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New businesses, upgrade plans OK'd

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Special land uses for three business were approved by the Westland City Council recently, along with a site plan for upgrades to an existing business.

» A special land use approval was granted for a proposed pharmacy at 2325 S. Venoy, on the east side of Venoy, south of Dorsey.

The site is zoned low-intensity commercial business and developed with a five-tenant commercial building. The proposal is to operate a pharmacy in a 2,400-square-foot unit within the 13,342-square-foot Norwayne Plaza strip center building.

The special land use approval request is required because pharmacies are a special use in the zoning classification.

Planning/Building Director Bruce Thompson noted the development would have minimal impact on traffic with driveways at Venoy and a driveway at Dorsey with shared access with the Norwayne Shopping Center building and access to Grand Traverse through a driveway along the north side of the building.

A special land use for another pharmacy, 30785 Ann Arbor Trail, on the south side of Ann Arbor Trail, east of Merriman. The property is developed with a 6,200-square foot multi-tenant

commercial building.

Like the other request, a special land use is required under the CB-2 shopping center zoning.

The proposal calls for an independent pharmacy to be operated in this location.

» A special land use for also approved for a service station convenience store, 110 S. Newburgh, at the southwest corner of Newburgh and Cherry Hill Road.

Zoned CB-4, vehicle service, the business has a service station with two service bays. The plan calls for elimination of the bays and a construction of a convenience that would occupy the entire space.

» A revised site plan was approved for the exterior renovation of the service station building located at 37410 Joy. The business is located at the southwest corner of Joy and Newburgh.

The revised site plan is to reface the building with a brick exterior, squaring off the front of the building and adding EIFS trim and decorative lighting to the exterior.

The parking lot will also be re-striped and landscaping added to enhance the street sides of the site.

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The new butterfly garden is blooming in the courtyard at the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grass: Cut it or city will at premium cost

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

April showers bring May flowers. They also bring grass and weeds.

That means Westland and Wayne residents who aren't keeping up with the grass might find a warning note from the ordinance enforcement department on their door.

Under ordinance, Westland residents can be ticketed when uncut grass and weeds get to 8 inches — it's 6 inches for Wayne residents.

"We will post a notice that gives the homeowner 72 hours to cut the grass. If it's done, it will be done by the city at their expense," Wayne-Westland Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers

See GRASS, Page A2

Earth Day: Ball fields, butterflies

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland's annual Earth Day observance included groundbreaking for new sports fields and a new butterfly habitat.

During the program held outside Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland Mayor William Wild recognized State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, for his efforts in getting \$175,000 in state funding for an athletic complex.

"I always said, 'Let's give kids something to do,'" Kosowski said. "We have the Norwayne Boxing gym and now have ball fields."

A \$175,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will fund two new baseball fields, a basketball court and a pavilion that will be constructed at Jefferson Barns.

Located in Norwayne, the former Jefferson Barns elementary school was renovated as a community center to replace the Dorsey Center.

"This is the oldest neighborhood in the city, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. This neighborhood is over 70 years old," Wild said. "We are 100 percent dedicated to the removal of blight in the Norwayne community. There are a lot of things going into



Community leaders and neighbors gather for the groundbreaking of the new baseball fields at the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

revitalization. We're happy to celebrate that and Earth Day."

After a groundbreaking for the new athletic facilities, the Monarch Butterfly habitat/fairy garden was also unveiled within the courtyard of Jefferson Barns just off the library.

"Imagine living in a world without

butterflies. They are just as much a part of America as the bald eagle. They play an important part in our ecosystem," said Wild after noting the severe decline in North American Monarchs due to loss of winter habitats in Mexico

See EARTH, Page A2

Members reappointed to local boards

Two mayoral appointments to Westland boards have been confirmed by the city council.

Antoinette Martin was reappointed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Economic Development Corporation/Tax Increment Finance Authority. James Allen was reappointed to the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

A Westland resident for 27 years, Martin is a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services in Dearborn. She has served on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for five years. She also sits on the board of the Westland Rotary Club and is a Chamber of Commerce member.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is an 11-member board that meets following the submission of a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan. The authority facilitates business and property owners in redeveloping brownfield sites throughout Westland.



Martin



Allen

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GRASS

Continued from Page A1

said. The cost for the cities to cut high grass on a typical residential lot is about \$250, an amount that is meant to be punitive, he said, because the cities don't want to be in the lawn maintenance business. "There is one warning per year in each city. If we cut the grass once, we put you on a rotating cut list," Eggers said. "Each 21 days we will cut the grass automatically. Some people learn after the first cut." Over the growing season in 2015, Eggers said a city contractor regularly cut grass and weeds at about 700

homes and business in Westland, 137 in Wayne. "We prefer not to cut any lots. Neither city is in the property maintenance business," Eggers said. "The majority of enforcement comes from neighbor complaints. We aren't out looking for high grass. Just about 100 percent of the complaints come from the neighborhood." Compost collection resumed last month. Eggers noted grass clippings and other yard waste must be put in separate trash cans or paper bags, not commingled with household trash.

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EARTH

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and summer habitats in this country. Westland has joined the national Mayors Monarch Challenge to facilitate habitats for the butterflies. Part of the challenge includes educating residents on how and where to plant nectar plants like swamp milkweed. The butterfly/fairy gardens are a project of the Norwayne Community Citizens Council, the city and Wayne Metro Community Services. Spearheading the gardens are Annette Kutnick and Dianne Richards, who both serve on the Wayne Metro advisory board.

"We are honored to be able to contribute. The garden will be filled with winged creatures," Kutnick said. "We invite you to come back and visit. We're sure you'll enjoy it." Kutnick and Richards were both presented with Mission: Green awards recognizing their efforts to make Westland a greener place.

Also honored were Scott Brady of Simple Recycling and Westland Community Development Deputy Director Rick Gowan. Wild recalled the city's first Earth Day program which kicked off the community's recycling efforts with a trash for cash program at West-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Annette Kutnick and Dianne Richards in the butterfly garden. Kutnick holds swamp milkweed, a favorite plant of the Monarch butterfly.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Westland Community Development Deputy Rick Gowan (left) was honored by Mayor William Wild for his work at Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, which included re-use and recycling of building materials and fixtures.

land Shopping Center. "There were all these people with bags of trash," Wild said. "It's hard to believe in 2009 we kicked off residential curbside recycling and never looked back."

Westland has maintained an 80-percent participation rate for recycling, Wild said having recycled 76 million pounds of material that otherwise would have gone into landfills.

In 2015, Brady's firm entered an agreement with the city to provide free curbside recycling of clothing and small electronics that can fit into bags left at the curb for collection. The city receives \$20 per ton for recycled materials. Originally hired as building inspector, Gowan oversaw the renovations to Jefferson Barns, saving the cost of a project manager. He also utilized and recycled a variety of materials for the building, taking items and fixtures from buildings like the old city hall and fire station 1 before they were demolished.

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BOARDS

Continued from Page A1

"Antoinette's reappointment comes at a time where the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority will be particularly busy with the development of the available 20 acres of Ford Road property, which was the site of the former Westland City Hall, Fire Station 1 and Bailey

Recreation Center" Mayor William Wild said.

Allen has been a financial literacy facilitator and relationship manager at Fifth Third bank in Westland for eight years. He has been a member of the TIFA board for four years. Allen also partners with the city on the Wild About Youth Works! Summer Employment Program by teaching Westland young adults the importance of bud-

geting and saving as they enter the workforce.

The Tax Increment Finance Authority is a nine-member board that is under the supervision and control of the Economic Development Corporation.

This authority implements an infrastructure improvement plan within a specified district. TIFA improvements to date include construction of the William P. Faust Public Library and the ad-

acent performance pavilion, numerous road widening and utility projects, pedestrian and landscaping improvements and perhaps, most notably the new Westland City Hall.

"James has been an integral member of the EDC and TIFA Board during the new Fire Station and new City Hall project, which has won numerous awards and received many accolades," Wild said.



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LIVONIA COP CALLS

Wheels taken

Livonia police were called Wednesday morning to a home in the 19800 block of Pollyanna after a resident discovered the wheels missing from her vehicle.

She said she parked the car in her driveway the night before and came out that morning to find the wheels missing. The car was left resting on landscaping blocks.

Man flees store

Police were dispatched Thursday afternoon to Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect who had fled the

store.

The suspect was last seen driving a vehicle heading toward east-bound Schoolcraft. A store employee said the suspect was seen selecting several items, including a generator, power drill and tools from the shelf. Items were placed on a cart and he tried to leave the store without paying. He was approached by a store loss prevention employee and confronted. The man fled and left the items behind at the store.

— Compiled by David Veselenak from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

Wayne man charged in shooting case

A Wayne man has been charged with multiple felonies, including assault with intent to do great bodily harm, in the shooting of a Detroit man.

Phillip Marmett Price, 50, was charged in the April 25 incident in which a 44-year-old Detroit man was shot in the foot.

Wayne Police were called to a home in the 32000 block of Annapolis at approximately 12:50 a.m. on the report of a shooting. When they arrived, officers found the man with a gunshot wound to the his foot.

Along assault with intent, Price is also charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, assault with a dangerous weapon, delivery/manufacture of marijuana, felony firearm and fourth-degree habitual



Price

offender.

Price was arraigned before Wayne 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack. A not-guilty plea was entered. Price is jailed in lieu of \$500,000/10 percent bond. A probable cause conference for Price has been set for May 10 with a preliminary examination May 17.



The car pictured on security cameras has been identified as carrying suspects in a string of BB gun shootings of car windows in Westland and neighboring communities. WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Suspects sought in vehicle vandalism incidents

Photos of suspects who are wanted for breaking vehicle windows in Westland and multiple cities have been released by the Westland Department.

Home surveillance video shows what appears to be a gray Chevrolet Impala driving through areas where car windows were shot with a BB gun. One photo

shows what appears to be a subject in the backseat aiming a BB gun as another subject drives the vehicle. Anyone with information regarding the owner

of the vehicle or any of the suspects involved, should contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Nathan MacRae at 734-713-3706.

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Special Observer & Eccentric Reader Offer
Breakthrough relief for back pain and sciatica



By: Sam Potter
Health Correspondent

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the USA with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

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In Livonia, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Kramer Chiropractic – the office low back pain and sciatica relief expert Dr. Gregory Kramer.

Gregory and his team of fully trained spinal care specialists have helped over 3,000 patients find relief from their agonising spine based problems.

According to Gregory, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in Livonia, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique programme for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Sister Marie from Dearborn says,

"I could not walk, stand, sit, work, sleep for 7 or 8 months!

I was given various drugs but many I was allergic to and the others only lasted a hour and then pain returns again.

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Thank god I called your number It's like a miracle to me.

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The Observer&Eccentric has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at Kramer Chiropractic, to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call 248-615-1533.

Mention this article (CODE: BOS37SCID5) and Greg will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$195 to just \$37. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

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They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

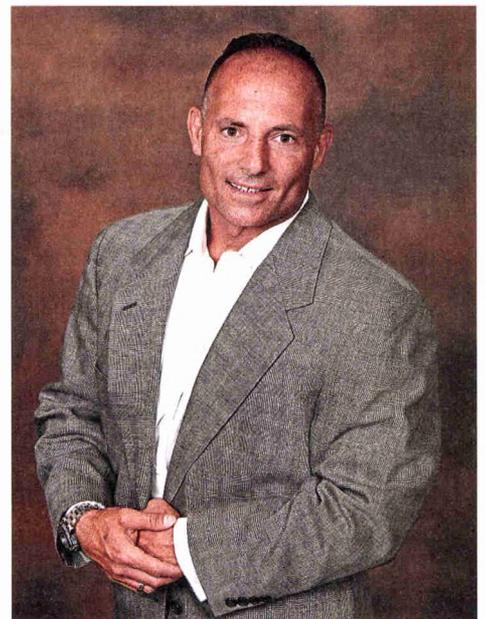
Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$37, the normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$158!

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Call them now on 248-615-1533 and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don't delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message.

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Sciatica Relief Expert Greg Kramer, says: In 20 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain.

Lions Club's KidSight helps kids see better

Virginia Stone hadn't been able to get new glasses for two years. LaShundia Sylvester started wearing glasses last year, but kept breaking them. Now, thanks to Lions Clubs, the two students are seeing things much better.

Stone and Sylvester were among students at Cambridge High School in Garden City who participated in the Lions Club KidSight. They had their vision checked by the Plymouth Lions Club Kidsight Team and then received assistance through local Lions Clubs in obtaining an eye exam and new glasses.

"I've been wearing glasses since kindergarten, but I wasn't able to get glasses for two years," Stone said. "I got these in March. They're great."

The Plymouth Lions Club began doing vision screenings in 2008 after hearing a presentation by the manager of the Project KidSight program for the Michigan Lions. According to Charles Cone, the club decided to purchase the specialized vision-screening device as part of its commitment to community service.



Cambridge ninth-grader Victoria Stone got the new eyeglasses she needed thanks to the Lions' Project KidSight.

"The club thought it would be a good way to serve our community, by screening children, free of charge, to detect potential vision problems at an early age," said Cone, chair of the club's KidSight. "Eight to 10 of our members received training on the Polaroid-type camera used and on the processing of the photos and paperwork."

When the club started the screening, it was limited by

the state Board of Education to do only preschool-aged children and was restricted from going into the public schools.

"We screened at preschools and open air venues, such as Art-In-The-Park and Plymouth Fall Festival," Cone said. "We were also bound to City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. We probably screened 300-350 kids."

Back then Project KidSight was affiliated with Children's

Hospital of Michigan. All of photos and paperwork were sent to Children's Hospital where the photos were screened to ensure they met quality guidelines and criteria. They were then examined by a pediatric eye surgeon for abnormalities.

Today, the team goes all over and screens children age 6 months and older. It's been to the Plymouth Library, Tutor Time, Cambridge High School in Garden City, a health fair in Highland Park, the Canton Corn Roast and Webster Elementary School in Livonia.

Jan Moy, a supervisor at Cambridge High School, helped coordinate the follow-up for the students. The local Lions Clubs provide vouchers to LensCrafters, where the students go to get an eye exam and new glasses.

"Each club provides a voucher," Moy said. "The Garden City, Westland and Dearborn Heights clubs provided the vouchers for students living in their communities, and Dearborn Heights also was willing to give vouchers for students who have no Lions Club in their area. Each

club buys vouchers and then delivers them to LensCrafter with the individual's name on it."

According to Cone, the club's trained technicians are available upon request and will travel to other Detroit metropolitan communities. Saving children's sight is too important to not answer the call, if it is within a reasonable distance, he said, adding that there is no charge for the community service.

About 5 percent of children between age 1-5 experience reduced vision resulting from a serious disorder like lazy eye. If treated while the visual system is still maturing, many disorders can be corrected without surgery and, usually, normal vision can be restored.

While the vision screenings have identified serious conditions that have been corrected by vision professionals, the screenings are not substitutes for eye examinations by professionals, Cone said.

Organizations that would like children screened can contact Charles Cone at 248-719-2567 or Lion Ted Robinson at 734-660-3566.

Tuition going up 6 percent at Schoolcraft College next school year

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Students at Schoolcraft College will see a larger-than-usual tuition increase for next school year when the bill comes.

The increase will total about 6.35 percent, taking tuition for in-district students from \$96 to \$102 a credit hour and for non-resident students from \$139 to \$148. Out-of-state and international students will see tuition increase from \$205 to \$218.

The college's Board of Trustees voted to approve the recommended tuition increase at its meeting Wednesday at the Jefferson Center at the Livonia campus.

Typically, tuition increases at the college in recent years haven't been more than 4 percent. Tuition for the current school year went up 3.23 percent from the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The larger percentage increase comes partially as a result of the failed millage increase request Schoolcraft College put in front of voters last fall, college President Conway Jeffress said.

"We had to raise more money. Normally, our tuition goes up usually 3 percent or less," he said. "To have one that's going up 6 percent is unusual for us. Even though the cash amount is not that (large), the percent amount is."

That request, which would have added an additional 0.6 mills to property taxes across the taxing district, failed by more than 1,000 votes in November. The taxing district for Schoolcraft College includes the following school districts: Clarenceville, Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth-Canton and Northville.

With the tuition increase, the college anticipates collecting an additional \$1 million or so. That figure doesn't completely make up for lost revenues over recent years, said Glenn Cerny, a Schoolcraft College vice president and its chief financial officer.

"The problem is the shortfall we're seeing is about \$8 mil-

lion," he said. "So this is a drop in the bucket. So that's the reason we continue to have deferred expenditures and maintenance and not hire people."

Even with all the major developments being constructed at the Livonia campus, such as the new Masco Corp. headquarters and the new soccer dome, funding from those projects isn't enough to make up other lost funding from declining property values over the years.

Jeffress said those projects will only bring in a few hundred thousand dollars apiece for the college.

Even with the increase, Jeffress said the college will remain a competitive place to

attract students over other two-year colleges in southeast Michigan. The college isn't expected to see a decrease in enrollment because of the increase.

"Even if (other schools) went up 2-3 percent, we'd be in good shape," Jeffress said. "We're still trying to make sure the cost to the students is as low as possible. You don't want to gouge anybody in the process. You don't want anybody to have an undue burden. But at the same time, our expenses rise like everybody else's. And you try to accommodate that."

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Wayne Memorial teens, teachers team to boost reading

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Wayne Memorial High School social studies teacher Shannon Pypa is a big proponent of the Reading Apprenticeship initiative.

"Oh, I love it," said Pypa, who teaches American history. "It's a work in progress. I think the teaching I'm doing now is some of the best teaching I've done."

She's been at Wayne Memorial, a teacher for 15 years and among those who trained in August 2014 under Reading Apprenticeship. "We're working on implementing it more," said Pypa, who teaches juniors.

About eight Wayne Memorial teachers went through training that first year, with a second wave of teachers coming through this year, said Kevin English, who's taught English for four years at Wayne Memorial. He heard about it from teachers in other districts and approached Principal Kevin Weber.

"We just have some really powerful conversations" on reading, said English, noting some 16-17 teachers now use it at the school. That includes English, social studies, science and even an elective teacher.

"We were just expected to read and we answered questions," English recalled of his own fairly recent high school days. He now asks, "How do we read that novel? Really getting kids to slow down, to think about moments they don't understand and trying to fix those."

Its focus is full-class instruction as well as small groups. "Reading is more than just eyes traveling across the page. Reading is individual, but it's also social," Pypa said.

"I think the beauty of RA is it's really for students across the board. There's really no limit for growth as a reader," she said.

'Up on a screen'

In Reading Apprenticeship, teens talk about and pay attention to text while they read. A document camera helps, "up on a screen so the whole class can see. We're training them in what it looks like to be a good reader. You're paying attention to your understanding of the text," Pypa said.

Students can go back and reread text for comprehension. If a student doesn't know a word's meaning, he or she can seek context clues, Pypa noted.

"You don't want to read a text in isolation," she said, noting it's fine



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teachers in the Reading Apprenticeship program include Kevin English, Martha Ware, Gwen Fretenborough, Liz Bocks, Lara Gusty, Stephanie Niedermeyer, Amanda Baker, Joni Van Campehouth, and Patti Ball.

to wonder, ask questions and challenge the author.

"There's a whole lot that goes on in a reader's head beyond 'I got it,'" she said.

In her coursework, Pypa's seen students speak up. "Kids are doing more of the talking. Kids are learning materials through reading. They feel smarter when they understand things on their own."

Noted English, "I think students are reading more than ever. They

are reading things they want to read on their own every day," he said of his freshmen.

He referenced the word "stamina," including a student getting through a complex book, and being vocal in expressing any confusion on meaning.

"Particularly in English we get in those gray areas," he said, noting that's different from math and science.

Reading Apprenticeship's more incorporated

in instruction throughout the day. For her American history classes, Pypa uses documents from the time period, a textbook as well as online articles.

"The thinking that goes into reading isn't just about text," she said, noting a film, advertisement, map or graph can also be read.

'Reading is a giant skill'

"We're using those kinds of skills for all

sorts of stuff," Pypa said. "Reading is a giant skill. It's made us (content teachers) think differently about the work we do."

Student response is positive.

"They said the activities we do have helped them think more deeply about their reading," Pypa said. "They are getting what they think is important. I think they like the social aspect, too," she added.

English said the non-profit WestEd, founded in 1966 and based in San Francisco, did research on secondary students and found patterns on reading across classrooms.

"Kids are still building those skills through high school and through college," he said. A RAISE (Reading Apprenticeship Improving Secondary Education) grant was provided for training, with science teachers also doing online training.

"It really allows us to have good conversations. That has helped us re-think our own approach," English said of the teachers.

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On or about Wednesday, April 27, 2016, Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at:

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Please contact LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemor.com if you have any questions regarding obtaining this information.

All interested firms are requested to attend a pre-proposal meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the LPS Administration Building located at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

All proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by Plante Moran Cresa and comply with the requirements of the RFP Bid Security in the amount of 5% of the bid is to be included either in the form of a bid bond or certified check, payable to "Livonia Public Schools."

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or District Administration. All bids must be accompanied by a signed and notarized statement to comply with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act of 2012. Proposals received without a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure will not be opened, considered or accepted. In addition, all bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.

Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals. LPS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools
Published: May 1, 2016

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Volunteer and Advisory Council member Hwa Stacy of Westland accepts good wishes from Salvation Army Envoy Jim Hulett, a Wayne resident, and she steps down from the council. "We really, really appreciate all you have done for the Salvation Army," Hulett said.

Stacy a stalwart among Wayne-Westland Salvation Army volunteers

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Hwa Stacy has been happy to be part of the Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army.

"I came here and started volunteering" after her 2009 retirement, the Westland resident recalled. She has served on the corps' Advisory Council since that time.

"We want to say thank you," said Envoy Jim Hulett of the corps. "She was a big volunteer when I first came."

Stacy worked with Salvation Army case-worker Gladys Beach, as well as coordinating the corps' 25th anniversary celebration. "We thank you for all of that, Hwa," Hulett said. "You were appreciated. We really, really appreciate

all you have done for the Salvation Army."

She was applauded by fellow Advisory Council members, and received a large plant from the staff. "Thank you very much. I appreciate it," Stacy said.

She was director of the Wayne-Westland Family YMCA in the 1980s, and later served at the Royal Oak YMCA and Livonia YMCA. Family considerations took Stacy to a vice president of operations post for the YMCA in Los Angeles, with a 2000 return to Michigan. She then held an interim CEO post for the Kalamazoo YMCA and was CEO for the Monroe YMCA.

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Growth Works chief decries marijuana legalization, shares agency tale

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Dale Yagiela recalls the early days of Growth Works, then Plymouth Youth Inc., as a drop-in youth activity center in downtown Plymouth. He had a leaky roof, no money and was the only staffer.

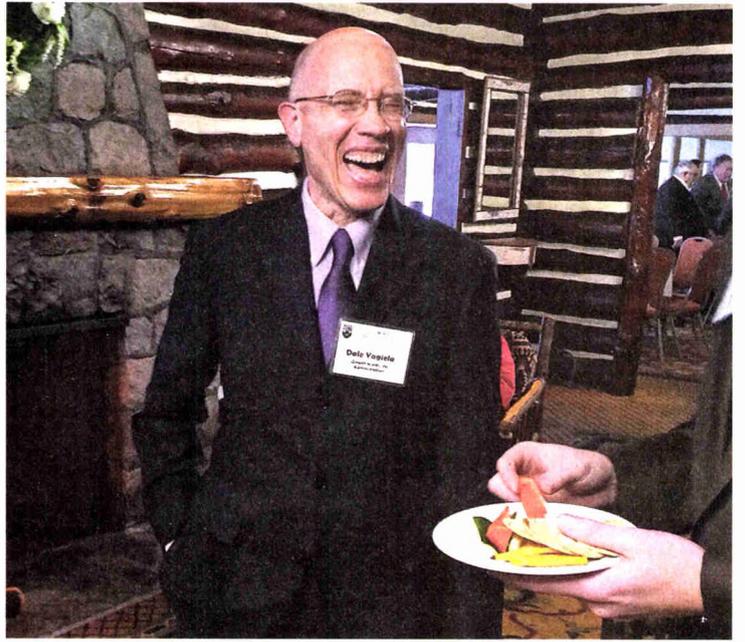
"Kids in the community were dying from things, but people weren't paying attention," said Yagiela, Growth Works executive director since its early 1970s inception. One youth was drunk and by a train viaduct where he had a leg severed by a passing train.

Yagiela told a Westland Rotary audience April 28 his agency later began to help kids who were failing in the Plymouth-Canton school district. Drug abuse treatment led to better academics, they found. "Their behavior improved, their ability to function in school improved," said Yagiela, who praised the late Ron Harrison as a mentor.

The link between drug use and crime became apparent with Yagiela noting a changing economic landscape: "As we got into the 1980s, those opportunities for kids began to disappear," factory jobs.

Growth Works now works with 17 communities in which delinquent youth go to court for alternative sentencing. The program has served up to 400 at a time, he said, now some 200-250, with about half in residential placement.

Yagiela decried legalization of marijuana. "It's just going to open a tidal wave of problems that nobody's prepared for," he said. "It's substantially more powerful and more impactful on



JULIE BROWN

Dale Yagiela has been executive director of Growth Works since its early 1970s inception.

brain development. It's going to put a lot of kids in jeopardy."

Yagiela said drug treatment is offered with Wolverine Human Services. He's proud of the roughly 91 percent crime-free result, reduced recidivism. "So the Wayne County model has been a very effective model," he told Rotarians. "I'm very proud of my staff because they're very effective," including some 12 case managers.

There's a Growth Works office in Canton as well as the original on Main Street in downtown Plymouth. A newer Garden City office on Warren Road assists with a parenting program through Wayne County Circuit Court. Adult outpatient drug treatment, mainly through

local district court referrals, is also available.

Yagiela noted a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in recent years on "juvenile lifers." Newer research shows young brains are driven by emotion and pleasure, he explained.

Yagiela also spoke on trauma in young people's lives. "We have addiction in parents. We have just the lack of recognition they have kids, and they need their nurturance and love," he said.

Yagiela shared a happy ending story of a young man accepted at Michigan State University. He'd earlier smoked hash oil, and resisted Growth Works treatment efforts.

The young man had relapsed when refusing AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) attendance, and came around and re-

turned to treatment when his mom said "You can't live here" without seeking treatment. He's doing well and keeps in touch with Yagiela.

Westland Rotary President Paul Motz, who is Westland Youth Assistance director, praised the Growth Works Care Management Organization model. "Kids were lost in the system," Motz said. "They were being locked away on minor offenses."

Motz noted local communities often know how to address issues, and urged parents to be "willing to take a look at their own behavior. A lot of these problems are generational."

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Check out 2016 Maxima at Nissan of Canton

The redesigned 2016 Nissan Maxima is a powerful, good-handling sedan that stays true to the nameplate's performance-oriented heritage and features an upscale interior that befits its price. You can view and test drive one at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave.

"Maxima" is Nissan's longest continually-in-use nameplate, and the eighth-generation car is a boldly styled sedan that draws heavily from the Nissan Sport Sedan Concept.

Ever since the Nissan Altima grew into a mid-size family sedan in the early 2000s, the Maxima hasn't fit neatly into a segment. Nissan says the 2016 Maxima is designed to compete with larger, traditional full-size sedans like the Chevrolet Impala and Toyota Avalon, as well as appeal to buyers looking to move up to a luxury car, like the Acura TLX.

The 2016 Maxima is offered in five trim levels — S, SV, SL, SR and Platinum — that determine the level of equipment; accessories are available, but there are no option packages. We drove an SL, which is priced at \$37,715, and the \$38,495 SR. That one is the most performance-focused model, with unique suspension bushings, springs, shocks, front stabilizer bar and chassis bracing, in addition to 19-inch alloy wheels with stickier Goodyear tires (prices include an \$825 destination charge).

Exterior and styling

The Maxima brings Nissan's Energetic Flow design language to its sedan lineup. Signature cues include a plunging grille bordered by LED daytime running lights and gloss-black pillar finishes that give the roof a floating appearance — something Nissan

says is inspired by a fighter jet's canopy. The front end is aggressive — the car looks menacing when you see it coming up on you in your rear-view mirror — and also memorable. It's a design that demands a reaction, good or bad.

How it drives

Large cars may be known for a forgiving, comfortable ride quality, but that's not the Maxima formula. Compared with a Chevrolet Impala or Chrysler 300, which both do a good job smoothing out bumps and cracks in the road, the Maxima is a much more connected, tighter-handling car. There's remarkably little body roll when driving quickly through a corner. You feel bumps, but they're dealt with in a refined way.

The SR trim level's unique suspension is considerably firmer and busier; you feel more road imperfections, even smaller ones, and the impact is harsher when you hit a big pavement crack. It's a little too rough-riding for me, especially considering the good ride-and-handling balance the regular suspension provides.

You'll want the SR trim if you really care about steering feel, as it offers the best of the bunch. Press the Sport button in an SR, however, and the steering wheel gains a nice, firm heft to it and some feedback through the wheel. It feels right in this performance-focused trim.

All trim levels benefit from the performance of the standard 3.5-liter V-6 engine, which provides smooth, effortless acceleration. Rated at 300 horsepower, the V-6 still has power to spare for a quick pass at highway speeds. It pairs with a continuously variable automatic transmission that's programmed to act like a conventional auto-

matic at low speeds for a more traditional driving experience, according to Nissan.

The Maxima shows how far CVT technology has come recently, at least when paired with a powerful engine. It's mostly unobtrusive, with only a hint of the droning that's associated with this type of transmission when you accelerate hard. If you've been driving a car with a conventional automatic, this CVT won't seem strange or different.

One of the benefits of a CVT is that it's able to quickly increase engine speed when you want more power because it doesn't need to shift to a lower gear. The Maxima's CVT is very responsive; nudge the gas pedal and engine rpm immediately increases, providing more power.

CVTs usually enhance gas mileage, and the Maxima's EPA-estimated 25 mpg combined rating tops most V-6 competitors by a few mpg or so.

Interior

Overall quality and attention to detail is very good. The standard leather-wrapped steering wheel feels great; it's even better in the SR, which has Alcantara simulated-suede inserts. The upper sections of the doors are finished with soft-touch material that's a comfortable alternative

to the door armrests. The center console has a padded section to rest your knee against, and there's real stitching on the doors, console and dashboard. One element that doesn't look premium, however, is the simulated metal finish on the dashboard, doors and center console. It doesn't look real.

Fighter jets also informed the layout of the cabin controls, according to Nissan. The center dashboard control panel is angled 7 degrees toward the driver, and center console controls are close at hand.

The new Maxima's roofline is 1.3 inches lower, which contributes to the sedan's hunkered-down look.

The Maxima has the latest version of Nissan's NASA-inspired Zero Gravity front seats. They're finished in cloth (S), leather (SV and SL), premium leather with quilted Alcantara inserts (SR) or premium leather with quilted leather inserts (Platinum).

Ergonomics and electronics

Digital screens are rapidly taking over the dashboards of modern cars, and there are two in the Maxima: a 7-inch screen between the gauges and an 8-inch touch-screen in the center of the dashboard. The gauge cluster screen lets

you cycle through different modes to see information like speed and heading, trip data, tire pressure and active safety features. The dashboard screen is the primary display for the standard navigation system and multimedia functions. The Display Commander control knob on the center console can also operate the dashboard touch-screen.

Cargo and storage

The Maxima's 14.3-cubic-foot trunk is nicely shaped, and the trunk lid's support arms move within an enclosed area, so there's no risk of them crushing your cargo. The release straps for the 60/40-split folding backseat are in the trunk. The rear seatbacks fold flat with the trunk floor.

The Maxima has a media bin just ahead of the center console cupholders. The bin is large enough for an iPhone 6 Plus, according to Nissan, and it's also where the car's two standard USB ports are located.

Safety

Most of the Maxima's active safety features come on SL and higher trims. These models have standard blind spot warning, rear cross-traffic alert, adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning with autonomous braking and predictive forward collision

warning. Predictive forward collision warning uses low-mounted radar to "see" under the car directly ahead of you to the next one in line. The system can issue a warning if it senses that car slowing suddenly — even if you can't see it yourself.

The top-of-the-line Platinum trim adds a surround camera system with moving-object detection and a drowsy-driver warning system. Drowsy-driver warning compares steering inputs at the beginning of a drive with ones later in the trip to determine if the driver is getting tired and needs to take a break.

Value in its class

Years ago, Nissan dubbed the Maxima the 4-Door Sports Car. It's an ambitious tagline, but it reflects the fact that the car caters to a specific type of buyer: the driving enthusiast who still needs sedan practicality. The 2016 Maxima is no different from its predecessors in this regard, but its new level of luxury — both in terms of cabin materials and features — now makes it a credible alternative to entry-luxury sedans. If you're shopping sport sedans, it's worth a test drive.

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Human trafficking forum held at Madonna

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Carrie Wood is pastor of visitation at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. A few years back ago, she involved in the fight against human trafficking.

"There's no nice way to say it," Wood, a Livonia resident, told attendees at an April 28 forum at Madonna University. "It's a horrible crime against God's children. People are treated as chattel. It's about greed, it's about power."

Wood founded Pearls of Great Price Coalition, based at her church, in 2014 to combat human trafficking. "Awareness, awareness, awareness," she said at the Madonna forum, put on with Madonna's help as well as the Michigan Intergenerational Network. "We find that people really don't know about this. If they don't know, they can't fight it."

Her co-chair is Kelley Wardzala, a Canton resident and Friendship Church of Canton worshiper. They've done two large workshops at FUMC, talk to many groups and recently spoke at Plymouth Christian Academy.

"In the back yard," Wardzala said, noting that sexual trafficking happens here and isn't confined to the Third World or poor neighborhoods. Wood noted the

recent raid and shutdown of a Livonia massage parlor.

Wood said some 85 percent of Americans know nothing about human trafficking. Wardzala said, "In the law enforcement, how they treat the victims," there's a need to improve.

She also favors better training in the medical area, so emergency room and clinic staffers can ask the right questions. Wardzala noted trafficking involves force, fraud or coercion, as well as abuse of anyone under age 18.

Maj. Mary Ann Wood of the Salvation Army, based in Ann Arbor, said, "We are committed to meeting human need without discrimination." The Salvation Army's early start in London, England, in the 1800s focused on protection of women and children from labor and sexual exploitation, she said.

The Salvation Army's undercover work led to awareness and support to in 1885 raise the age of consent in England from 13 to 16, the major noted. "The Salvation Army's been an advocate for those trapped in human trafficking for a very long time," she said, urging those present "to end this horrific act against humanity."

'Modern-day abolitionists'



Carrie Wood (left) of Livonia is founder of Pearls of Great Price Coalition, based at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. She's with co-chair Kelley Wardzala of Canton, a worshiper at Friendship Church of Canton.

Carrie Wood said, "We are modern-day abolitionists because this is a problem of slavery." The undercover nature of the crime makes statistics difficult to find, but an estimated 100,000 children in the U.S. are sexually trafficked each year, she said.

Wood briefly cited labor trafficking, which can range from nanny work to farm work to day laboring. "It's a huge problem," she said, noting those workers are given little rest or food and receive little to no pay.

She told of sexual trafficking in which girls are "sold" repeatedly as virgins with their genitals sewn up and raped

by up to 20 men a night. "They keep them drugged and beaten and threatened," Wood said, including threats to kill family members or post photos on social media.

"Their sense of self-worth is beaten out of them" and they lose their childhood, she said.

Some 20-40 percent of victims are boys. "The boys really don't tell, they are so shamed by this," Wood said, noting only one North Carolina facility exists to help boys in the U.S. and can accommodate four.

Rhonda Hines of Romulus spoke on Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution, founded in 2009 by a woman who was trafficked repeatedly as

a teen out of Birmingham Groves High School. S.O.A.P. is a national organization.

"She was sold to men over and over again" for about two years, Hines said. "They made her feel as though her family would get killed." Now 50, the woman has spoken out with a book. "She started realizing she wasn't alone and it was an epidemic," Hines said.

S.O.A.P. gives labeled bars of soap at high-volume events like the auto show and educates hotel staff, working with them to identify victims. Hines noted many victims were sexually abused as young children.

"What do they feel they're good for as they get older?" she asked. "That's all they know." Hines also noted sexualized media images, as well as violence.

Some victims are drug abusers, she added, or simply have no place to stay. "If sex did not sell, this would not be happening," Hines said. "Shine a light on this, speak for those who can't."

'Bigger support system' needed

The attendees brought items for Clair's House, a 27-bed shelter on the east side of Detroit slated to open in the fall. Tanya Ruitter of Superior Township mentors young victims through Vista Maria, including runaways,

and also works with the Pearls coalition.

"There needs to be a bigger support system from the community," Ruitter said before the workshop. Victims need life skills like balancing a checkbook; some relocate to an unfamiliar area and have trouble reading a bus schedule.

"They need a lot of support outside," Ruitter said. "Even just going to a high school could be difficult for some."

She's volunteered since 2013 with all kinds of at risk youth. "God put it on my heart," said Ruitter, who later in life realized a friend was being trafficked at age 13.

"I was able to see all the markers she had," Ruitter said of the woman, who worked as an escort in her 20s. Ruitter favors educational programs like the one at Madonna.

"That's going into the schools and telling kids about it," as well as their parents, she said.

FUMC's associate pastor Nick Berlanga noted pornography is the "advertising arm of sex slavery" and that younger women now view pornography more than was true in the past. A survivor of sexual trafficking also spoke to the Madonna audience.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie

Busch's food drive 'All About Children'

Because hunger never takes a summer vacation, Busch's Fresh Food Market has decided to make sure all children in the region have enough to eat once school lets out.

Store officials know many families cannot afford to feed their children, so Busch's Fresh

Food Market is stepping up to the plate to help. The "All About Children" food drive is a community-based effort where food and dollars raised in specific cities stays in those cities.

All Busch's Fresh Food Market guests will have the opportunity to purchase "ready-to-go bags" with 11 lunch items for only \$10, make a \$5 produce donation or a \$10 bakery contribution.

Customers can even donate bottle and can return receipts and cash donations will be accepted. The drive runs May 2-11. United Dairy Industry

of Michigan is lending their support, as well, and will donate one gallon of milk for every gallon of Prairie Farms 1% Milk purchased, up to 10,000 gallons.

"Last year Busch's Fresh Food Market raised more than \$116,000 in food donations and cash

and this year we are determined to grow that number," Busch's Fresh Food Market marketing director John Hunter said. "We are and have always been committed to serve our communities and this is just one more way for us to demonstrate our appreciation to our loyal customers and their families."

Specifically benefiting from this program are

Forgotten Harvest, Food Gatherers of Washtenaw County, Airport Community Schools & Ash-Carleton Goodfellows, Tecumseh Community Schools and Service Clubs, Pinckney Community Schools, Saline Social Services and Clinton Community Schools.

Busch's Fresh Food Market, which opened its doors in 1975, has grown to 15 area stores.

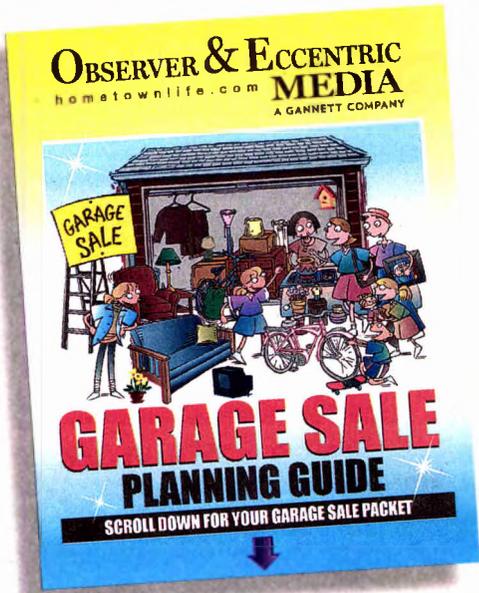
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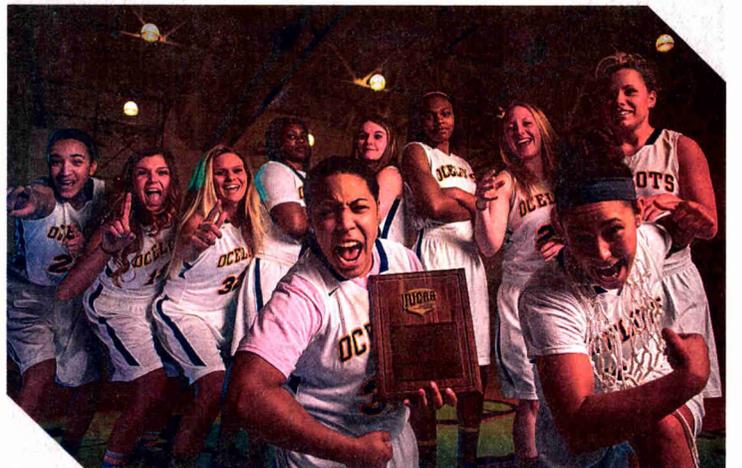
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Tinkham Alternative High School students show creativity for Empty Bowls benefit

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Tinkham Alternative High School ceramics program plans its third annual Empty Bowls Luncheon, in conjunction with the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center Culinary Arts program.

Lunch will be served 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 13, in the lobby of the Career-Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, between Newburgh and Wayne roads in Westland. Suggested donation is \$10 for lunch and a ceramic bowl to take home.

"It started as a service learning project" with a social studies teacher at Tinkham, said Anne Chambers, Tinkham art teacher. It now incorporates Chef Tony Paquette's Culinary Arts students as well as Tinkham visual arts students.

"We've been actually working on it since about September," Chambers said. UAW Local 900 provided a kiln and supplies to Tinkham.

"That got the program up and running so we were able to do it here," she said from her classroom. "And we were able to start a ceramics program here. They've been glazing, glazing, glazing," she said of Tinkham students.



"The bowls go fast. And we have a lot of new glazes this year. It's fun every year to see the changes and the creative nature," said Anne Chambers, art teacher at Tinkham Alternative High School.

Chambers took out a box full of colorful Tinkham creations. "It's usually first-come, first-serve," she said of taking the bowls home. "The bowls go fast. And we have a lot of new glazes

this year. It's fun every year to see the changes and the creative nature."

She's been a teacher 14 years, seven with Wayne-Westland and is in her third year at Tinkham, on Venoy.

"They're doing a great job, all of them," a proud Chambers said of her students. Organizers will make a donation to the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center from the Empty Bowls Lun-

cheon to eliminate hunger, as well as supporting the culinary and visual arts program.

"It's a fun afternoon," agreed Chambers. "It's a lot of work." Ceramics I students show their creativity.

"Once they go, they get really excited about it," she said of Tinkham students.

Chambers noted the word of mouth which boosts donations, and appreciation for the kiln and supplies, helped by Bill Johnson Jr. of UAW Local 900.

Lisa Washick and Doc Stevens also provided supplies. "I had a bunch of stuff from my mom's ceramics store," said Stevens, a Westland resident and Local 900 retiree. "That's what I gave them. I gave them a bunch of molds."

He saw a related newspaper item, and felt, "I wanted to be able to make a difference. When I was a kid I liked to do things in school," said Stevens, in the last graduating class, 1970, of the

old Plymouth High School in downtown Plymouth.

"I thought, that's a great idea to give them to the kids," added Stevens, who taught ceramics in his mom's shop.

Anne Chambers has additional information, and can be contacted by those wishing to donate, at chamber-sa@wwcsd.net or 734-419-2425. There will be a raffle table highlighting local businesses.

Raffle items to date are from: Sports Venue, Ralph's, Westland City Councilwoman Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Kroger, Mongolian BBQ, Wen Hair Products, Vizzy's Pizza, Designs by Betty, Dog Basket, Dairy Queen, Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc, County Commissioner Glenn Anderson, state Rep. Robert Kosowski, Hype Rec Center, Airtime, Helium Studio, Designer Warehouse, and The Avenue.

jbrown@hometownlife.com
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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18, 2016

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for May 18, 2016 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on June 15, 2016 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Published: May 1, 2016

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Three Scouts honored at Eagle ceremony

Three scouts from Boy Scout Troop 782 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia were recognized at an Eagle Scout Investiture Ceremony earlier this year.

Scouts reaching Eagle Scout were Nathaniel Jenks, Jack Jones and Brendan VandeKieft.

» Nathaniel Jenks is a graduating senior at Stevenson High School in Livonia. He's planning a career in firefighting and Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Jenks intends to go to Schoolcraft College and enroll in the Schoolcraft Fire Academy, Firefighter and Paramedic program.

As a very active member of his troop, Jenks has provided leadership in High Adventure trips to Northern Tier in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area of northern Minnesota, to the Philmont Scout Ranch of northern New Mexico and to the Florida Sea Base in the Florida Keys. He is also an active member of the Northville Firefighter Explorer Post at the same time.

Nate was actively involved at St. Michael's and an altar server for five years, and he earned the Cub Scout Religious Medal during that time. His service projects included the delivery of clothes to the homeless in Detroit, and serving as a Salvation Army Bell ringer. Jenks also took advantage of the Livonia Career Center, taking specialized courses in Criminal Justice, Pre-Nursing and Engineering.

» Jack Jones is a graduating senior at Livonia's Stevenson High School, who plans to attend Spring Arbor University on an academic scholarship in Pre-Engineering. He wants to become a petroleum engineer. Jones played JV soccer at SHS his freshman year, earned an academic varsity letter and was an Honor Roll student for two years.



Nathaniel Jenks (from left), Jack Jones and Brendan VandeKieft at the Eagle Investiture Ceremony.

Jack has earned his God and Country Religious Award, and was elected to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Camper organization. Jack has attended Mid-Winter High Adventures to New York City, Chicago, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Huntsville, AL/ Nashville/TN. He has served

in leadership roles in his troop as Quarter Master, Troop Guide, and Senior Patrol Leader, and currently as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

» Brendan VandeKieft will graduate in June from Churchill High School. After progressing through the accelerated, highly competitive, academic pro-

grams ACAT, MACAT, and MSC in the Livonia Public Schools where he's held a 4.0 GPA throughout high school, Brendan has been accepted into Michigan State's Honor's College to major in computer science.

During his years at Churchill he has been active in Livonia Robotics, band, and the CHS Marching Band. Brendan's been a force in his scout troop as well. He has earned three religious awards and has served as counselor-in-training at Pioneer Scout Reservation in Ohio. His leadership roles include Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and currently as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He was also elected to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Camper Society.

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Tax consequences from selling a second home

Dear Rick: We recently sold our second home, which we did not owe anything on, as we can no longer afford the taxes. Being both retired, is there anything to invest the money from the sale to avoid taxes on the income?

A: Unfortunately, I have bad news for you. There is nothing you can do to avoid paying taxes on the sale. Because this is a second home and it's not investment property, there is nothing that you can invest in or do which would allow you not to pay tax on the sale.

There are some things you may be able to do to reduce the impact of the taxes. The way to do this is look for ways to increase the basis in your property. The basis is what you paid for the home, plus any improve-



ments you may have made over the years. For example, if you remodeled a kitchen or bathroom or had an addition added to the home, that would increase your cost basis, which in effect would reduce the amount of gain. You should go back and look at all the improvements you may have put into the home, whether it is a new kitchen or new flooring or something of that nature and add that to the cost basis. Of course, one of the issues that may come up is do you have receipts and documentation.

If the IRS contacts

you regarding the sale of the second home, the main issue most likely will be your cost basis. If you have receipts and documentation, there's no problem. What do you do if you don't have the appropriate documentation? In that regard, there are two courses of action you can choose. The first is not to factor into the basis any improvement you don't have documentation for. This would be the very conservative route to take and it certainly would make dealing with the IRS easier if you're ever contacted. However, you will pay more in taxes. The other course of action is to factor into the equation the home improvements and deal with the IRS if it contacts you. The chance of being audited is slim, but you

do have to accept that you would have a risk.

Just because you don't have receipts doesn't mean you automatically lose if the IRS contacts you. In conducting audits, the IRS must be reasonable and there may be other ways to show you've done these home improvements without receipts. If you are reasonable when it comes to the amounts, you also would have a much better chance of prevailing than if your numbers made no sense whatsoever. All things being equal, if it was me and I did not have the receipts, I would probably factor the improvements into my cost basis and hope for the best. Recognize the risk that, if I was audited, you may have to pay tax and some penalties.

Many people that own second homes forget that the taxation of the sale of second homes is different than on our primary residence. That is why if you do any home improvements to a second home, make sure you retain that documentation. Even though you cannot deduct these items, they will increase your basis, which will eventually reduce the taxes on the sale.

I'm frequently asked if you own a second home and you sell it as a loss, can you deduct it? Unfortunately, you cannot do that. Yes, you have to pay taxes on the gain but, no, you cannot deduct losses.

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

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The panel will include two award winning journalists: Detroit Free Press' Nancy Kaffer and Detroit News' Columnist/Editor Nolan Finley.

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan Schoolcraft College

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Free admission to Expo Hall that features more than 75 exhibitors, new cars, and giveaways from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout Laurel Park Place Mall. The Expo Hall and participating businesses can be found on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce's website, www.Livonia.org

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Citizenship workshop

The Westland Library will host a Citizenship Workshop from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 15. Volunteer attorneys, accredited representatives and law students will answer questions, assist in applying, and provide study materials to become a U.S. citizen. This workshop is presented by the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center.

Registration is required for the workshop; call 734-239-6863 or go to <http://bit.ly/1lgFzNe>. In addition to the workshop, a Citizenship Information Session is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 3. At this session, teaches the benefits, requirements and process of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. Afterward, an immigration attorney will be available to answer U.S. citizenship questions for free.

Marecki hours

Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki, R-Livonia, will conduct office hours in Livonia from 10-11 a.m. Monday, May 2, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Constituents can meet with Marecki and discuss matters of concern. For more information, contact Marecki's office at 313-224-0946.

Spring card party

SS Simon and Jude Church hosts the spring card party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, May 6. Door, table prizes, 50-50 drawing. Light meal and snacks. Tickets \$8.00 available at the door.

SS Simon and Jude Church is located at 32500 Palmer in Westland. For more information, call 734-722-1343.

Historical society

At 6 p.m. Thursday, May 19, the Livonia Historical Society will have



Garden party

Livonia Symphony Orchestra Spring Garden Party will bring the scents of beautiful flowers and the sounds of great music performed by musicians from the Livonia Symphony Orchestra to Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center on Saturday, May 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch, musical interludes and a box and silent auction will be held with floral themed items and fresh planting flowers highlighting the event. Tickets are \$40 and can be obtained through the LSO website www.livoniasymphony.org or by calling 734-591-0266.

its annual banquet. A PowerPoint program on Willow Run and the Yankee Air Force Museum will follow, presented by Randy Horton.

Prepaid tickets are \$18. Make checks to the Livonia Historical Society and mail to B. Mansfield, 14342 Blue Skies St., Livonia, MI 48154. For more information, call 734-464-0450. Deadline is May 10.

Disney on ice

The Garden City Figure Skating Club Presents "Disney on Ice," with its skaters skating to Disney favorites.

Performances are 7 p.m. Friday, May 6, and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Garden City Ice Arena, 200 N Log Cabin Road in Garden City. Cost at the door is \$10, \$8 for seniors and 4 and under are free.

3D photography

The next 3D Photography Club meeting is 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center,

15218 Farmington Road in Livonia.

In celebration of Michigan Week, the meeting will feature a special presentation of our very own 3D program, "Michigan Magic." After a refreshment break, we'll have our final "Open" 3D image competition of the season.

The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies, and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Food distribution

On Tuesday, May 17, the City of Livonia will distribute, through the State of Michigan Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), salmon, bran flake cereal, UHT milk, apple sauce, green beans, rotini, cranberry juice concentrate and vegetable soup.

Other items will also be provided from Forgotten Harvest. The distribution is from noon to 2 p.m., at the vacant district court building, 15140 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road. This distribution is offered to Livonia residents who are currently enrolled in TEFAP with a TEFAP I.D. card. Distributions are scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Senior housing residents should check with their housing office for TEFAP information.

For more information, contact the Community Resource Department, Commodity Food line at 734-466-2673. This institution is an equal-opportunity provider.

Nankin Mills programs

The next couple of programs at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center:

» Frog Call Rodeo, 6-8 p.m. Saturday, May 7 — Learn about the many different species of Michigan frogs and toads and meet some live members in the Nature Center. Create an amphibious craft and then venture out to the pond at Nankin Mills for a catch and release activity. Those interested can carpool to another location a few miles away in Holliday Nature Preserve to enjoy the spring symphony of frog romance. Learn to recognize their different calls. Ages 6 to adult.

Program fee is \$6 per child, \$2 per adult for county residents (add \$1 for non-Wayne County residents).

» Let's Go Birding, 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 14 — Join the Nankin Mills Naturalist for a cup of coffee or tea and then hike to search for feathered friends around Nankin Mills and in the Holliday Nature Preserve. Some binoculars are available, but it's recommended to bring your own if you have

them. Bird-feeding tips will also be provided. Fee is \$3 per adult.

Pre-registration required for all programs at the Park Office, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, 48185. Check, cash or charge are accepted. To charge over the phone, call 734-261-1990. All programs are held at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center unless otherwise noted.

Used book sale

The Friends of the Livonia Civic Center Library is sponsoring a Used Book Sale Friday and Saturday, May 13-14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday May 15, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be many books including fiction, history, mystery, religious, and cook books, as well as special books. Good prices will be on all the books.

On May 15, a bag of books can be purchased for \$5. All proceeds go back into the libraries. The Civic Center library is located at 32777 Five Mile Road. For more information, call the library at 734-466-2495.

Democratic club

The Livonia Democratic Party has two major meeting events each month. Executive board officers (and members who wish to attend) meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Livonia Democratic Party membership meetings occur on the second Wednesday every month. The meetings occur at 7 p.m., and are located at the Livonia Quality Inn & Suites, 30375 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Visit the group's website at www.livoniademocraticclub.com

» LDC/MABSI Bingo — Plan to join regular players at Shamrock Bingo, 33111 Plymouth Road, in the eastern end of the Sheldon Center Mall, seven evenings each week (excluding some legal holidays) for a

nice evening out, good company and a chance to win. Doors open at 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Games begin at 6:30 pm. Saturday games begin at 6 p.m., and Sunday at 5 p.m.

Genealogical meeting

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday, May 16, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. Please note the new format: 5:30 p.m., Bring your dinner and enjoy conversation with other members; 6 p.m., Q & A and announcements; 6:30 p.m., Alan Wakenhut, president, will present "Using Google Earth for Genealogical Research." Wakenhut will also cover any Google topics that were not covered in the March meeting.

Meetings are open to the public. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit www.wwcgs.org.

Dinner/dance benefit

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit sponsors its annual Spring Dinner Dance to benefit retired Orthodox priests and priests' widows on Sunday, May 15, at the banquet hall of St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road in Redford.

The event will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6. There will be live music by the Off Beats and entertainment for children.

Tickets including dinner and refreshments are \$40 per person, with children ages 12 and under admitted free. For tickets or more information, contact Mihaela Charlier at 313-595-7640 or coccdetroit@yahoo.com, or Richard Shebib at 248-345-9346 or pascha.books@sbcglobal.net.

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(2016-2017)

The Charter Township of Redford is seeking Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified developers to provide professional services to acquire, rehabilitate and sell residential tax foreclosed parcels and may acquire, rehabilitate, sell or lease commercial tax foreclosed parcels throughout Redford Township neighborhoods. Services shall be performed for the Redford Township Stabilizing Neighborhoods Action Plan (SNAP II) Program.

Documents shall be available as of May 5, 2016 at the Redford Township Community Development Office located at 12121 Hemingway and Redford Township Clerk's Office at 15145 Beech Daly Road between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Redford Township website at www.redfordtwp.com and via the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info. Sealed applications must be submitted to the Redford Township Clerk's Office, 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48239 on or before May 26, 2016 at 3:00 pm, after which submissions will be publicly opened.

Written questions regarding the substance of the RFQ or scope of services must be submitted via e-mail to the Redford Township contact listed below no later than May 12, 2016. For additional information regarding the request for proposals, please contact Michael Dennis, Community Development Director, at 313-387-2785 or at mdennis@redfordtwp.com

This municipality is an equal opportunity employer; businesses owned by women or minorities are strongly encouraged to bid. The Contractor shall comply with all the provisions of the Charter Township of Redford.

The Charter Township of Redford reserves the right to reject any and all applications, to waive defects in submitted applications, to enter negotiations with any applicant, to re-solicit and request new applications and to conduct an application evaluation review meeting with any and all applicants. The Township will not be responsible for any costs or fees associated with the preparation of a response to this request for qualifications. No application may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days following the due date.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC
 TOWNSHIP CLERK
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

Published: May 1, 2016

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2016 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Sealed bids will be received by Charter Township of Redford at the Clerk's office, 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48239, until 3:00pm, local time, Thursday, May 26, 2016, at which time and place said bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following approximate quantities of work:

18,000 linear feet of 8 inch water main pipe burst existing 6 inch and 8 inch, 5,000 linear feet of 8 inch water main directional bored, fire hydrants, gate valves and related work

Contract documents are on file with Mr. Garth Christie, Clerk.

Contract documents may be examined at the following locations: Charter Township of Redford, 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48239; Construction Association of Michigan, 43636 Woodward, P.O. Box 3204, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302; Reed Construction Data, Electronic Plan Room, (www.redepr.com); and Wade Trim Associates Inc. 25251 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180. Plans and spec are also available for viewing (not to be used for bidding purposes) on line at www.wadetrim.com/resources/bid-tab/

Copies of the contract documents for bidding purposes must be obtained at the office(s) of Wade Trim Associates Inc., 25251 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180, starting on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Upon making a payment of One Hundred Ten (\$110) Dollars if picked up or One Hundred Twenty (\$120) Dollars if mailed (checks or money orders only – payable to Wade Trim, no cash), none of which will be refunded.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, money order, or bid bond, in the amount of at least five (5) percent of the amount bid, drawn payable to Charter Township of Redford as security for the proper execution of the agreement.

The Charter Township of Redford reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in any bids should it consider same to be in its best interest.

Bids may not be withdrawn for the period of 90 days after date of receiving bids.

This project will be awarded based upon Quality Based Selection (QBS) as specified in the contract documents. All bidders are required to submit a complete QBS packet with their bid.

Garth J. Christie, Clerk
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The wait is over for work on Lotz Road

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Construction crews have ramped up work on a \$5 million project to transform a pothole-riddled, dirt-and-gravel stretch of Lotz Road into a three-lane concrete road between Ford and Cherry Hill.

Officials say the long-awaited project will usher in a vastly improved north-south route that should pull some motorists off Ford and Haggerty roads, easing traffic congestion near the I-275 interchange on Canton's east side.

It marks Canton's biggest road project this construction season, though Wayne County also plans to widen and improve the Geddes-Denton intersection on

the township's west side.

Lotz improvements are expected to have a tangible impact on Haggerty Road, the closest north-south artery, by reducing traffic bottlenecks especially during rush hour.

"We believe it will change the traffic patterns and certainly affect Haggerty," said Bill Serchak, Canton engineering services manager.

Officials and residents for years have awaited improvements to Lotz, the last major road on Canton's east side that hadn't been paved.

Wayne County spokesman Ryan Bridges said the project should be completed by November, prompting intermittent detours this construction season for motorists who use the dirt road. Other



Work has begun to transform Lotz Road into a concrete road.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

times, he said, one lane of traffic will be maintained.

Residents who live in the area will, of course, have access to their homes.

"Local traffic is being

accommodated for the people who live there," Serchak said.

He described Lotz as "a very old road dating back to the 1830s" and said efforts to finally pave it have been a long-time priority finally coming to fruition.

The project, being done by Toebe Construction Co. of Wixom, involves constructing a three-lane, concrete road that includes a middle turn lane. Water mains and sidewalks also are part of the project.

Work crews are nearing the end of water-system work, Serchak said.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy has said the Lotz Road paving "is going to be huge for the community."

The project was made possible by \$5 million from the Michigan Department of Transportation. LaJoy has said the project is expected to improve property values along Lotz Road.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lotz Road's infrastructure is being improved.

Faas has said the project could be a catalyst for new development along Lotz.

The project comes after MDOT already has improved Ford Road in the I-275 and Haggerty area by adding a continuous third lane from Lotz to Lilley, lengthening turn lanes and improving ramps.

MDOT has indicated

the long-term solution to the area's traffic congestion could involve transforming Ford Road into a boulevard, but funding remains a hurdle and state officials have given no projected timetable.

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**Livonia Public Schools
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Twelve out-of-district **FIRST GRADE** seats are open in the Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program for the 2016-2017 school year.

ACAT Limited Registration Window: **May 2 – May 13, 2016** at Webster Elementary, 32401 Pembroke, Livonia, 48152. Call **734-744-2795** for more information or email David Zyczynski at dzyczyns@livoniapublicschools.org.

Five **SEVENTH GRADE** seats are open in the Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program for the 2016-2017 school year.

MACAT Limited Registration Window: **May 2 – May 20, 2016** at Livonia Public Schools Administration Building, 15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Call **734-744-2525 ext. 46132** or email dcoates@livoniapublicschools.org.

Both programs are geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience. All candidates must meet the ACAT or MACAT selection criteria. Visit www.livoniapublicschools.org and click on Programs > Academically Talented > ACAT or MACAT for more information.

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Symphony set for season finale

The Livonia Symphony will perform the season closer at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at Clarenceville High School, Louis Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt in Livonia.

The concert is being sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission. The featured soloists are Eric Druzniwski on Euphonium and Amy Petrongelli, Soprano.

Druzniwski is an Ann Arbor-based performer and educator, specializing in euphonium, trombone and tuba. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in euphonium performance from Central Michigan University and the Eastman School of Music, respectively, as well as a graduate degree in trombone performance from the University of Akron, Ohio.

He has appeared as a soloist with the CMU



Petrongelli Druzniwski

Brass Band and Orchestra, the Case Western Reserve University Brass Choir and the University of Michigan Life Sciences Orchestra. A Livonia native, Eric is a product of Livonia Public Schools and the Stevenson High School band program where he was a student of LSO board member David Booker.

Petrongelli has been heralded as a soprano who "commands all attention and focus with her phenomenal presence, choreography and voice." In 2013, Petrongelli had her debut at Carnegie Hall as the soprano soloist for

Haydn's Creation, and was a vocal fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Mass., in 2011-2012.

She has sung numerous opera roles and has appeared as a soloist with the Windsor Classic Choral, the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra, Vivo Sinfonetta, and the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, and Contemporary Directions Ensemble.

She's a founding member of the Khemia Ensemble, a new music ensemble which focuses on promoting cultural exchange through the commissioning and performance of contemporary classical music.

Tickets are \$20 and \$10 for students of all ages. Tickets are available online at www.livoniasymphony.org, at the Livonia Civic Center Library or at the door.

Commissioner visits for Reading Month

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, recently joined some eager students from Wildwood Elementary School in commemorating national March is Reading Month.

Reading Month provides students opportunities to explore reading in new ways and aims to motivate students to develop their literacy skills while having fun in the process.

Anderson marked the occasion as a guest reader at four different elementary schools in Garden City, Inkster and Westland. Among the schools he visited was Wildwood Elementary School in Westland where he read to several second-grade classrooms.

"I really enjoy being a part of Reading Month and have participated for many years" said Anderson, whose district includes Westland,



Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, reads to students at Wildwood Elementary School in Westland during March is Reading Month.

Garden City and Inkster. "These students are naturally interested in learning more about the world around them."

A question-and-answer opportunity followed the book reading and Anderson said the students asked some

great questions. "Reading Month encourages them to explore that interest through the experience of reading. It's a great way to help them develop the essential skills they will need down the road," Anderson said.

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PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Relays expand to include girls teams

Observerland meet gets a makeover in 2016; format changes to regional style

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

The Observerland Relays, a high school sports tradition in western Wayne and southern Oakland counties for nearly half a century, is changing this year.

While the annual track and field competition has been an all-boys event for most of its history, the girls will compet-

ing on the same day, at the same site, for the first time.

Nineteen girls and 17 boys teams will showcase their talents when this year's expanded meet takes place Saturday, May 7, at Farmington High School.

A change in the format has helped to revive interest in the meet and create new enthusiasm for it. Instead of being a mostly relays event, a regional

format will be followed.

"It's been an awesome meet over the years for the guys," North Farmington girls coach Bill Pinnell said. "I do like the new format with it being regional-type races. It's a quality meet. There will be a lot of teams there, so it gives the girls excellent competition."

It will be a traditional track

See RELAYS, Page B4



TOM BEAUDOIN
Girls track and field standouts like Stevenson's Hope McMullen will compete in the revamped Observerland Relays for the first time in more than 20 years.

KLA A BASEBALL REPORT

SPLIT DECISION: Rockets, 'Cats halve twinbill

Stevenson drops doubleheader; Churchill doubles up Wayne

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

When your friendship stretches as far back as the one shared by Brian Martin and Brenden Lacorato, it's not difficult to read the other's mind.

That worked to the detriment of Lacorato, a hard-throwing junior pitcher for Plymouth, during the second game of Wednesday's doubleheader against Westland John Glenn — the team Martin stars for.

With Rocket Noah Damian standing on third and one out in a scoreless game, Martin stepped into the batter's box in the bottom of the third with a dangerous bat and a clever hunch.

"I've known 'Laco' for so long — we've been great friends since we were 10 years old — I had a feeling, with a 3-2 count, he was going to throw me a curve ball," recounted Martin, who guessed right, drilling the pay-off pitch for a run-scoring sacrifice fly in a game the Rockets would eventually hold on to win, 5-3. "I kind of knew how he would attack me. I had a couple good swings against his fastball earlier in the count."

Lacorato and John Glenn's Kyle Richards were locked in a classic pitchers' duel throughout most of the nightcap. Richards yielded just one hit — a third-inning single to Chase Every — over the first five innings, striking out five and allowing just four balls to leave the infield.

Two of the outfield outs came in the fourth when John Glenn center-fielder Matt Nutt chased down Austin Scheffer's deep blast in the right-center field gap. Nutt then made a diving grab of Evan Good's



Westland John Glenn's Kyle Richards blanked Plymouth for the first five innings in the Rockets' 5-3 victory Wednesday afternoon.

ED WRIGHT

sinking liner.

Lacorato escaped a one-out, bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the first when he got Reid Zielinski to hit a ground ball to third baseman Good, who fired the ball to catcher Zach Beadle for the force. Nutt then flew out to left-fielder Every to end the threat.

Damian led off the bottom of the third with a walk. He advanced to second on Kevin Brewer's sacrifice bunt, went to third on a passed ball and scored on Martin's well-struck fly to center.

John Glenn padded its lead to 5-0 in the bottom of the fifth — even though the ball never left the infield.

Steven Hegenauer and Damian sandwiched walks around a strike-out. They moved up to second and third on a passed ball before Hegenauer came home on an error to make it 2-0.

Lacorato, who gave up just two hits in four-and-a-third innings, was replaced by Regan Fleisher with runners on first and second and Martin at the plate.

Following a wild pitch that

pushed the runners to second and third, Martin was intentionally walked. Fleisher fanned River Turek for the second out, but Zielinski reached on a bang-bang fielder's-choice play, driving in the third run of the inning.

Nutt then beat out an infield single to plate Martin and extend the hosts' lead to 5-0.

The Wildcats answered with three runs in the top of the sixth as the first five batters reached base. Every singled, Josh Sulak walked and Scheffer brought home Every

with a sharp single to right. Good singled home Sulak before Kyle Wolter walked to reload the bases.

Richards was lifted for Trevor Smith, who induced an infield pop-out and a strike-out. Smith then hit Mike Wischer to force home the third Plymouth run before getting Jacob MacBrien to fly out to center to end the inning.

Smith pitched a 1-2-3 seventh to earn the pressure-packed save.

"I thought Kyle and Trevor both pitched well," said John Glenn head coach Lawrence Scheffer. "Kyle threw strikes, which is what we need him to do. Trevor's normally a starter for us, so for him to go out there cold with runners on base and no outs, and do what he did was outstanding."

Plymouth earned the game-one win, 2-0, thanks to a complete-game gem by senior Kyle Wolter, who out-dueled Martin in a crisply-played game that featured few base-runners.

"That's the best Kyle has thrown in a while," said Plymouth head coach Jason Crain. "He had a low pitch count, he was throwing his curve ball for strikes and he only missed throwing a first-pitch strike to seven batters."

"We saw Martin pitch last year, so we knew it was going to be a battle. Kyle was phenomenal."

"I thought Lacorato pitched really well in the second game. We missed a few plays we should have made, but that's baseball. There are always going to be mistakes, but ours were untimely."

Stevenson drops suspended game

On Thursday afternoon, Salem put the stamp on a 1-0 victory in a game that suspended following the third inning due to darkness on April 20.

See BASEBALL, Page B4

PREP PROFILES

Scheffers enjoy unique diamond duel

Father and son in opposite dugouts for KLA A double-header

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In some families, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

In the Scheffer family, the baseball didn't fall far from the "tee."

Like father, like son, West-

land John Glenn head baseball coach Lawrence Scheffer

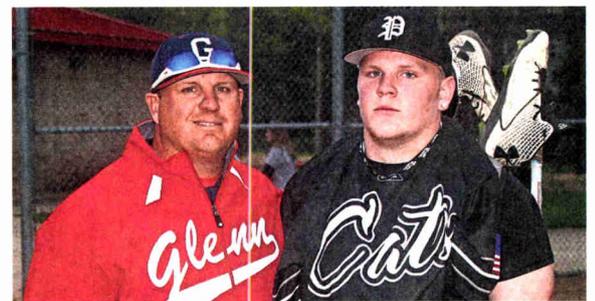
taught his oldest child, Austin, the finer points of the sport he excelled at as a youth, coaching Austin until he was 11.

On Wednesday, during a high school baseball double-header featuring Plymouth and the host Rockets, the Scheffers shared the same diamond, but were stationed in opposite dugouts for the first time.

Austin Scheffer is a 6-foot-2, 285-pound power-hitting first baseman for the Wildcats, so any success he tasted on Wednesday would be at the expense of the team his dad engineered.

The unique encounter created some memorable mo-

See SCHEFFERS, Page B2



ED WRIGHT

Westland John Glenn head baseball coach Lawrence Scheffer coached against his son, Austin, a power-hitting Plymouth first baseman, for the first time during Wednesday's KLA A South Division double-header at John Glenn.

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COLLEGIATE SIGNING

Swisher's quick strides lead to scholarship

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Garden City softball player picks up game fast

Amber Swisher's impressive athleticism helped her ascend from a recreation-level softball player in eighth grade to a college recruit her senior season at Garden City. The personable Cougar recently committed to play her favorite sport at the next level for Jackson College, a two-year school that is located just a short drive from the Swisher family's lake house. Swisher was familiar with the school even before the recruitment process kicked in as her older brother, Justin, played golf for the Jets.

"Jackson was the only school I emailed; it was one and done for me," Swisher said. "I went to a couple of camps there and I thought it was really nice." First-year Jackson coach Jamie Vandenburg initially saw Swisher's skills set during a Jets prospect camp. It didn't take long for her to realize that she wanted the smooth-fielding center fielder to be a future fixture in the Jets program. "Amber really stood out at our prospect camp," Vandenburg said. "She was hitting the

ball hard and we liked her strong, accurate arm. We talked to her and brought her back to our campus for another workout, and we decided she should become a Jet." Compared to most college softball players, Swisher was a late bloomer in the sport. She started playing slow-pitch at the age of 10 before eventually moving on to recreation fast-pitch leagues. Her first travel-ball experience didn't come until she was already at Garden City, where she immediately excelled as a catch-everything center fielder with incredible

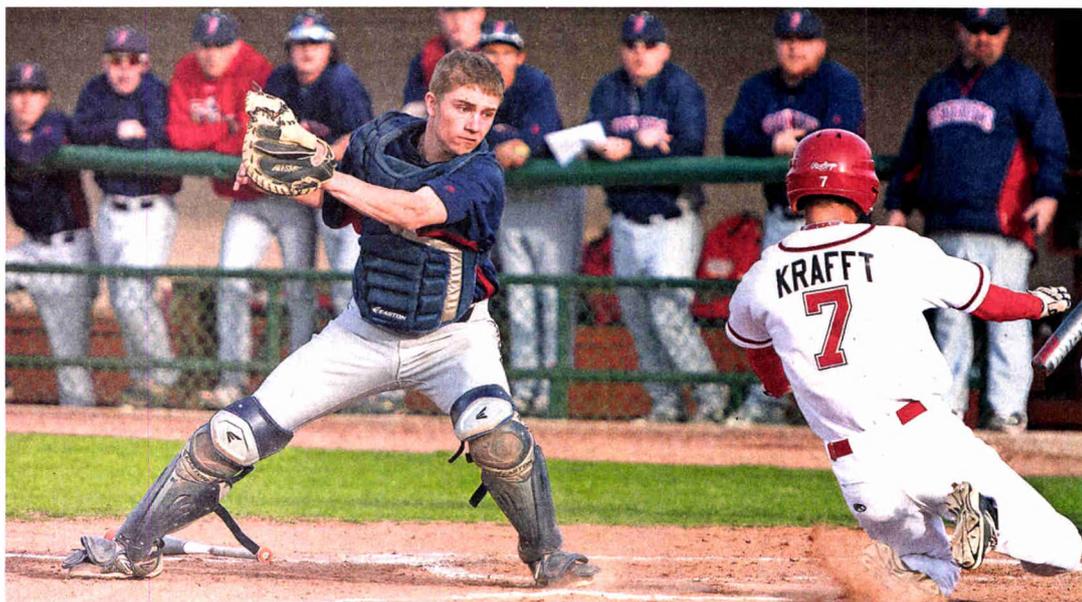
range. "I like playing center field because of all the area you get to cover," she said. "Plus, the higher the level of competition, the more balls are hit out there." Swisher has made a number of OMG plays, including a running catch against Livonia Churchill last year that culminated with her crashing into the outfield fence. Swisher was a two-year starting guard for the Cougars' varsity basketball team and was one of the best perimeter-shooting guards in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Garden City senior Amber recently committed to play softball for Jackson College. Pictured Swisher are (to her left) Jackson softball coach Jamie Vandenburg, (standing from left) Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips, Garden City softball coach Barry Patterson, parents Jason and Denise Swisher, and Garden City assistant softball coach Chris Griffith.

SHOWDOWN AT WAYNE STATE



Canton's Andrew Krafft slides across the plate for a run Wednesday against Livonia Franklin at Wayne State University.

JON VESPAZIANI

SCHEFFERS

Continued from Page B1

ments in the hours leading up to the game.

"Austin came in (Tuesday night) and said to me, 'I can't talk to the enemy,'" Lawrence Scheffer said, smiling. "I had some jitters all day today. I'm proud of him. He's hitting in the four hole for Plymouth and doing well."

"I've worked with him a lot on his inside-out swing and going the opposite way. I know that at any given time he can hit the ball in the gap. Today, I was just hoping our guys would throw good pitches and our fielders would catch it."

Although Wednesday's double-header was special for Austin, he tried to handle it with as much normalcy as possible.

"As far as playing against my dad's team, I really tried not to think about it much," the younger Scheffer admitted. "My dad told me (Tuesday night) to just go out and play like it's any other game."

During one of Austin's at-bats in Wednesday's first game, the home-plate umpire ruled that he checked his swing. His dad thought otherwise and asked for an appeal to the second umpire, who ruled that Austin did indeed go around.

"Hey, you have to keep coaching, no matter who's at the plate," Lawrence said, smiling.

Austin, who is a standout offensive lineman for Plymouth's football team, started playing baseball when he was 4 or 5, his dad reflected.

"When it came to sports, baseball was his first love," Lawrence said. "I coached him until he was 11 or 12, and then I let other coaches coach him. You have to let them go at some point."

Austin was always around baseball fields as a youth — and he loved it.

"Growing up, I was always here, at Glenn, wearing blue and red," he said. "Having a dad who knows as much about baseball as my dad does definitely helped my skill set."

Adding another layer of coolness to Wednesday's match-up was the fact that John Glenn's pitching coach is Austin's uncle, Aaron Scheffer.

"They obviously know my strengths and weaknesses when I'm hitting," Austin said. "So it was kind of a mental game today when I was up."

Wednesday's double-header ended with a split — Plymouth won the first game, 2-0; John Glenn took the second, 5-3.

So bragging rights in the Scheffer household will be shelved until next season — or possibly in a few weeks if the Rockets and Wildcats meet in a district game at Plymouth.

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Chiefs get better of Pats in twinbill

Chance to play two at Wayne State suits Canton fine

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It was "April in the D" for Canton and Livonia Franklin, and the experience proved to be a winning one for Mark Blomshield's varsity boys baseball team. Canton swept Wednesday's KLA South Division baseball twinbill held at Wayne State University, posting 3-0 and 4-3 victories over the Patriots. The victories nudged the Chiefs one rung higher in the division standings than Mark Fournier's squad; following the doubleheader, Canton improved to 15-3 overall and 9-1 in the KLA South. Franklin remains strong with a 14-4, 9-2 record. "Both teams are off to a great start and it was a hard-fought battle down to the last out, as we knew it would be," noted Blomshield in an email to the Observer.

Blomshield and Fournier are longtime friends and the Canton coach praised his Franklin counterpart for giving the Chiefs a chance of a lifetime — to play at a major college, on a field sporting a Fenway Park-like wall and auxiliary scoreboard from old Tiger Stadium. "We are grateful Franklin provided us with the opportunity to play at Wayne State University," Blomshield continued. "... (it was) a great way to reward all the players for their efforts this season." Strong pitching by senior Tyler Byers in the opener set the tone, as he allowed just two hits over six innings of work. Closing it out with a scoreless seventh was Noah Spencer. Collecting two hits each in Game 1 were juniors Justin Mattson and AJ Brazleton, with Spencer, Lou Baehler, Michael Flaishens chipping in with one safety a piece. The Chiefs held off a late charge by the Patriots to claim the nightcap. Franklin chipped away at

an early 4-0 deficit to pull to within 4-3 in the sixth, but relief pitcher Tyler Donlin escaped a jam (in relief of starter Mitchell Zelenak) and Spencer sent the Pats down in order in the seventh for his second save of the day and fifth of the season. Mattson led Canton's Game 2 attack with two hits, with other contributed by Flaishans, Nick Sprosek (double), Brazleton and Jake O'Donnell. Despite the sweep by the Chiefs, nothing is decided in the KLA South as crunch time draws near. Injury-ridden Plymouth (7-10, 5-5), Westland John Glenn (8-5, 5-5) and Livonia Churchill (9-7, 4-6) likely will be looking up at the Chiefs and Patriots when the final contest is concluded. "With six games remaining, the Chiefs have put themselves in a situation to compete for a division title and we are looking forward to that opportunity," Blomshield concluded.

Rockets win on walk-off
Trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning Friday afternoon, John Glenn rallied for two runs to earn a 4-3 triumph over visiting Farmington Hills Harrison in a non-conference game played on the Rockets' diamond. Steven Hegenauer, who was pinch-hitting for starting pitcher Trevor Smith, ignited the comeback with a lead-off bunt single. With two strikes on him, Connor Gawne then laid down a pressure-packed sacrifice bunt that pushed the on-the-run Hegenauer to third. Noah Damian then singled home Hegenauer before advancing to second when Aaron Pych reached on an error. Brian Martin then delivered a game-winning single. Smith improved to 3-0 with the complete-game effort. He limited the Hawks to just three hits while striking out six. The Rockets improved to 9-5 overall with the triumph.

Pro Secrets Baseball Academy

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THE WEEK AHEAD

<p>HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL Monday, May 2 Franklin at Northville, 4 p.m. Garden City at Dearborn, 4 p.m. Wayne at South Lyon, 4 p.m. Clarenceville at Thurston, 4 p.m. Plymouth at Stevenson, 4 p.m. John Glenn at Salem, 4 p.m. RU at Edsel Ford, 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 John Glenn at Franklin (DH), 4 p.m. S.L. East at Stevenson (DH), 4 p.m. Canton at Churchill (DH), 4 p.m. Wayne at Plymouth (DH), 4 p.m. Thurston at Robichaud, 4 p.m. Crestwood at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m. Dearborn at RU, 4 p.m. Belleville at Garden City, 4 p.m. Friday, May 6 Garden City at John Glenn, 4 p.m. W. Bloomfield at Wayne (DH), 4 p.m. Annapolis at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7 Livonia City Tournament, 10 a.m. John Glenn Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament, 9 a.m. HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL Monday, May 2 Salem at John Glenn, 4 p.m. RU at Edsel Ford, 4 p.m. Garden City at Dearborn, 4 p.m. Clarenceville at Thurston, 4 p.m. Wayne at South Lyon, 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Churchill at Novi, 4 p.m. Franklin at Northville, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 Regina at Ladywood (DH), 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 John Glenn at Franklin (DH), 4 p.m. Crestwood at Clarenceville, 4 p.m. Canton at Churchill (DH), 4 p.m. Thurston at Robichaud, 4 p.m. Dearborn at RU, 4 p.m. Belleville at Garden City, 4 p.m. Wayne at Plymouth (DH), 4 p.m. Thursday, May 5 John Glenn at Edsel Ford, 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 6 Garden City at Alpena, 4:30 p.m. Clarenceville at Greenhills, 4:30 p.m. Ladywood at Mercy (DH), 6 p.m. Summit Academy at RU, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7 Ladywood at Canton Classic, 9 a.m. Churchill Invitational, 9 a.m. N. Farmington Invite, 9 a.m. Garden City at Alpena, 10 a.m. John Glenn Breast Cancer Tournament, 9 a.m. GIRLS SOCCER Monday, May 2 Dearborn at Garden City, 6 p.m. Dearborn at Clarenceville, 6 p.m. Fordson at Redford Union, 6 p.m. Thurston at Romulus, 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 3 Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Salem at Stevenson, 3 p.m. Regina at Ladywood, 6 p.m. Churchill at Canton, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 Garden City at Thurston, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Crestwood, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 5 Garden City at Harrison, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m. Stevenson at S.L. East, 7 p.m. Ladywood at Marian, 6 p.m. Franklin at Wayne, 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 6 Franklin at N. Farmington, 7 p.m. TRACK & FIELD Tuesday, May 3 Garden City at Edsel Ford, 3:30 p.m. Canton at Churchill, 3:30 p.m. S. Lyon at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m. Clarenceville at Annapolis, 3:30 p.m. Franklin at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m. RU at Thurston, 3:30 p.m. BOYS GOLF Monday, May 2 RU at Fordson, 3 p.m. Thurston at Belleville, 3 p.m. Romulus at Garden City, 3:15 p.m. Churchill at Seaholm Invite, noon</p>
<p>Tuesday, May 3 Stevenson at Northville, 3 p.m. Wayne at John Glenn, 3 p.m. Franklin at Churchill, 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 Annapolis at RU, 3:30 p.m. Westerly at Dearborn, 3 p.m. Wayne County Invite, 8 a.m. Garden City at Edsel Ford, 3 p.m. Thursday, May 5 Stevenson at South Lyon, 3 p.m. Canton at Wayne, 3 p.m. John Glenn at Franklin, 3 p.m. Friday, May 6 RU at Thurston at Crestwood, TBA Churchill at Plymouth, 3 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS Monday, May 2 Annapolis at Garden City, 4 p.m. Thurston at Robichaud, 4 p.m. Ladywood at Our Lady of Lakes, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 Garden City at Crestwood, 4 p.m. Churchill at Grand Blanc, 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 John Glenn at Wayne, 4 p.m. RU at Thurston, 4 p.m. Thursday, May 5 Ladywood at Frankel Jewish Academy, 4 p.m. Lakeland at Churchill, 4 p.m. GIRLS LACROSSE Monday, May 2 N.D. Prep at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5 Ladywood at Gab. Richard, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7 Ladywood Tournament, 9 a.m.</p>		

KLAA SOFTBALL REPORT

Churchill hitters enjoy hectic week

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A tournament here, a make-up there, and a scheduled game in between made for a busy week for Livonia Churchill's softball team.

Last Saturday, the Chargers went 1-2 in the Chelsea Invitational. On Monday, Churchill dropped an 8-2 decision to Salem, but bounced back on Tuesday to wallop Dearborn, 10-2.

Sophomore Paige Hanson was the star of the triumph over the Pioneers. Hanson earned a complete-game win on the mound, scattering six hits while striking out three. She also sparkled at the plate, going 2-for-4 with two runs scored.

Other big hitters for the Chargers were Erin Carpenter (2-for-3, two runs), Haley Ben-

nett (3-for-4), Angela Lewan (2-for-3, double, two runs) and Elyse Baumgardner, who went 2-for-3 with two runs scored.

The Chargers distributed their runs evenly, plating two in the first and second, and three in the third and sixth frames. Dearborn scored one in the first and one in the third.

The highlights were few and far between during Monday's setback to Salem. Among the bright spots were two-hit efforts by Carpenter and Bennett.

Churchill's lone victory in Chelsea was a thrilling 6-5 extra-inning cliff-hanger over Farmington.

With the score knotted at 2-2 after six innings, both teams plated three in the seventh to extend the game to the eighth. Brooke Hanson laced the game-winning hit, scoring



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Churchill's Erin Carpenter gets in ready position during a game earlier this season.

Kaitlyn Vinitiski.

Hanson finished 5-for-5 at the plate with two runs scored and two RBI.

Vinitiski was the winning pitcher, yielding just four hits.

Other clutch hitters were Bennett (2-for-5, RBI), Regan Peyton (2-for-4, two RBI) and Rachel Klisz (2-for-4, RBI).

The Chargers jumped out to a 3-0 first-inning lead against Holt before eventually dropping a 6-3 decision. Klisz and Bennett ripped RBI hits to account for the early runs.

Churchill dropped its final game on Saturday, 10-3, to Chelsea. Bennett had two hits.

Thurston falls to Romulus

Redford Thurston's vastly-improved softball team suffered its first setback of the season Wednesday, 9-2, to host Romulus.

Rachel Pegouske took the loss on the mound after giving up nine runs, 10 hits and two walks. She struck out two. Sydney Taylor gave up just one hit

and no runs during her one-inning stint in the circle.

Offensively, Ivory Mamo continued her torrid hitting for Thurston, contributing four hits and two RBI. Andrielle Davis added a hit as well.

"Our defense made a lot of positive plays," Thurston head coach Scott Gray said. "Romulus showed why they are the league leaders, but I was impressed with the way that we never gave up."

"We put up a good fight against an excellent team. It was a good measuring stick for us. There are some things we are doing quite well, but there are some other things we need to improve on. We will just keep working hard and hopefully it will pay off when they come to our place."

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HIGH SCHOOL GOLF



Stevenson's Ben Zammit follows the path of his tee shot during Wednesday's KLAA tournament at Idyl Wyld.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Third-place Stevenson leads Livonia teams at KLAA tournament

Boczar-led Plymouth crowned champion

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia's Idyl Wyld Golf Course was anything but idle Wednesday, but it provided the setting for some wildly exciting golf during the annual KLAA Kensington Conference Invitational.

Although small spheres — from golf balls to baseballs — aren't supposed to fly far in chilly air, you would have had a hard time convincing that to followers of Plymouth's Jack Boczar, who fired a six-under-par 66 to lead the Wildcats to the conference title with a team score of 296.

All four Plymouth scorers carded an 81 or lower, which is remarkable considering four of the 12 teams who competed didn't have a single golfer who scored lower than 81.

Joining Boczar on the victory train were Wildcats Kyle Kozler (73), Joe Fontana (76) and James Baldwin, who netted an 81.

Northville was in the hunt for a title most of the day, before settling for second with a 303. Mustangs Jimmy Dales (71) and Abhi Alluri (72) were the lowest-scoring duo other than Boczar and Kozler. Also contributing to the Mustangs' solid score were Saahith Mum-madi, who shot a 79, and Joey Auty, who carded an 81.

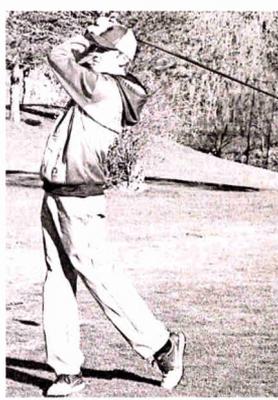
Led by sophomore Connor Jakacki, Livonia Stevenson tallied a score of 320 to earn a third-place tie with Novi. Joining Jakacki throughout the Spartans' impressive day were Trevor Lopus (78), Jon McDonald (80) and Easton Schlatterbeck (85).

Novi's contributors were Michael Ulle (75), Ryan Welch (76) Trevor Angell (83) and Ryan Havens, who turned in an 86.

Canton, (321), Livonia Churchill (323) and South Lyon (324) were locked in a tight battle for the fifth-, sixth- and seventh-place positions. Led by Phillip Conrad, the Chiefs' quartet of players registered scored that ranged from 78 to 82. Brian Oldani shot an 80,



Livonia Churchill's Griffin Ahmet follows through nicely on a fairway shot during Wednesday's KLAA Tournament.



Franklin's Jacob Kenward watches his shot sail down the fairway Wednesday afternoon at Idyl Wyld Golf Course.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Suhas Potluri fired an 81 while Brenden Chan recorded an 82.

Churchill senior Sam Spayd, who was the tournament's medalist last season, had a commendable encore on Wednesday, shooting a 74 on the relatively short, but challenging track. Joining Spayd on the Chargers' scorecard were Logan Welch (81), John Doyle (81) and Griffin Ahmet, who shot an 87.

Livonia Franklin led the group of four final-tier teams with a 347, which was fueled by Patriot ace Matt Wiebelhuas' 81. Also scoring for Franklin were Jacob Kenward (84), Jeremy Haist (88) and Trevor Van Vliet (94).

All but Andrew Aigeltinger (83) struggled to break the century mark for Wayne Memorial. Also scoring for the Zebras were Joe Quiton (102), Paul Grauzer (113) and Dan Kosick (127).

Novi edges Stevenson

Novi earned a riveting 153-156 triumph over Livonia Stevenson in a KLAA Central Division match on Tuesday. Stevenson's Jakacki and Novi's Ulle tied for medalist honors with nine-hole rounds of 36.

Also scoring for the Spartans were Schlatterbeck (39), McDonald (40) and Alex Moore (41).

Welch carded a 37 for Novi, which also received contributions from Derek Dubois (38) and Havens (42).

Novi won a 179-195 decision in the junior-varsity match. Alex Pohl led the Spartans with a 44 while Keane Polin paced the Wildcats' up-and-comers with a 42.

Churchill conquers Wayne

Logan Welch carded a team-low round of 41 to lead the Chargers to a 186-207 triumph over host Wayne Memorial in a KLAA South Division match hosted by Fellows Creek South.

Churchill improved to 2-1 while Wayne slipped to 0-3.

Joining Welch on the winners' scorecard were Matt Matley (47), Peyton Elkins (47), Chase Fallu (51) and Davis Coughlin (51).

Aigeltinger led the Zebras with a 42. Other scorers were Paul Grauzer (54), Joe Quiton (55) and Dan Kosick (56).

GC defeats RU

Garden City posted a convincing 165-205 victory over Redford Union Wednesday afternoon in a WWAC encounter.

Senior Ryan Randall led RU with a 46 while junior Ben Hawn shot a 49.

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HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD

Unbeaten Churchill out-soars Rockets

Redford Union falls against Robichaud

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's boys track-and-field team built an insurmountable 37-4 lead in the field events Tuesday afternoon before motoring to a 91-42 victory over host Westland John Glenn.

Senior thrower Demarco McKinney continued his season-long dominance by winning the shot put (48 feet, 2.5 inches) and the discus (145-8). They swept both events thanks to stellar efforts from Austin Simpson, who was runner-up, and third-place finisher Michael Grabda.

Sprinter Carrington Smith was among the meet's premier performers as he won the 400 in 49.85 seconds, the 200 in 22.22 seconds and earned third-place points in the 100.

Additional first-place finishers for Churchill were Dash Dobar, who posted victories in both the 800 (2:02.27) and 1,600 (4:40.91); Dakota Travis-Gilmore, who won the 300 intermediate hurdles in 41.89; and Tyler Opdycke, who won the grueling 3,200 in 10:23.75.

CHURCHILL 91

Tuesday at John Glenn
Shot put: 1. McKinney (LC), 48 feet, 2.5 inches; 2. Simpson (LC), 44.8.5; 3. Grabda (LC), 42.8.
Discus: 1. McKinney (LC), 145-8; 2. Simpson (LC), 130-1; 3. Grabda, 117-3.
Pole vault: 1. Stancer (LC), 11-0; 2. Bucelheimer (LC), 10-6; 3. Fuller (LC), 10-0.
Long jump: 1. Colangelo (LC), 19-3; 2. Gaskin (IG), 15-11.5; 3. Bennett (IG), 15-10.5.
High jump: 1. Oke (LC), 5-4.
3,200-meter relay: 1. John Glenn, 8:19.67; 2. Churchill, 8:28.60.
110 high hurdles: 1. Kempf (IG), 16.71; 2. Travis-Gilmore (LC), 17.09; 3. Fuller (LC), 18.69.
100 dash: 1. Graham (IG), 10.32; 2. Parker (IG), 10.73; 3. C. Smith (LC), 10.81.

800 relay: 1. John Glenn, 1:36.62; 2. Churchill, 1:38.10.
1,600 run: 1. Dobar (LC), 4:40.91; 2. Opdycke (LC), 4:42.44; 3. McCoy (LC), 4:54.0.
400 relay: 1. John Glenn, 43.75; 2. Churchill, 44.84.
300 intermediate hurdles: 1. Travis-Gilmore (LC), 41.89; 2. Fuller (LC), 43.97; 3. Bennett (IG), 44.07.
800 dash: 1. Dobar (LC), 2:02.27; 2. LaFave (LC), 2:05.45; 3. Biber (IG), 2:08.66.
200 dash: 1. C. Smith (LC), 22.22; 2. Parker (IG), 22.37; 3. Thompson (IG), 23.22.
3,200 run: 1. Opdycke (LC), 10:23.75; 2. Mussen (LC), 10:40.45; 3. McCoy (LC), 10:50.57.
1,600 relay: 1. Churchill (C. Smith, N. Smith, Momyer, Dobar), 3:30.37; 2. John Glenn, 3:32.0.

Bulldogs out-run Panthers

Dearborn Heights Robichaud posted a 55-25 victory over Redford Union on Tuesday in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference dual meet.

The Panthers opened the meet in grand fashion by winning the 3,200-meter relay in 10 minutes flat behind strong efforts from Chandler Shettleroe, Case Parker, Jack Shroat and Clifford Stafford.

RU hit the lottery in the 1,600, too, sweeping the event with Shettleroe, Parker and Justin Blunt-Bell going 1-2-3, respectively.

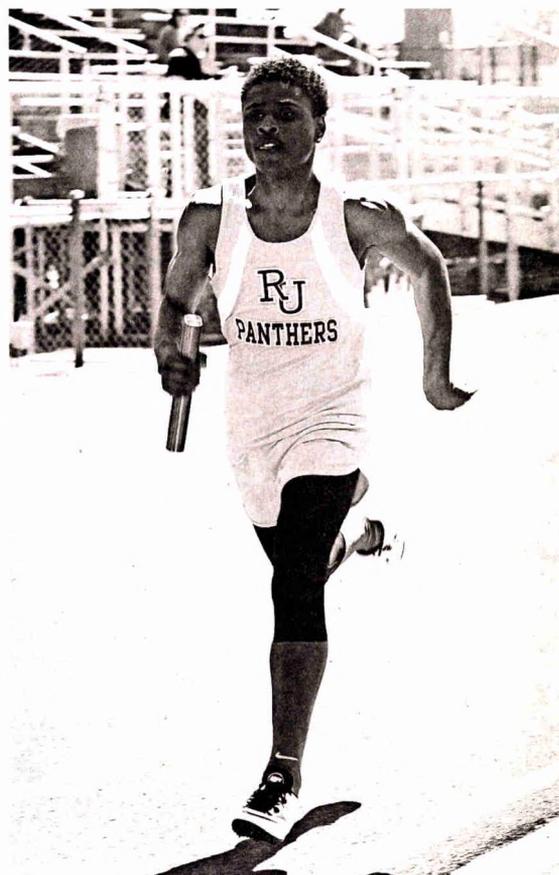
Blunt-Bell was sharp in the 400, placing second with a personal-best time of 1:03. Stafford and Levon Hudson placed second and third in the 800 with respective times of 2:27 and 2:40.

Sprinting-wise, Travontea Owens opened some eyes with a second-place finish in the 200

The Panthers' attitude was bolstered by the selfless efforts of Arriyaun Mathews and Jacob Jackson, who volunteered to fill in for the long-jump event when the team needed them.

Derion Gould overcame a minor arm injury to place third in the shot put.

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Redford Union's Daren Howard sprints toward the finish line during a meet earlier this season.

TOM BEAUDOIN

LIVONIA CITY TRACK & FIELD - GIRLS

Churchill's Gardner plants seeds for victory with three sprint wins

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's girls track-and-field team turned to a "Gardner" to help it grow a championship at Friday's Livonia City Championships.

Fueled by a three-victory night from senior sprinter Chanel Gardner, the Chargers racked up 127.5 points to nearly double-up runner-up Franklin, which earned 69. Host Stevenson was third with 59.5.

Gardner didn't just win her trio of individual events — she dominated. She crossed the finish line more than a second ahead of Franklin's Morgan Eveslage in the 100, before taking the 200 by close to a second-and-a-half ahead of teammate Imani Moultrie. Gardner completed her

trifecta by sprinting to a five-second victory in the 400.

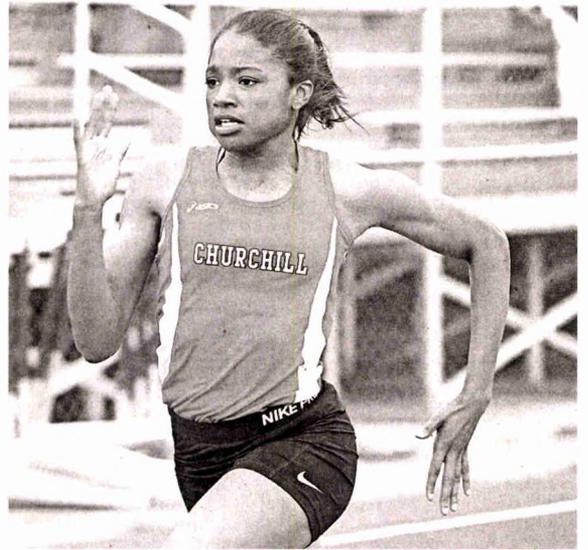
The Chargers went first and third in the pole vault thanks to strong efforts from winner Olivia Rytarsyk (10-0) and Cate Visscher, who cleared 9-6.

The Chargers picked up big points in the field events thanks to victories by long-jumper Moultrie (16-8.5) and shot-putter Melissa Fular, who heaved the metal 30 feet, 5 inches.

Franklin's Alexis Browning turned in a dynamic performance in the throws, winning the discus after taking second in the shot.

LIVONIA CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Friday at Stevenson
FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Churchill, 127.5; 2. Franklin, 69; 3. Stevenson, 59.5.
Shot put: 1. Melissa Fular (C), 30 feet, 5 inches; 2. Alexis Browning (F), 30-0; 3. Morgan Waters (S).

28-6.
Discus: 1. Alexis Browning (F), 99-0; 2. Melissa Fular (C), 95-3; 3. Danielle Hague (C), 90-4.
Pole vault: 1. Olivia Rytarsyk (C), 10-0; 2. Sommer Pappas (S), 3. Cate Visscher (C), 9-6.
High jump: 1. Julie Wonch (F), 5-0; 2. Breuna Thompson (F), 4-8; 3. Mikaila Murphy (C), 4-6.
Long jump: 1. Imani Moultrie (C), 16-8.5; 2. Mikaela Hille (F), 15-6.5; 3. Diane Senkowski (S), 15-0.5.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Churchill, 10:00.51; 2. Stevenson, 10:09.49.
100 hurdles: 1. Takkia Bradley (C), 16.8; 2. Mikaila Murphy (C), 18.90; 3. Beth White (S), 18.99.
100 dash: 1. Chanel Gardner (C), 12.78; 2. Morgan Eveslage (F), 13.83; 3. Monica Weinrauch (S), 13.95.
800 relay: 1. Churchill, 1:44.86; 2. Stevenson, 1:53.10.
1,600 run: 1. Christina Murphy (C), 5:19.10; 2. Natalie Douglas (F), 5:25.50; 3. Caroline George (C), 5:28.74.
400 relay: 1. Churchill, 52.11; 2. Stevenson, 54.66.
400 dash: 1. Chanel Gardner (C), 57.29; 2. Julie Wonch (F), 1:02.27; 3. Alexis Lombardo (C), 1:03.92.
300 hurdles: 1. Takkia Bradley (C), 48.44; 2. Diane Senkowski (S), 51.68; 3. Hailey Pampreen (C), 53.40.
800 run: 1. Gabrielle Swider (C), 2:19.39; 2. Emily Lauzon (S), 2:27.00; 3. Megan Gendjar (C), 2:33.09.
200 dash: 1. Chanel Gardner (C), 25.51; 2. Imani Moultrie (C), 26.94; 3. Amanda Schultz (S), 27.19.
3,200 run: 1. Natalie Douglas (F), 11:25.31; 2. Christina Murphy (C), 11:37.14; 3. Kathleen George (C), 11:52.30.
1,600 relay: 1. Franklin (Julie Wonch, Mikaela Hille, Jenna Jacobs, Hollie Reynolds), 4:23.83.



Chanel Gardner displays the impeccable technique that led to three victories Friday night.

TOM BEAUDOIN

LIVONIA CITY TRACK & FIELD - BOYS

PHOTO FINISH: Spartans capture title by one point over Churchill

Ed Wright
Staff Writer



Stevenson's Malik Lowery won the long jump with a leap of 20 feet, 11.5 inches.

TOM BEAUDOIN

To say the boys' version of Friday's Livonia City Track & Field Championships came down to the wire would be an understatement.

In arguably the most exciting — and without a doubt the closest — boys city meet ever, Stevenson edged defending champion Churchill by the slimmest of margins, 97.5-96.5.

Franklin finished third with 58 points and Clarenceville was fourth with a two.

The Spartans had won the crown nine consecutive years before the Chargers snatched it from them last spring.

Stevenson head coach Scott Shaw praised his team's role players as much as the athletes who rolled up mountains of points.

"Whenever you win by one point, it comes down to the guy who places fifth in this event, or fourth in another event," said Shaw, who described Friday's competition as the most-compelling city meet he's ever seen. "Our distance guys did very well, as did our jumpers, but we also got big performances out of some guys we weren't expecting a lot from.

"Malik Lowery, for instance, had only high-jumped two or three times before today, yet he goes out and clears 5-10 and got us two points for fourth. You could go through just about every event and



Churchill's Carrington Smith edged Franklin's Brandon Smiley (left) in the 100-meter dash.

TOM BEAUDOIN

find a point here or there that put us over the top."

While the Spartans' unheralded performers contributed mightily, it was the proven studs who earned the bulk of the 97.5 points.

There was sophomore Coltin Bowersox taking the pole vault title with an 11-6 effort, and Lowery, although a relative rookie in the high jump, won his forte, the long jump, with a leap that came within a hair of reaching 21 feet.

Junior Evan Marini posted victories in both hurdles events, Andrew Bambach and Jack Balint went one-two in the 1,600 — and the list of Stevenson's high-achievers goes

on and on.

Among the Chargers' main men was sprinter Carrington Smith, who may have earned a part-time gig as a Jimmy John's spokesperson by sweeping the 100, 200 and 400 in freaky-fast fashion.

Churchill's Demarco McKinney was unbeatable in both throwing events and Dash Dobar out-kicked Stevenson's Alex Oquist and Bambach to take a thrilling 800.

Not surprisingly, Franklin's Tony Floyd went out in style in his final city meet, winning the 3,200 by six seconds over Stevenson's Alex Brauer.

LIVONIA CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Friday at Stevenson
FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Stevenson, 97.5; 2. Churchill, 96.5; 3. Franklin, 58; 4. Clarenceville, 2.
Shot put: 1. McKinney (C), 47 feet, 3.5 inches; 2. Simpson (C), 44-11; 3. Madley (F), 44-3.5.
Pole vault: 1. Bowersox (S), 11-6; 2. (tie) Stancer (C) and Delonis (S), 11-0.
Long jump: 1. Lowery (S), 20-11.5; 2. Adams (F), 19-10; 3. Colangelo (C), 19-9.25.
High jump: 1. Adams (F), 6-0; 2. Marini (S), 5-10; 3. Simmon (S), 5-10.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Churchill (Dobar, Momyer, Lafave, Meakin), 8 minutes, 41.05 seconds; 2. Stevenson, 8:59.01.
110 high hurdles: 1. Marini (S), 16.08; 2. Travis-Gilmore (C), 16.45; 3. Sudek (S), 16.59.
800 relay: 1. Franklin (Bagnall, Martin, Clark, Smiley), 1:32.62; 2. Churchill, 1:32.67.
1,600: 1. Bambach (S), 4:29.33; 2. Balint (S), 4:30.23; 3. Floyd (F), 4:35.51.
400 relay: 1. Franklin (Bagnall, Clark, Adams, Pasha), 44.98; 2. Stevenson, 45.59.
400: 1. C. Smith (C), 51.57; 2. Momyer (C), 52.91; 3. Licata (S), 53.84.
300 hurdles: 1. Marini (S), 42.81; 2. Sudek (S), 43.20; 3. Travis-Gilmore (C), 43.89.
800: 1. Dobar (C), 2:00.57; 2. Oquist (S), 2:01.56; 3. Bambach (S), 2:01.84.
200: 1. C. Smith (C), 22.69; 2. Smiley (F), 23.10; 3. Bagnall (F), 23.62.
3,200: 1. Floyd (F), 9:53.09; 2. Brauer (S), 9:59.85; 3. Opydyke (C), 10:12.22.
1,600 relay: 1. Churchill (Momyer, N. Smith, Dobar, C. Smith), 3:29.59; 2. Stevenson, 3:37.16.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

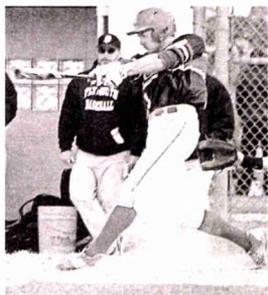
Jake Siepinko earned the complete-game victory by scattering six hits and two walks while striking out eight over seven innings.

The game's lone run came in the first when Matt Brooks knocked in Griff Shiminski.

Stevenson, which outhit the Rocks 6-4, received two hits from Nick Beers. Chris Tanderys, Devin Dunn, Frank Carlin and Gordon Ferguson stroked one hit a piece for the Spartans, who slipped to 6-11 overall and 3-7 in the Kensington Conference.

'Cats sweep Spartans

On Wednesday, Novi swept a doubleheader from Stevenson, 3-2 and 6-3. Andy Mizerowski stymied



John Glenn's Brian Martin connects on a sacrifice fly during the Rockets' 5-3 victory over Plymouth in the second game of Wednesday's double-header.

ED WRIGHT

the Spartans' offense, limiting it to seven hits and one walk during a complete-game gem. The visiting Spartans

showed some late-game spunk, trimming a 3-0 deficit to one with two runs in the seventh, but Mizerowski managed to slam the door.

Tanderys was a tough out, going 3-for-3 with a walk. Ferguson and Danny Morris chipped in with a hit and a run while Beers laced an RBI single.

Novi broke a 3-3 tie with a three-spot in the third to complete the sweep.

Cam Czapski earned the win in relief after limiting the Spartans to just two hits over the final five-and-one-third innings.

Tanderys again swung a sizzling bat for the Spartans, going 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI.

Morris and Ferguson both ripped two hits. Ferguson, Dan Bos and Brandon Posky scored the Spartans' runs.

Churchill doubles up Wayne

Two strong pitching performances propelled Livonia Churchill past Wayne Memorial in a KLAAS South Division double-header Wednesday afternoon, 12-1 and 6-2.

Charger game-one starter James Rintala was brilliant, yielding just one hit, one walk and one unearned run over five innings, while striking out six Zebras.

Justin Johnson suffered the setback after giving up 10 runs and nine hits over four frames.

Joe Hatley was a hitting machine in the first game for the winners, going 4-for-4 with three singles, a double, three runs scored and an RBI.

Other offensive standouts for Churchill were Joe Loudon (2-for-4, two runs), Evan Cummins (double, two walks, two

RBI, run) and Jon Hovermale, who scored three times, stole two bases and knocked in two runs.

Johnson drilled an RBI single for the Zebras.

Southpaw Joe Wozniak was a menace on the mound for Churchill in the nightcap, giving up zero earned runs, three hits and two walks over seven innings. Wozniak fanned five Wayne batters.

Kevin Goodling struggled with his command for Wayne, giving up six runs, seven hits and eight walks in six frames.

Brandon Campbell fueled the Chargers' offense with two singles, a walk and an RBI. Hatley had another solid game at the dish, clubbing a double, scoring twice and drawing two intentional walks. Johnson had a hit and a run for the Zebras.

ewright@hometownlife.com

RELAYS

Continued from Page B1

and field meet, basically. It will include the same events as a regular dual meet or regional competition. Unlike most dual meets nowadays, the pole vault will be included, too.

According to Plymouth girls coach Ricky Styes, the makeover hits the spot.

"I am excited to have our team finally have a chance to compete at the Observerland meet," Styes said. "This has always been a high-quality meet that the boys in the area have had on their schedule.

"Girls have always had problems finding a meet like this on their schedules, one with a num-

ber of high-quality teams."

Interest among the boys teams had waned in recent years under the old relays format and participation had declined. That was due to coaches seeking opportunities for athletes to attain good seed times for conference and regional meets, according to Livonia Franklin girls coach Dave Bjorklund.

"By the first Saturday in May, coaches are looking to run regional format meets, not relay meets," Bjorklund wrote in an email. "This has been accelerated by many of the conferences having their championship meets the week before the regional, as opposed to after the regional, as many did for a number of years.

"This has made the track season seem shorter and shorter. Cold weather in April over the

last few years hasn't helped either."

Styes concurred that the new format gives athletes an improved chance to get up to speed before state meets arrive on the schedule.

"Changing the meet to a regional format I am sure has made a lot of coaches happy," Styes said. "As we get close to the big meets at the end of the season, many of us want to find fast meets that are running the events that we will see in the MHSAA regional and state meets.

"We are hoping for great performances from our girls at this meet."

Due to the new enthusiasm for the meet brought about by the change in format, some schools had to be turned away,

according to Farmington co-coach Jeremy Auer.

"The girls teams in the area are really talented and they were going to those (regional-style) meets to try to get those (seed times)," he said. "We filled up pretty quickly. We were limiting it to 18 teams; it didn't take long and it was full.

"I think the response has been really good. Our girls are excited to run some fast times on their home track."

Farmington senior Maddy Trevisan, an all-state distance runner who was named Miss Cross Country last fall, is one of them.

"It's really exciting," she said. "Obviously, the meet has a lot of history. For (that history) to make our mark on that history, it's really cool. It's even more special

for me, being a senior and being able to host it on our home track.

"It's a great opportunity to PR in such a good field, especially in the distance races. The distance races will be run at night under the lights when it's cooler and those are great conditions for some good times."

Junior Raven Tatum is part of an outstanding group of North Farmington sprinters. She and her teammates are hoping to do well in those individual events and relays.

"I think it's going to be a great experience, because it's the first year for the girls," Tatum said.

The meet will start at noon with the pole vault, followed by the other field events at 1 p.m. The running prelims start at 4 p.m., the finals at 5:30 p.m.

Vintage is in vogue at Michigan Modernism Preview Party



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE

The Detroit Area Art Deco Society put on the 22nd annual Michigan Modernism Preview Party, featuring the best mid-century antiques, art and novelty collectibles. Held last month at the Southfield Civic Center, the Modernism Expo gave patrons a chance to purchase vintage clothing, furniture, housewares and art from dealers who came in from all over the country.

At times, it was hard to tell who was the dealer and who was the buyer, given the authentic vintage fashions that people brought out of their cedar closets to wear that night. Guests enjoyed a Retro Chic Fashion Show hosted and put together by Leah Damiani, owner of Leah's Closet in Royal Oak. Proceeds from the Modernism Preview Party benefit the Society's scholarship, restoration and preservation programs.

JVS Women to Work

It's no secret that the Trade Secrets event is the place to be — so much so that each year the venue gets larger to accommodate the supporters of JVS' Women to Work Program. This year's eighth annual dinner at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills was a sell-out with record attendance of 500-plus.

Keynote speaker Linda Schlesinger-Wagner, founder of the wonder tank line of skinnytees that now includes skirts, tops, leggings, dresses, bandeaus and active wear, recalled her struggles following a divorce 10 years ago. She worked a variety of jobs to keep herself and her two children afloat, battling depression while her son fought a drug addiction.

"We were the little family of three musketeers," Schlesinger-Wagner told the audience.

But with a \$1,000 advance credit from a friend and a support network of dedicated boutiques like Impulse in Brighton and Guys & Gals in West Bloomfield, she was off in a new direction. And for \$8.99, her son, David, purchased the name skinnytees from godaddy.com and the rest, as she'll say, is history.

"I was happy to reinvent myself," said Schlesinger-Wagner, who has been happily married for two and a half years to Paul Wagner, whom she met on a blind date.

"Women today have the help to recreate themselves and make magic."

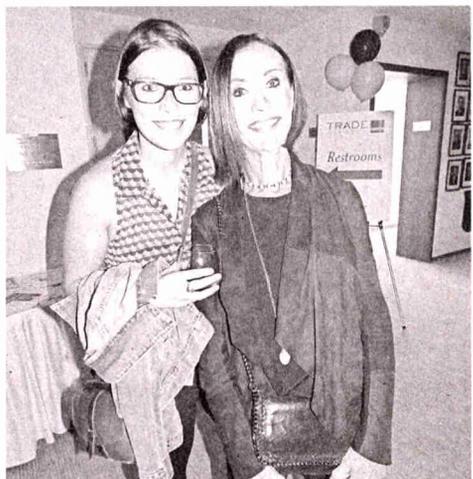
Schlesinger-Wagner's magic is spread across the world in over 1,000 stores and on QVC, to the tune of a growing \$8 million clothing line.

Award winner

Not only did Schlesinger-Wagner recover from a divorce and need to get back into the workplace, Felicia Militello of Commerce Township



Mia Durham (left) of West Bloomfield and Julie Skene of Farmington Hills have a colorful evening at The Detroit Area Art Deco Society's 22nd annual Michigan Modernism Preview Party.



Ariana Carps of Berkley and her mother, Elaine Blumenthal of Farmington Hills, attend the JVS Trade Secrets benefit which raised more than \$250,000 for JVS' Women to Work program.



Livonia resident Lora Weingarden and Franklin resident Linda Circus enjoy the Trade Secrets event, which drew a sell-out crowd.

worked through challenges and graduated from the Women to Work Program. She was honored with this year's JVS Women to Work Award. She was referred to the Women to Work Program through HAVEN, which provides services to victims of domestic violence. HAVEN will host its Hopes & Dreams Gala on May 6 at the Detroit Marriott Troy.

"I was in an unhealthy relationship for two decades that led to isolation and shame," said Militello, who now works as an escrow closer for Best Homes title Agency in Farmington Hills. "I knew to the core of my being that I had to leave. I had no plan, no home and no money."

"Women to Work activities were helpful in building up my confi-

dence and helped me see that I have skills and traits that are important in the workplace."

With the \$250,000 raised at this year's Trade Secrets event, the money will provide career counseling, job search training and skills assessment to women who must find employment to support their families following divorce, a disability, death or unemployment of a spouse or partner.

The 19th annual JVS Strictly Business Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. June 23 at MGM Grand Detroit.

For more information, go to www.jvsdet.org/women.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



Alison Laesser-Keck (left) of Plymouth-based VLD Events and Emily Andrews of Tecumseh enjoy shopping at the Modernism Expo. Andrews bought her vintage leopard coat at Le Shoppe at the event and literally wore it to go.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

BROXTON

JOY L. Age 71. April 25, 2016. Beloved mother of P. Michael (Holly) Boroday and Jill Christine (Jim) Stefanich. Cherished daughter of Fran and the late Richard Broxton. Loving grandmother of Landon and William Boroday. Sister of Richard Broxton and Rick (Cindy) Broxton. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services have been held. Memorials appreciated to The Humane Society of the United States. Obituary and condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com.

JACKSON



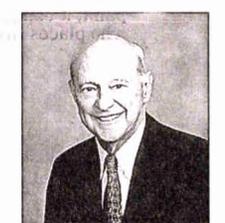
RUTH Age 96 of Canton, passed away on April 29, 2016. Beloved wife of the late William Jackson. Loving mother of Ron (Carol) Jackson, George (Cindi) Jackson, and Patty (Ron) Hoffman. Proud grandmother of Shari, Kelly, George, Jim, Kristie, and Nancy. Great-grandmother of 16. Caring sister of Norman Robinson and the late Kenneth Robinson. Visitation Sunday 2-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (between Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Gathering of family and friends, Monday, 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Funeral Service at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation or American Heart/American Stroke Association. To share memories, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

VIOLANTE



JOHN P. June 17, 1957-April 23, 2016. On April 23, 2016, after a short battle with cancer, John Philip Violante went home to The Lord; he was surrounded by family in the home he had built with his wife. He leaves behind his adoring wife and high school sweetheart, Sue (Bond) Violante; loving daughter, Alexandra (Christopher) Reznik; and loving son, John Violante, Jr. John is also survived by his sisters, Patricia Greenwood, Beth Violante, Sue Willet, Lori (Tim) Makeia, and Nancie (Kerry) Puzio; his brothers, Mike (Laura), Ric (Connie), Tom, and Bob (Debbie) Violante; many nieces, nephews, and a large extended family. He is reunited with his parents, Edward and Patricia Violante. Those who were lucky enough to have known John knew he was a big teddy bear, more bark than bite. If he picked you out you meant he cared about you. And no one cared about their family as deeply as John; always selflessly putting others before himself. John requested to be cremated. A memorial service will be held Friday, April 29, 10:30 a.m. at St. Michael's in Livonia. His ashes will be placed at his favorite fishing hole, the Violante family cottage, where his life will be celebrated with family and friends. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Jack's Place for Autism. His Christmas coffee cakes will be truly missed!

HAYWARD



JOHN G. "JACK" Of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, died on Wednesday, April 27 at the age of 88. A lifelong resident of Michigan, he grew up in Royal Oak, the son of Louise Hayward and longtime Royal Oak Police Chief Ray Hayward. Jack was President of his Royal Oak High School senior class and served in the Navy during World War II, and after law school as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps Advocate General's Office. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1950, and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1953. He began to practice law, and shortly afterward met Judith Seaborn; they were married in December, 1956, and were married for 59 years. He practiced law with his own firm and later with Howard and Howard. Jack served as General Counsel for the Wayne Oakland Bank for 19 years, and thereafter served as a director of both the Wayne Oakland Bank and First of America Bank. He was also city attorney for Huntington Woods for 17 years. Over the years, Jack served as a Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, a member of the Royal Oak School Board, and as a Director of the Oakland County Bar Association. He was a member of the Birmingham Athletic Club and the Walloon Lake Country Club. An avid fly fisherman, skier and golfer, he loved to travel, and traveled all over the world with his wife and family. Jack was an honest and ethical man, with a great sense of humor and a friendly personality, which made him beloved to all those who were lucky enough to know him. Jack embraced life, whether he was working passionately for his clients, or spending time with his precious family, whom he loved above all else. Jack is survived by his wife, Judith Hayward; his sister, Ruth Goulding; his children, Doug Hayward, Anne Hammond (Ed), and Julie Armstrong (Jim); as well as grandchildren, Emily Hammond Olson, John Hammond, Sarah Hammond, Jack Armstrong, and Caroline Armstrong. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Salvation Army, 16130 Northland Dr., Southfield, MI 48075 or veteran's charity of donor's choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com.

MARKES

GRAHAM WILLIAM Age 95 of Holland went to be with his Heavenly Father Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Born in Wyandotte, Michigan. Graham graduated from Alma College with a degree in Chemistry. He served his country in the Army Air corp and returned to the states in 1945. He was employed for many years by the Ford Company as a research chemist working in several plants in and around Detroit. In 2002 he moved to the Holland area to be near family. His first wife Elizabeth Markes preceded him in death in 2004. He is survived by his wife: Joyce Markes, children: Susan (Don) Bigwood of Holland, Graham (Tulin) Markes II of Clarence New York, Fran (William) Renton of Sarasota, Florida., ten grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; step-children, Steven (Ruth) Waterman of Zeeland, Janet (Garry) Strout of Grand Rapids, MI., six step-grandchildren; nine step great grandchildren, as well as a sister-in-law, Nancy Lumber of Portland, Oregon. Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 30, 1:00 p.m. at Northwood Chapel, Dykstra Funeral Homes, 295 Douglas Ave., Holland. Friends may call on the family Friday 7-9 p.m. at the chapel. Memorial gifts may be given to Hospice of Holland. Please visit www.dykstrafuneralhome.com to sign an online registry or to leave a memory.

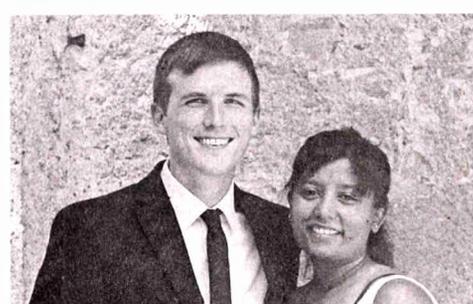
ENGAGEMENT

Langevillier-Hurst

Cory Robert Hurst and Nadiana Langevillier announce their engagement.

Cory, the son of Gary and Rebecca Hurst, is a Plymouth native and a 2008 graduate of Canton High School. He received a bachelor of arts degree in history and his teaching certification from Michigan State University. He has also earned a master's degree in educational technology from Michigan State University. Cory teaches middle school world history, at iCademy Middle East, in Dubai, UAE.

Nadiana, the daughter of Christian and Kareemah Langevillier, is from Château-Renault, France.

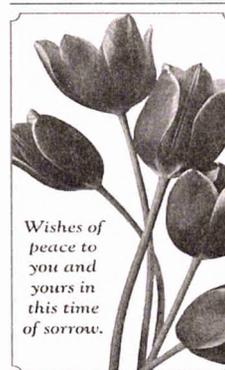


Cory Robert Hurst and Nadiana Langevillier plan to marry in July.

She received a bachelor's degree in teaching modern foreign languages from University of Wales Institute of Cardiff, in Cardiff, Wales. She manages and teaches at an English language in-

stitute in Alcázar de San Juan, Spain.

The couple plans to marry in July 2016 at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. They will reside in Alcázar de San Juan, Spain.



Wishes of peace to you and yours in this time of sorrow.

May you find peace in your time of sorrow.



Terri and Jeff Saenz face ALS together, and manage to find joy in life.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton woman sees blessings in her life, despite ALS diagnosis

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Terri Saenz will learn the results of a 10-month clinical trial for ALS this summer.

The Canton woman will find out if she received a placebo or stem cells during a research study last year at the Mayo Clinic, in Minnesota.

In the meantime, she'll receive proceeds from two community events, the annual SJ5k run May 1 and an inaugural golf outing May 21, to help pay for medical needs.

Saenz, 48, was diagnosed in January 2015 with ALS, a fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects muscle-controlling nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Two months later, she was accepted into a 48-patient clinical trial, conducted by Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics in Massachusetts and Minnesota. Earlier trials with a small sample of patients in Israel showed improvement in slowing the disease's progression for six months following treatment.

Saenz traveled to the Mayo Clinic every month from June-December 2015 with her husband, Jeff, to participate in the study.

But now it's a waiting game with a disease that generally claims its victims within two to five years after diagnosis. And even a positive trial result doesn't guarantee Saenz continued stem cell treatment.

"Even if Brainstorm's trial is successful, by the time it comes on the market, I could be gone. Even if I got the cells (during the trial) I couldn't get another dose because it's not available. What I read is that the best results are from multiple doses," she said.

The company could allow placebo recipients to receive stem cells, but Jeff Saenz says that appears unlikely.

"It all comes down to funding and they are the ones that have to fund it," he explained. "Even if we say, you know what, we'll raise whatever money it takes, we'll make it happen, they won't do it."

FUNDRAISERS

» SJ5k Charity Run raises money for local families in medical crisis. Register for this sixth annual event beginning at 7 a.m. Sunday, May 1, at the Canton High School varsity field, 8415 Canton Center Road, south of Joy Road, in Canton. A ceremony honoring the five families that will receive race proceeds will precede the 5k, which will begin at 8:15 a.m. There's also an optional 1-mile walk. Recipients this year are Torrance Johnson, Eriksson Elementary School fifth-grader with muscular dystrophy; Ann Slomkowski, a West Middle School teacher who is battling cancer for the second time; Sharon Laing, a Plymouth High School teacher who is undergoing treatment for cancer; Chris White, an alumnus who was diagnosed with a brain tumor in his sophomore year at Central Michigan University; and Terri Saenz. For more on the event, email sj5kcommunity@gmail.com or visit sj5k.org.

» The first MyFriendTerri.com Golf Tournament begins with registration, coffee and pastries at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 21, at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz Road, Canton. The 18-hole scramble starts at 9 a.m., and will include course contests, prizes, lunch and soft drinks, a dinner reception with prize raffle and cash bar, for \$125 per golfer. Visit MyFriendTerri.com to register.

"Right now they are saying no. But if it's super positive (trial results) why wouldn't you? I've written five letters to the company."

Saenz said she hopes the trial is successful and helps accelerate the research. She is grateful to have been involved in the trial, but is realistic about what it could mean for her future.

"The fact that this disease has been around 144 years and there is just one treatment that prolongs life for only two months, that is mind-blowing," she said.

Physical changes

Her breathing function has declined slightly over the past year, a physical change that



Jeff Saenz talks about the device Terri uses at night to assist in breathing.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

could make her ineligible for stem cell injections even if she had received the placebo and the company decided to make them available.

"It's counter-productive in my mind to make that a requirement. Most ALS patients die from diaphragm muscles weakening and they are no longer able to breathe," she said. "And as a patient, there is a little part of you that goes, let's be real. If this is successful you will make millions of dollars. You make the money and I may never get the treatment. Why aren't you required to help me get what I need?"

In March, Saenz began using a BiPAP machine at night after discovering that patients who use the aid "earlier than later" benefit from it.

Her speech has slurred a bit more over the past year and she now uses a rolling walker when she's tired. But she still drives, walks and refuses to

park in handicap spaces unless absolutely necessary. Her daily regimen includes dietary supplements, exercise and eating healthful meals. Saenz used a motorized scooter when she accompanied her husband on a business trip to Las Vegas, Nev., last year. When they celebrate their anniversary with a cruise this summer, she'll have a wheelchair on hand. Saenz said she and her husband try not to let ALS get in the way of their lives. They adjust, rather than give up.

Advocates

They'll be in Washington, D.C., for a few days in May with representatives from the ALS Association of Michigan for the annual National ALS Advocacy Day and Public Policy Conference to help build awareness of the disease, tell their story and learn more about opportunities available to patients. Last month, the

organization's Michigan chapter honored them with the Embers of Hope patient and caregiver award. Saenz's good friend, Peggy Fenwick, was named the Advocate of the Year.

"There have been so many blessings," Saenz said, tearing up as she recalled events of the past year. "People helped us put up our Christmas tree. I had friends who came over and helped us decorate it."

Strangers have shoveled their walk in winter and raked leaves in the fall. They've delivered gift cards and flowers.

"I try to be good to people and I think it's coming back to me," she said. "I think the world is good."

Follow Saenz's progress at facebook.com/myfriendterri/. Register for the golf outing at myfriendterri.com and get more information about the 5k at sj5k.org.

Barefoot monologue show focuses on the ups, downs of motherhood

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Barefoot Productions will present an encore of "Motherhood Out Loud," for Mother's Day weekend.

The Plymouth-based theater staged the play in 2014 to sold-out audiences and will bring it back May 6-8 with lots of

changes. It consists of 15 monologues and five "fugues," which are scenes with several characters whose monologues intertwine at a fast pace.

"It's 90 percent different," said Amanda Durham of Westland, who co-directs the play with Chris Steves, Barefoot Productions president.

"Last time the for the

fugues we had choir books," she said, adding that the actors read their lines. "We felt that broke the connectivity between actors and the audience. This year, we're trying it memorized. Everyone in a fugue is in black and they stand on boxes to give it different levels. We changed some of the fugue roles to men this year —

there are a lot of stay-at-home dads now — and they are having a lot of fun with it."

A few actors play two characters back to back, with a mere lighting cue between two different monologues.

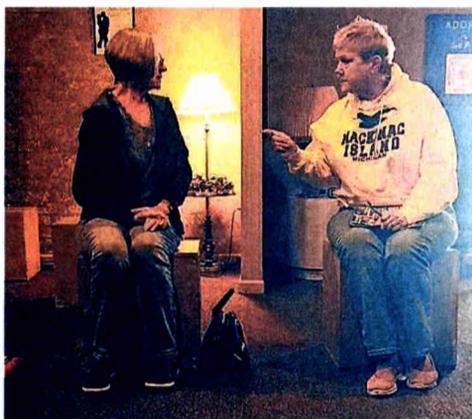
"Our monologues in this series, we've directed them a little. Some have props and some have movement."

The monologues and fugues are organized around five themes, fast births, first day, sex talk, stepping out and coming home. The play starts with stories about new mothers and ends with a mother and her baby. In between, there's advice from a grandmother, sto-

See PLAY, Page B7



The fugue cast of "Motherhood Out Loud" is Jessie Carlin (back, left), Ederique Goudia, Beth Wondolowski, Cory Chambless, Ashley Lyle, Marian Busa, (front left) Keiona Smith, Betty Berryman and Jamie Hendrix.



Marian Busa and Wendy Sielaff rehearse a scene from "Motherhood Out Loud."

Major opera stars to perform in local production of 'La Boheme'

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

"It's just you and your voice."

That's how Cuban-born soprano Elizabeth Caballero describes the challenge of being a professional opera singer. It's a challenge she understands quite well, having performed on some of the biggest stages in the world, including the Metropolitan Opera.

"I'm getting paid to put on costumes and play make-believe — so in that sense, it's pretty incredible," she said. "But you need a very tough skin in this profession. You're up there all alone. You might have a wig and a costume and some scenery on the stage, but it's still you."

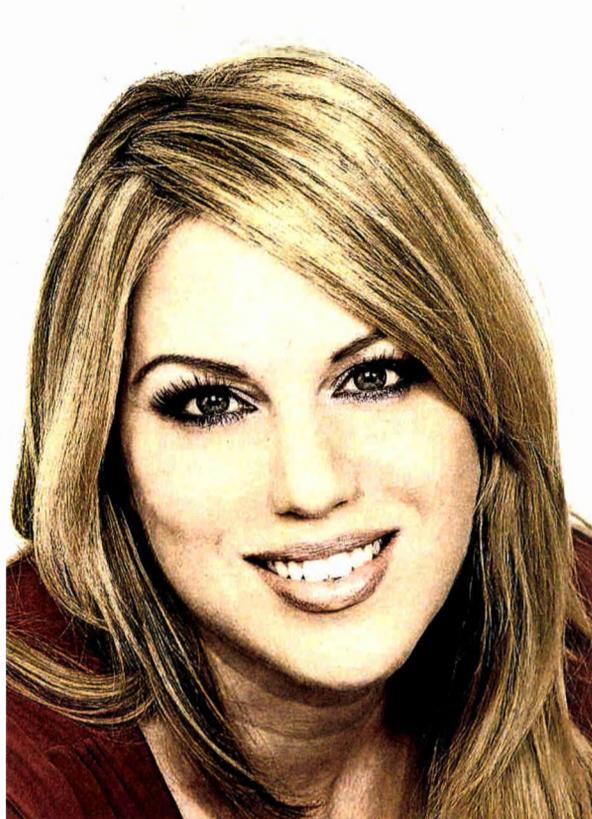
Caballero is starring in the lead role of Mimi in a Live@First production of Puccini's "La Boheme" at 7:30 p.m. May 7 at the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Adult tickets are \$25 and students will be admitted free.

The opera, which will be presented in concert form, also includes American bass Peter Volpe (Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera), along with soprano Katrina Van Maanen, tenor Drake Dantzer, baritone Stephen Hartley and basso-buffo Stephen Eisenhard.

"These are some really big names and we're definitely excited to have them here and perform for us," conductor Casey Proch said. "It's a neat way to see an opera, in a small venue, where there are no walls between the performers and the audience. It's really kind of electric."

Tickets for the show can be purchased at liveatfirst.org or by calling 248-646-1200.

Caballero started singing professionally at the age of 26. One of her



PHOTOGRAPHY
Soprano Elizabeth Caballero is starring in the lead role of Mimi in Puccini's "La Boheme" at the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham.

early breaks came in 1995, when she was still in school and sang at a voice competition that was organized by legendary opera singer Luciano Pavarotti.

"I didn't win, but out of 2,000 participants, he chose me to be one of the finalists," she said. "He told me, 'Elisabetta, you are a diamond that needs to be polished.' Those were his exact words. It made me go even further to become an opera singer."

Her recent engagements include the role of Donna Elvira in "Don Giovanni" at the Seattle Opera; a performance of "Carmina Burana" with Florida Orchestra; a chance to sing the title role in Daniel Catán's Spanish opera "Florencia en el Amazonas" with Nashville Opera; John

Rutter's "Requiem" at Carnegie Hall; and a concert appearance as Micaela in "Carmen" by Bizet and Previn's "Honey and Rue" in returns to the Pacific Symphony.

She'll be returning to New York City Opera this summer to sing the title role in "Florencia en el Amazonas."

She avoids alcohol to keep her voice sharp and stays proficient in Italian, German and French, as most of the great works are written in those three languages. She enjoys "living like a gypsy" and traveling to perform in shows around the globe.

If she listens to music, it's usually the soft rockers like Bon Jovi and Madonna. She admits that, for the most part, she keeps the radio off in the car.

"When I'm not performing, I just like the quiet or some white noise," she said.

There was no opera music in her household growing up and Caballero concedes her parents were a bit skeptical at first when she decided to become a professional singer.

"Now, they're my biggest supporters," she said. "My parents are wonderful — they're my heroes for choosing to bring our family to this country. I don't know the life they had in Cuba, but they made the decision to come here and give my sister and I the opportunity to follow our dreams."

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PLAY

Continued from Page B6

ries about children as they grow, with some monologues drawing laughs and others, tears.

"I find myself crying at funny things I feel will be my future," Durham said. She's a mother of toddlers and can relate to many of the stories.

Cory Chambless, who plays several parts in the show, said dads will relate to the stories, too.

"Non-parent men and women will relate," he said. "We're all someone's child."

All but two members of the cast are parents. The actors also reflect a mix of ethnic backgrounds and communities.

"We have a Muslim woman doing a monologue about a first period. There's one monologue that aims toward gay parenting. We have a lot of variety this year," Durham said. "The first time I think we pulled a lot of (actors) who were already in our talent pool. This time around more people heard about it. We got people from all over."

The production contains adult language and topics and is for mature audiences. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 6-7, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 8, at Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. Tickets are \$15-\$17. For more information, call 734-404-6889 or visit justgobarefoot.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

RELIGION CALENDAR

MAY CARD PARTY

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 6

Location: SS Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland

Details: Play cards and games of your choice. Admission is \$8. Door, table prizes, 50-50, light meal and snacks

Contact: 734-722-1343

CHARITY CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Location: St. Mel's Catholic Church, 7506 Inkster Road, north of Warren Road in Dearborn Heights.

Details: Admission is \$1 with all proceeds to help veterans and their families. Bake sale, food available.

Contact: AmericanLegionAux396craftshow@yahoo.com.

CONCERT

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. May 15

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The concert choir of Michigan Lutheran Seminary of Saginaw performs. A free will offering will be accepted

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

DANCE

Time/Date: 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. buffet, May 15

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: Music by the Off Beats and entertainment for children. Tickets, including dinner and refreshments, are \$40 per person; free for children, 12 and under. Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit to benefit retired Orthodox priests and priests' widows.

Contact: Mihaela Charlier at 313-595-7640 or coccdetroit@yahoo.com

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Time/Date: Doors open at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 7

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Laverne, Redford

Details: S.H.A.R.E. program includes spending time "in God's word," followed by distribution

of bagged groceries. Open to the first 40 families

Contact: Diane at [313-937-2424](tel:313-937-2424)

MOM2MOM SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7

Location: St. Valentin School Gym, 25875 Hope, Redford

Details: Bake sale, refreshments. \$1 admission, \$2 early bird. For table rental and contract, visit stvalentineschool.com

Contact: Renee Williams at [313-931-2549](tel:313-931-2549), renee3471@att.net; Jessica Wimmer at [734-223-3390](tel:734-223-3390), jessicawimmer@hotmail.com

PRAYER IN THE PARK

Time/Date: Prayer, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; worship and prayer service, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5

Location: Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth

Details: Pastors from various churches will lead prayers throughout the day, coming together for the worship service in the evening. Sponsored by Heartbeat of Plymouth in celebration of National Day of Prayer

Contact: heartbeatofplymouth.com

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 5; 9 a.m. to noon Friday, May 6; 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 7

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburgh and Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: \$2 per adult Thursday only; free admission Friday-Saturday. Saturday half-price sale

Contact: 734-422-0149

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. May 5; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 6; 9:30 a.m. to noon May 7

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Livonia

Details: Preview sale on Thursday is \$2 admission. \$3 bag sale (bags will be provided) and half-price sale on Saturday

Contact: 734-464-0211

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 19; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 20

Location: First Farmington

United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River Ave., at Warner Street, Farmington

Details: Bag sale will be Friday. Items that don't fit in the bag will be half off that day

Contact: 248-474-6573

RUMMAGE, BAKE SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 13-14

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia

Details: Furniture, crafts, electronics, books, clothing, toys, kitchen items, small appliances, holiday decorations, jewelry, collectibles, gadgets, antiques, office items and more. \$3 bag sale begins at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Cash only

Contact: 734-427-1414

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livonia.stmichael.org

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at [734-765-5476](tel:734-765-5476)

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarendville United Methodist Church, 20300 Mid-

dlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

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

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at [734-422-0010](tel:734-422-0010) or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbsm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at [248-227-6617](tel:248-227-6617) and Jody Fleszar at [734-658-2463](tel:734-658-2463)

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

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

Contact: Amy at [313-937-3084](tel:313-937-3084) or Kristen at [734-542-0767](tel:734-542-0767)

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

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

Contact: Parish office at [734-464-1223](tel:734-464-1223)

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, ink cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at [734-466-9023](tel:734-466-9023)

DETROIT WORLD OUTREACH

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

STEVE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, ¼ mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

CONNECTION CHURCH

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

DETROIT WORLD OUTREACH

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

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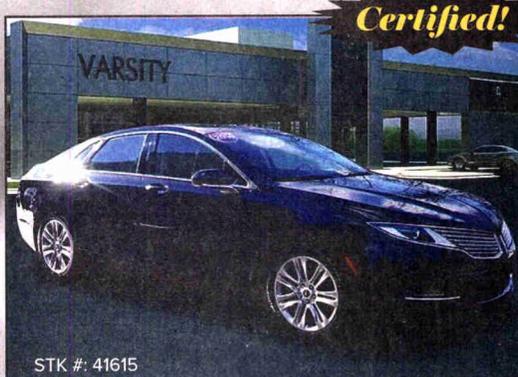
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