS also provides services to seniors and those with chronic illness. CLS is funded by the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and Macomb County Community Mental Health, United Way and the city of Allen Park.





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LOCAL NEWS

T.J. Maxx store coming to Canton

Staff Writer

T.J. Maxx, a still-growing department store chain, has chosen Canton for one of its new stores.

The company plans to build a 21,000-square-foot store on Centre Village Shopping Center property, southwest of Ford and Canton Center roads.

"A lot of people have talked about having a T.J. Maxx in Canton," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "I think it's a good thing."

In a show of support, the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to approve a site plan for the new store, which local officials say will be built north of Bailey's Sports Grille.

Officials for TJX Cos., which owns T.J. Maxx and other stores, declined to confirm the Canton store, discuss it or say when it might open.

"When opening new stores, we tend to announce our plans when we believe the time is right to do so competitively," TJX public relations supervisor Brittany Welch Farrell wrote by email, in response to questions. "Generally speaking, it is our practice not to announce store openings until close to an intended opening date."

That said, Canton's site plan calls for a new store to be built in the Centre Village Shopping Center.

TJX, which owns stores such as T.J. Maxx, Marshall's and Home-Goods, had earlier announced it expects to open hundreds more stores long-term, including about 70 new T.J. Maxx and Marshall's locations this year, alone, in the United States.

TJX, based in Framingham, Mass., has continued to grow its stores despite a competitive retail market that stalled growth for some companies.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said he believes T.J. Maxx will be a good fit for Canton, a still-growing community with residents who support a strong retail base.

"It definitely hits the Canton demographic," Faas said.

TJX bills itself as a global, off-price value company with more than 3,300 stores. It already has stores in metro Detroit communities such as Livonia, Ann Arbor and Novi.

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





T.J. Maxx, shown here in another community, is building a new store in Canton.

Service of Remembrance

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Livonia and Garden City will be holding their 25th annual Service of Remembrance Dec. 5-6 for families who have lost a loved one during this last year and in years past.

At the service, family members will be invited to place an angel with their loved one's name on a tree where it will remain until after Jan. 1. A popular Children's Table is available for the kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings. Helpful thoughts on getting through the holidays after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read. Cookies and warm beverages can be enjoyed indoors following the Service.



Book grant

Kirsten Kasten of Peace Evangelical Lutheran School in Livonia (here with Cody Cagwin of the Cagwin Agency) received a book grant from Scholastic. The Scholastic Book Fair Grants from The Meemic Foundation provide recipients \$100 additional dollars to spend at their in-school or online book fair event. They can also be used at Scholastic Book Fairs Warehouse sales, Scholastic Reading Club and the Scholastic Store online. The grant is part of a partnership formed between the Meemic Foundation, Scholastic Book Fairs and the Cagwin Agency.

» The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home-Livonia Chapel, 15451 Farmington Rd. (Just North of 5 mile) will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. Call 734-422-6720

COMMUNITY EVENTS

» The service at the Garden City Chapel, 31551 Ford Road (just west of Merriman) will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. Call 734-425-9200.

Christmas dinner

Angel House hosts its third annual Christmas dinner for low-income people from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Livonia Senior Community Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia.

Angel House is looking for donations of a food dish or a \$50 gift card to meet its goal of feeding 200 low-income people.

For more information, call 248-622-0359.

Photography club

Time/date: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9. Details: The December meeting of the 3D Photography Club will feature its annual holiday potluck dinner, with live music performed by members. There will also be photographic items available, including a special photo book sale and the monthly club 3D image competition.

Everyone is invited to join the club at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, for the dinner, music, sale, and to see award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent. For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Youth association

The Westland Youth Athletic Association Annual General Membership Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3.

The Westland Youth Athletic Association Compound is at 6050 N. Farmington Road.

Train Show

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club is sponsoring a buy and swap Railroadiana Train Show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, at the Ss. Simon and Jude Church Social Hall, 32500 Palmer, Westland.

There will be approximately 100 dealer tables available. The cost is \$10 for an 8-foot table. Dealer setup is 9 a.m. on the day of the show, and complimentary coffee and doughnuts will be available for dealers until 10:30 a.m. Food also will be available. Admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family. Parking is free.

For more information, call Bob at 734-728-1247 or Norm at 734- 595-8327.



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The 2015 Lincoln MKX is on sale now at Jack Demmer Lincoln, where customers benefit from the Demmer Difference.

Sales Manager Chris Conley said that this midsize luxury crossover vehicle is ideally balanced, and noted its 305 horsepower and 26 miles per gallon highway on regular unleaded. "Most of the competition requires premium fuel," he said.

A main feature, Conley said, is the optional Intelligent All-Wheel Drive that helps give the Lincoln MKX enhanced traction while providing impressive performance along with tighter handling and control. The system responds actively by redirecting power to the appropriate wheel for best traction. It also helps enhance the vehicle's performance and handling in driving conditions such as rain, sleet, snow, gravel or sand.

The MKX's voice-activated technology helps drivers keep their eyes on the road and stay connected; its features include:

- » Hands-free calling
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Conley said that MKX owner loyalty is very high. "Most MKX clients buy or lease

"Most MKX clients buy or lease another MKX," he said.

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"Great lease and purchase offers are going on now," Conley said.

Jack Demmer Lincoln is located at 21531 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn. The dealership is open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

For more information, call 800-306-8674 or visit demmerlincoln.net.

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LOCAL NEWS

Mutchler chosen to lead county police chiefs group

Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Amid strong support from his peers, Canton **Public Safety Director** Todd Mutchler has been chosen as the new president of the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police.

"It's a great opportunity to further advance the profession of law enforcement in Wayne County as we work to build trust and legitimacy in our communities, he said.

Mutchler already has drawn accolades for leading Canton as one of the few Michigan police departments accredited by an international agency, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He also has led efforts such as creating the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition, which pools a diverse group to support hate crime vic-



CANTON PUBLIC SAFETY

James Plakas, 35th District Court judge, conducts a swearing-in ceremony for the new board of the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police. They are (from left) Flat Rock Police Chief John Leader, Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid, Grosse Pointe Farms Police Chief Daniel Jansen and Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler.

tims and to help the community heal from any such incidents.

John Anthony, a Canton Township trustee and former FBI special agent, said the Wayne

County police chiefs made a sound decision appointing Mutchler to steer the association, calling him a strong leader.

"It's a big deal," An-

thony said. "These chiefs in the law-enforcement community in southeast Michigan are good guys and you can't fool them. With his education and his experience, Todd

Mutchler is on the forefront of what a modern chief should be and he exudes the leadership qualities for what this organization wants.

'It's a win-win situation not just for Todd Mutchler and Wayne County, but also for Canton," Anthony added.

Mutchler's new role marks another leadership position in his 27year Canton law-enforcement career, including the last three years as public safety director. He will continue his full-time job as he leads the chiefs association.

The group is a nonprofit organization with a common goal of trying to improve law-enforcement services while educating its members and empowering them to address local and regional issues such as trends in community concerns and legislation. The ultimate goal is to protect citizens.

"These (chiefs association) meetings open many doors for sharing of information with departments within Wayne County, including state, federal and local agencies who are focused on preserving and protecting the citizens of our communities in Wayne County," Mutchler said.

"I'm very honored to represent Canton on this group," he added. Mutchler has a law-

enforcement educational background that also includes a master's degree in interdisciplinary technology from Eastern Michigan University. He is a graduate of the 257th class of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., becoming one of only three officers in the Canton Police Department's history to receive the honor.

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State Police accepting gifts for Toys for Tots

The Michigan State Police is once again working with the U.S. Marine Corps for the annual Toys for Tots toy drive throughout the state.

Sgt. Mark Thompson at the Brighton Post said the department is challenging area residents to "fill the lobby" with new toys, which are distributed to local children in need. The post is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The post is at 4337 Buno Road in Brighton Township.

Area residents are asked to drop off donated new, unwrapped toys at the post. Great gift ideas can include coloring books for small children and can range from Barbie dolls and baby dolls to electronic gadgets.

A coordinator will pick up the toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender. At Christmas, coordinators with assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups and other local community agencies will distribute the toys to children identified by social welfare agencies, church and other local community agencies as qualified.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a not-for-profit charity. Donations are collected through Dec. 23.

For information on Toys for Tots in Oakland and northwest Wayne counties, visit http:// novi-mi.toysfortots.org/ local-coordinator-sites/ lco-sites/default.aspx.

New Law Changes

Buying, selling: Tax questions abound

Q: I have a couple of tax questions I hope you can help me with. Earlier this year, I was notified that a company I had purchased stock in about three or four years ago went out of business and its stock is totally worthless. My cost basis in that stock was \$75,000. I am obviously not happy about this, but at least I get the tax write-off. What I was thinking of doing is selling some other stocks that I have with gains that would virtually offset the \$75,000 loss. What I plan to do is to sell the stock and then immediately buy it back. My first question is do I violate any tax law by re-buying the stock? My second question is that I plan to sue my accountant who recommended that I purchase the



stock of the company that went belly up. I am curious; if I win, do I have to pay tax on the money?

A: The transaction you want to do, selling the stock with a gain, recognizing that gain for tax purposes and then turning around and re-buying the stock, does not violate any tax laws. If the stock you were selling had a loss, then there is what is known as the wash-sale rule that prevents you from re-buying that stock 30 days before and 30 days after you sold the stock. In the situation at hand, because the stock you're selling has a gain, then there is no problem rebuying the stock back.

Performing the transaction that allows you to use the entire loss generated by the company that went belly up, is also allowed. Unfortunately, the way our tax laws work is when you have gains, you have to recognize those in the year of sale. With losses, it doesn't always work that way. When it comes to losses, the first thing to do is offset any similar gains. If there are no gains, then your losses are limited to \$3,000 a year. The remaining losses can be carried forward into future tax years. However, in your situation, by selling a stock that has a gain, you are actually able to use

the entire loss in this tax year.

With regard to the lawsuit, more likely than not, if you are successful, the amount of money you receive is going to be subject to income tax. Many people are under the mistaken belief that proceeds from a lawsuit are not taxable; that is not the case. Most of the time, when someone does receive money pursuant to a lawsuit, there are tax consequences. The exceptions are for things like personal injury lawsuits. Typically, in those types of lawsuits, that income is not considered taxable.

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





LOCAL NEWS

Comics-to-clothing: holiday shopping season arrives

Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Batman, the Star Wars crew, Wonder Woman and other superheroes congregated Friday in one spot in Canton as their fans fawned over them. Godzilla and comic book icon Archie even made an appearance.

They all took their place among action figures, comic books and graphic novels inside Comic City, a place that sells thousands of items for collectors, including merchandise from The Walking Dead.

"Star Wars is huge right now," manager Justin Vahosky said, as fans await the upcoming Star Wars: The Force Awakens movie debut in mid-December.

Marvel Comics. DC Comics and smaller, independent brands could be found inside the store. Nicole Ferrebee of Livonia spotted a gift for her husband Brian, but she couldn't buy it as a surprise because he and their 17-year-old son Mike were with her.

Aside from Black Friday, Vahosky said more deals loomed 5-8 p.m. Dec. 6, when patrons can get discounts for



Katie Price, manager at Plato's Closet in Canton, folds clothes on a busy shopping day.

bringing in canned food to help the Gleaners Community Food Bank, which serves metro Detroit.

In downtown Plvmouth, an early stream of Christmas shoppers is indicating a busy season at Genuine Toy Co., a toy and game store.

"I'm a little surprised. We're seeing them earlier than we ever have," said Elle Dare, who owns the business on Forest Avenue with husband

Charles.

Genuine Toy is already sold out of some items, Dare said.

"It's not like totally crazy, but steady," she added

Especially popular this year in toys, Dare said. are PlushCraft kits, which are fabrics-bynumbers craft-making sets, and Metal Earth models, three-dimensional models made with laser-cut steel pieces rather than plastic components.

Board games and jigsaw puzzles, Dare said, are also big Christmast sellers at Genuine Toy, as many focus on making the holidays a time for family and for putting down electronic devices and interacting with others in person.

'It's more common. People are getting back into it," she said. At Plato's Closet in

Canton, a teen clothing resale shop, manager

Katie Price folded a sweater for one customer as others milled about the store, looking for discount prices on holiday gifts.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"We do pretty well for the holidays and our Black Friday sales also help us," she said.

Price cited the Victoria's Secret Pink line and designer jeans brands such as True Religion and Miss Me as popular items in the store.

A few storefronts away on the Ford Road shopping corridor, Jeremy and Katie Brydges of Westland walked from the Kohl's department store in Canton. She carried a vacuum cleaner for her own house, while he was toting a new television for his mother. Jeremy Brydges esti-

mated the couple would get as much as 50 percent of their Christmas shopping done Friday.

We have someone to watch the kids," he said,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

Nicole Ferrebee looks for items related to Godzilla and zombies. "Everybody loves 'The Walking Dead,'" Ferrebee said. She is from Livonia.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Katie and Jeremy Brydges get about half of their shopping done Black Friday, without starting at the crack of dawn.

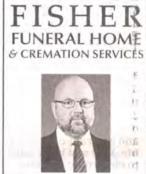
"so that helps."

With the economy improving, some retailers are expecting a rather brisk shopping season. Over at Genuine Toy, Dare said the outlook is good for the next few weeks.

"We think it's going to be pretty busy," she said. "I doubt it will drop off."

Staff Writer Matt Jachman contributed to this story.

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



MICHAEL J. FISHER Manager & Owner

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

for the 2015-2016 School Year

Schrader-Howell hosts candle lighting ceremony

Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, located in downtown Plymouth, will host its 25th annual Holiday Candlelighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Wednes-day, Dec. 9, at the funeral home, which is located at 280 S. Main.

The program will include a holiday reflection given by the Rev.

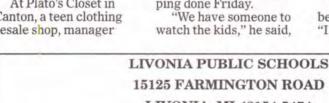
Thomas Belczak and a message of encouragement by the funeral home's grief counselor, Brigid G. Lynch. Each family will have

the opportunity to light a candle in honor of their loved one

Refreshments and fellowship to follow. The public is invited.



The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop Nov 2-30 3947 W 12 Mile, Berkley 248.543.3115 Mon-Sat 10-5:30, Thur 10-8:30,



LIVONIA, MI 48154-5474 (734)744 - 2500

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bids at Grant Elementary, Hoover Elementary and Randolph Elementary School Buildings.

Grant/Hoover/Randolph Elementary Schools, Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid

NOTICE OF MEETING

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, shall be held at the office of the corporation at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan on the Tuesday December 8, 2015 at 6:00PM for the election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Published: November 29 & December 3, 2015

LO-0000264896 2x1.5

CITY OF GARDEN CITY WINTER TAX NOTICE

The 2015 winter taxes will be payable from December 1, 2015 through February 15, 2016 without penalty. Beginning February 16, 2016 thru February 29, 2016 a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid taxes. Beginning March 1, 2016 all unpaid 2015 REAL property taxes must be paid to Wayne County Treasurer, The International Center Building, 400 Monroe, 5th floor, Detroit, Mi 48226 with an additional 4% administration fee plus 1% per month interest computed from March 1, 2016.

ALLYSON M BETTIS-Treasurer-City Clerk Published: November 29, 2015 LO-0000263334 2x2

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7

RIGHT DOWN THE STREET.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section titled DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids, 2015-2016 school year, open bids OR Buy4Michigan Website, www.buy4michigan.com.

A MANDATORY pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. at Hoover Elementary School, 15900 Levan Road, Livonia, MI, 48154, proceeding to Grant Elementary School, 9300 Hubbard, Livonia, MI, 48150, Randolph Elementary School, 14470 Norman, Livonia, MI 48154. You must check in at the Front Office.

Sealed bids marked Grant/Hoover/Randolph Asbestos Abatement Bid will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day December, 2015, in the Business Office at the Board of Education Complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools,15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

The Bid Opening will take place at 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day of December, 2015, at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Complex, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. Please feel free to include additional pages of information if necessary. For bids to be considered they must meet or exceed all specifications herein. PREVAILING WAGE RATES APPLY TO THIS BID.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner and any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Board of Education, the Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or Director of Business Services, any member of the Wayne RESA Board of Education or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance - Iran Economic Sanctions Act. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.

All bids must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Livonia Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each bid over \$23,230.00 and must be submitted with the bid forms furnished with the specifications/price sheet package.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part: to award to other than the low bidder: to waive any irregularities and/ or informalities and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best

interests of the district, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Prices bid are to be F.O.B. Destination. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission. All bids must be submitted on the attached bid form and signed by the bidder. Two (2) signed copies of the bid package are to be addressed to the attention of:

> Nick Armelagos Administrator of Finance Livonia Public Schools 15125 Farmington Road Livonia, MI 48154-5474 "Grant/Hoover/Randolph Asbestos Abatement Bid"

One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files. Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Nova Environmental at <u>aamin@nova-env.com</u> 734.930.0995 or to Harry Lau, Administrator of Facilities and Operations, hlau@livoniapublicschools.org, 734.744.2511, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Published: November 29, 2015







3x11.5

LO-0000264647

Canton Community Foundation moves forward with 2 managing directors

Joanne Maliszewski Staff Writer

When new executive director Michelle Malamis left the Canton Community Foundation in August 2014, after only 11 months in the position, employees Beth Meade and Darice Schubatis stepped up to the challenge of continuing the nonprofit's work.

Late this summer, their positions as leaders of the foundation were made official.

Mead now serves as managing director of donor relations, while Schubatis serves as managing director of finance and administration. "We are no longer having an executive director," said Meade, who has been with the foundation for more than two years.

Both of the managing directors has experience in charitable organizations and nonprofit management. Meade has more than 30 years in

community outreach, marketing and communications. Schubatis, who also has more than two years with the foundation, has had various positions in accounting and financial analysis, both as an employee and as an independent contractor.

"They are both experienced and are doing well," CCF board chair Nancy Eggenberger said. "I think the foundation is coming along. We are going to grow and do well

Meade and Schubatis will also have the help of Greg Schupra, an experienced philanthropic adviser. He will serve as executive adviser and philanthropy counsel. In addition, the 10-

member board of directors will continue its work. In addition to Eggenberger, the board includes Betty Bloch, Paul M. Denski, Brian Geer, Misty Matthews, Jim Ryan, Richard Schu-



Darice Schubatis with her daughter.

batis, Steven Sneideman, Syed Taj and Dave Visser.

"I'm excited about the future of the foundation and I have complete confidence in our board and our staff," Eggen-berger said. "I know that the community will quickly see the positive changes we are making

in moving the foundation forward.

Also new for the foundation is a donor relations committee that is led by Ryan. "We are changing the focus, so we are not competing with other fundraising organizations," Meade said. "We want to work with people who want to be philan-



Beth Meade with her husband John.

thropic and want to fulfill needs in the community.

Eggenberger, mean-while, lauded outgoing board chair Jerry Grady. He got the foundation "through a difficult transitional period. Jerry not only helped put the new staff in place, but also helped to secure several partnerships, including

most recently an exciting new relationship with the Canton Public Library. Jerry's attention to details and financial expertise will be missed."

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com 248-396-6620 Twitter:@jmaliszews Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android !

'Exploring Africa' program coming to library

Greg Mullin Staff Writer

Africa's varied cul-tures will be celebrated in Southfield next week.

The "Exploring Africa" program, hosted and founded by Michigan State University professor emeritus Calvin McCray, has been held annually at the Southfield Public Library for about straight 10 years now

"Cal McCray approached us about getting people more connected with the continent of Africa, knowing that it's not a country, it's a continent of over 50 dif-ferent countries," Outreach librarian Kelly Rembert said. "It's a huge, diverse continent

with many different geographies, people and vantage points. (McCray) lived and studied in Africa and worked at MSU and he wanted to give back to the community.'

The program - which begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday — will fea-ture students reading poetry, singing in a choir, playing drums, giving PowerPoint presentations and dressing in national-flag colors.

"The last couple of years, we've been working with Levey Middle School to involve schoolkids and get their input,' Rembert said. "As the years go by, the kids are doing more and more with the program and embracing it.'

"Exploring Africa"

appeals to all ages, Rembert noted.

"It's geared toward anybody," she said. "We have adults in the audience that love it; we have middle schoolers, high schoolers. (The middle schoolers) are putting their hearts and souls into it, so it's fun for adults to see as well. They always take away something new about the continent.

"We always try to do a parade of flags, so you get to see the different regions of Africa. We have people who have attended almost every year — and if they attend year after year, you know you are doing something right.'

Refreshments will be provided, courtesy of Art Moran Buick GMC, Sam's Club and Dr. Tara Long Scott. The event is sponsored by Art Moran Buick GMC, Southfield Public Schools, Friends of the Southfield Public Library, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Dr. Tara Long Scott.

For more information, southfieldlibrary.org.

iPhone, iPad or Android!



"Exploring Africa" is hosted and founded by Michigan State University professor emeritus Calvin McCray.



ADOPTED **ORDINANCE NO. 342**

ORDINANCE NO. 342 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-297(d) OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO DELETE A PORTION OF SUBSECTION (d)(2)

At the regular meeting of November 24, 2015, the Redford Township Board of Trustees adopted the above Ordinance #342. The Ordinance can be viewed in its entirety at the following public

call 248-796-4224 or go to gmullin@hometownlife.com Download our free apps for

DCD students explore concepts focused on identity, community

The world has grown increasingly interconnected for the more than 100 Detroit Country Day School students and 20 faculty members who benefited from a lively event featuring members of the Global Youth Leadership Institute, aimed at recognizing commonalities across cultures and communities through the concept of identity.

For more than 10 years, DCDS has part-nered with GYLI to encourage students to explore more about the world around them and to build essential skills and knowledge, such as collaborative leadership, environmental sustainability, multicultural understanding and religious pluralism. Matt Nink, executive director of GYLI, and Dr. Ulric Johnson, founding director of Teens Against Gang Violence and an instructor in the GYLI program, presented at the event and ran activities that dealt with topics such as leadership, language and stereotypes.

"A well-rounded education does not only teach ideas and lessons in a classroom, but also applies those concepts to

experiences in the outside world," said Glen Shilling, DCDS head-master. "GYLI helps students experience new challenges and consider academic and abstract ideas in a personal way, which is particularly important as we live in an increasingly global community.

Each summer, a group of DCDS students partic-ipates in GYLI's summer programs, which pair an exciting and adventurous experience - such as a multi-day voyage learning to pilot a historic schooner tall ship - with a rich and thought-provoking curriculum encouraging students to reflect and contemplate questions about their own role in society.

Nink and Johnson presented on the five C's of identity - color, culture, class, character and context - and conducted an engaging discussion and variety of activities aimed at encouraging students to consider abstract ideas and create a more cohesive community

This summer, a group of DCDS Upper School students will travel to Mystic Seaport, the mountains of New Mexico and Costa Rica, to

explore the "personal geography" of leadership - a person's individual vision and unique direction.

places within the Township:

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

> GARTH J. CHRISTIE, CLERK CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD LO-0000264908

Published: November 29, 2015



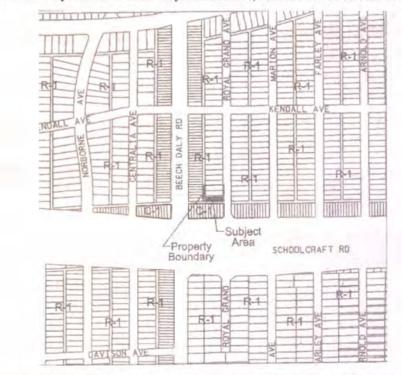
ORDINANCE NO. 152-N AMENDED ZONING MAP #7-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 152-N, THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Redford shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property is rezoned, to-wit:

Map #07:15: To rezone the south 33 feet of Lot 410 from R-1 (residential) to P-1 (vehicular parking) Legal Description: Lots 410, 411 & 412, including ½ of vacated alley at the rear thereof, "B.E. Taylor's Golf & Bridle Club Subdivision", as recorded in Liber 58, Page 80 of Plats, Wayne County Records Property more commonly known as 13941 Royal Grand Ave, Parcel # 79 027 01 0410 000



Section 2. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. The rezoning was approved by the Board of Trustees, at the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2015. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption or upon publication.

AYES: Kennedy, Cavanagh, Christie, McRae, Sullivan, Johnson and Kobylarz NAYS: None

4

ABSENT: None

Motion #15:138, carried: 7-0

I hereby certify that Ordinance No. 152-N, Map #7-15 was published in the Redford Observer, a newspaper circulating within the Charter Township of Redford on November 29, 2015, which date was within thirty (30) days after the adoption of said Ordinance 152-N,



Detroit Country Day students participate in a Global Youth Leadership Institute conference aimed at exploring color, culture, class, character and context.

Published: November 29, 2015

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC TOWNSHIP CLERK LO-0000

4

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1

Check out the well-equipped 2015 Nissan Sentra at Nissan of Canton

cars.com

The Nissan Sentra compact sedan comes with four-cylinder power and a choice of a manual or automatic transmission. It is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave. Competitors include the Chevrolet Cruze, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra and Toyota Corolla

New for 2015

New standard features include automatic headlights, a USB port, cruise control, Bluetooth connectivity and steering-wheel audio controls. **Exterior highlights**

» 16-inch wheels; 16or 17-inch alloy wheels available

- » Available fog lights
- » Available spoiler
- » Available power
- moonroof

Interior highlights

» Seats five » Fabric upholstery; leather with front seat heaters available

» 60/40-split folding

rear seat » Tilt/telescoping

steering wheel

» Two 12-volt power outlets

» Remote keyless

entry » Bluetooth connec-

tivity » Available Nissan-Connect multimedia system with 5-inch screen

» Available navigation system

» Available Easy-Fill Tire Alert system that honks the horn when tire is filled to correct pressure

» Available Bose



The Nissan Sentra is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave.

» Available dual-zone

Under the hood

» 130-horsepower, 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine

» Six-speed manual

ously variable automatic

Safety features

» Six airbags » Available backup camera



COURTESY OF NISSAN OF CANTON The Nissan Sentra features a tilt/telescoping steering wheel.



COURTESY OF NISSAN OF CANTON The Nissan Sentra has six airbags and an available backup camera.



premium stereo

automatic climate control

transmission » Available continu-

transmission » Front-wheel drive

» Required in every new car: front airbags, anti-lock brakes and an electronic stability system

LOCAL NEWS

Parents learn hand-in-hand with their children

Diane K. Bert Correspondent

There were happy smiles all around as the 3-year-old children at the First Presbyterian Church Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center prepared for the special program for their parents last week.

Heidi Wilkinson is director of the program. She encourages the staff to develop age-appropriate activities throughout the year, activities which lay the foundation for reading and writing skills and kindergarten readiness.

"I love watching the expressions on the children's faces, their joy as they learn and grow," Wilkinson said. "Today the parents' and grandparents' enjoyment in participating with their children was great. That makes my day."

The parents arrived for the program of nursery rhymes sung by the children. Many children were nestled in the laps of their dads, who had the special rare treat of seeing their children in the nursery school setting. The children were proud that they each helped stir the batter for the blueberry muffins they made for their parents.

Nigel Brackenbury has twin 3-year-old daughters in the program. "I am thrilled to be here," he said. "I don't get to see them in this environment. They love coming here. This will be one of our last big memories of the area, as we are moving to Shanghai in January." Lead teacher Leslie

Lead teacher Leslie Butler placed visual cues on the easel and led the children in singing and doing the hand movements to several nursery rhymes. The parents joined in with great glee and enthusiasm. The Turkey Is a Funny Bird was special for the occasion. The other teachers, Aleta French, Katie Du-Ross, Jan Smith and Cathy Dinkaloo, joined in leading the singing and recitations.

"We want the parents to be aware that children learn by listening at this age," Butler said. "In addition to the rhymes, we do projects relating to the rhymes and send the rhymes home. We want the children to be comfortable performing in a low-key way."

Anne Barauskas, mother of Brady, 3, said, "This was so much fun. The teachers do such a great job. Brady has been saying the rhymes at home every day." Margaret Sheckell,

Margaret Sheckell, grandmother of Brady, added, "It was a nice low-key presentation. The kids knew the words to every song."

The grandmothers of Valerie Marx came to the program. "She has been singing the turkey song for a week. She wore her new shoes for this special day," said Arlene Marx. Grandmother Roz Warren also joined in the fun.

In a nearby classroom, 4-year-old children in the once-a-week threehour enrichment program were also celebrating Thanksgiving with a variety of activities under the leadership of teacher Cecily Roney. These children also attend the class for 4-year-olds three days a week. Children were gathered on the rug surrounding Roney and each had a chance to show a picture of what they are thankful for. They lis-tened politely as each had a turn to speak.

"Today, each child is taking home a little book titled *Run Turkey Run* and a little puppet they colored. Many of them can read the words in the simple book. We do prereading and printing



Parents, grandparents and little brothers and sisters came to see the 3-year-old children perform a program of nursery rhyme songs. The parents had fun joining in the singing and doing the motions. The parents also enjoyed the blueberry muffins, which the children made for them.



The 4-year-olds in the enrichment program made Pilgrim boys and girls as an art project (from left): Maya Forberg, Shane Martin, Quinn Baldwin, and Emmett Brown.

activities," said Carole Packla, aide to Roney. In other classrooms, the preschool children were engaged in interesting learning activities relating to the Thanksgiving holiday. Each room was decorated with the children's art activities. It is a festive and interesting environment to stimulate young children's learning.



DIANE K. BERT

DIANE K. BERT

Chelsea Olevnik, 3, proudly shares her turkey art project with her mother Tricia. Chelsea attends the First Presbyterian Church Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center.

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INSIDE: OBITUARIES, B5 • COMMUNITY LIFE, B6-7 • HEALTH, B8

SECTION B (WGRL) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

ED WRIGHT, EDITOR EWRIGHT@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-578-2767

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Falcons jump on Flyers early in 8-2 win

Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

A year's time has made a big difference for the Farmington High School hockey team, which struggled to score at pivotal moments last year.

That hasn't been a problem for the undefeated Falcons (3-0) this season, and they came through in a big way Wednesday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Farmington scored the first five goals in its annual pre-Thanksgiving game with rival Farmington Hills Unified and coasted to an 8-2 victory. "We got goals from all three

lines today," coach Bill Newton said. "At the start of the season, I thought our team was

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

very balanced, and I think it's beginning to show and pay dividends.

"We can roll three, four lines consistently, and we're doing a good job. Our kids are really buying into the concept we're only going to go as far as our defense will take us.

They realize, if you play good defense in your zone, it's amazing how much offense you can generate from that if you're not chasing the puck in your own end. So far it's all good.

The Falcons were on their way early when senior Cam Noseworthy took the first shot of the game 23 seconds into it and scored the first goal.

Unified went on a power play a short time later and

even had a 5-on-3 advantage for 43 seconds, resulting in an early, 5-1 shots advantage for the Flyers, who failed to capitalize.

Farmington followed with goals by senior Jason Petras (9:31), senior Joe Majoros (8:50), junior Colin Finn (6:50) and Petras again (4:32) to take a five-goal lead into the break.

"Obviously, in a rivalry game, you have to come out hot," Petras said. "We've start-ed the year 3-0 and scored first in every game, which is huge. We did the same thing tonight.

"Cam started the night with a good goal, and we just built on that. We had the momentum the whole game and just never

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Farmington's Jason Petras scored two goals in the 8-2 win. Blake Maddalena of the Unified team is behind Petras.

Wildcats grind out a victory



Stevenson offensive stampede buries Churchill

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Ed Wright Staff Writer

After spotting Livonia Churchill an early 1-0 lead Wednesday night, Livonia Stevenson's hockey team poured on the offense like gravy on a mound of mashed potatoes.

In the rivals' annual nightbefore-Thanksgiving showdown, with the Eddie Edgar Ice Arena stands packed with charged-up fans, the Spartans used a five-goal second period scoring barrage to power their 9-2 triumph.

Stevenson improved to 1-1 while the Chargers dropped to 3-1.

In pursuit of the puck are Canton's Matthew Eastman (No. 19) and Plymouth's Ricky Covault (No. 8).

Plymouth scores twice in third to earn 3-1 victory over Canton

Tim Smith Staff Writer

After two periods Wednesday night, Plymouth had a 19-9 edge in shots on goal and yet was stuck in a 1-1 tie with campus rival Canton at Arctic Edge Arena.

But Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento reminded his players to keep grinding, to find a way.

Thanks to a pair of dirty goals by senior forward Jake Silvester, Plymouth did just that, earning a 3-1 win over their KLAA South Division rival.

"I just told the boys things aren't al-ways going to go your way," said Vento, recalling his message to the team between the second and third periods. "You're going to outwork teams and outchance them and be in tight games, but you got to find a way to fight through it. I like the way they responded in the third."

The Wildcats certainly did, outshooting the Chiefs 15-2 in the frame and 34-11 for the contest to improve to 2-0. Canton dropped to 0-2.

Plymouth peppered Canton senior goalie Isaac Salinas during a five-minute power play (the Chiefs received a major penalty for boarding) but had nothing to show for it until Silvester jammed in a loose puck with 47 seconds to go in the



Plymouth's Josh Weber (No. 26) chases the puck in front of Canton goalie Isaac Salinas. At right for the Chiefs is Daniel Bourgeois.

penalty.

Don't stop

"There was a scrum in front of the net, and I saw the puck loose," said Silvester with a grin. "... I just pushed straight through and just hit the puck in. Just keep hammering" until the whistle sounds.

Vento noted that Silvester is a bluechip, blue-collar type of player.

"Most of Jake's goals this year are going to be ugly, that's the kind of player he is," Vento said. "He gets in tight on the crease, he bangs away, he takes the abuse

"If you're going to play in that area, in front of the crease like that, you've got to be willing to pay the price. And Jake is

See GRIND, Page B2

"We always look forward to this game a lot — night before Thanksgiving, cross-town rival, packed house," said Stevenson defenseman Zach Finzel, who contributed a goal and an assist while also playing a key role in neutralizing Churchill leading scorers Nolan Cioch and Josh Friend. "Once they scored the first goal, we had to stay up, not panic and keep the tempo.'

The Spartans managed to do all three, scoring five straight goals after Churchill's Tyler Haydu gave his team a 1-0 advantage 5:20 in when his back-handed shot from the left face-off circle eluded Stevenson goalie Cullen Barber's out-stretched glove.

See SHOWDOWN, Page B2



ED WRIGHT Stevenson players celebrate after Ben Kowalske's first-period goal.



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MICHAEL VASILNEK

See UNDEFEATED, Page B2

LOCAL NEWS

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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Patriots blank Eagles to gain fourth straight win

The Livonia Franklin boys hockey team went into the Thanksgiving break on a roll.

The Patriots improved to 4-0 overall with a 5-3 victory Wednesday night over host White Lake Lakeland in a game played at Lakeland Ice Arena.

Franklin opened the first period with three straight goals.

Chase Wallis opened the scoring from Brendan Whitney and Nik Salisbury fol-

SHOWDOWN

Continued from Page B1

Stevenson carried a 2-1 lead into the first intermission thanks to lamp-lighters from Ben Kowalske (from Adam Olsen and Alex Walkuski) and Shane Leonard's power-play goal that was assisted by Alec Allen.

Spartan junior forward Christian Nabozny hit the post with a hard slap shot nine minutes into the contest.

We tried to get better as the game went on," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "I liked the way we did the things we've been practicing on. I give credit to our guys for continuing to stick to the game plan and doing what we've been working on.

The Chargers emerged from the first intermission with fire in their eyes, throwing a flurry of shots at Barber three minutes into the period; however, the reigning "Dream Team" goalie was up to the challenge, keeping the net behind him clean with a series of instinctive saves.

Moments later, Barber was bolstered by strong defensive plays from sophomore Jake Beaune and Finzel, who extinguished a pair of dangerous break-aways by Friend and John Doyle.

Beginning with Finzel's goal from Nick Beers at the 10:56 mark, the Spartans put a head-lock on the contest when Leonard deposited a powerplay goal off helpers from Adam Olson and Nate Sudek.

Following Leonard's goal, Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds called a time-out to help his team re-group.

Whatever Reynolds said

"... We've been working hard the last month, and it's good to get a little time off. Hopefully, we come back ready to rock."

DENNIS GAGNON Franklin varsity coach

lowed by Max McCrory's goal from Brendan Nutting and Jack Engle. Trevor Lassaline then converted on a power play from Wallis with 3:36 left for a 3-0 lead.

But Travis Gragg got the Eagles (1-1-1) on the board with just 36 seconds left in the opening period to trim the deficit to 3-1.

Lakeland's Bryant Cohen then scored the next two goals in the second period, one on an unassisted shorthanded effort just 42 seconds into the period and the other off an assist from Blake Kocsis at 10:37 to make it 3-all.

But the Patriots took the lead for keeps getting a goal from Zack Nelson off an assist from Nutting with only 14 seconds left in the second.

Whitney then put it away off an assist from Wallis with 7:07 remaining in the third to give Franklin a two-goal cushion and the victory. Franklin freshman net-

minder Jake Penny, who

made 27 saves, recorded his fourth straight victory.

Brandon Pomerleau had

"Thanksgiving holiday - the boys have four days off. last month, and it's good to ly, we come back ready to rock."

29 saves for the Eagles. "We're so happy to win four in a row," Franklin coach Dennis Gagnon said. We've been working hard the get a little time off. Hopeful-



Churchill goalie Andrew Broyles turned away this close-range shot by Stevenson's Nate Sudek.

sunk in as eight seconds after. the face-off, John Doyle stole an attempted Stevenson clearing pass just inside the blue line and whistled a high, hard shot past Barber to bring the Chargers to within 4-2.

Stevenson closed out the period with a three-goal flurry scoring on door-step tip-ins by Joe Alcantara (from Ko-

walske), Sam Judd (from Kyle Lynch) and Alex Siroky (from Alex Oquist) - to ramp its lead up to 7-2.

Some nights the puck goes in and some nights it doesn't; tonight it was going in for us," Mitchell explained. "We put up 33 shots against Brother Rice the other night and only scored once. Tonight we

scored nine against a very good goal-tender. It's a funny game.

Barber was spectacular mid-way through the third period when he stoned Friend on a breakaway before thwarting a two-on-one break orchestrated by Nolan Cioch and Jordan Venegoni.

Stevenson extended its lead

to 9-2 with late goals from Alcantara and Oquist.

'We make sure that, as a team, we always play hard to the last second," Finzel said. "I thought we played well tonight. It's still early, so we're only going to get better.'

ewright@hometownlife.com

"They're super disciplined

IDFFFATE NUEFEALEU

Continued from Page B1

let up."

Falcons' total tally

Noseworthy scored the last goal of the game and also had two. Sophomore Tanner Neill and freshman Eli Arnold scored one apiece.

Majoros and senior defenseman Jordan Hoke had three assists each, Noseworthy and sophomore Joe Carbone two. Finn, Neill and sophomore Carter Wells assisted on one goal apiece.

"Sometimes, kids get so excited and nervous getting ready for this game," Newton said, "I think we came out really well and got some good goals early and some confidence. For us, it was good because we're scoring goals.

All in the game

Newton played everybody and substituted regularly in the second period, which was more even despite the Falcons outshooting the Flyers, 16-8.

The only goal was by Unified senior Brandon Glasser until Majoros made it 6-1 with 20 seconds remaining

"Every one of these kids comes to practice every day and works hard," Newton said. "It's rewarding for us as coaches when we can roll four lines and get all the defensemen involved, because it's the only way you get better.



"Tonight was a great opportunity for a lot of our freshmen to play in a great environment, and they're better players because they got to play. In that way, it was a great game for us.

More even period

Newton acknowledged the Falcons did some things differently such as not running their regular power play and eased off the gas pedal a bit.

Unified also looked better defensively and more assertive offensively in the second period.

"I thought it was a combination of both," Flyers coach Ken Anderson said. "A couple of our guys stepped up their intensity, and (the Falcons) lightened up whatever they did. It looked like we played better, but I'm not sure if that was the case.

"I think their goalie (Thomas Bacon) settled down after that (first period)," Newton said. "He made some good saves in the second period to keep the game under control. Give that young man credit."

'Superior team'

Senior Andrew Nathan scored the second goal for the Flyers (0-3). Sophomores Tallon Brehmer and Blake Maddalena assisted on the Unified goals.

Junior goaltender Hunter Firestone played the first period for the Falcons and senior Tom Lockner the last two.

'We just lost to a superior team at this point," Anderson said. "They beat us in every phase of the game. (They were) faster, quicker, wanted it more.

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Farmington's Joe Majoros has the inside track on **Brandon Glasser** as they go for the puck.

and play hard to the whistle. They're on a roll right now. Hopefully, we can catch up a little bit by the end of the year.

"We're not even close to where we need to be, but that's why we practice. Hopefully, we can learn from this loss. We have to; we have no choice."

Age, training helps

Farmington's off-ice training, hard work between seasons and added maturity is largely responsible for its 3-0 start, according to Newton.

"I've got seven seniors," he said. "I've got seven men. It changes everything when you're big and strong and playing against maybe 10th and ninth graders. They're bigger, stronger, faster and it shows.

"We have a lot of veterans," Petras said. "This is my seventh Flyers game. We have to remind the guys it's a 0-0 game every time you step on the ice, and you have to play like that.

"You have to control the highs and lows. That's how you win big games like that, and that's what we did tonight."

Up North road trap

Petras added the Falcons will try to add two more victories to their record this weekend in the Traverse City Invitational.

"Like coach always says, 'It's going to be fun; it's going to be team-building, but it's a business trip.' We're going up there to win games, and that's how you have to keep going.'

GRIND

Continued from Page B1

willing."

Silvester then iced the victory when he caromed a puck from the side of the net off the back of Salinas' leg.

Canton head coach Brad Barath lamented the major penalty, but thought the whistle could have been blown on the play before Silvester nudged the puck over the goal line.

"We were fired up 1-1 going into the third period," Barath said. "But the five-minute penalty put us behind the 8-ball.

We did a good job killing

off four minutes and 30 seconds of it. But they banged in a goal that I thought the whistle should have been blown on. What are you going to do, it's hockey.

Plymouth got off to a quick 1-0 lead when sophomore forward Josh Weber buried a rebound, just 4:42 into the Thanksgiving Eve contest. Assisting on the tally were senior forward Alex Bump and sophomore forward Jack Chumley.

"Weber's been great," Vento said. "He was great in camp, he's been great since the start of the season. He's a smaller guy but he plays big, he's always around the puck. His feet just never stop moving."

Still close

That slim lead held until the final stages of the middle frame, largely because of stellar netminding by Salinas.

The netminder made several timely stops to keep the Chiefs close, snagging a point shot by senior defenseman Zack Wiener and turning aside an in-close bid by junior blueliner Zach Gallaher.

"He (Salinas) played very well," Barath said. "He's been in the program, he suffered injuries the over the last few years, hasn't really been able to play hockey because of it.

"He's healthy right now and

he's playing well. He's very confident with his game, it helps him.'

There was a bit of good fortune too, as a blast taken by Plymouth junior defenseman Keaton Courtney hit the right post

Canton then drew even at 1-all with 2:48 left when senior forward and captain Brian Oldani scored.

Senior center James Tucker rushed down the left wing and took a shot that Plymouth senior goalie Trevor McManus blocked. Crashing into the net-front area to chip the puck in was Oldani.

"They worked their butts off to get the puck in front of the

net and bang in a rebound," Barath said.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, they could not get untracked during the final 17 minutes. Credit Plymouth's proactive, persistent play for that.

"With all the newcomers we have, it was a great game," Vento noted. "The Park games, the rivalry games are always tough to play. But you got to play them to figure it out. I thought they passed a pretty good test tonight.'

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LOCAL SPORTS

All-Observer boys have good times in cross country

Tony Floyd, Franklin: Floyd capped a spectacular career by

qualifying for the third time for the Division 1 state meet. where he finished ninth overall, earning allstate honors.



He was the champion of the Livonia City Meet and the **KLAA Kensington Conference** and was runner-up at the Wayne County Championships. In addition to placing third at his Division 1 regional, he won every dual meet and broke the school record with a time of 15:31.

"Tony is a very special runner," coach Pat Koelzer said. "His natural form makes him smooth and efficient. The longer the distance, the better he gets.

"I've had the honor of coaching him in either cross country or track since eighth grade. This season, he was very focused on his goal of being allstate and it helped him grow into a leader by example for the rest of the team.

"He is also a good student and his teammates really look up to him. Tony hopes to continue running in college and is starting to get attention from some Division I schools.'

Chaz Jeffress, Salem: Consistently among the cream of

the crop in Division 1, the senior capped off one of the best careers in school history with all-state honors for the second season in a row.



At Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Jeffress placed 16th with a time of 15:43.3 seconds, following his second-place finish the previous weekend at the D1 regional

at Willow Metropark (15:33.2). Jeffress, No. 1 in Salem boys cross country team history and owner of the program's freshman, junior and senior records, won the Wayne County Championship with a mark of 15:31, his best time of the season.

"It has been a joy to coach a special talent like Chaz for the past four years and he will be missed tremendously in the future," coach Steve Aspinall said. "He has been our top runner for the past three seasons and has been a contender to win every race he has entered for the past two years.

'Chaz is one of the toughest runners I have ever coached

2015 ALL OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM

Tony Floyd, sr., Franklin Chaz Jeffress, sr., Salem Zac Clark, jr., Canton James Weekley, sr., Harrison Ethan Byrnes, soph., Plymouth Nick Trevisan, soph., Farmington Andrew Bambach, sr., Stevenson Robert Irwin, soph., N. Farmington Brandon Boyd, fr., Plymouth Seth Windle, soph., Ply. Christian Shane Andrews, soph., Canton

SECOND TEAM Grant Rudd, soph., Franklin Josh Mussen, jr., Churchill Nathan Ward, jr., Stevenson Alex Brauer, jr., Stevenson Aaron Vicars, fr., Ply. Christian Griffin Skaff, sr., Salem Jacob Kubinski, sr., Salem Nick Socha, jr., Canton Owen Rowader, soph., Stevenson Alex Kroll, jr., Salem Ben Griffith, soph., Stevenson

CO-COACHES OF YEAR Steve Aspinall, Salem Charles Bridges, Farmington HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Jon Hovermale, Clint Cov en. Delson Christian, Noah Hagood, Franklin: Watt Lepper, Logan Evanchuk, Mike Mackiewicz; Salem: Ryan Exell, Andrew Beyer, Luke Haran; Plymouth: Jarrett Warner, Lucas Kapala, Adam Stepek, Nate Schmidt; Canton: Zach Carey, Zach Cannon, Braden Heimbaugh, Daniel Jiminez; Stevenson: Nathan Wilson, Jacob Bieganski; Farmington: Maxx Merlino, Nick Johnson, Jonathon Pierce; Harrison: Dakota Kelly; North Farmington: Derek Abbott Ryan Darnell; Plymouth Christian: Gareth Matson

state final, which coach Bill Boyd said was the third fastest time in school history.

"Zac also holds the record for fastest Canton times at both the Wayne County Championship and the KLAA Championship," Boyd said.

At the county meet, Clark placed fifth (16:23).

James Weekley, Harrison: Weekley qualified for his third

consecutive state meet and finished 46th in Division 1 with a time of 16:08.

He was fifth in the Waterford regional (16.24)

and was the city champion for the second year in a row, running 16:22 in early October at Oakland Community College.

"We've had some great runners, but no one has had the consistency James has had across the board," coach John Reed said.

"My goal for him as a coach has always been to see him run at the next level and I think he's going to do very well there. He still has a big upside to him."

Ethan Byrnes, Plymouth: Hard work between seasons

paid big dividends for the sophomore, who



5.000

of 16:16.4 was good for 65th overall.

"Ethan ran a lot of miles over the summer and it paid off," coach Jon Mikosz said. "He had a great season and is only a sophomore. He has the potential to be one of the best runners in school history by the time he is done.

"He is a vary coachable runner that is extremely determined, which is a great combination.

Nick Trevisan, Farmington: After breaking 20 minutes

once as a freshman, Trevisan had an outstanding sophomore season in which he finished 77th at the Divison 1 state meet (16:23)

2 He ran a career best of 16:13 at the Waterford regional and qualified for states in 11th place. He was all-OAA White Division and all-Oakland Coun-

ty, too. Trevisan is a 4.0 student and was named to the academic all-state team.

'Nick had a strong track season and continued to work hard this summer," co-coach Jeremy Auer said. "His hard work and dedication paid off, running a PR by nearly three minutes and winning our first jamboree in 17:06.

"Nick is always looking to improve; he never settles. He brings the same intensity to every practice that he does his races.

"That will ensure ongoing improvement as we look for all-state performances from Nick in the future.'

Robert Irwin,

N. Farmington: A sophomore, Irwin finished second in the city meet (16:30) at OCC for the

second year in a row and was the runner-up in the OAA White Division at 16:35.

He also placed third (17:10) in the Huron Invite, fourth (16:47) in the Linden Invite and 25th (16:47) in the Oakland County meet.

Days before the regional, Irwin sustained a back injury and was unable to complete the Division 1 race at Hess Hathaway Park.

"It was unfortunate, because Robert was showing a lot of improvement in the latter part of the season," coach Paul Welch said, adding Irwin still had a terrific sophomore season.

sonal best of 16:39. That broke the previous record for a Plymouth ninthgrader, held by Byrnes

At the Wayne County Championship, Boyd placed 18th with a time of 16:57 and took 25th at the Kensington Conference meet with a time of 17:06. Then at the regional, his mark of 16:39 was 22nd best.

"He has a lot of potential," Mikosz said. "He ran some amazing times for just being a freshman. Once he gets more races under his belt, he could be one of the top guys in the area

"He is an all-around good guy and a hard worker at practice.'

Seth Windle, Ply. Christian: Small in stature but big in talent,

the sophomore finished 26th in Division 4 (16:58.7) to earn all-state honors and also was a key part of

an Eagles team that came in 11th in the team standings. Windle set the PCA record

with a time of 16:56 at the Wayne County Championships, then ran 16:28 at the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference meet to shatter his own mark.

He was MIAC MVP, having earned medalist honors at all three conference races.

"His goal was to be on the podium at the state finals,' coach Jennifer Lemieux said. "He got up every morning during the summer to run. We had a plan and he worked hard for the honor to be all-state.

"I am extremely proud of him. His motivation is to run for God's glory and he does this extremely well." Shane An-

drews, Canton:

-

This was a year of progress for the Chiefs and the sophomore's growth as a runner through-

out the season is a key reason. Andrews set his personal

mark of 16:39 at the Wayne County Championship, making him one of the program's fastest sophomores ever.

'Shane's 16:39 is his career best and he is only a sophomore, so that's exciting right there," Boyd said.

The 10th-grader also set the school record for fastest time at the Mustang Invitational and one of the better teams in recent seasons, led by one of the state's premier runners in senior Chaz Jeffress. At the

helm is the Observer's co-coach of the year.

Aspinall would rather not take credit for any of those successes, however, praising his athletes and assistant coach Geoff Baker (who just completed his 30th season with the Salem cross country program).

The 2015 cross country season was successful because of the hard work and dedication put forth by the athletes going back to June," Aspinall said. "These guys decided they wanted to be good and put forth the work to back it up.

The seniors provided great leadership and assistance throughout the season and they will be missed next year.'

Salem, in the always-tough KLAA Central Division, went 3-2 in dual meets to finish third behind Northville and Novi. Those were the top three teams at the conference meet and the Rocks went on to finish fourth at the D1 regional, just missing on a spot at MIS in Brooklyn.

"I am proud to be the coach of a team with such a rich tradition of success," Aspinall said

Charles Bridges/Jeremy Auer, Farming-

ton: What made the season so successful for the Falcons was how far the program progressed in just

Farmington

enough runners

two years.

didn't have

to field a full

team or post a

team score in

on its feet in

2014.

2013 and it strug-

gled to get back

Bridges

Auer With the same

team as last year, the Falcons reclaimed the city championship, finished a close third in the OAA White Division and were seventh at the Willow Metropark regional.

"Seeing the boys begin to have success is very gratify-ing," Bridges said. "We have worked very hard the past three years to get the boys team back to being a solid competitive team.

"We were able to do that this year and the foundation is in



and his hatred of losing is second to none."

On Nov. 14, Jeffress qualified for the Mid-East Meet of Champions with a time of 15:58, placing third to earn a spot on Team Michigan.

Zac Clark, Canton: The junior really came into his own for the Chiefs in 2015, qualifying for the D1 state finals with his 16:22 performance at the regional - the fastest time for a Canton runner at that race.

The best was yet to come, as Boyd clocked 16:08 at the D1

ran a personal best of 16:06 the ninth-fastest time posted in

the state in D1. That time also is seventh fastest in school history and No. 1 among Plymouth sophomores in program history.

Other accomplishments included finishing fourth at the county meet (16:11), ninth at the **Kensington Conference meet** (16:23) and 10th at the regional with a time of 16:13.

At MIS in Brooklyn, his time

"Robert's hard work and dedication provided the framework that enabled him to improve throughout the season and compete with the best in the area.

Brandon Boyd, Plymouth: The future is pretty bright for the Wildcats, with three more seasons with Boyd in the lineup

As a freshman, he posted the state's seventh-fastest time for a D1 runner with his per-

currently sits as the 20th fastest runner in program history.

At the conference meet, Andrews finished 16th (16:41) and followed that up at the D1 regional with a time of 17:02 (34th place).

Coaches of the Year Steve Aspinall, Salem: The

KLAA covers a part of the state that veteran coach Aspinall describes as "a hotbed of solid cross country runners and teams.

And the Rocks have been

place to be very successful over the next few years. We were pleased with the 2015 season and are very excited about our future.'

"This year was a huge step for our program," Auer said. "No one but us gave us any chance to be competitive this year. The running culture at Farmington has come a long way in the last 12 months.

"If the commitment and dedication continue on this path, we will be extremely tough for years to come."

History-making trip for Schoolcraft College cagers

Tim Smith Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College's basketball teams had a successful trip to Toledo, Ohio.

The men's team cruised Saturday to a lopsided 117-83 victory over host Owens Community College.

More notably, the Lady Ocelots defeated Owens 66-59 snapping a 47-game regular season home winning streak for the Express.

In the men's contest, Schoolcraft connected on more than 61 percent from the floor, with guard JaChristian Biles lead-

ing the way with 32 points (8-of-13 from behind the 3point line).

Canton alum Davon Taylor had a strong game at forward, with 16 points and seven rebounds.

Also in double figures was guard Dre Black of Westland John Glenn and R.J. Coil, with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Coil also led Schoolcraft (6-0) with 11 rebounds.

Schoolcraft enjoyed a 55-44 halftime lead and then turned the game into a laugher following intermission with a 62-39 edge in the second half against the Express (3-5).



Lady Ocelots prevail

In the Schoolcraft-Owens

SPORTS ROUNDUP

women's contest, the Lady Ocelots had to rebound from a sluggish start (trailing 29-7 after one quarter) en route to their victory.

Schoolcraft (5-0) still faced an uphill battle at halftime, trailing 39-23 thanks to poor field-goal shooting (6-of-29, 20.7 percent).

When the shots started to fall in the second half (14-of-37, 37.8 percent) things turned around for the Lady Ocelots. Owens led 48-42 going into the fourth and that's when Schoolcraft took over with a 24-11 onslaught.

Leading the way for the

visitors was guard T'era Nesbitt, with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

Other key contributors were Rainy McCune (11 points), Phoenix Douthat (nine points), Rikki Scherdt (a teamhigh 14 rebounds) and Salem alum Jamyra Wilson (seven points, four rebounds, four steals)

Scoring 16 points each for Owens (6-3) were Jeryn Reese and Lakyn Gulley.

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Falcon chooses WMU

Southfield High School senior Matt Falcon is headed to Western Michigan University to play football.

The talented but hard-luck running back had committed to the University of Michigan in the middle of his junior year.



However, just prior to his senior season, Falcon suffered a season-ending knee injury. He is expected to fully recover, but Harbaugh and the Wolverines decided to back away from Falcon's commitment.

The Wolverines offered Falcon a medical scholarship, meaning he could attend Michigan but not play football. Falcon wants to resume his football career.

Because of the difference of opinion, Falcon elected to de-comitt from Michigan and recently decided to attend Western Michigan.

Despite interest from other schools like Northwestern, Purdue, Wisconsin, Toledo and Central Michigan, Falcon

chose to play with the Broncos next fall.

"Matt has been getting positive medical feedback all along that he will have a full recovery from his injury and will be able to play football at a high level in the future," Southfield head coach Tim Conley said.

Western Michigan provided the best timetable for rehab, opportunity for playing and standard of academics out of all the other schools that were recruiting him.

"Matt is an extremely hard worker on the football field, and that will continue through his rehab. He is also a collegeready student, so I am expecting him to do great things in

Kalamazoo."

Golfer gets hole-in-one

John Cast, 62, of Belleville used a pitching wedge Nov. 16 to ace the 112-yard No. 6 hole on the Hills Course at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth.

WSU baseball camp

The Wayne State University Baseball Camp will be Saturday, Dec. 5, and will feature former Detroit Tigers Alan Trammell and Lance Parrish.

The sixth annual camp is for players in grades 2-12 and will take place in two sessions.

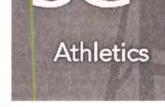
Session I is 9:30 a.m. to noon and will concentrate on infield and outfield play, plus hitting. Session II runs 1:30-4 p.m. and will focus and pitching, catching and hitting. Each session will have a \$100 fee. For more information, go to wsuathletics.com.

LTU volleyball tryout

Lawrence Tech University women's volleyball is having an open tryout for any 2016 seniors or 2017 juniors interested in playing at LTU in fall 2016.

The tryout session is sched-uled for 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at LTU's Don Ridler Fieldhouse (21000 10 Mile Road, Southfield).

Any questions should be directed to Lwyatt@ltu.edu or 313-977-0404.



LOCAL SPORTS

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

A DAY DAY DAY



Bloomfield Township resident and United Shore Professional Baseball League chairman and CEO Andrew Appleby stands in front of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers banner unveiled Monday at a ceremony in Utica.

Play ball! Appleby beams about new business venture

Marty Budner Staff Writer

It was cold and snowing lightly early Monday afternoon in Utica.

Inside Eppler Junior High School's Media Center, if you looked out the windows in the distance through the flakes and between the trees, you could see the skeleton of a baseball stadium.

Bloomfield Township resident Andrew Appleby proudly pointed to the rapidly rising Jimmy John's Field — a \$12 million state-of-the-art facility he's privately funded — and conjured up warm images of a unique brand of independent minor league baseball he will bring to the Detroit area starting this spring. Jimmy John's Field is just a fungo hit away from Eppler's athletic complex, located behind the school.

At Monday's press conference, Appleby, the clean-up speaker among a lineup of local dignitaries that included Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, explained the motivation behind his newlyformed United Shore Professional Baseball League, which will run from late May day because we are trying to make every kid better," he added. "This is sort of an eight-year overnight success story. So it has taken a long time to work on it."

Birmingham represented

Later, Appleby and the other assembled dignitaries darted to the school gymnasium, where the three charter teams' mascots and logos were unveiled in a jazzed up pep rally in front of the school's screaming student body. The entertaining ceremony came replete with loud music, Tshirt and mini-baseball giveaways and colorful light displays.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers will be one of the three teams to compete in the inaugural USPBL season. The lone Oakland County squad, the Beavers were conceived to be the crosstown rival of the league's two home teams — the Utica Unicorns and Eastside Diamond Hoppers

The Beavers will feature blue, red and gold uniforms and the mascot will be Buzz the Beaver. The Unicorns will wear red, white and purple uniforms, while the Hopper will be outfitted in orange and green. "All three teams will play out of (Jimmy John's Field). But we needed a team that maybe created a little bit of a rivalry and that's why we created Birmingham-Bloomfield," Appleby said. "In the future, we hope to have a home for Birmingham-Bloomfield.'

seen from M-59, which cuts through the heart of downtown in the 198-year old city of Utica.

The fan-friendly stadium will have 2,000 grandstand seats, in addition to hill sitting in the outfield and upscale suite accommodations. Ticket prices will range from \$6 to \$20 for a 75-game schedule.

\$20 for a 75-game schedule. Besides baseball, Appleby envisions hosting high school baseball games, high school and college hockey games, community activities and possibly concerts.

"We chose Utica for the baseball stadium because of the sense of community," Appleby said. "We understand what a major venue like a baseball park means to a community and we're thrilled by the welcome we've received here (in Utica).

"I think this ballpark will be one of the finest in America. It's pretty much every good idea that I've ever seen over the years in design and marketing. It's pretty unique that it's coming to this community.

"I couldn't necessarily do this everywhere, but here, where I had all my relationships, made this is a little bit easier," he added. "It takes a while to get something like this off the ground."

Manager, coach, player? The USPBL wants you

Marty Budner Staff Writer

If you've ever dreamed of managing or coaching a minor league baseball team, now's your chance.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers are one of three teams that will compete in the United Shore Professional Baseball League, based out of Utica in Macomb County. The two other teams are the Utica Unicorns and Eastside Diamond Hoppers.

The independent league's commissioner and president — Bloomfield Township resident Andrew Appleby — formally announced the USPBL's three charter teams at a press conference Monday inside the media center of the Utica Community Schools' Eppler Junior High School.

Now that the team names are in place, Appleby and the USPBL's executive director of baseball operations Brian Berryman are in the process of looking for general managers and coaches for each team.

Berryman, a 1995 Redford Union High School graduate who played college baseball at Michigan, said the search is on and all qualified applicants will be considered, for every position from manger to coach to player. "We're looking at all the

"We're looking at all the resumes and I'm reaching out to all my baseball contacts from a college standpoint," said Berryman, a Bloomfield Township resident. "We actually had a former major league pitching coach come in who lives locally who is very interested. I've met with him three or four times.

"It's amazing the amount of interest we're getting without a lot of publicity," he added. "This is the first major marketing event we've done, so I'm sure we'll have a lot of interest."

Positions available

The plan is to start filling positions soon after the new year begins.

"We're going to have one manager and one assistant manger for each team and we want all of those in place by January or February," Berryman said. "So, when March, April and May come around, when you get the minor league guys being released and the college guys graduating, you're going to have an influx of players. "So we want to be able to have our tryouts and have our coaches available, along with the scouts, so we can obviously



have a great evaluation process for all the players," he added. "So we're looking to start the whole process right after the new year."

Berryman

The two USPBL administrators indicated the dream is to make the USPBL a "developmental" league to attract the most talented young players available, including those who may have just missed out on being drafted by a Major League Baseball team.

Officials figure a talent-pool of 66 players will fill out the three rosters, with tryouts in May and a targeted opening day by Memorial Day. The league will consist of primarily college-aged players, who will be payed a nominal fee and offered business internships.

College-age players

"The league will consist of players who just graduated from college who just barely didn't get drafted," said Andrew Appleby, former owner of the Ft. Wayne Wizards minor league franchise. "So it might mean the .280 hitting catcher at USC or Vanderbilt who just barely didn't get drafted, yet still feels he might make the major leagues someday and might need a little more coaching or a little bit of extra help, whether that be extra conditioning or sabermetrics.

"We've got a whole finishing school planned to make each and every one of these kids better. Most other leagues that they might be drafted into, they might just be there to play the games. In our league, we need them to play the games, too, don't get me wrong. But we're trying to make every kid better.

"We just want to grab all the kids we can who were on the cusp of just making it or not making it," he added. "And we also think those kids might have a little bit of a chip on their shoulders and really want to get to the next level."

Berryman concurred that, in addition to family entertainment, the USPBL's role is to develop major league talent. "We want to hire the best

teachers of the game so we can get these kids to the next level as quickly as possible," Berryman said. "That's our goal and it's just going to take some time. Between myself and the managers of the teams, we are going to do our due diligence and make the right selections."

through mid-September.

"There are a lot of reasons for creating this league," said Appleby, chairman and CEO of General Sports and Entertainment, LLC, based out of Rochester. "We want to be part of an entertainment facility to provide baseball in the very best weather that we can.

"In addition to that, we wanted to create a finishing school to bring to this league — which is a take-off on our soccer team in England — and to our knowledge we're the first league which has ever done it. We're looking to try and get every kid to the major leagues.

"Now, we know we won't. But we know we'll get someone to the major leagues some-

Fan-friendly stadium

Appleby said the USPBL plans to throw its first pitch on Memorial Day next year. All games will be played at Jimmy John's Field, on Auburn Road a half-mile west of Van Dyke in Utica. The field and its four 50-foot towers will be easily Appleby, whose son graduated from Bloomfield Hills High School and who currently has children at Detroit Country Day, is thrilled to finally have the USPBL on the cusp of its first pitch.

"It's terribly exciting. Minor league baseball around the country is a phenomenon; we've just never had it here," Appleby said. "I'm looking forward to not just bringing baseball here for the first time, but because it's right near my home and my office. We've owned teams in Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Darby, England. Now I'm looking forward to having something just down the street."



MARTY BUDNER

The three-team USPBL, designed for college players who may have just missed being drafted by major league teams, will include some 65 players who will play a 75-game season.

BOYS HOCKEY

Shamrocks beat Brother Rice with late goals, 3-1

Brad Emons

Staff Writer

The Catholic Central-Brother Rice hockey rivalry had all the Thanksgiving eve trimmings and more Wednesday night at USA Hockey Arena.

The battle between state champions did not disappoint as the host Shamrocks, the defending MHSAA Division 1 champs, got a late goal from senior JoJo Mancinelli, followed by Brian Kearns' empty-netter in the waning seconds, to upend the defending Division 2 champion Warriors, 3-1.

CC, which improved to 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the North Division of the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League, scored the game-winner with only 3:27 remaining on a power play to break a 1-1 deadlock just 11 seconds after Rice's Jack Clement was sent to the penalty box for an inadvertent high stick.

Catholic Central's Kyle Mulka then won the face-off to set up Mancinelli's game-winner. Nick Macari and Luc Krasicky got credit for assists.

"I think there was a scrum in the middle, we got the puck



clear lane to Mancinelli shoot the puck and just got it to the net," Mancinelli said. "I

saw it the whole way." Getting pucks to the net was the main focus late in the game, according to CC coach Brandon Kaleniecki.

"We win the draw, we get possession of it, move it around the top and a net-front guy, Macari did a great job in front of the net and JoJo (Mancinelli) puts it on net and there you go," the first-year coach said. "The goalie (Daniel Sendek) couldn't see it. That's how you score in tight games."

The loss dropped the Warriors to 2-1 overall and 0-1 in the MIHL North.

"I think we just ran out out of a little bit of steam towards that third period," Rice coach Lou Schmidt said. "And, of course, we took that fluky penalty. Our defenseman turned around and hit their guy in the head with his stick. It was an accident and, the next thing, you're on a penalty kill with three minutes left. They win the face-off and it's in the net."

The Shamrocks were on their heels during the opening period. But despite being outshot 9-4, they took a 1-0 advantage into the first intermission after sophomore Kam Ottenbreit went top shelf into the upper left corner, with Jared Lee and Cody Borke drawing assists, with 4:33 left in the period.

"(Rice) came out in the first period and kind of took it to us," Kaleniecki said. "I thought we adjusted well in the second and the third and kind of turned it around. The first period, we end up 1-0 when we really didn't deserve to be. Our goalie (Alec Calvaruso) played really well. We made one nice play at the end and we got out of there with a 1-0 lead when we really didn't deserve that, I think."

Rice tied it 1-1 with 11:44 remaining in the second period, as Mitch Schultz intercepted a pass just outside his own blue line along the boards and streaked in unassisted to beat Calvaruso. "I felt like we carried the play in the second period and the one they took advantage of the turnover on ours and it ends up in the back of our net," Kaleniecki said. "That's what happens when you play good hockey teams. You can give them one chance and it can go the other way. The third period, I thought, was a very even period. I thought at times we were controlling the play and at times they were. That's what you expect in a rivalry game like that."

Calvaruso, who finished with 16 saves, made big backto-back stops with just under five minutes remaining against Rice's Garrett Moore to keep it deadlocked.

"I think the game kind of boiled down to a goalie contest," Schmidt said. "I thought both guys played outstanding. Their guy made some great saves when he had to and, of course, Danny Sendek, I think, stood on his head."

And once CC got the lead, Rice was forced to pull Sendek (19 saves) for an extra attacker with just over a minute to play.

During a timeout, the Shamrocks went over their defensive assignments.

"That's the nitty-gritty time, when you just have to make sure on everything," Kaleniecki said. "We weren't designing any specific face-off play. We were just making sure where we needed to be."

The two teams will meet again Wednesday, Jan. 20, at Oak Park Arena.

"I know when we go there in a couple of months, it will be another fun hockey game," Kaleniecki said. "They're a good hockey team. That's the fun part of this league (MIHL) we're playing in. It's going to be like that.

"We turn around from (Thanksgiving) break and play Trenton and Orchard Lake (St. Mary's) twice. Probably going to be very similar hockey games. I'm going to get older every day."

Meanwhile, Schmidt is looking forward to the second encounter with the Shamrocks, as well.

"Again, I'm proud of the kids," he said. "I thought they played really, really hard. I thought it was two good teams out there today. We're going to have another battle with them later in the season."

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

James and Elizabeth (Miller) Cook of Westland marked their 60th wedding anniversary Nov. 19. The couple mar-ried in 1955 in Detroit.

Their children are Timothy (Theresa), Kimberlee, and Caleb (Brenda). They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The couple met in the summer of 1955 while working as counselors at Clear Lake Camp, and married that fall. They

shared a love of family, an appreciation of nature and a passion for civil rights. In the early years of their marriage James and Elizabeth volunteered as court watchers in downtown Detroit, marched for equality with Focus Hope, and were avid followers of the local Westland political scene.

James dedicated his career to helping kids by working in the public schools, first in Plymouth and then Livonia as a teacher, a counselor, and finally a middle school

ENGAGEMENT

FOLLBAUM-CULLEN

Allison Follbaum and Michael Cullen announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Michele Follbaum of Livonia, graduated in 2009 from Clonlara High School and in 2013 from Madonna University, with a BA in journalism and public relations. She works as the social media coordinator for The Polish Mission of the Or-

chard Lake Schools. Her fiancé, son of Michael and Merri Cullen of Northville, is a 2006 graduate of Northville High and a 2010 graduate of The Citadel with a BA in history. He works for the federal government.

A June 2016 wedding is planned in Detroit.



administrator. He has

been retired for 23 years. Elizabeth committed the first 16 years of marriage to staying home and raising their children, and then returned to school and the workforce for a second career as a labor and delivery nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. She still receives Christmas cards from the parents of babies she helped deliver, now grown and starting families of their own.

The Cooks are spending their retirement years at their home in

Westland, and their summer cabin near Traverse City, where they spend time enjoying family and friends. They continue to support their community by remaining politically active, volunteering in organizations that help folks get back on their feet, and conserving the natural beauty of the state. They also enjoy cheering on the Detroit Tigers.

They celebrated their anniversary at an open house with family and friends.



James and Elizabeth Cook of Westland

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers * Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change



Obltuaries, Memories & Rememberance

ANULEWICZ, CAROLYN L.

71, of Northville; passed age away peacefully on November 22 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer. Long-time and faithful companion for nearly 20 years to Sam Messina. Former wife to James D. Anulewicz. Dear mother of Jeffrey (Jill) Anulewicz, Trevor (Andrea) Anulewicz, and Brandon (Francesca) Anulewicz. Proud grandmother of Reese, Ellie, Nora, Vito, Thomas, and Sawyer. Caring sister of Gerald Becker. Carolyn lived her life with grace, dignity, love and an inner strength that shone through in everything she did. Having earned a Bachelors Degree from Michigan State University, as well as Masters Degrees from both Eastern Michigan and Wayne State Universities, her lifelong passion for education and mentorship extended well beyond herself and her family. She touched uncountable lives through her work in the Plymouth-Canton School District, first as a teacher and later as Vice-Principal of Salem High School. She encouraged all those that she came into contact with to push themselves beyond their limits, achieve their goals and to be their best selves, a philosophy that will continue on, on her behalf through her beloved She will be dearly family. missed, but always remembered, her family, friends and students. The visitation was Tuesday at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann

Arbor Rd., Plymouth (Between

Sheldon and Beck). The Funeral

Mass was Wednesday at St.

Rd.,

Memorial donations may be

made to Educational Excellence

Foundation. To share a memory

ATKINSON,

HAROLD JAMES

Known to all as Jim, 65, passed

away at home on November 17,

2015, due to complications from

Multiple Systems Atrophy. Jim

was born in Detroit, Michigan on

August 8, 1950. He was a proud

graduate of University of Michi-

gan with a degree in Economics and he received his MBA from

worked for Ford Motor Company and later was

employed by Michigan Blue Cross Blue Shield. Jim was a

valiant warrior fighting a rare,

degenerative neurologic disorder

known as Multiple Systems

years. Jim is survived by his

wife, Ruth Ann Atkinson; a son,

David Baird Thomas and his

fiancé Veronica; three sisters,

Kathy, Mary, and Joyce; a

stepdaughters and their families,

Kari and Troy Nelson, Kristin and Brooks Gaston, Sara Urevig

and Matt Gross, and seven step

and

Terry,

Atrophy (MSA) for nearly

Michigan State University.

Plymouth.

Jim

three

www.vermeulenfu

Kenneth Church, 14951

Haggerty

please visit

neralhome.com



BERRY, THOMAS H. Born August 19, 1941, passed away Wednesday

November 18, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Judith A. Berry; his three daughters Barbara, Nancy and Beverly; his four granddaughters, Megan, Heidi, Laura and Lindsay; and Dorothy Berryhis mother, Fifield. Thomas retired from Livonia Public Schools as a Building Trades Vocational Instructor. He also is a retired painter, realtor and shooting instructor. As a lifetime NRA member Tom enjoyed gun enjoyed collecting, target shooting, hunting, fishing and watching wild-life from his back windows. His priority was spending time with family and friends and making people laugh. He will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral services December 29th at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon, MI at 11 am. Donations can be made to Michigan Humane Society in lieu of flowers.



FAHEY, BEULAH E. November 21, 2015 age 103 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late George Corn and the late



HEITSCH, ELAINE "TRIXIE"

Surrounded by her family, Elaine "Trixie" Darden Heitsch passed on November 24, twenty-seven days before her 82nd birthday. A very recent diagnosis with a rare disease, "amyloidosis" took her far too quickly. She leaves behind her husband of 59+ years. Lawrence "Larry" Heitsch and three daughters, Bonnie Heitsch (Brian Reeder), Cindy Corrigan (John) and Nancy Blose (Bill) and seven grandchildren, all of whom she was immensely proud. Words cannot describe the void felt by Trixie's departure. Trixie attended St Hugo's grade school, School Cranbrook Kingswood (1952) and Michigan State University (1956). She served as a dedicated Real Estate agent for 30-years and had just earned her certification as an official docent at Cranbrook House where personal memories enhanced the history for all. She loved the Cranbrook community. Trixie was a strong, vital force and full of life. She loved all sports and was a competitive athlete; formidable on the tennis court, paddle court, softball field and swim-ming pool. She was an avid sports fan and always cheered for her favorite team- The Michigan State Spartans. (She was thrilled with the outcome of MSU vs Michigan this fall!) She carefully followed March Madness and infuriated many when she won a big pool last year! But most of all, Trixie loved her friends, family and ...life. She maintained life-long friends who supported her during her final journey. She adored her grandchildren and was a fun-loving and playful "Gigi" who delighted in competitive board games and rounds of miniature golf. She had a special connection with each of them (Anne Reeder, Alex Reeder, Katie Reeder, Kelly Blose, Kurt Blose, Jack Corrigan, Patrick Corrigan). Fu-neral service was held Saturday at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu Rodgers & Connell Chapel), Royal Oak 248-549-0500. In lieu of flowers, please consider the following organizations which have been a significant part of her life: Craig Hospital Foundation or Cranbrook Educational Community. Share memories at AJDesmond.com



SCHULTZ, MATILDA "TILLIE"

Age 92, of Sarasota, Florida, formerly a longtime resident of Plymouth, Michigan passed away peacefully November 14, 2015. She was born January 19, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan. daughter of Julius and Sophie Huegel) Saner. She (nee graduated from Plymouth High School, class of 1941. Tillie was united in marriage to Roy Schultz on July 28, 1945, they spent 51 loving years together until his death on August 13, 1996. Tillie, a homemaker, was not just a Farmer's wife she was a pivotal part of the day-to-day operations of The Roy Schultz Farm which was a U-Pick farm in Canton. She was a 4-H Leader in Wayne County and a member of the Farm Bureau Organization. She gave back to her wonderful community by serving on the Beautification Committee of Canton, serving as President of the Canton Historical Society, and through her membership in the Canton Rotary Club. Tillie was named Canton Woman of the Year in the early 1990's because of her dedication. She was a member of the MSU Group-Home Extension HOUGH group and a member of the Red Hats Society, where she served as Queen Mother. Tillie. loved to travel and was a Drat Pack member of the Camping Club. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Tillie is survived by her loving daughters, Ileen (Richard) Davis Amy Woodring, Sue (Gary) Gates, and Lou Ann Schultz; her Madeline siblings, (Avery) and Shirley (Zenonas Penney 'Chuck") Brokas; 12 grandchildren; 23 and greatgrandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her daughter, Linda L. Schultz; her sisters, Sophie Balko and Emily Casterline; and her brother, Julius Saner. The visitation will be held Friday, December 4, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A Funeral service will be held Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Mrs. Schultz will be laid to rest next to her husband at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Canton Historical Box 87362, Society, P.O. Canton, MI 48187 or Rotary Club of Canton Foundation, P.O. Box 87991, Canton, MI 48187. Share online condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



Allison Follbaum and Michael Cullen

Clowning sets tone for parade, Hob Nobble Gobble

Eric Larson wasn't clowning around when he came up with the perfect gift for his mother's 80th birthday - a spot in the exclusive Distinguished Clowns Corps (DCC) of the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation.

On

Thanks

giving

Day

three

genera-





Yolles SOCIAL SCENE

tions of Larsons walked along Woodward and

the M-1 construction route in the 89th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade: Ann Robertson, Eric's mother; Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation Chair Eric Larson and his wife, Kathy, and their daughters Paige and Makenzie of Bloomfield Hills.

"It was a very mean-ingful gift," said Robertson at the 29th Annual Hob Nobble Gobble at Ford Field. "The Michigan Parade is so family oriented and generational, that to be a part of what my family has been involved in for so many years is all the more meaningful."

The Hob Nobble Gobble celebrated its 26th Anniversary last week. The sold-out black-tie gala at Ford Field brought in over 2,500 adults and kids and raised \$400,000.

"I love the Parade and making people happy," said Robertson, who used to go to nursing homes to

JULIE YOLLES Sisters Madisyn Wilson, 9, (left) and McKenzy Wilson, 8, of Canton have fun at Hob Nobble Gobble.

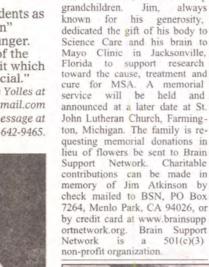


Joe Michael of Group 10 Management in Farmington Hills, wears a colorful hat at Hob Nobble Gobble.

entertain the residents as "Jubilee the Clown" when she was younger.

'It's all a part of the tradition in Detroit which makes it very special." Contact Julie Yolles at

socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



brother

Will Sandra (Budd) Blume, Patricia (Kenneth) Monroe. Kathleen (Jim) Huston and Bill Fahey. Also survived by 11 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren. Instate Friday 9 am at Fair Haven Baptist Church 34850 Marquette, Westland until service time of 10 am. Family will receive friends Thursday 12-9 pm at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Please visit and sign a tribute at

www.uhtfh.com



GAME, ALICE

November 18, 2015, age 98 Beloved wife of the late Cameron "Jack". Mother of Michael. Friend to many. She enjoyed golf, boating and all sports. Among the first occu-pants of Orange Lawn Homes, Livonia. Residents enjoyed, were their homes in Florida and Lake Chemung. The Game's touched many lives. Memorial service will be at a later date.



HAAS, CATHERINE E.

Age 79, November 24, 2015 Beloved wife of Ronald Haas Loving mother of Susan (Tom) Murray and Carol (John) Reilly. grandmother Michael, Ma Cherished of Marissa, Annalisa, Mark, David, and Jackie. Dear sister of Barbara (the late Bob) McDonald and Norma (George) Siegfried. Services have been held. Memorials appreciated to Cornerstone Schools or Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

May you find loving comfort in your time of loss.



JUDGE. JOHN MICHAEL

Age 55. Passed away on November 24, 2015 after a brave and courageous battle with Huntington's Disease. A devoted and compassionate husband of Diane. Wonderful son and friend to Michael and Nancy. Kind and caring brother of Bryan (Ann). Fun and silly uncle to Abby and Alex. John was predeceased by his sister, Christine, John's friends and family were the light of his life and he often was described as kind, loving, gentle, funny, giving, thoughtful, and an amazing man. We are all better people for having known him. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia, 48152, 734-591-3700, MI www.harrywillfuneralhome.com. Visitation will be from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with a service from 4 p.m.-5 p.m. A dinner celebration will follow the service.



SMITH ROBERT GEORGE

Passed away on November 16, 2015 at the age of 91. He was born March 24, 1924 to Willard and Louise Smith. He was married to the late Norma Smith for years. Robert is survived by children Barbara James, Douglas Smith, Deborah Jones, Kathleen Dunham and Patricia Worsham; eight grandchildren and eleven grandchildren. He is great predeceased by his parents, his sister Elizabeth Sprunk and by his caring, beautiful and patient wife, Norma Smith. After serving in the Army in WWII, he graduated from the University of Detroit and began a lifelong career in marketing and advertising. He retired from Leo Burnett as an account executive. After retirement, he formed his own marketing firm. Robert was active in politics, a member of Kiwanis and gave many hours as SCORE volunteer. He and wife Norma were avid golfers. Memorial donations may be made to the ALS Society in memory of Norma Smith. Robert donated his body to U of M Medical School. At his request, no service will be held. Visit-Robert's tribute page at www.mannsfuneralhome.com

TRUEBLOOD, LORETTA

of Owosso, November Age 22, 2015. Services were held. www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com



JULIE YOLLES

Cheryl "Gracie" Woodard of Detroit (left) and Sherrie "Smiggins" Chrysler of Redford, clown around with Claire Swayze of Bloomfield Hills at Hob Nobble Gobble at Ford Field.



B6 (WGRL) SUNDAY

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Fighting over the spelling bee trophy are Daniel Murry (back left), Jordan Gagnon, Yakob Engel, Mackenzie MacIlroy (front left), Lloyd Platis, and Lindsey Brenz.

Farmington Players enlists mayor, celebrities for show

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Ken Massey will put his spelling skills to the test next month on the Farmington Players stage. He'll join the cast of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee as a guest speller at the matinee on Dec. 12. "If they throw cardiopulmonary resuscitation at me I can spell that," Massey said, with a laugh. He holds a Ph.D. in cardiovascular pathophysiology and can spell lots of tongue-twisting health and science terms. "I remember my uncle asking me, while I was doing my doctoral work, did you have to know how to spell all those words?







one ought to be able to relate to at least one character and adults will get sucked back into their middle school years," Lauter said.

"There are some words I'll do well at and others I appreciate the fact that (Microsoft) Word does it for me.'

Massey's only other stage experience was the lead role in Santa Claus for President while in third grade at Longacre Elementary School in Farmington.

No acting skills are required of guest spellers, according to Amy Lauter, who is directing the musical com-

edy. "It's strictly ad lib. There are always four people from the audience who get called up to the stage. They sit amongst the rest of the cast on the bleachers and they get called into the show randomly throughout the show,'

Farmington Hills Mayor Ken Massey will be a guest speller.

Yakob Engel of **Farmington Hills** portrays William Barfee in both casts.

Lauter said. "There are easy words and difficult words. They are encouraged to try to spell their words correctly.'

Local celebrity guest spellers are Greg Bowman and Brooke Allen of WWJ radio on opening night, Dec. 4; Steve Koponen, a Dunckel Middle School teacher, Dec. 5; Roger Weber, retired WDIV reporter, Dec. 11; Massey, Dec. 12; Roop Raj of WJBK Fox 2 news, Dec. 18; and radio personality Allyson Martinek, Dec. 12 and 19.

Guest spellers remain on stage as long as they spell correctly. Lauter said they also "get roped into a little bit of dance" while on stage.

Seamlessly melding the unscripted

Lloyd Platis of Canton is Leaf Coneybear in "Spelling Bee."

Jordan Gagnon of **Farmington Hills** will portray Marcy Park.

guest speller appearances with scripted music and dialogue has been a challenge. To get a feel for timing and music cues. Lauter enlisted members of the Farmington Players to portray the guest spellers during rehearsals.

Middle school memories

She is directing two separate casts for the shows, which focus on a quirky group of six middle school students who are fighting for the spelling bee championship. Adults and two teens perform the "PG 13" evening and Sunday shows and a mix of adults and kids have been cast in the PG Saturday matinees.

"It's definitely a show where every-

Massey is looking forward to the experience. He said Farmington Hills Councilwoman Valerie Knol, who is active in Farmington Players, recruited him for the show.

"It sounded like fun. I really think we have a great community," Massey said, "And I like being involved in the community.

The adult cast includes Daniel Murray of Birmingham, Lloyd Platis of Canton, Yakob Engel of Farmington Hills, Mackenzie McIlroy of Commerce Township, Lindsey Brenz of Troy and Jordan Gagnon of Farmington Hills as spellers. The youth cast spellers are Matthew Baker-Grunza of Pleasant Ridge, Jonathon Stecevic, Yakob Engel, and Maryanna Lauter, all of Farmington Hills, Hallie Fox of Ypsilanti, and Paige Osgood of Brighton.

Jamee Perryman of Clawson, Jim Snideman of Commerce Township, and Cory Shorter of Dearborn Heights portray adults in both casts.

The show is 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5, 11-12, and 18-19, and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20, at the Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for students and seniors, 62 and over. Call 248-553-2955 or email boxoffice@farmingtonplayers.org.

Pawpaw drinking vinegar debuts at new Farmington tasting room

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

If you've ever wanted to try pawpaw, you can buy a vinegar version of the native fruit when McClary Bros. opens its tasting room next month in Farmington.

"I was familiar with pawpaw as a fruit for many years. I only tasted pawpaw once. It tastes like a little blend between a mango, papaya and a banana," said Jess Sanchez McClary, owner of McClary Bros. Drinking Vinegars.

Her vinegars, which she promoted on the TV show Shark Tank in September, are used as cocktail mixers, as tart, fruity flavoring in sparkling water, for cooking and in dressings. Customers can sample and buy them at the tasting room at 32621 Grand

River Ave. Its grand opening is set for noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and will include tasting, food, beverage demonstrations, giveaways and face painting for children.

McClary Bros.' current flavors are Michigan Beet & Carrot, Michigan Apple Pie, Michigan Cranberry, Pineapple & Fennel Seed, and Lemon & Ginger. The pawpaw-flavored vinegar is part of a new product line, Forgotten Flavors, that will feature unusual Michigan crops while giving back a portion of proceeds to Forgotten Harvest, where the Farmington woman manufactures her vinegars.

"Pawpaw is not cultivated commercially. You have to wait until they fall. You can't pick them off the tree," she said. "It's very unusual to find it sold anywhere."



Josh McClary of Farmington checks out a tub of pawpaw fruit.

McClary and her husband Josh found a farmer in Ann Arbor with an orchard of pawpaw trees and the patience to harvest the nutrient-rich tropical fruit.

"He sits on the porch and watches them fall and picks them up. They are very thin-skinned. If you stack them

they turn to mush. You have to wait until they turn black like a banana to use them," McClary said.

Limited edition

The couple made a small batch of pawpaw drinking vinegar two years ago. They liked what they tasted, and this year made a limited-edition batch of Michigan Paw-Paw, available only through the tasting room or online. McClary's other flavors are sold in stores, such as Meijer, in bars and restaurants in 20 states.

McClary said a tasting room allows customers to sample before they buy the product and ask questions about its use. She initially marketed her product at a

COMMUNITY LIFE

Nursing sick daughter teaches patience, kindness

s a parent, there are a lot of things that will come your way that aren't going to be sunshine and rainbows. But today, on the eighth day of my daughter's current illness, I feel like having a sick kid is among the worst things that can happen to you as a parent.

My baby girl has had a whole lot going on this past week, and after our visit with the doctor today it looks like it will be another rough five or so days as multiple viruses pass through her. We are not a daycare family so I thought we might avoid most sicknesses. Additionally, the entire first year of my daughter's life was illness-free, so all of this "caring for a sick child" stuff is new to me.

With my sick little girl next to me, I can't help but feel awful for her. She hasn't been feeling like herself for over a week. If you have met my daughter or seen pictures of



her, you know that she is not shy when it comes to eating. To watch her push away every calorie that has gone her way in the last few days has been heartbreaking. She is hungry, but too sick to want to eat. She is tired, but so tired that she has trouble falling asleep. She is coughing, but mostly when she is lying down and almost always when she is sleeping or trying to fall asleep.

I feel so sad for her, but I feel so grateful, too. I want to thank her for reminding me yet again that I can get a whole lot done on a very little amount of sleep. I want to thank her for teaching me that yoga and morning stretches really can work out kinks in my back from sleeping sitting up while

holding a 27-pound baby in my arms all night. I am grateful for learning that I can survive the absolute grossest moment of my life, which I have experienced since baby girl encountered the "belly trouble" part of her viruses. She has taught me patience and kindness and caring, all to a level I knew nothing about previously.

New challenges

Thirteen months into motherhood I have found that I am continuously learning new lessons and constantly becoming a better, stronger person. It is amazing to me how much I have changed from the person I was the day I found out I was pregnant. That person seems like a far-off figment of my imagination; someone I hardly can remember being. Each day I face new challenges as a parent, and each night I fall asleep a little bit stronger than I was the day before. I feel proud for pushing myself

through obstacles I never imagined encountering, for dealing with a screaming, teething, fever-filled baby all night long, only to hear my alarm go off before my eyes have even closed. I never believed in myself enough to think I could accomplish the things that I have.

When you become a parent, life as you knew it simply disappears. When you once were concerned about the latest fashion trends or what movie was opening up at the theater, you now are thinking about diaper rash cream and holding your baby upright while she coughs up junk that has been stuck in her lungs for days. I listen to people I know plan their weekends, their parties with kegs and beer pong tournaments, and I pray silently that I will get at least a threehour-straight streak of sleep tonight. I am googling "indoor playgrounds" and "kid friendly events" instead of the old usual of "bar hopping Fridays" or "happy hour specials.

Everything, as I can remember it, has changed. But I couldn't be one tiny bit happier. This new life, this parent life, is the one that was meant for me. Holding my crying, puking, fever-full, coughing, belly-troubled and cranky little girl while she struggles to feel better, even as she coughs in my face and rubs her nose in my hair, is far better than anything else. I have never been prouder of myself, nor felt so bad for someone as I do for my little girl as she deals with this illness. I know it will pass, as will the moments that she will want to snuggle me and give me kisses. So I will just treasure the moments as they come, as best I can, even when they involve a virus.

Sarah Davies of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of single motherhood. Contact her at sarahmariedavies@gmailcom.

Giving to others, giving thanks, bolsters mental health

alloween, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Years and other religious and secular holidays surround us at this time of year. One common denominator to these events seems to be the activity of giving. We might ask, in what way is this helpful to us?

Halloween was experienced as the time and opportunity when one could be whatever or whomever you want, and go into the world at large and receive free sweets. The long tradition of giving candy to trick-or-treaters continues to be an enjoyable activity.

Thanksgiving is celebrated



by giving. We give thanks. This can further our preparation for Christmas, New Years, and other timely holidays.

Giving to others and the giving of thanks for what we have seems to be an important ingredient of resilience. Resilience is highly important, along with hope and empathy, which are conducive to mental health and the treatment of anxiety and depression associated with emotional distress. Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity and losses. Giving thanks joins up with its neighbors of optimism, tolerance and benevolence toward ourselves and others. One of the major tools to build resilience comes from the ability and practice of giving to others and the giving of thanks for what one has.

Giver, recipient

There is the story of the person complaining because he had no shoes. His lamentations stopped when he met a man who had no feet. It seems that the only thing worse than having a tragedy is having a bad attitude about it. At this time of year, this idea is further exemplified in our timeless story of Scrooge. Not until, and with, the help and the resilient atti-tude of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cratchett and their specialneeds son Tiny Tim, was Scrooge able to give to others and to give thanks for his good fortunes. As the story goes, this transformed him favorably, forever.

As we find ourselves amidst this holiday season in our community and throughout the world, it is hoped that we can wish the best for others and give thanks for our fortunes,

however small or large they may be. The acceptance of gifts has its own unique importance in that the giver is sharing a part of themselves which is best responded to with a bonafide thank you, rather than a "Oh you shouldn't have." In doing so, we are contrib-uting to the building of resilience for ourselves, and at the same time sharing it with others.

Happy Holidays from Our Mental Health.

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He can reached for a courtesy consultation at 248-474-2763, ext. 222.

PAWPAW

Continued from Page B6

tasting room in Ferndale, and then took it to Eastern Market in Detroit. The Farmington location is closer to her home. You can come here and try

all of our flavors and we'll tell you what to do with them," McClary said. "The pawpaw is amazing. I could not be happier

with the flavor. It is absolutely incredible.'

The next Forgotten Flavors vinegar, planned for release next summer, will incorporate Saskatoon berry.

"It's like a blueberry but has

a thicker skin than a blueberry, but tastes like the best blueber-ry you've ever had," McClary said. "It's lovely. It's a beautiful flavor.'

After its grand opening, the tasting room will be open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For more about McClary's

drinking vinegars, visit mcclarybrfos.com.

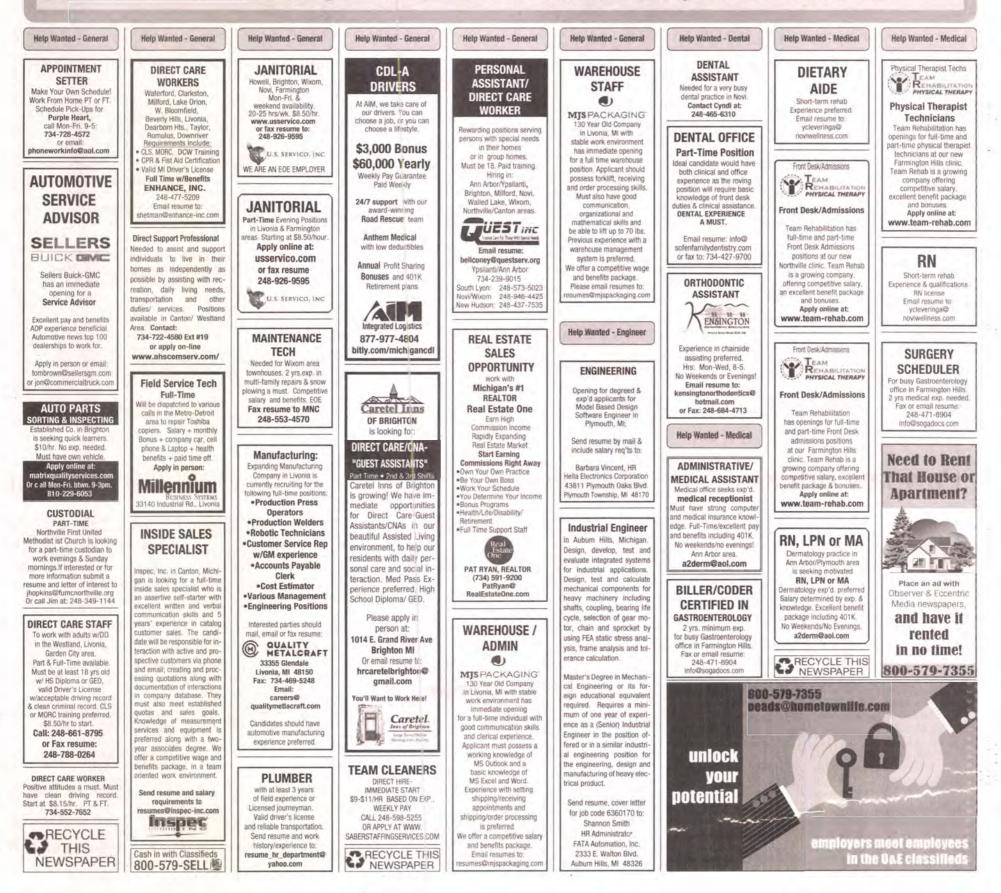
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HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 586-826-7393 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Performance training can help prevent injuries

njuries are common while participating in organized sports, competitions, training exercises or fitness activities. Many times athletes, competitive or recreational, are hurt because they aren't properly performing their chosen activity. Not taking the time to warm up, a lack of conditioning and improper mechanics are all factors in activity-related injuries.

There are actions you can take to make injuries less likely. Begin with awareness. Here are some common activity injuries and how to prevent them

» Meniscal tears: A wrenching twist or blow to the knee can tear the cartilage that cushions and stabilizes. Conditioning exercises that stabilize the knee can help prevent this injury

» Ankle sprains: These are common in sports that feature quick changes in direction or pivoting. Sprains stretch ligaments that support the ankle. Build strength and stability through one-legged balance training to prevent them.

» Rotator cuff tears: The group of muscles and tendons that support the upper arm as you move it around is called the rotator cuff. It can tear after a fall or from repetitive use. Daily shoulder stretches for the arm and shoulder blades, and exercises to strengthen the cuff muscles can help.

» ACL tear: The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) connects the top of the shin to the back of the thigh. It can tear with abrupt change of direction. Exercises to strengthen the lateral hip, improve core power and stabilize lumbosacral alignment can help.

» Stress fractures: Exercising too hard or fast can cause tiny cracks in weight-bearing bones. To prevent stress fractures, gradually increase training intensity and duration, strengthen the muscles supporting your core, and alternate your activities.

» Achilles tendon injuries:



This tendon joins the calf muscle to the heel. Quick acceleration or jumping on a tight muscle can tear it. Frequent calf and hamstring stretches, as well as strengthening the calf and core muscles, can avoid injury

Another option for preventing injury is physical therapy (rehabilitation) or performance training. Although rehab usually implies treatment after an injury, physical thera-pists and athletic trainers can help address problems before they get worse, particularly when they start off as a little twinge. Dealing with achy joints, painful movements and stiffness is no fun - especially if it slows you down and affects the activities you love most. Physical therapy and performance training helps: » Improve mobility and

function » Stabilize chronic malalign-

ment in the spine and pelvis » Reduce or eliminate pain

- » Prevent a sports injury
- » Improve balance

Physical therapists and athletic trainers use their knowledge and skills to help many people of all ages in many different situations, such

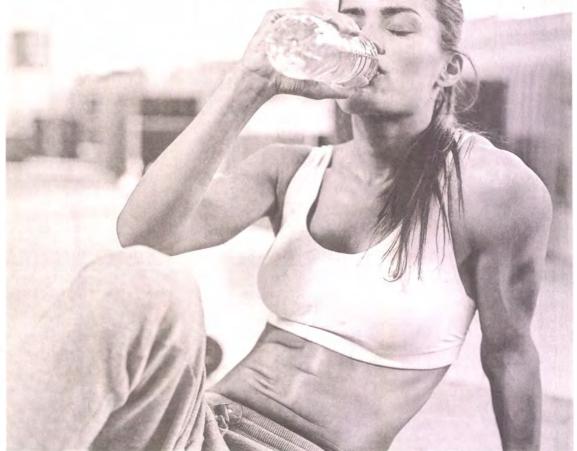
» Regaining strength and flexibility after injury

» Teaching young athletes how to avoid repetitive-use injuries

» Teaching someone to understand how their body moves.

» Developing a fitness program for older adults with arthritis that will enable them to continue doing their favorite activities

» Providing rehabilitation programs for individuals looking to maintain strength, decrease fatigue, minimize pain and maximize function during cancer treatments.



Many times athletes, competitive or recreational, are hurt because they aren't properly performing their chosen activity.

» Working to strengthen arms and legs weakened by stroke so the person can walk again and regain independence

Physical therapists may specialize in a particular area, such as sports, geriatrics, neurology or orthopedics. Using such techniques as exercise, manual therapy, and assistive devices, physical therapists work to their patients' unique needs to achieve their goals.

Athletic trainers work with athletes in a variety of capacities; first-aid responder, rehab specialist, psychologist, and performance specialist. A trainer with appropriate training can direct an athlete safely through a performance training program to not only improve specific athletic skills

and conditioning, but injury prevention and overall wellness as well.

Think physical therapy or performance training can help you get your game back to what it used to be? Ask your doctor if physical therapy or performance training is right for you.

Steven Karageanes, D.O., is the medical director of sports medicine at St. Mary Mercy Livonia and MercyElite Sports Performance. Karageanes has extensive experience with professional sports teams in the metro Detroit area and is considered a national leader in sports medicine.

To find a physician at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, call its physician referral line at 888-464-WELL or visit stmarymercy.org.

Using such techniques as exercise, manual therapy, and assistive devices. physical therapists work to their patients' unique needs to achieve their goals.

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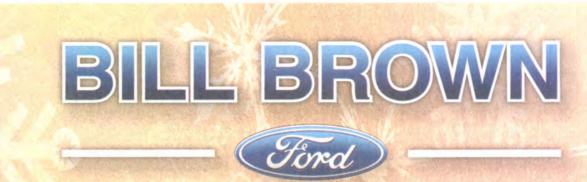
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B10 (WGRL) 0 & E Media | Sunday, November 29, 2015



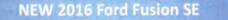
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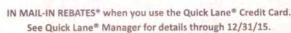
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