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WAYNE-WESTLAND
OBSERVER

SUNDAY 03.13.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Westland water rate increase approved

LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

Westland water customers will see a 2.35-percent water/sewer rate increase, effective July 1.

A 6.5-percent increase in the wholesale water rate for Westland had been approved by the Great Lakes Water Au-

thority. "The increases we proposed for residents are much lower," Westland Budget Director Debra Peck said.

The rate per unit of water, 1,000 gallons, will increase 12 cents to \$4.42, which is 2.8 percent. The city is not seeking any increase in the fixed-rate charge added to offset the

GLWA fixed charge.

Wayne County is increasing sewer rates 16 cents to \$5.70, a 2.9-percent hike. Based on an average usage of 13.5 water units per two-month billing, Peck said the bill would increase \$3.78 or \$22.68 annually.

On a related issue, Westland Mayor William Wild said water testing kits had been dropped

off by a contractor and subsequently distributed in the area bounded by Palmer to Glenwood, Wayne Road to Wildwood.

The council followed Wild's recommendation for water testing in that area after allegations from Department of Public Services worker Frank Raymore that the city hadn't

replaced lead water main leads.

"The contractor will mail the results of the testing next week and then we will have a presentation," Wild said.

The city hosted a forum following the allegations in which officials from the GLWA

See WATER, Page A2



Eighth-grader Allie Rupert participated in Franklin Middle School's History Day with a presentation on Dr. Nathan Thomas.

Development sought for city property

LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

A recommendation that the former Westland City Hall site and other adjoining municipal property be actively marketed for development has been approved by the city council.

The recommendation came from the city's property disposition committee consisting of Mayor William Wild, council President James Godbout and Planning/Building Director Bruce Thompson.

The 12.5-acre site, on the south side of Ford at Carlson, currently holds the former city hall and the closed Bailey Recreation Center, both expected to be demolished within 30-60 days. The former Fire Station No. 1 has already been demolished, as has the nearby former Michigan Motors building which the city acquired last year.

Responding to questions from council members, Thompson said the Downtown Development Authority had hired McKenna Associates to conduct a market study. A request for proposals was also issued, but no responses were received. The city moved into a new city hall, a former Circuit City store on Warren Road, in 2014.

"It's similar to what we did with the Service Merchandise property," Thompson said. "We put a sign out saying the property is available for development. If a developer is in the city and is interested, they can be directed to us."

The city had purchased the long-closed Service Merchandise property and demolished the building. A new Fire Station No. 1 was constructed at the northern portion of the property along Central City Parkway.

The balance of the Service Merchandise property has also been offered for development, so far without takers.

"We let people know of the potential for development," Thompson said.

With the former municipal property, Councilman Kevin Coleman said the city wants to keep its options open when it comes to redevelopment.

"It holds a special place in the city. Some want recreation. We need to be open to options. Having something up to par with a prominent site should be kept in mind moving forward," Coleman said.

The Ford Road property is currently zoned for office/business, Thompson said, which is a restrictive zoning classification. Going forward, he said, he expected there would be a mixed use on the property likely as a Planned Unit Development.

Councilman Michael Kehrer commented that he was concerned that the map of the property being offered for development included all the parking lots, including one

See PROPERTY, Page A2

Middle school students advance to History Day state finals

Lynn D'Angelo and Sharon Sullivan, social studies teachers at Stevenson Middle School, sponsored 26 students as they competed at the Regional History Day competition held at the Detroit Historical Museum.

The students were chosen as finalists at the Stevenson History Day competition, when they competed along with more than 100 of their classmates.

History Day is an opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge based on the yearly theme. This year's theme is Exploration, Encounter and Exchange. Students compete as individuals or groups. It's Stevenson Middle School's first time competing at the regional competition.

At the regional event, several students were declared finalists and are now moving on to the state competition April 30 in Bay City.

» Historical Papers — Kathryn Bigelow (seventh grade), The Silk Road; Lonna Brown (seventh grade), The Silk Road: A Journey of Exploration, Encounter, Exchange, and Cultural Diffusion; Lilly Peters (seventh



Eighth-graders Ashley Taylor, Nina Scarpelli and Letisia Kape with their Amelia Earhart display.

WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOLS

See HISTORY, Page A2

Efforts underway to raise money for Wayne fire department

LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

Due to its ongoing financial problems, including a more than \$2 million deficit in the current fiscal year, Wayne hasn't allocated money for fire department equipment purchases in several years.

Concerns about how long equipment — specifically, the jaws of life — would continue to operate caused Wayne Fire Capt. Fred Gilstorf to start looking at alternatives.

"We filed for a grant two months ago, but didn't get it. We haven't heard about a second one," said Gilstorf, who then started quietly seeking donations to fund the \$27,000

price tag for a new jaws of life. "It's been four or five years without any capital outlay."

Wayne's jaws of life work at present, but Gilstorf notes that is more than 20 years old and the back-up unit is even older.

"This issue is with the power unit; it smokes real bad when it starts. It's really on its last leg," he said. "The guy who does the maintenance says there is no use putting money into it — it's just a question of when it will die."

Another problem is with the cutter used to shear vehicle door hinge parts attaching to the roof.

"The auto manufacturers



Presenting a \$1,000 donation to the Wayne Fire Department to help pay for a new jaws of life and other equipment are (from left) Wayne-Ford Civic League staff member Robin Dzugan, Wayne-Westland Fire Sgt. Rob Caccoa, Jackie Davis, Vic Barra, Melissa June and Wayne-Westland Fire Capt. Andy Stager.

See FIRE, Page A2



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FIRE

Continued from Page A1

put boron in the supports of new vehicles. That requires 300,000 psi; our cutter is only 120,000 psi," Gilstorf said. "If we use an alternate method, it can take a lot longer. We use a reciprocating saw, then we go through the blades and it creates sparks. The less sparks the better for the safety of firefighters and citizens."

The jaws of life is a piece of equipment that firefighters use 10-15 times annually, he said, adding, "When you need it, you need it. In our line of work, the faster you take care of people, the

better."

Another advantage with a new jaws of life unit, Gilstorf said, is that it is battery-powered. The existing unit is powered using hydraulic hoses.

"It takes a little time to get operating. The battery-operated one, you just take it off the truck and go," he said. "It's easy to use if an accident is way off the road."

While the Wayne and Westland fire departments have a merged operationally and share a fire chief, Gilstorf noted that each department is responsible for purchasing its own equipment. The fundraising will go for Wayne equipment.

"We have two separate budgets, (labor) contracts and we are responsible

for our own stuff," he said. "We show up every day to do our jobs and the best for the citizens. Being broke as the city is, the funds are drying up."

Gilstorf is getting close to raising enough to pay for a new jaws of life. Since word got out about Gilstorf's fundraising efforts, donations have been coming in, including \$1,000 from the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

Wayne residents Alfred and Bernadette Brock and Sammy Wilingham have organized a two-part fundraiser to help buy a new jaws of life and other equipment needed by Wayne firefighters.

The event, "Saving Lives is Their Mission, Saving Their Equipment

is Ours," is scheduled for 12:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Avenue. There will be glow bowling and face painting for kids. The cost is \$10 per person.

Part two is 8-11 p.m. the same day for adults. The cost is \$15 per person and there will be raffles and gift baskets. Tickets are available at Wayne City Hall and the Wayne Fire Station. Also look for the event Facebook page.

Donations can also be made directly. Mail any donations Attn: Capt. Gilstorf, Wayne Westland Fire Department, 3355 Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. Make checks payable to: Wayne Westland Public Awareness.

HISTORY

Continued from Page A1

grade) Ada King Lovelace: The First Computer Program.

» Individual Documentaries — Abigail Kulas (seventh grade), The New York Stock Exchange: How the NYSE Effected the Economy; Kathleen Gregones (seventh grade), April 21,

1926: The Day the Most Remarkable Woman was Born.

» Individual Exhibits — Jessica Florn (seventh grade), The Louisiana Purchase; Jillian Downey (seventh grade), NASA's Exploration to the Moon.

» Group Exhibits — Ashley Taylor, Nina Scarpelli and Letisia Kape (eighth grade), Amelia Earhart; Angelina Mattioli and Erin Knape (seventh grade), The

Lewis and Clark Expedition; McKenna May and Karina Vazquez (seventh grade), Transatlantic Slave Trade.

» Individual Websites — Savannah Lefler (seventh grade), The History of Coca Cola; Jayla Lowry (seventh grade), The Wright Brothers.

» Group Websites — Kyiana Parrom and Elizabeth Ezeoke (eighth grade), Native American Cultural Genocide; Jack

Mortson, Zachary Sicilia, Avery Hayes and Brendan Schema (eighth grade), James Madison and the Constitution; Jovan Robinson, Brendan Lowry and Shawn Brown (eighth grade), The French Exploration.

Franklin Middle School held its school-wide History Day on March 3 for students in the advanced social studies classes. Results are pending.

PROPERTY

Continued from Page A1

used by 18th District Court.

"Certainly, we would keep parking if the city partners with a developer or whatever. Part of the planning would be the zoning," Thompson

said. "We would look at mixed use and lock in key components — not just Tattan Park, but parking. We would look at a redesign with shared parking."

The map provided was only for demonstration purposes, he said, adding it was really an open book.

Some council mem-

bers recently complained about a project approved for construction of a new strip center, citing existing vacant commercial space. It was noted that city couldn't stop a property owner from developing land within its zoning classification.

"The council action today gives no authority

to sell the property. It's like the strip mall," City Attorney James Fausone said. "The city doesn't have to sell the land to anyone it doesn't want to sell to. The city ultimately controls the sale."

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WATER

Continued from Page A1

reported on testing, which has not found high lead levels in Westland, about water treatment to address concerns about corrosion that resulted in high lead levels in Flint.

The city has also replaced its lead water main leads going to homes.

At a recent city council meeting, Raymore repeated allegations that DPS crews had routinely dumped raw sewage into the wooded property behind the DPS yard on Marquette. He cited a

letter from a former DPS worker who retired in 2010.

Department of Environmental Quality staff inspected the property and didn't support the allegations. At the recommendation of City Attorney James Fausone, DPS did announcement new written policies

were being developed. Additional training for staff was recommended by Fausone.

"There is no evidence of raw sewage at DPS," DPS Director Ramzi El-Gharib said.

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Franklin Players give 'Joseph' their version of his 'Dreamcoat'

The Franklin Players will take audiences on an incredible journey that weaves a timeless Biblical tale with musical numbers and carefully crafted costumes and sets, when they present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," taking the stage March 17-20 at Franklin High School.

Follow Joseph, the favored of Jacob's 12 sons, as he is despised and sold into slavery by his jealous siblings, wrongly accused and jailed, then held in highest regard when his gift for interpreting dreams is revealed.

The show features more than 35 Franklin students on stage and is directed by Colleen Meyer and Steven V. Rice with FHS choir director Marilee Olsen serving as music director; Molly Zaleski, choreography; Rachel Corp, stage manager; Deb Marlett and Kristine Brothers, costumes.

"I've never been so proud of the Franklin Players," Meyer said. "Our students shine in this truly amazing production. It's the perfect show for families to enjoy. This high energy, colorful, toe-tapping musical sensation is not to be missed! I strongly encourage the Livonia community to come out to see the talent Franklin has to offer."

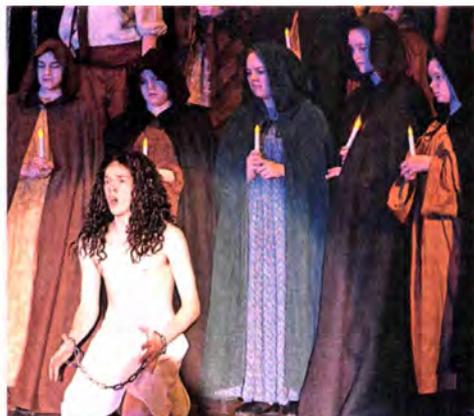
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" opens at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, and continues with 7 p.m. performances Friday and Saturday, March 18-19, and a 2 p.m. show Sunday, March 20. Tickets are \$10 at the door (ticket sales begin 40 minutes prior to show time or can be purchased in advance in the



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Alexandra Voss, as Mrs. Potiphar, puts the smooth moves on Joseph, played by Bryan Gerathy.



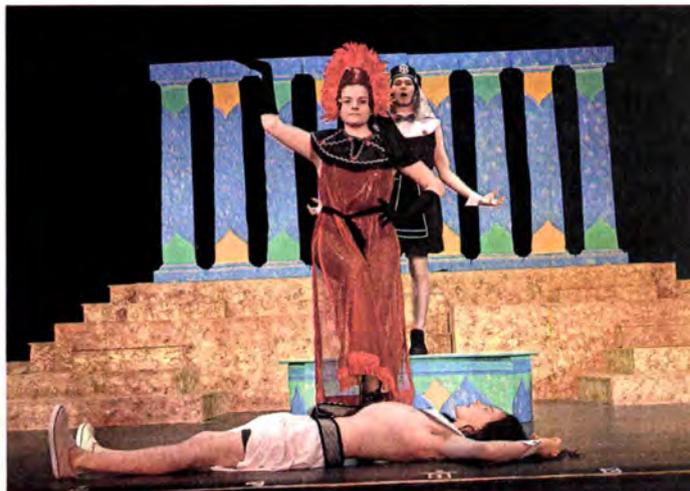
LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Joseph, played by Bryan Gerathy, tries to console a fretting baker, played by Lily Ramirez.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Joseph, played by Bryan Gerathy, surrounded by townspeople in a scene from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Alex Meyer plays the role of Levi and also a butler in the Franklin Players production.



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Mrs. Potiphar, played by Alexandra Voss, stands over a defeated Joseph, played by Bryan Gerathy.

main office at FHS from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Franklin High School is at 31000 Joy Road. Call 734-744-2655, ext. 73088, for more information or go to franklinplayer-s.com.

The main cast includes Bryan Gerathy as

Joseph; Rebecca Piasentin, Willow Hockett, Alyssa Facione and Lily Trombley as narrators; Thomas Caprara as Pharaoh/Dan; Darren Prater as Jacob/Potiphar; Alexandra Voss as Mrs. Potiphar; Colin Tracy as Isaac; Andrew Good-

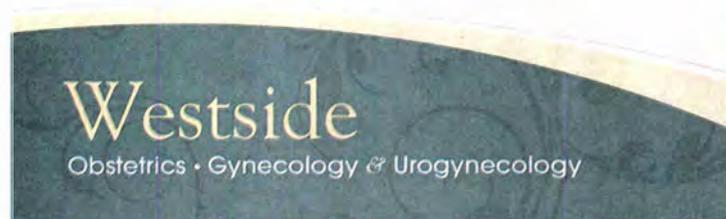
ing as Simeon; Luke Melville as Judah; Patrick Rupp as Gad; Ashton Williams as Zebulon; Richard Nuss as Naphtali; Dean Kallis as Benjamin; Alex Bartley Livingston as Asher; Stephen Adams as Rueben; Alex Meyer as Buttler/

Levi; and Lily Ramirez as Baker.

Wives include Rachel Barczuk, Addi Helz, Lily Ramirez, Susan Smith, Alexandra Voss, Samantha Whitaker, Hannah Johns, Bella Carpenter, Riley Courter, Heidi Viland and Kegan Elin-

sky.

The ensemble includes Grace Forte, Emma Linton, Carissa Johnson, Madeline Tripp, Luke Jachman, Josh Barns, Caleb Bonno, Chris Woods and Griffin Mang.



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Website launched to update I-275 construction project

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Warmer weather means it's almost time for construction season.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is prepping for major work on Interstate 275 through Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi that will close one side of the heavily-traveled freeway. The department just announced it plans to keep residents and motorists informed of the project via a new website with information, dubbed "Revive I-275." It can be found at revive275.com.

The website lists several aspects of the project, which will consist of replacement and repair of pavement from Five Mile to the I-696/I-96/M-5 interchange. Concrete shoulders are expected to be repaired; work on 16 bridges will also take place. There will also be sign replacement and Intelligent Transportation Systems work.

Southbound I-275 will close first, followed by northbound I-275 this summer once southbound work is complete. Other roads and bridges are expected to see work throughout the spring and summer as well. I-696 from east of Lahser in Southfield to I-275 will also be



FILE PHOTO

No start date has yet been announced for the I-275 construction project.

closed for two weekends during the project as well.

No start date announced

Work is expected to begin this spring, but no start date has been announced. Diane Cross, a spokeswoman for MDOT, said specific dates won't be determined until a contractor is officially selected.

"We hope to know the winning bidder, awarding of contract and start date in the next few weeks," she said.

The project's website states the specifics were advertised March 4 with bid results having been announced. Wixom-based Toebe Construction, LLC, is listed as the low bidder at about \$75.1 million and completing the work in 109 days, which is 9.5 percent less in costs and 45 days less than the

original estimate given by MDOT.

The website is the second catchy name for a local construction project in the last three years. "Fix96" was the designation given by MDOT during the I-96 reconstruction project in 2014.

MDOT held a public meeting on the project last fall, including sharing details of detours. Farmington Hills and Livonia both approved noise waivers for the agency to work on the project around-the-clock, though both city councils showed concern over noise for residents who live along the corridor.

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Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Redford man to stand trial in 2015 murder of Gorup

Scott Daniel
Staff Writer

A 44-year-old Redford Township man will stand trial June 6 in connection with the death of Ann Marie Gorup.

Dexter Lamar Williams is accused of killing and then mutilating the body of the 46-year-old woman last September in their Redford apartment in the 25000 block of Five Mile Road. If convicted, he could be sentenced up to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Williams, who is currently being held without bond, will appear April 8 in front of Circuit Judge Thomas Cameron for "final conference," Wayne County Prosecutor spokesperson Maria Miller said. The purpose of the conference is to argue final motions, confirm the trial date or complete a plea agreement.

Miller declined to comment on the possibility of a plea. Repeated attempts by the Observer to contact Williams' defense attorney, Samuel Churikian, were unsuccessful.

The body of Gorup was found by Redford police officers shortly after entering the apartment Sept. 21, 2015. Police were called to do a wellness check after Gorup failed to show up for work earlier that day.



FILE PHOTO

Dexter Williams (left) talks to defense attorney Samuel Churikian during his preliminary hearing.

Officers arrested Williams after discovering the body, which was missing both legs and at least one finger, according to testimony given at Williams' preliminary examination held Feb. 19 at Redford's 17th District Court. Officers discovered several large blood stains in the apartment, as well as several body parts.

Williams is charged with first-degree murder and mutilation of a dead body, which is a 10-year felony. He was arraigned in circuit court Feb. 26.

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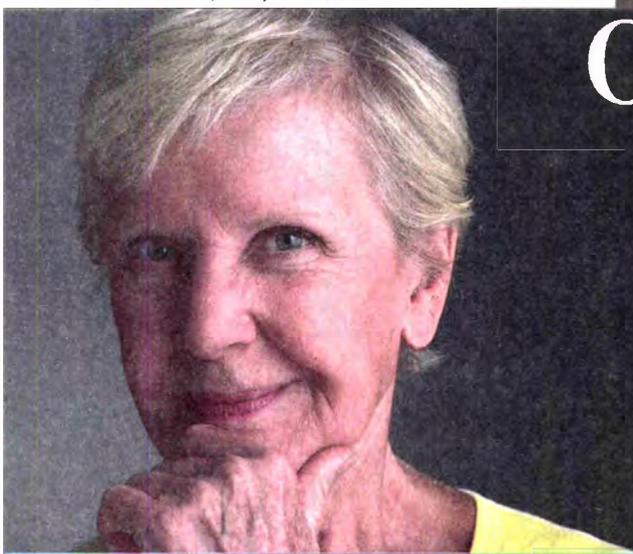
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11:40 - 12:35
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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

» On March 4, a resident in the 29000 block of Manchester told police that she had ordered several clothing items from Charlotte Russe valued at \$69. She said the items were never received, but the post office reported delivering the package to her front porch Feb. 13.

» A resident at the Westland Estates Apartments, 35260 Westland Estates Drive, told police March 4 that he had ordered a performance tuner which was supposed to be delivered March 1. He said UPS reported delivering the package on his porch, but it was never received.

Fraud

» A Westland woman told police March 4 that she was contacted by her credit union about a breach on her debit card

account. She said \$361 had been spent without authorization at O'Reilly's Auto Parts and T-Mobile in Chicago.

» On March 3, a Westland woman told police that about two weeks after obtaining a new bank debit card, she noticed an unauthorized charge of \$85 from a Foot Locker store. She said she was told it was likely an online charge.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident at the Scotsdale Apartments, 37740 Scotsdale Circle, told police March 1 that overnight someone had stolen all four tires and wheels from her vehicle in the parking lot. She said the vehicle was sitting on cinder blocks. The passenger window was broken and all of the lug nuts were on the ground.

— By LeAnne Rogers

LIVONIA COP CALLS

Retail fraud suspect returns to store

A store employee at Von Maur, 37500 Six Mile, came into the Livonia police station Thursday evening to report a retail fraud that had taken place.

The employee said a suspect was seen going into the dressing room with several items of clothing after he began looking around for nearby employees. The suspect then left the dressing room after a short time with the same number of items, though he returned later with other items. The second time, he left the dressing room with less items than he had before. He left the store without paying for any concealed merchandise. Store employees tried to stop him, but could not. He got into a vehicle and drove away. Less than 10 minutes

later, the suspect returned to the store and tried to return two pairs of shorts, including one that he was believed to have just taken. He fled the store when he was told a manager was needed to complete the return.

ID theft reported

A resident who lives in the 18500 block of Blue Skies came into the police station Thursday to report their identity had been stolen.

The resident said he and his wife filed their taxes electronically with an accountant. Later, he found out the return was rejected based on the fact someone had already attempted to file their taxes. He was advised to file a police report. No suspect information was available.

— By David Veselenak

Five Mile rollover accident sends one to hospital

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A motorist whose vehicle flipped over in a two-car accident Friday morning at Five Mile and Deering suffered just minor injuries.

Livonia police Sgt. Brian Leigh said late Friday morning the report for the incident had not yet been written up, but it was his understanding the driver in the SUV that turned upside was not severely injured.

"It sounds like there were minor injuries," he said.

The vehicle flipped after an accident took place and the two vehicles hit, causing one to roll over. The other vehicle involved appeared to have damage done to the back end, including the bumper.

Shivam Chandra, a student at Detroit Novi Catholic Central High School who was off school Friday, said he heard a loud noise from his house nearby and later came out to see what happened.

"First, we heard a big screech," he said. "Like something got



DAVID VESELENAK

Livonia fire officials observe a vehicle that had flipped after an accident Friday near Five Mile and Deering. The driver was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

crunched."

Livonia police and fire officials responded and got the driver out of the flipped vehicle and took her to the hospital. The car was then flipped over and towed, along with the other vehicle involved. Fire officials also worked to absorb the spilled gasoline from the flipped vehicle as well.

Livonia resident Tim Biegas, a friend of the driver whose vehicle flipped, said he received a call from her after the accident. He said she told him she was feeling all right.

"She said she's OK, but

they're going to check her out," he said.

Leigh said the investigation into the incident was ongoing Friday.

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Livonia lawyer eyes seat on circuit court bench

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Melissa Cox knew from her pre-teen years she was going to be a lawyer and she's been one for eight years.

Now Cox, a Livonia resident who went to Ladywood High School, wants to take the next step up the legal ladder. A Northville native, Cox has joined some two dozen candidates for four open seats on the Wayne County Circuit Court.

"I knew I was going to be an attorney when I was in middle school," said Cox, for the last eight years a lawyer (plus two years as a law clerk) at Northville-based Fausone-Bohn. "Because that seed was planted so early, it was always in my head that I'd be a judge."

She believes she's built a case (pardon the pun) for it in her eight years at Fausone-Bohn. She's handled municipal accounts, she's been an assistant city attorney for Wayne and Westland and she's had a family

law practice handling divorce, adoption and child custody cases.

It's a skill set she believes is more well-rounded — particularly the family law component — than the other candidates getting into the race can offer.

"I've prosecuted cases, so I know the criminal court well," said Cox, who got her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan and her juris doctor degree from Ave Maria University when it was still in Ann Arbor. "My own clients are family law and I've defended cities in civil court. Nobody really has the experience I have. I have eight solid years in each of those areas."

The family law bench is where she wants to eventually end up. As the mother of two, Cox believes that's her strength.

"It's harder to see what's best for a child if you can't put yourself in the shoes of that child," she said. "It's very frustrating for me not to be able to make the deci-



Kevin and Melissa Cox with their children, Beckham, Harper and Elle.

sions that are important, especially when it comes to children."

Cox may have an ad-

vantage she can't help: her last name. She's no relation to former Michigan Attorney Mike Cox

or his wife, current state Rep. Laura Cox, but Melissa Cox knows name recognition often works

in mysterious ways.

"I always knew I wanted to be a judge," Cox said. "The appeal (in this election) is my last name, plus there are four open seats. That's rare."

She's getting quite a bit of support, including the endorsement of the Association of Wayne County Police Chiefs. Also backing her, according to a list on her website (www.melissacoxforjudge.com) are 17 judges, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright and Westland City Council President James Godbout.

But the most important endorsement came from her home base: husband Kevin Cox. The couple lives in Livonia with their three children, 5-year-old Elle, 4-year-old Harper and 18-month-old Beckham.

"My husband has always been my biggest fan," Cox said. "He said, 'I know you're going to win and I think you should do this.'"

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bill introduced to seek water testing at schools

Michigan House Democratic Whip state Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, has introduced legislation that would require a supplier of water to a non-public school to collect water samples from its drinking faucets at least once every three years. The water would then be analyzed for the presence of lead and all other contaminants for which there are state drinking water standards.

"Neither parents nor children should have to worry about whether

their school drinking water is safe," Kosowski said. "Children need to have access to clean water during the day to help them stay focused in their studies."

The legislation will hopefully provide peace of mind to both parents and children that they can safely consume the drinking water at non-public schools, Kosowski said, and show that Michigan is dedicated to providing a healthy learning environment for its kids.

Easter Egg-Stravaganza is Saturday

It's time for the annual Easter Egg-Stravaganza hosted by the Westland Area Jaycees.

This year's event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League. It begins at 10 a.m. with pancake breakfast.

There will be indoor crafts and free photos with the Easter Bunny after breakfast. Other activities during the event will include face painting, a disc jockey and a cake walk. Admission is \$2 for children ages 2-12 and \$1 for adults and children over 12.

"This year, we are having two Easter egg

hunts by age group," Westland Area Jaycees President Sarah Austin said. "Once you pay \$2, everything is free."

The Easter egg hunts will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It's a rain or shine event, so participants are encouraged to dress appropriately.

Membership in the Westland Area Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) is open to local residents ages 21-40, who bring energy and insight to solving problems. The group's mission is to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change in their communities.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wish you were here



Mike and Christina Martin and Maureen and Len Wilkie, all of Livonia, recently took a cruise to St. Maarten/St. Kitts. And, of course, they took their Livonia Observer with them.

St. Patrick's Day dinners

» American Legion Post 32 hosts a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Thursday, March 17, at the post, 9318 Newburgh, in Livonia.

The cost for the corned beef & cabbage dinner is \$10; for a corned beef sandwich with pickle and horseradish, it's \$7. Serving from noon to 7 p.m.; carryouts are available. The event is open to the public.

» St. John's Episcopal Church hosts a St. Patrick's Day dinner 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at the church, 555 S. Wayne Road (between Cherry Hill and Palmer), in Westland.

The menu includes a corned beef dinner, dessert, beverage and fun activities.

For more information or tickets, call 734-721-5023.

Shuffle card party

St. Thomas the Apostle Shamrock hosts a Shuffle card party Wednesday, March 16. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., in the St. Raphael Activities Building, 31530 Merriman (two blocks north of Ford Road), in Garden City.

An \$8 ticket includes dessert, coffee, Blarney bags, table and door prizes. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, pop, chips and water can be purchased.

For more information, call 734-422-8465 or 734-427-1533.

Spring bazaar

St. John's Episcopal Church hosts its Spring Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the church, 555 S. Wayne Road.

The event features arts, crafts, baked goods, etc., with lunch available. For more information, call 734-721-5023 (11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Lymphoma fundraiser

The Lymphoma Research Foundation, Take-down Wrestling Alliance

and Family Video sponsor a fundraiser for lymphoma research 4-6 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at 146 S. Venoy in Westland.

The event will feature TWA stars taking pictures and signing autographs. TWA stars scheduled to appear include Machine Gun Kelly, Jamal King, Big Gun Jay Abrams, Jerome Pruitt and Lou Crank.

Coffee hours

» Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson and state Reps. Robert Kosowski and Julie Plawewski will be hosting their normally scheduled monthly coffee hour event in Westland 9-10 a.m. Monday, March 14, at Mr. Mike's Grill, 6047 N. Wayne Road. State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood is also expected to attend as a co-host and special guest.

» State Sen. David Knezek will join Anderson and Plawewski for a similar coffee 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Michigan Room at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood.

Residents are encouraged to attend and discuss issues of importance to them. Citizens who have questions or concerns in the meantime are encouraged to contact any of the elected officials via email: Hopgood (senhhopgood@senate.michigan.gov); Kosowski (robertkosowski@house.mi.gov); Plawewski (julieplawewski@house.mi.gov); Knezek (sendknezek@senatemichigan.gov) and Anderson (district12@waynecounty.com).

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.

Mom2Mom sale

The Garden City High School Mom2Mom Sale takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the high school, 6500 Middlebelt. Sellers and shoppers will get good deals on new and gently used baby and kids' clothes as well as toys, games, DVDs, books, strollers, bikes, swings, bouncers, etc.

There will be more than 85 tables to shop from, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is only \$1 (\$2 for early bird at 8:30 a.m.). Tables are \$25 for an 8-foot table/chair including standard rack space (you provide rack).

For more information including the table

agreement, go to www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale or send an email to gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com.

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 from sacred dances of indigenous North Americans to Irish jigs to Spanish flamencos 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.

Knezek hours

State Sen. David Knezek, D-Dearborn

announced coffee hours in Redford and Garden City to be held Monday, March 14.

The Garden City coffee hour runs 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood.

The Redford coffee hour takes place 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Redford Township District Library, 25320 Six Mile.

Knezek's district includes the cities of Detroit, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, and Redford Township. For more information, contact Knezek by phone at 517-373-0994 or by email at sendknezek@senate.michigan.gov.

Colbeck hours

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and District Manager Penny Crider will hold monthly office hours for March in Livonia on Friday, March 18, from 11 a.m. until noon. The office hours will be held at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center and will be open to the public.

Colbeck will be on

hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. No appointment is necessary.

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

For more information or to contact Colbeck, please visit www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

Historical society meets

On Monday, March 21, 2 PM, The Livonia Historical Society presents "Old Stores a Downtown Detroit," a PowerPoint program by Mike Hauser, Monday, March 21 at 2 p.m. Hauser has served as guest curator for exhibits at the Detroit Historical Museum and co-authored five books including "49th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit."

The meeting is at the Friend's Meeting House next to the General Store at Greenmead, Livonia's Historical Park. Park in front on the south side of the road. Enter Greenmead off Newburgh just south of Eight Mile Rd.

Public welcome. No charge. For information, call 734-416-3848.

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.

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

CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 4 of Act 207 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1921, as amended, the City Zoning Act (MSA 5.2934; MCLA 125.584) as well as Article XXIII of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the Council of the City of Livonia on **Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.**, in the auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:

Petition 2016-01-06-01 submitted by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 23.01(b) of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, as amended, proposing to amend Section 11.03 of Article XI, C-2 District Regulations, to allow indoor, climate-controlled self-storage facilities as a waiver.

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Published: March 13, 2016

INVITATION TO BID BID NUMBER T7 BUS CAMERA SYSTEMS FOR LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education ("Owner") will receive firm, sealed bid proposals for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the T7 Bus Camera Systems bid package.

Electronic downloads of the bid documents can be obtained on or after March 2, 2016 by filling out the form at <http://goo.gl/forms/080vadQBxl>. If hard copies of the documents are needed, they will be printed at the bidder's expense. Request hard copies by calling (248) 436-5846 or emailing kevin.colbert@bartonmalow.com.

Sealed bids labeled "BID NO. T7 - Bus Camera Systems" are due by 11:00 a.m. on the 23rd day of March, 2016 at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. All vendors are invited to attend opening. Bid Proposals received after the due date will not be considered or accepted. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

A pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for March 4, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Administration Building Conference Room A, located at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. This pre-bid meeting is not mandatory, but is highly recommended.

Questions pertaining to this request for proposal should be submitted by 12:00 p.m. March 14, 2016 to rob.greager@bartonmalow.com or kevin.colbert@bartonmalow.com.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award to other than the low bidder, to waive any irregularities and/or informalities and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district including awarding by line item with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

All bidders must complete the following disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Public Schools Board, the Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or the Livonia Public Schools Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Wayne RESA Board or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized affidavit of compliance - Iran Economics Sanctions Act of 2012. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

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

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission. All bids must be submitted on the attached bid form and signed by the bidder. Three (3) signed copies of the bid form are to be addressed to the attention of:

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools,
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154-5474

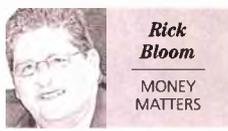
"BID NO. T7 - Bus Camera Systems"

Published: March 13, 2016

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Weigh pros and cons of a pension or lump sum payout

Dear Rick: I have a situation I hope you can help me with. I am in my mid-60s and will be retiring at the end of the year. My company has offered me a buyout on my pension. I had my accountant look at the numbers and he thought that the buyout number was fair. My question to you is what things should I consider in deciding to take the lump sum or to take the pension? You should know that I am a conservative investor and, in addition to my pension, I have about \$250,000 in my 401(k) and another couple of hundred thou-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

sand dollars in investments outside of my retirement accounts. The way I figure it is that my pension, plus Social Security, along with about another \$500 a month, should more than cover my living expenses.

A: In reviewing your situation, I like what you initially did. You talked to someone to make sure that at least the computation on the lump sum was fair. I always think

You would be better off to take the pension as opposed to the lump sum. Because you will currently need the income ... it makes more sense to take the pension.

that is one of the first things people should do. On the whole, most companies are fair when it comes to buyouts; many companies are very generous. On the other hand, not surprisingly, there are companies that are not employee-friendly when it comes to buyouts.

The first thing you need to look at is your individual situation. What type of investor are you? Are you the

type of investor who is going to take this money and invest it in things such as CDs and U.S. treasuries or are you an investor who accepts volatility and is willing to invest the money long term? If you're the type of investor who is going to invest the money in things such as CDs and U.S. treasuries, then it leans toward not taking the buyout. If you're the type of investor who accepts volatility and

risk and can keep the money invested for the long term, taking the buyout generally makes more sense.

Another issue is when you are going to need income from the money. If you need the income currently to cover your living expenses, it leans more toward the pension. If you do not need the income for a number of years and you can let the money continue to reinvest and grow, then it leans toward taking the buyout.

In your situation, I would not take the buyout. You would be better off to take the pension as opposed to the

lump sum. Because you will currently need the income and you are a conservative investor, it makes more sense to take the pension.

One last note — it is important that you invest some of your other money for long-term growth. I believe your cost of living will go up, not down, and having money invested for long-term growth will protect you.

Good luck!

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.

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Year	Make	Model	VIN	Color	Reason	Plate	Lot
2000	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1NE52J2Y6102900	MALIBU	EVIDENCE	1506126	1
2005	VOLKSWAGEN	SW	WVGGB77L95D011488	TOUAREG	ARREST	1600553	2
2000	PONTIAC	4D	1G2NE52T22YM862804	GRAND AM	ARREST	1600728	3
1998	PONTIAC	2D	1G2WP12K2WF204691	GRAND PRIX	ARREST	1600784	4
2005	CHRYSLER	SW	1C4GM68475R549949	PACIFICA	FIRE	1600862	5
2003	BUICK	SW	3G5DA03E89S536379	RENDEZVOUS	ARREST	1600904	6
2009	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1ZG57B294199509	MALIBU	ABANDONED	1600954	7
1999	DODGE	SW	1B4GP44G8XB561549	CARAVAN	FIRE	1600971	8
2007	CHEVROLET	4D	1G1AL55FX77193208	COBALT	ACCIDENT	1600974	9
1993	SATURN	4D	1G8ZK557P2339410	TWIN CAM	ARREST	1600998	10
2002	BUICK	4D	2G4WS52J321213695	CENTURY	ACCIDENT	1601036	11
1999	LINCOLN	4D	1LNHM97V5XY6303357	CONTINENTAL	ACCIDENT	1601045	12
2002	CHRYSLER	SW	2C4GP74L12R538643	TOWN&COUNTRY	ARREST	1601069	13
2008	CHRYSLER	SW	3A8FY48B58T121355	PT CRUISER	ARREST	1601129	14
2002	DODGE	PU	1B7GL42X02S528507	DEKOTA	ARREST	1601168	15
2002	OLDSMOBILE	4D	2G3NL52F22C244214	ALERO	HAZARD	1601310	16
2005	CHRYSLER	4D	2C4GF68435R381198	PACIFICA	ABANDONED	16054 LIVONIA	17
2002	DODGE	4D	2B3HD46R82H178579	INTREPID	TITLE	TITLE	18

Published: March 13, 2016

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Steppingstone hosts annual science fair

Students at Steppingstone School for Gifted Education in Farmington Hills last week participated in their annual science fair. Unlike similar events, the purpose behind this science fair was to teach students the basics of experimental design and what constitutes a research protocol that will result in legitimate conclusions based on hard data.

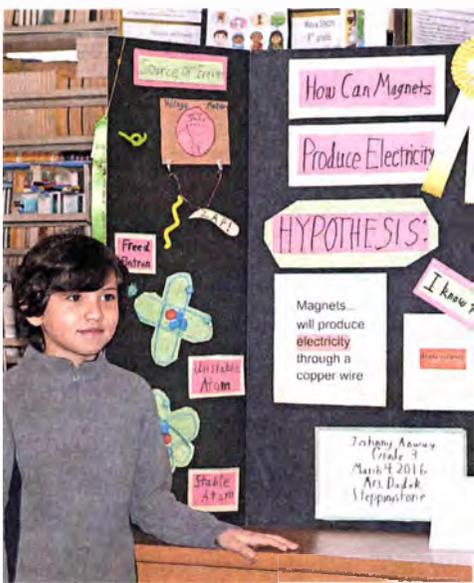
It's an ambitious goal and one that came to fruition after about three years of development. This year, fourth-grader Kenji Farrell and eighth-grader Maya Sheth received awards for Scientific Merit. Third-grader Johnny Anway and eighth-grader Ethan Bush received awards for Quality of Presentation Boards.

Every student from young-K through eighth

grade participates in this long-term independent study. If the child can't read, materials are read to them. If the child can't write, the child traces over text that was dictated by the child, but originally written by the parent or teacher.

However, even the youngest has no difficulty explaining what he or she did, what happened and what was concluded. This year's youngest student was kindergartner Jasmin Alaouie.

Research topics ranged from seventh-grader Katarina Jevtic's question about the inheritance of fingerprint patterns and third-grader Johnny Anway's question about how magnets produce electricity to sixth-grader Brooke Whitney's question about the rate of evaporation of different solutions.



Steppingstone third-grader Johnny Anway discussed his science fair experiment that answered his question, "how can magnets produce electricity?"



Rodhe Brothers Excavating, Inc., is one of the companies helping Kal Hakkani's team get bottled water to Flint.

Canton effort sends 6,000 bottles of water to Flint

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Canton man's effort to help Flint residents plagued by lead-contaminated water has led to nearly 30,000 bottles of water being collected.

The latest collection by Kal Hakkani and a team of helpers brought in just over 6,000 bottles of water dropped off by donors March 5 behind the Canton Administration Building. It was hosted by Livonia-based EZ Run Events, where Hakkani is chief executive officer.

"It's going to a good cause," he said.

Saginaw-based Rodhe Brothers Excavating, Inc., has delivered the latest cases of water to a distribution point in Flint, where it is given directly to Flint resi-



This is one of the efforts by Canton resident Kal Hakkani and a team of helpers, who have now collected nearly 30,000 bottles of water to help Flint residents.

pulling together to make it happen," he said.

Hakkani's water-collection efforts in Canton came after EZ Run Events — specializing in 5K races and other events — initiated similar events in Livonia along with Quality Line Services, a Livonia company where Hakkani is vice president of operations.

Altogether, Hakkani and his helpers have collected 29,282 bottles of water for Flint residents.

Hakkani is a 2006 graduate of Plymouth High School and, as a Canton resident, said he wanted to get the Canton community involved alongside Livonia in the Flint project. He said additional bottled water drives will be organized.

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CITY OF LIVONIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 4 of Act 207 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1921, as amended, the City Zoning Act (MSA 5.2934; MCLA 125.584) as well as Article XXIII of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the Council of the City of Livonia on **Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.**, in the Auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:
PETITION 2016-01-01-02 submitted by Livonia Office Center pursuant to Section 23.01(b) of Zoning Ordinance No. 543, as amended, to rezone the property located on the north side of Seven Mile Road between Inkster & Middlebelt Roads (28200 Seven Mile Road) in the Southeast ¼ of Section 1, from OS (Office Services) to C-1 (Local Business).
SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK
Published: March 13, 2016

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Dorian Thompson met Hillary Clinton at a pre-debate event Saturday at the MGM Grand in Detroit.



Dorian Thompson said he worries the programs Bernie Sanders favors will hike his taxes.



Dorian Thompson met Donald Trump twice.



Dorian Thompson said he had a brief conversation with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.



Dorian Thompson grabs a selfie with Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the candidate for whom Thompson cast a ballot in his first election Tuesday.

Salem senior completes quest for photos with candidates

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Dorian Thompson has been missing a lot of school lately, but it's not like he's been spending the time playing video games.

And he's got photographic evidence to prove it.

Thompson, a senior at Salem High School in Canton, has been busy pursuing his passion — politics — by attending visits from just about every major political candidate chasing the presidency in the 2016 election.

Along the way, he's collected selfies with everyone except Ted Cruz, whose visit to Grand Rapids came with too little notice to allow Thompson to make it.

"This is my first time voting," the 18-year-old said. "I didn't want to just go by the (newspaper) clips and video (news) footage. I wanted to hear directly from them."

Politics has been a passion of his since boyhood. He said he read a book about presidents when he was 6 years old and has been hooked ever since. He wrote letters to legislators and sat in the front row at a town hall meeting with President Barack Obama when he was 11.

"Dorian is extremely interested in our political process," Salem High School English instructor David Krzysnik said. "I have never met a young man more enthralled with American politics, especially at the state and national levels."

As he prepared for his first election, Thompson started attending visits by the candidates from both parties and documenting them with selfies.

He said the pictures were an important part of his quest. "I've been playing a lot of hooky from school," he said. "I wanted to be able to show

my teachers I wasn't out wasting time."

His quest probably doesn't come as much of a surprise to any of his friends, family or teachers.

He met with each candidate at speaking engagements, hopping in his car and driving for hours — and miles.

Thompson said he's put some 13,000 miles on his car, including 4,000 just for this quest, in five months.

» **Donald Trump** — He's actually met Trump twice. The first time was in Grand Rapids, when he stood in line for six hours to be in the front row. He used a ruse to get Trump to pose for the selfie.

"I told him, 'Mr. Trump, my grandma wants a picture of us,'" Thompson said, smiling. "He said, 'You got it, man!' in that Trump voice of his."

The second time was at a rally in Warren, for which Thompson woke up at 2 a.m. That time, he said the photo

was for his mother.

» **John Kasich** — Thompson met the Ohio governor Feb. 16 (soon after Thompson's 18th birthday) at the Republican field office in Livonia. Kasich actually called on Thompson to ask a question, so Thompson asked him what he was going to do to keep Americans safe from threats like ISIS.

Thompson said Kasich told him he'd "build a Gulf War-style coalition" and then offered to make Thompson his vice president.

"I reminded him of that the second time I met him," Thompson said, laughing. "He remembered me."

The answer, the rest of Kasich's record and his performance in last week's Republican debate in Detroit were enough to convince Thompson, who cast his vote for Kasich in Tuesday's primary.

"He has a lot of experience

in the public and private sector ... he knows how to balance a budget," Thompson said.

"He knows how to be a legislator, as well as an executive. I think we need that."

» **Marco Rubio** — Thompson knows one of Rubio's campaign workers, who got him a choice spot in the front row at a Rubio rally. Rubio agreed to take the photo and the two had a conversation.

» **Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders** — Thompson met both at a pre-debate reception Saturday at the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit. He got his photo with Clinton as she worked the rope line, then did the same with Sanders when he came out.

Fulfilling the selfie quest fueled Thompson's desire to go into politics.

"I would love to run for office," Thompson said. "I'd like to start locally, make my way to Lansing and then make my way to Washington."

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New HR manager 'excited' to tackle Canton job

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

With Canton Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler departing April 30 for a new job, one of the top priorities for township Supervisor Phil LaJoy is choosing Mutchler's successor to lead the police and fire departments.

LaJoy will be aided in the process by Kerreen Conley, who starts her new job Monday as Canton's new human resources manager after

leaving a similar position in Redford.

Topping Conley's to-do list, LaJoy said, will be "helping me get a new public safety director" as Mutchler prepares to leave to become deputy director of police services in Northville Township. LaJoy said a meeting is expected March 21 with the Canton Merit



Conley

Commission to review the process.

Conley comes to Canton with 25 years of public sector experience, including stints as Ypsilanti finance director and Belleville city manager. She still lives in Belleville, where she serves as mayor, a part-time position.

Conley was chosen as Canton's new human resources manager after her predecessor, Gwyn Belcher, left for a new job in January after four years here.

Conley was among 113 applicants for the job and will have a starting salary of \$101,361 — an amount approved in late February by the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

"She is a very strong human resources manager," LaJoy said, citing Conley's vast experience.

During a telephone interview Thursday, Conley said her municipal experience spans three counties — Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw.

She said she is eager to start her job in Canton.

"It's a very progressive community," she said, saying it has a positive culture for employees.

Conley's duties will involve helping to negotiate contracts with employee unions, a task she has handled in other communities.

She was elected in November to her second four-year term as Belleville mayor, but she said it is a part-time position that will not affect her

full-time job in Canton.

Conley said she is ready to work in Canton with what she called a "solid" administration team.

"I like a challenge and I like the job itself," she said, adding later, "I am excited for the opportunity to serve Canton Township and look forward to working with an incredible team of people."

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Students tackle cancer in dodgeball tourney fundraiser

On Wednesday, March 2, students at Stevenson High School held their inaugural Coaches vs. Cancer Dodgeball Tournament and raised some \$470 in donations to benefit their Relay For Life of Livonia team.

At Relay For Life events, communities across the globe come together to honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against a disease that has already taken too much. At Riley, students took part in the usual field day events as well as get to walk around a track, like a traditional Relay For Life.

The Coaches vs. Cancer program empowers coaches, their teams, and communities to join the

fight against cancer by participating in awareness efforts, advocacy programs, and fundraising activities. Guided by the Coaches vs. Cancer Council, participating coaches help people with cancer today and to find cures to end the disease tomorrow and have raised more than \$87 million to help the American Cancer Society's mission.

A group of National Honor Society students and teachers decided to get involved with the popular Relay For Life event for 2016. They are one of four high schools involved in the Livonia Relay For Life. The other schools include Franklin High School, Churchill High School and Ladywood High School.

The Coaches vs. Cancer program is a simple way for students to be active and raise funds for their Relay team. The students at Stevenson decided to host a Dodgeball Tournament, consisting of teams of eight people and charging \$5 a person. There were 11 teams that signed up for the tournament this year.

The winning team was "Darth Vader and The Dodgeball Throwing Jedis," consisting of Grace Lamerson, Diane Senkowski, Sam Davidek, Gino D'Agostino, Erik Doss, Andrew Bamback, Justin Vu and Tyler Hudson. The second-place team consisted of all seniors. Team members included Turner Miller, Max Hoover, Greg Ross, Jonny Suzio,

David Gasser, Jack Dunne, Ava Dwyer and Bayne Froney.

The event raised a total of \$470 and all funds will be counted toward their Relay For Life

team's fundraising total and donated directly to the American Cancer Society.

Anyone interested in learning how to bring a Coaches vs. Cancer event

to your school or sports team, can contact local American Cancer Society community manager Liz Evans at Elizabeth.Evans@cancer.org or 248-663-3452.



Stevenson High School students staged a dodgeball tournament to raise money for their Relay for Life event.

Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist in Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about the advantages of dental implants.

DENTAL IMPLANTS

Dear Dr. Stewart: So do dental implants have advantages over other options, like bridges or dentures?

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If you have a question about your oral health and what you can do to enjoy a healthier smile, contact Dr. James Stewart.

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Livonia resident named grand marshal of St. Patrick's Parade

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

For Kitty Heinzman, being the grand marshal in this weekend's St. Patrick's Parade in Detroit is a true honor — especially since she's been attending for more than 50 years.

Add that to the list of things she's done and learned in her almost 60 years of living in the United States after moving here from Ireland.

"I have learned so much from the Irish-American people here, things I didn't know," she said. "Here, I got to meet different immigrants from different parts of Ireland."

"We'd all be educating each other on all the things we learned here in America."

Heinzman immigrated to the U.S. from County Mayo, Ireland, in 1958. She had some family in Detroit, mainly an uncle who worked as a police officer, who served as her sponsor when she came over. Her first job was working in an accounting firm in Detroit, as she arrived just as tax season was in full swing in the U.S.

"I got hired right away at this Michigan Business Service," she said. "It was right across from Marygrove. I used to go to Mass every day there."

She lived in Detroit for several years before marrying her husband and moving to Livonia, where she's lived for more than 50 years. She and other family members have been instrumental in teaching Irish dance across Michigan for many years as well, running the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance.

She's the second Livonia representative to act as grand marshal in the past three years: Livonia residents Tom and Bridie



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kitty Heinzman is grand marshal of the Detroit St. Patrick's Parade.

Flynn served as grand marshals for the parade back in 2014.

The parade, sponsored by the United Irish Societies, begins at noon Sunday along Michigan Avenue between Sixth and 14th Streets in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood.

"It's an honor to represent the Detroit Metropolitan Area at the St. Patrick's Day parade, it truly is," she said. "A lot of these people I've known since I've come here."

She said she's most excited to see the younger generations of Irish-Americans taking up roles in the Irish community and helping with many of the events, including the parade and the Motor City Irish Fest, which moves from Redford to Livonia later this year.

"I'm totally impressed with them. The next generation is seriously going ahead," Heinzman said. "You never get over the wonderment of the United States. It amazes me. It's the best place to be involved."

'It's exciting'

Heinzman isn't the only one happy to be involved in the parade.

Her daughter, Liz Heinzman, said she and other family members are excited to see her honored in such a regard at an event their family loves so much.

"We honest to God have such a good time at the parade and to have our own grand marshal in the parade to boot," she said. "We'll do a nice little dance in front of the grandstand for her. It's exciting."

"We're looking forward to it."

Kitty Heinzman became a citizen several years after coming to the United States and is happy to have come across the Atlantic Ocean to make this her home.

While she still enjoys going back to Ireland for visits, she said the opportunities in this country can't be topped.

"I say this time and again: Every child here should go to the country of wherever their ancestors are and live there for six months as a native of that land," she said. "They'd kiss the ground they walk on here."

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DIVISION 2 HOCKEY SEMIFINAL

Stevenson turns tables on Hartland

Two quick goals set tone for 5-1 victory

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

As most everyone knows — and as Hartland's hockey team certainly found out Thursday afternoon — paybacks are a ... well, anything but a day at the beach.

Just three weeks after dropping a 4-0 decision to the Eagles in the KLAAs championship game, Livonia Stevenson throttled its conference rivals, 5-1, in a Division 2 semifinal encounter at the USA Hockey

Arena in Plymouth Township.

The Spartans, who advanced to Saturday's D2 championship game against Romeo (see results at hometownlife.com), put the hammer down early on their maize-and-blue foes, scoring bang-bang first-period goals before the Zamboni's engine had a chance to cool down from its pre-game resurfacing gig.

Stevenson's defense was suffocating, rarely allowing the Eagles to string together back-to-back passes, let alone think about recovering from the 3-0 deficit they faced once Jake Beaune's power-play goal settled into the back of the net 1:41 into the middle stanza.

Even when Hartland did manage to construct scoring chances, Stevenson senior goalie Cullen Barber and his puck-devouring band of defensive brothers slammed the door hard and loud on the Eagles, with the exception of a second-period lamp-lighter by Luke Cowan.

"We were a little more opportunistic tonight than we were the first time we played Hartland," said Stevenson head coach David Mitchell. "I think getting those two early goals like we did calmed us down and showed us that we could score on them."



Stevenson's Ben Kowalske and Shane Leonard celebrate Kowalske's first-period goal.

See SPARTANS, Page B4

CLASS A DISTRICT HOOPS FINAL

A TITLE TO SAVOR

Churchill rallies to win first title since 1990

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Livonia Churchill boys basketball program's 26-year district-championship drought came to a dramatic end Friday night thanks to the five-minute, game-ending perfect storm the Chargers manufactured that washed away a 10-point deficit against Redford Thurston.

Trailing 51-41 with 4:50 to play following Thurston senior point guard Brandon Marshall's third three-point make in just over two minutes, the Chargers ramped up their defensive pressure, knocked down several clutch shots and escaped with a 62-58 triumph to claim their first district title since 1990.

Now 15-7, Churchill advances to Monday's 5 p.m. Class A regional semifinal game against No. 1-ranked University of Detroit Jesuit at Detroit Cass Tech High School.

"We usually don't press a lot, but we have some pretty athletic kids who can get after it when we do," said Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak. "When we were down in the fourth quarter, we said, 'Hey, this is it boys. We threw



Members of Livonia Churchill's basketball team pose with the school's first boys district championship trophy since 1990.

TOM BEAUDOIN

See TITLE, Page B2

CLASS C DISTRICT HOOPS

Lutheran Westland improves to 22-0

Warriors pursue school's first district basketball title

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Lutheran Westland used a 23-8 fourth-quarter splurge to outlast Canton Prep, 73-55, in a Class C district semifinal game played Wednesday night at Whitmore Lake High School.

The triumphant Warriors improved to 22-0 while earning a spot in Friday's 7 p.m. district championship game against Ypsilanti Arbor Prep

(14-7). Lutheran Westland replied on huge production in its book-end quarters, scoring 25 points in the first stanza and 23 during the final eight minutes.

Zach Burk was a beast in the paint again for the winners, netting 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Senior guard Brent Croft added 15 points and five assists, while Luke Smith chipped in with 11 points, 12 boards and two steals.

Robert Marshall turned in a pivotal performance in a reserve role, adding 10 points

(on five-for-five shooting) and eight rebounds.

Ben Brown and Kory Barikmo both scored six points for the Warriors. Barikmo also dished out eight assists and secured nine rebounds while Brown snatched six caroms.

LW made 17 of 25 free throws and four of 16 three-point shots.

Donald Broussard and Kameron Watkins led Canton Prep with 12 points a piece. Will Lyles chipped in with eight points.

"We played a solid first half offensively and defensively," said LW head coach Jim Hoeft.

"In the second half, Canton Prep couldn't miss; everything they put up went in. I think we had a few lapses defensively, but we just had to weather the storm in terms of the momentum."

"We did what we needed to do to get this win. Now it's on to the district final where we'll meet up with Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. They are aggressive, but we must match their intensity ... it will be a battle."

The Warriors will be in search of the school's first district title Friday night.

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Luke Smith scored 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds during Lutheran Westland's victory over Canton Prep Wednesday night.

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CLASS A DISTRICT HOOPS

Rockets blast past Wayne Memorial

Glenn meets Belleville in Friday night finals

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn overcame a three-point halftime deficit Wednesday night before upending Wayne Memorial, 52-45, in a Class A district semifinal game played at Belleville High School.

The Rockets advanced to Friday night's district championship game against the host Tigers.

Zeale McCullough proved to be the Rockets' No. 1 catalyst as he finished with 24 points on 11-of-13 free-throw shooting.

As a team, the Rockets drained 15 of 19 shots from the stripe.

Also contributing big-time minutes for the winners were Christian Agnew and Daijon Parker, both whom scored 12 points. Kijuan Chandler added five points to the Rockets' cause.

Keion Epps led a balanced Zebra attack with 13 points. Also netting double-digit points were Terrance Williams (12) and Napier Bryant (11).

The Zebras were also effi-



Wayne Memorial's Terrence Williams releases a shot during Wednesday's game against John Glenn.



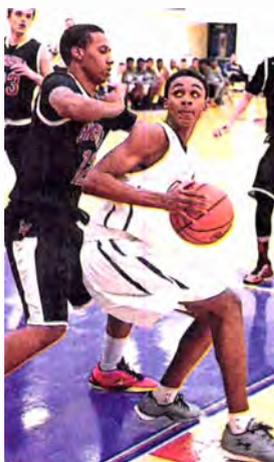
John Glenn's Christian Agnew releases a shot during Wednesday's game against Wayne Memorial.

cient at the free-throw line, sinking eight of 10 shots.

John Glenn held a narrow 12-10 lead after the first quarter before Wayne rallied to take a 27-24 advantage into the half.

The Zebras led 34-33 with eight minutes to play, but the McCullough-led Rockets won the fourth quarter, 19-11.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Thurston's Justin Cole tries to find space against Churchill's Rashad Whitfield.



Churchill's Jerron Hampton releases an acrobatic layup during Friday night's game against Redford Thurston.

TITLE

Continued from Page B1

a couple different presses at them and the guys executed them. We filled the passing lanes and did a lot of the little things."

Churchill senior guard Jon Hovermale rebounded big-time from a scoreless first quarter to finish with a game-high 27 points.

Hovermale sparked the Chargers' rally when he knocked down three free throws after getting fouled while shooting beyond the arc with 4:43 on the fourth-quarter clock to bring his team to 51-44.

"This team never gives up," Hovermale said. "I knew we could come back; we've done it before. A lot of it was at the defensive end. We knew we had to give it everything we had, and we did."

Senior guard Joan Andoni kept his team in the game early, scoring all nine of the Chargers' points in the first

quarter. Andoni finished with 20 points that included two threes and a four-for-four effort from the free-throw

line. Churchill was bolstered by gutsy efforts from junior reserve guard Trajan Stin-

son, who buried a huge triple with 1:45 left that brought the Chargers to within 58-56, and senior Rashad Whitfield, who

contributed a key blocked shot and rebound, as well as knocking down the free throw that with 72 seconds left that gave the Chargers the lead for good, 59-58.

"That's what it takes to win championships — guys like Trajan and Rashad Joing what they did," said Hovermale.

Friday's game was the high school hoops curtain call for Thurston's splendid pair of seniors, Marshall and D'eauntae Jackson, both of whom contributed to the Eagles' string of three consecutive district titles.

Jackson was relentless on the glass all night, piling up 11 rebounds to go with his team-high 19 points.

Although Marshall's shot was a little off early, he regrouped and finished with 18 points. Justin Cole and Caebryn Crabtree both scored seven for the Eagles.

Trailing 55-44 with just under four minutes remaining, Churchill scored nine straight points, the final two on a twisting drive by Jerron Hampton at the 2:30 mark to bring his team to within 55-53.

Thurston stretched its advantage back to 58-53 on a Marshall free throw and a fast-break layup by Jackson, but then Stinson answered with his huge trey.

Following a Churchill steal, Dayton Davis delivered a length-of-the-court pass to Hovermale, who laid the ball in to knot the score at 58-all.

The Chargers swished four free throws over the final minute and change to earn the coveted district trophy.

"I'm incredibly happy for everybody on the team, but especially for the seniors," said Solak. "Posting back-to-back 15-win season is a great accomplishment, but winning a title like this validates all their hard work."

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Chargers win first title ever



Members of the Livonia Churchill girls basketball team pose with their Class A district-championship trophy following last week's victory over Crestwood.

Basierbe commits to Adrian



Livonia Stevenson senior soccer standout Alia Basierbe recently committed to play collegiate soccer for Adrian College. A three-year varsity player for the Spartans, Basierbe carries a stellar 4.2 grade-point average. A soccer player since the age of 5, she is planning on pursuing a degree in athletic training before advancing to graduate school, where she will pursue an advanced degree that will help her meet her dream of becoming a physician's assistant. Alia is pictured with her mom, Jackie Sommer of Livonia, and her dad, Mark Basierbe of Dearborn Heights.

CLASS C BASKETBALL FINAL

Arbor Prep ends Warriors' incredible season

Magical season ends with 22-1 record

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Lutheran Westland boys basketball team's magical season came to a screeching halt Friday night in a Class C district championship game against Ypsilanti Arbor Prep.

In a game hosted by Whitmore Lake High School, the Gators surged to a 30-14 lead after one quarter before rolling to an 86-45 triumph.

The setback was the first of the season for the 22-win Warriors, who were playing for the school's first-ever boys basketball district championship.

"I knew going into this game that we were going to need our best performance of the year as a team," said Lutheran Westland head coach Jim Hoefl.

"Arbor Prep is so tough to guard. You pack it in hoping to neutralize their bigs, and they kick out for threes. Then you start focusing on the perimeter and they come back inside to their bigs. They are tough.

"Regardless, our guys played their butts off tonight. I am so proud of the way we

battled all season. It has been an honor and my pleasure to coach this great group of young men. We have nothing to hang our heads about. It was a tremendous season."

Arbor Prep expanded its lead to 61-34 at the half before securing a 76-40 edge with eight minutes to play.

Lutheran Westland senior guard Brent Croft closed his career with a 21-point, four-rebound performance.

Point guard Kory Barikmo netted eight points, four rebounds and three assists, while the team's leading scorer, Zach Burk, was limited to eight points and seven rebounds.

Usually an efficient perimeter-shooting team, Lutheran Westland canned just four of 18 three-point attempts against the Gators.

The Warriors shot a respectable 11-for-15 from the free-throw line.

Led by David Walker's 17 points, Arbor Prep was led by three players who hit double-figures scoring. Kyle Hayes netted 15 points and Adrian Harrison chipped in 14.

The Gators made seven of nine free-throw attempts. Walker made all three of his free throws.



Lutheran Westland head coach Jim Hoefl talks strategy with his team during a time-out in a game earlier this season.

TOM BEAUDOIN

CLASS A DISTRICT HOOPS

Crabtree's treys spark Thurston rally past GC

Big second half leads Eagles to final

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Given his wiry 5-foot-8 frame, it usually takes a little while for Caebryn Crabtree to earn the respect of fellow basketball junkies when he steps onto outdoor courts for summer pick-up hoops games in Redford.

"When I hit my first three, they think it's lucky," said Crabtree, smiling. "But then when I hit a couple more, they'll say, 'We better go out and guard this guy.'"

With Crabtree's Redford Thurston team trailing Garden City 31-28 early in the third quarter of Wednesday's Class A district semifinal at Livonia Franklin, the sharp-shooting senior Eagle guard bombed in three long-range triples within a two-minute-and-25-second stretch to spur a 9-2 run that ultimately led to Thurston's 64-47 victory.

"That's what Caebryn does," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "Once he makes one, he'll make another and another. Not only that, but once he makes a shot, he gets going on defense, too."

"When we played Carlson early in the season, he had 14 points in the first quarter. And not just threes; he had a bunch of steals and layups."

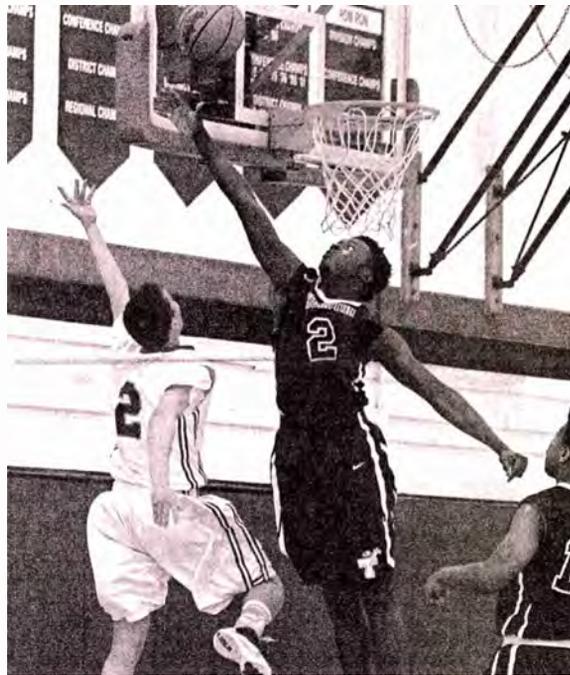
The Eagles advanced to Friday's 7 p.m. district semifinal showdown against Livonia Churchill, which stymied Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 60-41, in Wednesday's second semifinal at Franklin.

Crabtree finished with a game-high 16 points despite finding net on just one of his first eight shots.

"I've had people tell me I'm too hard on myself when I miss a shot," said Crabtree. "But the coaches tell me I'm a good shooter and to keep shooting, even if I miss a couple in a row."

Playing with poise and precision, Garden City appeared primed to post an upset against its fellow Western Wayne Athletic Conference foe.

After trailing 12-8 at the end



Thurston's Dorian Naylor elevates in attempt to block a shot by Garden City's Robbie Moyers Wednesday night.

ED WRIGHT

of the first quarter, the Cougars rode a nine-point second quarter from junior Jake Sadowski to seize a 29-28 halftime lead.

The Cougars opened the third quarter with a strong driving layup by Branden Grace to extend their lead to 31-28, but the Eagles ramped up their defensive pressure, forcing eight third-quarter GC turnovers and earning a 47-41 advantage heading into the final quarter.

GC hit six of eight shots in the third stanza (compared to 6-for-20 shooting for Thurston), yet still got outscored 19-12 due to the miscues.

Thurston put the game away during the first four minutes of the final period when it outscored GC 13-1.

"My message at halftime was that we needed to start playing more as a team, both on offense and defense," shared Bates. "No one player was going to win this game for us by himself."

"We pushed up our pressure a little bit more and started getting some stops."

Senior guard Brandon Marshall scored 15 points for Thurston while senior forward D'eaunte Jackson contributed 10 points, nine rebounds and three steals.

Trevon Gary added seven points and several minutes of super-sticky defense.

Sadowski led the Cougars with 13 points, 11 of which came in the first half. He also grabbed 11 boards.

Grace connected on his final five shots to finish with 10 points. GC's standout senior-guard tandem of Robbie Moyers and Vinnie Bakerian scored eight and five points, respectively, in their high school finales.

The Eagles swished eight of 14 free-throw attempts while GC was seven-for-13 from the stripe.

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CLASS A DISTRICT HOOPS

Cummins' dunk sparks Churchill's victory

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Breaking the rules of grammar (and gravity), Livonia Churchill's boys basketball team inserted an exclamation point at the beginning of its well-structured statement against Dearborn Heights Crestwood Wednesday night.

With just over one minute elapsed in a Class A district semifinal game at Livonia Franklin, Churchill junior forward Evan Cummins secured a pass at the top of the key, sliced through a gap in the Crestwood defense and elevated for an OMG dunk to set the tone for his team's 60-41 victory.

"It was Evan's turn tonight to get things going early," said Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak, whose team improved to 14-7. "Our kids do a good job of feeding off one another and getting the ball to the guys who are hot."

The victory catapulted Churchill into Friday's 7 p.m. district final against Redford Thurston and put the Chargers just one win from earning their first district crown since 1990.

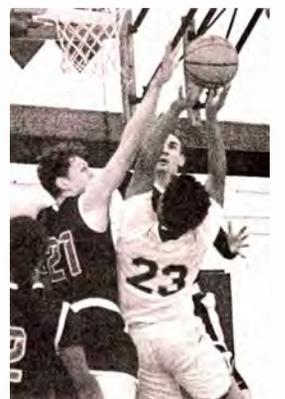
"The game against Thurston should be very interesting," said Solak. "We scrimmage them every year, I'm good friends with their coaches, and a lot of our kids grew up with their kids and played with and against one another in the RTJAA (Redford Township Junior Athletic Association)."

While Cummins' eye-opening rim-rattler ignited the Chargers' lopsided triumph, it was 32 minutes of arms-waving, feet-moving, lane-clogging defense that made life difficult for a very talented Crestwood team.

Utilizing a variety of defenses, Churchill limited Crestwood to just four field goals each quarter and 16-for-45 shooting (35.5 percent) overall.

Crestwood junior standout Malik scored a team-high 14 points, but Churchill made him work for every one of them.

"I was impressed with our focus tonight, especially when it came to changing defenses," said Solak. "We used four dif-



Churchill's Evan Cummins and Jon Hovermale defend a driving shot by a Crestwood player Wednesday night.

ED WRIGHT

ferent defenses because we wanted to make them uncomfortable. We played a lot of two-three (zone), which we hadn't done in a while, and the kids had confidence in one another and did a nice job."

"We played a lot of kids tonight early, too, which I always like doing. Whether a kid played one minute or four minutes, he did a nice job."

Playing with a hard-to-teach savvy, Joan Andoni and Jon Hovermale paced the Chargers' offense with 16 and 14 points, respectively.

On more than one occasion, the senior guards appeared to halt drives to the basket and dribble back toward the perimeter, before abruptly spinning back toward the rim and finishing with silky-smooth layups.

High-flying junior Jerron Hampton scored 10 points for the winners and added a team-high eight rebounds while Cummins contributed seven points, including a fourth-quarter trey.

Senior point guard Dayton Davis hit all three of his two-point shots to finish with six and junior guard Myron Burnette swished his only shot — a second-quarter three — and both his free throws to contribute five points.

Churchill made 24 of 49 field-goal attempts and nine of 10 free throws.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Churchill Hall of Fame banquet

The 14th Annual Churchill Athletic Patrons Hall of Fame banquet will be held Wednesday, March 23, at 6 p.m. at the Italian-American Hall in Livonia.

The Class of 2016 inductees includes Rachel McFarlane, Sara Kroll and the undefeated 1978 football team coached by Ken Kaestner.

Tickets are \$40 each and may be purchased in the Churchill athletic office or via check to CAP treasurer Lisa Hudy (10269 Stark Rd., Livonia, 48150).

For more information, contact Mark McCusker at mcccusker357@att.net.

Churchill sports tryouts

Following are details regarding Livonia Churchill's spring sports tryouts:

» Girls Tennis — Monday March 14 at 2:45 p.m. at Dearborn or Farmington courts. For more information, contact Denise Berg-Grant at dbergr@livonia-publicschools.org;

» Boys golf — Monday, March 14 at 3 p.m. at Oasis Golf Dome or Whispering Willows Golf Course. For more information, contact Paul Worley at paulworley@pga.com;

» Baseball — Monday March 14 at 2:45 p.m. in the Churchill fieldhouse. For more information, contact Ron Targosz

at rtargosz@livoniapublicschools.org;

» Boys and girls track and field — Monday, March 14 at 2:45 p.m. in Churchill gymnasium. For more information, contact Rick Austin (boys) at raustin@livoniapublicschools.org or Patrick Daugherty (girls) at pdaugherty@madonna.edu.

» Softball — Monday March 14 at 4:45 p.m. in Churchill fieldhouse. For more information, contact Steve Gentilia at churchillssoftball@gmail.com;

» Girls soccer — Monday March 14 at 2:45 p.m. in Churchill gymnasium. For more information, contact Reid Friedrichs at rfriedri@livoniapublicschools.org.

All athletes must have a valid physical on file to try out.

LJAL needs umpires

The Livonia Junior Athletic League baseball and softball program is looking for individuals who would like to work as an umpire this summer.

Interested participants will be trained and given excellent support. An understanding and appreciation of baseball and fast-pitch softball are appreciated.

The minimum age requirement for umpires is 14.

If interested, send an e-mail to info@ljal.com.

KENSINGTON LAKES ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Latest KLAA realignment proposal voted down

Principals to meet again to mull over alternative plan

Brad Emons
Staff Writer



It's back to the drawing board for any possible realignment plans for the 24-member Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

KLAA principals, by a 17-6 margin (with one school absent) on March 7, voted down a competitive balance proposal plan to realign schools into six different divisions instead of the current four while maintaining 12 teams each in both the Kensington and Lakes conferences.

Proposal B essentially provided a swap with KLAA West Division members Pinckney and Milford moving to the Kensington Conference from the Lakes, while KLAA Central Division schools Novi and Northville would move over from the Kensington to the Lakes.

A 75 percent majority, or 18 schools, were needed to approve the change, which tried to address the discrepancy between the largest schools in the KLAA such as Grand Blanc (enrollment 2,727) and the smallest in South Lyon East (923).

Proposal B was initiated by an executive committee of KLAA athletic directors, who mulled over four different proposals for possible realignment.

The KLAA, which came into existence during the 2007-08 school year when schools from the Western Lakes and Kensington Valley Conference joined forces, is now in the process coming up with another proposal that can be taken to its 24 members at the next

principals' meeting for a possible vote on April 18.

Any new realignment plan adopted will not go into effect until the 2017-18 school year.

Meanwhile, KLAA athletic directors are looking into a possible four-year past performance based formula plan that has been used by the Oakland Activities Association, which consists of 23-member schools.

"What was brought forth was a strength of schedule type proposal that will hopefully address some of the variables that the KLAA has already had," Milford principal Kevin McKenna said. "It's similar to it, but it's not the same exact plan. It's taking some of the ideas of the positives of what they have, maybe some positives of other things and trying look at that a little bit."

In the OAA, divisions are broken down by a past performance based formula for each of the fall, winter and spring seasons. For example, two rival schools that may be in the same football division would not necessarily be aligned in the same division in another sport.

Travel concerns, particularly on Tuesday night conference events, along with maintaining rivalries and aligning schools with similar enrollments are some of the concerns that will still play into the next KLAA proposal.

"It's one of the variables (geographics) that we're trying to keep intact," McKenna said. "Does it do it 100 percent? No. But we're trying to keep one of those variables together."

"Our next timeline is March 21 to see some of those proposals. And if we don't see those proposals, we'll have to see what's next for the KLAA."

According to McKenna, the KLAA schools that voted for Proposal B included Milford (enrollment 1,484), South Lyon (1,224), South Lyon East (923), Pinckney (1,326), Waterford Mott (1,651) and Waterford Kettering (1,512).

Ironically, Milford's sister school from the Huron Valley district, White Lake Lakeland, voted Proposal B down.

"I don't want to answer from a Milford standpoint just because I'm kind of representing the KLAA as a secre-

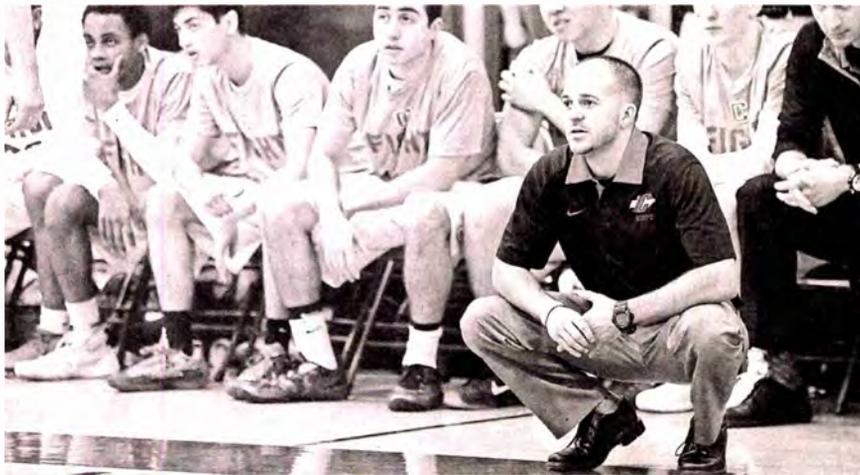
tary," McKenna said. "I'd rather not put the Milford variable scenario in place. I have to be respectful to the KLAA."

Speculation has run rampant within the past week that as many as 10 schools from the KLAA, primarily from the Lakes Conference, have already been in preliminary discussions to form their own conference or league.

If a new OAA-type proposal does gain traction before next month's KLAA principals' meeting, McKenna said the possibility still exists that some schools may have to sacrifice moving to another division or perhaps conference.

"I think so, absolutely, but we'll see what that proposal brings forward, there's a few options with it, so we're willing to look at that," the Milford principal said. "It could keep the league intact absolutely, but it's going to take a majority of the KLAA buildings to keep it together and we'll see where it takes us."

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Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy and his team watch, almost in stunned disbelief, as they suffer a one-and-done loss to Northville in a Class A district semifinal at Salem.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT

KNOCKOUT PUNCH

Chiefs' magical season comes to sudden close at hands of pesky Mustangs

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Northville cranked up its relentless defense to a fever pitch Wednesday night against Canton.

And when the Class A boys basketball district semifinal ended at Salem High School, it was the Chiefs feeling sick, losing 51-39 to the swarming Mustangs.

The Mustangs (21-1 to set a new school record) chipped away after falling behind early and then took control in the fourth quarter — stopping the KLAA champions cold in their tracks, not giving up a point for the first seven minutes as Northville went on a 12-0 run.

That turned a 33-33 game into a double-digit lead with time running out for Canton.

"Guys were flying all over, recovering, guarding multiple defenders and then we were rebounding as they missed, which was the best part," said Northville head coach Todd Sander, whose team enjoyed a 26-19 rebounding edge.

Leading that charge with 14 points was senior Nick Wilds, with junior Jake Justice scoring 12 off the bench while shadowing Canton big man Logan Ryan. Chipping in 12 points and a game-high 13 rebounds was senior Justin Gibbons.

"Key was energy; we come ready to play every day," Wilds said. "We were a little flat. It was a close game and then we got a good run going and energy's the key for us, I think."

According to Gibbons, the focus on defense has been crucial to Northville's season-long success and that continued against Canton.

"That's how we play the whole year. Defense first, (then) we let the offense come," Gibbons said. "You know, I personally threw up some shots in the first half that weren't good."

"We took quality shots the

second half, moved the ball around, played smart on defense, got rebounds, didn't let them get second-chance opportunities. At the end, that's how we win ballgames."

Shots didn't fall

Canton entered the night sporting a 20-0 record, but could not get its collective offense out of the mud — especially in the fourth quarter, when Northville's defense opened the quarter on a 12-0 run to put the game away.

"Tonight, was 20-0 versus 20-1. I'm pretty sure this area's never seen anything like that this late in a year," Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "So it's a heck of a match-up. It's unfortunate we had to play so early. I think both teams could have made a run deep into the tournament."

"Hats off to Northville, they were better than us tonight, especially in the fourth quarter. They played well defensively. I think we had good looks, especially in the first half the whole time and in stretches of the second half. But we couldn't make anything tonight."

To that end, Canton connected on just 15-of-42 (35 percent) from the floor, including 2-of-19 from 3-point range.

Leading the Chiefs with 11 points each were senior forward Jason Cochran and senior guard Obi Okoli.

"Defense is what we preach and defense normally wins games," Okoli said. "But it's a simple game. If you can't score, you can't win. That's what it came down to; we couldn't put the ball into the hoop."

All of Cochran's points came in the first half as the Chiefs built leads of 14-9 after one quarter and 24-22 at halftime. He was strong driving to the basket and making tough inside shots, especially in the opening quarter.

Also sparking the early attack for Canton was senior guard Chris English, who sank two triples and scored all eight of his points before the break.

Following the plan

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, 6-7 senior forward Ryan

— who has been an offensive standout all season — could not play his usual dominant game. He managed seven points, but did not hit a field goal until the final 30 seconds.

"You know, he's such a special player, that we guarded him with somebody a little smaller than we thought he would be used to," Sander said. "Jake (Justice) is really tough and really physical, but we had to get it out of (Ryan's) hands when he caught it down deep."

"So we were doubling off a few different guys. But the guys did a tremendous job of executing the game plan."

Ryan did grab nine rebounds, including three on the offensive glass.

"We wanted to shut (Ryan) down and throw them off," Wilds said. "It feels great; they knocked us off in football (second week of 2015 playoffs) so it feels great to get a little pay-back."

Wilds was a big reason for his team's energy level to skyrocket, as he sank a put-back in the final seconds of the third quarter to even things up at 33-33 going into the fourth.

That started his personal 7-0 run, as he got the final quarter started with a trey from beyond the top of the arc and then connected on another field goal. With six minutes to play, the Chiefs suddenly were behind 38-33.

Following up with a steal and driving layup was junior Kevin Morrissey (five points). Canton did not score in the quarter until Okoli's basket with one minute left; by that time it was 45-35.

Closing it out with three free throws each were Gibbons and senior Justin Zimbo (eight points).

The Mustangs faced Novi in the district final and Sander said he didn't see that game as anti-climatic.

"I don't think so, I think our guys are beyond that," Sander said. "They've got energy going; adrenaline's a good thing. They got young legs and their anxious to play."

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Stevenson defenseman Zach Finzel chases down a puck into the corner as goalie Cullen Barber stays alert in the crease.

ED WRIGHT

SPARTANS

Continued from Page B1

"Those two goals gave us energy and put them back on their heels. The last time we played, they scored an early one and we were chasing the game from then on. Scoring early forced them to chase the game."

Stevenson senior captain Ben Kowalske, who will be playing in his third state championship game on Saturday, said playing against high-level teams like Hartland brings out the best in him and his fellow Spartans.

"This team's culture is all about trying to match or exceed great programs in the state, and Hartland is definitely a great program," said Kowalske, who netted the Spartans' second goal. "No matter how it looked or what the outcome was today, it was not an easy task. We had to work hard for everything we got tonight."

Stevenson prepared for Thursday's semifinal like it does for every game it plays, Alec Allen shared — by keeping the intensity meter at an off-the-charts level.

"Coach told us during practice to quit dangling shots and to do whatever we could to get shots on the net," said Allen, a senior defenseman. "We tried to do whatever we could to rattle their goalie. The more shots you can throw at the net, the more scoring opportunities you're going to have."

The Spartans' domination was reflected in their 38-18 shots-on-goal advantage.

Although he faced just two shots in the first period (compared to the 18 pucks that were whistled at Hartland goalie Christian Spangler), Barber managed to stay sharper than a set of hair-trimming clippers.

"Obviously, as a goaltender, one of the hardest things is not having much attention at your end of the ice," Barber said. "But you have to stay involved in your head, so I'm always saying, 'Come on guys, let's go guys' when I'm watching the action at the other end. What it comes down to at that point is the team, not myself."

Stevenson never trailed after senior defenseman Zach Finzel's meteoric slap shot from just inside the blue line whizzed through traffic, past Spangler and into the mesh 5:17 into the contest. Nate Sudek teed up the shot for Finzel.

Less than a minute later, Kowalske tapped in a rebound off a Shane Leonard shot, pouring more high-octane fuel into the Spartans' momentum train. Joe Alcantara picked up an assist along with Leonard.

After Beaune and Cowan exchange goals, Stevenson maintained its two-goal edge until Nate Sudek scored from Nick Beers 3:40 before the second intermission to make it 4-1.

Sudek tacked on an empty-netter with 1:22 left.

Hartland was penalized four times while Stevenson committed two infractions. All six penalties were two-minutes in length.

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Stevenson's defensive did a solid job of protecting the area in front of goalie Cullen Barber.

ED WRIGHT

RELIGION CALENDAR

MARCH

BIBLE PROPHECY SERIES

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m., beginning March 28

Location: Metropolitan School Gymnasium, 15585 N. Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: An in-depth Bible prophecy series called Unlocking Revelation will examine prophecies of Scripture. Go to www.UnlockRevelation.com to see all locations and pre-register and receive a free Bible Prophecy DVD on the first night. Snacks will be served

Contact: www.UnlockRevelation.com

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20

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

Details: French toast, ham, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10

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 Halsted, 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: 3-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Location: InsideOut Church, 1075 Venoy, Garden City

Details: The event will include carnival games, photos with the Easter Bunny, Easter candy and chances to win a prize package worth \$100, for families with children, fifth grade and younger

Contact: 734-983-8376

EASTER FUN

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

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, 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 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

EASTER WEEK

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 25 Passover seder; 10:30 a.m. worship, Sunday, March 27

Location: Warren Road Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland

Details: The Passover Seder retells the story of God's salvation of his people from Egypt through the elements of the Passover meal. The evening will conclude with a dinner that includes roast chicken and mashed potatoes. Breakfast kicks off Easter morning at 9 a.m., followed by the worship service

Contact: 734-458-7301

EASTER WEEK

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service, March 24; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Good Friday services, March 25; 9:30 a.m. service on March 27

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Free Easter breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m.. All visitors will receive a free DVD, "My Son, My Savior."

Contact: 313-532-8655; 734-968-3523

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 Schwanager at 248-926-6584 or email shawna.schwanager@orchard-grove.org

EGG HUNT

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

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

Details: Children will hunt for plastic eggs filled with small,

wrapped candy. There will also be cookie decorating and crafts. Free.

Contact: 734-422-6038

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

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13-May 15; no class on March 27

Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Course consists of 9 video lessons with guided discussions and planning tools for people at all stages of life. The course teaches how to get out of debt, save for the future, plan for emergencies, and save for college and retirement. Cost is \$93. Scholarships can be arranged

Contact: Bruce Walrad at bmwalrad@aol.com; 734-748-4427

FISH FRY

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

Location: St. Michael the Archangel, 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

GRIEF SHARE

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, beginning March 14

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: The group meets weekly for 13 weeks and will include a video and discussion each week. Participants will also have the opportunity to journal in a workbook. Free but registration is required at christoursavior.org

Contact: Mike McGrath at 734-459-1274 or Linda Hollman at 734-522-6830

JEWS FOR JESUS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16

Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Alexander Adelson presents "Christ in the Passover." Free will offerings will be accepted

Contact: 734-459-3333

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Time/Date: 10:10-11 a.m. Sunday, through March 20 and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, through March 16

Location: Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Sunday series is held in the refectory; Wednesdays in the St. Andrew's room

Details: Sunday morning series explores the meaning of Lent. Wednesday sessions focus on Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline

Contact: 248-626-2515, ext. 117

LIVING TRUST

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, March 14

Location: Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Phil Beavers, vice president of Institutional Advancement at Great Lakes Christian College and Financial Planning Ministry present information about planning a living trust. Financial Planning Ministry assists individuals through the estate planning process for free, but encourages them to leave a gift for their local church after death

Contact: Rev. Todd Lackie at 248-476-8222

MEGILLAH READING/PURIM CARNIVAL

Time/Date: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Congregation Bet Chaverim, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton

Details: Dress in costume, bring a box of pasta to use as a Purim gragger. All pasta will be donated to Yad Ezra food pantry. Event will include a cake walk, cafe and games. Tickets for games are \$5 for 20 tickets. All proceeds will go toward future Congregation Bet Chaverim programs. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up and to make hamentashen and baked goods

Contact: Michelle Nemeth at 734-905-6396; michelleand-jim@mac.com

PILGRIMAGE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 30

Location: Carpool to the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township from St. John Neumann parish office, 44800 Warren Road, Canton.

Details: Cost is \$10 and includes tour and lunch. Deadline to register is March 23.

Contact: Janet Gilbo at jgilbo@wowway.com or Sharlene Burke at sharborke@gmail.com

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Time/Date: Registration deadline is March 23

Location: Turn in registrations at St. Raphael, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City

Details: Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Regional School is accepting registration for preschool through eighth grade. Registration forms are available at St. Raphael and St. Genevieve School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia

Contact: 734-425-4420; divine-mercyregionalschoolinfo@gmail.com

SOUP SUPPER, SPEAKER

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 18

Location: Resurrection Catholic Parish, 48755 Warren Road, Canton

Details: A meatless meal of soup and bread is followed by Deacon Paul F. Lippard's discussion of "Living Lent with Mercy." Stations of the Cross will follow. RSVP to the parish office

Contact: 734-451-0444; resoffice@resurrectionparish.net

SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

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

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, 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

VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 20-April 17

Location: St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, March 20; St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, March 27; Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

Details: Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the responses

Contact: Olga Liskiwsky at 248-252-8184; Olga-liss0910@gmail.com

WHY BE CATHOLIC?

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, March 14

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Kim Steelman tells her personal story about moving 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

Contact: livoniastmichael.org

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 22

Location: AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: Movie and lunch at Bahama Breeze. RSVP by March 20

Contact: Elaine at 734-717-0303

APRIL CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuer, Farmington Hills

Details: Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityfarmingtonhills.org

DEVOTIONS, SWIECONKA

Time/Date: Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benediction; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m. Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hard-boiled eggs, beet horseradish, rye bread, butter lamb, salad, babka, lazy perog, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gomułka, 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336. Include number of attendees. Must be received by March 26. Sponsored by the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society

Contact: 855-POLONIA; detroit-polonia.org

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniastmichael.org.

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiwawasee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

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

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.



The Marcus Garvey Academy African Drum and Dance Ensemble entertain at the Multicultural Fair at Schoolcraft College.

SUBMITTED

Travel around the world at Schoolcraft's Multicultural Fair

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Laura LeVoï Leshok promises a "rocking good time" Thursday, March 24 in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

"Salsa performers will come in and teach people how to do salsa. The Brazilian athletic dancers involve the audience, too," said Leshok, a part-time faculty member who is helping to coordinate the 15th Annual Multicultural Fair at the Livonia campus. "The African drums band will include people from the audience. We always have the African drummers. The whole room changes at 12:05 p.m. when they start. People are dancing and it's so energy-driven at that point."

Music, dance, food, an interactive display, artifacts, exhibits and chair massages will keep visitors busy from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with activities in the Center's DiPonio Room, Presentation Room and Main Street area. Leshok expects approximately 3,500 students, teachers and community members will attend the free event.

"It is quite student-driven. We're at the point that now students know about it and look forward to this event. For international students who are here in the States to study, it's a great time for them to highlight their culture and share it."

"This is a great way to learn about other cultures and people and find commonalities."



Sampling ethnic food is a part of the annual Multicultural Fair at Schoolcraft College.

SUBMITTED

From Albania to Venezuela

Leshok's son, a high school junior, set up a display table about Spain at the fair when he was in eighth grade. He and a friend have returned every year as exhibitors. Most of the displays are prepared by college students. Some team up with faculty members or ethnic community groups.

The countries represented by food, costumes, artifacts and photos change from year to year, depending in part on the nationalities of Schoolcraft's international students.

"We have a big Albanian population this year for some reason, so definitely they will be represented. A couple of years back we didn't have

any." European, Asian, Middle Eastern, African, South American and North American cultures will be represented, including Native American and African American. International students also will explain dating and marriage customs from their countries, at the "Marriage Around the World" display.

Changing race

New this year is an exhibit, Little Syria, New York, 1880-1940 that looks at one of the first large communities of immigrants from the Middle East. The traveling exhibit is on loan from the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn.

The Human Race Machine, a Race Experience also is new,

and will show visitors how they'd appear as a different race. The Race Experience Kiosk will be stationed in the campus bookstore March 17-23.

"This year we also have henna (hand painting) and our Schoolcraft massage therapy department will come in and give free chair massages and share information about destressing."

Yemeni dancers and a reggae band are new performers this year.

"Ours is probably one of the best (fairs) in the Midwest," Leshok said. "The involvement we get from students is almost unprecedented, especially for people being on a commuter campus and it's so transitional being a two-year school."

"Ours is comprehensive and partnered with the community," she said. "I think it's great fun for students to talk to other students and share their world."

The performance schedule for the fair is Mariachi Jalisco Band, 10 a.m., Manoogian School Armenian Dancers, 10:40 a.m., Capoeira: Brazilian Athletic Dance, 11:10 a.m., Yemeni Dancers, 11:40 a.m., Marcus Garvey Academy African Drum and Dance Ensemble, 12:05 p.m., Leticia and the Energetic Soul Salsa Dancers, 1 p.m., Reggae by Jonathon Motley, 1:40 p.m., Ballet Folklorico Mexico Lindo, 2 p.m., and O'Hare Irish Step Dancers, 2:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft College is located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile. For more information visit schoolcraft.edu.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Make sure your appliances haven't been recalled

This past week I received the first draft of a new law dealing with appliance recalls. It looks like State Representative Gary Glenn is proving true to his word that he will make a difference on behalf of Michigan homeowners. I expect to be working hard with Mr. Glenn to institute a law that can save the life of many a consumer.

More than \$1 trillion is being spent every year in this country to repair homes with damage caused by recalled appliances. There currently are 195 million recalled appliances in homes where the homeowner doesn't have a clue as to whether one of them is installed in their house.



Joe
Gagnon

APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

Here is a recent bit of information about dishwashers that you may not have heard a thing about. Sold between January 2009 and May 2014 (just shy of five years) there were 149,000 dishwashers sold in U.S. and another 45,000 sold in Canada that may have a defective power cord. The cord can overheat and there have been reports filed that fires have caused property damage. Imagine waking in the night and the dishwasher is not even operating yet it is on fire and so is the rest of the kitchen.

Check your appliances

Every one reading this column needs to be aware of the seriousness of this subject. You need to make some effort to find out if you have a recalled appliance in your home and to spread the word to friends and loved ones. If you have a fire break out in your house one time from a recalled product, I can assure you that your attention antenna will stand straight up. You simply can go to www.appliancerecall.com or www.saferproducts.com and make a note of each model number and check it out. By the way, the brands associated with this recent recall are Bosch, Gaggenau, Thermador, and Kenmore Elite.

Let me go back in time to 1970 when I took on the responsibilities of service and customer relations manager with the Amana Corporation. During that era companies knew how to make sure customers were pleased to own a major home appliance. When there were faults with a product all the manufacturers were quick to take action to rectify the problem. If a new refrigerator was delivered and the compressor locked up, you had another new one in your home the next day.

We had a total of some 26 different names to shop for back then. If the Chinese are allowed to purchase General Electric as expected in the months ahead, you will see a serious quality issue come blazing into this country.

Ethics needed

Customer satisfaction needs to make a big come back in the market place and it can't happen without the cooperation of each manufacture. Each one of them has to realize that producing a product with built-in hazards can only bite them in the rear. If we let these recalls go on as they have and don't take action of some sort, many more will die and suffer the tragedy of a house fire.

Being an engineer in this country has always been a very prestigious career and they need to stand up and be counted. I knew many in 1970 who wouldn't approve of the way things are made today. The question is, where are those ethics now? Fortunately, we have a lawmaker in Lansing who is taking a stand on this issue. His name is Gary Glenn and I know he would like to hear from you. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm1.r.com

Annual St. Patty's day event, DIA party focus on dance

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Bring your dancing shoes to the 32nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest Thursday, March 17, in Westland.

Then dance the night away Saturday, March 19, at the opening party of the Dance! American Art 1830-1960 exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) in Detroit.

"We're going to have an exciting day," said Mick Gavin, the Redford musician who is organizing the Irish Fest. "We're going to have a lot of dancing this year. More than usual." Gavin, a fiddler, and his Crossroads Ceili band will perform at both events, along with the Detroit Square Dance Society Band.

The Irish Fest starts at 3 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh. Admission is \$10 for adults. Kids, 12 and

under, accompanied by a parent, enter free. Gavin said no one is turned away for inability to pay. Corned beef and cabbage dinners, hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be available for purchase.

Performers are Mick Gavin with Eddie McGlinchey and Ray Maguire, 3 p.m., The Ardan School of Irish Dance, 4 p.m., Mick Gavin's Crossroads Ceili, 5:30 p.m., The Detroit Square Dance Society Band, 6:30 p.m., Highland Pipes, 7 p.m., Motor City Irish Dancers, 7:30 p.m., and members of Conor O'Neill's Session Band, 8:30 p.m. A roots music jam starts at 9:30 p.m. Lindsay McCaw will call the square dancing patterns.

"With the square dancing the audience can get up and dance. The Ardan School also brings people out to do a ceili dance"

Gavin said both Crossroads Ceili and the Detroit Square Dance Society Band will perform at the DIA's dance party, which runs 7-10 p.m. March 19 at the DIA,



SUBMITTED

Mick Gavin (middle) plays fiddle with members of the Detroit Square Dance Society Band, Aaron Jonah Lewis on fiddle, Ben Luttermoser on guitar, and Rachel Pearson on upright bass. Gavin also plays with his own band, Crossroads Ceili.

5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$20, available at dia.org or by calling 313-833-4005.

"Set and square dancers will perform separately and bring people out from the audience. It should be exciting. I believe it's going to sell out."

GAAR helps sick, abandoned animals

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

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As an animal rescuer for 14 years, Sandra Mezza, president of Guardian Angel Animal Rescue (GAAR) has seen it all — abuse, abandonment, hunger, scrapes, bruises and broken bones.

“We take in many sick and injured animals,” Mezza said. “We work mostly out of Detroit because of the number of strays, but do take in animals from other cities, especially in emergencies.”

She and other volunteers at the Livonia-based, nonprofit, no-kill organization, manage to turn seemingly hopeless cases into success stories. About 25 volunteers foster animals, mostly dogs and cats, that come into GAAR’s care when they are relinquished by owners, taken from high-kill shelters or found on the streets as homeless strays. GAAR finds homes mostly for cats and dogs, although it has also offered birds, rabbits, chickens and a potbellied pig for adoption.

The Observer & Eccentric caught up with Mezza recently to find out more about GAAR. This is the first Q&A in a series of stories about local animal rescues and shelters. Meet GAAR:

Q: What’s your mission?

A: Our mission is to help animals in need and get them the vet care they need and place them in forever loving homes.

Q: Tell a rescue story or two that reflects your mission.

A: Sebastian was one of our severe abuse cases. We were told that he had been a stray for over a year in the neighborhood, he was a kitten that was born under a porch. You can tell by his frostbitten ears and his scarred body he had lived a very rough life



Members of Guardian Angel Animal Rescue staff a booth during the International Women's Show in Novi. Their Pawject Runway event, includes fashion models and rescue dogs on the runway. SUBMITTED



Sadie.

and was just over a year old. He was slit from eye to across his throat. He had to spend a lot of time under vet care, with fluids and pain meds. After months his throat finally healed but there were many problems with his eyelid. He has undergone two surgeries and is on third one which will be done in a couple of weeks. He is the most lovable sweet boy. Sebastian is up for adoption, we are looking for a quiet loving home for him.

Q: Tell us a successful adoption story.

A: Sadie ran the streets of Detroit for over five years, escaping even live traps that were set for her. We were the lucky group that she

chose to let rescue her. She was heartworm positive, she was shot up with pellets that were lodged in her body and had many other issues.

“Pam” adopted her and she is doing great. She was a lot of work, being on the streets for so long, but Pam worked with her and now she is a perfect house pup and loves Pam so much.

We have so many amazing stories. Every year we tell them at our Pawject Runway at the International Women's Show. This year it is April 30 and May 1 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Q: What is your adoption process?

A: There is an application, interview, home visit and once everything is approved, there is a contract to be signed. We expect our rescued animals to go to loving homes that will treat them as part of the family and keep them safe, loved and pampered for the rest of their lives.

Q: Have you ever rejected an applicant? Have you taken a pet back after adoption?

A: Yes.
Q: What’s your greatest challenge as a rescue? What would ease your efforts?

A: Money is always a issue. Because of the number of injured animals we take in vet bills are always high. We have one kitty for example that was tortured and has undergone four surgeries.

Fosters are hard to find and keep. Volunteering for rescue is very sad, so you have to be a strong person and focus on the lives you save and not the ones you lose. To volunteer takes a lot of compassion, sacrifice, patience, time, strength, most of all love.

Q: Any upcoming events?

A: April 30-May 1 is Pawject Runway at the Suburban Showplace in Novi. Sept. 24, Mariner will be performing at the Token Lounge (in Westland). All ticket sales will go to Guardian Angel Animal Rescue.

Q: What’s your contact information?

A: Visit the Guardian Angel Animal Rescue Facebook page to see all



Volunteers flank Sandy Mezza, president of Guardian Angel Animal Rescue, at a pet food drive. SUBMITTED

of our amazing rescue stories and events and all of our work we do around the metro area. Our website is gaarmichigan.org.

Email: guardian_angel_rescue@hotmail.com. Phone: 734-516-2171. Address: P.O. Box 511309, Livonia, MI 48185



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VENDOR LIST

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