

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Charcuterie: 'Heart and soul' of cooking
Food, A4

Faust Library staff votes for union

Board president: 'We're happy with choice they made'

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Workers at Westland's Faust Library have voted overwhelmingly to unionize through the Service Employ-

ees International Union. The vote was 27-5 in favor of forming a union bargaining unit. Not everyone completed the ballots regarding unionization, which were mailed to employees' homes, as 42 em-

ployees are now eligible to be included in the union. The SEIU, with nearly 2 million members, represents workers in a variety of occupations, including nurses, other hospital workers and government employees.

A previous unionizing effort through the American Feder-

ation of State, County and Municipal Employees was unsuccessful.

As a new bargaining unit, the library workers will need to take preliminary steps such as electing officers and establishing a bargaining team to negotiate an initial collective bargaining agreement.

"All along we've been saying we had no issue with the library staff organizing. We're happy with the choice they made. Now we can go forward," Library Board President Mark Neal said. "There is some preliminary stuff that

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Brewing and Distillation Technology faculty member Rich Weinkauff offers advice to team members David Veselenak, Phil Allmen, Dan Dean and Bill Emerick.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland neighborhoods to receive attention in 2017

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

As Westland closed out its 50th anniversary year, Mayor William Wild used his annual State of the City address to highlight accomplishments and look ahead to improvements planned for the coming year.

He did note that some things don't change.

"As I travel around the city and interact with residents on a daily basis, one thing that is always consistent is that the residents of Westland are just as proud, as passionate, about our city in 2017 as the first residents were back in 1966," Wild said.

18th District Court

First to receive praise from Wild was Westland's 18th District Court under judges Sandra Cicirelli and Mark McConnell. The court has implemented several innovations to reduce long lines in an effort to maintain high standards of customer service, he said. Most notably, were the creation of a new misdemeanor driving docket and offering online payment and ticket mediation through the court's updated website.

"Kudos are also deserved by the multi-functioning probation staff and the expanded

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BIG EVENT A TOAST TO HOME BREWING

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Get out those hops.

The annual Big Brew for National Homebrew Day returns Saturday to downtown Milford, with dozens expected to come out and brew hundreds of gallons of beer. The event is one of many local sites for the event, which is taking place across 48 states. The event had more than 12,000 participants nationwide in 2016.

Teams will gather beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot at River's Edge Brewing Co., 125 S. Main, Suite 400. There, teams will begin brewing beer that will be tasted June 28 and judged in several categories by judges from the Beer Judge Certification Program, as well as a People's Choice award.

The event is free for those looking to come and chat with participants and there will be live music and food available from Barlowe's BBQ.

Isaac Perry said the event

IF YOU GO

What: Big Brew for National Homebrew Day

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

Where: River's Edge Brewing Co., 125 S. Main St., Suite 400, Milford

INSIDE

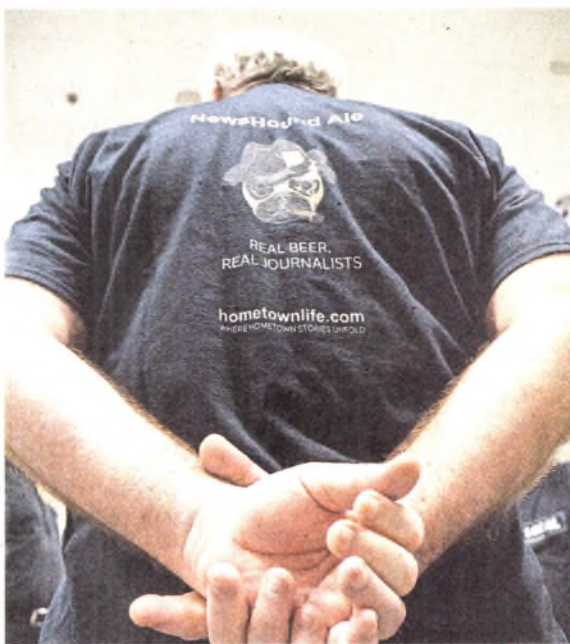
Get the Scoop on worts at Big Brew, A3

has grown substantially in recent years, beginning with only seven home brewers. This year, the event is expected to draw almost three times that.

"I'm super-excited. I think we're going to be over 20 brewers," said Perry, a teacher at Lakeland High School in White Lake and contributor to the Michigan Beer Guide. "I think on top of that, we've got a food truck, we've got live music."

One team that will be a part of the event will be several members of the Observer & Eccentric's editorial depart-

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Bill Emerick, wearing the brew team shirt.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Westland Mayor William Wild at his 2017 State of the City address.

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ADDRESS

Continued from Page A1

Community Service program which helps the city maintain several city buildings and also helps by removing blight from area roadways," Wild said. "Thank you judges, and I don't believe that there is a better ran district court in the state. Keep up the great work."

Assessing

The city's Assessing Department completed the third year of its state-required residential re-inspection program and has now completed roughly 15,000 homes to date.

"While some property owners are now being assessed for non-permitted improvements, several others were pleasantly surprised to see their

assessments going down after removing garages, decks and in-ground pools," Wild said.

Many Westland taxpayers got a pleasant surprise when they opened their assessment notices this year, he said. The city's residential property values increased an average 6 percent, 11 percent for commercial properties.

"While home values are quickly rising back to pre-recession prices, Westland taxpayers, because of the protection of Proposition One, have only received inflationary tax increases during this recovery phase of the economy," Wild said. "This year's increase, if you did not sell your home or change your homestead status, was less than 1 percent."

The Assessing Department also processed and mailed out over 28,000

"As the City of Westland passes the 50-year marker, we thought it was time to give each of the city's neighborhoods what every 50-year-old needs: A makeover,"

WILLIAM WILD, Westland mayor

street lighting along with property assessments notices. While recently wrapping up its annual March Board of Review only 58 homeowners appealed their valuations

Wild also noted that Jennifer Nieman, who heads the Assessing Department, earlier this year achieved prestigious level 4 certification through the State of Michigan.

Taxes

While it seems that taxes are always going up, Wild said that the amount paid in city taxes on average is lower, despite an increase in recent years to fund Act 345 police and fire pensions.

In 2007, Wild said city property taxes were at an all-time high, with the average residential bill

costing \$720. Today, the average tax bill for city millages is \$682, which is still 5 percent below what homeowners were paying in 2007.

Finances

Along with earning an unqualified financial audit, Wild said the city Finance Department also oversaw an increase in Westland's bond rating from Standard & Poor's from A to A+.

The Department has successfully managed the back end of the recent water meter upgrade program and reports that over 90 percent of the city's 27,000 meters have been changed out and the accounts have been reconciled.

The proposed 2017-18 budget — a \$66 million balanced budget — adds

over \$500,000 to the city's rainy day fund, bringing the general fund surplus to \$6 million and paying extra toward the city's unfunded pension obligations.

The proposed budget, which is available to view online on the city's website, also provides for much needed investments in neighborhoods, roads, parks and funds the purchase of new police and fire vehicles.

Technology

The city's Department of Information Technology, known as the DoIT Team, is offering a new way to connect with the city with a new app available for smart devices called Westland Click & Fix. It's powered by SeeClickFix and is available free of charge on Apple App and Google Play stores.

Residents can report potholes, streetlight outages and blight.

Neighborhoods

"As the City of Westland passes the 50-year marker, we thought it was time to give each of

the city's neighborhoods what every 50-year-old needs: A makeover," Wild said.

Department of Public Services Crews will have a comprehensive 50-point checklist for revitalizing each neighborhood. Items will range from street sweeping, tree trimming, replacing and straightening street signs, fixing streetlight outages, surveying road conditions for immediate or future repairs, jetting and cleaning sewers and catch basins, and replacing damaged trash or recycling bins and much more

"City crews will soon begin the process of going through each of the city's neighborhoods, street by street and we will begin with the P.D. Graham Elementary School neighborhood and then begin to work across the city," Wild said, adding the city is encouraging residents to do their best to spruce up their homes.

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UNION

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has to take place. I don't know when we would begin negotiations."

Library Director Sheila Collins is due back from a leave of absence on May 8. The leave was voluntary, Neal said, to allow the unionizing vote to take place without any concerns that she was trying to influence the vote.

"Sheila is totally supported by the library

board. She went on leave to reduce tension over the union vote, so employees didn't feel any was trying to sway them or watching over their shoulder," Neal said. "We felt it was ridiculous but we didn't want any discord — we wanted free voting."

The board had given Collins the choice about going on a leave, Neal said, and she had agreed that would be the way to handle the situation when the voting was taking place.

The unionization vote

came on the heels of five full-time librarians being laid off in March and replaced with part-time library associates. That move resulted in the library saving about \$175,000.

Westland Human Resources Director Cindy King was meeting Monday with library administrative assistant Sherri West, who has been handling the director's duties during Collins' leave of absence. Westland Mayor William Wild had called for the meeting between King and library admini-

stration following protests about the layoffs.

"I expect they will discuss how things are going at the library and decide what needs to be done going forward. The library is in good shape. Our programs are all up. Some programs (canceled after the layoffs) have not returned but others have been added," Neal said.

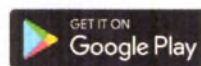
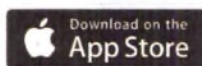
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Phil Allmen, Bill Emerick, Bill Bresler, David Veselenak, adviser Rich Weinkauf and Dan Dean.

Get the Scoop on worts at Big Brew

Dan Dean

hometownlife.com

Have you ever wondered how to chill a wort or pitch yeast?

We are not talking ugly growths or fantasy baseball, but beer brewing.

The surge in craft breweries is a boon for beer lovers and it has also fueled a spike in home brewing. And this Saturday, home brewers take center stage as thousands participate in the worldwide celebration of National Homebrew Day.

If you have ever thought of making your own beer or just want to grow your understanding of all the choices available at your local beer store of brewpub, come join us at River's Edge Brewing Co. in Milford.

A team from hometownlife.com (photographer Bill Bresler, con-

sumer audience manager Phil Allmen, reporter David Veselenak and copy editor Bill Emerick) will be firing up a batch of NewsHound Ale.

Don't know what NewsHound Ale is? Well — neither do we. But we liked the name and the logo. We are hoping our "coach" (ringer) Jeff Rankert will come up with something really tasty. Rankert definitely knows his way around a glass carboy and fermenter, having brewed his first batch some 25 years ago. He is also a Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) national judge and American Homebrewers Association (AHA) governing committee member.

From pros to complete amateurs like us, Big Brew Day at River's Edge is a celebration of the art of beer brewing.

If you need more in-

centive than either brewing or simply walking around and talking beer with talented brewers (not us — we are talented, just not at beer brewing, yet), participants will stop at 1 p.m. to take part in a nationwide toast, designed to happen at the same time across the country with other Big Brew events. If you can't make it to River's Edge at 1 p.m., look for our live feed on Facebook to join in the toast from wherever you are at that time.

This just in: Rumor has it NewsHound Ale could be a cream ale, possibly with a hint of coffee flavoring. But the only way to get the Scoop is to come join us.

Dan Dean is not head brew master of anything, but leader of this ragtag group. Send him your thoughts at ddean@hometownlife.com.

BEER

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ment. Milford resident Jeff Rankert, a member of the American Homebrewers Association, will serve as the O&E's coach.

Rankert, an avid home brewer for several decades, said the hobby has seen some big growth in recent years, especially from those in the millennial generation.

"The state of home brewing went through explosive growth within the last four or five years," he said. "What

(the Big Brew event) does is it gives a venue where people who don't brew can come and view and observe."

In addition to the brewing throughout the day, participants will stop at 1 p.m. to take part in a nationwide toast, designed to happen at the same time across the country with other Big Brew events.

Brewers who are participating in Milford's event will receive items such as 2-row base malt and PB Toast specialty malt, donated by Pilot Malt House of Byron Center, as well as Cascade, Chinook and Tahoe

hops provided by Top Hops Farms of Goodrich. A new part of the event this year is the addition of a "secret box" of ingredients that several professional brewers will be able to use in their brews that day. Representatives from breweries such as River's Edge, Draught Horse Brewery in New Hudson, Drafting Table Brewery in Wixom, Kickstand Brewing Co. in Commerce Township and soon-to-open Hop Buds of Flint are expected to participate.

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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Vehicle damaged

A resident in the 6600 block of Lakeview Boulevard came to the Westland police station April 23 to report damage to her vehicle.

She noticed a small hole in the passenger side brake light of the vehicle earlier that day. She saw a pellet from a BB gun in the lens. She told police she parked in front of her residence in a parking space the day before and saw no damage.

Man jumps fence

Police were called April 20 to Panetta's Landscaping, 8500 Middlebelt, on the report of a man jumping a fence at the business.

Employees said they saw a man walking through the fenced yard and then running through the yard. An employee called police. They said it appeared the man was not carrying anything and nothing appeared missing. Police found part of a fence that had been damaged, though it

was believed it was old damage.

Cable tampered with

A resident in the 32000 block of Montcalm called police April 19 to report possible tampering with her cable service.

She left for work earlier that day and the cable was working properly. When she got home, her service was not working. She went outside and found the exterior box damaged and the cable wires loose and hanging out of the box. She did not know who tampered with the box. She contacted her cable company to have someone make repairs.

Catalytic converter taken

A resident in the 34000 block of Tonquish came to the police station April 19 to report the theft of a catalytic converter.

The resident parked and locked his vehicle in front of his home and later found in the morning that someone took the catalytic converter. His

neighbor reportedly saw two men running from the car carrying a car jack; they two men reportedly got into a vehicle and drove away.

Candle stolen

A resident in the 37000 block of Joy came to the police station April 19 to report a package containing a candle had been taken from her doorstep.

She said the package was set to be delivered by UPS, who told her they left the package on the doorstep. She said there was no package when she got home.

Stolen license plate

Police were called April 19 to the 1400 block of Norris on the report of a stolen license plate.

The resident said the plate was taken April 17-18 from his vehicle, which was parked in his backyard. He came out April 18 and found his plate missing. It was entered as stolen.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Westland Police Department.

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Charcuterie: 'Heart and soul' of cooking

Joanne Maliszewski
hometownlife.com

Charcuterie. You certainly won't find it on all restaurant menus. And you may have never ordered it as a charcuterie plate. But it's likely nothing boosts the craft of cooking more.

The dictionary has a simple definition: the salting, smoking and curing of meats — a craft developed long before refrigeration.

But nationally renowned and award-winning chef Brian Polcyn calls charcuterie the "heart and soul" of cooking.

"It is the deepest, most soulful (thing) in a kitchen," added the certified executive chef and instructor at Schoolcraft College. "It is the craft of preserving food."

To better understand, think of salami, prosciutto, ham, pate and sausage. "I use everything but the sink," he said. "We take the less-expensive and underutilized meats and make charcuterie."

Last Friday, Polcyn stood watch as his charcuterie students completed their hands-on final exam. He pointed to one student and said he had told her he was taking home her creation for dinner. It was that good. "We respect food," he said. "We don't waste anything. We do whole animal butchery."

Charcuterie is one of the rotations students participate in during Schoolcraft's culinary program. And by far, it is not the easiest. "This level of cooking is science," Polcyn said. "We teach critical thinking skills here. We don't teach recipes."

Charcuterie requires knowledge of the uses of bacteria to cure meat, so it does not have to be refrigerated. Time and temperature are paramount in preparing charcuterie. But salt is king. Salami, for example, requires low temperature cooking and needs to cure, losing all water in the meat. Salt does that job. "It is the powerful ingredient in the kitchen," Polcyn said.

When you order charcuterie at a restaurant, you will receive a plate full of cured, salted meats, including cured sausages and salamis, cured poke and beef, as well as pate and, likely, cheeses. On average, a charcuterie board will cost about \$14 for two people. It is usually served as an appetizer.

A master charcuterie chef, Polcyn said he never stops learning. "I always practice charcuterie," he said. "You



It's the last day of class and students work on their final assignment, watched by chef Brian Polcyn.



Jeffrey Adams prepared smoked bratwurst, shrimp pate and potato salad for the final exam in chef Brian Polcyn's class.



Kelsey Bylski slices her pork terrine.



Polcyn critiques Jeffrey Adams's smoked bratwurst, potato salad, salmon and shrimp pate.

always have to be evolving."

Evolving describes Polcyn, The father of five children with his wife Julie, Polcyn has owned six restaurants — all award-winning — including Pike Street and Chimayo in Pontiac; the Acadia in Auburn Hills; Five Lakes Grille in Milford, which he later turned into Cinco Lagos; and Forest Grill in Birmingham.

"The restaurant business is volatile," Polcyn said, adding he sold them all. It's true: the

restaurant business is day and night seven days a week and then you start all over again for the coming week.

"It's like being a star athlete," Polcyn said, adding that the 20-year-old athlete has a tougher time when he becomes the 40-year-old athlete.

His culinary resume includes the now-closed Golden Mushroom and the Lark in West Bloomfield. Then came his restaurants, before he joined Schoolcraft College full

time.

Whether you are a charcuterie lover or not, Polcyn's name is likely familiar. He was a focus in journalist Michael Ruhlman's "The Soul of a Chef: The Journey Toward Perfection" and co-authored, with Ruhlman, "charcuterie: The Craft of Salting, Smoking and Curing." The book was nominated for a James Beard Foundation Book Award in 2006.

The James Beard Foundation made Polcyn one of five

nominees for Best Chef in the Midwest in 2006, one of many accolades received in his career. Meanwhile, Polcyn has also launched a seminar series on charcuterie, which draws chefs worldwide.

Two well-known French chefs arrived in New York City for his class. "They wanted validation," he said.

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For self-taught Mary Spencer, it's about home cooking

Joanne Maliszewski
hometownlife.com

Mary Spencer doesn't call herself a chef. She is a self-taught cook and loves it so much she has spent the last couple of decades teaching others.

"I have been cooking for 35-plus years. I just love it. I was actually a legal secretary for 15 years," said Spencer, owner of Taste: A Cook's Place in the Village Workshop in Northville.

The move to cooking and teaching began about 20 years ago, when Northville Parks and Recreation had her teach a cooking class as a fundraiser. "I realized then that is what I love to do," she said. "I wanted to be a full-time instructor."

That desire led her to a variety of stops along her cooking career. They included Kitchen Witch, Kitchen Glamour and Scotty's Kitchen in Northville. For almost two years, Spencer also taught at Epiphany Kitchens. Finally, she decided to master her own place — Taste: A Cook's Place.

So far, so good. Still in the process of establishing a cafe within her new space at the Village Workshop, Spencer offers a plethora of classes, each with a theme. A recent Monday, Spencer's class bore the theme, Meatless Monday: Sheet Pan Suppers. The meal included sheet pan fried rice,

roasted corn, asparagus and spring onion salad with fresh mozzarella, portobello mushroom Parmesan with herbed summer squash — for starters.

Wednesday's meal this week was Korean fare: kimchi pancakes, broccoli, mushroom and sesame salad, potato noodles and beef bulgogi.

Ask Spencer what's instrumental to a good kitchen and she'll say no doubt it is knives. Spencer has a class devoted just to learning hands-on how to cut food, whether meat or vegetables.

Her students in each class gather around what will become the cafe. Students sit on the cafe stools surrounding the heart of the cafe, the kitchen, and learn through Spencer. She also has a television screen so students have a closer view of the cooking process.

"This makes me more accessible to people," said Spencer, who always dons an apron. "First and foremost, I am a home cook."

When the class of the day is complete, students dig in and finish the meal, which always consists of five to seven courses. "You get a lot of food," she said. "I try to give a history of the meal and where to get the ingredients. It is demonstration-style."

Spencer avoids packaged and processed foods and will shop daily. She believes that as packaged foods arrived on



Mary Spencer lights some brandy ablaze to go with some melting cheese during her April 27 dinner at Northville's Village Workshop. Spencer runs the instructional meals through her business Taste: A Cook's Place.

grocery shelves years ago, many people have abandoned or forgotten the art of cooking for a family.

She also teaches proper cooking and kitchen techniques for home cooking. "You don't need to go to culinary school to feed your family," she said.

Spencer covers the vast array of foods, whether it's meat, fish or vegetables and

fruits, not to mention desserts. And she helps her students overcome their quirks — like those who hate vegetables or shellfish.

Her classes also cover all ethnicities and cultures in food and meals.

And she reminds students that "we eat with our eyes, ears and noses. The important thing is, how does it taste and how does it look?"

Students also learn the basics of stocking a pantry. That would include spices, especially salt, and flour and sugar. Her repertoire also includes two basic knives — a paring and chef knife. "I teach how to hold a knife," she said. "It takes practice."

Her classes include how to safely use a pressure cooker — the newer models are safer — and the stove and the need to start every meal with good, fresh ingredients, preferably organic without pesticides or fertilizers.

There's also instruction on how to use a Cuisinart to make dough and other items, such as pesto and cheese cake batter. Other techniques include how not to burn food. The trick is to get a pan hot and then add the oil and then the food.

"This is almost like having entertainment with your meal," Spencer said of her classes.

Her classes hold 13 students at the cafe counter, with plenty of other seating with high tables for folks to gather round. Older people, as well as kids, sign up for her classes. And she has repeat customers, such as a gentleman who has taken her classes for eight years. "He does not miss a class," she said.

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Report: Girl's genital mutilation injury worse than doctor claims

Tresa Baldas
Detroit Free Press

Dr. Jumana Nagarwala has maintained she never engaged in any genital cutting.

But according to documents obtained by the Detroit Free Press, the injuries sustained by two Minnesota girls who prosecutors say had their genitals mutilated by Nagarwala at a Livonia clinic are much more severe than what the doctor has claimed.

The details emerged as Nagarwala and two others were indicted Wednesday on genital mutilation charges in U.S. District Court, where the trio are accused of targeting young girls for years to carry out what prosecutors have described as a barbaric and illegal ritual. In this case, prosecutors say, when Nagarwala and her cohorts were discovered, they lied, deleted evidence and tried to hush others in their religious community to keep their crime a secret.

Nagarwala, through her lawyer, has admitted that she did perform a procedure on the genitalia of two Minnesota girls, but that it didn't involve cutting. Rather, she claims, she scraped a membrane from their genitalia, wrapped it in gauze and gave it to the parents, who buried it as part of a religious custom.

A doctor's findings, however, contradict that claim. A juvenile protection petition filed on behalf of the victims in Minnesota, along with federal court documents, cite scarring, a small



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Dr. Jumana Nagarwala (right), in a court sketch, and two others were indicted April 26 on genital mutilation charges in U.S. District Court.

tear, healing lacerations and what appears to be surgical removal of a portion of her genitalia.

Nagarwala's lawyer, Shannon Smith, has declined comment on the case, which is now headed to trial given that a grand jury handed up the indictment, which is required in federal court. The defendants had previously been charged in criminal complaints.

Named in the indictment are Nagarwala, a second doctor and that physician's wife, all of whom are accused of participating in the genital cuttings of the two 7-year-old girls who came to Michigan in February with their mothers, thinking it was for a special girls' weekend. Instead, prosecutors say, the girls had their genitalia mutilated by Nagarwala during after

hours at the clinic, but that she never billed for or documented the procedure.

Prosecutors say they believe there are many other victims. According to the seven-count indictment, the three defendants are part of a bigger conspiracy that ran from 2005 until this year, when a tip and a trail of electronic evidence led to their arrests.

The main defendant is Nagarwala, 44, of Northville, who is charged with conspiracy, genital mutilation, transporting minors with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, lying to a federal agent and obstructing an official proceeding. If convicted, she could face up to life in prison on the transporting minors charge. According to the indict-

ment, Nagarwala told federal agents that "she has never been present" for female genital mutilation — or FGM — on "any minor children" and that she has "no knowledge" of it ever being performed.

"Nagarwala then and there well knew she had performed FGM procedures on numerous minor girls," the indictment states.

Prosecutors say Nagarwala pulled off this crime with the help of another doctor who let her use the Livonia clinic to carry out the procedure and helped coordinate the girls' trip to Michigan. That physician is Dr. Fakhruddin Attar, 53, who was charged with the same crimes as Nagarwala. His wife, Farida Attar, 50, also was indicted for her alleged role: Prosecutors say she

held the girls' hands during the procedure and instructed at least one member of her community to lie if anyone asked questions.

According to the indictment, all three are accused of trying to keep this practice a secret within their Indian-Muslim community.

"(They) instructed others not to speak about FGM procedures that had taken place," the 13-page document states. All three defendants remain locked up. Nagarwala was denied bond. The Attars will argue for bond at a detention hearing Wednesday, though prosecutors will object and ask a judge to keep them jailed pending the outcome of their cases.

According to court documents, the Attars were arrested Friday morning at the Burhani Medical Clinic, where the procedures allegedly happened.

The Attars deny any wrongdoing. Their lawyers have said both are deeply religious, have clean records and were frightened following their arrests.

Nagarwala, who was arrested April 12, also has denied wrongdoing.

All three defendants are part of a small Indian-Muslim community known as the Dawoodi Bohra, which was at the center of an Australian genital-cutting prosecution that sent three people to prison in 2015.

In the wake of the case, an organization that oversees the Dawoodi Bohra community in Detroit has defended the group, stating:

"The Dawoodi Bohras

do not support the violation of any U.S. law, local, state or federal. We offer our assistance to the investigating authorities. Any violation of U.S. law is counter to instructions to our community members. It does not reflect the everyday lives of the Dawoodi Bohras in America. ... We take our religion seriously but our culture is modern and forward-looking."

The girls' parents have not been charged.

According to court documents, both girls have told FBI and state investigators that they had procedures performed on their genitalia, that it was painful and that they were both told to keep it a secret. One of the girls said the doctor made her cry and that she and her friend were both given cake after the procedure. One of the girls also said that she thought she was coming to Detroit for a "special" girls trip, but after arriving here learned that they had to go to the doctor because "our tummies hurt."

Nagarwala, an emergency room doctor with the Henry Ford Health System, has been placed on leave. She is not accused of performing any genital mutilation at the hospital, but rather at Attar's clinic.

Minnesota authorities removed both girls from their homes, though one of them has been returned to her parents. The other girl's child protective custody case remains under seal. It is not known whether she has been returned to her parents yet.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page A5

tions.

Lighthouse Mission hosts yard sale

Lighthouse Home Mission pantry will have a yard sale from through May 6 at the mission, 34033 Palmer Road. Proceeds to be used to buy food for families and individuals in need. Volunteers needed for tear down from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 6. Donations of gently used items of any type will be accepted. Donations may be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day. To volunteer, call 734-334-3104. For more information, go to www.fgtonline.org/lighthouse/.

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society performs

The Friends of the Livonia Library will present the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society in a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library in Livonia.

On a hot afternoon in July 1983 this group met in a park in Wyandotte to review what they had learned together. This was the beginning of the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. The group has now grown to over 100 members playing a variety of acoustic instruments such as the Hammered dulcimer, guitar, fiddle, autoharp, ukulele, and harmonica.

The official theme song is Westphalia Waltz. They perform for many

meetings, workshops and other related activities. A free reception will follow the program in the Michigan Room. For more information, call 734-466-2495.

Firearms training for ladies

The Michigan 14th District Republican Committee will host a Ladies Night for firearm training and proficiency training from 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at Firing Line Indoor Gun Range and Gun Shop, 33000 Ford Road, Westland. The event is a fundraiser, but Firing Line is providing the training. The cost is \$40. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2quUBDv>.

Credit score seminar

Catholic Vantage Financial will host a credit report workshop

for the public on Wednesday, May 10. The workshop "Know Your Credit - Know Your Score" will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the credit union's Plymouth branch, 8817 Sheldon Road, at the northwest corner of Sheldon and Joy Roads.

During the workshop, attendees will learn about factors that can affect your credit report, how to get a free report and how to make a dispute.

Guests will also receive valuable tips and real strategies that work to help improve your credit score. New borrowers will also find out how to establish credit and earn a good rating. Attendees are welcome to bring their personal credit reports and scores to the workshop or request one from a mem-

ber service representative. To attend this free workshop, register online at www.mycvif.org/credit-workshop/ or call 734-432-0212.

Widowed Friends

Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group for Widowed Men/Women hosting Men's Breakfast, 9 a.m. Steve's Family Restaurant (2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month) 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group for Widowed Men/Women hosting Ladies Breakfast, Connor's Restaurant, May 1 and May 15, June 5 and June 19, (first and third Monday of the Month) at Connor's on Haggerty and Five Mile. Call Carol to RSVP at 313-562-3080.

Big Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Livonia's Robert and Janet Bennett's book sale are sponsoring a three day Used Book Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 19-20 and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, May 21. There will be hundreds of books such as fiction, nonfiction, religious, historical plus general books as well.

There will be a designated room for collectibles as well as good prices on all the books. On May 21, a bag of books can be purchased for \$5. All proceeds go back into the libraries. The Robert and Janet Bennett's library is located at 32777 Five Mile Road.

For more information you may call the library at 734-466-2495.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conservative not OK with liberals

Anyone who has read the Observer for a while now knows that not only am I an effective letter writer but I am also a brutal counter-puncher. You really don't want to get into a verbal tiff with me — you'll lose! The new audience of letter writers isn't going to kowtow me into silence, either.

I've taken on Livonia's best in the past and won. I once dared to criticize Jack Kirksey in 2008 and drew the fire of 12 published letters, plus an editorial from the paper. There probably are also hundreds of unpublished letters which are sent in attacking me. But I'm like the old Timex watch, I take a licking and keep on ticking!

To begin with, when someone becomes a doctor, he takes the Hippocratic Oath, but the liberal takes the hypocrite's oath! The liberal can say or do anything as nasty as he wants, but if a conservative fights back, he's branded a horrible person.

I found it a bit amusing how recent letter writers hysterically upbraided me for calling out people by name in public, being mean and resorting to name-calling, and then like typical, hypocritical liberals, they then turned around and accused me of being everything in the book, including a Nazi, a KKK member, even suggesting that I need a "shrink."

For your information, in 1988 I took a Marine's entrance exam intelligently test and scored on an IQ level of 200, so I don't think a "shrink" could teach me anything! A classic liberal ploy to preemptively disarm his critics is to make the claim of not being a liberal, before offering a withering, liberal broadside, but as Sun Tzu said in "The Art Of War," "the friend of my enemy is my enemy also!"

Liberals want to take over the country and drive it into the pit of hell with their doctrine of devils (see Leviticus 18:21-22 for reasons that God brings nations into judgment), and meanwhile, they want conservatives and Christians to

sit dumbly on the sidelines without saying anything. Most of them are compliant dupes, which is why America finds itself in this predicament today where two men can now pretend "to play house" together.

They have stood idly by while public schools and colleges have brainwashed the young into socially accepting this moral abomination. The liberal media and the devil tells us that we should cluelessly accept demonic doctrines in the name of tolerance. Christ said he never knew such people (nominal professors) as his own. It's also disappointing that more Trump supporters aren't publicly defending him. Your cowardly silence gives aid and comfort to the enemy.

Republicans are rightly upset because liberals are trying to nullify the great (legit) election win via blowback and organized mob rule protest. Democrats in Congress are being told by their constituents to block everything GOP.

Protesters greet Trump in Florida, and liberal colleges are denying the free speech of conservatives like Ann Coulter.

It's liberals who are fostering this adversarial environment and people like myself don't have to be OK with it!

Leo Weber
Livonia

Which schools did Planned Parenthood infiltrate?

Sen. Patrick Colbeck has posted repeatedly on his Facebook that Planned Parenthood infiltrates public schools with "salesmanship and marketing in order to build a demand for their services" including abortion. He posted they did this with students as young as 4. Originally, he stated this happened in Livonia Public Schools then changed that to Clarenceville Schools. After being challenged, he now he ignores the question when asked to provide names of schools where this went on. A Northville constituent contacted administrators at Northville Public Schools after seeing this on his Facebook page

and was told in writing, "We do not have a collaboration or association with Planned Parenthood."

On April 17, at a Republican event at the Sports Den in Northville where Mr. Colbeck was campaigning for governor, he repeated a variation on these claims stating Planned Parenthood goes into a high school to recruit future clients. No rebuttal of Colbeck's unproven and disputed claims was heard from either Mathew Wilk, present Northville Public School board member, or Terry Godfroid-Marecki, Wayne County commissioner and past Livonia Public School board president. They were both in attendance at this function.

The constituents of these communities represented by these elected officials deserve and demand honesty from them.

Vicki Cunningham
Livonia

State-sanctioned murder

In Neil Gorsuch's very first Supreme Court decision, he voted to permit Arkansas to carry out the execution of Ledell Lee. Mr. Lee has been on death row for over 20 years. Arkansas has not executed a prisoner in 12 years but is rushing to execute eight before the patent on the drug used expires the end of April.

Unfortunately for Mr. Lee, Gorsuch's first decision was to carry out his execution on April 20. Mr. Lee, 51, was convicted of the murder of Debra Reese. Mr. Lee has consistently maintained his innocence and has begged for DNA testing. Arkansas refused.

In SCOTUS Gorsuch's decision, he uphold state-sanctioned murder. Gorsuch was conformed for SCOTUS only after Mitch McConnell purposely refused give Merrill Garrick a senate hearing and then manipulated Senate procedures to improperly confirm Gorsuch.

Even as a tainted SCOTUS justice, Gorsuch voted to kill a man only hours after his vote. Gorsuch was raised Catholic and state-sanctioned murder is not approved by the church.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

Be wary

Donors gave millions of dollars for Trump's inaugural events. Those happenings included a smaller parade, lacked numerous spectators and did not have elaborate, special programs when compared with that lavish occasion when Obama became president. One can assume the costs were minimal, also.

We citizens have questions about the money. Where is the money? Who or what group is in charge of the unspent millions of dollars?

Is the Republican National Committee handling the dollars? Is someone in the White House in charge?

Why wasn't the public made aware? How is the fund being used? How will it be used? Where is transparency?

Perhaps these donations will be used to support Republican candidates in all the states during the mid-term elections and in the election in 2020. I urge citizens to contact representatives and senators in Congress to demand answers to these questions. Since Citizens United, we know how money dictates outcomes in elections, in addition to other factors.

All persons in the U S must be active, wary, knowledgeable about civics, and vigilant in order to restore democracy.

Hannah Provence
Donigan
Commerce

Need help

Michigan taxpayers, I need your help. Please email Senate Mike Kowall senate.michigan.gov and ask him to remove Section 234 in SB 135. Here's why. A work group of professionals determined that a publicly managed behavioral health system would be

in the best interest of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens. Section 234 as written in SB 135 ignores that recommendation. This group of professionals, after a year's worth of intense work group activity including input from thousands of families and consumers across the state, found that, in communities across the state, Medicaid enrollees were unable to access behavioral health and developmental disability services that have been provided by the State's private health plans.

Private health plans have had many opportunities in the past 20 years, to demonstrate their ability to manage the behavioral health and developmental disability supports and services. They failed. This was due to the fact that these for-profit health plans have few, if any, psychiatrists and psychotherapists who

will take new Medicaid patients. Long waiting times exist for Medicaid enrollees who are seeking psychotherapy or psychiatry. In some communities, there are no psychiatrists accepting Medicaid patients.

Additionally, while the private health plans have managed, for these two decades, the physical healthcare for the state's Medicaid enrollees with mental health and substance use disorders, The state's data show that these persons have some of the highest physical healthcare costs and die earlier than the rest of the state's residents, even while their physical healthcare is managed by the private health plans.

This is not the track record of a group that can adequately manage the care of some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Colleen Crossey
Novi

Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Rd., Westland

Mother's Day BRUNCH

Sunday, May 14, 2017
12:00 until 4:00 pm

- Entrees (served 12:00 - 4:00)**
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 - Whipped Potatoes w/gravy
 - Baked Sweet Yams
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- Breakfast Bar (served 12:00 - 2:00)**
 - Scrambled eggs
 - Sausage Links
 - Bacon
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 - Assorted Danish
 - Orange and Cranberry Juice
- Salad Bar**
 - Mixed Greens Salad
 - Coleslaw
 - Potato Salad
 - Pasta Salad
 - "Fajita" Cassera, CROUTONS, Beets, etc.
- Fresh Rolls & Butter**
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ADULTS \$20, KIDS (3 - 10) \$10, KIDS (under 3) FREE
Cash Bar available, prices include 6% sales tax, gratuity not included.

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160013062	2008	CHEVROLET	2CNLD33F386319417
160012864	2010	JEEP	1J4PN2GK7AW113097
160012940	1997	DODGE	1B4GP44R6VB277304
160014323	1999	VOLKSWAGEN	WVWMD63B4XE004538
160015649	2005	FORD	1FAFP53295A178948
160015740	2000	LINCOLN	1LNHM87A5YY830082
160016202	2001	CADILLAC	W06VR54R11R031774
160016319	2001	FORD	1FTYR10U21TA70195
170000433	2004	FORD	1FMDK02145GA51626
170000691	2003	CHRYSLER	1C3EL75R74N411342
170001162	2003	JEEP	1J4GK48K03W514805
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PUBLIC MEETING

LIVONIA BOARD OF ETHICS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

6:30 P.M.

Livonia City Hall
4th Floor Conference Room
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI 48154

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard W. McDowell, Chairperson
Hon. James R. McCann, Vice-Chairperson
Audrey E. Greenleaf, Secretary
Jacob S. Ghannam
Lora Weingarden

Telephone No. (734) 466-2520

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED AND ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND: City Attorney

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertains to access to Public Meetings, the City Clerk as the Clerk of the Council of the City of Livonia, upon adequate notice, will make reasonable accommodations for persons with special needs. Please call (734) 466-2230 if you need assistance.

cc: Mayor
Board of Ethics Members (5)
City Council (1)
City Clerk (2)
City Attorney
Livonia Observer

Publish: May 4, 2017

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Graduation is a time to offer congratulations

First want to take this opportunity to congratulate all who will be graduating high school and college over the next few months. Graduating is an accomplishment that we should never take for granted and we should all honor the dedication and discipline it takes to graduate. All the graduates ought to pat themselves on the back for a job well done — you deserve it. Of course, my one piece of advice for all graduates (particularly for high school graduates) is to continue your education. To be successful in America, you must have a good education. For college graduates,



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

remember that your education does not stop just because you graduated. It is important that you continually update your skills — if you don't, you will be left behind. Because of graduation, many people are scrambling as to what gift they should buy. For a high school graduate, I think one of the best gifts you can do is to help with their future education. Many families have established college education saving accounts and

a contribution to that account would go a long way in helping with their future education. For families who have not established a college savings plan, they should look at the Michigan Education Savings Plan (www.misaves.com). The MESP is one of the best college education plans in the country. Not only are there low minimums to establish the account (\$25), in addition, the money can be used basically for any public or private institution in the country. As long as the money is used for a qualified education expense (the definition of qualified education expense is very broad), the mon-

ey, which grows tax-deferred, can be withdrawn tax-free. I recognize that a high school graduate is not going to be thrilled with a contribution to their education fund. After all, the majority of them would want a gift card. However, keep in mind that what they buy with your gift card will be forgotten about in two weeks. On the other hand, a gift of an education is something that will help them for the rest of their lives. For the college graduate who is entering the workforce, I believe what makes an excellent gift is something that will teach them to have an

appreciation and understanding of money. A book, magazine or a subscription that teaches them about personal finance is an invaluable gift. Unfortunately, personal finance is not taught in the schools and so many college graduates are entering the real world without any knowledge about how to handle their finances. We all know that if you don't know how to handle your finances, you will have problems. Although it's not a very popular gift, something that will help them learn about finances is something you should consider. Whether it's completing high school or col-

lege, it shows a sense of dedication and maturity. We should all honor these graduates on their achievements and wish them the best in their future. I once again want to congratulate all the graduates and their families. After all, the graduate had a team behind them and everyone on that team deserves a pat on the back for a job well done. Congratulations and good luck!
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

TAX PROBLEMS

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Human trafficking focus of symposium

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Girls and boys who become victims of human trafficking are disturbingly young. Girls, experts say, are typically ages 12-14; boys, 11-13. Even toddlers aren't off-limits and can become victims of relatives, babysitters or neighbors who engage in activities such as showing them naked on the Internet. Those horrific details come from Carrie Wood, a pastor and founder of Pearls of Great Price Coalition, a group of Christian churches dedicated to fighting human trafficking in southeast Michigan and raising awareness of its devastating effects. "This is underground criminal work," Wood said. "It is everywhere. It



A symposium on human trafficking is coming to Canton.

is in our own backyards." Pearls of Great Price Coalition draws people from Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Northville, Ann Arbor and Detroit, among other communities. The group is hosting a symposium from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 12, at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley, in Canton. The symposium is bringing together a human trafficking survivor, law enforcement, clergy and legal representatives, among numerous other speakers, amid hopes of raising awareness of human trafficking. "In every sense of the word, human trafficking is the modern-day version of slavery," Wood said. "It is a growing crime and heinous sin that violates the most fundamental rights of

women, children and men — and it is not something that simply happens in the inner cities or somewhere else. Tragically, it takes place right here in many of our own communities." It comes as Polaris, a global organization fighting human trafficking, just released a new report, "The Typology of Modern Slavery," detailing sex and labor trafficking into 25 distinct categories such as the trafficker profile, recruitment tactics and victim profiles ranging from escort services to bar employees. "One of the primary challenges to ending modern slavery has been the lack of data to understand the problem," Bradley Myles, Polaris CEO, said, adding the new report "offers a new map to understand how human trafficking manifests throughout the country." In Canton, organizers say the symposium is designed to give a real-world look at human trafficking in southeast Michigan and provide tools for how to spot the problem and address it. "We really do feel that increased awareness, coupled with public involvement and support

from the faith-based community, can help make a difference," Wood said. She said youngsters can easily become victims if they have low self-esteem, run away from home or live with someone who is willing to prey on them. "It could be somebody you trust who comes into the house — a relative, a neighbor, a babysitter or whatever," said Wood, a retired pastor who still serves as visiting pastor at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. Registration can be made through stopHT.eventbrite.com. The cost after April 17 is \$30. For more information, contact Wood at stopHTnow@yahoo.com. Residents also are encouraged to help support the event's Adopt-a-Cop human trafficking training scholarship program by making a contribution on the event's registration page. Contributions will go toward supporting comprehensive human trafficking training for police in southeast Michigan. dclem@hometownlife.com
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City of Livonia - 04/10/2017 1,822nd Regular Meeting Synopsis

Present: Brosnan, Jolly, White, Meakin, Kritzman, and McIntyre.
Absent: Bahr.
Items were received and filed.

#122-17 Approving minutes of the 1,821st Regular Meeting of the Council - March 27, 2017.

#123-17 Approving minutes of the 252nd Special Meeting of the Council - March 27, 2017.

#124-17 Referring subject of local regulation of cellular telephone poles in rights-of-way to the Committee of the Whole.

#125-17 Referring subject of the future redevelopment of commercial properties to the Economic Development, Community Outreach and Strategic Planning Committee.

#126-17 Referring the matter of hanging tarps on or above private fences to the Administration.

#127-17 Approving request to close Cranston Avenue between Elmira and Orangelawn, on Monday, May 29, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., for an annual Memorial Day block picnic.

#128-17 Waiving Noise Ordinance for The Basilica of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church 9th Annual Michigan Fun Fest, FURTHER, three (3) 4' x 4' signs to be placed on St. Mary's property.

#129-17 Approving a three-year contract with EQ Industrial Services, Inc. (dba US Ecology) for drop-off event at Ford Field April 28 and 29, 2017 and in Northville/Northville Township in fall 2017 (date to be determined), as well as for 2018 and 2019.

#130-17 Accepting low bids of Nagle Paving Company, Ajax Materials and Ace Paving; FURTHER, in the event the low bidders are unable to furnish the materials, accepting second lowest bids from Cadillac Asphalt, LLC and Ajax Materials, as alternates, for supplying the Road Maintenance Section with bituminous materials for the period May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.

#131-17 Approving Petition 2016-06-02-14 submitted by Livonia Market II, L.L.C. in connection with a proposal to redevelop, including demolishing the existing building and parking areas, constructing a new 37,000 square foot fitness center (LA Fitness) and a 8,060 square foot freestanding multi-tenant retail building on the property located at 29659 Seven Mile Road, subject to conditions.

#132-17 Approving the proposed division of Tax Item No. 46-131-99-0009-000 into three (3) parcels, conditioned on Petitioner's dedicating the Southerly 60 feet of the three (3) parcels for Ann Arbor Trail right-of-way, and the construction of a sidewalk across the proposed Parcel C.

#133-17 Approving the proposed wage re-opener in the 2013-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Livonia and the Livonia Police Officers Association (LPOA).

#134-17 Approving the proposed wage re-opener in the 2013-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Livonia and the Livonia Police Officers Association (PSA UNIT), for the period December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017.

#135-17 Directing that a closed Committee of the Whole Meeting be held for the purpose of discussing litigation and attorney/client privileged communications in connection with pending litigation with respect to Deborah Mato v City of Livonia, et al.

#136-17 Suspending the rules for procedure.

#137-17 Approving Petition 2017-01-08-02 submitted by Middlebelt Plaza L.P., requesting to remodel the exterior of the commercial strip center (Middlebelt Plaza) located at 18730-18790 Middlebelt Road, subject to conditions.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:37 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.

Susan M. Nash
Livonia City Clerk

Published: May 4, 2017
LC-0000319063 3/8

PREP TRACK

Changes on the fly for prep track meet

Observerland has new sponsor, larger field

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

For the second straight year, the Observerland track and field meet has undergone a significant change.

Last year, officials restructured the annual event from a relays competition to a regional-style format. It had been

known as the Observerland Relays for the previous 45 seasons before changing to the Observerland Invitational in 2106. Last year also included female teams for the first time.

The 2017 meet — scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at Farmington High School — features another name change.

It now will be known as the New Balance Invitational. While the Observer Newspapers will continue to sponsor

three running events, New Balance, under the leadership of Playmakers, takes over as the lead sponsor. Playmakers, located in Lansing, owns the southeast Michigan New Balance stores.

The New Balance Invitational will feature coaches gifts, meet apparel, custom medals through eight places, Athlete of the Meet recognition in track and field events



MARTY BUDNER

See MEET, Page B2 Chip Bridges will bring his Farmington squad to the meet.

KLAA BASEBALL



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Stevenson's Devin Dunn (10) is congratulated after homering Monday against Plymouth. At right is George Ferguson (2).

SPARTANS SURVIVE SEESAW RIDE

Stevenson dodges raindrops to grab 10-9 victory against Plymouth

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Wild and crazy action on the baseball field Monday matched the strange weather at Plymouth High School.

But on a day featuring wind-blown home runs, a mid-game rainstorm and both teams losing the lead, Livonia Stevenson eked out a 10-9 KLAA baseball win over Plymouth.

The winning run, in the top of the seventh, came home on a nifty slide by Mark Pettersson — who charged home on Devin Dunn's chopper to shortstop and reached back to slap his hand on home plate ahead of Wildcats catcher Zach Beadle's attempted tag. "We wanted to do the fake



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reaching third base for Plymouth is Michael Wischer (4) during Monday's game against Livonia Stevenson.

steal, I said if he (Dunn) hits it hard, since we're doing the fake squeeze, then just keep going and he did and he made an unbelievable slide," Stevenson veteran head coach Rick Berryman said. "He (Pettersson) sold it with the slide."

Plymouth head coach Jason Crain gave credit to the hard-hitting Spartans, but lamented some plays on defense that his team didn't make.

One of those was the play that broke the 9-9 tie.

"The go-ahead run, play at the plate, (shortstop) Nik (Patel) made a good play and just double-clutched," Crain said. "Maybe didn't have the ball quite right."

Crain acknowledged that

See BASEBALL, Page B2

PREP SOFTBALL

Bressler does it all for 'Cats

Stevenson can't get untracked against Plymouth pitcher, lose 11-1

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Apparently there isn't much that Jenny Bressler can't do for the Plymouth varsity girls softball team.

Proof of that was Monday's 11-1 five-inning win over Livonia Stevenson. Bressler went the distance (the game ended early due to the 10-run mercy rule), giving up just two hits.

At the plate, Bressler was a menace to the Spartans with four hits (including a double) in four times to the dish. She drove in three runs as Plymouth — ranked No. 3 in the state in Class A — improved to 10-2 overall.

The Spartans (4-8) did get off to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Leading off with a double was Abby Zwicker and she scored on a wild pitch.

But the Wildcats came right back and took a 2-1 lead that they never relinquished.

Of course, Bressler set the tone with her leadoff double to right-center and she scored on Jessica Tucci's single up the middle to tie the game.

Three batters later, a bloop to shallow right by Gina Barber scored Tucci for the lead run.

"Stevenson got out to the

See SOFTBALL, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth pitcher Jenny Bressler sizes up a Stevenson batter during Monday's 11-1 win.

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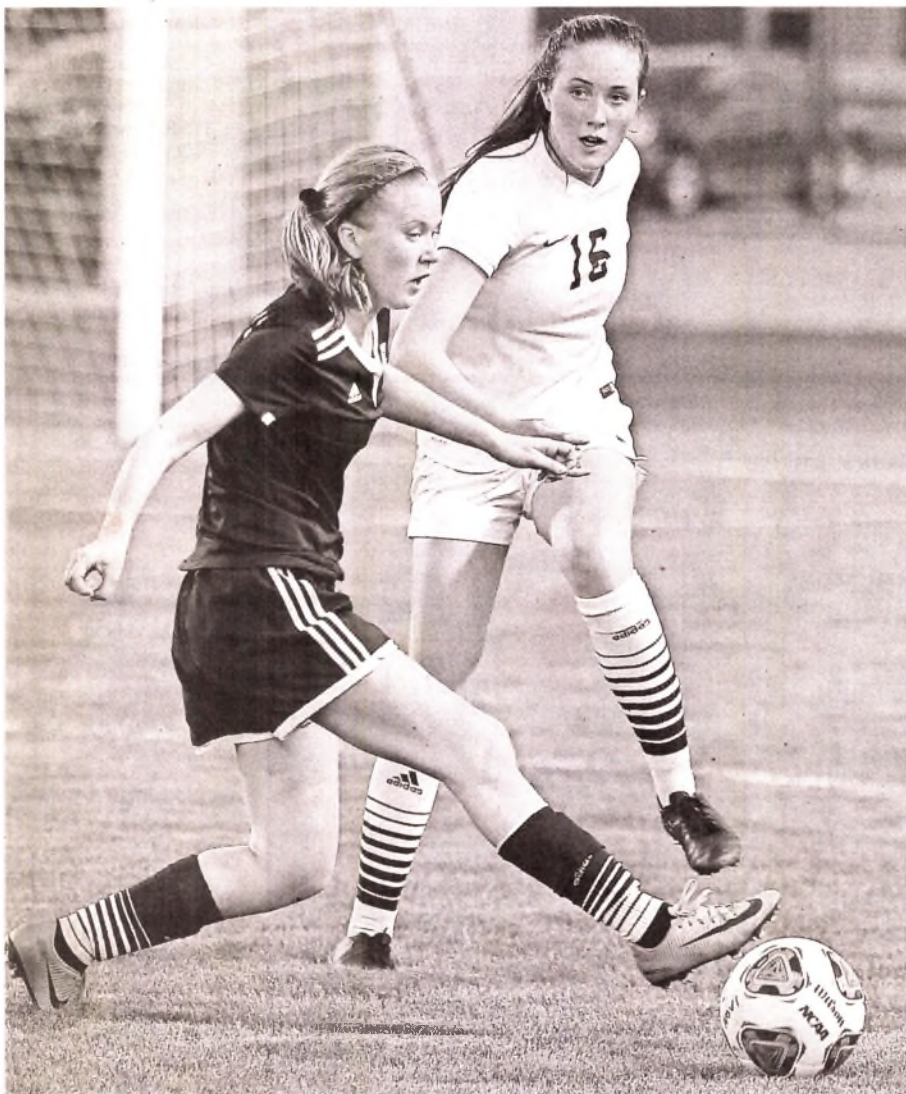
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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Stevenson's Kayla Gacioch (left) controls the ball against Novi's Jacalyn Schubring. Gacioch had the game-winning goal during the April 27 win over Northville.

Stevenson downs Northville in KLAA Central test

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Livonia Stevenson broke a seven-year drought Thursday night as the KLAA Central Division co-leaders posted a 1-0 girls soccer victory over visiting Northville.

The Spartans (8-0-1, 4-0-1) scored the game-winning goal with 21:33 left in the first half on Kayla Gacioch's laser-like shot just under the crossbar from 22 yards out.

"Kayla capped off a fantastic game with a class goal," said Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team outshot the Mustangs, 8-6.

Freshman goalkeeper MacKenzie Fifer made four saves to notch her fifth shutout of the year for Stevenson, which outshot the Mustangs, 8-6.

"Crazy game tonight with the wind," Shingledecker said. "I thought our back line of Alyssa Benvenuti, Yasmine Jaafar, Emma Werthman, Car-

son Vandike, and Mac in goal, were just about flawless."

Goalie Carlie Castiglione made four saves for Northville (4-5-2, 2-3), which had its five-game unbeaten streak snapped.

"Stevenson had the wind the first half and we had it the second half, but couldn't find the net," Northville coach Eric Brucker said.

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GOLF

Nineteen record aces at Glenhurst in 2016

After a big year for holes-in-one at Redford's Glenhurst Golf Club on Six Mile in Redford — 19 golfers recorded aces during 2016 — the course's first couple aces of 2017 recently were scored.

On April 5, 68-year-old Richard Dawson of Detroit aced the 101-yard 4th hole using a wedge. It was his third hole-in-one in 20 years of golfing.

Following up on April 17 was 65-year-old Charlie Guder of Detroit. A golfing veteran of 30 years, he used a pitching wedge on the 119-yard 4th hole to tally his second hole-in-one. He scored a round of 82.

Here is the who's who of the 19 golfers who sank aces during 2016 at Glenhurst:

» **DJ Archer**, 78, from Livonia used a No. 3 Hybrid on the 132-yard 17th Hole on April 28 for his fifth hole-in-one in 65 years of golfing.

» **Harvey Wayne**, 56, from Redford used a pitching wedge on the 128-yard 4th hole, April 12 to recorded his second ace in 17 years of golfing.

» **Michael Alonzi**, 25, from Livonia used a wedge on the 125-yard 13th Hole on May 11 for first ace in 17 years of golfing.

» **Wendy Ranta**, 66, from Redford used a 6-iron on the 101-yard 13th hole on May 21 to record her first ace in 40 years of golfing.

» **Larry Jessen**, 66, from Newport used a 3-wood on the 165-yard 9th hole on May 22 for his first hole-in-one in 47 years of golfing.

» **Jim Strange**, 50, from Livonia used an 8-iron on the 119-yard 4th hole on May 30 for his first ace in 50 years of

golfing.

» **Tom Hughes**, 54, from Dearborn used an 8-iron on the 136-yard 13th hole on May 31 to record his first ace in 40 years.

» **Doug Miller**, 58, from Garden City used a 9-iron on the 113-yard 13th hole on June 10 for his first ace in 20 years of golfing.

» **James Bertling**, 52, from Franklin used a 7-iron on the 171-yard 15th hole on June 15 to record his first ace in 35 years of golfing.

» **David Bazner**, 54, from Redford used 6-iron on the 158-yard 15th hole on July 4 for his first ace in 24 years of golfing.

» **Gary Owen**, 64, used a 4-wood on the 158-yard 15th hole on July 16 to record his third ace in 45 years.

» **Edward "Sonny" Johnson**, 66, from Detroit used a 5-iron on the 173-yard 15th hole July 22 to score his first ace in 15 years of golfing.

» **Bob Foley**, 50, from Redford used a 9-iron on the 142-yard 17th hole on Aug. 28 to record his second ace in 35 years of golfing.

» **Ron Gordon**, 69, from Redford used a 6-iron on the 121-yard 13th hole on October 3 for his first ace.

» **Pete Owens**, 50, from Livonia used a 9-iron on the 120-yard 4th hole on Oct. 6 for his ninth hole-in-one in 50 years.

» **Pete Russo**, 56, from Plymouth used a 9-iron on the 146-yard 17th hole on Oct. 8 to record his first ace in 43 years of golfing.

» **Jim Howland**, 60, from Redford used a pitching wedge on the 111-yard 4th hole on Jan. 21 for his first ace in 40 years.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Redford Union sweeps two from Clarenceville

Redford Union continued its mastery Saturday over nearby rival baseball rival Livonia Clarenceville by sweeping a double-header against the host Trojans in a matchup of Western Wayne Athletic Association opponents.

RU won the first game 9-0, as pitcher Tyler Collard tossed the shutout with three-hitter while improving to 4-0 as Clarenceville was blanked for the first time this season.

The Panthers broke the game open by scoring five runs in the top of the seventh inning keyed by Jakob Bowles' two-run singles. Outfielders Brandon Pratt and Bobby Dixon each went 2-for-4 in the victory as the Panthers played errorless ball and took advantage of six Clarenceville errors. Losing pitcher Nick Bisaro held RU to one run through the first four innings before running out of gas.

Nick Snage, Zack Richards and Demond Scrutions had the lone hits for Clarenceville.

"We have to find a way to get the monkey off our back" Clarenceville coach Craig Cotter said. "These guys are in our district and we have not beat them in five years."

RU also won the second

game, 13-0, scoring seven runs in the third inning led by Dixon's two-run single.

Winning pitcher Brendan Kerkhof (1-1) and Collard each added two-run singles.

"It was a great two wins against one of our rivals," RU coach Bob Miller said. "All the kids played with great enthusiasm."

In the fourth inning, Cotter cleared his bench in the six inning loss.

"We did not come ready to play the second game," he said. "We were flat. I wanted to give our reserves some playing time."

Junior Logan Calimazzo collected two hits in the setback as Clarenceville fell to 6-5 overall.

Bobby Jaber, Clarenceville's starter, could not get out of the fourth inning giving up seven runs for his second loss of the season. Reliever Kam MacIver pitched three scoreless innings, but had to come out due to a sore arm.

"Bobby is having problems with his mechanics," Cotter said. "We have to figure some things out before we put him back on the mound."

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HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Franklin tops Canton with all-around showing

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Livonia Franklin's varsity girls track and field team earned an 87-50 dual meet victory over visiting Canton on April 25.

The Patriots (2-1 in the KLAA South Division) had success in virtually all open events and relays against the Chiefs.

Franklin individual wins were posted by Mikaela Hille (long jump, 15 feet, 3.5 inches), Alexis Browing (shot put, 30-9; discus, 96-5), Erin Seibert (mile run, 5:44.41; 800 run, 2:32.98) and Camryn Zurawski (two-mile run, 12:57.77).

Franklin garnered firsts in two of four relays.

Combining their efforts to

win the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:57.75 were Kelly Peyton, Alaina Herrera, Hannah Strasser and Emily Esker.

Franklin's quartet of Hille, Brooke Gietzen, Cierra Echebelen and Herrera won the 400 relay with a time of 52.18.

"Their hard work and dedication is starting to pay off and we are seeing a lot of girls hit marks they haven't seen all year," Patriots head coach Megan Wilson said. "Mikaela Hille hit a 15 foot in the long jump which I have been excited to see since regionals last year."

"Ava Morrison made her (debut) in the high jump today and had a great 4-3 jump. Payton Santi had a great 800 run today and it looks like she is only getting stronger."

"Today our girls did well in

each area around the track. We scored a lot of points in field events, sprints, distance, as well as our relays."

Warriors second

Lutheran Westland finished second out of three teams at a girls track and field tri-meet April 25 with 61 points.

Ann Arbor Greenhills won with 66 points while Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest tallied 38 points.

Warriors with individual wins included Renee Farmer (high jump, 4-6), Amanda McKay (shot put, 30-9.5), Zoe Mitchell (pole vault, 7-0), Riley Day (mile run, 5:52; 800 run, 2:34.7).

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PREP BASEBALL

Red-hot Patriots beat Novi

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Livonia Franklin rode a seven-run fourth inning and strong pitching from Jon Montie to a 8-1 win over host Novi on April 24 in a KLAA crossover baseball matchup.

Montie also came up big at the plate, with three hits in four at-bats including a triple. He also drove in three.

The Patriots (12-3) strung together doubles by Trey Gor-

man and Cal Fournier (2-for-4), Montie's triple and a single by Kolby Dewhirst during the fourth.

Monday's romp followed an April 22 doubleheader vs. Dearborn Edsel Ford; the Patriots won both ends in comfortable fashion, 17-0 and 16-5.

Montie's grand slam was the key blow in the opener. He finished 3-for-3 and drove in six runs.

Chipping in with a 3-for-4 day was Kyle Wollam with

other key offensive players including Johnny DiPonio (2-for-4, two runs, two RBIs), Gorman (2-for-3), Collin Metzler (1-for-1, three runs, two RBIs) and Ryan Celmer (2-for-3, two RBIs).

Driving in two runs was Harrison Merrill, while Ben Raisch scored two.

Earning the win with five scoreless innings was Celmer.

Franklin bats continued to boom in Game 2, with 19 hits and a nine-run sixth inning

sparkling the lopsided win over the Thunderbirds.

Wollam registered four hits in five at bats and scored five times to jump-start the offense.

Also collecting three hits each were Celmer and Montie (who homered) while Richie Garcia, Nick Hoyer and Howie Whitaker each tallied two hits.

Metzler was the winning pitcher, giving up one earned run over five innings of work. He gave up just four hits, did not walk a batter and fanned three.

Franklin split a doubleheader on April 21, falling 1-0 before prevailing 10-0 to get the split.

In Game 2, Nick Hoyer pitched a six-inning shutout

while Patriot batters helping the cause included Fournier (2-for-4), Celmer (2-for-4), Raich (2-for-2, three RBIs), and Wollam (2-for-5).

SALEM 4, CHURCHILL 3: On April 24, Salem built an early 4-0 lead and then hung against Livonia Churchill.

Rocks starting pitcher Erich Payne went 5 ½ innings and picked up the victory as he out-dued the Chargers' Drew Alsobrooks (one earned run over five innings).

At the plate, Salem was led by Carlton Harper (2-for-3) and Danny Diaz, who each scored a run and drove in one.

Jake Osen went 2-for-3 and scored a run for Churchill.

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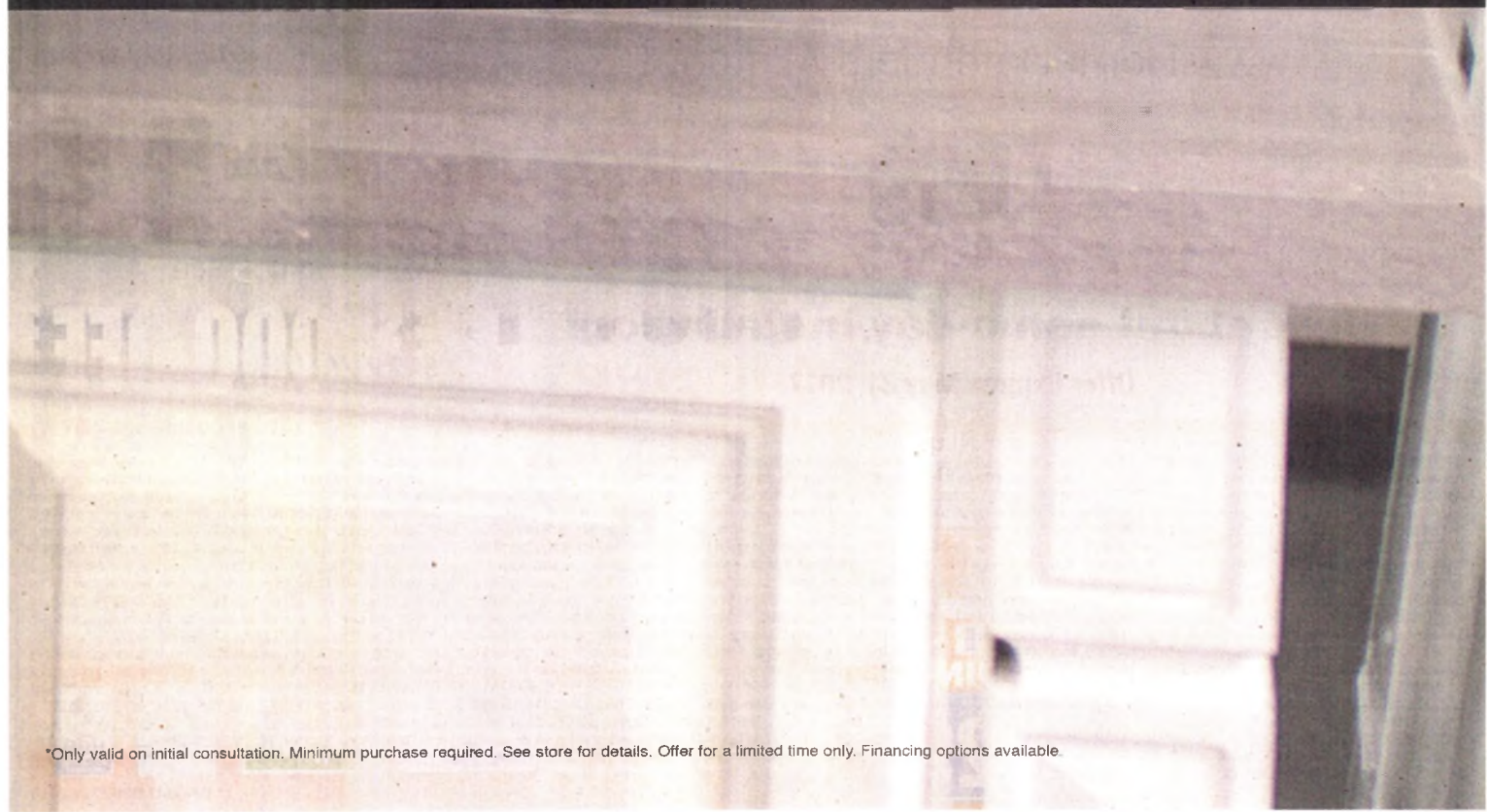
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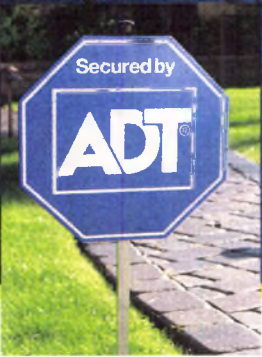
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