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# 'Star Wars' awakens at State Wayne on Thursday

**LeAnne Rogers**  
 Staff Writer

The force will be strong at the State Wayne Theater as around-the-clock showings of the highly anticipated *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* begin Thursday night.

"The first show is 7 p.m. Dec. 17 and it will run for 30 hours with continuous showings until after the midnight shows into Dec. 19," Phoenix Theaters owner Cory Jacobson said. "People are excited. We're getting a good response from people who work odd shifts and can't be there for the 7 p.m. opening."

The same showing schedule will also be offered at Phoenix's other theaters, including the cinema at Laurel Park in Livonia and in Monroe.

"There are a lot of insomniacs out there like me who would like nothing better than a 3 a.m. movie," Jacobson



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Wayne Theater owner Cory Jacobson swipes popcorn from a theater patron. The State Wayne will show the new "Star Wars" flick continually for nearly 30 hours.

See STAR WARS, Page A2

# Woman loses money to IRS phone scam

**LeAnne Rogers**  
 Staff Writer

It's the scam that just keeps giving to crooks.

On Dec. 9, a Westland woman told Westland Police that two days earlier she used a MoneyGram to send \$850 to someone claiming to be an IRS agent collecting on overdue income taxes.

The woman, 26, told police that two days earlier she had received a voice-mail message telling her that the IRS was going to arrest for back taxes. After calling the number left behind, the woman said she talked with a female who then transferred her to a second person.

The second person, a man, provided instructions telling the woman to send the money via MoneyGram. The woman later called the IRS and realized she

See SCAM, Page A2

# Caring Ford staffers key to Salvation Army efforts



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers Alexis Benefield and Shoshana Banford sort knitted caps.

**Julie Brown**  
 Staff Writer

Breia Kilgo of Farmington Hills was happy to volunteer Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

"I've only been with Ford a little over a year, so this is my first time volunteering," said Kilgo, taking a break from the Toy Shop at the corps on Venoy in Westland, where volunteers took parents and others through to choose toys as gifts.

She's in manufacturing human resources with Ford Motor Co., and among many Ford staffers who avail themselves of the automaker's 16 hours per year of time off to volunteer for charities.

"It's Christmas. Giving back is important," Kilgo said. "It spoke to me." She supports the Salvation Army's work, and noted, "Might as well do the time."

Also volunteering that day was Isiah Beauchamp of Rockwood, a Ford Motor bill of material analyst. At the corps,

Beauchamp was distributing food boxes to those in need. It was his first time at the Wayne-Westland corps volunteering, said Beauchamp, who did an earlier volunteer project with Gleaners as a Ford staffer.

"Self-satisfaction," he said of his reason. "I think that giving back is always a blessing. You learn to appreciate the little things."

Beauchamp is a Marine Corps veteran who did two tours of duty in Afghanistan. "The world poverty, absolutely," he

said of what he saw in the service. He doesn't recall all of early childhood but does remember getting packages delivered for families in need of help.

"I know what it's like to be in a situation like that," he said.

Beauchamp and other Ford volunteers appreciate the automaker allowing for volunteer work in metro Detroit, from which they have many options to chose. "I'm very thankful," Beauchamp

See VOLUNTEERS, Page A2



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## STAR WARS

Continued from Page A1

said. "We did this for the last Star Wars over a decade ago. It's such an event movie, we have people volunteering to work it."

During the last Star Wars marathon show-

ings, Jacobson recalled the event making an appearance on *Good Morning America*.

Ticket availability for the around-the-clock showings varies depending on location, Jacobson said, with eight or nine shows being totally sold out in Livonia and Monroe, two or three at the State Wayne.

"I think we are filling up nicely," Jacobson said. At the classic State Wayne Theater, which will hit 70 years in December 2016, *The Force Awakens* viewers will be treated to the recently installed reclining seats and other amenities. "We have new big screens at the Wayne. There are wall-to-wall

screens in two auditoriums," Jacobson said. "It has Dolby 7.1, so there will be great sound and a great picture." A bright new LED marquee is another upgrade for the State Wayne, located on Michigan Avenue west of Wayne Road in downtown Wayne. While the State Wayne

offers first-run films, it also has been hosting monthly interactive showings of the classic midnight movie, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. "We sold out every *Rocky Horror* show in 2015. We added a second show each month and those are selling out, too," Jacobson said.

Advanced tickets for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* at the State Wayne are available at [phoenixmovies.net/loc\\_statewayne.asp](http://phoenixmovies.net/loc_statewayne.asp) or the box office.

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## SCAM

Continued from Page A1

had been scammed. Police told the woman that there was no likelihood of recovering her money as the scammers were likely out of state — an Internet search listed the phone number in New York state — or in another country. The IRS, on its website, has warned about the telephone scam,

noting the agency doesn't call about past due taxes or use local police to make arrests. » In an unrelated complaint, a Westland woman told police Dec. 8 that someone opened a Verizon telephone account using her personal information. She said there was a balance of \$22.

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## VOLUNTEERS

Continued from Page A1

said. "I think it's a good team-builder to where people can view different aspects of people's lives. You can never give back too much." Shirlonda Dunlap of Belleville is a Ford Motor program coordinator west to Wayne-Westland's corps. She'd volunteered before with the Salvation Army in Southfield, and has done at least seven Ford volunteer stints, including Habitat for Humanity in the summer. "To give back to the community," Dunlap said. "I enjoy it. We wouldn't have communities without people volunteering." She also worked Tuesday in the Toy Shop at the corps.

Lisa Warren of River Rouge is a Ford Motor bill of material analyst. She said of volunteering, "Because I enjoy it." She's volunteered with her employer at least five times, with this her first at the Wayne-Westland corps.

"We had a very busy time right now," Warren said of work at the automaker. "We enjoy doing it regardless. It is a good thing to do."

Warren also volunteers with her Triumph Church, which has multiple locations, including Canton, Novi and Southfield. Of the Tuesday morning at the Salvation Army, Warren noted, "Very, very busy. At 1 o'clock, people are coming back" for gifts and food.



Volunteer Shirlonda Dunlap works for Ford Motor.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Waldemar Gremplewski checks in clients at the Salvation Army.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Caseworker Gladys Beach of the Wayne-Westland corps said of the volunteers, "They are fantastic. We couldn't do it without the Ford volun-

teers. They are here every year for us. They are so much appreciated." She was approached by volunteer coordinator Tricia Meacham, who

said of herself with a smile, "Running like crazy but OK." The Salvation Army continues to need volunteer bell ringers throughout metro Detroit, with sign-up details at [www.ringbell.org](http://www.ringbell.org). There's also a youth musical/theatrical production being done with the Plymouth and Wayne-Westland corps. It will be 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Wayne-Westland corps, 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer in Westland. Admission is free to the "Christmas in Black and White," featuring children age 6 through high school. It was staged recently at the Plymouth corps, Beach said, and has two songs with sign language.

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# Wayne man convicted in gas station clerk shooting

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

A Wayne man has been convicted for shooting and robbing a clerk at a Westland gas station.

Roger Groce, who turns 27 later this month, was convicted as charged on counts of armed robbery causing serious injury, assault with intent

to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm, being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, felonious assault and felony firearm.

The conviction came following jury trial in Wayne



Groce

County Circuit Court. Groce was arrested based on tips Westland Police received after store surveillance video of the Aug. 27 incident was released publicly.

The clerk at the BP station at Wayne and Warren roads, who was seriously injured by the shooting, identified Groce as the man who had shot and robbed him. He testified that

Groce told him not to move and to open the cash register before firing the first shot that hit the wall behind him.

The second shot struck the clerk, who was attempting to flee as the robber came over the counter into the cashier's booth. The incident was captured by a security camera showing Groce pulling the wounded clerk to his feet to

open the cash register. Remanded to jail since his arrest, the Michigan Department of Corrections also had a hold on Groce, who was on parole until 2017 for breaking and entering convictions. Groce is set to be sentenced Wednesday, Dec. 23 by Judge James Callahan, who also presided at the trial.

## WESTLAND COP CALLS

### Break-in

A resident in the 700 block of South Wildwood reported Dec. 9 that someone had broken into her shed and stolen her self-propelled lawn mower. She said the mower was last seen a month earlier.

### Larceny

Thefts were reported Dec. 11 at two vacant homes owned by the same company. The employee of a company hired to inspect the properties reported that between Dec. 3-8 someone had entered through the garage at a home in the 1200 block of S. Venoy and stolen the air conditioning unit.

The officer found the garage padlocked and no sign of forced entry. The employee conceded that whoever had stolen the air conditioning used a key to open the garage.

The second theft was reported at a home in the 6600 block of Redman. The front door was found unsecured with minor damage to door lock/frame. The hot water tank was reported missing and last seen Nov. 23.

### Larceny from a vehicle

On Dec. 8, a resident of the Warris Farms Apartments, 36795 McKinney, told police that overnight someone had stolen all four tires and rims from his 2015 Chrysler 300.

The car was left sitting on landscaping blocks.

### Vandalism

A complaint was filed Dec. 8 that someone had caused unspecified damage to the batting cages at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette. The damage was reported to have happened Nov. 27-30.

### Alarm call

Police responded to an alarm call at the Kay Beard Building, 30712 Michigan Ave., on Dec. 8. Arriving, officers reported hearing loud breaking noises coming from a basement window on the west side of the building

and noticed the window had been forced open.

The officers heard noises from a person moving items around trying to navigate the storage basement. A police dog arrived and joined the officers securing the building. No one was found inside. The key holder arrived and reported nothing appeared to be missing.

### Vandalism

On Dec. 10, a resident at the Hines Park Apartments, 31730 Cowan, told police that during the night someone had smashed the rear window on her vehicle.

LeAnne Rogers

## Westland driver due in circuit court following fatal crash

Devin Andre Brooks, 39, of Westland waived his preliminary exam Monday, Dec. 14, in a district court appearance. He will appear Jan. 11, 2016, for arraignment in Wayne County Circuit Court where the formal charge will be read. The charge is failing to stop and identify at the scene of an accident resulting in death.



Brooks

Brooks had been arrested by Garden City Police in connection with a fatal hit and run that took place near Ford and Middlebelt roads in Garden City.

On Nov. 30, George Punga, 52, of Garden City, was hit while standing in the turn lane on Ford, said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Maria Miller in an email. Punga succumbed to his injuries Dec. 1, and Brooks was arrested Dec. 2 following a two-day police surveillance.

Brooks has no prior criminal record and a valid driver's license, Garden City Police Chief Robert Muery has said.

Brooks is not suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the crash.

## WAYNE COP CALLS

### Break-in

The furnace, water heater, refrigerator and copper plumbing, valued at \$5,000, were reported stolen Dec. 8 from a vacant rental home in the 4400 block of Winifred. There was also \$1,700 damage reported from electrical wires to the circuit breakers being cut but not removed.

A property manager for the home reported the thefts and damage. He said he had last been at the house Nov. 25 for a showing and a tenant was scheduled to move in Dec. 15.

He said an inspector checked to make sure the home was ready for the ten-

ant Dec. 7 but a call was later received from the tenant about the thefts/damage.

The officer noted that the bathroom window had been pried open breaking the lock.

### Several bicycles recovered

Wayne Police have recently recovered several bicycles that were likely to have been stolen. The bicycles were not licensed, so police are unable to contact the owners.

Anyone who has had a bicycle stolen recently can contact Wayne Police at 734-721-1414 to see if their bike has been found.

LeAnne Rogers

## GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

### Stolen vehicle

On Dec. 14, police were called to a home in the 29000 block of John Hawk a resident reported his 1991 Chevrolet Blazer stolen. The owner said he didn't remember if the vehicle had been locked but that there was a spare key in the glove box.

### Larceny

A resident in the 6100 block of Gilman told police Dec. 13 that someone had stolen a portable basketball hoop had that been laying near her garage. Valued at \$400, the hoop had a water filled base and would have required two people to move, the owner

said.

### Fraud

On Dec. 10, a Garden City woman told police she checked her bank account and found someone had used her debit card without permission, spending \$75 at Home-Depot.com. She said she has the card in her possession.

### Vandalism

A Westland woman told police Dec. 9 that a neighbor in the 31000 block of Hennepin had knocked on the door to tell her someone had smashed a window on her vehicle while it was parked in the driveway.

LeAnne Rogers

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# Auto dealer kept faith, family in mind over long career

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

James E. North was a successful businessman, loving husband and father, and man of faith. He kept family, church and business priorities straight over his life.

Mr. North, 85, passed away Oct. 28 of this year. He had owned the North Brothers Ford dealership on Ford Road in Westland, which he passed on to sons Doug and Tom, who run it now.

"Just his easygoing good nature," Tom recalled of his dad. "He was someone who would think before he spoke always. He had positive things to say. He was very disciplined and steady."

Through his extensive business contacts, the senior Mr. North became involved in the Garden City Rotary Club and celebrated the 50th anniversary of his club membership with a

special ceremony three years ago. He enjoyed the weekly lunch meetings.

Mr. North was also a member of Kiwanis and Ashlar Lodge #91 F.A.M. He maintained memberships at the Detroit Athletic Club and the Birmingham Athletic Club, and liked tennis, squash and fine dining at both establishments.

Son Tom, dealership vice president, recalled his father also recommending, "Thinking before you spend. And march to your own drummer, follow your own passions and priorities in business and don't let others dictate what you do, good or bad. Then you end up chasing somebody who may or not be worth chasing."

Tom North added his



James E. North

dad's advice to "not be influenced by short-term trends that may be over in six months."

Mr. North's career was all as an automobile dealer. He took over the business from his father, Raymond.

The dealership began under the Ford helm in 1936 in Lincoln Park. The Ray North Ford in Ferndale followed along with the family's dealership in Garden City of North Brothers Ford.

Ferndale's site was later sold with consolidation into Garden City and a 1969 move to the current site of Westland.

Tom North read a letter from a family friend who extolled his dad for "keeping a balance and working to be successful in all three" of family, church and business. Mr. North and wife Jean, who survives, were charter members of Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills.

At the church, Mr. North, who had lived in Beverly Hills, served many terms as an elder, along with greeting, ushering, serving Communion, working at the garage sale and outdoor cleanups, and other functions. His son noted Mr. North's business acumen was helpful to the church.

"He went to the Army and studied life," Tom said. Mr. North's father, Ray, had also shared knowledge, as did teachers and professors.

"There was a lot of good role models," Tom North said.

Mr. North was born in Detroit on Aug. 16, 1930. He graduated from Staunton Military Academy in Virginia and then attended Michigan State University, where he was in Army ROTC and majored in business.

Mr. North and Jean met while he worked as a busboy at an MSU sorority. After gradua-

tion, he began Army service as a second lieutenant, stationed in New York City, and married Jean July 24, 1953.

The family had a cottage in Ontario, the site of many good memories. Mr. North and Jean discovered snow skiing in 1961 and then taught their children to ski.

The couple later vacationed many years in northern Michigan, met more friends and worked in preservation activities and groups. Mr. North later in life became an avid golfer and had a hole-in-one at Boyne Mountain Monument Course.

His business involvement included the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Detroit Ford Dealers, Ford Dealers Advertising Fund, Ford Dealer National Council, Detroit Auto Dealers Association, Ford Dealers Association and the Michigan Auto Dealers Associa-

tion.

Services were Oct. 31 at Northbrook Presbyterian. Memorials may be made to: Northbrook Presbyterian Church Building Endowment Fund, 22055 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills, MI 48025; the North Brothers Ford Charitable Organization (a 501(c)3 benefiting western Wayne County) at 33300 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185; or the Garden City Rotary Club, P.O. Box 1021, Garden City, MI 48136.

In addition to his wife, Mr. North is survived by his children, Amy Joan North, J. Douglas (Gwen), Thomas Collinson (fiancee Dana), and Jody North Woods (Barry). He is also survived by 12 grandchildren.

A close cousin, who became a business partner, Francis Koblika, recently passed away. A sister, Mary Lou North, preceded Mr. North in death.

# Financial assistance sought for new Eloise collection

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

The decision by Wayne County to offer the former Eloise site for sale could spell the end for a physical presence of the historic facility.

That is putting greater meaning in efforts by the Westland Historical Commission to establish its Eloise museum inside the historic Rowe House in the Westland Historic Village Park.

"We are raising funds to renovate the building to have the Eloise collection. We want to build a one-of-a-kind collection," Westland Historical Commission President Jeff Koslowski said. "We're asking for donations to make the dream come true."

The Westland Histori-

cal Commission has a GoFundMe account with a \$10,000 goal to pay for the renovations and specialty display cases to properly display the historic items.

A collection of Eloise items donated to the museum by Wayne County would be displayed inside the Rowe House.

Along with preserving history, the Eloise collection would also educate on the seriousness of mental health and how far its study has progressed thanks to Eloise. Koslowski said the commission also wants to create a memorable experience for families who, through genealogical research, are attempting to gain closure on family members who stayed and maybe even passed away on the grounds.



The Rowe House at the Westland Historic Village Park.

### A storied history

Eloise was originally opened in 1839 as the Wayne County Poorhouse, replacing a facility in Hamtramck. The name and services changed over the years.

By 1913, Eloise had

three divisions — a mental hospital, a poor house and a tuberculosis hospital. At its peak, Eloise was a self-contained operation on 902 acres, including a farm, dairy, piggery, police and fire departments.

The facility became

Wayne County Hospital in 1945, becoming two divisions with Wayne County General Hospital and the county psychiatric hospital, the latter closing in 1977. The general hospital closed in 1984.

"Eloise was a pioneer in kidney dialysis and the

earliest use of X-rays for diagnosis in the state," Koslowski said. "They treated patients from famous baseball players to the military."

Inventor Elijah McCoy spent the last year of his life at the Eloise Infirmary. The hospital was also known for pioneering in the field of music therapy.

Only four Eloise buildings remain, along with a cemetery that isn't part of the property of offered for sale by Wayne County.

"People can make direct donations through GoFundMe. The commission is all volunteers," Koslowski said.

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**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.

**Be a survivor.  
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[stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org)

# ANNUAL LIGHT FROM DARKNESS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL HONORS CHILDREN LOST TOO SOON

**Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

For a long time after losing her son in a tragic car accident, Claire Cross didn't feel like talking to anyone, much less brave the big crowds that always turn out for the Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil every year.

This year, almost exactly two years since losing Ryan in the accident, there she was in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, with others who've lost sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, friends or family too soon. It was the 19th annual vigil and Cross, a Canton resident, was among hundreds of folks who know exactly what she's going through.

"For a long time, I didn't want to have that commonality with people," Cross said. "Now, I'm ready to reach out more and get some hugs from people."

That commonality is something most people who attend the vigil, and join Compassionate Friends, are looking for — support from other folks who know what they're going through. The candlelight vigil is designed to honor children who've died too soon.

The vigils are held in every time zone worldwide, the idea being to form a ring of light around the globe and try to "bring light out of darkness." At the Plymouth vigil, poems were heard, music was played and more than 600 names were ready as locals honored their loved ones.

Catherine Walker of Walled Lake lost her brother, Kevin Kalahar, in November 2010, then lost her son, Brandon, eight months later.

"We have a special bond," said Walker, one of the chapter leaders of the Livonia Compassionate Friends, who sponsored Sunday's vigil. "People find someone who knows what you're going through ... they're not afraid to talk about their children."

Westland resident Amy George lost her infant granddaughter, Morgan Adele, nine years ago. She lost another granddaughter, Alice Annebelle, just nine weeks ago. On Sunday, George read a poem in their honor.

She said the sheer size of the group attending the vigil used to be intimidating; now, it's comforting.



A warm December evening in Plymouth's Kellogg Park is the setting for the Compassionate Friends annual remembrance ceremony.



Leona McKinnon is from Belleville.



Gail Lafferty reads the names of the children.

"When I first came here, it took my breath away to see that large of a group," George said. "Each time I come ... your heart just breaks for everyone in that crowd."

Leona McKinnon of Belleville lost her son, Sean, nine years ago. There she was Sunday, helping people light their candles in advance of the vigil.

She said she finds solace in the spirituality

of the evening. "This is probably the most spiritual place you could be," McKinnon said. "There's more compassion, more unity, more love and more joining of spirits than anywhere you could ever be."

To find out more about the Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter, go to [tcflivonia.org](http://tcflivonia.org) or call 734-778-0800.

[bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @bkadrich



Kellogg Park is the setting for the Worldwide Candle Lighting, sponsored by the Livonia Chapter of Compassionate Friends.



Jettowynne Barnes of Livonia honors the memory of her son, Idones Barnes.



Tara and Keith Kohler, with 5-year-old daughter Kendall, remember Tracy Rondy, Tara's sister. The Kohlers are from Northville.

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

**Case #1965A, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Multi-Tenant Retail Building, 36403 Warren Road, Parcel #029-99-0014-701, South Side of Warren Road, East of Central City Parkway, Christo Karapatsakis**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission



### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

**Case #1523A, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Limousine Service/Storage, 38167 Abruzzi, Parcel #052-05-0008-00, West Side of Abruzzi Drive, East of Hix Road, South of Ford Road, Paul Gil**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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

Kenneth J. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission



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**Gary Goodman, MD**  
Chief of Cardiac Surgery  
Providence-Providence Park Hospital

STJOHNPROVIDENCE.ORG 866-501-DOCS (3627)

## Garden City Business Alliance celebrates 'successful' 2015

Some 70 business owners and supporters turned out recently to help the Garden City Business Alliance close out what officials are calling a "very successful" 2015 at the alliance's second annual Holiday Party.

The party, hosted by Gordon Chevrolet at its Ford Road showroom, also served as a benefit for both the Garden City Home Pantry and the annual Toys for Tots campaign.

According to GCBA spokesperson Kerry Partin, party-goers filled two collection boxes to overflowing.

In an email to the *Garden City Observer*, Partin said the success of the party couldn't have happened without Gordon Chevrolet, particularly customer relations representative Sheri Barber, opening the showroom for the party, nor without Judy Petrovski, owner of the Golden Feather restaurant, who supplied the broasted chicken for the event.

"This was our last event after a very suc-



New members Jolene and Mark Jacobs (left), representing Garden City Hospital, and Crystal Andree and Justin Qualkenbush, representing Red Wing Shoes.



Kelly Walker Miller provided the entertainment for the evening.

cessful 2015," Partin said. "We welcomed some new members to the GCBA, including Garden City Hospital, Red Wing Shoes and You've Got Maids, just to name a few."

Among the guests were Mayor Randy Walker, Councilmen Jim Ker-

win and Mark Jacobs, State Rep. Julie Plawecki, State Sen. David Kenezk and former State Sen. Glenn Anderson. Entertainment was provided by Kelly Walker Miller and included singing Christmas songs, dancing and opening up

the microphone to guests for some karaoke.

"I would never have guessed we had so many talented singers in Garden City," Partin wrote. "They really enjoyed themselves."

Partin encouraged owners of small busi-

nesses, large businesses, home based businesses or organizations who would like to just be an advocate for the business community: "I would ask them to please consider joining the GCBA. Become involved in some great events and help

promote our business community. We are 'business owners committed to working together.'"

The next GCBA meeting is set for 9 a.m. Jan. 8 at the Straight Farmhouse Museum in the Grand Parlor, 6221 Mer-

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### On the Border

On The Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, home of the Original Meltdown Margarita and Mesquite-grilled fajitas, brought its fourth location and 120 new jobs to the area when it opened its new restaurant in Westland.

"We are so excited about bringing OTB to this great community," said Matt Vander Zanden, general manager of On The Border. "I know the people of Westland and surrounding areas

are going to love it. We're building a great team and will be a super neighbor from day one."

Located at 35613 Warren Road, the 6,858-square-foot restaurant features 3,316 square feet of dining and bar space that can seat up to 215 guests, and a 448-square-foot patio that seats 20 guests. The Westland restaurant represents a sleek, streamlined new prototype for the OTB brand, featuring an open kitchen with a mesquite wood-burning grill, a

state-of-the-art bar, bright colors and rustic finishes. The restaurant will also offer a spacious cantina with a broad selection of fine tequilas, draft beers and multiple flat screens for sports viewing.

"This is our fourth restaurant to open in the Detroit area, and will be our sixth in Michigan," said Ward Whitworth, OTB's president. "The people of this state and the communities where we have restaurants have always been very good to us.

We're proud of our heritage and eager to bring our great flavors, unique cocktails and great times to Westland."

On The Border in Westland is open for lunch and dinner Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday. Call 734-689-5204 for more details.

#### Wenzel buys Holman

Todd Wenzel Automotive Group announces

the acquisition of their fourth Michigan GM dealership, Red Holman Buick GMC in Westland.

This purchase represents the third Buick GMC dealership for Todd Wenzel. The first, located in Grand Rapids, was obtained in 2001 followed by a Chevrolet franchise in Hudsonville in 2004 and a second Buick GMC dealership in Davison in 2014.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the Westland and Metro Detroit communities," said Todd Wenzel. "We

look forward to maintaining the excellent reputation the team at Red Holman has built."

The Westland dealership will be renamed Todd Wenzel Buick GMC of Westland and will undergo some renovations almost immediately to provide an enhanced customer experience. Wenzel said he'll work hard to retain all the long term Red Holman employees and create approximately 25 new jobs in the next year through increased sales.

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## Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro serves up holiday beverage options

If you're looking to change up your beverages this holiday season, which may include wanting a new option to the ever popular, generations-old sherbet punch made with 7-Up, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, located at the Clock Tower Building of the Novi Town Center, has some creative and delicious ideas.

Lori Horton of Westland, a bartender and server marking 20 years at Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, shared some of her recommendations. Punch has been making a comeback and bartenders are creatively combining herbs, spices, juices and blends of alcohol (optional). The sharable nature of punch makes it the perfect addition to spice up your holiday party.

Horton gave insight on a twist to the classic holiday offering that includes a recipe that is a lightly sweet, effervescent gin-based punch made with chamomile tea and sparkling wine.

"You can also mix it up a bit, depending on your individual tastes," she said. "Maybe garnish with apples, pears and cinnamon sticks or citrus slices and pomegranate."

She also has a new drink at the restaurant called the Blushing Lady.

"It's made with a refreshing grapefruit juice, pomegranate liquor and Gypsy Vodka in a sugar-rimmed martini glass," Horton said.

This drink is a nice alternative to the more common martini cocktails, such as the cosmopolitan. She added that the Hazelnut Heater coffee drink has a devoted following. Made with Cappuccino or coffee, Frangelico Hazelnut Liquor, Bailey's and Kahlua, it's a great drink for



Bartender and server Lori Horton (left) prepares a martini, while bartender Maddy Freeman pours wine.

#### SPARKLING LIGHT PUNCH

serves 6-8  
For the Citrus Sugar  
1 lemon, zested  
1 orange, zested  
1/2 cup superfine sugar

For the Cocktail  
4 tbsp. citrus sugar  
6 oz. lemon juice  
6 oz. gin  
3 oz. St. Germain elderflower liqueur  
3 oz. triple sec  
10 oz. cold chamomile tea  
8 oz. sparkling wine  
Lemon and orange wheels, for garnish  
Pomegranate seeds, for garnish

#### Instructions

Make the citrus sugar: Combine zests and sugar in a food processor; pulse until combined. Makes 1/2 cup. Dissolve the sugar in the lemon juice in a punch bowl. Add gin, St. Germain, and triple sec. Add the tea, ice block, and top with sparkling wine. Garnish with lemon and orange wheels and the pomegranate seeds.

cold winter days. "If we ever get one," Horton said, laughing.

Giving nod to Michigan, Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo has some delicious seasonal brews. "Right now, Bell's Winter White Ale and their Christmas Ale, a Scottish Ale style beer, have both been big hits with our

guests," Horton said.

In time for the holidays, Horton mentioned a drink that is now fermenting at the bistro that includes spiced rum, apple, orange, lemon and cinnamon sticks. When it's ready to be served, hot cider will be added. "One sip and you'll be hooked," Horton said.





# AAA: More travelers hitting the road for holidays

AAA projects more than three million Michiganders will journey 50 miles or more from home during the year-end holiday season, an increase of 1.9 percent from the 3.12 million people who traveled last year. This upward trend marks the highest travel volume for the holiday period in 14 years. (AAA data dates back to 2001.)

On a national level, the number of year-end holiday travelers is expected to top 100 million for the first time on record. Nearly one in three Americans will take a trip this holiday season, with 100.5 million expected to journey 50 miles or more from home. This represents a 1.4-percent

increase over last year and the seventh consecutive year of year-end holiday travel growth. The year-end holiday travel period is defined as Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015, to Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016.

"The increase in holiday travel this year is driven by continued improvement in the labor market, rising incomes and low gas prices which remain well below last year's levels," said Brent Stahlheber, senior vice president - Brand Marketing and Travel, AAA - The Auto Club Group. "This helps boost Americans' disposable income, generating more money to spend on lodging, dining out and buy-

ing gifts." **Driving remains most popular mode of travel for year-end holiday travel**

More than 90 percent of travelers (91.3 million people) will drive to their holiday destinations, an increase of 1.4 percent over last year.

Air travel is expected to increase by 0.7 percent, with 5.8 million Americans flying to their holiday destinations.

Travel by other modes of transportation, including cruises, trains and buses, will increase 2.4 percent, to 3.4 million travelers.

**Airfares fall, hotel and car rental rates rise modestly**

According to AAA's

Leisure Travel Index, airfares for the top 40 domestic flight routes are 6 percent lower this holiday season, falling to an average of \$174 round trip. Rates for AAA Three Diamond Rated lodgings will be 4 percent higher this year, with travelers spending an average of \$150 per night. The average rate for a AAA Two Diamond Rated hotel has risen 11 percent with an average nightly cost of \$119. Daily car rental rates will average \$68, 3 percent higher than last year's holiday travel season.

**Lowest New Year's gas prices in seven years expected**

Michigan's statewide weekly average price for

a gallon of gasoline has been below the \$2 per gallon benchmark for the past four weeks.

The national average price for a gallon of gasoline remains poised to fall below the \$2 per gallon benchmark by Christmas.

**AAA Michigan urges motorists to take online pledge to drive drug and alcohol-free**

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's Traffic Safety Culture Index, one in five licensed drivers (21 percent) who drink at least occasionally reported having driven when they thought their alcohol level might have been close to, or possibly over, the legal limit in

the past year.

"As we celebrate the holiday season, AAA urges travelers to be cautious about their safety and the safety of everyone sharing the roadways," said Susan Hiltz, Public Affairs director, AAA Michigan. "Ninety-seven percent of licensed drivers consider it unacceptable to drive when they may have had too much to drink, yet there is an average of one alcohol-impaired driving death every 53 minutes. We urge everyone to take our online pledge to drive drug and alcohol-free and learn more about safer celebrations at AAA.com/saferdriver."

# Kids, crafts make a great combo at Plymouth museum

Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Some "Crafty Elves" showed artistic flair and had fun at the same time Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Friends Madelyn Powers and Ava Buffa, both 8, were together at the afternoon workshop. "The reindeer," Ava said of her favorite craft, among several children enjoyed at the museum.



Friends Madelyn Powers (left) of Canton and Ava Buffa, both 8, enjoy the museum's craft fun. Madelyn attends Miller Elementary, Ava Plymouth Christian Academy.

"They came last year and they loved it," said Angela Buffa of Plymouth Township, mom of Ava. "I was glad to see they brought it back."

Madelyn's a third-grader at Miller Elementary School in Canton, and Ava is a third-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy. Wendy Powers had three kids at the museum that day: Madelyn and siblings, Aidan, 6, a Miller Elementary first-grader, and Lily, a Miller kindergartner.



Aidan Powers, 6, and sister, Lily, 5 in background enjoy the craft. They're students at Miller Elementary in Canton.

"It's really nice," Canton's Wendy Powers said of the craft session, offered at two times that afternoon. "They just absolutely love crafts. It's nice to get out of the house."

Asked about upcoming winter break, both moms acknowledged the need to keep their kids occupied. Aidan's birthday is New Year's Eve, which will help.

"Movies, timeouts," Powers said of her break-time parenting plans. She said with a smile of school vacation, "About 18 days, yeah."

Madelyn's in an art club at Abakadoodle in Canton. Mom Angela Buffa noted the help of grandparents and Dad in keeping the kids occupied

when school's out.

Volunteer Pam Piendel of Plymouth Township was hard at work helping kids. She's a museum gift shop volunteer and also helps as a docent and in education. "A little bit of everything," she said.

Leslie Ryder of Livonia's the education coordinator for the museum. "We are doing all kinds of different crafts," Ryder said Sunday. Kids made a festive snowman using soup cans.

"Over here, they're

decorating stockings," Ryder said. The museum's many retired male volunteers cut wood for kids to make Rudolph designs complete with the red nose.

"Oh, absolutely," Ryder said of the fun, noting about 14 children were at the noon session. She'd hoped for a bigger turnout for the later afternoon one, and hoped for some walk-ins.

"They're having a great time making all these things," Ryder said. She pointed to the scrub brushes dipped in green paint for one craft.

"It turns out looking like a little wreath," she said of that paper craft. Kids also made gift tags.

For more information about the museum, visit [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org) or call 734-455-8940 x 0.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Colbeck hours

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 18  
**Details:** State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and District Manager Penny Crider hold district office hours at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. Colbeck will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. All are welcome, and no appointment is necessary.

Colbeck represents the 7th Senate District, which encompasses the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, as well as the townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth.

For more information or to contact Colbeck, visit [www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com](http://www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com) or call 517-373-5713.

### Environmental meeting

The Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation will conduct its general meeting, open to the public, to discuss environmental issues, Monday, Dec. 21 from noon to 1 p.m. at Panera Bread, 35300 Warren Road, Westland.

### Hula classes

**Times/Dates:** Wednesdays, starting Jan. 20 (10-week winter session)  
**Details:** Instructor Fran Price offers a Hawaiian "Hula" dance class in which students

will enjoy exercising and having fun while learning the culture of the Hawaiian Islands. The beginner/family class runs from 6-6:55 p.m. (cost is \$50 for adults; \$25 for children under 8). The adult intermediate and advanced classes run from 7-8:30 p.m. at a cost of \$75. There is a material fee of \$5.

All classes are conducted at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. For more information and to register, call 248-547-3109 or email [franprice@wow-way.com](mailto:franprice@wow-way.com)

**Widowed Friends**

The Friends of Widowed Men and Women present the following events:

» Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Joy Manor Banquet Center, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. The cost of \$55, pre-paid, includes premium buffet - open bar and champagne toast are at midnight. Doors open at 7 p.m. with dinner at 8 p.m. Dancing to Dr. Pocket. RSVP with check and get email by calling Marie Nagy at 734-728-6967 by Dec. 5.

» New Year's Eve Dinner/Dancing, \$33 pre-paid, includes appetizers, plated dinner, dessert, tax and tip. Cash bar. Music/Dancing by the Showcasemen. RSVP with check by Dec. 21 and get mailing address by calling Carol Olsen at 313-562-3080.

## On stage



When the Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus presented "A Winter Fantasy" at the Detroit Opera House on Sunday, the production had a Livonia feel. The city was represented by two children in the chorus, Kathryn Milgrin and Natelie Wilson. The program featured a variety of music, including folk songs, opera, and traditional holiday favorites. Proceeds benefited the chorus and will enhance the scholarship program.

## Lunch and Music Dec. 23 offers fun for seniors

The Maplewood Senior Department will host a Lunch and Music program from 12:15-1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood in Garden City.

It will feature Samara White, 15, a sophomore at the Utica Academy for International Studies. She was introduced to the violin when she was in third grade and instantly fell in love with it. She said the moment she held

the violin it was the happiest time in her life.

She has excelled in music classes at Cornerstone Schools and began to take lessons outside of school. The lessons, along with being a part of the Cornerstone Schools Chamber Strings, allowed her to partake in some special opportunities, including a chance to play on Orchestra Hall stage with the Civic Youth Ensemble program.

Samara White is Ste-

phanie McCarthy's granddaughter. McCarthy is an arthritis exercise instructor at the Maplewood Senior Center.

The event is free and open to the public to participate at the Maplewood. Please note: Lunch is not provided. Seniors can purchase a lunch for \$2.25 or bring in a sack lunch. Seniors who wish to eat a hot lunch must make a reservation 24 hours in advance by call-

ing 734-793-1974. The menu for Dec. 23 will be smoked sausage, sauerkraut, potato wedges, peaches and milk.

For more information, call The Senior Department at 734-793-1870.

### The Christmas Tree Guide 2015

**Michigan Snowfresh Trees**

Fresh-Cut • Up to 12' • \$39-\$95

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1095 Triangle Lake Rd.  
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(517) 546-0289

For more information please call: 1-800-926-8237, option #1 or email: [akilgore@michigan.com](mailto:akilgore@michigan.com)

Come Celebrate Christmas with us!

## First Congregational Church of Wayne

**Family Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 pm**

**Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00 pm**

Both services will conclude with Silent Night and the Passing of the Christ Light

734-729-7550

2 TOWNE SQUARE, WAYNE, MI  
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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF WAYNE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

File No. 2015-81313-DE  
Estate of SAMMY WONG  
Decedent, Date of birth: 10/05/1949

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**

Notice To Creditors: The decedent, SAMMY WONG, died 08/27/2015. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patrick Tankersley, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1305 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center - 2 Woodward Ave., Detroit and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 12/17/2015

Attorney Name Bar No.  
James D. Lance P68202  
One West Michigan Ave.  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
(269) 966-3000

Personal Representative Name  
Patrick Tankersley  
25914 Clark Street  
Novi, MI 48375

Publish: 12/17/15 LD-000206814 1/4

OUR VIEWS

## Keeping the peace at family gatherings

Feeling stressed? The holidays will do that to even the best of us. Unfortunately, we sometimes lash out to those close to us.

This newspaper put several questions related to cordiality at family gatherings to Julie M. Ribaldo, clinical associate professor of social work at the University of Michigan.

**Do family gatherings such as the holidays put additional stresses on people?**

Ribaldo: Many of us have memories of the awe of the holiday season. Some of us face it with dread, because it recalls memories of family arguments and tension and, sometimes, violence. In either case, our memories tend to shape what we anticipate as we gather with family. In addition, the extra tasks, financial worries and, for some, the sense of trying to create the "Hallmark" holiday can add extra anxiety or stress for adults. Children, often filled with their own extra level of excitement and anticipation, can feel the increase in tension in family members and often



Julie M. Ribaldo

respond with an increase in temper tantrums, whining or clinging. So everyone can begin to feel and feed off tension. It can become the proverbial "vicious cycle."

**What are some ways people can cope with these stresses and remain on cordial terms?**

Ribaldo: At a basic physical level, getting enough sleep helps any of us manage stress better, so it is important to not short-change sleep. Developing and maintaining realistic expectations is also helpful. In a sense, accepting that Grandpa George is going to be anxious and grumpy or that your mother is going to be controlling and bossy, as she always is, helps us head into the family gatherings with more of a sense of peace. Spending a few moments thinking about how you want to respond, how you can manage your own responses, can be incredibly empowering and reduce a sense of stress. It

can also help to focus attention on what you *do* like about family gatherings — which relatives you enjoy being with, watching the children delight in playing together and focusing on the joys of being connected with others can help us maintain a sense of balance. **In "keeping the peace" in families, is it sometimes acceptable to take a "time out" such as going for a walk around the block?**

Ribaldo: "Hitting the pause button" when we are becoming too stressed is vital. None of us thinks or acts our best when we are becoming emotionally upset. Going for a walk, taking a deep breath or heading into a quiet room for a moment of respite can be beneficial; so can connecting with the less-stressed family members. In those moments, paying attention to why we are feeling stressed and talking ourselves down can help us maintain our own internal sense of calm. We cannot control others (as much as we might wish otherwise), but we can control ourselves.

GUEST COLUMNIST

## Westland residents deserve truthful representation

These words are my own and do not represent the viewpoints of any group or public body. I'm writing this to clear the air and to make sure that the truth is heard.

On Dec. 7, at a regular meeting of the Westland City Council, I, along with other members of the community, thanked Mayor Wild, the Westland Public Library, and the Wayne-Ford Civic League for their assistance in cleaning up the vandalism at the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland that took place there the week before. A stone table was

broken, a granite park bench was flipped over, and trash was strewn all over the ground. It was a cowardly act and it's a shame that this happened. We're grateful that with much assistance, the Memorial Garden has been cleaned up.

Only a minute or two after I was able to express that gratitude, one of my colleagues on the City Council, Dewey Reeves, committed an act of vandalism (verbally) that will be much harder to clean up. His false insinuation — that the Westland Veterans Association is not depositing cash donations into

the bank and not using the money that was fundraised towards the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland — was careless and deeply hurtful.

The Memorial was erected by a group of volunteers called the Westland Veterans Association who have spent countless hours making this dream come true. It was the brainchild of late Bronze Star Vietnam War veteran and former Westland City Council President Ken Mehl. He lived to see his vision come to life and his lasting presence in the city was dedicated on Veteran's Day in 2013.

While not a veteran, I serve as a volunteer and "unofficial spokesman" of the Veterans Association. Our treasurer, former Westland Planning Commissioner Normie Brazier, handles all of our donations and finances. I trust her 100 percent and she has made it routine to report



Kevin Coleman  
 GUEST COLUMNIST

and document the amount of money that we've raised, our bank deposits and current balance, the amount of money spent on supplies and fundraising, and the amounts that have been paid-out to the contractors.

Unfortunately, a dispute occurred with one of the contractors after we were sent bills for items that we had already paid on. I understand my colleagues on the City Council, for legal and financial reasons, may not want the city to take ownership of the memorial until our dispute with Downriver Stone LLC has been settled. This makes sense. Councilman Reeves was

right in that regard and I respect his viewpoint.

What doesn't make sense is that he would go several steps further and insinuate criminal activity or wrongdoing by our volunteer group, with no evidence to back himself up. His remark that an audit was done which "showed no cash deposits" is false. There was no such audit ever done and our treasurer can attest with documentation that cash received has been deposited and used toward the memorial.

Without paying this political pettiness any further attention, I respectfully ask that members of the community put politics and personal issues aside and continue to serve the residents without the accusations and insults. We must do this for the good of our community. Insulting a volunteer group made up of mostly American Vet-

erans, let alone, on the Anniversary of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor is more than inappropriate — it's dangerous. These are people who fought to protect our freedoms and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

If there is continued lying and we, as a community, allow this kind of campaigning to continue, we risk losing the integrity of our electoral process and candidates who may run for office in the future could point to these actions as an excuse to throw out the rules of engagement and conduct that we expect from our leaders.

We need to be held to a higher standard and we need to lead by example.

Kevin Coleman is a Westland City Council member.

### WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
 FAMILY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION-5:00PM  
 CANDLELIGHT-11:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP  
 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION-10:00AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP  
 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION-7:00PM



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### CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Wayne Planning Commission is scheduled to meet in regular session on the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. For calendar year 2016, those twelve (12) meetings are as follows:

January 12	April 12	July 12	October 11
February 09	May 10	August 09	November 08
March 08	June 14	September 13	December 13

The Commission reserves the right to schedule special meetings as desirable or necessary

Matthew K. Miller  
 City Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015

LO-000026577 3x2

### CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Wayne, Michigan will hold its regular meetings which are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month on the following dates during the calendar year of 2016 at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted:

January 5 & 19, February 2 & 16, March 1 & 15, April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19, August 2\* & 16, September 6 & 20, October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15 and December 6 & 20

Proposed minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan 48184, not more than eight business days after the date of said meeting and approved minutes will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. This notice is in compliance with Act 267 of Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

\*This meeting date falls on a scheduled election day and may be changed to the day before the election of August 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. upon approval of the City Council.

Matthew K. Miller  
 City Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015

LO-000026574 3x3

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

#### CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN PARKS AND RECREATION 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, January 5th, 2016 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info)

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN - PARKS AND RECREATION 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Edward Davis  
 Superintendent

Jack E. Kirksey  
 Mayor

Publish: December 17, 2015

LO-000026491 LO-

# Women team up to open new Highland bake shop

Laura Colvin  
Staff Writer

If Jen Von Buskirk and Stephanie Miller had one thing in common from the start, it was a passion for preparing great meals, snacks and desserts with the best ingredients they could find.

But now they've got something else in common. The women – both already well-known from their presence at numerous local farmers markets – have partnered to open two businesses in one Highland Township location.

They officially put out the welcome mat just before Thanksgiving, and Jen's Ugly Pies and Miller Pines and Savories hosted its grand opening event Saturday, featuring abundant samples, hourly giveaways and two grand prizes.

## 'Ugly Pies'

Von Buskirk, who grew up in Garden City and graduated from Garden City High School in 1990, got started in business about five years ago after friends and family relentlessly asked her to bake pies for picnics, barbecues and other gatherings.

"My pies always got eaten, but I couldn't make a crust look pretty to save my life," she explained with a laugh. "One time as I walked in the door with some pies, I heard my friend say under her breath, 'Oh, here comes another one of Jen's ugly pies.'"

Rather than take offense, Von Buskirk found the remark "hilarious."

"It was true," she said. "I got so frustrated I didn't even want to bring the darn things with me anywhere."

But her pies were popular, and the name stuck when she started selling her wares at the former White Lake Farmers Market, then moved along with other vendors when it became the Huron Valley Farmers Market in Highland. She also appears regularly at other local markets.

Before long, her pies were in high demand. "I'd say they've gotten exponentially prettier over the years," she said. "People tell me I should change the name to Jen's Pretty Pies, but I



Stephanie Miller of Miller Pines and Savories, left, and Jen Von Buskirk of Jeni's Ugly Pies recently opened a retail location at Jeni's Ugly Pies, 1095 N. Milford Road in Highland.

don't think that has the same ring to it."

Her signature caramel pecan pie, she says, has remained a customer favorite from the start. She also offers a number of cream pies, like chocolate, coconut and banana, as well as fruit pies, like classic apple and mixed berry.

"I also have what I call killer Key lime," she said. "People fight over the last one, no matter where we are or how many we brought. If there are two people and one pie, there's always a friendly argument. People told me it's the best they've had."

Von Buskirk offers other items, as well, like quiches, breakfast breads and a "Dego pie," made with a savory blend of tomatoes, goat cheese, shallots and garlic wrapped in a pie crust made with fresh Parmesan and cracked black pepper.

"It's so good," she said. "I love it with a red wine and a dark green salad."

Both she and Miller have been using the commercial kitchen in what is now also their retail location for several years, Von Buskirk said, noting they were greeted during the first two Saturdays of business with a "line out the door."

"We're so excited," she said. "This is something I've been wanting to do forever. I'm so stoked over it."

## 'Something you're confident about'

Miller Pines and Savories also got its start from a passion for good food and wholesome living.

While she and her husband work to establish a Christmas tree farm – hence, "Pines," – Stephanie Miller decided she wanted to create her own niche in the family business.

For several years, she's been a staple at the Milford Farmers Market and several others, offering her homemade, all-natural granola, fresh fruit jams, hand-rolled corn tortilla chips – in sea salt and sweet garlic – and freshly baked chocolate chip, oatmeal and peanut butter cookies.

This past summer, she also perfected and launched her zesty zucchini salsa.

"It's all-vegetable," she said. "The beauty of it is it doesn't have to be used just with chips. I have one customer who likes to put it on hamburgers and baked potatoes, and another who uses it on pork tenderloin and whitefish."

Unlike store-bought salsa, she added, hers is made fresh, without preservatives or salt.

"For me, the whole idea has always been to bring to market some-

thing I'm very confident about; something I want to feed my family, something can feel good about giving my own kids."

Miller also offers cake pops and cake truffles, and currently has festive holiday varieties available in the store or by special order.

Her products are also available locally at Fragments and all Busch's locations, as well as at Rudy's Market and Essence on Main in downtown Clarkston.

Jeni's Ugly Pies and Miller Pines and Savories, located at 1095 N. Milford Road in Highland Township, is open and fully stocked on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and also open during the week for special order pick-ups.

For more information, call Von Buskirk at 734-536-0329 or email jenisuglypies@yahoo.com. Call Miller at 248-872-7858 or email smiller5040@hotmail.com

Both businesses can also be found on Facebook.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com | 248-390-7396 | Twitter: @MilfordReporter

Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

# 'Hardcore Pawn' reality star breaking out on her own

Jay Grossman  
Staff Writer

Ashley Gold of *Hardcore Pawn* fame is branching out on her own.

The Bloomfield Township resident, who spent nine seasons on the popular reality TV show, is now hawking jewelry through her own website at [www.pawnchickshopping.com](http://www.pawnchickshopping.com), which she describes as an online shopping destination for men and women.

And, yes, she's ready to make a deal.

"It's true, I left the pawn shop," Gold said in a phone interview Wednesday. "This is my thing now – I'm the pawn chick. I was born and raised in a pawn shop, (but) I know how to buy jewelry and I know how to pair jewelry. Everyone has always seen the rough and tumble side of me, but now people will see a new side of me."

She currently has an online collection of 300 pieces of jewelry from 12 different designers, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$3,000. Gold said the new venture will allow her to spend more time with her husband and their two young children.

"This gives me freedom to be with them and do what I love, which is still to be in the jewelry industry," she said.

*Hardcore Pawn* ran five years and produced 150 episodes that focused on the Gold family and their pawn shop off Eight Mile Road in Detroit. At the moment, Gold said she doesn't know if the show is being renewed for another season.

Contrary to what some viewers might think, Gold said the situations and customers on the show were real and not scripted.

"These were real people who were down and out on their luck, in most cases," she said. "We met a lot of interesting people and enjoyed a lot of adventures ... the shop itself became a tourist destination. But those situations were real."

Gold, who grew up in the area, is a 1996 Andover High School graduate. She graduated from Michigan State University's Eli Broad College



If you're looking for that perfect piece for the holidays, it's not too late. Ashley Gold can have it shipped to you by Christmas Eve.

of Business and also has her certification in diamonds from the Gemological Institute of America.

"There's not a lot of women in the pawn shop industry, so I'm sure I always stood out in that sense," she said. "But people always turn to me for style and fashion advice. I know what I'm doing – I can dress anyone in basically under two minutes."

She handles her own social media and blogs about fashion on her own website at [www.pawnchickradio.com](http://www.pawnchickradio.com). She still reaches out to her fans and is grateful for how the show opened doors for her, such as guest appearances on *Good Morning America*, where she talked about the art of buying and selling.

One of her favorite moments at the store was when Hollywood star Aaron Paul walked through the door. Paul played a meth dealer by the name of Jesse Pinkman on the hit series *Breaking Bad*. More than anything, he was known for his colorful vernacular and trademark slogans.

"He came into the shop one day and said he wanted a gold bar that said, 'Yeah, Bitch!' I'm able to accommodate a lot of people at the shop, but that one didn't happen," she said.

As for the wheeling and dealing that goes hand-in-hand with working at a pawn shop, Gold said she's more than willing to bargain with her online customers.

**Abandoned vehicle auction:**  
Tuesday 12-22-2015 10am  
Sparks Auto and Towing,  
34043 Ford Road Westland MI 48185

1.	1987	Rockwood	1GBKP37W7H3315652
2.	2006	Mercury	3MEFM07126R651991
3.	1995	Buick	1G4GD2212S4701814
4.	1991	Chevrolet	1GCCS14Z3M0173765
5.	1962	Clipper	S147119029082
6.	2005	Dodge	1D4GP24R95B231704
7.	2000	Lincoln	1LNHM87A1YY9176641
8.	2000	BMW	WBAAN3347YNC91133
9.	2004	Pontiac	3G7DA03E44S557805
10.	2002	Dodge	1B3ES56C72D569388
11.	1995	Ford	1FASP11J4SW373372
12.	2005	Ford	1FAPP34N45W208017
13.	2003	Land Rover	SACMB11423A104757
14.	2006	Kia	KNAFE121165301781
15.	2003	Chevrolet	2G1WX12K239192213
16.	2000	Chevrolet	1GCCS19W7YK237217
17.	2005	Ford	1FMZK06165GA29286
18.	XXX	Fleetwood	6869T99267805
19.	1993	Ford	1FMCA11U3PZB35430

Publish: February 22, 2015  
LO-00028619

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

**Case #149A, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Adult Education Center, 6615 N Venoy, Parcel #033-01-0027-300, W Side of Venoy Road, North of Ford Road, Kathleen M. Kunz-Pielack**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: December 17, 2015  
LO-00028643 2x4

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES  
MTG. 24 12/7/15**

Presiding: President Godbout  
Present: Bryant, Coleman, Hammons, Johnson, Kehrer, Reeves  
177: Closed PH - Brownfield Plan for Ford Rd. properties.  
Mtg. adj. at 6:45 p.m.  
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout  
Council President

Eileen DeHart-Schoof, CMC  
City Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015  
LO-00028632 2x2

**ABSTRACT  
WAYNE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING NO. 2015-35  
December 8, 2015**

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. The City Council discussed the City Council vacancies. APPROVED: filling both City Council seats after the interviews on 12/10/15. Adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Jennifer A. Wagner  
Deputy City Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015  
LO-00028630 LO-

**NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD DURING THE 2016 CALENDAR YEAR**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the City Council of Westland, Michigan will hold its regular meetings on the following dates during the calendar year of 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, except when a holiday falls on that Monday, in which case the meeting will be held on the next secular day that is not a holiday.

Scheduled Meeting	Mon. Cut-Off Date	Scheduled Meeting	Mon. Cut-Off Date
January 4, 2016	Dec. 28	July 5, 2016 (Tues)	June 27
January 19, 2016 (Tues)	Jan. 11	July 18, 2016	July 11
February 1, 2016	Jan. 25	August 1, 2016	July 25
February 16, 2016 (Tues)	Feb. 8	August 15, 2016	Aug. 8
March 7, 2016	Feb. 29	September 6, 2016 (Tues)	Aug. 29
March 21, 2016	March 14	September 19, 2016	Sept. 12
April 4, 2016	March 28	October 3, 2016	Sept. 26
April 18, 2016	April 11	October 17, 2016	Oct. 7 (Fri)
May 2, 2016	April 25	November 7, 2016	Oct. 31
May 16, 2016	May 9	November 21, 2016	Nov. 14
June 6, 2016	May 27 (Fri)	December 5, 2016	Nov. 28
June 20, 2016	June 13	December 19, 2016	Dec. 12
January 3, 2017	Dec. 27, 2016		

Proposed minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan, not more than eight business days after the date of said meeting and approved minutes will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. This notice is given in compliance with Act. 267 of Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

EILEEN DEHART-SCHOOF, CMC  
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: December 17, 2015  
LO-00028630 4x4

**CITY OF WESTLAND  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

**Case #1345D, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Expansion of Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center, 36137/36301 Warren Road, Parcels #029-99-0012-702 and -0011-701, S Side Warren E of Central City Parkway**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: December 17, 2015  
LO-00028648 2x4

# Run or walk, but help raise funds for Canton man with cancer

**Jill Halpin**  
Correspondent

Runners, take your mark – and in addition, help support a Canton man battling a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer for the second time.

The Canton Road Runners store is teaming up with Northville-based Kona Running Co. to sponsor a 5K run/walk event from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, in Canton in an effort to raise funds for resident Alex Berlin, 24.

Berlin, a 2009 graduate of Canton High School, was diagnosed with a Ewing sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, less than one week after graduating from Michigan State University with a master's degree in accounting.

A former player with Canton High's hockey team, Berlin was playing hockey in a charity fundraiser at MSU in 2014 when he first noticed a pain in his leg. An MRI revealed a cancerous tumor, said Canton resident Wendy Juback, a longtime friend of Berlin and head of marketing for the Canton Road Runners store.



Alex Berlin of Canton is on his second bout with a rare form of cancer.

"Alex underwent surgery at the University of Michigan Hospital to remove remnants of the tumor in his leg and also started chemotherapy and radiation right

away," Juback said. Berlin was declared cancer-free this past March. Unfortunately, a recent biopsy on his lungs revealed that the cancer had returned and he

began a second round of chemotherapy in November, Juback said. "Alex really is an amazing young man. He has remained positive and is committed to fighting this cancer," she

said. According to the American Cancer Society, Ewing sarcoma affects approximately 225 children and young adults in North America annually. Most Ewing tumors occur in teens, but they can also affect younger children, as well as adults (mainly in their 20s and 30s). The most common places for Ewing tumors are the pelvis, the chest wall (such as the ribs or shoulder blades) and the legs; the most common symptom is pain. The tumor may also show up as a lump or swelling on an arm, leg or the trunk. Ewing tumors can also cause general symptoms like fever or not feeling well.

Ewing sarcoma also presents another difficulty, Juback said.

"This is a type of cancer that is very expensive to combat. The medical bills are overwhelming," she said.

Alan and Jill Whitehead, owners of the Canton Road Runners store, and Kona Running Co. teamed up in this effort to help offset medical bills, as well as give back to the community, Juback said.

Although registration for the event is free, raffle tickets are on sale for a 14-person suite at Joe Louis Arena for the Detroit Red Wings game Dec. 20 against the Calgary Flames. The suite is donated by the Lear Corp.

In addition, 10 percent of proceeds from sales at the Canton Road Runners store Dec. 19 will be donated to the fundraiser.

"Alex is just an all-American, hard-working young man – so genuine – who has the world at his feet," Juback said. "Now he is battling this tough disease and is still working and trying to live life to fullest. He is doing all he can. We are really hopeful that the community will come out and help support him in his battle."

The Lift for Berlin: Round 2 Cancer Battle 5K is scheduled to be held at noon Dec. 19 at the Canton Road Runners store, 42743 Ford Road, in Canton.

For more information on the event or to make a donation, call 734-355-3962 or go to <https://www.crowdfunder.com/liftforberlinround2/fundraiser/chandlerberlin>.

# Author: America is killing you with junk food

**Jay Grossman**  
Staff Writer

From Big Gulps to Big Macs, America is killing you with junk food.

"It's very hard to eat healthy in America," said Dr. Michael Greger, author of a new book on nutritional eating titled *How Not to Die*. "It's made to be hard by powerful financial industries — they do it because unhealthy food is profitable food. You can make a lot of money selling a can of Coke, because the ingredients are dirt cheap. Whereas if you had to sell someone a tomato, there's not much of a profit margin."

Greger will talk about the benefits of healthy eating in a lecture scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Groves High School, 20500 W. 13 Mile Road, in Beverly Hills. The talk is hosted by the nonprofit Plant Based Nutrition Support Group.

Greger knows his topic. The celebrity author is an internationally-recognized speaker on nutrition and food safety. He has appeared on *The*

*Dr. Oz Show* and *The Colbert Report* and has also served as an expert witness testifying about mad-cow disease when cattle producers sued Oprah Winfrey for libel.

His newest book asserts that the vast majority of premature deaths can be prevented through simple changes in diet and lifestyle. Examining the 15 top causes of death in America — such as heart disease, various cancers, diabetes, high blood pressure and others — Greger advocates how a nutritional and lifestyle can sometimes trump drugs and surgical approaches.

And, yes, he realizes his lecture at Groves comes smack in the middle of the holidays, when practically everyone is noshing on something.

"Actually, the peak time of death is December and January. More people die during these two months than any other time of year," Greger said Tuesday in a phone interview. "It's driven mostly by cardiac mortality ... car accidents ... alcohol. So this is the time of the year people



Dr. Michael Greger's latest book, titled "How Not to Die," offers readers valuable tips on choosing and preparing healthy foods.

need to hear it. And it's right before we make our new year's resolutions, so it's a good time to get motivated and think about your lifestyle."

How do you make the change? Greger suggests you do it one day at a time.

"What matters most is what you eat day to day, not the special occasions," he said. "If you whack your knee on a

coffee table, it hurts, but the body will eventually heal itself. But what if you whacked your knee three times a day on the coffee table?"

As an example, Greger said in many cases a cigarette smoker's lungs will clear up almost completely after the person quits smoking for a period of time. But every time the person lights another cigarette, it's back to

square one. "That healing process starts right away," he said. "Our bodies can clear out that plaque from our arteries if we'd just stop kicking ourselves in the face. We could choose moderation and pick out a smaller hammer ... but why beat ourselves up at all?"

### American excess

Look around America, Greger said, and you'll see a country filled with people drinking giant cups of soda pop. "I could take a bath in these things," he said. "You used to just see them at movie theaters — now they're everywhere. The profit margin is so high on pop, they could double the size and charge you 10 cents more and still make a decent profit."

The scenario becomes even more insidious when Greger outlines how the health care industry profits from America's unhealthy eating habits and lifestyle choices.

"Now your doctor gives you pain pills for everything," he said. "It's like people who take ni-

troglycerin for heart disease — they get tremendous relief, but it's not dealing with the cause."

Greger said being overweight in America has become the accepted norm in today's culture and it won't change until consumers demand a better product and place more value on their vegetables and fruit.

"You don't see ads for broccoli," Greger said. "Why not?"

He cited Finland and Japan as two countries that have instituted national programs geared toward healthier lifestyles. Finland, in particular, went from one of the world's unhealthiest countries to one of the healthiest ones, as its national rate of coronary heart disease declined by 60-75 percent over the past 20 years.

Tickets for the Dec. 15 event are \$15 in advance at [www.pbns.org/events](http://www.pbns.org/events) or \$20 at the door. AMA PRA Category 1 credit is available.

[jgrossman@hometownlife.com](mailto:jgrossman@hometownlife.com)  
586-826-7030  
Twitter: @BhmEccentric

### ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2015-36 December 10, 2015

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Seven candidates were interviewed for two City Council positions. APPROVED: Appoint Ryan R. Gabriel & Richard T. Sutton IV for City Council positions until November 13, 2017; call a Special Meeting for Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. for budget presentation and study session. Adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

Published: December 17, 2015

LO-00026589 3x2

### CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Wayne Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled to meet in regular session on the second (2nd) Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. 2016 at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. For the calendar year of 2016, those twelve (12) meetings are as follows:

January 14	February 11	March 10	April 14	May 12
June 9	July 14	August 11	September 8	October 13
November 10	December 8			

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015

LO-00026673 3x2

### CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 25 12/7/15

- Presiding: President Godbout
- Present: Bryant, Coleman, Hammons, Johnson, Kehrer, Reeves
- 179: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 11/16/15.
- All American Car Cruise 7/9/16.
- Bid for HVAC Maintenance & Replacement @ Sr. Ctr., amt. not to ex. \$1,860/yr. for maintenance & \$8,848.56 for replacement.
- Bid for ATV/snow plow for Fire/Ordinance Dept to Rosenau Powersports, cost not to ex. \$7,594.
- Bid for Ice Arena addition to Envision Builders, cost not to ex. \$843,000.
- Purchase of 18 portable radios for F.D., City's cost not to ex. \$9,754.62.
- Purchase of 4 sets of Bleachers for Parks & Rec, amt. \$31,112 with \$15,000 reimbursement from RAP Grant.
- ILA w/Wayne to share Antenna Tower.
- Prep. Resolution accepting LTSW Mgt. System - 8051 Middlebelt.
- LTSW Facilities Maintenance Agreement - 8051 Middlebelt.
- Intro Budget Amendment 2016-02, 1st Quarter.
- Adopt Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy.
- Adopt Revised Investment Policy.
- Ext. deadline to pay 2015 winter taxes to 2/29/16.
- 2016 Schedule of Meetings for City Council.
- 180: City Clerk's Benefit Package 1/1/16-12/31/16.
- 181: Deputy City Clerk's Benefit Package 1/1/16-12/31/16.
- 182: Appr. request for closed study session 12/21/15 @ 6:00 p.m. re. negotiations w/Westland Lieutenants & Sergeants Association.
- 183: Prepared Resolution to approve Brownfield Plan & Reimbursement Agrmnt. for certain parcels of land at or near 36601 Ford Road.
- 184: Brownfield Redevelopment Plan & Reimbursement Agrmnt. for certain parcels of land at or near 36601 Ford Road.
- 185: SLU for prop. Convenience Store Use at Mobil Service Station, 125 S. Merriman Rd.
- 186: Site Plan for prop. Mobil Service Station Renovation, 125 S. Merriman w/contingencies.
- 187: Conf. re-appt. of D. Weese to the Bd. of Review for 3 yr. term to exp. 12/11/18.
- 188: Conf. re-appt. of M. Tockstein to Bd. of Review for 3 yr. term to exp. 12/31/18.
- 189: Conf. re-appt. of R. Curry to LDFA for 4 yr. term to exp. 12/7/19.
- 190: Appr. checklist: \$8,785,046.91.
- Mtg. adj. at 8:20 p.m.
- Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout  
Council President

Eileen DeHart-Schoof, CMC  
City Clerk

Published: December 17, 2015

LO-00026637 3x5.5

### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

**Case #2196, Proposed Rezoning from CB-4, Vehicle Service, CB-3, General Commercial Business, CB-1, Low Intensity Commercial Business and R-5, Single Family Residential to PUD, Planned Unit Development, Parcels # 049-01-0011-301,-0012-301,-0013-303,-0013-002,-0014-304,-0014-305,#049-05-0981-001,-0982-001,-0983-001,-0984-001,-0985-001,-0986-002, SW Corner of Ford Road and Newburgh Road, Glenn Shaw Jr./Joe Kadaf**

and

**Case #2196A, Preliminary Plan Approval for Proposed Ford/Newburgh PUD, Planned Unit Development, Parcels # 049-01-0011-301,-0012-301,-0013-303,-0013-002,-0014-304,-0014-305,#049-05-0981-001,-0982-001,-0983-001,-0984-001,-0985-001,-0986-002, SW Corner of Ford Road and Newburgh Road, Glenn Shaw Jr./Joe Kadaf**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission



Published: December 17, 2015

LO-00026646 3x5.5



The Holidays Are Coming!  
Time to plan the perfect  
Holiday Meal...

Place your order for your holiday ham, beef tenderloin, standing rib or pork crown roast. Speak with our seafood department for a shrimp appetizer or crab pairing. And don't forget to order your fresh rolls, and pastries from Art of Bread to complete your perfect Holiday meal.



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Closed Christmas Day; Saturday 9-8



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**CHRISTMAS  
ORDERS**  
until 8pm December 21st

**MEAT**



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CELLAR**



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All Varietals

Nobilo  
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Pairs great  
with  
Rib Roast  
Meomi  
Pinot  
Noir  
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Bell's  
Double  
Cream Stout  
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Saugatuck  
Neopolitan  
Milk Stout  
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4 pack

New Belgium  
Brewing Co.  
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6 pack



USDA Premium  
Choice Angus  
Standing  
Rib Roast  
**\$13.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

All Natural  
Fresh Pork  
Crown  
Roast  
**\$3.49** lb.  
Save 50¢

USDA Premium  
Choice Angus  
Tenderloin  
**\$22.99** lb

Dearborn Brand  
Kielbasa  
Fresh, Smoked Holiday  
or Smoked Plain  
**\$4.49** lb  
Save 50¢

All Natural  
Fresh Pork  
Boneless  
Roast  
**\$2.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

USDA Prime Angus  
Prime  
Standing  
Rib Roast  
**\$15.99** lb  
Save \$4.00

All Natural  
Fresh Pork  
Pork  
Tenderloin  
**\$2.99** lb  
Save \$3.00

Holiday Hams  
Dearborn  
Foil Ham  
**\$4.49** lb  
Save \$1.00



Fresh-Housemade  
Sausage  
Polish or Sweet Italian  
**\$3.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

Alexander & Hornung  
Spiral  
Ham  
**\$2.99** lb  
Save 50¢

All Natural  
1920  
Legend Ham  
**\$4.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

Fresh-Housemade  
City  
Chicken  
**\$6.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

**SEAFOOD**



Maryland  
Crab Cakes  
**\$4.49** ea  
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North American  
Lobster Tails  
Small 4 oz.  
**\$5.99** ea  
Save \$2.00

All Natural  
Cooked Shrimp  
(31-40 ct)  
**\$9.99** lb  
Save \$6.00

Fresh Atlantic  
Salmon Fillets  
**\$5.99** lb  
Save \$4.00

Alaskan Red King  
Crab Legs  
(20-24 ct)  
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Save \$1.00



EZ Peel Shrimp  
X-Large (31-40 ct)  
**\$6.99** 1 lb bag  
Save \$5.00

P&D Shrimp  
X-Large (26-30 ct)  
**\$7.99** 1 lb bag  
Save \$5.00



33048 Seven Mile Road-Livonia  
248-477-4311  
Holiday Hours: Sun - Thur 8-6; Closed Christmas Day; Saturday 8-6

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Walnut Bread  
**\$3.99**

French  
Vienna  
**\$2.99**

Bread  
Pudding  
**\$2.49**

Mozzarella & Herb  
Focaccia  
**\$3.99**

Pecan  
Sticky Bun  
2/\$5

Ham & Cheese  
Croissant  
**\$2.49**

Wild Caught  
Sockeye Salmon  
**\$9.99** lb  
Save \$4.00



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## The Holidays Are Coming! Time to plan the perfect Holiday Meal...

Place your order early for a farm fresh turkey or smoked ham, get those fresh oysters for that secret oyster stuffing; pick up the fresh fruits & vegetables for the trimmings & order the perfect pie to complete your meal.



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248.477.4333

Save valid 12-17-15 thru 12-24-15

While Supplies Last • Prices subject to change.

Holiday Store Hours: Sunday 9-6; Mon - Wed 9-8; Thursday 9-6; Closed Christmas Day; Saturday 9-8



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Highest Quality Hand-Selected Fruits and Vegetables  
Over 1000 Items from Gourmet & Domestic Cheeses to Premium Deli Meats & Freshly Made Salads

Art of Bread-Fresh House Made Everyday-Using Non GMO Flour

See the previous page for fantastic items from...

## Joe's Meat & Seafood



### PRODUCE

Spanish Clementines <b>\$4.99</b> 5lb box	Golden Ripe Whole Pineapple <b>\$2.99</b> ea.	Italian Chestnuts <b>\$3.99</b> lb
Louisiana Sweet Potatoes <b>49¢</b> lb	Earthbound Salads All Varieties <b>2/\$5</b>	Seedless Cucumbers <b>5/\$5</b>

**ORGANIC** Organic Cilantro **2/\$3**  
Avocados **5/\$5**



### DELI

Boar's Head Sweet Slice Ham  
**\$6.99** lb  
Save \$5.50

Dietz & Watson Hard Salami  
**\$6.99** lb  
Save \$3.00

Krakus Polish Ham  
**\$4.99** lb  
Save \$2.00

Dearborn Roast Beef  
**\$7.99** lb  
Save \$2.00

Boar's Head Classic Chicken  
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Save \$5.00

Dietz & Watson Garlic Roasted Cheddar  
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Save \$3.00

Dearborn Smokehouse Ham  
**\$4.99** lb  
Save \$3.00

Lipari Mozzarella Cheese  
**\$3.99** lb  
Save \$2.00

Boar's Head Domestic Provolone  
**\$4.99** lb  
Save \$5.00



### FINE CHEESES

Jarlsberg Swiss  
**\$7.99** lb  
Save \$3.00

Sartori Merlot Bella Vitano  
**\$14.99** lb  
Save \$3.00

Belletoille Brie  
**\$10.99** lb  
Save \$2.00

Now Taking **CHRISTMAS ORDERS**  
until 8pm December 21st

Holiday Hams Dearborn Foil Ham  
**\$4.49** lb  
Save \$1.00

USDA Prime Angus Prime Standing Rib Roast  
**\$15.99** lb  
Save \$4.00

USDA Premium Choice Angus Tenderloin  
**\$22.99** lb



Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillets  
**\$5.99** lb.  
Save \$4.00

Holiday Season is Right Around the Corner...Oh My!  
**Joe's Catering & Events**  
Don't panic over planning that holiday cocktail party or year-end corporate event. This is the perfect time to appreciate your employees and spend time with family and friends.  
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### Everyday GOURMET

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**\$8.99** lb  
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Save \$1.00

Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables  
**\$4.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

Farfalle Pasta Salad  
**\$3.99** lb  
Save \$1.00

Holiday Egg Nog  
Starting at **\$3.99**

Guernsey Ice Creams  
**50¢ off**

Kitchen Basics Cooking Stocks  
**2/\$5**

### Chef's Feature

Bacon Gouda Scalloped Potatoes

The Spice Hunters **\$1.00 off**  
Spices, Extracts & Grinders



Joe's Fresh Roasted Weekly Coffee Special

Candy Cane **\$8.99** lb. Save \$1.00

Holiday Gift Baskets starting @ **\$19.99**

Pic-A-Nut Cashew Trays **\$19.99**

### PASTRY

Joe's Very Berry Pie **\$13.99**

Wreath Cake **\$32.99**

Jamaican Cheesecake **\$3.49**

Holiday Cupcakes Starting at **\$1.49**



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Holiday Hours

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French Vienna **\$2.99**

Ham & Cheese Croissant **\$2.49**  
Bread Pudding **\$2.49**



Simi Cabernet Sauvignon **\$17.99** Btl

WINE CELLAR  
Seaglass Pinot Grigio & Pinot Noir **\$9.99** Btl  
Red Diamond Wines **\$7.99** Btl All Varietals

Stella Artois **\$7.99** 6 pack



BOYS BASKETBALL

## Stevenson out-runs Wayne Memorial

Churchill, Franklin also post impressive wins

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson never trailed after jumping out to an 8-0 lead before wrapping up a 78-62 victory over host Wayne Memorial Tuesday night. Senior guard Gino D'Agostino led both teams with 20 points (14 of which came from inside the paint). Junior guard Ian Knopf contributed 16 points to the Spartans' cause while Devin

Dunn added 11. Isaiah Lewis led the Zebras with 11 points. The coast-to-coast triumph improved Stevenson's record to 2-1. "We played together tonight," said Stevenson head coach Kareem Smartt, when asked what he liked about his team's performance. "Gino played well and scored 20, but he was the recipient of some great passing and screens by his teammates. "Wayne has a good team. Once they play a few more games together, they're going to be really good. They have a

See HOOPS, Page B3



Stevenson's Devin Dunn drives to the basket Tuesday night against Wayne's Tray Woods.

TOM BEAUDOIN

## Kelbert honored

Livonia Franklin football coach Chris Kelbert was recently named a Regional Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. The award is determined by voting by the head football coaches in each of the state's 18 regions. Out of the 618 high schools playing 11- and eight-player football, only 52 coach-of-the-year awards are presented. Kelbert guided the Patriots to a 9-4 record and berth in the Division 2 semifinal game against Detroit Martin Luther King.

## Hildebrant excelling

Former Livonia Stevenson goal-keeper Mitch Hildebrant is thriving at the professional level as a third-year keeper with the North American Soccer League's Minnesota United. After serving the first two years as a back-up, he stepped into a starting role during the 2015 season when Sammy Ndjock was injured. Hildebrant started several games in August, making 24 saves while posting a 1.86 goals-against average and 2-3-2 record. Hildebrant starred in the college ranks at Oakland University.

## Battle of the Fans V

The Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council will host its fifth "Battle of the Fans" contest this winter to award the top high school student cheering section in Michigan and promote the opportunity for a fun, positive cheering experience for fans supporting their teams. Dowagiac was named last year's champion and presented with a banner during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. Sections from Beaverton, Buchanan, St. Johns and Yale also were finalists and recognized during the Breslin ceremony. Schools are invited to submit a short video, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action. Video submissions should be between 90 seconds and three minutes long and explain how that section meets the following contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and fun.

The deadline for student-submitted video applications is noon Jan. 9. Five finalists including at least one Class C or D school then will be chosen and visited on a home game night by MHSAA staff and Advisory Council representatives. The MHSAA will produce a video of that finalist after each visit, with the champion being selected by the Student Advisory Council based in part on activity on the MHSAA's social media sites. This year's winner will be announced Feb. 19 and recognized March 25 at the Breslin Center.

## Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometown-life.com. The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

## YOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Junior center's big game can't lift Churchill over Salem

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

There was no shortage of floor burns or energy expenditure during Tuesday night's KLAA Kensington Conference crossover girls basketball game featuring host Salem and Livonia Churchill. Both teams laid it all on the line — and left it all on the floor — before the Rocks held off a feisty fourth-quarter rally by the Chargers to prevail 59-53. Salem sophomore guard Lasha Petree — one of three Petree sisters on the Rocks' roster — proved to be nearly unstoppable for the winners, netting 25 points, nine rebounds and four steals. Churchill's star was junior center Anne Yost, who was a put-back machine, finishing with 22 points and 15 boards. Salem improved to 3-1 while the Chargers slipped to 1-2. Every time the Chargers would start to dig themselves out of a first-half deficit, the Rocks would answer with a dagger. Trailing 27-13 mid-way through the second stanza, Churchill went on a 6-0 run thanks to two free throws from Yost, a base-line jumper from Shae Smith and a driving lay-up from Molly Pummill to pull to within 27-21. But on the Rocks' next trip down the floor, Marisa Martin calmly knocked down a triple from the corner to extend her team's lead to 30-21. Salem tacked on three free throws to carry a 33-21 lead into the half. The Rocks rolled in the third quarter and seized their



Churchill junior Anne Yost was phenomenal against Salem Tuesday, scoring 22 points while grabbing 15 rebounds.

ED WRIGHT

See YOST, Page B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Youthful Huron Valley making strides

Lack of experience just temporary obstacle for Hawks

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Look up the word "inexperienced" in the dictionary and you will find a picture of the Huron Valley Lutheran girls basketball team. Not really, but it certainly would be fitting given the Hawks' lack of seasoned players. Junior point guard/energizer bunny Samantha Golchuk is the lone returning starter from last year's squad. Golchuk provides the Hawks with baseline-to-baseline hustle, ball-hawking defense and sharp-shooting from the perimeter as proven by her 16-point/four-steal effort during Monday night's 40-27 loss to visiting



Huron Valley Lutheran's Sam Golchuk breaks the Roper press during Monday's game.

ED WRIGHT

Bloomfield Hills Roper. Senior Ashley Setian also provides head coach Kris

Ruth's youthful team with stability and strong skills in the paint. Setian grabbed a

team-high seven rebounds and scored seven points against the more-seasoned Roughriders, who built a 15-2 first-quarter lead before the Hawks could get their bearings and battle the visitors toe-to-toe the rest of the contest. "Four of our five starters have never started a varsity game before, so there's definitely going to be a learning curve for us, at least during the month of December," admitted Ruth, whose team is 1-3. "I thought we adjusted well tonight after we realized what was going on and we talked about it (during time-outs)." Roper scored a ton of first-half points when the Hawks were one step late in switching on screens, but the hosts' defense improved as the game went on. "A lot of it is due to the same thing — lack of experience and getting used to the

See HVL, Page B2

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

# Stevenson, Churchill go 4-1 at duals

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson's wrestling team showed it will be a force to be reckoned with this season after finishing Saturday's Farmington Hills Harrison Havoc Duals with a 4-1 record, earning runner-up honors to Pinckney.

The Pirates edged the Spartans 40-38 in the opening match of the day.

"The team came together nicely after a third-place finish in the City Meet on Wednesday," said head coach Dan Vaughan. "We came out a little flat in the first match, missing some opportunities to earn bonus points in two matches and losing two swing matches. We were anchored



TOM BEAUDOIN

Stevenson's Devlen Kuschel (bottom) went 5-0 at 285 pounds during Saturday's Harrison Hawk Havoc duals.

by a number of individuals, who went undefeated." Following the tight loss to Pinckney, the Spartans roared

back to defeat Harrison's A team (42-36), Birmingham Brother Rice (78-6), Harrison's B team (75-6) and Royal Oak, 54-27.

The Spartans' 5-0 grapplers were Logan Schoppert (103 pounds), Taylor Droste (119), Tarik Alcodray (145), Dante Lamb (171) and Devlen Kuschel (285).

Losing just one of five matches for Stevenson were John Gusmano (112), Jack Sullivan (130) and Tyler White-side (215).

### Wayne thumps Jags

Wayne Memorial's Wolfpack rallied back from a 12-point deficit (due to voids) to upend Allen Park, 49-30, on Dec. 9. Spearheading the victory

for the Wolfpack were Brandon Eeles (125), Nick Daniels (130), Jack Dejack (140), John Hicks (171) and Jaylen Ross (189), all of whom won by pins.

Other winners included Pierce Slebodnik (119), Jarrett Hamlet (145), Jason Hamlet (171) and Jacob Marsden (215).

### Chargers shine at Mott

Livonia Churchill's wrestling team carved out a stellar 4-1 record during Saturday's dual-meet tournament hosted by Waterford Mott.

Among the highlights for the Chargers were first varsity pins by freshmen Anthony Marchione, Blake Bersano and Connor McAnalley.

The Chargers opened with a 54-26 triumph over North Farmington, before ousting

Bloomfield Hills (58-15), Walled Lake Western (60-18) and Mott 59-12. Their only setback came against Salem, which out-pointed the Chargers 53-30.

Three Chargers went 5-0: Ethan Englehart (112), Josh Mussen (119) and Chase Gardner (152).

### JV Chargers thrive

Churchill's junior varsity team traveled to Ann Arbor Pioneer, where four chargers placed and earned medals: Drew Bush (freshman), Essa Hattar (sophomore), Nick Dlugos (junior), Jamison Irwin (freshman) and Nic Reina (freshman).

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HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

## Wayne boys looking for repeat season

Zebras are reigning Division 1 champions

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

The Wayne Memorial boys bowling team will be shooting to repeat as the Division 1 state champions this winter.

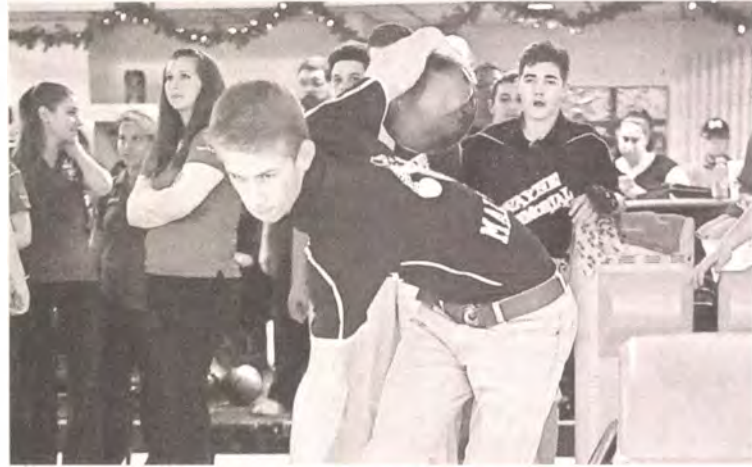
"I like this year's team because we have five bowlers back from last year's team along with three promising players to round out the roster," said Zebras head coach Bob Jawor. "The hold-overs from last year's team will be able to help as they know what it takes to hopefully make another run at a state title."

The Zebras will be led by the Weber brothers (Ty and Conner), Johnny Willet and Brendan Maldonado.

"Zachary Fightmaster has a season under his belt and has improved a lot in his first year," Jawor added.

Other key contributors to the Zebras' cause will be freshman Anthony Thibodeaux, Garden City transfer Brendon Wacasey and first-year bowler Makari Whittaker.

"I really like the closeness that is there among the team



TOM BEAUDOIN

Wayne's Brendan Maldonado prepares to unleash his ball at the pins Tuesday afternoon at Super Bowl.

members," Jawor added. "They pull for each other and are friends on and off the lanes, and it shows in their performance on the lanes. They are a great bunch of guys and I enjoy being around them."

### RU topples Robichaud

On Dec. 8, the Redford Union boys bowling team white-washed Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 30-0. The Panthers captured the

two Baker games, 159-85 and 137-87 to set the tone for the match. RU kept its momentum rolling in the regular games, winning 742-236 and 913-277.

The Panthers were led by Ryan Randall, who registered a 255 game, and Kyle Keating, who added a 208.

The Panthers improved to 2-0.

RU's junior-varsity squad was led by Nick Laidler (202) and Jon Havier (174).

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 17

- Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m.
- Truman at Garden City, 7 p.m.
- Wayne at Northville, 7 p.m.
- Churchill at Novi, 7 p.m.
- Stevenson vs. Plymouth, 7 p.m.
- John Glenn vs. S. Lyon, 7 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 17

- Novi at Churchill, 7 p.m.
- S. Lyon at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
- Northville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
- RU at Berkley, 7 p.m.
- Garden City at Truman, 7 p.m.
- Salem at Franklin, 7 p.m.
- Stevenson vs. Plymouth, 7 p.m.

### Friday, Dec. 18

- Oakland Christian at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, Dec. 17

- Ladywood at Liggett Tourney, TBA

### Friday, Dec. 18

- Canton at Franklin, 6 p.m.
- Brighton at Stevenson, 8 p.m.

### Saturday, Dec. 19

- Churchill at Bay City Central, 5:30 p.m.
- Ladywood at Liggett Tourney, TBA

### WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 19

- Redford Union Invitational, 10 a.m.
- Wayne County Tourney, 9 a.m.

### CO-ED BOWLING

Friday, Dec. 18

- John Glenn at Hartland, 3:30 p.m.
- Brighton at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.

### BOYS SWIMMING

Thursday, Dec. 17

- Wayne at Allen Park, 6:30 p.m.
- Annapolis at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.

### GYMNASICS

Thursday, Dec. 17

- Livonia Blue at Brighton/Howell, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18

- Plymouth Invitational, 6:30 p.m.

## YOST

Continued from Page B1

biggest lead of the night — 41-24 — after Petree converted a lay-up after a steal. Jala Petree's triple with three ticks left in the stanza gave the hosts a 50-35 edge.

But the Chargers played with a relentless fury over the final eight minutes, trimming their deficit to 54-48 with 1:40 left on a layup by Smith.

A trey from Pummill made it 58-53 with 19.7 seconds left, but Lasha Petree canned a late free throw for the game's final point.

Jala Petree finished with 18 points for the victors while Martin contributed 10 points.

Complementing Yost's strong performance were Pummill (nine points), Smith (eight points) and Alivia Kondrath, who also scored eight.

The Chargers drained 14 of 20 free throws while Salem was 11 for 27 from the stripe.

### Wayne upends Spartans

Camree Clegg scored a game-high 16 points to lead Wayne Memorial to a 45-28 victory over host Livonia Stevenson Tuesday night in a KLAAs Kensington Conference cross-over game.

The Zebras led just 22-17 at the half before out-scoring their hosts 25-9 over the final 16 minutes. Stevenson did not score a point in the fourth quarter.

Sarah Tanderys led the Spartans with eight points.

"It was a good game until the

third quarter when we stopped making shots," said Stevenson head coach Tim Newman. "Hats off to Wayne, though, they have a good club over there."

The Zebras were prolific from the free-throw line, nailing 10 of 12 attempts. Amara Chikwe added 14 points for the winners. She also yanked down nine second-half rebounds.

### Ladywood falls to GPN

The Blazers hung close to state-ranked Grosse Pointe North for over three quarters Tuesday night before ultimately dropping a 58-37 decision.

The loss dropped the Blazers to 2-2.

Maggie Shirk led Ladywood with 18 points. Also playing well for the Blazers were Erika Selakowski (seven points), and Abbey Reppen and Ally Audia, who both netted six.

Freshman Julie Ayrault led the Norsmen with 21 points, three more than junior Katie Snow.

Ladywood surged to a 10-4 lead thanks to four points each from Selakowski and Shirk. However, GPN countered with a 12-0 run and never trailed again.

GPN led 27-17 at the half. Ladywood was within reach, trailing by 10 early in the fourth quarter, but the Norsmen sealed the deal with a late 10-0 streak.

The Blazers will next play Ferndale at the Bishop's Cup Christmas Tournament at Ann Arbor Richard on Monday. The opening tip is set for 5 p.m.

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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

## Churchill upends powerful Brighton

Cioch deposits game-winning goal against Bulldogs

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's resurgent hockey team registered another impressive victory Saturday when it nipped host Brighton, 4-3, in a KLAAs cross-over encounter.

Charger Nolan Cioch broke a 3-3 deadlock with a goal just two seconds before the second intermission. The final 17 minutes were scoreless as both teams locked down on defense.

Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said a triumph over a team as talented as the Bulldogs will only help his team going forward.

"We have tremendous respect for Brighton," Reynolds emphasized. "This is usually one of those games when we put the shots-on-goal tracker away and just focus on keeping it close. Tonight was special because our boys weren't content with just competing. They wanted to make a statement."

"Brighton plays a very high-tempo game. It was probably fortunate for us that we just played another high-tempo game against Salem earlier in the week, so I thought we really came out on our toes. Even after they scored the first goal, I was really impressed with how we responded."

Brighton scored first less than three minutes in when Sam Brennan filled the net off an assist from Ben Peterson.

Churchill countered quickly with back-to-back first-period goals from Conor Burnette (from Cioch) and Spencer Kovacs, who was assisted by Michael Papioannou and Joe Wozniak.

Brighton's Lee Pietila tallied the equalizer at the 10:47 mark of the high-scoring first



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Churchill's Nolan Cioch is off to an impressive start this season.

stanza. The Bulldogs seized their final lead of the game mid-way through the second period on a goal from Peterson, who was assisted by Brody White.

Josh Friend's net-finder (from Cioch and Danny Carey) then made it 3-3 before Cioch's game-winner capped the scoring.

Brighton outshot Churchill, 33-28.

"We wanted to avoid getting into too many foot races for the puck against Brighton," Reynolds continued. "That's a dangerous route to take against such a fast team. We knew if we could slow things down in the neutral zone, we could keep it close. I thought we did a great job of reading their pressure and avoiding too many odd-man rushes. At times when they did get by us, Drew (Broyles) came up big for us in net."

"Simply put, I've challenged the boys to reach higher every game. Even though we're a young team, our goal is to compete with any team in the state. Tonight was important because it shows that the boys believe."

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GIRLS BOWLING

## Wayne clobbers Mott in KLAAs cross-over

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

The Wayne Memorial girls bowling team left little doubt as to which team was superior during its match against Waterford Mott earlier this month.

The Zebras never looked back after winning eight of 10 points in the Baker games before posting a 26-4 triumph.

The Zebras won the first Baker game 139-122 before the two teams ended up tied at 148-all in the second Baker contest.

Wayne rolled to emphatic victories in the regularly-scored games, recording a season-high 811 in the second game.

Among the stars who sparred for the winners were freshman Miranda Holmes and senior Christina O'Harris, both of whom earned two points in their individual matches.

First-year bowler (and recent Wayne Memorial Ath-

lete of the Month) Madison Justice rolled a 122 in her varsity debut to win her first high school point. O'Harris finished with a two-game set of 378 to lead the way. The Zebras also nipped Pinckney, 16-14, despite struggling in their Baker games.

"I was incredibly proud of the girls for staying positive and continuing to support each other through every frame," said coach Christine Day, who earned her first high school coaching victory.

### Panthers on prowl

Redford Union blanked Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 30-0, in a match held at the Lodge Lanes.

RU won the two Baker games, 131-57 and 128-93 against the short-handed Bulldogs.

The Panthers were led by Brianna Clapham's 191 and Mia Sopko's 157.

RU improved to 2-0.

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## HVL

Continued from Page B1

speed of the game," said Ruth. "Before the game, we talked about stopping the drive and making them shoot outside, and we did a better job of that in the second half."

Golchuk is a 5-foot-5 dynamo who could start — or at least earn big minutes — for many Class A-sized teams.

"Sam does anything she can do to make the team better," said Ruth. "She's a tremendous hustler, she can shoot and

she's quick. Her only disadvantage is her height, but she overcomes that with hustle."

Setian is expected to be the chairman of the boards for the Hawks, Ruth continued. "Ashley can be physical when she wants to," she said. "We need her to control the boards and help limit the other team to just one shot."

Also earning starting spots for the Hawks Monday night were Rosie Rumstadler, Kim Beckerman and Andrea Le-fevre.

"The big thing for us this year will be working hard on defense, and a lot of our of-

fense will come from that," said Ruth.

Hampered by 22 turnovers, the Hawks managed to get off just 29 shots against Roeper's sticky defense.

On the bright side, HVL outscored Roeper 10-6 in the fourth quarter — a clear sign that this group of players are quick learners.

Naomi Savas led Roeper's balanced scoring attack with 12 points, one more than Haley Samples. Alexis Johnson added 10 points for the Roughriders, who improved to 4-1.

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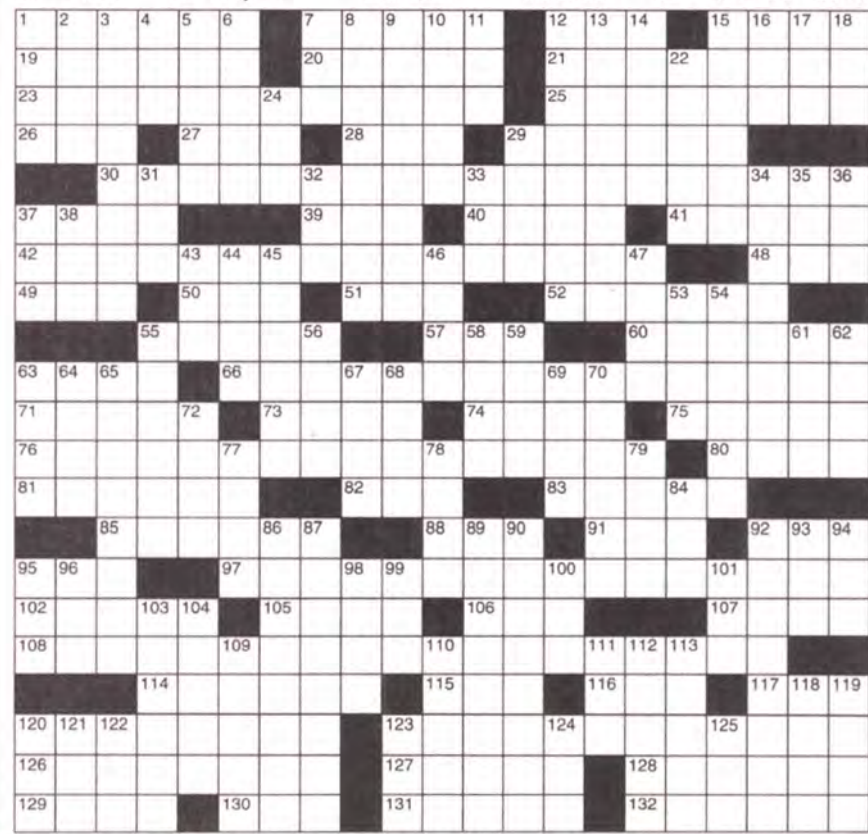
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## THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plans
  - 7 Form of trapshooting
  - 12 2001-09 U.S. pres.
  - 15 BLT condiment
  - 19 Creature on a slide
  - 20 1923 Nobel-winning poet
  - 21 Jump to clear
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 25 Making changes to
  - 26 Preceder of tee
  - 27 Pack animal
  - 28 Pro-bono TV ad
  - 29 Slanting
  - 30 Riddle, part 2
  - 37 "Now it's clear"
  - 39 Big coffee container
  - 40 Look lewdly
  - 41 Gets dirty
  - 42 Riddle, part 3
  - 48 Rollaway bed
  - 49 Turndowns
  - 50 "O Sole —"
  - 51 "— hool!"
  - 52 Fit for consumption
  - 55 "Thwack!"
  - 57 On the — (escaping)
  - 60 Juneau locale
  - 63 Bullfight bull
  - 66 Riddle, part 4
  - 71 Quite heavy
  - 73 "The rest — to you"
  - 74 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You —?"
  - 75 Mobile, e.g.
  - 76 Riddle, part 5
  - 80 Princely school
  - 81 At peace
  - 82 "Gloria in Excelsis —"
  - 83 Cleans up copy
  - 85 Tabriz residents
  - 88 To the rear
  - 91 Masters peg
  - 92 Awful
  - 95 Eggs
  - 97 Riddle, part 6
  - 102 Actress
  - Palmer or Soprano
  - Lehmann
  - 105 Send out
  - 106 "Alley —"
  - 107 Look lewdly
  - 108 End of the riddle
  - 114 Mojave, e.g.
  - 115 IRS datum
  - 116 Sculling need
  - 117 Lofty poem
  - 120 Sellers with cellars
  - 123 Riddle's answer
  - 126 Meet at a point
  - 127 Inundate
  - 128 Use
  - mouthwash audibly
  - 129 Really regrets
  - 130 Ballpark amt.
  - 131 Plants of the lily family
  - 132 Prize greatly
- DOWN**
- 1 Postpaid enc.
  - 2 Ratite birds
  - 3 #1-ranked tournament entrant
  - 4 Summer mo.
  - 5 Ship sinker
  - 6 Outdated
  - 7 Wd. of like meaning
  - 8 Frat house beer bash
  - 9 Depletes little by little
  - 10 Hawke of "Hamlet"
  - 11 Philosopher
  - Lao- —
  - 12 Fake peeper
  - 13 Having good manners
  - 14 Ulan —, Mongolia
  - 15 Rita of "West Side Story"
  - 16 Lead-in to fauna
  - 17 Longing
  - 18 Pt. of NOW
  - 22 Diarist
  - Samuel
  - 24 Neighbor of Leb.
  - 29 Realm
  - 31 Neighbor of Kan.
  - 32 Mon.-Wed. linkup
  - 33 Architectural wing
  - 34 Cry after a three-pointer
  - 35 "Hold On Tight" rock gp.
  - 36 Q-U linkup
  - 37 Knighted actor Holm
  - 38 — cone
  - 43 Thurman of the screen
  - 44 Kelly of morning TV
  - 45 Teasing knuckle rub
  - 46 Silent film
  - vamp Negri
  - 47 Gorilla observer
  - Fossey
  - 53 Radar signal
  - 54 Flogs
  - 55 Suitable for a Seder table
  - 56 "What — thinking?"
  - 58 Work without — (act riskily)
  - 59 Ovid's 1,506
  - 61 Cousin of lotto
  - 62 Yemeni port
  - 63 T-bars, e.g.
  - 64 Tony relative
  - 65 Court do-overs
  - 67 Newsmen
  - Roger
  - 68 Duel sword
  - 69 Clock part
  - 70 "It was forced on me"
  - 72 Sicilian peak
  - 77 Egg sources
  - 78 Wyle of "ER"
  - 79 In — of
  - 84 — Aviv-Yafo
  - 86 Potential ship sinkers
  - 87 Writer W. — Maugham
  - 89 Trudge
  - 90 Like four-person basketball
  - 92 "I say!"
  - 93 WWW giant
  - 94 As yet unpaid
  - 95 Dated
  - 96 Complete
  - 98 "Sounder" director
  - 99 Ending for ordinals
  - 100 PC "brain"
  - 101 DeLuise or DiMaggio
  - 103 Many flat-screens
  - 104 Cara of "Fame"
  - 109 French river
  - 110 "It's — bet"
  - 111 Body digit
  - 112 Sponge
  - 113 Killer whales
  - 118 Mete
  - 119 K-6: Abbr. precursor
  - 120 Tivo
  - 121 Debt memo
  - 122 Vane dir.
  - 123 Punting figs.
  - 124 — and outs
  - 125 Technique



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smccllelan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

### SUDOKU

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

#### Here's How It Works:

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

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

### NATIONAL PARK WORD SEARCH

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

#### WORDS

- ACADIA
- ARCHES
- BADLANDS
- BISCAYNE
- BRYCE CANYON
- CARLSBAD
- CONGAREE
- CRATER LAKE
- CUYAHOGA VALLEY
- DENALI
- DRY TORTUGAS
- EVERGLADES
- GLACIER BAY
- GRAND CANYON
- GRAND TETON
- GREAT BASIN
- HALEAKALA
- HOT SPRINGS
- ISLE ROYALE
- JOSHUA TREE
- KATHAI
- KENAI FJORDS
- KINGS CANYON
- KOBUK VALLEY
- LAKE CLARK
- MAMMOTH CAVE
- MOUNT RAINIER
- OLYMPIC
- PETRIFIED FOREST
- SAGUARO
- SEQUOIA
- WRANGELL
- YELLOWSTONE
- ZION

**Crossword Answers**

SETS	SUP	SKEET	GWB	MAYO
AMO	EBA	YEATS	LEA	POVER
SUPP	OSING	THE	ALTER	ING
ESS	ASS	PSA	AS	LOPE
ENT	ERT	A	INERS	BRYN
I	SEE	URN	LEER	SOILS
AN	D	BURN	ETT	PLAYED
N	OS	MIO	YOO	EDIBLE
		KA	POW	LAM
		ALASKA		
		TORO	AGAME	AND
		FINISHED		
		OBESE	TSUP	EV
		AVAH	PHONE	
		WITH	THE	IDENTICAL
		ETON		
		SERENE	IDEO	EDITS
		IRANTS	AFT	TEE
		BAD		
		OVA	SCORE	HOWC
		OULD	YOU	
		LIT	LIT	EMIT
		OO	OGLE	
		DESCR	IBETH	HAT
		OUTCOME		
		DESERT	SSN	OAR
		ODE		
		VINTNERS	YULT	IEDCA
		MOL		
		CONVERGE	DROWN	GARGLE
		RUES	EST	SEGOS
		ESTEEM		

#### Word Search Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
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Members of the Great Lakes Garrison attend an event at Westland Shopping Center.

SUBMITTED

## Stormtroopers, rebels aid charity at 'Star Wars' film debut in Livonia

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Garden City couple Mike and Kristie Lica, are galaxies apart when it comes to their place in the *Star Wars* universe.

He sides with the Empire and she's a member of the Rebel Legion. He's an Imperial Stormtrooper and she's a Rebel Flight Pilot.

But the couple will work for a common cause when they and other members of the *Star Wars* costume group, the Great Lakes Garrison, 501st Legion, Michigan chapter, gather for a charity event at the opening of the new film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, Thursday, Dec. 17. They'll be on hand at the midnight opening at the Phoenix Theatre in Livonia.

"We asked the Phoenix Theatre if they were willing to do a charity at opening night and they were happy to do it. Our favorite charity to support is MAW, (Make-A-Wish)," said Mike, who is an executive officer in the Garrison, which he joined in 2010. "For each *Star Wars* popcorn tin sold, \$1 will be donated to the Make-A-Wish. We often attend MAW fundraisers and sometimes attend events where the kids learn that their wish will be granted."

The theater will begin showing the new film at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17 and will continue screenings every half-hour through midnight Friday, Dec. 18. The theater is located in Laurel Park Place, 17310 Laurel Park Drive North, in Livonia; 734-457-2398.



Mike Lica, in Stormtrooper costume, meets Wierd Al Yancovick. Lica and other members of the Great Lakes Garrison share the stage with Yancovick when he sings "The Saga Begins" whenever he's in town performing.

"We will be appearing there as long as we can stay awake," Mike said.

The State Wayne, also a Phoenix Theater, will follow a similar schedule Thursday-Friday. It's located at 35310 W. Michigan Ave., in Wayne; 734-384-1200.

### Creating characters

Both Mike and Kyle Fisher, a member from Westland, are drawn to Stormtrooper costumes.

"The white armor caught my attention as a young boy and I've been fascinated with them ever since. When I decided to join the 501st le-

gion, there was no question that my first costume had to be a classic Stormtrooper," said Fisher, who will start his *Star Wars* movie night in Wayne and end it at the Phoenix in Livonia. "Technically, they were the bad guys in the film, but in real life we like to say that we're 'bad guys doing good.'"

Garrison members create detailed and authentic-looking character costumes and then wear them to charity functions and other events.

"As a Garrison member my favorite moments are the visits we do to various children's hospitals. Those kids are stuck in those rooms for

long periods of time. It's nice to see a smile appear out of nowhere when the kids see us walk into the room," Mike said. "And their parents are usually excited to see us as well."

Watching a blind boy smile "from ear to ear" was enough to make Fisher forget the frustration he experienced in building his Stormtrooper armor. The boy tried on a Stormtrooper helmet, got a visit from R2D2 and met Darth Vader during a Garrison appearance at the Henry Ford Museum.

Kristie enjoys inspiring other women when she dons her Rebel flight suit.

"As a female costumer who wears a pilot's flight suit, I cherish the opportunity to empower female *Star Wars* fans to embrace strong characteristics, leadership and endless possibilities as a female," she said. "My favorite *Star Wars* character is Princess Leia, a bold, strong woman standing up for what she believes. And Hera Syndulla, the Captain of 'The Ghost' in the new *Star Wars Rebels* cartoon on DisneyXD."

She's looking forward to the new film because it will "captivate a whole new generation" of viewers. "Where I'd like to see the story go next? Good prevailing evil is always my favorite ending," Kristie said.

For more about screenings at the Phoenix Theatres visit [phoenixmovies.net](http://phoenixmovies.net). For more about the Great Lakes Garrison, visit [greatlakesgarrison.com](http://greatlakesgarrison.com).

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## American Arson heats up Canton barn with free show

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

The Barn Ugly Sweater Christmas Show will be back for its 13th year Friday, Dec. 18 in Canton.

The free concert with six bands, also will include an EP release, a debut performance, and a celebration of ugly holiday sweaters, 6-11 p.m. at The Barn at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road.

Although the annual event is held in the church's youth center, it's not sponsored by the church.

"It's open to the public, all ages," said Evan Baker, who organized the show and is guitarist/vocalist for headliners American Arson. "Basically, it's rock bands, punk bands, indie rock bands and it's always been free as long as we've been doing it."

Bands play a mix of original music and amped-up versions of traditional Christmas songs. The opening act is Me & The Dog, an acoustic artist, followed by Traveler, an indie rock band, Sink In, a pop/punk/emo band from Hershey, Pa, and Timbre of Cedar, an indie band with a female lead singer. Mountclair, consisting of musicians from a variety of bands that have played in the Detroit metro area, will debut at the show. All bands will attempt to wear ugly holiday



Evan Baker on guitar and Jesse Gentry on drums are American Arson.

KATY MEININGER

sweaters.

"Some bands don't make it through a whole set," said Baker, explaining that the sweaters get "hot and sweaty" on

stage. "The very first year we did it, the whole idea was, let's play rock and roll versions of Christmas songs. Then a couple of us wore my mom's ugly

sweaters."

Baker, a Wayne resident, said his mother's "massive collection" of ugly Christmas sweaters inspired the theme of the show about eight years ago. Originally, it was known as the Good Luck Varsity Christmas Show, after a band Baker played with for several years. When the band broke up, the annual Christmas show took a year hiatus. Baker brought it back last year.

"When we broke up I just wanted to do a solo project. I love playing acoustic music now and again, but my heart always been in rock and roll. I love playing loud, fast and aggressive rock and roll music."

### Recordings

Baker, who is self-taught on guitar and classically trained on piano, formed American Arson in 2014 as a solo act and that same year released a four-song EP. It is the first in a trilogy about America Arson's origin and was followed by an acoustic EP in March. *The Blood & The Bones*, which will be released at the Christmas show, includes drummer Jesse Gentry of Sterling Heights, who joined Baker in April.

"This EP, being the finale of the trilogy, deals with the present and the future. The other two are more reflective and looking back. I felt this was a

process. To write them all at once, all of the songs would have had the same flavor," said Baker, explaining why he wrote the music as a trilogy.

Baker said the duo achieves a full rock band sound through instrument looping and multi-amp stacking — playing through two or more amps simultaneously — without the use of prerecorded tracks.

"I'll run through a guitar amp and bass amp to get a big, chunky sound. I'll play a lead part, stomp a pedal, it plays back and I play the rhythm part over that. People really appreciate the work that goes into putting together a set. Most people expect to see a rock band with five or six people on stage. We get a few heads to turn."

Baker attended Calvary Baptist Church when he was a kid growing up in Canton and played in his first band at age 13. He graduated from Canton High School and earned a bachelor's degree in history and English at Eastern Michigan University. He also coaches several soccer teams.

"I love soccer. I feel blessed being able to pursue soccer and music."

For more about American Arson and The Barn Ugly Sweater Christmas Show, visit [americanarson.com](http://americanarson.com).

[sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)

## Superfood watercress adds flavor, vitamins to meals

For people who manage their health through nutrition or use food as a medicinal replacement, few products offer the power of "superfoods." Kale is one leafy green commonly recognized as a superfood, but watercress is a tastier superfood option worth considering.

Watercress has more flavor, is more versatile and is healthier than its leafy cousins. It's also easier to digest with a more pleasing texture. In fact, according to an independent research study published last spring by the Centers for Disease Control, it is the most nutrient-dense food available today.

For a high concentration of phytonutrients, antioxidants and vitamins, look to watercress, which delivers up to twice the vitamin C of an orange; more calcium than milk; and high levels of magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, iron, beta-carotene and vitamins A, B1, B6, K and E.

Watercress also has multiple uses as a medicinal herb. Some of these more popular applications include preventing eczema, as well as supporting digestive, urinary tract, eye and respiratory health.

Visit [hollandiaproduce.com](http://hollandiaproduce.com) to find more recipes and learn more about this flavorful superfood.



### "CRESSO" PESTO SAUCE

3 cups Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress or Grower Pete's Living Watercress, root ball and bottom 1/2 stems removed, rinsed and patted dry  
2 cloves garlic, chopped  
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1/2 cup grape seed oil  
1 teaspoon lemon zest  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt

In blender or food processor, combine cress and garlic and pulse until coarsely chopped. Add remaining ingredients and process until blended. Drizzle over pasta, risotto, fish, meat or eggs, or use as a spread.

### SILKY EGG CRESS SALAD

Salad:  
1 package Live Gourmet Living Upland Cress or Grower Pete's Living Watercress, root ball and stems removed, leaves rinsed and patted dry  
2 medium eggs  
3 purple potato chips (purple potatoes sliced thin, seasoned and sauteed until crisp)  
3 slices fresh avocado  
3 slices ripe pear  
3 slices persimmon  
2 pieces toasted brioche bread  
2 tablespoons Orange Vinaigrette  
Orange Vinaigrette:  
2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate  
2 tablespoons grape seed oil  
2 teaspoons rice wine vinegar  
1 teaspoon honey  
pinch cracked black pepper

In small bowl, whisk together vinaigrette ingredients and set aside. Prepare and artfully arrange cress and all ingredients, except eggs, on serving plate and set aside. Soft boil eggs 5 minutes in 1 quart of water. Remove from heat and cool 30 seconds under cold running water. Gently remove shells. While still warm, slice eggs in half and place atop the plated salad. Lightly drizzle with Orange Vinaigrette.



Stacy and Dan Pillera make fresh salsa.

SUBMITTED

## Couple sells salsa that is inspired by Greek gods

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Dan and Stacy Pillera knew they'd be up against tough competition when they started making and selling fresh salsa nearly two years ago.

"We're going up against the largest fresh salsa maker in the country," Dan said, "and they make it in Michigan and we know we have our work cut out for us."

It's a good thing they've got the gods on their side.

The couple makes four kinds of fresh salsa under the Olympus Fare label out of a dedicated kitchen in Holly. Each flavor and varying degree of heat is named after a Greek god or goddess. Aphrodite is mild, Zeus is medium, Hades is hot and Athena is a Salsa verde made from fire-roasted tomatillos.

All are award winners. Aphrodite won third place at ZestFest 2015, a fiery food challenge held in Las Colinas, Texas, and Zeus edged out Garden Fresh Gourmet, which Dan describes as a "giant and a beast" for the second place award in the medium category.

"We couldn't believe we had won and to come up against the leading brand was exciting," Stacy said. "Last year we had only been in business a few months."

The Hades flavor will reign as first place hot salsa winner for 2016 in the Scovie Awards in New Mexico. Athena took second place in the salsa verde category and Aphrodite won third place for mild heat.

"It's so important. We've always said if you want to go national you've got to rub elbows and meet people," Stacy said. "We'd love to be a part of those trade shows. It's expensive to get involved. Right now only our salsa gets to fly. Our salsa is well traveled."

### Other careers

Dan and Stacy didn't set out to become salsa entrepreneurs when they entered the work force after school. Dan was raised by a single mother and lived in several communities while growing up, including Redford, Westland and Farmington Hills. He attended high school in Milford and classes at Oakland Community College in graphic design, but began a career in restaurant management. He managed Applebee's restaurants and an Olive Garden, also putting in a stint at Quicken Loans and finally, at Shore Mortgage. Stacy graduated from Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights,



Olympus Fare contains sea salt rather than table salt, and is sweetened with stevia, not cane sugar.

SUBMITTED

### GET A TASTE

Sample Olympus Fare from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Kroger, 425 Center St., Northville, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Busch's Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. For more information, visit [www.olympussalsa.com](http://www.olympussalsa.com)

earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Oakland University and moved to Holly. They met at a softball league, married and have three boys. She worked for Rock Financial and also spent time as a stay-at-home mom.

"I had three different jobs in five years. I was sitting at the computer (job searching) again," he said, recalling his last layoff. "That is when Stacy said, why not think about making salsa. I thought she was messing with me. But I can't even imagine going back to work for someone else. We are both putting in over 80 hours a week but it's not for anyone else."

Dan began making salsa after a neighbor with a big garden, shared his tomato harvest with the Pilleras. Through trial and error, a lot of "culinary tactics" Dan created different flavor profiles and heat levels for his salsa, took test samples to "a lot of people" and took their feedback to heart.

### Quick start

They launched the business in 30 days, dipping into a 401(K) and producing the salsa at commercial kitchen in Holt, near Lansing.

"We did a lot of research in a short time. We were jumping in with both feet. We knew we needed to start making money right away," he said. "We moved quickly because we had to. I had nothing else to do and she had left her position."

Dan credits Stacy for getting the product onto grocery store shelves. Their salsas are available at approximately 40 grocery stores, including Busch's Fresh Food Markets, Hollywood Markets and Kroger. The Pilleras opened their own commercial kitchen in Holly to meet the demand for their product.

"We're about a dollar more than other fresh salsas. Ours has layers of flavors. And besides that, we don't add sugar. We use stevia," Stacy said. "Most salsas have 150 mg of table salt. Ours has 30 mg of sea salt."

They plan to release a fruit-based salsa this spring. They also hope to develop a tortilla chip to complement the salsa. Their motto is "inspired by the gods, and enjoyed by the mortals."

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