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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Wayne reduces trash costs for 2 years

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Republic Services will continue to provide trash collection in Wayne under a two-year contract extension approved by council recently.

The extension, provided for in the current contract, offers

a reduced rate for the next two years. The cost will go to \$8.25 per unit July 1 from the current \$8.64 per when the current agreement was set to expire.

Reducing costs became particularly important when the city's overall property values dropped, reducing the

amount of revenue generated by 3-mills levied for trash.

"Due to the drop in the value of a mill, the city is subsidizing \$100,000 for trash," City Manager Lisa Nocerini said.

In an effort to reduce costs, Wayne had put out a Request for Proposals and accepted

three bids — from Republic, Rizzo Environmental and Midwest Sanitation. Following the staff recommendation, all three bids for eight-year contracts were rejected in favor of the two-year contract extension with Republic.

The low \$4.4 million bid from Midwest Sanitation was

rejected due to the company having insufficient trucks to handle the contract, Assistant Department of Public Services Director Ed Queen said.

The other bids — \$5.4 million from Rizzo and \$5.5 million from Republic — were too

See TRASH, Page A2

FINALLY, FRIENDS AGAIN



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ralph Moore, Joe Pilotto and Dave Larabell left Detroit from the Michigan Central Station 50 years ago, on their way to U.S. Army basic training.

Boot camp buddies reunite after 50 years

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

They were just kids, lost in a sea of U.S. Army draftees being sent off to war, crowded into the train station in Detroit waiting to be sent off to who knows where.

It was May 1966 and the Vietnam War was raging. Thousands of young kids waited to board the trains for the night-time ride to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for eight weeks of boot camp.

Ralph Moore didn't know a soul. Joe Pilotto was a bit luckier; he recognized at least one friendly face, a Cody High School classmate named Dave Larabell.

But Moore knew no one before he met Pilotto. The whole experience was surreal. "You're thinking, 'This can't be real,'" Moore said. "It's like you're through the looking glass."



Ralph Moore, circa 1966.

Joe Pilotto, circa 1966.

Dave Larabell, circa 1966.

Moore and Pilotto introduced themselves to each other in that throng and became instant buddies. Larabell, who graduated from Cody with Pilotto, made an easy addition to the group and off to Missouri they went.

Finding friends

The friendship started off small enough. Moore and Pilotto "talked for a few minutes"

at the train station. Then came the overnight trip to Missouri and, when Pilotto went to pick a bunk, there was Moore.

"I went in and picked a bunk and Ralph was right there," Pilotto said. "We were pretty much best friends all the way through basic. We had as much fun as we could through training."

The trio was separated at Fort Leonard Wood, Moore and Pilotto in one training platoon, Larabell in another. Boot camp was tough, more mentally than physically,

See BUDDIES, Page A6

With less revenue, budget to use reserves

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A \$64 million budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year that includes using \$1.3 million from the fund balance has been adopted by the Westland City Council.

"We're going to work through the year to eliminate the use of fund balance," said Westland Mayor William Wild, who thanked staff and council members for their work on the budget.

Part of the initial budget forecast for the fiscal year, which begins July 1, was that revenues would increase 2.5 percent thanks to a property value increase.

"It was only .3 percent, inflation is keeping it down. We had a .77 percent increase in overall property values," Wild said. "There are no changes to the millage rate."

Along with the lower-than-anticipated increase in property tax revenues, the city also expects to receive less state shared revenue, another primary source of funding. Overall, general fund revenues are down \$700,000 from the prior year.

"We had not expected a state-shared revenue cut that came just as the state gave funding to Flint and Detroit Public Schools," Wild said.

The city also benefited from a one-time revenue last year — \$695,000 from the sale of a city-owned cell tower. Wild noted that the city still owns two other cell towers.

Westland has a SAFER grant that is funding 13 firefighters. "At the end of the grant in 2017, we will need to have a discussion on what to do about those positions," Wild said. "We have four police officers under a COPS grant that expires in 2018."

On the expenditure side, the budget includes \$50,000 for ball field/trail improvements and

See BUDGET, Page A2

Closed Catholic schools end eras in local communities

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

St. Raphael Catholic School in Garden City, St. Damian Catholic School, in Westland and St. Genevieve Catholic School in Livonia permanently closed their doors this year.

Each school has been in their respective communities for decades.

St. Raphael School celebrated its 80th anniversary June 5.

St. Genevieve School opened 53 years ago.

St. Damian school opened

more than 50 years ago.

Up and down news

The closings were preceded by a roller coaster of events for students, teachers and families. First there was the announcement that St. Raphael, St. Genevieve and St. Da-

mian were going to close at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Then there was a decision that St. Raphael would remain open as a regional school, called Divine Mercy

See SCHOOLS, Page A2



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INDEX

Business..... A8 Homes..... C4 Services..... C3
Crossword Puzzle..... C2 Jobs..... C1 Sports..... B1
Crossword Puzzle..... A4 Obituaries..... B5 Wheels..... C3

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SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A1

Regional School, if at least 200 students signed up. St. Robert Bellermino, in Redford, closed last year and was involved in the proposed regional school.

But, the enrollment numbers were never reached, said Joe Kohn, Archdiocese of Detroit spokesman.

A letter was sent to parents of students at all four schools in March saying the regional school plan was dissolved, Kohn said.

"They were each under financial strain due to dropping enrollment and rising costs," Kohn said. "When it comes to schools the decision has to be made by pastors. The archdiocese did offer a high degree of assistance to try and plan a merged school."

Each parish had representatives on a team for

the new school from summer 2015 until March 2016 "when they realized the interest in parents enrolling their children were not as high as they needed to be to make a single school," he added. "School closings are a last resort."

Family impact

It was a sad day for teachers cleaning out their classrooms for the last time at all the schools the week of June 6.

"It's very hard to see 80 years of memories end," said Katie Fotiu, St. Raphael principal. "It was a huge shock to hear about the closing of the Catholic schools and then closing as a regional school. It was devastating when that didn't happen."

St. Raphael students have always lived "by our school mission, 'Go in Friendship, Knowledge and God's Spirit,' Fotiu said. "I know our kids will carry St. Raphael with them wherever they



St. Raphael's eighth-grade graduating class.

SUBMITTED

go."

The day after classes ended, St. Raphael teacher Barbara Dyke was visibly saddened.

"It's hard to believe that just yesterday kids were up and down the hallway excited," she said.

Dyke pointed to a message on the wall, "Through These Doors Walked the Most Wonderful Kids in the World." St. Raphael Church

opened in 1982 and merged in 2014 with St. Dunstan. The old St. Raphael church is now called St. Thomas the Apostle.

Another school closed

Down the road in Livonia, St. Genevieve School opened Sept. 4, 1963.

"The closing of St. Genevieve is very difficult and very sad," said Ann Tonissen, St. Gene-

vieve principal. "St. Genevieve has been part of this community for so long and the school will be missed by the community, as well as by the parish families and the school families."

St. Damian principal Jackie Mojeske couldn't be reached for comment, but a message on the school's website said: "We would like to thank all of the many current and former students,

parents and teachers who have attended and participated in the school throughout the years. Even though the school is closing, we thank God for the time we had at St. Damian, for the friendships we made and for the many wonderful memories."

St. Damian music director Mary Melonio recorded a CD of the students singing 15 of their favorite church hymns. She planned to give them as gifts to her students.

"It was a pleasure to work with these children and I know by the grace of God they will all do well in their future locations," Melonio said. "I wish them all the best in the world."

St. Raphael teacher Kathy Hermann said, "It's an end of an era."

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

\$30,000 for a capital needs assessment at the Friendship Center. "As we move forward with parks and recreation, want to make sure there are funds for a spruce up," Wild said. "We learned from the police department (renova-

tions) to do that (capital improvement needs assessment)."

The council had earlier approved a five-year water rate study along with a 2.3 percent water rate increase.

"That's less than what the Great Lakes Water Authority approved — we looked at the (water-sewer) fund balance," Wild said. "It is an average increase of \$22 per

year."

The city is also moving ahead with a citywide water meter replacement program, Wild said, adding that about 16,000 meters have been replaced with another 11,000 more to be done.

As a cost-saving measure in 2014, Westland made changes in its trash collection program, including an end to unlimited free curbside col-

lection of bulk items. The service was offered on a fee basis.

In the coming fiscal year, the city plans to address bulk items with two permit-free garage sale days and bulk items drop off at the Department of Public Works. City staff will also help with pickups by advance appointment.

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TRASH

Continued from Page A1

high, Queen said, adding he had concerns about the bid from Rizzo.

Mary Jo Vannetter, Rizzo senior municipal sales executive, appeared at the council meeting having submitted a letter regarding her company's bid after the deadline.

"The letter is out-

lined savings for the community over a three-year period, approximately \$240,000" she said. "We're asking you to please extend the deadline. We will show you the savings like we did for Garden City. We were not afforded an opportunity to discuss our bid."

Queen outlined the time line for the bid process with bids being opened April 21.

"The bid process is

closed. We can't accept a letter (from Rizzo) or email," Nocerini said. "We would need to redo the bids. If the cost savings were there, they should have been in the bid."

The city also looked into curbside recycling but that was found to be an additional cost, Queen said.

Along with Garden City, Westland, Inkster and Dearborn Heights, Wayne is a member of

the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority.

"We looked at a five-city bid proposal but it didn't come to fruition. Garden City decided to go with Rizzo and Dearborn Heights decided to go with Dearborn," Mayor Susan Rowe said. "In two years, there is a possibility Inkster could do this (jointly bid)."

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Suspect competent for trial in ax murder

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Wayne man, charged with killing his step-grandfather with an ax, has been found competent for criminal charges against him to proceed.

The report finding Jesse Wayne Gunderson, 26, competent has been accepted by Wayne 29th District Court. Gunderson, in custody since the September 28, 2015 murder, was scheduled for preliminary examination July 18.

Gunderson is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Danny Dart, 58, who was married to Gunderson's grandmother. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Shortly after his arraignment, Gunderson was sent for a competency examination.

A retired Ford Motor Company employee, Dart was reportedly killed by



Gunderson

a blow to the head with an ax while in the backyard of his home in the 4500 block of Chamberlain.

Gunderson had been staying at Dart's home for several weeks before Dart was killed. Dart and his wife, Gunderson's grandmother, had taken in Gunderson when he showed up unannounced at their home.

It was reported that Gunderson had arrived unannounced at the Dart home, having previously been living in California where he worked at a medical facility.

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Man dies in Hines Drive crash

An elderly Dearborn man died following a single vehicle accident Friday afternoon in Westland.

Westland Police are continuing to investigate the accident, which happened in the area of Hines Drive and Merri-

man. The man, 78, appeared to have suffered a med-

ical problem that contributed to the accident, according to police.

The man was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Police were not releasing the name of the victim pending notification of family members.

Livonia boy raises money for N'ville VFW

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

For many, Memorial Day Weekend included barbecues, yard work and outdoor activities with friends and family.

However, 8-year-old Jackson Sholler of Livonia spent the majority of his weekend selling homemade poppies in his front yard.

"He had a soccer tournament in Canton, but in between games, he would sit at his stand he built himself and try to flag down people in order to raise money for veterans," former Northville resident and Jackson's mother Becca Zeppa-Sholler said.

Prior to Memorial Day Weekend, Jackson was shown a film on the history of poppies in second-grade teacher Jane Germaine's classroom at Kennedy Elementary School in Livonia.

The poppy — "the little red flower" that



Submitted
VFW Post 4012 Commander Scott Vandeven said he is "blown away" by the money raised for veterans by 8-year-old Jackson Sholler of Livonia.

symbolizes the bloodshed in World War I by millions of Allied soldiers in defense of freedom — was originally distributed with the hope of raising funds to provide relief for the people of war-devastated France. Beginning right before Memorial Day in 1922,

the distribution of poppies has raised funds that have directly benefited thousands of disabled and down-and-out American veterans.

After learning about the poppy, Jackson decided to start an art project using paper, a blue marker, red and green crayons

and a pair of scissors. "He came downstairs that Friday evening and said, 'Look what I made!'" Zeppa-Sholler said. "He then told my husband Jeremy, a former marine, and me that he wanted to sell them and donate the money raised."

Formerly his play fort, Jackson's "Poppy Stand" soon became surrounded with homemade signs encouraging poppy purchases for five cents each and also mere monetary and canned good donations.

On Memorial Day, Jackson and his parents attended Northville's parade and raised even more money there.

"He collected over 100 dollars," VFW Post 4012 Commander Scott Vandeven said in an email to the Northville Record. "I am blown away."

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LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Bras, handbags stolen

Livonia police were called Wednesday evening to Von Maur, 37500 Six Mile, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody at the store.

The suspect was seen by a store employee selecting a bra and then going to select a handbag. She then went and selected another bra and started to leave without paying for the items. She

was stopped and detained by an employee. She then reportedly admitted to taking other items, such as a tank top, card holder, wallet, shirt and an additional bra. Police arrived and arrested her.

Retail fraud reported

A store employee at Meijer, 13000 Middlebelt, came into the police station Thursday afternoon to report a retail

fraud that had taken place several weeks earlier.

The employee said the incident took place in the early morning hours of May 23. The suspect was seen pushing a cart out of the store filled with some Red Bull and did not pay for them. Recently, an associate at the Meijer in Southfield contacted the store and said the same suspect was accused of a retail fraud there.

Police want to meet residents

The Livonia Police Department is holding another open command staff meeting for residents to come and share their thoughts.

The department will hold the open meeting from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wednesday at Kerby's Koney Island, 37155 Six Mile, in the Newburgh Plaza Shopping Center.

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny from vehicle

A Taylor woman told police June 6 that someone stole her wallet containing a debit card, Social Security card, insurance card and a space vehicle key from her vehicle while it was

parked in the 3400 block of Laura. She said she found the glove box open. The rear door to the vehicle doesn't lock, she told police.

Motorcycles stolen

» On June 2, a resident in the 34000 block of

Phyllis told police that he had parked his motorcycle in the street in front of his home about 7 p.m. the previous evening. About 5:30 a.m., he said he noticed the motorcycle was missing. It was described as a blue 2008 Suzuki GSX1300 R.

» An Ypsilanti man working at the Ford Assembly Plant, 38303 Michigan Ave., told police his motorcycle had been stolen from the parking lot. The man said he had parked the motorcycle about 7 p.m. and it was gone at 3 a.m. when

he had finished his shift.

Security video showed someone near the motorcycle about 1:20 a.m. and a short time later riding it away followed by a car. The man said he had the only keys and had locked the handle bars before going into work.

The motorcycle is described as a 2009 Harley Davidson Street Glide with Fat Car exhaust pipes, slim trunk and after market saddlebag speakers. It was valued at \$16,000.

LeAnne Rogers



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Transition Program helps students achieve goals

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland resident Tim Bury got a job cleaning at the HYPE Recreation Center in Wayne last fall and is still enthusiastic about coming to work.

"I like that I get to come in every day with a smile and I like to be independent," said Bury, who first came to his job participating in the Transition Program at Westland John Glenn High School. "I clean machines, I mop, I make sure everything is just right."

Now, Bury said his goal to have is to have a job by the end of the year cleaning cardio equipment. "Here at HYPE or another gym that has an opening," said Bury, 20. "My identical twin brother Christopher works for Midwest Carpet. He cleans carpet stains and major mess — him and co-worker. He is a very hard worker."

The program, which is also at Wayne Memorial High School, works with special-needs students and post-secondary students, to maximize their independence skills. Specifically, students are paired with businesses to help develop universal work skills.

"Our program is unique. We cater to each individual students," said Julie Klabunde, Wayne Memorial Transition

post-secondary coordinator. "We don't transport students to work sites in a group. We work on individual skills."

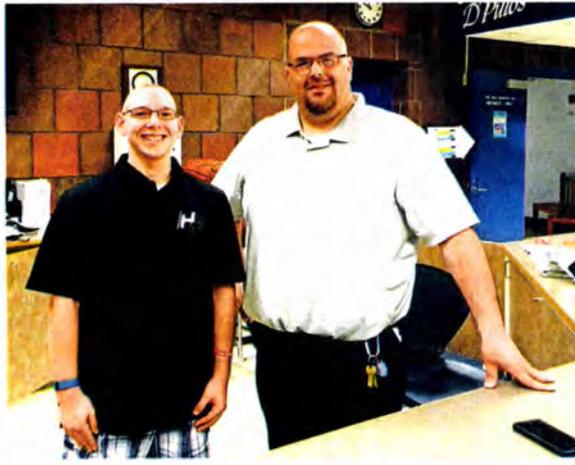
The goal of the program is to pair students with local businesses where they can work to develop entry-level skills and also help with career interest assessment. There are 27 students placed in jobs through the post-secondary program while the high schools have about 28 students in the class called Consumer and Adult Living Skills.

"We want to help students know what kind of job they would really like. They build portfolios with photos of them working," said Angela Beauchamp, Wayne Memorial Transition coordinator.

Businesses that have partnered with Transitions by providing work experience include Mark Chevrolet, Harlow Tire, CVS, the Wayne Library, Family Video and Rush Trucking. The students aren't paid but are evaluated similar to a report card.

"The valuable part of the work is the experience," said Jackie Martin, who coordinates the program at Glenn.

When students enter the Transition Program as high school freshmen, Klabunde said they have career goals like being professional ath-



Westland resident Tim Bury, a Transition Program participant, with Brian Haddad, HYPE Recreation Center facilities manager.

LEANNE ROGERS

letes, doctors or veterinarians.

"We're not here to burst their bubbles but by 11th grade, they are more realistic," she said.

"They know their reality and their abilities," adds Beauchamp. "We want to make sure they are happy, successful adults." A transition program is developed for each student working with the student, parents and staff.

The students work on universal work skills such as being punctual and maintaining good attendance, following written/verbal instructions, handling equipment carefully and maintaining quality/quantity of work. Other skills can be less tangible, like relating well with other employees and customers, learning who to trust.

"Some students have anxi-

ety, so we create something individual for them. Some work five days, others one or two days," Klabunde said. "It's individualized — we don't want to set them up for failure."

A group of students not ready for individual work experiences goes monthly to the Wayne Historical Museum for cleaning.

The Transitions Program is always looking for businesses to become partners and take on student workers. No commitment to keep students working permanently is needed. The program staff call it a win-win for students and businesses. HYPE Recreation Center Facility Manager Brian Haddad agrees.

"It's been a great program. I'm looking forward to something like this next year. Tim has been an excellent employee," Haddad said. "He's always on top of things. I never have to ask if he did something — he always did it."

For more information about the Transition Program, contact Klabunde at 734-419-2271, Beauchamp at 734-419-2224 or Glenn program coordinator Jackie Martin at 734-419-2307.

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ON CAMPUS

Marquette University

Samantha Wenson of Farmington Hills has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2016 semester at Marquette University's College of Health and Sciences.

Wenson is pursuing her doctor of physical therapy degree.

Albion College

Albion College announced the following local students recently graduated:

» **Evan Andreski** graduated with a degree in biology and a minor in management. Andreski is the son of Craig and Kristine Andreski of Farmington and a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School.

» **Marius Froehlich** graduated magna cum laude with a degree in business & organizations and communication studies (mass media emphasis) and a minor in German. Magna cum laude signifies that Froehlich graduated with a cumulative grade-point average above 3.75. Froehlich is the son of Dirk and Sabine Froehlich of Farmington Hills and a graduate of Detroit Country Day School.

» **Julie Wood** graduated with a degree in business & organizations and communication studies (interpersonal emphasis). Wood is the daughter of Alan and Denise Wood of Farmington Hills and a graduate of Mercy High School.

The following students have

been named to the Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or above, taking at least three graded courses within a full load of four courses. The honor of Albion College Fellow goes to students who maintain a 3.7 GPA for three consecutive semesters.

» Farmington: **Jenna Voorman** is majoring in mathematics and physics and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of Gregory and Faye Voorman of Farmington.

» Livonia: **Christina Briden** graduated with a degree in kinesiology exercise science. She is the daughter of Gregory and Lucia Briden of Livonia

and a graduate of Ladywood High School.

Elliot Brinker is majoring in Spanish education and minoring in French education, with a concentration in the Fritz Shurmer Center for Teacher Development secondary certification program and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. He is the son of Daniel and Laura Brinker of Livonia and a graduate of Stevenson High School.

Ariana Parr is majoring in psychology. She is the daughter of John and Sandra Parr of Livonia and a graduate of Mercy High School.

» Redford: **Allen Smith-Buford** is majoring in accounting (C.P.A. emphasis) and minoring in geology. He is the son

of Lisa Banks of Redford.

Corey Wheeler is majoring in history. He is the son of Raechel Wheeler of Redford and a graduate of Renaissance High School.

Hope College

Hope College in Holland, Mich., awarded degrees to seniors last month during the 149th annual commencement exercises.

Among the graduates were:

- » Farmington Hills: **Claire Butts**, **Nathaniel Hedgecock** and **Hanna Szymczak**.
- » Garden City: **Erin Watts**.
- » Livonia: **Lauren Burford** and **Matthew Selesko**.
- » Redford: **Shannon Stearns**.

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Local GC band is home-raised, performs in the city

Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

The Crampton Brothers is Garden City's hometown band for a lot of reasons.

All of the members are Garden City High School graduates. The name came from two brothers who were gym teachers at GCHS, and about 90 percent of their gigs are in the community.

The group began when guitar player Joey Taulbee, drummer Matt Thompson and singer Ivan Zahor started playing in 2013.

Step by step

"Slowly we added on piece by piece," Taulbee said referring to the other members, guitar player Josh Sears, Kevin Liske on bass and Natasha Zahor, Ivan's sis-

ter, who plays saxophone, keyboard and sings.

Clayton Rivera, another GCHS grad, does all the technical, behind-the-scenes work, like making videos, web and Facebook pages, as well as handling sound and lights during performances. Everyone in the group graduated from GCHS from 2011 to 2015.

They hope to have their first EP by the end of August featuring five or six original songs. But mostly they play hits from other bands.

GCHS grads, residents and everyone who appreciates local bands, might have seen the group at a Garden City Moose Lodge fundraiser, at Burger School for Students with Autism promotional gigs, at Sports Venue in Garden City and GCHS dances.



The Crampton Brothers are all Garden City High School graduates.

"Because we are all from Garden City our friends and family come out and give us support," Ivan Zahor said. "We do it because we really love playing the music. Fans are into our music and music is about emotion and making you feel something. We try to be artists and make some-

thing to share."

Fans follow

They got some regional exposure, too, when they competed against 10 other groups and won the Detroit Battle of the Bands in 2014.

A woman named April who was at the Garden City Moose Lodge re-

cently declined to give her last name as she explained that she saw the Crampton Brothers for the first time at the lodge a few months ago.

"I thought they were a great band," she said. "They played a good variety of then songs, now songs and they're very talented."

The Crampton Brothers isn't trying to be the biggest and most famous band, necessarily, Ivan Zahor said. The effect they have on their audiences, he said, is more important.

"We're slowly building up," Taulbee said. "It's not an overnight deal."

dandreassi@hometownlife.com
734-432-5974

Free community event set for Thursday

Westland's next 50th anniversary community gathering is Thursday, June 16, at Central City Park/Tattan Park.

The free event starts at 5 p.m. with food, giveaways and free admission to the H2O Zone sprayground.

At 7 p.m., there will be a free outdoor showing of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

There will be no Westland Farmers and Artisan Market this week due to the community gathering.

Livonia has ties to first EMU physician assistant class

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Livonia resident Jenna Szuba wanted to not only receive a degree to become a physician's assistant, but to help shape a program for future students. That's why she decided to apply and enroll at Eastern Michigan University's brand-new physician assistant program several years ago.

"I really like the opportunity to help mold and shape the program. They took a lot of our input and a lot of our ideas," the Churchill High School alumna said. "To be part of a first class is exciting and really rare."

Szuba graduated from the program earlier this spring as a part of its first class. She graduated with 17 others, who ranged in ages from 24 to 47 and all call Michi-



COURTESY OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Eastern Michigan University's first physician's assistant class, which graduated this spring. Several members hail from western Wayne and western Oakland counties.

gan home. Several other local residents were a part of the class, including graduates from Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Milford. Another graduate, Teresa Smith of Clinton Township, recently accepted a position with St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and will start in July.

Physician's assistants

can do many things doctors do, such as treat patients, prescribe medications and assist in surgery. They complete a program and then are required to do continuing education throughout their career, according to the American Academy of PA's.

"We're a mid-level practitioner," Szuba said. "They work under doc-

tors, but totally independent."

The number of physician's assistants is expected to increase significantly over the next few years nationwide, according to EMU. Between 2014 and 2024, the number of physician's assistants is expected to increase 30 percent nationwide, well above average.

Smith, who said she plans to move to Canton before starting her new job, said she'll be working with trauma patients across the hospital and is excited to begin. Depending on the situation, she could be running from the ICU to the ER or elsewhere, she said.

"Throughout the day, I'll be on call for the trauma activations in the ER," she said. "It's a little bit of everything."

EMU's program lasts two full years and was completed as a cohort with the students, who got to know each other

well, Szuba said. And work wasn't just done in a classroom; the students worked outside with each other on various areas.

Livonia has had other residents graduate in the first medical class at a university before: one resident enrolled in the first class of Central Michigan University's medical school back in 2013.

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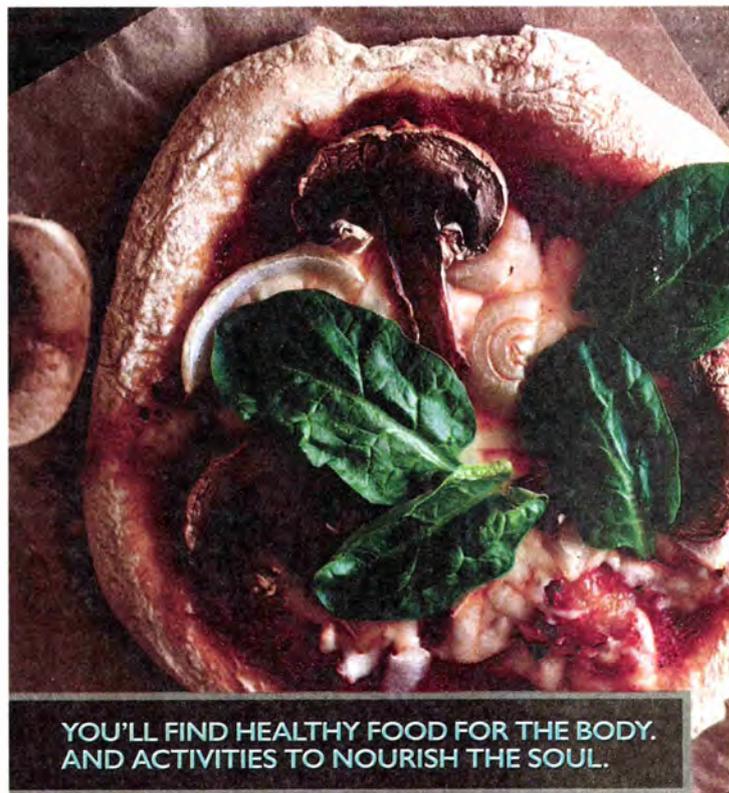


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BUDDIES

Continued from Page A1

the three men agreed. The soldiers are not in control, largely being told what to do and when to do it.

It seemed, at times, never-ending.

"It was a long time," Larabell said. "I remember thinking two weeks into it, 'This eight weeks is never going to end' and that two years (the length of their enlistment) was an eternity."

Some fun times

They managed to have fun along the way. Moore and Pilotto recalled the time they were sent out to ambush a training group out on night maneuvers. Problem was, they never found the group, couldn't ambush them and, to make matters worse, fell asleep. Leaders had to send another band out to look for Moore and Pilotto.

Fifty years later, sitting in the Mercury Bar in Detroit, in the shadow of the train station where it all happened, the two men still laugh about the story. Did they get in



Ralph Moore, Joe Pilotto and Dave Larabell are laughing together again, some 50 years after leaving Detroit from the Michigan Central Station.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

trouble? What happened when their commanders found out they'd fallen asleep?

"I don't think we offered that information" to them, Moore said, eyes bright and smile wide.

After leaving Missouri, the three were sent their separate ways. Larabell was sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he was supposed to train as a dental assistant, but ended up a medic. Pilotto went to radio operator school at Fort Ord, Calif., and wound up a radio teletype operator.

And Moore went to Fort Dix, N.J., for radio school. When he found out a radio operator's life expectancy "was about 11 seconds after contact with the enemy," Moore set about transferring to truck driver school — "It took me three weeks to flunk out of radio school," he said with a chuckle.

Brief reunions

Larabell and Pilotto, the high school friends, would later reunite brief-

ly in Vietnam. Moore spent his tour in Germany — "It wasn't so bad, but it was still the army," he said, laughing once more.

The smiles come easily for the three of them now, five decades after what they call their "shared misery." But the intervening years weren't filled with smiles.

They were filled with — nothing.

All three did their two-year bits and then were discharged and returned home. They lived within miles of each other — Larabell in Plymouth, Pilotto in Canton and Moore in Livonia — but other than Pilotto and Larabell bumping into each other a couple of times in a hardware store, they hadn't seen each other until January of this year.

It was a reunion that might not have happened at all without the wonders of modern technol-

ogy. Facebook, which has done wonders reconnecting people with old friends, worked its magic in the lives of three army buddies.

Picture tells a story

It started with a letter buried in a stack of old letters Moore had written to his wife Carol during his tour of duty. In them, he regaled his wife with stories about his new-found best friend, Pilotto, including pictures.

When Carol saw one of those pictures drop out of a letter, she thought she recognized the face. She remembered the face, sort of. She'd seen one just like it — which turned out, ironically, to be that of Pilotto's son — on the Facebook page of a family friend.

One thing led to another and the family friend gave Moore's phone number to the Pilotto's son, who gave it to his dad, who made the initial

phone call and the two reconnected in January.

"(Pilotto) was one of Ralph's very favorite people he met in basic," Carol Moore said. "He was the one guy he talked about in his letters. When I saw that picture, I thought, 'We've got to try to find him.'"

And find him they did. That initial phone call was fraught with nerves — "I just said, 'Wow,'" Moore recalled. "You don't know what to say at first, so you stumble a bit" — but soon settled back into the friendship. Pilotto then tracked Larabell down.

A long 50 years

None of them figured the separation would last 50 years.

"I had been looking forward to it ... I thought it would happen sooner," Pilotto said. "We were all working and having kids, next thing you know decades have gone by. All of a sudden, you're an old man."

It's been more than lunches since then. Ralph and Carol had been looking for someplace to go dancing and Pilotto plays in a doo-wop group, The OptoMystics, that plays at Joy Manor in Westland.

Larabell has recently begun joining them for their lunches at Mercury Bar. Life is good.

"It's like having friends back," Moore said. "You missed a whole life, but you catch up. We got both ends (of life) and I'm getting a kick out of it."

His wife thinks they're getting more than that.

"I think it's been the greatest experience for them and Ralph feels exactly the same way," she said. "They hit it off as if they'd known each other their whole lives. Sometimes it happens that way. It's been nothing but wonderful for Ralph."

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AGENDA Zoning Board of Appeals

June 28, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall - Gallery (5th Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466 2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2014-06-28 (Tabled on March 10, 2015): Kordoba, LLC, 7573 Windgate Circle, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, on behalf of Lessee Masri Orthodontics, east side of Levan (15230), between Jamison and Five Mile, seeking to maintain a second wall sign upon a multi-tenant office building, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall sign area.

APPEAL CASE 2016-05-37 (Tabled on May 24, 2016): Scott and Barb Hesskamp, north side of Joy (37010) between Newburgh and Crown, seeking to remove the existing detached garage and accessory building and construct a detached garage, resulting in excess area, overall height and excess wall height.

APPEAL CASE 2016-06-42: Kevin Paterson, east side of Merriman (16044) between Wentworth and Puritan, seeking to erect a detached garage, resulting in excess garage area. The existing accessory building, which is 144 sq. ft. in area, is to remain on the property.

APPEAL CASE 2016-06-43: Lisa Bazzi, west side of Brentwood (14381) between Jacquelyn and Meadowlark, seeking to operate a group day care (private home care to twelve (12) children or less), requiring conditional approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

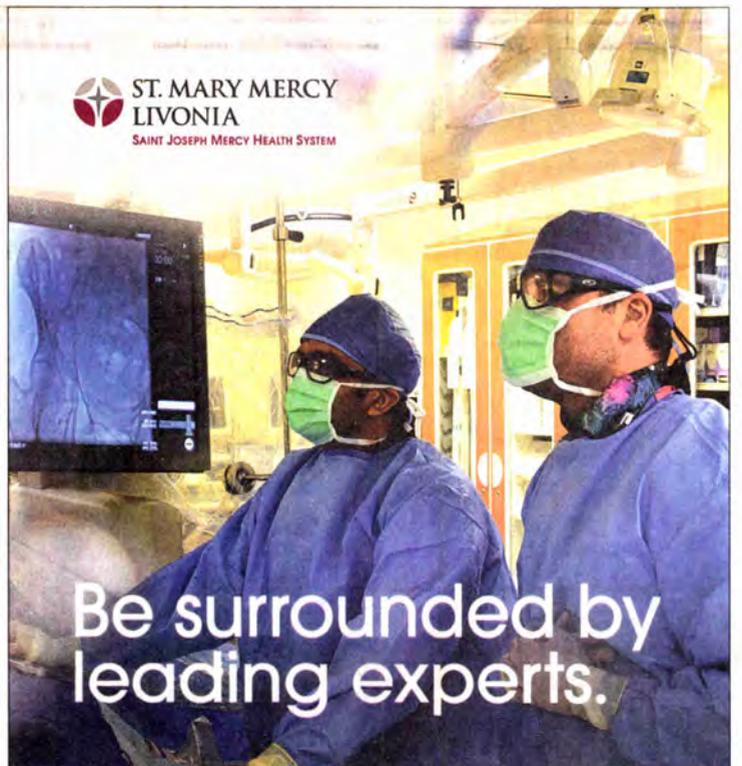
APPEAL CASE 2016-06-44: Danny Fitzgerald/Classic Building Co., Inc., P.O. Box 530565, Livonia, MI 48153, seeking to erect a single family dwelling with attached garage on property located on the west side of Deering (18041) between Lathers and Curtis, resulting in deficient lot area.

APPEAL CASE 2016-06-45: Jeff and Vanessa Schembri, 18792 Vanderhaven, Livonia, MI 48152, seeking to construct a new single family dwelling with two (2) attached garages on property located on the east side of Wayne (18100) between Curtis and Bennett, resulting in excess number of garages and total attached garage area.

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

Published: June 12, 2016

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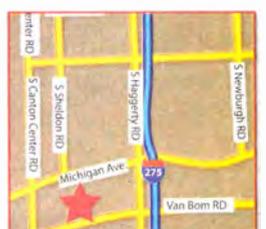


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Livonia woman is taking aim at national competition

Pamela A. Zinkosky
Correspondent

Mel Weldon, a 33-year-old mother of two and training assistant manager at Life Time Fitness in Canton, recently added a new title to her business card: National Physique Committee figure competitor.

The Livonia resident, who took first place in the novice figure division of last October's Central States competition in Ypsilanti, is now gunning to place in the Nicole Wilkins Classic July 9 at Lincoln High School in Ypsilanti.

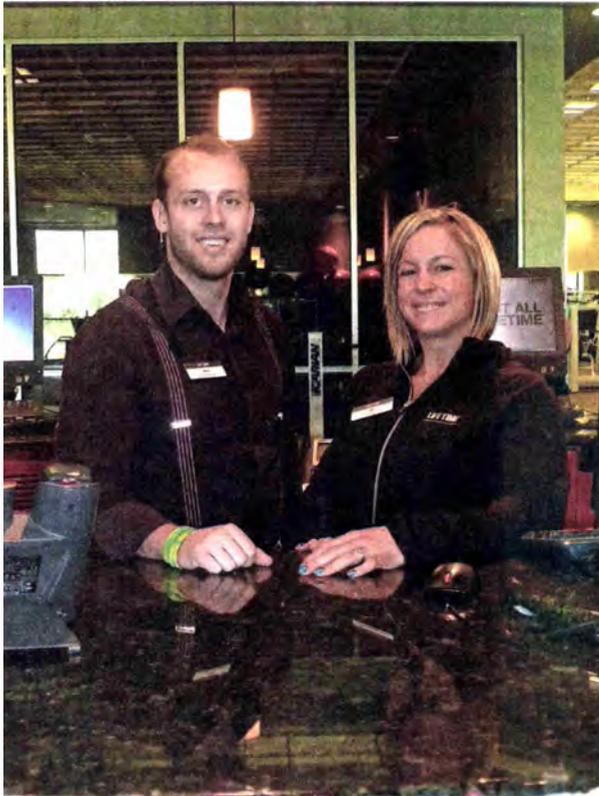
"It was beyond expectations," said Weldon of the October competition. The event marked only her second such competition ever, and it qualified her for the national NPC event, since she placed third overall.

The national competition would have been this month, but Weldon experienced a setback. January 2016 found her hospitalized for five hernias. Recovery from the surgery left her unable to lift more than 10 pounds. She took nine weeks off, having to direct her personal training clients verbally rather than show them.

"I just got a lot better at talking them through the movement," said Weldon, who always seems to find positives to unfortunate situations.

Since March, Weldon has had her eye on the July competition in Ypsilanti, a national qualifier for this year. "I am in it to not only qualify for nationals," she said, "but to win it."

"Of course I'd want to win, but if I can finish in the top three, I'd feel like I didn't take a step backward," Weldon said. The top five competitors can compete in one of several upcoming national events. Weldon plans to compete in Chicago in



Nick Lloyd, personal training manager at Life Time Fitness in Canton, with Mel Weldon.



Mel Weldon at her last competition.

June 2017. She has one eye on a national competition in Miami in November 2016, but she's waiting to see how her body responds to training and whether she feels ready.

New training methods

Weldon's last competition included strict nutrition — lots of protein and organic vegetables, plus complex carbohydrates like quinoa — along with heavy strength training and cardiovascular work. This time around, she's doing much of the same nutrition wise, plus more leg work.

At the October com-

petition, the judges critiqued her figure, saying her upper body and abdominals were very well-built, but her legs needed work. "I have focused heavily two workouts a week with legs and glutes, while maintaining my upper body," Weldon said. "My legs look really good now."

Weldon has also added stretching and muscle recovery, along with massage, to maintain that lean look she's going for. These days, with the competition less than a month away, she's doing cardiovascular workouts twice a day for two of her five weekly cardio-

vascular workouts. This helps her shed fat to achieve a lean look.

"I want to come on stage at 112 pounds," where October's onstage weight was 108.5, she said. The extra weight will come from additional muscle in her lower body.

Where nutrition's concerned, Weldon said she used to allow herself one cheat meal per week, but she's cut that out this year. Her six small meals a day include protein like cage-free chicken and egg whites, green organic vegetables and occasionally some berries, half a cup of oatmeal or a

sweet potato. There's no sugar, no dairy and nothing processed.

"I'm keeping it very clean," she said.

The food she eats is just fuel, she said, and she needs it every couple hours. "If I were to go to three hours, my body would feel it," she said.

A healthy lifestyle

Weldon, who's Precision Nutrition Level 1-certified for counseling clients, said her eating stays fairly clean year-round. While she may add carbohydrates in slowly after competing and not monitor meals as closely, she never eats junk food or drinks alco-

hol. "I look at it as overall changing lifestyle," said Weldon, who noted that she ate whatever she wanted when she was in her 20s. "All year round, I eat pretty healthy."

Weldon has a husband, Nick, a 13-year-old daughter Halle and a 9-year-old son James, and while they're not on her diet — she cooks separate meals for them or adds rice, for example, to the chicken she eats — they do eat pretty healthy.

"Through what I am doing, I notice that they're making healthy choices," she said. Both kids are active, and they're not much for sweets or junk food.

"Because of my passion for health and fitness, I like to set an example, be a role model," Weldon said. "I have two kids. I have a full-time job. I have all the daily struggles. I like to show that it can be done. The ultimate is helping others."

That doesn't mean she doesn't ever think of grabbing that bag of chips. She does, she said, but she thinks about it longer than the average person might. "I play the tape through in my mind," Weldon said. "I'm going to have regrets, so I may as well not even pick it up."

Looking forward

Weldon said she hopes to become a professional figure competitor and open her own gym. "I want to help people conquer food addictions and get in the best shape of their lives," she said.

The Nicole Wilkins Classic on July 9 is open to spectators. Weldon said she would love to see supporters there watching the competition. Tickets are \$30 and available at <https://form.jotform.com/60673915983973>.

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Livonia woman to show her 1964 Caddy at Cars 'R' Stars

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It's big, it's finned and built like a tank, but Debra McDonald says her 1964 Cadillac Series 62 "can really haul if you put the pedal to metal."

"The Series 62 is the base model for 1964. I guess it would be called the 'poor man's' Cadillac. It does have many of the luxury features of the more expensive models like power windows and air conditioning," said McDonald of Livonia. "The thing I like best is the comfortable ride. It's like sitting on your living room sofa."

McDonald, who loves to cruise in her vintage car, was set to show it off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today (Sunday) at the annual Cars 'R' Stars classic car show, held at the Packard Proving Grounds on Van Dyke, just south of 23 Mile, in Shelby Township. It's a long haul for McDonald, whose favorite shows are Livonia Spree and the Burger School Autos for Autism Car Show in Garden City, but her car fits perfectly with this year's show theme, "Fins and Family Haulers." The event will include Cadillacs, the 1960 Chevrolet Impala and 1957 Ford Thunderbird, among other finned vintage vehicles. Station wagons on display will span 1941-77 model years and will include the 1968 Ford Country Squire Station Wagon seen in the television series, "Mad Men."

It's McDonald's first Cars 'R' Stars show, although she and her husband Chris have displayed their cars, including a 1976 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible and a 1985 Cadillac Seville, at other Packard Proving Grounds events.

"The Proving Grounds is a fabulous venue for car shows," McDonald



Debra McDonald of Livonia dresses for comfort, with her signature cowboy hat, when she shows her 1964 Cadillac.

said. "We try to go to as many shows as we can. We were honored to be invited to display at Eyes on Design at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford estate last year.

"We especially enjoy cruise nights, like the ones held at the Village Commons Shopping Center on Grand River in Farmington on Mondays and St. Bellarmine church in Redford on Wednesdays. Multi Lakes Conservation Association in Commerce has a wonderful combination car cruise-in, all-you-can eat fish fry on Fridays that we seldom miss. But the best of all is at Baker's of Milford on Sunday afternoon. All the cruise-ins offer yummy food. If I play my cards right, I rarely have to cook during cruise season."

Enormous trunk

The 1964 Cadillac was an anniversary gift from her husband five years ago. McDonald said he knew how much she loved both Cadillacs and country singer Dwight Yoakam, whose "Guitars Cadillacs" music video

features a 1963 model. Chris found a similar 1964 version of the car located in southern Indiana on eBay. He bid and won the auction.

They fixed the brakes immediately and have made annual improvements ever since.

"The paint color is a repaint of the original beacon blue, which I think shows off the lines and chrome especially well. My favorite feature is the vent windows. I wish modern cars still had them," she said.

The car is 224 inches long and has an "enormous" trunk, which comes in handy for hauling the canopy, chairs and folding table they take to car shows.

"We are lucky our garage was built back in the '60s," she said. "A lot of modern garages are way too short."

McDonald wore vintage clothing for a show a few years ago, but prefers dressing for comfort, which includes her signature cowboy hat.

"You have to be up very early to travel to most shows and the days

can be very long and hot," she said. "I have to admit, I usually let Chris chauffeur me to most outings, though. He calls it 'Driving Ms. Debra.'"

Chris is a Realtor and McDonald describes herself as a "lucky stay-at-home housewife" who manages their car event calendar. They have five grown children between them.

She's looking forward to Woodward Dream Cruise in August and hopes to someday drive Route 66.

Admission to Cars 'R' Stars is \$5, free for children 12 and under and accompanied by a paid admission. In addition to the car exhibit, the event will include a swap meet, selection of cars for sale, display of historical bicycles, a gift shop, food and music. Go to carsrstars.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Brain Injury Association taps Constand as president

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan on May 31 announced the appointment of its current vice president of Development and Marketing, Tom Constand, as its incoming president.

Constand will succeed current President Michael F. Dabbs, who is retiring at the end of the year, and will officially assume the role Oct. 1. Constand has served in his current position for the past three years. The announcement was made by BIAMI Board Chair Kevin Arnold.

"We're confident in Tom's ability to continue along the same successful leadership path that Mike Dabbs has created for the Association," Arnold said. "His proven leadership skills, in-depth industry knowledge and experience with nonprofit organizations as a whole make him a valuable asset in our ongoing effort to help bridge the accessibility gap between Michigan's extensive brain injury rehabilitative network and all brain injury survivors who need it."

In addition to his experience within the BIAMI, Constand has long been a community volunteer with extensive leadership experience on nonprofit boards. He serves as both an advisory board member and executive committee member of the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation, and is chair of its Fundraising and Development Committee.

From 2009 to 2012, Constand served as board chair of the Boll Family YMCA in downtown Detroit and was a recipient of the Boll YMCA's 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award. He is also a past board mem-



Constand

ber of the Brain Injury Association of America from 2005-2010. In 2008, he received the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's 2008 Community Service Award and was inducted into the Association's Legacy Society as an honorary member. He is also a charter member and served as first president of the AM Rotary Club of Detroit. He and his wife, Debbie, live in West Bloomfield.

"I'm honored to have the endorsement of Mike Dabbs and the Board of Directors for this important position," Constand said. "I look forward to earning the individual support of our survivors, family members and professionals who make up the heart and soul of this association, and continuing the incredible legacy that Mike has established of providing help, hope and a powerful voice on behalf of the approximately 200,000 brain injury survivors in Michigan."

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by brain injury and reducing the incidence and impact of brain injury through education, advocacy, support, treatment services and research.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Happy 45th



Barbara Medwedeff, who hosted the organizational meeting for the Livonia Branch of AAUW (American Association of American Women), cuts the cake as the group celebrates its 45th anniversary. The first organizational meeting was held at Medwedeff's Livonia home Jan. 25. Medwedeff, a charter member, served as president in 1979, 1980 and in 1999 and is still a very active member of the branch. The regular meetings of the Livonia Branch are held in the Social Hall of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia, on the third Tuesday of the month from September through May.

Kosowski and Julie Plawecki, and will be held from 9-10 a.m. at Mr. Mike's Grill, 6047 North Wayne Road. Coffee Hour in Garden City will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Michigan room at the Maplewood Community Center at 31735 Maplewood St. Garden City Coffee Hour will be co-hosted with State Rep. Julie Plawecki and State Sen. David Knezek.

Cruise for a cause
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Livonia is the

new location for the "Cruise-in for a Cause" classic car show. The cruise will be held from 5-8 p.m. Mondays on June 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (no cruise July 4).

Visitors can talk with the car owners about how they restored their vehicles and share thoughts and ideas with other enthusiasts.

The cruise will include a 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to support Blessings in a Backpack of Livonia. There will be

a deejay specializing in '50s and '60s music. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is at 39020 Five Mile Road in Livonia, just east of I-275 next to the Italian American Club.

Pinewood Derby

The Livonia Public Library hosts the second annual Father's Day Pinewood Derby on Saturday, June 18, in the Livonia Civic Center Library Atrium.

Aesthetic judging is at 11 a.m., and racing starts at 1 p.m.

In-library registration and derby kit pickup is through Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Civic Center Reference Desk.

Contact Ken Bignotti, 734-421-4235 (Monday, Wednesday), 248-893-4010 (Tuesday, Thursday), 734-466-2460 (Friday, Saturday) or email bignotti@livoniapubliclibrary.org for more information.

Parking lot sale

St. John Bosco Church hosts a "Parking Lot Sale" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 18. Sellers can sell their "stuff" at this sale.

The church is at 12100 Beech Daly in Redford. For more information, call Sally at 734-748-8110.

Car show

American Legion Post 32 hosts a car show at 9318 Newburgh in Livonia every Thursday from 5 p.m. to dusk through Sept. 29.

Join the Legion for fun, food, cars and bikes. The event also features door prizes, raffles and giveaways. Plaques for "best of show" are awarded each week. Dinner inside and grill food outside.

Westland market

The Westland Farmers & Artisans Market is up and running from 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 13 (closed June 16 and Aug. 4). It features a

variety of food and craft vendors, special events and music. EBT is accepted.

The market is at 1901 N. Carlson, Central City Park, in Westland. For more information, call 734-326-7222 or email westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

Franklin reunion

The Franklin High School Class of 1966 celebrates its 50th reunion Aug. 25-28.

For more information, contact Larry Ruzsas at 810-599-3509 or lruzsas187264mi@comcast.com

GriefShare meetings

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

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

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

Millage fundraiser

The Yes to Livonia committee hosts a kick-off fundraiser to support the Public Safety and Senior Center/Greenmead millage renewals from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 16, at One Under Banquet Hall, 35780 Five Mile Road.

The suggested donation is \$100, with refreshments provided. Money raised will help support the 10-year renewal millages that go before voters in the Aug. 2 election.

The Public Safety Millage will support Livonia Police and Fire departments through staffing, training and equipment. The Senior Center/Greenmead Millage will maintain quality of life health, educational and social activities at the Livonia Senior Center and historical preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

To RSVP or for information, call (734) 421-7333.

Taste of Spree

More than 20 participants will take part in the annual Taste of Spree event from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 23, during Livonia Spree.

Taste of Spree takes place at the Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. Tickets (\$10) are available at the Livonia Community Recreation Center at Hubbard and Five Mile and at the treasurer's office at Livonia City Hall and Community Choice Credit Union.

Soda fountain memories

Michael Hauser, marketing manager for the Michigan Opera Theatre and author of four historic Detroit books, will be presenting a nostalgic look into 20th century retailing of downtown Detroit at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 16, at the Livonia Civic Center Library. Kern's, Crowley's, Kresge's, Federal De-

partment store, Colonial Department store, Woolworth's and Hudson's may be mentioned in this look back in time as shoppers were drawn to downtown Detroit and all the businesses there.

Greenmead garden walk

The Friends for the Development of Greenmead host Livonia's 27th annual Garden Walk from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

Tickets are \$10 on the day of the event or \$9 in advance and are available at Greenmead Historical Park (20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia), on the fifth floor of City Hall at Community Resources, all city libraries and from any Friends of Greenmead members.

The tour will feature five Livonia homes and the Greenmead grounds. All proceeds benefit the restoration of Greenmead Historical Park. For more information, call 248-477-7375.

Vacation Bible School

St. Michael Lutheran Church & School Wayne is hosting Vacation Bible School June 26-30 from 6-8:30 p.m. each day.

Children age 3 to those entering sixth grade are welcome. Pre-registration is recommended by calling the church at 734-728-1950, emailing r.barta@att.net or visiting St. Michael in person.

St. Michael Lutheran Church & School Wayne is at the corner of Hannan and Glenwood Roads.

Anderson coffee hour

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson hosts Coffee Hour events in Garden City and Westland with elected officials from the State of Michigan on Monday, June 13.

Coffee Hour in Westland will be co-hosted with State Reps. Robert

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Friday 17th 6pm-11pm
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Fireworks at Dusk (Rain Date Saturday 18th)

Saturday 18th Noon - 11pm
Family DAY!! Activities for the whole group!
Face Painting...1-6pm and Magician
Whiskey Delux...1-5pm
Sweet Revenge...7-11pm

Sunday 19th Noon - 9pm
Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast...Noon - 2pm (breakfast free to first 100)
Face Painting...Noon-5pm and Magician
Nick & Keelan...1-3pm
The Detroit Drive...4-8pm

FIREWORKS Friday June 17th at Dusk

University study: Baby Boomers lead in happiness

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A considerable 74 percent of baby boomers (born between 1947 and 1963) are said to be happy almost every day — “in complete optimal mental health” in research terms — compared with 68 percent of those born between 1982 and 1997, according to a study led by University of Toronto social work professor Esme Fuller-Thomson.

“It turns out the majority of us are doing well, are happy almost every day,” said Fuller-Thomson, who set the bar high to measure happiness: “If you’re happy just once a week, you didn’t make my cut.” Canton’s the Rev. Bryan Smith, 55, isn’t surprised to hear of the study. Smith, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church of Canton, said, “I think for me there are a lot of things that go into that. My faith gives me a reason to have hope.”

He acknowledges suffering worldwide but his spiritual view “allows me to interpret the struggles of life.”

‘Someone who’s there for you’

The Canadian study found having a confidant/confidante is the true secret to a happy, healthy state of mind at all ages.



SUBMITTED Count the Rev. Bryan Smith, 55, among happy baby boomers. “I feel valued and cared for,” he said. “My wife Jennifer is a very loving person. I have two wonderful kids.”

“You’re 350 percent more likely to be in ‘complete optimal mental health’ if you have someone to confide in than if you don’t; someone who’s there for you and provides a sense of emotional security and well-being,” Fuller-Thomson said.

“My wife Jennifer is a very loving person,” Smith said. “I feel valued and cared for. I have two wonderful kids. I feel like I’m able to do things in my work life that make a difference.”

He’s with people at times of birth, weddings and death. Smith is also pleased to have close friends, noting “I feel like I’ve got a pretty strong support network.”

Compared with millennials, Fuller-Thomson said, boomers are more likely to have financial security, to be in a firmly established relationship,

to be anchored and less likely to be in flux, all of which helps. As for the in-between Gen Xers, 71 percent of them ranked as happy most days.

“I think I tended to be more angry when I was younger,” pastor Smith said. “I was a perfectionist. I think I’m more accepting really of what it means to be human, to have foibles.” That happened for him around age 40 when he became “less upset by things that really got under my skin.”

Smith sought counseling on his childhood issues, which helped him, and now talks to others who are supportive in everyday life. “You want to know there are people you can talk to and things won’t be shared,” he said.

Smith was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and left as a baby. He returns with family summers to

Barrie, Ontario, about 100 kilometers north of Toronto, where the happiness study was done.

“My perception is just getting older physically doesn’t do that,” he said of perspective with age. Those hurt in childhood often struggle.

“I think those issues can be problematic until people die. I’m not sure just getting older means you get more mature or more compassionate,” Smith said.

In the life coaching he

does, he encourages “practicing gratitude.” Smith notes there are genetic factors, although some 40 percent of perspective is based on one’s own behavior.

“I feel that’s really true,” he said.

Family and friends key

Concurring with Smith is Jeff Juenemann, 57, a Northville Township resident who owns Juenemann Insurance Agency of Westland.

“Good family, good health, good friends, good career,” said Juenemann, married for nearly 35 years to Linda and father to two grown children.

“I agree,” Juenemann said of having someone to confide in. “That’s where the friends and family come in.”

Of getting older and having a sense of perspective, he noted, “Some of those things are inconvenience and not tragedy.”

Juenemann has learned, “If you want to go to do something, do it now. You may not get another chance.”

In having a bad day, he says, “I’m now having a good day. I’m starting my day fresh. From this point on, things are going to go better. Your personal attitude is your reality,” Juenemann said.

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CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2016-05-02-10 submitted by MN Express – MAC Yard, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 16.11(d) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to improve the property at 13586 Merriman Road for the outdoor storage of recreational vehicles, located on the east side of Merriman Road between the CSX Railroad right-of-way and Schoolcraft Road in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 26.

Petition 2012-09-02-22 submitted by Marx Collision requesting to modify Council Resolution #462-12 in connection with a previously-approved waiver use adopted on November 21, 2012, in order to allow the overnight outdoor parking and storage of vehicles in connection with the auto repair business at 30731 Eight Mile Road, located on the southwest corner of Eight Mile Road and Milburn Avenue in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 2.

Petition 2002-02-02-04 submitted by Chinese Gospel Church requesting to modify Council Resolution #224-02 in connection with a previously-approved waiver use adopted on April 24, 2002, in order to allow the temporary use of a mobile/modular classroom and worship area in connection with the existing church at 35301 Five Mile Road, located on the south side of Five Mile Road between Farmington Road and Yale Avenue in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 21.

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

Ian Wilshaw, Chairman Pro Tem
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED 2016-2017 BUDGET

Please take notice that on June 23, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., at 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48152 the Board of Education of the Clarenceville School District will hold a public hearing to consider the District’s proposed 2016-2017 budgets.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2016-2017 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2016-2017 budget including the proposed property tax millage rates will be available for public inspection at the Administration Offices, 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48152 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., beginning Thursday, June 16, 2016.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATES PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGETS WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education

Published: June 9 & 12, 2016

LO-000028505 3x3.8

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Memories of Mr. Hockey resonate throughout area

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Birmingham's Varsity Shop owner Marc Secontine will always remember the time he and his son Chaz spent with Gordie Howe outside of Joe Louis Arena.

The two were heading into the arena to see a Red Wings game during the 2008-09 season when they happened to come across Howe, who was sitting behind a small table and signing autographs for anyone would purchase his book, "Nine: A Salute to Mr. Hockey Gordie Howe."

"I share season tickets with three other guys and my son is a huge hockey buff," Secontine said. "So here's a chance for my son to meet Gordie Howe ... he's sitting at this table with two guys and not a single person in line to get his autograph. I knew I'd have to buy a book for \$70, but I figure what the heck and I do it."

A conversation followed for the next 10-15 minutes between Howe and Chaz, in which they waxed about hockey and the Red Wings and the art of being a goalie — a position Howe played in his younger days.

"He was polite and cordial and charming," Marc Secontine said. "You hear all these stories about what a nice person he is with his fans ... and, sure enough, that's exactly how he was."

The legendary player died Friday at the age of 88.

Marc's dad, Vincent C. Secontine Jr., a former player at the University

of Michigan and varsity football coach at Birmingham High School, opened the Varsity Shop in 1954. Above the shop's door for many years was an autographed photo of Vincent Secontine and Howe standing together inside the store.

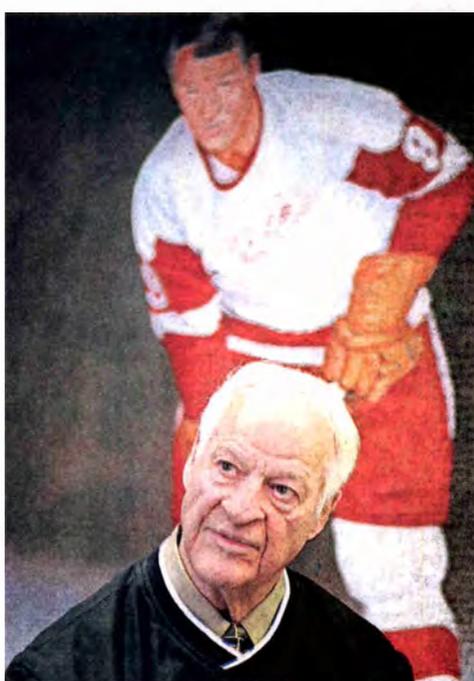
"They weren't drinking buddies, but they knew each other through business and social circles," Marc Secontine said. As for the photo, "someone stole it. They were walking out of the store and they grabbed it from the wall."

Andy Weidenbach, head coach of the Cranbrook Kingswood boys hockey team, grew up playing hockey in the Detroit area in the 1960s. His brother Dave also played. For a time, the two brothers happened to play against Howe's sons, Marty and Mark.

"We were just teenagers and both of them ended up playing professionally," Weidenbach said. "I played against Marty and Dave played against Mark. Gordie would come around sometimes to watch his boys play and everyone wanted to go up to him to say hello. He was just a terrific guy."

Years later, Weidenbach's son Eric would play for Marty Howe when he coached the Gaylord Grizzlies in the North American Hockey League from 1996-98.

"He was a great guy to play for," Weidenbach said. "And, sure enough, Gordie would sometimes come by the rink to watch the games. Whenever you spoke to him, he was such a personable guy. Very quiet and un-



MICHIGAN.COM FILE PHOTO
Former Detroit Red Wings great Gordie Howe.

assuming, but he was always engaging. He was a gentleman."

Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard also crossed paths with Mr. Hockey.

"Way back in the day, I was an altar boy," said Bouchard, a longtime resident of Birmingham. "This was back in the '60s and my best friend was also an altar boy ... and a Red Wings fanatic. He was such a fan that he brought a transistor radio to Mass that had an earpiece running to his ear away from the altar. And he would listen to the games during the

services and call out the score."

The fun continued until the priest caught the two boys whispering over the game one day.

"Years later, when I was serving in the state Senate, I was at an event with Gordie Howe and he just howled when I told him the story," Bouchard said. "He was such a terrific guy, the kind of person that others looked up to and wanted to emulate. He never let us down."

grossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Bad advice can leave you on the hook for IRS penalty

Q: In 2013, when I was 64, I had a very good year and I wanted to give some money to charity. My tax preparer recommended that I take a distribution from my IRA and have that given to charity. He told me in order to avoid taxes on the distribution, I should have the check written out to me and then I should sign the check over to a charity. This is exactly what I did. Recently, I received a notice from the IRS that not only do I have to pay taxes on the money, but I also have to pay penalties and interest. I should note that my tax preparer did take the deduction for the charitable contribution. First, is the IRS right that I have to pay taxes, interest and penalties? If so, do you think my tax preparer has some responsibility?



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

A: I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but the IRS is correct in its assessment. It appears to me that your tax preparer did not understand the law. I think the law he was confused with deals with donating minimum required distributions to charity. I believe your tax preparer made two mistakes.

The first deals with the donation itself. There is a law that allows individuals who are required to take minimum required distributions from their IRA to donate that distribution to a charity. When someone does this, they do not have to include that distribution in their taxable income. The key to this transaction is that you must be at least 70½ to qualify. In your case, because you were in your mid-60s, this provision of the law does not apply to you. The IRS is correct that the distribution is taxable.

Another issue deals with how the contribution was made. Even for someone who is eligible to donate their minimum required distribution to a charity, the check must be issued to the charity or directly transferred. The fact that the check was made out to you, even if you were over 70½, disqualifies you

from this provision. With regard to interest and penalty, the IRS does not waive interest; however, it is possible it would waive penalties. Particularly in your situation, where it is obvious the preparer made an error, it is possible the IRS would waive the penalties. You can petition the IRS for a waiver of penalties.

With regard to your tax preparer, the issue is what they are responsible for. I believe it is clear your tax preparer gave you erroneous advice regarding the law and should be held responsible. At a minimum, they should pay any penalties you are unable to get waived. Unlike interest, which is based upon time, penalties are meant to punish someone for failing to comply with the tax laws. Since your tax preparer is the one who gave you the bad advice, as far as I'm concerned, he should be the one responsible for the penalties. If your tax preparer is honorable, he should volunteer to pay the penalties.

There is much confusion when it comes to qualified charitable distributions from an IRA. In order to qualify for this favorable tax treatment, you must be at least age 70½ when the distribution is made. In addition, the maximum qualified charitable distribution is \$100,000 and the distribution must be made directly to the charity either by the check being written to the charity or the money directly transferred.

In the past, qualified charitable distributions were somewhat iffy because, in the infinite wisdom of Washington, the law had to be re-implemented year after year. Unfortunately, it generally wasn't until late December that the law was re-authorized. Therefore, many people could not take advantage. However, that changed last year when the law was made permanent. Therefore, people over 70½, particularly those who are charitable in nature and do not itemize their deductions, can significantly save with regard to taxes.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

DPD retired sergeant offers tips on avoiding scams

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Scams can hit unwary consumers, with thieves using increasingly sophisticated methods to trap victims. Robert Haig, a 27-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department, shared advice on avoiding becoming a victim at a Thursday, June 9, Plymouth District Library presentation.

"It was one of the more devastating crimes I had ever seen," said Haig, a Livonia resident who retired as a sergeant in 2013. He urged his audience of about 30 to never give out a Social Security number.

"Has anybody in this room ever heard of anybody going to prison on this? The bank won't prosecute. It does not pay to prosecute the case," Haig said. "Millions and millions of dollars lost by our financial institutions because of this."

He noted a typical holdup in Detroit yields the robber about \$20 cash and a credit card he'll use



JULIE BROWN
Of pigeon drops, retired Detroit Police Department Sgt. Robert Haig said, "It's happening right now in this state, guaranteed."

without the PIN, such as for repleted gas fill-ups. Of "skimmers" at gas stations, recently on the news, Haig said, "You're getting away from your regular street criminal."

Older people are targeted as they're less able to run or fight back, he said. Often, suspects

work in pairs and are well-dressed. Some pigeon-drop cases have also had criminals who impersonate police officers, claiming the bank is stealing and asking for

another money withdrawal from the victim.

Haig showed a fake warrant and letter from the prosecutor's office, and noted it's easy to make up such documents. He also showed fake badges.

"Enforcement officer? What the heck is that? Six bucks on eBay," he said of a fake badge he passed around. He called the criminals "brazen," noting a couple drove a victim to the 10th Precinct and pretended to work there.

Police need search warrant

Haig also gave a reminder on the U.S. Constitution. "A search warrant. This is America," he said, noting police can only enter your home with a valid search warrant or in hot pursuit, called "exigent circumstances."

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROPOSED 2016-2017 BUDGET MONDAY, June 27, 2016

Please take notice that, on June 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2016-2017 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2016-2017 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2016-2017 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

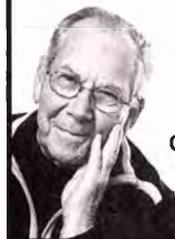
This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

FREDERICK L. WEAVER, Th.D. Secretary

Published: June 12, 2016

LC-00028527 2/3

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
American Montessori Academy will hold a public hearing June 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm at 14800 Middlebelt Road in Livonia (734) 525-7100 to review the proposed 2016-2017 operating budget. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address.
Publish: June 9, 2016 LC-00028527 2/3 5

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children
Free meals will be made available to any child under the age of 18 or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency.
Meals will be provided at the sites listed below:
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Hamilton Elementary 1031 Schuman Westland, MI 48186
Taft Elementary 4035 Gloria Wayne, MI 48186
Marshall Upper Elementary 35100 Bayview Westland, MI 48186
Schweitzer Elementary 2601 Treadwell Westland, MI 48186
Hoover Elementary 5400 Fourth Wayne, MI 48184
Wayne Memorial High School 3001 Fourth Street Wayne, MI 48184
Adams Upper Elementary 33475 Palmer Westland, MI 48186
Meal Service will start on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at all locations*
*Days and hours vary by location
For hours, program and dates, and meals provided, please call the school
For more information, please call 734-419-2118
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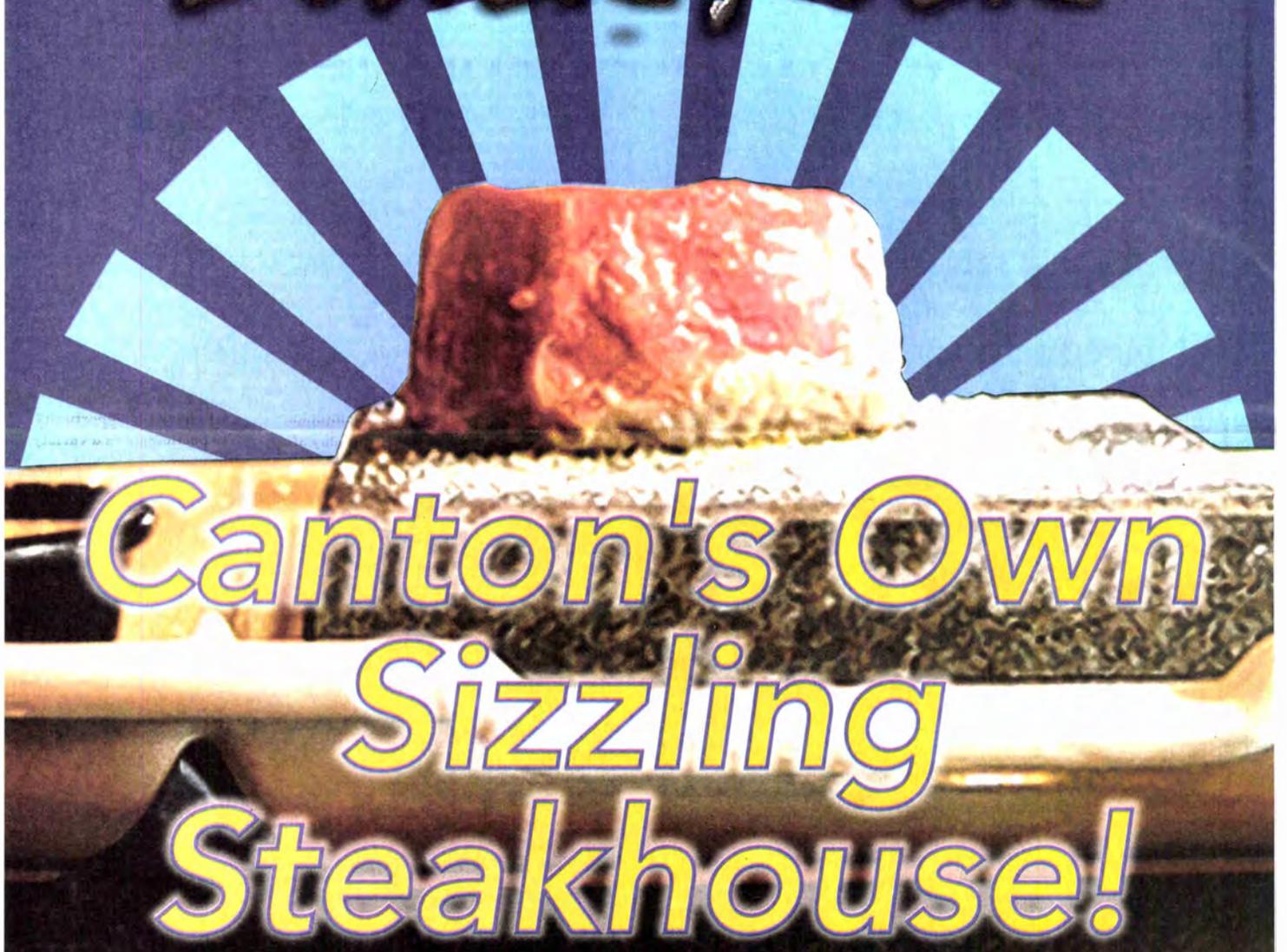


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RUNNING

New York City Marathon – No. 18 on way to 50-state goal



Well before the sun starts to reflect a golden haze off glass-lined office buildings in Livonia, Jessie Gruca and her German short-haired pointer, Belle, are out training for Gruca's next marathon.

She and Belle have already completed seven miles when I join them at 5 a.m. for a short run one recent Thursday morning. Gruca qualified for the TCS New York City Marathon by running 3:12.32 at Indy last year, so she is kind to set a 10:15 pace for me as we head down a tree-lined subdivision street with Belle leashed



See **RUNNER**, Page B4 With Belle, a German short-hair pointer in the lead, Jessie Gruca runs along Six Mile Road in Livonia. DAN DEAN

Lutheran state track finals

Several local athletes competing for Westland St. Matthews earned "All-State" recognition at the Lutheran State Middle School Finals track-and-field meet held at Frankenmuth High School last week.

In the B Division, which consisted of fourth-graders through sixth-graders, Paul Davenport was the state champion in the shot put after heaving the metal ball 32 feet, 11.75 inches.

Lucas Pereyra was the state champion in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5 minutes, 37.6 seconds. He was also third in the 800.

Noah Eden placed seventh in the 400 dash with a time of 1 minute, 10.7 seconds.

Davenport, Pereyra, Eden and Josh Ivey all competed on St. Matthews' 1,600-meter relay team, which set a record of 4:42.55.

In the A Division (seventh-graders and eighth-graders), Jack Divine was eighth in the shot put while Victoria Pereyra was runner-up in the 400 with a time of 65.04. She was also seventh in the 800 (2:43.13).

Maggie Lambert turned in an All-State effort of 4 feet, 5 inches in the high jump.

GIRLS REGIONAL SOCCER

BLAZERS' RALLY EXTINGUISHED



Ladywood senior defender Elisa Pollock is pictured clearing the ball during a game earlier this season. TOM BEAUDOIN

Marian holds on to edge Ladywood in 'crazy' contest

Marty Budner
Staff Writer

Bloomfield Hills Marian has never lost in the regional round of the girls soccer state tournament.

The Mustangs maintained that perfection Thursday afternoon with a crazy 3-2 victory over familiar Catholic League foe Livonia Ladywood in the Division 2 regional championship game played at Hurley Field in Berkley.

The bizarre three-hour affair, which included an hour delay in the first half after the main on-field official was carted off with a knee injury, could be best described as a blowout that quickly turned into a nail-biter on the strength of one marvelous Ladywood shot.

"We've done well in the regional. I think we've been here 10 times and we've won 10 times," said veteran Marian head coach Barry Brodsky, whose team hiked its record to 16-2-2. "We've never got knocked out at the regional, but it's the next step that you want to take."

"This was a game where you just had to keep your focus, because things happen during the tournament. (Ladywood) got a big goal and nerves are frayed at this time of the year."

See **SOCCER**, Page B4

IN THE FINAL FOUR

Bloomfield Hills Marian is one of four teams still alive in the Division 2 state tournament, which concludes this week:

STATE SEMIFINALS Wednesday, June 15

AT NOVI: Bloomfield Hills Marian vs. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 7 p.m.

AT HOPE COLLEGE: Dexter vs. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, 7 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME Saturday, June 18

AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY: Semifinal winners play for state crown, 4 p.m.

Summer fitness

All Livonia Public School students in grades seventh through 12th are invited to participate in a free physical education program (PEP) this summer.

Beginning Tuesday, June 28, middle and high school students from LPS will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of health and fitness activities at Churchill and Stevenson high schools.

The program will run every Tuesday and Thursday from June 28 through Aug. 11. No activities will be held on July 5 and 7.

Activities offered include yoga, pilates, basketball, CrossFit, and access to the fitness center, weight rooms, and track.

All participating students must submit a permission slip on their first day of attendance.

Franklin baseball camp

The annual Livonia Franklin "Future Stars" baseball camp will be held June 27-30 at the Patriots' baseball field.

The camp, which will run from 9 a.m. to noon each day, is open to kids entering grades second through eighth. The \$60 registration fee includes a T-shirt for each participant.

Members of the Franklin coaching staff and Patriots players will instruct the campers on several sport-specific skills.

The registration deadline is June 24.

For more information, contact Franklin head baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livonia.k12.mi.us or visit www.franklinpatriotsbaseball.com.



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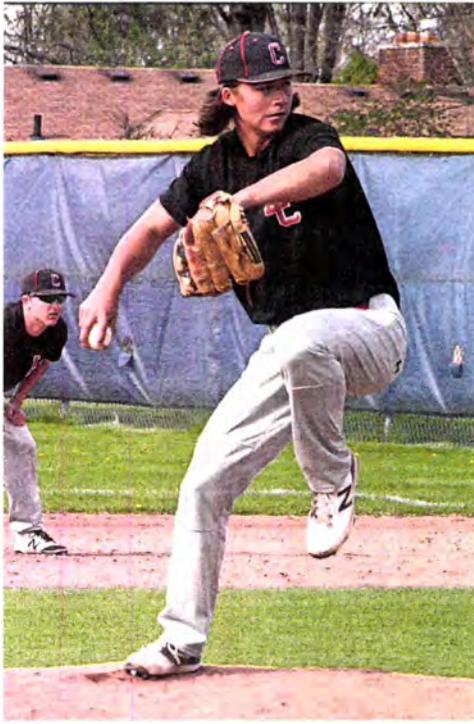
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James Rintala's high-performance baseball career will continue at Henry Ford College.

COLLEGIATE SIGNING

Next-level baseball opportunity awaits Rintala

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The wheels of James Rintala's high-performance baseball career are going to continue to roll thanks to an opportunity provided by Henry Ford College.

On May 25, Rintala officially signed on to play at the next level for the Hawks, who were impressed by the Livonia Churchill senior's combination of pitching, hitting and defensive skills.

"They told me I would get the opportunity to pitch and play some outfield, too, which is something I was looking for," said Rintala, who was one of the Chargers' most-productive players this past spring. "I'm excited



Livonia Churchill senior James Rintala was joined by Henry Ford College baseball coach Tim Leighton (left) and Churchill head coach Ron Targosz as he signed a letter of intent to pitch for the Hawks beginning next spring.

study two years at Henry Ford then move on to a bigger school and continue to play baseball," he said. "The coaches at Henry Ford told me they will help me achieve my goals."

Rintala was discovered by Henry Ford coach Tim Leighton at a camp last summer.

"He kept in touch and eventually offered me an opportunity to play," Rintala said.

While pumped up about playing college baseball, Rintala admitted he'll miss playing for the Chargers.

"I've been playing with a lot of my teammates for a long time, so I'll miss that," he said.

about the chance to continue playing baseball."

Rintala has sparkled on the diamond and in the classroom at Churchill, where he has compiled a

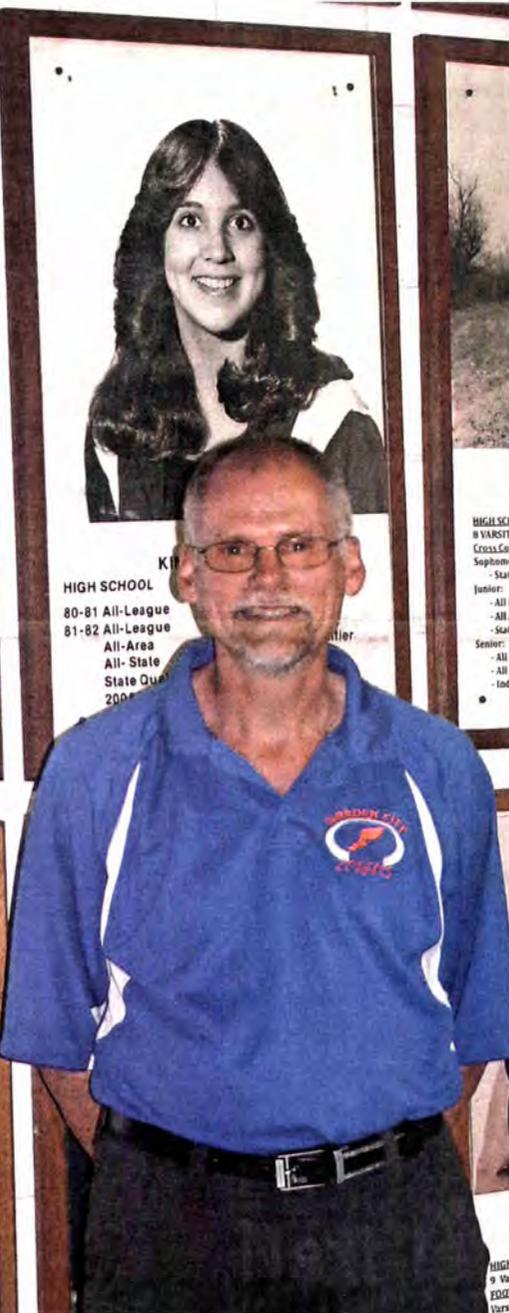
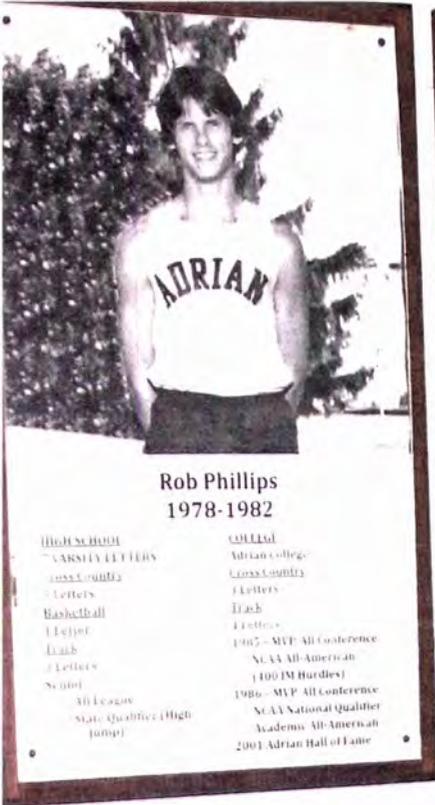
sterling 3.8 grade-point average.

His goal is to ultimately pursue a degree in business.

"I'd like to play and

ewright@hometownlife.com

GARDEN CITY ATHLETICS



Retiring Garden City High School athletic director Rob Phillips stands by his plaque that hangs in the school's hall of fame.

Phillips' successful run with Cougars ending

Longtime coach and athletic director stepping down

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A leadership fixture on the Garden City High School athletics scene for over three decades, Rob Phillips is ready to direct his positive energy toward another endeavor.

The Cougars' athletic director since 2010 and a successful track-and-field and cross country coach prior to that, Phillips will hand over the AD reins to Garrett

Simpson on June 16. Before serving as a mentor at the high school, Phillips earned seven varsity letters — three each in cross country and track-and-field and one in basketball — at Garden City.

He was a state-qualifying high jumper in 1982.

Phillips became just the third person in the history of the high school to hold the athletic director position (Bill Pennell and Bob Dropp are the other two).

Phillips said he has always admired the mind-set and determination of the athletes who made the high school proud.

"Garden City has always had competitive, hard-nosed, hard-work-

Phillips earned seven varsity letters — three each in cross country and track-and-field and one in basketball — at Garden City.

ing kids who hate to lose," he said. "I can honestly say that I enjoyed working with every athlete I dealt with over the past several years.

"The city has always had good programs for the younger athletes and I've had the opportunity to work with some great coaches."



Members of the Livonia Stevenson pom team helped distribute water to participants of the Spartan 5K held May 22.

Stevenson pom team pitching in to help community

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Several weeks after their last competition of the season, members of the Livonia Stevenson pom team are staying cohesive and busy.

On May 22, the girls helped distribute bottled water to runners participating in the Spartan 5K.

Pom team members also collected and sorted clothing for the Livonia PTSA Council Clothing

Depot, which provides clothes free of charge to underprivileged Livonia Public School students.

The pom team passed out water to the runners and cheered them on as they crossed the finish line.

The pom team sorted clothing they collected for their clothing drive for the Livonia PTSA Council Clothing Depot.

ewright@hometownlife.com

GC's Hill is bound for Adrian



Garden City senior track-and-field standout Billy Hill (seated, middle) is pictured with his family after signing a letter of intent to run for Adrian College beginning in 2017.

COLLEGIATE SIGNING

Bakerian's diamond skills coveted by Adrian

Garden City senior signs on to play college baseball

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In an era when an increasing number of high school athletes are choosing to specialize in one sport, Garden City's Vinnie Bakerian is a refreshing break from the norm.

A multi-year varsity contributor to the Cougars' soccer, basketball and baseball teams, Bakerian didn't just play, he thrived — on the playing fields and in the classroom.

On Wednesday, the scrappy, line drive-hitting shortstop's multi-sport participation was validated when he signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Adrian College beginning in the fall.

Owner of a 3.6 grade-point average, Bakerian was a rock-solid defender for Garden City's soccer team in the fall and a steady, sweet-

shooting guard for the Cougars' hoops squad during the winter.

It was on the baseball diamond, however, where Bakerian enjoyed his most fulfilling success as heading into Saturday's regional semi-final game against Detroit Western International, he had swung his way to a .500-plus batting average and over 30 RBI.

"Vinnie is everything a coach could hope for in a baseball player," first-year GC head coach Matt Penn said. "He gives us offense, defense, character, a dugout presence and leadership."

"One of the reasons he's such a good hitter is because he has the fastest hands on the team. He can wait a little longer than most guys when it comes to waiting on a pitch."

Bakerian has joined a parade of Garden City athletes who have created a Garden City pipeline to Adrian. Penn and athletic director Rob Phillips are two of several Cougars who have attended the Division 3

school. "There is a lot I like about the school," Bakerian said. "Their baseball facilities are amazing, they have an indoor facility with a lot of batting cages and a huge indoor field. I like the academic scholarships they offered me, too."

Bakerian first caught the Adrian coaching staff's eye at a prospect camp held last summer at Eastern Michigan University.

"The coach talked to me and they came to a couple of my games," he said. "I've always loved baseball. I'm a competitive person and I like the team aspect about it."

Bakerian said his initial plans are to pursue a degree in sports marketing.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," he said. "It's been a dream of mine for a while to play college baseball and it feels good to know it's about to come true."

ewright@hometownlife.com



GARDEN CITY



HIGH SCHOOL

With family members, coaches and Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips looking on, Garden City senior Vinnie Bakerian (seated, left) signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Adrian College beginning next spring.

WOODEN BAT BASEBALL

Rams start season with three-game win streak

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Michigan Rams are off to a three-mendous start to their 2016 Michigan Collegiate Baseball League season.

Through Wednesday's 5-1 victory over A. Green, the Rams are 3-0.

Zack Schmidtke gave A. Green fits on Wednesday as he scattered four hits and three walks over five innings to win his season debut. Schmidtke struck out seven.

Andrew Fabry suffered the setback after yielding five runs and seven hits over six frames.

The Rams never trailed after jumping out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning.

Alex Peczynski provided some offensive spark for the winners by going 3-for-3 with an RBI and run. Patrick Downing was 2-for-3 with a double and run scored, and Tristen Jorah contributed an RBI single.

Michael Mitchell and David Cole both roped a pair of hits for A. Green.

On June 6 the Rams upended the Southfield Lightning, 6-0, behind Addison Pawelek's complete-game gem.

Pawelek, who faced just 22 batters — one more than the minimum for a seven-inning game — struck out four and walked four.

Tom Psyches suffered the loss for the Lightning. Josh Arndt, Peczynski and Jorah all laced two hits for the winners, who collected eight safeties altogether.

Tyler Lowe chipped in with an RBI single and Anthony DiPonio walked twice and scored a run.

Bill Irving's single with one out in the seventh broke up Pawelek's no-hit bid.

The Rams opened the season on June 3 with a 3-0 triumph over the Cubs.

Layne Gusler was outstanding on the mound, holding the Cubs to one hit and two walks while fanning nine.

Miles Ivory delivered the lone hit for the Cubs.

Nolan Page (1-for-3, two RBI, run) and Downing (2-for-3, RBI) were the catalysts for the Rams' offense, which scored all of its runs in the sixth inning.

Cubs starting pitcher James Rogers deserved a better fate after blanking the Rams over the first five innings.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PDL SOCCER

Bucks' Bock returns to old CC stomping grounds

Ex-football standout makes transition to soccer

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The last time Zach Bock stepped on Catholic Central's football field he was wearing a different kind of jersey.

Three years later, Bock will not only be wearing a different jersey, but minus the helmet and shoulder pads when he suits up for the Michigan Bucks of the U.S. Soccer League's Premier Development League as they will be taking on the Cincinnati Dutch Lions beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday at CC's Fr. Elmer Stadium.

"The only time I was on that field was for football, never got to play soccer there," said Bock, a starting defender

with the Bucks. "It's definitely exciting. My older brother (Andrew) was on the soccer team at Catholic Central and I went to a lot of his games to support him and his team there, but being able to play just again on the Catholic Central field is going to be exciting whether it's football or soccer."

On the gridiron, Bock was a standout kick returner, cornerback and running back for the Shamrocks, who reached the 2013 MHSAA Division 1 state finals. As a senior he was named to the 22-member Detroit Free Press Dream Team.

But during the winters, springs and summers, Bock was suiting up for the Michigan Jaguars and it would eventually land him a soccer scholarship to Western Michigan University.

"I definitely had an aspiration to play college football," said Bock, who has a

younger brother Alex headed to Ferris State this fall on a football ride. "I attended a lot of camps and things of that nature, but I think about early in my junior year I decided I'd like to play soccer after my youth team made it to the national championship game in Rock Hill S.C."

During the US Youth National Championship run with U-16 Jaguars in 2012, Bock took home the Golden Ball as the tournament MVP.

"I just really love soccer," Bock said. "And as much as I loved football, I just thought it was time to give it up after my senior year."

"My parents started me in soccer when I was like 3 years-old and it's just something I've stuck with my whole life. Now having the opportunity to play with Western Michigan and the Michigan Bucks it's an awesome experience for me."

Converting over from football to soccer, however, was an adjustment to say the least while the Novi native was at CC.

"It was definitely a weird combination," Bock said. "I was doing a lot of different conditioning for each sport. When football ended in late November, around Thanksgiving, it was definitely a month-and-a-half of hard work transitioning from football shape into soccer shape, and getting my touch back. But I wouldn't have traded it for anything. I loved playing football at Catholic Central, but I loved playing soccer."

As a freshman and full-time soccer player at WMU, Bock started 15-of-18 games on the backline and had three goals and two assists. As a sophomore, Bock started all 19 matches leading the Broncos to an 11-4-4 overall record and a 3-1-1 mark in the Mid-American Conference.

But a potential NCAA tournament bid eluded the Broncos last fall when a Catholic League rival from none other than Birmingham Brother Rice scored the game-winning goal.

"We had a bit of a disappointing end to the season getting knocked out in the semifinals of the MAC," said Bock, who carries a 4.0-grade point average majoring in business. "Actually, a kid on the Bucks team (Russell Cicerone of Buffalo) scored on us in overtime to knock us out."

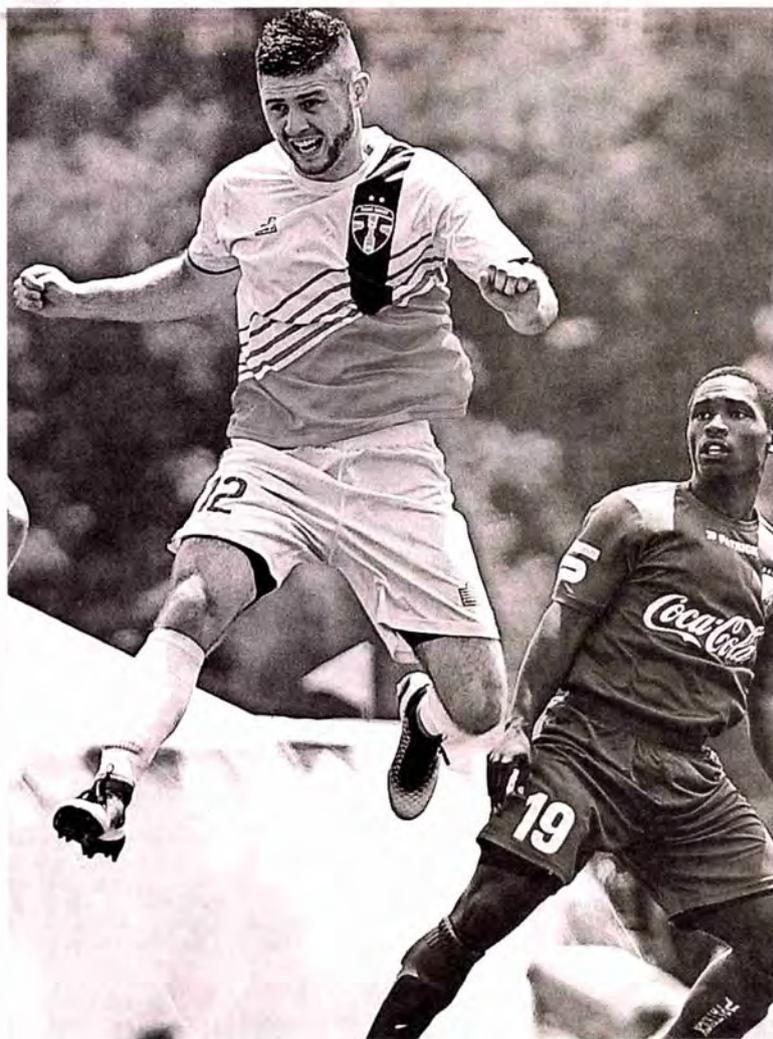
This summer, the second-place Bucks are off to a 3-1 start in the the Great Lakes Division of the PDL's Central Conference. They are coming off a 1-0 loss to the Dayton Dutch Lions, but have outscored their opponents, 12-1.

"We've had a lot of success as a defense and going forward we have aspirations of winning the PDL and hopefully not allowing any goals this Thursday," said Bock, who was a Bucks part-time starter last year.

Tickets for the Bucks-Cincinnati game are available at the gate for \$10 (adults 16-and-over) and \$7 (youth).

Pre-sale tickets for all ages can be purchased on line for only \$6 at www.bucksoccer.com. Group packages (20 or more) are also available by calling Bucks Director of Operations Kelly Haapala at 248-521-2179.

bemons@hometownlife.com



Catholic Central alum Zach Bock (left, shown at the recent Canton Cup) has been a mainstay on the backline for the Michigan Bucks.

USA HOCKEY

National Team Development Program needs billets to host new players

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, now housed at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, is actively seeking host families for the upcoming 2016-17 season.

The program soon will welcome 22 players for the fall. Each player is in need of a

"home away from home" as they attend local high schools and represent the United States on and off the ice.

Each year, the NHL is filled with players that once called USA Hockey's NTDP home. Just last season, more than 75 alumni of the NTDP skated in the NHL, including superstars like Dylan Larkin of the Detroit Red Wings, Phil Kessel,

Patrick Kane and Ryan Suter.

And many more joined the NCAA ranks skating for the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and many other college programs.

Please contact the NTDP housing department at housing@usahockey.org for more information.



INTRODUCING VOLTAGE ELITE

Plymouth's Adebiyi launching AAU program

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Deji Adebiyi played football and basketball at Plymouth High School, he consistently brought energy as well as the necessary smarts and sweat to excel at the varsity level.

And just a year after graduating, Adebiyi — along with Plymouth classmates Harman Sidhu and Josh Gendron — are doing a full-court press on area youth to turn up their own competitive juices.

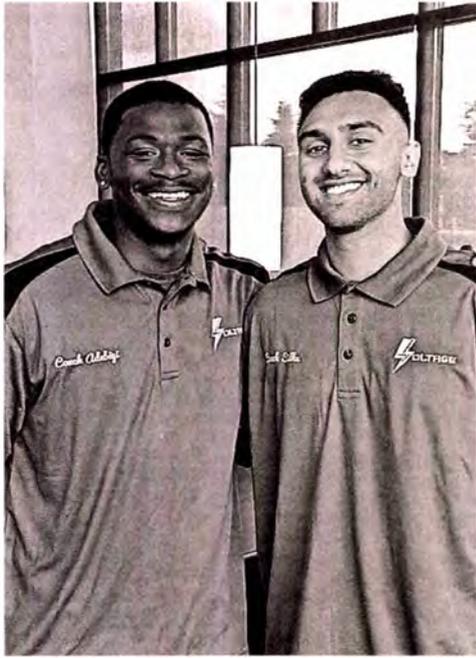
They've organized nonprofit Voltage Elite, through which they soon will launch a six-week football skills program and Amateur Athletic Union boys basketball summer team.

'Spark and energy'

"(Voltage Elite) definitely signifies the spark and the energy," said Adebiyi, who by the way also is in the midst of training to play quarterback this fall at Ohio Wesleyan University. "Our motto is 'Spark Up,' just radiating positive energy in order to build a brighter future for kids. And that's what we have. We want to bring that spark."

"We look at the metro Detroit area right now, it's kind of down, it needs that spark to come up. We have to reach the youth with that."

Voltage Elite's first-ever official endeavor is the six-week football camp, which runs June 21 through July 28 (11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through



Deji Adebiyi (left) and Harman Sidhu are Plymouth High School alumni who are teaming up to launch Voltage Elite. The endeavor will include a six-week football camp and 14U AAU basketball team.

Thursday each week). It is for kids from "elementary through high school," Adebiyi said. "We're not going to separate kids that want to come to get better."

The 14-and-under AAU team primarily is for boys going into eighth or ninth grade. Tryouts will take place 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, at the former Central Middle School in Plymouth, now called the PARC (650 Church Street).

Once a 12-player team

is chosen, games in the competitive Midwest Athletics League will begin July 11 and continue until early August.

"It's definitely doable," Adebiyi said when asked about whether it was possible to virtually pull off two simultaneous endeavors. "We definitely got a passion for it."

Both the football camp and basketball team are not just for Plymouth and Canton residents.

"We have kids (signed up) from Wayne, West-

land, Southfield," he said.

Rolling it out

Adebiyi said he is Voltage Elite founder and that he brought in Sidhu and Gendron (one of Adebiyi's teammates with the football Wildcats) to handle business and website duties, respectively.

"I'm the founder; those two guys are the co-founders," Adebiyi said. "I brought them along on the team. Josh is a big guy with our web, goes to College for Creative Studies in Detroit, did all our website."

"Harman is more of the business guy. Me, I'm kind of a (Plymouth) sports celebrity. I think we're like a three-headed monster."

They are executing the X's and O's from a get-the-word-out standpoint, too. Voltage Elite will have a barbecue this weekend and then have a booth at Heritage Park during Canton's Liberty Fest (June 16-18).

"I feel this is a great opportunity for me," Sidhu said. "Because I am going into business, it's a good start-up thing for me, showing I have dreams and ambitions to do greater things outside of school."

"And also, on the sports side, I've never had anything like this growing up, so bringing this to the kids and to the community is a good thing."

Helping the cause will be their legal consultant, Tommy Wiegman, a Canton grad who goes to the University of Michigan.

**The Four C's**

Their enthusiasm for their budding endeavors is palpable and they hope that rubs off on the young athletes who either will participate in the football program or play on the 14U AAU basketball team.

The football sessions will unfold on the practice field behind the old Central Middle School and, as of early last week, there were around 30 kids registered through www.voltageelite.com.

"No pads, just learning about the basics of football and the life lessons off the field," Adebiyi said. "All of our coaches are qualified, so guys will be getting speed and agility techniques and fundamentals."

"They'll be going through and performing drills, having fun. We want to hit a lot with character off the field. We have these four C's that we talk about, it's communication, character, chemistry and consistency. If you want the youth to grow up in this world and be something great, we have to have something off the field, too."

Helping Adebiyi coach the Voltage Elite basketball team will be Sidhu (who played basketball at Plymouth as a freshman

and sophomore) and one of Adebiyi's varsity teammates, Josh Reynolds.

"The kids we want for basketball, we want to make sure they're very competitive," Sidhu said. "They're going to be playing in a very competitive league, so we want to make sure these kids are tough-minded individuals, never give up on themselves."

"If they do, we're going to use the 'Spark Up' mentality. If you see them put their head down, like, 'come on, spark up, get back in this.'"

Why he does it

Adebiyi said coaching the football program and basketball team over the next couple of months won't hinder his own training for the 2016 Ohio Wesleyan football season.

If anything, his coaching duties will enhance his personal preparations — even if that means getting to the gym at 6 a.m. to get his own workout done.

"I'm so passionate about this and passionate about my own game, too," Adebiyi said. "It's going to force me to be at the field, it's going to force me to be doing all the things I should be doing."

"Just looking and seeing kids putting their all into it, it's going to re-energize me whenever I do feel a little down. Remind me of why I'm truly doing this."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Cougar hoops camp

The Garden City girls basketball program will be hosting a "Cougar Camp" June 20-23 for boys and girls who will be attending third through eighth grade.

The camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

The cost of the camp is \$20 per day. Participants can attend one, two, three or all four days of the camp.

With Garden City players and coaches serving as instructors, the camp will feature instruction on fundamentals, contests and scrimmages.

For more information, contact Garden City girls basketball coach Michele Tyreem at tyreem@gardencityschools.com; or call Ted Fournier at 734-368-5031.

Stevenson football camps

The Livonia Stevenson football program will host two camps the week of July 25-28.

The 2016 Technique and Skills Camp, which is designed for students entering grades 9-12, will be held July 25-28 from 3-6 p.m. each day (Monday registration opens at 2 p.m.).

The cost is \$60, which includes a T-shirt.

This camp is designed for students to learn and develop skills to become more successful during their high school careers. This camp will cover offensive and defensive skills and techniques that are required for specific positions.

The program's youth camp, for kids entering grades 3-8, will be held July 25-26, and costs \$10.

This camp is designed for first-year players to veteran players.

Participants must register by July 8 to guarantee receiving a T-shirt.

For more information, contact head coach Randy Micallef at rmicallef@livoniapublicschools.org.

Franklin alumni baseball game

The Livonia Franklin baseball program will be hosting an alumni game on Sunday, May 22, at 6 p.m. at the school's baseball field.

The cost to participate will be \$20.

For more information, contact head coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org.

Churchill girls hoops camp

The Livonia Churchill girls basketball camp will be held July 27-29 from 5-7 p.m. each night in the school's gymnasium.

Kids who will be entering first through ninth grades are invited to participate. The \$60 registration fee includes a T-shirt if the participant is registered prior to July 1.

For more information, contact Churchill head coach K'Len Morris at Kmo2334@gmail.com or 810-874-8641.

RUNNER

Continued from Page B1

around her waist.

"I swear if I let her lead we would be in the middle of nowhere, chasing rabbits and we'd never stop running," she says of Belle, chuckling as we dodge sprinklers on the sidewalks and head to the dry comfort of the street.

Gruca reveals that on her honeymoon to Disney World she ran a 5K, 10K, half-marathon and marathon — collectively known as the Dopey Challenge — and plans on running a marathon in Hawaii for her 25th wedding anniversary. Just as the signs of construction season are obvious by the orange barrels we navigate along Six Mile, it is safe to say Gruca, 27, has the running bug and a supportive husband (Mark). "He is a physical therapist. He will go as far as a half-marathon, but no more," she said as he knows the punishment the body takes. "He ran the half at Disney with me."

Gruca, who works as a team leader at ITC Transmission in Novi as a civil engineer, has completed 17 marathons, well on her way to achieve her goal of running a marathon in all 50 states. This year, she has completed the Houston



Jessie Gruca, 27, from Livonia has completed 17 marathons, qualifying for New York by running a 3:12.32 at Indy last year.

Marathon, is heading to the Seattle Marathon next week and will be a pace-setter for the Air Force Marathon in September, before heading Nov. 6 to New York City. She has also completed the Island Lake Olympic distance triathlon this year and is training to do a half Ironman in August.

A former soccer and field hockey player at Ladywood High School, Gruca started running at the urging of her college roommate, who ran track and cross country for South Lyon High School. Gruca earned a bachelor's and a

master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and ran her first half-marathon in Detroit in 2009. Ironically, her roommate wound up not running with her, as she did not have a passport. "I ended up doing pretty well and improved my time in 2010 before I went on to do the Detroit marathon in 2011 and started my 50-state idea, as I wanted to visit all my friends," she said.

She completed Boston in 2013, has run the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., counts San Francisco as one of her

FAST FACTS

Name: Jessie Gruca
Age: 27
Number of marathons completed: 17 (two of them I paced; 15 states completed since trying to run a marathon in all 50 states)
Favorite running song: I don't listen to music while running
Shoes: ASICS J33
GPS/watch: Garmin 920xt
Favorite energy gel: I make my own larabars
Best advice for a newbie: Try and have fun, listen to your body and chase after your goals. Stretch after running to help prevent injuries!

favorites and looks forward to running Chicago in the future. "Right now, I am just trying to hit all my friends so I have a place to stay," she said.

If you are in a runner signed up for the TCS New York City Marathon, drop me an email. I would love to profile others from Michigan and maybe even go for a run together as we prepare for this iconic event.

Dan Dean is interim managing editor for the Observer & Eccentric. Contact him at ddean@hometownlife.com.
Twitter: @DandSports and #MiMarathoner. NYC; Instagram: EspressoDanno and Facebook: Observer & Eccentric Sports.

SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

And I think as coaches, maybe, we were a little too excited. I think that affected the girls, too.

"Anyone can be happy with a 3-0 lead," he added. "We should have done a better job. Hopefully, we can learn from it."

51 minutes in control

Marian was in absolute control through the first 51 minutes. The Mustangs attacked relentlessly and played oppressive defense against a Blazers team they had tied (1-1) and defeated (2-1) in their previous two meetings this season.

In the first half, Marian outshot Ladywood 11-1 and forced Blazers goalie Abbey Reppen to make a number of key saves. The first half's lone goal was deflected high into the net in off the left foot of Marian sophomore forward Haley Denha, off a crisp cross from junior forward Ellie DeConinck.

The Mustangs continued their assault with a pair of impressive goals just 10 minutes into the second half that put them up 3-0.

DeConinck scored the first at 38:16 on a sterling right-wing run, angling in toward the goal and blasting a ground shot into the far side of the net past the outstretched arms of a diving Reppen.

Just seven minutes later, freshman forward Jansen Eichenlaub deflected another brilliant cross from DeConinck into the middle of the net.

The Mustangs seemed to be headed to an easy decision and their first multi-goal win over the Blazers this season. Then Ladywood got the spark it needed from senior midfielder Conner Huggins. At the 28:24 mark, Huggins smartly floated a perfect shot from 25 yards out into the far side of the Marian net just over goalie Kaitlin Patouhas.

Seven minute later, sophomore Amy Babon was taken down in the box after

a dangerous run. Babon was awarded a penalty kick and cleanly sent it home.

Equalizer never came

All of a sudden, Ladywood regained momentum and was just one shot from tying the game. However, the equalizer never came in the intensely played final 20 minutes.

"Conner's goal really got us going but, unfortunately, we had a couple breakdowns in quick succession there which let us go 3-nil down, which I didn't think we deserved," said first-year Ladywood first-year head coach Joe Kelly, whose team finished 11-5-6. "But for the girls to fight that well and come back the way they did was good. The first goal put a little energy in us and they really, really pushed it."

"Well done to Marian, though. They played very well and played consistent all season," he added.

"We've had tight games with Marian all year. All the games we've played could have gone either way. It's

been a battle with them all season."

Brodsky said senior Amy Stroud, coming back from ACL surgery, and junior outside midfielder Elli Johnson played strong games. Junior goalie Isabel Hayes started and played the first half before Patouhas took over in the second.

Marian now advances to a Division 2 state semifinal, set for 7 p.m. June 15 at Novi High School against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep. The Mustangs never made it to the regional last year after losing to Prep in a hotly-contested district championship game.

The teams figure to wage another battle, with the stakes much higher this year — a berth in the Division 2 state championship game at 4 p.m. June 18 at Michigan State University.

"Notre Dame Prep is a really good team," Brodsky said. "I thought their regional was the toughest regional. They beat Fenton and DeWitt, so I'm sure they'll be ready to play us."

RELIGION CALENDAR

Email event information for this calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com

JUNE CONCERT

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. June 22
Location: Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit
Details: Riccardo Selva, director of the jazz studies program at Schoolcraft College, will perform with the Dr. Riccardo Selva & Friends Jazz Combo in the Center's Creation Garden. Wine, soft drinks and appetizers will be available. The concert is free
Contact: solanuscenter.org

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 22
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: The Canton Concert Band will perform on the church lawn. Bring a chair or blanket
Contact: 734-459-3333; connectingwithGod.org

FILM

Time/Date: 7:30-9:02 p.m. Tuesday, June 28
Location: AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia
Details: One-night screening of "Alison's Choice," a story about a young pregnant woman who meets Jesus Christ in the guise of a friendly janitor while waiting for her name to be called at an abortion clinic. She must decide if she will go through with the abortion. Tickets are \$13 and must be reserved by June 21. Order tickets at https://www.tugg.com/events/106414
Contact: Donna Gonzalez at 313-247-3108

GOOD NEWS DAY CAMP

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 20-24
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia
Details: Activities include worship, praise singing, games, arts and crafts, Bible study, nature study and more. Includes snacks. Early-bird registration is \$65 for the first child in the family, \$60 for the second child, and \$55 for each additional child. After May 29, registration is \$65 per child. Deadline to register is June 13
Contact: Judy Cook at 248-442-8822

PARKING LOT SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 18
Location: St. John Bosco Church, 12100 Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Participants will sell items to the public. Rent one space for \$15; two for \$25
Contact: Sally at 734-748-8110; church office at 313-937-9690

POLISH-AMERICAN CELEBRATION

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, June 22
Location: Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake Village
Details: "Anno Domini 966" is a celebration of 1,050 years of Christianity in Poland. It begins with a musical performance by Jaroslaw Golembiowski, followed by refreshments at 4:30 p.m. and a procession to the bilingual Mass. The Mass will include the blessing and dedication of the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II and the lighting of the 1,050th anniversary candle. A banquet will be held after Mass in the St. Mary's Athletic Complex. Banquet reservations are \$75 per person. Call Isabel Lopez at 248-683-0507 or email ilopez@orchardlakeschools.com
Contact: Orchard Lake Schools at 248-682-1885

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. June 26-30
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church & School Wayne, located two miles east of I-275 and one mile north of Michigan Ave., at Hannan and Glenwood
Details: "Cave Quest Following Jesus: The Light of the World" will include Bible adventures, songs, snacks and hands-on explorations for children, 3 through those entering sixth grade. Pre-register by calling the church at 734-728-1950 or email r.barta@att.net.
Contact: 734-728-1950; stmiichael.lutheran.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-noon, June 27-July 1
Location: Berean Baptist Church, 38303 Eight Mile
Details: "Submerged" is the theme
Contact: 248-477-6365

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. June 20-24
Location: St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: "The Armor of God" is the theme. The program is for children in preschool-fifth grade
Contact: 734-464-8844

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 Shiwawasee, Farmington Hills
Details: Free meal
Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month
Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia
Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.
Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badaen at sbadaen@bosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners
Contact: 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, iPods, 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. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.
Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday
Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton
Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free
Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems
Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations
Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center
Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday
Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: A twice-monthly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available
Contact: 734-421-8451

St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton
Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia
Details: Overeaters Anonymous
Contact: 248-559-7722; www.oa.org for additional information

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts), Thursday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township
Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is

free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebratercovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May
Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth
Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.
Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month
Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit
Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five or more. No cost for the tour, although donations are accepted.
Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149; www.solanuscenter.org

WORSHIP

Adat Shalom Synagogue
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays
Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills
Contact: 248-851-5100

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia
Contact: 734-522-6830

Congregation Bet Chaverim

Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m. the third Friday of the month
Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton
Details: Reformed Jewish Congregation with Rabbi Peter Gluck and Cantorial soloist Robin Liberatore
Contact: www.Facebook.com/betchaverim or email to betchaverim@yahoo.com

Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7 p.m. Tuesday Bible study
Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia
Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services.
Contact: 248-960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship; 9 a.m. Bible study
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi
Details: Women's group meets 12:30 p.m. third Thursday of the month. Vacation Bible School runs Aug. 8-12
Contact: 248-349-2345; faith-community-novi.org

Faith Community Wesleyan Church

Time/Date: Prayer service, 9 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Sunday school, 12:30 p.m.; Bible study, 6 p.m., Sundays, Soul Retention Discipleship classes, 4 p.m. Saturday
Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

Garden City Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: Adult Bible study at 8:15 a.m.; traditional worship service, youth Sunday school and child care at 10 a.m. Large print order of service is available. Refreshments in the church fellowship hall immediately after service. Elevator and handicapped parking
Location: Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road
Contact: 734-421-7620

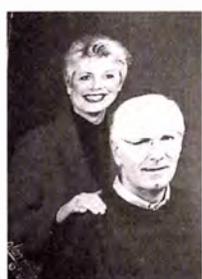
Good Hope Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with Communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesday
Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Contact: 734-427-3660

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

Time/Date: 8:45 a.m. Sunday school/adult Bible study; 10 a.m. Sunday service
Location: 4145 W. Nine Mile, Novi
Contact: Rev. Thomas E. Schroeder at 248-349-0565; GoodShepherdNovi.org

ANNIVERSARY



Nancy and Jack Trainor of Northville

Jack and Nancy Trainor of Northville will mark their 50th wedding anniversary June 25.

They were married in 1966 at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.

The Trainors are the proud parents of two sons, Christopher (Shelley) of Novi and Daniel (Claudia) of Chicago, Ill.

They have five grandchildren: Jack, Jeffrey, Lauren, Alexis and Ryan.

ENGAGEMENT

Scott-Langston

Katie Scott and Hunter Langston announce their engagement.



Katie Scott and Hunter Langston

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jim and Angela Scott of Northville, graduated in 2005 from Northville High School and in 2009 from Grand Valley State University. She is employed by The American Heart Association.

Her fiancé, son of Linda Marino of Northville and the late David Langston, graduated in 1999 from Northville High School and in 2005 from Grand Valley State

University. He is owner and president of Hunter Langston Designs, a graphic design firm. A September 2016 wedding is planned.

Passages

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HAMBLIN



MARY FRANCES

of Westland, entered eternal life on June 7, 2016. She was wife to the late Ulos Junior "Okie" Hamblin of Plymouth Township, where they lived nearly 50 years raising their family. Born in Gowen, Oklahoma, September 10, 1931 to the late Jessie Juanita (nee Moore) and Fred Edward Ford, she and her late husband arrived in Michigan on May 1, 1951. Mary owned and operated "Okie and Mary's Market" in Plymouth for 42 years with her husband, selling flowers, vegetable plants and farm fresh homegrown produce. A Christian woman of European and Native American descent, she endured the Great Depression and World War II. Often called, "one tough old gal" by her husband, Mary has always been an inspirational, yet quiet and modest person, embodying an indomitable spirit, and ever helpful to others in need. She practiced faith, hope and love with those around her, leading by example. Mary often traveled throughout the US to visit her many family members and cousins. She enjoyed arts and crafts, crochet work, and especially weaving baskets with her many friends. Mary was a Charter Member of St. Kenneth's Catholic Church in Plymouth. Mary is survived by her children; Bill (Brenda) Hamblin of Adams, TN, Pam Hamblin of Ann Arbor, MI, Adra (Tom) Erwin of South Lyon, MI, James (Angela) Hamblin of Dexter, KY, George (Mildred) Hamblin of Avoca, MI, Robert Hamblin of Richmond, MI, Stephen (Jennifer) Hamblin of Pleasant View, TN, Lou Ann Hamblin (Kathleen Vonk) of Las Vegas, NV, 14 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, and hundreds of friends in the Plymouth-Canton community. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her sister; Billie Sue Denton, husband Ulos and son John Hamblin. Visitation for Mary will be Sunday, from 2-8pm with a Rosary Service at 7pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main Street, Plymouth 48170. Family and friends may visit St. Kenneth Catholic Church located at 14951 N. Haggerty RD, Plymouth, MI 48170 beginning at 10am on June 13, 2016. Catholic Mass and a celebration of life will be held at 11am with Father Tom Belczak presiding. A luncheon is planned at St. Kenneth Church Hall immediately following. Private burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Donations in honor of Mary may be made to the Purple Heart, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or to the American Diabetes Association. The family expresses special thanks to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital nursing staff, Gloria Shelton, the weaving warriors, and all of her friends at St. Kenneth's Church. To share a memory and leave a condolence, please visit schrader-howell.com

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