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OBSERVER

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LADYWOOD'S HAYWARD NAMED CO-MISS HOCKEY WINNER
SPORTS, B1

Godbout target of recall petitions

Veteran councilman: 'It's just a political move'

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Petitions seeking to recall a veteran Westland councilman will be before the Wayne County Election Commission on Thursday.

Resident Steve Boron has submitted three petitions

seeking to recall Council President James Godbout. As a reason for the recall, the petitions cite the fact that Godbout voted in favor of a citywide lighting assessment; that he voted in 2016 to raise water rates while being delinquent on his own water bill; and that he voted for a \$10 million bond issue to pay for a citywide upgrade to smart meters.

Legally, only one petition



Godbout

issues Godbout questioned why he was being singled out. "It is purely their attempt to get me out so they can get

someone else in during this election," said Godbout, who was the top vote-getter in the 2015 and 2011 council races. "This has absolutely nothing to do with malfeasance. It is purely political — it's just a political move."

A supporter of councilmen Kevin Coleman and Peter Herzberg, Boron said that council members Christine Bryant and Michael Kehrer can't be recalled because they

have terms expiring in November. Legally, recall petitions can't be filed against elected officials in the first or last six months of two-year terms, the first or last year of a four-year term.

"(Councilmen Bill) Johnson and (Adam) Hammons sided with the people more than Godbout on all these areas," said Boron, who unsuccessfully

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Debbie Valencia of Northville waves a copy of the U.S. Constitution and yells out a question March 18 during U.S. Rep. Dave Trott's town hall gathering at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. Valencia had a question written down for Trott, but it wasn't chosen to be read to him.

TROTT TAKES HEAT AT NOISY TOWN HALL

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

David Trott was red-carded repeatedly — and sometimes drowned out by shouting — as he gamely faced a combative crowd during a raucous Saturday town hall in Novi.

The second-term Republican congressman from Birmingham arranged the meeting after weeks of pressure from constituents, who had said they wanted to know where their representative stood on President Donald Trump's agenda. Trott represents Michigan's 11th District, which includes many communities in Oakland County and western Wayne County.

At least 450 people packed a ballroom at the Suburban Collection Showplace for the town hall, but several hundred more were left outside, during a heavy morning snowfall, erupting into chants of "Trot him out!" while waiting for a chance to get in.

Farmington resident Maria



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Rep. Dave Trott answers questions March 18 at the Novi Suburban Collection Showplace. Trott found many supporters of his statements and quite a few opponents as he discussed his views on health care, Donald Trump, immigration and the economy.

Taylor was one of the early arrivals and was able to get in. But she said hundreds of people, many of whom had driven a couple of hours or more "from all corners of our gerrymandered district" only to be shut out when organizers closed the doors 10 minutes after opening them.

"I think the town hall really served to underscore the disconnect between citizens and some of these Washington officials," Taylor said. "It opened at 8 a.m. and they closed the doors at 8:09 and wouldn't let anybody else in, even though there were literally hundreds of people waiting outside. People were standing out there in the snow, in the middle of a March blizzard, locked out of the town hall — literally locked out of democracy."

Trott, answering submitted questions read aloud by Novi Mayor Bob Gatt, took issue with some of Trump's plans,

See **TROTT**, Page A2

Seedlings raises \$46K at bowling fundraiser

Seedlings Braille Books for Children raised \$46,000 at its 30th annual Bowling for Braille Books event March 11, falling just short of its goal.

"Thanks to all of the sponsors, donors and bowlers who participated, we came close to raising the \$50,000 needed to provide 5,000 braille books to blind kids," said Seedlings founder and director Debra Bonde.

Donations are still being accepted to help make up the difference. Donations may be mailed to Seedlings, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 or made online at www.firstgiving.com/seedlingsbraille. The website will be active until June 11.

Seedlings' annual bowling event is its biggest fundraiser of the year.

Seedlings, which provides free and low-cost braille books to blind children locally, across the United States and all over the world, receives no government funding. All of the nonprofit's revenue comes from fundraisers, donations and grants.

Every \$100 raised allows Seedlings to produce and distribute 10 braille books. Every \$50 allows Seedlings to produce five books.

Every \$10 allows Seedlings to produce one book.

Blind children are at a disadvantage when it comes to reading. For every 100 books a sighted child has, a blind child may have just five. That's be-

See **SEEDLINGS**, Page A2



COURTESY OF SEEDLINGS

Holli Kerkhof of Community Choice Credit Union, a member of the Livonia Lions Club, was there to support Seedlings with son Ben.



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GODBOUT

Continued from Page A1

ly ran for council in 2015 and twice for state representative. "It's a gross exaggeration to say this is political. Anytime you do anything to oppose what goes on in the city it's political. If you're not in lock step, it's political."

The election commission can only look at a recall petition based on clarity and factual nature. If approved, a petition would be valid for 180 days but the petitions must be gathered with 60 days. The number of signatures — approximately 5,500 — is based on 75 percent of the votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election.

"We have voters lists from the last election. We will go door-to-door. I have 40 people to help with the recall," Boron said.

A 2012 law change no longer has a special recall election set if petitions have sufficient signatures. In-

"We have voters lists from the last election. We will go door-to-door. I have 40 people to help with the recall,"

STEVE BORON
Westland resident

stead, the official being subjected to recall is on a ballot running against a candidate for the seat.

In addition, Boron said he is working on a referendum to place a terms-limit proposal on the ballot. The proposal would be to limit city elected officials to serving a lifetime total of 12 years. That petition requires 3,000 votes and would be submitted to the city clerk, then forwarded for review by the Michigan Attorney General. If approved by the Attorney General, the referendum could then go on the ballot.

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TROTT

Continued from Page A1

saying, for example, he would vote against the White House's budget in its current form, but he also backed the president on several points.

Dozens in the crowd raised red cards to show their displeasure with his answers, something that happened more often than not.

"For all of you who are booing," Trott said after answering a question about health care reform, "if you don't agree with the premise that the Affordable Care Act is collapsing, you're not going to agree with anything I say."

Questions about the ACA, and the Republicans' plan to replace it — "Trumpcare" as some shouted when Trott mentioned it — were pressing for several people Saturday.

"Commit to me and my friends that our families will have better insurance," said Ed Weberman of White Lake Township, standing to ask his question despite the forum's rules. Weberman said he had tried several times to meet with Trott with no success.

"The answer is yes," Trott said. "Of course, yes."

Weberman said his son Alex was diagnosed with a lymphatic-system cancer when he was 22, had graduated from college, but had no insurance. The ACA, he said later, saved his son's life by providing coverage through his parents' insurance.

Trott raised a stir when he said he supports increased military spending and asked the crowd to name a place in the world that's better off since Barack Obama's presidency.

"Everywhere!" someone shouted before the crowd began chanting, "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!"

Trott said that North Korea, China and Iran pose threats that need to be countered with a strengthened military.

There was extended booing when Trott men-



There were many supporters of U.S. Rep. Dave Trott in the front rows of the hall. They were often overshadowed by opponents of Trott and President Trump, who sat mostly in the back.



Ed Weberman wanted Trott to know that his son Alex, 24, who he said has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, needed more than \$400,000 of treatment. Weberman wanted to know if Trott supported allowing young adults to stay on a parent's policy and whether there should be lifetime caps on access to care.

tioned Betsy DeVos, the U.S. education secretary, and his support for a voucher program to help parents pay for private schools.

"We've been spending a lot of money on education and the numbers don't move," he said.

Trott also: "Said Trump's refusal to release his tax returns "certainly raises questions."

"Agreed that there had been interference by Russia in last year's presidential election. "I agree with what President Obama said, which is that there are going to be consequences," he said.

"Said "we have to

keep studying climate change," but that he sees room for cuts in the Environmental Protection Agency budget and that "President Obama was so extreme with his (environmental) regulation stand."

"Said he's "not as bothered as some" by Trump's repeated weekend trips to Florida because "he appears to be a workaholic." Trump is sometimes using Twitter at 3 a.m., Trott added, so "he's up doing something."

"Trott did, however, add he was troubled by the expense of Trump's Florida visits, which are estimated at \$3 million

per weekend. "Said he wishes Trump would "Google more than tweet" and use more care when tweeting about foreign policy matters. "I don't think it's productive," he said.

"Said "we have to secure our southern border" with Mexico, but that Trump's proposed wall along the border is "a bit of a gimmick." Trott said a wall would take decades to complete because of the legal process involved in seizing land for it.

Taylor felt as though Trott held the meeting "just to appease" people and didn't really say a lot she'd hoped to hear.

"There were a few things, like protecting the Great Lakes," Taylor said. "He also said he believes that universal health care is a human right, which is interesting because he's set to vote against the Affordable Care Act, which would cause tens of thousands of people to lose health insurance in his district alone."

After the town hall, Weberman said he was disappointed at the length of the hour-long meeting. "We worked to hard to get it and he gave us an hour of his time," he said.

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The Livonia Civic Chorus came out in full force with two teams.

COURTESY OF SEEDLINGS

SEEDLINGS

Continued from Page A1

cause braille books are rare and expensive.

Yet braille literacy is key to a successful, independent life. According to the National Federation of the Blind, blind adults fluent in braille have an 80 percent chance of being employed compared to only a 20 percent chance if they are not.

Seedlings gives half of its books away free. The other half are sold for an average price of \$10 a book.

Headlining sponsors of the event at Merri-Bowl Bowling Lanes in Livonia were Alpha USA; Cole, Newton & Duran; Livonia Builders; MASCO, Plymouth Lions; State Farm - Ryan Wagner; and Valassis.



With 155 bowlers, Seedlings filled all but two of Merri-Bowl's 40 lanes.



Dave Rexroth, chief meteorologist for Channel 7, jokes with bowler Eleanor Smith of Livonia.

COURTESY OF SEEDLINGS



Matt Gury of Dearborn, a member of Schoolcraft College's Men's Bowling Team, won a trophy for both High Game and High Series at the Seedlings fundraiser.

COURTESY OF SEEDLINGS

Stevenson tackles hard-luck life with 'Annie'

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Directing the current Stevenson High School production of "Annie" has been an emotional experience for drama teacher Michael Corliss.

Not only is he overseeing the production of a play he's never directed, but he's doing it in the only theater he's ever known at Stevenson — and it's his last one in the building.

The auditorium at Stevenson, built in 1966, is being closed in favor of a new facility set to open next year. That means "Annie" will be the last show in this auditorium.

"It's a big emotional time for me," said Corliss, who has worked at Stevenson for 23 years and directed his first play in the current auditorium in 1994. "I try not to think about it too much so I don't break down."

If all goes according to plan, the auditorium will be going out with a bang. The play features a cast of 45 kids, with another 23 in the orchestra pit and 25 more on the crew. They've been rehearsing since early January.

Corliss said he's never directed the show before, though he's been dreaming of it since he saw it in New York nearly 40 years ago.

"I saw it on Broadway in 1978, and I've been thinking about doing it ever since," Corliss said.

Corliss said the show comes with its own set of challenges, including having high school kids playing orphans that are 7 or 8 years old.

"These kids are 17 and 18 years old, and the orphans are 7 or 8," Corliss said. "That's not the direction they usually go. Usually we're asking them to play adults. But they're doing a great job."

The age difference was a challenge for senior Abby Turner, who is playing the title role. She stepped off-stage to di-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (Will Cleaveland) tells Annie (Abby Turner) that her parents are dead. Grace Farrell (Elena Bucciarelli) comforts Annie, and Daddy Warbucks (Jacob Schaf) reminds her that she's not alone, because he loves her like her father.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rooster (Jaylen Flowers), introduces his girl, Lily St. Regis (Chloe Grisa) to his older sister Miss Hannigan (Amber Ramsey), and tries to con her out of some cash in the opening scene, Easy Street. Miss Hannigan is having none of either the girlfriend or the cash.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
"We'd Like To Thank You, Herbert Hoover" is the song of Hooverville.

rect the one-act productions last year, but auditioned for Annie because she's had a love affair with the character since singing "Tomorrow" in the talent show in fourth grade.

"I just fell in love with

the show," Turner said. "I've always wanted to be Annie."

Aside from the age difference — "Some of the mannerisms are hard ... Luckily I'm short, so that helps," she said — Turner has enjoyed

grows three sizes." Senior Elena Bucciarelli is choreographing the show, which has presented its own challenges. With so many kids in the cast, and many of them having conflicting extra-curricular activities, finding the time to work together has been difficult.

But Bucciarelli said the kids have all been in the program for awhile, so they are pretty coachable.

"It hasn't been too difficult," said Bucciarelli, who's been dancing since she was 4 years old. "We have a lot of kids who do (drama) every year. The newcomers need a little help, but they get the steps down pretty well."

"Annie" hits the stage at 7 p.m. March 23-25. Tickets are \$8 at the door.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community clean-up day

Volunteers are needed at the 29th District Court, 34808 Sims, Wayne, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 25.

Register to volunteer at downtownwayne.org or call Wayne Main Street at 734-629-6822.

Jazz at the Elks

Jazz @ The Elks happens from 7-9:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

On Tuesday, March 28, the popular The Paul VornHagen Quartet will perform. Hear the standards and some of his original songs. Playing with him on reeds is Chuck Shermetaro on keyboard, Kurt Krahnke on bass and Scott Kretzer on drums.

The Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, email jazzattheelks@gmail.com or visit www.plyaa325.com.

UpJumped spring concert

The Schoolcraft Jazz Studies Program under the direction of Dr. Riccardo Selva and the Synthesizer Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Barton Polot present a concert featuring the talented musicians and vocalists of the Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation Combo, and Synthesizer Ensemble.

The eclectic repertoire programmed by the ensembles will unfold into a lively and creative concert that promises to usher in the freshness of Spring.

The concert is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 27, at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center, DiPonio Room.

Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door and will be used to fund student scholarships and the jazz program.

School open house

St. Michael Lutheran School, located at 3003 Hannan Road in Wayne, is hosting an all-school open house from 10 a.m.

to noon Saturday, April 1. Meet teachers and learn about programs. Also, the Leslie Science Center from Ann Arbor will present a wild animal exhibit from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 734-728-3315.

April Fools' Softball

On Saturday, April 1, there will be a 10-team tournament, modified Chicago-style double elimination, championship game. Teams are co-ed. Minimum five females and five males. Rain, shine or snow, the tourney will take place.

Registration fee is \$150. Winning team receives T-shirts. Registration and payment are accepted at the Wayne Senior Services Office in the HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. Organized by M3 to benefit the Wayne Commission on Aging.

Artists-of-the-year

Tuesday Musicales of Detroit presents its 2017 Artists-of-the-Year concert featuring duo pianists Yuki and Tomoko Mack at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., just north of Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. The concert will benefit a program supporting scholarships for outstanding young musicians.

The Mack Sisters will perform works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Smetana, Rachmaninoff, Barber and Gershwin.

Admission for adults \$25; students \$10; students 18 and under free (Courtesy of Perlman Insurance Agency). Scholarship Support: \$50, \$75, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 (gifts above the cost of tickets are tax-deductible). Make credit card purchases at 313-885-7882. Mail checks payable to Tuesday Musicales of Detroit, P.O. Box 36535, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, or visit www.tuesdaymusicaleofdetroit.org for more information. Tuesday Musicales of Detroit is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Monte Nagler speaks

Three Cities Art Club will have renowned Far-



Photographer Monte Nagler will speak April 3 to the Three Cities Art Club.

mington Hills photographer Monte Nagler as its guest speaker. He will reveal some of his secrets for creating award-winning photos, the club says. The public is welcome to attend this free event, which is set for 7-9 p.m. Monday, April 3, at Canton Township Hall, lower level meeting room, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about this event, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or marilynmeredith@wowway.com. For more information about the art club, visit www.threecitiesartclub.org.

Bunny Brunch

The annual Bunny Brunch will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. The event includes lunch, crafts and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Tickets are \$6 for Livonia residents and \$9 for non-residents at the Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. All attendees over age 2 must have a ticket. For more information, call 734-466-2900.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Cherry Hill United Methodist Church will host an Easter egg hunt for all children from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the church, 321 S. Ridge Road, between Cherry Hill Road and Michigan Ave., Canton. Hunt for candy and small toy-filled plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church. Have a picture taken with the Easter bunny. For more information, call the church at 734-495-0035.

Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a Women's Club in Livonia, will welcome back retired Sgt. Robert Haig of the Detroit Police Department on Tuesday, April 11. Haig will discuss how not to become a victim of gypsy scams, utility work impersonators, pigeon drops and computer and phone scams. The "Don't Get Scammed" event will take place at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends (A Women's Club in Livonia) is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May at 7 p.m.. Special activity groups continue to meet year round. For more information visit, livonianighborsandfriends.tripod.com.

For the ladies

Crossroads Church, 34500 Six Mile Road, Livonia (meeting in the lower level of Trinity

Church, enter through the north side doors), will host a Ladies Craft Night from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, March 24.

This month's theme: T-shirt bags. Make two bags. Keep one and donate one to be filled with goodies for new babies and moms through a local crisis pregnancy center. Bring one pair of good cutting scissors (if available), 1 T-shirt (youth XL to adult med) to make in to a bag, and donations for bags (see website for suggestions to donate). Cost: \$5 donation.

For more information, visit www.crossroad-snow.org, or call the church office at 734-338-5149.

For parents

Crossroads Church, 34500 Six Mile Road, Livonia (meeting in the lower level of Trinity Church, enter through the north side doors) offers Creating a Safe Internet for Our Kids 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 29. A free Internet safety seminar for parents. You love your kids. You work hard to keep them. But the internet is calling. Find out what you can do to protect them. For more information, visit www.crossroad-snow.org, or call the church office at 734-338-5149.

All about the arts

Wayne County Community College's All about the Arts series welcomes The Boogie Woogie Kid Trio (Emma Aboukasm, Matthew Ball and Gary Stevens) from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30, at the college, 9555 Haggerty Road, Belleville. Admission is free and refreshments are available. For more information, call 734-374-3232.

Archery range to open

The Livonia Archery Range will open for the season at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 1. The Archery Range, on Glendale Avenue east of Farmington between Plymouth and I-96, offers several target lanes and one lane specifically for shooting broad heads to a tune-in hunting bows.

The archery range is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday, April through October, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Sunday, May through October. An adult must accompany all children ages 10 and under.

Daily fees for adults are \$4 for Livonia residents and \$6 for non-residents. Children are \$2 for Livonia residents and \$4 for non-residents. Season pass rates are also available. For more information, call 734-466-2900 or visit www.ci.livonia.mi.us.

Hearing Loss Association

Rap Session. This event will allow guests to share questions, con-

cerns, successes and disappointments in an open session that focuses on individual needs. There is no cost and is open to all. April 12 meeting

Westland gallery exhibit

Local artist and art instructor Vincent Maiorana will have his art showcased in a solo exhibition at Westland's Gallery at City Hall during the month of April. The public is invited to see the exhibition during this month-long exhibition of some of Maiorana's best paintings.

His acrylic and watercolor paintings are owned and enjoyed by people throughout the country. He has exhibited and sold paintings at art fairs in Wyandotte and Livonia, Canton's Liberty Fest and Fine Art Exhibition, Northville's Sharing the Gift and City Halls in Livonia and Garden City. Upon request he has also hung his art in local places of business. He has been affiliated with art clubs in Redford, Farmington and Livonia. He is currently a life member of Three Cities Art Club.

The exhibition is part of joint operating agreement between Three Cities Art Club and the city of Westland. It will be on display from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and any other times city hall is open April 1-26, in the Gallery at City Hall, in Westland's City Hall, 36300 Warren Road. For other times, city hall will be open, visit www.cityofwestland/services/events/westland.com.

For more information or to purchase art, contact Maiorana at 734-495-9153.

Angels and baby gowns

Angels Above Baby Gowns with Garden City High School will host a Prom Dress Event from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday April 22. These gently used dresses will be available for anyone in need, free of charge. A \$10 donation to cover the cleaning cost is suggested. This donation will go directly to the nonprofit AABG. For more information, contact Dawn Lafferty at 734-421-2322 or angelsabovebabygowns@gmail.com. Wedding gowns will not be collected at this event is at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt.

Slice for Life

Buddy's Pizza will team up with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen to host the 41st Annual Slice for Life fundraiser. From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. April 24, patrons who purchase a ticket can visit any Buddy's Pizza full-service location to enjoy an all-you-can-eat two-topping pizza and salad meal. A carry-out option is also available for purchase at all 11 Buddy's Pizza locations and includes either a four-square two-topping pizza or a medium-sized salad.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Advance tickets can be purchased at www.cskdetroit.org or by calling 313-579-2100, ext. 170. Tickets will also be available at the door. All ticket holders may also register to win one eight-square Buddy's Pizza every month for one year. Proceeds will benefit Capuchin Soup Kitchen's community outreach services.

Change of date

Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560

Merriman Road, Livonia, has changed the date of the Annual Mystery Purse Auction to noon Saturday, April 22. For more information, call Melissa at 734-765-1827.

Community craft-making

The public is invited to join others for craft-making fun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. This is a free event. Just bring your own craft materials and enjoy the conversation and fellowship of other crafters. You can also bring a snack to share if you wish. Beverages will be provided.

For more information, call the church office at 248-474-3444 or email the church at clarencevillechurch@gmail.com.

Mom2Mom Sale

Spring cleaning is almost here. Time to clean out your kids' closets and drawers. Don't know what to do with the things they've outgrown or never even got a chance to wear? Do they have toys they never play with anymore? Rent a table and sell them at the Garden City High School Spring Mom2Mom Sale (you keep all the money you make). Or, come shopping to find great deals on new and gently used baby and kids' clothes as well as toys, games, DVDs, books, strollers, bikes, swings, etc.

The sale is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with an early bird at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22. There will be more than 75 tables to shop from, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is \$1, strollers welcome.

Garden City High School is at 6500 Middlebelt Road, between Ford Road and Warren. Tables are \$25 for an 8-foot table, including standard rack space (you provide rack). No vendors please. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale or email gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com

Gluten Free Food Fair

The Tri County Celiac Support Group is having a 16th annual Gluten Free Food Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 6, at the First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 2Enjoy samples, shopping, door prizes, raffles and more. Members are free, there is a fee for non-members. For more information, contact Ellen Hechler at 248-345-9041 or email ellenhec@hotmail.com

Great Bacon Run

Registration for the Great Bacon Run/Walk is open. Sign up at the Garden City Parks and Rec office at 200 Log Cabin Drive from noon to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday or at https://allsportsraces.redpodium.com/great-bacon-runwalk.

Registration prices are 5K Run/Walk \$30 (through April 30), \$35 (May 1 - June 2), \$40 (June 3 - Race Day); Kids 1/2 Mile Fun Run \$10 (through Jun 2), \$12 (June 3 - Race Day)

All 5K participants will receive a finisher medal, tech shirt and Bacon Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each 5K age category, including overall. Junior Bacon runners will receive a t-shirt and participation medal. Lunch will be available to the public with proceeds benefiting the Garden City Goodfellows.

ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2017-07
March 7, 2017
 A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. The City Council discussed legal services firms and selected Fausone-Bohn. Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.
 Matthew K. Miller
 City Clerk
 Published: March 23, 2017

Abandoned Vehicle Auction
Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12pm
Sparks Auto and Towing
34043 Ford Road, Westland MI

1. 2001 Dodge	1B4H528N61F619383
2. 2002 Ford	3FAHP37352R126282
3. 2002 Mercury	4M2ZY12752DJ14412
4. 1998 Nissan	1N4DL01D6WC167647
5. 2003 Land Rover	SALNE2223A271408
6. 1999 Ford	1FMRU17L7XL19556
7. 2006 Saturn	1G8ZS57B78F256032
8. 2004 Ford	2FMZA524233A69921
9. 2003 Ford	1FAFP383X3W288901
10. 2002 Dodge	1B7GG32N82S591464
11. 2003 Buick	3G5DB03E09S581264
12. 2005 Dodge	1B3EL46XX5N510165
13. 2000 Ford	1FMPU16L0YL1B04312
14. 1997 Honda	1HGCD566XVA134513
15. 1996 Toyota	4T1BF12K31U134229
16. 1996 Mercedes	WGBHA22E7TF378594
17. 1992 Chevrolet	1G1JC144XN7181811

Publish: March 23, 2017

LENTEN SEAFOOD BUFFET
FRIDAYS
March 3 - April 7 *
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*No seafood Buffet on 3/17/17. Join us for our St. Patrick's Day Party! Fish and chips will be available.
 *No Seafood Buffet on Good Friday, April 14, 2017

BUFFET MENU
 Soup • Fried and Baked Cod • Fried Calamari • Pasta (variety)
 Cote Slaw • French Fries • Vegetable • Garden Salad • Cold Salads (variety)
 Dessert available ala carte (ask server for selection)
 CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Adults: \$12.50 Children under 10: \$7.00 (C gratuity not included in price)

HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER
 41 St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
 36375 Joy Rd., Westland, MI 48185
 (734)359-3550
 helleniccc@gmail.com

Published: March 23, 2017

CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of the City of Wayne, Michigan will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 7:00 P.M., or soon thereafter as may be heard, at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. To consider an amendment to Chapter 1282 Off Street Parking and Loading in the Codified Ordinance of Wayne. The public is invited to attend and be heard. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission may act upon this matter.

MATTHEW K. MILLER
 CITY CLERK

Published: March 23, 2017

St. Michael the Archangel Parish presents its ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT LENTEN FISH FRY

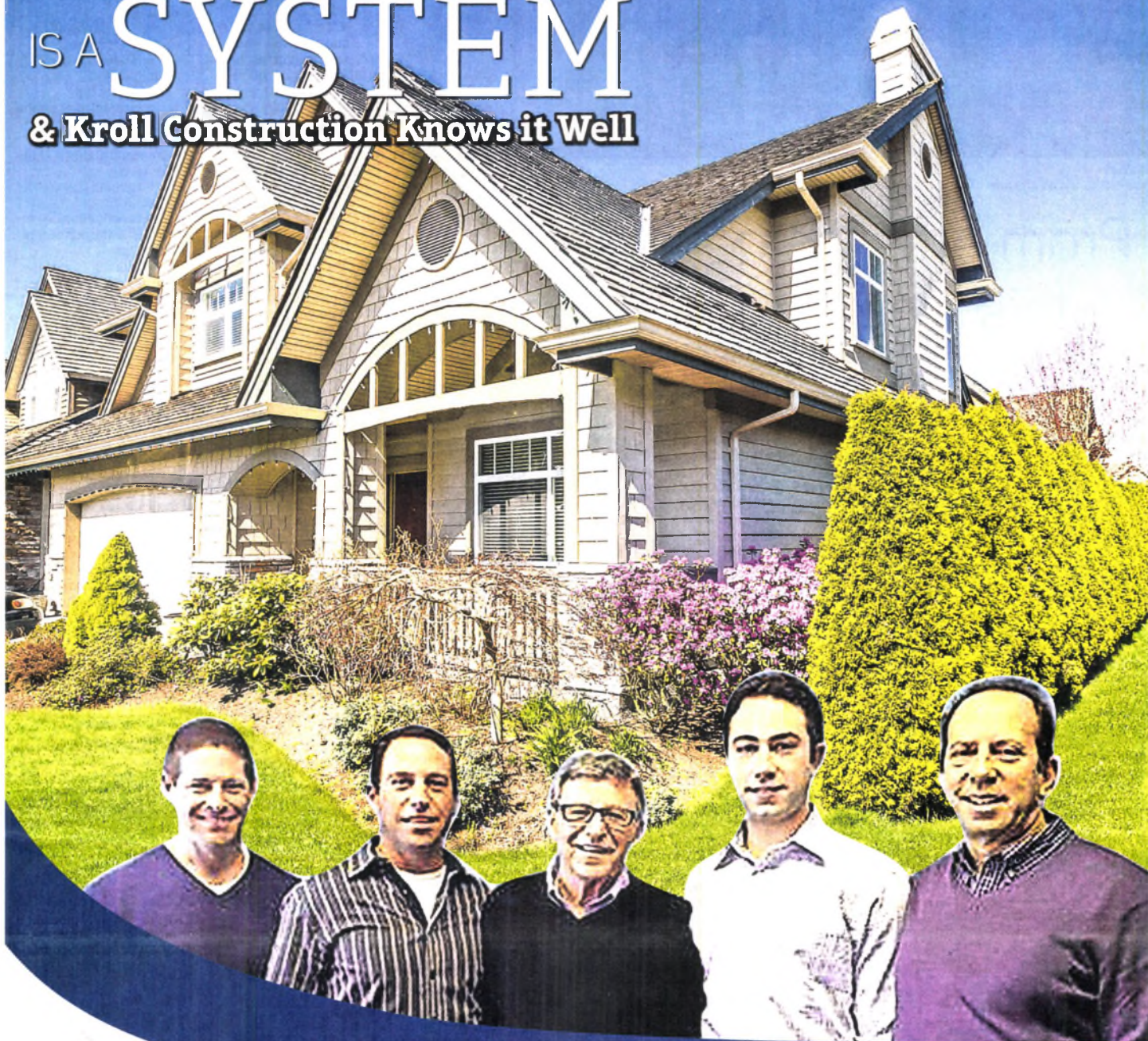
All Fridays in Lent except Good Friday
 4:30 - 7:00 PM
 In the school cafeteria
Full Drinkers Carry out available at \$9
Adults: \$10; Seniors: \$8; Kids 3-11, \$5; Kids under 3, FREE
 Choice of hand-dipped fresh Atlantic cod, fried or baked, with all the trimmings, including beverage and ice cream.

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Pam Phillips shows off some of the many dresses available.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Prom dresses going for \$20 this weekend in Livonia

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

There aren't many places where 95 percent off is the norm for a sale. But for the annual 2nd Life Prom Dress Sale at Livonia's St. Paul Presbyterian Church, as much as 95 percent off is pretty standard.

"It's fun to see the kids in them and their beautiful," said Pam Phillips, a parishioner who has helped put on the sale the last several years.

The church, located at 27475 Five Mile just west of Inkster, will hold its sixth annual prom dress sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. More than 1,100 dresses, tops, shoes, jewelry, purses and other accessories are available to purchase at flat prices. Prom dresses, no matter the original sticker price, are all \$20 cash.

It's an event, Phillips said, that attracts girls

and families from all over the region and out-of-state, too. She said they've had customers come from Ohio and Canada in recent years, looking to score a great deal on a dress.

Admission to the sale is free, though attendees will need a ticket to access the floor. Tickets will be given out starting at 7 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the church. Phillips said it's not uncommon to see cars begin pulling up at 6 a.m. to try to be first in line. The church will open its doors at 8 a.m. for people to wait inside before the sale begins.

"When they see us unlock the door, they come running," said the Plymouth resident and longtime St. Paul's parishioner.

It's Phillips's hope between 300 and 500 people attend Saturday.

From there, several

people will be ushered into the area where the dresses are to try them on and find that special gown. There are several volunteers who can make some minor alterations, including hemming, strap alterations and other adjustments. Several dressing areas have also been constructed for customers to try on the dresses.

They come in a wide range of colors, fashions and sizes, Phillips said. Anything from size 0 to size 28 is available.

And it's not just an event for prom, either, Phillips said. There are plenty of dresses that go well for other events such as homecoming, honeymoons and other vacations. Phillips recalled one shopper way came in that wasn't looking for a prom dress.

"She was going on a cruise. And she came in and bought dresses for

her cruise," she said. "We've got dynamite dresses for cruises, for vacation, summer. Summer's coming up."

And while the dresses are the highlight of the event, the funds brought in go to help the community. All the proceeds will go toward helping feed the hungry, as well as helping some students from Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church going to Alaska to build a home and the Life Remodeled project in Detroit.

"We have our food pantry where we give out hundreds of bags of food," she said. "We have given out over 8,000 pounds of fresh produce since we started our garden."

"Where our money goes, we go."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728

Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Livonia foundation to award \$41,000 in grants

The Livonia Community Foundation will award a record \$41,075 in grants to 12 organizations at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, in Livonia's Robert and Janet Bennett Civic Center Library Auditorium.

"We are pleased to fund these community efforts," foundation President Brian Meakin said.

Meakin said the foundation's investments have been doing better, the result of the renewed investment environment and a very effective asset manager. He said that in 2012 the foundation's assets reached just over \$1 million and it continues to grow from donations and good investment strategies. Meakin is going on his eighth year as president.

The foundation is a permanent endowment, a trust fund, built by citizen and corporate donors to support Livonia's charitable, cultural, arts, historical, educational and recreational institutions. It was chartered in 1995.

Following its first full year, the endowment balance was \$32,000. In 1997, the first year funds were available for grants, they awarded \$1,500.

"We are proud to provide this year's \$41,075 in grants. Thanks to the generous support from the community over the last 19 years, we have provided grants totaling \$398,185 to organizations serving the residents in Livonia," Meakin said.

A committee, chaired this year by board member Mark Bublitz, reviewed grant applications to decide which ones most meet the foundation's mission to promote and develop community resources,

properties and civic treasures; promote, support and develop public interest in the arts and other local cultural undertakings; and to promote programs that contribute to the welfare of the community and the needs of its citizens.

The organizations approved for grants this year are:

- » Angela Hospice - Honor Our Vets
- » Blessings in a Backpack
- » First Step
- » Greenmead Restoration Trust Fund
- » Livonia Arts & Human Relations Commissions
- » Livonia Civic Chorus
- » Livonia Family YMCA summer camp programs
- » Livonia Goodfellows - No Child Without A Christmas
- » Livonia Kids and Families
- » Livonia Symphony Orchestra
- » Seedlings Braille Books for Children
- » Visual Arts Association of Livonia

The public is encouraged to attend the awards program at the Robert and Janet Bennett Civic Center Library, east of Farmington Road on Five Mile. The program will feature a performance by the Livonia Civic Chorus and a short video about the organizations receiving the grants. It will be followed by a reception with light refreshments in the Michigan Room.

Committee chair Mark Bublitz said, "This event gives the public a chance to learn about the Foundation and the organizations serving the community."

To RSVP or for more information, call Charlie Mahoney at 248-474-0905.



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Thursday, March 23
Wednesday, April 19
Thursday, May 25
Classroom 10

To register for a seminar, call
734-655-2400.

Don't panic with tax deadline in sight; file for extension

It's that time of year again, when people are rushing to organize their tax info and to have their returns completed by the April 18 deadline. This year, because April 15 falls on a weekend, the returns are due April 18. That being said, there are some issues that are important to keep in mind. The first deals with those who are not going to have their returns completed by the deadline. The second issue is for those who complete their returns — it may be time to prune some of those tax records.

For those who cannot complete their returns on time, there is no reason to panic. One of the mistakes many people make is that they rush to complete their returns by the April deadline and then they make mistakes. It is those mistakes that lead to IRS scrutiny; I guarantee you, no one wants that. If you cannot complete your returns on time, the best course of action is to file for an extension. The IRS form you would use to file for your extension is form 4868. An extension is automatic for six months, but what trips people up is that they need to keep in mind that it is an extension of time to file your returns, not to pay your taxes. You have to go through a process to guesstimate your tax liability to determine whether you need to make a payment with your extension. Keep in mind that if you file for a federal extension, it will automatically apply to the state of Michigan, but you may have to make an



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Before you destroy records from 10 and 20 years ago, it's a good idea to check your Social Security earnings to make sure you received the proper credit for the years you worked.

estimated payment.

Many people believe that if you file for an extension, you increase your audit risk; that is not the case. Filing for an extension will not increase your audit risk. Filing sloppy returns or incomplete returns will definitely increase your audit risk, not filing for an extension. If you can't properly complete and file your return by the April 18 deadline, do yourself a favor and file for an extension.

The other issue is for those who have completed your returns — it may be a good idea to prune your tax files. Without question, you should save at least the last three years returns and the backup data. The IRS can audit you up to three years after you've filed your returns. That being said, in most cases I tell

people to retain their tax information for seven years. In rare cases where the IRS suspects fraud or where you underreported your income by 25 percent or more, the IRS can extend the time for an audit. That is why I tell people to retain their information for at least seven years. For anything past seven years, you are probably safe to destroy that information. One caveat to this deals with Social Security.

Before you destroy records from 10 and 20 years ago, it's a good idea to check your Social Security earnings to make sure you received the proper credit for the years you worked. If you have gotten the proper credit for your work years, then there is virtually no reason to save your old returns and documentation.

It is important to keep in mind that your tax information contains lots of sensitive information, such as your Social Security number; you have to properly dispose of this material. My advice is that anything with tax information should be shredded in order to protect yourself.

One last note: To make filing your 2017 tax return as easy as possible, it is also a great time of year to set up a record system for your 2017 tax returns.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fund our schools

I am tired of our state representatives who choose to segregate their kids from the community by putting them in private or charter schools, telling me that public schools don't work. I know public schools work because both of my kids attended public schools. I attended public schools, and most of my friends' kids attended public schools. All are doing well.

When we were growing up it was the parents and teachers working together to ensure the child got a good education. Now, our representatives spend a great deal of time demeaning teachers and their big bad union bosses (who are also teachers and your neighbors, not some thug in a warehouse planning to rob you). They are diminishing our communities by separating us into little "for profit" schools. Money that should be spent in classrooms is being used for advertising and creating more schools than we have students to fill.

They are using choice as the excuse to promote charter schools and private schools instead of funding our schools properly. Choice is important, but should not be the only consideration in determining what makes a successful school. In Michigan we have allowed choice with very little oversight. Our representatives continue to ignore the lackluster results of the charter school experiment. What they are really after is a voucher system that allows state money to be used for us to pay for their child's religious education. The problem is that it is unconstitutional. By ignoring the constitution and having negligible oversight, tax dollars could be given to institutions that are teaching prejudice and bigotry instead of preparing students to be productive members of society. That's not a choice I want my tax dollars to go for.

The real problem with education is in the cities where poverty is rampant. No one wants to talk about how to fix that because they will say we don't have the money. My answer to that is, "Yes, you do." Nineteen percent of our budget goes to our "for profit" prison system and 15 percent goes to public education. Where are their priorities? They will tell you we have to keep the bad guys off the streets. But bad guys are not just individuals, but also businesses and corporations. No one in the GM ignition switch cover-up went to jail. No one in the banking industry went to jail for causing the U.S. economy to go into a depression. The people that go to jail are ones that might have benefited from that 4-percent difference in the education budget at the beginning of their lives.

Let's stick with improving our community by funding our schools so that they are state of the art with quality teachers that can earn a decent living. If you believe your child is getting a good education in the public school they are attending, let your local representatives know. Remember the constitution.

Terry Cannon
Livonia

Pay to play

So Rep. David Trott finally held a public meeting for citizens of

the 11th District at the Novi Showplace. Why were many concerned citizens who were there at the scheduled time left out in the snow and cold?

With all that has been done by local and state Republicans to hand tax subsidies to the Showplace, you would think we would get better than that.

If it had been a Republican fundraiser, I bet no one would have been left out. I believe that is what is called "pay to play."

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Trott doesn't get it

After more than 600 days without a face-to-face meeting with citizens, Dave Trott, Republican 11th District, scheduled a one hour meeting at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning. Leaving Plymouth at 7:30, driving on treacherously slippery roads, four of us arrived at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi at 8 a.m. when doors were to open. The line was long, stretching along the sidewalk and around the building.

The room reserved for this meeting was dramatically inadequate and most people remained locked outdoors in the snow and cold. We were told we could "just stand there" if we wanted to, but we would not be admitted. After 45 minutes of wet snow and no movement, we left.

We want our views and interests included in policy decisions. We were motivated to attend to have our voices heard on education, the environment and public health issues such as nutrition and weapons. Will only the donor class be represented? Does our congressman know that his call is to represent us all, even in our tortuously gerrymandered district? It does not seem that he does.

Kiki Farrow
Marjorie Lynch
Debra MacGregor
Nancy Sullivan
Plymouth

Trump weaknesses exposed

For the second time in the last two weeks, a federal judge has blocked Trump's Muslim ban. U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson ruled yesterday, just hours before Trump's new Muslim ban was to take effect, that this second ban also was unconstitutional.

Judge Watson ruled Trump unconstitutionally restricted travel from Somalia, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Iran and the Sudan. Iraq was dropped in this second Trump Muslim ban as Trump was informed/reminded that Iraqi troops were fighting along side of American troops to defeat ISIS in Iraq. Twelve other states were poised to issue that same federal order to halt Trump's second Muslim ban attempt.

Trump claims overreach of activist federal judges and claims they have weakened America. The reverse is true and Trump weaknesses have been exposed as federal judges have twice now asserted that the U.S. is a country governed by law. ISIS has used and will continue to use Trump's unconstitutional Muslim ban as a recruiting device.

First the state of Washington and now Hawaii has shown Trump our birth certificate. It is called our U.S. Constitution.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

World Autism Day: Awareness, potential, acceptance

Ewa Omahen
Guest Columnist

On April 2, we celebrate World Autism Awareness Day. Our son has just turned 15. With every birthday, we come a step further in understanding his neurodiversity and in our acceptance and appreciation of who he is and how far he has come.

When we embarked on this journey, following the autism diagnosis around Patrick's third birthday, things were so different. There was no Autism Awareness Day, no iPads with communication apps and no programming in our home district for students as involved as Patrick is. Today, he attends a program for students with autism in our neighborhood middle school, Hillside, where he not only receives outstanding services, but gets the benefit of community inclusion with his typical peers. As a family, we have the support of wonderful organizations, like the Autism Alliance of Michigan and the Arc, and can access outside services, thanks to autism insurance in our state.

It is reassuring to know how far we have come, not only as a family, but as a community and society at large, when it comes to awareness, acceptance and services for those impacted by autism spectrum disorder. Yet, many issues remain. One of the



Good pals Mario Silvestri and Patrick Omahen.

more pressing ones is dispelling many stereotypes and misunderstandings that are still all too common.

A common misconception is that people with autism tend to lack empathy and may shy away from interpersonal relationships. One of the basic human needs is the need to belong, to be accepted and to be embraced by others. The relationships with family are a given for children living with autism. However, the scenario is often very different when it comes to relationships with their peers.

Thanks to the insightful intervention of the Northville Public Schools' bus personnel, Patrick has met a very special friend, Mario, who attends the high school. The boys met at an outing to Friendship Circle two years ago. They ride the same bus, but at different times. Mario kept asking about Patrick, so the bus mon-

itor suggested that he write him a note. The note was delivered that day by the bus personnel to Patrick.

Here we are today, two years later, and following multiple exchanges of letters — via the school bus — between two special friends. Mario writes to Patrick about his interests, school, family, weather, dog and plans. I respond on Patrick's behalf — he does not write — and with his help in the form of stickers and drawings.

The boys have met and took an instant liking to each other. They enjoy hanging out and jumping on the trampoline or shooting basketball. The excitement and joy on their faces, whenever they are together, are priceless. Mario is the most considerate, caring and genuine young man one could meet. We feel so lucky that our son can have such an awesome friend. Their joy in the

simple things and their ability to live in the moment are truly contagious and so inspiring to us as their parents.

Friendships and relationships come in all varieties. The special friendship between Mario and Patrick was initiated by the caring transportation personnel. They recognized and nurtured the need for these boys to be connected, to communicate and to have a friend. We all need to have meaningful relationships with others. For some of us, it may take extra steps, unique ways and caring people to facilitate it. The end result is a beautiful friendship between two amazing boys who could teach us all a thing or two about what it takes to be a true friend.

May April 2 be a celebration of the precious gifts — like Mario's and Patrick's friendship — these children bring to our world and a recognition of the special people in their lives. Many thanks to the educators, bus personnel, professionals, peer pals, family members and friends who help our children build meaningful relationships and feel connected.

Ewa Omahen is the mother of a 15-year-old son with autism, who attends Northville Public Schools, and works as a psychologist for the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools district. She can be reached at ewa.omahen10@gmail.com.

An afternoon of musical fun

Farmington Hills resident and trumpeter extraordinaire Craig Strain recently brought his 10-piece horn-driven, rhythm and blues band Dr. Pocket to the elegant Joy Manor in Westland for a charity concert to support the Motor City Brass Band.

The concert turned out to be popular; VIP seats sold out immediately. A crowd of some 120 guests were treated to an afternoon of spectacular music, food, dancing, cash bar, 50/50 and the company of enthusiastic, loyal and supportive fans.



CURTIS DROGMILLER

Farmington Hills resident and trumpeter extraordinaire Craig Strain recently brought his 10-piece horn-driven, rhythm and blues band Dr. Pocket to the elegant Joy Manor in Westland for a charity concert to support the Motor City Brass Band.

Livonia police briefs: shoplifting incidents reported

An employee for Walmart, 29574 Seven Mile, came into the Livonia police station Monday to report a retail fraud incident.

The employee said a man and a woman came into the store and were seen concealing items in a purse. The two paid for some items at a register, but not the ones in the purse. They were stopped and taken to the loss prevention office, where several items were recovered. Those items included things such as lip gloss, lipstick, eye shadow and other makeup and accessories. The two were released from the store and a report was filed with police.

Stickers taken

An employee at Meijer, 13000 Middlebelt, came into the police sta-

tion Saturday morning to report a retail fraud of some stickers at the store.

The employee said the suspect was seen at the self-checkout, though it appeared her total had been under rung. She was seen placing packets of stickers that were not rung up on top of other items on the belt. She was also seen by employees placing sticker packets inside a binder and ringing the binder up, but not the stickers. She was stopped and escorted to the loss prevention office, where she said she was in a hurry and did not give the stickers much thought. The employee took her information and released her.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

ENGAGEMENT

Steve and Melissa Watson and Robert and Janice Toaso, all of Livonia, announce the engagement of their children, Logan Watson and Robert (Bob) Toaso Jr. The bride-to-be and her fiancé are graduates of Stevenson High School Class of 2009. Logan earned a bachelor's degree in packaging from Michigan State University. Bob graduated with an engineering degree from Lawrence Technological University.

A July 2017 wedding is planned.



MARK ADRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY
Logan Watson and Robert (Bob) Toaso, Jr.

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

FALVAY



DAVID K. age 95 of Bloomfield Hills passed away on March 18, 2017. Dave is survived by his children, Kirk Falvay (Sheri), Denise Wong (John), his sister, Suzanne Nelson (Richard), and his granddaughter, Alexandra Wong. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley. Dave was born in Ripley, New York. He graduated from the University of Michigan, served in the US army during World War II, and had a long and successful career in the insurance business. Dave was an accomplished trombone player winning a national award at age 17. After the War he formed his dance band known as Dave Farley and his Orchestra. His band stayed together for several decades and entertained throughout southeast Michigan. Later he was instrumental in helping to found the Birmingham Concert Band and its offshoot The Straw Hat Band which he played in until he was 90. Dave was an active volunteer for many charitable causes and devoted much of his time to helping others. He loved to travel with his wife and family, and later on his own, throughout the world. A Memorial Service will be Saturday, March 25, 2017 2:00 p.m. at Kirk in the Hills Church (1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302), with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Dave's life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Detroit Winds and Strings and Hospice of Michigan. Condolences to the family may be sent to www.villagefh.com

SUAREZ



RAYMOND Age 95, March 19, 2017. Born August 11, 1921 in Broughton, Kansas. Married to Josephine (nee Muscat) May 1, 1948. Survived by his wife and daughters Valerie (Thomas) Schilling and Debra (Howard) Long and granddaughter Carrie. Visitation was held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd, Livonia, Tuesday, March 21 2-9 p.m. Funeral Service was Wednesday, March 22 at 12:30 p.m. Please share a memory at www.rgharris.com

May the memory of your loved one...

...bring you peace.



Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market opens in Canton

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

John and Andrea Collum drove from Ypsilanti and waited an hour in their car for the new Fresh Thyme Farmers Market to open in Canton.

"We've been to the one in Ann Arbor and we love it," John Collum said, "but this one is closer."

The Collums were among a growing number of customers who waited in the parking lot Tuesday afternoon until Canton's newest market, on Morton Taylor, north of Ford Road, opened for business.

Inside the store, it was a pep rally as employees cheered while Bruce VanOverloop, Fresh Thyme director of operations, stood in the checkout area and whipped up the crowd before letting in the first customers.

"We are! ..." he yelled. "Fresh Thyme! ..." the workers shouted.

Further back in the store, James Bridges ran a floor scrubber one last time. Even though he is a subcontractor and not a Fresh Thyme employee, it didn't seem that way.

"This feels like my store," he said. "It's important for the store to look good. It's a reflection on me."

VanOverloop gave the *Observer* a pre-opening tour of the 22,000-square-foot store that has become the growing company's eighth location in Michigan. Based in Downer Groves, Ill., Fresh Thyme has 57 stores in 10 states, mostly in the Midwest. The first store opened in April 2014 in Mount Prospect, Ill.

VanOverloop pointed



Justin Rocheleau stocks grapes an hour before the store opens to friends and family. He is a Canton resident.

to colorful, neatly stacked produce, a deli where the store makes its own pizza and sandwiches, an area packed with 8,500 kinds of vitamins and body care products and a meat case that includes a rotating selection of 40 different kinds of sausages made onsite.

"It's a huge seller," VanOverloop said.

A 1,000-pound block of Wisconsin cheddar cheese could be seen in one aisle, cheese that eventually will make its way to a shelf. VanOverloop said Fresh Thyme

has more than 1,200 gluten-free products, wide selections of organic and non-genetically modified, or non-GMO, foods and fresh-baked goods. Produce accounts for 25 percent of the store's stock, most of it shipped from a Fresh Thyme distribution center in Illinois.

A.J. Seed of Canton has worked for the company for two years, first at its Northville location and now closer to home in Canton.

"I really like working here because it's such a friendly environment,"

Fresh Thyme is ready to open.

he said. "I love the energy. It's great."

Outside the store, Andrea Collum commended Fresh Thyme employees she has encountered at the Ann Arbor store.

"There's enough people to help us find things," she said.

VanOverloop said that's by design.

"We're bringing back a culture that truly embraces the customer," he said.

VanOverloop said Fresh Thyme chose Canton because it is a thriving community and has a built-in customer base along the Ford Road corridor and "perfect" demographics.

"It really is a mix of people," he said.

For John and Andrea Collum, it comes down to fresh food at decent prices, a place that's worth the drive from Ypsilanti.

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JENNIFER ARNETT
This Plymouth kitchen was remodeled by the Sharer Design Group.

Remodeled Home Tour set for this weekend

The 2017 NARI Tour of Remodeled Homes will take place Saturday and Sunday, March 25-26, throughout the communities of Dexter, Ann Arbor, Plymouth and Canton.

This event offers the opportunity for attendees to see firsthand how local design build professionals have worked within existing constraints to produce new and vibrant living spaces. This year's tour offers an eclectic mix of design aesthetics, ranging from traditional additions to very contemporary kitchens, as well as several whole home transformations.

Attendees will see some of the latest trends in the remodeling industry and how those trends can be applied to their homes. Attendees will also be able to speak with design and remodeling professionals at each home featured on the tour, offering a unique opportunity to anyone contemplating renovation work.

This year's tour is sponsored by Mans Lumber & Millwork, family owned since 1900. The Mans family has serviced the lumber and building needs of metro



C.J. SOUTH
This foyer in a Plymouth home will be showcased on the remodeled home tour. It was completed by DJL Builders.

Detroit and Ann Arbor.

Admission is \$10 per person, with children ages 5 and under free. Tickets are available at all 10 of the Tour of Remodeled Homes projects. Tickets must be validated before entering and are good for use on both days of the tour. Each ticket sale is accompanied by a complimentary tour guide, complete with project map. Online ticket sales are available at www.2017tourofremodeledhomes.eventbrite.com.

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LIVONIA CHURCHILL TRACK & FIELD

New coach vows to honor Austin

McClellan succeeds late mentor at Chargers' helm, says team will work to 'make him proud of us'

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Jordan McClellan is thankful of everything Rick Austin did for him, hiring him as Livonia Churchill pole vault coach five years ago when all he did was show up and help out at Chargers meets.

But in the wake of Austin's untimely death March 6, the

34-year-old McClellan will have a greater opportunity to show thanks to his mentor — by doing a good job as interim head coach of Churchill's varsity boys track and field team.

McClellan is succeeding the late Austin, who was Chargers' head coach for 21 years.

"It's really weird, no doubt,"

See CHARGERS, Page B3



Veteran Livonia Churchill pole vault coach Jordan McClellan (fifth from left) is shown with seven all-stars he coached in recent years with the Chargers. McClellan recently was named the boys team's interim head coach.

SUBMITTED

COLLEGE BASEBALL PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schoolcraft College head baseball coach Rob Fay (left) and associate head coach Bob Bracci talk to players at the close of Monday's practice. The team plays four twinbills between Tuesday and Saturday, weather permitting.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Hope grows boycott won't last

USA Hockey, U.S. women's team optimistic after bargaining session

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

It's still anybody's guess as to whether actual members of the U.S. Women's National Hockey Team or replacement players will skate onto the USA Hockey Arena ice March 31 during the upcoming World Championships.

But a promising round of negotiations in Philadelphia on Monday between USA Hockey officials and a contingent of women's players and their lawyers at least show a ray of sunshine on what was a completely gloomy forecast.

"We're excited about the discussions that took place yesterday, very positive progress made on both sides," said Dave Fischer, senior director of communications for USA Hockey. "Both sides are working hard to get to a resolution that leads to the players that we selected previously to compete as the U.S. Women's National Team in the world championships, that they're the ones on the ice in Plymouth come March 31."

On the final day of March, defending tournament champion Team USA is scheduled to face Canada in a preliminary round game (7:30 p.m. puck drop) with a game at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1 against Russia to follow.

The boycott of the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championships, which continue through April 7 and include eight countries, reportedly stems from players' frustration over lagging financial compensation from governing body USA Hockey — especially compared to what men receive — for non-Olympic years.

According to an article Tuesday in USA TODAY, nearly 20 players were on hand for a marathon bargaining session that included USA Hockey president Jim Smith, executive director Dave Ogren, director of women's hockey Reagan Carey and treasurer

See BOYCOTT, Page B3

OCELOTS JUMP INTO FRAY

Second-year Schoolcraft baseball team will test improved depth with first-week slate of four doubleheaders

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The reality that playing college baseball is a grind is going to face Schoolcraft College players like Nick Romanowski and Hunter Sellers in a big way this week.

Bring it on, both maintain, as the second-year Ocelots baseball team — which went 1-4 in a late February trek to Kentucky and Tennessee — plays four doubleheaders in five days this week as the 2017 season gets going on Michigan diamonds.

"We just need to stay mentally strong, we need to trust each other," said Romanowski, a sophomore catcher and co-captain from Canton High School. "This is where we're really going to have to bond this upcoming week. We're

about to see what it's like to travel almost every day. And we're going to have to beat some teams."

Romanowski, getting in some swings inside Schoolcraft's dome Monday along with freshman catcher Tyler Chase, added that it's no problem that the team won't be able to play home games at Livonia's Ford Field until mid-April. Saturday's twinbill against Mott Community College originally was slated for Ford Field.

"We're up to the challenge; we want to play," Romanowski said.

Let's go

He can't wait for games to resume, having gone 5-for-10 with three doubles during the spring trip.

"Really excited, the guys are ready to go," Romanowski said. "We've been cooped up in here (dome). We're ready to play some ball again."

Livonia Franklin alum Sellers, who returns as Schoolcraft's starting second baseman, echoed Romanowski.

See OCELOTS, Page B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Listening to coaches talk about the upcoming week of games is Schoolcraft starting second baseman Hunter Sellers, an alum of Livonia Franklin.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Blaze-ing honor for Ladywood's Hayward



Ladywood senior forward Katie Hayward was named Michigan Hockey Weekly's co-Miss Hockey.

Publication names senior forward 'co-Miss Hockey'

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Livonia Ladywood senior Katie Hayward received the ultimate individual prize Sunday when she was named Michigan Hockey Weekly's co-Miss Hockey, along with Walled Lake defenseman Julia Barrett, at the Farmington Hills Manor.

Hayward, a four-time all-state player, racked up 135 career goals, including 27 this season to go along with 14 assists as the Blazers captured the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey

League's regular season crown.

Hayward is the third Ladywood player to win the award, joining Laura Szwed (2007), Mary Beth O'Dea (2004) and Katie O'Dea (2000).

"It was an honor, because it was one of those things I've always thought about since I've been to the all-state banquet every time since me freshman year," Hayward said. "I kind of thought it would be pretty awesome to win that one day. I was kind of surprised when I did, because I really didn't expect it."

Hayward, who played center and wing this season for the Blazers (21-0-0-2), plans to

See HAYWARD, Page B3



WINSLOW TOWNSON | USA TODAY SPORTS
Team USA forwards Alex Carpenter (left) and Hilary Knight celebrate a goal during the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Both players were on the roster announced earlier this month by USA Hockey for the 2017 IIHF World Championships in Plymouth.

USA HOCKEY



Blocking a Dubuque shot Friday is NTDP Under-18 forward Josh Norris (bottom), the game's No. 1 star. In goal for Team USA is Northville's Dylan St. Cyr.

RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

NTDP U18s keep battling, defeat Dubuque, 5-2

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Yes, Friday was St. Patrick's Day. But Dubuque Fighting Saints goaltender Jaxon Castor had Team USA seeing red for a while during the United States Hockey League tilt at USA Hockey Arena.

With brilliant work between the pipes by Castor, Dubuque — sporting uniforms nearly identical to what the Detroit Red Wings wore at the 2017 NHL Centennial Classic in Toronto — proved to be a tough nut to crack for the U.S. National Team Development Program Under-18 team.

But once Team USA solved Castor, it was all good in a 5-2 victory.

The U18 squad persevered and ultimately came away with three of its goals off net-mouth rebounds. Leading the way with a goal and an assist each were forwards Josh Norris and Evan Barrett, while goalie Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) made 17 saves for

the win.

"Josh epitomizes what it means to play 200 feet," U18 head coach John Wroblewski said. "He's awesome on face-offs, he takes a lot of pride in doing the things that are important for the team. And then you get him into the offensive zone and he's dangerous. He can make plays or he can rip it by you."

Castor was the star of the first period, however, making 15 saves, including many of the dangerous variety.

Less than a minute into the game, Castor slid across to get his right toe on a shot taken from the slot by Norris, one of four players on the squad who will play next year at Michigan. Norris wasn't discouraged in the least, earning honors as the game's No. 1 star.

"I think I had a couple really good chances in the first period, a couple really good plays by (Scott) Reedy and Slaggs (Graham Slaggett)," Norris said. "I tried to stay with it, I was a little bit frustrated. That

comes with not scoring when you know you probably should."

St. Cyr snagged a shot by Patrick Kudla and kicked out a hard drive from Scott Corbett, but then the goals started coming fast and furious. For a while, at least.

Quinn Preston, standing alone in front of St. Cyr, slammed home a centering feed with 12:24 remaining to put the Fighting Saints in front.

A flurry in the Dubuque zone finally paid off for the home team with 7:24 left. Barrett chipped in the rebound of Tyler Inamoto's chance, evening the score at 1-1.

Nearly 90 seconds later, Team USA went up 2-1 when forward Brady Tkachuk scored on another rebound. The lead didn't last long, however, as Dubuque's Zach Solow scored.

Team USA went ahead for the first time with 16:29 to go in the middle period. Norris centered the puck in front to defenseman Nate Knoepke, whose one-timer from between the circles

zoomed past Castor.

St. Cyr wasn't as busy as Castor, but he made several timely stops and then the U18s scored an insurance goal at 19:20 of the second, when Reedy tipped in a shot by Joel Farabee.

Closing the scoring late in the period was Norris, who knocked in his own rebound after being denied twice in front by Castor (27 saves).

A key to the win was strong work on the penalty kill, particularly during the final two periods. Dubuque had a string of power plays, but could not get shots through. Team USA also killed off a five-minute major in the third with little if any turbulence around St. Cyr.

"We handled a lot of adversity in that game," Norris said. "A major penalty, killed a four-on-three. I think we took a lot of pride in our own zone and taking care of our goalie, too."

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PREP ATHLETICS

Grand Blanc voted out of the KLAA

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily

The drive to and from Grand Blanc is an issue that area teams and fans won't have to deal with much longer.

Grand Blanc has been voted out of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, effective in the 2018-19 school year.

The decision to remove the Bobcats was done by a 13-1 vote, Grand Blanc athletic director Jerrod Dohm said. Grand Blanc was the only school to vote in its own favor, he said.

"We wanted to stay in the KLAA," Dohm said. "We are extremely disappointed in their decision to remove us from the conference. Obviously, it puts us in a very difficult position. At this point, the way we're looking at it, we have to look forward. Our hope is we can land somewhere where we can hopefully rekindle some of the old rivalries we had back from the Big Nine days."

When 10 current KLAA members decided to leave the league starting in 2017-18, Grand Blanc was even more isolated from the rest of the league as its northernmost school. Hartland, which is 25 miles from Grand Blanc, is the Bobcats' closest rival. Howell is 36 miles away and Brighton is 37 miles away.

The Bobcats will play KLAA football games next fall against Livonia Franklin (59 miles), Plymouth (58), Wayne Memorial (56), Northville (53), Westland John Glenn (52) and Livonia Churchill (48).

Departing KLAA members in Milford and Lakeland, Walled Lake Central, Northern and Western, along with Waterford Mott and Kettering, were between 24 and 37 miles from Grand Blanc.

Nicole Carter, the principal at Novi High School and president of the KLAA, said the distance to Grand Blanc was the determining factor.

"The schools departing the KLAA last spring caused a geographical concern," said Carter, who recently took over for Churchill's Keith McDonald as the association's president. "That's number one. Number two, would be the cost for schools would increase by transporting students to and from Grand Blanc. Thirdly, would be the educational reason. Student-athletes should not (spend) two to three hours on buses when they have school the next day."

Grand Blanc joined the KLAA in its second school year, 2009-10, to round out a fourth six-team division when a proposed second high school in Howell never materialized. The Bobcats had been members of the Big Nine Conference since its inception in 1960-61. The Big Nine had as many as 10 members, but defections dwindled its ranks to five when Grand Blanc made the switch.

Dohm said Grand

Blanc has applied to join the Saginaw Valley High School Association and will make a formal presentation to the league April 26. The Valley includes former Big Nine rivals Flint Carman-Ainsworth, Davison and Flint Powers Catholic.

"That's one of the things I'm excited about, if we can get into the Valley, is having those rivalries with Davison and Lapeer," Dohm said. "We've been playing Carman and Powers, because the atmosphere in our gym has been sub-par in the three years I've been here, mainly because of geography. We want to see crowds like what we see when we play Carman. The students get more involved and the community gets more involved, because they obviously know each other."

Grand Blanc has been strong in football and boys basketball. Grand Blanc went 28-12 in KLAA West football with four championships in eight years. The Bobcats were 59-21 with five titles in KLAA West boys basketball.

Dohm said Grand Blanc had been working to persuade other Flint-area schools to join the KLAA and form a northern division, along with Brighton, Hartland and Howell. Lapeer has reportedly expressed interest in joining the KLAA, but is even farther away from the other league members than Grand Blanc.

The KLAA has solicited applications for membership. Belleville athletic director Joe Brodie confirmed that his school has submitted an application, but hasn't received a letter of acceptance.

Carter said she could not discuss which schools have applied. Ann Arbor Huron, Pioneer and Skyline, along with Saline, have also reportedly been interested in the KLAA.

In football, Grand Blanc will be in the KLAA Gold next fall with Franklin, Churchill, Northville, Plymouth, Wayne and John Glenn. Brighton, Canton, Hartland, Howell, Livonia Stevenson, Novi and Salem will be in the KLAA Black. Those divisions were based on program strength, with an attempt made to make both divisions equally competitive.

In other sports, a geographic model was used. Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Grand Blanc, Northville, Novi and Stevenson are in one division. The other consists of Canton, Churchill, Franklin, Plymouth, Salem, Wayne and John Glenn.

The catalyst for changes in the KLAA came when 10 of the 24 members decided to leave.

Lakeland, Milford, South Lyon, South Lyon East, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Waterford Kettering and Waterford Mott left to form the new Lakes Valley Conference. Pinckney will join the Southeastern Conference.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Country Day captures 12th state title

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

It's now an even dozen.

Country Day made it 12 girls basketball state championships in program history with a well-executed 59-48 victory over Ann Arbor Prep Saturday evening at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. The Yellowjackets took a lead halfway through the first quarter and never trailed to fittingly cap head coach Frank Orlando's 50th season as a head coach.

Country Day finished with a 26-1 record. It marks the seventh time in its illustrious program history that DCD has won at least 26 games — a high of 28 in 1998. This year's victory made up for the disappointment of having lost in last year's Class B state semifinal after having won the 2015 state title.

"This was real satisfying," said Orlando, who completed his 35th year as DCD's head coach. "The feeling we had walking out last year was that we didn't play the type of basketball that we were capable of. We just said all through our practices this year to remember what happened last year."

"And, I told the girls today when we had the lead to remember the game against Saginaw Heritage (this year) that we lost by a point," he said. "I think that led to a few points. It was good



Detroit Country Day players pose for a photo with students after winning the Class B state championship Saturday at the Breslin Center.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and it led to a big turnaround."

The victory snapped Arbor Preps 37-game winning streak. Ironically, Country Day was the last team to defeat Arbor Prep, last year's Class C state champ which opted to move up to Class B this year. The Yellowjackets beat the Gators in mid-February of last season, 37-33.

Ann Arbor Prep finished this season with a formidable 27-1 overall record.

"This was a very difficult loss today," Prep head coach Rod Wells said. "I thought Country Day played a real good game. They made a lot of shots. In the first half we didn't make a lot of shots and it was tough to make up that gap."

"I'm truly proud of my girls. They brought ef-

fort," he said. "Sometimes the ball just doesn't fall your way. It took us a while to adjust to their zone."

A strong first half

Country Day played a near flawless first half.

After Arbor Prep went up 9-6, Country Day's junior guard Kaela Webb hit a pair of treys from atop the arc to successfully break Prep's press. DCD took a 12-9 lead — a lead it would never relinquish — and went on a 15-6 run through the rest of the first half en route to a 27-15 halftime lead.

"I told Kaela that if you got the shot take it. I have extreme confidence in her and the rest of the girls," Orlando said. "We shot 60 percent today, but that was a key point in the game I thought. We played a zone and I

thought that hurt them a little bit."

The Yellowjackets never lost the momentum in the second half.

DCD led 41-27 going into the fourth quarter and hiked the lead to 46-30, its biggest advantage of the game. From that point on, Prep went on a 9-2 run to cut the lead to nine points, but that would be as close as it would get.

Pitts led DCD's balanced scoring attack with 17 points. Senior center Tyler Bennett, the defensive star with five blocks, finished with 15 points. Webb added 13, including three treys, and a whopping nine assists.

Ann Arbor Prep was led by Lasha Petree and Ro'Zhane Wells with 15 and 14 points, respectively.



CHARGERS

Continued from Page B1

said McClellan, a 2001 Churchill grad who pole vaulted on teams coached by Austin. "He gave me my start here as a coach and he always encouraged me.

"He let me do my thing with the vault and took that and ran."

McClellan noted that, not only did Austin help him launch his career as a high school pole vault coach (he has helmed all-state athletes from both the Churchill boys and girls teams), he was able to

start a Livonia-based program (Inversion Vault Club) where he gets to coach athletes of all ages.

"I've coached two state champions, a bunch of kids in nationals," McClellan said. "None of that would have happened if Rick didn't take a chance, because when he hired me I never really coached other than volunteering at a couple camps here and there.

"He gave me a shot and it's changed everything."

Tribute continues

According to McClellan, Austin's sudden death at age 57 from complications following surgery for a heart ailment

continues to cast a pall over the high school.

But perhaps in tribute to Austin, one of the largest contingents of athletes have come out for the 2017 squad.

"We got a lot of talent this year, it's the largest track team I can remember," McClellan said. "Right now we got 95 guys out. Which is completely mind-blowing, but it means there's a lot of talent around.

"So I think that will help to carry us, give me time to get my feet under me."

The Chargers also "will be dedicating the season to Rick and we're using that as some motivation to compete and practice and work in a way

that would make him proud of us."

It remains to be seen whether McClellan will eventually get the head coaching job on a permanent basis. But in the meantime, he will lead the group as well as continue to be coach for pole vaults and jumps.

In addition, he will remain as pole vault coach for the Churchill girls team.

He'll bank on help from two of Austin's longtime assistant coaches — John Filiatraut and John McGreevy — to get through what will be transitional season.

"Rick always encouraged me to trust what I was doing

and that's what I'll continue to do," McClellan said. "Put the best effort in that I can, and if I can put my best effort in than the kids do their best effort.

"But things are going to be different. Rick had 20 years of experience of going through this. It's my first year. I'm trying to figure everything out. It would have really been nice to have him around to help with this transition."

Many others without a doubt share McClellan's thoughts about missing a beloved teacher and coach who continues to be mourned.

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OCELOTS

Continued from Page B1

"We're just playing baseball, that's all that matters," Sellers said. "Our pitchers looked real good down south and our hitters are looking good in the cages here. So I think we're ready to go."

Sellers will pair with shortstop Garrett Edgell (Dearborn Divine Child) for the second consecutive year to give the Ocelots a reliable tandem.

"We're good with each other, very familiar," Sellers said. "All double plays, we know where each other's going to be without even looking."

Having such strength up the middle is something that should lead to more success for the Ocelots in 2017.

Last year, the team overcame a 3-18 start to wind up 15-30 and win the NJCAA Region XII Division III championship with a 2-0 record against Lorain County Community College.

Schoolcraft then was ousted in the NJCAA D-III District B tournament.

Getting a gauge

"I think we have a good pulse for what we have right now," Schoolcraft head coach Rob Fay said. "Hopefully, with what we've done last few weeks have gotten us better in some situations.

"(Tuesday) will be a good test against Kalamazoo Valley. We dropped two to them last year, but they were both competitive games.

"And then Cleary (Thursday) and Mott (Friday and Saturday), you kind of run out of time on figuring out what you have because the games count towards the division championship on Friday."

But Fay emphasized that the second edition of the team is "much improved from last year. The experience has helped. Our freshmen have been doing an outstanding job, so we expect to be competitive all the way through."

About the 1-4 spring trip, Fay preferred to look at the positives, such as a five-inning no-hitter spun by sophomore pitcher Amedeo Appoloni, freshman Justin Julion and freshman David Chavez.

Or the power bats being displayed by sophomore first baseman Jordan Pressley, freshman Will Buraconak (North Farmington), Chavez and others.

"Jordan has professional bat speed," Fay said about the Romulus product who is getting looks from D-I programs. "But Will and David have shown home run power as well.



One of the captains for Schoolcraft is sophomore catcher Nick Romanauski, who played at Canton High School. Here, Romanauski listens to coaches at the close of Monday's practice.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"There's a lot of leaders on this team and we're going to be ready to carry through a crazy two-month season,"

NICK ROMANAUSKI
Schoolcraft catcher

sielski "both swing the bat pretty well."

Plenty of depth

Ready to help out when called upon are freshman second baseman Sam Conti and freshman shortstop Blake Sloan (who also can catch or pitch).

"We turned quite a few double plays down south," Fay said, "whether it was Garrett and Hunter or Garrett and Sam Conti at second or even Blake Sloan at short and Sam at second. The middle of the infield has improved."

Patrolling the outfield will be — when not pitching — returners Merandi, Waymon Lemon (University of Detroit-Jesuit), Mike Peplinski and Tim Kozar.

"We're comfortable starting any of those at any given time," Fay said. "Timmy, Waymon and Jared also pitch for us. Our other two outfielders are freshmen Joey Pejuan and Ben Harthun (Northville), who also give us the added element of speed."

Fay said not being able to play at Ford Field for a few weeks is out of the team's control.

"There really isn't much we can do, but the disadvantage is, one, you want to get out on your home field as soon as you can," Fay said. "Home field should be an advantage. And, two, it's really just the travel time. Making sure guys get the extra rest, recovery time is always a lot easier when you're at home.

"You got to play away games. But if you could schedule a season of home games, you'd do that."

Wherever they play, Romanauski said the Ocelots will be ready.

"There's a lot of leaders on this team and we're going to be ready to carry through a crazy two-month season," Romanauski said. "There's going to be a lot of games and a lot of people making a lot of big plays."

Rounding out the roster are sophomores C.J. Bremer (pitcher, Brighton) and Cam Ernest (infielder).

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Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

That's going to be a huge advantage."

Pitching in

The Ocelots also will benefit from a deep roster of pitchers, led by starters Nick Montroy (Garden City), Drew Garrison and Christian Mercure.

"We have 15 arms and we got some position guys that will throw some relief for us," Fay said. "Will Buraconak and David Chavez are two freshmen that we expect to get a lot

of innings for us. I think our pitching staff this year is more well-rounded."

Among those on the mound will be sophomore Jared Merandi (Plymouth), freshman Nick Cotter (Livonia Stevenson) and sophomore Colin Elges (Canton/Belleville).

The hurlers are at ease with catchers Romanauski (who led the 2016 team in hitting with a .380 average) and Chase.

"(The catchers) work together a lot. We've helped each

other get a lot better this year," Romanauski said. "We're always working together ... we work pretty closely with the pitchers. We get feedback. If we see something, we change it."

According to Fay, the rest of the infield is pretty well set with Pressley at first, Sellers and Edgell up the middle and either sophomore Matt Buhagier or freshman Nick Ciesielski (Milford) at third.

Fay said Buhagier and Cie-

BOYCOTT

Continued from Page B1

Donna Guariglia.

Players issued a press release noting that negotiations "will continue this week, with the goal of reaching an agreement that would allow the players to get to camp in time to train for and compete in the World Championships. Players are hopeful they will get to take the ice and represent their country."

Carey did not immediately

return a phone call Tuesday requesting comment.

One of the reported bones of contention among women's players is the amount of money poured into the Plymouth-based National Team Development Program (about \$3.5 million annually) which trains and prepares boys players to compete on the national stage. By comparison, there is no similar program for girls players.

Fischer declined to comment on the record about whether the negotiations might ultimately lead to a



USA HOCKEY
Keller

Fischer noted. "I'm not going to comment any further than that."

Fischer did say "we just want to get to an end game that's good for everyone."

Players announced earlier this month for the team in-

cluded Farmington's Megan Keller, who plays defense. Keller is the lone player from Michigan on the original roster.

Other members of the squad include twins Monique Lamoureux-Morando, Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson, Hilary Knight, Alex Carpenter, Kendall Coyne and Megan Bozek.

If a settlement is not reached, USA Hockey "will field a competitive and fun team to watch" with a deep pool of talent available to select players from, said Fischer

in an interview last week.

But he emphasized then and reiterated Tuesday that USA Hockey remains a strong supporter of girls and women's hockey. The organization claims the number of girls and women playing the sport have grown from 28,000 in 1998 to more than 73,000 this year.

"We've worked hard over the course of multiple decades in the development and growth of girls and women's hockey," he said.

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HAYWARD

Continued from Page B1

continue her hockey career at Adrian College.

"She has a hockey mind. She thinks before things happen and she's thinking a few steps ahead always," Ladywood coach Ron Predmesky. "She's a really good stickhandler. And she's a leader, especially as a senior. She was one of our captains."

Hayward's hockey roots can be traced back to her family.

"I picked it up because my brother (Richie) started play-



Livonia Ladywood's Ron Predmesky was named Michigan Metro Coach of the Year.

ing two years before I did and my parents always told me when I was little I'd try on his hockey equipment and say, 'I want to play hockey,'" Hayward said. "And then they signed me up once I was finally old enough to."

Hayward, who attended St. Michael's Grade School in Livonia, progressed through the youth ranks, playing for Livonia Travel's 12- and 14-and-under AA teams before enrolling at Ladywood.

During her senior year, the Blazers enjoyed a banner season, with their only losses coming in overtime against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (2-1) during the regular season

and rival Farmington Hills Mercy (3-2) in the Michigan Metro Division 1 finals.

Ladywood, getting goals from Cristina Rotondo and Sydney Pilut, carried a 2-0 lead late into the final period, only to have the Marlins storm back with a pair of goals in regulation before winning it in overtime.

But despite the heartbreaking setback, Hayward said she had no regrets.

She not only made first team all-state, but teammate Devon Kelly did as well, while Colleen Lynch and Samantha Erickson earned second team honors. Predmesky was also named Coach of the Year.

"I'm really proud of how far we came, because when I first joined the team my freshman year, we were in, like, seventh out of eight places," said Hayward, who had an assist in the state final. "It's really nice to see how far we've come and just be a part of it. And our coaching staff was unbelievable. They always supported us and all the girls were super close and supportive of each other. And even though we did lose that one in OT, I think all of us were surprised how great we did and we're very proud."

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Robert Bosch LLC seeks a Sr System Engineer / System Architect of its facility located at 15000 Hogarty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Responsible for the creation of the project feature list and the technical design specs. 2 days telecomm permitted weekly. REQS: BS degree, or foreign equivalent in Comp Sci, Electrical Eng, Comp Eng, plus 3 yrs exp w/ automotive SW dev, debugging & testing. Some prof exp w/ (1) writing, debugging & testing C/C++ SW w/ GNX & Linux; (2) designing & debugging SW in an embedded multiprocessor environment & real time DS; (3) automotive embedded system architecture & vehic level protocols s/w CAN, LIN, SPI; (4) complex SW dev projects thru all phases of SW dev life cycle; (5) embedded Automotive Infotainment SW mgmt & in-vehicle infotainment functionality spec mgmt; (6) evaluating customer reqs compared to platform implementation & negotiating differences to create agreed system spec; & (7) tech project mgmt incl SW effort estimation, resource, skill set allocation & project planning. Applicants should apply online at www.boschjobs.com. Search Sr System Engineer / System Architect (REF1442K)

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fruit drink brand
 - 4 Brooklyn NBA team
 - 8 Les Elats — instrument that drones
 - 19 Gp. of docs
 - 20 "Give it —" ("Go for it")
 - 21 Somewhat, musically
 - 22 Endless
 - 23 Command for online missives
 - 25 "Singing to the hits" label
 - 26 Woodlands
 - 27 Army chaplains open curtains?
 - 30 Haughty sort
 - 31 Pufferer
 - 32 MSN competitor
 - 33 Queen in "Frozen"
 - 37 Flower parts with the most light, soft colors?
 - 42 "Come on!"
 - 45 Comes — surprise
 - 46 "He-e-elp!"
 - 47 Stir-frying pan
 - 48 Provo site
 - 49 Inits. at Indy
 - 52 See 36-Down
 - 55 Heckles
 - 57 Leatherneck pilots stay behind?
 - 63 Split to splice
 - 64 City near Oneida Lake
 - 65 Pulse
 - 66 Hooded vipers
 - 70 Little louse
 - 71 Aside from
 - 73 Hooded coat
 - 77 — for rat
 - 78 Window part
 - 80 Lots and lots
 - 82 First extra inning
 - 84 — acid
 - 86 Himalayan guide who's skilled at crafting
 - 90 Sufferer for a cause
 - 93 Lamb nurse
 - 94 Sci-fi power
 - 95 Bawl (out)
 - 96 "Kristin" actress Ortiz
 - 97 Hamm of soccer
 - 99 Andy's chum
 - 103 Bucolic poems
 - 105 Heartless doughnut shop
 - 106 Employee pestering customers?
 - 111 Hold to be
 - 112 Med. plan
 - 113 Queen, in Spain
 - 114 Apia's locale
 - 118 Change everyone's table positions during a spring dinner?
 - 123 Alike
 - 126 Aid in solving
 - 127 Racer Mario
 - 128 Dribble
 - 129 — Iranian
 - 130 Look to be
 - 131 "I have it!"
 - 132 Scented pouches
 - 133 — tide sentences?
 - 134 Makes a slip
 - 135 Chaney of film
- DOWN**
- 1 Hinged door fasteners
 - 2 Clarification starter
 - 3 "I'll handle it!"
 - 4 Convention sticker
 - 5 SFO stats
 - 6 Sad, in Paris
 - 7 Slender, graceful girls
 - 8 Maintenance processes
 - 9 Averse to, with "of"
 - 10 Like some cold coffee
 - 11 Was bought for the price of
 - 12 Happens to, as evil
 - 13 On the crest
 - 14 Richard of Hollywood
 - 15 Determine in advance
 - 16 Electees
 - 17 Singer Boone
 - 18 Ernie of golf
 - 24 Move directly via a wholesaler
 - 28 Comic Rudner
 - 29 Eggs of fish
 - 34 Yard surface
 - 35 Coin opening
 - 36 With
 - 52-Across, proposes a date to
 - 38 Get rid of
 - 39 Before long
 - 40 Starchy staple
 - 41 Morales of the screen
 - 42 Measures of light
 - 43 And others, to Caesar
 - 44 Divining cards
 - 50 Less slack
 - 51 Cherry stone
 - 53 Illinois city
 - 54 Goller's peg
 - 56 Spanish article
 - 58 Lincoln loc.
 - 59 It cuts wood with the grain
 - 60 "Crocodile Rock" label
 - 61 Sun orbiter
 - 62 Reduces to pulp
 - 67 Secondary leaflike appendage
 - 68 Endocrine gland in the brain
 - 69 Blizzards, e.g.
 - 72 Log-in info
 - 74 Lead-in to plunk
 - 76 Crotchety cry
 - 79 Follower of FDR
 - 81 Copy
 - 83 Part of Mac's name
 - 85 Ashley Olsen's twin
 - 87 Mass song
 - 88 Crest
 - 89 Go around
 - 90 Bond girl player
 - 91 Comic Meara
 - 92 Shed tool
 - 98 Sticks fast
 - 100 Entertainer Carmen
 - 101 Like superstore shopping
 - 102 Irritated fit
 - 104 Deprives of weapons
 - 106 Lottery winner's cry
 - 107 Thurman of "Tape"
 - 108 "— to it!" ("Simple!")
 - 109 Anxiously
 - 110 Many a sock mender
 - 115 Rock genre
 - 116 Brand of weedkillers
 - 117 Iraqi, e.g.
 - 119 Sommer of "The Prize"
 - 120 Chip coating
 - 121 German article
 - 122 German river
 - 123 Urban grid: Abbr.
 - 124 One of the Gershwins
 - 125 Karaoke stage item

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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132								133				134					135

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

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

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!

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

VISION CARE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ABERROMETER DIPLLOPIA
 ACETATE ENZYMATIC
 ANIRIDIA FLOATERS
 ANTIREFLECTIVE GLAUCOMA
 AQUEOUS HUMOR IRIS
 ASTIGMATISM JAUNDICE
 BENIGN LASIK
 BIFOCAL LENS
 BLEPHARITIS MACULA
 BRIDGE MYOPIA
 CATARACT OPHTHALMOLOGY
 CHALAZION OPTICIAN
 CHEMOSIS OPTOMETRIST
 CONE PUPIL
 CONJUNCTIVITIS RETINA
 CONTACTS SCLERA
 DACRYOSTENOSIS SINUS
 STRABISMUS

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

1. FRUIT
 4. BRONX
 8. LES ELATS
 12. DRONE
 19. GPO
 20. GO FOR IT
 21. MUSICAL
 22. ENDLESS
 23. COMMAND
 25. SINGING
 26. WOODLANDS
 27. ARMY
 30. HAUGHTY
 31. PUFFER
 32. MSN
 33. QUEEN
 37. PETALS
 42. COME ON
 45. SURPRISE
 46. HE-EE-ELP
 47. WOK
 48. PROVO
 49. INDY
 52. DOWN
 55. HECKLES
 57. LEATHERNECK
 63. SPLIT
 64. ONEIDA
 65. PULSE
 66. HOODED
 70. LITTLE
 71. ASIDE
 73. HOODED
 77. RAT
 78. WINDOW
 80. LOTS
 82. FIRST
 84. ACID
 86. HIMALAYAN
 90. SUFFERER
 93. LAMB
 94. SCI-FI
 95. BAWL
 96. KRISTIN
 97. HAMM
 99. ANDY
 103. BUCOLIC
 105. HEARTLESS
 106. EMPLOYEE
 111. HOLD
 112. MEDICAL
 113. QUEEN
 114. APIA
 118. CHANGE
 123. ALIKE
 126. AID
 127. MARIO
 128. DRIBBLE
 129. IRANIAN
 130. LOOK
 131. I HAVE IT
 132. SCENTED
 133. TIDE
 134. SLIP
 135. CHANEY

Word Search Answers

1. ABERROMETER
 2. ACETATE
 3. ANIRIDIA
 4. ANTIREFLECTIVE
 5. AQUEOUS HUMOR
 6. ASTIGMATISM
 7. BENIGN
 8. BIFOCAL
 9. BLEPHARITIS
 10. BRIDGE
 11. CATARACT
 12. CHALAZION
 13. CHEMOSIS
 14. CONE
 15. CONJUNCTIVITIS
 16. CONTACTS
 17. DACRYOSTENOSIS
 18. DIPLLOPIA
 19. ENZYMATIC
 20. FLOATERS
 21. GLAUCOMA
 22. IRIS
 23. JAUNDICE
 24. LASIK
 25. LENS
 26. MACULA
 27. MYOPIA
 28. OPHTHALMOLOGY
 29. OPTICIAN
 30. OPTOMETRIST
 31. PUPIL
 32. RETINA
 33. SCLERA
 34. SINUS
 35. STRABISMUS



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