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OBSERVER

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Wayne looks to address budget deficit in wake of SMORSA defeat

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Now that Wayne voters have resoundingly rejected membership in a public safety consortium with its accompanying 14-mill levy for police and fire services, the focus has moved to how to deal with the city's financial crisis.

At an emergency meeting Thursday, Mayor Susan Rowe was among city officials calling for residents to put

aside the acrimony that was shown over the millage proposal and work to move the city forward.

"All of you know how much I hoped SMORSA (South Macomb Oakland Regional Services Authority) would pass. I really thought it would save the city and maintain services," Rowe said. "There was a lot of discussion, a lot of anger. Friendships were



Rowe

broken. When I woke up Wednesday, I hoped it was over — that we could move forward and work together, but people were still at it."

The lack of accountability, the negativity and nastiness of politics has trickled down to the local level, she said.

"I don't dislike anyone out there. I hope we could put it behind us," Rowe said.

The city has already met with state treasury officials who indicated the city doesn't have a revenue problem but a

problem with expenditures. Ultimately, the city could end up with an emergency financial manager.

Council discussed a number of options for dealing with the \$1.5 million revenue shortfall — a number that is projected to grow annually. Rowe addressed some suggestions made by residents and other ideas.

» The city could default on a \$500,000 annual payment to the Michi-

See DEFICIT, Page A2



The Stottlemyer Park cleanup generated plenty of filled compost bags.

SUBMITTED

Stottlemyer Park gets needed cleanup

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland's Stottlemyer Park recently got a long-needed cleanup thanks to the efforts of volunteers, city officials and folks doing community services.

"I want to thank the city and administration for the big job trying to restore Stottlemyer Park," said Reasther Everett of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association.

Located on Dancy in the Annapolis Park Subdivision, Stottlemyer Park was the subject of a land swap with the demolition of an abandoned elementary school.

"There was a lot of brush. With the charter school, the residential property line was allowed to get overgrown along the fence line," said Wayne Ford Civic League President Vic Barra, a regular weekend park cleanup volunteer. "The mayor (William Wild) wanted to make sure it was cleaned up to get ready for a park (improvement)."

Along with some civic league staff and neighborhood volunteers, the cleanup took advantage of 18 people assigned through an 18th District Court work program and also staff from the Department of Public Services.

The operation was delayed a bit —

See CLEANUP, Page A2



Wayne-Ford Civic League President Vic Barra (left), self-proclaimed Southeast Westland Mayor Reasther Everett and Brian Harnos, who heads Westland's municipal golf course and Mike Modano Arena, at the Stottlemyer Park cleanup.

SUBMITTED

"There was a lot of brush. With the charter school, the residential property line was allowed to get overgrown along the fence line."

VIC BARRA, Wayne Ford Civic League President

Wayne looks at police, fire services

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

At an emergency council meeting Thursday, Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy and Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag each made presentations about their respective departments in the wake of a public safety millage being rejected by voters.

"People voted down joining Hazel Park and Eastpointe in an authority — they didn't vote to shut down the fire department," said Reddy, who heads the merged Wayne-Westland Fire Department.

While council members voiced opposition to cutting fire or police services, the city general fund is projected to run out of money by the end of 2017. The city has a structural deficit of \$1.5 million in the current year, a number expected to increase annually going forward.

Wayne and Westland merged their fire departments operationally in 2011. Reddy noted the merger had saved Wayne \$1 million with Westland seeing slightly higher savings since 2011.

Over that time period, Wayne had made budget cuts that reduced the city's number of firefighters from 21 to the current 12. The departments have a shared chief while Westland provides the deputy chief, assistant chief, fire marshal and other positions.

Last year, Wayne spent \$350,000 on overtime to keep the fire station manned at four firefighters per shift. That budget item was cut to \$50,000, which would largely leave the fire station manned by three firefighters.

With only three firefighters, Reddy said a choice would have to be made between operating the fire engine or rescue unit. If the city tried to go to two firefighters per shift, he said responding to a fire could be difficult — there are supposed to be two firefighters outside when two others enter a burning building.

Despite the reduced staffing, Reddy noted Wayne EMS generated \$600,000 in revenue last year, offsetting the \$350,000 in overtime.

"The fire department has proven it can run with minimum staff but with overtime still provide excellent service," Reddy said. "The fire department has significantly reduced operating costs over four years."

Reddy urged the council to review the merger agreements before making any decisions.

"Major cuts like manning are issues

See SERVICES, Page A2



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INDEX

Education..... A4 Jobs..... C1 Sports..... B1
 Crossword Puzzle..... C2 Obituaries..... B4 Wheels..... C3
 Homes..... C4 Services..... C3



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CLEANUP

Continued from Page A1

the first scheduled date came a day after storms hit the city and took a number of trees and branches down. Instead of working at Stottlemeyer, the assembled volunteers and court workers joined DPS staff members cleaning up after the storm.

"It was a good effort on the second attempt. There is still more to do. We accomplished about two-thirds of our goal," Barra said. "We'll have a follow-up effort in mid-August."

For Everett, who describes herself as the self-appointed mayor of Southeast Westland, moving toward restoring Stottlemeyer Park has been a slow process. She complained for years about the eyegore of boarded-up Thomas Gist Academy, which sat vacant and deteriorating

for a over a decade. That school, which was earlier Frazier elementary school and part of Inkster Schools, was a charter school and later owned by People's Community Baptist Church on Annapolis in Westland.

Going through a list of thank-yous, Everett said she especially wanted to thank Barra for his efforts.

Council members Michael Kehrer and Christine Bryant were among the volunteers for the park cleanup.

"I had a great time at Stottlemeyer. The best thing was I brought my grandson. He pitched in for the first time," Kehrer said.

"It was nice to see the kids come out to Stottlemeyer," Bryant said.

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Cooking matters

Wayne Senior Services sponsors "Cooking Matters for Diabetes," a free seminar Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. through Sept. 7.

This six-week workshop is a commitment of fun, interactive sessions presented by trained culinary and nutrition instructors. It provides specialized recipes and

information for adults living with diabetes and their caregivers.

It is appropriate for those newly diagnosed as well as those who have been living with type 2 diabetes or are prediabetes.

Classes will be held at the HYPE Recreation Center-Wayne.

To register, call 800-543-WELL (9355) or visit oakwood.org/diabetes.

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. For more information, call 734-326-7222.

tion, call 734-326-7222.

Car show

Sons of AMVETS sponsors a car show noon to 11 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14, at AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, in Westland.

The event features hamburgers and hot dogs, pop and water for sale outside. For more information, call 734-721-9440.

DEFICIT

Continued from Page A1

gan Employee Retiree System.

"Eventually, it will come to the city making payroll or paying MERS. You'll choose payroll," said Brian Camiller of Plante Moran. "MERS will still pay the retirees. MERS will sue the city. The judge will decide the city was wrong. In other cities, the judge granted a judgment that went onto the tax bill for perpetuity."

That could mean, without a vote by residents, Wayne could see 20 mills added to the property tax bill to pay over \$6 million to MERS, Camiller said.

» Defaulting on out-

standing bonds for the police station, fire station and ladder truck. "It would be like foreclosure. They would seize our assets," City Manager Lisa Nocerini said. "Dealing with creditors is not good business."

Camiller noted that bonds were the first payments made in other communities.

» Wayne pays HYPE Recreation an annual management fee of \$274,000 to operate the recreation center. Nocerini said the city had been spending \$975,000 annually to operate the facility.

"It would cost \$209,000 to just close the building. HYPE is maintaining it," she said. "I think closing it would be detrimental."

The city does expect to talk with HYPE about possibly reducing the management fee and eventual sale of the building.

» Closing the Wayne Library. Rowe noted the city's strapped general fund provides minimal support to the library, which operates on its own millage.

» The city levies 2.96 mills for refuse, a dedicated millage, which currently covers the cost.

» Sell the Wayne Historical Museum to the Wayne Historical Commission for \$1 to eliminate operating and maintenance expenses of \$9,000.

» Not pay the Ford Motor Company \$590,000 owed from Michigan Tax

Tribunal ruling.

» The city is working to sell excess property and has five pending offers, including the sale of the closed Wayne Activities and Banquet Center. The city has 19 parks but sale of those properties would need a review by the city attorney, Nocerini said, since some came to the city with stipulations.

Council took no action except to direct administration to look into consolidating city elections to happen only in presidential election years. The city spends \$25,000-30,000 per election.

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SERVICES

Continued from Page A1

that could affect the merger. Westland would have to look at it," Reddy said. "The agreements are pretty concrete. There would be ramifications if you break them. It is a good partnership. I would hate to see a poor decision on one thing affect it."

Short staffing could also impact Wayne's ability to participate in Mutual Aid, Reddy said, because each must be able to reciprocate services.

Like Reddy, Maciag went back to 2008 noting

Wayne had 44 police officers compared to 20 officers today, including himself. Not filling two vacant but budgeted police officer positions would save \$180,000.

The department reorganized as staffing was cut, Maciag said, with officers going to 12-hour shifts, eliminating the deputy chief position and no longer assigning officers to traffic investigations, as school resource officers or to regional units.

"Our investigations unit has one lieutenant and one detective. They handle major felonies — 433 cases (last year). That's a lot for two guys,"

Maciag said. "Even with 22 officers in the budget we are still shorthanded."

If the police department has to go to a staffing of two officers in solo cars on each shift, Maciag said he was concerned about officer safety and the ability to respond to calls.

"I can't stress how dire this situation is with only two officers patrolling the city," said Maciag, commenting that if there was a situation like a domestic violence call or a major incident, there would be no one patrolling or responding to other calls.

With only two officers on duty, Maciag said the

station would have to be locked with a schedule of hours when it would be open. Like Reddy, Maciag also had concerns about the department being able to provide reciprocal assistance under Mutual Aid.

Had the millage been approved, the council had committed to hiring four police officers and three firefighters. Wayne is also waiting to hear about a federal SAFER grant that would fund up to six firefighters.

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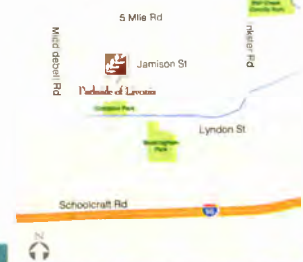
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It's sound of music in Goudy Park on Wednesdays

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Pokemon Go players aside, the weekly summer concert series has been drawing the biggest crowds to Wayne's Goudy Park.

Held throughout August, the concerts are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays with bands setting up in the gazebo. Concertgoers should bring their own lawn chairs/blankets.

"I looked to see what bands were available. Some bands approached us this year," said John Rhaesa, a Wayne councilman who organized the concert series.

Some years ago, Goudy Park had hosted concerts but the event had been dropped until it was resurrected four years ago.

"We started out with 200-300 people. Now, we are getting at least 500," Rhaesa said.

The concerts are scheduled to follow the



SUBMITTED

Free concerts in Goudy Park will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in August.

let people know," Rhaesa said. "The businesses support us trying to make Wayne a better place."

The Wayne Rotary Club handles beer/wine sales during the concerts as a fundraiser.

Upcoming concerts include:

- » classic rock with Dead in Dog Years on Aug. 10;
- » Fifty Amp Fuse on Aug. 17;
- » Bob Seger tribute band Live Bullet Detroit on Aug. 24;
- » Infinity and Beyond, a Journey tribute band, Aug. 31.

The weekly Wayne Farmers Markets is open 3-7 p.m. on Wednesday so concert-goers can buy fresh produce, honey and other items, including refreshments, prior to the concert.

Some years ago, Goudy Park had hosted concerts but the event had been dropped until it was resurrected four years ago.

weekly Wayne Farmers Market. Some of the food vendors stick around for the concert.

"It is working out good. The sales for the vendors were up," Rhaesa said.

The concert series is self-funded thanks to sponsorships from businesses, including the Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, Independent Carpet, Jack Demmer Ford, Mark Chev-

rolet and Uht Funeral Home.

The concert series is getting some extra promotion in Westland, Rhaesa said, thanks to electronic marquee signs at Wayne-Westland Fed-

eral Credit Union, Independent Carpet and Westland Shopping Center.

"We don't have a lot of those signs in Wayne. We are marketing the city. It's low-key but we try to

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Police try to identify cigarette thief suspect

Westland Police are attempting to identify a suspect wanted in connection with the theft of \$130 of cigarettes from the Speedway Gas Station, 110 S. Wayne Road.

After grabbing two cartons of cigarettes, a

suspect ran to an unknown type of black SUV vehicle occupied by a white female, police said.

Anyone able to identify the suspect is asked to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or 734-467-3179.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
Westland Police are trying to identify this man, wanted for in connection with the theft of cigarettes from Speedway.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
This man is wanted in connection with the theft of cigarettes from a local gas station.

Police to residents: Lock your cars

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland Police have released video in an effort to identify suspects looking for, and finding, unlocked cars.

But the video is also intended to send a message to residents — lock your vehicle doors.

The incident captured in the video took place Sunday, July 28, in the 30000 block of Lacy Drive.

The video shows multiple juveniles going "car hopping." The suspects apparently check multiple vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked.

In this case, and in most cases police note, when the suspects find

the doors are locked they move on to another, easier target.

Unfortunately, police point out that this video shows what happens to someone who accidentally left the doors unlocked. Police urge residents to lock the vehicle doors anytime the vehicle will be left unattended.

See the video at <http://tinyurl.com/j7zqwol>.

Anyone able to identify the suspect shown in the video is asked to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or 734-467-3250.

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LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Bicycle stolen

A resident who lives in the 17300 block of Fitzgerald came into the police station Tuesday afternoon to report the theft of a bicycle.

The resident said his bicycle was stolen off of a rack on the back of his

vehicle, where the bicycle was not secured.

He noticed earlier in the day the bicycle was missing.

No suspect information was available.

Pills taken from car

A resident who lives in the 20100 block of

Floral came into the police station Thursday morning to report a larceny from auto.

She said someone had gone through her unlocked car that morning after coming out and noticing a prescription pill bottle belonging to her outside the car.

She looked in the vehicle and discovered the pills and a change purse were missing.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

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Madonna students shooting feature film

After scouting locations, auditioning actors and outlining the production schedule, filming began in earnest this past week for Madonna University's third full-length, entirely student-produced feature film.

Students shot scenes in the Detroit Opera House, at a horse farm and in a fitness studio, among other locations.

As part of the unique, hands-on experience provided at Madonna University to prepare broadcast and cinema arts students for careers in the film industry, members of the capstone (senior-level) class get the opportunity to produce a movie in less than a year.

Students fill the roles of director, set designer, director of photography, gaffer and all other essential roles on a film set.

This year's film, "Married on a Monday," is a romantic comedy about a quirky musician named Jackie who becomes a baker, a cowgirl and even a princess to obtain her dream wedding, all while keeping it from her maid of honor and voice of reason.

"So far, we have been having a blast on set," said Nancy Boyd, the film's student director. "I keep telling people that if we stay on top of our game and have fun that should translate to the screen and the audience will have fun."

Capstone project instructor Suzanne Boyd said although the task of making a movie in a year is difficult, support from the Madonna University and surrounding communities makes it possible.

"We give these students what very few colleges in the country do: The chance to produce a full-length feature film before they graduate from college," she said.

Even after finding movie locations and doing the actual filming, students will still have to put in long hours editing and other post-production tasks. Nancy Boyd said she expects this to be wrapped up by December, after which the movie

"We give these students what very few colleges in the country do: The chance to produce a full-length feature film before they graduate from college,"

SUZANNE BOYD,
Capstone project instructor

will be ready to premiere.

One unexpected challenge was finding friends and family to commit as extras. Securing the Detroit Opera House was celebrated as a victory.

"We've had so much help from our instructors and people in the community," Nancy Boyd said. "I can't wait to see it all come together."



"Married on a Monday" wedding scenes being filmed at the Detroit Opera House.

COURTESY MADONNA UNIVERSITY



COURTESY MADONNA UNIVERSITY
Bride-to-be Jackie, played by Kim Alley of Redford, is working at Hidden Promise Farm in Fenton, as a way to trade for a horse-drawn carriage for her wedding. Josh Walker of Dearborn is on boom mic, Khayman Brunswick from Milford is far left, Meghan Griesbeck, of Highland is the camera operator and director of photography, and Nate Reed of Highland is holding the scene slate.

Restorative Justice focus of Marygrove B.A. online criminal justice degree

Marygrove College announced on July 26 its new online bachelor of arts in criminal justice degree, a program with a restorative-justice emphasis designed for current or aspiring criminal justice professionals. The program is currently accepting applications for the fall semester, which begins Sept. 6.

"In this time of crisis, where

there is distrust between law enforcement and the community," said Marygrove College Provost Sally Welch, "our institution is prepared to help bring about peace and reconciliation through its online bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice based on Restorative Justice principles."

Restorative Justice is a victim-centered response to

crime that views criminal behavior not as a violation against the state, but one against people and relationships. As a result, those who practice restorative justice respond to crime by transforming the traditional relationship between communities and government, giving all stakeholders — both the victim and perpetrator — the opportu-

nity to identify and take steps to repair harm.

Marygrove College's bachelor of arts in criminal justice is offered completely online and has been designed for those interested in law enforcement, corrections, parole, probation, fire science, and nonprofit careers.

To learn more about Marygrove College's bachelor of

arts in criminal justice program, visit tinyurl.com/h87xulx, call 313-927-1240 or email info@marygrove.edu.

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GC Summer Community Theatre brings 'Fiddler' to life on stage

The Garden City Summer Community Theatre is billing its upcoming production as "The start of a new tradition."

The theater group, affiliated with the Garden City Public Schools, will stage "Fiddler on the Roof" at 7 p.m. Aug. 18, 19 and 20 and 2 p.m. Aug. 21 at the O'Leary Performing Arts Center of Garden City High School. The high school is at 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford Road.

"Fiddler" tells the tale of an early 1900s Jewish couple in Russia whose eldest three of five daughters marry. Director Greg Wiklanski notes

in an email, "The stage production we're presenting has basically the same plot as the movie. Although, as good as the movie is, nothing compares to the magic of live Theatre!"

Others involved in the Garden City production include: Kim Gnagey, music director; Alan Bennett, technical director; and Kristyn Wiklanski, choreographer.

All tickets are \$10. Seating is general admission and tickets can be purchased at the door.

The box office opens 90 minutes before the show.

By Julie Brown



TOM BEAUDOIN

The cast and crew of the upcoming production of "Fiddler on the Roof" presented by the Garden City Summer Community Theatre.



TOM BEAUDOIN

"Fiddler on the Roof" cast members Kameron Lauridsen, Alan Bennett, Wiley Strasser, Gabrielle Giagrande and Maria Tilmus during "The Wedding" scene.



TOM BEAUDOIN

"Fiddler on the Roof" actors perform "To Life" as they get ready for their Aug. 18, 19 and 20 performance at 7 p.m. and Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. held at Garden City High School.



TOM BEAUDOIN
The production of "Fiddler on the Roof" being held at Garden City High School by the GC Summer Community Theatre.



TOM BEAUDOIN

The cast of "Fiddler on the Roof," Brooke Killingbeck, Juliet Metivier, Samantha Penive, Gabrielle Giagrande, Maria Tilmus, Alan Bennett, Nicholas Bennett and Kameron Lauridsen perform "Sabbath Prayer."



TOM BEAUDOIN

"If I Were a Rich Man" performed by Alan Bennett as the Garden City Summer Community Theatre gets ready for the production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

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SUBMITTED

Plymouth Christian Academy students helped New Life Recreation Center during Project SHINE.

SHINE ON

Plymouth Christian students pull out all the stops to serve those in need

In just four days this past spring, 630 students, staff and parents from Plymouth Christian Academy volunteered at 22 local organizations as part of the school's seventh annual Project SHINE service week.

Each Spring, PCA works to give back through Project SHINE. During Project SHINE, all students from preschool through 12th grade serve a variety of different organizations throughout metro Detroit. This benefits the local community and teaches PCA students that importance of service.

Project SHINE has become a key part of PCA's mission to produce students who lead lives of learning, leadership and service. With such a wide variety of organizations involved each year, students serve in many ways, including cleaning,

painting, organizing and gardening. Here is what was accomplished in four days:

- » Seventh-graders wrapped 202 presents for the Bottomless Toy Chest in Troy
- » Fourth and fifth graders provided 60 fleece blankets for the Foster Care duffel bags at Northridge Church
- » Preschool students provided 60 tie-dyed pillow cases for Big Family of Michigan

- » Beginning and kindergarten students provided 80 placemats for Waltonwood Senior Center

- » Fifth-graders provided 55 teddy bears for Mott Children's Hospital

- » First-graders provided 75 Busy Book Kits for the Ronald McDonald House

- » With the help of Busch's Fresh Market, second-graders provided 175 loaves of bread for the Salvation Army



Students work in the Gleaners garden.

SUBMITTED

- » Second-graders provided 85 cans of soup with dollar bills rubber-banded around the cans for Ronald McDonald House

- » Seventh-graders and eighth-graders provided 35 parachutes for Voice of the Martyrs, Colombia

- » Fourth-graders provided 65 teddy bears for the Canton Fire Department to comfort

- children in rescue situations
- » Sixth-graders stuffed 8,250 pieces of mail for Penrickton Center for Blind Children

- » Third-graders provided 90 blessing bags for Zambia, Africa by way of PCA Alumni Lauren Paulson

- » Forty-two donation houses for Bethania Kids Orphanage in India

Students in grades 8-12 also served the following organizations:

- » Starfish Family Services, Livonia and Canton
- » ReStore Habitat for Humanity, Ann Arbor
- » Detroit Rescue Mission, Detroit
- » Vista Maria, Dearborn Heights
- » Gleaners Community Garden in Plymouth Township
- » New Life Community Recreation Center in Hamtramck
- » World Medical Relief, Southfield
- » Waltonwood Senior Center and Plymouth Senior Center

One of the most encouraging things about Project SHINE is the feedback that PCA receives every year. Rhonda, the site leader at Plymouth/Canton Head Start had this to say about the students she worked with: "They were the best group of teens I have ever worked with; the teachers and the kids loved them. It was so great to see them interacting with the kids and truly enjoying themselves."

To see Project SHINE 2016 in action check this year's video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrcPyMtg6k0.



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HELPING HANDS

LIVONIA RESIDENTS TEAM UP, HELP WITH CLEANUP IN DETROIT'S DENBY NEIGHBORHOOD

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Kelly Puishes spent her Wednesday cleaning up yards in the Denby neighborhood on the east side of Detroit. It was something, she said, that made her feel accomplished and truly helped the surrounding community.

"A lot of garbage hiding under the grass, we had to rake all of that away," the Livonia resident said. "It was nice to go by the houses that had been worked on and see the nice job."

Puishes was one of many volunteers from Livonia and other communities who have spent hours in the Detroit neighborhood helping to clean it up as a part of the Life Remodeled project.

The project pulled volunteers from the Detroit neighborhood, as well as several suburbs such as Livonia, Northville, Westland and Rochester Hills to clean up several blocks surrounding Denby High School by removing trash and debris, boarding up abandoned homes and removing brush and overgrowth all throughout the neighborhood.

Volunteers donning green shirts could be seen mowing grass and hauling cut branches all through the neighborhood. Signs of support were ever present, with motorists honking and waving to them as they drove by.

Debbie Clark, a Livonia resident who works at the Botsford Campus with the Beaumont Health System in Farmington Hills, said Detroit's well-being is still so important to the surrounding communities as well.

"Livonia's so close to Detroit. It's a part of our community," she said. "I want to see it do well. There's a lot of changes in Detroit. We want Detroit to do well and thrive."

Cleaning up homes

The Life Remodeled project that's close to Livonia Councilman Scott Bahr's heart and one he's looked forward to doing for several weeks. He even gathered several members of his church, Apostolic Christian Church in Livonia, who also made the trip to Detroit to help.

He and a team of volunteers spent the afternoon clearing bushes and grass that had grown several feet tall in back yards of homes near Seymour and Brock in Detroit.

"It's been an incredibly rewarding day," Bahr said. "We've done



April Ault is with a group of volunteers from the Apostolic Christian Church in Livonia. She lives in Canton.



Lucas Frank of Livonia cuts brush. He volunteers with a group from the Apostolic Christian Church in Livonia.



Dave Varga, director of administrative services for the City of Livonia, worked at a Life Remodeled site in the Denby High School neighborhood.



Mike and Bridget Regan take a break from cleanup on a very hot afternoon.



April Ault pulls down unused wiring. Jeffrey Matojin hauls brush to the curb. They are with a group of volunteers from the Apostolic Christian Church in Livonia. April lives in Canton, and Jeffrey lives in Livonia.



Randy Gasser and daughter Angela Gasser haul a piece of concrete to the curb. They are from Livonia.

several large vacant lots. This is the first round of homes we're doing."

Crews spent all week cleaning up the neighborhood, a similar project Life Remodeled, a Detroit-based organization that originated in Westland, did in the Os-

born and Cody neighborhoods in Detroit in previous years.

Doing the work had special meaning to Don Turner, a Rochester Hills resident working with several volunteers from Livonia Wednesday. That's because he's a

graduate of Denby High School and used to live in the neighborhood several decades ago.

"I still know people that live in this area," he said. "It's nice to just come back. When I saw the Life Remodeled project, I thought, 'I'm going

to go back and spend a couple of days near Denby cleaning up the whole neighborhood."

Randy Gasser, a member of Apostolic Christian Church and a Livonia resident, worked with his daughter, Angela, and other Livonia residents to clean up some brush across the street from Denby High School Wednesday.

He said while the work is only for a week, it will be a rousing success if it sparks continued work in the area by others.

"We said, 'If this can just inspire someone to do their part, and it in-

spires someone else and that inspires someone else and it can just take off,' I think that's the Life Remodeled idea of concentrating on one neighborhood," he said. "If a neighborhood can get its pride back and can build on the foundation that's laid this week — I think they saw some of that in the Osborn project — hopefully they'll see that at Denby."

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"We said, 'If this can just inspire someone to do their part, and it in-

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MDCH

Send your T-shirts to Zimbabwe through local charity drive

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Sidney Bonvallet of Farmington Hills wants the shirt off your back — as long as it's gently used or new and brightly colored.

She'll gladly take your donation from Aug. 15 to Sept. 15 at Kenwood Church of Christ in Livonia, with an eye toward giving the shirts to Zimbabwean orphans and adults during her trip to Africa next year.

"Our mission is food, education, health and hope, and the clothing comes under hope because you would not believe some of the clothing they wear, how they are so ragged and falling apart on them," said Bonvallet, founder and president of Helping Hands, Touching Hearts, a nonprofit charitable organization.

Bonvallet is asking for T-shirts because they are lightweight and easy to ship, and both boys and girls can wear them.

She'll head to Africa in April 2017, but hopes to ship the shirts next month. They'll be waiting for her in South Africa next spring. She and other members of Helping Hands, Touching Hearts, will drive the shipment to Zimbabwe where they'll distribute most of the clothing. They'll take leftovers with them on their return trip to South Africa, where they'll stay one month before heading home.

Bonvallet prefers to ship all donations to a friend in South Africa and then drive them to their final destination. A direct shipment of 150 boxes of books was detained for two years before being released for use at a school library in Zimbabwe.

"It was one of our more successful drives with the community," said the Rev. Todd Lackie, pastor of Kenwood Church of Christ and a Helping Hands, Touching Hearts board member. "We're shipping differently now than we used to."

A collection container for T-shirts will be stationed under the canopy at the entrance to



Sidney Bonvallet of Farmington Hills helps a youngster in Zimbabwe get the correct size T-shirt. Bonvallet and other members of her organization, Helping Hands, Touching Hearts, was in Africa from March-May. They'll return with more donations next year.

church, at 20200 Merriman. Sizes 6-16 for children and small, medium and large for adults are needed.

In the meantime, Bonvallet is sewing 80 dresses and tote bags for Zimbabwean children.

"I sew constantly, five hours a day almost every day. I have to make them pretty," she said. "We have 80 orphans and even more kids than that."

Helping Hands, Touching Hearts also is accepting sponsorships for orphans. A monthly donation of \$25-\$30 a month buys food staples, such as tea

and cornmeal, for each child.

"Fifty-seven of the 80 children have been able to get sponsors. One sponsor in California sponsored 29 of them. He has his own little tribe."

Get more information about Helping Hands, Touching Hearts, at clotheavillagenow.com. Watch Bonvallet's video titled "A Library to Fight Poverty" on desktop at YouTube.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Forgotten Harvest: 'We recognize that hunger is everywhere'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

In its approximately 26 years, Forgotten Harvest has helped feed a lot of metro Detroiters.

"We get the food nobody wants," said Jessica Ayoub, community engagement coordinator for Forgotten Harvest, based in Oak Park. "We recognize that hunger is everywhere. We don't know why people need food, we just know that they need it."

Forgotten Harvest rescues prepared and packaged food, working with its over 800 food donors, including restaurants. Its refrigerated trucks crisscross the region six days a week, serving homeless shelters, food pantries, churches, schools and more.

"It's lack of access to food," she explained Aug. 4 to a group of Westland Rotarians and guests. "We know it's not lack of (overall) food. There are a lot of issues with transportation."

She noted about one in five people face hunger and food insecurity. Forgotten Harvest provides food free of charge to its agency partners.

"We want to make sure people are getting as quality of a product as possible," Ayoub said. About three years ago, Forgotten Harvest launched Forgotten Harvest Farms to work with farmer partners.

Forgotten Harvest Farms runs April through October, with the farm manager staggering crops. "We know we are always going to have this fresh produce on hand," she said. "It is actually a really fun experience, even though Fenton (its location) is a bit of a drive."

Forgotten Harvest has a long waiting list for agency partners, although she noted, "It is always worth a conversation now."

Of the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan organization, she called it the "pantry" compared to Forgotten Harvest as "refrigerator and freezer" in feeding the region's hungry people. Her organization gets cooked food from restaurants, as well as farm produce that



Julie Brown
Jessica Ayoub of Canton is community engagement coordinator for Forgotten Harvest, an anti-hunger organization out of Oak Park.

"We know we are always going to have this fresh produce on hand. It is actually a really fun experience, even though Fenton is a bit of a drive."

JESSICA AYOUB, community engagement coordinator

doesn't look good enough to sell in stores.

"There are still more people who need it," she added of service. "We are doing what we can with what we have."

Added Westland Rotarian Paul Motz, who is Westland Youth Assistance director, "Nutrition at an early age is imperative," and continues beyond that. Poor nutrition is a factor in many problems later in life, Motz said.

Forgotten Harvest has a couple major events coming up:

» "Cruisin' To Drive Out Hunger," Friday, Aug. 19, a preview party celebrating the Woodward Dream Cruise at Westborn Market, 27659 Woodward Ave., Berkley.

» the third annual Women's Harvest Lunch, Friday, Sept. 16, at 11 a.m. at Eastern Market, Shed 5, 2934 Russell St., Detroit. Visit www.forgottenharvest.org to learn more.

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Do estate planning homework before living together

Q: About five years ago my girlfriend and I decided that it would make sense to live together. At the time we each sold our houses and used the proceeds to buy the new home. We each put up half the money and also basically split the maintenance costs. It was our intention that if we split up we would sell the home and split the proceeds equally. Also, although we really didn't talk about it, there was an understanding that if one of us passed, the other one would own the home outright. Since I am quite a few years older than my significant other it was assumed that I would pass first. Unfortunately, earlier this year my significant other passed. The problem is that her children are now demanding that I either pay them half the value of the house or that I sell the house and split the proceeds. I don't think I should have to do either of those. I know she would have wanted me to keep the house. My question is, what should I do? You should know that nothing was mentioned in the will about the house. Also, the deed on our home is in both our names as tenants in common.

A: I first want to express my sympathies for the loss of your loved one. I hope as time passes your grief is replaced by fond memories.

Unfortunately, I do not believe I have good news for you. In analyzing your situation I believe your significant other's children are entitled to half the value of the property.

When it comes to determining ownership of real estate, the first thing you look at is the deed. In your situation, you owned the property as tenants in common. What tenants in common means is that each of the parties own one-half of the property and upon the death of either party they are free to leave it to whomever they choose. In other words, there are no survivorship rights. If the goal was to make sure that upon either parties' death the other party owned the house outright then, the deed should not have been one that was tenants in common but rather, joint rights of survivorship. What joint rights of survivorship means is that upon the death of either party the other party owns the home. Even if there is a will, the deed would take precedence.

In addition, when parties own a property as joint tenants with rights of survivorship, that property doesn't even have to go through Probate. By operation of law, when one party passes the other one owns the house.

When parties own property as tenants in



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Unwed couples have to know that the law offers very little protection to them; therefore, it is up to them, ... to protect themselves.

common, the deceased party's interest goes according to the will. Since you were not mentioned in the will, whoever was the beneficiary of her estate, in this situation the kids, would be the rightful owner of your significant other's share of the house.

My advice to you is to work with the kids to either buy their one-half interest or to sell the home and split the proceeds.

In today's world, more and more people are living in unconventional relationships. It is no longer unusual for two people to live together without being married. In those situations it is important that when you do acquire property together that there is a clear understanding as to what happens to that property either upon death or if the parties separate. As far as I'm concerned, the best time to resolve these issues is before you buy the property. In that way, the proper deed can be used. Of course, deeds can be changed; however, we all know how life works and that is once a deed is done they are rarely changed.

For those of you who are living in non-traditional relationships it is important that you dot your I's and cross your T's when it comes to estate planning. Under current law, there is very little protection for unmarried couples who live together. That is why it is extremely important that couples in those situations do some estate planning which may or may not include things such as durable power of attorneys or medical power of attorneys. The bottom line, unwed couples have to know that the law offers very little protection to them; therefore, it is up to them, through legal documents such as wills and trusts and deeds, to protect themselves.

Good luck!

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

Hey, Novi – get your Vibe on

Terry Jacoby
Correspondent

Main Street in Novi will be closed to traffic Saturday, Aug. 13, but open to good times with outstanding live music, tasty food and beverages and unique merchandise in a "mini bazaar." The inaugural Vibe on Main festival is sure to spread plenty of good vibrations throughout downtown.

City officials approached Whitney McClellan-Stone and Cal Stone, the husband-and-wife team behind 2 Stones Events, to come up with a new, fresh and "vibrant" event for Novi. The duo put together Vibe on Main to help give this community a signature festival.

"For years, my husband and I were on the board of the Michigan '50s Festival, which ended several years ago," McClellan-Stone said. "This event will focus on great local musicians and food that celebrates this city's diversity. We're confident it won't be long before it really explodes and starts drawing people from all over."

Local merchants also are confident the event will be a big draw both this summer and in the future.

"We are very excited about this event," said Hafeez Shaikh, a partner in the Atrium of Novi, which includes the entire west side of Main Street. "We are supporting it and excited to see how it does. We are supportive of anything positive that connects the businesses along Main Street to the community. It should bring great exposure to this growing area."

The impressive lineup of local restaur-



LINDA VAIL
Thornetta Davis, the Motor City's queen of the blues, will close out the Vibe on Main festival Aug. 13.



LINDA MICHELLE DOBEL
Monsieur Guillaume & His Zydeco Hepcats, a seven-piece band specializing in the Cajun sounds of New Orleans, will perform at 4 p.m. Aug. 13 at the festival.

rants participating includes Steve & Rocky's, Rojo Mexican Bistro, the Michigan Beer Co., bd's Mongolian Grill, Alexandria Mediterranean Cuisine, Pizza Marvelous, Johnny Carino's, Guernsey Farms Dairy, Bawarshi and Library Sports Pub & Grill. In other words, variety and quality will be on the menu.

Food will include "bites" (at a lower price point) as well as regular portions. Access to the beverage garden and area in front of the stage requires a \$5 wristband and all beers and wines will be \$5 each. A limited number of VIP area tickets (\$45 online now; \$50 at the gate if still available; must be 21 or older) include food from Steve & Rocky's, premium wines (from Novi Fine Wine & Liquor) and craft beer.

In fact, variety and quality could be the sur-name of this festival as the theme carries over from the food to the stage. Wristbands and beverages are cash only; an ATM will be located at the entrance to the beverage garden.

"We're mixing up genres to appeal to a wide audience – zydeco, country, jazz, rock, Americana and funk,"

Stone said. "There should be something here for everyone to enjoy."

Five acts will take the stage 4-11 p.m., beginning with Monsieur Guillaume & His Zydeco Hepcats, a seven-piece band specializing in the Cajun sounds of New Orleans.

The second artist, jazz vocalist Ben Sharkey, has been building a loyal local following putting a unique spin on modern tunes and serving up impressive originals.

Nadir Omowale, a multi-faceted leader in the Detroit music scene, will bring his high-energy funk group, featuring vocalist Caleb Gutierrez.

The fourth slot belongs to Ryan Dillaha & The Miracle Men, a five-piece crowd favorite that blends Americana, country and rock.

And closing out the festival will be the Motor City's queen of the blues, Thornetta Davis, a powerful singer and performer who boasts one of the best bands in the state.

Community support
City Councilman Wayne Wrobel is one of many community leaders behind the project.

"I was very pleased that someone took the initiative to create what looks to be a promising

DETAILS

Event: Vibe on Main, presented by Vibe Credit Union
Cost: Free; access to the beverage garden is \$5 and the VIP area is \$45 (online prior; \$50 at the gate). Wristbands and beverages are cash only; ATM on-site.

Time/date: 2-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 (live music begins at 4 p.m.)

Location: Downtown Novi. Main Street will be closed from Rojo south to Potomac and west to the Atrium of Novi from 6 a.m. Aug. 13 to 6 a.m. Aug. 14. Mainstreet Village residents can access their homes via Constitution (off Grand River Avenue) or Trans X Road (off Novi Road).

Volunteer: All volunteers receive free entrance to the beverage garden and a drink ticket; register online.
Web: www.vibeonmain.com

festival for the city of Novi," Wrobel said. "It's something different and exciting."

Main Street will be closed to traffic from Paul Bunyon Drive south to Potomac Road and then west toward Novi Road for the festival, allowing for a stage at the Main/Potomac intersection, a beverage garden, a VIP area, food vendors, a mini bazaar and the addition of an outdoor dining area.

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Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia Housing Commission, Michigan as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on **Monday, August 15, 2016**, at the offices of the Livonia Housing Commission – Office of Community Development, 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

DISPOSAL OF VACANT CITY OWNED PARCEL: 15175 SANTA ANITA, LIVONIA, 48154. MINIMUM BID AMOUNT IS \$34,000.00

The proposal package, bid requirements, bid form and certified site survey will be available beginning **Monday, August 8, 2016** at the offices of the Livonia Housing Commission – Community Development, 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. All proposals are to be submitted on the forms furnished by the Director of Housing. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the property bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to James M. Inglis, Livonia Housing Commission – Community Development 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Bids must be on the form provided in the proposal package accompanied by a non-collusion affidavit and bid bond. Interested parties that have questions regarding the city-owned property or bid requirements may contact James M. Inglis, Director of Housing at 248-477-7086 ext. 5.

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

JAMES M. INGLIS, Director of Housing
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hermann-Sinelli



SUBMITTED

Marcia and Jim Hermann and Donna and Lee Sinelli, all of Livonia, announce the engagement of their children, Laura (Lollie) Hermann and Michael Sinelli. The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Stevenson High School in Livonia, and a 2007 graduate of Michigan State University. She is employed as an HR generalist at Sisters of Mercy in Farmington Hills. Her fiancé is a 2002 graduate of Stevenson High School, and is employed at Charles Sinelli and Sons Cement as a cement finisher. The couple will wed in October 2016 at Fox Hills Golf Course of Plymouth. The will reside in Livonia.

partner with Fenmore Block Club will host a "Back to School Tools" supply drive. The drive seeks to collect new school supplies and backpacks for local students K-12.

Collection boxes are set up to accept donations at 38099 Schoolcraft Road (inside the TRUST Office Building) in Livonia. The supplies will be sorted and packed into backpacks for distribution to families on Saturday, Aug. 20.

Needed supplies include new backpacks (particularly for students ages 12-17), binders, supply cases/bags, colored pencils, markers, wide-ruled paper and one-subject notebooks, highlighters, pens (red, black and blue), rounded-tip scissors, No. 2 pencils, rulers, glue bottles, glue sticks, composition books and folders.

To donate or volunteer, call Tonia Cramier at 734-743-1351 or email info@bffcd.org

Holiday bazaar

The Women's Guild at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia hosts its annual Holi-

day Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15.

The church is at 17600 Newburgh Road.

The Holiday Bazaar will feature craft tables with new handmade craft items to sell, homemade baked goods, raffles and lunch during the day. All profits donated to local charities. Some tables are still available for rental.

For more information, call 734-464-0476

Farmers Market

Wilson Barn hosts a Farmers Market Saturdays through Oct. 8 at 29350 W. Chicago in Livonia.

The market features local vendors, produce, crafts and baked goods and breads. There's a Kids Corner, make-and-take and arts and crafts projects from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 30 and Aug. 27. Free pony rides take place 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 6.

For more information, call Karen at 734-261-3602 or visit wilsonbarn.com

Concussion program

The Livonia Civic Center Library hosts the program, "Concussions in Athletics - Know the Warning Signs," with Dr. Steven Karageanes at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 23 in conference room A.

Karageanes, Medical Director, Sports Medicine and MercyElite Sports Performance, St. Mary Mercy Livonia, is a distinguished sports medicine specialist who has treated concussions for almost 20 years. He assisted the Brain Injury Association of Michigan in writing the Michigan Concussion Bill, which became law in October 2012.

The program is scheduled at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road in Livonia.

Crafters wanted

Applications are being accepted for crafters and vendors for the St. John's Episcopal Church Fall Festival and Craft Show, Saturday, Sept. 24. Large indoor space; electricity available. Located at 555 S. Wayne Road. For more information, call 734-721-5023 (Monday - Friday between 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). The festival hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; the craft show is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wayne Farmers Market

The Wayne Farmers Market is up and running from 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays through Oct. 26. It features a variety of food and craft vendors, special events and music. EBT is accepted.

The market is behind city hall in Wayne. For more information, call 734-658-5296 or email towfmmanager@gmail.com

Car show

American Legion Post 32 hosts a car show at 9318 Newburgh Road 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.

Citizens for Peace

The Citizens for Peace will present the talk "Water is Life! Why Safe, Affordable Water is a Human Right!" at its Aug. 9 meeting at 7 p.m. at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile.

People's Water Board members Lila Cabbil and Kim Redigan will focus on the human, health and social cost of unsafe and unaffordable water in Flint and Detroit. For more information call 734-425-0069 or go to www.citizens4peace.com

Rummage sale

Bargain hunters will find everything from clothes to appliances and even antiques at the Garden City Presbyterian Church annual rummage sale. Members will run the sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 11-12 and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 13 at the church, 1841 Middlebelt Road in Garden City. Entry to the rummage sale is free.

Other items for sale include electronics, books, toys, seasonal items, furniture, glassware, jewelry, knickknacks, lamps, pictures, outdoor items and other hidden treasures. Luncheon will be served each day and all the money raised will go the church's mission work.

For more information, call 734-721-3599.

Family fun night

The Livonia Parks and Recreation Department hosts Park It! Family Fun Nights on Tuesday, Aug. 9, at the Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. Enjoy live music, kids activities and a movie under the stars. The event starts at 6 p.m. with live music by the George Brothers at 6:30 p.m. followed by the family movie "The Good Dinosaur" at 8:20 p.m.

The outdoor family concert series Parks, Performances, and Play! will feature Mr. Seley at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard. This new summer concert series, sponsored by The Livonia Arts Commission and Leo's Coney Island (Six Mile and Haggerty), features performances designed just for kids.

For more information, call 734-466-2900 or visit www.ci.livonia.mi.us

RU Marching Band

The Redford Union Marching Band will hold a fundraiser at Vicky's Ice Cream, 26145 W. Six Mile Road in Redford, from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11.

Band members will be there playing their instruments along with attached units Color guard and Majorettes. All proceeds benefit RUHS Marching Band.

Praise service

St. Michael the Archangel Parish invites area Christians to a monthly meeting of Prayer, Praise and Worship, beginning on Friday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. in the church, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman Rds. in Livonia.

The service will include Eucharistic Adoration, prayer teams and confession, and close with Benediction. The service is sponsored by St. Michael's Prayer Angels, a group which regularly prays for the needs of the parish, the country and other specific intentions, and also accepts individual prayer requests. For more information, call the parish office at 734-261-1455, ext. 200.

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 Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29.

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

Back-to-school tools

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MICHIGAN ELITE 25 CAMP



North Farmington basketball standout Amauri Hardy indicated the Michigan Elite 25 Basketball Camp helped to point him in the right direction.

MARTY BUDNER

Fastpitch tryouts

Tryouts are just around the corner for the Garden City Gators Fastpitch Softball Program.

Players from Garden City and other communities are welcome to attend the sessions, which will take place on the lighted softball field at Garden City High School (corner of Maplewood and Hartel).

Coach Barry Patterson suggests players arrive 30 minutes before scheduled tryout times to check in and warm up.

Patterson can be reached at gcsoftball@mi.rr.com or 734-635-2388.

Tryouts are as follows:

- » Monday, Aug. 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 14-and-Under, 16U
- » Tuesday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 10U, 12U
- » Wednesday, Aug. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 14U, 16U
- » Thursday, Aug. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 10U, 12U
- » Saturday, Aug. 13, 9-11:30 a.m.: 10U, 12U
- » Saturday, Aug. 13, 1-3:30 p.m.: 14U, 16U
- » Sunday, Aug. 14, 9-11:30 a.m.: 10U, 12U
- » Sunday, Aug. 14, 1-3:30 p.m.: 14U, 16U

Hole in one club

Albert Anderson, 82, of Chelsea, registered a hole-in-one on July 21 at the Hills course of Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth.

Anderson aced the 105-yard No. 6 hole, using a 7-iron and Noodle ball.

Women's scramble

The Golf Association of Michigan is celebrating its 100th Michigan Women's Amateur (Aug. 8-12) at Spring Meadows Country Club, 1129 Ripley Road, Linden.

In conjunction with the tournament, the Michigan Women's Golf Association will host a breakfast and scramble Monday, Aug. 8, followed by a dinner and program at Tyrone Hills Golf Course, 8449 Old U.S. 23, in Fenton.

Many past Michigan Women's Amateur champions will be featured on a video depicting the 100-year history of the event.

Among the featured panel of champions are moderator Joan Garety, Shirley Spork, Joyce Kazmierski, Patti Shook Boice, Mary Jane Anderson Heistand, Stacy Slobodnik Stoll and Allyson Geer, last year's winner.

For more information about the MWGA, go to www.mwgolf.org.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Learning about life on and off the court is focus of Michigan Elite 25 basketball camp

MARTY BUDNER
Michigan Elite 25 Basketball Camp co-founder Tim McCormick (right) discusses camp matters with instructor and new Salem girls basketball coach Dan Young.



Marty Budner
Staff Writer

The Michigan Elite 25 Basketball Camp has impacted a number of young athletes over the past four years. Amauri Hardy is one of them.

An incoming senior at North Farmington High School, Hardy was one of nine four-year players who attended the 2016 camp that concluded Friday at the Hype Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights. He helped lead the Raiders to the Class A

state championship game for the first time in school history last winter.

"This camp means a lot to me. I have grown and learned a lot of stuff from Tim (McCormick) and all the speakers who have come to the camp," said Hardy, a starting guard for the Raiders who netted 15 points and dished a team-high three assists in last year's state semifinal win over Lansing Everett. "This camp has definitely been

See CAMP, Page B2

COLLEGIATE SPOTLIGHT

Late bloomer making up for lost time

Canton alum Kayla Buford keeps climbing ladder of volleyball success

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When Kayla Buford sets her mind to something, she gets after it. The Minnesota Golden Gophers women's volleyball team is glad she did.

Consider that Buford, 19, is a late bloomer in the world of competitive volleyball. She went from a newbie when she was a sophomore at Canton High School to an integral member of

the on-the-rise Division I program in just a few short years.

"If you were to tell me that I would be playing in one of the best programs in the country, with one of the best coaching staffs and everything, I probably would have laughed and said 'You're crazy,'" said Buford, during a recent telephone interview.

But it's a reality, as the 6-foot-2 middle blocker now starts her sophomore season with the Gophers. Official practice for the 2016 season opens Tuesday.

Wait, there's more. She also trained this year with USA Vol-



CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL / SPORT SHOT PHOTO

Canton alum Kayla Buford powers the ball over the net during a game last season for the University of Minnesota Gophers.

See BUFORD, Page B3

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TRAVEL BASEBALL

Living the Cooperstown dream

South Farmington Blues
12-U team excels at
tourney in upstate N.Y.

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Cooperstown, New York, is the hallowed baseball village where the Baseball Hall of Fame resides.

During the weekend of July 24-26, players on the South Farmington Blues 12-Under baseball team enjoyed a sweet taste of that environment, reaching the Sweet 16 in the 20th annual Cooperstown Dreams Park Tournament. It was the team's first berth in the Sweet 16 since 1999.

The highly competitive, 13-week summer tournament for 12U baseball features skills competition and pool play to determine seeding in the ultimate single elimination tournament.

Following a good showing in the skills competition — the Blues finished second in the "Around the Horn" event and



just missed making the finals in three other categories — it was on to six games of pool play.

Coached by Tom Downs, Dave Hanus, Matt Rehn and Chris Weaks, the 12U Blues went 3-3 in pool play and were seeded 56th out of 104 teams entering single-elimination play.

In the subsequent opener, the Blues pounded their way to a 16-3 victory over the lower-seeded Green Mountain Rams. For the rest of their stay in Cooperstown, Blues' opponents would be higher seeds.

That romp started a run that would lift the Blues 40 rungs in the team standings.

Next came a 15-13 win over the Nevada Pure Baseball Ti-

tans and then the Blues continued with a Cinderella-esque 7-6 victory over the 20th-seeded Orinda California Thunder — with the Blues rallying in their last at-bats from a 5-1 deficit to prevail.

Saturday's final game for the squad was a 16-7 shellacking of the Kansas City Blues, a team that held the top seed on day two of pool play and was 13th for tourney play.

But, the storybook run ended Sunday when the East Michigan Muskies eliminated the Blues 13-1. That didn't minimize the amount of respect and congratulations South Farmington Blues players and coaches received for the team's outstanding weekend.

Blues players include Patrick Coggins, Michael Downs, Noah Felder, Sam Felder, Collin Hanrahan, Daniel Hanus, Kyle Harvey, Jacob Lee, Jake Matteson, Christian Rehn, Alex Switlik, Gus Weaks and Nick Zappia.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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COURTESY PATRICK SWITLIK

The South Farmington Blues 12-Under travel baseball team recently reached the Sweet 16 at a tournament held in Cooperstown, N.Y. From left are Alex Switlik, Noah Felder, Kyle Harvey, Collin Hanrahan, Christian Rehn, Nick Zappia, Gus Weaks, Jake Matteson, Michael Downs, Jacob Lee, Sam Felder, Patrick Coggins and Daniel Hanus. Not pictured: Coaches Chris Weaks, Tom Downs, Dave Hanus, Matt Rehn.

NATIONAL JUNIOR EVALUATION CAMP

Team USA can't finish rally against Finland

Early 2-0 hole proves too deep for host team as camp nears conclusion

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Team USA goalie Jake Oettinger wished he had the first one back while teammate Alex DeBrincat lamented not having better aim in the final stretches of Friday's 2-1 loss to Finland.

Yet both Oettinger and DeBrincat saw positives out of the National Junior Evaluation Camp contest at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

"I was happy to play a game like that this early in the summer so we know what we're in for going forward," said Oettinger, who stopped 21 of 23 Finland shots. "I think the whole team can use this game to their advantage come real tournament time."

Concurring was DeBrincat, a 5-7, 171-pound forward from Farmington Hills. He attended Farmington Hills Harrison and played AAA hockey for Victory Honda out of Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

"It's definitely going to help us," DeBrincat said. "We had to face adversity, I think it's big in the tournament to battle back when you're down. And we're learning how to do that here, I think it definitely will help us."

Unlike Wednesday, when Team USA rallied to win 4-3 in overtime against Sweden, there would not be a successful comeback.

Stymied late

Trailing 2-1 late in the third period, Team USA turned up the offensive heat and kept the puck in Finland's zone for lengthy stretches, only to be frustrated time and again by goalie Veini Vehvilainen (35 saves).

With about six minutes to go, DeBrincat took a centering feed and snapped off a laser from the low slot. But Vehvilainen kicked the shot into the corner to prevent the equalizer.

"Tried to get it up and couldn't really get it up, that's the way it goes," DeBrincat said. "Sometimes it will be in the back of the net."

Team USA had a chance to knot the game up with a minute left, when Finland was called for delay of game. With Oettinger pulled for the extra attacker, it was a de facto 6-on-4 advantage.

A blast from the left circle by hard-nosed forward Erik Foley — a standout all game and Team USA's lone goal scorer — was fought off by the Finland netminder.

Moments later, forward Kieffer Bellows crashed the crease in an unsuccessful bid to notch a dirty goal with 10 seconds to go.

And when Finland cleared the zone following a subsequent face-off, it was back to the drawing board for Team USA in advance of Saturday's highly anticipated matchup



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Finding open ice during Friday's game is Team USA forward Alex DeBrincat, a Farmington Hills native.



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Team USA goalie Jake Oettinger stops an in-close scoring attempt by Finland during Friday's game. Defenseman Nick Boka (No. 10) helps out.

against Canada.

"It's a grind, when you're here for 10 days," Team USA head coach Bob Motzko said. "It felt like we were at the dentist all day. We liked that they were trying to fight through it."

"We got some things in the third period, we just never got momentum in the first two."

Once the "grind" is over, Motzko and staffers will compare notes about how the 32 players on the Team USA roster performed over the course of the tournament.

Later this year, many of those players will be part of the roster that competes at the World Juniors Under-20 Tournament.

"These young guys are nervous, they want to impress," Motzko emphasized. "They wake up every day wondering 'What's going to happen?'"

Slow start

The first half of the opening period was a tentative affair, as each team slowly gauged what the other had in its arsenal.

Chances started to come midway through the stanza, with Team USA on the power play. Defenseman Adam Fox uncorked a one-timer from the top of the left circle that Vehvilainen turned aside.

Moments after the power play ended, however, Finland took a 1-0 edge. Eeli Tolvanen broke in down the left wing and snapped a high shot over the glove of Oettinger.

"Definitely the first goal they scored was one I need to stop," Oettinger said. "And when you plan teams like Finland, their style, they try to sit back and capitalize on those few mistakes a team may make."

Both teams had glorious chances during an ensuing USA penalty, each time following giveaways in the defensive zone. With 6:20 left in the period, Finland's Janne Kuokkanen intercepted an off-the-mark clearing attempt and slung a backhand that Oettinger stopped.

Returning the favor a minute later was a Finland blueliner, whose pass found the stick of USA's Tanner Laczynski; he skated up the gut and ripped a shot right into the chest of Vehvilainen.

Oettinger subsequently showed a quick glove hand to keep the deficit at one goal. Finland skated off with the lead despite being outshot 14-8 in the frame.

Finland doubled its lead to 2-0 at 15:31 of the second period when Sami Taverner buried a cross-crease feed.

But Team USA drew to within 2-1 before the end of the period on a power play goal by Foley with 1:12 to go.

A point shot deflected off Christian Fischer, parked in front of Vehvilainen, and the puck slithered to the wide-open Foley near the right post. He had no trouble sliding the puck into the half-empty cage.

SWEDEN 5, CANADA 1: Sweden scored four goals in the first period and went on to victory.



MARTY BUDNER

Michigan Elite 25 participants wait for further instructions from directors Tim McCormick and Dan Young who meet with another camper.

CAMP

Continued from Page B1

beneficial to me as far as basketball and as far as life skills.

"This is a great experience to showcase my skills along with other great players in Michigan in front of coaches. It has been able to improve my game, made me physically stronger and mentally stronger, and it just made me grow as a player. This camp taught me great team skills and leadership, and how to unite a team and stick with a team and your family.

"It's a great group (of coaches) to be around and they just want the best for you," he said. "Being this is my last year of high school, I definitely wanted to come back and give it my all and compete. I wasn't going to miss it this year. I've learned new stuff every year. There's always something different."

Reaching the youngsters

Hardy exemplifies the student-athlete camp co-founders Micheal Dietz and McCormick hope to reach.

The enlightening five-day conclave attracts the state's top talent. Scouts scour the state all winter in a quest of finding only the elite high school players — ideally 25 in each grade from freshman to seniors — to learn about life on and off the basketball court.

The camp's mission is to make a lasting imprint on young athletes. That's why camp administrators stress that developing values like respect for others and country are just as important as working on fundamental basketball skills like dribbling and rebounding.

The 54-year-old McCormick said the no-cost camp, which includes 20 of the state's top coaches, is all about shaping a young person's character. One of the camp instructors is Dan Young, who this year takes over as Salem's varsity girls basketball team.

"The goal is to change the culture of basketball in the state of Michigan," said McCormick, a former NBA player who is considered one of the country's premier basketball analysts. "We spend a week talking about the importance of the national anthem and patriotism. When they play the Star Spangled Banner before a game, you stand, put your hand over your heart and say the words."

"We tell them they have to set an example for people in

"We talk about balance. We know they are really good basketball players, but they are capable of being more. We talk about them being good citizens, leaders in their class and having academic excellence."

TIM MCCORMICK

Michigan Elite 25 Basketball co-founder on the camp's mission

their class. We talk about dating and respect for girls, little things like saying 'please' and 'thank you.' And, to have respect for yourself, your coaches and your teachers.

"We just want to make sure these guys understand that they have great talent, but that doesn't guarantee anything," he said. "We talk about balance."

We know they are really good basketball players, but they are capable of being more. We talk about them being good citizens, leaders in their class and having academic excellence."

All about character

The camp concluded Friday with a dunk contest and a career day program. In between, some 120 enthusiastic participants honed their basketball skills in every phase of the game from stretching to shooting.

However, each day's activities included educational sessions with important role models such as retired Lt. Col. Tom Doman and FBI agent Bob Beckman. Players also were lectured on life subjects like character, substance abuse and the importance of family.

Wendell Green, who will be a freshman at Detroit Country Day this fall, was a first-time participant. The 14-year-old Northville resident couldn't have been happier with the opportunity to further his point guard skills and learn about life.

"They sell that this camp is more than just about basketball, but how you are as a person," said Green, who attended Southfield Christian Middle School. "They teach you how to be good on and off the court and they want you to do your best all the time."

"On the court they're showing me some different moves and off the court they're teaching me about respect, so I'm learning from both aspects. This is a blessing to be here with all these great players."

JUNIOR GOLF

Maurier's ace seizes day at Whispering Pines Open

Stevenson senior also wins Girls 15-18 division

M.B. Dillon
Correspondent

Madison Maurier couldn't have scripted a better day of golf than what she experienced July 27 at the Kensington Junior Tour Whispering Pines Open.

Not only did the incoming Livonia Stevenson High senior record her first hole-in-one, she fired 86 to win the Girls 15-18 age group on the tricky, par-72 Pinckney course.

Her ace came on the 102-yard third hole.

"My playing partner went over, so I clubbed down," Maurier said. "I hit it decent. It hit a ridge on the green. Once it started to go down, I thought it went off the green. My partner was watching my ball and she said, 'You are going to like this.' It was a foot from the pin. I got to see it roll in. It was crazy. When I saw it go in, I was in shock."

Maurier posted three sevens on the front nine, but still carded 45.

"I ended up shooting 41 on the back with almost all fives

across the board," the 17-year-old said. "I played decent, even though I was still in shock."

PGA professional Nathan Oake, who directs the Kensington Junior Tour, was surprised as well.

"I only remember one hole-in-one in the last 11 years," he said. "So far in the last month, we've had three, which is incredible. People are living right, I guess."

Maurier's dad Matt and sister Sydney, 13, who was competing, were on hand to savor the accomplishment.

"I was happy for the tournament win, but I was ecstatic for the hole-in-one," Matt said. "Some people go their whole lives without one. It's a nice reward for all the hard work Madison has put in the past few years. Syd just wishes she was in the same group to see it."

Alyssa Snider, who will be a senior at Howell High, finished just one shot off the pace for runner-up honors with 87.

Brighton's Brendan Britz, 16, tore it up with 79 to conquer the Boys 15-18 field.

"I feel like I didn't play bad, but I had a lot of unlucky breaks on the hills," said Britz, who was Novi Detroit Catholic Central's No. 1 JV player last year. "I'd make what looked like a good tee shot and I would

end up in a bad spot. I had one bad double-bogey on the third hole. I was about 100 yards out and thought I hit a good wedge shot. It landed in a crevice to the left side of the green, pole high, and it was buried in the grass below my feet."

Britz shot 39 on the front side followed by 40 on the back, highlighted by a birdie on No. 17.

"My putter was better today and I had a couple of bunker shots I hit pretty good," he said. "The course is very hilly and it slopes a lot. If you don't hit it in the right spots, it's a hard course."

Maxwell Grant, who plays hockey and golf at Brighton High, finished in second place with 81.

Brendan Aughe, 13, of Clarkston captured the Boys 12-14 age division a career-best 78, while Novi's Dhruv Kumar was runner-up.

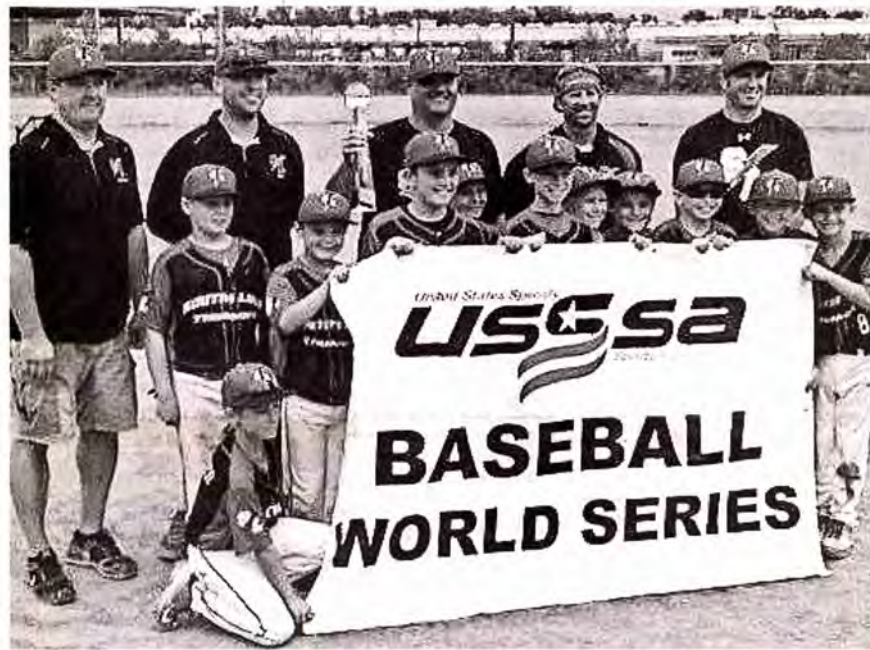
"I drove the ball straight and I still shot 88," Kumar said. "Every second shot, I topped. I made par on the last hole, one of my four pars of the day. The course has tight fairways and the greens are tough to read."

Ann Arbor's Teuan Jones, 10, captured the nine-hole division with 47, while Hartland's Keller King, 9, was runner-up with 50 as the par-4, No. 5 hole stood out.



Livonia Stevenson High incoming senior Madison Maurier had a hole-in-one at the Whispering Pines Junior Open.

World Series champs



DAWN MIFSUD

The 9-and-under South Lyon Thunder baseball team, coached by Don Mifsud, posted a 6-0 record, capped by an 8-7 victory in the finals over the Michigan War Dogs, to capture the USSSA World Series held July 21-24 at Canton's Victory Park. The Thunder also defeated the Motor City Bulldogs (19-1), Anchor Bay Angels (17-3), Canton Cardinals (10-1), Precision Patriots (9-2) and War Dogs (14-6) en route to the title. Team members: Drew Mifsud (tournament MVP), Andrew Verona-Kerley (offensive MVP), Josh Walther (Walled Lake), Braden Fox, Sam Stoll, Jack Cumberland, Michael Stack, Michael Jankowski, Ryan Hurshe, Aiden Robinson and Jacob Gusick. Assistant coaches are Dan Stoll, Rich Robinson and Scott Cumberland.

PRO BASEBALL

Beavers split with Unicorns in USPBL

Marty Budner
Staff Writer

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers and Utica Unicorns split their two recent weekend games, with each team winning by a 7-1 score. The Beavers registered a 7-1 win July 24 after losing by that same score on July 22.

Despite the split, Birmingham-Bloomfield continued to remain atop the United Shore Professional Baseball League (USPBL) standings with a 17-10 record. The Eastside Diamond Hoppers are second at 12-12 while the Utica Unicorns are third in the three-team independent league at 9-16.

In the six-run victory over the Unicorns, the Beavers collected 12 hits and all nine starters reached base at least one time.

Wilson began the offensive assault with a whopping three-run, third-inning round tripper over the Chevrolet Pavilion situated well beyond the left field wall. It was his league-leading 10th home run and league-leading 24th RBI.

DJ Martinez smacked a two-run homer in the fourth and added another RBI in the fifth with a single. Martinez has a six-game hitting streak heading into the Beavers' next set of games.



Dan Kennon went 2-3 with a double and two runs scored. Randy Wynne was the winning pitcher.

FIFTH PLAYER PROMOTED: Dalton DiNatale recently became the fifth USPBL player to sign with a Major League baseball organization.

DiNatale, who played first base for the Eastside Diamond Hoppers, was signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers. The left-handed hitting infielder played college baseball at Arizona State University.

The USPBL's earlier players promoted to Major League programs were pitcher Ross Vance (St. Louis Cardinals) and infielder Aaron Bossi (New York Yankees) from the Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers, pitcher Chris McDonald (Pittsburgh Pirates) from the Diamond Hoppers and pitcher Evan Piechota (Pittsburgh Pirates) from the Utica Unicorns.

BUFORD

Continued from Page B1

leyball first at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado and later as part of its Collegiate National Team roster in Indianapolis.

"Meeting other players from around the country, being able to train at USA Volleyball and compete, put on the red-white-and-blue jersey was such an amazing feeling," Buford recalled. "It definitely just inspired me to not just settle for things."



Buford

"I learned so much about myself, about volleyball and life in general. I'm excited to go back to try out again next February and see what happens after that."

Joyful attitude

When Buford talks, she does so with a joy that is impossible to miss.

After successfully launching her volleyball career — albeit belatedly — with the Chiefs, she is filled with happiness about how her life is taking shape at Minnesota.

"My first season with the Gophers was amazing," Buford said. "We finished third in the country, made it to the Final Four. ... My teammates and everyone were so great. Our relationship as a team was a great one and a rare one."

"Everyone who is graduating will be missed, I'll always have a special place in my heart for them. We'll always be friends."

Buford demonstrated last season at Minnesota and this year with USA Volleyball that she is a front-row menace for opponents, bringing an undeniable mix of power and court savvy.

She plays with consistency, not to mention a confidence in her ability that sometimes waned during her high school career — because she was late to the volleyball party when compared with others who were developed on club programs.

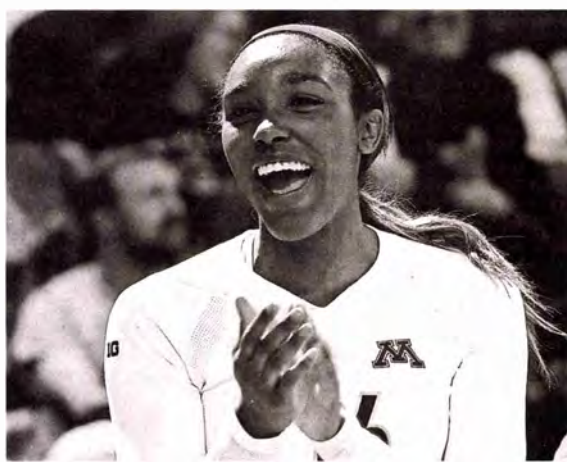
"I'm just having an overall confidence, not doubting myself (and) knowing I am able to compete with some of the best," Buford said. "In the game of volleyball there's so much adversity you face, and sometimes you may just have to deal with the cards that you're handed and find a way to make it work."

"That was a really learning key I found, different inefficiencies as a player were brought to light. Just being able to work on those. ... I've become a lot more consistent."

Worthwhile

The learning curve has been steep but worthwhile for the daughter of Kevin Buford Sr. and Tamika Higgins. It should be pointed out that Kayla Buford probably could have picked up the sport much sooner than she did.

"My family just really loves sports and so I played every-



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ATHLETICS

Kayla Buford didn't start playing competitive volleyball until her sophomore year of high school.

thing under the sun," she said. "Like T-ball, baseball, soccer. I even tried basketball. Track and field. Volleyball came around though."

When Buford, whose older brother Kevin was a football stalwart at Canton, decided to start playing volleyball with the Chiefs, she was worried she'd let others down.

"There'd be times when people would get upset that I wasn't able to do things," she said. "I was still trying to learn it."

Buford was a quick study, ultimately playing a key role for the Chiefs her junior year (the team won the division title

with a 32-13-1 record) with 81 kills and 73 blocks.

"It took a lot to learn because girls on my team and girls I played against were playing since they were 10," she said. "There were a lot of tears, crying and frustrating moments but it finally came."

She did not return for her senior season, instead playing for the Premier Volleyball Academy's 18-Onitsuka team. Standing about 5-foot-11 as a sophomore, Buford continued to gain inches to her frame right up until her 2015 graduation.

It was obvious to college scouts that she was growing on

the court as well, and verbally committed to play at Rutgers University.

Perfect fit

But Buford subsequently became intrigued about playing for the Golden Gophers.

"I fell in love with the campus, program and staff and everything about this school," she said. "It was a perfect fit for me, everything I wanted to happen."

Meanwhile, Buford keeps working tirelessly to improve her game — especially knowing she fits right in at the D-I and national levels.

"I started developing and there is still a lot of developing I have left because I started late, trying to play catch-up," Buford said. "But it's still enjoyable and something I love doing."

Connecting the dots from late start to current success, Buford figures it couldn't have happened any other way.

"It was one of those things, at first I really didn't know how I felt about it," she said. "But I love it now."

"There were bumps and hiccups along the way, about what I wanted to do. ... I've come to love it and I couldn't imagine my life without it. It's amazing."

That's how many people now describe the ebullient Kayla Buford.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

AUGUST CONCERT

Trinity Episcopal Church, 26880 La Muera, Farmington Hills. Details: Trinity and Friends choir presents "Let's Go To The Movies." Tickets are \$12.

CONCERT CANCELED

Unity of Livonia, 28860 Five Mile, Livonia. Details: Kim-Char Meredith's concert has been canceled.

FAMILY TAO SUMMER CAMP

Michigan Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Details: The theme is "cherish life." The camp is for families with children, 6-12 and aims to help children develop character and learn to cherish all life with respect, joy and gratitude.

FREE YARD SALE

Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia; Royal Oak, 2500 Crooks, Royal Oak; God Lan Unity, 22450 Schoolcraft, Detroit.

Shoppers can take whatever they want, including clothing, home and yard goods, pictures, jewelry, toys, and more, for free. The number of items a person takes may be limited during peak hours.

FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Details: Monthly prayer, praise and worship service will include Eucharistic adoration, prayer teams, confession, and benediction.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish. Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible.

GRIEFSHARE

New Life Church, 33111 Ford Road, Garden City. Details: Grief support group provides help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.

HEARTBEAT OF PLYMOUTH

Kellogg Park, Penn Theater, and The Gathering in downtown Plymouth. Details: Third annual festival features Christian speakers, music and activities for children and teens.

PICNIC

St. Michael Lutheran Church, at Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse grounds, located at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads, Canton.

Hot dogs, cookies, chips and water will be provided and a praise band will perform.

RUMMAGE SALE

Sacred Heart Church, 29125 Six Mile, Livonia. Details: Bicycles, furniture, antiques, lamps and light fixtures, tools and hardware, kids games and toys, sporting goods, home decor, kitchenware, books, music, movies and more.

All proceeds will go toward church utility bills. Contact: Sacred Heart church office, 734-522-3166.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia. Details: Theme is Serengeti Trek - "Where kids are wild about God."

Katelyn at 734-620-4778 or Melissa at 734-765-1827.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Cherry Hill Village Schoolhouse grounds, located at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads, Canton.

St. Michael Lutheran Church holds outdoor services with childcare provided.

YOUTH SOCCER

Crossroads Church/Trinity Church Grounds, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Details: Soccer camp for boys and girls ages 5 and up, any skill level.

Soccer camp for boys and girls ages 5 and up, any skill level. \$25 per student; non-refundable. Includes water bottle, instruction, snacks.

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Congregation Beth Ahm. Details: "Drop In & Learn," which runs year-round, features lectures on DVD on Jewish history, culture, philosophy, and related topics.

Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931; nancyclen879@att.net.

Our Lady of Loretto

Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township. Details: Scripture study.

14560 Merriman, Livonia. Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers.

St. Innocent Orthodox Church. Details: An informal and ongoing study of the Orthodox faith and life.

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.

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.

Free meal. Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12.

HEALING SERVICE

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

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.

Free meal. Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12.

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

Parish office at 734-464-1223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

7000 N. Sheldon, Canton. Details: Praying silently or aloud together, prayer requests welcomed.

Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023.

SINGLES

23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304. Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia. Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast.

29667 Wentworth, Livonia. Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community.

23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202. Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems.

Connection Church

3855 Sheldon, Canton. Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hangovers.

29667 Wentworth, Livonia. Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community.

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

MOMS

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

24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford. Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

313-563-0162.

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

1 p.m. Sunday. Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia. Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting.

PRAYER

St. Edith Church. Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching.

Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching.

7:00 a.m. Monday-Friday. Details: Praying silently or aloud together, prayer requests welcomed.

7:30 p.m. Thursday. Details: Praying silently or aloud together, prayer requests welcomed.

6:7 a.m. Monday-Friday. Details: Praying silently or aloud together, prayer requests welcomed.

7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Details: Praying silently or aloud together, prayer requests welcomed.

1:4 p.m. third Saturday of the month. Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday. Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community.

5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community.

7 p.m. Friday. Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hangovers.

7:9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August.

28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills. Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group.

1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday. Location: 2055 Merriman.

Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519.

Fireside Church of God. Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program.

11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program.

Fireside Church of God. Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Details: A twice-monthly drop-

in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. Contact: 734-421-8451.

St. Thomas a Becket Church. Details: 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.

Passages Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances. View Online www.hometownlife.com

BERGIN KING MAY

JOSEPH PATRICK "JoeJoe" 61, of Bonita Springs, Florida, died July 23, 2016. Joe was born September 13, 1954 to Bernard Howard Bergin and Rosemary Dowsey Bergin. He was raised in South Lyon, MI and lived for many years in Bonita Springs, FL.



BURT VERNON Passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2016. He was 78 years old. Burt was born on August 5, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan. He was the eldest of two sons born to John and Leah (Smith) King.



JAMES McHATTON 90, died peacefully at home on Grand Traverse Bay in Eastport, Michigan, just before dawn, on July 28, 2016, surrounded by his adoring family.

HETTENBACH



CHARLES Mr. Charles "Chuck" Hettenbach, age 73, of Spring Lake and Ft. Myers, Florida passed away Wednesday, August 3, 2016. He was born August 12, 1942 in Evansville, IN to Gilbert and Frieda (Goebel) Hettenbach.

MANETTA-BELTOWSKI

SARAH (CARBONE) A memorial service will be held on Friday August 12th for Sarah (Carbone) Manetta Beltowski age 94. Formerly of Detroit, Redford and Livonia Michigan.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one. Mortensen Funeral Homes

TAYLOR



KENNETH 47 passed away July 31st, 2016 in Atlanta, GA in the company of his loving family.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one. Mortensen Funeral Homes

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Take steps toward better communication

BY MARY LORENZ
 CAREERBUILDER

Look under the list of requirements on almost any job advertisement posted today, and you will inevitably see some variation of this phrase: "strong communication skills."

The ability to communicate effectively is an in-demand skill in any professional setting. In a 2014 CareerBuilder survey, employers named "effective communicator" among the 10 most important soft skills they look for in prospective employees. It isn't difficult to see why this skill is so highly regarded: Poor communication in the workplace has been shown to slow down productivity, hurt morale and even take a toll on business.

But while communication is one of the most crucial business skills a person can have, very few of us receive formal training for it. Whether you're new to the workforce or have years of experience under your belt, taking steps to improve your communication skills is always a worthwhile endeavor.

You will build stronger relationships with colleagues and clients and be more effective at your job as a result. Follow these tips from career experts to become a better communicator.

Err on the side of communicating too much. Communication is one of the few areas where less does not equal more. "There is no such thing as being too clear," says Meg O'Hara, a communications specialist with A. Bright Idea, a California-based public relations firm. "Practice over-communicating in all instances and avenues to make sure your message is delivered."

Know your audience. To be effective, it's important to understand that communication styles vary among individuals. "Most of the conflicts I have seen in the workplace that are the result of poor communication really stem from communicating in a way that we would want to be communicated with, as opposed to truly understanding how the person



THINKSTOCK

we are interacting with wants to be communicated with," says James Sudakow, author of the book "Picking the Low-Hanging Fruit ... and Other Stupid Stuff We Say in the Corporate World."

Check in early and often. The best way to ensure that you are communicating clearly is simply to ask. Sudakow has avoided confusion by saying, "Here is how I typically communicate. Does that work for you? If not, what are your preferences?" Not only does this approach tell you what you need to know, but it shows you are considerate of the other person.

Stay away from jargon. In the corporate world, certain companies, teams or industries have their own language — something we tend to forget when speaking with "outsiders." Be aware of any idiosyncratic terms, corporate jargon and acronyms you may be using, which can create an unnecessary boundary to communication, Sudakow advises. Speak as generally and "normally" as possible.

Practice active listening. "The most important aspect of communication isn't actually speaking — it's listening," says Sabrina Balmick, a marketing manager at the recruiting firm ACA Talent. She says people often get so caught up in waiting for their turns to speak, they don't actually hear what the other person just said. To prevent that, try active listening. Paraphrase what you've

just heard to the speaker and ask if you've understood correctly.

just heard to the speaker and ask if you've understood correctly.

Help them help you understand. If you are having trouble understanding what a colleague is trying to say or ask of you, don't just say, "I don't understand," O'Hara advises. Go further and try to identify exactly what it is that is confusing you. "This can avoid talking in circles and promotes a solution," O'Hara says.

It can also help to ask open-ended questions to draw out more information, says Leigh Espy, a workforce-management expert who provides leadership advice on her blog, projectbliss.net. A question as simple as, "Can you share more about that?" not only invites others to elaborate on their ideas, it also shows you are genuinely interested in what they have to say.

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

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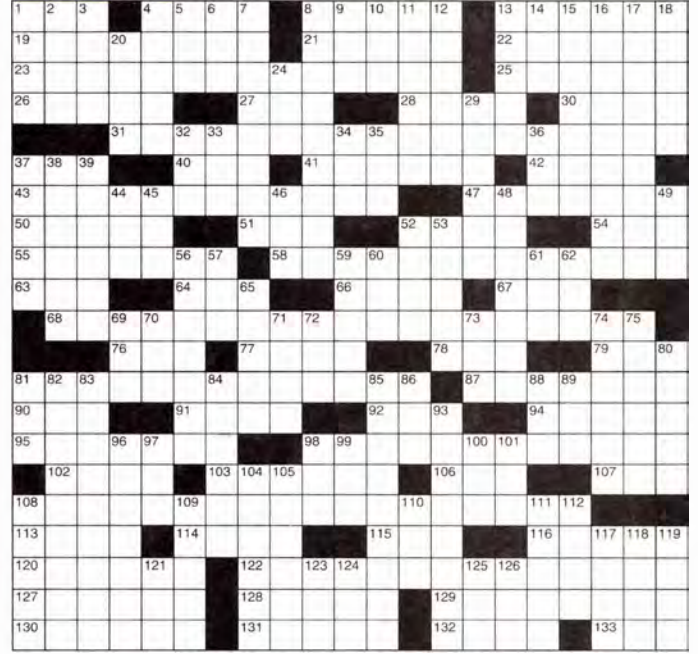
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Divine one
 - 4 Chew on
 - 8 Part of UPI
 - 13 "Yeah, and?"
 - 19 Gilbert and Sullivan work
 - 21 Try to swat
 - 22 Operate a 767, say
 - 23 Tool with a large bony projection?
 - 25 "La Isla" (1987 Madonna hit)
 - 26 Freshwater polyp
 - 27 Clucking bird
 - 28 Eye, in Versailles
 - 30 Mined rocks
 - 31 On a tool's upper surface?
 - 37 Oomph
 - 40 Roadside assistance gp.
 - 41 Odd one out
 - 42 Bazaar sight
 - 43 Tool given as a peace offering?
 - 47 Czarina, e.g.
 - 50 Glimmery rock
 - 51 — Jacinto
 - 52 Jamie of old sitcomom
 - 54 Sutcliffe or Erwin
 - 55 Trade sanction
 - 58 Hit a cartoon dad with a tool?
 - 63 Trendy resort
 - 64 State south of B.C.
 - 66 Ending for million
 - 67 Alert at sea
 - 68 Add-on accessory for a tool?
 - 76 "The Big Read" org.
 - 77 Ham's father
 - 78 Mode or king preceder
 - 79 Remind over and over
 - 81 Male bovine using a tool?
 - 87 Hurriedly
 - 90 "Be there — sec"
 - 91 Glen
 - 92 Owns
 - 94 Speak to the masses
 - 95 Get a steal at a store
 - 98 Use a tool on some products?
 - 102 Disintegrate, as cells
 - 103 Sees in the distance
 - 106 "— out!" (ump's call)
 - 107 Before
 - 108 Priciest tool?
 - 113 "Permit Me Voyage" writer James
 - 114 "Mike & Mike" arer
 - 115 Taoism's — -tzu
 - 116 Crude-carrying ship
 - 120 Venetan island
 - 122 Statement upon locating someone's lost tool in the dark?
 - 127 Expose by being a flink
 - 128 "It's —!" (quitter's cry)
 - 129 Getting set to propose
 - 130 Gauge
 - 131 Did it wrong
 - 132 Cries noisily
 - 133 Thing, in legalese
 - 8 Observable occurrences
 - 9 Divest (of)
 - 10 JFK posting
 - 11 Remove, as a branch
 - 12 Canonized fifth-cen pope
 - 13 Weasel's kin
 - 14 — lacto-vegetarian
 - 15 Gain the support of a yeti or a yak
 - 16 Quality of a
 - 17 Certifies
 - 18 Bedevil
 - 20 — avis (worder)
 - 24 With 110-Down, post-tax revenue
 - 29 Buries
 - 32 — chi chi'an
 - 33 Solo in films
 - 34 Followers of omicrons
 - 35 Pre-CIA gp.
 - 36 "The Racer's Edge" Porter
 - 37 Printing units
 - 38 Free from obligation
 - 39 Big cheese
 - 44 Rx overseer
 - 45 Plop lead-in
 - 46 Informal
 - 48 X-ray alternative
 - 49 Earth lighter
 - 52 Flowerless office plant
 - 53 Match milieu
 - 56 Yankees manager
 - 57 Joe
 - 57 Lofty verse
 - 59 Quite manly
 - 60 My, in Milan
 - 61 Pithy saying
 - 62 Follower of chi
 - 65 Void legally
 - 69 Call a hall to
 - 70 Barely visible
 - 71 Tune pinner
 - 72 TV's Linden
 - 73 71-Down, collegately
 - 74 Cut rate
 - 75 Talk nonstop
 - 80 Ducks' kin
 - 81 Bro's counterpart
 - 82 Comparable things
 - 83 Members of an elite U.S. force
 - 84 Rolls with holes
 - 85 Shaped with a certain cutting tool
 - 86 Penn of "Epic Movie"
 - 88 Ad —
 - 89 Boat built by
 - 77-Across
 - 93 Knowing glances
 - 96 Parsons of "Roseanne"
 - 97 96-Down's "Roseanne" role
 - 98 Fish by letting the bait bob
 - 99 Clergyman's subj.
 - 100 JFK Library architect
 - 101 Deep anger
 - 104 Lying face-up
 - 105 Try to separate out, as gold
 - 108 One of the von Trapp daughters
 - 109 Time on end
 - 110 See 24-Down
 - 111 Fiat's, e.g.
 - 112 Many a sunlit ledge
 - 117 Lion's den
 - 118 Suffix akin to -trix
 - 119 Partner of rules, briefly
 - 121 Lean — (sheds)
 - 123 Locate of Sp.
 - 124 U-turn from WNW
 - 125 Game akin to crazy eights
 - 126 Civil War southerner



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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

ADVENTURE WORD SEARCH

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

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 ADVENTURE
 AIMING
 ATV
 BACKCOUNTRY
 BEVOUAC
 CAMPING
 CARABINER
 COAST
 COMPASS
 COMPETITION
 CORD
 DOWNHILL
 EQUIPMENT
 EXCITEMENT
 FUEL
 GEARS
 GROUNDSHEET
 HAULING
 HEADWIND
 HUNTING
 JUMP
 LAYERING
 MOUNTAINS
 NAVIGATION
 ORIENTEERING
 PARACHUTE
 RIDING
 RISK
 RUCKSACK
 RUN
 SPEED
 TENT
 TORCH
 TRENCH
 UNKNOWN

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Crossword Answers

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

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Car Report

MINI Goes Big with Olympics Advertising Campaign, 'Takes the States' Tour and Large Footprint of Clubman



By Dale Buss

MINI's brand seems to be thriving, but its U.S. sales sure could use a boost. That's where the car brand's new advertising campaign featuring American Olympians could come in handy.

So is the latest version of its "MINI Takes the States" group-drive and promotion.

In an extension of the "Defy Labels" platform that MINI launched during a Super Bowl ad this year featuring the iconoclastic actor Harvey Keitel, as well as athletes Abby Wambach and Serena Williams, and others, the BMW-owned marque has shot eight commercials featuring U.S. Olympians such as boxer Claressa Shields, swimmer Cullen Jones -- and, again, Williams.

The commonality is that each of these athletes has defied labels, and early expectations, and has succeeded on his or her own terms, just like the brand. Rugby player Carlin Isles, for instance, was a "special-ed kid," and volleyballer Jake Gibb is a two-time survivor of cancer.

"We figured we'd really like 'Defy Labels' to carry on throughout the



MINI counts on the spacious Clubman to counter its tiny-car image

year and have a consistent message because it was very successful coming out of the Super Bowl." Tom Noble, head of MINI brand communications, told me. "And we figured there were probably a lot of Olympians who had stories about defying labels to get where they were going."

While MINI's bring arguably is as well-defined as ever, MINI sales could use a boost from associating with the imminent games in Rio de Janeiro -- or from anything else. At a time of \$2-a-gallon gasoline and no prominent news from MINI on the new-product front, its sales were down in the U.S. by 17 percent for the first half of 2016.

I talked with Noble about the Olympics and the MINI Takes the States tour that just concluded this week, a biennial trek which attracted a record 4,000-plus MINI owners over two weeks as it moved from the Atlanta Motor Speedway around the country to end in Palm Springs, Calif.

Q: Where did you come up with the insight to apply your "Defy Labels" positioning to an Olympics campaign? Was it the natural outcome of looking for more places to use this campaign idea, or were you committed to marketing via the Olympics and the fit made sense?

Tom Noble: There was no commitment to the Olympics. There's a BMW Group commitment but I had no obligation to do things with the Olympics. But with the Super Bowl ad, we had over 40 million views online and an increase in brand consideration.

So we were looking for opportunities. Last year we weren't thinking about the Olympics as a vehicle. Then after the Super Bowl we said what other potential opportunities do we have? What other tentpoles? And the Olympics



MINI and owners celebrate completion of the latest "MINI Takes the States" tour.

came up. And the BMW relationship gives us access to a relationship with the US Olympic Committee.

Q: As a marketer investing in the games in Brazil, are you concerned about any of the reported problems and background noise surrounding them? They seem to exceed, say, the runup to London 2012, where there were concerns about terrorism but not many other things.

Noble: London was a dream run: Sydney [2000 Summer Games] was really easy. When you think about the last Olympics that had issues of getting things fixed and done on time it was Athens in 2004. What normally happens is there's a giant

rush up to the Olympics, everyone is concerned; and then the world gets together for two weeks and celebrates how good humans can be. Those problems get fixed. Our hope is that happens again.

Q: What is your take on MINI Takes the States. What does that do for the brand?

Noble: It's the sixth time we've done it and we started it 10 years ago. We had the highest level of participation we've had. Nine hundred people registered to go the full distance. The level of interest in the brand and in driving doesn't seem to have cooled off; if anything it's gone in the other direction.

From a brand point of view it does a couple of things. When you have a lot of MINIs rolling into a market that may not have seen a lot of them in the past, you have an instant boost in awareness and interest in what's going on here. MINI has always had a strong community of owners. Most owners didn't know each other, but by the end of it they did and got along. It's a way to talk to that community and get a lot of like-minded people, if people who are not alike demographically.

It's hard to pin a MINI driver down on how old they are and where they live. It's much easier to pin them down on mindset: "Defy Labels."

CELEBRATIONS!

Katelyn & Jonathan

David Colley of Livonia is proud to announce the engagement of his daughter Katelyn Elizabeth Colley (Stevenson HS) to Jonathan David Marquis (Walled Lake Northern HS), son of David and Patricia Marquis. Both Katie and Jon are recent Graduates of CMU and currently teaching Elementary School in Romulus.

No date has been set.

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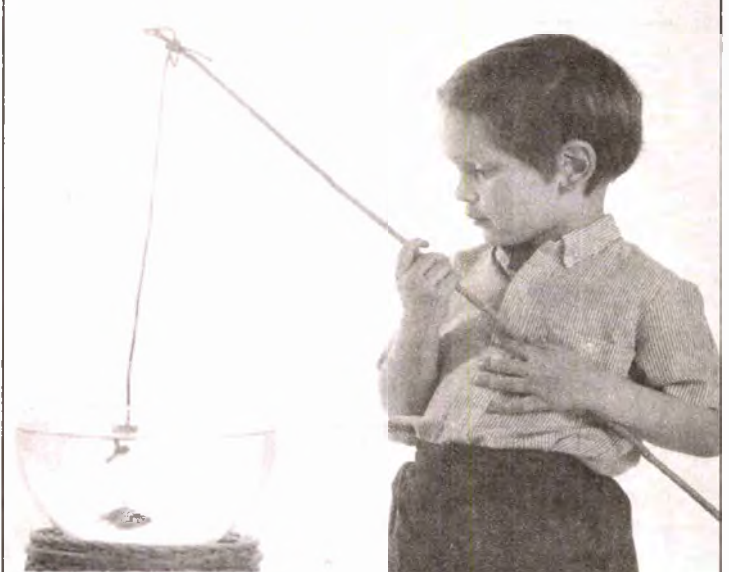
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