LOOK FOR M... INSIDE

WAYNE-WESTL...
OBSER...
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015 • ho...

Courageous Kids group helps families cope with illness

COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

For Wayne, 2015 is all about the budget

Murphy: Difficult decisions will have to be made

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Looking ahead for 2015, Wayne Interim City Manager David Murphy's primary goals aren't surprising.

"It's balancing the 2014-15 fiscal year budget, preparing and getting approval of the 2015-16 budget," Murphy said.

The council had knowingly adopted a budget that included a deficit that had been cut to approximately $500,000.

Before a balanced budget can be accomplished, Murphy said the priority is finding out the city's financial position. The city has been without a finance director and part-time staff in the Finance Department hasn't been able to reconcile the city's financial transaction since July.

"Thank goodness the council allowed me to hire (auditors) Plante Moran," Murphy said. "I met with them to set up a master plan for what they will do for us."

That work will include reconciling bank records and determining the city's current financial position, helping prepare the 2015-16 budget and a five-year projection.

"We're getting numbers and will bring options to council. There are difficult decisions that will have to be made," he said. "There is nothing fun or sexy. We're trying to keep out of bankruptcy or having an emergency financial manager. We're in survival mode."

It's very difficult for council to make decisions, Murphy said, without knowing the costs and options.

"We want to get the information as soon as possible so they can make decisions," he said.

The council is investigating a P.A. 345 millage of three mills to be levied for five years. If it goes on the ballot and was approved by voters, it would generate about $1 million annually to be used for police and fire pensions so that payment wouldn't have to be made from the city's strapped general fund.

That proposal would still leave a $1 million shortfall in the general fund, which city

See 2015, Page A2

MENTORING PROGRAM AWARDS DINNER

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Youth Assistance Mentor of the Year Rashida Johnson.

Westland Youth Assistance honors teens for efforts to grow

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Local teens participating in the Westland Youth Assistance Program mentoring program were honored at a dinner last week and not just with some applause.

The honorees left with an armful of plaques and framed certificates from city, Wayne County and state officials. The program focused on youngsters participating in a program that pairs them with a volunteer adult mentor.

Travis Thomas was recognized as Male Mentee of the Year.

"I worked with him from the beginning. It was great to see him grow and become a true leader," said Justin Thomas, a former Youth Assistance case manager.

Travis worked at the DTE community garden and would call each day to make sure he would be picked up to get to his assignment, Thomas said.

"Travis got to be a leader. After his work service ended, the other kids asked for him," Thomas said. "He was a role model. I want to thank Travis for being so polite and being exemplary. He turned it into a positive."

With a number of family members present, Travis said that he was very thankful that Westland Youth Assistance exists.

"It's a great idea that you take time out to guide youths to the right path. I can't thank you enough," Travis said.

Female Youth of Year

Honored as Female Mentee of the Year, Samantha Russell said that Westland Youth Assistance provided a great place for kids going through difficult times. She was described as taking full advantage of all the services offered by Youth Assistance.

"My sister and I got the help we needed. I'll miss the program," said Russell, whose younger sister Jea-

See AWARDS, Page A2

Mentors donate their time to Westland teens

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Mentors Diane Diem and Rashida Johnson were honored last week for their efforts working with teenage participants in the Westland Youth Assistance Program.

"Mentors don't have to be here — they could be doing something else," Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz said. "They choose to support and help kids."

Diem has been a mentor since Youth Assistance was formed in Westland.

"She's like the kid whisperer, she can connect with any kid and she loves what she does," Motz said. "No one has done so much for kids."

Unlike the others honored at the annual dinner, Diem got her name on a plaque that hangs in the Youth Assistance offices but nothing to take home.

"This is an honor. Youth Assistance is part of my life. I thank my parents for raising me to always give back and be kind to people," said Diem, who was accompanied to the program by her mother.

A mother of four, employed full-time and attending school, Johnson was recognized as Mentor of the Year.

"They are the nicest, most polite kids. She has a nice husband. Her faith is very important," Motz said. "But she's someone you don't want to get in her way. She'll really dig in with a young person."

Recognizing family who was at the dinner, Johnson said

See MENTORS, Page A2

Stranger danger reported at Landings Apartments

Two stranger danger incidents were recently reported at the Landings Apartments in Westland.

The first was reported to the Westland Police about 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the apartment complex, located off Warren Road east of Central City Parkway.

In that incident, a 15-year-old boy told police he was approached by a man in a gray mini-van, possibly a Chrysler Town and Country, who asked him sexually explicit questions. The teen told police that he walked away from the vehicle and the man drove away without further incident.

The driver was described as a black male in his late 20s or early 30s with a medium/muscular build, a beard, dark bags or circles under his eyes, wearing a dark skull cap and gray hooded sweatshirt.

The second incident was reported to have happened at about 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. It also involved a gray mini-van at the Landings.

The caller told Westland Police the vehicle was circling the area as she waited for her child to get off the school bus. The caller was not able to get a description of the driver in that incident.

Anyone with information about the suspect or the incidents is asked to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600.

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2015

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officials would address through further changes in the budget.

"The community center and what to do there is the biggest issue. We have to look at the options," Murphy said.

There is a proposal under consideration for a private firm to lease and operate programs at the ice arena. With annual debt payments on the community center and costs to maintain the building, if it closed, closing the center wouldn't totally eliminate the current expenditures.

The city has applied for a state grant that would include funding for consultants who would look at city buildings.

"What to keep, what to get rid of. If we consolidate buildings, what's the best way to consolidate," Murphy said.

Along with balancing the budgets, Murphy said filling budgeted-but-vacant police officer positions is a top priority. Due to retirements, the department was down three officers from the budgeted 26 positions.

"It's important to get the police department staffing stabilized," he said.

While the city is dealing with its financial issues, Murphy said the city could also work on revitalization efforts.

"We can do revitalization simultaneously. What is the cost to the city? If it is soft costs, it's possible the city can handle that," Murphy said. "The city can't be a sponsor at $50,000. That's just not fiscally responsible at this point."

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AWARDS

Continued from Page A1

nette received a special achievement recognition at the dinner.

The girls' mother Ginny Russell also expressed appreciation for the Youth Assistance Program helping her daughters and herself as a parent.

"When I met (Director) Paul Motz, I thought no one could possibly help me," she said. "My daughters were on the wrong path. As I talked to the mentors and the staff, I found they were wonderful people. They go out of their way to make a difference in a child's life. I wish there were more programs for parents so kids don't fall through the cracks. Mine didn't (fall through the cracks)."

Diane Diem, herself recognized for her years as a mentor, introduced Jeanette Russell to recognize her for special achievement.

The two bonded over shared interests like shopping at garage sales and crafts, Diem said. Jeanette volunteered with senior citizens, plays trumpet and is on the swim team.

"This helped me get along with my family and my sister. We'd knit pick at each other," Jeanette said.

"It helped me and my sister. I was able to open up to my mom and my friends at school. I was so happy with Youth Assistance. They understood what I was going through at the time."

Demond Cole also received special recognition for his efforts.

"Youth Assistance helped me a lot with school, my anger and my self-control," Demond said. "I used to get kicked out of school, go back and get kicked out again. I've only been suspended three times this year, which is good for me."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Cathy German introduced Female Youth of the Year Samantha Russell, who spoke to the crowd after receiving her honors.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Male Youth of the Year Travis Thomas speaks to the audience after accepting his awards.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mentor Diane Diem introduces her mentee Jeanette Russell, who was honored for her achievement in the program.

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MENTORS

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she had been mentored as a youth — that's why she became a mentor.

"I know what it's like not to fit in. I always had a heart for ministering to the lost — street evangelism, prison ministry," Johnson said. "I want to tell you kids that it gets better, stand for righteousness, take a chance on yourself."

Noting her busy schedule, Johnson said she still finds time to work with kids who don't belong to her. That might be spending 30 minutes with a youngster getting a hamburger and listening to her talk about her boyfriend or getting on a teen who has been running away from home, she said.

"You don't do what is easy, you do what is right. You have to show up for the kids of our community," she said.

American House was recognized as Business of the Year for a program letting Youth Assistance participants volunteer for activities, likes crafts, with their residents.

"There was a lot of inter-generational contact. We have seniors who are in wheelchairs or don't have family," said Ashley Geilow, activities director at the Joy Road facility. "It was great for the seniors who looked forward to the kids coming out."

Putting out the call for adult mentors, Motz noted a three-day mentor training session is scheduled to begin Feb. 26. For more information about the mentor training, call 734-467-7904.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

District hour

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and District Manager Penny Crider will hold an office hour from 4-5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road.

Colbeck will be available to answer questions and respond to concerns that any residents of his district may have. This is an opportunity for local residents to meet with Colbeck to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.

For more information or to contact Colbeck, visit www.senatorpatrickcolbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

Wayne Main Street

Wayne Main Street will hold a Facade Incentive Information Meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Wayne Fire Station, 3300 S. Wayne Road.

Building and business owners located within the Main Street District are invited to learn about the new Facade Grant local incentive program. The informational meeting will present the guidelines for applying and answer any questions owners may have. Light refreshments will be served, including fresh baked cookies from Bakers Acre.

For more information, visit the Wayne Main Street website at www.downtownwayne.org, call 734-629-6822 or email info@downtownwayne.org.

School auction

St. Damian Catholic School's annual auction, Super Heroes and Villains, will be Saturday, Feb. 7, at the school, 29891 Joy, east of Merriman, Westland.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the live auction starting at 8:45 p.m. There also will be a costume contest with a $100 prize. Tickets are $30 and include a buffet dinner.

For more information or to order tickets call 734-427-1680 or visit www.stdamianschool.com.

Senior programs

Wayne Senior Services programs for February include:

» Bingo, 18 years and up, 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26. There's a $50 jackpot.

» Free Legal Presentation offered by Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. Free to all, 60 years and up, 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Topics include guardianship, wills, trusts, power of attorney, assisted living and much more. Reserve a spot by calling Wayne Senior Services at 734-721-7460.

» Free Heart Health Screening. Open to anyone 18 years and up. Screening includes blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screening (no fasting required for screening), plus a stroke risk-assessment. Walk in, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

» Join the Sometimes Travelers Group. Day and Extended trips offered. Open to everyone 30 years and up. Dues are $5 for year (July through June).

All programs originate through the Senior Services Office, located in the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe. Call 734-721-7460 for information or registrations.

American Legion

The American Legion Westland Post 251 meets the first Wednesday of each month at the VFW Post 3323 located on Wayne Road and Avondale. The meeting is called to order at 7 p.m. Veterans male and female who are interested in attending our meeting or want more information are welcome. Information also is available at www.post251.org or by calling 734-326-2607 or 734-455-3415.

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Westland teen raises money for humane society

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The animals cared for by The Michigan Humane Society are on the receiving end of a donation from a Lutheran High School Westland student.

Ray Morrison of Westland and his mother Laura were at the MHS Berman Center on Wednesday evening to present a check for $518.20, the proceeds of a bottle-and-can drive the teen conducted in his neighborhood during Christmas break.

"This is fantastic. I love what Ray has done by going out in the community," said Jenny Thiesen, events coordinator at the Berman Center in Westland. "It directly impacts the animals. We're proud to have someone go out and have the passion to do this. It's another way of kids stepping up."

"He took the initiative," she said. "We're very proud of him."

Morrison did the project to meet the school's requirement to complete 20 hours of community service each year. He estimates he spent 15 hours working on the bottle and can drive.

"I left flyers on every door in my neighborhood and gave them the date to put the bottles out," said Morrison, a high school junior. "I gave them about a week between the note and collection."

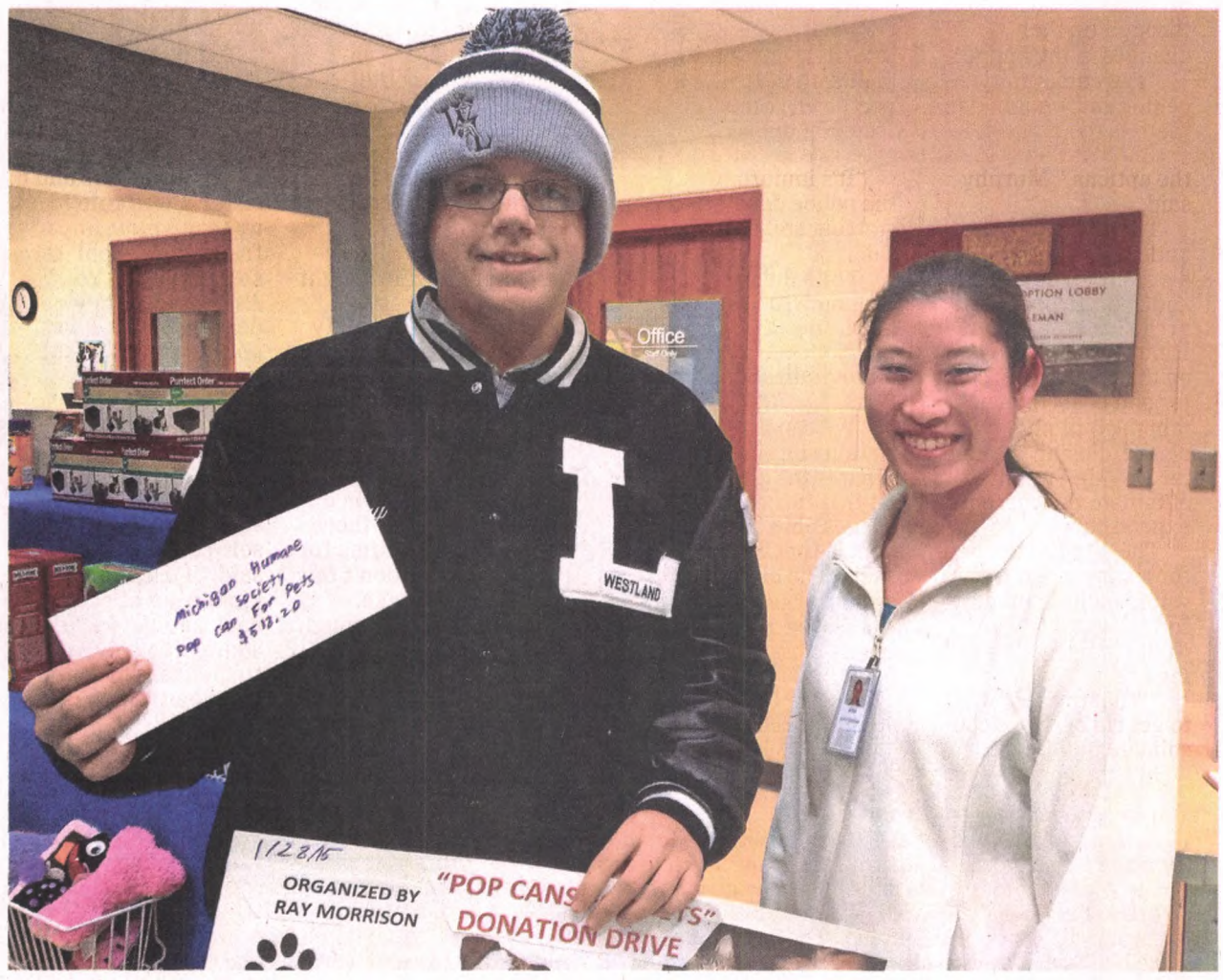
Morrison got help from his father Bill in picking up the returnables which were stored in the garage until he cashed them in. They had to make repeated trips back to the house to unload donations.

"They were in between cars, on top of cars and in the trunks, anywhere we could fit them in until he could return them," Laura Morrison said. "Some people just left notes. They'd just turned in their returnables and left a donation. What he brought in was unbelievable."

Morrison got the idea to do something for the animals after the family cat went through the dryer. The cat survived but had to be treated for burns on its back. While the cat was treated at a vet, the experience gave him the idea of giving back by helping the humane society.

It took two days to turn in the bottles and cans. He went to Kroger one day and Meijer the next.

His community service also as included helping at the William P. Faust Public Library, at his church's vacation Bible school, raking yards and shoveling snow for neighbors.



SUE MASON

Ray Morrison presents the proceeds from a bottle and can drive to MHA events coordinator Jenny Theisen.

"I'm very proud of him," his mother said. "With the kids' activities and academics, it"s hard to find the time to do this and work around school. He found something he could do on his time."

Required do the community service each year, Morrision has decided he will do it again.

"I really enjoyed doing it," he said.

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DAVERAMSEY.COM

Dave Ramsey's Updated Financial Peace University teaches participants the nuts and bolts of getting out of debt and planning for the future, according to a press release.

Financial Peace University coming to GC

Dave Ramsey's Updated Financial Peace University is coming to the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.

The nine-week, hands-on program developed by nationally syndicated radio host and *New York Times* best-selling author Dave Ramsey features video seminar sessions, discussion groups, individualized attention, plus additional online resources for class members.

The class will be offered Tuesday evenings from March 3 through April 28 at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood.

Financial Peace University teaches participants the nuts and bolts of getting out of debt and how to make a plan for the future so they can live and give like never before, according to a press release.

Topics covered include Savings, Relating with Money, Cash Flow Planning, Debt, Credit, Investments, Real Estate and Mortgages and more. Each week will feature a short review of the previous week's lesson, a video session taught by Dave Ramsey, small group discussion, and a time to share weekly victory stories.

The discussion groups provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and get a good understanding of the material presented on the video sessions.

The community discounted registration fee is $50 per couple, and the senior citizen discounted registration fee is $25. Register at the Balmoral Desk at the Maplewood Community Center. Payment can be made by check or money order only.

For more information, call 734-793-1850 and ask for Shaun or Martha. For more information about the Financial Peace University, visit www.daveramsey.com.

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EDUCATION

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St. Raphael students show spirit

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

St. Raphael School held its annual pep assembly Friday, Jan. 23, in honor of Catholic Schools Week.

The students vied for the coveted "R" trophy, which stays in their classroom all year.

"There are two "R" trophies because we have two buildings," Principal Katie Fotiu said. "One trophy goes to Pre K-third-grade and one goes to fourth-eighth-grade," Fotiu said.

She explained that the trophy is a wooden "R."

All of the students also entered the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest in December.

The K of C's collected these posters and selected one boy and one girl for each age range who got the awards. Their posters will now go on to compete at the state level, then the national and finally international level, if they make it that far.

"The winning posters overall get turned into Christmas card covers that the K of C sells during the holidays," Fotiu said.

All student-athletes were also recognized during the assembly. The Drama Club presented four small skits about the school theme of "Turn to the Sun." Then, each class presented their own take on the school theme. The two winning classes received the coveted "R" trophy.

The first- and fourth-grades were the big winners of the "R' trophy.

Among the fourth-graders present were Sabrina Aqualina, Derek Betrus, Erika Sanders, Emma Nagle and Ally Larys.

Among the first-graders present were Lisseth Agulta, Travis Forman, Izzy Cogswell, Caitlyn Smitt, Hailey Gordon, Victoria Cervantes, Syd McKernan and Nicholas Roberts

"The pep rally was just what everyone needed to get them excited about Catholic Schools Week and our open house on Sunday, Jan. 25," Fotiu said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE FOTIU

St. Raphael students participated in the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" contest. The winning students were: age range 5-8; Mark Adams and Mailyn Parrinello; age range 9-11, Matthew Roy and Breanna Santos; and age range 12-14, Jasmin DeRamos and John Metcalf.

Wayne Memorial looks for distinguished alumni

This year's commencement will continue the tradition of awarding a "Distinguished Alumni" medal to a former graduate of Wayne Memorial High School.

"We have had many outstanding people graduate from Wayne Memorial," said Kevin Weber, Wayne Memorial's principal. "Many have contributed significantly to the betterment of society on a local, state, national or international level. The Distinguished Alumni Award is our way of honoring an outstanding graduate on an annual basis."

This award has become a part of the annual commencement ceremony of Wayne Memorial High School since its inception. Each winner is awarded a medal inscribed with the official school seal.

"This is an opportunity for our current graduating class to hear first-hand from a former alumnus who has made his/her mark on society."

The most difficult task is to locate the many alumni who have distinguished themselves since their graduation. For that reason, Wayne Memorial is asking the community to help in its search. If any member of the community wishes to nominate a Wayne Memorial graduate can send it to Pam Rawson, secretary to the principal, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, MI 48184. The deadline is Feb. 23.

For more information, call Rawson's at 734-419-2206.

Wayne Memorial holds 8th-grade parent night

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an eighth-grade parent night for those who are transitioning to ninth-grade or are interested in getting more information about the school for the 2015-2016 school year.

Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland school to attend.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in Wayne Memorial's Stockmeyer Auditorium located on Glenwood, east of Fourth Street, Wayne.

Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extra-curricular activities and much more.

Parking is available in the Glenwood parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For more information, call the counseling department at 734-419-2215.

STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Alexander Freeman of Garden City **and Keslie Honeycutt** of Wayne have been named to the fall semester Dean's List at Bowling Green State University. Undergraduate students must achieve a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale and carry no fewer than 12 letter-graded credit hours per semester to be named to the list.

Freeman is enrolled in the Education and Human Development, while Honeycutt is in the College of Arts and Sciences at Bowling Green.

» Culver-Stockton College is proud to announce its Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, students must meet high academic standards established by Culver-Stockton.

Andrew Barber and **Michael Davis**, both of Wayne, have been named to the Dean's List at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo. To be named to the Dean's List, Culver-Stockton College requires students must earn between a 3.5 and 3.99 grade-point average and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours, with no grade lower than a C.

Barber is senior and is majoring in criminal justice. Davis also is a senior and has an individualized major at Culver-Stockton College.

» Aaron Sitarski of Garden City is among 154 students graduating from the Michigan Career and Technical Institute Operated by Michigan Rehabilitation Services within the Michigan Department of Human Services, MCTI provides vocational training in 13 different career areas for adults with disabilities.

Sitarski trained in electronics at MCTI.

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Two W-W students show how well they can spell

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Erin Bagley and Conner Evans both went to the 35th annual Earle Chorbagian Spelling Bee with one thought in mind: to win.

And they both did. For Conner, a sixth-grader at Marshall Upper Elementary School, the win was an important step on his mission to go to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. For Erin, it was the win that she wanted the most.

"I think I'm over the moon now," she said after correctly spelling the word "collards" in the 67th round of the middle school spelling bee. "I didn't think I'd make it."

Erin, an eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School, went word for word against Bassit Fijabi, a seventh-grader at Stevenson, for more than 35 rounds, stumbling on the spelling of "permeate." However, Bassit misspelled "sheathing." Four rounds later, Bassit misspelled "grievance" to open the door for Erin to win.

"I think I can breathe now," said her mother Catherine, who helped Erin study for the bee. "Some of the words I had to go to Google Translate so I'd know how to pronounce it."

For Erin, winning the spelling bee was vindication for placing second last year.

"I just wanted to win this bee," she said. "I came so close last year. I got beat by an eighth-grader."

SUE MASON

Conner Evans shows off the spelling bee traveling plaque that is returning to Marshall Upper Elementary. Joining him are his parents John and Susan Evans (at left), Earle Chorbagian and school board members Carol Middel and Thomas Buckalew (at right).

SUE MASON

Erin Bagley poses with her parents Dennis and Catherine Bagley, Earle Chorbagian and school board members Carol Middel and Thomas Buckalew after winning the middle school bee.

Traveling plaques

Her victory returns the traveling plaque to Stevenson Middle School. It had been in the possession of Franklin Middle School for two years.

Conner won the upper elementary championship in the 21st round by correctly spelling "skirmish" and a second word, "phonics." He also returned the district plaque to Marshall Upper Elementary.

"I did a lot of studying the last several days. I studied the hard ones," Connor said.

While adults admitted they would have been out of the competition with the word "gambol," Conner easily spelled it. It was the word "ritziness" he found the hardest.

"I knew 'gambol' because it was in the later words." he said. "I knew it within the order of the words I studied. 'Ritziness' I'd never heard used in a sentence."

Conner came to the competition with a good luck charm in his pocket – the medal his grandfather Steve Dely won in *The Detroit News* spelling bee in 1938 when he was 13 years old.

"I knew this would bring me luck," he said. "Now my goal is to win the Detroit spelling bee."

'Nervous wreck'

Parents John and Susan Evans were there to watch. John "was a nervous wreck," according to Susan, who describes Conner as "a confident kid."

"He's so confident, he just thinks he's going to win," she said. "He thinks he can do anything."

Susan Evans helped Conner study, but admitted there were words she couldn't pronounce. He had to do that.

"And I'm here trying to help him," she said.

Erin and Conner now advance to *The Detroit News* spelling bee March 13 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. The winner will advance to the national spelling bee May 24-29.

"Congratulations to all of the students; you're all champions," said Earle Chorbagian, a former Adams principal who helped start the district spelling bee 35 years ago. "When you continue to do your best at home and at school, you'll always be a champion."

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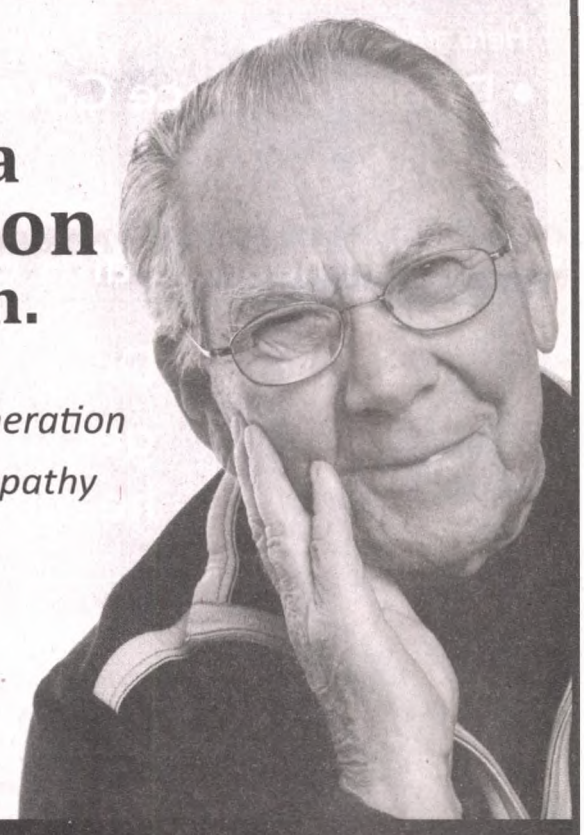

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BRINGING IN THE BARD

Michigan Shakespeare Festival makes Village Theater its second home

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Jennifer Tobin has been trying for years to build a Shakespeare festival at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton, with no success.

Now she's doing the next best thing. Since people won't come to Shakespeare, she's bringing Shakespeare to them.

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, which makes its home at the Baughman Theatre in Jackson, brings the final three weeks of its 2015 season to Canton starting July 29.

It's a coup that's got Tobin crowing.

"What turns me on the most is it ups our game," said Tobin, who runs the Village Theater. "They're seasoned actors, blended nicely with young actors. It's like the ingredients in a good meal. These are incredible actors, directed and designed by professionals. It's exciting to bring half their season to Canton."

Sold on Canton

According to Tobin, the pairing came out of conversations between folks affiliated with the Village Theater and some people in the drama program at Eastern Michigan University.

One thing led to another and officials from the Michigan Shakespeare Festival were making the trip from Jackson to Canton for Liberty Festival. After meeting with Tobin and other Village Theater staffers, MSF folks were sold.

"A lot of it was meeting (Tobin) and the people at the Village Theater," said Jan Blixt, in her sixth year as MSF's artistic director. "It's about us bringing our show to the community of Canton."

For 21 years, Blixt said, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival has inspired and entertained a diverse audience, further developing an appreciation for professional performances of Shakespeare's works and other classical plays.

MSF

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival is bringing its cast of professional actors to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Best around

She called MSF the "best theater in the region and probably in Michigan" and said now Canton will benefit from that reputation.

"Canton is now hosting the best of the best," Blixt said. "We're good because people are enjoying our show. Our audiences are being made 'happy' by our shows. Some of the folks, especially some of the men, are being dragged in, but once they see it, they're the first ones in line for season passes."

It's not the first time MSF has moved. The theater tried going offsite back in 2007, Blixt said, but it didn't work out well and theater officials hadn't considering moving it again.

Until now.

But it's not a traveling production, she pointed out. MSF will actually close its show in Jackson after the first two weeks and move to Canton for the final three weeks.

Dying art?

She said a prevailing opinion is that theater is "a dying art," in part because people hesitate to go because they don't know what to wear and people think theater is something that "is not for them."

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible for as many people as possible to see what we do and become part of our family," Blixt said. "People are realizing it's a viable entertainment option. Don't worry about what you wear. We'll wear the costumes."

MSF actors will stage three plays this season: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Henry IV* and *The Rivals*, written by Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

Blixt said the plays are chosen to try to provide a well-rounded experience to theater-goers.

Supportive actors

"We were doing 'Shakespeare's greatest hits' most of the time," Blixt said. "Now we try to do one well-known Shakespeare, one Shakespeare that makes people say, 'I didn't realize that was Shakespeare' and the third play to try to round out the season so there's something for everyone."

Tobin's favorite part is the fact the actors work in repertory. Actors who are stars in one show may be background actors in another.

MSF General Manager Nona Bennett said that system works because the actors care about each other.

"The actors are so incredibly supportive of each other," Bennett said. "They're there for each other. They're listening to each other on stage and it shows in the performance."

Tobin said having MSF at the Village Theater will "elevate Canton."

"It will create a credibility, not only for MSF, but for the Village Theater," she said. "We have brilliant local groups, but if you're a seasoned theater-goer, you want something more professional. Now you don't have to go to Detroit or Stratford. It will bring the community actors in contact with these professionals and it will inspire them."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

SHAKESPEARE IN CANTON

What: Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
When: Wednesday through Sunday, July 29 through Aug. 16. Performances at 2 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday.
What you'll see: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Henry IV," both by William Shakespeare, and "The Rivals," by Richard Brinsley Sheridan.
Tickets and more information: Call the Village Theater, 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillagetheater.org

Survivor of Human Trafficking
If you don't think human trafficking happens in your zip code, think again.

Survivor and author of "The Slave Across the Street", Theresa Flores shares her story of being a sex slave while a typical high school student in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. Drugged, raped, and tortured at 15, she was trafficked for 2 years to men in their 20's and 30's, all unbeknownst to her family. Now this victims' advocate is speaking out on the reality of human trafficking in the U.S.

Wednesday, Feb. 11th • 7PM
St. Michael School Cafeteria
11441 Hubbard Rd., South of Plymouth Rd., Livonia
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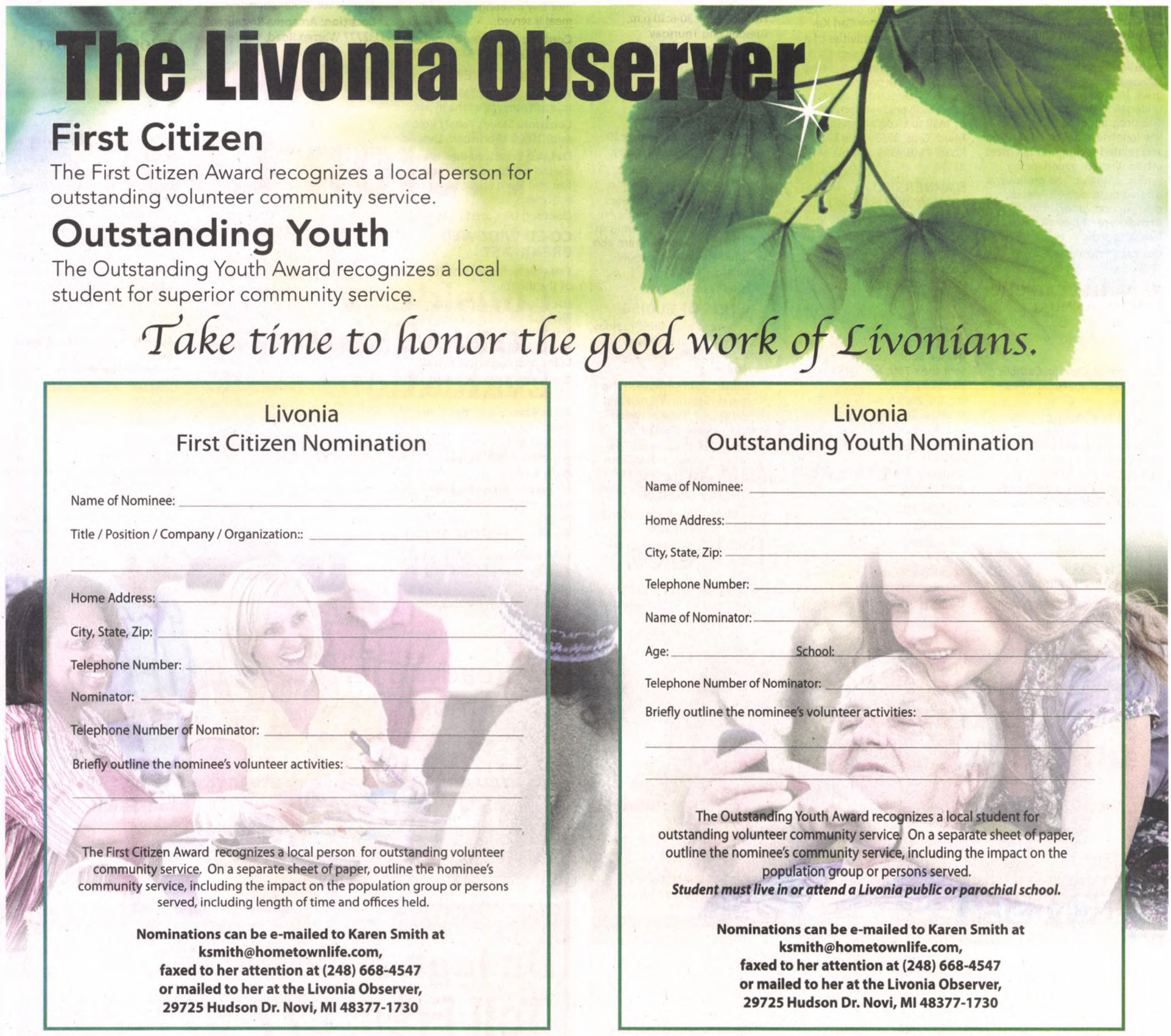


Comedy Night benefits Blum's Landing

A northern Michigan retreat for military personnel will be on the receiving end of proceeds from a comedy night planned for Sunday, Feb. 22, in Garden City.

The Blum's Landing Comedy Night will be held at Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City. The doors will open at 4 p.m. and the two-hour comedy show will start at 5 p.m.

The headliner will be Bryan McCree (www.bryanmccree.com). A nationally known comedian, he's been seen on *Mad TV*, Comedy Central and most recently *Comics Unleashed* with Byron Allen. In 2006, McCree earned honors as a best of NBC's *Stand UP for Diversity* finals.

He has shared the stage with the likes of Sinbad, George Wallace and the Isley Brothers. He has a natural charm on stage and his infectious giggle often incites laughter among the masses. His natural acting talent shows through in his act as he plays his funniest character — himself.

Tickets are $20 and can be purchased at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood, west of Merriman; Garden City DDA Office on Ford, east of Middlebelt; Albert's on the Alley; and Fleming Financial Services, 29217 Ford Road, Suite 119, Garden City.

For more information, contact Fleming at 734-604-0227 or john@flemingfinancialsvcs.com.

Located on Orchard Lake near Rogers City, Blum's Landing was built by former Canton residents Terry and Jan Blumberg as a place for War on Terror military personnel and their families to relax, recoup and re-energize from the stress of their current rehab and duties.

The Blumbergs built the bed and breakfast in honor of their son Trevor, who was killed in Iraq in 2003. They used the money from his death benefit to purchase 12 acres of land and build the retreat, where veterans, service members and their families can escape, rest and relax for free.

More information about Blum's Landing can be found at www.blumslanding.org.

BLUM'S LANDING

Former Canton residents Jan and Terry Blumberg built Blum's Landing as a retreat for military personnel and their families to rest and relax.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

ST. GENEVIEVE OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1 and March 29.

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison St., Livonia

Details: St. Genevieve offers preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and elementary school for grades K-8. Meet the teachers, tour the school, see the students work and learn about the countries they are studying. The theme is Travel Around the World.

Contact: 734-425-4420; www.stgenevieve.org/school.

TOYS AND TRAINS

Time/date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1.

Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Parish, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland.

Details: The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and-swap, toys-and-trains show at the church hall. Admission is $2 per person, $4 per family. Food is available, and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts and more than 100 dealer tables with various gauges of trains.

GRIEF RECOVERY

Time/date: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1 to March 22.

Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: If you have lost a spouse and are struggling with grief, this series will help you understand the phases of grief. This program deals with topics like loneliness, anger, depression and related feelings. Come meet others who are experiencing similar struggles. The program is offered by Widowed Friends, a peer support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and is free of charge.

Contact: Priscilla at 734-591-7879.

ST. DAMIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL AUCTION

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 29891 Joy Road, Westland.

Details: St. Damian Catholic School Annual Auction presents "Super Heroes and Villains." Doors open at 6 p.m. Live auction begins at 8:45 p.m. Costume contest with a $100 prize. Tickets are $30 each and include buffet dinner.

Contact: www.stdamianschool-.com; 734-427-1680.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Location: Westland Free Methodist Preschool, 1421 S. Venoy, Westland

Details: The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is enrolling for classes for 3- and 4-year-old children. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee, a $25 value. This tuition-based, Christian preschool offers a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and includes all basic preschool academic skills along with a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.

Contact: 734-728-3559; wfmpreschool@yahoo.com.

ST. MARY MERCY BLOOD DRIVE

Time/date: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

Location: St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: In partnership with the American Red Cross, St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold a blood drive in the North Auditorium of the hospital. The public is invited to join St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees and volunteers in donating blood at the event. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

Contact: 800-GIVE-LIFE; redcrossblood.org.

LIVONIA SYMPHONY MARDI GRAS EVENT

Time/date: 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: The evening will feature dinner and the jazz sounds of the Livonia Symphony Jazz Quintet under the direction of Assistant Conductor Carl Karoub. Enjoy the festivities of a traditional New Orleans-style Mardi Gras. Tickets are limited. Cost is $40 per person or $70 per couple. Tickets may be obtained at www.livoniasymhony.org or by mail to Livonia Symphony Mardi Gras, 37637 Five Mile Road, PMB #398, Livonia MI 48154.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY SHOW

Time/date: 1:59 p.m. and 7:29 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.

Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia.

Details: The Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus present their 76th annual Parade of Harmony America Sings! featuring the 2008 international champs, O.C. Times, and Backbeat of Northville High School. Tickets are $20 in advance, $22 at the door.

Contact: 248-559-7082; songsters.tix@hotmail.com.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Location: Academic Pathways, 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: See what a cooperative preschool has to offer. Potty training is not required. Programs for ages 3 and 4.

Contact: 734-261-9540; www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

COMIC BOOK, CARD, COLLECTIBLE SHOW

Time/date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford.

Details: More than 34 tables. Guests include actor/inventor Ron Baratono, a local actor who has appeared in *Oz the Great and Powerful* and *Ides of March* with George Clooney and the TV show *Detroit 187*. Admission is $2. Age 10 and under are free. Concessions available until 2 p.m. The admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home.

Contact: 734-258-5026.

CELIAC SUPPORT GROUP

Details: The Tri-County Celiac Support Group is hosting: a Gluten Free Kids Pizza Party on Feb. 8; a general meeting with guest speaker Steven Plogsted, a clinical pharmacist, on Feb. 9; a general meeting with guest speaker Kelly Dorfman, author *of Cure Your Children with Food*, on March 30; a Gluten Free Food Fair on April 25; and a 5K Walk/Run on May 19.

Contact: 586-751-8592.

ONGOING

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Contact: 734-524-0720.

SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD GAMES

Time/date: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Cost is $5 per person. Angel House uses the money to give $50 gift cards to a family in need weekly. Donations are also accepted via www.theangelhouse.org.

Contact: 734-524-0380.

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November.

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

Contact: Pat Ibbotson at 734-331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com.

LIVING ON GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 2-3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month.

Location: Oakwood Hospital-Wayne, 33155 Annapolis, Wayne.

Details: Hospice of Michigan grief groups provide a safe and supportive environment for participants to express their feelings and better understand the grief process. These services are offered at no charge to any member of the community mourning the loss of a loved one. The group meets in Conference Room 2 on second level. Park at west entrance.

Contact: To register, call Margie Martin, Grief Support Services manager, at 734-769-5821.

LIVONIA CAMERA CLUB

Time/date: 8-9:30 p.m. the first two Thursdays September through May.

Location: McKinley School, 9100 Hillcrest, Livonia.

Details: A group of photographic enthusiasts dedicated to promotion of photography through displays, competitions, critiques and education.

Contact: Dennis Gelarden, president, at 734-591-2589; livoniacameraclub.com.

LIVONIA SAVE OUR YOUTH

Time/date: First Wednesday of every month; time rotates monthly between morning (9-11 a.m.) and evening (6-8 p.m).

Location: Livonia City Hall Annex Conference Room, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition (LSOY) exists to educate and empower the community regarding the health and safety of our young people, with a focus on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. The public is welcome to attend monthly meetings — a light meal is served.

Contact: kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org; 734-338-9580.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Details: Widowed men are invited to attend men's breakfast and learn about other co-ed activities.

Contact: Dick at 313-534-0399.

CO-ED WIDOWED BREAKFAST

Time/date: 9 a.m. first Thursday of the month.

Location: Richard's Restaurant, Plymouth Road at Eckles Road, Plymouth.

Details: All widowed welcome. Come and meet new friends.

Contact: To reserve a seat, call Carol at 734-464-2833.

Time/date: 9 a.m. third Thursday of the month.

Location: Annie's, at 33427 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Details: All widowed welcome for great, reasonably priced food, good conversation and laughs.

Contact: Tom at 734-927-0610.

LIVONIA ROTARY CLUB

Time/Date: noon to 1:30 p.m. Mondays.

Location: Laurel Manor, 3900 Schoolcraft, Livonia (Use the northwest entrance).

Details: Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self" — service in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world. Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service and encourages high ethical standards in all vocations. The Livonia Rotary Club built Rotary Park on Six Mile and does various community service projects throughout the year. Be a guest at a meeting.

Contact: www.livoniarotary.org; jre2716@sbcglobal.net.

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays.

Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome.

Contact: Jeff at 734-261-5010; www.westlandrotary.com.

WAYNE ROTARY

Time/Date: noon every Tuesday.

Location: Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne, except the last Tuesday of the month when the meeting is at 6 p.m. At the US12 Bar and Grill on Michigan Avenue.

Details: Be a guest and see what Wayne Rotary is all about.

Contact: Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.

GARDEN CITY ROTARY

Time/date: noon Thursdays.

Location: Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City.

Details: Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed.

Contact: Steve Kelly at 734-748-1345.

LIVONIA KIWANIS CLUB

Time/Date: 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

Location: Livonia Chamber of Commerce, 33233 Five Mile, Livonia.

Details: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers, dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. It has been serving the Livonia community since 1982. The Livonia Kiwanis works throughout the year to assist children in Livonia and the surrounding communities. New members are always welcome. If you would enjoy serving the community and making a real difference in the lives of children and their families, call or attend a meeting.

Contact: Ken Wagner at 734-464-3315; www.LivoniaKiwanis.org.

GARDEN CITY KIWANIS

Time/date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays.

Location: Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City.

Details: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to bettering the world one child and one community at a time. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

Contact: Julie Slabaugh at jslaba3925@aol.com or 734-716-8833.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Time/date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Location: Unity Church on Five Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Livonia.

Details: Learn and practice public speaking with the Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters Club.

Contact: 734-425-0857; 734-425-4181; rusco123@sbcglobal.net.

LIVONIA A.M. ROTARY

Time/date: 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

Location: Archie's Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Contact: Bill Friske at 734-578-5115.

AFTERNOON SENIORS DANCE

Time/date: 1-3:30 p.m. every Wednesday, except the fifth Wednesday of the month.

Location: Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: Dance to a live band. Attire is semi-dressy. Admission is $5. Singles and couples welcome. If you need a ride, call 734-844-8828.

Contact: www.livonialionsclub.org.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 7-9 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Location: Room 205 McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Details: Forum for discussing, receiving and sharing information for those contemplating, in the process of and having a difficult time adjusting to divorce. Facilitated by a professional counselor with an attorney available to talk privately with participants. Private consultations with a certified divorce financial analyst also available from 4-6 p.m. the first Monday of the month and with an attorney the second and third Monday of the month. There is no fee for the sessions.

Contact: 248-859-4846; 734-462-4421.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays.

Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia.

Details: All widowed men are welcome to join other widowers for breakfast, lively discussions and friendship. Learn more info about other co-ed activities.

Contact: 313-534-0399; www.widowedfriends.org.

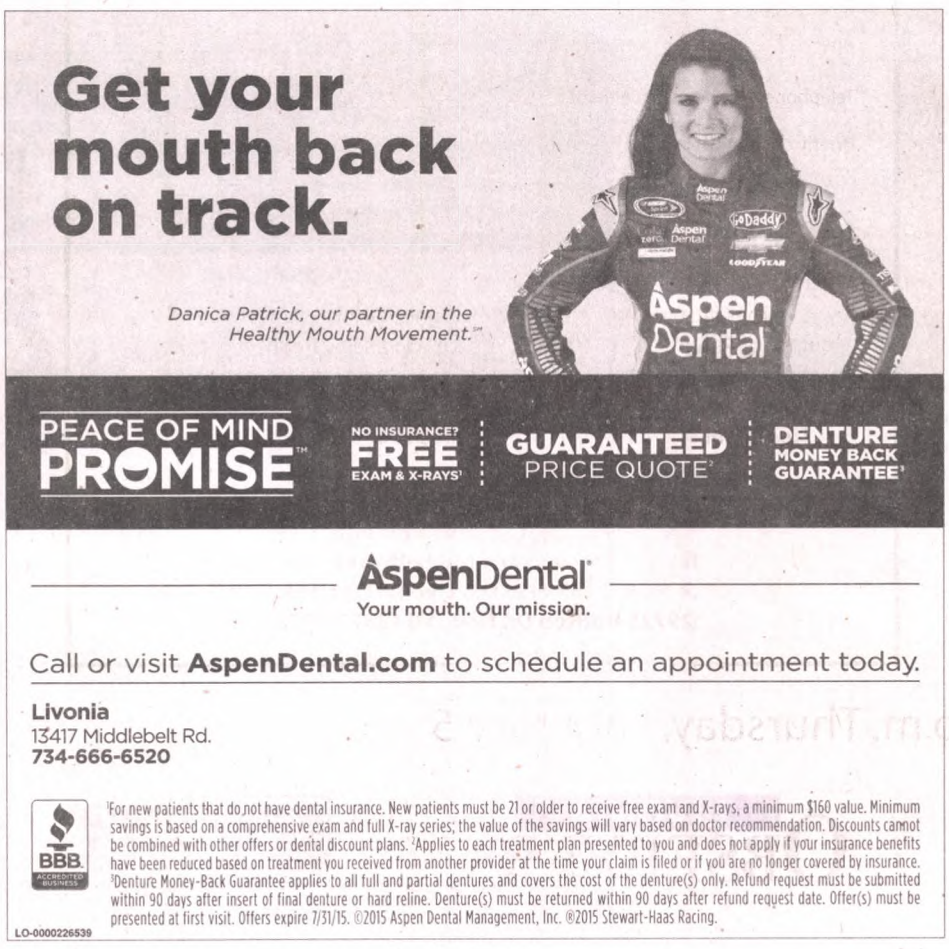


Exhibit expresses loss of life, brutality of Holocaust

Individually and together, artists Hans Molzberger and Michael Roque Collins have long been interested in the Holocaust. Now on exhibit, their individual and collective works show their emotional reactions to the Holocaust brutality, loss of life and the human condition.

The artists — who kicked off the exhibit, *Never Let It Rest — Sojourns in the Shadowlands*, at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family in Farmington Hills recently — have traveled individually and together to concentration camps and Holocaust Memorial sites throughout Europe.

"Molzberger has descended through post-war Germany where his cultural background and early creative activities were foreshadowed through the unrest, distress and uncertainty that followed the terror of the Nazi regime in Europe," according to a description of the artists.

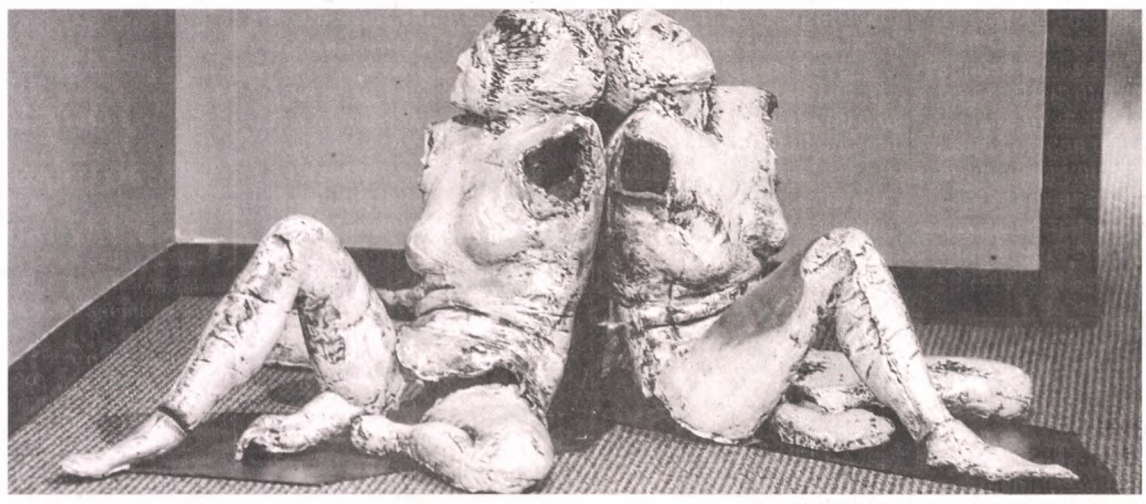
Collins was raised in the southern U.S. where he experienced the racial unrest during the civil rights movement. Both artists are now based in Houston.

The exhibit offers mixed media art that includes sculpture, ceramics, photography, video and found objects relating to the small town of Salzwedel in the Saxony-Anhalt region of Germany during the time of Nazi control.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is at 28123 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. The exhibit runs through May 3 and is supported by Susan Malinowski and Gary Shapiro, and Nancy and James Grosfeld.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Guests gather for the Jan. 11 opening of "Never Let It Rest — Sojourns in the Shadowlands" at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Shadows" by Hans Molzberger is composed of Raku ceramics and patinated steel.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Walter Shapero ponders a sculpture, "Fountain," by artist Hans Molzberger. The sculpture is made of steel and part of an excavated bomb.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artists Michael Rogue Collins and Hans Molzbeger talk to visitors about their artwork.

Specs Howard scholarships honor 45th year

Specs Howard School of Media Arts, a Michigan-owned and -operated school, is honoring its 45th anniversary by making 45 scholarships available, each valued at $4,500, to individuals seeking training in technology driven courses including broadcast media arts, graphic design and digital media arts.

The scholarship is known as the "2015 Michigan Business Scholarship." Last year's scholarship program was an overwhelming success and school officials said there's "no better way to honor the 45th anniversary than to give away 45 scholarships."

Specs Howard recognizes the need for many metro Detroit businesses to enhance and develop the technical skill set of their current employees and wants to assist these businesses by offering scholarships in the amount of $4,500 per award toward tuition for any Specs Howard program.

This scholarship program was created to assist individual employers and their employees and at the same time continue to develop and technically enhance the strength of the Michigan workforce.

"Michigan has some of the hardest-working employees and employers have been looking to us for years to help update their skill sets for today's technologies," President Lisa Zahodne said.

"In today's environment, many companies are forced to farm out certain areas of their business to third party vendors simply because their employees do not have the necessary knowledge. Employers will now have an opportunity to train their own staff so that they can keep the business in house.

"When current staff come back with enhanced skills, they can take the business quickly and more efficiently forward. Specs Howard is proud to play a part in this."

Employees must complete and submit an application, as well as a letter of request stating why they feel they are qualified for the scholarship and how it will impact their future. They must also submit a letter of recommendation, on company letterhead, from their employer stating how the training will benefit the organization.

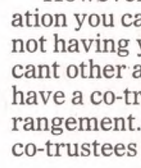
Applications are available online at http://info.specshoward.edu/mi-business-2015. Candidates will be selected based on the letters of recommendation, as well as the employees' letter of request.

All candidates will need to meet the standard admissions requirements.

Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and the opportunity will end when all are awarded.

"We can think of no better way to celebrate our 45th anniversary than by providing 45 future students with these scholarships," Zahodne said. "It is such a generous thing for Specs Howard to do. Anyone who knows Specs Howard knows he is a wonderful man. It is awesome to be a part of a company that believes in giving back to the local community."

Living trust offers flexibility, certainty in estate planning



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Q: Dear Rick: I am divorced with two children from my previous marriage. I have a significant other and we've been together for about five years. She also has two children. We have no children together. We each have wills that basically leave everything to each other, and upon our deaths each of our wills say that the money should be divided equally among our four children. I am about 15 years older than my significant other and I recently had a conversation with a friend who told me that if I died first, she could eventually decide to change her will and cut my children out. I don't think she would do this, but her children are somewhat manipulative and I am concerned. Can she change her will? What can I do to protect my children?

A: Your friend is correct. Your significant other could change her will and leave everything to her children. If you survive her, you can change your will and cut out her children.

You can protect your significant other during her lifetime and assure yourself that whatever money is left over would go to your children with a living trust.

A living trust offers greater flexibility on what you can do with your money. In addition, since you would be the settler, (the individual who establishes the trust — a person who settles property on trust law for the benefit of beneficiaries) you are the only one who could make changes. Therefore, upon your death, the trust would be irrevocable and your successor trustee would be bound to follow the terms of your trust.

Typically, a living trust for a husband and wife names both as co-trustees. Upon the death of either, the other would be sole trustee. This would make sure that the surviving spouse is always in control of their money.

However, in this situation you can consider not having your significant other as a trustee or have a co-trustee arrangement. Naming co-trustees is a good check and balance. If you are going to have a significant other be a successor trustee, it makes sense to have at least one other trustee.

It is important to decide how your affairs are handled after your death, but also what happens if you become incapacitated. That is why a durable power of attorney and a medical durable power of attorney are important.

Considering your situation, it may be appropriate to have someone other than your significant other be named in the power of attorney. This could prevent potential family issues down the road.

My advice is that you and your significant other sit down with an estate planning attorney. Ask whether the attorney can represent both of you or if one of you should seek a different attorney. If there is a conflict of interest, all good estate planning attorneys are going to recommend that you each have your own attorney draft your estate documents.

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

CITY OF WESTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2015

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for February 18, 2015 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on March 18, 2015 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Publish February 1, 2015 LO-0000229325 2x2.5

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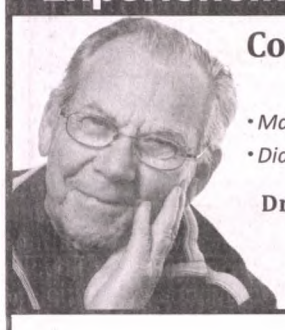
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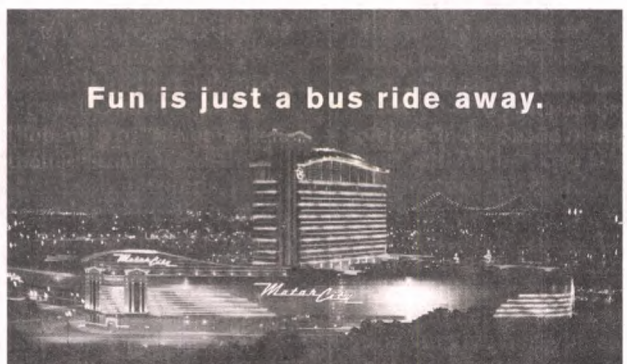
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Arthritis Today
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PAIN IN ONE JOINT
A patient with rheumatoid arthritis may experience a flare in a single joint such as a wrist, shoulder or knee.
The patient's doctor must make a decision on treatment. Should the patient increase his present medicine, say methotrexate, from 1/2 cc a week to 3/4 cc a week? Should the doctor continue methotrexate and start the patient on an additional medicine, say Enbrel one injection weekly? Or should the physician stay with the present 1/2 cc dose of methotrexate and inject the inflamed joint with cortisone?
In my practice, I would leave the patient's rheumatoid regimen unchanged and inject the involved joint.
My reasons are as follows. First, increasing dosage of present medication may bring on side effects that the present dose of medication, say methotrexate, avoids. Second, adding a new medication brings up the risk of further weakening the immune system so infections such as tuberculosis may develop. Third, the injection of steroid to a specific site such as the wrist, shoulder or knee does not expose the body to the dangers of steroid. Furthermore, relief from an injection is often long lived, permitting the patient to remain on an otherwise successful and well tolerated therapy.
Moreover, if the injection does not give relief, the failure becomes apparent within one or two days of the procedure. The doctor then has good reason to increase present medication or add a new one.
The good effect of an injection holds for single joint pain in conditions such as osteoarthritis, gout and psoriatic arthritis. In each instance, a timely injection assists a timely recovery and allows a conservative course of therapy.
LO-0000227956

MPA
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
LO-0000228744

A few minutes with ... a woman who launches weather balloons

Jim Schaefer
MICHIGAN.COM COLUMNIST

The sun hasn't yet risen, and the air is frigid outside the National Weather Service office in White Lake.

Sara Schultz, bundled up tight on this recent morning, trudges up a hill behind the weather station and opens the door to an unheated garage. This is where Schultz, 32, fills up weather balloons as part of her job as a meteorologist. Every day, twice a day, someone does this. They fill a large latex balloon with hydrogen, use string to tie on a small electronic device called a radiosonde, and out the big garage door it goes.

Up into the darkened skies, right up into the day's weather, and ready to report back to the weather station, where Schultz heads inside to begin monitoring the data it sends along.

QUESTION: Someone like you has to trudge out in the early morning and then in the evening, right? No matter what the weather is.
ANSWER: Correct. Yep. And the only time we don't launch a weather balloon is during a thunderstorm. Because 1, we don't want to get struck by lightning. And 2, the data would be bad. We want the environment around the storm.

So you'll send one up in the rain, just not when it's lightning.
Yup. Rain, snow, sleet, ice, we send it up.

What's the purpose?
The instrument that we use is called a radiosonde. And what that measures is the temperature, pressure, humidity, wind and the location of the radiosonde. And that gives us a really cool-looking graph. We call that the Skew-T Log-P. ... The closer the lines are together, the more moisture there is in the air. We can tell where the clouds are. We can tell how stable or unstable the environment is. We can tell if the winds are turning as you go up in height. ...

It helps us to forecast the weather. The seven days that we forecast. But the Skew-T Log-P diagram also really helps us in severe weather, especially. We actually will send up a special flight if we know there is the potential for severe weather. Because that will basically tell us how stable or unstable the atmosphere is. And if a thunderstorm will be able to develop in that environment.

So this is information that your regular radars and other sensors don't tell you?
This gives us a vertical profile of the atmosphere at that location, and it goes up about 20 miles.

And you can't do that with other systems that you have?
Uh, no.

OK. It just seems kind of old-fashioned given all the other whiz-bang toys and things I saw in your office.
Yep. It does. It does. But it's very crucial and vital information that we need.

That's cool!
I love it.

Do you? Tell me why. What makes you love it?
I love it. It's a challenge. Of course, you've got to bundle up in the winter. You're watching a balloon in all kinds of weather conditions. It can get tricky because we have this giant balloon and between 80 and 100 feet of string between the balloon and the actual instrument that we send up with it. So if it's any kind of windy conditions or anything, you gotta make sure you don't get tangled in the string (laughs).

You could pull a Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz" out there. You ever get tossed around like a rag doll?
No, not really. I forget how many balloons it would take to do that. You gotta be careful. I feel like the balloon's gonna hit the ground sometimes if it's really windy. So you run out the door and you let go.

That is a pretty sizable balloon though. I mean, we're not talking about something you have at somebody's birthday party.
It's about 5 feet in diameter. ... And then right before it bursts, it gets as big as a school bus inside. So, it gets very large before it bursts.

And that happens as it ascends, it just starts getting bigger and bigger. What causes that?
That is due to the decrease in pressure. So, as it goes up, the pressure is decreasing. And the balloon expands.

OK. And eventually it just pops.
Yep.

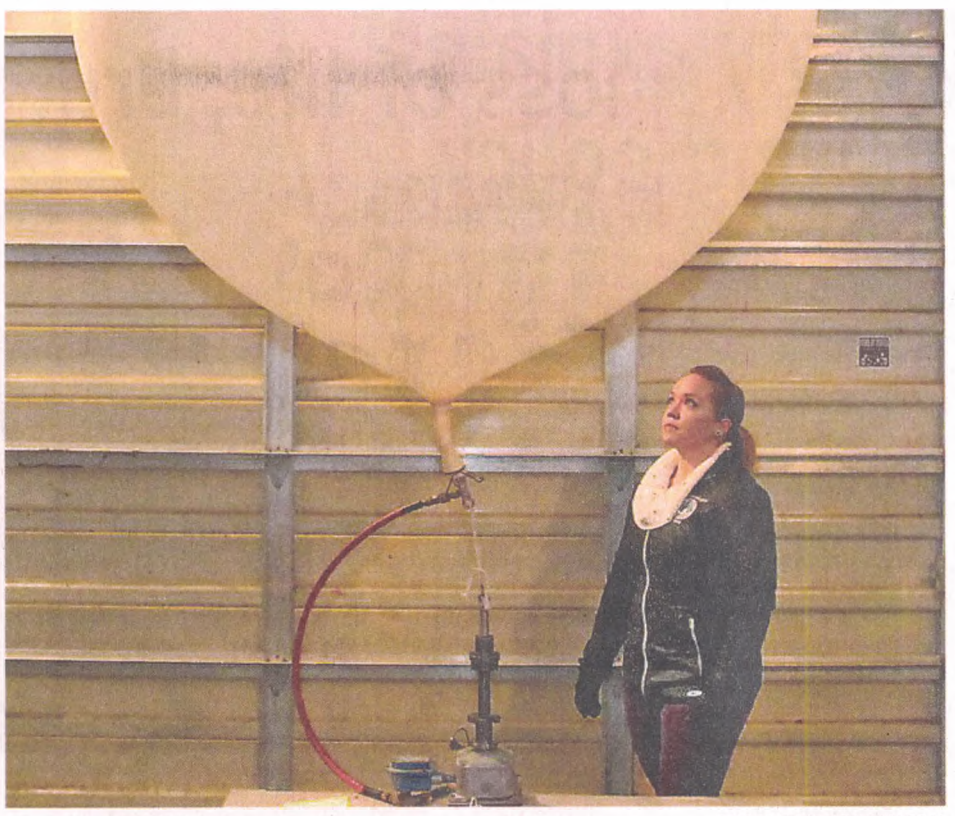
And then that little monitoring device you have, the radiosonde, comes tumbling back to earth and crashes through somebody's roof!
Luckily it doesn't do that, because we attach a parachute to it.

That's good. And I understand you guys have a self-addressed, stamped envelope on those things? Do people mail 'em back to you?
Yeah ... we get about 20% back. ... One of mine landed in downtown Detroit. We had Homeland Security calling about it. One landed in the Detroit Zoo.

When you were a little girl, did you like wandering outside with birthday balloons and letting them float out into the wild blue yonder? Or is this a new thing for you?
It's a new thing. I didn't even know about weather balloons growing up. I loved weather and thunderstorms and stuff, but it wasn't until I got into college that I found out about the weather balloons. I started volunteering with the weather service, and I wanted to work for them because they did that.

You like what you're doing, don't you?
I love it.

Jim Schaefer is a Detroit Free Press reporter.
jschaefer@freepress.com



ERIC SEALS | MICHIGAN.COM
Sara Schultz watches a weather balloon fill up with hydrogen before its launch at the top of a hill on the grounds of the National Weather Service in White Lake. Balloons get launched every day at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Wayne County explains snow plowing policy

Any time snow is in the forecast, the Wayne County Department of Public Services' Roads Division is ready with about 160 snowplow/salt trucks to maintain more than 2,000 miles of roads.

Wayne County commissioners have been asked about the county's snowplowing policy, and according to Department of Public Services officials, freeways and surface streets with the greatest volume of traffic are maintained first unless there are abnormal conditions or emergencies involving public health and safety.

The Department of Public Services has established five priority categories for snow removal:

» Priority I: State and county freeways and paved surface roads with traffic volumes normally greater than 10,000 vehicles per day per lane and/or 40,000 vehicles per day on roads with four or more lanes.

» Priority II: Paved state and county roads generally with volumes of 2,500 to 10,000 vehicles per day per lane. Terrain and road alignments are factors in this category, and Priority II can be assigned to otherwise lower-priority roads for route continuity and efficiency.

» Priority III: Other paved county roads on district salt route sheets. Priority III roads can be maintained as part of higher-priority routes, but generally are maintained after Priority I and II roads are cleared.

» Priority IV: Mile-type local roads and primary gravel roads. Work on these roads is to be done during regularly scheduled shifts.

» Priority V: All other roads and subdivision streets in Wayne County's nine townships. Removal of snow is to be completed during regularly scheduled shifts and only if more than 6 inches of snow have accumulated.

To learn more about the Department of Public Services' snow-removal policy, visit www.waynecounty.com/dps/2005.htm.

SUBMITTED

Ken and Joyce Reimann of Westland received a trophy for organizing the monthly "alumni" gathering at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant.

'Alumni' give trophies to founders, server

A group of friends who have been gathering for breakfast at the Big Boy Restaurant in Westland since 2007 recently decided to honor the folks who made it happen.

The group honored Ken and Joyce Reimann of Westland and waitress Ruth Bilodeau.

The Reimanns received a trophy for organizing the group. The first time they held a gathering for friends at the restaurant, 48 people showed up for breakfast. The gathering has now become a monthly event, meeting the second Thursday of the month "to catch up on what's going on with each other and enjoy a good breakfast," Harriet Fowler said.

"Joyce keeps everyone updated via email for reminders of the next breakfast and prayer requests for those who are sick and couldn't make it or perhaps the passing of someone," she said.

SUBMITTED

Waitress Ruth Bilodeau was honored by the group for her excellent service.

The group also has agreed to call themselves "alumni," she added

Bilodeau was honored for the "excellent service she provides for her customers."

"She can almost take their orders by memory and does an excellent job serving," Fowler said. "She has a wonderful attitude. We are thankful for the privilege of meeting once a month at the Big Boy."

Hey Kids,

The Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights feature will be taking a break for the season.

Scoop will continue to make special appearances in the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper and on: facebook.com/ScoopTheNewshound.

Look for more of Scoop and fun activities this year.

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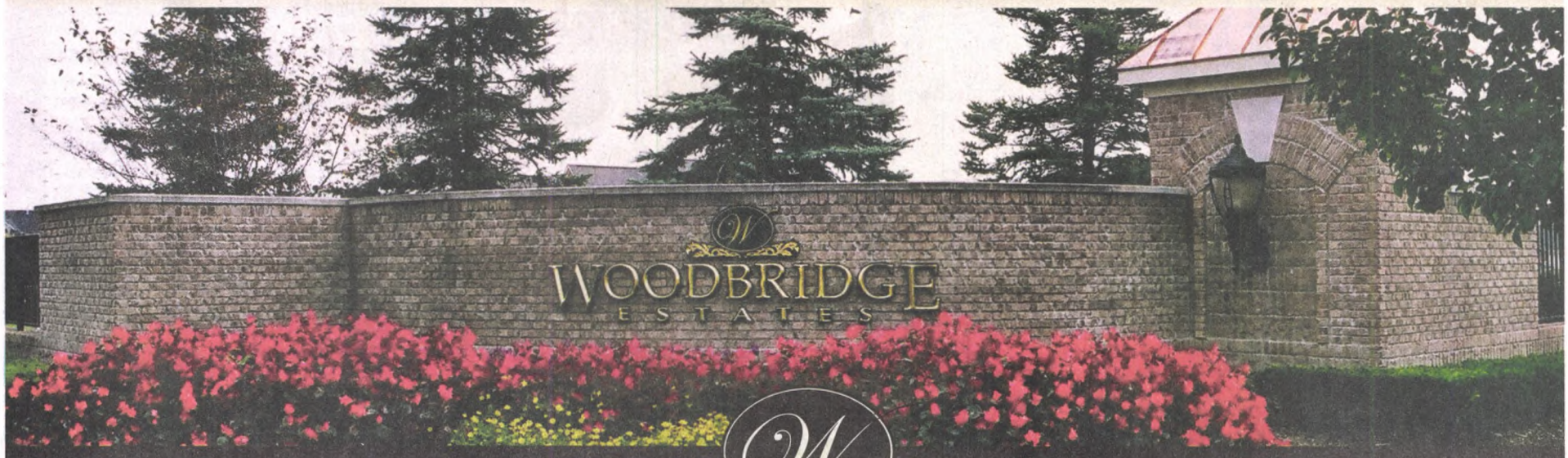

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SPORTS

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COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Franklin's Giacobbi signs on with MU

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A five-year-old dream became reality Thursday afternoon for Livonia Franklin senior and honor student Becky Giacobbi, who signed a letter of intent to play college softball for Madonna University beginning in the fall.

A four-year varsity softball phenom for the Patriots, Giacobbi said she knew Madonna was the place for her the minute she attended a softball camp on the Livonia School's campus as an eighth-grader.

"I fell in love with the school and I knew that's where I wanted to go when I was 13," she said. "I played on a 13U travel team for Jess Irwin, who used to pitch for Madonna, and she kind of inspired me. It's always been my dream school, so I'm excited how things have turned out."

ED WRIGHT
Livonia Franklin senior Becky Giacobbi was flanked by (from left) her mom Lori, Madonna University head softball coach Jerry Abraham, brother Jake and father Paul as she signed a letter of intent to continue her diamond career with the Crusaders.

A sure-handed center-fielder and left-handed-batting slap hitter, Giacobbi will be a welcomed addition to the Crusaders' program, said MU head softball coach Jerry Abraham.

"Becky worked out with us a few times this past fall and once we saw her skills it was kind of automatic that we'd offer her an opportunity to play for our program," said Abraham. "Becky is not only the kind of athlete we love to play for Madonna, but she's a great person and student as well, which is also important to us.

"I am elated that Becky has decided to join our softball family. She is a big part of a very good recruiting class for us."

A member of her school's National Honor Society, Giacobbi has worked hard to compile a 3.8 grade point average.

The daughter of Paul and Lori Giacobbi of Livonia, the future Crusader plans to pursue a degree in physical therapy.

In addition to playing softball at Franklin, Giacobbi is a starting guard for the Patriots' varsity basketball team.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP GYMNASTICS

FLIPPING FOR A CURE

Livonia gymnastics teams raise cancer-fighting funds

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

One after another Wednesday night, members of the Livonia Red and Blue gymnastics teams executed jaw-dropping, eye-opening routines that made spectators go, "Wow!"

But it was a feat the gymnasts performed prior to the opening vault that was more impressive.

In what has become an annual pink-themed "Flipping For A Cure" event, the two teams joined forces to raise money for the University of Michigan's Cancer Research Center.

Red gymnasts raised cancer-fighting funds with a 50/50 raffle and a donation jar, while Blue athletes organized pledge sheets based on the number of points the team compiled during Wednesday's meet.

"It was a great night," said Red head coach Kelly Grodzicki. "We honored cancer survivors who were at the meet and others who may have lost their battle with cancer."

The meet was exciting and close, with Blue inching ahead at the end, 138.650-137.500, on a night filled with sportsmanship.

"I am very proud of our girls and Livonia Red on a great meet," said Blue head coach Lisa Broomfield. "It's

See FLIPPING, Page B2

TOM BEAUDOIN
Livonia Red's Sydney Grenier earned a solid 8.60 score on the balance beam Wednesday night.

TOM BEAUDOIN
Livonia Blue's Catie McDougall focuses on her uneven bars routine during Wednesday's meet against Livonia Red.

PREP HOCKEY

Smith's five-point night powers Chargers' win

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill hockey player Dylan Smith did just about everything except jump on the Zamboni machine and re-surface the ice during intermissions Wednesday night at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

The senior captain scored two goals and assisted on three others as the Chargers rallied from a late 3-2 deficit to de-ice Farmington Hills Unified, 5-3.

The victory improved Churchill's record to 6-8-3. The Flyers slipped to 7-10.

"We kept giving 100 percent, playing as a team and putting pucks on the net, and we put a couple in at the end," said Smith, when asked about the Chargers' productive final seven minutes.

Smith has had five-point nights in travel hockey, but never in a high school game, he said.

"Dylan did a nice job of

See CHARGERS, Page B2

ED WRIGHT
Livonia Churchill's Kent Peterson (12) and Farmington Hills Unified's Paul Martin (17) battle for control of the puck (just to the left of Churchill's No. 16's right leg) during the second period of Wednesday night's game at Eddie Edgar Arena.

MU coach signs harrier

Madonna University women's cross country coach Pat Daugherty recently announced the signing of two-time all-stater Jessica Reagle of Homer.

Reagle earned a total of seven letters in cross country and track for the Trojans. She was also a three-time all-Big 8 Conference selection as Homer won three straight titles. She was also a member of Homer's 2012 and 2013 regional championship team, as well as the Trojans' 2012 Division 4 state championship team where she finished sixth overall (19:26.3).

In 2013, Reagle placed fourth overall (19:21.9) in the Division 4 finals as Homer took fifth as a team.

"Jessica has posted all-state times in her high school career and I think that her success there will carry over to her time as a Crusader," Daugherty said of the honor roll and academic all-stater. "She has been part of a successful high school program under Rebecca Willis at Homer and that will only help her here at Madonna. Jessica is also an outstanding student, something I look for in the runners that come into the program."

Livonia Parkrun

Thomas Preiss was the first finisher in 19 minutes and 14 seconds at the Livonia Parkrun held Jan. 24 at Bicentennial Park. Alexander Brauer was second in 22:56 and Lynn Boven placed third in 23:08.

Boven currently leads the men's annual competition with 2,559 points. Sam Bailo (2,254) is second and Robert Hyde (2,140) is third.

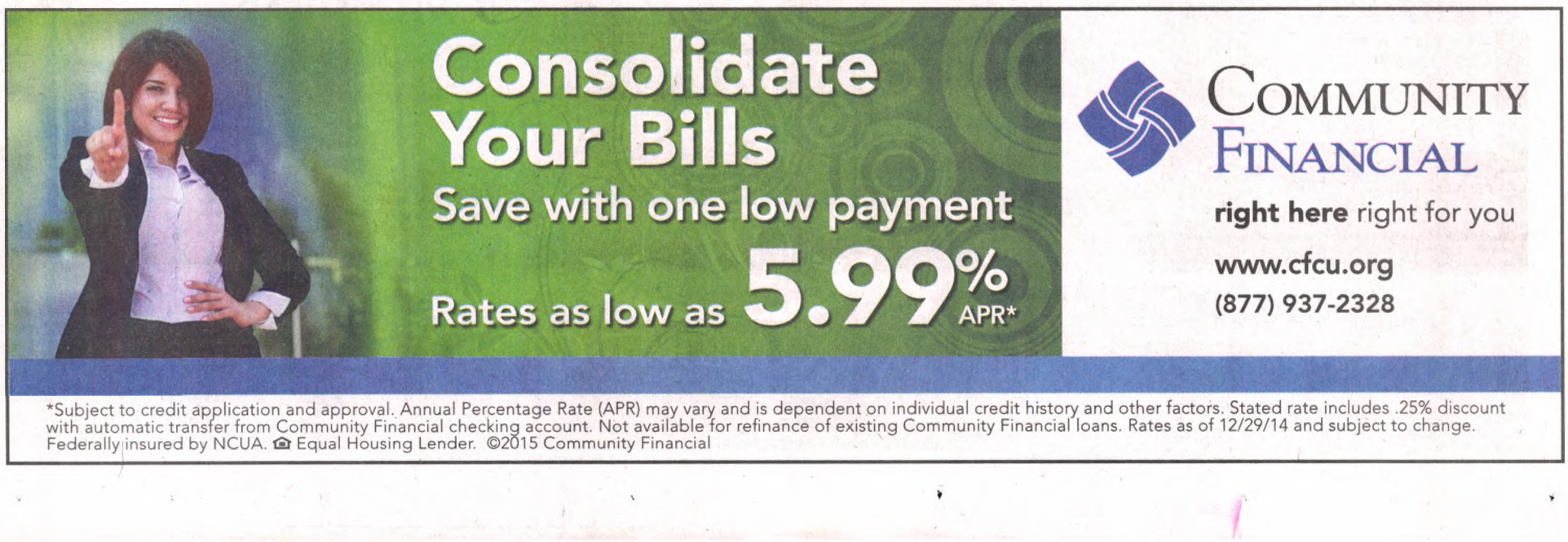
Making her first appearance, Anne-Marie Romanko was the first female finisher (and ninth overall) with a time of 30:03. Monica Nick was second among women finishers (32:02) and 13th overall, and Kristi Rymph was third (15th overall) with a clocking of 32:08.

Kim Zamora tops the women's standings with 2,307 with Jennifer Leight second (1,664) and Jennifer Greve third (1,617).

Livonia Parkrun started in June 2012. Since its inception, 26 international athletic clubs have been represented with 2,724 runs completed, covering a total distance of 13,620 kilometers.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Dierker big off bench as Madonna men win

Women win 90-56 over Marygrove

Chris Dierker made the most of his 25 minutes off the bench Wednesday night posting a double-double as Madonna University rallied in the second half to beat host Marygrove College, 82-75, in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball game.

The 6-foot-6 red shirt freshman forward from Salem High finished with career-best 20 points and 12 rebounds as the Crusaders improved to 10-13 overall and 6-9 in the WHAC.

Dierker, who connected on 10-of-13 free throws, helped Madonna rally from a 44-41 halftime deficit with 13 second-half points.

Senior guard Shaun Duncan and sophomore point-guard Khalil Malone added 15 and 12 points, respectively, while enior center Donald Owens came off the bench to score nine points and grab eight rebounds for the Crusaders

MU outrebounded Marygrove, 59-43, and shot 23-of-63 from the field (41.3 percent). The Crusaders were 27-of-38 from the foul line (71.1 percent).

Diaunte Taylor paced the Mustangs (3-20, 1-14) with a game-high 30 points and added 12 rebounds.

Darryl Dixon and Tyler Styles contributed 18 and 14, respectively, as Marygrove shot only 31.4 percent from the floor (22-of-70) and 61.1 percent from the foul line (22-of-36).

The Crusaders return to WHAC action beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday at home to face WHAC leader Davenport University (20-3, 14-1), which is ranked No. 5 in the latest NAIA Division II poll.

MADONNA 90, MARYGROVE 56: All 12 players scored and Madonna University (14-7, 13-2) shot 53 percent the field en route to an easy WHAC women's basketball victory Wednesday over host Marygrove (4-19, 2-13).

Junior guard Michele Hayes paced the Crusaders' scoring attack with 17 points. The Oakland University transfer from Inkster also dished out six assists.

Lindsey Hernden and Justice Dean (Garden City) added 11 and 10 points for the Crusaders, who shot 29-of-55 from the floor to go along with 26-of-40 free throws (65 percent).

Kacy Robinson also grabbed a team-high nine rebounds for MU, which led 47-27 at halftime.

Kierra Jordan (Westland John Glenn) and Raeha Weaver each scored 12 points for the Mustangs.

MU returns to action 1 p.m. Saturday at home to take on No. 2-ranked Davenport (21-0, 15-0).

CHARGERS

Continued from Page B1

stepping up and making key plays for us tonight," said Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds. "He's a strong leader. Tonight is the kind of night he's been looking for for a long time; it was well-deserved as he is one of our hardest-working players. I'm real proud of him."

At the other end of the spectrum for Churchill was the stellar play of sophomore goalie Andrew Broyles, who recorded 35 saves.

One of the two first-period goals he allowed – FHU's Frank Zak was credited with the goal – appeared to be re-directed just before it reached the goal crease.

The Flyers' third goal, a short-range torpedo launched by Austin Bottrell from the bottom of the left face-off circle, squeezed between the left post and Broyles' glove.

FHU goalie Brendan Dilloway was solid all night until the Chargers' late-game three-goal flurry.

Zak was nearly Smith's equal as he netted a pair of goals and assisted on FHU's other lamp-lighter.

The Flyers struck first with 4:15 left in the first period when Zak's hard riser from just inside the blue line found the back of the net. He was assisted by Joey Lajcaj and Brendan Bartlett.

ED WRIGHT

Livonia Churchill's Dylan Smith (10) had a huge night for the Chargers, registering two goals and three assists in the Chargers' 5-3 victory.

Churchill evened the count at 1-1 at the 5:59 mark of the second stanza when Smith threaded a pass in front to Justin Reinholtz, who directed past Dilloway.

The Chargers threatened to seize the lead moments later, but a low screamer off the stick of Parker Hodges bounced off Dilloway's right pad before the Flyer netkeeper denied Reinholtz from the door-step with a slick glove snag.

The Flyers grabbed a 2-1 advantage at the 2:20 mark on Bottrell's impossible-angle goal, but Churchill bounced right back 37 seconds later when Nolan Cioch scored the equalizer after securing a feed from Smith.

The third period was well-played, penalty-free and entertaining. Zak's second goal of the night from nearly the identical spot as his first put FHU up 3-2, but the Flyers couldn't contain Smith down the stretch.

With 6:59 to play, Cioch carried the puck behind the net before sliding a dime to a well-positioned Smith, who one-time the puck in to make it 3-3.

Just over two minutes later, Cioch threaded a seam pass to Smith, who controlled the puck near the blue line, whistled a hard shot at Dilloway, who made the stop, but couldn't corral the rebound, which Smith knocked in for the game-winning goal.

FLIPPING

Continued from Page B1

always nice as a coach to see both teams coming together and cheering each other on."

Jess Weak was the catalyst for Blue as she placed first in the vault (9.10) and the floor exercise (9.25), and placed second on the bars (8.625) and the beam (9.25).

Blue's Bri Rhoad was right behind Weak, as she won the bars competition (8.65) and earned second-place points on the vault (9.05) and third-place numbers on the floor (8.90).

"We started on bars and had a couple things not go our way, but we came back strong on our next event, which was the vault," said Broomfield. "We hit our vaults and stuck our landings."

Freshman Katie Grover piled up what turned out to be important points for the winners as she scored an 8.50 on the vault and the floor.

"Katie is working really hard and learning a lot," said Broomfield. "She is a standout freshman for us this season.

"Bri Rhoad is working hard on some new skills and perfecting old ones. She is getting ready to up her start value on some events. And Jessica Weak is getting into a groove of competing very strongly and she is more confident on her events and skills."

Red's stellar night was powered by Marissa McVey, who placed second with a 9.0 on her floor-exercise routine and third with an 8.95 on the vault.

McVey's 8.85 score on the beam was second only to teammate Olivia Dillon's 9.225.

"Overall, some great gymnastics tonight," said Grodzicki. "We had a great meet and I am proud of all the girls. We keep moving up and that is what we need to do.

"The team is showing great strength and consistency."

TOM BEAUDOIN

Livonia Blue's Katie Grover earned a score of 8.50 on the vault Wednesday night.

LIVONIA BLUE 138.650
LIVONIA RED 137.500
Wednesday at Churchill
VAULT: 1. Jess Weak (B), 9.10; 2. Bri Rhoad (B), 9.05; 3. Marissa McVey (R), 8.95; 4. Mikaela Hillie (R), 8.90; 5. Catie McDougall (B), 8.75; 6. Olivia Ryktarsyk (R), 8.70.
UNEVEN BARS: 1. Bri Rhoad (B), 8.65; 2. Jess Weak (B), 8.625; 3. Marissa McVey (R), 8.525; 4. Emily Chatterjee (B), 8.20; 5. Jackie Dziurgot (R), 8.10; 6. Mikaela Hillie (R), 8.025.
BALANCE BEAM: 1. Olivia Dillon (R), 9.225; 2. Marissa McVey (R), 8.85; 3. Jess Weak (B), 8.825; 4. (tie) Catie McDougall (B) and Sydney Grenier (R), 8.60; 6. Emily Chatterjee (B), 8.50.
FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Jess Weak (B), 9.25; 2. Marissa McVey (R), 9.00; 3. Bri Rhoad (B), 8.90; 4. (tie) Mikaela Hillie (R) and Emily Chatterjee (B), 8.75; 6. (tie) Jackie Dziurgot (R) and Olivia Ryktarsyk (R), 8.70.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Schoolcraft men soaring up the national charts

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team is firing on all cylinders as February arrives on the Michigan Community College Athletic Association calendar.

The Ocelots improved to No. 6 in the National Junior College Athletic Association following victories Monday over Delta College (78-75) and Wednesday over St. Clair County Community College (87-52).

Schoolcraft now is 18-3 overall and 7-1 in the MCCAA, entering Saturday's home contest against Macomb Community College.

At Delta, Ja'Christian Biles scored 28 points while Lito Booth and Javon Thomas chipped in with 15 and 11 points, respectively. Schoolcraft led 37-33 at halftime and held off Delta's late charge.

Biles also was strong on the boards, with 10 rebounds — nine at the defensive end.

Everybody got in on the fun two nights later, with the game already a rout at the intermission (43-25).

Five Ocelots reached double digits, including Canton alum Davon Taylor, who tallied 11 points and nine rebounds in 19 minutes of play. Taylor shared team rebounding honors with James Pruitt, who scored 12.

Leading the way for Schoolcraft was Booth, who scored 13 points. Adding 12 was Thomas while Biles registered 10.

Schoolcraft out-rebounded St. Clair County (9-11, 2-6) by a 52-35 margin, and shot the ball at a 47.7-percent clip (31-65).

LADY OCELOTS LOSE 2: Meanwhile, it wasn't as positive of a week for Schoolcraft's women cagers.

The Lady Ocelots lost 67-66 at Delta on Monday and then dropped a 63-57 decision Wednesday to visiting St. Clair County.

Schoolcraft's record dropped to 13-7 overall and 5-3 in the MCCAA while St. Clair County improved to 15-4, 6-2.

Top scorers for Schoolcraft on Wednesday were T'era Nesbitt (19 points) and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland (12 points). Grabbing 12 rebounds and tallying eight points was Rikki Sherdt.

Monday's loss was a bitter one, with the winning free throw made with 0.6 seconds to play.

Scoring 16 points each for the Lady Ocelots were Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm), Jessica Parry and Nesbitt.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Edsel Ford at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Luth. Westland at HVL, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
John Glenn at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Parkway at HVL, 7 p.m.
Crestwood at RU, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Arbor Prep at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Luth. Westland at HVL, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5
Parkway at HVL, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Romulus, 7 p.m.
Dearborn at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Annapolis at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.
RU at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS
Monday, Feb. 2
Waterford/Northville at Livonia Blue, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Plymouth at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
Canton Invitational, TBA
PREP BOWLING
Tuesday, Feb. 3
John Glenn at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4
John Glenn at Northville, 3:30 p.m.
Wayne at Canton, 3:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Wayne at Trenton, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5
John Glenn at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Wayne at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Franklin at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Belleville at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.
Dearborn at Thurston, 6 p.m.
Fordson at RU, 4 p.m.
Novi at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 4
KLAA Quad at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
WWAC Conference Meet, 9 a.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Canton at Stevenson, 6 p.m.
Churchill at Franklin, 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
Brighton at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Grand Blanc, TBA
Saturday, Feb. 7
Franklin at Grand Blanc, TBA

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

Redford Union bowlers roll over Robichaud

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Redford Union's boys and girls bowling teams ruled the lanes against Dearborn Heights Robichaud on Wednesday afternoon in a pair of Western Wayne Athletic Conference matches hosted by Skore Lanes.

The Panthers' girls contingent throttled the Bulldogs, 28.5-1.5 to improve its record to 3-6-1 in the program's inaugural season.

RU set the tone early by winning the pair of Baker Game contests, 145-82 and 105-66.

The winners held on tight to the momentum in the ensuing traditional-scoring matches, as they out-rolled Robichaud 685-458 and 655-442.

Carly Wasielewski paced the Panthers with a top game of 173.

RU's boys team improved to 4-6 with a decisive 24-6 triumph over Robichaud. The Panthers eked out a 155-139 victory in the first Baker Game before handily dispatching the Bulldogs in the second encounter, 149-111.

The Panthers rose to the occasion in the five-on-five matches as well, taking game one 642-622 before peaking with a 707-648 win in the nightcap.

Brandon Sandelin was the main man for RU as he registered a high game of 186.

Pioneers too strong

On Tuesday, Dearborn High upended the Panthers boys team, 27.5-2.5 in a WWAC showdown held at Lodge Lanes. The Pioneers captured both Baker Games, 172-151 and 206-124 before sweeping the traditional match-ups, 901-767 and 899-850.

Nick Laidler bowled well in defeat for the Panthers as he posted a 188 game.

The lady Panthers also lost to Dearborn, 24-6. The Pioneers pocketed the Baker Games, 177-145 and 136-128 before the two teams bowled to a 679-all tie in the first traditional game. Dearborn won game two, 667-638.

Ashley Mattia was solid for the Panthers, rolling a team-high 163 game.

Zebras zero in on 'W'

The Wayne Memorial girls bowling team knocked off Salem, 29-1, Friday afternoon in a KLAA match hosted by Town and Country Lanes.

The Zebras were dominant, winning the Baker Games, 203-173 and 177-112 before sweeping the traditional games as well.

Shaelyn Wojewski excelled for the winners, rolling games of 207 and 194. Amy Hoch also sparkled, chalking up scores of 220 and 147.

Providing consistency to the Zebras' attack were Gabby Charron (164 and 177) and Christina O'Harris, who recorded games of 158 and 181.

Single-game bowlers included Kayla Thompson (179) and Haley Gilbert (180).

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ED WRIGHT
Junior Christina O'Harris has been a key player in Wayne Memorial's stellar season to date.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi's Bryan Fegert (middle) is boxed in along the boards by Stevenson's Joe Alcantara (left) and Ben Kowalske during Wednesday's KLAA Central clash.

BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson topples Novi as Barber stars in 5-2 decision

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The finish proved to be bit hair raising for Livonia Stevenson's hockey team in Wednesday's Division 2 state-ranked clash against host Novi.

The Spartans were trying to protect an early 4-1 third-period lead, but with 11:08 left Andrew Nowak was sent off to the penalty box with a five-minute major for charging coupled with a game disqualification.

And it didn't help matters when Stevenson's Alec Allen was also sent off as a result of a five-minute boarding call with 8:19 remaining.

No. 3-ranked Novi tallied one power play goal, but Stevenson (11-4-3, 5-2-3) had Cullen Barber in net and the junior proved to be a cut above as the No. 3 Spartans walked out of Novi Ice Arena with a 5-2 KLAA Central Division win.

Barber

Novi (11-6-1, 4-4-1) was on the continuous power play for 7 minutes and 49 seconds during the third period, including a five-on-three for 2:11.

But the only goal Barber allowed from that point was with 9:07 remaining on Pat Wojtylo's power play tally from Bryan Fegert and Ryan Baxter.

"I'm just trying to get as many whistles as I can and help my team out, and just kill off the penalty without letting in a goal," Barber said. "That's the first time I've ever been in a seven-minute power play situation and had to kill it off."

Novi appeared to have pulled to within one, 4-3, with 6:58 remaining, but the goal was disallowed because of a high stick.

"I knew it was a high stick right away," Barber said. "Even though they called it a high stick, you've got to move on and worry about the next shot."

Novi coach Mark Vellucci didn't make an issue of the reversed goal.

"Our guys were saying it wasn't a high stick," he said. "Fortunately we have a tape of it and we'll take a look and see. My first reaction from the bench was I thought it was a high stick, too. I thought it was an OK call."

Stevenson, which outshot the Wildcats 34-23, controlled the opening period and led 1-0 on Stephen Olschanski's goal when he pounced on a rebound. Vince Glenn and Nate Sudek drew the assists.

"I think the biggest disappointment was the start of the game," Vellucci said. "We beat them 3-2 last year and we knew Stevenson wanted to come out hard, and they did. We told our guys that and our guys just didn't respond."

The Wildcats, however, perked up in the second period, but found themselves down 3-0.

Allen beat Novi netminder Josh Richardson over the shoulder on a shot from the left point assisted by Olschanski with 11:20 left. Glenn then followed with a goal on a four-on-four situation with 8:40 remaining in the same period assisted by Olschanski and Josh Denomie.

Olschanski, a senior winger, continued his hot play of late by racking up three more points.

"What can I say about Stephen Olschanski?" Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He's coming into his own as a hockey player. I say this a lot, but he's even a better kid. I'm so happy for him and proud of him, and couldn't be happier for a guy who's having a season that he's having. He's just getting rewarded for all the time and effort, and work that puts in because he puts a ton of it in."

Novi, however, showed some life just 3:33 into the third period as Alec Wells jammed home a rebound assisted by Brendan Wexler and Ryan Fonda to make it 3-1.

But the Spartans answered at 5:42 of the third on Joe Alcantara's power play goal from Shane Leonard and Allen for a 4-1 advantage.

But then the whistles came ringing down as Stevenson took a pair of five-minute majors, while Novi was issued four penalties, including a 10-minute misconduct.

"I've never seen a game with so many five-minute major calls," Vellucci said. "But that's the game of hockey. I was a little disappointed our guys lost their composure a little bit. Whether you agree with the calls or not you've just got to play over it. The game in high school has changed with the rules changes – five-minute charges and five-minute boardings. A lot of the calls that used to be two minutes are five minutes now. I think it's taken some time for all high school hockey teams to adjust. It's the rules and you've got to abide by it."

The Wildcats, however, had their chances, including a stretch in the third for 2:11 when they had a two-man advantage on the power play.

The Wildcats had a five-on-three, but couldn't score.

"It's disappointing," Vellucci said. "Any time you get a five-on-three you should get quality chances. I don't know if we even got any good quality chances. But to their credit they killed if off nicely. I wouldn't say it was the turning point, but if we score a couple there ... "

Still up 4-2 and able to weather the storm, Stevenson put the game away with 2:40 remaining on Alex DeFlorio's goal from Alcantara.

"It was kind of a strange game overall, especially with the penalties on both sides," Vellucci said. "The first period Stevenson totally dominated us. They wanted it more. It's just that simple. They outplayed us, outhustled us, won all the one-on-one battles and outshot us. ... ."

Meanwhile, the final period proved to be a roller coaster for the Spartans.

"That's hockey," Mitchell said. "It's a 51-minute game. High school hockey as emotional as it is and with the rules the way they are you've got to play a certain way. We got ourselves in a little bit of penalty trouble, but give our guys credit. We had to bear down and made plays when we had to."

And allowing just one goal despite being down at least one man during that nearly eight-minute stretch in the third was impressive from Mitchell's perspective.

"Against Novi it's really good, we'll take it," he said.

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GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Eagles edge Trojans in WWAC battle

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Redford Thurston's girls basketball team erased seven-point deficits twice Thursday night to nip host Livonia Clarenceville, 34-33, in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference match-up.

The victory boosted the Eagles' overall record to 3-9.

Ivery Mamo paced a balanced Thurston scoring ledger with 12 points. Megan Abela also played well for the winners, netting 11 points.

Alisha Southern led the the Trojans with 19 points.

Thurston led at the half, 17-15.

Swisher lead GC

Junior guard Amber Swisher scored a career-high 16 points Friday night to spark Garden City to a 54-36 victory over Dearborn Fordson.

Twelve of Swisher's points resulted from four three-point makes. She also drained both of her free-throw attempts.

The victory left both teams with 1-6 records in the WWAC Blue Division. The Cougars improved to 3-10 overall.

"Everybody scored and the kids were focused tonight," said GC head coach Michele Tyree. "This is the way I felt we were capable of playing the entire season."

Lindsey Michalak nearly pulled off a triple-double as she scored 11 points to go with 10 rebounds and five assists. Hannah Vera-Burgos (eight points, three rebounds, two assists) and Rachel Spellman (six points, 10 assists) also gave the Tractors fits.

Mikaela Smolar (five points) and Kelli McDaniel (four points, four rebounds) also played well for the winners.

Fordson was led by Mariam Faraj and Mariam Charara, both of whom scored nine points.

GC led 14-3 after one quarter, 24-11 at the half and 40-23 with eight minutes to play.

The Cougars were a red-hot 7-for-8 from the free-throw line.

Spartans prevail

Energized by a big third quarter, Livonia Stevenson edged visiting South Lyon, 35-30, Friday night.

The game was knotted at 17-all at the half before the Spartans outscored their visitors 11-6 during the third stanza.

Patriots conquer Zebras

Host Livonia Franklin posted a 53-13 victory over Wayne Memorial Friday night to improve its record to 3-9 overall and 2-4 in the KLAA South Division. The Zebras slipped to 0-11 and 0-6, respectively.

Sarah Cramton paced the winners with 16 points. Ashley Mardeusz had a productive night off the bench, netting seven points and seven rebounds. Other main contributors to the winning cause were Jackie Daily and Katelyn Kovach, who scored eight points a piece; and Erin McNally, who pumped in six.

Andrea Gonzales led the Zebras with seven points.

Franklin led 35-8 at the half.

"The thing I like the best about our performance tonight was the play of some of our reserve players," said Franklin head coach Jim Milican. "We had some girls come in off the bench and score seven and eight points, which was nice to see."

Panthers clipped by Cougars

Dearborn Heights Annapolis edged Redford Union, 36-35, in a thrilling WWAC Red Division game Friday night.

Renee Reed led RU with 11 points. Cliffangela Stafford chipped in with four points and 14 rebounds, and Alona Ray-Davis ripped seven steals.

Down 14 points after one quarter, the Panthers stormed back to seize a three-point lead with 35 second left on a steal-and-layup sequence by Angelica Wellons.

However, a couple critical turnovers and clutch foul shooting down the stretch by the Cougars resulted in the tough road loss for RU.

"Five of the last six games we've held teams under 50 points, so we're playing a lot better defensively," said RU head coach Scott Purdy. "We getting there."

TOM BEAUDOIN
Redford Thurston's Sydney Taylor drives to the basket during a game earlier this season. The Eagles edged Clarenceville, 34-33, Thursday night.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Churchill toughs out victory over Plymouth

Thurston keeps surging in WWAC Red

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

ED WRIGHT
Redford Thurston seniors Rickey Hudgens (left) and Isiah Crofford have played instrumental roles in the Eagles' stellar season.

Like two heavyweight fighters exchanging body blows for 12 rounds, Livonia Churchill and visiting Plymouth squared off in a test of toughness Friday night.

Thanks to a few right-handed jabs from leading scorer Jon Hovermale (14 points), the Chargers prevailed, 47-40, to keep their hopes of a KLAA South Division title alive and well.

The result left both teams with 8-4 overall marks. Churchill is now 4-2 in the South while the Wildcats slipped to 3-3.

"This was the kind of gutsy win we needed," said Churchill head coach Jim Solak. "It was two tough teams going toe-to-toe with one another.

"We had a pretty big rebounding edge, which helped. We were able to hold them to just one shot on most of their possessions."

Randall Aikens led the Wildcats with 18 points.

In addition to Hovermale, Jalen Davis (eight points), Dayton Davis (eight points) and Brian Alsobrooks (six points, seven rebounds) played well for the Chargers.

Churchill, which made 6 of 10 free-throw attempts, led 12-8 after one quarter, 19-17 at the half and 33-25 with eight minutes to play.

Thurston bumps Trojans

Junior point guard Brandon Marshall pumped in 19 points Friday night to lead Redford Thurston to a 58-50 victory over visiting Livonia Clarenceville.

The victory improved the front-running Eagles' record to 12-1 overall and 7-0 in the WWAC Red Division.

The Eagles ruled the paint thanks to strong efforts from Isiah Crofford (14 points, eight rebounds) and Deaunte Jackson (11 points, nine rebounds).

Senior guard Rickey Hudgens registered eight rebounds and two steals.

Jermell Johnson led the Trojans with 25 points.

Thurston led 22-6 after one quarter and 33-15 at the half.

"They got it down to eight late, but we were in control pretty much the whole way," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates.

GC tumbles

Dearborn Heights Crestwood's 26-point third quarter powered the Chargers past Garden City, 71-25, in a WWAC Red contest played Friday night.

The Chargers led 16-10 after one quarter, 31-17 at the half and 57-19 after three stanzas.

Travis Trigg led the Cougars with eight points.

Esa Abdeljami led the winners with 22 points.

Hawks soar

Led by Austin Bell's 19-point night, Huron Valley Lutheran earned a 52-24 road victory Friday night over Lutheran South.

Adam Hodgson (12 points) and Nick Doletzky (nine points) also played well for HVL.

The Hawks led 7-6 after one quarter and 16-12 at the break before extending its cushion to 40-17 at the eight-minute mark.

Stevenson nipped

Livonia Stevenson carried a 42-36 lead into the fourth quarter, but couldn't finish the deal in a 53-50 loss at South Lyon Friday night.

Noah Campbell led the Spartans with 15 points, but had to sit out the beginning of the final quarter with four fouls. Gino D'Agostino scored nine points for Stevenson, which slipped to 5-7 overall and 2-4 in the KLAA Central Division.

The Spartans, who led 25-24 at the half, were bolstered by a strong showing from first-time starter Jake Cremen, who tallied six points.

RU triumphs

Redford Union improved to 6-8 Friday night with a 69-61 victory over Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

Jerrime Koger led the Panthers with 22 points. Tyrone Robinso (19 points) and Carlos Welch (11) also played well for RU.

Bryon Collins led the Cougars with 25 points. Juwan Banks chipped in with 15 for Annapolis.

Warriors roll

Three players scored in double figures to lead Lutheran Westland to a resounding 69-32 victory at Macomb Christian.

Leading the winners were Luke Smith, who scored 15 points, and Brent Croft and Cleveland Tarp, who netted 12 points each.

The Warriors never looked back after building a 24-2 first-quarter lead.

Zach Burk and Kory Barikmo chipped in with eight points each for LW. Burk led the Warriors with seven boards.

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JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO
John Glenn's Sharon Woodard defends Canton's Alexa Lagola Friday night.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chiefs grind out victory, 37-33

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

For a while Friday, it just didn't seem like Canton's night.

Exhibit A was a 6-2 deficit for the host Chiefs against Westland John Glenn after the first quarter of a KLAA South Division varsity girls basketball matchup.

Exhibit B, with just over three minutes left in the first half and the Rockets up 8-3, took place when Chiefs senior Alanna Brown took the front end of a one-on-one free-throw chance. The ball hung on the front lip of the rim for a second or two before finally dropping through the cylinder.

John Glenn maintained a lead until Canton sophomore Brianna Finn drained back-to-back treys — one from the right wing, the other from the left wing — to put the Chiefs up 15-13 at halftime.

From there, it was a back-and-forth, defensive battle in which the Chiefs ultimately prevailed, 37-33. Canton outscored the visitors 16-8 in the fourth, sparked by several important steals.

"That's the test of a good team, being in a tough situation in crunch time and having to make plays," Canton head coach Kevin Palmer said. "We're a young group, we only got the two seniors, so I was happy to see that some of our younger kids stepped up and kind of owned the situation."

One of those who did just that was Finn, who tallied 10 points.

"It took a while for me to get in the groove," Finn said. "But I feel like the way my team set me up was amazing and hitting those last two threes, I think the momentum changed in our favor. It was a good thing."

Leading the Chiefs (7-5, 5-1) was sophomore Erin Hult with 13 points and five rebounds. Adding eight points, all in the fourth quarter, was junior Breanna Donehue.

For John Glenn (5-7, 3-3), Sierra Moseley led the way with 10 points, while Nadia Reed contributed seven.

The Rockets bounced back from Finn's torrid shooting display to actually carry a 25-21 lead into the fourth quarter.

Donehue made a jumper from the top of the key to cut that deficit to a deuce before freshman Sharon Woodard — up from the junior varsity — connected on a bank-shot trey from well beyond the 3-point arc to give John Glenn a 28-23 edge.

Getting it right back with a clutch triple was Canton junior guard Natalie Winters as the Chiefs continued to gut it out.

Strong defense and toughness in the paint helped Canton go on an 8-1 run to take a 34-31 edge with 2:35 left.

Another field goal by Donehue tied the game at 30-30 and Hult put the Chiefs in front to stay when she muscled in for an offensive rebound and put-back.

After Alexis Gardner's basket made it a 34-33 Canton lead with 1:40 to play, the Chiefs gave the ball up in the Rockets' zone.

But instead of relinquishing the lead, Finn dove to the floor to win a 50-50 ball.

A layup by Donehue and off-the-mark triple try by the Rockets helped secure the victory for Canton, still a game behind Plymouth in the KLAA South.

"We're a defensive team," Palmer said. "We held them to 33 ... we try to grind games down and whittle away."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Westland, Michigan 48185

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will receive sealed bids for:

CAFETERIA TABLES

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bids will be conducted in public:

Date: March 3, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185
ATTN: Dr. David L. Kaumeyer, Senior Executive Director of Business

All bids received after the date and time stated above will not be considered.

Bidding packets will be available for pick-up at the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Business Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, on or after February 2, 2015.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date of receipt of bids.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Publish February 1, 2015

LO-0000229244 3x4

Notice to Taxpayers
Charter Township of Redford
March 2015 Board of Review

Notice is hereby given that the 2015 March Board of Review for the Charter Township of Redford will meet at the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road Redford, Michigan 48239 in the Board Room for the purpose of reviewing the 2015 Assessment Roll. Appeals will be heard **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** You must call the Assessor's Office at (313) 387-2730 to schedule your appeal.

THE BOARD WILL MEET ON THE DATES AND TIMES INDICATED BELOW.

Tuesday	March 3, 2015	Organization Meeting		11:00 A.M.
Wednesday	March 4, 2015	3:00 P.M.	to	9:00 P.M.
Thursday	March 5, 2015	9:00 A.M.	to	4:00 P.M.
Friday	March 6, 2015	9:00 A.M.	to	4:00 P.M.
Monday	March 9, 2015	3:00 P.M.	to	9:00 P.M.
Thursday	March 12, 2015	3:00 P.M.	to	9:00 P.M.
Friday	March 13, 2015	9:00 A.M.	to	4:00 P.M.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TAXPAYER TO PROTEST THE VALUATION PLACED ON THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE YEAR 2015.

NON-RESIDENT APPEALS BY MAIL WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 13, 2015.

ATTENTION POVERTY APPEALS: PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE FOR POVERTY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AT (313) 387-2730.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, CLERK
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

Publish: February 1, 2015; February 8, 2015; and February 15, 2015

LO-0000229184 3x5

AGENDA
Zoning Board of Appeals
CITY OF LIVONIA
(734) 466-2259

February 17, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall – Auditorium (1st Floor)

APPEAL CASE 2015-02-06: **Noris Favot, south side of St. Martins (37577), between Newburgh and West End,** seeking to construct a detached garage while maintaining an attached garage resulting in excess number of garages and garage area.

Number of Garages
Allowed: One
Proposed: Two
Excess: One

Garage Area
Allowed: 720 sq. ft.
Proposed: 1189 sq. ft.
(484 sq. ft. proposed)
Excess: 469 sq. ft.

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

In accordance with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act as it pertains to access to Public Meetings, the Zoning Board of Appeal's Office of the City of Livonia upon adequate notice, will make reasonable accommodations for persons with special needs. Please call (734) 466-2259 if you need assistance.

Publish: February 1, 2015

LO-0000229180 3x4.5

Courageous Kids helps families cope with illness through fun events

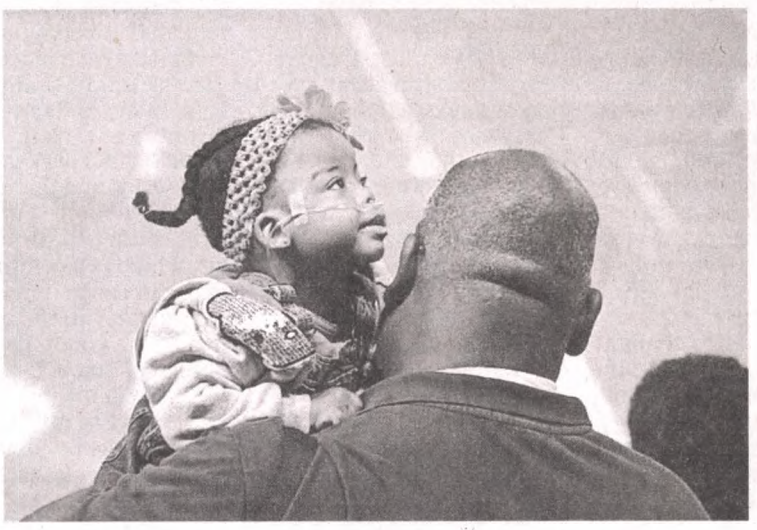
By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Evan Westphal underwent 3 ½-years of tests and treatments while battling leukemia. Between the needle pokes, medicines, exams and procedures, Evan, 11, of Livonia, kept a positive outlook, in part with the help of a nonprofit organization called Courageous Kids.

"When you're in treatment, there's not a whole lot for these kids to look forward to," said Janice Westphal, Evan's mother. "What Courageous Kids does is plan outings. They make it happen ... movies, a Detroit Tiger game ... and it's not just the kid who's in treatment, but the whole family that has something to look forward to. The biggest thing is getting to do something normal with a group of people who are going through similar things you are.

"It got us through some tough times, having something to look forward to other than a medical treatment. It was something fun and just to do something fun, to take your mind off 'cancer cancer cancer,' It was nice to have an escape."

Westphal and her family remain involved in Courageous Kids, even though Evan will mark his first year free of chemotherapy and cancer in March. Westphal will speak at the organization's first annual Valentine's Day dinner dance, Feb. 14, at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth Township. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will include a sit-down dinner, champagne, silent auction, and dancing. Tickets are $100, available by calling 517-545-7305.



A youngster and her father watch a Detroit Tigers game, arranged by Courageous Kids.

Youngsters with Courageous Kids try their hand at acting during a theater workshop at Genitti's in Northville.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A Courageous Kids outing includes a visit to WDIV and a chat with Andrew Humphrey, meteorologist.

Helping kids cope

Terri Hocking, a former child life specialist, founded the organization in 2010 after working with young hospitalized patients.

"I had realized while working in the hospital setting, that we help them cope in the hospital. Once they leave, they are in the world trying to manage with their illnesses. I thought it would be nice to help them cope outside the hospital," said Hocking, who is married and lives in Hartland, north of Brighton.

The group's mission is to "inspire hope by helping kids cope with cancer and other threatening medical conditions." The fun events provide kids and families "positive anticipation, distraction, family bonding and emotional support."

Ninety-five youngsters are involved in the group this year, 15 more than last year. Hocking said the organization serves 435 family members.

"It got us through some tough times, having something to look forward to other than a medical treatment. It was something fun and just to do something fun, to take your mind off 'cancer cancer cancer,' It was nice to have an escape."

JANICE WESTPHAL
mom to Evan

She relies on hospital pediatric medical staff and child life specialists to decide who qualifies for Courageous Kids and to refer them. A family that hasn't been referred can apply through the organization's website, but must give Courageous Kids permission to contact their doctor.

Family time

Outings have included Plymouth Whalers hockey games, Detroit Pistons basketball, Detroit Tigers baseball, the Robot Garage in Birmingham, The Henry Ford, a visit to an apple orchard, a ride on the Island Queen at Kensington Metropark, movies and more.

"It's a little bit of everything." Families come from as far away as Toledo, Ohio, and Holland to attend some of the monthly and twice-monthly gatherings, although the focus is on southeast Michigan.

"I'm constantly getting thank-you notes from parents who say it has made a difference. When we went to the Pistons, one mom told me her little boy had not stopped talking about it all day."

Hocking encourages families to remain active in the organization and serve as an inspiration to others, even after their child is no longer ill. Westphal enjoys "giving back" in that way.

"I always remember this. At our first outing there was another little boy who had leukemia, too," Westphal said. "For us to look at that other family — they were further along than we were — it shows a little light at the end of the tunnel."

Visit Courageous Kids' website at courageouskidsmi.org.

Three members of Courageous Kids are chosen as honorary team captains at a Detroit Pistons basketball game.

Trinity in the Woods concert benefits Neighborhood House

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

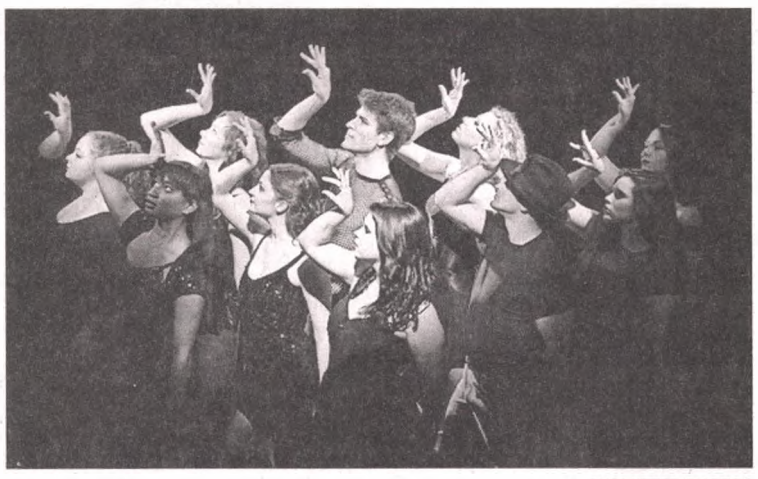
Trinity in the Woods is a small church with a big musical mission.

"Our church is a teeny church at the back of the woods. You'd never know it's even there," said Rachael Rose, music minister for the Farmington Hills congregation. "There is a meditation path in spring, summer and fall that is beautiful to walk. It's a beautiful place of respite. In alignment with our identity, I said, OK, we'll have music in the woods. It's a way for us to engage the community. I think churches and musicians have to be creative on how we can help our communities and engage our communities. I dream big and don't tell people we can't do it. We've done so much and we've got a couple of things coming down the road."

The church's annual fundraiser for Farmington-Farmington Hills Neighborhood House kicks off a new year of concerts, and switches out jazz music for a musical revue this year. Motor City Cabaret, a 10-person musical troupe from Wayne State University, will perform at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at the church, 26880 LaMuera, Farmington Hills. Admission is by free will offering.

Neighborhood House assists residents in need with food, furnishings, clothing and financial aid. It also refers clients to other social service agencies, counseling programs and local churches. Trinity in the Woods raised $4,000 for Neighborhood House through its annual concert last year.

Taylor Morrow and Luke Rose perform in Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. The troupe will perform Feb. 8 at Trinity in the Woods, in Farmington Hills.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Motor City Cabaret performs a revue celebrating the life of choreographer Bob Fosse. The Wayne State University troupe will perform at a fundraiser for Farmington-Farmington Hills Neighborhood House at Trinity in the Woods.

Musical theater

"Historically it has been a jazz concert," said Rose, who also serves as the accompanist for Motor City Cabaret, a yearlong musical theater class that includes performances in high schools, churches and other venues. Wayne State University students audition for the class, which is in its second year.

"They are a musical revue group — super-talented kids. This year they are doing a Bob Fosse revue. It's really cool. You get to know a lot about Bob Fosse and what he was like as a person. We have a couple of people singing amazing solos from shows he choreographed."

Rose's choirs at Trinity in the Woods, an Episcopal congregation, don't require auditions. Her Trinity Choir sings at Sunday services and Trinity & Friends Choir welcomes nonmembers, all ages and faiths to sing several concerts outside of the worship service each year.

"It's not about church, it's about unity," she said, describing the Trinity & Friends Choir. "Anyone is allowed to come. My youngest (singer) last year was 3 and my oldest was in the 80s. Last year, our first concert had 50 singers and 18 in the orchestra. We came together and have grown from there. Now people invite their friends to come."

Trinity & Friends will team with the Detroit Actors Theatre Company (DATC) for a "Call to Peace" concert, 8 p.m. March 19-21, at the church. Eric Swanson, co-founder of DATC, will guest conduct and the two performing groups will form a choir of 40-60 singers accompanied by a 20-piece orchestra. Tickets are $10.

"I look at everything through the eyes of music," Rose said. "I intend to ask local artists in. It will start in April and my hope it will continue monthly, year-round."

The First Fridays event will include displays by artists and performances by singers, dancers, actors, and poets.

Look for the first "Farmington Follies at Trinity in the Woods" in June, featuring Trinity & Friends Choir.

For tickets and information about the church, visit trinityinthewoods.org.

Teach children to be kind, to treat others equally

Sarah Davies
THEN THERE WERE TWO

I consider myself lucky. Lucky, because I have a beautiful, happy daughter who is healthy. And I don't believe that all illnesses, diseases or disorders are purely genetic. I think sometimes it's just luck of the draw.

I consider myself lucky also to know other children who don't share the same healthy traits as my little Gracie does. These children help me to become a better mother. They remind me that we cannot judge one another by the way that we look, or by the ailments that do or do not present themselves in our lives. These children are the children that I hope my daughter grows up to be like; confident, strong, and remarkable.

I have friends who go through daily struggles dealing with health concerns that their children have. But they do not complain. They keep smiles on their faces, and they keep their Facebook posts positive and heartwarming. They probably don't know that I cry when I read what they post sometimes, and that I spend moments every night teaching my 3-month-old to pray for their children. But these things are important to me, and to my family. It is important to be grateful for all the things you have, even when they seem small and simple. We are very thankful for all that we have, and even more so for knowing others with different obstacles, who help us to learn that we are not all the same on the outside, but that inside we are not at all different.

I wish I could do more to bring peace to the parents of children who have challenges that they face every day, different from those challenges that we experience in my family. I wish that my prayers would be enough to heal those who are hurting, or save those who are left with a struggle that I may never truly understand. I constantly wonder what I can do to make a difference in the lives of these people. But sometimes I am left empty-handed, without a cure and without the power to change the outcome of many of these situations. I am not a super hero, and I am not a God. I am simply a mother who feels for other parents and children in the world who are facing trials that are difficult.

Making a difference

I can do some things, though. I can teach my daughter to treat everyone the same. I can teach her to love all people, all races, all differently-abled, all challenged. I can teach her that we are all God's children, and that no matter what circumstances life brings to us, we must be kind to one another and treat people the way we would like to be treated. And I can donate to organizations and attend events. I can send cards, and write letters, and be positive. And I can run.

I am a very slow runner. Before pregnancy, it took me a very long time to run a very short distance. I have been told that I run like Phoebe from *Friends*. If you haven't seen the episode that I am referring to, I urge you to look it up on YouTube; it's absolutely worth the laugh. I certainly have not lost all of my "baby weight" and my stretch marks are not the least bit appealing. But I am going to take my hilarious, slow-running self, stretch marks and all, to race in this year's Cupid's Undie Run, in my underwear, in downtown Detroit. The event is held on Valentine's Day, and the money raised will help to find a cure for neurofibromatosis, which is a condition that can cause tumors, particularly in the brain.

I invite you to participate, too. You can sign up to run with me, or you can donate to my fundraising page by visiting mycupids.org/sarah-davies. Every dollar counts. We may not have all the answers to all of life's problems, but we can help to make a difference. Look for me if you're downtown on Valentine's Day. I'll be the one in my undies, with a pink tutu and huge stretch marks covering my stomach. I think of them as my battle wounds. And we should all play a part in helping those with a bigger battle overcome it. We can be the change we wish to see in the world, one simple race at a time.

Sarah Davies *of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of being a new mother. Cupid's Undie Run, a one-mile fun run, will begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 14, at The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at noon, followed by an awards ceremony at 1 p.m.*

Popular Soup Swap raises funds for Salvation Army in Plymouth

Soup Swap is back.

Members of the Village Potters Guild have created soup bowls that Swap participants will decorate over the next month and then will take home in March. The third annual event will benefit the Salvation Army.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., Belleville Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth have teamed up to offer the popular community art project. The Over the Grill Gang Chefs' Club along with the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Culinary Team will make and serve soup for the "Swap" on March 7, when participants take home their bowls.

The art portion of the event will begin Feb. 5 at the Plymouth Salvation Army Church, 9451 S. Main, in Plymouth. Participants will use colored clays to paint their favorite design on a bowl that they have chosen from a large selection of shapes and sizes. Members of the guild will glaze and fire the bowls for the Soup Swap.

See SOUP, Page B7

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!
For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!
To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General

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MANUFACTURING
Contract manufacturer of powder and liquid laundry & dish detergent located in Wixom, MI is seeking an individual to fill the following second shift open position:
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We offer a competitive wage & benefit package including, a 401K & Tuition Reimbursement program.
Please fax resume to:
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THE KOREX COMPANIES

MANUFACTURING
Contract manufacturer of powder & liquid laundry & dish detergent located in Wixom, MI is seeking individuals to fill the following positions:
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Yard Switcher/ Tractor-Trailer/ Forklift Operator
Full-Time for 2nd. Shift in the Warehouse. This position requires 1 year previous Hi Lo Experience, Michigan Drivers License and a Michigan Commercial Driver License (CDL)-Group A and basic computer skills with a good attendance record. Responsible for (but not limited to) the storage, tracking, receiving, and delivering of raw materials, components, and finished product. Operate yard truck to move trailers within the Korex property and tractor/trailer between Korex, Annex, and outside warehouse.
Please fax resume to:
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THE KOREX COMPANIES

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ENGAGEMENT

Morbeck-Persondek

Alvin Persondek and Stephanie Morbeck announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jeffrey and Judith Morbeck of Hayden Lake, Idaho, is a graduate of Gonzaga Preparatory High School, University of Portland, and Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. She'll graduate in June from her OB/GYN residency in Chicago, Ill.

Her fiancé, son of Timothy and Linda Persondek of Garden City, is a Garden City High School graduate and will graduate in May from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Ill. He works as the network administrator for Potbelly Sandwich Works at its national headquarters in Chicago, Ill.

An August 2015 wedding is planned. The couple will relocate to Yakima, Wash., after the wedding.

SUBMITTED

Alvin Persondek and Stephanie Morbeck

ANNIVERSARY

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Joe and Pamela Nimmo of Livonia

Pamela and Joe Nimmo on their wedding day in 1965.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Joe M. and Pamela K. (Barriuso) Nimmo of Livonia will mark their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 20. The couple married in 1965 at Fundamental Baptist Church of Detroit.

Joe retired from Real Estate One Livonia in 2012. Pamela retired from Dual Temp Mechanical in 2011.

Pamela works three days a week in the kitchen at Plymouth Christian Academy. Joe enjoys playing guitar and banjo. Both like to walk at the mall and are active at Bethel Baptist Temple of Livonia.

They have three children, Dawn (Dan) Hirsch, Jeff (Dawn) Nimmo, and Jenny (Matt) Middleton. Their nine grandchildren are Brian Nimmo, Caleb (Naomi) Middleton, Katlyn Nimmo, Josh Middleton, Garrett Nimmo, Kevin Nimmo, Isaac Middleton, Abby Nimmo, and Carly Nimmo.

They plan a cruise in Florida and a trip to the Dominican Republic this year. The travel is an anniversary gift from their children.

SUBMITTED

Handmade, decorated bowls await pickup at the annual Soup Swap in Plymouth last year. The art portion of the event begins Feb. 5 and the Swap will be held March 7 this year.

SOUP

Continued from Page B6

Art sessions include 4:30-6 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 5; 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 7; 4:30-6 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 12; 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 14; and Saturday, Feb. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 pm; and 3:30-5 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Feb. 16.

Cost is $15 per person, or $15 for the first two members of a family and $10 for each additional family member. Individuals may decorate more than one bowl, at the cost of $10 per additional bowl. The limit is four bowls per person.

The Salvation Army food pantry will benefit from the Swap with all proceeds going to the church. In addition to the money raised from the sale of soup bowls, participants are asked to bring a canned food item to help restock the shelves at the pantry when they come to pick up their bowl and dine on soup.

"I've gotten so many calls from past participants asking when the Soup Swap will be held again," said Leslie Greeneisen, a member of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and the Village Potters Guild. "This is wonderful project for the community, for the Salvation Army and for our local service clubs. We're excited to bring it back and see this much support."

To register for the Soup Swap Bowl Painting sessions at the Plymouth Salvation Army Church or for more information, call Sandy Kollinger at 734-453-5464. No reservations are required to attend the Soup Swap, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 7.

ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Gunnar and Betty (Dipaola) Bjarnesen of Livonia marked their 60th wedding anniversary Jan. 22. They married in 1955 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Detroit.

The couple lives in the house that Gunnar's father built in 1941. They have two sons and three daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Gunnar, an area resident for 80 years, was employed by Mercy Center in Farmington Hills. He retired 40 years ago. Today, he actively trades stocks, enjoys yard work, and loves tutoring his grandchildren who attend college.

Betty, an area resident for 60 years, formerly worked at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor and currently is employed by Keller Williams Realty. She also is a home health care worker and is involved in Goodfellows.

The Bjarnesens are active at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia, where Betty is a council member.

They celebrated their milestone anniversary Saturday, Jan. 31, with family and friends at a dinner at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

SUBMITTED

Gunnar and Betty Bjarnesen of Livonia

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

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

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

ALLEN, JOHN ARCHER

Born Apr 3, 1948 - Jan. 26, 2015, of cancer. Survived by daughters Helen and Claire. Beloved son of Helen and John. Brother to Michele, Celeste, Louis, Thomas, and Robert. John balanced his work as owner of the construction firm, Monal with his love for languages and devotion to family.

BUHL, CATHERINE MARGARET (NEE YOST)

Age 95 of Livonia. January 27, 2015. Loving wife of the late Albert. Dear mother of Joann Buhl, Marlene (Gerald) Serwatka and Albert (Kimberly) Buhl. Grandmother of Mark (Carrie) Serwatka, Michele (Joe) Beahon, Megan (Dan) Royal and Jessica and Lauren Buhl. Great grandmother of Dylan, Jamie, Emily and Joey. Sister of Edward Yost and the late Frances Hall. Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015, 10:30 AM with an instate of 10:00 AM at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 3:00 to 8:00 PM with a 7:00 PM Scripture Service and on Sunday from 1:00 to 6:00 PM at the Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile, Livonia. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements care of the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, Rochester (248) 651-8137. Online guestbook www.modetzfuneralhomes.com.

LOOSLE, MARY

Age 72 of Livonia. Cherished wife of David. Loving mother of Reed (Kerrie), Kimberly (David) Boehm, Anne (Brian) Kinross, Kristen (Darren) Shirley, Ryan (Doreen) and Nathan (Rebecca). Proud grandma of 25 and great-grandma of one. Dearest sister of six. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 Five Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan) Monday 3-9 p.m. Funeral Tuesday at The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 31450 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. Gathering 10 a.m. with service at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints Humanitarian Aid. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

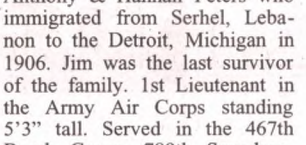
FRED WOOD Rice Chapel Funeral Home

McBRIDE, ETHEL PAMELA "PAM"

Age 93, passed away January 14, 2015. She was the most devoted and loving mother of six, and grandmother and great grandmother. She is survived by her daughter's Maureen Dishart, Beth McBride, Pat Gubacz, and Sue Moore. Predeceased by son Thomas. She lived in Port Richey, Florida but is now at peace back in Michigan with her family. Theres will be a Private family memorial service.

PETERS JAMES FRANCIS

Age 94. Born November 13, 1920 in Detroit, MI. Passed away naturally and peacefully on January 16, 2015. Loving husband of Eleanor Peters who predeceased him in August. They were married for 66 years and lived in their Beverly Hills home for the last 48 years. Father of James F. Peters, Jr. (Judy), Carolyn A. Hemphill (Jerry), John M. Peters (Donna) and Lawrence A. Peters (Nancy); Grandfather of Erika F. Sheets (Matthew), Carey F. Peters, James F. Peters, III, Michael P. Peters, Nicole M. Hemphill-Cherix (Nicholas), Jaclyn S. Hasset (Michael), Daniel J. Hemphill, Julie A. Hemphill, Ellis A. Peters, Owen J. Peters, John M. Peters, Jr., Anthony J. Peters and Matthew J. Peters, Great Grandfather of Skylar Sheets, David Sheets, Anja Peters and Naia Peters. Tenth of twelve children born to Anthony & Hannah Peters who immigrated from Serhel, Lebanon to the Detroit, Michigan in 1906. Jim was the last survivor of the family. 1st Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps standing 5'3" tall. Served in the 467th Bomb Group, 789th Squadron. Survived 30 missions as a navigator of a B-24 bomber over Germany in World War II the last 19 of which as either Squadron or Group Leader. Recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Navigator's Air Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, 4 battle stars and the American and European Theatre ribbon. Practicing Michigan Certified Public Accountant for 35 years. Member of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) from 1950-2015. Recipient of the MACPA Distinguished Service Award in 1987. President of the Michigan Accountancy Foundation from 1980 - 2003. Member of the Birmingham Senior Men's Club for 25 years and Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) for 15 years where he played bridge and provided free tax services to those in need. Rarely missed Sunday mass and never complained about a meal he was served. Avid golfer, ballroom dancer, weekly bridge player and daily cross word puzzler. A great Dad. A great Grandpa. Uncle Jim. Our patriarch. A sterling example of the maxim God, Family and Country. Memorial mass Saturday February 21, 2015 at 10:30 am at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, 32340 Pierce Street, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025 followed by a luncheon. In lieu of flowers please contribute to a charity of your choice in Jim's honor. Memories or notes of condolences may be sent to the family at www.pixleyfuneral.com



PREUSS, ALFRED

Age 83. January 26, 2015. Loving and devoted father of Susan Wendel, Richard (Colleen) Preuss, Kim Preuss and Steve Preuss. Cherished grandfather of Bridgett, Angela, Nicole, Corrin, Eric, Ashley and Erika. Great-grandfather of ten. Celebration of Life Service Saturday, February 7th 4 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. Family will receive friends Saturday, February 7th 1-4 p.m. Memorials suggested to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Interment with military honors is scheduled for the Spring, at Pinelawn Memorial Park Cemetery, 10700 West Capital Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53222. **www.thayer-rock.com**

RYAN, KATHRYN "KATHY" A.

Age 63 of Canton passed away on January 28, 2015, after a courageous battle with Brain Cancer. Beloved wife of 28 years to Dr. Jim Ryan. Proud mother of Michael (Irene) and Amy (Scott) Hughesdon. Caring grandmother of Paul, Rachel, Liam, Shannon, Nora, Abby, Olivia, Owen, Callum, Brogan, Eliza, and Mary. Sister of Debbie (Tom) Bancroft, Sharon (Dennis) McGuckin, Greg (Cindy) Eiden, and Paul Eiden. Daughter of both the late Paul and Ruby Eiden. Aunt of Ryan, Shanon, Patrick, Sarah, Logan, and Payton. Kathy was a graduate of EMU earning a Bachelor and two Master degrees in education. Her career spanned 30 years of teaching special education in the Taylor, Reed City, and Mason Public School Districts. She enjoyed her students and would do anything for them. She loved her Boston Terriers, and supported the Boston Terrier Rescue. Memorial gathering Thursday 3-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. The family will gather Friday 9:30 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. Memorial Service at Grace Canton Church, 46788 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice or Grace Canton Church. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

VERMEULEN-SAJEWSKI FUNERAL HOMES CREMATION SERVICES

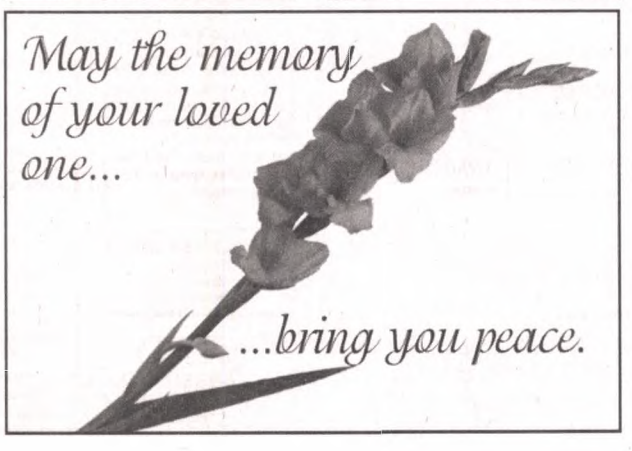
SMYKOWSKI, ELIZABETH E.

Age 91, January 24, 2015. Beloved mother of Janet (James) Janicki and James (Pat) Smykowski. Dear grandmother of Jason J. (Ann) Janicki. Elizabeth enjoyed dancing and playing Pinochle. A Memorial Mass will be held. Please share a memory at www.rggrharris.com.

UMPHREY, MARY EVELYN

A retired Farmington Public Schools teacher and former Farmington Hills resident, Mary Evelyn Umphrey, 96, died January 27 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, after a short illness. She taught classes to early elementary students from 1956 to 1979, the majority of that time at the old Ten Mile School.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, and is survived by her children, both graduates of Farmington High School, Dr. Don Umphrey of Dallas, Texas, and Jan Sutherland Weston of Colorado Springs.



HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR
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313-222-8833
FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Safety key: Beware the dangers of drowsy driving

Adequate sleep is essential for your mental health.

Typically, one spends one-third of one's life sleeping. It is very important to be aware of sleep hygiene and sleep disorders due to their connection with "drowsy driving."

Len McCulloch

There are various forms of sleep problems that include insomnia, sleep apnea, narcolepsy, night terrors and others. Drowsy driving can be caused by any of these. Of course, medication effects or side effects, work shift changes, jet lag, and the like, also can contribute to the problem of hazardous driving while drowsy.

Recently, information from AAA Motor Club of Michigan referred to its study of highway safety with emphasis on asking motorists to "wake up."

The AAA report told how a lot of research reveals an alarming number of snoozy drivers. For example, it said that 28 percent of drivers reported being so tired that they had difficulty keeping their eyes opened while driving in a given 30-day period.

The survey reported that one out of three motorists ages 19-24 reported driving dangerously drowsy the prior 30 days. Drowsy driving is dangerous because it slows reaction time, impairs vision, and causes lapses in judgment. This is similar to driving drunk. Furthermore, many drivers underestimate the problem of driving while extremely tired and they overestimate their ability to deal with it, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. It added that we know that people can't reliably predict when they are going to fall asleep, and a very fatigued driver may fall asleep for several seconds without even realizing it.

Quick fix

Interestingly, in China there is a practice along the highways at pull-off convenience stores, rest areas, and truck stop diners in which hot peppers are routinely given out free of charge to drivers. Hot peppers seem to temporarily stimulate focusing and increase attention. But, a bigger problem is that many drivers become chronic drowsy drivers and believe that this is an acceptable state of affairs because they have been experiencing it for a long time. It's as if they believe they are good at driving drowsy.

The first line of approach to most problems is awareness. Be aware that drowsy driving is extremely prevalent, obviously dangerous, and often mistakenly perceived as just the way one has come to experience driving. As awareness of the problem increases, the chances for intervention become possible.

Diagnosing the cause

For starters, a clinical assessment by a primary care physician can easily be done to try to determine if your drowsy driving is due to medication effect, a work routine, changes in work shifts or characteristics of one of the several sleep disorders. These can be diagnosed and treated.

The warning signs of drowsy driving can include yawning repeatedly, feeling as though your head is heavy, wandering thoughts, inability to recall the last few minutes traveled, and hearing the rumble strips when your car has veered off lane and is headed for the cement highway barrier. I could add that another big warning sign is hearing yourself shriek "wake up" when you reach that point just after wakefulness ends and just before sleep begins.

Len McCulloch *is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. . His 200 Our Mental Health columns, written over 15 years, are archived at www.farmlib.org. McCulloch can be reached for consultation at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.*

Go Red for Women events raise awareness of heart disease, good health

Show your support for women's heart health by wearing red on Feb. 6.

On National Wear Red Day, the first Friday in February, small businesses, national corporations, news broadcasters, schools, community organizations, and individuals unite to raise awareness of heart disease.

Ali

In addition to wearing red, this year metro Detroit women can hear Laila Ali, world-class athlete, wellness expert and television host, speak at the annual Go Red luncheon. It will run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, and will feature educational workshops and a heart-healthy lunch at noon.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women and one in three women die of heart disease and stroke.

"You don't need to have heart disease to support Go Red," said Janice Cosby Bridges, chief marketing officer for Ascension Health Michigan and co-chair of the Go Red for Women campaign in Detroit. "This is a women-focused initiative where we support each other of all ages and backgrounds for a common cause. I want to see more women engaged in this movement by way of health screenings, regular checkups, eating healthy and exercising."

According to the American Heart Association, women are more powerful than they think because they have the power to stop the killing disease. As luncheon keynote speaker, Ali will help empower attendees to discover their inner strength and take charge of their health.

"After years of training, I've realized healthy habits are formed when you fuel your body with the right ingredients," Ali said. "As a mother, wife and athlete, I've devoted my life to connecting individuals with resources to help them lead healthier lives. Women tend to be the nucleus in family circles, often ignoring their own heart health.

"Go Red For Women is important because it encourages women to make their health a priority."

In addition to Ali's presentation, attendees may attend sessions such as "If You Don't Have Your Health, What Good Is Your Wealth," and "Maintaining a Better U." The luncheon also will include a silent auction.

Tickets for the luncheon are $250 each and VIP Afterglow tickets can be purchased at the luncheon. For more information, visit www.DetroitGoRedForWomen.org or contact Amy Hobley at 248-936-5831 or amy.hobley@heart.org.

A sampling of other Go Red events:

» Feb. 13 Emagine Royal Oak will roll out the red carpet for a cocktail reception and prescreening event of *Fifty Shades of Grey* to benefit the American Heart Association. This exclusive event will start at 7:15 p.m. with a reception and Q&A with health experts.

» From 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 19, the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn will offer a free Go Red Zumba event featuring speakers, a heart-pounding workout and giveaways.

» A gala for the American Heart Association is set for 7 p.m., Feb. 21 at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. It features comedian Mark Armstrong. Tickets are $125 and can be purchased via eventbrite.com. Or call 313-701-5634 for more details.

Visit GoRedForWomen.org.

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