

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

SUNDAY 03.06.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



TRAVELING SHOE BRINGING AWARENESS TO FATAL DISEASE
COMMUNITY LIFE, B6

Wayne seeks grant to add firefighters

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Wayne is applying for federal funding to hire six additional firefighters for two years.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant, administered through the FEMA, would pay the entire costs for the added firefighters. At the end of two years, the city is not required to hire the firefighters.

"We applied for this before and were denied last year. We

received great feedback why (it wasn't approved) from the feds," City Manager Lisa Nocerini said. "I've been working with the firefighting team on the application."

Currently, Wayne has only 12 firefighters due to budget cuts and shares the contract of Fire Chief Michael Reddy with Westland. Through the merged Wayne-Westland Fire Department, Westland provides the command structure and clerical staff for the two departments.

"We feel six firefighters is appropriate. They would be fully paid for two years under the grant," Nocerini said. "We would have no obligation, but if firefighters retire or leave, we would consider keeping them."

This is only the application phase, she said. If the grant is approved, the city council would have to officially accept it.

Westland was able to hire 13 firefighters after receiving a SAFER grant last fall.

Faced with a \$2 million

structural deficit, Wayne is asking to join the South Macomb Oakland Regional Services Authority to generate additional funding for fire and police services. SMORSA currently has two member communities, Eastpointe and Hazel Park.

The SMORSA board will call for an ballot question on adding Wayne, likely at the August primary election. It would need to be approved by a majority of voters in three cities combined to go forward.

Strictly a funding mechanism, membership in SMORSA would require Wayne to levy 14 mills for public safety, the same funding level in the other two communities. There has been some discussion that like Hazel Park, Wayne wouldn't need the full amount and could look at reducing its charter operating millage to offset the new millage.

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Volunteers are gearing up for the Westland Wayne 2016 Relay for Life.

Westland Wayne Relay for Life kicks off for 2016

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

After officially kicking off Wednesday, the Westland Wayne Relay for Life has some goals for the 2016 event — getting 400 people to participate, 75 cancer survivors and caregivers to attend and raising more than \$64,000.

"This season, we have a lofty set of goals. More than \$4.3 billion have been invested in cancer research — more than any other private nonprofit in the U.S.," event chairwoman Carol Nelius said. "Locally, 620 rides to and from treatment were provided to patients. There were 173 Look Good, Feel Better programs."

Relay teams raise funds before and during the event, committing to have volunteers walking throughout the night to symbolize that cancer never sleeps.

This year's theme is Dr. Seuss' *Colors of Cancer*. Each team will decorate in honor of a type of cancer. The kickoff, held at Westland City Hall, featured Dr. Seuss characters and books in the decorations.

Cancer survivor Laurie Littleton spoke about her 2008 breast cancer diagnosis, being assured that her disease was low risk if she followed her treatment. Despite assurances, Little-



A display at the kickoff for the 2016 Westland Wayne Relay for Life American Cancer Society fundraiser.

ton found a lump in her breast in 2009 and was diagnosed a second time, only her doctor humored her with testing since she wasn't yet due for another mammogram.

"I had a double mastectomy, then the extra step of chemotherapy. I was still wondering, 'Why me?'" she said. "I was a mom with four young kids. I had no risk factors. A friend said that cancer doesn't discriminate."

Cancer needs to be stopped, said Littleton, whose father was diagnosed

with liver cancer and died in 2013.

At Relay for Life, she said her 11-year old daughter raises funds with a lemonade stand, while her other daughters sell hot dogs and her son always stays all night during the event.

"This is so others won't have to live with a new normal. Go in for a colonoscopy and other screenings," Littleton said. "Eat healthy and exercise. Don't let cancer win."

Relay for Life is a life-changing event, said Meriem Kadi, who is handling publicity. "It helps us remember loved ones who are lost and fight back against disease," she said. "The survivors are the real stars of relay, our heroes of hope."

The annual American Cancer Society fundraiser will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5, in Westland's Tattan Park/Westland Farmers Market.

For more information, go to www.relayforlife.org/WestlandWayneMI or www.Facebook.com/RFLWestlandWayneMI. Or stop by the organizing meeting at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at St. Theodore Church on Wayne Road.

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Clerk offers free lunch for voter turnout prediction

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Before an election, it's pretty standard to ask the clerk for a prediction about how many voters will show up to cast their ballots.

In his first election since becoming Westland City Clerk, Richard LeBlanc has taken to Facebook to offer a free lunch with the clerk for the person who comes closest to the actual number of voters at Tuesday's presidential primary.

"The fact is that for this election, I waive the opportunity to weigh in due to the contest," said LeBlanc, who took office Jan. 1.

As a party presidential primary — voters have to declare

See CLERK, Page A2

Best Buy shoplifting suspects sought

Westland Police are looking for two suspects wanted in connection with multiple retail frauds from the Best Buy on Central City Parkway.

During the thefts, the suspects entered the store, selected multiple items and ran outside to a waiting vehicle without attempting to pay for the merchandise. The vehicles used in the incidents have been described as a dark gray or silver Pontiac G6 or a silver Saturn Ion. The thefts have

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One of two suspects Westland Police are looking for in connection with shoplifting incidents at Best Buy.



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Donation made to library in memory of Medvecky

A more than \$4,000 donation has been made to the Wayne Library in memory of late former director Paulette Medvecky.

The \$4,335 donated by family and friends of Medvecky, who died in December at 65 after a battle with cancer, was specifically earmarked for the purchase of books.

The Wayne City Council had to approve a budget amendment to accept the funds, since there had been no line item in the library budget for book purchases.

Although she had retired as library director, Medvecky retired to



Mevecky

work as the library's part-time co-director.

"This is a sad item for me. I was friends with Paulette for 25 years," Clerk Matthew Miller said before reading the agenda item.

Service Project puts focus on fighting hunger locally, worldwide

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Teamwork's the key to success for the upcoming Greater Plymouth Service Project.

"It's about all of us as a community that are coming together for a service project," steering committee member Nick Schultz said of the Saturday, May 7, event at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex in downtown Plymouth.

Organizers are focusing their efforts on Kids Against Hunger, with plans to work three shifts that day, two hours each, on an assembly line to pack meals. Schultz in a recent interview showed the bag which contains those six meals, feeding those six people at 28 cents per meal.

Schultz, a Plymouth Township resident, tipped his hat to David Siegrist,

chair of the Community Foundation of Plymouth. Siegrist is also active in Kiwanis and a certified public accountant.

"It was really his brainchild to open this up to everybody," Schultz said of Siegrist. Schultz, whose family had owned a local manufacturing business, serves as foundation president for the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

Donations are welcome now for the anti-hunger initiative and may be directed to the Community Foundation of Plymouth, CFP-GPSP, P.O. Box 700866, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Many clubs, participants

"It encompasses a lot of the service clubs and foundations," Schultz said of the May 7 event at PARC. Those include: Plymouth-Canton Com-

munity Schools, local Rotary Clubs and their high school arm of Interact, local Kiwanis Clubs and their high school component of Key Club, Plymouth Lions, Plymouth-Canton Jaycees, churches including Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic, business representatives and others.

Organizers asked themselves, "Why don't we open this up for everybody?" Schultz said. Those from nearby communities are welcome to join the effort.

Volunteer inquiries are welcome at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170. The chamber phone is 734-453-1540 and Douglas Wallace, director of Membership Development for the chamber, is that contact. (Volunteers can reference Greater

Plymouth Service Project / May 7.)

In addition to funding, "the second major component is going to be volunteers because many hands make light work. We're talking hundreds of volunteers," Schultz said. "The more the merrier. We have groups from everywhere coming together. We're all inclusive. This is all volunteers."

There's a tentative goal of 200,000-plus meals to be packaged May 7, with three packaging shifts: 8:30-11 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 12:30-3 p.m. Those include a half-hour at the start for training, including sanitation.

"We're going to have 16 assembly lines," he said, with 12-20 volunteers on each. Organizers are also looking at entertainment to help make the day fun.

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SUSPECTS

Continued from Page A1

totalled more than \$1,500. The first suspect is described as a white male approximately

30-40 years old, 6 feet tall weighing about 200 pounds. He is wearing jeans and a black shirt. In one theft he is wearing a black knit cap, the other shows that he is bald.

The second suspect is

described as a white male approximately 25 years old, 5 feet 6 to 5 feet 9 inches, weighing about 130 pounds. He is wearing a white sweatshirt jacket with red stripes on the sleeves, white pants and gray

tennis shoes.

Anyone who can help identify either suspect is asked to contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Ron Buckley at 734-467-3194.

CLERK

Continued from Page A1

a party preference to get their ballot — it's not an election that will draw as many voters as November.

"I like to engage with folks in a positive way on Facebook. I'm not hearing anything negative," LeBlanc said. "And it might cause someone to say, 'I need to get out and vote.'"

Westland has 60,625 registered voters; 4,450 absentee voter ballots have been sent to residents and 3,136 ballots have been returned. At

the last presidential primary election in February 2012, there was a 13.82-percent turnout.

Enter the contest on LeBlanc's Facebook page and make your guess for how many people will vote in the primary Tuesday as a comment. The deadline is noon Tuesday and you don't have to be a Westland resident to enter.

There is one entry per Facebook friend and entries posted after noon election day won't be counted. LeBlanc will have a list of local restaurants from which the

winner can select.

If more than one person selects the same winning number, LeBlanc said he will make a reservation for a larger table.

Wayne

Over in Wayne, City Clerk Matthew Miller said he hopes to see a 10-percent turnout for the election. Wayne has about 12,000 registered voters.

"We have 500 absentee ballots returned; usually we have permanent absentee ballots," Miller said.

Some voters aren't happy with being required to declare whether they want a Democratic or Republican ballot for the presidential primary.

"They feel there should be voter privacy, but we are complying with the law," Miller said. "It's a primary, so you have to declare for what ballot you will get."

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

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Figure skaters convene March 11-12 for competition hosted by Garden City club

The Garden City Figure Skating Club will host the 37th annual Figure Skating Competition at Garden City's Civic Arena March 11-12. Skaters representing 28 figure skating clubs will convene to compete for the gold.

The Civic Arena will welcome visitors from Michigan, Ohio and Can-

ada. "We are excited to see so many skaters from clubs outside of Michigan, as well as from cities in Michigan like Canton, Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Grand Rapids, Plymouth, Detroit, Birmingham, Burton, Westland, Taylor and Novi," said Katie Saile, president of GCFSC. "Our annual competition

is not only our biggest fundraiser, but it's also a great opportunity to show off our community to visitors."

Skaters from GCFSC competing in this year's competition include Shelby Baker, Kelsey Baker, Rebecca Bockstanz, Brittany Brown, Emma Carlton, Cassidy Fulton, Casey Hebert,

Alexis Johnson, Abigail Kilbury, Alisha Saile and Kayla Waller.

The competition begins at 5:20 p.m. Friday, March 11, and will feature 12 events that evening, ending at 8 p.m. The competition opens at 9:55 a.m. Saturday, March 12, and will feature 50 events that day, ending at 6:15 p.m..

"Anyone interested in seeing some great skating is encouraged to attend," Saile said. Admission for spectators is free. Events include freestyle, ice dancing and basic skills programs and include skaters ranging in age from 7 to adult.

The GCFSC provides the Learn To Skate Basic

Skills program, including the annual Ice Show being held May 6-7 at Garden City Civic Arena. Currently, more than 40 skaters are involved in the program, from age 3 to adult. The mission of the GCFSC is to teach skaters to become champions on the ice and in life.

Korean War vet named Veteran of the Month

Don MacKinnon, a Korean War veteran from Livonia, was honored as the March 2016 "Veteran of the Month" by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

MacKinnon served in the Navy from 1952-56. Raised in Detroit, he was the youngest of five sons. He was a teenager attending St. Gregory High School when the Korean War broke out and upon graduation he knew it wouldn't be long before his number was called for the draft.

His four brothers were in the service (three in the Navy, one in the Army). He knew that if he was drafted he would be assigned the Army so at age 19 he went downtown to the Navy recruiting office and signed up.

MacKinnon was inducted in March and sent to Great Lakes, near Chicago, for basic training. He was then sent to the Bainbridge Naval Training Center at Port Deposit, Md., where he was trained for his position as yeoman with his main function to handle mail. Immediately after training, MacKinnon was assigned to the Navy Amphibious Force and sent



Don MacKinnon of Livonia, a Korean War veteran, was named the March Veteran of the Month.

to San Diego, Calif., where he boarded the U.S.S. Eldorado and in January 1953 set sail for Korea.

There U.S.S. Eldorado sailed to Pusan (Busan) in the southeast of South Korea, to Inchon in the northwest of South Korea in support of U.N. troops

fighting the North Koreans. During this tour, they assisted the Japanese government during the floods at Fukuoka. They also directed Operation Little Switch and Operation Big Switch during the closing days of the war and after the war by transporting Chinese and

Korean prisoners of war from Cheju-do and Koje-do islands to the port of Inchon for repatriation.

"We gave them new clothes, boots and a blanket but many of the prisoners did not want to go back and we had to use fire hoses to force them from the boats," MacKinnon recalled.

After the war ended in October 1953, MacKinnon was reassigned to the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) at Hickham Naval Air Force Base in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After his discharge in 1956, he returned to Detroit and bounced around at various jobs until landing a job at Wesley Quaker Maid Ice Cream Company. He was also married in 1963, moved to Livonia and has one son. He retired in 1996 after 30 years service with Wesley and is a member of Post 32.

The S.A.L. invites local residents to attend their monthly meetings to listen to the Veteran of the Month. The public is also encouraged and to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

REDFORD COP CALLS

Police seek thief

Redford Police are searching for a black male age 35-45 in connection with a burglary at the All Star Beauty Supply on Telegraph early Wednesday morning.

According to police reports, the suspect smashed in the store's window with a large rock, bolted inside and then stole two cash registers containing an undisclosed amount of money. The man is described as being 5 feet, 10 inches to 6 feet tall and 200-220 pounds. Video of the incident reviewed by police indicated that the suspect was wearing a light-colored winter hat, dark winter jacket, possibly blue jeans and what appeared to be large, shiny earrings.

The incident occurred shortly after midnight Wednesday. Police believe the suspect used an early 1990s Buick Regal to flee the scene.

Shots fired

More than a half-dozen shots were fired Wednesday afternoon into a home in the 16500 block of MacArthur Street without injuring

either occupant.

A resident of the home said he was standing in the kitchen when he heard the shots. Upon arrival, officers noted bullet holes in a bedroom window. Police found shell casings on an adjacent sidewalk.

Gun stolen

A firearm was reported stolen late Wednesday morning from a home in the 18600 block of Negaunee Street. A resident of the home told police she was moving her stepson and that his friends had helped. The gun, a 9mm Ruger, went missing after the move.

Drugs found

Police arrested a man for possession of controlled substances including heroin and marijuana Monday afternoon in the 24700 block of Schoolcraft Road.

The man was driving westbound on Schoolcraft when he cut in front of a police officer's vehicle. Police subsequently stopped the vehicle and upon a search later at the township police station found the illicit drugs.

Compiled from police reports by Scott Daniel.

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Livonia hosts kindergarten meetings

Livonia Public Schools is ready to roll out the red carpet for kindergarten students who are enrolled to start their educational journey in LPS in the fall.

The district is hosting kindergarten information meetings March 9 at all lower elementary schools. This meeting is for new and prospective kindergarten families. A second student-centered meeting will take place at all lower elementary schools June 1.

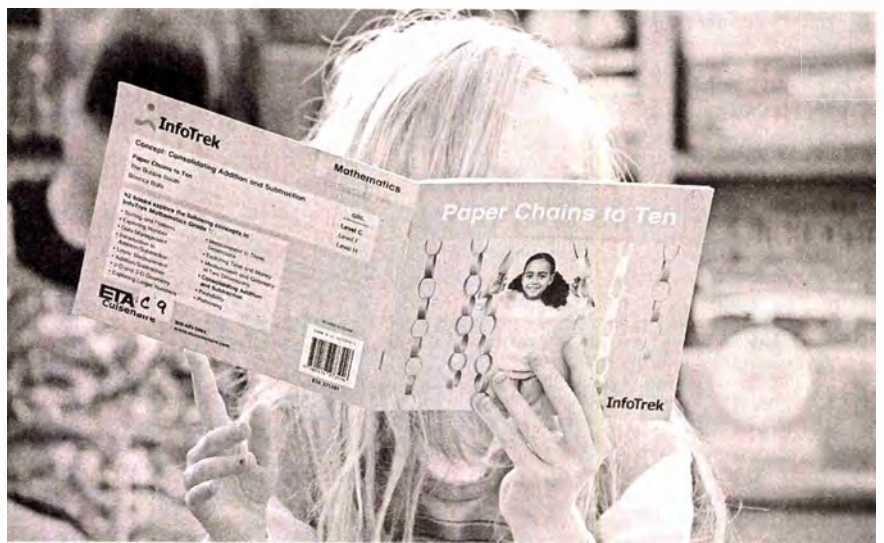
The Kindergarten Parent Information meetings will be held 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at all K-4 schools. The meetings are designed to give parents all of the information they will need, to get their student off to a great start in LPS. Items covered will include a program overview, details on transportation and food service, a building tour and a question-and-answer session.

For students who are not yet registered for kindergarten, on-site registration will be available. Those parents should go to livoniapublicschools.org registration for a list of docu-

mentation needed to register. Superintendent Andrea Oquist said Livonia Public Schools officials are "thrilled" to welcome incoming kindergarten families.

"We are excited to welcome our new kindergarten families to Livonia Public Schools on March 9," Oquist said. "Our staff has worked hard to prepare a program that is designed especially for kindergarten parents. We are hoping that all of our Class of 2029 families will take this opportunity to learn about the amazing world of kindergarten in Livonia schools. The evening will include a curriculum overview and a chance to meet our teachers, tour the schools and learn about a kindergarten day here in LPS."

Families who are new to the district can immediately notice the renovations that are taking place at the schools, from the \$195 million bond issue that was approved by the community in 2013. Schools are receiving top-to-bottom improvements in building infrastructure, security, technology and more.



Livonia Public Schools officials host kindergarten meetings Wednesday.

"We are extremely proud of the renovations that are happening at our schools and we hope our new families can feel

our sense of pride, not only in our brick and mortar, but also in our highly qualified, caring staff at all of our schools,"

Oquist said.

For more information, go to livoniapublicschools.org or call 734-744-2522.

Wayne Memorial JROTC set for national leadership bowl

After advancing through two phases of online competition, the Wayne Memorial High School JROTC Leadership Team composed of coach SFC Stanley Lewis and cadets Makayla Carpenter, Ian Baker, Ryan Carney, Jeremy Harper, Denisia Thompson and Samantha Tillman will compete in person at the championship event in Washington, D.C.

The 2016 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl Championship will be held June 24-28 on the campus of The Catholic University of America. This event is sponsored by the Army JROTC and is conducted by College Options Foundation.



Baker

Carney

Carpenter

Harper

Thompson

Tillman

The Wayne Memorial JROTC team earned top scores out of the 1,378 Army JROTC teams that competed from around the world and placed first in the region of 7th Brigade (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee).

The team is one of only 40 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl

teams in the nation to advance to the National Leadership Bowl competition, which includes an all-expense paid trip to the championship event in D.C. During the two fast-paced preliminary rounds, cadets were tested on their knowledge of current events, leadership values and leadership

skills. The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl is a nationally recognized competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, academic competition and college opportunity. The competition creates tremen-

dous opportunities for JROTC cadets by allowing them to demonstrate leadership and academic abilities.

College Options Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the academic development of high school students and assisting them in their preparation for higher education. Using academic competitions, college exam study guides, college admissions tutorials and personalized counseling, College Options Foundation has assisted the nation's JROTC cadets worldwide for more than a decade.

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Attempted theft of condoms, other items reported at Walmart

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Pretty sure last Wednesday didn't end as well as one shopper at a Livonia Walmart would have hoped.

Livonia police were called Wednesday afternoon to the Walmart at 29574 Seven Mile on the report of a retail fraud that had allegedly taken place. When police arrived, they spoke to a store employee. That employee said the suspect, a 35-year-old man from Detroit, was seen on security cameras in the health care department.

He was seen in the family planning aisle when he was seen selecting a box of condoms, a vibrating ring and some lubricant from the shelf. He took them to the purse department, where they were concealed in his pockets, according to police.

Later, he was then seen by store employ-

ees going to the cologne area and selecting two packages of cologne. He concealed the bottles in his pocket and discarded the packaging on the ground inside the store, according to police.

The man then attempted to leave the store without paying for the items believed to be in his pockets, but was stopped by a store employee after he passed all points of purchase.

He was taken to the loss prevention office and detained until police arrived, who issued him a retail fraud citation when they got there. Associates at Walmart indicated they would prosecute for retail fraud.

All the merchandise concealed by the man, totaling about \$70 value, was recovered, according to police.

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

Bill would let religious leaders talk politics

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, introduced legislation Wednesday that would protect the right of pastors and religious leaders to speak openly about political matters.

"Just because someone preaches from the pulpit does not mean that they should lose their right to free speech," Colbeck said.

Under current Michigan election law, priests, pastors, curates or other officers of a religious society are barred from

influencing America's election process; they are not allowed under current law to advise congregants and constituents on voting and policy issues, without the threat of criminal prosecution.

"This stands in strong contradiction to the rights outlined in both the U.S. and Michigan consti-



Colbeck

tutions," Colbeck said. "The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly outlines the right to free exercise of religion for all people: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ...' And Article 1, Section 4 of the Michigan Constitution states the following: 'Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. ... The civil and political rights, privi-

leges and capacities of no person shall be diminished or enlarged on account of his religious belief.'"

Senate Bill 832 would affirm the rights of pastors and religious leaders to free speech and free exercise of religion under the First Amendment, rights that all U.S. citizens should be able to enjoy.

SB 832 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Elections and Government Reform for further consideration.

Balance class, other senior programs

Wayne Senior Services has upcoming programs for local residents.

Matter of Balance

Matter of Balance Classes teach practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling, set realistic goals for increased activity, make environmental changes to reduce fall risks, etc.

The free eight-week series of classes will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 through May 10. Pre-register by Tuesday, March 15.

The classes are of-

fered by City of Wayne Senior Services in conjunction with The Senior Alliance.

Beginners Tai Chi

This class is a wonderful, no impact exercise. It has been proven to help with memory, breathing, as well as balance. No special equipment is needed.

Class will start Tuesday, May 3, if there is enough interest. The cost is \$65 per ten-week session. Participants must be pre-registered by Wednesday, April 20.

Wayne Golden Hour Club

The social group that meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month for a potluck luncheon.

The event starts at 11 a.m.. After the luncheon, there are cards/games and socializing. Anyone 50 years and older is welcome.

Sometimes Travelers Group

Anyone 30 years and older may join the travel group. Leave the plan-

ning and driving to us. Membership is \$5 per year (July to June). Day, overnight and extended trips are offered. Travel is by a luxurious motor coach.

The city of Wayne Senior Services Office is located in the HYPE Recreation facility, 4635 Howe Road, where all classes will be held.

Pre-register by calling Nancy at Wayne Senior Services at 734-721-7460.

Program fliers are available in the senior display area of the HYPE Recreation facility.

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A licensed HAP Medicare sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings call (800) 499-8526 (TTY: 711). Workshops discuss plans for Medicare-eligible individuals who purchase their own health care coverage.

St. Baldrick's goes 'head hunting' for shavees

The St. Baldrick's Foundation, a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to raising money for children's cancer research, will host one of its signature head-shaving events May 15 at The Plymouth Roc, where organizers hopefully to have more than 100 volunteers brave the shave in solidarity with kids with cancer and raise money to conquer childhood cancers.

Why all the shaved heads? Worldwide a child is diagnosed with cancer every three minutes and one in five children diagnosed in the U.S. will not survive. With only 4 percent of all federal cancer research funding dedicated to pediatric cancer research, St. Baldrick's Foundation volunteers, supporters and donors are needed to continue the battle against this devastating disease.

With the help of The Plymouth Roc, Fantastic Sam's of Plymouth, its volunteer committee and local businesses, organizers hope this year's event beats last year's



Eric Bacyinski (from left), co-chair Robb Drzewicki and Jordan West helped St. Baldrick's raise \$60,000 at the 2014 event.



Wendy Banfield gets her spirits lifted during her head-shaving by Kelly Wadle, the mother of a children's cancer survivor.

numbers. The event will feature raffles and selling off the rights to take first swipe at your friend or family member's locks. This event is like none other and it's not something you'll easily forget.

The event has raised a lot of money, from \$10,000 in the first year to a high-water mark of \$60,000 in the fourth year. Last year's event

raised \$42,000. The event started in 2011 in Livonia and moved to The Plymouth Roc in 2014. For its third year at The Plymouth Roc bar, the event's organizers hope to bring new spectators and shaves together with veterans of the event.

"When you've been running an event like this for a few years, you start to lose the support of

your core volunteers," said Robb Drzewicki, who co-chairs the event. "We try to make it too fun to give up on, but we always need new volunteers, spectators and folks willing to brave the shave."

Kelly Wadle said the head-shaving event gives her an opportunity to "fight back" against her daughter's cancer diagnosis.

"When my daughter was diagnosed, I felt an overwhelming sense of powerlessness," Wadle said. "St. Baldrick's ... allows me to feel like I'm helping make a difference by raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's head shaving events also prove to all the children fighting cancer that they're not fighting this battle alone. They have entire communities fighting for and with them."

Anyone wanting to help can go to www.stbaldricks.org and search for the Plymouth Roc event. Some shavees raise hundreds of dollars and some raise thousands, but every shaved head turns into an amazing "bald billboard" for children's cancer research. Don't want to shave your head? Sign up and a volunteer and raise money for children's cancer research while keeping the hair on your head.


WHY BE CATHOLIC?

Season 7

The exciting series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 7th season with an outstanding roster of new speakers.

Monday, March 14th, 7 PM

From abuse survivor to young wife and mother to widow and single mom to ordained minister's wife and community outreach and home church co-founder, **Kim Steelman**, will share her journey from a life shaken to a life dedicated to the Catholic Church and its social justice doctrine.



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Survey: 87 percent of drivers doing risky stuff

Eric D. Lawrence
Michigan.com

A significant majority of drivers in a new survey say they engaged in at least one "risky behavior" while behind the wheel in the past month.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reports that 87 percent of those in the survey said they had done something risky, including distracted, impaired or drowsy driving or speeding, running red lights or not wearing seat belts.

In response, Peter Kissinger, the foundation's president and chief executive officer, called on drivers to be more responsible.

"There is a culture of indifference for far too many drivers when it comes to road safety," Kissinger said in a news release.

"The vast majority of motorists believe they are more careful than others on the road, though most of them are not making safe decisions while behind the wheel. We're asking every driver to make responsible decisions to make the roads safer for everyone."

The survey included data from a sample of 2,442 licensed drivers ages 16 and older.

Among the results:

- » 13 percent drove with an alcohol level

possibly near or over the legal limit in the last year and 9 percent did this more than once.

- » 18 percent drove without a seat belt in the last 30 days (15 percent did so more than once).

- » 39 percent ran a red light when they could have stopped safely in the last 30 days (26 percent did so more than once).

- » 32 percent drove when they had a hard time keeping their eyes open because they were so tired in the last 30 days (22 percent more than once).

- » 48 percent went 15 mph over the speed limit in the last month (15 percent do so regularly) and 45 percent went 10 over in

the last month.

- » 70 percent talked on a cellphone while driving in the last 30 days (31 percent regularly).

- » 42 percent read a text message or email while driving in the last 30 days (12 percent regularly).

- » 32 percent typed or sent texts in the last month (8 percent regularly).

Susan Hiltz, spokeswoman for AAA Michigan, said that "by pledging to focus on driving safely, Michiganders have the power to reduce and prevent the number of needless deaths and injuries on our roadways every time they get behind the wheel."

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March 16

April 20

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6 p.m. - Presentation

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dr. Seuss selfie

The Redford Township District Library hosts a "Dr. Seuss Selfie Contest" during the month of March.

Kids can take a picture of themselves with something that represents the world of Dr. Seuss, perhaps a stuffed animal, a T-shirt they own, a drawing they did and have the picture on display in the library for the month of March.

The most creative entry will receive a prize chosen especially for them. For more information, contact the youth/teen services department at the library, 313-531-5960, ext. 117.

Public transportation

The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County is hosting a meeting Monday, March 7, concerning the progress and current challenges of public transportation in the southeast Michigan region.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library (32777 Five Mile Road) and the public is welcome. The speakers are: Travis Gonyou, Community Outreach communications manager for the Regional Transit Authority, and Megan Owens, executive director of Transportation Riders United.

Dance! American Art

The Friends of the Livonia Library group is sponsoring a free slide show presentation of Dance! American Art, (1830-1960) at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at the Livonia Library.

The speaker, a docent from the Detroit Institute of Arts, will relate the works of American art such as the 19th century paintings on sacred dances of indigenous North Americans to Irish jigs to Spanish fla-



'Model' student

Michigan National Guard Staff Sgt. Joe Frederick helps Cambridge senior Chris Clemons put on a tactical vest during a visit to the school Tuesday, Feb. 23. Students learned about the career and educational benefits available to men and women serving the National Guard.

mencos to Harlem Renaissance to modern dance. There will be time for a question-and-answer period following the presentation. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Preschool open house

The Livonia Civic Center Library hosts a Preschool Open House from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12. Area preschools will be on hand to discuss curriculum, tuition, and provide other information. This is a free event. Livonia Civic Center Library is located at 32777 Five Mile Road (between Merriman and Farmington). For more information, call 734-466-2493.

Catholic series

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church continues Season 7 of its Why Be Catholic series of personal stories and testimonies with an unusual and compelling local speaker.

Kim Steelman, whose journey has moved from a life shaken to its core by abuse and widowhood, to a new life founded on

the teachings and social justice doctrine of the Catholic Church, shares her story at 7 p.m. Monday, March 14, in the St. Michael School cafeteria. There is no charge or registration requirement for these meetings and all are welcome.

St. Michael is located at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman roads, in Livonia. For additional information, see the parish website at www.livoniast-michael.org or email whybecatholic@livoniast-michael.org.

Family fun

InsideOut Church, 1075 Venoy in Garden City, hosts an afternoon of fun and exciting carnival games for families with children fifth grade and younger 3-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26.

Kids can get their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, Easter candy and a golden egg with the chance for their family to win a prize package worth \$100. For more information, call the church at 734-983-8376.

Karate tournament

Shotokan Karate Federation of Michigan hosts a Michigan Karate Tournament on Sunday, April 10, at Garden City Middle School, 1851 Radcliff.

Age groups include 5-11, 12-17, 18-34 and 35-older. Cost is \$40 for one event, \$50 for two events, \$60 for three events and \$70 for four events. Registration deadline is Sunday, March 27.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Sensei Tony Valvona at 734-658-5683 or email Tony@karate-mi.com.

Vintage toy show

The Livonia Elks host a Vintage Toy Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at the Elks Hall, 31117 Plymouth Road (east of Merriman). Customers may find comic books, hot wheels, games, lunch boxes, Star Wars and Star Trek items, sport and non-sport cards, posters, movie/TV items, models, G.I. Joes, music memorabilia, records, beer signs and more. Admission \$5, kids under 12 free. For information, call Joe (day-

time) 586-775-3289 or Jacquie at 586-329-8213.

Photography club

The March meeting of the 3D Photography Club takes place 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

The March meeting will feature a presentation on View-Master, including rare photos inside the V-M plant and some of their best reels. After a refreshment break, there will be a "freebie" drawing which will include several View-Master items, and a 3D image competition with a Transportation theme.

For more information, go to www.Detroit3D.org, or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Bunny brunch

The annual Livonia Bunny Brunch will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The event includes lunch, crafts and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

"We are pleased to be able to continue to offer affordable family events to the community," said Ted Davis, Livonia's parks and recreation superintendent. "Bunny Brunch is what signifies spring to many young families."

Tickets are available for \$5 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. All attendees over the age of 2 must have a ticket. For more information, call 734-466-2410.

American Legion Lent

American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, hosts its Lenten fish fry 5-7:30 p.m. every Friday during Lent.

The menu is fried cod, baked cod, shrimp and baked chicken. Dinners include fish or chicken, choice of side, coleslaw,

bread or rolls and coffee. Price is \$8.50 for fish or chicken dinners and \$9 for shrimp. Bake sale desserts are also available.

GriefShare meetings

The congregation at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church has experienced the deaths of several members in the past few months. In an effort to respond to the grief and sorrow for their loved ones, the church will be starting a grief support group using the "GriefShare" materials. GriefShare groups meet weekly for 13 sessions to help face the challenges after the loss of a loved one and move toward rebuilding lives.


Each week, the GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring experts on grief and recovery subjects. After viewing the video, group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in their lives.

GriefShare will be held on Mondays and will begin on March 14, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Christ Our Savior Lutheran, 14175 Farmington Road in Livonia in the chapel. This is free for all who would like to attend, but registration is requested to know how many to prepare for. Please register at www.christsaviorsavior.org under Events tab. For more information, contact Mike McGrath at 734-459-1274 or Linda Hollman at the church office, 734-522-6830.

Wayne Memorial reunion

The Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1966 is holding a 50th year class reunion Saturday, May 14. For information and registration, visit www.waynehighalummi.com.

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Protecting Constitution at forefront of presidential race

What is the most important issue in this presidential election? To answer that question, let's first review two principles on which our nation was founded.

The first is found in the opening sentences of the Declaration of Independence ("We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...") and echoed nearly 200 years later by President John F. Kennedy: "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."

The second is the fallibility of human nature that disqualifies any



Scott Bahr
GUEST COLUMNIST

man from being entrusted with concentrated power. "If men were angels," James Madison wrote in *Federalist 51*, "no government would be necessary." With these principles in mind, he and the Founders endeavored to craft a Constitution that would "first enable the government to control the governed, and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

They succeeded. In a world familiar with emperors, dictators and monarchs, our uniquely American republic has

led to a uniquely American result: the freest, most prosperous and most generous society in the history of the world with peaceful transitions of power through 43 administrations.

That last point is especially remarkable. When told that George Washington planned to return to his farm upon winning independence for the colonies, King George III replied, "If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

Four years before the Constitution was ratified, the man who would one day reluctantly serve as our first president was already demonstrating the spirit in which the new nation ought to work. Forty-two presidents have since fol-

lowed his lead, because America has never been defined by the man in charge, but by the idea that all men are subject to the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God."

While much of the globe suffers the instability and bloodshed that accompanies the rise and fall of competing regimes, our Constitution has shepherded us through the varying passions of the day. Freedom has endured precisely because we place our national allegiance in this great document rather than the whims of any one administration.

But America does not have to remain free. If we, contrary to Madison, begin to think ourselves angels, our legitimate frustrations with the

current state of things may erode our patience with the constitutional limits designed to save us from the extremes of ourselves. With the best of intentions, we, too, could find ourselves clamoring for a charismatic leader who promises to restore national glory and make all things right. The last century saw that story play out across the ocean and it didn't end well.

Our current president, apparently convinced he possesses a level of superior discretion unfathomable by the Founders, has sought to circumvent the constitutional controls on his office. Now we see agitated crowds cheering the leading "Republican" candidate who quotes Mussolini to

reinforce his authoritarian intentions and offers only "believe me" as evidence for why we should trust him.

My fellow citizens, this is not who we are and this is not the type of thinking that has kept us free. More than ever, we need to place our first principles, embodied in the Declaration and institutionalized in the Constitution, at the forefront of the American consciousness.

When we go to the polls this primary season, let's select the candidate most committed to the Constitution and with the backbone to stick by that conviction. Our freedom depends on it.

Scott Bahr is a Livonia city councilman.

We must strive to keep 'public' in public education

Early in American history, the Founders realized just how important education would be to America's future. During the middle 1780s, a series of land ordinances was passed by the Continental Congress, culminating in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.

They stated, "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government of mankind, schools and the means of education, shall forever be encouraged." Today, however, we are being told our schools are failing.

We are not doing well on international tests, it is said. We need charter schools, vouchers, standardized tests. Punish students, educators and unions. Create online courses. Grade our schools A-F. Unfortunately, our schools are not failing. They are doing pretty darn good. Schools that are not doing well, generally, exist in the



Al Churchill
GUEST COLUMNIST

midst of poverty.

For decades, it has been accepted dogma in educational circles that poverty and a broad range of socio-economic factors play a huge role in determining student proficiency. Commissioned by the U.S. Office of Education in 1966, James Coleman of Johns Hopkins University studied 600,000 students and teachers. He concluded that academic achievement in school is less related to the quality of the school than it is to the social composition of the school, the verbal skills of the teacher and the students' family background.

Ditto Stanford University in 2011. Sean Reardon released a study that concluded family income is, by far, the most sig-

nificant factor in predicting student success in school. It is simply a fact that parental income and education, parental involvement in student school activities, neighborhood environment, health care, home stability and so on provide the underpinning of student school proficiency.

The Michigan Department of Education states, forcefully, that the most reliable predictor of success in school is the degree that parents are involved in a child's education.

Indeed, according to former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch, "American schools, in which fewer than 10 percent of the students were poor, outperformed the top schools of Finland, Japan and Korea." Call it whatever you like: poverty, demographics or socio-economic circumstance. It matters and, generally, American schools do well when demographics are

considered.

But you'd never know it when people passing as "reformers" compare the raw scores of American schools to countries that do well on international tests. Frantically, they howl that we're losing the race. Our schools are failing. Let's do something — anything!

Well, what do the "reformers" want? Neglecting that vouchers have been used in Milwaukee for nearly 25 years and are a dismal failure, they chant, "Give us a voucher." Ditto for corporate charter schools. All you have to do is look at the nations' report card, the NAEP report. When tested, voucher schools have never outperformed public schools in Milwaukee. Being generous, charter schools do about the same as traditional public schools nationally.

That aside, Finland, a perennial top performer on PISA, provides a good example of what can be done to achieve educa-

tional merit. The Finns have no charters, no vouchers. They do not have a testing obsession like we do. Finnish children are exposed to high-stakes testing a grand total of one time during the entirety of their school experience. They do not evaluate teachers and schools, based upon one high stakes test given annually. They do not grade their schools A-F. They have strong unions. In a word, they do nothing that "reformers" in this country endorse.

Finland's teachers are trusted to do whatever it takes to educate their kids. Teachers in Finland are treated like professionals, like doctors and lawyers. They are supported by nurses, social workers and psychologists. They spend much more of their school day planning and collaborating with other teachers than we do. Their schools are smaller than ours. They put a premium on recess time. There is

much to be learned from Finnish schools.

Can American schools be improved? You bet! For a start, we might focus on teacher training and development. We might also focus more on thinking skills: creativity and problem solving, critical thinking generally. We need wrap-around services for those kids that aren't doing well. There is much that can be done that, presently, is not being done.

Oh, yes. On a recent international PISA test that measured creativity and critical thinking, American schools did better than average.

Most importantly, we need to keep the public in public education.

Al Churchill is a Livonia resident who is a retired member of the UAW and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University.

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Members of the Therapy Choirs of Michigan perform in the rotunda at the State Capitol last Wednesday.

MATTHEW DAE SMITH

'IT'S MORE THAN JUST SINGING'

Brain-injured, disabled find healing, growth in therapy choir

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

When Gary Francis was hit by a motorist while riding his bicycle in 2009, he lost plenty.

Having a car slam into him at 40 mph caused a massive brain bleed — which ultimately cost him the use of his left arm and leg, affected his ability to read and write, and compromised parts of his memory. He was even robbed of his ability to speak and sing, a particularly cruel fate for someone who had earned a reputation as an accomplished barber shop quartet member.

For months, Francis was hospitalized. That was followed by three-plus years living in a rehabilitation facility, and then continued recovery at home. It's been

a long road, indeed, for this Farmington Hills man. And it's not over yet.

Francis is wheelchair-bound, suffers daily with pain caused by his injuries and has related health issues requiring him to rely on an oxygen tank at times. But still, he sees reasons to smile.

One of those reasons: He has found his voice again. And he's not shy about sharing it.

In fact, Francis all but stole the show this past Wednesday in Lansing, when he and fellow members of Therapy Choirs of Michigan held their 18th annual kickoff and promotion of Brain Injury Awareness Month and Choir Therapy Awareness Week at the state's Capitol Building. Along with several numbers performed by the group, Francis sang a few solos, including an emotionally-stirring rendition of the Righteous Brothers' "Unchained Melody."

Singing, he said, "makes the pain go away

for awhile." "It makes you feel better. And when you do that, it makes others feel better somewhat," he said.

'It's just phenomenal'

Psychotherapist and O&E columnist Len McCulloch founded TCM in Farmington Hills with just one singer. With the slogans "It's more than just singing" and "From one voice come many," the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization has since grown to 60 members and three locations, and has logged nearly 300 performances. In the early years, TCM members had all suffered traumatic brain injuries. Now, it also includes those with various developmental disorders and learning disabilities.

All the singers, McCulloch said, are "wonderful." "We started with just one voice, and now this seems to be going on and



Gary Francis (right) and other choir members sing to family members and other supporters, promoting Brain Injury Awareness Month and Choir Therapy Awareness Week.

MATTHEW DAE SMITH



State Rep. Christine Grieg, D-Farmington Hills, welcomed the TCM to the State Capitol Building.

MATTHEW DAE SMITH

See THERAPY, Page A11

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The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned in the Township of Redford by the Michigan State Police Department and are to be sold, as is, at open auction on THURSDAY, the 10TH day of MARCH, 2016, at North Redford Towing, 25215 Glendale, Redford, MI 48239. Viewing starts at 9:45a.m. and the auction starts at 10:00a.m. Vehicles can be viewed on the auction date. Registered owners will be allowed to pick up their vehicles prior to the start of the auction. Check www.nrtowing.com for the current list.

2004	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ND52F14M582612	MALIBU	ARREST	21-14304-15	1
2003	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1JC52F037267220	CAVALIER	STOLEN	21-16798-15	2
1997	CHEVROLET	VAN	1GBFG15R8T1030563	1500	ABANDONED	21-20337-15	3
2000	PONTIAC	4D	1G2WK52J91F168648	GRAND PRIX	ARREST	21-21651-15	4
1998	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ND52M8WY147757	MALIBU	ARREST	21-22503-15	5
1994	CHEVROLET	PU	1GCCS19ZXRK125412	S-10	ARREST	21-23233-15	6
1997	FORD	PU	1FTCR10A6VUC62977	RANGER	ABANDONED	21-25005-15	7
1997	OLDSMOBILE	SW	1GHDU06E4VD101982	SILHOUETTE	ABANDONED	21-29127-15	8
2012	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WVF5E3XC1271061	IMPALA	ACCIDENT	21-29610-15	9
2002	MERCURY	SW	4M2ZU86WX2UJ11876	MOUNTAINEER	ABANDONED	21-29614-15	10
1995	BUICK	2D	1G4NV15M6SC433232	SKYLARK	ABANDONED	21-29513-15	11
2000	FORD	4D	1FAPF3835YW165580	FOCUS	ARREST	21-12068-15	12
1996	LINCOLN	4D	1LNLM82W8TY604553	TOWN CAR	ARREST	21-14275-15	13
2002	FORD	SW	2FMZA51452BA28652	WINDSTAR	ARREST	21-19561-15	14
2010	ROKETA	MC	LJ5PG10K4A1030044	KING RING	ARREST	21-21320-15	15
2002	BUICK	4D	2G4WS52JX21176015	CENTURY	ARREST	21-25604-15	16
2003	CHEVROLET	2D	1G1JC12F237301473	CAVALIER	ABANDONED	21-26078-15	17
2002	FORD	4D	1FAPF53U72G182247	TAURUS	ABANDONED	21-29855-15	18
1994	PONTIAC	2D	2G2FS22S6R2242189	FIREBIRD	ARREST	21-30148-15	20
2000	CHEVROLET	SW	1GNDX03E7YD368644	VENTURE	ABANDONED	21-30684-15	21
2005	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3EL46X35N563518	SEBRING	ABANDONED	21-2043-16	22
2002	MERCURY	4D	1MEFM55SX2G616285	SABLE	ABANDONED	21-2092-16	23
1994	BMW	4D	WBACA6329RFPK61399		ABANDONED	21-2108-16	24

Profiles in Democratic Party courage

Locals stump for Bernie, Hillary as primary closes in

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Gerry Haran wears his Hillary Clinton campaign button proudly and is happy to put in a plug for the presidential candidate wherever he goes — including Nevada last week.

"I wear the button all the time, and I'll point to it and say, 'Vote for Hillary,'" said Haran, 76, a Novi resident. "You have naysayers and I'll say, 'We need to try a woman president, try something different, because we've had the men and it's not working too well.'"

On Saturday, just hours after returning from Nevada, Haran was ready to get to work gathering support for Clinton in the March 8 Michigan presidential primary election.

Only a mile away, Cynthia Churches, also a



Cynthia Churches, a Bernie Sanders campaign volunteer, makes a house call on Walter Sobczak at his Novi residence.

Novi resident, was campaigning for Clinton's competitor for the Democratic nomination, Bernie Sanders.

"We need a revolution," Churches said. "Nothing against Hillary, but I'm 70 and too old to wait."

Both she and Haran are members of the Democrats of West Oakland County, which meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Novi United Methodist Church.

Although not currently united on their choice of candidate, they consider themselves friends. They are also both long-time campaign volunteers.

Long history

Haran traces his political activism back to 1991, about a decade after he and his wife moved to Novi from New York when Haran was transferred with General Motors.

"I really liked Bill

Clinton," Haran said of the former president and husband of Hillary Clinton. "I made phone calls, handed out literature and sold buttons and political paraphernalia around the country."

He recalls meeting Bill Clinton and the eventual Vice President Al Gore on a bus as they dressed for church in Charlottesville, Va., and laughs that he got to see a little bit more of Clinton and Gore than most people. He attended the first inauguration of Bill Clinton in 1993 and met the President again, as well as his wife.

Busy with work and family, Haran didn't work as much on Gore's failed campaign against successor George W. Bush. He returned to a more active role as a campaign volunteer when John Kerry ran for president in 2004 in another failed Democratic bid. He also worked on both of President Barack Obama's campaigns, although early on in 2008 he sup-

ported Hillary Clinton as Obama's challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"Back then, in the beginning, I was for Hillary, but I could see the writing on the wall," Haran said. "Obama was really getting his message out and, when it became a rout, I moved over."

While Haran likes the current president, Hillary Clinton was always his preferred choice and he is happy she is running a second time, particularly with added foreign policy experience after serving as Secretary of State during Obama's first term.

Bernie supporter

Novi resident Cynthia Churches said she would support Clinton if she is the eventual nominee, but Sanders is the change she believes America needs.

"I've been politically active for a number of years and I'm too old to settle," said the married mother of one and retired accountant. "People say you need to be pragmatic, but we need a political revolution. We need free college education and single-payer health care and no war. We need a complete change for the middle class. I hope he's elected. He could really do something great for our country."

Churches has been campaigning for political candidates ever since Kerry's bid against Bush.

"I was driven by our involvement in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and the neglect of education," she said.

Since then, she has made thousands of phone calls and knocked on hundreds of doors in various campaigns for Democrats at the federal,

state and local level. Sometimes her efforts are well-received, sometimes not.


"I get everything from 'Go away' and the door shut in my face to 'Come in and have a cup of tea,'" Churches said. "Sometimes you have lists of registered voters, sometimes you don't ... I love to walk and make phone calls, all the grassroots things."

She tries to share her views in a non-threatening way, giving fodder for discussion in what is usually a conversation between two to five minutes. Regardless of an individual's stance on various issues, she continually tries to awaken the spirit of political involvement in a society she believes is increasingly apathetic.

"People are so disgusted with politics in general," she said. "There is an apathy and they think they can't make a difference, so they don't do anything at all. They feel powerless. Donald Trump said the other night in the Republican debate, 'I love the poorly educated.' It's ridiculous, but it's sadly true. People are not educated enough."

To become better educated on issues, both Churches and Haran encourage involvement at the local level, by writing letters to legislators and newspapers, attending school board and city council meetings and, of course, voting in all elections, including Tuesday's presidential primary.

"The main goal is participation," Churches said. "Everyone, regardless, just get out and vote and be aware of the issues that impact your life and your children's lives."



**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a hearing will be held by the City of Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals at 6:30 p.m., **Wednesday, March 23, 2016** at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135. At the hearing all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on the following agenda item.

- Appeal from Administrative Decision - 33431 Leona Ave.** The applicant is challenging the ordinance officer's interpretation of Section 154.037(D)(2)(a)(3) regarding the allowable location of a border treatment.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting and should be addressed to the Zoning Administrator at 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the application and supporting materials may be examined at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the hearing.

Published: March 6, 2016 LO-0000274247 3x4

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Published: March 6, 2016 LO-0000274341 2x2

**CITY OF WAYNE
PUBLIC NOTICE
2016 BOARD OF REVIEW**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Wayne will meet in the Council Chambers at City of Wayne, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:

Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 17, 2016	Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 21, 2016	Monday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Commercial/Industrial Residential
March 22, 2016	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Poverty/Residential Residential
March 24, 2016	Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Wrap Up NO NEW APPTS

Your 2016 Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classification will be mailed to you the first week of March 2016. The inflation rate, expressed as a multiplier, to be used in the 2016 Capped Value Formula is .3. The Inflation Rate Multiplier Calculation is outlined in Bulletin No. 13 of 2015 by the State Tax Commission on the State of Michigan website.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with original signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

If you desire an appointment, please call the Finance Department at 734-722-2000 Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Published: March 6, 10, & 13, 2016 LO-0000275479 3x1

**CITY OF LIVONIA
LIVONIA HOUSING COMMISSION
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia-Housing Commission, Michigan as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on **Tuesday, March 15, 2016**, at the offices of the Housing Commission, 19300 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

SCOPE OF WORK

Purchase and installation of 135 19" electric ranges and carpet removal and replacement in twenty (20) occupied one bedroom dwelling units at the McNamara Towers housing community.

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

Specifications and bidding documents will be available beginning Monday, March 7, 2016 at the Housing Commission administrative offices, 19300 Purlingbrook, Livonia, MI 48152. All proposals are to be submitted on the forms furnished by the Director of Housing which are included in the Project Manual. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the project bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to James M. Inglis, Executive Director, Livonia Housing Commission. Bids must be on the form provided with the Project Manual accompanied and a non-collusive affidavit. Additional bidding requirements are outlined in the Project Manual. This project is subject to HUD Maintenance Wage Rates.

The City of Livonia-Housing Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and to waive any informalities in the bids received. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the Housing Commission.

James M. Inglis, Housing Director
Dennis K. Wright, Mayor

Published: March 6, 2016 LO-0000274577 3x4

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS
CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN**

**Historic Perrinville School Building Relocation To Greenmead Historical Village
PHASE 1: Demolition and Move Activities**

Sealed proposals for the **PERRINVILLE SCHOOL RELOCATION PROJECT**, will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until **2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016** at which time the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Perrinville School site (33344 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, Michigan 48185) at **10:00 am on Tuesday, March 8th, 2016. Proposals will not be accepted from those vendors who do not attend.**

The City of Livonia seeks proposals for the following:

The relocation of the historic masonry Perrinville one-room Schoolhouse from its existing site at 33344 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland to the Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia to be placed west of the Kingsley House at 37995 Eight Mile Road. The Building Moving Contractor will be responsible for building move logistics, including coordination of all municipal/utility entities along the move route, demolition of existing foundation, restoration of original building site, staging of building at a temporary location at Greenmead, and final placement of building on a new foundation after its construction by building restoration contractor under Phase 2 work.

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

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the proposal, payable to the City of Livonia, as security for the acceptance of the contract. A bid bond on the Michigan Standard Form, issued by an approved Surety Company, may be furnished in lieu of a certified check.

All proposals shall be opened publicly at the date and time specified. Each proposal shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Proposals shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive."

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked "PERRINVILLE SCHOOL RELOCATION PROJECT" and received by the City Clerk on or before the time and date given above.

The Prime Contractor shall demonstrate that they have successfully completed projects in the last five (5) years of equal scope (i.e. masonry building relocation) in the State of Michigan and where each year totaled more than \$100,000 in structure relocation work. No vendor may withdraw his proposal within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the date set for opening thereof. The City of Livonia reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive irregularities therein. Portions of this Contract may be deleted due to unforeseen circumstances without compensation. Acceptance of any proposal does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Linda McCann
Community Resources Director

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor

Published: March 6, 2016 LO-0000274280 3x6.5

**CITY OF LIVONIA
PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
Zoning Board of Appeals
March 22, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466 2259**

APPEAL CASE 2016-02-10 (Tabled on February 2, 2016): Michael R. Michalski, west side of Wayne (18311) between Curtis and Pickford Court, seeking to maintain a privacy fence, erected without a permit, and such fence placed within the side yard, which is not allowed. Privacy fences cannot extend from the rear line of the home toward the front lot line.

APPEAL CASE 2016-02-11 (Tabled on February 2, 2016): Michael R. Michalski, west side of Wayne (18311) between Curtis and Pickford Court, seeking to store a recreational vehicle (i.e. boat and trailer) within the side yard, which is not allowed. Recreational vehicles must be stored in the rear yard, which is to the rear of the back line of the dwelling.

APPEAL CASE 2016-03-16: William Vourx, east side of Garden (15110) between Jamison and Five Mile, seeking to maintain an awning covering a front porch, resulting in deficient front yard setback. The existing home is nonconforming based on the existing front yard setback of 40 feet where 50 feet is required.

APPEAL CASE 2016-03-21: Toebeck Realty, 9986 Manchester, St. Louis MO 63122, on behalf of Lessee AutoZone, 123 South Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103, seeking to erect two (2) wall signs (one on the east elevation; one on the south elevation), upon property located on the west side of Middlebelt (13465) between Schoolcraft and Industrial, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall sign area.

APPEAL CASE 2016-03-23: Robert Bame, south side of Morlock (29073) between Middlebelt and Parkville, seeking to maintain a detached garage addition, resulting in excess garage area. The 12'x12' accessory building shall remain on the property.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all comments must include name, address and signature.

Published: March 6, 2016 LO-0000274578 3x5

THERAPY

Continued from Page A9

on and on," McCulloch said. "We haven't turned down anybody."

And that's a particularly important distinction, noted Ron Johnson of Fowlerville, father of TCM member Nicholas Johnson. Nicholas, 12, has a rare genetic condition, FG Syndrome, which causes intellectual disability and negatively affects verbal and language skills. Despite his challenges, Nicholas loves to sing and perform – but was turned down for his school choir, Johnson said.

With TCM, though, Nicholas gets to share his love of music and song. He gets a much-needed sense of belonging. And, just as it's intended, the therapy has made a marked improvement in his sensory and communication skills, Johnson said.

"For me, that's the amazing thing that Len is doing. He gives Nicholas his chance to believe in something – this is a kid that doesn't get invited to birthday parties or anything like that," Johnson said. "His speech, overall, isn't good. But when he comes to choir, he gets to be on stage and sing songs – which he loves. And there's the sensory part, the motion, the feeling that he's part of something. It's just phenomenal."

Another TCM member, Margaret Cannon of Farmington Hills, agreed. She suffered a closed head injury from falling outside, and joined the choir about three months ago.

"Everybody is somebody here, we don't criticize anyone. We're like a family, we support each other," she said.

Cannon said singing stops her from focusing on her pain – and gives her what she needs to keep trying to improve

and overcome her condition. "It really encourages me, shows me that I really can do what I think I can do," she said.

Fellow member Thomas Matecki, a Livonia resident, agreed. "I've been going through a little bit of a rough time," he said. "But once I sing, it really helps."

Indeed, said Linda Francis, Gary Francis' wife. "Four years ago, Gary wouldn't even try to sing. 'I lost everything,' he told me. Now, it puts tears to my eyes to hear these songs. He's amazing," she said. "He's come such a long way – and he's still an excellent singer."

TCM is looking for corporate sponsorship and gladly accepts donations to defray costs. To help, or for more information, visit www.therapychoirs.org.

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MATTHEW DAE SMITH

Len McCulloch assists Nicholas Johnson, 12, while he sings the national anthem, backed up by the TCM.



MATTHEW DAE SMITH

Len McCulloch (left) leads Therapy Choirs of Michigan members during their performance March 2 at the State Capitol Building.

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Don't be afraid to file an amended tax return

Q: I have a tax problem that I hope you can help me with. Since my divorce three years ago, I have had a friend do my tax returns. My taxes are relatively straightforward, as all I have is income from my employer and some interest. I have no deductions. The only other thing I have is distributions from my ex-husband. That is where the issue comes in. My friend told me the money I've received from my ex is taxable. My friend moved out of town, so this year I decided to do my taxes on my own. I took advantage of the free file program you talked about a couple of weeks ago. It was very easy and straightforward. The issue came up with the money I received from my ex-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

husband. When I went through the questions, it turns out that I did not have to pay tax on the money from my ex. I called my divorce attorney and he confirmed that the money I received was not alimony, but was considered a property settlement and, thus, I did not have to pay taxes. I asked my friend who did my tax returns about this and she said she didn't know there was a difference. I have also talked to my ex, who I have a good relationship with, and he confirmed that I shouldn't have paid taxes on the money. My question to you is

should I file an amended return? The money would be significant to me, but I'm afraid to file an amended return because I was told that it can cause all sorts of problems with the IRS. My question to you is what should I do?

A: Without question, you should file an amended return. It's one of those urban legends that people think if you file an amended return it's automatically going to cause you problems with the IRS; that is just not the case. In your situation, it would be relatively easy to document that the money you received was not alimony, but a property settlement.

To file an amended return, you need to complete Form 1040X. You are allowed to amend your return within three years of when you filed

your return. If you filed your 2012 tax return April 15, 2013, you would have until April 15, 2016, to amend it.

When it comes to taxes, you don't want to play games. When you do your 2015 tax return, if you find that you made a mistake in the past, it is your obligation as a taxpayer to file an amended return. Not just because you're entitled to money — if you made a mistake on your return and the result is that you owe money to the IRS, it's in your best interest to file an amended return. Yes, you will have to pay interest and there is a potential penalty. However, when you voluntarily amend your return, it is much easier to deal with the IRS than if you wait until it notifies you.

In filing amended returns, you also need to

look at how the changes will impact your Michigan return. In many situations, the changes in your federal return will have an impact on your state return. It appears that by filing an amended Michigan return you'll also receive a refund.

It is certainly nice when a friend helps you do your tax return. However, it is always important to recognize that taxes are not stagnant. The rules last year are not going to be the rules next year; tax laws are constantly changing. That's why it is important to have someone that understands taxes and is dedicated to staying current. Unfortunately, many people who prepare taxes don't stay current and that is where problems develop. You and I sign our tax returns and we are the ones who

are ultimately responsible. That is why it is important to make sure if someone does your tax return, they know what they're doing.

Many of you are eligible to take advantage of the IRS free file system. It is a very good system and it allows you to access software from various companies such as TurboTax, TaxSlayer and other well-known tax software programs for free. It's not gimmicky and it saves you money. As I've always believed, the money you save always looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else.

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

Couple indicted on harboring, conspiracy charges after fire kills five

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Roger Tam and Ada Mei Lei were indicted by a grand jury Feb. 25 on five counts of harboring illegal aliens, one for each victim that died in a Novi basement fire last month, as well as one count of conspiracy.

The indictment occurred in Eastern District Court in Detroit and paves the way for the federal government to pursue the felony charges against Tam and Lei at trial.

"A grand jury of 23 citizens returned a six-count indictment," said Gina Bayala, public information officer for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan. "They all voted there was probable cause

and returned a true bill of indictment."

The first five counts allege that "from an unknown date until on or about Jan. 31, 2016, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants Roger Tam and Ada Mei Lei, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien had come to, entered, and remained in the United States in violation of law, did conceal, harbor and shield from detection such alien in buildings and other places for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain."

These counts name each of the victims that were harbored and who died in the Jan. 31 fire in the defendants' Mystic Court residence: Brayana Medina Contreras, Leo-

nel Alvarado-Rodriguez, Simeon Diaz-Nunez, Miguel Nunez-Diaz and Pablo Alvaro-Encino.

The sixth count in the indictment alleges that "from an unknown date until on or about Jan. 31, 2016, in the Eastern District of Michigan and elsewhere, defendants Roger Tam and Ada Mei Lei, did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally, combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other, and agree with other persons whose names are known and unknown to the grand jury, to commit the following offense against the United States, to wit: harboring illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain."



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BOYS BASKETBALL

Warriors complete perfect 20-0 season



TOM BEAUDOIN
Lutheran Westland's Ben Brown looks for a teammate to pass to during a game earlier this season.

Fast start leads LW past Whitmore Lake

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Led by Zach Burk's second 40-point night in the past two weeks, Lutheran Westland's boys basketball completed a perfected 20-0 record season Thursday night by toppling host Whitmore Lake, 75-57.

Burk, who netted 41 points in the Warriors' victory over Sterling Heights Parkway Christian last week, also grabbed a team-high 14 rebounds — eight under

the glass at the offensive end of the court.

Whitmore Lake (4-16) kept the game close for a quarter and trailed just 18-13 after eight minutes, but the Warriors shifted into another gear in the second stanza, outscoring their hosts, 20-7, to secure a 38-20 halftime advantage.

In addition to Burk, Jordan Williams (10 points, 10 rebounds, two blocked shots), Luke Smith (10 points, 10 rebounds) and Kory Barikmo (15 assists, five steals) excelled for the winners.

"I didn't know what to expect heading into this game,

being a non-conference opponent," Lutheran Westland head coach Jim Hoefl admitted. "They had some big bodies, but our guys completely neutralized their size. We got out and ran when we had our opportunities."

Ryan Threau led Whitmore Lake with 13 points. Blake Ver-shun added 10.

The Warriors shot a sizzling 68 percent from two-point range and made seven of 10 free throws.

Lutheran Westland returns to action Monday at Whitmore Lake in a 6:30 p.m. first-round Class C district contest against

Ann Arbor Greenhills. A victory would propel it into Wednesday's 5:30 p.m. semi-final tilt against Canton Prep, which drew a first-round bye.

A run to the district title game on March 11 would match the Warriors against the winner of Wednesday's Ypsilanti Arbor Prep-Whitmore Lake clash.

"Now we look forward to a run in the MHSAA state tournament," Hoefl said. "Our guys are chomping at the bit. I am so proud of what we've accomplished this season. This is a great group of guys."

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D2 REGIONAL FINAL



Livonia Stevenson's Spartans celebrate after winning the Division 2 regional at Plymouth Cultural Center.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CLASS A GIRLS DISTRICT BASKETBALL

Big fourth leads Churchill to crown

Chargers storm back from late deficit, win 43-37

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Toward the end of one painfully-long third-quarter tailspin Friday night during his team's Class A district championship game against host Dearborn Heights Crestwood, Livonia Churchill girls basketball coach K'Len Morris called a time out, gathered his players in a tight circle and got right to the point.

"I challenged them," Morris recounted, talking about his attempt to put the brakes on a 14-minute stretch when the Chargers scored just four points and saw a 20-10 lead evaporate into a 29-24 deficit.

"In so many words, I asked them, 'How bad do you want this?'"

As it turned out, the Chargers wanted it *really, really* bad.

Churchill emerged from the time-out with a renewed energy and a re-sharpened focus, scoring 12 straight points on the way to a 43-37 victory and possibly the school's first-ever girls basketball district title.

"I asked Marc (Hage) a few days ago when the last time Churchill won a (girls basketball) district, and he said if they did win one before tonight, Fred Flintstone was one of the referees," Morris said, smiling. "I'm

See CHURCHILL, Page B4



ED WRIGHT
Members of Churchill's girls basketball team celebrate moments after winning a Class A district title.

NEXT STOP: YOST

Late goal by Siroky pushes Stevenson into quarterfinals

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Late in the third period of Friday's Division 2 boys hockey regional final, the host Salem Rocks were tasting a potential upset of No. 2-ranked Livonia Stevenson.

After trailing 1-0 virtually all night at Plymouth Cultural Center and being outshot by a wide margin (the Spartans led the shot board 22-4 after two periods), all of a sudden the Rocks evened things up when junior forward sent the rebound of a shot by junior defenseman Marty Mills into the Stevenson net with 15:48 remaining in regulation.

But with a packed house of about 1,200 fans pumping up the volume, Stevenson pounced on an errant defensive pass in Salem's zone. The puck landed on the stick of senior forward Alex Siroky, who at 12:01 of the period



Livonia Stevenson's Nick Beers (No. 27) carries the puck against the defense of Salem's Chase Kee (No. 27).

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

blasted a one-timer off the right post that Rocks junior standout goalie Tristan Rehling (30 saves) had no chance on.

That turned out to be the difference as the Spartans hung on for a 2-1 victory and advanced to the D2 quarterfinal slated for 7 p.m. Tuesday

at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor.

"Alex Siroky, I couldn't be happier for a kid," Stevenson head coach Dave Mitchell said, struggling with emotion as he tried to get the words out. "He's been through a lot. He's a first-year senior, his mom is battling cancer.

"For him to do that on this

stage, he's a first-year guy for us. I'm just so happy for him and proud of him and so excited that he got this opportunity and he made the most of it."

For his mom


According to Siroky, who has dedicated this season to his mom — who has only been able to attend a couple of games this year — getting the winning goal "feels good, it's the best feeling right now. ... I basically just went back to what we do in practice, (fore-check relentlessly) and make the 'D' make a mistake. I just capitalized on it."

For most of the game, he and the other Spartans were unable to solve Rehling between the Salem pipes. Siroky had a theory.

"I was shooting low all the game and I wasn't getting anything," Siroky said. "So I figured I'd shoot it high once."


After the contest ended and Stevenson players hoisted the regional trophy, veteran Salem head coach Ryan Ossensmeyer waited on the ice to say a few extra words

See HOCKEY, Page B4



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BOYS D2 HOCKEY

Stevenson rolls past Chargers, 6-1

Churchill ends season with a 20-6-1 record

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Playing just its second game in the past 11 days, Livonia Stevenson's hockey team hit the ice Wednesday night with the hunger and ferocity of a lion that hadn't eaten in a week.

Pouncing on the majority of loose pucks and attacking the net in relentless waves, the well-rested Spartans sidelined Livonia Churchill, 6-1, in a Division 2 regional semifinal clash at Eddie Edgar Arena.

The result propelled Stevenson into Friday's 7 p.m. regional final against Salem at the Plymouth Cultural Center and capped resurgent Churchill's season at a gold-standard 20-6-1.

Although Stevenson outshot the Chargers, 14-3, in the first period, the game was scoreless until the 1:46 mark when Zach Finzel torpedoed a missile from the bottom of the left face-off circle past phenomenal Churchill puck-stopper Andrew Broyles to give the Spartans a 1-0 lead.

"Knowing how much fire-power Churchill has, it was so nice to get one in the first period because Broyles was playing so well," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said,



Nate Sudek directs a face-off toward teammate Alex Siroky Wednesday night.



Stevenson's Alex Walkusky celebrates a goal Wednesday night as the official confirms the puck crossed the goal line.

when asked of the importance of Finzel's goal. "I think it calmed everybody down. It was a big goal and it couldn't have come from a better kid."

The goal triggered an avalanche for the eventual winners, who widened their advantage to 3-0 during the opening seven minutes of the middle stanza thanks to goals from Justin Alton and Alex Walkuski, whose net-finder capped a 15-second shot barrage.

As Walkuski's shot settled into the net, the shots-on-goal category — 20-4 — reflected the Spartans' ongoing dominance.

Like its done all season, Churchill continued to battle, slicing its deficit to 3-1 with 6:38 remaining in the second period on Spencer Kovacs' power-play goal.

The Chargers came close to cutting their deficit to one goal with a couple dangerous rushes

from Nolan Cioch, but Stevenson senior goalie Cullen Barber came up big each time.

Churchill still had life 30 seconds into the final period when it skated with a man advantage in the wake of a two-minute Stevenson infraction, but the Spartans' penalty-killing unit limited the Chargers to one or two half-decent looks.

The Spartans sealed the deal with two goals in the final 11 minutes, the first delivered by Joe Alcantara, who was assist-

ed by Shane Leonard and Jake Beaune; and the final dagger coming from Alex Oquist.

"Churchill is a great team, they had a great year, and hats off to them," Mitchell said. "Starting with Broyles and from the net out, they have a lot of players returning next season and they have an extremely bright future."

Stevenson out-shot the Chargers, 37-12.

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Members of the Garden City high school and middle school pom teams were recognized at the capitol in Lansing earlier this week.

POM PON

Garden City pom recognized at capitol

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

While Republican Presidential candidates verbally sparred at Detroit's Fox Theatre Thursday night, there was no debating this: Garden City's pom program is off-the-charts excellent.

Recognizing the teams' long-standing string of state championships, Senator David Knezek, who represents Garden City and its surrounding communities, invited members of Garden City's state-championship pom programs to the capitol building on Tuesday to honor their award-winning work ethic and accomplishments.

Garden City's varsity and middle-school pom teams have earned a reputation as the "teams to beat" at the annual Mid-American Pom state championships each February.



Garden City pom members perform a high-kick routine with State Senator David Knezek.

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MHSAA DIVISION 1 BOWLING FINALS

Zebras fall short in bid to repeat

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Wayne Memorial boys bowling team made a solid bid to repeat its magical MHSAA Division 1 state-title run from a year ago, but was eliminated in a semifinal match Friday night against Macomb L'Anse Creuse North, 1,378 pins to 1,128.

The Zebras, who earned a sixth seed during the day's final-eight qualifying rounds, knocked off third-seeded Oxford, 1,300-1,246.

Wayne put together Baker games of 213 and 222, before

piling up 886 pins in the traditionally-scored games.

Wyandotte Roosevelt captured the D1 state title by crushing North, 1,378-1,128, in the final.

On the girls' side of the lanes, Westland John Glenn just missed earning a final-eight berth when it registered the ninth-highest pin total (2,976) during the day's qualifying rounds. Eighth-seeded Zeeland edged the Rockets by just 17 pins to earn the final match-play qualifying spot.

Juggernaut Davison ultimately won the girls D1

championship by knocking off Farmington in the championship match.

The Division 1 finals were hosted by Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

Results from Saturday's Division 1 individual state boys and girls tournaments, which included several area bowlers, will be posted Monday on hometownlife.com.

Among the bowlers striving for a state title are John Glenn senior standouts Julia Huren, Emily Dietz and Ashley Kolb.

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CLASS A DISTRICT BASKETBALL

Crestwood's balance stymies Patriots

Franklin's quest for first win falls short

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's girls basketball team found out this season just how difficult it can be to rebound from losing 10 seniors to graduation.

On Wednesday at Dearborn Heights Crestwood, the super-young Patriots dropped a 55-38 decision to the host Chargers in a Class A district semifinal game.

The loss left the hustling, but inexperienced, Patriots with a final mark of 0-21.

Crestwood moved on Friday's district final against Livonia Churchill.

The Patriots were in the game early, trailing just 15-10 after the opening eight minutes thanks to a pair of triples from Lexi Bryant and four points (including a three) from Brooke Garbarino.

However, Crestwood stretched its lead to 27-12 at the half and 45-24 with eight minutes left.

Senior Julee Perez went out on a strong note for Franklin, scoring a team-high nine points.

Garbarino finished with eight points while Bryant added six.

Fueling the Chargers' balanced attack were Annmarie Carmona (12 points), Demi Rodriguez (11), Hiba Daifi (nine) and Nicole Ristovski, who scored eight.

The Patriots stepped to the line 10 times, hitting six.

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Wayne's Brendan Maldonado is pictured warming up prior to a match earlier this winter.



Franklin's Lexi Bryant eyes the basket during a Wednesday night drive against Crestwood.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bears claw back to edge Cougars



Garden City's Jake Sadowski, who scored a team-high 14 points, dribbles through Wyandotte pressure.



Garden City's Denzel Tinsley fires up a fade-away jumper over a Wyandotte defender Thursday night.

GC drops regular season finale 60-57

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Garden City's boys basketball team performed like a blue-chip stock during the first quarter of Thursday night's game against visiting Wyandotte.

Unfortunately for the Cougars, the second half turned into a Bear market.

In the final regular-season contest for both teams, the Bears slowly chipped away at a 20-7 first-quarter deficit to pull out a spine-tingling 60-57 victory.

The loss dropped the Cougars to 10-10 heading into Wednesday's Class A district semifinal game at Livonia Franklin.

Garden City withstood a

pair of strong second-half surges by the Bears and held a 57-55 lead with 53.2 seconds to play after Branden Grace drained a pair of clutch free throws.

However, Wyandotte's main man, senior guard Jaukwan Parrish, converted an old-fashioned three-point play with 43 ticks left to put the visitors on top, 58-57.

Following an empty possession at the other end for the Cougars, Wyandotte's Baily Adkins knocked down two free throws at the 20.2-second mark to put his team up by three.

The Cougars called a timeout with 11.7 seconds to play and got a potential game-tying 24-foot triple look from senior Robbie Moyers, but the ball rimmed out and into the hands

of Wyandotte's Tyler Thorington as the final horn sounded.

Garden City was haunted by 24 turnovers — an unusually high amount for the Cougars despite their fast-paced style of play.

After shooting a red-hot 50 percent (eight-for-16) from the field in the opening quarter, the Cougars cooled off, finishing the game 23-for-57 (40.3 percent).

In a game that matched teams nearly equal in size and skill, the Bears also made 23 of 57 field-goal attempts, but

canned 12 of 23 free throws compared to GC's eight-for-12 effort at the line.

Junior Jake Sadowski was brilliant for the Cougars, making seven of his eight two-point shots to finish with a team-high 14 points. Sadowski also snatched seven rebounds and helped break the Bears' full-court press.

Grace scored 12 points and grabbed five rebounds in his final home game. Moyers closed his home career with nine points and five boards while sophomore Cameron

Walter stayed well, contributing seven points and five rebounds.

Parrish was splendid for the Bears, netting 20 points. Adkins added 10 points and four rebounds in a reserve role, while Thorington (nine points, 11 rebounds) just missed a double-double.

The Cougars sizzling start was triggered by a back-to-back steals from Tony Van Dooren, who turned both into fast-break layups by Moyers.

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GIRLS CLASS A DISTRICT HOOPS

Churchill upends GC, advances to final

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill senior guard Alivia Kondrath was in a Stephen Curry-like shooting zone Wednesday night during the Chargers' Class A district semifinal game against Garden City.

Kondrath scorched the nets in the Dearborn Heights Crestwood gymnasium to the tune of 27 points, making seven three-point shots — three in the first quarter while the Chargers were securing a 14-5 lead.

Churchill improved to 9-13 and advanced to Friday's 7 p.m. district final game against host Crestwood.

Garden City, whose season ended with a 6-14 record, hung tough with the Chargers and trailed by a manageable deficit of 25-18 at the half.

However, Churchill, which defeated GC in an early-season December game, outscored the Cougars 18-8 in the third stanza to widen its gap to 43-26 with just eight minutes left.

Complementing Kondrath's strong performance were Molly Pummill (seven points) and Shae Smith, who scored five.

The Chargers connected on 11 of 23 free-throw attempts.

Junior Alecia Montgomery was the star attraction for GC, scoring 15 points while draining eight of nine free-throw attempts.

Cougar senior Lindsey Michalak closed out her brilliant high school career with 10 points. Kaylee Hewer added seven points and Sam Schwesing scored three on a first-quarter try.

The Cougars were frequent visitors to the charity stripe, making 21 of 34.

Blazers upend Old Redford

Livonia Ladywood blitzed Detroit Old Redford Academy, 62-27, Monday night in a Class B district opening round game that unfolded in the Blazers' gym.

Junior Ally Audia was the Blazers' primary catalyst,



Churchill's Colleen McGowan eyes the basket during Wednesday's victory over Garden City.



Garden City's Brittany Radtke splits a pair of defenders during a first-half drive Wednesday night.

contributing 23 points and 11 rebounds. Senior Erika Selakowski also had a strong game, netting 11 points and a season-high 20 rebounds.

Other contributors were junior Monica Rzepka (eight points, nine rebounds), Kathleen Bushart (three points,

three assists) and Kate Roney, who added four assists and two steals.

The Blazers were set to take on Detroit Henry Ford Friday night in the district final hosted by Southfield Bradford Academy.

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Kettering edges Franklin in overtime

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Shaky shooting at the free-throw line proved costly for Livonia Franklin's boys basketball team Thursday night at Waterford Kettering.

The Patriots misfired on their final nine attempts from the charity stripe in regulation before falling in overtime, 60-50.

The setback capped the Patriots' regular-season record at 2-18 heading into Monday's Class A district tournament, which they will host.

Franklin will take on Dearborn Heights Crestwood's in Monday's 7 p.m. opening-round game. Redford Thurston and Livonia Stevenson will square off in the 5:30 p.m. contest.

Thanks to a strong performance from Mark Mettie (21 points on 10-of-15 shooting), Franklin held a 40-37 lead with eight minutes to play, but couldn't get the clutch free throw to fall when at the most-pivotal point of the game.

The Patriots pushed the game into the extra session thanks to a tip-in before the buzzer by junior Jax Gasaway (eight points).

Senior Joe Chinavare was solid across the board for Franklin, netting 12 points, six steals and five rebounds. Chinavare was the only Patriot to display consistency at the line, burying four of five attempts.

Peyton Harris contributed seven points and six rebounds to the Patriots' cause.

Franklin managed to find net on just eight of 19 free-throw attempts.

Rockets steamroll Milford

West John Glenn's Zeale McCullough proved to be an unstoppable force Thursday night in the Rockets' 60-33 victory over Milford.

The lopsided outcome improved John Glenn's record to 11-9 while the Mavericks slipped to 7-13.

The Rockets will open Class A district play on Wednesday at 7 p.m. against the winner of Monday's Taylor Truman-Wayne Memorial game.

Relentless in the paint, McCullough piled up 25 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots.

Also shining for the winners were Christian Agnew (12 points and three steals) and Daijon Parker, who compiled a stat line that included four points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots.

Chargers rebound with win

Livonia Churchill closed its regular-season Thursday night with a 56-42 triumph over Hartland.

The Chargers improved to 13-7 while Hartland slipped to 8-12.

Churchill never trailed after seizing a 16-5 first-quarter lead. Coach Jimmy Solak's team owned a 23-17 halftime edge and a 42-31 advantage with eight minutes to play.

Seniors Jon Hovermale and Joan Andoni shared scoring honors for the winners with 16 points a piece. Myron Burnette and Evan Cummins both added eight.

Mitchell Brown scored 17 for Hartland.

Stevenson takes down WLN

Livonia Stevenson capped its regular season Thursday night with 69-60 victory over visiting Walled Lake North-ern.

The Spartans' final record was 10-10.

Led by Ian Knoph's 19 points, the Spartans had three players reach the double-digit mark. Nader Kandalast and Kyle Malkowski were the other two.

Stevenson returns to action Monday at 5:30 p.m. when it takes on Redford Thurston in a compelling first-round Class A district game at Livonia Franklin.

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COLLEGE SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Crusaders feature mix of vets, newcomers

Observerland alums dot Madonna's softball roster as team looks to repeat '15 success

Timothy Johnston
Correspondent

Coming off of last season's magical run in the NAIA National Tournament, Madonna softball is preparing to take the next step in 2016 and will rely on a strong returning cast of student-athletes along the way.

Led by reigning WHAC Coach of the Year Jerry Abraham, the Crusaders return a host of players from last year's roster, including 2015 First Team All-Conference members Erin Combs, Morgan Kaiser, Mikey Kish and Nicky Salloum.

The 2016 season began with an appearance last month at the Martin Methodist College Melt-down Classic in Pulaski, Tenn. This week, the Crusaders are in Tucson, Ariz. for a course of 14 games in six days through March 9.

The Crusaders' home opener is scheduled for 1 p.m. March 19 against NCAA Division II opponent Findlay (Ohio). In all, the Crusaders will play in front of their home crowd on seven different occasions this season with four series coming against WHAC foes.

The team recorded a perfect 14-0 mark at home last season.

Hello, goodbye

The Crusaders said goodbye to three key players at the end of last season, including stand-out pitcher Bree Crampton who dominated on the mound for the Crusaders, finishing her final season with an ERA of 1.88.

Third baseman Kasey Trierweiler was crucial for the Crusaders both defensively and offensively, helping the Blue and Gold's magical run with a season batting average of .366 while achieving great success

off the field with a pair of high academic honors.

Center fielder Karleigh Creighton, one of the Crusaders leaders in the outfield from last season, rounds out the key losses to graduation.

But new to the fold are Livonian Franklin alum Becky Giacobbi (outfield) and Canton product Halee Warren (infield), both freshmen.

Others arriving onto the scene are freshman infielders Kerstyn Comerzan, Alyssa Matusko, Haley Izvorski and Jordan Thayer. Both Matusko and Izvorski also catch.

Returning cast

Several players with ties to Observerland and Hometownlife high schools will be back for another season at Madonna.

That list includes junior infielder Nicky Salloum (Livonia Churchill), junior infielders and Plymouth products Kayla Reban and Bri Giordano, sophomore pitcher Erika Randall (Livonia Stevenson), sophomore outfielder Julia Cavagnini (Churchill) and sophomore outfielder Mallory Daschke (Novi).

On the mound

The loss of Bree Crampton leaves some big shoes to fill on the Crusaders' pitching staff and junior Erin Combs is ready to take over where the former all-league hurler left off.

Combs, a No. 1 pitcher by any team's standard, put together a stellar 2015 campaign with a conference-low 1.68 ERA as a sophomore. She was as a First Team All-WHAC member while also being named to the Academic All-District First Team and batted .378.

Abraham and the Crusaders



Madonna University pitcher Erin Combs delivers a pitch during a February game.

MADONNA ATHLETICS

also boast Randall and Paige Montague on the 2016 staff. Both are expected to compete for time in the circle this season.

Behind the dish

Junior catcher Mikey Kish, who proved to be a key player throughout the Crusaders' 2015 run, returns to work behind the plate.

Kish finished the season with a .376 batting average and a stellar performance behind the plate as one of the WHAC's top defensive catchers.

The then-sophomore racked up her share of awards in 2015 by being named WHAC All-Conference First Team, while earning nods on the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association (NFCA) NAIA All-Region First Team and Academic All-District First Team.

Junior Breanna Keethler and freshmen Izvorski and Matusko will also compete for time behind the plate.

Infield crew

Known as one of the most well-respected tandems in the

WHAC, the middle infield duo of Salloum and Emma Cook return as the battery up the middle for the Crusaders this season.

Salloum was a force all 2015 for the Crusaders, posting a .329 batting average to earn a nod as First Team All-WHAC. She also earned a spot on the Academic All-District team last season.

Cook, the starting second basemen, recorded one of the top fielding percentages in 2015 with a .986 mark by way of 55 assists and only two errors.

The only senior on the 2016 squad, Cook hit .315 last season with 14 doubles, two home runs and 38 RBIs. Jordan Thayer will compete for time at second base behind Cook.

Former Plymouth Wildcat Reban returns at first base this season after seeing the field in 46 of the Crusaders' 52 games in 2015. She tied for the team-lead in homers with five last season.

Third base is a wide open competition at this point as Abraham has five-to-six student-athletes vying for playing time. Of the large group com-

peting for a spot, Giordano is the most experienced with freshmen Kerstyn Comerzan and Warren mixed in the rotation as well.

Garden patrol

The Crusaders' outfield will be led by Morgan Kaiser, a junior from Flat Rock and yet another First Team All-WHAC selection from the 2015 campaign. The Flat Rock native paced the Crusaders offensively with a .426 batting average, adding .475 slugging percentage to go along with four doubles and 13 RBIs.

With the loss of center fielder Karleigh Creighton, the Crusaders will look to their youth to fill the role in 2016. Sophomores Cavagnini and Mallory Daschke will be competing for time in center field as will freshmen Giacobbi and Comerzan.

Juniors Bria DeBono and Morgan Thompson will see time in the outfield this season as well.

Timothy Johnston is sports information director at Madonna University.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Chiefs nip Wildcats in photo finish

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton and Plymouth battled for supremacy in the KLAASouth Division Feb. 20 at Westland John Glenn, and both varsity boys swimming and diving teams nearly finished in a dead heat.

The division meet came down to the final event, too, with the Chiefs' 400-meter relay team of senior Gerard Niermann, sophomore Derek Goderis, junior Kyle Amick and sophomore Daniel Mullen's time of 3:20.16 nipping the 3:20.23 turned in by Plymouth's quartet of junior Mike Wischer, seniors Bronson Knowles, Aniketh Visai and Garrett Beauprez.

That turned out to be the difference overall, as Canton finished first in the meet with 640.5 points, with Plymouth's 629.5 good for second. In third with 383 was Livonia Churchill, followed by Wayne Memorial (fourth, 330), John Glenn (fifth, 133) and Livonia Franklin (sixth, 89).

At the subsequent Kensington Conference meet Feb. 27, the Chiefs placed fifth in the team standings while Plymouth came in sixth.

Canton's 200 relay team also was first, with Niermann, Goderis, junior Jemal Vanuado and Mullen prevailing in 1:33.47.

The Wildcats garnered top spot in the meet-opening 200-medley relay, with the tandem of Beauprez, Knowles, Visai and Wischer's 1:41.12 time ahead of second-place Canton (sophomore Tristen Shao, Niermann, freshman Isaac Fong and junior Kyle Amick finished in 1:45.25).

Kicking off the two-day meet was 1-meter diving on Feb. 19, which Churchill's Ethan Burke won with a total of 462.25 points.

The only individual victory for the Chiefs was collected by Mullen, first in the 100 freestyle with a 48.91. Depth points were key for Canton, with four second-place finishers.

Plymouth, meanwhile, took first in the following individual events: Beauprez (200 IM, 2:02.22; 500 free, 4:55.87), Wischer (50 free, 22.82), Keegan Kendall (100 butterfly, 58.32; 100 backstroke, 59.13) and Knowles (100 breaststroke, 1:04.29).

tsmith@hometownlife.com

CHURCHILL

Continued from Page B1

happy for the entire team, but I'm especially happy for my seniors because they had never won a district game before tonight, let alone a district championship.

"There's not a quote I can put in the paper that can express how proud I am of those kids."

Now 10-13, Churchill advanced to Tuesday's 5:30 p.m. regional semifinal against 20-3 Southfield Lathrup at Dearborn Fordson.

The Chargers are still alive thanks in large part to seniors Molly Pummill, who scored 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Alivia Kondrath, who contributed eight points, three steals and hit the floor at least four times in pursuit of loose balls.

The battle under the boards for rebounds was fierce, Pummill acknowledged, the ice pack taped to her right shoulder serving as proof.

"Crestwood was playing pretty physical," she said. "But I think we manned up and did a great job under there."

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

and give a pat on the back to one of the defensemen on the ice for the deciding play — co-captain Bailey Thompson.

"The reality is there's hundreds of plays in a hockey game and not one play defines a game," Ossenmacher said. "We're probably not in that position to begin with if he's not on our team."

"It was absolutely no reason for him to hold his head low; he played a fantastic game. We played four defensemen against the fastest team in the state for 51 minutes and so he was our rock all year and it was no different tonight."

Quick start

Stevenson's trademark speed was evident right off the hop. At 1:03 of the opening period, senior forward and co-captain Nate Sudek pounced on a rebound and drove it past Rehling.

"It's playoffs; when you score in the first minute, that just propelled us, that really got us going," Sudek said. "I got to the net and I just put it in."



Churchill basketball players pose with their hard-earned district championship trophy after rallying to beat Crestwood, 43-37.

ED WRIGHT

Crestwood's catalyst was freshman guard Demi Rodriguez, who scored a team-high 16 points before fouling out with two bang-bang fouls at the 2:23 mark of the fourth quarter.

In a high-energy game played at a ping-pong pace, Churchill bolted to an 18-10 first-quarter lead behind the inside play of junior Anne Yost, who scored eight of her

12 points during the opening eight minutes.

After Kennedy Carrier banked in a put-back to open the second period, Churchill led 20-10 and appeared to have a firm grasp on the trophy.

That's when the Chargers' wheels fell off — at least temporarily — and Crestwood stormed back to within 23-19 at the half after Rodriguez banked in a 40-foot desper-

No worries

There was no panic on the Stevenson bench, even with Salem fans on their feet and screaming at the top of their lungs.

Still, it wasn't an easy task to get another one past Rehling, on his game throughout the regional. With just under 10 minutes to play in the third, a Salem defensive giveaway led to a snapshot by Sudek from between the circles.

Rehling snared the puck with a spectacular, windmill grab.

"Great save; he really stepped up at the end of the season," Ossenmacher said. "Especially in the first period, I thought he did a good job keeping it to a one-goal lead. And then he made the saves he needed to and, that one in particular, the glove save, keeps it 1-1 and gives us an opportunity."

Even then, the Spartans kept their composure, ready to get the next one. Soon enough, they did.

"We were just trying to keep our heads in the game," Sudek said about the team's response on the bench to the equalizer. "We were like, 'Don't lose the intensity and we were going to get it back.'"

ation heave just before the buzzer sounded.

The third quarter was a nightmare for Churchill, which made just one of seven shots, committed eight turnovers and fell behind, 29-24, before Morris's time-out with just under a minute left.

The turn-around started with five ticks left in the third when Yost sealed her defender, secured a bounce-pass feed from Sam Zonca and banked in a shot from the door step to cut her team's deficit to 29-26.

Colleen McGowan's driving layup 15 seconds into the fourth quarter set the game-ending tone for Churchill, which extended its lead to 36-29 with consecutive short-range baskets from Yost, Pummill and Zonca.

Two quick buckets from Medina Elzayat with under 30 seconds left brought Crestwood to within 41-37, but Kondrath frosted the victory cake with two late free throws.

"When I took this job, I wanted to change the culture here and to make people look at Churchill girls basketball differently," said Morris. "One of the first goals we set was to win a district, and we did that tonight."

My buddy Alex Siroky, my linemate actually, he buried it in the net. That was fantastic."

And now the Spartans move on to Yost, one more win away from going to USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth for the final four.

"It's Tuesday against the winner of Trenton and Ann Arbor Huron," Mitchell said. "Either way, it's going to be a solid, solid hockey game. We got to clean up some things and generate a little more offense."

"But when you're this deep in the tournament, going into a quarterfinal game, it's going to be a good hockey game and we'll be ready."

Mitchell then tipped his cap to Ossenmacher, Rehling and the Rocks, but emphasized that his group of seniors is deserving of a chance to go for a championship.

"This senior group is an unbelievably special group," Mitchell said. "All the groups of seniors usually are, but this group, led by our captains of Ben Kowalske and Alec Allen and Cullen Barber and Shane Leonard and Adam Olson ..."

"All the seniors, just such a classy, high-character group of kids that works so hard. I'm just so thrilled for them at this moment."

Baby, it's chili outside

Story and photos by Julie Yolles
Social Scene Columnist



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

There's nothin' like good ol' hot comfort food on a cold winter's night. Supporters of Variety, The Children's Charity always look forward to Variety's Annual Chili/Mac and Pulled Pork Cook-Off which recently was held at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

Fourteen of the area's top chefs and restaurants served up every imaginable recipe of chili, mac and cheese, and pulled pork to compete for top honors and bragging rights.

The Golden Ladle went to: Critics' Choice Awards for Best Chili, Green Lantern Pizzeria in Madison Heights, Clinton Twp., Sterling Heights, Macomb and Royal Oak; Best Mac & Cheese and Best Pulled Pork, Yardbird Smoked

Meats in Keego Harbor. The People's Choice Awards for Best Chili also went to Green Lantern Pizzeria; Best Mac & Cheese, Crispelli's of Berkley and West Bloomfield; and Best Pulled Pork was also awarded to Yardbird Smoked Meats.

Next up for Variety are its Annual Table Tops Luncheon, Wednesday, April 27, at Pine Lake Country Club in West Bloomfield, and the Star is Born Gala, Friday, May 20, at Emagine Royal Oak. For more information, go to variety-detroit.com.

Contact Julie Yolles, Social Scene Columnist, at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



Tonya Clark of Belleville and Sean H. Robertson of Livonia enjoy the Annual Chili/Mac and Pulled Pork Cook-Off.



Nathan Mersereau of Livonia is a Variety The Children's Charity board member. He's with Jennie Cascio, Variety's executive director, at Variety's Annual Chili/Mac and Pulled Pork Cook-Off.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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AIKENS



ROBERT BRUCE "BOB" 86; passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on March 2, 2016. He was a noted developer of regional enclosed shopping centers as well as numerous other properties located throughout the United States, a rugged outdoorsman, and a generous philanthropist. He will be deeply missed as a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. Born in Ft. Wayne, IN on June 27th, 1929, he was the son of Berton Allen Aikens, Jr. and Katherine Sanson Aikens. He attended Baldwin High School where he fell deeply in love with his wife of 65 years, Charlotte Ann Snyder. He was President of his fraternity, and he called play-by-play for the school football team. In 1951 he received his BA in economics from Brown University, and in 1954 he received his JD from the University of Michigan Law School. Bob was Lt. JG U.S. Navy from 1955-1958. He served as Legal Assistant to the J.A.G. in the Pentagon. From 1959 to 1973 he was a Senior Partner in the law firm of Wunsch, Aikens & Lundershausen, where he focused on real estate and tax law, representing commercial developers in all types of real estate transactions. In 1973, Bob struck out on his own as Chairman and 100% owner of Robert B. Aikens & Associates, LLC. Since that time, his company has developed, owned and managed, among other property types, nine enclosed regional shopping centers around the United States. Bob was notable in business for his relentless will-power and vision, which he equally applied to rugged leisure pursuits including hunting, fishing, sail-boat racing, skiing, squash, swimming, and golf. Bob's heart was evident in his commitment to building beautiful gathering places such as the L'Arbre Croche Beach Club in Northern Michigan, the Village of Rochester Hills, and the Robert B. Aikens Commons at the University of Michigan Law School; in his devotion to his community of long-time friends gathered in boyhood and beyond; and in his primary philanthropic commitments to the University of Michigan Law School, the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center, the University of Michigan School of Art & Design, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Christ Church Cranbrook, and William Beaumont Hospital. Most of all, Bob's heart is reflected in the eyes, as well as the memories, of his loving and devoted wife, and his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Ann Snyder Aikens; his children, Kimberly Ann Aikens; Robert Bruce Aikens Jr. (Linda); Lindsey Aikens Heffer (Peter); and Geoffrey Scott Aikens (Beth); his eleven grandchildren; and his brother, William Robb Aikens (Alice). A Memorial Service for friends and family will be held on May 9, 2016 at 11 am at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Memorial gifts are to be made to Christ Church Cranbrook to the Discretionary fund of the Rector, The Rev. Dr. William J. Danaher, Jr., to provide immediate support to those in need. Obituary and condolences at lynchfunerarydirectors.com

COLLINS



MICHAEL 59, of Alamosa, Colorado, formerly of Livonia, died February 27, 2016 in the Snowy Range, west of Laramie, Wyoming. A funeral will take place on March 2, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Laramie, Wyoming at Montgomery-Stryker Funeral Home for family and friends. A memorial will take place in Alamosa, Colorado at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on April 2, 2016. To send condolences or to sign the online guest book, please visit, www.montgomerystryker.com

JOSEPH



RAMON R., M.D. Of Sun City West, Arizona, and Emeritus Professor of Medicine at University of Michigan, transitioned peacefully in his sleep on February 17, 2016 at the age of 85. Born in New York City, he was the son of Helen and Felix Joseph. He was married to Mary Ann (Kowalchik) Joseph for 50 years until she passed away in 2006. They had three children, Ricardo George, Maria Ann, and Lisa Marie. Dr. Joseph received a B.S. degree from Manhattan College, New York. After receiving his M.D. from Cornell University and a fellowship in gastroenterology, Dr. Joseph became a Professor of Medicine at the University of Michigan, Assistant Dean, and Chief of Medicine at the Wayne County General Hospital. Dr. Joseph's professional biography is in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare, and Who's Who in Science and Engineering. He published numerous scientific papers, established free clinics for indigent patients, and coauthored the K-12 curriculum for education on drug abuse in Michigan. In Sun City West, Dr. Joseph was a member of Advent Episcopal Church where he served as Vestry member, Senior Warden, and created a Patient Advocacy Ministry through which he helped countless parishioners and others with various medical issues. Having a lifelong love of ballroom dancing and gourmet cooking, he shared his many talents and phenomenal meals with friends. Late in his life, he made his theatrical debut as a singer and actor in Theatre West, was a member of HandiCapables, and the Beardsley fitness facility. He leaves a son, Dr. Ricardo Joseph, M.D. of Michigan; and two daughters, Maria Thompson of Michigan and Lisa Benson of Florida; daughter-in-law, Heather Joseph; son-in-law, Dr. Levi Thompson, Ph.D. and son-in-law, Dr. Robert Benson, M.D.; a brother, Francisco Ronaldo Joseph of California; half brothers, Felix R. Joseph Rodas, Alberto M. Joseph Rodas, Jose E. Joseph Rodas; and six adored grandchildren, Marissa Elena Thompson, Alexandra Marie Joseph, Christian Ramon Benson, Sabrina Elise Thompson, Nicholas Ramon Joseph, and Camille Lauren Benson. He also leaves behind a former wife, Karen Moran and her son, David Moran. Dr. Joseph was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Ricardo Carlos Joseph and his wife, Mary Ann Joseph. Always a physician, scholar and a gentleman, Dr. Joseph was first and foremost a family man. He will be well remembered by nieces and nephews, cousins, friends, colleagues, patients, and students that he touched along his life journey. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Advent Episcopal Church, 13150 Spanish Garden Dr., Sun City West, AZ, 85375 or to Manhattan College, Manhattan College Parkway, Riverdale, NY, 10471.

TEBBEN



SARAH "SALLY" J. of Plymouth, MI passed away peacefully on her 68th birthday surrounded by her family. She passed Tuesday, March 1, 2016 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born to the late J. Paul and Margaret Fisher of Lima, Ohio on March 1, 1948. She is survived by four children, Jennifer (Toribio) Nunez, Christopher (Marna) Tebben, Paul (Mara) Tebben and Joseph (Sara) Tebben; five grandchildren, Jonah, Sophia, CJ, Casey Jane and Anna; two sisters, Kate Stepleton and Peggy Allen; two brothers, John Fisher and Jim Fisher; and her dear friend and confidant, Theresa Tebben. She was preceded in death by her daughter Christine Marie Tebben, her parents and her sister Lillian Schnabel. Always one who looked to give rather than receive, Sally will also be missed dearly by many other caring relatives and friends. Sally graduated from Lima Senior High School (Lima, Ohio) and received her RN nursing degree from Lima Memorial School of Nursing. She proudly chose her primary vocation as a "stay at home" mother and returned to her nursing career once her children were grown. She distinguished herself in both endeavors, but if asked, would want her legacy to be that of a loving mother and devoted grandmother. Sally's life was guided by a deep faith, compassionate heart and loving nature. Her daily examples of strength, principled character, love and grace are the foundation of her children's values, and also left an indelible mark on all those whose lives she touched. Sally left this world in the same way that she lived - with dignity, quiet grace, compassionate selflessness and a loving devotion to God, her family and her many friends. Visitation will be held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth, Michigan from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2016. Funeral services will be conducted at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Lima, Ohio at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 8th. Memorial donations may be made to Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr, Ann Arbor MI, 48103 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105. Sally's family would like to thank the University of Michigan Medical Center and Arbor Hospice staffs for the compassionate and dignified care they provided in her final weeks of life.

TROWBRIDGE

ELIZABETH J. age 80, of Salem Twp. Passed away on March 3, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Elba Trowbridge, who preceded her in death in 1998. Dear mother of Janet Roy; proud grandmother of Mitchell Trowbridge and Jessie Tiilikka; great-grandmother of Elba Trowbridge; caring sister of Mary Lou Bowman and Judy Rehburg; sister-in-law of Mary Helen Franks; aunt of Diane (Jerry) Grandsen, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. At the request of Elizabeth, cremation has taken place and a remembrance service will be held at a later date. Those wishing to send a memorial contribution in Elizabeth's name may consider: The Arbor Hospice Foundation, 2366 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8944. Arrangements entrusted to the Vermulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Plymouth (734) 459-2250

WEDDING



Bryce Frye and Amanda Dobos on their wedding day

DOBOS-FRYE

Amanda Dobos and Bryce Frye were married Oct. 17, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth.

Amanda, daughter of Otto and Carol Dobos of Livonia, is a 2008 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2012 graduate of Arizona State University. She has a degree in theater and is an actor in Los Angeles, Calif.

Bryce, son of Neil and Cheri Frye of Scottsdale, Ariz. also graduated

from Arizona State University. Bryce is a software engineer in Santa Monica, Calif.

The wedding party had two maids of honor, four bridesmaids, four best men, three groomsmen, a ring bearer and a flower girl.

A reception was held at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

The newlyweds took a honeymoon trip to England, France and Germany. They reside in Los Angeles, Calif.

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH BUDDHISM CLASS

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, April 14 and 28, and May 12 and 26

Location: The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Haisted, Farmington Hills

Details: Free five-week secular practical Buddhism class will apply Buddhist teachings to daily life through meditation, reflection and discussion. Secular Buddhism emphasizes the teaching of Eastern philosophy practices in a way that allows each individual to become their own teacher. Ideas such as "awakening" and "enlightenment" are goals in which there is no "one true way"

Contact: 248-478-7272; uuFarmington.org

EASTER FUN

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia

Details: Family-friendly event with crafts, egg hunt, and presentation of the Easter story. Bring a basket for the egg hunt, which is for ages 12 and under

Contact: Melissa at 734-765-1827

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: 7:15 a.m. Sunday, March 27

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia

Details: Service will be held outdoors except in extreme weather conditions. Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service. An Easter breakfast will start at 9 a.m.

Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322

EASTER WEEK SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 24-25 and 10:30 a.m. March 27

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Maundy Thursday service on March 24; Good Friday service is March 25 and Easter service on March 27. An Easter breakfast also will be held at 9 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at 9:30 a.m., March 27

Contact: 734-427-3660

EGG DROP

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Orchard Grove Community Church, 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake

Details: More than 12,000 eggs filled with candy will be dropped from a helicopter for children through fifth grade to collect. Children will be grouped by age

Contact: Shawna Schwaninger at 248-926-6584 or email shawna.schwanger@orchard-grove.org

EGG HUNT

Time/Date: Noon-1 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton

Details: Children may hunt for candy and small toys inside plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church and have a photo taken with the Easter bunny. Free

Contact: 734-495-0035

EGG HUNT

Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13

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

Details: Cookie decorating, crafts, and Easter egg hunt is free and will be held rain or shine

Contact: 734-422-6038

FISH FRY

Time/Date: 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, through March 18

Location: St. Michael the Arch-angel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: All you can eat, \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for kids, ages 3-13, free for kids under 3, carry outs, \$9 and \$10

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200

GRIEFSHARE

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Sunday, March 6-June 12

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-man, Livonia

Details: Non-denominational, Christian-based seminar support group is for individuals grieving the death of a loved one. The seminar consists of group discussions, DVDs and workbooks. The \$15 registration fee includes workbook journals and handouts

Contact: Pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

May you find comfort in family & friends

HAWES



DANNY R. age 71, passed away March 1, 2016 in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Danny grew up in Livonia, MI and married his wife Patricia in 1970. Before his marriage, Danny served for two years in the 293d Engineering Battalion. Danny loved all sports and was a big Detroit Tigers fan. He passed this love of sports on to his grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter Beth Stokes [Darren], son Michael Hawes, grandchildren Max, Jack, Addie and Avery, brother Jim Hawes and sister Kathy Larabell. Interment will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. A special gathering to celebrate his life is planned for Father's Day.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

Traveling athletic shoe brings awareness to rare, fatal disorder

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Phillip Fortier wants you to meet the MSA Shoe. Pose with it for a photo. Host it at a gathering. Notice it on a new billboard along I-94. See it guest starring with blues singer Thornetta Davis March 19 at Motown Moves For MSA, an annual fundraiser.

The traveling athletic shoe brings awareness to multiple system atrophy (MSA), a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects movement and such involuntary functions as blood pressure and digestion. It has posed with celebrities, visited landmarks, attended Detroit's Movement Electronic Music Festival and crossed international borders during the past five years.

"The Shoe is iconic and appears in the oddest of places," said Fortier, founder of Defeat MSA: Joseph G. Fortier Foundation, based in St. Clair Shores. "It has been at The Fox, The (Joe Louis) Fist. At U of M Hospital it was put into a PET scanner. DMC did a whole video of it traveling through the hospitals."

Photos are posted on the Where is the MSA Shoe? Facebook page where supporters can follow the Shoe's movements.

"It is a tool that can help spread awareness," Fortier said, noting that March is MSA Awareness Month. "Many of the patients are bedridden and it moves for them in a way. It also travels in memory of those who have suffered from this disease that no one knows about."

Memories

MSA patients and their loved ones often attach mementos to the Shoe during public appearances. Carol Ruth of Westland added Micky Mouse- and bowling-related stick pins from her husband's collection when she met the Shoe last year.

"Richard loved bowling and he loved Micky Mouse. He was an avid collector," said Ruth, who supports the Shoe's efforts, but says she wishes she had never heard of MSA.

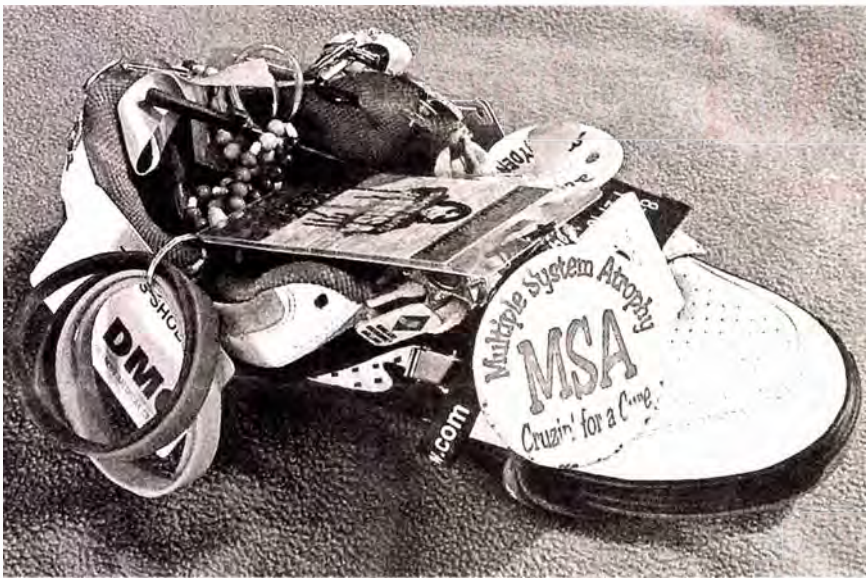
Her late husband, whom she described as a "health freak who took care of himself and always went to the doctor," lost his battle with the disease at age 65 in May 2009.

"This is a disease that doesn't discriminate. It just says, 'you're it.' There is no cure," she said.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, MSA is a rare disease that affects potentially 15,000-50,000 Americans. Symptoms, which often are difficult to distinguish from those of Parkinson's disease, appear when a person with MSA is in their 50s. MSA symptoms include tremors, stiffness, slow movement, clumsiness, impaired speech, bladder control problems, and low blood pressure when rising from a seated position. MSA generally progresses more rapidly than Parkinson's disease, is similar to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and can involve sleep disorders, breathing problems, difficulty swallowing and fainting spells. Within five to 10 years patients



Richard Ruth died a few years after being diagnosed with MSA. Carol Ruth of Westland hopes for increased awareness of the disease.



The MSA Shoe, decorated in mementos from patients and their loved ones, raises awareness of multiple system atrophy, a neurological disorder.



Julie Horst, talks with her son-in-law, Richard Ruth, who sits in a Hoyer sling. The equipment helped lift Ruth from his bed during the end stages of his battle with multiple system atrophy (MSA) several years ago.

lose mobility and are bedridden. Richard Ruth initially was

diagnosed with Parkinson's. Two years later he was told he had MSA.

"It's a rare disease and yet these are real human beings. Every disease deserves attention. Even if it affects just one person."

PHILLIP FORTIER
an adjunct professor at U-D Mercy

"He didn't want to live the disease. We still went to dinner. We went to Hawaii a year and a month before he died," said Ruth, who watched her husband go from walking with a cane to a walker, then a wheelchair in three years. He was bedridden when he died.

No cure

Fortier's brother, Joseph, was diagnosed with MSA the

MSA EVENTS

» A support group sponsored by The MSA Coalition and Defeat MSA Joseph G. Fortier Foundation runs 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland, 44405 Woodward Ave., Pontiac. The group will meet in classrooms C and D on the fourth floor.

» Second annual Motown Moves for MSA benefit runs 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at University of Detroit Mercy - Architectural Exhibition Space in the School of Architecture, 4001 McNichols, Detroit. It features blues singer Thornetta Davis, along with Barbara Scott Oster. Includes hors d'oeuvres and wine, beer and soda, a silent auction and photographs with the MSA Shoe. Tickets are \$30 online at DefeatMSA.org and \$35 at the door.

same year that Richard Ruth died. At first he too, was thought to have Parkinson's, but after the medications he took for the disease didn't work, doctors determined it was MSA. Joseph Fortier died a little over three years later.

"There is no known cause and no cure and very little in the way of treatment," said Fortier, an adjunct philosophy professor at University of Detroit Mercy. Medications treat symptoms, but don't slow progression of the disorder.

"We need more awareness. With awareness comes earlier diagnosis and probably better diagnosis, and more research," he said. "It's a rare disease and yet these are real human beings. Every disease deserves attention. Even if it affects just one person, it's worthy of pursuing treatments."

For more about the organization that Fortier founded, visit defeatmsa.org. For more about the MSA Shoe, visit msashoe.org.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

Balding, sore gums may be symptoms of heart disease

Chest pain and heart palpitations may be the most common symptoms signaling heart disease that bring patients into their physician's office or the emergency room.

However, there are some other signs that may indicate your heart isn't performing the way it should. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, schedule an appointment with your primary care physician or cardiologist because they may be signs of a heart problem.

» Swelling, also called edema, of the feet or lower legs can be caused by something as simple as too much salt in your diet. It also may be a sign your blood isn't flowing the way it should and is causing fluid build-up in your lower extremities. It is best to be cautious



Delair Gardi

GUEST COLUMNIST

and have the cause of your swelling diagnosed by a physician.

» Men, are you going bald? According to a large study by Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, there is a correlation between male hair loss and heart conditions such as nonfatal heart attacks, angina or chest pains as well as the need for procedures to open blocked coronary arteries.

Where you are balding can also be an important indicator. The likelihood of heart disease increased by nine percent

when men of any age started to lose hair on the front of their heads; 23 percent when a bald spot opens at the crown; and 36 percent when the top of the head is completely bald. On top of this, if you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol in addition to hair loss, the risk is almost three times higher than it would be if you had the conditions without hair loss.

» Your snoring isn't just keeping your partner awake — it also may be warning you of things to come. A study at Emory University in Atlanta found the obstructed airways in people who have sleep apnea or snore were linked to higher risk of cardiovascular disease. If you've been told you snore but don't have any other symptoms of cardiovascular disease, take action now and have

a sleep study done. Finding a solution to the snoring problem will help you sleep better and may prevent the emergence of additional health problems.

» Women, do you suffer from reoccurring migraines? In a 2012 study, the American Academy of Neurology found that women who have migraines with visual or sensory disturbance at least once a month are twice as likely to develop heart disease. Be sure to talk to your doctor about your migraines and the possible effects they are having on your heart.

» Sore, bleeding gums are not only a sign of gum disease but might also affect your heart. Keeping your teeth and gums clean and healthy could be one easy way to reduce your risk of heart disease. Also,

because you typically see your dentist more regularly than your primary care physician, he or she may be able to tell from your mouth that something isn't right elsewhere in the body.

If you are experiencing these or other health concerns, schedule an appointment with your doctor. Be sure to write down any questions or items you'd like to discuss before your appointment.

Delair Gardi, MD is an interventional cardiologist at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. He is the medical director of endovascular services and the cardiac catheterization laboratory. Gardi is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, interventional cardiology and nuclear cardiology.



Charlie Blosser holds Dusty, the first cat he brought into the pottery studio at Oakland Community College, in this photo taken in the 1980s.



Kittens enjoy lounging on perches at New Beginnings Animal Rescue (NBAR) in this photo from 2014. Every spring brings a new "kitten season," with pregnant cats, kittens and new cat moms that need new homes.

Potters Market donation to benefit NBAR cat rescue

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Charlie Blosser always kept a cat in the pottery lab where he taught ceramics for 36 years at Oakland Community College.

Dusty, Rusty and Luckey (with an "e") all orange tabbies, all rescued cats "lived a great life" amid the throwing wheels, clay creations and students that populated the Ceramic Technology department on the Royal Oak campus, according to Bridget Blosser.

"My husband was so into cats," she said. "He got to be the rescue guy. You could bring a cat to him and he'd find a home for it. He purchased a big cage and when he got a



cat, the cat would live there until he found a home. He did that for 10 years and finally had to stop (rescuing) because he had three or four cats in the cage a few times. And he had his cat that lived in the lab."

Bridget Blosser co-coordinates the annual Potter's Market in Southfield, a December pot-

tery show her late husband started years ago at OCC. When it came time to choose a charity for last year's market, Blosser knew exactly what he would have chosen — cats.

Sale proceeds from a charity portion of the show have been tallied and Blosser is ready to present a \$2,100 check to New Beginnings Animal Rescue, (NBAR) a cat-only shelter in Royal Oak.

The shelter — this writer is a board member — is located on Rochester Road north of 12 Mile, and includes both free-roam rooms and kennel "condos" for cats awaiting adoption. All of the shelter's cats are vetted, including with spay and neuter surgery, before they are adopted.

Kitten season

"This way, new pet parents don't have to worry about vet costs for a year when they adopt from us," said Jennifer Fritz, a Garden City resident and NBAR vice

"He would come up and give you a purr and rub your leg and you'd stop throwing (clay) and play with the cat. A lot of students would bring treats and food."

BRIDGET BLOSSER
co-coordinator of the Potter's Market

president.

She said the Potters Market donation, which will be used for medical costs, will come in handy as "kitten season" gets underway.

"As we enter spring, it's what we call 'kitten season,' meaning there are a lot of pregnant cats and newborn kittens that will be flooding shelters and rescues all over Michigan," Fritz said. "We make sure that these kittens and new mommas get all the medical care they need, both pre- and

post-natal — everything from basic vaccinations to ultrasounds are done to help give these families a head start on their way to becoming members of new human families."

Pottery lab cats

Blosser lives with three rescue cats and has fond memories of the lab cats at OCC. The final lab-cat-in-residence, Luckey, had run of the pottery studio until 2010 when Charlie Blosser retired. The cat was

adopted by a family in Ferndale. Charlie Blosser died in 2014.

"He put his mark on many a pot," Blosser recalled one of the lab cats. "He would come up and give you a purr and rub your leg and you'd stop throwing (clay) and play with the cat. A lot of students would bring treats and food."

Like the lab cats, her own felines have the run of her home.

"The only place they don't go is the studio," she said.

For more about Potters Market visit thepottersmarket.com.

For New Beginnings Animal Rescue, visit nbarmichigan.org. Or visit its Facebook page.

sdargay@hometownlife.com
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

A purr-fect partnership

Furry Friends Rescue hits 500 mark for feline adoptions at Pet Supplies Plus

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Furry Friends Rescue met the 500 mark of finding homes for cats and kittens Sunday at Pet Supplies Plus in South Lyon.

More impressive is that many of the animals it placed weren't the most desired felines.

Some were old, middle aged, shy or depressed, and others were black, typically not the most desirable of choices for many people. Furry Friends started making cats available for adoption out of the store when it opened in October 2012.

"It's outstanding," Susan Brown Furry Friends Rescue volunteer, said. "We get a lot of cats adopted there that don't have much chance at the shelter."

Brighton-based Furry Friends Rescue has three cages that are usually filled with cats from the Livingston County Animal Shelter in Howell.

Second chance

The store at Pontiac Trail and Nine Mile provides more hours and foot traffic than the shelter, Brown said.

Last year, 139 cats and kittens made available at Pet Supplies Plus found homes. Of those, 61 were adult cats, at least one year old. One cat was 10 years old and another was 12 years old. Older cats aren't typically the first choice of most peo-



Susan Brown, a volunteer with Furry Friends Rescue, celebrates the group's 500th cat adoption at South Lyon's Pets Supplies Plus. Brown holds up Alex a 6-year-old domestic short hair that's available to a good home.

ple looking to bring a pet home, Brown noted.

Many of the cats were shy, depressed or scared, Brown said, adding that some of the cats had all three conditions. Furry Friends Rescue volunteers visit the store throughout the day to interact with the felines, and that often helps build their socialization skills.

Many of the cats had been abused, were strays or came from hoarders. Sometimes people surrendered their cats, because they could no longer care for the animals due to downsizing, they didn't have the money or they were moving and couldn't bring their cats to their new homes.

"There's all kinds of sad stories with people who have become homeless and couldn't take care of their cats," Brown said. "At the shelter they get tossed in a cage and they don't know what's happening."

Personality make over

One cat recently was hissing and growling at the back of a cage at the shelter, Brown said.

"We get them to the store and we start working with them, they come out of their shells and become more adoptable," Brown said. "One cat came to the shelter last March. We got her up to the store in February and we had her adopted in four days. There was another with the same situation, and both were black cats."

Furry Friends Rescue is a 501-3C charity that started in 2008 finding homes for cats and dogs. Pet Supplies Plus doesn't house dogs for adoption.

Anyone interested in volunteering with Furry Friends Rescue should call Brown at 810-599-7567.

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