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WAYNE-WESTLAND

OBSERVER

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Westland discusses trash concerns

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Education and enforcement are being suggested to address some service problems with Westland's trash and recycling services along with addressing special item pick-ups.

In an effort to help with financial issues related to the program, the city is also looking at a proposal to put ad-

vertisements on trash cart lids as a revenue source.

"There are current problems, many of those problems existed for a long time and not just when we switched to a new system (in 2014)," said Westland Councilman Michael



Kehrer

Kehrer, who chaired the committee. "The committee was adamant that all the problems be included."

Those problems include:

» Residents putting prohibited materials like grass clippings, concrete, wood and carpeting into trash carts;

» Trash carts set too close to the recycling carts or other items like mail boxes on collection day not leaving suffi-

cient room for the carts to be picked up — the carts need to be at least three feet apart;

» Overfilling carts so the lids won't close — the lid has to be closed or the automated arm can't pick it up;

» Putting excess trash that won't fit into the cart on the ground — the trash drivers don't pick up anything not placed in the cart.

» There is also an issue with trash carts being "borrowed" and used at a different address than where it was left for residents. The city had replaced the missing cart but that leaves the original cart being used, in most cases by a neighbor, who isn't paying the \$60 annual charge for a second 96-gallon cart.

See TRASH, Page A2

Comforting angels



ROMAIN BLANQUART | MICHIGAN.COM

Dawn Lafferty, 59, of Garden City looks at burial gowns for stillborn babies and infants who die soon after birth made from donated wedding dresses at Angels Above Baby Gowns in Garden City. For more on Angels Above, see Page A5.

Millage question approved for Aug. 2

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Ballot language asking Wayne voters to approve joining a public safety authority and levying 14 mills to pay for police and fire services has been approved for the Aug. 2 primary ballot.

Wayne is seeking to join the South Macomb Oakland Regional Authority, which has two existing member communities in Hazel Park and Eastpointe. Voters in those cities would have to approve ballot questions accepting Wayne as a member.

The 14-mill levy would run from 2016 through 2034 and is required to match the levy approved by current SMORSA members. In Wayne, the 14 mills would generate an estimated \$4.9 million revenue the first year.

Following the recommendation of Wayne's Community Financial Task Force, the council unanimously approved placing the question on the ballot. The city doesn't anticipate needing to revenues from the full 14 mills and is expected to roll back the general operating as a partial offset to the millage increase.

Councilman Chris Sanders questioned if the rollback to offset the 14 mills was going to be considered by council soon.

"Yes. We're waiting for the budget. We can't give away what we don't have yet," Mayor Susan Rowe said. "This is just the ballot language. The citizens committee will initiate a strong campaign to make sure all the accurate information is out there."

After losing nearly half of its property values since 2008, Wayne saw a 7.6-percent increase in residential property values in 2016 but a 9-percent drop in commercial property values. As a result, the overall state equalized value for the city dropped from \$362 million in 2015 to \$356.4 million in 2016.

Because the millage is levied at \$1 per \$1,000 of the SEV, changes in SEV impact how much revenue would be generated by millage. As a result, it

See MILLAGE, Page A2

Hundreds attend annual O&E Spring Expo

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Getting the newest information, especially for seniors, was a big theme at Tuesday's Observer and Eccentric Senior Spring Expo at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. That's what drew Plymouth Township resident Kathie Gornica to the event.

The 82-year-old ballroom dance instructor, who teaches many seniors out of her home, said she comes every year to the event in Livonia to gather info and pass it along.

"I like to recommend to my students who, a lot of them are seniors, that are going to have problems," she said. "I'm giv-

ing them brochures to look into it."

Gornica was one of hundreds who filled Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center on Tuesday morning for the annual event. Attendees sought information from the many vendors in attendance, including health care providers, estate planners and senior living facilities, among many others. Some seminars held during the event saw standing-room-only crowds to hear some of the speakers.

One such provider was Mercy Elite Sports Performance, a Livonia-based sports medicine facility located at



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shirley Ziemia of Farmington Hills will enjoy her lunch from Leo's Coney Island in College Park, Livonia.

See EXPO, Page A7



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INDEX

Business	A6	Homes	B6	Services	B6
Crossword Puzzle	B7	Jobs	B6	Sports	B1
Entertainment	B10	Obituaries	B9	Wheels	B6
Food	B11	Opinion	A8		

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Help needed to deliver water to Flint

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

About 2,500 cases of water, along with 800 gallon jugs, have been donated at Westland City Hall for Flint residents.

Now volunteers are needed to come to Flint 11 a.m. Saturday to help unload the water when it is delivered by UAW Local 900 from Wayne and the Westland Area Jaycees. Volunteers can call the Westland City Clerk's Office at 734-467-3184 for more information.

"It unfortunately has to be unloaded by hand. We need about 50 or so people to help," said Westland Councilman Bill Johnson, Local 900 chairman.

The Hands of Love City of Refuge Center in Flint, which is acting as a distribution center, contacted Westland Mayor William Wild about donating the water.

"The center serves a

"When we heard Mayor Wild was looking for a place to deliver the water the city collected, we thought it would be a great fit."

BILL JOHNSON

big poor neighborhood. I appreciate the mayor approving the donation," said Johnson. "This will go out to the people who need it - not go into a warehouse."

Back in January, Wild asked residents of Westland to join him in collecting water to donate to Flint residents as part of the city's Compassionate City Initiative.

"The response from the community was truly humbling," said Wild. "In a short period of time, residents donated more than 2,500 cases and 800 gallons of water at West-



SUBMITTED

Water donated by Westland residents and businesses for Flint residents.

land City Hall."

These donations also came from Westland employees, businesses, civic groups and religious organizations.

With such a successful collection, the question

arose as to how the city would get the water to Flint residents. The UAW and the Jaycees volunteered to load and deliver the water to Hands of Love City of Refuge Center in Flint, which is act-

ing as a distribution center.

"Local 900 UAW has been working with Hands of Love City of Refuge Center in Flint on our own collection efforts," Johnson said. "When we

heard Mayor Wild was looking for a place to deliver the water the city collected, we thought it would be a great fit."

The Jaycees are happy to work alongside the city and UAW Local 900 in the water collection and delivery, said Jim Hart, Westland Area Jaycees chairman.

"We hope to have several chapters involved in this effort from across the state, including the Westland Area Jaycees and the Burton Area Chapter," he said. "The Jaycees continue to stay committed to helping the citizens of Flint during this domestic water crisis."

Wild thanked everyone for their collection efforts, especially Local 900 and the Jaycees.

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Westland mayor chosen for training at Harvard

Westland Mayor William Wild has been chosen as one of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Taubman Fellows for 2016.

SEMCOG's Taubman Fellowship for Executive Excellence provides local public officials who have record of demonstrated leadership an opportunity to broaden their aware-

ness of effective approaches to public-sector problems.

The fellowship takes place at the Harvard University Business School.

"This program is a once-in-a-lifetime oppor-



Wild

tunity for local government leaders to broaden their perspectives by interacting with colleagues from around the world," said Robert Taubman, chairman, CEO and president of Taubman Centers Inc. "The experience truly enhances the way public officials serve the residents of Southeast Michigan."

Wild is currently serving his third term as full-time mayor of Westland, Michigan's 10th largest city. He oversees the city's \$60 million operating budget and its approximately 300 employees. The city has had seven consecutive balanced budgets with a 10 percent surplus.

During this term,

Wild said he will continue to focus on strengthening Westland's core priorities: public safety, clean neighborhoods, finding efficiencies in government, exercising sound fiscal management, protecting the environment and creating a healthier and more vibrant community.

"My hope is to fur-

ther develop my leadership and problem-solving skills," said Wild about the fellowship. "It is my hope that this experience will also help me gain important insights from policy experts and scholars on a multitude of challenges and key issues that will help me better serve the residents of Westland."

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MILLAGE

Continued from Page A1

would also impact how the amount of a millage roll back could be approved to offset the 14-mills, if approved.

Joining a public safety authority like SMORSA is being viewed as a way

the city, which has a more than \$2 million deficit for the current and is expected to run out of money early in the 2017-18 fiscal year, can generate revenue to offset its financial problems. The general fund millage is capped.

It is strictly a funding method in which the full amount levied is re-

turned to the individual communities. There is no operational merging of the police and fire departments — none of the communities are contiguous.

A citizens committee has been organized to get information about the SMORSA proposal before voters. Rowe said there will be coffees,

town hall meetings and other presentations in advance of the primary election.

The committee recently met with a consultant paid through a donation by the Wayne-Westland Firefighters union.

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TRASH

Continued from Page A1

The committee also found issues with the special pickup for large items — a service now provided on a charge basis. Those issues included more items left out than were called in and paid for, carpet not cut to requested sizes for collection.

"The neighbors see items out (for a scheduled collection) and feel it is a pickup day. They put items out without calling or paying," Kehrer said.

Issues were also reported at the recycling yard located the Department of Public Services on Marquette. Items not accepted for recycling were being dumped at the site.

"The employees feel that there are non-Westland residents and busi-

nesses using it," Kehrer said. "Like there will be two televisions in the morning and later there are 15 televisions. They think someone is dumping."

Education programs such as how to use the recycling cart to be held at local schools and direct mailers on the trash/recycling program were recommended.

"People forget or move," Kehrer said. There was also a recommendation that red tag violation notices be placed on carts.

"We need to establish a list of the addresses of homes with more than one brown trash bin," Kehrer said. "Several businesses had three or four trash containers. I did a random check of five businesses. Three were paying, one was iffy and one wasn't paying for three bins."

Another recommendation was to look at city

ordinances to make sure there was language to enable the ordinance enforcement staff to deal with repeat offenders.

There are financial considerations when it comes to special pickups. The currently received \$45,000 in revenue by charging for special pickups, Kehrer said, with a \$300,000 price tag return to the old free system.

Even without changes in the special pickup program, the city is projecting the sanitation program will be nearly \$34,000 short at the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, the city purchased seven garbage trucks in 2014 using a combination of bonds and a loan from the Capital Improvement Projects fund.

"We had hoped to have paid \$1.7 million back to the CIP by the time we needed to buy new trucks in 2019-20," Budget Director Debra Peck said.

"We take the sanitation costs off the top (of revenues) and whatever is left pays the CIP."

So far, just over \$134,000 is being budgeted to be repaid in 2015-16. Commodity prices are down making it cost more for recycling but still less than landfill tipping fees.

"The issue on the consumer side of it is the charge for a special pickup," Peck said. "The bigger issue overall is a budget issue and the sustainability factor."

Council agreed to look at the advertising idea which would generate an expected \$450,000. The lids on the toter trash carts would be replaced with lids that would allow ads to be attached and changed periodically.

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CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, **on April 14th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

LAWN FERTILIZATION AND WEED CONTROL

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: April 7th, 2016

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Sealed proposals will be received by Charter Township of Redford at the office of Garth J. Christie, Township Clerk, Charter Township of Redford, 15145 Beech-Daly, Redford, Michigan 48239 until 3:00 pm, on **Thursday, April 14, 2016**, when all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for the **2016 Claude Allison Park Project** in the Board Room of Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, Michigan, 48239. The work shall consist of furnishing all materials, labor, equipment, services and incidental items for the following major items of work:

Proposed construction includes, but is not limited to the installation of:
Project Description: New single story concessions and restroom facility, approximately 900 sq. ft. situated adjacent to an existing facility. Work includes alteration to site utilities, removal and reconnection of site lighting power feeds, and complete demolition of existing structure.

Contract documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations beginning March 30, 2016: Charter Township of Redford, Clerk's Office, 15145 Beech Daly, Redford, MI 48239-3299 and Studio Detroit LLC, 220 Bagley Avenue, Suite 928, Detroit, MI 48226.

The specifications under which the work is to be done may be downloaded from the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (bidnet.com) or obtained via email form at Studio Detroit LLC, 220 Bagley Avenue, Suite 928, Detroit, MI 48226, on or after **March 30, 2016**.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond by a recognized Surety Company in the amount of \$25,000, payable to Charter Township of Redford as security for the acceptance of the Contract. No bidder may withdraw his proposal between the date set for the opening thereof and the date upon which the contract is awarded, or 90 days, minimum.

The right to reject any or all proposals and the right to waive defects in proposals will be reserved by the Owner. All incomplete proposals will be rejected.

To be advertised on Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (bidnet.com) and in the Redford Observer Newspaper.

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Redford, MI 48239-3299
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Publish date: April 7, 2016

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wish you were here



SUBMITTED

John and Jacqueline Buford of Westland made the trek to Lakeland, Fla., to see the Detroit Tigers in spring training. And, of course, they took their Westland Observer with them.

Kids carnival

St. Michael Catholic School hosts a special Kids Carnival on Wednesday, April 13, from 5-7 p.m., featuring free hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, face painting, crafts and carnival games for families of students entering the Junior 4's Program, Kindergarten, and first grade in September or those just interested in finding out more about the school's programs.

The carnival is a great opportunity for families to meet other school families, chat with staff members, learn more about before and after-school care, and just enjoy time with their family.

For more information, call the school at 734-421-7360, Ext. 225, or email school@livoniastmichael.org. St. Michael's is located at 11311 Hubbard Road, just south of Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Champions of Wayne

The Champions of Wayne Memorial program is hosting a 5K run/walk on Friday, May 6, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne.

Registration starts at 4:30 p.m. and the race begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes a T-shirt. Registration can be completed at <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/pdjin0>

The Champions of Wayne program is an educational incentive program that includes mentoring, setting academic goals and financial rewards. The Champions program creates an opportunity for WMHS students to earn a \$200 award if they reach a customized academic goal.

For more information on the Champions program or 5K event, contact Sean Galvin at galvins@wwcsd.net.

Voters meeting

The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County is hosting a meeting on Money In Politics at 7 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the Livonia Civic Center Library (32777 Five Mile Road). Featured speakers will be Craig Mauger, Executive Director of Michigan Campaign Finance Network, and Wayne County Commissioner and former State Sen. Glenn Anderson. The public is invited to attend.

Mauger will talk about the millions of dollars that have already been poured into super PACs in support or opposition of 2016 presidential candidates. Who are these donors and what do they expect if their candidate is elected? Commissioner Anderson will discuss the high cost of running a campaign even at the state level.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. It never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

Women's retreat

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Women of the Word hosts the annual Spring Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 16 (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Author Karen Hossink will be the guest speaker. The subject of her talk is entitled "What are you waiting for?" Registration fee is \$25 includes continental breakfast and box lunch. Registration deadline is April 10. An in-gathering of bath-size towels (dark color) will be received to benefit Lutheran World Relief.

Contact the church office with questions at lindah@christoursavior.org or 734-522-6380. The church is located at 14175 Farmington Road,

Livonia, MI 48188 (just north of I-96).

Plawecki hours

State Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights, will host her April coffee hours Monday, April 11, and April 18. Plawecki invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents.

Coffee hours in April will take place Monday, April 11:

» Maplewood Center, 31735 Maplewood St. in Garden City, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. with state Sen. David Knezek and Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson.

» Inkster Public Library, 2005 Inkster Road in Inkster, from noon-1

p.m. with Knezek and Anderson

For those who don't like speaking in group settings, have a sensitive issue to discuss or can't make the coffee hours, Plawecki encourages residents to call her office toll-free at 844-347-8011 or email her at juliaplawecki@house.mi.gov.

Identity theft workshop

Clarenceville United Methodist Church hosts the workshop, "IDENTITY THEFT: What You Need to Know," 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 23.

The workshop, presented by Thrivent Financial, will show participants how identity theft can occur; how you can take steps to prevent it; and what to do if it hap-

pens to you. This free workshop will be held at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middle Belt, in Livonia (between Seven Mile and Eight Mile). A continental breakfast will be provided. RSVP by April 20 at 248-474-3444 or clarenceville-church@gmail.com.

Genealogy meeting

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday, April 28, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. Please note the new format: 5:30 p.m., bring your dinner, 6 p.m., Q & A and announcements, and 7 p.m., Kris Rzepcznski will be presenting records and services available at the State of Michigan Archives.

He is currently a Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan. He previously worked at the Library of Michigan as the Michigan Genealogy Coordinator. He holds a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan.

Meetings are open to the public. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit www.wwcgs.org.

Wildflower folklore

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center hosts "Wildflower Folklore of Holiday Nature Preserve," 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9. Learn to recognize native wildflowers and discover their fascinating folk history. Find out how people used them for healing, culinary and other purposes in the past. Call 734-261-1990 to pre-register. Fee is \$3 per person (add \$1 for out-of-county residence). Ages 12 and up.

Career fair

Some 50 employers will be on hand for Ma-

donna University's 2016 Career Fair, 3-5 p.m. Thursday, April 7. The fair is open to all students, alumni and the public.

From health care, hospitality, transportation and human services companies, to law firms, government agencies, financial and general businesses, find a list of all participating employers and register to attend the career fair at www.madonna.edu/careerservices, or call 734-432-5623, during business hours. Dress for success and bring a supply of resumes.

Mom2Mom sales

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

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

For more information including the table agreement, go to www.facebook.com/gcmom2mom-sale or send an email to gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com.

» St. Edith/St. Colette hosts a Mom2Mom sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9, featuring 74 tables of great deals on gently used maternity, baby and children's items.

St. Edith Church is located at 15089 Newburgh in Livonia. Admission is \$2 from 8:30-9 a.m.; \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, email m2msale@stecmops.org.



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Portable space heaters need space

A fire broke out in the early morning hours on March 7 of this year in Atlanta. By the time firefighters arrived, the fire had already spread through the roof and throughout the building, hindering firefighters in their efforts to rescue occupants of the house. By the time the fire was under control and the house could be searched, the bodies of six people were found inside.

Neighbors were interviewed about the fire, and they said that the homeowner regularly kept several space heaters running in the home constantly as the only known source of heat in the winter months. The fire was so intense and had such a head start that it had burned into the attic space and collapsed



Shadd Whitehead
GUEST COLUMNIST

in onto itself. Five of the fire victims were found in the rear of the home and one was found in a front bedroom.

This is just one example of how a fire starting from what some consider a minor issue can turn into a major problem when it comes to fire. Left unchecked, the fire can build in intensity very rapidly, and with even a normal amount of furnishings in a home, it quickly adds to the fire's growth. Who would ever think a few space heaters can start a fire that kills six and completely destroys a house?

While space heaters are only a small percentage of home heating fires at 32 percent, they are involved in 79 percent of home heating fire deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Heating equipment continues to be the second leading cause of home fires behind cooking, and the second leading cause of home fire deaths behind smoking.

Some think that space heaters can fail, resulting in electrical sparks that can start a fire. While that can happen, over half of fatal home space heater fires were the result of the heater being placed too close to normal combustible material in the home.

Some things you can do to be safer with space heaters

include keeping any combustible material at least three feet away from the space heater when it's turned on. Supervise the use of these heaters by having a responsible and awake adult in the room when one is turned on. Children often drop items close to the heaters, or pets have been known to knock them over, igniting the flooring, furniture or curtains. Many newer space heaters have a "tip over" switch, so if they are accidentally tipped over while they are on, they will automatically shut off. All space heaters should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.

Heaters should be turned off when you leave the room or go to bed, and they should

only be plugged in to electrical outlets or power strips with surge protection. Avoid using electrical extension cords to power anything in your home except for very temporary use. Inspect the cords for any cracking, fraying or loose connections at the beginning of the heating season. And as a reminder, a working smoke alarm is critical in alerting occupants of a fire, allowing them time to quickly exit before being overcome by its deadly smoke.

Most of the tips here may be considered common sense when it comes to space heater fire safety. Hopefully, it can be helpful.

Shadd Whitehead is the fire chief for the City of Livonia Fire Department.

GARDEN CITY POLICE REPORTS

Larceny

A resident of the Garden Terrace Apartments, 29500 Beechwood, told police April 1 that she had gotten up early for work and went to fill her car with gas, then returned home. When she went to work about 90 minutes later, she said her car was making a loud noise.

Looking under the car, the woman said she noticed part of her exhaust system was missing. She brought the car to the police department and the officer found the catalytic

converter had been cut out.

Vandalism

On April 4, a resident in the 29000 block of Rosslyn that overnight someone had slashed all four tires on his vehicle. The tires were valued at \$200.

Larceny

A lawn sprinkler control system and piping, valued at \$500, were reported stolen April 1 from a home in the 30000 block of Pardo. The resident told police that he went out to the yard to pick up a flag

that had fallen over and found the piping to the module had been cut at both ends. He said he last saw the module intact when he was taking down Christmas lighting in January.

Disorderly conduct

Police were called to the 31000 block of Marquette just after 7 p.m. April 4 about a man walking around a house talking to himself. The caller said eventually, the man kicked the front door and went into the house.

The man, who is the homeowner, told police everything

was fine. Police were called a second time about a man yelling at a neighbor. The resident also called police to report a neighbor threatening him. He was told to stay inside his home.

When police arrived, the resident was walking in front of his home with an open can of beer and yelling at a group of people west of his home. The officer noted no one in the group was yelling at the resident and they all seemed to be calm.

One of the neighbors told police that the resident was

yelling at him because the resident thought he was the one who had called police. A second neighbor told police she was inside her home and could hear the resident outside yelling obscenities. Others told police the resident constantly makes problems in the neighborhood.

The resident was arrested and cited as a disorderly person. He was given a Breathalyzer test, which reportedly came back at .19. He was held until sober.

LeAnne Rogers

WESTLAND POLICE REPORTS

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 28000 block of Powers told police March 27 that he heard his car alarm going off about 11 p.m. He said that he and another resident looked out to see the light was on in his vehicle.

Checking, the second resident said she realized her vehicle had been searched. She reported \$2-3 in change miss-

ing from the console.

The man's vehicle door was slightly open but hadn't been searched.

Vandalism

The rear doorwall at a home in the 35000 block of Sheffield was reported smashed March 28. The owner told police she found the damage after returning from a weekend trip.

Larceny

Police were called to Mechanical Resources Inc., 4401 Fletcher March 29 after two open bed trailers were reported stolen. The trailers were last seen the previous night inside a fenced and locked area owned by a separate company, Main Street Contractor, 35915 Clinton.

When the employee re-

turned the morning of March 29, he said the gate was open and the trailers were missing.

Attempted vehicle theft

A resident in the 4500 block of S. Hubbard told police just before 2:30 a.m. March 31 that someone had tried to steal her 2005 Chevrolet Malibu which had been parked in the street unlocked.

The woman's husband said

he had heard someone trying to start the car - he recognized the sound due to a mechanical problem. He said he looked outside to see two men near the vehicle.

The two men ran south on Hubbard. The car owner told police that nothing was damaged or missing from the vehicle.

WAYNE POLICE REPORTS



Now Enrolling: LPS Magnet Programs

Elementary Gifted & Talented

Livonia Public Schools Alternative Classrooms for Academically Talented (ACAT) will accept Out-of-District (four-county area) elementary students between April 22 - May 6.

This specialized elementary program offers a rigorous, enriched curriculum in a nurturing setting at Webster Elementary School. For more information and application, visit livoniapublicschools.org click on Programs; call Webster at (734) 744-2795 or email ACAT coordinator David Zyczynski at dzyczyns@livoniapublicschools.org.



International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Accepting applications from Wayne County residents April 1 - April 29. Prestigious 2-year college prep program for junior and senior years of high school. IB students are encouraged to attend Franklin High School starting in



9th grade. To register, visit Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Rd., Livonia, during business hours. All candidates must meet IBDP selection criteria.

Visit livoniapublicschools.org click on Programs for more information. Email IB coordinator Ms. Sunshine Weber at sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org or call (734) 744-2655 ext. 47135.



Niji-Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary

Now accepting applications from students from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Monroe counties for 2016-2017! Applications accepted

April 20 - May 19, 2016

This unique K-5 program provides students the opportunity to be immersed in a second language, while learning from fellow students; half-day English instruction, half-day Japanese.

Students entering grades 2-5 must meet Japanese proficiency standards.

Contact Niji-Iro at (734) 744-2785 for more information, or visit livoniapublicschools.org click on Programs.

When babies die, Angels Above swoops in with comfort

Kristen Jordan Shamus
Michigan.com

Cheryl Harmer's son lived 102 days.

Although the death of the baby she named David Andrew Harmer came 30 years ago, the memory is still fresh in her mind.

"I knew I was going crazy. That was a given," said Harmer, 56, of White Lake. "I wanted to know how to get out of it."

She found help through Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who've lost a child.

Now, Harmer sews in honor of the son she lost all those years ago with a group of women dedicated to easing the pain of stillbirth and infant death by making care packages for grieving families out of donated wedding and bridesmaids gowns.

Angels Above Baby Gowns, the nonprofit organization started two years ago by Garden City resident Dawn Lafferty, has made more than 10,000 care packages, each of which includes an ornate burial gown, a blanket, a bonnet, a bracelet, an angel ornament and more.

"I sew in memory of my son," said Harmer. "The night we left the hospital after he died, they gave me his blanket. I have pictures, but nothing like this. I know I went shopping for something to bury him in, but I have no idea what it was. I was in such a fog, I just did what people told me to do. It would have been nice to have this package."

Angels Above has delivered the tiny satin and silk works of art, each unique, to more than 50 hospitals in Michigan, and has expanded, now including chapters in several other states. Each hospital gets enough gowns to supply it for a full year, so care packages are at the ready whenever a family should need one.

Though it's rarely discussed, stillbirths and infant deaths are all too common. The infant mortality rate — the rate at which babies die before their first birthday — in Michigan is nearly 7 per 1,000 live births, according to the state Department of Health and Human Services. Michigan ranks eighth worst in the country for infant mortality. And the March of Dimes reports that 23,600 babies are stillborn annually in the U.S., affecting about 1 in 160 pregnancies.

Although Lafferty, 59, never had children of her own and never suffered through the loss of a baby, she feels empathy for those who have.

The idea for Angels Above came to her after reading a news story about a woman in Washington whose baby had died; she was handed the infant's body wrapped in a washcloth.

Lafferty knew she could do better than that. She'd started her own sewing business at the age of 12, made many of her own clothes growing up, and sews costumes for theater groups on the side.

"I posted on Facebook, 'I'm thinking of starting a nonprofit group' ... and my friends instantly said, 'I'm in,'" Lafferty said. "They brought their machines over and we were up and running. It was two years ago in May."

Busy hands

Wednesday nights and Thursday afternoons at Lafferty's house are busy. That's when women come from all over southeastern Michigan to snip and stitch in the basement of her ranch-style house.

On an evening in mid-March, three women sat

HOW TO HELP

Even if you don't know how to sew, Angels Above Baby Gowns is always in need of volunteers. To join the group or learn more, go to its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/AngelsAboveBabyGownsGardenCityMIArea/ or call Dawn Lafferty at 734-421-2322 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. You can also e-mail Lafferty at angelsabovebabygownsmi@gmail.com.

To donate a wedding gown, prom dress, bridesmaid dress or other formal gown to Angels Above Baby Gowns, you can drop it off at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Road in Westland. Other donation sites are spread all over the state — including sites from Battle Creek to Bloomfield Hills, Lansing to Livonia. To learn more about donation sites, contact Lafferty through the Facebook page. The organization is also quickly outgrowing its space. If you have a building space or would like to be a benefactor to the organization in some other way, Lafferty welcomes help.

ANGELS ABOVE PROM DRESS DRIVE

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9 at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt Road. Angels Above Baby Gowns is hosting a prom dress drive. Anyone can get a dress free, but the organization asks for \$10 to cover the cost of cleaning. Any remaining proceeds go toward the expenses of the group.

GRIEF SUPPORT

If you or someone you know needs help coping with the loss of a baby through infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death, the CCUDL Support Group at Henry Ford can help. For details, go to www.henryford.com/body.cfm?id=56779, call 248-325-0424 or e-mail ccudl@hfhs.org. Compassionate Friends offers support to people suffering the loss of a child. There are chapters all over the state. To find one, or learn more, go to www.compassionatefriends.org or call 877-969-0010.

side-by-side in chairs, using seam rippers and tiny scissors to carefully dismantle wedding gowns, removing the lace, the beads, and the appliques. Two others stood across the room at a table, inspecting donated gowns and deciding what should be done with each one.

The washing machine spun in an adjacent room, washing wedding dresses to be used for baby gowns.

Twelve-year-old Blu, Lafferty's dog, circled the room, trying to get pats from busy hands.

"He's part of the group," Lafferty said, reaching down to pat him on the head.

Her eldest sister, Sherry Ray, is one of the roughly 20 seamstresses who regularly come to Lafferty's house to sew.

"I remember when she started this," said Ray, of Westland. "I thought it was amazing. All these little ladies weren't here then. ... She said, 'I'm probably not going to do too well at it. I maybe will have a couple hundred gowns.' In two years, we've done over 10,000 gowns."

"It's just like wow. I'm so proud of her."

Organization is key. Each room in her basement is dedicated to the cause. Storage containers and shelving line the walls. Each drawer and container is stocked with something different — one for beads; another for lace; one for appliques, and separate spots for boning, ribbons, and more.

"We don't waste any-



Tori Disney, 45, of Dearborn goes through donated wedding dresses as other women deconstruct them to make burial gowns for stillborn babies and infants who die soon after birth at the Garden City studio of the nonprofit Angels Above Baby Gowns.



Tori Disney, 45, of Dearborn removes buttons from donated wedding dresses at the Garden City studio of Angels Above Baby Gowns, a nonprofit that makes satin and silk burial gowns for stillborn babies and infants who die soon after birth from donated wedding dresses.

"... I couldn't do any of this without all my volunteers. I couldn't do this on my own."

DAWN LAFFERTY, founder of Angels Above Baby Gowns

thing," she said. "All our tiny little scraps are gathered up." Even the tulle from wedding gowns is reused. It's donated to animal organizations to stuff pet beds.

Tables for dismantling dresses are set up, as are cutting tables and pattern-piecing. A shelf along one wall holds a row of sewing machines and sergers.

The space is cramped, and Lafferty said she'd love to expand to a donated building or larger work and storage area if she could, but money is tight and every penny that comes in is spent on the costs of shipping packages to hospitals and sewing supplies.

"We have no funding at all," Lafferty said. "Everything is self-funded at this point."

Branching out

Since she started Angels Above, Lafferty has branched out beyond sewing gowns and caps for hospital care packages.

She has partnered with hospice organizations to coordinate angel gown services, and connected with a group that provides financial assistance for burial costs to help needy families. Angels Above is in the midst of a prom-dress drive, donating prom dresses and fashionable



Angels Above Baby Gowns makes burial gowns out of donated wedding dresses for babies who are stillborn and infants who die soon after delivery.

bridesmaid gowns for free to needy high school students. It also donates first communion dresses and other gowns to area churches for families with special events who can't afford to buy something nice to wear.

Now, Angels Above is collecting money to buy CuddleCots for Michigan hospitals. The CuddleCot is a cooling device that attaches to a bassinets or Moses basket. It is used to cool the body of an infant who was stillborn or died after delivery and slows the decomposition process so the child's parents have more time to say good-bye.

In February, Lafferty and the Angels Above crew delivered their first one to Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, where as many as 19 families a year suffer that sort of loss, said Gina Clifford, clinical coordinator of the birthing center.

"Nobody talks about this. People don't talk about this," said Clifford. "The guilt alone makes them feel awful, you

know? We've had patients say to us, 'What did I do wrong? If I would have come to the hospital on Tuesday instead of waiting until Thursday, then maybe my baby would still be alive.' But there's no saying whether that baby would be. It's just truly — it's horrible. So you support them."

The CuddleCot offers another way the hospital can offer that support, said Annette Penn, administrative nurse for the birthing center and special care nursery.

"I think it's greatly needed," she said. "Patients need to be able to say hello before they say good-bye to their babies. So by allowing them as long as they need in the room with their baby — whether they're here for 24 hours or 48 hours, we'll be able to allow the baby to stay in the room with them. They need to be able to give that first bath because who should be giving the first bath? It should be the mom and the dad. And the same with dressing the baby,

just having those opportunities to do that. I've had three losses myself, but never had the opportunity to see, touch, hear or smell any of them, so I am very passionate about our program. Families should have mementos, they should have pictures. We always have to remember that patients see with their hearts, not with their eyes, so whatever we can do for them is helpful."

CuddleCots cost about \$3,000 each, Lafferty said, and the group is now collecting money to buy another one for a hospital in Flint, Lafferty said, which has been hit hard by the water crisis.

"We asked all of our members to donate a dollar," Lafferty said. "Some donated more. ... I couldn't do any of this without all my volunteers. I couldn't do this on my own."

Cindy Logie, 56, of Hazel Park started sewing with Angels Above Baby Gowns in November.

"I haven't had the loss of a child. I don't know anyone closely who's had a loss, but I had a wedding gown," she said. "I thought it would be nice to somehow do something with it. I didn't know anybody in the group. I just felt it was God who put that in my path."

She reached out to Lafferty through the Facebook page and came on a Wednesday night with a friend and her mother to help out. Now, she said, she's hooked.

"I'm just trying to help people who are suffering with such a loss. I pray over each gown that I sew because I just feel that to me, it's very important. I know that the family is going to be having a very hard time, and I just pray that this will give them comfort."

Harmer, who lost her David Andrew in the 1980s, got the surprise of a lifetime when her grandson was born.

"We were in the delivery room, and I'm holding my grandson, and amazed that this is my son's child," she said. "And I looked at him and I said, 'What's your name?' And my son says, 'David.' And I went 'Oooh.'"

Tears welled up. She was filled with joy that her grandson would carry her late baby's name, but sad at the memory of his loss.

"It was a dual emotion," she said.

Contact Kristen Jordan Shamus: 313-222-5997 or kshamus@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @kristenshamus.

St. Mary Mercy first to perform elective coronary intervention

St. Mary Mercy Livonia, a member hospital of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, recently became the first hospital of its kind in Michigan to perform elective Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), commonly known as coronary angioplasty.

This procedure had not yet been approved in Michigan for hospitals without an on-site open heart surgery program, until now.

"The approval to offer this procedure in our state is a significant medical advancement for the communities we serve," said David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "As the first facility in Michigan to be granted these privileges, we can now provide greater access and more comprehensive cardiovascular care to our patients than ever before."

Elective PCI is a non-surgical procedure used to treat narrowed arteries of the heart found in heart disease. St. Mary

Mercy has received approval from the State of Michigan and from Accreditation for Cardiovascular Excellence (ACE), an accreditation program ensuring facilities meet the highest standards of care, to begin offering this interventional cardiovascular service. Michigan joins a growing majority of states that have approved elective PCI for hospitals without open-heart surgery programs.

In 2005, St. Mary Mercy became just the third community hospital in the state of Michigan to provide Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PPCI), also known as emergency angioplasty. As a leader in initiating emergency PCI services in Michigan for facilities without on-site open heart surgery services, St. Mary Mercy has demonstrated tremendous success with its emergency coronary angioplasty procedures. The hospital now joins sister facilities St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and St.



Theresa Wolak, CIS; Delair Gardi, MD; Linda Jones-Hyde, RCIS, Lead Tech; Cynthia Angott, RN, Jennifer Falasco, RN, Nursing Lead, Cath Lab.

Joseph Mercy Oakland in offering elective PCI.

"Elective angioplasty is a safe and effective procedure used to open blocked coronary arteries and restore blood flow to heart tissue, without requiring open-heart surgery," explained Interventional Cardiologist Delair Gardi, MD, medical director of St. Mary

Mercy's Catheterization Laboratory and the physician who performed the first elective coronary intervention. "In patients with a restricted or blocked coronary artery, PCI is typically the best option to re-establish blood flow as well as prevent chest pain, heart attacks or even death. We have

achieved significant quality outcomes with emergency PCI services over the last 10 years and are confident we will provide equally successful outcomes with our elective procedures."

To achieve accreditation, St. Mary Mercy met stringent criteria and underwent a multi-stage evaluation, including an

application, review of data and a site visit. St. Mary Mercy meets all of the standards of care set forth by ACE and is properly equipped within its Heart and Vascular Center to perform these cases both on an elective and emergency basis. This includes having proper processes and procedures, specially trained catheterization staff and around the clock availability. As a condition of state approval, St. Mary Mercy was required to document quality outcomes with its emergency PCI cases and demonstrate a need within the community for this elective service, which the State of Michigan reviewed and approved.

For more information about emergency and elective angioplasty or other cardiovascular services offered at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, call 734-655-2851. For more information or a physician referral, call 1-888-464-WELL, or visit stmymercy.org.

My list of must-have apps

For those who have already grown bored with Snapchat, Periscope, Trivia Crack and their existing emoji keyboard, here is a look at some apps that are worth consideration. Despite reaching a point of app saturation and full phones, these productivity and entertainment apps are worth the download.

BitMoji: An increasingly popular app for millennials, this app merges popular emojis with the dated Bit Strip. Don't know what either of these means? That's okay. Download BitMoji, create a character and you can text custom im-



ages such as your character celebrating a holiday or playing a sport. Use BitMoji to randomly text a friend or family member. Your pop-culture knowledge may surprise them.

UltraText: UltraText allows you to create and send GIFs (animated images) through messaging apps on your phone. It is worth noting that Facebook messenger has GIF capabilities linked through an additional

GIF app. But do you really need three apps from Facebook (or 4-5 if you count Instagram and What's App)? Soon they will control your entire phone!

ESPN App: A fixture on every sports fan's phone got much better recently as ESPN merged their traditional Score Center app with the Watch ESPN app. Now users can check scores, read news and even watch live games on their phone. Last month, I used my home's WiFi connection to watch a bowl game on my smartphone without experiencing any lag or issues. Simply select your cable

carrier and get mobile access to live games and programming, which is usually abundant considering the breadth of ESPN networks.

Untappd: The craft beer craze is not slowing down. Users can download Untappd to rate beers, discover nearby breweries, trending drinks and see what friends are trying. Untappd is a terrific way to find a drink that suits your tastes while also documenting what you've already tried. Didn't like a specific brew? Mark it down so you don't get fooled again. The more you try, the more badges you can

earn — just remember to pull up your Uber app if you've overdone it and need to get home.

Hyperlapse: Not exactly new, but a great tool nonetheless to create quick and easy Hyperlapse video on your phone. Great for recapping a landscaping or DIY project around the house, capturing a sunset or anything else you can think of. Like the other apps on this list, Hyperlapse is free, but some premium features may cost you a few dollars.

One Second Every Day: If you love capturing photos and videos of your pets, kids or lifestyle, consider download-

ing One Second Every Day. Like Hyperlapse, it gives users an easy tool to create videos or photo galleries using a few seconds of content from each day. Consider it the opposite of Snapchat as you can create memories that last.

Games: Even if your storage and cloud space are bursting at the seams there is always room for another game, right? **Candy Crush Jelly Saga, Surfingers, Hay Day and Terapnia** remain chart toppers.

Jon Gunnells is a social and digital media manager for the Airfoil Group, a Detroit-based marketing and PR agency.

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...Dinner Show From Las Vegas



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Funeral home honor

When a funeral home is selected as among the best in the community it serves, it has to be seen as a significant achievement.

It's no wonder then that the recent selection of R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home as "Best Hometown Funeral Home" in the 2016 "Best of Livonia" competition has third-generation owner Tom Rost and his manager, David Cash, so excited.

"When my grandfather first began serving his neighbors in 1910, he was really establishing a legacy that his son Tom Harris, along with my father, who was his son-in-law, and my own family have been privileged to continue," Rost said. "As we extended our family business over the years by adding the Livonia Chapel in 1964 and Garden City Chapel in 1969, we continue to do what we do best, which is to serve families."

The recognition comes through a "Best of" program run by Bill Joyner, a well-known Western Wayne County personality who writes the popular FridayMusings.com website.

R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, at all of its three locations, offers an "every detail considered" level of service designed to accommodate all faiths and traditions. The Livonia location was established in 1964.

Rost and his team of caring professionals were also recognized for this distinction by Livonia Treasurer Lynda L. Scheel and Mayor Dennis K. Wright, as well as the Wayne County Commission.

Money Smart Week

Zeal Credit Union has partnered with the Livonia and Westland public



City of Livonia Treasurer Lynda L. Scheel (left) and Mayor Dennis K. Wright (right) congratulate David Cash, manager of the Livonia Chapel of R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home on its selection as 2016 "Best Hometown Funeral Home" by Friday Musings.

libraries for financial presentations and activities for all ages during this year's Money Smart Week, from April 23-30.

The first event, Money Smart Storytime, will be held for ages 3-6 at Livonia Public Library's Civic Center branch, 32777 Five Mile Road in Livonia. The event is scheduled from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23. In addition to hearing a money-related story, each child will receive a free bank to decorate and take home.

Tiffany Sweet, the credit union's youth and community coordinator, will be on hand to talk with parents about saving for their child's future and how to educate children about saving and spending. For more information, visit www.livonialibrary.org or call 734-466-2493.

Library programs

The William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway in Westland, will host a series of programs designed for youth and adults.

The first event, "A Day at the Park," will be held on Saturday, April 23, for children in grades 2-5. Held in the library's Youth Activity Room, Sweet will help children explore the value of money and begin to think about saving for a visit to the ballpark.

On Monday, April 25, children ages two through seven years, are invited to enjoy a Money Smart Storytime from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in Meeting Room B of the William P. Faust Public Library. Each family that registers and attends will receive a free copy of "Bunny Money" by Rosemary Wells, while supplies last.

On Wednesday, April 27, Zeal Credit Union will host a program specially designed for adults. Catherine Wall of GreenPath Debt Solutions will present "Steps to Financial Freedom" from 7-8 p.m. in Meeting Room B of the Westland library.

For more information about the youth and adult workshops in Westland, visit westlandlibrary.org or call 734-326-6123.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ralph Schwedt of Livonia learns about Cedarbrook Senior Living, under construction on Haggerty Road in Northville, from Fran Finsilver.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don and Joyce Muno of Beverly Hills leave the expo with good advice, lunch, and some swag.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The golden voice of announcer Jay Sanford declares another prize winner.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The VistaTech Center at Schoolcraft College had a full house for the Senior Expo.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Doctor is in. Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, is ready with advice.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Doctor Sol Cogan offers chiropractic advice.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As the standing-room only crowd leaves the auditorium, Beverly Brenner of Northville asks Rick Bloom for clarification of financial advice.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Kowalski, with Huron-Clinton Metroparks, shares a park map with Carol Yates of Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schoolcraft Nursing student Erin Brashear checks I. Britt's blood pressure. Brashear is from Belleville. Britt lives in Westland.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Kemp helps George Korody of Northville.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Traub of Plymouth won a gift basket from Westland Nursing and rehab's Jude Aschoff.

EXPO

Continued from Page A1

13245 Newburgh just south of I-96 and part of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Employees as well as local golf officials were on hand to examine attendees' golf swings and see what, if anything, could cause injury or other ailments while out on the links.

Terry Welsh, the outing and marketing coordinator for the City of Livonia's golf division, said it's important for those golfers to know what ails them, as golf pros don't typically go out and ask golfers about their health status on the golf course.

"As a golf pro, my first question isn't always, 'Hey, do you have any preexisting injuries or have you had hip replacement surgery?'" he said. "It's 'What do you want to work on in your golf game?' This is the most important step, getting the body ready for golf so that I can maximize the golf swing, get the most potential out of one's golf game."

Nursing students station

A new station this year was several tables of Schoolcraft College nursing students checking vital signs for visitors and talking to them about health. Students came and took blood pressure, among other measurements, from

patrons and talked to them in a casual setting. The event replaced the students' clinicals for the day, and gave them experience working with the public out in the field rather than in a medical setting.

"This is more of a preventative-type event," said Westland

resident and first-year nursing student Rachel Morrow.

One of those in attendance Tuesday morning was Farmington Hills resident Rose Lehnerer, who wanted to be aware of what she and her husband needed to do to get their affairs in order.

It's something she

hopes isn't needed for a long, long time, she said.

"My husband and I were interested in estate planning," she said. "There's a certain amount of denial that you really need this."

"We all feel like we have an unlimited amount of time."

Ingrid James of Can-

ton said Tuesday's event was the second Senior Spring Expo she's attended. She came last year and decided it was worthwhile to return this year.

She recommends others to come next year, because of all the access to information she picked up.

"I'm always trying to keep abreast of what the latest things are," she said. "This is a good place to go to find out."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
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OUR VIEW

Autism Awareness Month puts spotlight on issues

April is Autism Awareness Month, including World Autism Awareness Day. With the Garden City school district including both Burger Baylor School for preschool through high school students with autism, as well as the Burger Transition Center to help young adults, it's clear autism awareness is growing.

Both those facilities serve Wayne County and are part of greater awareness of autism and its impact on families. Burger Baylor recently hosted the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee men's basketball team in a game against students, while the Burger Transition Center hosted national expert Hal Wright on preparing special-needs people for life when their parents have died, including financially.

Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism. Their longtime friend Bernie Marcus donated \$25 million to help financially launch the organization.

Autism spectrum disorder and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviors. With the May 2013 publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual, all autism disorders were merged into one umbrella diagnosis of ASD. Previously, they were recognized as distinct subtypes, including autistic disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified and Asperger syndrome.

ASD can be associated with intellectual disability,

difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

Autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge ages 2-3. Autism Speaks continues to fund research on effective methods for earlier diagnosis, as early intervention with proven behavioral therapies can improve outcomes. Increasing autism awareness is a key aspect of this work and one in which families and volunteers play an invaluable role.

Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identify around one in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum - a tenfold increase in prevalence in 40 years. Careful research shows that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Studies also show that autism is four to five times more common among boys than girls. An estimated one out of 42 boys and one in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States.

ASD affects more than three million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide. Moreover, government autism statistics suggest that prevalence rates have increased 10-17 percent annually in recent years. There is no established explanation for this continuing increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered.

Over the last five years, scientists have identified

a number of rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. A small number of these are sufficient to cause autism by themselves. Most cases of autism, however, appear to be caused by a combination of autism risk genes and environmental factors influencing early brain development.

In the presence of a genetic predisposition to autism, a number of non-genetic, or "environmental," stresses appear to further increase a child's risk. The clearest evidence of these autism risk factors involves events before and during birth. They include advanced parental age at time of conception (both mom and dad), maternal illness during pregnancy and certain difficulties during birth, particularly those involving periods of oxygen deprivation to the baby's brain. It is important to keep in mind that these factors, by themselves, do not cause autism. Rather, in combination with genetic risk factors, they appear to modestly increase risk.

A growing body of research suggests that a woman can reduce her risk of having a child with autism by taking prenatal vitamins containing folic acid and/or eating a diet rich in folic acid (at least 600 micrograms a day) during the months before and after conception.

Increasingly, researchers are looking at the role of the immune system in autism. Autism Speaks is working to increase awareness and investigation of these and other issues, where further research has the potential to improve the lives of those who struggle with autism. More information is online at www.autismspeaks.org and www.autism-society.org.

LETTERS

Wonderful robotics event

Over the weekend of March 24-26, Churchill High School hosted a FIRST Robotics competition. Forty teams from across the state competed and packed the venue all weekend for this unique STEM education

tournament. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success. Principal Keith McDonald rolled out the red carpet and made sure the school was welcoming and accommodating. The janitorial crew kept up with the activities; attendees remarked

about the clean bathrooms, hallways and cafeteria. The state-finalist Stevenson hockey team helped with set up and concessions. The visiting teams were gracious and courteous competitors. The host team, the Livonia Warriors, provided a super playing field and pit area, thanks to the Churchill coaches and athletes who shared the facilities with us. Hundreds of volunteers (including the Plymouth-Canton robotics team) helped with setting up, implementing and tearing down the elaborate, highly technical playing field, as well as making

sure everything ran smoothly over the weekend. This was the sixth consecutive year LPS has held this event, and Churchill is considered to be a top host venue in Michigan. "Everyone here is so nice!" one visiting student exclaimed about their Livonia hosts. "Robotics is your playing field, but courtesy is your game!" We look forward to hosting this tournament for years to come, and thank everyone in LPS for their kind assistance in making it a successful educational event. Tom Lang board member, FIRST in

Michigan Isolina Carlini coach, Livonia Warriors
Heartbreaking disappointment
Plans for the new, state of the art, groundbreaking Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Regional School in Garden City on the current campus of St. Raphael Catholic School would have been nothing short of amazing. Garden City and the surrounding community would truly have been enriched by the technology and innovation that the vision for this school portrayed. Students would have been enriched by not only educa-

tion in the traditional methodology of teaching but they would have been immersed with the traditional values of the Roman Catholic Church woven into the fabric of their day. If this would have been a choice you were seeking for your child, as I was, those dreams are but a fleeting memory. Instead of celebrating, our teachers, students and parents are searching for a new place to call home. There will be no school. The school was given every chance to succeed and by all measures it should have. What hap-

See LETTERS, Page A9

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LETTERS

Continued from Page A8

pened, you ask? I believe the answer to be a culmination of many things. The saddest, most heart-breaking thing about this is that the ultimate losers here are the beautiful, precious and intelligent children that were supposed to have walked the halls of this new school.

One could cite poor planning, or not an aggressive enough marketing strategy by the new principal. Those are only a few reasons that you could sprinkle in the mix for the low enrollment numbers your readers were quoted. The main reason this school did NOT open was because a certain group of parents made a pact to sabotage this new school from the very moment they learned where the site for the school was going to be.

I feel sorry for these parents that did not feel they got "their way." They should have acted like adults and been role models for their children. They should have come together and embraced this venture. Instead, they took over social media and anyone that would listen and allowed hatred and jealousy to cloud every aspect of their being to negatively influence others. These parents ruined every chance for this school to become a reality.

The Archdiocese of Detroit made one fateful mistake by making a promise to parents that this school would open no matter what the enrollment numbers were and made everyone believe this school was going ahead as planned. Many parents did NOT turn in their paperwork because they were complacent and didn't feel the sense of urgency.

The blame lies with parents as well for not taking this seriously for their children's future. They needed to stand up

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for what they wanted and believed in and take responsibility. Are we so busy that we couldn't even take the time to fill out a simple piece of paper?

Does everyone get it? These mistakes have ruined it for everyone involved that has worked so hard to make this school a reality. I hope we all learn a little something about this experience. I would give anything if this could all just be reversed and the St. Raphael School Building would have its doors open in August 2016.

I certainly believe in the aspect of freedom of choice and voice but not when those freedoms are executed to the point of contributing to the closure of a school that unfortunately did not even have a chance to be something so special and unique for our children and children for generations to come. What a sad time in our society that the actions of others have the ability to dictate and carve out our future for us without us having any control.

Now, unfortunately, no one wins except disappointment and tears.

Lisa Gursky-Choi
Garden City

Trott sounds 'Obama is weak' alarm again

It is an election year and 11th U.S. District Rep. Dave Trott has finally emerged from a year of silence and of course voting repeatedly to repeal Obamacare as a veritable emailing machine.

One of his latest is an attempt to callously exploit the ISIS attack in Brussels by fear mongering in order to advance the nonsensical conservative meme that somehow Obama hasn't kept us safe.

As usual, the statistics don't substantiate this claim. Since 9/11 an average of 3.2 Americans in the U.S. have perished annually by terrorist attacks launched by Islamic extremist sympathizers of all types and that number includes Ft. Hood and San Bernadino. To put this threat into perspective, on average you are 55 times more likely to be killed by a falling TV set, twice as likely to be killed by fireworks, six times more likely to be killed by a cow, 11,562 times more likely to die in an auto accident, eight times more likely to be killed by a dog, and well you get the idea.

Consequently, we will have to file this with all the rest of Trott's inaccurate or exaggerated claims like Obamacare is a job-killer although since inception 200K jobs per month have been created, Mexicans are invading at our southern border in droves although net immigration there is zero and has been for several years, that Obama has been a big spender although he has cut the deficit by at least 50 percent and increased new spending at a slower rate than any president since WW II, that Obama has been bad for business although the Dow Jones has nearly tripled from the low point of the Bush crash and profit to GDP ratios are at record levels or a whole host of others.

C'mon Dave, we deserve better than exaggerated dangers and inaccurate memes.

Mitch Smith
Canton

On the efficacy of words

As the election season heats up, the talk is all on

Donald Trump, on divisive words and promises. I have said previously that the world takes too much stock in words, and that actions are worth more than the words that build up to such actions and diction which would condone Mr. Trump's words.

However, as all things are a balance, words can indeed go too far. In our culture of immediate gratification, normal words are no longer enough for many. "Acceptable" and "adequate" often get wry looks, whereas "love" and "great" are commonplace. What we end up creating — which is fueled by our consuming of mass media and its concentration of talent, good looks and good times — is the feeling that everything must be "hilarious," "awesome," "outrageous," "unbelievable," etc. We then look at our own, normal lives devoid of these words, and we feel inadequate, unacceptable.

In the age of immediate gratification and subsequent emotional and etymological hysterics, the burden of a top-heavy, immense society can turn us into timid non-players, but life never was and never will be about playing into an immense, global network. No, it is about

small communities and daily routine and the people with which you interact; the rest is but misinformation, usually including fear-mongering diplomacy and unabashed individualism. No, words are important when they reflect our inner disposition to such an extent that our love and good deeds are diminished, and this is where the balance is lost. With excessive fear, individualism, and gratification, we lose the meaning of human life.

This is the year of Mercy, according to the Catholic Church. Let us move away from mass media and political misconceptions of world order and focus on our real, normal lives in community and mercy. Let us define our lives not by the ads that we see, but the discussions that we have. And let us place at the heart of politics love and not economic prosperity or freedom. With what I see, they do not go together with the short-term fixes that our world currently touts.

John H. Carter
Formerly of Milford

Political silver lining

As the saying goes "every cloud has a silver lining," right now Donald Trump is a cloud hanging over the GOP. One silver lining is the increase in

voter turnout he has brought; it is always good for our country when more of us vote but usually bad for Republicans.

If Trump becomes the Republican nominee, we can expect a large voter turnout.

Those inspired by the hate speech pushed by the Republican Party, they are the Trump supporters. They may not always vote but they wish to wreak havoc with our government, they will most likely not vote for other Republicans seeking other offices (another silver lining).

Regular Republicans who actually care about the country will either not vote or vote against Trump by voting Democrat no matter how much they dislike it.

Democrats should be out in large numbers and vote for candidates all down the ticket to keep the country moving forward for us all.

Donald Trump is a huge cloud hanging over the Republicans but they must own it because they led the dumbing down of America and you can see from those supporting Trump that they have succeeded.

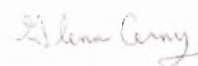
Party leaders might still make the cloud go away and with it will go "the silver linings".

Chuck Tindall
Novi

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON PROPOSED 2016-17 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2016-17 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at the Jeffress Center Board Room, J228, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48152. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.



Glenn Cerny
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Published: April 3 & 7, 2016

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Area Agency on Aging 1-C

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The Senior Alliance would greatly appreciate your input!

Monday, May 9, 2016
2:30-4:00 P.M.
The Senior Alliance
3850 Second Street, Suite 100
Wayne, MI 48184

Thursday, May 19, 2016
1:00-3:00 P.M.
Canton Senior Center
46000 Summit Parkway, Room: Art 2
Canton, MI 48188

Tuesday, May 24, 2016
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
Brownstown Senior Center
21313 Telegraph Road, Hall D
Brownstown Twp., MI 48183

A draft of the 2017-2019 MYP will be available online April 8, 2016 at www.aaalc.org

Written comments accepted until May 31, 2016.

For more information, call
734-858-2238

Published: April 7, 2016



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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PREVIEW

Futures stock rising for Thurston diamond squad

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Long-term investors may want to buy some futures stock in the Redford Thurston baseball team.

While head coach Bob Snell readily admits the Eagles aren't a title contender this season, that should change

down the road thanks to some high-ceiling youngsters.

"We have a solid group of young players to build on," said Snell. "We're not quite there yet, but once our group of freshmen and sophomores develop, we'll be all right."

If the Eagles' up-and-comers develop like current seniors Austin Benoit and Donald

Permy have, the future will certainly be filled with sunshine. A three-year varsity performer, Benoit will play all the key positions in the field this spring — catcher, pitcher and third base — while providing explosiveness at the plate.

"Austin hit well last year, but he's gotten even more consistent with his contact, and

he's a more confident hitter than he was last year," said Snell. "Austin is a big, strong kid who can really drive the ball."

Permy will start the season as the Eagles' No. 1 pitcher. He'll also play the all-important shortstop position when he's not on the mound.

"Donald has made a lot of

improvement as far as pitching goes," said Snell. "He has the best stuff on our team. He's a travel-baseball player, which has helped him a lot. He's a left-handed batter and top-of-the-order kind of hitter who gets on base a lot."

Ny'gel Beaman will pitch

See THURSTON, Page B4

BLOWING THE WHISTLE

ABOUT THIS SERIES

In recent years, officials in all sports have come under fire, whether from overheated parents, increased social media or disrespectful players and coaches. Many leagues and governing bodies are having a difficult time finding enough adults to act as officials for youth sports events.

Observer & Eccentric reporters conducted a variety of interviews in the last several weeks, with referees, officials, executives and others who are involved in the recruitment and training of sports officials. We found that, while many still enjoy the unique thrill of being part of the game, others are being driven from the playing field, some haunted by the killing two years ago of local soccer referee John Bieniewicz.

Today is the second of a two-part package of stories, "Blowing the Whistle." The first set of stories is available online at hometownlife.com.

INSIDE

- » Former prep player moves straight into officiating, B2
- » "You don't have a horse in the race," referee says, B3

USA TODAY NETWORK
ILLUSTRATION

'YOU CALL THAT A STRIKE?'

Teen ump — fed up with harassment from parents, coaches — throws herself out of game for good

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Katelyn Sherwood loves baseball, just not being an umpire in today's "anything goes" world.

According to the 15-year-old Canton resident, who endured an unhappy stint as an ump in the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association, she had no problem calling players out at home.

She just didn't think she'd have to deal with so many people who were out — of line. What made it worse was most of her vocal critics were adult coaches and parents who were making it impossible for her to call boys baseball games in the age 9-11 division.

"I would get a lot of jeering from the parents and the coaches because they did not agree with some of my calls," said the Belleville High School sophomore, formerly a catcher on the Canton Cardinals travel boys baseball team. "This is supposed to be a fun game, it's supposed to be relaxing, it's fall ball, it's a way to get some extra practice for 9- and 10-year-olds."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Katelyn Sherwood decided a few months of being verbally abused for how she called Little League baseball was enough to drive her away from the game.

See FED UP, Page B2

MHSAA looks to recruit 1,500 new officials every year

Bill Emerick
Staff Writer

Think your job is challenging? Try this one on for size.

You're a top-level executive of a statewide company, given the task of recruiting some 1,500 essential employees — each and every year. Most, if not all, of these employees are starting from scratch, meaning they'll need extensive training and support right from the start. A successful campaign will mean approximately one-third will still be on the job a year later.

And then you start over again. If that sounds to you like a thankless task, you're not alone. But that's the conundrum facing Mark Uyl in his role overseeing all things having to do with game officials in state high school ath-



"We see the average age (of officials) creep up. There's a great need to recruit and retain aggressively."

MARK UYL, an assistant director with MHSAA

letics.

Uyl is an assistant director with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the private governing body based in East Lansing that sets the rules for competition and eligibility for prep

sports in this state. Uyl, a 41-year-old resident of DeWitt, has been with the MHSAA for 12 years, during which time he has seen the landscape for recruiting — and, more importantly, retaining — game officials for the various sports the MHSAA sponsors shift in various directions.

'Recruit and retain'

It's Uyl's job to keep the thousands of registered game officials who work MHSAA contests happy and content, so much so that they're willing to come back for more.

"That's always been a focus for us, for sure," Uyl said of recruiting new officials. "We see the average age (of officials) creep up. There's a great need to recruit and retain aggressively."

The MHSAA sponsors state championship tournaments in 18 different sports, some specific to boys (football) or girls (volleyball) and some open to both (basketball, swimming). Some sports require a large crew of officials (football, five or six) and some need just one (cross country).

It's in this widely varying field that Uyl must navigate to keep the games running smoothly and fairly.

The MHSAA currently has about 10,500 registered officials. Those officials are certified to do 1.7 sports each and the average age is 52½.

The high-water mark for registered officials was 12,000 in 2007-09, which dovetails with the years of the great recession in the state. That's not a coin-

See MHSAA, Page B2

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Ex-prep player moves straight to official

Marty Budner
Staff Writer

Donta Favors knew he was going to be a referee back in high school.

The 1994 Southfield-Lathrup graduate played prep basketball for the Chargers under head coach Bob Herm. While he loved to play, he also enjoyed refereeing the sport during those formative years.

Favors went to Central Michigan University, where he took a sports officiating class, got registered to become a certified Michigan High School Athletic Association ref at the tender age of 18 and has gone on to enjoy almost every minute of his eventual 22-year officiating career.

"At Lathrup, there was an intramural program for varsity basketball players to become referees," Favors said. "I got into it and took it seriously. I just enjoy it so much because it keeps me around the game I loved forever."

"Officiating seemed like an interesting thing when I was growing up," he added. "I saw that officials were giving back to the game and I found that to

be an admirable thing to do, to want to give back to the game. It's a good way for me to stay involved."

Giving back

The 40-year-old Favors still loves putting on the striped shirt and "giving back" to the game he loves. Whether it's on the football field in fall or the basketball court in the winter, Favors has worked on fields and in gymnasiums across the state.

Favors has worked his way to the pinnacle of the MHSAA officiating ladder. He recently worked one of the four boys state championship games for the second time in his career. He's previously worked two girls basketball state finals games and has done three football state championship games — one at the Pontiac Silverdome and two at Ford Field.

In addition, he's worked some Horizon League and MIAA college basketball games. Favors had the opportunity to work GLIAC college football years ago, but his day job demanded a lot of Sat-

"Officiating seemed like an interesting thing when I was growing up. I saw that officials were giving back to the game and I found that to be an admirable thing to do ..."

DONTA FAVORS
former Southfield-Lathrup athlete

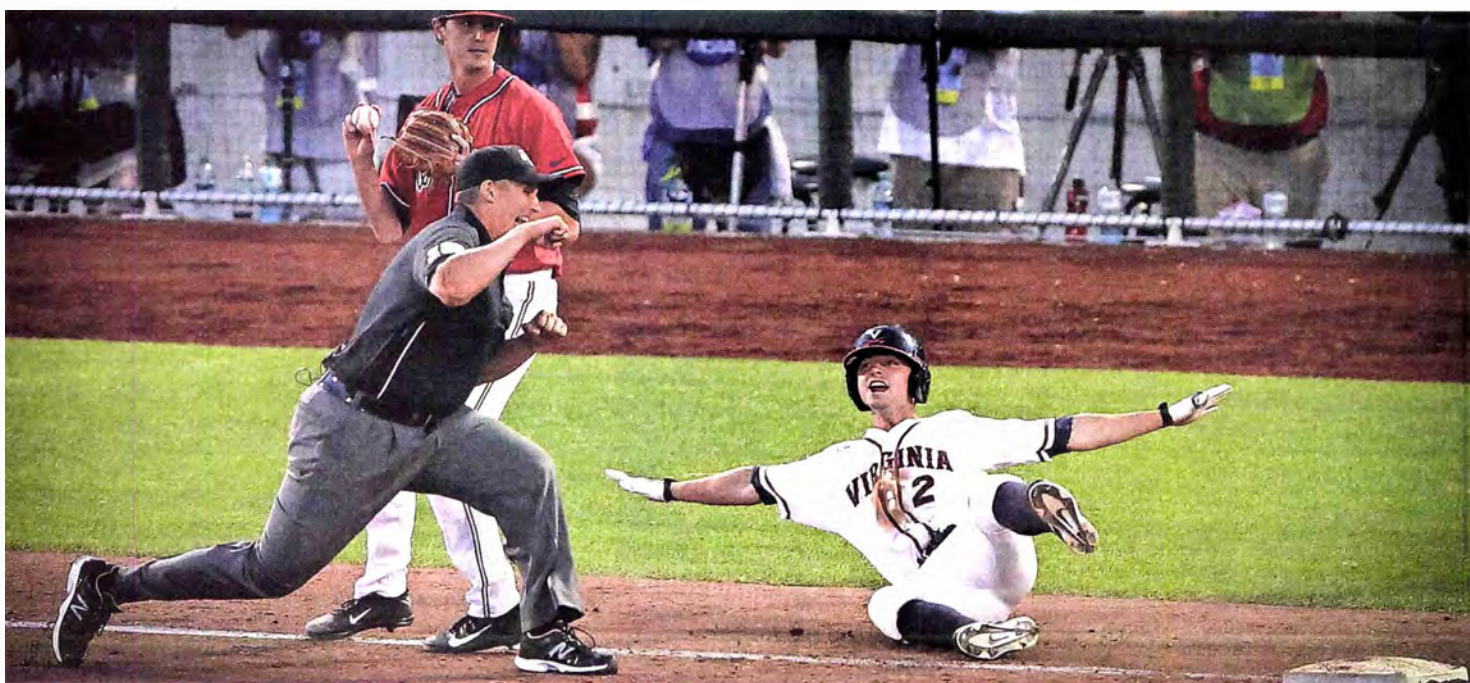


Favors



Donta Favors has worked both high school and college football games over the years.

See **PLAYER**, Page B3



Not all calls are seen the same way by players and officials, as this action from a game Mark Uyl worked during the College World Series demonstrates.

MHSAA

Continued from Page B1

cidence, Uyl noted.

"Whenever economic times become tougher, our numbers go up," he said.

By sheer number, football has the most registered officials, approximately 4,000. Basketball has about 3,800, while wrestling and ice hockey are at the other end, with some 450 each. It's those types of sports, ones that require either athletic skill or technical expertise, that are the hardest to staff.

"Those two sports are unique," Uyl said of ice hockey and wrestling. "Our pool of prospective officials almost has to come from former athletes in those two sports. We're always looking for officials in those two sports."

Unlike those specialized sports, game officials in the most popular sports often have no playing experience at all.

"We get lots of people in the major sports (baseball, basketball, football) who want to become officials who never competed in them," Uyl said.

1,500 per year

The target goal for Uyl each year is 1,500 new recruits. It's a good year if about one-third of those stick around to work another season. The biggest rate of attrition is always early in an official's career.

"If we can get an official to stay through the first three years, we usually have them for a long time," Uyl said. "The data tells us the first three years are critical."

The MHSAA will sanction officials as young as 16 years of age under its legacy program, which focuses on attracting athletes who played sports in high school. The greatest number of new officials are in their early to mid-20s, an age before many people have yet to become tied down with career or family responsibilities.

"Where they really decrease is from about (age) 30 to 45," Uyl said of officials in general, not just new recruits. "That makes sense. That's when the demands of raising a family are typically the greatest. After that, their own kids don't take up as much time, usually, so we see a jump in that (45 and older) demographic."

A beginning official will almost certainly need to become a member of one of the various associations found throughout the state, from which most schools receive their assigned referees. A beginner will start at the lowest level, i.e. middle school, which can provide a tough start to a sometimes less-than-thankful job.

"You have a combination of the least experienced officials working with the least experienced coaches and playing in front of some young and not the most knowledgeable parents," Uyl said. "If somebody has a bad experience, we (may) never see them again."

The MHSAA makes an effort to pair younger officials with older, more experienced ones in a mentor's role. It can help to ease the criticism that's part of the job.

"Even if they don't work every game together, they can be a sounding board for the younger official," Uyl said.

A unique perspective

Uyl has a unique perspective from which to handle his position. A graduate of Caledonia High School on the west side of the state, he went on to play baseball at Calvin College

(bachelor's in 1996) before doing graduate work at Grand Valley State University (master's in 2001). In his spare time, he has continued to work as a baseball umpire, doing high school and college games. His experience includes Big Ten games and even an assignment at the College World Series.

He knows first-hand the allure for many to remain — or become — part of the action.

"Officiating can be one of the most satisfying things you can be involved with," he said. "For me, I still have a game to look forward to. Officiating has been for me the allure of the next game. It tests your courage and your fitness and your ability to control the situation."

While the amount of pay is no doubt attractive to some (\$25 to as much as \$70 per contest, depending on the sport and level), few officials will admit they're in it only for the money.

"It's a labor of love," Uyl said. "It's a way to give back. (The pay) might be a vacation fund or some extra money."

Even with all the support and training the MHSAA provides, it's still not enough to keep some officials from leav-

ing the ranks for good. The proliferation of club and travel teams, as well as the explosion of social media, have played a role in some officials walking away.

"You can't seem to go a week without seeing a story about a referee being pushed or verbally abused," Uyl said. "It doesn't take long for that attitude (from non-prep sports) to leak into the school environment."

And it's often parents who are the loudest voice of complaint. Uyl said the MHSAA receives "videos from phones at all levels, where 10 years ago we got maybe some VHS tapes."

"While social media isn't necessarily turning people away from officiating, it isn't making the job any easier," he added.

The MHSAA offers online registration and testing of officials for all sports, although a pen and paper option is still available for those who wish to go that route. Prospective officials must pass a test pertaining to rules and regulations before becoming certified. More information can be found at <http://www.mhsaa.com> under the "Officials" tab.

FED UP

Continued from Page B1

"So being insulted and criticized for my strike zone game after game, I thought it wasn't worth it."

Not worth it

The ongoing abuse certainly wasn't worth the \$35 per game, which she originally thought was good stuff when she was recruited by Joe Bottorff, a veteran MHSAA/GCYBSA umpire and assigner who also coaches varsity baseball at Plymouth Christian Academy.

"She started younger than normal because (Bottorff) was short umpires," said Rich Sherwood, Katelyn's dad who also coached her with the Can-



ton Cardinals. "She started a few months below the age where they normally want you to start."

Katelyn said she had a good rapport with umpires who

called the games she caught and heard comments such as "Oh, it's a pretty good experience." And since I had a good relationship with them, it seemed like a fun opportunity.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Richard Sherwood wonders whether social media is at the core of the way umpires are treated. "Maybe it's that people, they've gotten to the point where they feel like it's OK to criticize everything. Maybe that's the impact of the social media, everybody's got a voice and a sounding board."

So I was like, 'Why not do it?' Plus I got paid."

But just a short while later, she decided to give it up — she doesn't even play the game anymore — and focus on playing high school basketball.

Apparently, she isn't alone in making that same determination as the MHSAA and youth leagues are constantly on the lookout for new and capable people to call games, meets and matches under the microscope of fans who are quick to shoot a video in order to document what they perceive to be blown calls or dodgy decisions.

"In my work with assigning for the Canton (youth) baseball league," Bottorff said, "I can tell you that I had about five youngsters give up on umping this season due to coaches and parents riding them."

"Most of these were (age) 9-11 rec games. Many times I told them that I would have ejected someone in that situation and that they do not have to take abuse. But in the end, \$35 a game was not enough for them to continue to be treated that way and they found other ways to make money."

Out of control

Katelyn nodded that it might not be so bad to work in a fast food restaurant somewhere, especially compared to what she had to deal with in her few months as an ump during fall 2014 and spring 2015.

"It would start with the coaches and then escalate to the parents," she said. "And then the kids, being 9 and 10

See **FED UP**, Page B3

'You don't have a horse in the race'

Veteran hockey official ready to call penalty on fans' unruly behavior

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

"You're an idiot," one spectator screamed during a recent Michigan High School Athletic Association boys hockey state tourney game.

The venom was directed at one of the officials, who called a penalty in the late stages of a close contest. Others around him didn't hold back, either, although the referee wisely acted as though he didn't hear the harsh words.

Chances are, according to Jim Gaglead, the angry fans were heard loud and clear.

"If you have real thin skin, it won't help your day, that's for sure," said Gaglead, a hockey referee for 27 years who now assigns officials to staff MHSAA high school games in metro Detroit. "You just got to go out there with the mindset that you're in charge of the rules and that officials make calls on the actions of the players.

"At the end of the day, you don't have a horse in the race and you're just trying to make sure that the contest is called fairly."

Gaglead said that the lack of respect isn't limited to hockey. But just like in soccer and other sports, it is becoming increasingly tough to find enough men and women to officiate.

"It's very difficult right now," he said. "I think it goes back to when most officials started working high school or any hockey. At the end of the day, it's how thick their skin is to be able to get through the lower ranks and work their way up and still make it enjoyable.

"There's some guys who do it because they need the money and some guys because they love hockey, but more and more, it's difficult. We have challenges on trying to fill high school hockey games."

Not worth it

According to Gaglead, unless the culture changes, don't hold your breath that men and women will be getting in line to don the stripes. He caught an insider's glimpse as to why several years ago.

"When I was still doing USA Hockey, I would train



Jim Gaglead is an approved assignor for the MHSAA. He is tasked with finding referees for high school games. He also is a member of Livonia Ice Hockey Officials.

and mentor quite a few younger kids (refs) when they were first starting out," Gaglead said. "I'm talking 15-, 16-, 17-year-olds ... they just couldn't handle the verbal abuse from coaches, parents and players.

It takes a unique talent in itself.

"So most of them do not pursue it after a few years in it. I would say probably if 10 young officials start, after three years there's only one or

two continuing on."

Adding to the "thanks, no thanks" situation is social media — not to mention cell-phones that easily become video cameras.

"The biggest problem, with social media, everybody has a phone," Gaglead said. "I get videos all the time from coaches and parents where you see that kind of thing happen.

"Officials just get tired of not being able to go out and do their job as far as making on-ice, split-second decisions without having everything criticized."

Another point to ponder is that officials calling games at the youth and high school levels don't get paid a lot (\$25 to \$75 per game) for the abuse that gets directed their way.

"It's amazing how it will snowball throughout the course of the game to where, by the end of the thing, sometimes players take on the features of the crowd and it just gets out of control," Gaglead said. "Officials go off the ice and think, 'Wow, it's 70 dollars, but I put up with two-and-a-half hours of just total chaos.'"

Who would want to sign up for that?

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FED UP

Continued from Page B2

years old, they're going to follow what their parents and their coaches are doing.

"So then they started being disrespectful towards me. It just wasn't a fun experience.

"Funny thing was, I ran into a lot of the coaches multiple times, but it didn't get better. I don't think I could have gone a few more months."

Rich Sherwood said he felt heartsick at what Katelyn put up with and pinned the unraveling of respect and human decency to the way of the 21st century world.

"Maybe it's that people, they've gotten to the point where they feel like it's OK to criticize everything," Sherwood said. "Maybe that's the impact of the social media; everybody's got a voice and a sounding board.

"So their views come out all the time. So now, when they're interacting with real humans, instead of over social media, the same thing happens."

Price to pay

And fewer and fewer individuals are joining the officiating club for that very reason.

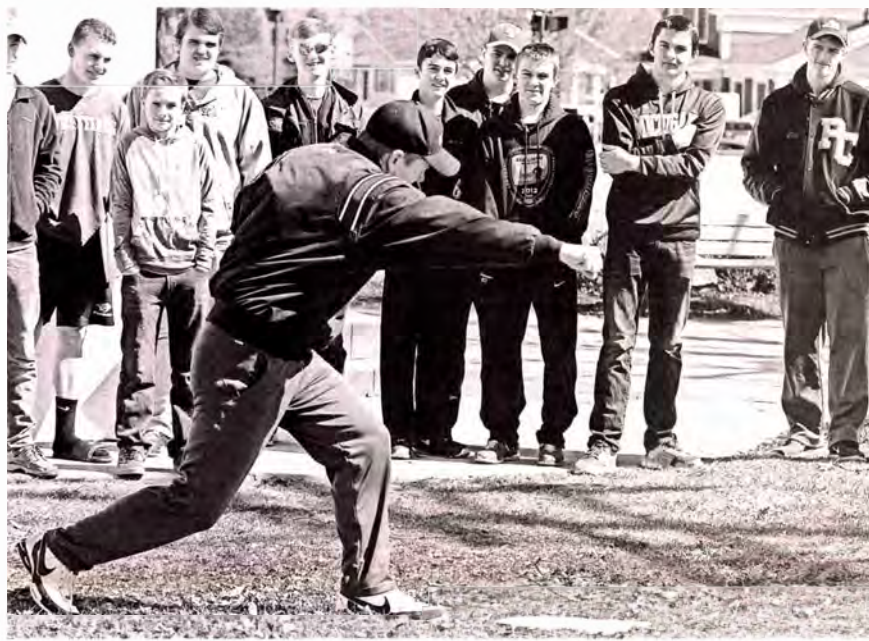
"I know the lady who runs GCYBSA," Sherwood said. "She told us they're having such a hard time getting officials that they've had to raise how much they pay the officials per game in order to attract new ones and keep the ones they have, because this is such an ongoing thing.

"This has got to be costing parents more money, because that means their fees are going up."

Also on the rise are blood pressures on diamonds and in bleachers and dugouts all over the place.

Consider a "game in the life" of Katelyn, as recalled by her dad.

"What happened was, a pitch was thrown in the dirt and it hit a batter after it hit the dirt," Sherwood said. "Katelyn said, 'Batter, take



Baseball umpire and coach Joe Bottorff shows prospective umps correct technique for calling a runner out during a 2015 clinic.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

your base.' The coach said it was a dead ball because it hit the ground. She said it's a dead ball when it hits the batter, but it's a live ball when it hits the dirt.

"After the game, he started arguing with her again, that (she) she needed to look at the rules and that she didn't know them. I was there, I said, 'Coach, that's the right call.'"

Sherwood said an adult ump from another field was brought in for his opinion and confirmed that Katelyn was correct. "But they were insulting her throughout the game because they thought she didn't know the rules," he said. "It's like, come on."

Last straw

But that was the appetizer for the main course, the single event that convinced the teenager to get out of the umpiring biz.

"There was a runner on

first, someone caught the ball and they're yelling 'timeout,' so Kate raises her hands," Sherwood said. "The girl on first base thought it was three outs. So she walked off first base. So immediately, the coach is yelling 'Throw the ball to first.'"

"They throw the ball to first and they think they got an out ... Kate says, 'Safe, you called a timeout, play is dead.' So (the coach) comes out and was getting in her face."

Making matters worse were the dirty looks the 9- and 10-year-olds were giving her.

"I felt like saying to the coach, 'Instead of putting all this effort into yelling at the umpire, maybe you should teach your kids how to play the game,'" Sherwood said. "The problem isn't that the umpire recognized that you called a timeout and that it's a dead ball. The problem is your kids are throwing the ball all over

the field."

After that verbal onslaught, he added, Katelyn walked off the field and "was just crying. She was like, 'I don't want to do this anymore, that was such a horrible experience.'"

Ugly experiences such as that might give other youngsters pause before considering becoming an umpire or doing the job for any length of time.

The code

Organizations like the GCYBSA and Plymouth-Canton Little League want what happened to Katelyn as the outlier and not the standard.

In the GCYBSA's code of conduct, boorish behavior from a parent could jeopardize a player's spot in the league.

"I pledge to be a positive role model for my child by showing respect, courtesy and positive support for players, coaches, umpires and opponents at all practices and

games," reads the code of conduct that parents must agree to during the registration process. "I will not engage in ANY unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal, physical or gestures that takes away from a positive sports experience."

The code concludes with a clear-cut edict that not abiding by it could lead to "disciplinary action which could include warnings, suspensions, forfeits or termination of participation in the GCYBSA."

Likewise, no shenanigans against umpires or anybody else is tolerated in the PCLL, especially under the watch of new president Jeff Holt.

"Everyone who is involved is a volunteer on some level," Holt wrote in an email to the Observer. "I expect our league — kids, coaches, umpires, parents, stakeholders — to treat each other with dignity and respect. Common courtesy. I won't put up with nonsense.

"Every constituent in PCLL is part of our extended family. That includes our umpires."

Worth remembering

Echoing that stance is Don Lohmann, PCLL chief umpire and vice president of baseball operations.

"We have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to abuse on any level," Lohmann said. "Although, we do not have many issues of this sort in PCLL, they do occasionally occur."

"When they do, we respond quickly and proportionately. ... One of the points I stress to our umpires is to make every effort to diffuse situations before they get to that point and to keep their ears open. We must all remember that this is a game."

Unfortunately, every season in every league in every town is pockmarked by bad behavior that unfairly targets officials just like Katelyn Sherwood.

That's not a game, it's a crying shame.

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PLAYER

Continued from Page B2

urday work, which curtailed any future as a college football referee.

Demanding side job

Favors will tell you that officiating itself is a demanding side job which can cause havoc with family situations for refs who elect to make it a part-time profession by working four or five days a week. That's one reason why Favors is still a bachelor.

"My career over the years has affected my dating situations," said Favors, a district sales manager for Pay Systems in Farmington Hills.

"The time you need to build (personal) relations, you're out there on the court. I've made a lot of sacrifices over the years.

"You try to balance your work life, your traditional job and your family. There are a lot of factors involved and you have to put your priorities in

place. I've seen it a lot of different ways, where people screw up their priorities.

"I've seen where people divorced because they're refereeing too much," he added. "You miss out on a lot of time with your family. There are a lot of refs who take off in the middle of their careers because they realize they haven't spent much time with their families."

Favors' career is filled with many highlights and a minimal amount of low lights.

Favors is president of the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials, a 500-plus member organization which helps train referees. He also officiated in the very first game at the Suttons Bay gymnasium years ago.

He's enjoyed officiating some of the state's most well-known stars — Draymond Green (Saginaw, MSU and now with the Golden State Warriors), Shane Battier (former Detroit Country Day and Duke standout who won an NBA championship with the Miami

Heat) and Jason Richardson (Saginaw Arthur Hill grad who starred at MSU and played professionally).

Favors also had the opportunity to officiate the last basketball game played inside his alma mater at Lathrup just this past February. The Chargers played district rival Southfield; the two schools will consolidate starting next year.

"I've got to say that was pretty sentimental for me," Favors said. "It was great that I was allowed the opportunity to referee where I played. For the school to be closing, it was a great honor for me to be there for the last time."

No ejections

Among the few low lights, Favors recalls an instance early in his career when a spectator threatened him and his crew out in the parking lot following a junior varsity football game. He's also quick to point out that while he's handed out his share of technical fouls, he's never ejected a coach from a game.

One other aspect of officiating which bothers Favors is the lack of quality referees who are available for both the boys and girls games since a lawsuit forced the MHSAA to conduct the seasons at the same time. Previously, the girls played in fall and the boys in winter.

"I think you had more qualified officials who were able to do the girls games before the lawsuit," he said. "The girls had their own time. Now you have to think about all the games going on."

"Boys and girls are playing in the same season. One league plays boys on one day and in another league the girls may play on the same day. There are just not enough officials to go around and call the games.

"I mean, there are enough people, but not the quality of referees," he added. "It's not that the quality of refereeing has gone down, but it's that the ability to have quality officials has changed. The availability of the top-tier guys to work the games is more difficult now."

The good times have certainly outnumbered the bad times and Favors still loves what he's doing. While he usually pockets \$60 per varsity game, which is lower than some parts of the state and the country, it's not about the money. It's more about making friends and, like the officials he admired in high school, giving back to the sport he loves.

"I've worked in pristine conditions. I've worked in not so pristine conditions," Favors said. "I've been to the scariest areas of any city and I've been to the greatest suburbs. I've put a lot of miles on the car."

"The biggest thing over the years is I've gained a lot of friends and associates through officiating. It's like a brotherhood, a fraternity. Once you forge a relationship with your fellow referees, it carries over."

"It's not about the money," he added. "It's about the kids, being active and staying involved. And, for me, it's really about the game I've loved all my life."

2015-16 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BOWLING TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Julia Huren, John Glenn: Fueled by a regional-best game of 258, Huren knocked down 1,279 pins in six games to place second behind only Farmington's Candyce Bradley (1,290). She then placed second in the Division 1 state meet individual tournament, closing out a stellar career that has led to a scholarship at Arkansas State University, one of the top women's collegiate programs in the country.

"Julia is not only our best bowler, but she's our best bowler under pressure, and that's what it takes to do well at the state tournament," said coach Ralph Cabildo. "She is coached by a former professional, Aleta Sill; and when you have a coach like that, it's going to make a difference."

"Julia has everything it takes to be successful. She's athletic, she's smart, and she owns six to eight bowling balls that she'll bring to the lanes, using the one that is best for the conditions."

Candyce Bradley, Farm. Unified: Bradley was named the team MVP for the third straight year after winning the regional championship at Super Bowl and reaching the state semifinals. She was the No. 2 qualifier in the state singles tournament.

Bradley had the top average in the OAA for the third year in a row at 211 and was named to the all-league first team. She had a career-high best game of 275, and her highest season series was 486.

"Candyce is an even better teammate and role model than she is a bowler," coach Dennis Hermani said. "The sky is the limit for this young lady when it comes to bowling, but her leadership and commitment to the team are what set her apart."

"Candyce is all class and sportsmanship at all times. It carries over into the classroom where she carries

a 3.25 GPA in the IB program."

Katie Worden, Farm. Unified: Worden qualified for state with a third-place finish in the Division 1 regional at Super Bowl, and she advanced to the state quarterfinals with a fourth-place finish in the qualifying round.

She bowled a 175 average in 59 games overall, and she had a 171 average in league matches. She had a career-high game of 257 at the state meet, and her high series of 426 happened at the Cougar Classic in which she placed fifth. Worden will bowl for Pikeville University in Kentucky.

"Katie always shows up during the biggest matches and tournaments and has done so her whole career," coach Hermani said. "She won the Division 1 state singles JV championship last year."

"The jump to varsity this year may have intimidated some but not Katie. She bowled well enough to finish as the ninth-best bowler in the state for Division 1."

Emily Dietz, John Glenn: Dietz put the wraps on an outstanding career at John Glenn by placing ninth and earning an individual state-meet

berth with a pin total 1,043 at the Rockets' Division 1 regional tournament. Thanks in large part to Dietz and fellow seniors Huren and Ashley Kolb, the Rockets went unbeaten in dual matches over the past four seasons.

Dietz has earned a scholarship to bowl for Youngstown State University, an emerging Division 1 college program.

Meghan Macunovich, Canton: The junior had another remarkably consistent season, averaging just under 195 pins for 28 league

games including a high game of 251. Macunovich reached the Division 1 state finals for the third straight year thanks to her six-game score of 1,097 at regionals before finishing 17th a week later at the finals with a 1,161 tally.

"Meghan is a great asset to the team," coach Kristin Truskowski said. "She is constantly working to better her own game; and plays an important role in helping her team-

mates."

SECOND TEAM

Rachel Doran, Farm. Unified: Doran, who averaged 186 for the season in 56 games, had her best performances in tournaments, finishing second three times and third once. She was fourth in the regional singles competition and qualified for the state meet.

Doran had 25 games of 190 or better, giving her 49 over the past two seasons. Her high game was 246, her high series a 454. She is an all-state nominee again after being named to the third team last year.

"This young lady has a very bright future in bowling, and we are fortunate to have her back in the No. 4 spot of our rotation next year," coach Hermani said.

Ashley Kolb, John Glenn: A four-year varsity standout, Kolb placed seventh at the Rockets' Division 1 regional event with a pin total of 1,058.

She was a mainstay in the Rockets' back-to-back state-qualifying team efforts. Kolb has earned an athletic scholarship to bowl for Youngstown State University beginning next season.

Emily Zalenko, N. Farmington: Zalenko averaged 175.6 pins per match and had a high game of 255. She made the Mercy all-tourna-

ment team with a fourth-place finish. She placed 11th in the Oakland County event. As a team captain, she was an exemplary team leader, according to coach Mike Horner

"Emily was always one of the first to practice every day and worked extremely hard at improving all aspects of her game," he said. "She was our anchor bowler and battled it out against opposing teams' best bowlers all season."

"We are thrilled that she has another year to represent North Farmington, and she has already been named one of our captains for next season."

Kayla Thompson, Wayne: Thompson placed 12th at the Zebras' Division 2 regional tournament with a pin total of 1,011.

Christina O'Harris, Wayne: O'Harris placed 13th at the Zebras' Division

1 regional tournament with a six-game pin total of 994.

THIRD TEAM
Rachel Lopez, Salem: The Rocks' captain was a standout all year, and helped her team finish third at the team regionals to earn a spot at the team state finals in history.

Lopez averaged 170 during the regular season and placed 11th at individual regionals with a 1,019 tally.

"Rachel was a true team leader, and dedicated to her role," coach Kathie Hahn said. "She kept her team involved together on the lanes and outside of the bowling alley."

Lopez also was a scholar-athlete involved in National Honor Society, Student of Salem Athletics (SOSA) and Link Crew.

Marissa Bruni, N. Farmington: The sophomore bowled an averaged of 173 per match and had a high game of 253. Bruni made

the Mercy and Oakland County all-tournament teams with fifth- and seventh-place finishes, respectively.

"Marissa has blossomed into an exceptional bowler who came to us just last season with no prior experience," Horner said. "She is an intense competitor who never stops working to improve."

"Her hard work at practice is a continuous example for all of her teammates. She has unlimited upside potential."

Heather Lillystone, Mercy: Lillystone carried a 165 average in Catholic League matches and tournaments. She is a three-year varsity

starter and was named the all-league first team.

She made the Mercy all-tournament team with a 562 series and was the runner-up in the league singles tournament with a four-game total of 742.

Lillystone was a team captain and was named to the academic All-

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BOWLING

FIRST TEAM

Julia Huren, sr., John Glenn
Candyce Bradley, jr., Farm. Unified
Katie Worden, sr., Farm. Unified
Emily Dietz, sr., John Glenn
Meaghan Macunovich, jr., Canton

SECOND TEAM

Rachel Doran, soph., Farm. Unified
Ashley Kolb, sr., John Glenn
Christina O'Harris, sr., Wayne Mem.
Kayla Thompson, jr., Wayne Mem.
Emily Zalenko, jr., N. Farmington

THIRD TEAM

Rachel Lopez, sr., Salem
Marissa Bruni, soph., N. Farmington
Heather Lillystone, sr., Mercy
Maddy Vance, jr., Farm. Unified
Shaelyn Wojewski, sr., Wayne Mem.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Mercy: Bridget Furlong, Lillian Lebednick; N. Farmington: Varisha Essant, Ashlynn Toles; Farmington-Harrison: Courtney Pyle, Rylie Gradin; Plymouth: Maddy Hadden; Salem: Brynna Samuels; Canton: Emily Kaoc; Redford Union: Mia Sopko.

Catholic team.

Maddy Vance, Farm. Unified: Vance finished her first year on varsity with a 171 average in 49 games, increasing the number by 17 pins. She

had a high game of 225 in the regional tournament and a high series of 424 in the Cougar Classic in which she placed ninth overall.

"Her OAA average of 174 was the 12th best in the league and earned Maddy a spot on the All-OAA second team," coach Hermani said.

"This is an amazing start for a young lady who had no varsity experience, but she did have a fifth-place finish to her credit at the JV states last year."

Shaelyn Wojewski, Wayne: Wojewski placed 16th at the Zebras' Division 1 regional tournament with a six-game pin total of 991.

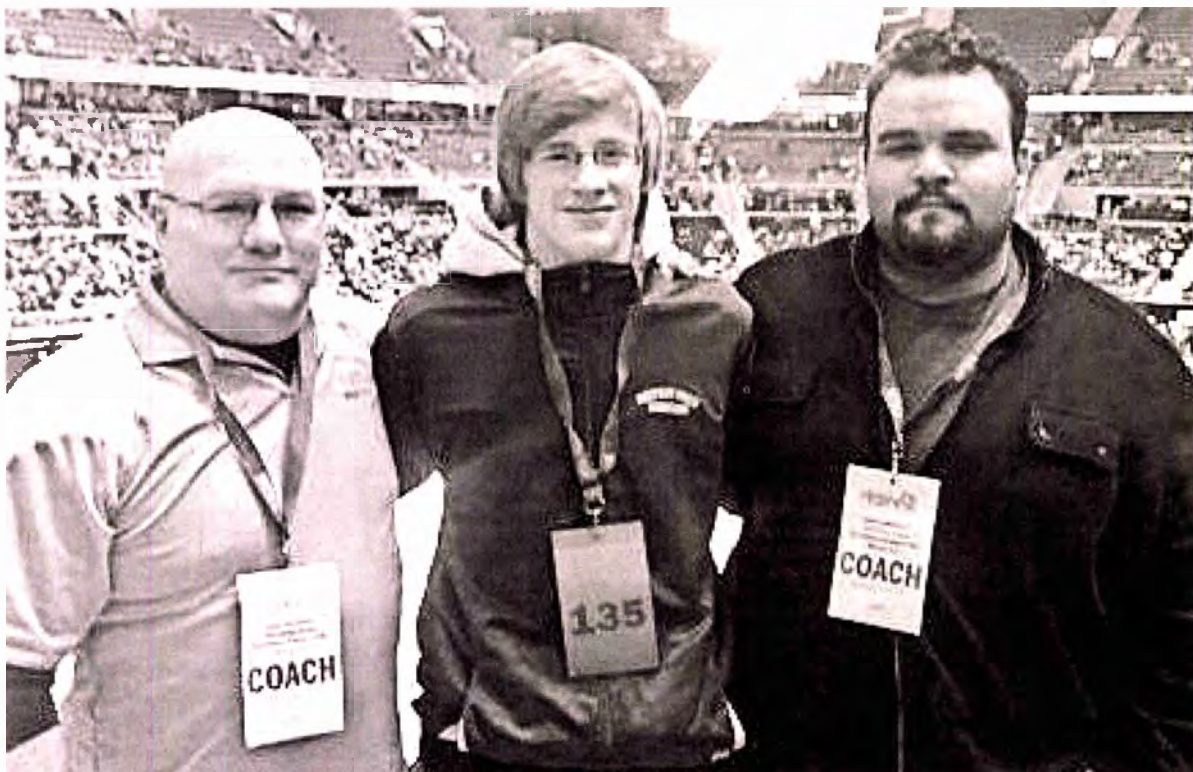
Katherine Kehoe, Salem: A four-year member of the Rocks' varsity, Kehoe averaged 163 during the

regular season and contributed to the team qualifying for states with a third-place tally of 3,483.

At individual regionals, hosted by Super Bowl in Canton, she registered a 916 score to finish 27th.

"Katherine was such a consistent bowler her four years she was on the varsity team," Hahn said. "She respected and helped her teammates with their game and always did it in a fun way."

RU's Vadnais a state-qualifier



Redford Union wrestler Kenny Vadnais, pictured with Panther coaches Rankin and Colon at the Palace of Auburn Hills last month, qualified for the Division 2 state individual wrestling meet by placing fourth at the Panthers' individual regional tournament.

THURSTON

Continued from Page B1

and play third when Benoit is either catching or pitching, Snell said.

The Eagles' defense will be anchored by junior center fielder Shalfontae Phillips, who can also play catcher and pitch.

"Shalfontae is a strong kid who plays with a lot of intensity," said Snell. "He has really good speed. He played up as a sophomore last year, and it took him a while to get used to the speed of the varsity game, but he had a really good second half for us."

Junior Joshua Jones, who excelled for Thurston's junior varsity squad last spring, will play a bulk of the innings at first base.

"Joshua got called up last year to play in some doubleheaders, so he got a taste of what it's like," said Snell. "He's strong and has a pretty quick bat. He's getting better every day at scooping up low throws in the dirt."

Charles Tapley has earned the role of starting second baseman after transferring to Thurston from Macomb Dakota.

"Charles is a great addition to our team," Snell said. "He's a travel baseball player who really understands the game."

Other than Phillips playing center, the Eagles' outfield situation is unsettled, with several candidates — including Bobby Schutter, Joel Greene, Daemon Agee, Richard Nixon and Quintin Richards — in the mix to earn some time.

"It's going to come down to who can catch the ball consistently out there," Snell said. "Some of these guys can hit the ball, but defense has been an issue."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Redford/Livonia Little League 'Play Catch' event

The inaugural Redford/Livonia "Play Catch Day" will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Redford Union High School baseball field.

Donations of all kinds of baseball equipment will be accepted to donate to youngsters whose families can't afford gloves, bats and cleats.

All donors will receive a raffle ticket and a chance to win a prize.

People are also encouraged to bring a family member to the event and play catch.

Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided by the Red-

ford/Livonia Little League.

Senior golf

A registration and business meeting for the Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association will be held Saturday, April 23, at the Livonia Senior Center, which is located at 15218 Farmington Rd. in Livonia.

Registration is set to begin at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting commencing at 9 a.m.

Membership is open to all men aged 59 or older, regardless of residency. The registration fee is \$30, which includes a meal at the awards banquet and a gift.

Questions can be directed to Tony Amadori, who can be

reached at 734-261-4718; or you can visit golflivonia.com and click on the "senior men" golf tab.

Stevenson pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pompon program will host a clinic on Saturday, April 9, for students who are currently in grades first through 11th.

The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Stevenson field house. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The clinic fee of \$30 includes a light snack and T-shirt for clinic participants.

The clinic will be instructed by members of the Stevenson

coaching staff and current pom athletes.

For more information, contact Stevenson varsity pom coach Shaylyn Sikorski at stevensonvarsitypom@gmail.com or 248-880-1881.

GC volleyball coach needed

The Garden City High School volleyball program is searching for a junior varsity head coach.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Garden City High School athletic director Rob Phillips at 734-762-8363 or phillir@gardencityschools.com.

PREP PROFILE

Long-hitting Spayd brings par 5s to their knees

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Whether he's teeing up a golf ball or a slap shot, Livonia Churchill senior Sam Spayd usually finds the sweet spot.

A four-year member of the Chargers' hockey program, and a KLAAs Kensington Conference golf champion his junior season, Spayd has mastered the sweeping-arc swing that both sports demand.

"A lot of my golf swing was developed through playing hockey," said Spayd, who enters the 2016 high school golf season as the Chargers' No. 1 player. "It's a lot easier for a hockey player to become a decent golfer than a baseball player, just because of the similar swing patterns."

Spayd started enjoying both sports when he was very young, although hockey ruled his "favorite sport" list until he approached middle school.

"I started playing hockey when I was little; it was my first love when it came to sports while I was growing up," he said. "My dad and grandpa are both golfers, and my grandpa has a cabin up North, so I'd tag along with them when they played during the summer."

"I didn't get serious about golf until I was about 11 or 12. That's when I started to put

together a pretty good swing. I enjoy it because you can see the improvement through the amount of work you put in."

Spayd is capable of launching some moon-shot drives, especially when the wind is at his back (like it usually is) on his favorite hole at Whispering Willows Golf Course — the par 5 first.

"I like that hole because I can get pretty aggressive off the tee and then, hopefully, hit a wedge into the green," he said. "If there's a part of my game I'm trying to improve, I'd say it would be my putting. I'm not a horrible putter, but I know I can save myself a few shots here and there on the greens."

Spayd's most-spectacular round — at least in a high school competition — came last spring when he shot a one-under 71 at Walnut Creek Country Club during the Kensington Conference tournament.

"I've shot lower rounds than one-under before, but that was probably my best round because of the conditions and what was at stake," he said. "The wind was gusting at like 30 miles an hour, but I was able



Spayd



CHRIS GUDECK

Churchill senior Sam Spayd watches a drive sail down the fairway during a match last season.

to keep it steady and make a lot of pars."

Spayd keeps his game sharp during the summer by compet-

ing in several junior tour tournaments.

"I don't play in a tournament every week, but I play as

many as I can," he said.

A caddie at Oakland Hills Country Club, Spayd is planning to attend Schoolcraft College for one year before transferring to Ferris State University.

While Spayd's goal is to play golf at both schools, his No. 1 mission will be to thrive in the classroom.

"Last year I learned a huge lesson when I became (academically) ineligible toward the end of the golf season," Spayd revealed, with refreshing candor. "It hurt me a lot, and I hurt my team."

"My experience last year motivated me this year to do a lot better and to put in more of an effort when it came to academics. My grades have improved this year. I wish I would have applied myself more sooner, but better late than never."

"I've applied the lesson I learned from this to all parts of my life. It has helped me grow as a person."

Spayd will pursue a degree in professional golf management in college.

"I've had a few lessons here and there, but I'm pretty much a self-taught player," he added. "I'd love to continue to stay in golf and turn it into a career if I can."

ewright@hometownlife.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Panthers drop opener to Harrison

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

All things considered, Friday afternoon's 16-2 season-opening setback to Farmington Hills Harrison wasn't a total loss for Redford Union's baseball team.

"Usually you can learn more by losing 16-2 than you can by winning 16-2," said RU head coach Bob Miller, looking at the glass-is-half-full side. "We led 2-1 heading into the third inning, but then our pitching and defense fell apart, to say the least."

"Tommie Lewis and Brendan Kerkhof had nice RBI hits and Brendan pitched well the first two innings. We were without two of our best players — Jacob Gagnon and Brandon Pratt, who are hurt — so we're hoping to get them off the DL (disabled list) later this week."

Patriots roll

Livonia Franklin made short work of visiting Dearborn High, 16-1, Tuesday afternoon in the season-opening game for both teams.

In a rematch of last May's Division 1 district final game on the Pioneers' field, the Patriots plated six runs in the second and third innings before ending the game in mercy-rule fashion with a four-run fourth.

Jon Montie pitched all four innings for the Patriots, striking out five while scattering five hits and one walk. Shining at the dish for the winners were Jay Hopson (1-for-2, two RBI), Harrison Merrill (2-for-3, two RBI), Ryan Prohaska (3-for-4, five RBI) and Adrian Reed, who went 1-for-3 with three ribbies.

Warriors win

Lutheran Westland opened its season Tuesday with a 12-2 triumph over Canton Prep. Jordan Williams delivered on the mound (five-inning one-hitter with 11 strikeouts and no walks) and at the plate, going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Additional offensive stars for the winners were Andy Faith (3-for-3, two runs), Jeremy Orme (2-for-2, two runs, RBI), Kory Barikmo (2-for-2, three steals) and Drake Snyder, who had three hits and three RBI.

Churchill edged

Northville outlasted Livonia Churchill, 5-3, in the season opener for the Chargers.

Joe Hattley and Jon Hovemale led the Churchill offensive attack with two hits a piece.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER OPENER

WINTRY CLASSIC

Stevenson, Churchill tie 1-1 in bone-chilling conditions

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Tuesday night's season-opening Livonia rivalry match featuring host Stevenson and Churchill was like a breath of fresh air for local girls soccer fans.

Make that a breath of fresh, cold air.

In a contest that showcased some of Observerland's most jaw-dropping talent — Stevenson's Kennedy Thurlow was a human highlight reel on a few second-half rushes while Churchill keeper Brittney Hayes delivered a couple out-of-this-world saves — the Spartans and Chargers duelled to a 1-1 draw.

Although the sun shone brightly throughout the game, the players endured chilly conditions as a gusting southern wind suppressed the wind chill to finger-numbing levels.

The action-packed game wasn't decided until 20 seconds remained on the second-half clock when Stevenson's Jessie Wagner ripped a 15-yard bender that clanked off the right post.

A pinball-like sequence followed in the 18-yard box with Churchill players urging their defensive teammates to "Get it out!" which they ultimately did as the horn sounded.

"Even though I was extremely happy with the girls' effort, the result was a little unsatisfying just because we only got 98 percent of the job done," said new Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker, who was engineering the Spartans for the first time in an official game. "We created a lot of scoring opportunities and at times we were really clicking, but we couldn't quite finish."

The Spartans hit the metal parts of the goal four times, but the all-important mesh part just once, thanks largely to the superb play of Hayes, who turned away 20 shots.

Hayes received plenty of help, too, from back-liners Sylvia Cervantes, Elizabeth Rubenson, Hannah Damico and Loren Kruger, among others.

In addition to Thurlow, Shingledecker praised the play of center-back Jenna Thom, midfielders Paige Ackman and Megan Verant, and senior keeper Hannah Reamer, whose three-save performance was deceptively brilliant.

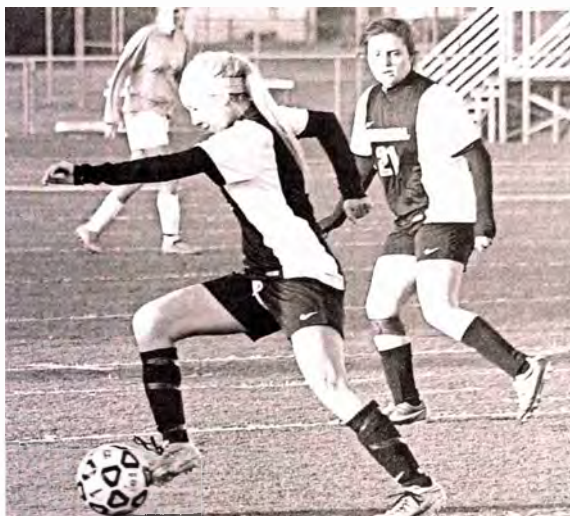
"Whenever things did get dangerous back there, Jenna stepped up and calmed it down," said Shingledecker. "And sometimes the toughest job on a cold night like tonight is for the keeper who's not getting a lot of action. She has to stay sharp when the shots do come because it only takes one to get past her to change the game."

The only time Reamer had to fish a ball out of the net came in the game's 19th minute when Sara Taylor somehow wedged a



ED WRIGHT

Stevenson's Kennedy Thurlow (left) motors upfield with the ball with Churchill's Addison Mussen in hot pursuit.



ED WRIGHT

Churchill junior defender Sylvia Cervantes stymied a Stevenson threat with a heads-up play as Alivia Kondrath looks on.

20-yard free kick just to the right of a four-player Stevenson wall and a few inches inside the right post to but the Chargers ahead, 1-0.

The free kick was generated when Taylor broke free with the ball down the middle of the field before colliding with Reamer, who dove to secure the ball.

The Spartans knotted the game at 1-1 when Audrey Kopitz roped home a penalty kick 4:30

until the half after Thurlow was fouled in the box before she could get a shot off while zig-zagging through traffic.

"Kennedy is dynamic with the ball, and the play she was fouled on was typical of what she can do," Shingledecker said.

Reamer's biggest moment unfolded with just over seven minutes to play when she successfully ventured out of the crease to stuff a threat by Churchill's Addison Mussen along

the left wing. Mussen had chased down a spot-on pass from Taylor, who was streaking through the heart of the pitch.

GC ties Gabriel Richard

Garden City battled host Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard to a 2-2 draw in the season opener for both teams.

"For the first game of the season, I thought we played solid, especially considering we only trained once since Spring Break last week," said GC head coach Jeff Syzypula. "It was a good, back-and-forth game between two evenly-matched teams."

The Cougars struck first approximately 15 minutes into the contest when Ashley Hahn corralled a pass from Chelsea Booker about 14 yards out and ripped a shot into the upper-left corner of the net.

After Gabriel Richard drew even at 1-1, GC's Brooke Collins delivered a soft pass (while getting fouled) to Alyssa Hurley, who punched home the visitors' second net-finder.

The hosts netted the equalizer about one minute later.

Junior keeper Tatum Spears played well for the Cougars, turning away eight shots, Syzypula estimated.

"Tatum played really well; three or four of her saves were pretty dangerous shots and she went out and challenged them," Syzypula said.

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Richard Eisiminger, broker/owner of the RichRealty Group in Plymouth, said, "I would definitely agree with the market being strong."

JULIE BROWN

Industry report: Home sales strong locally, in greater Midwest

Pending home sales rose solidly in February to their highest level in seven months and remain higher than a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors. Led by a sizable increase in the Midwest, all major regions except for the Northeast saw an increase in contract activity in February.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, rose 3.5 percent to 109.1 in February from a downwardly revised 105.4 in January and is now 0.7 percent above February 2015 (108.3). Although the index has now increased year-over-year for 18 consecutive months, last month's annual gain was the smallest.

Richard Eisiminger, broker/owner at the RichRealty Group of downtown Plymouth, said, "I would definitely agree with the market being strong." He and colleagues serve Canton-Plymouth-Northville-Nov, which he finds especially strong.

"Inventory is what's driving the prices up. It's very low. So good for sellers, not good for buyers," Eisiminger said.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says pending sales made promising strides in February, rising to the highest index reading since last July (109.8). "After some volatility this winter, the latest data is encouraging in that a decent number of buyers signed contracts last month, lured by mortgage rates dipping to their lowest levels in nearly a year and a modest, seasonal uptick in inventory," he said. "Looking ahead, the key for sustained momentum and more sales than last spring is a continuous stream of new listings quickly replacing



GETTY IMAGES

Pending home sales rose solidly in February to their highest level in seven months and remain higher than a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors.

what's being scooped up by a growing pool of buyers. Without adequate supply, sales will likely plateau."

Eisiminger noted of low interest rates, "It continues to bring us qualified buyers. We are staying very busy."

Eisiminger compares this market locally to those of the past two springs with "buyers in a good number and just tough to find good qualified homes."

He said for a well-located home in turnkey condition, "It could be gone in a week for sure, maybe less, with multiple offers."

According to Yun, the one silver lining from February's noticeable slump in existing-home sales was that price appreciation lessened to 4.4 percent, which is still above wage growth but certainly

more favorable than the 8.1 percent annual increase in January.

"Any further moderation in prices would be a welcome development this spring," Yun said. "Particularly in the West, where it appears a segment of would-be buyers are becoming wary of high asking prices and stiff competition."

Eisiminger noted it's not good for prices to skyrocket "which comes back to 101 supply and demand." He noted in 2005-06, a seller could put on almost any price "and it would sell. We have to get up but maybe not so fast," Eisiminger said of not repeating that era this time.

According to the NAR, existing-home sales this year are forecast to be around 5.38 million, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2015. The nation-

al median existing-home price for all of this year is expected to increase between 4 percent and 5 percent. In 2015, existing-home sales increased 6.3 percent and prices rose 6.8 percent.

The PHSI in the Northeast declined 0.2 percent to 94.0 in February, but is still 12.6 percent above a year ago. In the Midwest the index shot up 11.4 percent to 112.6 in February, and is now 2.5 percent above February 2015.

Pending home sales in the South increased 2.1 percent to an index of 122.4 in February but are 0.4 percent lower than last February. The index in the West climbed 0.7 percent in February to 96.4, but is now 6.2 percent below a year ago.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Architectural control issue: best to ask lawyer

Q: The developer of our subdivision had architectural control responsibilities. He claims now that he has assigned that to the Board of Directors of the association. The board is trying to enforce those requirements against us but I see nothing in writing that was recorded regarding the assignment. What do you think?

A: Based upon a recent Michigan Court of Appeals decision on similar facts, the court held that a developer can assign its rights under a restrictive covenant to an HOA, either orally or in writing unless the restrictive covenant include a limitation or conditions on the developer's ability to assign its rights. Therefore, if your documents provide that the assignment can only be in writing and must be recorded, the assignment is not effective. Obviously you will need to have a knowledgeable attorney review your documents to see whether the assignment has been properly effectuated.

Q: I am wondering if you know of any authority where second-hand smoke has been considered a nuisance in a particular situation in an apartment or condominium?

A: Yes. At least in California, second-hand smoke can be a nuisance based upon the facts in a particular situation. I am advised that there are various high-rise condominiums in California that have amended their restrictions to be a smoke-free building in all respects. It depends on the circumstances of each case and you are best advised to consult with a knowledgeable community association attorney to research the cases regarding the prohibition on smoking in and outside of a condominium unit.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit rmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are from 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

For more information, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

For more information, call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

For more information, email Georgia@addevaluerealty.com or visit www.FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Fire extinguisher can be a life-saver when used correctly

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the No. 1 priority for residents is to get out safely.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

» Pull the pin. Hold the ex-



GETTY IMAGES

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area.

tinguisher with the nozzle

» Pointing away from you, and release the locking mecha-

nism.

» Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

» Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

» Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

» For the home, select a multipurpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

» Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

» Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a

fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

» Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

» Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

\$300-\$900 prom dresses priced \$20 each at church sale

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Callie Gross-Johnston has collected more than 1,000 dresses for the fourth annual 2nd Life Prom Dress sale at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

Some are gently-used, but many sport price tags.

"A lot are brand new, or a year old. We have all sizes, from zero to 28, which is awesome. We have short, long, tall, fluffy beaded, glittery, you name it, we have it," said Gross-Johnston, who organizes the annual event. "They are gorgeous. It's crazy. We have one dress — \$900.99 — still with its tag on."

The dress, which she describes as "with a lot of flair" and beading, will cost just \$20 at the event, which will run 9 a.m.-1

p.m., Saturday, April 9, at the church, 27475 Five Mile. All prom dresses will cost \$20 each. Mother-of-the-bride dresses and other evening wear will be priced \$5-\$10, and bridal gowns will cost \$50-\$100. All accessories, including purses, shoes, jewelry and wraps will be \$5 and under.

Shoppers must get a ticket to participate in the sale. Tickets will be handed out starting at 7 a.m. A waiting line will begin to form inside the church at 8 a.m. Shoppers will be admitted to the merchandise area in groups of 20. Eighteen dressing rooms will be available to try on clothing, and several seamstresses will be on hand to make minor alterations.

Gross-Johnston created the event to help make prom more afford-

able for teens. She collects gently-used dresses from the community although most donations come from bridal salons and boutiques.

"I've built great relationships with them. They think it's a good cause," she said. She sends salon owners a thank you letter and a video documenting the sale each year. "I want them to know this is real and these are real people they are helping."

She said the original price of most boutique dresses ranges from \$300-\$600. Some carry designer labels.

"They don't give us ugly dresses. They give us gorgeous dresses. They know there is a need."

Although the focus is on prom dresses, Gross-Johnston also accepts other formal wear, in-

cluding bridal gowns. Ten wedding dresses will be available this year.

"We have a lot of jewelry this year. We had one (woman) donate all of her jewelry. She has gorgeous jewelry."

Approximately 300 teens attended the sale last year. Some brought their mothers or another adult with them.

"We even get fathers. We had one guy the first year come in with three daughters."

Proceeds from the sale benefit the community garden and food bank at the church.

For more information call 734-422-1470 or visit sppc.org.



A layered, mint-colored dress is among hundreds of dresses available at the 2nd Life Prom Dress sale.

SUBMITTED

RELIGION CALENDAR

APRIL BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 17

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

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

Contact: 734-425-4421

CARNIVAL

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15

Location: St. Michael Catholic School, 11311 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Kid's Carnival will feature free hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, face painting, crafts, and games, for families of students entering the Junior 4's Program, Kindergarten, and 1st grade in September or those just interested in finding out more about the school's programs

Contact: 734-421-7360, ext. 225; school@livoniastmichael.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14

Location: Northridge Church, 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: MercyMe, a contemporary Christian music band performs. Tickets are \$50, \$35, and \$25

Contact: 800-965-9324; itickets.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Location: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opydyke, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Features Aeolian Chorale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Milito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted

Contact: 248-644-5460

MOM-TO-MOM SALE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23

Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2

Contact: 734-397-1777

PASSOVER SEDA POTLUCK

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, April 22

Location: Congregation Bet Chaverim, 321 Ridge Road, Canton

Details: Cost is \$5 per person, ages 5 and older. RSVP by April 15

Contact: Michelle Driscoll at 734-718-7029; betchaverim@yahoo.com

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10

Location: Prentis Apartments

community room, at the A. Alfred Taubman Jewish Community Campus, 15100 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park

Details: Judy Galperin will create a Huck-embroidered placemat and will teach the technique. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlecraft. RSVP if interested

Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 15

Location: The Salvation Army, located on Main Street south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth

Details: Proceeds benefit the "Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group." Tables are available to rent for \$20

Contact: Major Colette or Sandy at 734-453-5464

RUMMAGE, BAKE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, April 29, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 30

Location: Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: From 1-3 p.m. Friday all items will be half off; \$5 bag sale, along with 50 percent off in boutique on Saturday. Tax-deductible donations may be dropped off at the church's back door 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 25-27. No furniture, television sets, computers, electronics. The church also is collecting used ink cartridges, eye glasses and cell phones for recycling

Contact: 248-626-7906; antiochelca@sbcglobal.net

VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, through April 17

Location: St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

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

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

MAY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Time/Date: Doors open at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 7

Location: Hosanna-Taber Lutheran Church, 9600 Levee, Redford

Details: S.H.A.R.E. program includes spending time "in God's word," followed by distribution of bagged groceries. Open to the first 40 families

Contact: Diane at 313-937-2424

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, May 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, May 20

Location: First Farmington United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River Ave., at Warner Street, Farmington

Details: Bag sale will be Friday.

Items that don't fit in the bag will be half off that day

Contact: 248-474-6573

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

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

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

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

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

Faith Community Wesleyan

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

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

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

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

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

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

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

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

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

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

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

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

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

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

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

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

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

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

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

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

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

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

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

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

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

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

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

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

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPads, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at

313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community.

Contact: 734-261-9000, www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.middeathnotices.com

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

MCMURRAY

RUSSELL C. Age 84, of Plymouth. He is survived by his loving wife Carol, of 62 years; his three children, Rene (Thomas) Stevenson of Maryland, Russell Merritt of Texas, and Randall Merritt of Redford, Michigan. Preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Edith Merritt, and his siblings, Wanda Braciszewski and Rodger Merritt. Visitation for Russell was Wednesday, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth 48170. Funeral Service Thursday, April 7, 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Family and friends may begin visiting at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. To view obituary and share condolences, visit www.schrader-howell.com

MERRITT

JOHN G. Age 84, formerly of Pinewoods Condominiums in Farmington, MI, died April 2, 2016. John is survived by his sisters, Sue Norton and Mary (Howard Weston) Cauley. Sady John is preceded in death by his wife, Arley; and siblings, Michael and Charon. A gathering of friends and family will be held for John on Friday, April 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home. A service for John will be held at 3 p.m. also at the funeral home. John will be laid to rest next to Arley at Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation.

heaney-sundquist.com

ROLPH

DONNA A. (NEE HARTIG) April 4, 2016 Age 74 of Wayne. Beloved wife of Edward. Loving mother of Robert (Angela), Karen (Jeff) Luke, Sandra White, and Julie (Joe) Napolitano. Sister of Ruth (Don) Kemerley, Ethel (Late Cliff) Orr, Mary (George) Snider. Caring grandmother of sixteen and two great grandchildren. Visitation from The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Friday 3-9 p.m. Funeral ceremony from Westland Free Methodist Church Saturday 11 a.m. In state from 10 a.m. till time of service. Family requests memorials to Westland Free Methodist Church or World Vision. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhth.com

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

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

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

Details

Spring concerts celebrate love, jazz, musical variety

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Non-stop music, high-energy jazz and love songs will heat up the spring concert season at Schoolcraft College and Madonna University this month.

Schoolcraft College is up first with its 25th annual Collage Concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 9, followed by the Up Jumped Jazz Spring Concert 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18. Both concerts will be held in the DiPonio Room at the VisTa-Tech Center on the main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

The Madonna University Chorale will take the stage with its performance, "If Music Be the Food of Love..." at 7 p.m. Friday, April 22, in the Presentation BVM Chapel in the Felician Sisters Convent, 36800 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Admission to the Madonna concert and Up Jumped Spring at Schoolcraft is free. Admission to the Collage Concert XXV is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students with ID, children under 12, and seniors.

Collage Concert XXV gives listeners a glimpse into the college's music department with performances by the Schoolcraft Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation Combo, Synthesizer Ensemble and Chorale.

"There are no gaps. It flows from one piece to the next," said Patricia Minnick, Schoolcraft College music activities coordinator, describing the show.

Rick Selva, Ph.D., director of the Jazz Studies Program, said the concert is a non-stop potpourri of music and performers.

"It's very interesting and it moves quickly. It is visually very exciting," he said, adding that both the large number of performers on stage along with big-screen visuals make an interesting backdrop for the music.

Spring production

Selva also coordinates visuals with music when his jazz groups, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Improvisation Combo, perform the annual Up Jumped Spring Concert. They'll share the performance with the Synthesizer Ensemble, under the direction of Barton Polot, Ph.D.

"It's a production. The whole thing is very elaborately done," Selva said, adding that his just-updated list of supporters totals nearly 700 persons. "There is an audience and



The Synthesizer Ensemble will perform at the Collage Concert and Up Jumped Spring jazz concert this month, at Schoolcraft College.



The Madonna Chorale will perform its spring concert April 22 at the Felician Sisters Convent in Livonia.



The Schoolcraft Jazz Studies program presents its Up Jumped Spring Concert April 18.

an expectation." Selva, Carol Snyder, and Hank Hankins will sing with the bands on some tunes, including "Accentuate the Positive" and Selva and Snyder plan a duet on "Our Love is Here to Stay."

"The Vocal Jazz Ensemble has developed out of having multiple vocalists and one of the things I like to do is sing in harmony and do ensemble stuff like the New York Voices and Manhattan Transfer," Selva said.

The audience can expect to

hear some big band sounds along with a Jazz Studies Department favorite, "Hunting Wabbits," that celebrates the music of mid-century animated cartoons, such as Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry.

"It's a delightful piece," Selva said. "It's a show stopper."

At Madonna

Most of the music sung by the Madonna University Chorale at its spring concert will be upbeat, but there may be a few tear-jerkers in the mix,

said director Kevin Cushman.

"Our theme for the concert is If Music Be the Food of Love, so these are smaller selections and individual pieces that deal with some aspect of love. Most are serious. A few are not," he said. "It's a nice variety of pieces."

The women in the group will sing "Heart, We Will Forget Him," based on a poem by Emily Dickinson accompanied by piano and French horn. The men will sing a Jamaican folk tune, "Marry a Woman Uglier Than You." The full choir will

perform all other pieces, including the upbeat "A Jubilant Song" and "If Music Be the Food of Love."

The Chorale consists of 41 singers and includes Madonna music students and community members.

For more information about the Madonna concert call 734-432-5708 or visit madonna.edu. For more about the Schoolcraft concerts call 734-462-4403

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 8

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Night and Day" exhibit features new work, including landscape and portraits of other local artists, by Taurus Burns

Contact: 248-473-1859

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL

Time/Date: Through April 22

Location: 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Works by local artists Pamela Alexander and Susan Warner

Contact: 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. through April 30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The exhibit features the personal work of the late Richard Rochon, who was known in the field of architecture for his renderings of buildings. Includes a reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 1

Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ART CENTER

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Thursday, noon-4 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, and during public events. Opening reception, 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, April 8

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, at Junction, Plymouth

Details: 7th Annual Open Exhibit

features works by 36 artists on the theme, "one word."

Contact: 734-416-4278; plymoutharts.com

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. through May 29

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

Details: First U.S. exhibition of Chinese artist Xu Weixin focuses on portraits of Chinese coal miners and of Chinese historical figures during the Cultural Revolution

Contact: 734-764-0395; umma.umich.edu

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through April 28; meet and greet is 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 7

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Silent Images: Featured Works of Chuck Schroeder" features intricate pen and ink drawings

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 8-9; 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 10; and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "The Lady in the Van," \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 15 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 16

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: Three Stooges Festival, \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

FUNDRAISERS

GIVING HOPE

Time/Date: 6:30-9 p.m. April 13

Location: Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: The "Giving Our All for Family, Fun and Fitness" event, presented by



The Millionaires play swing, blues, Latin jazz and more at the Blues @ The Elks series, April 12 in Plymouth.

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, includes food, a cash bar, shopping, a fashion show from local shops and boutiques, a raffle and a silent auction. Admission is \$35 and pre-registration is required. Proceeds from the event will help bring ShapeDown, a family weight management program to the greater Canton and Plymouth area

Contact: cantonfoundation.org

MICHIGAN JAZZ FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, April 24

Location: VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College main campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: Sean Dobbins Organ Quartet performs. Tickets are \$15 by April 10 or \$20 at the door

Contact: Pat Minnick 734-462-4403; music@schoolcraft.edu

HISTORY

KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through May 15

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor

Details: "Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: the Villas of Opionis near Pompeii," explores the lavish lifestyle and economic interests of some of ancient Rome's wealthiest and most powerful citizens, who vacationed

along the Bay of Naples. Includes more than 200 items on loan from Italy. Admission is free

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Special event: Ghosts of Plymouth walks begin at 5 p.m. and leave every 15 minutes, Saturday, April 23, circling Kellogg park in downtown Plymouth. Participants will hear tales of early Plymouth from the characters themselves. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Contact: plymouthhistory.org

Contact: 734-455-8940

MUSIC

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: The Millionaires, specializing in swing, jump blues, rhythm & blues and Latin jazz, make their Elks debut on April 12. Bring your dancing shoes. \$5 donation

Contact: 734-453-1780

JAZZ@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Los Gatos Latin Band from Ann Arbor performs April 26. A \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

MAMA'S COFFEEHOUSE

Time/Date: Doors, 7 p.m., show, 8 p.m., Saturday, April 16

Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills

Details: Songwriter, actor, Tim Grimm performs. Meg Braun will open the show. Admission is \$15, and \$13 for students and seniors

Contact: mamascoffeehouse.org

NORTHBRIDGE CHURCH

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14

Location: 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: MercyMe, a contemporary Christian music band performs. Tickets are \$50, \$35, and \$25

Contact: 800-965-9324; itickets.com

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Time/Date: Noon, Wednesday, April 13

Location: Kehrl Auditorium in the VisTaTech Center on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: Violinist Gabriel Bolkosky performs, with Michele Cooker on piano. Free

Contact: 734-462-4403; schoolcraft.edu/music

TRINITY MUSIC THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: John Latini and Jamie-Sue Seal with The Springtails, April 8; Jill Jack and Billy Brandt, April 9. Most tickets \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted

Contact: 734-464-6302 for additional information

For a complete listing of events visit hometownlife.com

Workshop features 'nutrient-dense' condiment-making

When you think of condiments — the ketchup, mustard or mayo you slather on a sandwich — does the word “healthy” come to mind? Probably not. But an upcoming workshop through the Lathrup Village Recreation Department will show you how fun and easy it is to make condiments, sauces, dressings and marinades that are nutrient-dense and healthful.

“We are so health conscious nowadays, this seemed like such a perfect fit for Lathrup Village and our surrounding communities,” said Maralee Rosemond, recreation coordinator.

The interactive session, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, will be presented by volunteer team members of the nonprofit Healthy Traditions Network — the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation. Price was a dentist in the 1930s and 1940s who traveled the world and discovered that people who ate traditional diets indigenous to their village or community had much better oral health and overall health than people in industrialized areas whose diets lacked essential food factors.

“He was one of the first authors of books on health through nutrition. He realized that most of our health comes from our food as long as it's



Diana Wing

GUEST COLUMNIST

good nutrient-rich food,” said HTN Chapter leader, Susan Randall of Birmingham, who also is a vendor in the Lathrup Village Farmers Market (June-October).

Randall explained that HTN offers seminars and demonstrations throughout the metro area so that people can learn about and experience foods that sustain and uplift.

“We teach fermentation, cultured foods, sour dough bread, bone broth. We connect consumers to farmers we know ... that use organic practices,” she said. “They may have pastured beef and chicken. They sell bones for the bone broth and they sell eggs. We also promote naturopathic, functional doctors, chiropractors, and anybody that helps with nutrition-based health, and preventative and integrative medicine.”

Bone broth

As bone broth is becoming popular, Randall recommends that consumers buy organic. Bone broth benefits include immune support, joint protec-



SUBMITTED

Learn to make nutrient-dense condiments.

tion, gut healing, bone strengthening, increased energy.

“Bones collect what the animals eat and there are very toxic grains and chemicals. Animals are shot up with antibiotics and hormones. You don't want that in your broth,” she said. “I'll buy organic chickens and I'll save the bones and I'll make organic turkeys and save the bones, and when I get a bag full, it's slow and low in the crockpot.”

A panel of 4-6 persons from

HTN typically will present a workshop and explain the food-making process, provide recipes, and bring product samples. For the nutrient-dense condiment workshop, HTN members will make fermented mustard, two different kinds of ketchup, a peanut sauce, a mayonnaise and more.

Like many other members of the group, Randall was looking for support when she joined HTN.

“I had a whole list of autoimmune diseases,” she said. “I

was so sick I could barely walk. Now I'm living a very active, energetic life ... I'm so happy I found Healthy Traditions Network to help me get to another level of wellness. It's a fabulous, fun group.”

HTN also will present a program 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, at Lathrup Village City Hall. The guest speaker is Richard Ng, M.D., from the Center For Holistic Medicine in West Bloomfield. A specialist in holistic medicine, sports medicine, acupuncture, nutritional medicine, natural hormones, strength training and conditioning, Dr. Ng will share his knowledge on detoxing your body naturally.

“He's phenomenal. He's the man who saved my life. That's how I found the group,” Randall said.

Register for the Healthy Traditions Network workshops through PayPal by visiting the events page at HTNetwork.org, or by calling 248-828-8494. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance. Pre-registration is required for Ng's program. Tickets are available at the door for the nutrient-dense workshops for \$30 per person. Call for special pricing: \$30 for 2 persons. Workshops will be held in the Community Room of Lathrup Village City Hall located at 27400 Southfield Road.

Pair lamb with mint salsa or pesto for fresh flavor

Spring gatherings wouldn't be the same without one classic centerpiece: leg of lamb.

Whether roasted or grilled, a leg of lamb is a tried and true addition to the spring table. As elegant as it is, it's also simple to prepare.

For a new take on tradition, swap conventional mint jelly with a vibrant salsa verde or mint-pistachio pesto for a fresh, but familiar, flavor that complements the rich taste of American lamb. Follow these easy guidelines for preparing the perfect boneless leg of lamb roast:

» For generous portions, figure on one half pound of American lamb per serving.

» Use a good meat thermometer to determine doneness. medium rare: 145 F; medium: 160 F.

» Remove the roast from the oven when the internal temperature reaches 10 degrees less than your desired temperature; it will reach desired doneness while it rests, allowing the meat's juices to settle.

» Carve the roast across the grain so the meat will be tender.

Find more springtime celebration-worthy American lamb recipe ideas at americanlamb.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

GRILLED BUTTERFLIED AMERICAN LAMB LEG WITH MINT-PISTACHIO PESTO

Serves: 6-8

3 pounds boneless leg of American lamb, butterflied salt and pepper (to taste)
1 cup shelled pistachios
1 cup fresh mint (leaves only)
½ cup fresh Italian parsley
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon lemon juice (to taste)
1 teaspoon lemon zest
½ teaspoon sea salt (to taste)
freshly ground black pepper (to taste)
pinch red chili pepper flakes

Heat oven to 350 F.

Lay lamb leg open on a cutting board. Trim off visible fat. Season lamb generously with salt and pepper; allow to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes prior to grilling.

Toast pistachios by placing in single layer in shallow dish or pan and baking 8 to 10 minutes.

In food processor, add pistachios, mint, parsley, oil, vinegar, lemon juice, lemon zest, salt, pepper and chili flakes; blend until somewhat chunky.

Heat grill to medium-high. Grill lamb leg to medium-rare (remove from heat when thermometer reads between 130 F and 135 F), or to desired doneness. Rest meat, lightly covered, for at least 10 minutes before serving. Slice meat across grain into thin slices. Serve lamb with pesto, grilled vegetables and salad.

ROASTED BONELESS LEG OF AMERICAN LAMB WITH FINGERLING POTATOES, LEEKS AND MINT SALSA VERDE

Serves: 6-8

3 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
2 cups loosely packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
1 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves
3 anchovy fillets
1 tablespoon capers, drained and rinsed
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons plus 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
3-3 ½ pounds boneless leg of American lamb, butterflied
2 ½ teaspoons kosher salt, divided
3 large leeks
2 pounds fingerling potatoes, halved lengthwise
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Position rack in lower third of oven (so roast will be in the middle) and heat to 325 F.

With food processor running, add garlic cloves. When finely minced, stop motor, remove top and scrape down bowl. Add parsley, mint, anchovies, capers, salt and pepper. Pulse until ingredients are finely chopped. Pour in 2 tablespoons olive oil and pulse to combine. Transfer about two-thirds of paste to small bowl and cover with remaining olive oil. Cover tightly and refrigerate until serving time, or up to 2 days.



SUBMITTED

Roasted Boneless Leg of American Lamb with Fingerling Potatoes, Leeks and Salsa Verde

Lay lamb flat on cutting board with fat side up. Trim fat to no more than ¼ inch. Turn meat over and trim away any large chunks of fat from interior, but leave the rest intact. Be careful not to trim away connective tissue that holds meat together. Season lamb on both sides

with 2 teaspoons salt. Spread salsa verde paste over interior of meat to edges, rubbing into crevices. Reserve remaining salsa verde. Roll lamb up lengthwise into cylinder. Use kitchen twine to tie cylinder at 1 ½-inch intervals. Tie another piece of twine lengthwise

to secure ends. Allow lamb to sit at room temperature 1-2 hours before roasting. If you plan to wait more than 2 hours before roasting, loosely cover and refrigerate roast, but bring to room temperature before cooking. Pat outside of roast dry using paper towels before roasting. Trim dark green tops from leeks. Halve leeks lengthwise and rinse well. Pat dry and cut into 2-inch pieces. Put leeks and halved potatoes in large roasting pan. Drizzle vegetables with olive oil, season with remaining salt and toss to coat. Spread vegetables around roasting pan in even layer. Place lamb roast on top, seam-side down and transfer to oven. Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted into center of meat reaches 135 F for medium-rare, about 1 ½ hours. Transfer lamb to cutting board and allow meat to rest for 20-30 minutes, loosely covered with foil. The internal temperature will increase to 145 F. Bring reserved salsa verde to room temperature. Toss vegetables in roasting pan to coat in pan drippings. If they are tender and browned, set aside in a warm spot while meat rests. If not, return to oven to finish cooking. Trim away kitchen twine and cut roast into ½-inch-thick slices. Arrange slices over vegetables. Stir salsa verde to incorporate oil, spoon it over meat and serve.

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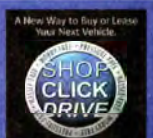
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