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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

SUNDAY 03.20.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Hughes honored as officer of year

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Described as an exceptional leader committed to getting violent offenders off the street and making the city a better place to live, Officer Abraham Hughes has been honored as the Wayne Police of the Year for 2015.

"A few words come to mind about Officer Hughes: professional, loyal, hardworking and dedicated," Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag said. "It's nice to have a dedicated employee like him. He always puts the department and citizens first."

A patrol officer, Hughes joined the department in February 2002. Maciag said that Hughes is a highly effective team player and his proactive approach to law enforcement has set an example for others in the department.

The police officer of the year is selected by the department's citation board based on nominations from department members.

Two particular incidents were noted in the recognition of Hughes.

In February 2015, Hughes was dispatched to the Wayne Chase Bank

See OFFICER, Page A2



SUBMITTED
Wayne Police 2015 Officer of the Year Abraham Hughes (center) with Chief Alan Maciag and Council President Pro Tem Anthony Miller.

COOKIE MONSTERS



Michelle Rakovalis and son Adam get ready to bag rice and soy for the Kids Against Hunger event at St. Michael Lutheran School.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Sales help church school aid in the fight against hunger

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Students at St. Michael School in Wayne showed you don't have to raise dollars by the thousands to make a difference in people's lives.

Raising money primarily through the sale of cookies they baked themselves — at the bargain price of 28 cents (and worth it at twice the price) — students helped raise more than \$3,400 to help Kids Against Hunger feed hungry people around the world.

When the groups involved — St. Michael, Open Arms Lutheran Church in Belleville, the Wayne Rotary Club and Thrivent Financial — were finished, more than 12,000 meals were ready to be shipped.

"(Students) were really excited to raise money for this," St. Michael preschool director Shirley Schwecke said. "They know they have so much,

and we talked about giving back to the community. When God blesses you with so much, it's time to give back."

Students sold cookies for the school's "Trunk or Treat" event last fall, then sold them on Wednesdays each week. Kids Against Hunger, the Omaha, Nebraska-based organization

See COOKIES, Page A2

Residents discuss city's parks and recreation programs

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Replacing fences and lights, better maintenance of ball fields, painting and benches were among items on the want list for existing Westland parks from a focus group — the first step toward an upcoming parks and recreation survey.

Two invited focus groups met with a facilitator who will take their input and use it to formulate survey questions

that will, in part, gauge community interest in a YMCA. The larger focus group consisted of 21 people drawn largely from local athletic associations, community groups and some members of the city's parks and recreation advisory board.

When asked for a quick word to describe Westland, comments ranged



Adams

from "a good place for kids to grow up," "plenty of potential with plenty to go," "very welcoming" to "doesn't care about youth."

The last comment came from Todd Southern of the Westland Youth Athletic Association. Southern and his wife Marie were among the residents critical of the condition of the parks.

"Any of the other parks don't look like Tattan Park. The city is so much more than city hall and fire station,"

said Marie Southern, noting poor conditions at Voss/Civitan Park.

There used to be basketball at the park, she said, but that was removed. There isn't enough parking at Voss Park, which has three baseball diamonds and a lighted field, she said, but people were ticketed for parking on the concrete pad that was formerly the basketball court.

See PARKS, Page A2



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INDEX

Education.....	A4	Homes.....	C4	Services.....	C3
Community Life.....	B6	Jobs.....	C1	Sports.....	B1
Crossword Puzzle.....	C2	Obituaries.....	B5	Wheels.....	C3

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OFFICER

Continued from Page A1

branch, which had just been robbed. Hughes began to review photos of the suspect and was able to determine that the initial description provided was inaccurate. By providing an accurate description based on the photos, Hughes enabled the other responding officers to identify and arrest the suspect.

The second incident happened in September 2015 when Hughes was the first officer to respond to a homicide that had just happened in the

4000 block of Chamberlain. Hughes encountered the suspect, who was later charged with killing his step-grandfather with an ax, and took him into custody.

"Officer Hughes displayed great courage and professionalism by putting his own safety in jeopardy and taking a violent felon into custody," Maciag said.

Hughes was recognized at a recent Wayne City Council meeting, receiving a proclamation from the city, Wayne County and American Legion Post 251 in Westland.

COOKIES

Continued from Page A1

that has sent meals to 60 countries around the world, needed a \$2,800 commitment to get started.

That goal seemed a bit out of reach in the beginning. But, cookie by cookie, the kids reached it.

"When we knew we had to raise \$2,800, it looked really large," said volunteer Michelle Rakovalis, who helped organize the event. "When we hit it, we thought, 'Just continue on.' The kids wanted to see how many more meals we could provide."

Seventh-grader Ashley Jones knows there are people not only around the world but right here at home who don't have the same advantages her family enjoys. She said raising the

money and providing the meals was "nice thing to do" as "servants to God." "I didn't think we could raise that much," she said. "When we got to the goal, I knew we were blessed by God."

Turns out they went well past the goal. By the end of the day, volunteers had packaged more than 12,800 meals (one-third to go overseas, one-third into storage for natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes, and one-third to the Salvation Army to help hungry families locally).

That part was important to those involved. "There are kids in our area who go to bed hungry," Schwecke said. "The tagline for Kids Against Hunger is 'feeding kids around the world and around the corner.' Our kids took that to heart."

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TOM BEAUDOIN
St. Michael Lutheran School sixth-graders Emma Vacca and Emjlia Grvenhagen fill bags of much needed food that helps those around the world.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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PARKS

Continued from Page A1

The old lights at the Voss ball field apparently provide little light due to the difficulty of getting replacement bulbs. The Southerners said that they have to work on the fields, including mowing.

Another complaint was the loss of baseball players to communities with better facilities and the end of volleyball and basketball programs with the closing of the Bailey Center.

Westland Area Jaycee Jim Hart commented that his group was proud of Jaycees Park located near Mike Modano Ice Arena. It's the largest Jaycees Park in the state.

"Central City Park looks so great — it's wonderful. When I have people here, I show it to them," he said. "In Jaycees Park, we need real pavilions with concrete floors and better lighting for the ball fields."

For Southeast West-

land Homeowners Association President Delores Flowers and resident Reather Everett, the focus was on wanting redevelopment of Stottmyer Park, located inside the Annapolis Park Sub-division.

"Citizens built it. The city only cut the grass when we called them," Everett said.

Suggesting supervised after-school programs for youngsters, Flowers said the city needs to paint and replace broken equipment in the parks. "You need to take up old fencing and have places for older persons to sit and reflect," she added.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member Ron Graunstadt commented that Corrado Park is very well maintained. "People use the walking path, there are two playgrounds. The basketball courts are now for volleyball," he said. "People from outside — adults and kids — came and there was violence. Parents used a Sawzall (reciprocating saw) to

cut down the basketball hoops."

Wayne-Ford Civic League President Vic Barra commented that he volunteers his weekends working in city parks, noting the improvements completed at Corrado Park and Cayley Park in Norwayne.

"There are 19 parks in the city. It takes a lot of effort. We can beat ourselves up all day for what didn't get done, but it takes a lot of energy to do it," he said. "We need to figure out what needs to be done. Also, what about people with disabilities?"

When questions came about a YMCA and what type of programs might be offered, the members of the group had ideas about what they would envision — a pool, workout area, programs for children.

Some expressed concerns that a YMCA would compete with existing workout facilities such as Planet Fitness or youth sports already offered locally.

Promising that the

lights at Voss and Jaycees parks would be fixed, Parks and Recreation Director John Adams said he appreciated the discussion. If residents have questions or concerns about parks, they can also use the city website.

"If you go to parks and recreation, there is a question button and each park is listed," he said. "It is time-stamped and trackable."

Information from the two focus groups will be used to develop the survey questions. Adams said the surveys will likely be set up for districts in the city.

"The city is 20 square miles. The districts of the city will be to account for different needs," Adams said. "The survey will be this spring. It will take the consultant three weeks to get us a draft of the questions."

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Skywarn training coming to Livonia

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Warmer weather means severe weather when it comes to south-east Michigan.

Those looking to sharpen their weather-spotting skills can learn more at a Skywarn training session, taking place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library, located at 32777 Five Mile in the Livonia Civic Center campus.

"We're moving into the severe weather season. The idea is to make the community and residents more aware of the season itself," said Brian Kahn, Livonia's emergency preparedness director and a recent retiree of the city's police department. "It's a great program that teachers people about the weather."

The session, which will last no more than two hours, will train attendees to spot severe weather and relay it to local authorities quickly to reduce looming threats. The training is done in conjunction with the National Weather



FILE PHOTO

Brian Kahn, Livonia's emergency preparedness director, at a 2014 Skywarn training event in Livonia. Another Skywarn training session is coming Wednesday to Livonia at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library on Five Mile, east of Farmington.

Service, the city's emergency preparedness department, the Livonia Amateur Radio Club and the Wayne County Amateur Radio Operators. The event is free and

no advance registration is required. Anyone is welcome to attend, not just Livonia residents.

Kahn said severe weather is something most people don't pay

attention to until it has almost arrived, something trained weather spotters can help alleviate by detecting signs of dangerous weather approaching. With their help, Kahn said, authorities can be alerted if something terrible, such as a tornado or other natural weather event, occurs in the area.

"It's out of sight, out of mind. You still have to prepare," Kahn said. "There's nothing we can do to avoid the weather."

For those interested in attending but not able to make it to Wednesday's event in Livonia, several other sessions are listed in southeast Michigan in future weeks. Those interested in locating another session can do so by going to the National Weather Service's website and finding another local training session at weather.gov/dtx/spotter2.

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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident at the Landings Apartments, 6441 Lakeview, told police that around 4 a.m. he heard funny noises coming from the parking lot. When he checked, he said he found his 2016 Ford Explorer was missing all four tires and rims. The vehicle, which had the rear passenger window broken, was left sitting on cinder blocks. The stolen tires and rims were valued at \$2,000.

Larceny

The furnace and air conditioning unit were reported stolen from a vacant home in the 34000 block of Florence on March 9. The missing equipment was valued at \$6,000. The owner told police he had last been at the home March 2 and the items were there. When he returned, he said the front door was open and the door knob had been knocked off.

Larceny

A resident in the 7800 block of Crabtree told police March 9 that a \$200 pair of boots she ordered were never received. She said the UPS tracking showed the package left at her home Dec. 14.

Also March 9, a resident in the 32000 block of Parkwood told police that he had never received a pair of block Nike Air Max boots valued at \$180. He said UPS showed the delivery had been made Feb. 8 and left on the front porch.

Break in

Two Android cell phones were reported stolen from a home in the 400 block of Pineapple on March 9. The resident told police that she returned home about 2 a.m. to find her front door open and holes in the walls.

The officer noted the front door had been

forced open. Along with the missing phones, the resident said her two Chihuahua puppies escaped through the open front door. One puppy was found but she had been unable to locate the second dog.

Vandalism

Police were called to the 35000 block of Castlewood just after 3:30 a.m. March 13 when a resident reported seeing three people walk by via his security camera. He said he heard a loud noise and then saw the three leave in an SUV.

Going outside, he said he noticed a broken window on a vehicle. Officers contacted the vehicle owner who reported nothing missing from her car.

Larceny from a vehicle

Overnight on March 13, a resident in the 37000 block of S. Heather told police that overnight someone had entered her unlocked vehicle to steal a duffel bag containing clothes.

A resident in the 32000 block of Woodworth Court told police that overnight March 13 someone had stolen a pair of Ray Ban sunglasses valued at \$130 from her unlocked car.

Fraud

A Westland man told police March 10 that he had been contacted by his bank about a \$45 charge made to a store in Chicago using his credit card. He said he had the card in his possession and hadn't been in Chicago.

Vandalism

Overnight March 8, a resident at the West Hamptons Condominiums, 7394 Central, told police that someone had smashed the rear window of his vehicle while it was in the parking lot.

LeAnne Rogers

LIVONIA COP CALLS

Trading cards stolen

An employee at RIW Hobby and Games, 29571 Five Mile, came into the Livonia police station Wednesday evening to file a report of a customer stealing several hundred dollars worth of Magic: The Gathering trading cards from the store.

The employee said the suspect, who was a regular at the store, came in and purchase some items. He then walked around the store, going to a display case where several Magic cards were on display. He then allegedly reached into the display and took several of them and left without paying.

The employee brought in a recording of the incident captured on camera, as well as images of the cards taken, police said. Their value was listed at more than \$1,200.

Retail fraud reported

Police were called Thursday afternoon to Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud.

When police arrived, they spoke to a store employee, who told them the two suspects were seen walking in and grabbing a cart. They loaded mosaic tiles into the cart and allegedly attempted to leave the store without paying for them. They

were stopped and detained until police arrived, who arrested them. The suspects said they needed the items for a job but did not have any money, police said.

Shoplifting suspect flees

Police were dispatched Thursday evening to Walmart, 29555 Plymouth, on the report of a retail fraud suspect who had fled the store.

A store employee told police they saw the suspect enter the store and select several Nintendo Wii U game controllers. The suspect was reportedly seen concealing the items and trying to leave the store. He was stopped

by an employee, but reportedly fled out of the store. The controllers were reportedly recovered in the parking lot.

Police went looking for the suspect, and saw someone who matched the description in the nearby Chili's restaurant. He appeared out of breath, police said. Police arrested him and took him to the police station for processing.

—Compiled by David Veselenak from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.
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Boy hopeful in national adaptive bike giveaway

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Her pregnancy was moving along like most pregnancies, with the morning sickness and the baby kicking and the preparation.

But for Allison McRae and her husband, Duncan, and their their newborn son — William — the end of normal came three weeks early. William was born prematurely, in respiratory distress, not breathing.

He weighed just 3 pounds, 13 ounces, and spent 28 days in the Neonatal-Intensive Care Unit. Within a year, William had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. At 18 months, he had a feeding tube. He's also afflicted with what his mom calls "pretty severe epilepsy."

So life hasn't been normal, at least not by most people's definition. Now, though, comes a chance to provide a sliver of normalcy to William's life, through a bicycle giveaway from Friendship Circle, the West Bloomfield-based charity that has been providing assistance and support for more than 3,000 families of children with special needs since 1994.

Friendship Circle has launched its fifth annual Great Bike Giveaway, a national effort to provide as many as 600 adaptive bikes to children with special needs.

William McRae, now 6 years old, is one of the children hoping to win the kind of bike that would cost the family upwards of \$3,000 otherwise. The thought of winning the bike — and giving her son a chance "to be like other kids" — brings Allison McRae to tears.

"Our life is pretty limited with what we're able to do," Allison McRae said. "To have something to do that's light and fun, and to be able to watch my son play around like any other kid ... would be just about the best thing in the world to me."

The Friendship Circle giveaway is a national effort to provide adaptive bicycles to boys and girls with special needs. The giveaway honors Michaela Noam Kaplan, who

PUT WILLIAM ON WHEELS

What: Friendship Circle annual Great Bike Giveaway
When: Voting ends March 30; winners tentatively scheduled to be chosen March 31.
Why: Friendship Circle hopes to give away up to 600 adaptive bicycles to special-needs children.
Helping William: Donate, vote or become an ambassador at www.friendshipcircle.org/bikes/2016/02/william-m/
More information: www.friendshipcircle.org/bikes/about/

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Six-year-old William McRae of Livonia is one of hundreds of special-needs children registered in Friendship Circle's fifth annual Great Bike Giveaway.

also suffered from cerebral palsy and whose spastic quadriplegia did not allow her muscles to move fluidly on their own.

Friendship Circle has partnered with nine adaptive bicycle companies around the country. Adaptive bicycles are extremely costly and while more than 74 million kids across the U.S. ride bikes as an everyday part of childhood, it's not the case for children with special needs.

"We all know the feeling when our children turn 5 or 6 and learn to ride a bicycle," said Bessie Shemtov, director of Friendship Circle. "It's the freedom our children feel that's incredible. It's a very special feeling. (But) most special-needs children can't ride a bike. They don't ever get that feeling."

That's what the McRae family wants for William. Michaela Kaplan is the daughter of a family friend, Gabrielle Burman, and Allison McRae — who also has step-daughters Sydney and Lindsey — also heard about the giveaway on Facebook.

She signed up immediately (only the first 600 entrants were going to be part of it) and started seeking "ambassadors" (folks to help spread the word).



Allison McRae speaks about the contest to provide special bikes for kids like her son William.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anyone wishing to help can donate money, become an ambassador or — most important — vote for William at his Friendship Circle page (www.friendshipcircle.org/bikes/2016/02/william-m/).

The bike for which they're entered is a Riffin Tricycle, an adaptive tricycle that would not only help him with his motor skills, it would give William the freedom other kids have.

"Socially is where we'd get the most out of it," Allison said. "He'll be able to play outside

with other kids."

William gets some of that at school. The 6-year-old attends Cooke School in Northville, where they work with special-needs students ages 3-26. At school, William has access to an adaptive tricycle.

Jeanine Lithgow, a physical therapist at the school who works with districts in Northville and Livonia, said the bike William and the other kids ride at Cooke provides big benefits in terms of muscle development, head and trunk control

and respiration.

She said it's a way for special-needs kids to exercise that's "socially acceptable" and is of great social value.

"It's a way for kids to look at a child with special needs and say, 'They're like me, they ride a bike like me,'" Lithgow said. "We find that most of the kids, when they get to ride the bike, they have a smile on their face."

The McRaes want to get William a bike for home, but as a one-income family — Duncan owns Grain Line Artistry, but Allison stays home with William — they really can't afford it.

Shemtov, Friendship Circle's director, understands the problem. Many parents of children with special needs, she said, simply cannot afford an adaptive bicycle and Friendship Circle of Michigan wants to make this dream a reality for their children.

She'd like to get bikes for all 600 entrants, and said they'll give away however many they're able to get. To do it, Shemtov knows Friendship Circle will need generous support.

"Our children are our greatest and most precious and valuable commodity," Shemtov said. "We are kindly asking you to show your generosity by supporting the children and putting smiles on the faces of boys and girls throughout the United States."

Voting closes March 30, and winners in each category are scheduled to be drawn the following day.

Entrants come from near — Jayce Wargowsky of Northville is one — and far. Amd obviously, Allison McRae is hoping William is one of the chosen children. But she understands how he might not be, given all of the children on the list. She has spent time reading all of the profiles, and wipes away tears every time.

"My heart aches," she admitted. "It's so hard not to vote for every child on there."

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Kosowski appointed to law commission

House Democratic Whip and State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, has been appointed to the Michigan Commission on Uniform State Laws.

The MCUSL is the Michigan delegation to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The delegation meets with

commissioners from other states to try and bring uniformity to state law where wide variations between states could complicate the resolution of interstate



Kosowski

problems.

Members of the MCUSL include two appointees by the Speaker of the House, two appointees by the Senate Majority Leader, and three members appointed by the Legislative Council. Kosowski was appointed by Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant.

"It is truly an honor that Speaker Cotter chose me to fill the vacancy on this commission," Kosowski said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and other members and hope to add another perspective in our discussions."

Teens create art with Post-It notes

The teen area of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland received two new visitors recently: Batman and Superman.

Using only Post-It Notes, a group of middle school and high school students recently worked with teen librarian Jody Wolak to create giant pixel-art creations of the two superheroes.

Wolak planned the event after being inspired by pictures of Post-It pixel art online.

"Since the Batman vs. Superman movie comes out this month, it seemed like the perfect time to create some superheroes for the teen area," Wolak said. "And Post-It art appeals both to the more analytical and more creative among us."

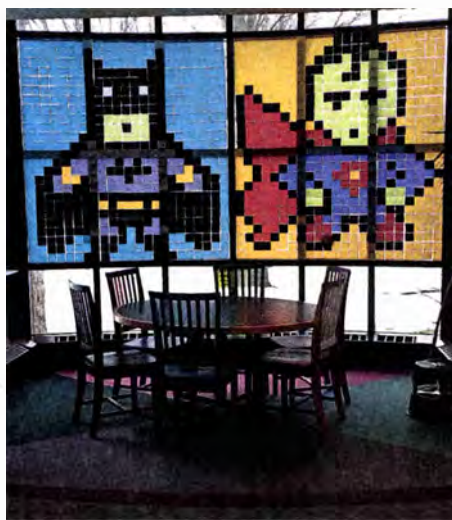
In total, the project

required 1,150 Post-It Notes.

The art project has been getting a lot of attention from library patrons. College student Mary Lesniak watched the pixelated superheroes being made.

"It's amazing how it all came together. It was a really creative idea," Lesniak said. "It looks really cool," agreed high school student Jordan Alexander.

The Westland Public Library offers a variety of programs for children, teens and adults. Upcoming events for teens include a Peeps photography contest, book club and S'mores Indoors cooking program. For more information about the programs, visit westlandlibrary.org.



Teens created Batman and Superman at the Westland library using nothing but Post-It notes.

SUBMITTED

St. Mary's Catholic School offers tours

Tuesdays in April are Tour Days at St. Mary's Catholic School in Wayne.

Parents and guardians of prospective students are invited to tour the school. They will have an opportunity to meet teachers and the principal, and view classrooms and work done by students.

Registration and tuition information for the 2016-2017 school year

will be available. Families may also inquire about Tuition Assistance Programs

St. Mary is a diverse school that offers a multitude of enrichment programs that students can explore beyond the core curriculum.

Among those enrichment programs are: on-site campus learning specialist; during- and after-school tutoring; student council; National

Junior Honor Society; choir/bells/band; scouting; CYO sports; Academic Olympics; before- and after-school care; and National Scripps and Knights of Columbus spelling bees.

The school has kindergarten through eighth grade classes along with preschool for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds.

Call 734-721-1240 to make an appointment.



FILE PHOTO

St. Mary's Catholic School in Wayne.

John Glenn student to attend national media conference

Grace Mortson, a student at John Glenn High School, has been selected to represent Westland as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2016 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University.

Mortson joins a select group of students from all over the country for an intensive study of journalism and media. Mortson was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies.

National Youth Correspondents participate in hands-on, experiential learning through decision-making simulations that challenge them to solve problems and explore the creative, practical and ethical tensions inherent in journalism and media. The experiential portion of the program is complemented by speakers who are well-known leaders in the media community. Pre-

senters include prominent journalists, CEOs of major media outlets, researchers and recent college graduates successfully entering the field. Past speakers have included Hoda Kotb from NBC, Brian Lamb from C-SPAN, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Carol Guzy and Sonya Ross from the Associated Press.

With distinguished faculty, guest speakers and direct access to elite D.C. practitioners, the Washington Journalism and Media Conference offers aspiring journalists and student leaders an unparalleled experience. The week long program, held at George Mason University's state-of-the-art campus, will encourage and inspire young leaders from across the country who desire a unique experience focused on successful careers in this dynamic industry.

The Washington Journalism and Media Conference will be held July 10-July 15, 2016.

Amateur radio club hosts testing March 31

The Garden City Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a testing session on Thursday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City, south of Ford Road on the west side of the

street.

Ham radio operators can take the Technician, General or Extra Class license exams to obtain their ticket or upgrade. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, email ac8fj@arrl.net.

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The best in show Continental at the No. 1 Lincoln dealer in the nation

Introducing the New 2017 Continental, Lincoln's newest addition to its already stellar fleet of vehicles. The smooth features of the Continental, such as the innovative e-latch door handle that opens with a single touch and its seamless one-piece grill with iconic star mesh, lend to a bold style that is distinctly Lincoln. With available twin-turbocharged 3.0L GTDI V6 engine, efficient horsepower-per-liter output and an available AWD powertrain, the Continental is already proving to be the vehicle to beat in 2016 and beyond.

The announcement was made that the 2017 Lincoln Continental was named the 2016 North American International Auto Show's Best in Show at a Detroit Economic Club annual luncheon with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

The Lincoln Continental is one of many amazing vehicles that will be available to consumers from Lincoln in 2016. Dealerships all over the country are preparing to receive these vehicles. Varsity in Novi already has the best of what Lincoln has to offer and will soon have the Continental, as well. The dealership has held the honor of highest volume sales globally since 1997.* Varsity offers a newly remodeled showroom, indoor delivery area and service reception where the highest in customer service is available.

Varsity Lincoln always works to make sure their customers remain num-



The 2017 Lincoln Continental was named the 2016 North American International Auto Show's Best in Show.

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ber one. Celebrating over 20 years in business, Varsity Lincoln has won many other prestigious automotive awards, including the Triple Crown Award, Lincoln Leaders of Excellence, Presidents Award, Ford One Hundred Club, CPO Sales Leadership and Premier Club. When you come to Varsity Lincoln in Novi, you're getting service from the best.

With both new and certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles available, Varsity runs many specials throughout the year to better serve its customers. Right now, Varsity Lincoln is offering a complimentary maintenance plan for certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles. This includes an oil change, tire rotation and multipoint inspection every 7,500 miles for one year/15,000 miles. With more than 200 certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles available for as little

as \$16,995+, it's no wonder that people will travel from far and wide to the Novi dealership to get "The Varsity Advantage!"

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a certified pre-owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," said Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all certified pre-owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, anytime you bring your vehicle in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost, exclusively at Varsity Lincoln! The warranty is key with certified pre-owned and you will get the very best at Varsity Lincoln."

Certified pre-owned financing is available for as low as 0.9% APR.**

"Leasing or buying from a number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law said. "Our dealership is ready to assist customers with anything, whether it is special financing or specific vehicle features. We can handle even the most unique situations."

Besides the high volume of vehicles that Varsity provides, more proof of their dedication to customer service comes from the customers themselves. "If you want a really nice experience at a dealership, go to Varsity. I see the difference," customer Aretta Mackenroth said.

"Our customers speak for themselves about their experiences," Law said. "This dealership provides the Varsity Advantage. Team members here are selected based on their unwavering focus on customer care and satisfaction."

When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale, that's enough for us."

Whether you need to purchase, finance, or service a new or pre-owned vehicle, Varsity Lincoln is the right place. Use the website new car shopping tools to assist you in finding the perfect new vehicle or search our inventory to find a great deal on a low-mileage pre-owned vehicle. Plus, you can check out the current online specials and promotions that change all the time!

With hours both during the week and on week-ends, Varsity Lincoln in Novi Sales and Showroom is here to serve you:

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- » Fri. 8:30 a.m to 6 p.m.
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Visit VarsityLincoln.com or call 888-697-6345 to learn more about how Varsity is here to serve you.

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Kirk Franklin will attend the Westland St. Vincent de Paul event to benefit families in Flint.

Gospel singer to aid with water drive

Grammy-winning gospel singer Kirk Franklin will be making an appearance at the Westland St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store host a Good Friday water-thon to benefit families in Flint.

Praise 102.7-FM host Randi Myles will broadcast live from the store on North Wayne and Hunter during the water-thon, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Along with bottled water, donations of toiletries will also be accepted.

Franklin, a seven-time Grammy-winner, is slated to visit the water drive from 2-3 p.m.

Located at 6613 N. Wayne Road, the St. Vincent de Paul store is also a donation center.

For over 130 years, St. Vincent de Paul has provided vital services in Southeast Michigan, including food, shelter, medical and dental care, utility assistance, disaster relief and emergency support. Additionally, SD operates 11 thrift stores throughout the community and provides outreach programs to the youths.

Former White House florist shares stories

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

It wasn't always Robert Scanlan's plan to move to Washington, D.C.

The native Michigander was living on the east side of Detroit with his partner in the early '90s, when a job transfer had them move from Michigan to the nation's capital.

That was a springboard to Scanlan becoming assistant chief florist for the White House for 13 years.

"We made that decision, and it was the best decision we ever made," he said.

Scanlan was the final speaker at the season's Livonia Town Hall event Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Cultural Center. Scanlan, along with his brother, ran Scanlan's Fisher Road Florist in Grosse Pointe for 10 years before leaving for Washington. He served as assistant chief florist under three presidents: Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. He retired in 2010.

He said he was noticed by people in the White House looking for florists to do some side work on events at the executive home. After a few times of helping out with different events, he was offered a full-time job in the White House.

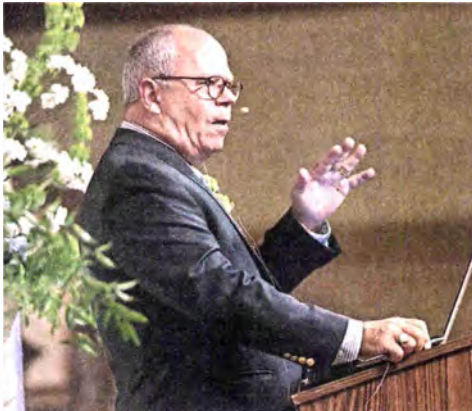
He talked about many of the arrangements he helped assemble, for numerous state dinners, luncheons and visits from foreign heads-of-state, including Queen Elizabeth of England.

He talked about doing other events, such as the ringing in of the new millennium. After guests left the White House to head to New Year's Eve events, Scanlan said a call came in to have the staff head to the top of the executive mansion.

"We went up to the roof of the White House,



Listening to former White House florist Robert Scanlan.



Robert Scanlan speaks about his experiences as White House florist.

and there was a spread on the table with champagne glasses and champagne," he said. "And we as a staff toasted on the roof of the White House for

2000. That was pretty special."

Getting close

Farmington Hills resident Clare McAuliffe said she enjoyed the discussion, though had a bit of a hard time hearing

and seeing from her seat in the back.

She said she hadn't thought about all the extra work it took to get flowers in and around the White House on a weekly basis. Scanlan said many flower arrangements are switched out twice a week to keep them fresh.

"I didn't know it was on such a grand scale," she said. "I had no idea."

Whenever an administration changed, Scanlan said, there was always some unease among the staff, because the new president could want others in their roles. But during both transitions, Scanlan and many others remained, being told to continue doing the work they had been doing with some changes made from the previous presidency.

He remembered that feeling the day before the Clinton administration ended.

"Part of it for me was I was told that we had to sign this paper (saying

that we could be let go if the new administration decided they wanted to bring in new staff," he said. "On the other side of it, I kept thinking, 'well, at least I've had a couple of good years.'"

He got close with many of the families, doing events for them and receiving personal notes from many of them. One of the more special events Scanlan recalled helping with was the wedding of Jenna Bush in 2008 in Texas. He was flown down on Air Force One (at the expense of the president, he added), and assisted with setup and arranging the wedding.

"It was magical," he said. "It was so perfect." The Livonia Town Hall series will begin up again in October.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Robotics on display



SUBMITTED

More than 40 robots will be on display at the Livonia District Robotics Competition on March 25-26 at Churchill High school, on Newburgh near Joy Road. The event will also feature a stained glass panel developed by the Livonia Warriors FRC 2832 Imagery team led by FRC Mentor Sally Davis (right) and Stevenson senior Jordan Pompa. The event is free and robot matches run for just a couple minutes, all day long.

Happily ever after

The Alexander Blue House at Greenmead hosts Happily Ever After, a chance to reminisce about weddings, showcase vintage gowns and photos from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Visitors will begin at the decorated Historic Newburg Church for a presentation, followed by the "reception" at the Alexander Blue House for hors d'oeuvres, sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.

Advance tickets are \$15, available at the Greenmead office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All tickets are non-refundable and at a first come, first serve basis. Sorry, no walk-ins. Tickets will be sold through Monday, April 11. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

1,000 books

Families are invited to join the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Livonia Public Library. It's a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide children essential early literacy skills.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration is open. For more information, call the library at 734-466-2493 or visit livoniapubliclibrary.org. This program is free of charge.

Spring bazaar

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

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

Lymphoma fundraiser

The Lymphoma Research Foundation, Take-down Wrestling Alliance and Family Video sponsor a fundraiser for lymphoma research Saturday, March 19, from 4-6 p.m. 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.

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 age 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, 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, visit facebook.com/gcmom2momsale or email gcmom2mom-sale@hotmail.com.

Colbeck hours

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and District Manager Penny Crider will hold monthly office hours for March in Livonia from 11 a.m. to noon Friday, March 18. 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, visit senatorpatrick-colbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

Historical society meets

The Livonia Historical Society presents *Old Stores a Downtown Detroit*, a PowerPoint program by Mike Hauser at 2 p.m. Monday, March 21. Hauser has served as guest curator for exhibits at the Detroit Historical Museum and co-authored five books including *20th 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 Road.

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 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.

Maltese Bingo

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc., presents "Shamrock Bingo" Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at 33111 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

The MABSI is donating 50 percent of its proceeds from its fundraising bingo nights to help www.flintkids.org throughout March.

For more information, call 248-557-2000.

Maple sugaring

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center hosts Maple Sugaring at Cass Benton Park in Northville 10 a.m. or noon Saturday, March 19.

The center will share the history of maple sugaring and take a short hike into the woods for a tree-tapping demonstration. Enjoy pancakes with the "real thing" afterward. The Park is located off of Northville Road, north of Six Mile Road. Meet at the picnic shelter. The program is

See EVENTS, Page A12



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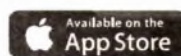


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Good, bad and silly matters raised by state lawmakers

Kathleen Gray
Michigan.com

Most weeks that the Legislature is in session, they're dealing with issues and introducing bills that have sometimes serious consequences on the people they represent.

Other times, not so much.

In the first category: Bills were introduced this week that would have serious implications for public sector employees and poor people. One bill would only allow base salaries to be used to calculate pension benefits for public sector employees. That means that overtime, bonuses and accumulated sick and vacation time could not be used in those calculations, which could lead to significant reductions in retirement benefits for employees who get a high amount of overtime, like police and firefighters.

Another bill would require that photos be included on bridge cards issued to low-income Michiganders who use the cash assistance cards for things like rent, groceries and utility bills. Under the proposed legislation, the bridge card recipients also could only use the assistance at state-approved grocery stores.

On the less serious side, legislators pro-

posed: naming the black swallowtail as the state butterfly, making the phrase "Great Lakes State" the official state moniker that has to be used in tourism promotions and license plates, allowing selfies with ballots to be taken at polling places, and allowing the Secretary of State to only issue 10 fundraising license plates at a time.

Right now, there are fundraising license plates for Michigan's 15 state-supported public universities and 11 other causes ranging from agriculture heritage to disaster relief, and there are bills that have been introduced for at least 13 more fundraising plates. Those bills have not had hearings yet.

Bills introduced last week:

House bills

HB 5429: Modify lien requirements for storage, repair and maintenance of watercraft to include notice sent to the owner that has proof of service. Sponsor: Rep. Andrea LaFontaine, R-Memphis.

HB 5430: Allow voters to take selfies at polling places. Sponsor: Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing.

HB 5431: Prohibit law enforcement agencies and universities from operating vehicle storage facilities. Sponsor: Rep.

Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township.

HB 5432: Provide for discounts on nonresident hunting licenses for out-of-state residents who own land in Michigan. Sponsor: Rep. Scott Diana, D-Calumet.

HB 5433-5434: Create the bills that will cover all education-related and government operation budgets for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Sponsor: Rep. Al Pscholka, R-Stevensville.

HB 5435-5437: Clarify the rule for authorized people who are allowed to replace a residential water heater, and spell out minimum experience necessary for a mechanical contractor license. Sponsors: Reps. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway; Roger Victory, R-Hudsonville, and Robert Verheulen, R-Walker.

HB 5438: Require base pay compensation — without overtime, bonuses, accumulated sick or vacation times — to calculate public employee compensation. Sponsor: Rep. Pat Somerville, R-New Boston.

HB 5439: Change the date that businesses in renaissance zones are exempt from payments in lieu of taxes to local government. Current law says that businesses in a renaissance zone, after Dec. 1, 2010, don't have to make the payments. The new law removes the date, allowing all busi-

nesses in renaissance zone to be exempt from payments in lieu of taxes in renaissance zones. Sponsor: Rep. Michael Webber, R-Rochester Hills.

HB 5440: Require testing for lead and other contaminants in water supplied to nonpublic schools. Another bill was introduced several weeks ago for public schools. Sponsor, Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

HB 5441: Provide a use tax holiday for back-to-school clothing and school supplies. Sponsor Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

HB 5442 and 5448-5449: Provide for active shooter and other threat alerts to be sent to cellular phones, and create penalties for false reports of threats. Sponsor: Rep. Brandt Iden, R-Oshtemo Township, and Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo.

HB 5443: Prohibit the issuance of a license to buy and possess a gun for people on the federal terrorist watch list. Sponsor: Rep. Robert Wittenberg, D-Oak Park.

HB 5444: Replace the Common Core curriculum standards. Sponsor: Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland.

HB 5445: Prohibit injunctive relief or damages for medical marijuana dispensaries who are operating in violation of local ordinances. Spon-

sor: Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit.

HB 5446: Eliminate the requirement that neighborhood enterprise zones send a report on assessed values and taxes to the Michigan Enterprise Zone Authority. Sponsor: Rep. Eric Leuthener, R-Hillsdale.

HB 5447-5448: Allow the Secretary of State to create and sell only 10 fundraising license plates at any one time. Sponsor, Rep. Peter Petalita, R-Presque Isle.

HB 5450: Allow for professional development days for teachers to be counted as instructional time. Sponsor: Rep. Jim Tedder, R-Clarkston.

HB 5451: Require that photos of bridge card recipients be included on the cards, prohibit the cards from being used at automated teller machines or to access cash at a retailer, and establish that bridge cards can only be used for rent, utilities, child care and certain products at state-approved grocery stores. Sponsor: Rep. Martin Howrylak, R-Troy.

HB 5452: Provide for a religious exemption from electronic filing for employment benefits. Sponsor: Rep. Joel Johnson, R-Clare.

Senate bills

SB 844: Provide for the conveyance of state-owned property in Ingham County to Emer-

gent BioDefense Operations in Lansing. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

SB 845-847: Designate the "Great Lakes State" as the official moniker of Michigan and require that it be used in travel promotions and on license plates. Sponsors: Sens. Wayne Schmidt, R-Traverse City; John Proos, St. Joseph, and Dale Zorn, R-Ida.

SB 848: Protect free speech rights of student journalists. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

SB 849: Require state departments to annually report assets over a certain amount. Sponsor: Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton.

SB 850: Designate the black swallowtail butterfly. Sponsor: Sen. Curtis Hertel, D-East Lansing.

SB 851: Require gun owners to hold firearm liability insurance. Sponsor: Sen. Coleman Young II, D-Detroit.

SB 852: Allow for the installation of automated safety cameras in school buses in cities with a population of at least 500,000 — which in Michigan is only Detroit — in order to send citations to drivers who violate traffic ordinances near school buses. Sponsor: Sen. Bert Johnson, D-Highland Park.

EVENTS

Continued from Page A11

outdoors and the trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly. All ages

welcome, but the trail in the woods is not stroller friendly.

Pre-registration required for all programs (except Native Day), at the Park Office, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, West-

land, 48185.

Vintage toy show

The Livonia Elks host a Vintage Toy Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at the Elks Hall, 31117 Plymouth

Road (east of Merriman). Customers may find comic books, hot wheels, games, lunch boxes, *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* items, sport and non-sport cards, posters, movie/TV items, models, G.I. Joes, music memorabilia, records, beer signs and more. Admission \$5, kids under 12 free. For more information, call Joe (daytime) at 586-775-3289 or Jacque at 586-329-8213.

Catholic series

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

Kim Steelman, whose journey has moved from a life shaken to its core by abuse and widowhood, to a new life founded on the teachings and social justice doctrine of the

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

St. Michael is at 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman roads, in Livonia. For more information, visit livoniastmichael.org or email whybecatholic@livoniastmichael.org.



**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES OF REDFORD
TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS
FOR FEBRUARY 2016**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved Minutes for meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of February 2016 are posted at the following public places within the Township:

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

Approved Minutes may also be viewed on-line at www.redfordtwp.com

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk
Charter Township of Redford
LO-000279921 3d.1

Published: March 20, 2016

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR
REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
2016 CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES**

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, March 29th, 2016 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

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

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

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 2016 CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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

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

Steven Makie
Maintenance Manager
Published: March 20, 2016

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor
LO-000279908 3d.1

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR
REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
RESTORATION OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA'S SALT DOME**

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 12th, 2016 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at the Department of Public Works Building, 12973 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan (734) 466-2655 at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 29th, 2016. Bids will not be accepted from those firms who do not attend.

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

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

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN RESTORATION OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA'S SALT DOME, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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

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

Don R. Rohraff
Director, Dept. of Public Works
Published: March 20, 2016

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor
LO-000279908 3d.1

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

High Anxiety takes the stage, playing "Are You Gonna Be My Girl."

Pierce Middle School students prove they have talent

Scott Daniel
Staff Writer

Electric. Sassy. Athletic.

Any or all of those adjectives may be appropriate to describe Dan-Nae Pollard's winning dance performance at Wednesday night's "Pierce's Got Talent" competition. Appearing as the show's last act, the eighth grader brought down the house with a stunning assortment of moves on Thurston High School's Weber auditorium stage.

"It's Hip Hop contemporary," Pollard told host Bill Triolet prior to her performance, "kind of like ballet."

An enthusiastic crowd of nearly 300 filled the auditorium for the event. The show replaced "Patriot Idol," a singing competition, after its eight-year run.

"We decided to make changes so many kids were coming to us wanting to share their talents," Triolet explained to the audience. "We thought, 'why not showcase that talent?'"

A dozen acts were featured, from solo to duet singers to a hard-rock band and a pair of dancers. Judge Barbara Johnston had a hard time making a decision as to which act was best.

"All of the kids were amazing," the seventh-grade teacher said. "It's awesome to see how much they've grown from when we held auditions."

A total of 60 students tried out for the show. Judges whittled that group down to 26 and then the final dozen for Wednesday's festivities. While judges had a say, audience members also voted on their favorites with their ticket representing their ballot.

"We've got another way for you to vote," Triolet added. "It's called green dollars. Each dollar counts for one vote."

Audience members put their ballots and cash into boxes marked for each contestant after the show. Proceeds from the evening will go to buying supplies for the school. While Pollard came out on top, the band High Anxiety and solo artist Amber Bogins tied for second. The duet team of



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peyton Webster performs a lyrical dance to "Dream On" by Kelly Sweet.

Evan Black and Annabel Sandel placed third.

High Anxiety got the show off to a rocking start with its rendition of Jet's, "Are You Gonna Be My Girl?" Lead singer Fallon Maki worked the stage like a seasoned performer, whipping her long, dark brown hair back and forth while belting out the tune with flare.

Speaking of belting it out, sixth grader Donnysha Poe showcased her powerful voice with Adele's, "Hello." Classmate Makyle Garzes followed minutes later with a cooler than cool performance of, "No Woman, No Cry" by Bob Marley.

Peyton Webster had the evening's other dance routine, a classy, lyrical interpretation of Kelly Sweet's "Dream On." Bogins drew rave review

from the judges for her soulful performance of Christina Aguilera's, "Hurt."

Bogins overcame a slight misstep during the rendition, a fact not lost on the judges. "You didn't miss a step with your vocals," judge Scott Edwards said. "It was completely seamless."

Other performances included: Jaiila Berry and Neriah Johnson singing John Legend's, "All of Me;" Alaya Moss singing Meghan Trainor's, "No Good For You;" Kelsea Chisolm singing Justin Bieber's, "Love Yourself;" Carrington Beaman singing Duffy's, "Mercy;" and Autumn Jackson singing, "When I was Your Man" by Bruno Mars.

sdaniel@hometownlife.com
734-672-5026



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carrington Beaman sings "Mercy" by Duffy.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mackenzie Turk belts out "Are You Gonna Be My Girl" with the band High Anxiety.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"No Good For You," sung by Alaya Moss.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A crew member dances backstage as Donnysha Poe sings "Hello" by Adele.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"No Woman, No Cry" is sung by Makyle Garzes.

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Special Events & Worship

Good Friday, March 25 at 12:30pm & 7:00pm (Tenebrae)

Family Easter Fair & Egg Hunt March 26 at 10:00am—noon

Easter Sunday, March 27 at 6:30am, 8:30am & 11:00am

Closed Captioning provided at 11:00am service on 2nd & 4th Sundays & on Easter Sunday at 11:00am.

B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen center goes high tech

Canton's B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen center recently teamed up with 27 Best Buy and Geek Squad employee volunteers, along with several Break a Difference volunteers to host a special Teen Tech Workshop for its student members.

This unique hands-on learning opportunity called "Blue Gives Back" — recognizing Best Buy employees in their blue staff shirts who give back to local communities — enabled over 30 students currently enrolled at The B.L.O.C.K. to experience the latest cutting-edge digital technologies in a fun and nurturing environment.

Program activities and topics included audio production with a banana piano; 3D design and printing; electrical circuit creation; stop-motion animation film-making; mobile app development; and more.

"This introduction to tech skills could possibly inspire future education and career choices," said Laura Mortier,



Jordan Jackson works on a project with Best Buy, the Geek Squad and Break a Difference volunteers.

B.L.O.C.K. coordinator and recreation specialist. "It's one thing to tell them about technology, but with this hands-on training, our students were exposed to the latest technology in a fun

and interactive setting." As experts in technology, Best Buy and the Geek Squad continue to leverage their knowledge, resources and talented employee volunteers from all over the

state of Michigan to host these special workshops that empower youth and help prepare them for the future.

By interacting with the latest technologies, these participants were

able to see the benefits of digital learning up close while developing skills to help better prepare them for future education and career success. For additional information about Best Buy's community

relations and outreach efforts, visit <https://corporate.bestbuy.com>.

Founded in 2013, Break a Difference strategically engages individuals and institutions across the nation through service to make positive impacts in communities and on those who serve. This organization recognizes service and volunteering as powerful tools to tackle such important matters as leadership development, teambuilding, and employee engagement. For additional information, go to www.breakadifference.org.

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, located on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, provides a fun, teen-friendly environment where students ages 11-17 can participate in supervised after-school programs, social events, and activities. For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-398-5570.

HOWARD'S TOWING & COLLISION LLC 37374 Vanborn Rd. Wayne, MI 48184 Auction March 29, 2016, 1:00 PM cash only.

YEAR	MAKE	SERIAL NO.
2006	Suzuki	JS2RC62H365350907
1995	Jeep	1J4GZ78Y0SC779936
1992	Chevrolet	1G1FP23E2N152269
1997	Chevrolet	1GNDM19WXB134486
1997	Ford	1FALP52U4VG255700
2001	Ford	1FMYU01121KC39114

Published: March 20, 2016

LO-000275011 3x2

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following item:

Petition 2016-03-02-04 submitted by Colliers International on behalf of Zeal Credit Union, requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 9.03 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate credit union branch and offices at 17250 Newburgh Road, located on the east side of Newburgh Road between Six Mile Road and Bennett Avenue in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8.

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

R. Lee Morrow, Chairman
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: March 20, 2016

LO-000275903 3x3

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN REMARCITE LIVONIA OUTDOOR POOLS

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

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

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

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: **CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN REMARCITE LIVONIA OUTDOOR POOLS, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.**

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

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

Edward Davis
Superintendent, Parks & Recreation

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor

Published: March 20, 2016

LO-000275907 3x4

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CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED AND REFUSE ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, of the City of Livonia, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Livonia, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, by May 1 of each year and as many times thereafter as may be necessary. If any noxious weeds or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City so ordered to be cut down, destroyed or removed by May 1, as aforesaid, have not been removed by the owner or occupant of the premises, then the City of Livonia is hereby authorized to enter upon the land and destroy, cut down or remove said noxious weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City at the expense of the owner or occupant of said land. The City may cut down, destroy or remove noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches or any refuse or debris, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City as many times as is necessary and charge the costs to the property owner.

In the event the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land in any subdivision in which buildings have been erected on sixty percent (60%) of the lots included in that subdivision and where such subdivision has a residential zoning classification of R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6 or R-U-F, or the owners or occupants, or any person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, which abuts or is adjacent to the aforementioned subdivisions for a depth of two hundred (200) feet, or the owners or occupants, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation, having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, which abuts or is adjacent to any developed public park or any developed school or college grounds, whether public, private or parochial, for a depth of two hundred (200) feet, or the owners or occupants, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, along all improved streets in common usage for a depth of two hundred (200) feet or the depth of the property, whichever is less, shall fail, refuse or neglect to comply with the above mentioned ordinance, the City shall cause said noxious weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains of any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses, shall be exempted from the provisions of this ordinance. All expenses incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law. The expenses incurred in cutting, destruction, or removal of all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property shall include, but are not limited to, an administrative charge of seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars for each of the first two instances in a calendar year of cutting, destruction, or removal, which administrative charge shall increase to one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) dollars for the third and each subsequent instance of cutting, destruction, or removal required in the same calendar year.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

A. Alexander Bishop, CBO
Director of Inspection
City of Livonia

Published: March 10 & 20, 2016

LO-000275418 3x7.5

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIVONIA, MI 48154

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Livonia Public Schools BP#4-L, consisting of:

Metal Lockers at Randolph Elementary School

will be received by Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 until **12:00 P.M. (noon), local time on Tuesday April, 5 2016**. Bids will be opened and read publicly immediately following at the Administrative Offices in the Livonia Public Schools.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

126 Metal Lockers

Bidding documents prepared by French Associates will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning on March 16, 2016 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on March 16, 2016, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com free of charge
- Documents can be purchased from Dunn Blue/ARC, 1009 Maple St. Clawson, Michigan (248) 288-5600

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The Mr. Armelagos' name and bid division is to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 00 42 05), Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit (Section 00 42 10) and the Equal Opportunity Statement (Section 00 42 15).

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond (by a listed U.S. Treasury surety company) or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Livonia Public Schools as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

Contractors will be required to meet the prevailing wage requirements.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. 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, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools

Published: March 20, 2016

LO-000275774 3x7.5

Who pays taxes on real estate sold — all in form 1099

Q: I got a mortgage for my daughter and her husband three years ago because she could not get one. They sold the house this year for a profit. I did a quit claim deed and put her name on the house along with mine. I never lived in the house; she made all the payments and also paid the taxes. My question is will I have to pay any taxes on the profit next year?

A: The Internal Revenue Service would look at who owned the property. In most cases, the IRS would determine who owns the property based upon the 1099 issued at closing. For real estate transactions, a 1099 is issued to the seller. Therefore, in your par-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

ticular case, the first issue you would need to consider is whose name and Social Security number are on the 1099. If your daughter's Social Security Number was used, then she should be the one who reports the tax consequences. That is actually good news because more likely than not, she would not have to pay any taxes because it is her personal residence and the gain is not sufficient enough to be taxed. On the other hand, if the 1099 was issued in your Social

Security Number, then the IRS would presume that the property is yours and thus, you would have to pay the taxes. Unfortunately, because this is not your primary residence, you would not be fortunate enough to receive a tax break. You would be taxed on the entire gain.

If the 1099 was issued to you as opposed to your daughter, you can potentially have the 1099 reissued by the title company. That would certainly make things easier for you. Filing an amended 1099 is very simple and straight forward.

If as you said, your daughter made all the payments on the mortgage and property taxes, the 1099 is in your name and the title company won't

change it, you can take the position that the house was always your daughter's and your name was only on it for convenience purposes. If this is the case, you can issue a 1099 to your daughter for the exact same amount of the 1099 you received. Then, when you file your 2016 tax return, you can attach your daughter's 1099 along with an explanation. The 1099 you received will offset the 1099 you issued to your daughter; thus, no tax consequences for you. The key is to make sure you keep documentation such as proof of your daughter's payment of the mortgage and the property taxes in case you are audited.

Whenever you mention audit, people immediately get

nervous; that should not be the case. Surprising to many, if you have the appropriate documentation, the IRS is not necessarily difficult to deal with. On the other hand, if you take a tax position and you don't have documentation, then you can have issues. However, in this particular case, I believe the daughter should be responsible for the taxes and I believe with the proper documentation, the IRS would agree.

Good luck!

Rick is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com

Holy Week: Public invited to walk a labyrinth

If you have never walked a labyrinth, especially during Holy Week, the First United Methodist Church of Northville invites you to join its members in a week-long prayer outreach.

The church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road, at the corner of Taft Road, will offer guided Labyrinth Walks, as well as a Prayer Vigil Center, during Holy Week. The church's entire Fellowship Gathering Place will be decorated with palm trees, special bench seating, meditative music and spring plants to create a peaceful, prayerful space. Stephen Ministers will be present as guides, said Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator Norma Peltz, a church member.

"This is a special deal," Peltz said.

A labyrinth is a bible tradition documented in the Old and New Testaments. It is a single winding path that allows participants to have a meditative walk to the center and back out again. It is also an ancient circular pattern found in many cultures and civilizations dat-

ing back more than 5,000 years.

At the First United Methodist Church, the canvas labyrinth is 40 feet in diameter and weighs 110 pounds. "It is sacred geometry and is found in 23 Gothic cathedrals," Peltz said.

Peltz said walking a labyrinth is a practice that "integrates the body with the mind and the mind with the spirit."

A labyrinth, which is not a maze, is for pilgrimage, walking prayer, centering prayer, spiritual retreat, self-discovery and a union of the body, mind and spirit, Peltz said.

Visitors may take as much time as they wish on the labyrinth. Hours at the church March 21-25 are:

- » Monday, March 21: 4-8 p.m.
- » Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23: 1-6 p.m.
- » Maundy Thursday, March 24: 1-7 p.m., followed by worship at 7 p.m.
- » Good Friday, March 25: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., followed by worship at 7 p.m.



First United Methodist Church in Northville invites the public to walk the labyrinth during Holy Week.

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72 Month Purchase

Stock No. 55559P | VIN: FUC60007

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MSRP \$36,360

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INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Wayne runners sprint to 'Big Apple'

Zebra senior Hood among finest in 400

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

"Intensity" is more than just the name of the track-and-field club Wayne Memorial head coach Jamal Johnson orchestrates.

It's also the one of the commodities that helped the swiftest members of the team to the national indoor championships last week in New York City.

Made up mostly of high school athletes from Wayne, South Lyon and Monroe, the Intensity Track Club excelled

at the indoor state meet earlier this month and at last weekend's national meet in the "Big Apple."

"You have to have a great work ethic and a positive attitude to be on this team," said Johnson, a former track standout at Detroit Martin Luther King High School. "You have to be up for the challenge, because we train hard."

Johnson said this season's indoor team was unified more than others he's coached.

"This team is very close;

See INTENSITY, Page B2



Intensity Track Club members include (back row from left) Steven Linton (St. Johns), Kevin Schopa (South Lyon), Montel Hood (Wayne Memorial) and Jerod Allen (South Lyon) and (front row from left) Anavia Battle (Wayne), Reanna Brown-Deacon (Wayne), Jsalissa Bridges (Monroe) and Erica Robinson (Wayne).

Local players helping Northwood

A trio of Observer-land-area softball players have played key roles in the Northwood University's 8-6 start to the 2016 season.

Former Garden City stand-outs Ashley Lynn, a junior at Northwood, and Abby Joseph, a freshman, along with Livonia Ladywood alum Andria Gietl, are major parts of the Timberwolves' infield and batting order.

Lynn, a slick-fielding middle infielder, leads the team in both batting average (.381) and on-base percentage (.519) through the first 14 games. She also has scored nine runs and knocked in six.

Joseph, a hard-hitting third baseman, has 28 plate appearances so far in her first collegiate season. She has ripped one double and knocked in two runs.

Gietl, a junior corner infielder, is tied for the team lead with two home runs. She has also driven in 13 runs while batting a robust .289.



Lynn



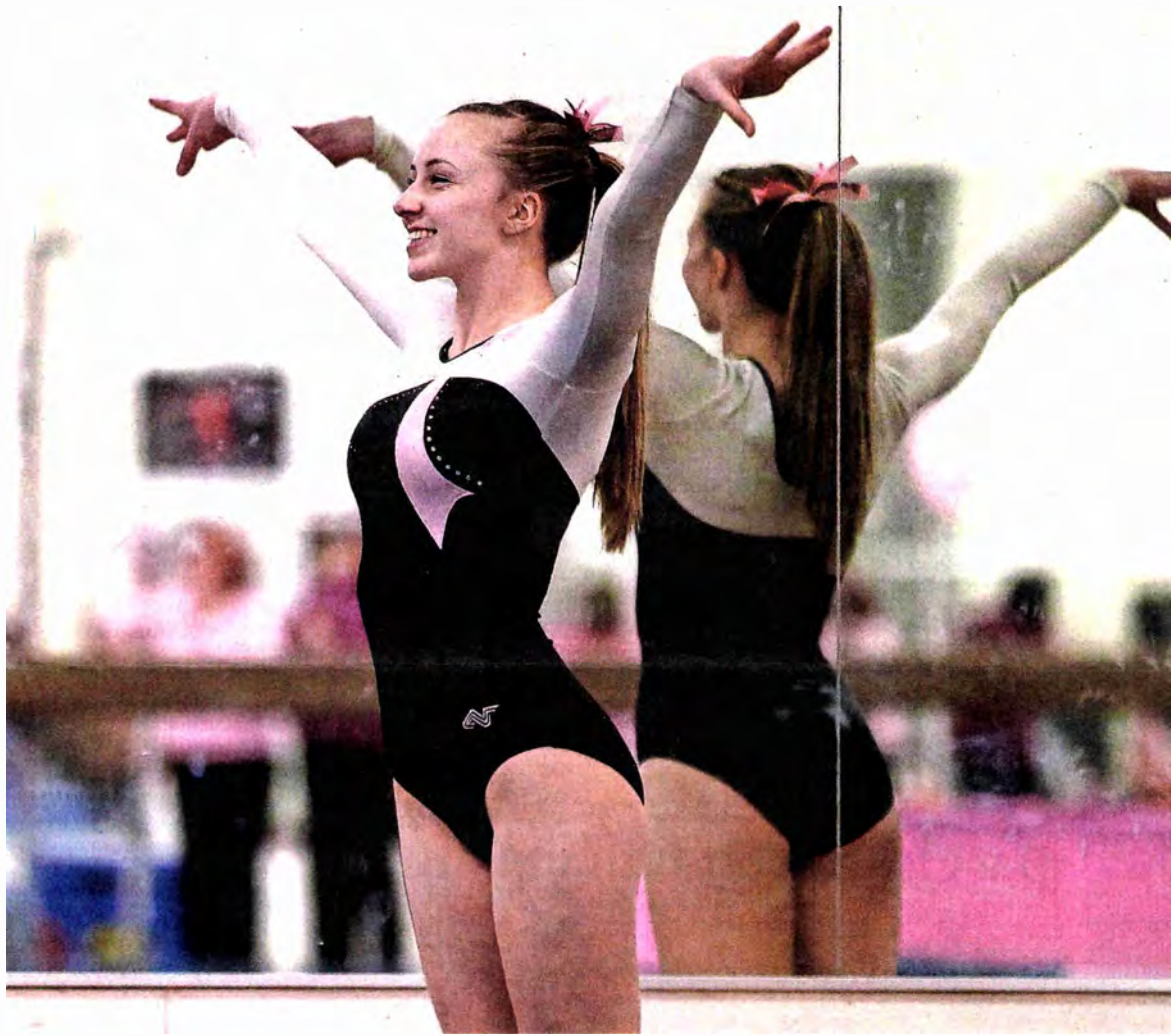
Joseph



Gietl

PREP PROFILE

GYM DANDIES



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Livonia Blue's Jess Weak caps a routine with a smile during a meet earlier this winter. Weak earned an individual state title on the uneven bars.

Stevenson duo flips to stardom at state meet

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Blessed with flexible bodies, versatile skill sets and steely work ethics, Livonia Blue gymnasts Bri Rhoad and Jess Weak flipped their way into the program's history

books at the MHSAA individual state meet held March 12 in Rockford.

Rhoad, a senior, earned a coveted all-around state title with a score of 36.525, while Weak, a junior, earned gold on the uneven parallel bars, scoring 9.025.

The pair became the first gymnasts in Blue's 10-year history to win state titles.

"They're both such athletic, hard-working and humble kids," said Blue head coach Lisa Broomfield. "They both joined the team their freshman year and have done an amazing job of refining the excellent skills they already had."

"Bri suffered a setback her

sophomore year when she broke her ankle, but she quickly built herself back up to become so consistent in all the events. She has a laid-back personality, but when she's out there competing, she is very focused. She goes out there, blocks everything else out and does her thing.

See GYM DUO, Page B4

COLLEGIATE RUNNING

Madonna fortifies its roster with Patriots

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

When the Madonna University men's track-and-field program settles into the blocks for the first time in 2017, it will be coated with

some local flavor.

On Tuesday, Livonia Franklin seniors Tony Floyd and Cory Linsner officially committed to Madonna during a signing ceremony held in the school's library.

Livonia Stevenson long-

distance running standout Andrew Bambach also committed to Madonna this week (see related story on B2).

Floyd will also compete for Madonna's cross country program, making head coach Patrick Daugherty doubly

excited, given that he will also coach the track-and-field team once it starts motoring.

Floyd will bring a trophy case full of credentials to MU. Along with being a top miler

See RUNNERS, Page B3

RU grads to meet on diamond

Former Redford Union baseball stars Chris McKiddie, class of 2012, and Patrick Wierimaa, a 2014 graduate, will be playing against one another in an NAIA game March 30 at Madonna University.

McKiddie is a freshman pitcher for Siena Heights University, while Wierimaa is a sophomore pitcher for the Crusaders.

McKiddie currently has a 1-1 record and 2.25 earned-run average. He has struck out six batters in eight innings.

Wierimaa is 0-1 and has struck out seven batters in 7 1/3 innings.


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 email to info@ljal.com.



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COLLEGE SIGNING

Stevenson's Bambach commits to run for MU

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Following in the swift footsteps of his older sister, Emily, Livonia Stevenson senior running sensation Andrew Bambach committed to compete for the Madonna University cross country and track-and-field teams beginning with the 2016-17 sports season.

Bambach was one of the premier cross-country performers in the KLAAC Central this past fall. He helped lead the Spartans to win the highly-competitive Livonia City Meet, among other highlights. He earned all-Observer and

all-Kensington Conference honors.

Track-wise, Bambach was part of a state-qualifying relay team last spring.

A former basketball player at Stevenson, Bambach will conclude his exemplary athletic career in June with six varsity letters.

He was joined at this week's signing ceremony by Stevenson cross country coach Chris Inch, Madonna cross country coach Patrick Daugherty, his sister Emily, and parents Steve and Beverly Bambach.

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SUBMITTED Andrew Bambach signs his commitment to Madonna University paperwork. Looking on were (from left) Stevenson cross country coach Chris Inch, sister Emily Bambach, parents Beverly and Steve, and Madonna cross country coach Patrick Daugherty.

REGIONAL FINAL

N. Farmington wins first regional title

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

North Farmington made history in boys basketball Wednesday night with its first regional championship.

The Raiders pulled away in the second half to defeat Walled Lake Central in the Class A final at West Bloomfield High School, 75-64.

North (22-2) will play Sterling Heights Stevenson in a state quarterfinal game at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the University of Detroit Mercy.

The Raiders rallied from a four-point deficit midway in the second quarter to take a 33-31 lead into halftime.

They got the jump on the Vikings at the start of the third period and quickly stretched their lead to 10 points.

Senior guard Billy Thomas, who scored a game-high 27 points, made a pair of 3-point baskets around a layup by senior forward Alex Darden to boost the North advantage to 41-31.

Central (20-4) got as close as six points in the third quarter, but the Raiders, following a driving layup by junior Amauri Hardy, had a 49-41 lead at the end.

Hardy sank a shot from the wing to the start the fourth, and Thomas followed that with a drive to the basket for two more points and a 12-point lead.

North was in a good position to close out the win after a



Junior Amauri Hardy makes a decisive move to attack the basket as he drives past Central's Anton Lucaj.

Darden putback and a pair of Josh Hogans free throws pushed the tally to 60-46 with half a period remaining.

The Raiders sank nine of 11 free throws down the stretch. They were 12-of-15 overall in the fourth quarter. Senior Jacob Joubert was 4-of-4; Thomas and Hardy made three each.

Thomas also drove to the basket for a pair of layups and Hogans one to account for North's final 15 points.

Hardy, who scored 15 in the second half, finished with 22 points. Darden had 11, Hogans seven and Joubert six.

Seniors Anton Lucaj (18) and Walter Kelser (17) and junior Runako Ziegler (16) combined to score 51 of the Central points. Senior center Malik Abiola chipped in eight.

North shot no worse than 55 percent (6-of-11) in any one quarter and was 54 percent overall (27-of-50). Central shot

43 percent from the floor (22-of-51).

Each team attempted 19 threes; the Vikings made seven and the Raiders six (half by Thomas). North was 15-of-18 at the foul line, Central 13-of-16.

Stevenson defeated Roseville in the regional final Wednesday at Chippewa Valley High School, 60-44.

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SUBMITTED Wayne's Anavia Battle and Montel Hood strike a pose during the national indoor track championships in New York City.

INTENSITY

Continued from Page B1

they really came together and performed great in the state meet (at Aquinas College)," he said.

Intensity practiced four or five times a week at Eastern Michigan University.

The intense practices paid off as every club member who competed at the state meet earned a medal.

The speedy crew was led by Wayne Memorial senior Montel Hood, who has emerged as one of the best 400-meter sprinters in the country.

During the 400 finals in New York, Hood posted a time of 47.99 seconds, which earned him a fourth-place national finish (and All-American honors).

Equally impressive is that the time is just a fraction of a second off the state record held by former U.S. Olympic medalist Darnell Hall.

"Montel is just a hard worker; that's how he's gotten to where he is now," said Johnson. "He brings it at every practice and every meet."

One of Intensity's top female runners is Hood's younger sister, Anavia Battle, a junior at Wayne.

Primarily a 200-meter sprinter, Battle placed third in the state meet with a time of 24.5 seconds. She ran a 24.6 200 in New York, Johnson added.

Indoor times are generally slower than outdoor times in the sprint events, Johnson noted, as most meets use a 200-meter tracking, meaning there are twice as many left turns and not nearly as much straight-away running.

In addition to Hood, who won the state championship in the 400, other state-meet medal-winners were Battle (third in the 200) and South Lyon's Jerod Allen, who placed fifth in the 800.

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COLLEGE BASEBALL

Ocelots fall apart in 10-run fifth inning

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For a while, the first-ever game on Michigan soil by the new Schoolcraft College baseball team was on-target.

The Ocelots tied Thursday afternoon's opener of a non-conference twinbill against Cleary University with a line single to left by freshman and Westland native Daniel Ammons.

That two-out hit over the Cougars shortstop's head scored freshman Daruis Fluellen to make it 2-2 in the top of the fifth.

Then the Schoolcraft train got derailed by errors, wild pitches and 50 mph winds that turned every play into an adventure. By the time a lengthy bottom of the fifth ended, Cleary scored 10 runs — six unearned — and closed out a 12-2 mercy-rule shortened victory.

Between games at Parker Middle School in Howell, Ocelots head coach Rob Fay said the pitcher victimized by the

onslaught — Plymouth alum Jared Merandi — deserved a better fate.

"It's one of those things," Schoolcraft coach Rob Fay said. "We threw a guy who hasn't thrown all year yet, wanted to give him an opportunity. He threw well, but we got to make plays, we got to make routine plays. And that's the bottom line."

To underscore his point, the first batter in the fifth was retired on a lazy fly ball to left. The next batter, Cole Gilmer, hit a grounder to shortstop that should have been an easy second out. But a knee-high throw to first was dropped.

By the time a second out was recorded, it was a 7-2 game. The Cougars then scored five more runs against freshman pitcher Jason Rakowicz of Livonia, with a windblown, routine fly ball to left dropping in to make it 9-2.

No excuse

"I'm not out there. I'm sure it (wind) had something to do with it," Fay said. "But it was blow-

ing for both teams. So it's not an excuse for us."

Gilmer, batting for the second time in the inning, then followed with an RBI single. A passed ball and two wild pitches contributed to another Cleary run and the final one scored when another ball was dropped at first base.

That ugly inning ruined what had been a promising game for the Ocelots, playing in Michigan for the first time after going 3-6 on a trip to Florida.

A bases-loaded walk by Fluellen put Schoolcraft on the board in the second.

Cleary responded with a pair of runs, but Schoolcraft freshman starting pitcher Christian Mercure managed to throw enough curves for strikes — on a day where it was difficult for any pitcher to get a feel for the ball — to leave after four innings down just 2-1.

Then came the clutch base hit by Ammons that momentarily had the Ocelots thinking about a victory.

Unfortunately, a 15-batter

inning by the Cougars put a quick end to those thoughts.

Thankfully, with scheduled doubleheaders, teams don't have to wait long to turn the page.

"We have to get some leadership going, to where guys step up and they believe in themselves a little bit," Fay said. "Again, they're going through the growing process, the maturation process of all this."

"But we can't wait for that to happen. In a matter of two weeks, we start conference play and all these guys who have played enough baseball in their lives, they know those are routine plays that need to be made."

As for Thursday's nightcap, it didn't go any better as Cleary prevailed, 12-3. Meanwhile, the Ocelots were scheduled to play a twinbill Friday at Owens Community College in Toledo.

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COLLEGE BASEBALL

Ocelots go 3-6 in Florida

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For weeks, even months, the Schoolcraft College's baseball team went about its business indoors at Skillbuilder Batters Box in Dearborn Heights.

But finally, the Ocelots were able to take it outside — Feb. 28 through March 3 in Florida — for the first games in the history of the fledgling program.

According to head coach Rob Fay, the initial road junket went about as well as could be expected. And he wasn't lamenting a 3-6 record, either.

"We went about it with the right approach," Fay said, back in Michigan this week. "We

kind of balanced out playing time for all positions and made sure our pitchers got innings to see what we have and what we need to improve on. Overall, I think it was a very successful trip.

"What surprised us the most was our readiness to play. Being a northern team going down to Florida and not seeing a ground ball on the grass or a fly ball in the sky or live pitching in four months, I think we adapted to it well and I think we caught on real quick and got up to speed."

There were several bright spots on the trip, the coach stressed.

"Jordan Pressley (freshman first baseman from Romulus)

just had a phenomenal week," Fay said. "I think he ended up batting .536. He was a tough out every time he stepped up to the plate.

"Timmy Kozar (freshman outfielder from Taylor) had a great week, batted .500, hit our school's first home run in history. Christian Mercure (freshman pitcher from Trenton) had two good starts for us on the mound."

Fay also said a big reason for the team's solid performance in Florida was the team at Mercy Elite Sports Performance in Livonia.

"Our guys were in shape going down there, which led us to be healthy," he said. "They worked with our pitchers, so

we didn't come up with any injuries while we were down there.

"And a lot of our success is credited to what they've done for our program to get us ready to play."

Schoolcraft closed the trip strongly, with a March 3 sweep against Mesabi Range CTC (10-3, 8-3).

The Ocelots' other win was a 7-3 triumph Feb. 28 against Wartburg College.

Things didn't go quite so well Feb. 29 against ASA College For Excellence (Schoolcraft lost a pair, 9-6, 14-5) or the March 1 against the University of Findlay (a 2-0, 9-7 twinbill loss).

Still, Fay is as optimistic as

ever as the Ocelots are scheduled to play their first games on Michigan soil this week.

On Thursday, Schoolcraft will visit Cleary University in Howell for a doubleheader (first game at 2 p.m.).

Then it's down to the Toledo area for Friday's twinbill at Owens Community College.

It won't be until the end of the month before the Ocelots play home games at Ford Field in Livonia.

There will be six games in three days, with doubleheaders March 31 against Cleary University (2 p.m.), April 1 against Lorain County CC (2 p.m.) and April 2 against Muskegon (1 p.m.).

COMPETITIVE SKATING

College synchronized team earns gold



Pictured (from left) are Stephanie Shenouda (U of M), Katie Dunn (Madonna University), Summar Abdelnour (EMU), Mary Fredendall (MSU), Lauren McAlinden (MSU), Sarah Bartoszyk, Alyssa Burgess (U of D Mercy), Audrey Reding (U of D Mercy), Elizabeth Buchanan (GVSU), Natalie Menestrina (WSU). Not pictured are coaches Carrie Brown and Hillary Menestrina.

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Motor City Collegiate Synchronized Skating Team's championship performance at the recent Tri-States Synchronized Skating competition was anything but beginner's luck.

Made up of local skaters who also attend college, the team turned in a golden effort at the Dearborn-hosted event.

The Motor City team practices one weekend a month

and attends periodic competitions and exhibitions.

Team members must be full-time college students with a skating background.

This year's team consists of Stephanie Shenouda (University of Michigan), Katie Dunn (Madonna University), Summar Abdelnour (Eastern Michigan University), Mary Fredendall (Michigan State University), Lauren McAlinden (MSU), Sarah Bartoszyk (University of Detroit Mercy), Alyssa Burgess (UDM),

Audrey Reding (UDM), Elizabeth Buchanan (Grand Valley State University) and Natalie Menestrina (Wayne State University).

The team is coached by Carrie Brown and Hillary Menestrina. Not Pictured: Coach Carrie Brown and Coach Hillary Menestrina.

For more information on the team, send an e-mail to carrie@allegrosynchro.org.

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Spartans take on MORC Stars



Members of the Livonia Stevenson hockey team are pictured with members of the The Macomb-Oakland Regional Center Stars hockey team the day after the Spartans played in the Division 2 state championship game. The MORC Stars is a team of developmentally-disabled hockey players. The team was formed in 2007 by former professional player Peter Ciavaglia.

SCOTT LEONARD

RUNNERS

Continued from Page B1

and two-miler for the Patriots track team, he earned all-state honors at this past fall's Division 1 state meet at Michigan International Speedway.

Linsner is a relative newcomer to the sport, joining the Patriots' track-and-field contingent as a junior in the spring of 2015. Linsner quickly became a points-earner in both the 300-meter hurdles and the high jump.

Linsner also played a key role in the Franklin hockey program's recent resurgence.

"I love Madonna because it's local, and because when we were visiting the athletic facilities during our tour of the campus, all of the athletes seemed to know each other and support one another," said Linsner, who plans to pursue a degree in public relations.

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"I love Madonna because it's local, and because when we were visiting the athletic facilities during our tour of the campus, all of the athletes seemed to know each other and support one another."

CORY LINSNER, Madonna track signee



Livonia Franklin seniors Cory Linsner and Tony Floyd sign on to further their running careers at Madonna University as Crusader head coach Patrick Daugherty looks on.

USA HOCKEY

Young prospects to learn ropes of playing for U.S. NTDP

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Four years ago, Dylan Larkin went through the ropes, just like 48 kids from all over the country will do this weekend at USA Hockey Arena.

Larkin participated at the 2012 U.S. National Team Development Program orientation, which at that time took place at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

Fast-forwarding to this week, Larkin is an all-star rookie for the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old players such as Plymouth native Max Ellis, Christian Krygier of Novi and Jonathan Gruden of Rochester will walk through the NTDP doors with hopes and dreams of following

Larkin out the other end.

"Dylan Larkin went through the same process that these kids did," said Ryan Hardy, director of player personnel for USA Hockey/NTDP. "Came in in March, four years ago now, with the '96 group. In his year he was selected for the team, he was actually injured for a lot of the season, but he was invited just like these 48 kids."

"He went through this process. Obviously, he made the team, did his two years in the national program, went to Michigan. And, you know, what he's been able to do this year is pretty remarkable."

Ellis (Honeybaked), Krygier (Little Caesars) and Gruden (Honeybaked) will be among players skating at scrimmages and attending numerous meet-



Larkin

"That Dylan Larkin or Ryan Kesler or Patrick Kane, Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel, all these kids, they were in this exact situation as you guys and they took advantage of those resources, because they were hungry to develop and hungry to play."

Scrimmages set

Scrimmages at USA Hockey Arena will be free to the public and are scheduled as follows: 12:30 p.m. and 7:40 p.m. Sat-

ALL-KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL



TOM BEAUDOIN

Stevenson junior guard Ian Knoph averaged 15.6 points per game this season.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Westland John Glenn senior forward Zeale McCullough earned first-team all-Kensington Conference honors this season.

Local players headline all-conference team

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Several local high school basketball players were lauded for their superior skill sets recently by being named to the KLAA Kensington Conference first-team and honorable-mention post-season squads.

Livonia Churchill, which recently wrapped up a 15-8 season by winning the school's first Class A district title since 1990, is represented on the all-conference first team by senior guards Joan Andoni and Jon Hovermale.

Andoni, who holds the school's single-game points record (39), averaged 15 points, three rebounds and two steals this season while shooting 40 percent from three-point land (43-for-107).

"Joan is a pure scorer and can take over a game at any time," said Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak. "He has developed into one of the best shooters in the association."

Hovermale completed his four-year varsity career with a stellar season, during which he averaged 11 points and four rebounds per contest.

"Jon is the unquestioned leader on and off the floor," said Solak. "He is top three in every stat, both offensively and defensively."

Livonia Franklin's lone representative on the first team is senior guard Joe Chinavare, a four-year varsity player and two-year captain who averaged nine points, three rebounds and two assists.

"We've depended on Joe in many ways over the years," noted Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault. "He's tough to stop in transition and able to score from the perimeter. He has given us a tremendous effort on both ends of the court. I've truly enjoyed coaching Joe."

Stevenson junior guard Ian Knoph earned a first-team slot by averaging 15.6 points per game. The lanky sharp-shooter knocked down an average of three three-point shots per contest as well.

"Ian is our captain and the leader," said Stevenson head coach Kareem Smartt. "He is a very good student and teammate. He works hard on his craft as a basketball player and as a young man. He can get off a shot anywhere on the floor. The sky is the limit on how far he can go."

Wayne Memorial junior forward Keion Epps enjoyed an explosive year for the Zebras, piling up 17 points, nine rebounds, three assists and two blocks per game.

"Keion has come on strong lately," said Wayne head coach Nkwane Young. "During the early part of the season he had

to learn how to play with teams double teaming him. He has finally lived up to his Eastern Michigan commit."

Westland John Glenn's first-teamers did their best work on different parts of the court. Junior guard Christian Agnew was a tough-stop from the perimeter, averaging 18 points, five rebounds and three steals, while senior forward Zeale McCullough was a beast in the paint, averaging 20 points, nine rebounds and two blocked shots.

"Christian was our team's second leading scorer and our team's best defender," said John Glenn head coach Rod Watts. "Zeale was our team's leading scorer, leading rebounder and our team's third-leading shot blocker."

Honorable Mention honorees

Leading the local contingent's Kensington Conference honorable-mention award winners was high-flying Churchill junior forward Jerron Hampton, who averaged eight points, four rebounds and over two steals each game.

"Jerron is an incredible athlete who has improved tremendously over the course of the season. Made game winning shot against South Lyon in Conference Tournament," Solak said.

Franklin 6-foot-7 sophomore Mark Mettie emerged on the scene as a threat to score from the perimeter and around the rim. He averaged eight points, five rebounds and two blocked shots per game.

"Mark continues to improve his ability to take the ball to the rim," said Rheault. "His defensive presence is emerging as a young player learning to play with height."

Stevenson sophomore guard Devin Dunn was one of the conference's best dual-threat guards, averaging 10 points and three steals.

"Devin Dunn is a versatile player," said Smartt. "He can get anywhere on the floor he needs to get to. He is an outstanding defender and excellent free-throw shooter."

Wayne senior forward Trevon Brown-Woods had a solid season, putting up 12 points and seven rebounds per game.

"Tray carried us at the early part of the season," said Young. "He makes some shots that you would think will not go in. His best basketball play is ahead of him at the next level."

The lone freshman on the list is John Glenn guard Joe Moon IV, who averaged nine points and five assists.

"Joe was our team's third-leading scorer and assist leader," Watts said.

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GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY



Mercy players gather around the championship trophy after capturing the Michigan Metro Division 1 crown.

Marlins capture D1 girls hockey crown

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

With so many good, young hockey players last year, Farmington Hills Mercy had the foundation in place to win another championship in 2016.

The Marlins achieved the repeat and won their third title in four seasons with a 3-2 victory over Grosse Pointe South March 12 at Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

Mercy won its previous two championships in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League's Division 2 tournament. It played in the top division this year.

For the postseason tournament, the top eight teams in the 17-school league are seeded in Division 1, the bottom seven in Division 2.

The Marlins were the No. 2 seed after finishing in a tie for second place with Catholic League rival Livonia Ladywood. Both were 12-1-1 in the league and half a game behind Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett.

"Throughout the entire season, we were trying to figure out what worked and to put people in positions that helped the team the most, so we would know what to do when we got to the Catholic League championship and the state playoffs," first-year Mercy head coach Valerie Sosnowski said.

The Marlins, who finished the season with an overall record of 23-2-1, had it all figured out and knew just what to do.

In a March 8 quarterfinal game, they routed No. 7 Bloomfield Hills, 8-1, and they blanked third-seeded Ladywood in a March 10 semifinal, 4-0.

Title-clinching goal

Junior Sophia VanAcker scored the winning goal in the victory over No. 4 South, breaking a 2-2 stalemate at 3:30 of the second period with an assist from junior Hannah Hamilton.

"We have a lot of respect

for Grosse Pointe South," Sosnowski said. "They're a great team, and it was a battle all the way to the end. The girls worked really hard. It was a great team effort."

After an early South goal, junior Emmie McCann tied the score in the first period, and sophomore Makena Duval gave Mercy a 2-1 lead in the second. Hamilton and sophomore Amelia Bartels assisted on the scoring plays.

Maria DiCresce scored both goals for the Blue Devils (17-9-0) and was assisted each time by Lauren Kramer and Carson Dennis.

Many contributors

Like last season, the Marlins had a balanced offense and scoring contributions from a lot of players.

VanAcker was the only Mercy player among the top eight scorers in the league with 23 points in 14 games. McCann had 17, sophomore Maddie Rennie 15, junior Natalie Vaitas 12 and Bartels 10.

"Learning how to play as a team and moving the puck around was a key part of getting to where we are," Sosnowski said. "A lot of girls got a lot of points, because they were unselfish with the puck."

"The girls are not concerned with their personal stats. They put the team first. As a result, we move the puck around, and a goal can come from anyone."

Defense was key

The primary reason for Mercy's success was defense, however. Seniors Caitlin Somerville and Katy Kouvaris shared the goaltending duties again this year and made it extremely difficult for other teams to score on the Marlins.

Somerville, who played in the final game, had a 0.62 goals-against average in the league while playing 360 minutes. Kouvaris had a 0.37 average and 241 minutes.

"We had two phenomenal No. 1 goalies," Sosnowski

said, adding both were four-year varsity players. "We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for them."

"We gave up 14 goals the entire season, which is by far the lowest in the entire league. That's a statement about our goalkeeping and defense and our offense back-checking."

"When they have the puck, everybody plays defense and, when we have the puck, everybody plays offense. It's a team effort up and down the ice."

Cohesive team

Sosnowski, who was a Mercy assistant coach the past two years to Mitch McCann and Joe Jones, cited another reason for the team's success.

"There's a special relationship the girls have with each other," she said. "They have great chemistry in the locker room. They're friends in school; they're friends outside of hockey. They get along together, and that comes through in the way they play on the ice."

In addition to the goalies, the only other seniors on the Mercy team are forwards Abbey Przekop and Natalie Cieslak.

The other members of the team are junior Natalie Masopust, sophomores Abbey Roegner, Elena Ervin, Cara Hodgins and Taylor Mackenzie and freshman Libby Bartels.

A bright future

Libby Bartels and Roegner were the only new additions. The other 15 players returned from last year's team, and most will be back again next season.

"We'd like to continue to grow and develop as players, as well as a team," Sosnowski said. "We're going to continue to hold ourselves to a high standard and put ourselves in the best position to win."

COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Lady Ocelots eager to start legacy

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Ray Linares isn't sweating the details too much when it comes to his new Schoolcraft College women's softball team.

Yes, the Lady Ocelots went 3-6 on their recent spring training junket to the National Training Center in Florida.

But Linares — a longtime high school coach at Melvindale who has waited almost a year for the games to begin after Schoolcraft green-lighted its first-ever softball program — talked about the work ethic, talent, camaraderie and determination already being shown by his players.

"They're really coming together well," Linares said during Tuesday's practice at Skillbuilder Batter's Box in Dearborn Heights. "They played extremely well down there. We went 3-6, but we had a couple four-year colleges on the ropes and lost in the last inning."

"They were anxious to get on the dirt for the first time; it was exciting stuff."

Filling a need

Linares said the potential for Schoolcraft to have a successful softball program is off the charts. A lot has to do with the wealth of outstanding high school programs in metro Detroit, from which he hand-picked many of the 14 players on the 2016 roster.

"It's tremendous. It's a great opportunity for so many players," Linares said. "It's such a huge sport in this area right now. I wish we could take more. There's so many players coming out of the woodwork that want to participate."

"You could actually open up a second college in the area and still have enough players."

Plus, with the skyrocketing cost of attending a four-year college, the time is right for a close-to-home option.

Thrilled to play

Co-captains Elaine Gerou (pitcher/utility) and Katlyn McIntosh (infield/outfield) concur with their coach. They are sophomores who were outstanding prep players at Plymouth and Garden City, respectively.

"I'm really excited to have this opportunity to play, considering it's going to be my last year playing competitively with a sport I've been playing for over a decade," said Gerou, a transfer from Concordia University who did not play in 2015. "We have a lot of diversity on the team, girls from all over. We're really clicking well. We have very versatile players."

McIntosh said she wanted to play close to home and is thrilled to be part of the start of Schoolcraft's softball legacy. She also did not play last spring.

"It feels very cool; it's really important," McIntosh said. "It is such a local school and there isn't really any local community colleges here that offer (softball)."

Another player who was glad to be able to join the Lady

Ocelots is freshman infielder/outfielder Cassidy Lipinski, who graduated from Livonia Stevenson.

"I think it's really awesome," Lipinski said. "I feel really excited about the first team. I'm really excited we can make history."

Lipinski said she committed to play NAIA softball at Indiana Tech, "but when I heard about this team starting, I wanted to play here instead. I just wanted to stay home and I thought it would be cool to be part of this team. I'm real happy I'm still playing."

For freshman outfielder Molly Markiewicz, it is almost surreal that she is part of the first Schoolcraft team. She graduated from Farmington High School, but did not play for the Falcons.

"It's really cool. When I get older, I get to tell my kids I was part of a first-ever college softball team," Markiewicz said. "And it's really special when people say, 'I didn't know Schoolcraft has a softball team.' And then I get to tell them about our team and how awesome we're doing."

Sheer hustle

Linares said Markiewicz originally was expected to be a role player, maybe helping out as a pinch-runner. She now is firmly in the mix for important innings.

"At this point in time, she's our most improved player," he said. "She has literally worked so hard and so aggressively that she's forcing us to put her out on the field."

"She's a pure athlete, she just hustles. Everything she tried, she would not quit. The other girls took notice of that and it helped push them as well, too."

Linares said his pitching staff will be one to watch. It features Gerou, freshman Alaina DeFraim (Livonia Franklin), Sabrina Coleman (transfer from Jackson College), Kerry Prowse (St. Catherine H.S.) and Maria Coleman (Dearborn).

They will be throwing to freshman catcher Caitlin Fitzpatrick, one of Linares' players at Melvindale who was Schoolcraft's best hitter in Florida.

Other key players figure to include McIntosh, who "was an all-state player for a few years in a row," and her former Cougars teammate Kelsie Powell, a freshman third baseman who opened eyes during the spring trip.

Lipinski comes over to the Lady Ocelots after four years as starting shortstop for Stevenson.

Competing for the top spot at first base is freshman and Livonia Churchill alum Rosie Garvin.

"She's working hard and doing really well," Linares said. "She'll get a lot of time at first base, a lot of power in the bat."

Rounding out the roster are Shelby Shelton (sophomore IF/OF, Dearborn Heights Annapolis), Mackenzie Quinn (sophomore C/OF, Lake Erie College transfer) and Rebekah Mathers (freshman OF/C, Waterford Mott).

GYM DUO

Continued from Page B1

"Jessie is a fighter. Her bars routine is very strenuous because she goes from the low bar to the high bar, back to the low bar and back to the high bar, while most girls just do one bar change. I knew she had it in her to win the state championship."

Rhoad started learning the ropes in gymnastics when she was 6 at the Livonia Gymnastics Academy.

"My parents had me try a lot of different sports, but I liked gymnastics more than anything else," she said.

And she has excelled in the demanding sport from the get-go, earning a mountain of trophies and medals prior to hauling in the ultimate championship last weekend.

"My goal going into the state meet was to do well and try to place at something," she said. "When I found out I won the all-around, I was shocked because there were a lot of girls competing. It felt pretty amazing."

The pair of blue state champions have known each other for as long as they can remember. The bond has strengthened both of their careers,

especially when times get tough.

"Bri and I have been in club together (at the Livonia Gymnastics Academy) since about level 4, so we were in second or third grade," Weak said. "We're very supportive of each other. We know what to say to the other one when the other one seems a little nervous or after they had a bad routine. Plus, we're about at the same level, so I think we push each other in a good way to get better."

Weak's gymnastics career started at the age of 2. Fifteen years later, it's still going strong.

"I've tried to do other sports," she admitted, smiling, "but I got in trouble for doing cartwheels on the soccer field. And when I would do cartwheels in ballet class, they'd politely tell me that, 'We don't do that here.'"

It's not surprising to those who know Weak well that her first state title came on the bars.

"I work on bars a lot because it's fun for me and I enjoy it," Weak said. "Performing on the bars comes naturally for me. I work on pretty much the same routine every day, but I'm always trying to add new things."

Like Rhoad, Weak had mod-



Livonia Blue's Bri earned an individual all-around state championship last weekend.

est goals heading into last week's elite meet.

"My goals going into the

state meet were to have fun and get through the day," she said. "Sometimes I get so nervous that I forget to enjoy the competition. This year I focused on enjoying the experience. I just wanted to do the best I could, and I think I did."

"I wasn't really happy with my beam and floor, but I had one of my best scores on vault. And as long as I make it through bars without a mishap, I'm happy."

Her best score on bars is a 9.425, significantly higher than her state-championship score.

"The judging is harder at states because there are four judges instead of two, so they don't miss anything," she said.

Both gymnasts train throughout the year — either at Livonia Churchill (where the Livonia schools' gymnastics equipment is stored) or at various gymnastics facilities throughout the metro-Detroit area.

Weak said she'll try to stay sharp by doing some basic moves at home, but nothing extensive.

"For instance, I'll do handstands in the living room," she said, smiling, "but my dad doesn't like me doing it while he's watching TV. I'll stretch at home and in the off-season I have a gym membership, so I can work out there."

The majority of Stevenson's student body isn't locked in on how how athletic and successful their school's gymnasts are, both gymnasts said.

"Since we don't practice at Stevenson, and we're called Livonia Blue (instead of Stevenson because there are also Franklin students on the roster), there are students who say to me, 'Oh, we have a gymnastics team?'"

"We've worked really hard this season to get our scores up — I think we were second as a team at the conference meet — and myself and Bri finished first and second in all-around, so I wrote a letter to our principal, basically saying it's crazy the school doesn't know much about us. Since then, we've gotten a lot more recognition, along with other teams at the school like wrestling and pom."

Rhoad will attend Eastern Michigan University starting this summer. She plans on pursuing a teaching degree and possibly joining the school's club or competitive gymnastics team.

Weak, a 4.3 student who lists math as her favorite subject, has one more season to add to her already incredible resume.

ewright@hometownlife.com

FIVE WAYS TO WELCOME SPRING

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It's time to mark the vernal equinox and celebrate spring, which starts Sunday, March 20.

With the U.S. Weather Service predicting a high temperature of 43 degrees in Canton — a degree or two more warmer than in many surrounding communities — Canton Farmers Market at Summit on the Park may be just the place to greet the new season.

First, forget that it's called a "winter" market, one of three held indoors February-April. Then, head straight to Prochaska Farms' vendor table for spring greens.

"We will be bringing spinach," says Mike Prochaska, owner of the Tecumseh farm. "And we will have some living lettuce bowls, which are a plastic bowl and we have grown lettuce in them. You take them home and they are ready to harvest. You harvest as much as you want and it keeps growing."

"We will have a few pansies this month. They are in decorative planters. Most people leave them in the planters. They do well even in cold weather."

He'll have early spring favorites like rhubarb and asparagus in April or May.

Meanwhile, he suggests frying a little bacon with onions, adding the fresh spinach and cooking until it wilts. Add a little vinegar and enjoy.

The market runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, west of South Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill Road.

Here are four more ways to give a nod to spring:

Daffodils

Daffodils are an easy and inexpensive way to add a little spring sunshine to your home.

Make them last by following these tips from English Gardens:

» At home, cut the stems at a 45-degree angle and place them in a clean vase, filled halfway with room-temperature water.

» Re-cut the stems and change the water every two-three days to help the flowers last longer.

» Keep the fresh flowers in a cool place.

» Daffodils release a substance that can harm other flowers. Either separate them from other flowers or first place them in a container of cool water to soak overnight and then add to an arrangement.

Maple syrup

The Making Maple Syrup Tour at Maybury Farm in Northville is for all ages and starts with a wagon ride to the sugar bush for a presentation on tapping maple trees and collecting sap. The tour continues to the sugar shack where sap is turned into syrup, and ends at the farm welcome center.

"It's a nice tour," says Carol Lehmann, assistant and coordinator of the Northville Community Foundation, which



Daffodils are a sign of spring.



Spinach grown at Prochaska Farms in Tecumseh will be sold March 20, the first day of spring, at Canton Farmers Market.



The maple sugar tour stops at the sugar shack at Maybury Farm in Northville.

operates the farm. "We have 100-percent maple syrup on site to buy and they sometimes let people taste it in the sugar shack."

"Besides the tour, they can walk around and see the animals."

The farm is home to goats, sheep, llamas, horses, pigs, chickens, peacocks, turkeys, rabbits, ducks and a steer named Pedro.

The sugar tours are at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile. Cost is \$6 per person. Children age 2 and under are free. For more information, call the Foundation at 248-374-0200 or visit facebook.com/maybury-farm.

Spring equinox service

"The winter solstice is a celebration of light returning to the world. The days are getting longer," says Alex Mey-

ers, pianist for Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield. "For the vernal equinox, the day and night are equal. It's a time of balance. Life is returning. We have new growth. We see flowers budding and bunnies in the field."

Meyers participated in the solstice celebration at the church in December and volunteered to lead the equinox event at 7 p.m. March 22, at the church, 23925 Northwestern Highway. It will be held in place of the church's regular Tuesday night vespers service.

"We'll do a pagan-derived ritual for the equinox. Everything will be explained for people who aren't familiar with traditions of pagan faith. There will be a guided meditation to focus our thoughts for what we want to seed and sprout in our own lives, what we want to accomplish in our own lives. There will be refreshments, audience partici-

pation and there might be an Easter egg hunt."

Meyers says the equinox celebration will last approximately 45 minutes and will include music, as well as a blessing of plants. Participants may bring plants from home.

For more information, visit northwestuu.org.

Mini-golf

Mini-golf on the first day of spring lets you jump start your practice so that by summer you're putting like a pro. There are advantages to spring play: No crowds and no waiting for slower players.

"We're usually one of the first (mini-golf) courses to open for the year," says Bob Brenay, manager of Putt-N-Fun in Farmington Hills. "We've got the diehards out here. I've got two sisters in their 70s. They come out once a week. And there's a guy with his mother who come out."

Brenay says on sunny days, in warmer spring temperatures, Putt-N-Fun's three 18-hole courses get busier, but there haven't been many of those days this month. The go-karts, batting cages and bungee trampoline at Sport-N-Fun, where the mini-golf is located, will open later this spring. But golfers can putt their way past fiberglass animals, through the moving blades of a windmill, past the doors of a dog house, and around water hazards from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 20.

Each course has different challenges, including attractions with moving parts, water traps, slopes, loops and banked areas. Each hole is a par two. "It's fun for everyone. Anyone can play here and have a good time."

Cost is \$6 to play one round of 18 holes. Putt-N-Fun is located at 30749 Grand River Ave.; 248-471-5100.

Manufacturers want more control over appliance repair

Not long ago I wrote about the changes coming in the appliance repair industry, and they are coming along faster than I care to see.

They are going to lock-up the accessibility to appliances so that only a qualified technician with the proper codes can get into the product. They are going to have plug-in connectors that will give the service tech a complete diagnosis of what is at fault with the product. Technicians will have periodic unannounced drug tests and background checks to ensure that each is worthy of entering your home. There will be a red recall flashing light installed on each product to warn consumers that the product may malfunction and cause a serious problem. These steps will be taken to give a



Joe Gagnon
THE APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

manufacturer more control of who services their products and create more dollars for the bottom line.

The question remains: What happens to a guy on radio who helps consumers repair their own appliances?

The other day I ran into a man who told me how many times I helped him to repair appliances for himself and neighbors and how thankful he is for the knowledge I spread through this column. I am always appreciative of people who make these comments and it reinforces in me that none of

my ways were wasted. They have always been geared to helping others and give me a big sense of pride.

Now we have companies that produce very thorough videos on how a homeowner can repair their own appliance or even a lawnmower and trust me, they are good. This progressive step may be a solution on how to help consumers after the products are locked-up and again, I can't announce the company which currently has 4 million customers across the country, but drop me a note at the email address below and I will be happy to let you know.

Yes, I think the lights are dimming in many ways for the appliance doctor but I will continue until the good Lord flicks the light switch. In my hurry to give you a website in

my last column, I made a mistake. The correct site is saferproducts.gov and I hope you will excuse the error.

Things are shaping up in Lansing as drafts of bills are being written on the issues of appliance recalls and ionization smoke alarms. I hope to have something solid in my next column to pass on to you.

I also hope to be at the senior expo coming up at Schoolcraft College on April 5. Should you run into me, you may ask me about the time not so long ago when a big-time television producer called me and signed me to a contract. He was going to make the Appliance Doctor a huge hit on do-it-yourself television. He had three networks that were bidding for the show, scripts already written and willing to put a lot of

money in my pocket. In the end it didn't come to fruition and I'll hold the reason why until we talk in person.

Please understand that I am quite pleased with what is going on in the appliance repair industry. I should not be the focus of it all but simply a messenger of the good things that are happening. Repair and do-it-yourself projects will never be removed from the hands of many people because it is just in our nature to save money and feel the sense of pride that comes with a successful repair job. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

A growing movement: Why mindfulness matters

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Mindfulness: the ability to pay attention to the moment without judgment or criticism.

Oakland University Associate Professor Caryn Wells has carved out a career teaching graduate students, community leaders and other professionals about mindfulness and mindful leadership. Teaching someone how to "be in the moment" is her specialty.

"That's very elusive because many people spend time dwelling on past regrets or tomorrow's agenda," Wells said. "The part that I think is so unique is no judgment and criticism — criticism for ourselves and others."

Mindfulness applies to all ages, but Wells said it takes on a special emphasis as people reach their 50s and find themselves juggling a busy career and family demands, along with an increased awareness of their health.

"I'm not an expert on aging," she said. "But if you think of how busy our world is — baby boomers involved with cell phones ... the social media ... staying connected with family and work. It can feel like 24/7 activity, so when is there a time to pause? Mindfulness really helps with pausing."

It's a growing movement that reaches out to all professions, from doctors to police officers, from educators to the military. Wells said mindfulness teaches people how to gain a perspective and grab hold of their anxieties.

"Just entering into stillness and quiet and being able to

see all that's there," she said of the practice. "Giving whatever it is that's in front of you some space and looking at it honestly."

To practice, she recommends sitting in a quiet room and focus on taking calm deep breaths. Focus on each breath. Clear away the mental clutter and simply focus on the moment and the practice of breathing.

People who engage in mindfulness see improvements in

mental and physical health. Especially when it comes to depression or anxiety or high blood pressure levels. It can also help with a good night's sleep.

"Consider personal relationships and when you're with someone who always seems to push your buttons," she said. "Mindfulness teaches you how to respond in a better way. You learn to observe and listen, rather than an automatic reaction.

Mindfulness strengthens the immune system. It also can lead to improved cognition and memory. It teaches kindness and compassion because you're not judging. Instead, you're listening.

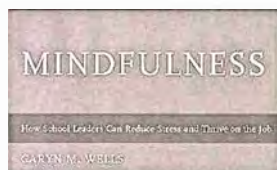
"Let's say you're in your 50s or older, and good things happen and not-so-good things happen," she said. "Mindful self-compassion is a very difficult thing because most of us have a harsh inner voice — it takes practice to step



SUBMITTED
Oakland University Associate Professor Caryn Wells teaches classes on mindfulness.

"I'm not an expert on aging. But if you think of how busy our world is ... it can feel like 24/7 activity, so when is there a time to pause? Mindfulness really helps with pausing."

CARYN WELLS,
Oakland University
associate professor



SUBMITTED
"Mindfulness teaches you that less is more, that it's easier to accept than to resist," Caryn Wells said about learning to be mindful.

back and understand there's a common humanity in the sense that we all go through things. Mindfulness reinforces kindness, compassion and self-compassion."

Wells recently wrote a book on mindfulness that's titled *Mindfulness: How School Leaders Can Reduce Stress and Thrive on the Job* (Rowman & Littlefield, \$35). The book comes out at the end of March and is available on Amazon.

"People in our age bracket, if we look back and say what is really important, it's about being there for the moment," she said. "Mindfulness teaches you that less is more, that it's easier to accept than to resist. I think this really makes a difference in the lives of people ... it's just very gratifying work."

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Seminars

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County offers one-night seminars in native plants and butterfly gardens this month at Wayne County Community College, west campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville. Drew Lathin will talk about gardening with native plants, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Brenda Dzedzic will talk about the plants, care and beneficial insects that can help draw

butterflies to your garden, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31. Cost is \$15 per course. mgwwc.org

Livonia Garden Club

Drew Lathin, general manager of Creating Sustainable Landscapes, will explain what rain gardens are and how they work at 7 p.m. April 5, at the Civic Park Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. lgcpre-

sident@yahoo.com; livoniagardenclub.org.

Butterflies

Anna Szczotha, Master Gardener and a member of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will talk about the benefits of rain gardens and how to design one for your backyard, 7 p.m. April 20, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, West-

land. \$3 for non-members. sembutterfly.org.

English Gardens

» Learn how to "live healthier" with house plants at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26.
» Annual Garden Party runs Saturday, Sunday, April 2-3 and will include presentations on bees, fences and garden edges, container gardening,

hydrangeas, landscaping trends, annuals and more. Visit EnglishGardens.com

» Get tips for dividing and transplanting perennials at a free seminar, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9. Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor; 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

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LOCAL WOMAN SHARES ADVICE FOR PATIENT ADVOCACY

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sue Serlin learned about patient advocacy the hard way — by responding to health challenges in her own family.

When doctors discovered her son had rheumatoid arthritis years ago, she researched the disease, learned about medications, asked questions and managed to get him into an experimental program that helped.

Serlin had a “learning lesson” about advocacy dealing with another son’s mental illness. The Farmington Hills wife and mother wrote a book about him called *Goodnight My Son, I Love You*, after he took his own life in 1998.

And a few years ago when her husband, Al, acquired sepsis, a blood infection that affected his brain and weakened his bones, she intervened on his behalf at every level of his health care.

Serlin’s advocacy helped him benefit from several therapy programs — from “laughter yoga” to speech pathology, physical therapy to tai chi — to aid in his recovery.

Through the past 50 years Serlin has honed her advocacy skills and now hopes to share her advice with others through a panel discussion at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 in the administration building at Beaumont Hospital, located at 13 Mile and Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak.

The free session, “Navigating the Maze of Doctor/Patient/Family Communications As It Applies to Suicidal Concerns and Mental Health Issues,” is co-sponsored by Serlin’s organization, SIFT, (Suicidal Ideation Family Teams) a support group of clergy, professionals and lay persons with involvement in the mental health system, and the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) of Oakland County, based in Farmington Hills.

Serlin said the session will help participants learn how to navigate the health care system for loved ones with mental or physical challenges, including those those who may be suicidal.

In addition to Serlin, panelists will include Fred Cummins, president, AMI-Alliance for Mental Illness, Oakland County; Gigi Colombini, LMSW psychotherapist, suicide prevention specialist; Manuel Tancer, Wayne State University professor; and Martin Schock, M.D., in hematology/oncology at St. John Hospital Macomb.

The Rev. Eileen Patra of Unity of Livonia will moderate.



Sue Serlin

Research, questions

Serlin hopes participants will leave the session with specific tools to help them speak up on behalf of loved ones who are unable to advocate for themselves.

She said fear often stops individuals from asking questions of health professionals, inquiring about a different treatment course or even finding a new doctor. Serlin said research helps allay fears.

“I do a lot of research. When I go in and ask something of a doctor I don’t say it in an apologizing way. I don’t walk in empty-handed.”

Research helped Serlin find some of the programs that benefited her husband as he recovered from sepsis. When she couldn’t find a local class for laughter yoga, she spoke to her husband’s occupational therapist, who was instrumental in starting a session at a local hospital.

“If you don’t research you’ll never find these things.”

Serlin said she doesn’t wait for doctors to share information. She asks questions and keeps asking until she receives an answer she understands.

“I’m not out there to make mincemeat of doctors. Families need to know how to talk to doctors. I’m there to help build this team from a solution standpoint. I’m coming from a positive perspective,” she said. “If I told you a certain doctor was rotten and gave them a blistering report, how does that help me? If you can’t find a solution, get out. Go to someone else.”

Serlin also suggests that advocates keep a journal about their loved one’s progress that they can share with the doctor if needed.

“Get the doctor’s email,” she added. “I have found that 95 percent will give them. I use it wisely.”

SIFT will hold a support group meeting for families and friends of loved ones who currently are suicidal at 7 p.m. April 6 at Beaumont Hospital.

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Serlin had a “learning lesson” about advocacy dealing with another son’s mental illness.

Theater to screen of ‘Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice’

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

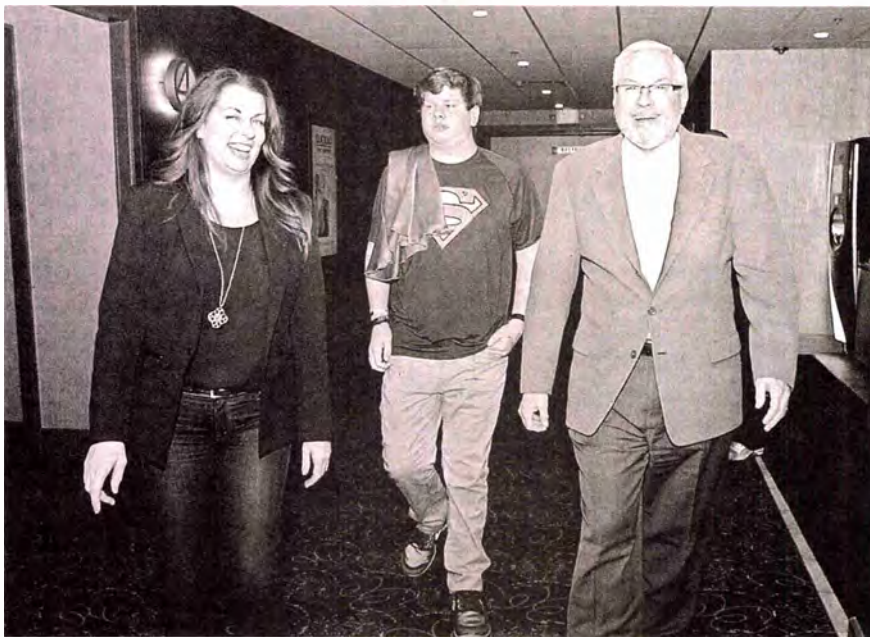
Paul Glantz might not fly or drive the Batmobile, but it’s easy to see how the CEO of Emagine Entertainment has become a hero.

For the March 25 grand opening of *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, he’s partnering with Wish Upon a Teen and donating all proceeds from a 2 p.m. matinee showing of the movie at the Emagine Palladium in Birmingham. The organization provides programs to young people battling life-threatening illnesses.

“Emagine is dedicated to serving the communities in which it does business and we can’t think of a better way to demonstrate that commitment than to treat these deserving young people to a great day at the movies,” Glantz said about the matinee fundraiser.

Fans can purchase \$15 tickets in advance or \$20 at the door. The ticket price includes popcorn and a drink, and all proceeds go to the charity’s Design My Room program. Tickets can be purchased at <http://Batmanvssuperman2016.eventbrite.com>. The theater is located at 209 Hamilton Row.

Design My Room is Wish Upon a Teen’s signature program for teenagers facing extended hospitalization due to life-threatening illness or serious injury. Thanks to partnerships with hospitals throughout the country, Wish



Wish Upon a Teen founder Michelle Soto, Groves High School student Trevor Sullivan and Emagine Entertainment CEO Paul Glantz.

Upon a Teen is given access to the teen’s hospital room and allowed to redecorate it to feel more comforting and relaxing — more like “home.”

Michelle Soto, founder of Wish Upon a Teen, said over 300 teenagers benefited from having their hospital rooms

decorated in 2015. This year, she expects the number of requests to double.

“We’re just so grateful to Paul for all his generosity,” Soto said Wednesday. “This fundraiser is super special because it’s such a popular movie with our teen popula-

tion, and it’s bringing the community together to raise funds for a great program.”

Nancy Sovran, executive director of Wish Upon a Teen, is co-chairing the matinee event with Trevor Sullivan, a 15-year-old heart transplant patient who’s in his freshman

year at Groves High School. Sovran said the theater holds 152 seats, and that about 50 tickets have already been sold.

Trevor’s dad, Phil Sullivan, saw how Wish Upon a Teen helped his son during his extended stay at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor. He received his new heart in November and is expected to return to school later this month.

“When Trevor was stuck in the hospital, Nancy and Michelle’s group came out to decorate his hospital room to make his stay in the hospital feel like home to him,” Sullivan said. “Trevor is doing great and he’s looking forward to being an ambassador for this event... he’s just like any other teen right now, throwing the football around and shooting baskets with his brother.”

This is the second time Glantz has opened the theater to Wish Upon a Teen. In December, he opened a theater for Trevor and his friends to see a private showing of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. At the time, Trevor was still in recovery and needed to stay away from large crowds.

“These families deserve to have a few moments where they can forget about doctors and appointments,” Soto said. “And it’s heroes like Paul who help make that happen.”

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Get informed about informational interviews

BY DEBRA AUERBACH
CAREERBUILDER

When job seekers hear the word "interview," they usually associate it with the chance to score a job. Yet when it comes to informational interviews, that's not quite the case. Informational interviews are much more about making connections and learning about a particular industry or occupation than they are about finding employment. They can be incredibly valuable — if they're handled the right way.

Here's what job seekers should know about informational interviews and how they can get the most out of their meetings.

Why they're helpful

John Paul Engel, president of the executive recruiting firm Knowledge Capital Consulting, says that these interviews give job seekers the chance to learn from those whose professional life they'd like to emulate. "There is someone out there that has exactly the job, business (and) life you want. Who better to help you build a road map to that place than someone who already covered the territory?"

Beyond helping job seekers discover more about their desired careers, informational interviews can also build im-



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portant business skills.

Erica B. McCurdy, a business strategist and life coach, says, "Informational interviews help someone just starting their career learn from those who are already well-established. During this process, the (job seeker) also gets practical experience in the art of having business conversations with a stranger, asking solid questions, managing time and learning to follow up."

How to get one

Job seekers interested in setting up informational interviews should first tap their connections, Engel advises. "Alumni are an excellent source," he says. "Ask your friends and family if they know

someone that does what you want to do. Worst case, just cold-call."

If it comes down to contacting strangers, Engel suggests a creative way to get their attention — and get them to commit: "Send a note offering to do one hour of volunteer work for their favorite charity in exchange for each minute of their time."

Questions to ask

Standard questions for an informational interview include, "How did you get into this field?" and "What advice would you give someone like me just starting out?" Sara Ferraioli, a partner and managing director in Winter-Wyman Contract Staffing's hu-

man resources division, says these types of meetings also give job seekers an opportunity to ask questions that they may be afraid to ask during a normal interview — but that can help them prepare for the real thing.

"During an informational interview, it's OK to ask questions that might seem taboo or inappropriate for certain job interviews. Asking these questions during informational interviews will prepare you for topics that arise in the job interview," she says.

"For example, some younger job seekers may not have insight into what typical entry-level salaries look like," Ferraioli continues. "Having conversations with hiring

managers will often provide accurate information about money. When you are eventually offered a job, you will be knowledgeable about the salary you are being offered and can gauge whether it's in line with current industry standards."

What you can get out of it

It's not about getting a job — but it could lead to one. "When you go to an informational interview, one of the most important questions you can ask toward the end is, 'Who else should I be talking to?'" says Lidia Arshavsky, a career strategist and certified professional résumé writer. "Especially if you are new to an industry, introductions to new people who can provide insights and connections are invaluable. And if you prove yourself to be a motivated, self-starting top performer as you follow this chain of connections, you are highly likely to ultimately have someone mention your name when their friend or colleague tells them they are looking to fill an opening."

Debra Auerbach is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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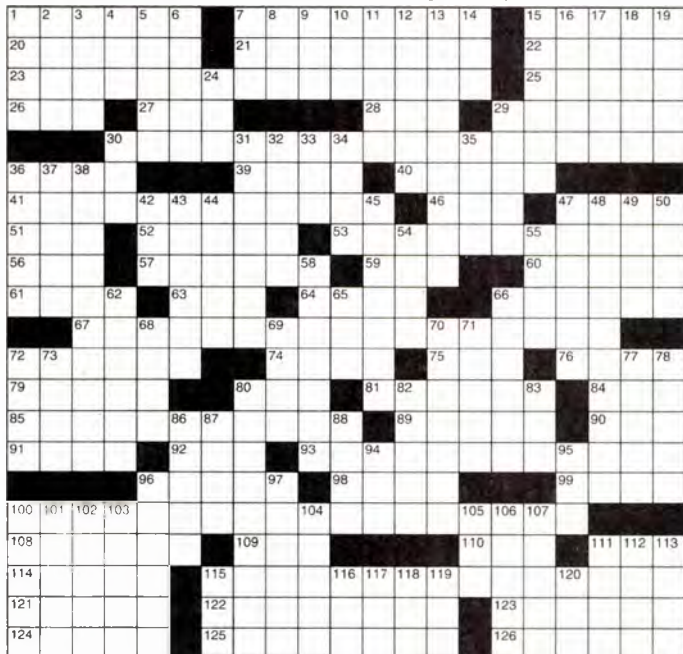
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 - 21 Tangles
 - 22 Be nuts over
 - 23 RED
 - 25 Entertainer Zsa Zsa
 - 26 — -Caps (candy)
 - 27 Great Lakes' — Locks
 - 28 First full mo. of autumn
 - 29 Spurring (on)
 - 30 ELLE
 - 36 Russian ruler of yore
 - 39 German car make
 - 40 — to say (his, but ...)
 - 41 SAGE
 - 46 — Z (thoroughly)
 - 47 Low-value wallet wad
 - 51 Pop lover
 - 52 Want badly
 - 53 RAN
 - 56 Luau bowlful
 - 57 In the second-best category
 - 59 Insect-catching tool
 - 60 Having some benefit
 - 61 Filmmaker Preminger
 - 63 Critical hosp. area
 - 64 Empire until '91
 - 66 Places of learning, in French
 - 67 PORT
 - 72 Frosh's cap
 - 74 Plane feature
 - 75 "Not a word!"
 - 76 Watch sound
 - 79 Lou Grant portrayer Ed
 - 80 Agent's take
 - 81 Malia and Sasha
 - 84 Cap for a bagpiper
 - 85 ACRE
 - 89 Allan — (Robin Hood's narrator)
 - 90 — Little Teapot
 - 91 Chop —
 - 92 Nimble deer
 - 93 SEA
 - 96 Fuzzy fabrics
 - 98 One who has regrets
 - 99 Sonny & Cher's " — You Babe"
 - 100 SLAT
 - 108 Illusory
 - 109 " — bug — feature?"
 - 110 Biceps' place
 - 111 Actress between John I and Canute II
 - 114 Lab vial
 - 115 HUM
 - 121 Like a prebirth body position
 - 122 One who quarantines
 - 123 Señor's nap
 - 124 Account
 - 125 "Cagney & Lacey" co-star
 - 126 Peddled
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Shoemaking tools
 - 2 Money to be paid back
 - 3 Wacky
 - 4 Chop-chop
 - 5 Get more mileage
 - 6 — a Grecian Urn
 - 7 Honey maker
 - 8 Objective
 - 9 Abbr.
 - 42 U.S. media watchdog
 - 10 Suffix in some pasta names
 - 11 Camp craft
 - 12 Swedish king between John I and Canute II
 - 13 Hang-up for an optometrist?
 - 14 —Kosh Gardner
 - 15 Flock of geese
 - 16 Old saw
 - 17 Redbreast
 - 18 Horse to be busted
 - 19 Suit fabric
 - 24 Turn bad
 - 29 "Daniel" singer John
 - 30 —Magnon
 - 31 Relaxes
 - 32 Corrodes, in a way
 - 33 — Mae Brown (psychic in "Ghost")
 - 34 Pear-shaped fruits
 - 35 " — could — horse!"
 - 36 Musical rate
 - 37 Stuck-up type
 - 38 Entry
 - 42 U.S. media watchdog
 - 43 Illinois city on the Mississippi
 - 44 Some rescue ops
 - 45 A long time in the past
 - 47 Decide not to join in
 - 48 Super-suspenseful
 - 49 Author — Stanley Gardner
 - 50 Beatified Miles
 - 54 Smart-alecky
 - 55 "Yowie!"
 - 58 Interning individuals
 - 62 Very testy
 - 65 Amtrak stop: Abbr.
 - 66 Surround with a saintly light
 - 68 Suffix with zillion
 - 69 " — lot to you!"
 - 70 Dancer Duncan
 - 71 "Holy cow!"
 - 72 Low voice
 - 73 Favorite son of Isaac
 - 77 Wee role
 - 78 Rival of Target
 - 80 Have bad flu symptoms, say
 - 82 Swiss city on the Rhine
 - 83 Mo. in which autumn starts
 - 86 What hungry wolves do
 - 87 Ungulate feature
 - 88 Actress Hatcher
 - 94 Neighbor of Hung.
 - 95 One, in Ulm
 - 96 Feeble
 - 97 Pulpit speech
 - 100 Bits of wind
 - 101 Coastal arm
 - 102 Poetic Muse
 - 103 Hotelier Ritz
 - 104 Actor Clark
 - 105 Present label
 - 106 Like Dublin denizens
 - 107 — vincit amor ("Love conquers all")
 - 111 Hazard
 - 112 Poker post
 - 113 "Holy cow!"
 - 115 Collide with
 - 116 Young fellow
 - 117 LGA datum
 - 118 Ty-D —
 - 119 Suffix with witch or trick symptoms.
 - 120 Unlike reruns



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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

- ACCENT
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- BACKWARDS
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- BATON
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- BUGLE
- CADENCE
- CARRIAGE
- COLOR GUARD
- COMMAND
- CORPS
- COVER
- CYMBALS
- DIAGONALS
- DOUBLE TIME
- DRESS
- DRUM
- EASE
- EXECUTION
- FIELD SHOW
- FILES
- FLANK
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- MARCHING
- RANKS
- REST
- SNARE
- STEP
- TEMPO
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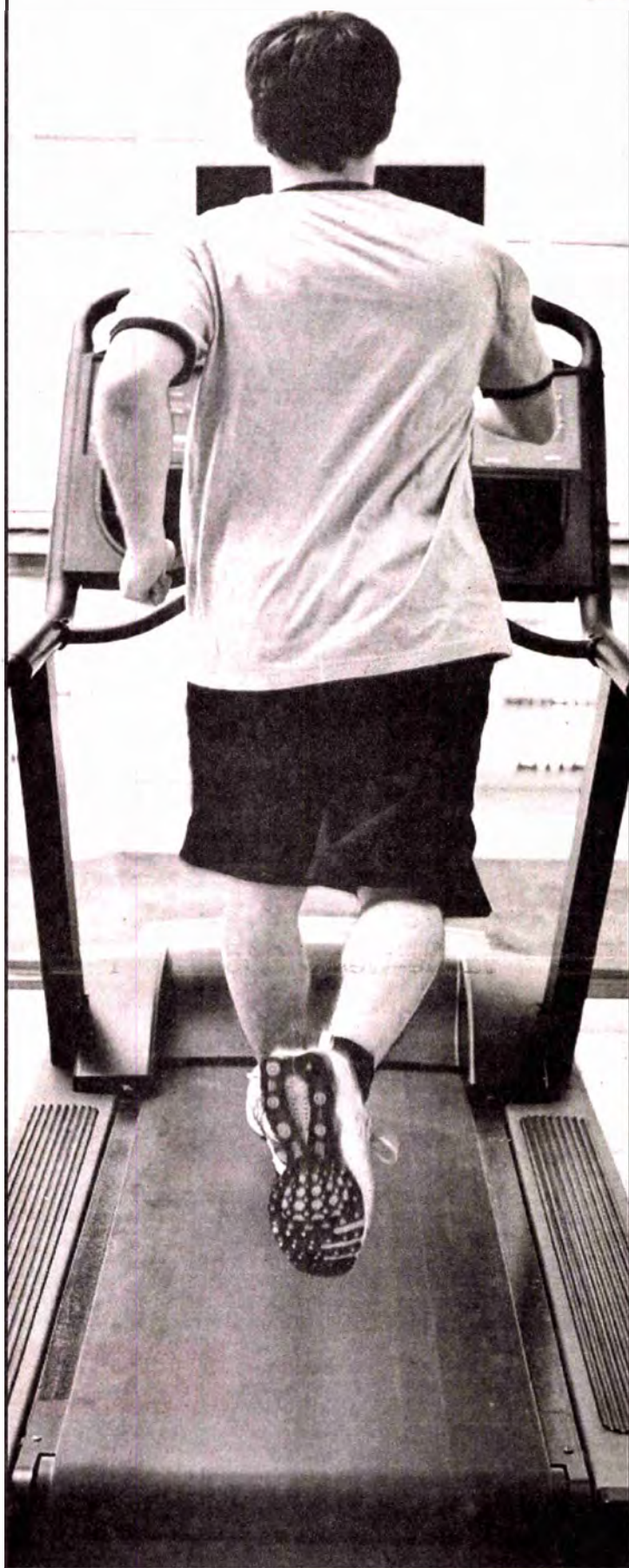
Crossword Answers

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Car Report

As New Coupe Goes On Sale, Honda's Stylish New Civic Already Looks Like a Big Hit



By Dale Buss

Honda's new Civic Coupe went on sale this month, and the company is trying to make the most of the styling of the new model that already is generating a lot of excitement in the sedan version that went on sale last fall.

Maybe it'll all even make the 2016 version of Civic a cult favorite that will enjoy something similar to the nameplate's popularity in the 1990s.



Inside, the new Civic is bustling with new amenities and better materials.

The Civic comprised an important foot in the door for Honda when it entered the US market in the Seventies as one Japanese import's answer to the gasoline-price crisis. It was smaller and relatively less expensive than now, but the first Civic established the brand's bona fides for fuel economy, got Americans used to the idea of a

high-quality Japanese car, and opened the door for Honda to introduce larger and upscale models such as the Accord and, eventually, its full product line into the crucial American market.

Nowadays, the task of Civic is somewhat different. As a well-established player in the American market and one that makes most of its cars for domestic consumption right in the Midwest, Honda doesn't need Civic anymore to prove its credibility.

And it really doesn't even need Civic for its exemplary fuel economy, which will peak out at 35 miles a gallon on the highway in upper-trim versions of Civic Coupe that have a gas-sipping continuously variable transmission. Fuel prices seem so reasonable to Americans these days that they don't care nearly as much about mileage as they did even a couple of years ago.

No, what Honda needs from Civic now is to create some of the brand excitement that Honda still lacks in many of its vehicles -- consumer enthusiasm that translates into sales.

So far, so good on that count: Civic sales in February were up nearly 43 percent over a year ago, setting a record for the month, and that of course was without

the new coupe version.

"Led by the all-new Civic, Honda cars are defying industry trends, even as our light-truck models are red hot this winter," exulted Jeff Conrad, senior vice president and general manager of the Honda division.

The restyled sedan is exciting consumers and reviewers alike with a notably more dynamic exterior as well as improvements in interior amenities and the quality of materials, as well as the fact that Honda is offering its broadest range yet of versions and trim levels.

Later this year, the 2017 Civic Hatchback will launch as the third variant in the line; the prototype will make its debut at the New York International Auto Show later this month. And still to come are Civic Si variants and what Honda calls a "radical new Civic Type R."

The new Civic is longer, wider, lower and racier-looking than its predecessor, with a lengthened hood and a swept-back rear. There's an additional three inches of rear overhang, for example, which is one of the main characteristics of the new design, while the front overhang is shorter and it has a longer wheelbase.

Another sporty touch is a two-piece tail-lamp assembly



The rear end of the new Honda Civic Coupe shows off the nameplate's sleeker new style.

that reaches from the car's rear quarters onto the deck lid and requires Honda engineers to make one of their legendary executions to ensure proper fit and finish of what is a very difficult design concept.

To boost the quality feel of Civic inside, Honda upgraded to triple sealing around the doors, added soundproofing in the roof and floor, and used hydraulic bushings to dampen suspension vibrations. New amenities include a keyless entry system with remote start and remote-link climate as well as a walkaway auto lock and pushbutton start.

Weight savings through use of more high-strength and ultra-high-strength steel -- almost 75 percent of Civic's body structure is made from the stuff now -- have

helped translate into a zipper car, which is powered either by a 2.0-liter engine that generates 158 horsepower or a turbo version of 1.5 liters that puts out 174 horsepower.

Which brings Civic back to the new Coupe version, which is especially tuned for "driving fun," as Conrad put it in a release. It "sets the bar for performance, refinement and connectivity in the compact coupe segment."

And there's more. As the Wall Street Journal noted, even the new entry-level Civic, the LX sedan version, includes automated-safety features that take "some of the most sophisticated technology on the market available and [make] it accessible to significantly more buyers, including younger ones."

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Quilter to Quilter Sale April 23rd 10am-2pm at First United Methodist Church of Troy 6363 Livernois. Tables are still available to rent. Call 248-798-7970 or go to qtho.org for more info.

Adopt Me Pets
find a new friend...

Domestic Pets

ENHANCE YOUR AD WITH A PHOTO
You can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run, under the classification you choose. The cost for the photo will be \$10, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used. Email or mail your 3x5 or 4x6 photos. Call for addresses. Photos will not be returned. Prepayment required/no refunds. To place your ad & get more info call:

MICHIGAN.COM
Observer & Eccentric
800-579-7355
Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5pm
Some restrictions may apply

Pet Services
LOW COST VET VACCINE
WELLNESS CLINIC
TSC - WHITE LAKE
10150 Highland Rd. Sun. April 10th, 4PM-6:30PM
Dyvir Rabies, \$16, Heartworm Test, \$19, Skin, Ear & Eye exams avail. 213-686-5701

CLEAN-UP & HAULING SERVICES
Cheap Rates! Garages, basements, attics & etc.
Free Estimates
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COMPLETE LANDSCAPING BY LACOURS SERVICES
Clean-ups, landscaping, grading, sodding, hydro-seeding, retaining walls, ins. work, brick walks & patios, Drainings & lawn irrigation systems, low foundations built up. Weekly lawn Maintenance. Haul away unwanted items.
• Commercial • Residential
• 42 years experience
• Licensed and Insured
• Free Estimates
www.lacourservices.com
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Assorted Items
all kinds of things...

Antique Collectibles
Collectibles, Precious Moments, Cherished Teddies, Snow Globes, Paintings, Alexander Dolls, Ashton & Drake Dolls, Hot Wheels. 248-807-2459

Appliances
REFRIGERATORS \$150 & up! Range, washer/dryer \$125 & up! 90 day warranty/delivery! Call: (734) 796-3472

Cemetery Lots
Parkview Memorial- Livonia 3 plots In Devotion \$1800 or best offer \$13-530-4337

Cheap Stuff
If you're selling an item for \$50 or less run your ad under Cheap Stuff AT A SPECIAL RATE* Michigan.com Observer & Eccentric Call 800-579-7355! *Some restrictions may apply

Furniture & Household Items
Snowblower SHP, self propelled, needs tuneup pick up only 248-685-7804

Transportation
Light Maple 42" Round Kitchen table w/12" seat & 4 chairs \$375 +19" by \$75 +12 piece setting ching set- ALL in GREAT cond. \$200 734-722-3237

Wheels
best deal for you...

Autos Wanted
H & W \$5 for junk vehicles. Free tow. Buying repairables. 734-223-5581

Cars
Chevrolet Malibu, 2011 85,000 mi. \$4500. 48150 LT-Sunroof. 1734/855-4120

PEAK AUCTION
AMERICA'S #1 BUILDING MATERIAL AUCTION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Saturday April 2, 2016
Registration at 7:30AM • Auction Begins: 9:00AM
Break Peak: Friday April 1, 2016 12PM-4PM
Gibraltar Trade Center
237 N River Rd
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Hardwood Flooring, Kitchen Cabinets, Tile, Mosaic Tile, Granite Counter Tops, Interior & Exterior Doors, Decking, Decorative Lighting, Trim & Molding, Decking, Vanities, Toilets, Faucets, and So Much More
GO TO: www.peakauction.com Call 800-245-9690
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Cars

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We Want You!

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Now offering lease with option to own in select communities!

Homes from \$23,900 to \$75,900

*WAC, certain restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with any other incentive. No cash value. See housing consultant for details. Please bring ad to receive offer. Offer expires 3-31-16

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Call Sarah in Plymouth at 734.414.9760
 www.ajrhomesales.com

Home for Sale - In State
FARMINGTON- OPEN HOUSE
 For sale By owner - 35521 Tall Pine Sat. & Sun. 1PM-4PM Come see this Great 4br + 2.5 bath colonial. This is newly remodeled. Has 2911 sq ft. asking \$304,999. 989-732-6354

Home for Sale - In State
WESTLAND
 Golfside Estates
 2003 Built, 1,996 sq ft colonial, 3 bdrm, 2.1 ba, formal living & dining room, fam rm w/vaulted, Oak kitchen/dogwalk to deck, finish bsmt, GA, CA \$150,000
 Great Value
 2 bdrm vinyl sided ranch, kitchen w/stove & fridge, living rm w/french doors, to deck in fenced yard, CA \$19,000
Sarawing Ranch
 3bdrms, updated kitchen w/appliances, bedroom has french door that opens to huge deck in yard, finish bsmt w/room that could be 4th bdrm. GA \$68,000
 Century 21 Castelli 734-523-7900

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 Homes starting as low as \$999/month!
 3 bedroom, 2 bath & 4 bedroom, 2 bath homes
 HURRY these homes are going fast!
 Call Sun Homes today, (888) 685-0265
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 South Lyon Schools!
OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8a-5p • Sat 9a-1p
 Offer expires 3/31/2016
 **Some restrictions apply
 EHO

Plymouth/Salem Twp. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath custom built executive home for sale. 12 mins. from Plymouth & Ann Arbor. 4,000+ sq. ft. on 10 acres (wooded), custom kitchen, master bath with steam shower & jacuzzi tub. In home office/library plus sun-room, enlarged deck overlooking pond with fish. Built in 1999 & white house generator. MUST SEE! 734-453-3631 or email mswill@comcast.net for info & showings.

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Homes-Rent
 Westland: 3 br, 1.5 ba brk ranch, C/A, crpt, bsmt, fridge, stove, no pets, Nr I-275/Ford Nice area \$890. 734.591.9163

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	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
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Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.625	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.49	0	2.75	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.75	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.125	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0.25	3.125	0.125
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.25	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.75	0.25	3	0

Above information available as of 3/18/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com

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 Adorable 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath home with a front deck and brand new carpet.

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 Offer expires 3/31/2016 **Some restrictions apply EHO

*Prospects must apply for residency and satisfy background screening requirements. Not all homes are eligible for purchase by current Sun Homes lease customers, and lease credit is subject to cap on approved home transfers. Financed amount: \$40,711.64 @ 9.25% APR, 240 mo. Term with 10% down payment. Payment includes documented title cost of \$324.87/mo. for 1 year. One rent return to full market rate in 2nd year. These leasing terms are for example purposes only and are not an offer to extend credit. Home price shown above does not include \$399 home prep fee, applicable tax or title fee. For details on available 3rd party financing, please ask for a complete MLO or contact Sun Homes Services, Inc. NMLS #333075, 27777 Franklin Rd, Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034. (800) 541-2888 for more details. Terms 03/21/2016. Other restrictions may apply.

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