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Class action lawsuit filed over water rates

Refunds sought for alleged excess fees in Westland

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Westland residents began receiving letters this week notifying them that they are part of a class action lawsuit challenging the city's water and sewer rates.

The lawsuit, filed in Wayne County Circuit Court, alleges that fees charged by Westland for water and sewer are in excess of what is needed to cover actual expenses, with the revenues used to fund general operations. That effectively creates a tax in violation of the Headlee Amendent, according to the lawsuit, which seeks a refund and that the city be enjoined from future overcharging.

Westland denies overcharging and is fighting the lawsuit.

"They are suing everyone with a fund balance in their water and sewer fund. Their argument is that we have a fund balance, so that is evidence of overcharging," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "The fund balance affects our bond rating. We need cash on hand to pay bills. The water fund carries a big amount of receivables."

Westland bills for water every other month and carries $2 million to $3 million in receivables in the water fund, on average. The city spends approximately $33 million to operate and maintain the city water and sewer system.

Attorney Gregory Hanley of Kickham Hanley, which filed the lawsuit and has been involved in similar litigation with several other area communities, didn't respond to requests for comments. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Westland are two con-

See LAWSUIT, Page A2

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The storage tank will fill at non-peak usage hours and allow Canton to release water during peak hours, placing less strain on the system.

A WATER STORAGE TANK IS TAKING SHAPE IN CANTON

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

In a milestone effort to ease Canton water rate hikes, a 2.5 million-gallon water storage facility is taking shape on Canton's north side and could be in use by May, officials say.

Officials are hopeful the $10.2 million facility can help to reduce water rates — or at least slow the increase — though precise projections aren't yet known. However, communities such as Novi and Plymouth Township have passed on savings to residents after their water storage facilities slashed what they pay to the Great Lakes Water Authority for service.

The Observer accompanied Canton officials Tuesday on a tour of the two-acre water storage site, near Joy and Morton Taylor, that township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said marks a turning point in long-time talks aimed at finding a solution to spiraling water rates.

"It's the future of Canton. It's so important," he said. "I'm very proud of the fact that we, as a team, were able to put this thing together. It positions us well for the future."

A typical Canton household using 22,650 gallons of water every three-month billing cycle is paying just under $300 quarterly — or nearly $1,200 a year — a price tag some residents say has been difficult to pay.

Matt Kennedy, an engineer for OHM Advisors, which designed Canton's water

See TANK, Page A2

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Kennedy, OHM environmental engineer, leads the tour. Behind him are Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Municipal Services Director Tim Faas.

Clerks see spike in absentee ballot voting

Heated presidential election adding interest

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Amidst a blistering presidential race, some western Wayne County clerks are noticing a sharp increase in the number of voters who plan to cast absentee ballots and avoid potentially long lines at Election Day polling places.

"There's a lot of interest in this election cycle. It has been unusual, to say the least," Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said.

Clerks say it's difficult to know how much the heated presidential race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump has influenced the surge of interest in absentee voting — but the uptick is real.

Canton voters had requested 9,098 absentee ballots as of Thursday, nearly six weeks out from the Nov. 8 election. That's a big chunk of Canton's 66,160 registered voters. Those absentee ballots are expected to arrive in mailboxes as early as Wednesday.

Bennett said absentee ballot requests "are up probably by 20 percent" compared to this point in past presidential election cycles. "I think this reflects people's interest in the outcome of what is going to happen on Nov. 8," she said.

Canton voters also have a flurry of local races, such as township supervisor, clerk, treasurer and part-time trustees.

Livonia City Clerk Susan Nash said her office also has noticed an increase in requests for absentee ballots, with the first batch being mailed out Friday. She said 8,300 were set to be mailed out — compared to 7,500 at this point during the last non-incumbent presidential race in 2008.

Redford Township Clerk Garth Christie said requests for absentee ballots are up about 19 percent statewide. He said Redford sent letters to residents over age 60 earlier this year to notify them that they qualify to vote absentee, adding that he believes requests for absentee ballots have reached "a saturation

See ABSENTEE, Page A3

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INDEX

Crossword Puzzle C2
Homes C4
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LAWSUIT

Continued from Page A1

dominium owners association, Deerhurst and Woodview. The lawsuit was eventually granted class action status.

"We filed the lawsuit because we felt the issue was that it's not a fee, it's a tax," Deerhurst resident property manager Sherry Springer said. "That's about all I can say right now. We're not out to get the city — we're out to do what's right."

It wasn't too many years ago that Westland's water/sewer fund was broke and operating on a $2 million loan from the city's general fund. In an effort to get the fund solvent and self-sustaining, the city council began looking at rates more frequently. In 2009, auditors Plante Moran found the water fund was underfunded.

"We've been using a formula for setting rates and administration charges against the water fund. Plante Moran does our audits," Wild said. "We've hired a third party expert to look at those."

The lawsuit contends the city is overcharging the water-sewer fund too much for retirement expenses. "The expert said that we are charging only for current people and we need to charge for all water department retirees," Wild said. "We will have a third party look at the rates."

With a water system 50 years old in some parts of the city, Wild said the rate formula is designed to maintain the local water/sewer system while also preparing for a potential disaster. Reserve funds also are used to pay for emergencies, he said, ranging from water main breaks to flood cleanup and claims.

The litigation class includes 26,000 current water customers, but could include another 10,000 people who paid water bills and no longer live In Westland, since the lawsuit covers a period going back to 2009.

'People are suing themselves'

"In effect, people are suing themselves. We think it is a frivolous lawsuit. We're going to fight it," Wild said. "We will have a response on the city website."

A misconception, helped by an inaccurate Detroit Free Press article, Wild noted is that Westland has high water rates. Based on the average residential water usage of 13.5 units of water or 13,500 gallons, a Westland water customer pays $164.62. That's about the middle compared to neighboring communities.

Inkster is at the high end with a $260.43 charge, followed by $241.76 in Dearborn Heights and $212.28 in Wayne. Livonia is at the bottom end at $125.85, although it's noted Livonia charges a higher commodity rate for larger meters, subsidizing the pricing for one-inch and smaller meters.

Wild also noted that this litigation is not related to flooding that occurred in 2010 and 2011, to the ongoing water meter replacement program or anything to do with lead pipes.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

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

WESTLAND OBSERVER
Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:
29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
hometownlife.com

Editor: Brad Kadrich
734-678-2386
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Sports: Ed Wright
734-578-2767
Email: ewright@hometownlife.com

Subscription Rates:
Newsstand price: $1.00 Thursday & $1.50 Sunday
$8.25 EZ pay per month
$52.00 six months
$104.00 per year
$91.00 six months mail delivery
$182.00 per year mail delivery

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TANK

Continued from Page A1

storage tank and pump station, said the goal is to have it in use by next May. It will allow Canton to draw water overnight from GLWA's system, store it and release it to local consumers when demand spikes during morning and evening hours. That places less strain on GLWA's system and is projected to slash $3.5 million off the $12 million that Canton pays every year for water.

In Novi, city officials reduced consumer water rates by 8 percent this year after building a $4 million, 1.5 million-gallon water storage facility, similar to Canton's ground-level facility, said Rob Hayes, city engineer and public services director. He said costs to GLWA this year decreased 23 percent — or $2.6 million — though Novi officials expect the annual savings to climb to $3.1 million.

"We don't see any reason why we shouldn't be able to hit that going forward," Hayes said.

Plymouth Township built a second water storage tower in 2007 and has managed to save about $2.5 million a year that it pays for water, Treasurer Ron Edwards said. The latest water rates this summer decreased 5 percent and saved an average Plymouth Township resident about $50 a year, he said.

While that might not be a huge decrease, it comes as consumers in some communities continue to face substantial rate hikes — some of them double-digit. Edwards said Plymouth Township's water storage efforts have been complemented by efforts to educate residents to try to use less water during peak usage times, roughly 6-9 a.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Ending a years-long debate in Canton on how to ease rate hikes, the township board in March approved a plan to proceed with the water storage facility and pump station by tapping into a GLWA water main that runs along Morton Taylor. RCL Construction Co. of Sanford just recently erected the actual storage tank.

"The tank went up in three days," Kennedy said, but that is just one part of a much-larger project before the facility can be used.

Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said Canton uses just over 10 million gallons of water a day, but the storage facility will allow the township to store water and release it to customers during non-peak usage hours. Placing less strain on GLWA's system will allow Canton to negotiate a better price for water.

Back in March, Faas said the water storage tank singularly amounts to "the largest capital investment Canton has made in its water system in its history."

In a positive move for taxpayers, Budget and Finance Director Wendy Trumbull said the entire project will be paid off in seven years, partly by tapping into low-interest bond money unspent from earlier water-sewer projects. The rest comes from the water-sewer fund.

The best part: Canton is expected to recoup the money in less than four years through its savings with GLWA.

Canton is expected to pay about $131,000 a year to operate and maintain the storage facility — an amount officials say is small compared to the annual $3.5 million savings.

dclem@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The pumping station controls the flow of water. The three-ton overhead crane helps with replacement of motors, pumps and valves.

Water for the storage tank comes from 24-inch pies connected to the main.

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ABSENTEE

Continued from Page A1

point" there.

Redford is expected to send out 3,000 absentee ballots a month before the election.

In Canton, Bennett said large numbers of people came to the clerk's office after Monday's first presidential debate to request absentee ballots or register to vote. She said the influx also coincided with Tuesday's National Voter Registration Day.

"Between National Voter Registration Day and the presidential debate, we saw a lot of activity," she said.

Deputy Clerk Jackie Shamus said many of them want to vote by absentee ballot.

"They're coming in hot and heavy asking for absentee ballots," she said.

Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc said his office has had a sharp increase in the number of voters on a list to cast absentee ballots. Westland already had 4,700 permanent absentee voters, but he and Deputy Clerk Susan Hoff identified and sent letters to about 11,000 registered voters, 60 and older, to make them aware their age gave them the option to vote absentee if they choose.

In response, he said, 8,200 people signed up for the permanent absentee voter list.

"That's pretty impressive," LeBlanc said. "We probably had 20 absentee ballot requests a day. The closer we get to the election, it will be hundreds."

Like Canton, Livonia had an uptick in absentee ballot requests after Monday's presidential debate, but not a major increase.

"There has been (an increase), but not a huge one," Nash said.

Wayne City Clerk Matthew Miller said his office has received 1,100 requests for absentee ballots and a bulk mailing is expected within days. He said Wayne had 2,000 absentee voters during the 2012 presidential election cycle.

Lately, Miller said, "I have seen just a little bit more of an uptick. Of course, after the debate on Monday, we had a line on Tuesday."

Staff writers Scott Daniel, LeAnne Rogers and David Veselenak contributed to this story.

Some 100,000 straight-party votes cast in area in 2012

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

While the federal courts will continue to examine the issue of straight-party voting in Michigan, data from 2012 shows it's likely that many in northwest Wayne County will continue to use the method in the upcoming presidential election.

More than 103,000 ballots cast in northwest Wayne County in the 2012 presidential election were of the straight-ticket variety. The most straight-party ballots were cast in Livonia, where 24,249 ballots were cast in that election as either straight-party votes for Democrats or Republicans. Westland and Canton had 20,089 and 21,034 straight-ticket ballots cast, respectively.

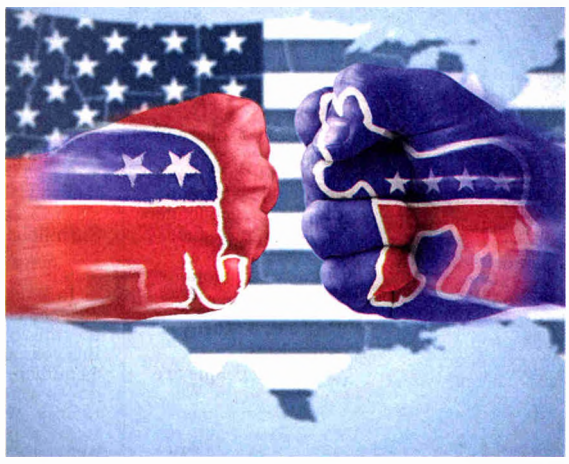
On the smaller end, Plymouth Township had 7,133 straight-ticket ballots cast, Garden City saw 6,093 straight-ticket ballots cast, Wayne had 4,239 such ballots cast and the Wayne County precinct of Northville saw 425 such ballots cast.

Despite a law put into place last year banning straight-party voting, an injunction on the law was instituted by the federal court system after a lawsuit was brought forth earlier this year alleging the act of eliminating straight-party voting would hurt voters. The injunction, which was not lifted by the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Sixth Circuit or the U.S. Supreme Court, meant straight-ticket voting will be allowed for the Nov. 8 presidential election.

Livonia Clerk Susan Nash said she anticipates a similar figure of straight-ticket voting in this election now that it's allowed.

"Forty-four percent was straight-party ticket voting," she said. "I can't see why it would change. Let's go back to 2008, I'm seeing similar-type numbers."

The first round of absentee ballots is expected to go out later this week in some communities.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Locally, more than 100,000 straight party ticket votes were cast in the 2012 election.

STRAIGHT-PARTY BALLOTS CAST IN 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Community	Democrat	Republican
Redford	10,009	2,608
Livonia	12,181	12,068
Westland	14,544	5,545
Garden City	3,912	2,181
Wayne	3,152	1,087
Northville Township	2,994	4,712
Northville (Wayne Co.)	171	254
Plymouth Township	2,868	4,265
Canton	12,545	8,489
Plymouth	*	*

*Officials in Plymouth when reached said straight-party votes were not broken out in the 2012 election.

Changes had to be made

Westland Clerk Richard LeBlanc said he's anticipating wait times for voters at the polls to be similar to what they were in 2012. But staff has had to make many changes on the fly, as the original thought was that straight-party voting would not have been allowed in November.

After the lawsuit and subsequent injunction, he said, his staff had to make a 180-degree turn to help inform voters that they'd have that option.

"Our expectation was that we would not have the straight-party option," he said. "A lot of that stuff had become changed and now, all of a sudden, it had to be changed back."

The decision to eliminate straight-party ballots by the state Legislature included reasoning that Michigan remains one of the last states in the nation that uses it. Nine other states currently allow it.

Straight-party voting allows a voter to fill in one circle to vote for all candidates of that party on the ballot, including the presidential candidates, state Legislature candidates and down to local partisan races, such as township board of trustees.

Voters can decide to vote straight party, though they can still cast a vote for a candidate outside of that party and have it count. That's something, Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said, that's important for voters to know.

"But folks need to understand they can vote a straight party and they can vote individual races by exception," she said.

Northville Township Clerk Sue Hillebrand said while she sees the reasoning behind the Legislature's decision over the issue, she said voters have decided they want to keep that system through referendums.

""I've been a supporter of straight ticket. It's a good system. I do understand the Legislature's interest in eliminating it. We are one of the few states that offer it," she said. "Michigan voters have overwhelmingly said they like straight-ticket voting."

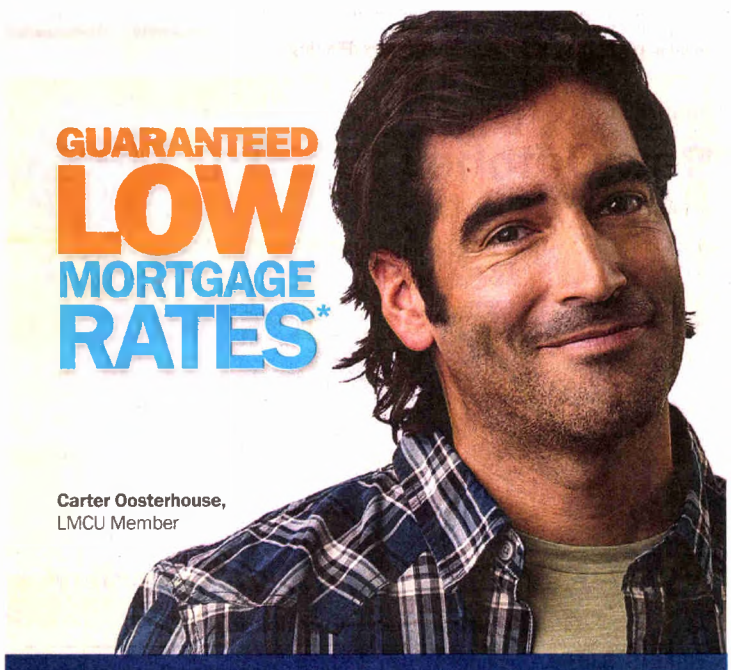
Voters in Michigan have voted to keep straight-party voting twice, once in 1964 and again in 2002. The most recent law banning the practice put in place by the state is referendum-proof, as it contained a $5 million appropriation. Laws that contain appropriations cannot be overturned by voters.

Nash said her work revolves around keeping voting moving forward. She's hoping this year's election will do just that.

"Our goal as a clerk is to get a voter in, to have the voting process ... all be consistent and smooth," she said. "And get people through in a timely manner."

Staff Writer Brad Kadrich contributed to this report.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



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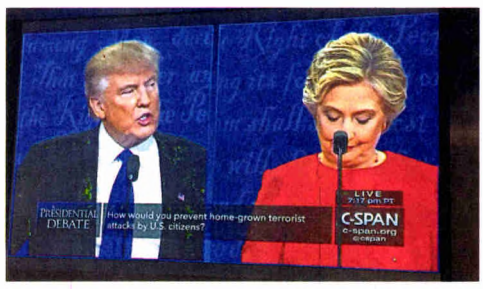
Debate has Madonna students 'disheartened'

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Several Madonna University students who gathered at the college to watch Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton debate Monday night are preparing to cast their first ballots in a presidential race.

After watching Trump, the Republican nominee, and Clinton, the Democrat standard-bearer, slog through 90 minutes of questions from moderator Lester Holt, they were left with a fairly universal opinion.

The choices for their first presidential election are underwhelming.



SUBMITTED
Students were able to watch Monday's presidential debate in a Madonna University classroom.

Thomas Martin, a 21-year-old member of Madonna's student senate, spent much of the debate fact-checking the candidates in real time, something Holt had said he wasn't going to do as the moderator.

Martin, a Jackson resident, wasn't happy with what he found.

"It's disheartening to think these are the final two candidates we have," Martin said. "It's disconcerting. I've watched the last four years of debates. This is one (after which) I honestly couldn't tell you who to vote for."

A significant portion of the debate was spent on racism in the United States. At one point, Trump said African Americans in inner cities "can't walk down the street without getting shot."

Kevin Finch, a 22-year-old Detroit resident, openly ridiculed the statement. He felt not only that the candidates were pandering to African-American voters — "I definitely felt like they were," said Finch, an African American — but he also doesn't think enough is being done.

"I don't like the fact that social justice has been a trend, more than a movement," Finch said. "I didn't like the way they both talked about the inner city. That was disheartening to me. That propagates the issue, rather than solving it."

Near the end of the debate, Holt asked each candidate if they would honor the outcome, win or lose, and support the winner. Both candidates hesitated to answer the question, ultimately agreeing they would, indeed, support the outcome.

Dean Herron, a 26-year-old student from Livonia, was dubious.

"They both said that," Herron said. "But it's pretty clear neither one will do it."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Livonia's main library is getting new roof

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

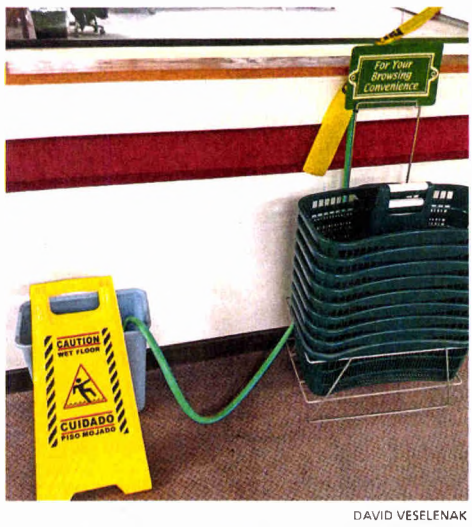
The days of buckets collecting water in the Robert and Janet Bennett Library could be no more after this month.

That's because the library on Five Mile in Livonia is finally receiving its budgeted new roof. Crews are working over the next few weeks to install the roof, which hasn't been done since the building opened in 1988.

It's a project that's been long-awaited by the staff at the main branch library.

"You have no idea how happy we are," said Toni LaPorte, the city's library director. "We're very, very, very happy."

Some hours at the library will be affected by the work: the building isn't expected to open until 1 p.m. Tuesday so crews can remove the cooling towers from the building without hazard to patrons. On the flip side, the building is expected to open later at 1 p.m. Oct. 10 to allow for the installation of new cooling towers in the building. Both closures are dependent on various factors, including good weather, and could be delayed, LaPorte said. Patrons are encouraged to call the library or check the library's website for updated information.



DAVID VESELENAK
A hose runs from the ceiling to a garbage can to collect water on the second floor of the Robert and Janet Bennett Library in Livonia. Such water collection means aren't expected to be needed after the facility receives a new roof over the next month.

In addition to the roof being replaced, crews are also expected to make repairs to the glass ceiling over the atrium, which has seen many leaks over the years.

"They're fixing them, because all the seals are going," LaPorte said. "That's why we had all of those buckets. A lot of it was from that."

The roof is one of several city roofs to see replacement in recent years. The roof at Livonia City Hall as well as at Fox Creek Golf Course, was replaced. Some delays took place to finalize logistics before the roof at the main branch library could be done.

Both branches remain open without delay at this time. The Alfred Noble branch on Plymouth Road, east of Farmington Road, is open from noon to 8 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, while the Carl Sandburg branch is open from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Lower class sizes force GC district to change buildings

Diane Gale Andreassi
hometownlife.com

Garden City school district administrators are trying to figure out how to best re-purpose some of their buildings and one of three elementary schools will possibly close before the 2017-18 school year begins.

It hasn't been decided which school will close, said School Superintendent Derek Fisher. If one of those schools does close it will be used for other student programs.

Currently, the district has grades 1-2 at Memorial, 3-4 at Douglas and 5-6 at Farmington. Students from the closed school will be sent to the two remaining elementary schools.

"But, that has not been finalized," Fisher said. "We have to look at what will be sustainable long term and what will enable the district to promote academics. We're looking at what makes sense and what's sustainable for the long term."

Moving sixth-grade students to the middle school is also "probable," Fisher said adding that he doesn't expect the pre-kindergarten program to be altered.

He noted that "people need to consider that since 2003 the birth rate in Wayne County has steadily declined. Those figures are reflected in declining enrollment."

In 2003, the birth rate was just under 29,000 live births in Wayne County and in 2015 it was around 22,000. That's a loss of about 7,000 annually.

"That has a major, major impact on schools," Fisher said.

Fisher said he expects decisions on the changes to be finalized in January 2017. A lot will be determined Oct. 5, which is the school count day to determine actual enrollment. A community meeting will be held in mid-October at a yet to be decided day and time.

dandreassi@hometownlife.com
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Guide to Employment

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Dearborn, MI. Michigan Ear Institute P.L.L.C. Assess, diagnose, & treat children & adult patients with hearing, balance, & related auditory disorders by performing audiologic evaluations, audiometric testing, & treatment procedures utilizing audiometers, computers, & analog/digital hearing aid devices. Identify symptoms of hearing loss & auditory, balance, & sensory/neural problems. Measure hearing acuity & identify type & degree of hearing loss, performing pure tone audiometry, speech audiometry, behavioral observation audiometry, visual reinforcement audiometry, conditioned play audiometry, immittance, & otoacoustic emissions testing. Assess & evaluate the function of vestibular sys performing lectronystagmography. Determine potential benefits of personal amplification, assistive listening devices, & classroom amplification, &render referrals to appropriate providers. Determine candidacy for osseointegrated devices. Oticon Medical Ponto, Cochlear Baha. Perform re-screenings of babies that have failed their newborn hearing screenings using auditory brainstem response. Doctor of Audiology. 6 mos exp as Audiology Intern assessing, diagnosing, & treating children with hearing, balance, & related auditory disorders by performing audiologic evaluations, audiometric testing, & treatment procedures utilizing audiometers, computers, & analog/digital hearing aid devices. Must have State of Michigan Board of Audiology Audiologist License.
Email resume to pmcdonald@michiganear.com Attn: Paulette McDonald, Ref #515.

General

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General

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CORT
28241 Mound Rd 48092 from 9 am - 3 pm, 10/15. Please bring your resume.
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Dependable Part-Time Needed for Busy Northville Church We are a busy church and we need someone we can depend on to help us look our best! General cleaning of our sanctuary, classrooms and facilities. Competitive pay and flexible work schedule. Immediate need. If you take pride in your work and are looking for a great place to work, submit your resume to dbartley@fumcnorthville.org or call 248-667-7263. First United Methodist Church of Northville.

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35601 Veronica St. Livonia, MI 48150

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Potential candidates must have Acme Screw Machine Operator experience. Please submit an updated resume: hr@masterautomatic.com Fax: 734-459-4598 Master Automatic, Inc. 40485 Schoolcraft Rd. Plymouth, MI 48170

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Full-Time for busy Novi office. Must have experience. Resume: drmalyinnovi@aol.com

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Needed for Internal Medicine Practice Monday-Friday with benefits. EMR and some X-ray experience needed. Email resume to: imedicine2016@gmail.com

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Full-Time position available in expanding pain management practice in Ypsilanti. Minimum 3 yrs exp required. Experience with recovery or critical care background preferred. Excellent wage & benefit package. Clinic Hours are Mon-Fri, day shift. No holidays or weekends. Fax resume: ATTN: HR Manager 734-547-4871 or email to: dkushman@foresthealth.com

RN Michigan Pain Specialists, PLLC
Full-Time position available in expanding pain management practice in Ypsilanti. Minimum 3 yrs exp required. Experience with recovery or critical care background preferred. Excellent wage & benefit package. Clinic Hours are Mon-Fri, day shift. No holidays or weekends. Fax resume: ATTN: HR Manager 734-547-4871 or email to: dkushman@foresthealth.com

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RN or LPN FULL-TIME
Needed for Internal Medicine Practice Monday- Friday with at least 2-3 years experience in patient education and EMR knowledge. Includes Medical, Dental, Eye, 401k Benefits Email resume to: imedicine2016@gmail.com

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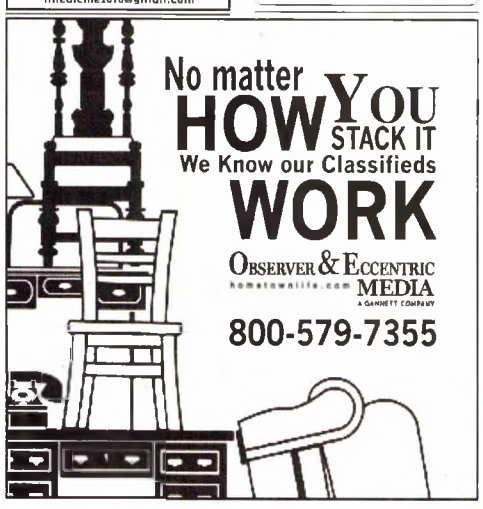

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Livonia Has So Much To Offer...

- *46 Developed Parks And 17 Undeveloped Parks*
- *130,000-square Foot Recreation Center*
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- *3 Public Golf Courses*
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- *3 Outdoor Swimming Pools*
- *77 Baseball Diamonds*
- *43 Tennis Courts*

Hall of Fame
2016

1835 Livonia City Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Timothy Kenny
Introduced by Jim Jolly

Richard Gaskill
Introduced by Bill Bresler

Dennis Wright
Introduced by Lynda Scheel

Dave Spivey
Introduced by Maureen Brosnan

CAPA
Introduced by Liz Jarvis

Livonia Junior Athletic League
Introduced by Dan West

Thursday, October 6
Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
7:00 pm

Public encouraged to attend this free event

Ad concept and design by Bill Joyner/FridayMusings.com & Tom Karabatakis/Promotional Concepts. Photo Courtesy of Bob Jakowinicz

Detroit man facing trial in assault on elderly Westland woman

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

More than a year after being arrested, a Detroit man has been found competent to stand trial on charges that he assaulted and severely beat a Westland woman.

Shadonn Jenkins, 22, was arraigned Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court after having waived his preliminary examination in Westland 18th District Court.

After his arrest in August 2015, Jenkins was found mentally incompetent and later sent to the

Jenkins

state forensic center for treatment to reach a competent mental state — one where he could understand the court proceedings and assist his attorney in his defense.

Jailed in lieu of $75,000 cash bond, Jenkins is charged with assault with intent to commit murder, home invasion first degree, assault by strangulation and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder.

The incident happened at the Westwood Apartments, south of Joy and west of Newburgh. Westland police reported a resident, 64, was home alone when she heard a knock on her apartment door. She answered it and a man, a stranger, asked her for a ride. She closed the door and called the office to report a stranger in the building.

The woman ended her phone call with the office and then saw the man entering her apartment through the doorwall.

The man assaulted the woman and then fled after two maintenance men saw him in the victim's doorway.

While one of the men tended to the victim, the other man called 9-1-1 and followed the suspect, keeping him in sight until the Westland police arrived and took the suspect into custody. The victim had been severely beaten, according to police.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Kosowski bill on child identity theft signed into law

A bill aimed at protecting foster children from identity theft, sponsored by a local legislator, has been signed into law.

State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, joined Gov. Rick Snyder as he signed into law the bill creating the Foster Child Identification Theft Protection Act. The act requires caseworkers to request an annual report to monitor credit-related activity for each foster child assigned to them.

More than 17 million people were victims of

Kosowski

identity theft in 2014. Children in the foster system tend to move from home to home, giving numerous adults access to their personal information. Often, these children have no idea their identity has been stolen until they are adults and are out of the system, attempting to establish credit.

"My bill is just good, common-sense legislation," Kosowski said. "Right now, there is nobody monitoring these kids' credit scores. Many of these children have already been subjected to terrible conditions and experiences before getting into the abuse and neglect system. The last thing they need to worry about is potential identity theft and ruined credit."

House Bill 4022 passed both the House and Senate chambers unanimously.

"Obviously, my colleagues shared in my concerns to protect Michigan's foster children," Kosowski said. "We owe it to these kids to give them the best start to their adult life possible. With my legislation in place, hopefully they will be less susceptible to fall victim to identity theft and be able to apply for college loans, housing or even a bank account without any sort of worry. I am grateful to the governor and my colleagues for their continued support throughout this process and look forward to this legislation helping to safeguard our foster children."

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Resident out $2,700 in IRS/iTunes scam

A 45-year-old Livonia woman came to the Livonia police station Thursday to report she was scammed out of thousands of dollars.

The woman said she received a call from a suspect who claimed to be from the IRS. The caller said she owed $2,700 in back taxes or faced imprisonment. She was told to go to several stores and pick up iTunes gift cards and read the numbers on the back to the suspect. She traveled to several Walgreens in Livonia and picked up $2,700 in cards before reading the numbers off the back to the suspect. The caller demanded more, which is when she realized it had been a scam. She went to the police station to file a report. While at the station, the suspect called again and she told them she was filing a report. The suspect then ended the conversation.

Cellphone taken from car

A resident in the 9800 block of Camden came to the police station Wednesday to report someone broke into a vehicle and took a cellphone.

When the resident came to the vehicle that morning, the contents of the center console were scattered around the car. An iPhone in the console had been taken. It was unknown if the car was locked, although there were no signs of forced entry.

– Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

Westland CVS fraud suspects sought

WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
Westland police are trying to identify this woman, wanted in connection with a fraud case at a local CVS Pharmacy.

Westland police are attempting to identify a suspect wanted for credit fraud at four CVS locations in Westland on Sept. 19. The transactions in Westland totaled more than $1,000. The suspect also reportedly used the victim's debit account for multiple other transactions in other jurisdictions, police said.

The subject is described as a white female, 25-35 years old, medium build, long straight black hair, wearing a white shirt and blue pants.

Anyone who can identify the suspect is asked to contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600, or 734-467-7912.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
CLOSE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE
GENERAL ELECTION, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the last day of registration for the General Election is **October 11, 2016.**

Candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices are to be voted on:

President and Vice President of the United States of America
Representative in Congress 13th District
State Representative
State Representative Partial Term
State Board of Education, Vote 2
University of Michigan Regent, Vote 2
Michigan State University Trustee, Vote 2
Wayne State University Governor, Vote 2
Prosecuting Attorney
Sheriff
County Clerk
County Treasurer
Register of Deeds
County Commissioner
Supreme Court Justice, Vote 1
Supreme Court Justice Incumbent Position Vote 1
Judge of Court of Appeals 1st District Incumbent Position, Vote 2
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Incumbent Position, Vote 16
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Incumbent Position, Partial Term Vote 1
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent Position, Vote 4
Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position, Vote 2
Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees Member, Vote 2
Garden City School Board, Vote 3

The following proposals will also be voted on:

AUTHORITY

A PROPOSAL AUTHORIZING THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (RTA) TO LEVY AN ASSESSMENT

The proposal would authorize the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) to levy within Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties a property tax assessment: • at a rate of 1.2 mills ($1.20 per $1,000 of taxable value); • for 20 years beginning in 2016 and ending in 2035; • that may not be increased, renewed, or used for other purposes without direct voter approval; and • to be used upon the affirmative vote of an RTA board member from each RTA member jurisdiction for the purpose of construction and operation of a public transportation system connecting Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, including rapid transit bus routes across county lines, specialized service for senior citizens and people with disabilities, commuter rail, airport express service, and other public transportation purposes permitted by law, consistent with RTA bylaws and subject to the limitations of the Regional Transit Authority Act. If this new additional assessment is approved and levied, revenue will be disbursed to the RTA. It is estimated that $160,907,285 will be collected in the first year. Should this assessment be approved?

YES **NO**

CITY
CITY OF GARDEN CITY PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #1

Shall Section 2.03 of the Garden City Charter be amended, effective at an election scheduled for November 2017, to provide that a person elected to the office of Mayor shall be elected for a four-year term and that, in the event of a mayoral vacancy, the Mayor Pro-Tem shall hold office until the next regular general City election when the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term (if any)?

YES **NO**

CITY
CITY OF GARDEN CITY PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT #2

Shall Section 2.05 of the Garden City Charter be amended to provide that all Council members shall be elected for four-year terms commencing at an election scheduled for November 2019 and with Council member elections staggered every two years thereafter?

YES **NO**

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed enhancement millage will be collected by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and distributed to local public school districts within the boundaries of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency based on pupil membership count. Shall the limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 2.00 mills ($2.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, 2016 to 2021, inclusive, as new additional millage to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes? It is estimated that 2 mills would raise approximately $80,000,000 when first levied in 2016. The revenue from this millage will be disbursed to the following school districts: Allen Park Public Schools, Crestwood School District, Dearborn City School District, Dearborn Heights School District #7, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Ecorse Public School District, Flat Rock Community Schools, School District of the City of Garden City, Gibraltar School District, Grosse Ile Township Schools, The Grosse Pointe Public School System, Hamtramck Public Schools, City of Harper Woods Schools, School District of the City of Highland Park, Huron School District, School District of the City of Lincoln Park, Livonia Public Schools, Melvindale - Northern Allen Park Schools, Northville Public Schools, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Redford Union School District, River Rouge School District, Riverview Community School District, Romulus Community Schools, Southgate Community School District, South Redford School District, Taylor School District, Trenton Public Schools, Van Buren Public Schools, Wayne-Westland Community School District, Westwood Community Schools, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, Wyandotte City School District

YES **NO**

The office of the City Clerk, located in the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, will be open for the registration of all qualified electors, not already registered, Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk
Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan

Published: October 2, 2016 LO-0000297814 3x13.5

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LO-0000296134

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION

TO: **All persons and entities which have paid the City of Westland (the "City") for Water and Sewer Service after May 15, 2009.**

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced in Wayne County Circuit Court titled *Deerhurst Condominium Owners Association, Inc et. al. v. City of Westland*, Case No. 2015-006473-CZ, presiding Judge Daphne Means Curtis, challenging the retail water rates (the "Water Rates") and the retail sewage disposal rates (the "Sewer Rates") (collectively the "Rates") imposed by the City on citizens who draw water from the City's water supply system and who use the City's sewer system (the "Lawsuit"). Plaintiffs have brought these claims on behalf of themselves and a class of all others similarly situated.

Plaintiffs each are water and sewer customers of the City, and each seeks to act as a class representative for all similarly situated persons and entities that have paid the Rates imposed by the City. Plaintiffs contend that (a) the City has collected fees from its water and sewer customers that it has used not to cover the actual expenses of providing water to those customers, but rather to fund the City's general governmental obligations; (b) the Water Rates violate MCL 123.141(3) because they generate revenues for the City that exceed the City's actual cost of providing water to its residents; and (c) certain costs components included in the Rates constitute "taxes" that have not been authorized by the City's voters in violation of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution and MCL 141.91.

The Plaintiffs seek a judgment from the Court against the City which would order and direct the City to disgorge and refund all water and sewer overcharges to which Plaintiffs and the class are entitled and enjoin the City from overcharging in the future.

The City denies the Plaintiffs' claims and contends that it properly charged and collected water and sewer fees and should prevail in the Lawsuit. The Court has made no rulings concerning the merits of the Lawsuit at this time.

On May 2, 2016, the Court entered an order certifying the Lawsuit as a class action. If you paid the City for water and sewer service at some time after May 15, 2009 you are a member of the class.

For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the Lawsuit and the rights of the class members, you are referred to papers on file in the Lawsuit which may be inspected during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court for Wayne County, Michigan. You also may review certain of the Lawsuit documents at **www.kickhamhanley.com**.

Should you have any questions with respect to this Notice you should raise them with your own attorney or direct them to counsel for the Class, **IN WRITING OR BY EMAIL, NOT BY TELEPHONE**, identified as Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class, below. **DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR CLERK OF THE COURT, OR ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT.**

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class:

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)
Jamie Warrow (P61521)
Edward F. Kickham Jr. (P70332)
KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC
32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300
Royal Oak, MI 48073
khtemp@kickhamhanley.com

KH147659

Published: October 2 & 9, 2016 LO-0000296975 3x7.5

regional marketplace

THE LIVONIA YMCA

14255 Stark Road • Livonia, MI • 734-293-0935 • www.ymcadetroit.org

LIVONIA YMCA

By Terry Jacoby

The Livonia YMCA is celebrating its recently renovated indoor tennis courts with an ace of a re-grand opening which includes an "open house" of complimentary access to the five courts from Oct. 3-8.

During the open house, YMCA members and community residents will have an opportunity to reserve a free court for an hour if they sign up at least 24 hours in advance and no more than 48 hours. To reserve an hour on one of the new courts, call (734) 261-2161.

The renovation project includes new LED lights; resurfaced courts; new ceiling and improved ventilation system; fresh coat of paint and new nets. It's the first renovation of the courts in decades and is sure to shed a bright LED light on the different tennis programs offered at the YMCA, including individual and group lessons, leagues and tournaments.

"We offer private lessons for beginners and experienced players, group lessons, open play and different types of leagues and travel tournaments as well as special-needs programs," said Paul Aris, tennis director at the Livonia YMCA.

Despite all of the different uses for the courts, Aris says there are opportunities for open play.

"Reserve-court play requires players to sign up in advance and there is a small fee associated with open play," he said. "But during our open house we are waiving the fee but we still need people to sign up in advance. We want to have people see our renovated courts and also introduce them to how to reserve a court."

"We do offer scholarship opportunities to members who may not be able to afford things like tennis lessons," Wolverton said.

The tennis programs include teen development classes, high school organized practices, teen tournament training classes, junior development classes and junior competitive tennis.

The Pee Wee Fun Tennis program is for kids 10 and under and uses an exciting new format for learning tennis designed to bring kids into the game utilizing age-appropriate equipment, including smaller racquets, lower bouncing balls and lower nets.

"It's a fast, fun way to get kids into tennis and keep them playing," Aris said.

The USTA Junior Teams are forming which includes multiple 18 and younger teams and a 14 and under team.

The Livonia YMCA, a not-for-profit organization built in 1968, is located at 14255 Stark Road in Livonia. The facility is open from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday; and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The facility, which is more than 100,000 square feet, also includes an indoor swimming pool, racquetball courts; a state-of-the-art Wellness Center; full-sized gymnasium; aerobics studio; and a multi-purpose room.

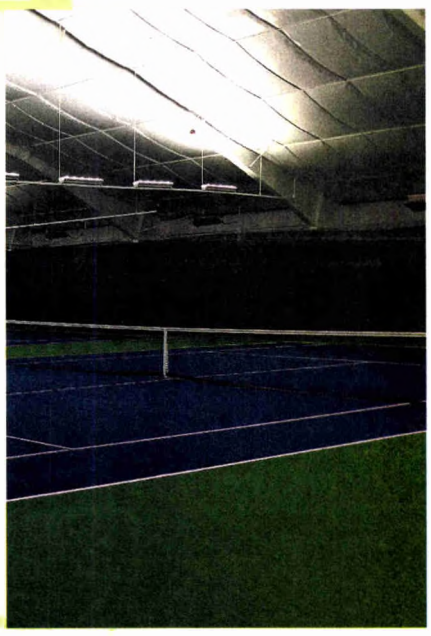
There also is a summer camp available on site for kids ages 3-15; facility rentals for birthday parties, scout groups and even overnight lock-in parties; a full men's, women's and family locker room facility; and the Y-Room which provides activities for children ages 6-12.

The Child Watch Care Center is provided for parents who have full facility membership with children between the ages of 3 months to 12 years.

The YMCA promotes youth development, healthy living and social responsibility in a family atmosphere.

There are different types of membership packages available.

"We invite people to come in and see the facility and find the best plan that fits their needs," Wolverton said.



"We are very excited about the new courts and we want to show them off,"
said Brian Wolverton, executive director of the Livonia YMCA.

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LETTERS TO WAYNE COUNTY EDITOR

Subdivision roads need work

Regarding Wayne County Executive Warren Evans meeting with Canton residents, where he told the crowd that it would be "disingenuous" to say subdivision streets will be given a high priority when so much work remains on major roads: We're not asking for a high priority. But we're tax-paying citizens, too, and the repair of our older subdivision streets is a legitimate concern. There must be some money that the county could appropriate for the townships on an annual basis that could be used for a subdivision streets repair program of some kind that wouldn't jeopardize major roads. Maybe it's not a high priority, but does that mean it should get nothing? Give us a small line item in the budget. We need it.

Jim Leddy
Canton

Shame on Siegrist

I am one of tens of thousands of Canton absentee voters that should be appalled by candidate Michael Siegrist's claim that the integrity of Canton clerk's office is compromised. At a forum held at the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs in mid-September, he accused the Canton clerk's office of suppressing ballots with signature problems.

I personally know that nothing could be further from the truth. While recovering from major surgery at my home during a past election, I received a call from our Clerk Terry Bennett personally. She told me I had forgotten to sign my absentee ballot. I explained I was unable to drive and she came personally to my home to secure my signature. I signed it and my vote was counted. She explained that she came to my home because there wasn't enough time to notify me by mail as she does with all ballots with a signature problem. There is no other clerk I have ever heard of that goes to that extreme to ensure a single vote is counted.

Obviously, candidate Siegrist, a 10-month apartment renter of Canton, who claimed his entire family's alliance to Plymouth during his last campaign just two years ago, has sadly gone negative. The Canton clerk's office earned the highest award of excellence for a clerk's office in the state of Michigan. Shame on candidate Michael Siegrist for trying to cast negativity over thousands of election-day workers who take great pride in the high integrity of our voting process in Canton.

Vivien Pierson
Canton

Splitting votes

It pretty near killed me to have to vote only on the Republican side of the ballot last month for the Canton primary election. Please believe me, as a life-long strong Democrat, it was a hard thing for me to do. But I had to do it in order to vote for our proven Canton leaders Linda Obrec, Melissa McLaughlin and Pat Williams.

Come the November general election, though, when I fill out my absentee ballot, I will be so happy to continue to vote Democrat. This time, though, I will split my ticket and also fill in the ovals in for Linda for clerk, Melissa for treasurer and Pat for supervisor.

The main reason I had to go against all grain in August and vote Republican is because I know Linda Obrec, who is running for Canton clerk. I've seen the great work she has done as a volunteer leader for the Canton Newcomers & Neighbors, the Canton Lions Club, Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, supporting the Canton Goodfellows and more. My heart will swell with happy confidence in our future should she have the opportunity to turn her attention to all of Canton through the clerk's office.

Teaming Linda up with Melissa McLaughlin, who is running for re-election as our treasurer, will create rock-solid public service offices. There may be no better expert on the intimacies of Canton Township than our fearless Melissa McLaughlin. Finally, because Pat Williams, who is running for supervisor, has been an outstanding trustee for the last 16 years, he will be able to jump into the office with both feet running. I have known Pat Williams for over 25 years and I consider him one of the finest, most honest and trustworthy friends that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. His leadership means Canton will be able to continue building the positive momentum we have gained.

While I am committed to voting Democrat, it is also necessary for me to split my ticket and vote for all three in the "other" party. No matter how you vote, I encourage all Canton voters to vote for Linda, Melissa and Pat.

Clarice Killian
Canton

'Sleight of hand'

We can tell election season is upon us when the glossy mailers start arriving. The one from the Republican aspirants to Canton Township offices left me slightly bemused. As far as I can determine, not one of those people listed has been banging on the doors of their Republican colleagues in Lansing, demanding they stop rewarding big business with tax breaks at the expense of local government and schools. I guess that's the "fiscal conservative" reference in the flier.

Former state Rep. Dian Slavens, current state Rep. Kristy Pagen and current township Trustee Steven Sneideman have all been critical of the loss of revenue from the state. But because they are Democrats, they were ignored by the Republicans currently in power.

Another line that caught my eye says "Keeping taxes low" and demands closer inspection. Our township board, Republican-dominated, twice raised the public safety millage, increased the amount we pay for trash pickup (except the most expensive homes that will pay less) and you now pay a $25 fee to process your property tax bills, despite the fact that you are already paying for every aspect of the clerk's office.

These sleight of hand moves allowed them to shift the funds that would have gone to these departments and tell you what "good stewards" of your money they are. And yet, we are the ones paying for their misdeeds. All of the above actions have taken place in off election years, when they couldn't be held accountable. But this year, they can — and they will.

James Huddleston
Canton

A reader's thanks

Thank you for including Wayne County news, events and opinions in your latest editions. Suburban residents need a Wayne County newspaper as the Detroit dailies seem to be ignoring us more and more. Please continue to cover the entire county.

Robert J. Duda
Livonia

Pick Sommer Foster

I have known and worked with Sommer Foster, candidate for Canton Township trustee, for more than three years and want to tell the Canton community why I believe that Sommer is the best possible candidate.

I've witnessed Sommer's commitment to the Canton community first-hand. From her work on the library board to her work on Canton's first ever "Not In Our Town" unity rally, Sommer is always ready to roll up her sleeves and do the hard work.

In fact, when she first joined the team at Equality Michigan, she asked me if she could be the staff representative on the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition. This was an extraordinary request, as this position fell outside of her job responsibilities and would only add to her already overfull workload, but it was important to her to work within her community to build strong partnerships with law enforcement and marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ community.

As Sommer built solid relationships with then Director Todd Mutchler and the Canton Police Department as our representative on the Hate Crimes Coalition, she also worked with Trustee Steven Sneideman and Supervisor Phil LaJoy to pass a fully inclusive non-discrimination ordinance to ensure that all Canton residents are protected from discrimination.

Thanks to Sommer's relationships with the leadership at the Canton Police Department, she was able to organize a meeting with CPD and our Department of Victim Services in a successful effort to see how we could best work together to serve the Canton community. She then went on to participate in Canton's first "Not In Our Town" unity rally, where she spoke about the great work of then-Director Mutchler, Sgt. Dale Waltz, Canton Library Director Eva Davis and other Canton police officers.

Indeed, Sommer's commitment to building partnerships across diverse and sometimes competing factions is unparalleled in this race. No one will work harder to achieve what is best for the community of Canton than Sommer Foster. I wish I could vote for her, but I'm not a Canton resident, so I can only urge you to vote for her.

Yvonne Siferd
attorney, former director of Victim Services, Equality Michigan

Vote Anil Kumar

Dr. Anil Kumar, chief of surgery at Crittenton Hospital and on the clinical faculty at MSU, is the person who will represent the 11th Michigan Congressional District in Washington, D.C., better than the current representative. Dr. Kumar is an authority on opioids, is anti-fracking, an advocate for economic parity. The Oakland Press once listed him as, "a women's rights activist." Dr. Kumar is a spokesman for the 99 percent.

David Trott, the current representative, is a perfect contrast to Anil Kumar. Mr. Trott, a wealthy lawyer, is known for his foreclosures, plus closing and breaking businesses apart. He has been in Congress two years without any evidence of accomplishments except, perhaps, some which have benefited persons in his economic group.

Mr. Trott is a spokesman for the 1 percent.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce Township

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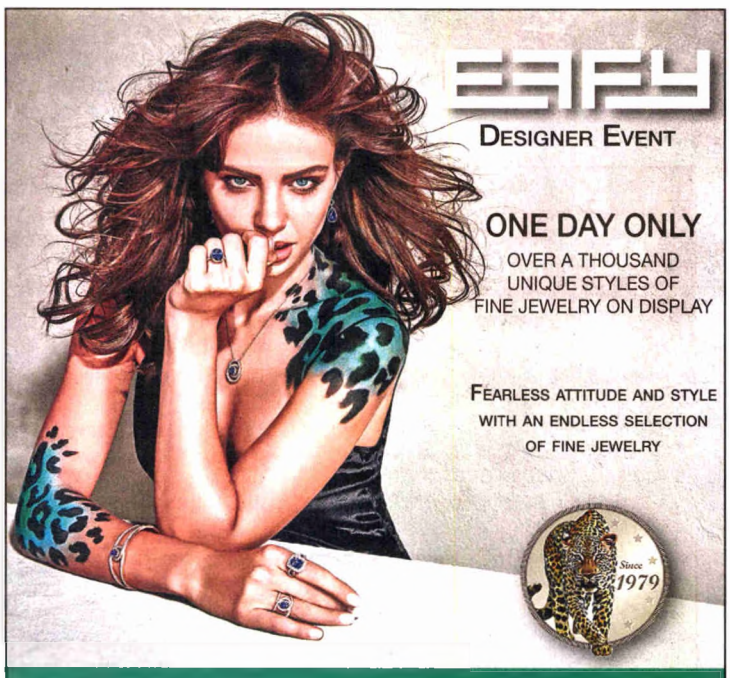

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2:30 a.m. assault outside of church reported

Scott R Daniel
hometownlife.com

A 25-year-old Redford woman was reportedly assaulted in the early morning hours of Sept. 27 after trying to resolve a dispute.

Police reports said she met with a woman at St. Robert Bellarmine's church at about 2:30 a.m. regarding "suggestive" text messages sent to the second woman's boyfriend. The 25-year-old got up to walk away but was attacked, knocked to the ground and punched three or four times.

Reports said the second woman and an unidentified person then walked away together. The 25-year-old woman, who was taken to Garden City Hospital after reporting the incident to her husband, told police she believes the assault was planned.

Cane-wielding thief apprehended

Redford Police arrested a man for allegedly attempting to steal an undisclosed number of items from a Kroger supermarket in the 9300 block of Telegraph Road on Sept. 25.

Reports said the man had a number of items in a shopping cart and walked past cashiers without paying shortly before 3 p.m. Kroger loss prevention associates stopped the man in the store's vestibule. He argued with them and may have used his cane to assault them, reports said.

The man then walked out of the store without the shopping cart. Officers arrived moments later and arrested the man without incident.

Felonious assault

A 60-year-old Redford man was allegedly the victim of a felonious assault Sept. 24 after being threatened with a gun by his son-in-law.

Redford Police reports said the man was working on his vehicle in the driveway in the 25900 block of Southwestern Highway at about 12:45 p.m. when his son-in-law pulled up in a black Ford Mustang. The man heard the Mustang's engine and looked up to see his son-in-law allegedly point a gun at his head.

Reports said the two men then argued. The fight concluded a few minutes later with the son-in-law spitting on the older man's car. Reports said he then fled the scene.

Police checked the nearby area for the black Mustang but were unable to locate it. The Redford man told police he wanted to press charges.

TVs stolen

Three TVs were stolen from a home in the 18500 block of Garfield Street on Sept. 24. Reports said the homeowner returned to her residence and found the items missing at about 12:15 p.m.

Reports said that entry into the home appeared to come via a bathroom window. It wasn't immediately clear what, if any, other items were stolen from the home.

Raccoon put down

Redford Police were called to the 9900 block of Virgil Street on Sept. 24 on reports of an ill raccoon. Officers arrived on scene at about 10 a.m. and spoke with residents and neighbors about the animal.

They told police the raccoon had been in the driveway for a few days walk in circles. While the animal didn't appear to have any injuries, reports said it had had seizures.

Officers found the raccoon lying on the side of the street conscious, but not responsive. Reports said it did not appear well. An officer then shot the animal once, killing it. The raccoon was then placed in a bag and removed.

Services for Mark Wittrock, 14, set

Visitation for Mark Wittrock, 14, who died last Saturday in a traffic crash in Plymouth Township, is 3-8 p.m. Sunday and 11-11:30 a.m. Monday at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township. Following the Monday visitation at the funeral home, a procession to Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, at Newburgh, will take place for further visitation until a 1 p.m. funeral service.

Mark, of Livonia, was a freshman at Churchill High School. He is survived by parents Michael and Jenni, sisters Melanie and Grace, grandparents Greg and Susan Wittrock and Gary and Caryl Purol, and an aunt and uncle Cindy and Daniel Davidson.

Information on arrangements for Deqouya Carroll, 14, who died in the same crash, were incomplete Friday.

Help needed so Glenn students can be Champions

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

When the Champions of John Glenn High School incentive program kicked off in 2015, Glenn and Patty Shaw committed $50,000 of financial support annually for four years.

But the program, which gives $200 to each registered student who meets their grade-point average goal at the end of the semester, was so successful that the tab was nearly $60,000 after the first year. This year, the expense is projected at $80,000.

So Glenn Shaw organized two meetings held Wednesday at Westland City Hall to talk about the Champions program and seek financial support from the community.

"It's like Amway — I didn't tell them what the meeting was about until they got there," Shaw said. "I call it a 'Did you know?' meeting. I'd meet with the mayor (William Wild) and (Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent) Dr. (Michele) Harmala. I'd be ready to unload and they'd start telling all these greats things they're doing."

Both Wild and Harmala spoke at the meetings reviewing accomplishments and programs in the the city and schools. But Wild and Harmala have both been directly involved in the Champions program as mentors working one-on-one with students.

The students participating in Champions sign a contract with an adult mentor committing to reach a goal improving their GPA. Some students have very low GPAs, others have higher GPAs but still want to improve.

In a video presentation on the Champions program, former principal Valerie Orr talked about her experience at Wayne Memorial High School that has had the Champions program for six years. She recalled students celebrating failed grades on report card day.

"The $200 gave the students some cred for signing the contract," recalled Orr. "Now our kids celebrate their success — they are not celebrating failure."

Champions of Wayne executive director Sean Galvin noted 70 percent of Wayne-Westland students receive free or reduced cost school lunches due to low family incomes. As a result, he said the students tend to lack exposure to higher education, whether not having visited colleges or having no college graduates in the family.

"The $200 is the incentive that brought the students in. It quickly becomes the intrinsic success and relationship with someone at the school," he said. "There is more focus on achievement and less apathy."

Students can pick their own mentors, something Galvin said he prefers. Those mentors can be teachers, an administrator or a hall monitor — an adult with whom the student connects.

During the first semester of the Champions of Glenn program, 420 students participated with 137 (or 33 percent) reaching their goal by the end of the semester. A total of 238 (57 percent) increased their GPA even if the goal wasn't met. In the second semester 567 students participated with 159 (28 percent) meeting their goal and 533 (94 percent) increasing their GPA.

Glenn biology teacher Greg Cooper mentors 64 students, who are given weekly progress reports — not something all mentors require. "I give out the progress reports Wednesday and they are back to me by Friday," Cooper said. "I see if they are on track. I stay of the way, except for an 'Atta-boy or Attagirl.' I converse with them if they are not on track and talk to them about their plan."

More than half his students have met their goals, Cooper said, with a lot of the change coming from the students being serious about their goal. Once a week, students collectively wear their Champions T-shirts but he said students often wear their shirts other days.

"The sense of vitality is really strong. The kids identify themselves as Champions. Beyond being Rockets, they are Champions," Cooper said. "Every day they are carrying themselves differently. They could go to a mentor with less requirements but they don't."

To get more funding for Champions, Shaw said he'd been in contact with area big box stores and banks seeking donations but also called on residents.

"We need the whole community to be all-in on this. Clubs, unions, every business in the community," said Shaw, adding that both successful schools and cities are needed.

For more information about the Champions of Wayne, call Shaw at 734-595-7727 or visit championsofjohnglenn.com.

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High Risk and Genetics Nurse Practitioner, St. Mary Mercy Livonia
Beth Ann Shanker, MD
Colon and Rectal Surgeon, St. Mary Mercy Livonia

Helen Burns

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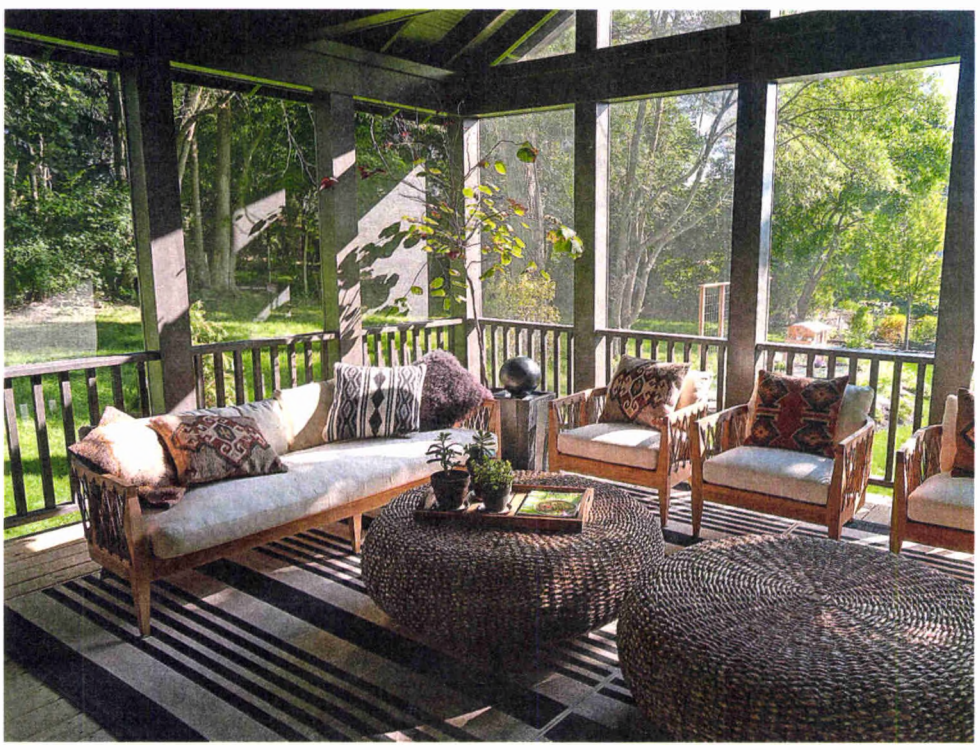
Kam Carman

HGTV reveals Ann Arbor sweepstakes house

Viewers can enter contest to win newly-remodeled craftsman-style home

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A large screened porch was added to the rear of the two-car garage.

You'll face lots of competition — likely more than 43 million others — trying to win a remodeled Ann Arbor house in HGTV's 2016 Urban Oasis sweepstakes.

But Kristin Alm, the network's director of corporate communications, says the odds shouldn't dissuade you from entering the contest. It runs from Oct. 4 through Nov. 22, with a $700,000 prize package that includes a remodeled 1,500-foot craftsman-style bungalow on Spring Street in the historic Water Hill neighborhood, its furnishings and $50,000 from Quicken Loans.

"Every year the number (of entries) increases," she said. The first giveaway in 2010 drew more than 15 million entries. Last year's was more than 43 million.

"But somebody does win it," she said. "We have had people from all over the country win. They may or may not be in a position to move to another part of the country. Some do. Some might choose to keep the house and rent it out or visit it a couple times a year. There are different options."

The Ann Arbor house, which was opened Sept. 20 to media and Spring Street neighbors, is the seventh location in the network's annual Urban Oasis sweepstakes series that initially involved renovated and decorated condos in downtown high-rise buildings across the country. Two years ago, the emphasis switched from urban condos to older, small homes.

The Ann Arbor house, this year's giveaway, was designed by architect Dawn Zuber, owner of Studio Z Architecture in Plymouth. Alm said the interior of the 900-square-foot house was gutted to make way for a new layout with a more open feel and better flow from room to room. The additional 600 square feet of space was added as a second-floor master suite. The house consists of two bedrooms, two full bathrooms and a half-bathroom, living room, kitchen and dining area.

Alm wasn't certain exactly how much the house has been appraised for. This year's summer residential property tax rate in Ann Arbor was 42.17 mills, according to the Ann Arbor assessor's office.

Scott Branscom, project manager, said HGTV chose the Spring Street house because of its location.

"We loved the Ann Arbor location," he said. "This house was built in 1925 and needed a lot of attention. It was nondescript — a diamond in the rough. It's on a beautiful lot. I can see downtown Ann Arbor out the back. It was such a good pick for us."

Branscom said his favorite part of the remodel is behind the newly-built two-car garage.

"We put in a screened-in porch," he said. "There are 15 people at the house right now and 14 of them are on the porch. It's like a little retreat. It's beautiful."

Enter the contest twice a day from Oct. 4 through Nov. 22 at HGTV.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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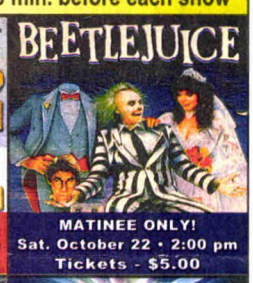

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ORDINANCE NO. 152-N
AMENDED ZONING MAP #08-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 152-N, THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

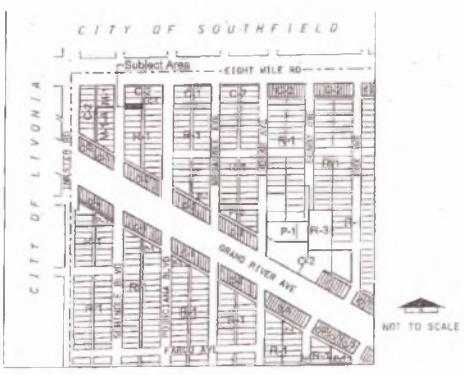
THE TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Redford shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property is rezoned, to-wit:

Map #08-15: To rezone from R-1 (one family residential district) to P-1 (vehicular parking district) land situated in the Township of Redford, County of Wayne, State of Michigan. Legal description as follows:

Lot 596, and ½ vacated alley in the rear thereof, "Seminole Woods Subdivision", according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 38 of Plats, Page 75, Wayne County records.

Property more commonly known as: vacant land on Seminole, Parcel # 79 004 04 0596 300 # ~~79 004 04 0596 000~~



Section 2. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. The rezoning was approved by the Board of Trustees, at the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2016. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption or upon publication.

AYES: **Johnson, Kennedy, Cavanagh, Christie, McRae, Sullivan & Kobylarz**
NAYS: **None**
ABSENT: **None**
Motion #16:091, carried: 7-0.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

I hereby certify that Ordinance No. 152-N, Map #08-15 was published in the Redford Observer, a newspaper circulating within the Charter Township of Redford on September 18, 2016, and again on October 2, 2016 (corrected), which dates were within thirty (30) days after the adoption of said Ordinance 152-N.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Publish Date: October 2, 2016

Don't rely on anyone else for online security

Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

Another week, another data breach. Yahoo announced last week that, near the end of 2014, it was a victim of a massive data breach. More than a half-billion accounts were compromised. Log-in information, passwords, security questions and other information was compromised. In fact, according to industry sources, this was the largest data breach in history. It seems that we are getting desensitized to data breaches and that too many of us of say, "oh well" and just go on with our business. Unfortunately, we cannot do that. It is important that we take these attacks seriously and do what we have to do to protect our information. Of course, there's not one thing you can do that will 100-percent guarantee that your account won't be hacked. There are some safety precautions you can take that will reduce the risk and, at the same time, if you are a victim it will lessen the consequences.

The first thing everyone needs to do is to monitor their online accounts. Whether it is bank accounts, brokerage accounts or whatever, it is important that you always monitor these accounts. For example, I have signed up for alerts on my charge card; whenever my charge card is used, I am notified. You need to do the same thing. Furthermore, if there is any unusual or suspicious activity on one of your accounts, you need to take action immediately. If you get notice that there is a charge on your charge card that you are unsure of, you need to immediately contact the charge card company. Even if it's a nominal amount such as $1, you still need to take action immediately. You do not want to give the thieves any inroads into your account. Monitoring your accounts does not mean looking at them once a quarter. Unfortunately, you have to do it much more frequently; many times, you have to do it weekly.

To protect yourself, whether you use Yahoo or not, it is important to constantly change your password; also, don't use the same password for all your accounts. You can't just change your password once a year; you have to do it more frequently. I recognize it is a hassle and it is a pain, but in reality it's no longer optional, it's mandatory.

It also makes sense on a regular basis — particularly if you use Yahoo — to change your security questions. When cyber crooks get information, many times they also compromise your security questions, such as they did with Yahoo.

In addition, something you may wish to consider is that many places now have some sort of log-in verification, where they'll send you a text message or even call you when someone tries to access your account from an unknown computer. In fact, Yahoo offers a service that links your cellphone to the Yahoo mobile app. You can't access your account without the phone.

If you are like most of us and use the Internet to transact business such as paying bills, doing banking or any type of financial transactions, you need to take cyber security seriously. Millions and millions of Americans have had their identity stolen and accounts compromised. If you think banks and financial institutions are on top of this, think again. After all, Yahoo just announced last week that it was hacked in 2014. We have no idea what the crooks were doing with that information for the last two years.

To say that you are no longer going to use the Internet to transact personal financial business is somewhat unrealistic. In today's world, the great majority of us have our wages directly deposited into our accounts. Receiving a Social Security check in the mail is long gone. As time goes on, more and more of our business will be transacted online. What we have to accept is that the crooks are working overtime and you and I have to make sure that we take security seriously and do what we have to do to protect ourselves. After all, the old adage is true — an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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

Survivor of Andrea Doria tells tale, solves mystery

Susan Bromley
hometownlife.com

Pierette Simpson was terrified to fly on an airplane to America when she was a child.

So instead, she sailed on a ship that sank.

She survived and tells the tale, as well as solves a cold case, in the new documentary, "Andrea Doria: Are the Passengers Saved?" which has its world premiere at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Detroit Institute of Arts Film Theater.

Simpson was just 9 years old when she and her maternal grandparents boarded the SS Andrea Doria in 1956, leaving Pranzalito, a village located at the foot of the Alps near Turin in northern Italy. Simpson's mother Vivian had emigrated alone to the U.S. several years earlier in the hopes of creating a better life for her and her daughter. Post World War II, there was a great deal of poverty in Italy. The new world represented hope — a better education, better job, a better quality of life. When she was ready to send for Pierette, she gave her parents, who wished to remain in Italy, an ultimatum.

"She said, 'If you don't want to come, send Pietta on an airplane,'" said Simpson, now a Novi resident. "I said, 'I'm not going on an airplane, it's too dangerous!' And so here I came, on a ship that sank."

At 11:10 p.m. July 25, 1956, in dense fog off the coast of Nantucket Island, the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm, a Swedish passenger liner, collided.

FAMILY PHOTO

Pierette meeting her mother Vivian after surviving the journey to America with her grandmother Domenica (left).

Simpson

Although only a child, Simpson has a vivid recollection of the tragedy in which 46 people were killed.

"I remember the traumatic parts — the chaos, the noise, people screaming and the lights going on and off," she said. "We weren't able to stand because of the steep incline, first to the left and then back to the right. People were hurt and crying and calling out names to find family members."

Simpson and her grandmother had been in the social hall when the ships collided and her grandfather had been sleeping in their cabin below. She recalls he came through water in the hallways to find them, his big blue eyes looking like he had seen a ghost.

The family joined a prayer circle with other passengers, the final line of their prayer, "Now until the hour of our death, amen."

Surrounded by a cacophony of noise and smells from broken fuel tanks, they formed a human chain, holding on to each other and pressing to the railing on the lower side of the ship, where lifeboats brought by their rescuers were waiting.

Simpson couldn't see the lifeboats, hidden under the incline, and was filled with terror at the thought of going into the ocean. A rope was tied around her waist and she was lowered in the dark to the lifeboat, which would transport her along with her grandparents to the rescue ship Ile de France.

"Everything was very time-consuming, we were so fortunate the (Andrea Doria) didn't sink fast," Simpson said. "It was amazing that, because of the excellent construction of the ship, it stayed afloat. We were hit full speed by a ship that had a bow reinforced to break ice; it sliced through our ship like a butter knife."

The lifeboat ride is also seared into her memory, with fellow passengers crying, screaming and vomiting as swells caused from the sinking ship rocked them unceasingly.

When they finally made it to the rescue ship, they climbed a Jacob's ladder to reach the deck, which Simpson describes as being like scaling a skyscraper over the black seas.

The night was fairly warm and the moon was out and, upon reaching safety, she would fall asleep. Her next memory is of her arrival in New York, where she and her grandparents were met by her step-father and great aunt as her mother was at home in Detroit with her new baby sister. Her first impression of America was food. She recalls being told, "Mangia! Mangia! (Eat! Eat!)" and all she wanted was Jell-O, the prettiest looking food she had ever seen. She was less impressed a few days later with the hot dog she spit out at Belle Isle.

Simpson carried a lot of guilt about bringing her grandparents to America, in which they lost everything along the way, but she moved on with her life, finding the future her mother had sought for her — receiving an education at Wayne State University as well as Michigan State University and going on to teach foreign language for 37 years in the Farmington Public Schools and at Detroit Country Day.

Now 69, Simpson has returned to Italy every year since she was in her late 20s. The sinking of the Andrea Doria left not only a lasting impression on her, but became an experience she now shares with others in two books she has written, as well as her new film, all of which exonerate the maligned captain of the Andrea Doria, who died a broken man.

"His last words on his death bed were, 'Are the passengers saved?'" Simpson said. "He died of a broken heart. He was criticized for the collision and that was never the case."

Extensive research conducted by Simpson, including interviews with naval experts as well as other survivors, reveals the truth — that the captain was not at fault. In her film, which includes re-enactments and interviews with experts and survivors, the man she said carried out the greatest sea rescue in history is vindicated.

"I hope the film will go into schools so it can teach about the ugliness of prejudice, immigration, sacrifice, survival and pride of one's roots," Simpson said. "It's great to see how the American public reacts to what I have done."

The award-winning film, which has been accepted to two film festivals, had a private premiere in Italy, where it was well-received. Simpson has been invited to the Italian parliament in November to screen the film.

"It's never too late to correct history," said Simpson, who is no longer afraid of airplanes, but is leery of boats. "I'm trying to set historical record straight."

For more information, go to andreadoria movie.com.

Adults only: Get a hard cider at the mill

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com

Nancy Steinhauer and her family own the oldest continuously running cider mill in Michigan. It has history, a bakery and its own cookbook.

And if all goes according to plans, Dexter Cider Mill will begin producing hard cider next fall. It will join a handful of cider mills in southeastern Michigan that offer an adults-only twist on the fall season: cider with a kick.

Steinhauer hopes it's not too late to join the craft hard cider craze.

"We are hoping we didn't miss the bubble. It's such a hot commodity right now. I think it's struck the right button with everyone. I feel we're a little bit late," she said, while making an early-morning batch of doughnuts Friday. "But I think we'll be okay."

More than okay, according to Paul Vander Heide, founder of the Michigan Cider Association.

"Local and regional (hard) cider producers are still growing even though some national data shows growth slowing," he said. "The interest in cider has grown exponentially over the past three to four years. Most of our members have experienced healthy and significant growth in their cider sales."

Some of the Michigan Cider Association's 30 members also produce wine or beer. Some operate traditional cider mills.

"We are definitely seeing new producers come from the orchard/cider mill side of the industry," Vander Heide said.

Trevor Barkham, whose family has owned Rochester Cider Mill in Oakland Township for more than 30 years, hopes to add hard cider to the menu by 2018, maybe sooner depending on how quickly he can obtain local, state and federal approval. His request for special land use will go before the Oakland Township Planning Commission next month.

"Once I get local approval, I can apply to the state and federal government for licensing," Barkham said. "We see (hard cider) as a nationwide trend. For us to be competitive, it's something we need to do."

His cider mill season runs from Sept. 1-Dec. 31, but hard cider would enable him to sell product year-round. His family has produced craft nonalcoholic ciders for years, mixing pear, grape, strawberry, peach, cherry, blueberry or cranberry with apple, bringing their product a step closer to hard versions.

On tap

Apple pie-spiced hard cider is among the most popular drinks this season at Northville Winery and Brewing Company, a part of the Parmenter's Northville Cider Mill site. At Blake's Orchard and Cider Mill in Armada, the fall season brings caramel apple hard cider on tap at the Blake's Hard Cider Co., tasting room and restaurant. Both mills offer a changing menu of ciders at their tasting rooms and a variety of bottled flavored hard ciders, that also are distributed to retailers, bars and restaurants.

Want a cider mill experience with an adult twist? Here's where to go for hard cider:

- Blakes Hard Cider Co.,17985 Armada Center Road, Armada; 586-784-9463. Check out its full line of ciders at blakeshardcider.com
- Northville Winery and Brewing Company, 630 Baseline Road, Northville; 248-320-6507. Live bands perform and artists paint every Thursday. Open mic with food trucks on Friday; thenorthvillewinery.com
- Westview Orchards Winery, 65075 Van Dyke, Washington; 586-752-3123. The winery is located in the cider barn loft. The tasting room offers hard cider, and wine and food pairings. facebook.com /WestviewOrchards

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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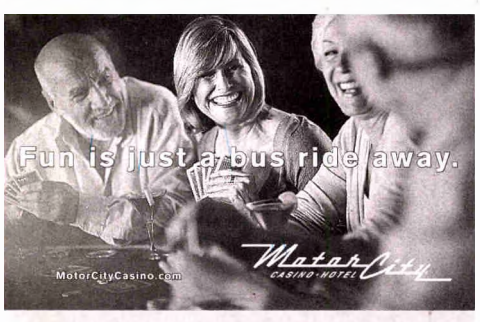

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Planning Commission
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Redford has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Redford Township Hall Board Room, 15145 Beech Daly Road, to consider the following:

Amended Zoning Map No. 01-16. A request to amend the approved Planned Development Project 2-05, commonly known as Shamrock Village by replacing the 12 multiple-family buildings with proposed development of 34 single family structures on 9.1 Acres, to cover the entire site north of Minock Circle, East of Breakfast Dr. between Beech Daly and Inkster Rd.

PHASE "3" LEGAL DESCRIPTION: PART OF THE SOUTHWEST ¼ OF SECTION 19, T.1S.,R.10E, TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, INCLUDING PART OF LOT 8, ALL OF LOTS 9 THROUGH 11, INCLUSIVE, AND PART OF LOTS 12 THROUGH 15, INCLUSIVE OF "SUPERVISOR'S REDFORD PLAT NO. 1" AS RECORDED IN LIBER 65 OF PLATS, PAGE 69, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT OF THE NORTH-SOUTH ¼ LINE OF SAID SECTION 19, ALSO BEING THE EASTLINE OF SAID "SUPERVISOR'S REDFORD PLAT NO. 1". ALSO BEING THE WESTLINE OF "MINOCK DRIVE SUBDIVISION" AS RECORDED IN LIBER 78 OF PLATS ON PAGE 29, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN RECORDS. THAT IS N00°58'40"W.589.05 FEET FROM THE SOUTH ¼ CORNER OF SAID SECTION THENCE S.89°02'09"W. ALONG THE SOUTHLINE OF SAID LOT 9 OF SAID "SUPERVISOR'S REDFORD PLAT NO. 1". A DISTANCE OF 192.45 FEET; THENCE S.28°08'09"W., 117.71 FEET TO THE NORTHLINE OF MINOCK CIRCLE (60 FEET WIDE); THENCE ALONG SAID NORTHLINE ON A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 550.00 FEET, AN ARC LENGTH OF 377.57 FEET, AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF N.69°50'17"W., 370.20 FEET TO THE EASTLINE OF BREAKFAST DRIVE (60 FEET WIDE); THENCE ALONG SAID EASTLINE N00°58'40"W., 631.23 FEET; THENCE N.89°01'20"E., 572.46 FEET; THENCE S.00°59'43"E., 214.84 FEET; THENCE N89°01'20"E., 22.47 FEET TO SAID EAST-WEST ¼ LINE, ALSO BEING THE EASTLINE OF SAID "SUPERVISOR'S REDFORD PLAT NO.1", ALSO BEING THE WESTLINE OF SAID "MINOCK DRIVE SUBDIVISION"; THENCE S.00°58'40"E. ALONG SAID ¼ LINE, ALSO BEING THE LINE COMMON TO SAID PLATS, 447.11 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 9.10 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Property more commonly known as Shamrock Village, 14200 Breakfast Road
(part of parcel #79 023 022 0013 000)

THE LAW REQUIRES THAT OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN 300 FEET OF THIS PROPERTY BE NOTIFIED OF THIS REQUEST IN WRITING. THIS IS YOUR NOTIFICATON.

It is further required that a copy of the Application may be examined at the Redford Twp. Public Services Building, 12200 Beech Daly Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Phone (313) 387-2641. Interested persons unable to attend the public hearing are invited to send their written comments to the attentions of the Planning Commission at 12200 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48239. All written comments must be received by the close of business October 6, 2016 to be considered.

David Allen, Chairman of Planning Commission
Charter Township of Redford

The Charter Township of Redford, (P.C., ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc) will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the (PC, ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc.). Further, individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk by writing to 15145 Beech Daly, Redford, MI 48239, or by calling (313) 387-2750.

Published: October 2, 2016

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INSIDE: PATS' DEFENSE COMES UP BIG AGAINST JOHN GLENN, B2

SECTION B (WGRL)
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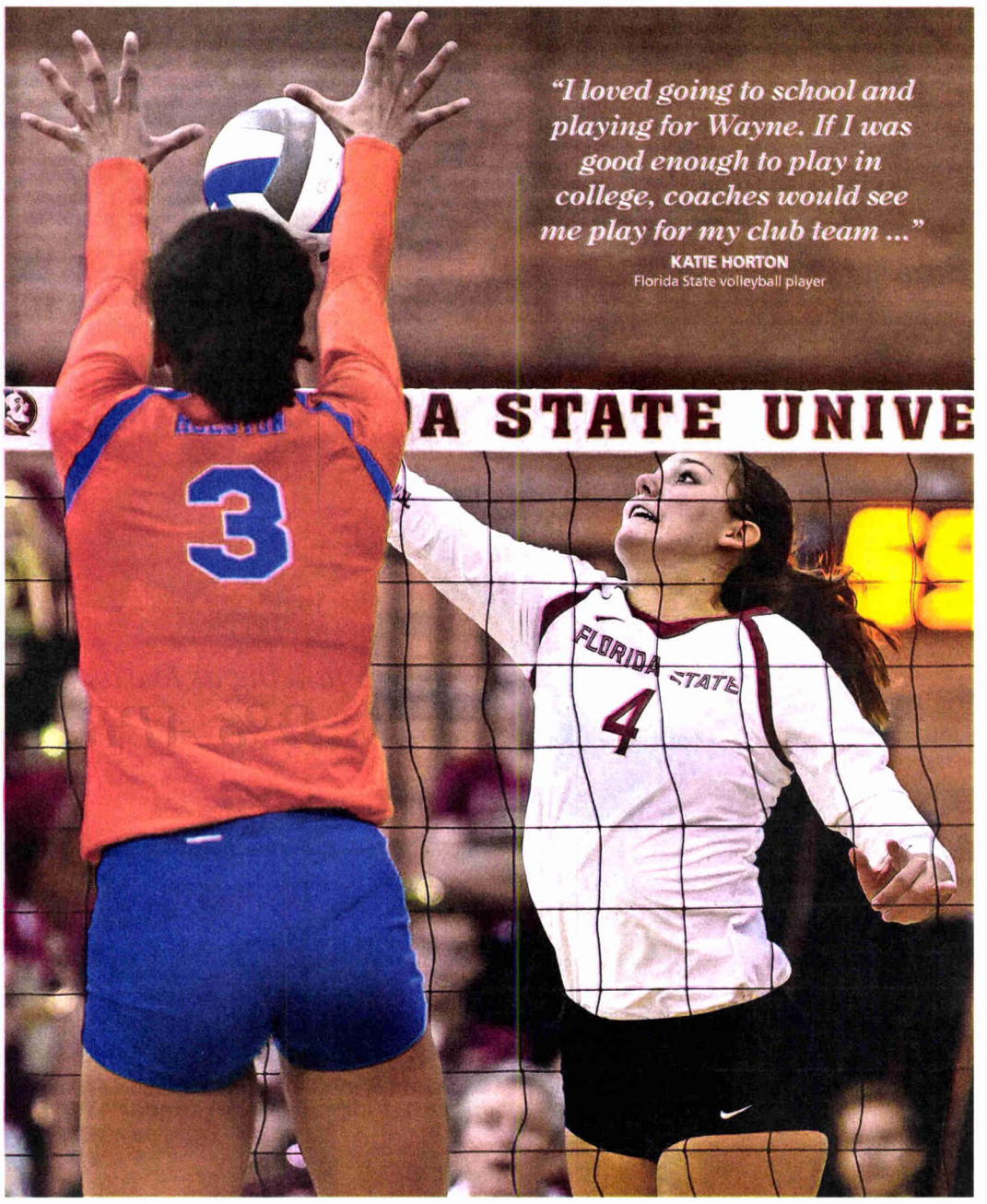


PERRONE FORD | PTFPHOTO

Katie Horton tips the ball over a Florida blocker's fingertips during a match earlier this fall.

KATIE'S KILLIN' IT AT FSU

Wayne Memorial grad Horton is tearing up ACC

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Smack dab in the heart of college volleyball's gold belt, the Atlantic Coast Conference, a late-to-the-volleyball-party rust-belt native — Wayne Memorial graduate Katie Horton — is making some serious waves.

Midway through her senior season at Florida State University, Horton has established herself as one of Division I's most productive full-rotation players — an incredible feat considering she didn't play one second of competitive volleyball until she was 15 years old.

Introduced to the sport by her older sister Keri, Horton has flourished for the 15th-ranked Seminoles.

The 6-foot-1 dynamo dug up her most recent accolade last week, when she was named the ACC's Player of the Week after piling up 28 digs, 23 kills, four blocks and a sparkling .333 attack percentage in FSU's weekend sweep of league rivals Miami (Fla.) and Louisville.

"I am very proud of Katie, because she is working hard in full rotation for us to win the ACC," Florida State head coach Chris Poole said. "We have to have her step up on a nightly basis in order to be successful.

"Katie has been a great full rotation player for three years and I know she is hungry to finish strong."

After playing soccer throughout her pre-teen years, Horton saw how much fun her older sister was having on the volleyball court and decided to give it a shot.

"If Keri didn't play or encourage me to play, I doubt I ever would have tried the sport," said Horton, who is majoring in sports management at

See HORTON, Page B4

PREP FOOTBALL

Chiefs overpower Churchill, 51-7

Canton uses punishing ground game during rainy evening

Evan Paputa
Correspondent

The rout was on, the rain was merciless and the story was written all but as the Canton Chiefs led Livonia Churchill, 44-7, with just three minutes left in the fourth quarter of Friday night's KLAA South Division game.

That's when 5-foot-8, 150-pound senior running back Cam Dixon got the first carry of his career.

Dixon took a handoff from quarterback Joel Foster and powered in from 5 yards out to put an exclamation point on the 51-7 triumph over the host Chargers on their homecoming night.

Following the touchdown, the entire Canton sideline erupted in cheers for Dixon.

"He's our scout team running back. He has a great attitude and we all love that kid. We have so much respect for him," Canton head coach Tim Baechler said. "They (Chiefs) get it."

Dixon's touchdown put a cap on a night of rainy football that saw the Chiefs (4-2) jump out to an early 31-7 halftime lead thanks in large part to the running of Markus Sanders.

Sanders scored on a 65-yard touchdown run in the first quarter to put the Chiefs up 14-0 and a 29-yarder late in the second quarter.

Julian Thornton (11 carries for 40 yards) and Reid McDonnell (18 carries for 118 yards) also scored rushing touchdowns for Canton in the first half.

Ben Tubaro added a field goal with three seconds left in the second half to give Canton a 31-7 halftime advantage.

"We ran hard, took care of the ball. Very physical, our offensive line was physical. Our backs, running, faking and blocking were physical. Very excit-

See CHURCHILL, Page B4

TOM BEAUDOIN

Livonia Churchill's Michael Hill (left) looks to outrun Canton defender Jacob Donnelly on Friday night.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Ke-mauri Heard battles for extra yardage after catching a pass against Canton.

PREP PROFILE

Heard's role is Franklin's 'Mr. Versatility'

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Given the choice, Livonia Franklin senior football player Ke-mauri Heard would rather run over a would-be tackler with the ball cradled securely in his arms than level an opposing ball carrier.

But make no mistake about it: The Patriots' "Mr. Versatility" is fine with doing whatever his coaches ask him to do.

A reliable blocking and receiving tight end when Franklin has the ball, Heard easily shifts into attack mode when the Patriots are on "D" as he is one of the team's top tacklers from his linebacker position.

At 6-foot-1 and 210 pounds, the faster-than-average Heard is a force to be reckoned with, regardless of what his role is at any given moment.

"I'd probably say I prefer playing offense, but I love playing defense, too," said Heard, who played an instrumental role in the Patriots' surge to the Division 2 state semifinals last fall.

"Of all the plays I made last year, I'd say my favorite one was when I caught a two-point conversion pass (from Denzel Adams) against John Glenn. That kind of got us going."

Like father, like son

The apple didn't fall far from the tree (or gridiron) in the Heard family.

Heard's dad, also named Ke-mauri, was a standout football player at Detroit Southwestern before playing

See HEARD, Page B4

PREP FOOTBALL

Patriots' defense comes up big

Two fourth-down stops highlight homecoming win

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

A double dose of fourth-down fortitude provided Livonia Franklin's football team with the jolt it needed Friday night to repel a serious challenge from visiting Westland John Glenn.

In a game played through a steady rain and a relentless wind, the Patriots scored the game's final 21 points and chiseled out a 21-6 victory.

The verdict improved the Patriots' record to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in the KLAA South Division heading into next week's home game against Livonia Churchill.

John Glenn, which reeled off spurts of big-play offense throughout the night but had a hard time finishing drives, dropped to 1-5 and 1-2, respectively.

Franklin's first monumental fourth-down stop came on the Rockets' opening drive of the second half. With Franklin ahead, 14-6, John Glenn went for it on fourth-and-one from its own 26, but quarterback Bobby Powell was stonewalled at the line of scrimmage by Franklin's Chris Nehasil and Daniel Domzalski.

Eight plays (and three penalties) later, the Patriots scored the game's final points when Isaac Moore rammed into the end zone from 2 yards out. Jake Giacobbi's third of three extra points put the Patriots up by 15.

"Our defense is much improved this year," Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert said. "We didn't play a perfect game, but like I told them afterward, that doesn't always happen.

"There are going to be games where we have to grind it out and win a hard-fought one and our defense helped us do that tonight."

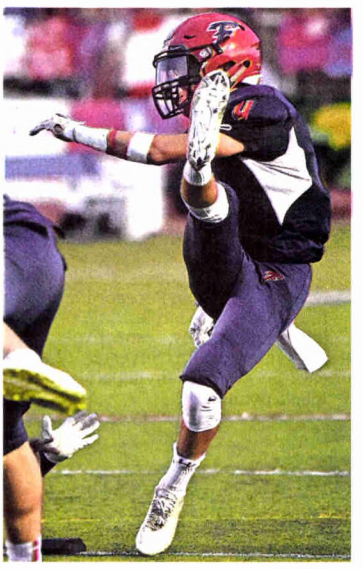
One of the most pivotal plays — or non-plays, considering the ball was never snapped — with Franklin in possession unfolded on a fourth-and-three from its own 20.

With backup quarterback David Brackett inserted into the lineup for the first time all night — and working under center instead of the Patriots' usual shotgun formation — the Patriots got a Rockets lineman to jump offside with just 40 seconds left in the first half.

Immediately following a Patriots delay of game penalty, quarterback Jacob Clark connected with Giacobbi on an electrifying 75-yard touchdown pass to push the hosts' lead to 14-6.

"Drawing them offside was huge," said Kelbert, who admitted the Patriots had no intention of snapping the ball. "David Brackett improvised on that. I told him to give them a two hard count and then I'd call a timeout. But he actually called a play out before the count and that may have been why the kid who jumped thought we might actually run a play."

TOM BEAUDOIN
Franklin quarterback Jacob Clark breaks free on a long run during a game earlier this season.



TOM BEAUDOIN
Jake Giacobbi follows through on an extra point earlier this season.

The Rockets seized a 6-0 lead with 9:36 remaining in the second quarter, when Matt Nutt capped a six-play, 80-yard drive with a 4-yard touchdown run. Nutt's score was set up one play earlier, when Powell unleashed a highlight reel-caliber 55-yard run.

Franklin countered quickly and jumped in front 7-6 on its next possession, when Clark scored on a 10-yard keeper. The Patriots gained great field position after Joe Kenney fielded a pooch kickoff at his own 40 and dashed down to the Rockets' 20.

Franklin running back Nuke Crowell fueled his team's ground game with 100 yards on 17 carries. Clark 58 yards on 13 hauls in addition to completing two of his four passes for 80 yards.

Powell was a handful to contain, finishing with 163 yards on 12 attempts. Nutt gained 46 yards on 14 carries.

Junior linebacker Jacob Mass spearheaded the Patriots' defense. Among his six tackles was a 14-yard sack of Powell when the Rockets had the ball first-and-goal at the Patriots' 2-yard line.

Glenn's Jared Tarrance intercepted a Clark pass in the end zone in the first half.

WWAC FOOTBALL REPORT

Garden City rolls to emphatic win over 'Dogs

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

For the first time in a while Friday night, Garden City's football team was healthy and happy — not surprising given the Cougars' 50-12 shellacking of host Dearborn Heights Robichaud.

With its first win since the opening week of the season, Garden City improved to 2-4 overall and 1-2 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's Blue Division.

"Our game plan, given the rainy weather, was to keep the ball on the ground and our offensive line played probably its best game all season," GC head coach Jim Baker said.

"Our entire defense was outstanding as well. We held Robichaud to minus-13 yards rushing and we forced several turnovers."

The Cougars also managed to take care of the football as they committed just one turnover.

McGraw was a yardage machine as he piled up 132 yards rushing on just nine carries. He also reeled in a 44-yard touchdown pass from Eman Rehman.

On a night when the forward pass was rare, Rehman completed two of his three aerials for 49 yards and two touchdowns, the second going to Cameron Walter.

Also turning in big offensive efforts for the Cougars were Eian Castonguay (six carries, 63 yards and a touchdown) and Mason Jennings, who picked up 22 yards and a TD on four touches.

"We managed to spread the ball out and get it in the hands of a lot of different guys," Baker said.

Jay Castonguay also had a big night on defense for GC, Baker added.

Fordson plows RU

Friday night's rainy weather is exactly what Redford Union's run-heavy offense ordered, but the Panthers found out quickly that not even Mother Nature can mess with Dearborn Fordson.

The state-ranked Tractors rolled to a 45-0 victory over RU, dropping the Panthers' record to 4-2 overall and 1-2 in the WWAC Blue.

Fordson improved to 6-0 and 3-0, respectively.

"Our backs ran hard," RU head coach Miles Tomasaitis said. "This Fordson team is strong like they always are, but they're also faster than they've ever been.

"On their first play from scrimmage, we missed four tackles and the kid ran it in from 45 yards out. Unfortunately, that's kind of how the entire night went for us."

RU last played Fordson in 2009 in a Mega Conference crossover game, Tomasaitis remembered.

"We put eight guys in the box on defense to try to get them to throw the ball, but they ran it anyway and they ran it well," Tomasaitis said.

ewright@hometownlife.com

TOM BEAUDOIN
Redford Union's Talil Groves-Knox busts open a long run during last week's victory over Garden City.

PREP FOOTBALL

Novi's backup RB steamrolls Stevenson, 38-17

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Livonia Stevenson's gutsy football team made one valiant comeback Friday night at Novi but, as it turned out, it needed two.

The Spartans rallied from an early 17-0 deficit to trail just 17-10 at the half, however, the Wildcats pushed the pedal to the metal in the second half while running away with a 38-17 victory.

The Wildcats' unexpected hero was backup running back Aahmaud Jenkins, who churned out 238 yards on 19 carries and two touchdowns while filling in for injured starter Nathan Hankerson.

Among the defensive standouts for Stevenson were linebackers Devin Dunn (four solo tackles and three assists) and Nathan Micallef, who had four solo tackles, two assists, a sack and a forced fumble.

Trailing 17-0, the Spartans pulled to within two touchdowns when Philip Vrzovski booted a 23-yard field goal.

A few moments later, senior quarterback Chris Tanderys connected with senior receiver Ian Knoph on a 9-yard scoring pass to make it 17-10 at the break.

Novi ended the drama in the third quarter, when it scored 14 straight points to extend its lead to 31-10.

Stevenson's final points came on a 14-yard TD pass from Tanderys to Knoph.

Tanderys had a solid night throwing the ball, completing 23-of-38 passes for 272 yards and the two TD strikes to Knoph.

Junior running back Parker Graham picked up 91 yards on 16 carries and Knoph finished with five catches for 84 yards.

With its back against the playoff wall, Stevenson (3-3) needs to run the table to qualify for the postseason. Its next test comes Friday against Northville.

ewright@hometownlife.com

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Stevenson's Ian Knoph out-raced a pair of Salem defenders for a touchdown during last week's road win.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Panthers outstroke Eagles in Redford rivalry meet

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Plymouth's girls swim team made a statement Thursday night against host Livonia Franklin as the Wildcats submerged the Patriots, 133-52, in a KLAA South Division dual meet.

The Patriots' lone first-place performance came in the 100-yard backstroke, where junior Caitlin Jodway defeated Plymouth's Elizabeth Breda by four seconds.

Among the Wildcats' standouts were Kelsey and Regan Peregord, who won the 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard individual medley, respectively.

Plymouth's Tori Silvester led a Wildcat 1-2-3 sweep in diving after earning 166.95 points.

PLYMOUTH 133, FRANKLIN 52

200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Elizabeth Breda, Kelsey Peregord, Regan Peregord, Alyssa Crisp), 2 minutes, 6.42 seconds; 2. Plymouth (Grace Maclellan, Vy Nguyen, Kathryn Waters, Sneha Sundar), 2:09.69.

200 freestyle: 1. Kelsey Peregord (P), 2:11.31; 2. Caitlin Jodway (F), 2:12.36; 3. Gemma Bida (F), 2:32.25.

200 individual medley: 1. Regan Peregord (P), 2:29.81; 2. Paityn Santi (F), 2:30.60; 3. Vy Nguyen (P), 2:38.97.

50 freestyle: 1. Alyssa Crisp (P), 28.67; 2. Grace Maclellan (P), 28.79; 3. Sarah Haggitt (P), 31.00.

1-meter diving: 1. Tori Silvester (P), 166.95 points; 2. Olivia Richmond (P), 165.45; 3. Beth Henderson (P), 142.95.

100 butterfly: 1. Ellie Kendall (P), 1:19.52; 2. Sneha Sundar (P), 1:20.29; 3. Ashli Carnesecchi (F), 1:28.39.

100 freestyle: 1. Carolin Whitaker (P), 1:05.04; 2. Alyssa Crisp (P), 1:06.04; 3. Gemma Bida (F), 1:11.32.

500 freestyle: 1. Kathryn Waters (P), 6:05.34; 2. Chrissy Brown (P), 6:11.75; 3. Paityn Santi (F), 6:11.78.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Elizabeth Breda, Chrissy Brown, Sarah Haggitt, Kathryn Waters), 1:59.52; 2. Plymouth (Caroline Whitaker, Kaylee Yang, Ellie Kendall, Sarah Zrull), 2:03.32.

100 backstroke: 1. Caitlin Jodway (F), 1:06.71; 2. Elizabeth Breda (P), 1:10.01; 3. Sneha Sundar (P), 1:16.69.

100 breaststroke: 1. Vy Nguyen (P), 1:18.54; 2. Grace Maclellan (P), 1:25.23; 3. Lauren Niemiec (F), 1:27.02.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Grace Maclellan, Alyssa Crisp, Kathryn Waters, Kelsey Peregord), 4:15.84; 2. Plymouth (Sneha Sundar, Regan Peregord, Caroline Whitaker, Elizabeth Breda), 4:22.94.

RU sinks Thurston

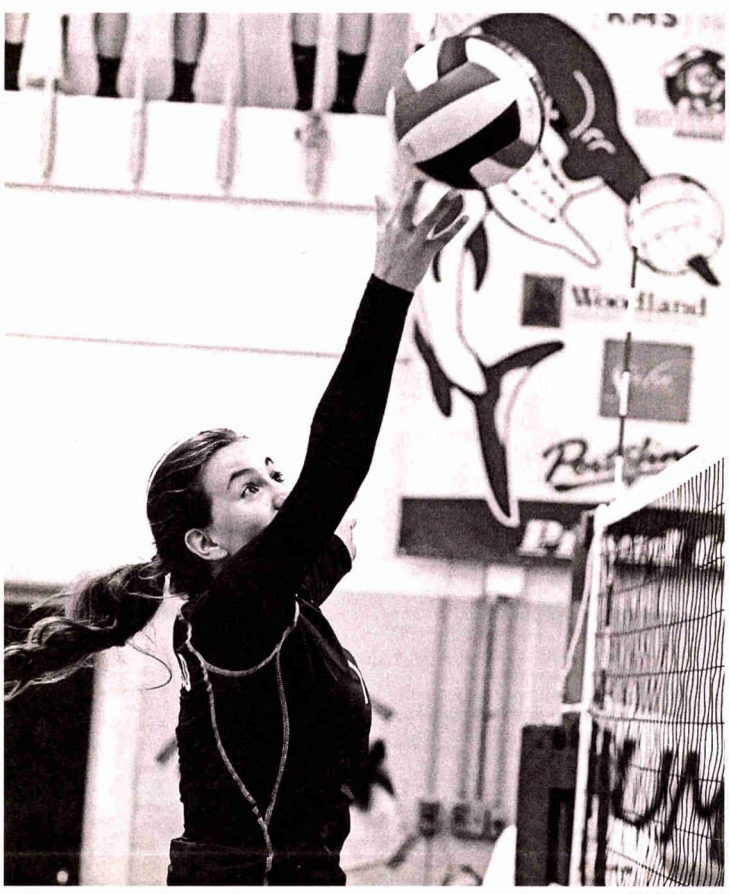
Redford Union handed rival Thurston a 111-37 setback Thursday night in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference showdown.

The Panthers left little doubt as to which team had more depth as they touched first in every event except one.

RU swimmers earning individuals firsts were Abby Bishop (50 and 100 freestyle), Sarah Bishop (200 free and 100 back), Hailey Peace (100 butterfly), Ayla Kimrey (500 free) and Fiona McClenaghan, who touched first in the 100 breaststroke race.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP VOLLEYBALL



TOM BEAUDOIN

Ladywood's Madison Benoit tips the ball over the net Wednesday night against Mercy.

Ladywood second at Hartland

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Although it failed to secure its first Catholic League victory of the season Wednesday at Farmington Hills Mercy, Livonia Ladywood's volleyball team still managed to put some hardware in the school's trophy case this week.

On Saturday, the Blazers earned a second-place showing at the talent-rich Hartland Invitational.

Ladywood, which was led by Monique Lamoureux and Natasha Strzeiewicz, among others, piled up victories throughout the day until it ultimately succumbed to Linden in a three-set championship match.

"I like the way our team is coming together," first-year head coach Kathryn Chinavare said. "There is room for improvement, but there is no one area that we're necessarily struggling in.

"Our blocking has been solid. Even in our losses this season, we've had surges of strong play, but we're young and the competition in the Catholic League is very, very good."

In Wednesday's 25-18, 25-19, 25-15 setback to the Marlins, Ladywood was bolstered by strong net play from sophomores Madison Benoit, who led her team with eight kills and a 60-percent hitting rate, and Madeline Hudson, who added five kills.

Defensively, Colleen Barnes led the Blazers with 10 digs, while Lamoureux sparkled in her setting role, dishing out 26 assists.

ewright@hometownlife.com

LOCAL GOLF NEWS

Pictured are (seated, from left) Ken Gardner, Bill Willis, Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright, Craige Moore and Ken Hunt and (standing, from left) Ted Davis, Mike Thomas, Bob Walsh, Craig Cebulskie, Tom Lesondak, Larry Gawlik and Paul Worley.

Senior golfers hold annual banquet

The Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association held its annual awards banquet Aug. 26 at One Under at Idyl Wyld Golf Course in Livonia.

On hand to present the awards were Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright, Livonia Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Ted Davis and Paul Worley, who is the head pro at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Flight winners honored included Ken Gardner (championship), Bill Willis (first), Craige Moore (third) and Ken Hunt (fourth). Second flight champion Bob Malott was not present at the banquet.

Runners-up included Mike Thomas (championship), Bob Walsh (first), Craig Cebulskie (second), Tom Lesondak (third) and Larry Gawlik (fourth).

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Churchill triumphant on special night

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

On teacher appreciation night, Livonia Churchill's volleyball team taught visiting Plymouth an important lesson: The Chargers are very good.

With 25 Churchill teachers looking on along with the regular enthusiastic crowd, Churchill nailed down a convincing 25-12, 25-18, 25-18 victory over the Wildcats.

The win improved the Chargers' record to 7-0 in the KLAA South Division and 23-8 overall heading into Tuesday's key showdown against South Division rival Canton.

Alyssa Facione was her usual splendid self on defense, picking up 20 digs, four more than back-court colleague Megan Gendjar, who contributed 16 digs and three kills.

Bri Fulton was masterful in her role as the Chargers' setter, picking up 32 assists.

Offensively, Churchill was powered by Sarah Dunn (13 kills), Sam Zonca (nine kills) and Annie Yost, who compiled eight kills, three blocks and three aces.

ewright@hometownlife.com

BOYS SOCCER

Cougars sweep Redford foes

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Garden City's boys soccer team finished a three-day, two-team sweep of Redford Township on Wednesday night by upending host Redford Union, 4-1, in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference encounter at Kraft Field.

On Monday, the Cougars knocked off Redford Thurston on youth night.

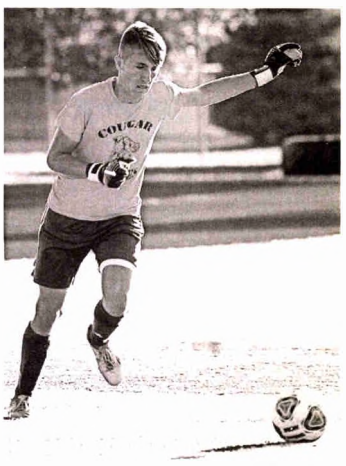
The back-to-back victories improved GC's record to 5-8 overall and 4-2 in the WWAC. The Cougars are 5-2 in their past seven games after starting the season 0-6.

"I like how we're sharing the ball," GC head coach Jeff Szypula said when asked to put a finger on the key to his team's recent surge. "Everybody wants to chip in and nobody cares if they're the one who gets the goal. It's all about the team."

Jacob Sadowski got the Cougars on the board first, when he controlled a slick feed from Robert Ujkaj and pumped the ball into the back of the net about 10 minutes into the contest.

A pivotal point came with just 10 seconds remaining in the first half, when Jared Shea scored from Mitchel Falk to give the Cougars a more-secure 2-0 lead heading into the intermission.

Sadowski ramped the lead to 3-0 when he headed in a free kick off the foot of Austin Pena.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Goalkeeper Ian Tesarz has played a key role in the Garden City soccer team's recent surge.

Pena then roped home a free kick to give his team an insurmountable 4-0 advantage.

RU goalkeeper Evan Albright was spectacular, according to Szypula.

"We had quite a few really good scoring chances that he turned away," he said.

ewright@hometownlife.com

BOYS SOCCER

Stevenson, Novi play to 1-1 deadlock

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Driving rain, gusting wind and relentless defense — those were the variables that played the biggest roles in Thursday night's 1-1 draw between KLAA Central Division boys soccer rivals Livonia Stevenson and host Novi.

Both teams' goalkeepers were marvelous as Spartans senior Drew Padgen turned away five Wildcats shots while his counterpart, Luke McDonald, was credited with four saves.

"I thought both teams goalkeepers and back lines did really well avoiding major mistakes while dealing with the rough weather," Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker said.

Novi's Adam Dellavecchia finished a long throw-in to put Novi ahead, 1-0, in the 33rd minute.

Stevenson knotted the game at 1-1 when Christian Zapata knocked home the rebound of a Lucas Rea free kick.

The result left Stevenson with a 6-3-4 overall record and 3-2-3 mark in the division.

Novi, which is ranked No. 10 in the Division 1 rankings, now stands at 6-2-4 and 3-2-3.

ewright@hometownlife.com

BOYS SOCCER

Patriots slide past Rockets, 2-1

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Livonia Franklin's boys soccer team posted a dramatic 2-1 victory over Westland John Glenn on Thursday night on the Patriots' pitch.

The win boosted Franklin's record to 6-3-3 overall and 4-2-2 in the KLAA South Division.

Tyler Piper had a foot in both Patriot goals, scoring his second net-finder of the season off an assist from Matt Conley (his seventh assist of the campaign).

Freshman Julian Medrano punched home the winners' second goal (his fourth) thanks to Piper's first assist of the season.

Zack Robinson yielded one John Glenn goal in the first half while Scott Beebe blanked the Rockets over the final 40 minutes.

ED WRIGHT

John Glenn's Josh Butkevich (left) and Franklin's Domenico Pelle fight for possession during a game earlier this fall.

PERRONE FORD | PTFPHOTO

Katie Horton has emerged as a star player at Florida State University.

HORTON

Continued from Page B1

FSU. "I owe a lot to her. My parents (David and Laura) have also always been there for me. They encouraged us to get into any sport we wanted to try. They've always been supportive."

Horton really blossomed once she joined the highly regarded Premier Volleyball Club, based in Ohio.

"I got to play with Keri, which was nice," she said. "The Premier Club took volleyball to another level for me. We learned the volleyball-appropriate way to lift weights and, when you play for a club like that, there are always going to be college coaches scouting the tournaments."

Horton, who was born and raised in Westland but attended Wayne Memorial, said there were brief discussions about transferring to another high school with more of a volleyball heritage than Wayne had, but it never progressed beyond talk.

"I loved going to school and playing for Wayne," she said. "If I was good enough to play in college, coaches would see me play for my club team, so it wasn't really a consideration transferring to another school or moving to another school district."

The Horton sisters led the Zebras to two straight Class A district championships.

During her final season at Wayne, Horton was ranked in the top 100 on PrepVolleyball.com's "Senior Ace" list.

During her stint with Premier, she helped lead the club to back-to-back top five finishes at the AAU Championships and she earned All-America honors at the same time.

Horton said she would strongly advise young players to give the sport a shot — even if, like her, they haven't played much and they're already in their teens.

"I would recommend young girls to go to a camp or two and see if they like it," Horton said. "The thing about volleyball is that you don't have to be extremely tall. I enjoyed it right away and it's been a big part of my life."

During the past year, Horton has also emerged as a rising star in beach volleyball — a two-player-per-team sport that is a popular Olympic event.

"The thing I like about beach volleyball is that you touch the ball every play, so you have to be focused every second," she said.

Even after she graduates from Florida State in the near future, volleyball will still play a major role in Horton's life, she assured.

"I'd love to play professionally — either indoors or beach — and my dream since I first started playing was to make the Olympic team," she said. "Ultimately, I'd like to become a volleyball coach, so my sports management degree will help with that."

ewright@hometownlife.com

CHURCHILL

Continued from Page B1

ed, we're starting to play a little bit," Baechler said.

Sanders rattled off chunks of yardage all game long, accumulating 224 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

Churchill's (4-2) lone score of the game came on a 24-yard Evan Cummins touchdown run with 3:21 left in the first half.

Canton's offense tends to get the majority of attention, but the defense played as good as Baechler could have imagined, allowing just 176 total yards and only six first downs.

"That's a great team and we gave up seven points, are you kidding me? It's not my fault it rained. ... That's just the way that it is," Baechler said.

Defensively, Canton was led in tackles by Lou Baechler with eight. Senior defensive lineman Jake Warner anchored the D-line that was able to pressure Cummins all night.

"We just decided to stay tough. We came out, hit them hard and they shut down from there. We had momentum all game," Warner said.

With rain falling all night, the Canton running game thrived while the Churchill spread struggled to pick up momentum.

"I thought, as far as us, I thought we had an advantage. We're mostly a run team and we shut down their pass. They had a lot of good plays that they beat us and then we got lucky on a few of them," Warner said.

For Churchill, falling behind to Canton's staple power running game put them behind the eight-ball in the first quarter.

After Thornton's touchdown, Churchill drove 62 yards to the Canton 18-yard line, but the drive stalled on a fourth-and-seven play. Cummins (5-of-14 for 82 yards) stood in the pocket, but his pass sailed through the hands of Michael Hill in the end zone.

"We started out playing pretty well in the first quarter, but lost a little momentum when we dropped the fourth down in the end zone," Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo said.

Injuries proved to be part of the struggle for the Chargers on the night.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Churchill's Hunter Templin (right) clears a path for Jacob Chantres during Friday night's game against Canton.

"We started out playing pretty well in the first quarter, but lost a little momentum when we dropped the fourth down in the end zone."

BILL DEFILLIPPO, Churchill head coach

Spearheaded by Jamal Allen playing limited snaps on offense and none on defense, the Chargers were without multiple "key players," according to DeFillippo.

"We're just so banged up right now. It was rough for us heading into the game, we had about eight or nine guys that are not even dressed that are key players for us. It's a really tough road to beat Canton when you're banged up bigtime," DeFillippo said.

Churchill plays travels to play crosstown rival Franklin (4-2) at 7 p.m. Friday.

"We'll regroup; one game's not going make the year. We got to get ready to play a pretty good Franklin team next week," DeFillippo said.

Canton travels to play at Wayne Memorial (1-5) at 7 p.m. Friday.

HEARD

Continued from Page B1

briefly at Olivet College.

"And then he had me," the younger Heard said with a smile, "so he had to give up football. But he was pretty good, from what I understand.

"He's the one who has gotten me to where I am now. We always played catch in the yard and then I joined a Police Athletic League team in Detroit when I was about 10. I grew up around football. I've loved it since I was little."

Heard said the facet of last year's incredible playoff run that he enjoyed best was the always-growing cohesive of his teammates.

"It was fun, especially the way the team bonded," he said. "We really stuck together. I think we have a chance to make a run this year, too, but we have to keep working hard and never look ahead."

Heard, who is an excellent student with a 3.5 grade-point average, said he is considering picking up basketball again at Franklin this winter after playing for the Patriots' junior varsity team as a sophomore before sitting out last season.

ED WRIGHT

Ke-mauri Heard is a two-way standout for Franklin.

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION
For the State General Election to be held on
Tuesday, November 8, 2016
City of Westland, County of Wayne

Please take Notice that the State General Election in the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the State General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, is **Tuesday, October 11, 2016**. Persons registering after 4:00 in the evening on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 are not eligible to vote at this State General Election.

On the ballot for the State General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 will be:

President and Vice-President of the United States
United States Representative in Congress – 13th District
Representative in State Legislature – 11th District
Representative in State Legislature – 16th District
Member of the State Board of Education – (2 seats)
Regent of the University of Michigan – (2 seats)
Trustee of Michigan State University – (2 seats)
Governor of Wayne State University – (2 seats)
Prosecuting Attorney
Wayne County Sheriff
Wayne County Clerk
Wayne County Treasurer
Wayne County Register of Deeds
Wayne County Commissioner – 11th District
Wayne County Commissioner – 12th District
Justice of the Supreme Court – (2 seats)
Justice of the Supreme Court Incumbent Position – (1 seat)
Judge of the Court of Appeals 1st District Incumbent Position – (2 seats)
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Incumbent Position – (16 seats)
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent Position – (4 seats)
Judge of Circuit Court 3rd Circuit Incumbent Position/Partial Term
Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position – (2 seats)
Board of Trustees Member Schoolcraft Community College – (2 seats)
Board Member Wayne-Westland Community Schools – (2 seats)
Board Member Livonia Public Schools – (4 seats)
Board Member Romulus Community Schools – (3 seats)
Board Member Taylor Public Schools – (4 seats)
Board Member Garden City Public Schools – (3 seats)

County Proposal

A PROPOSAL AUTHORIZING THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (RTA) TO LEVY AN ASSESSMENT

Authorize the RTA to levy within Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties a property tax assessment at a rate of 1.2 mills ($1.20 per $1,000 of taxable value) for 20 years beginning in 2016 and ending in 2035; that may not be increased, renewed, or used for other purposes without direct voter approval; for the purpose of construction and operation of a public transportation system connecting Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Should this assessment be approved?

Intermediate School District Proposal

REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Revenue raised be the proposed enhancement millage will be distributed to local public school districts within the boundaries of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. Shall the limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes which may be imposed on taxable property be increased by 2.00 mills ($2.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, 2016 to 2021, inclusive, as new additional millage to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes?

A sample of the ballot containing the full text of ballot proposals may be obtained at the City of Westland City Clerk's Office, at ***http://www.cityofwestland.com/departments/city-clerk*** or at ***Michigan.gov/vote***. Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk's office.

You may register at the Westland City Clerk's office, 36300 Warren Road; Westland, MI 48185 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM or at any Secretary of State Office.

Richard LeBlanc
Westland City Clerk

Published: October 2, 2016 LO-0000298030 3x15

NOTICE OF THE LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

All voters are hereby given notice that the City of Livonia will hold a **State General Election** on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Electors who wish to vote in the election must be registered to vote no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

Registrations will be taken at the office of the City Clerk, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during regular hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THE STATUTORY DEADLINE for registering to vote will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, on which day the City Clerk will be in her office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for the purpose of receiving registrations of electors to vote.

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Livonia Observer
Published: Sunday, October 2, 2016 LO-0000296815 3x2.5

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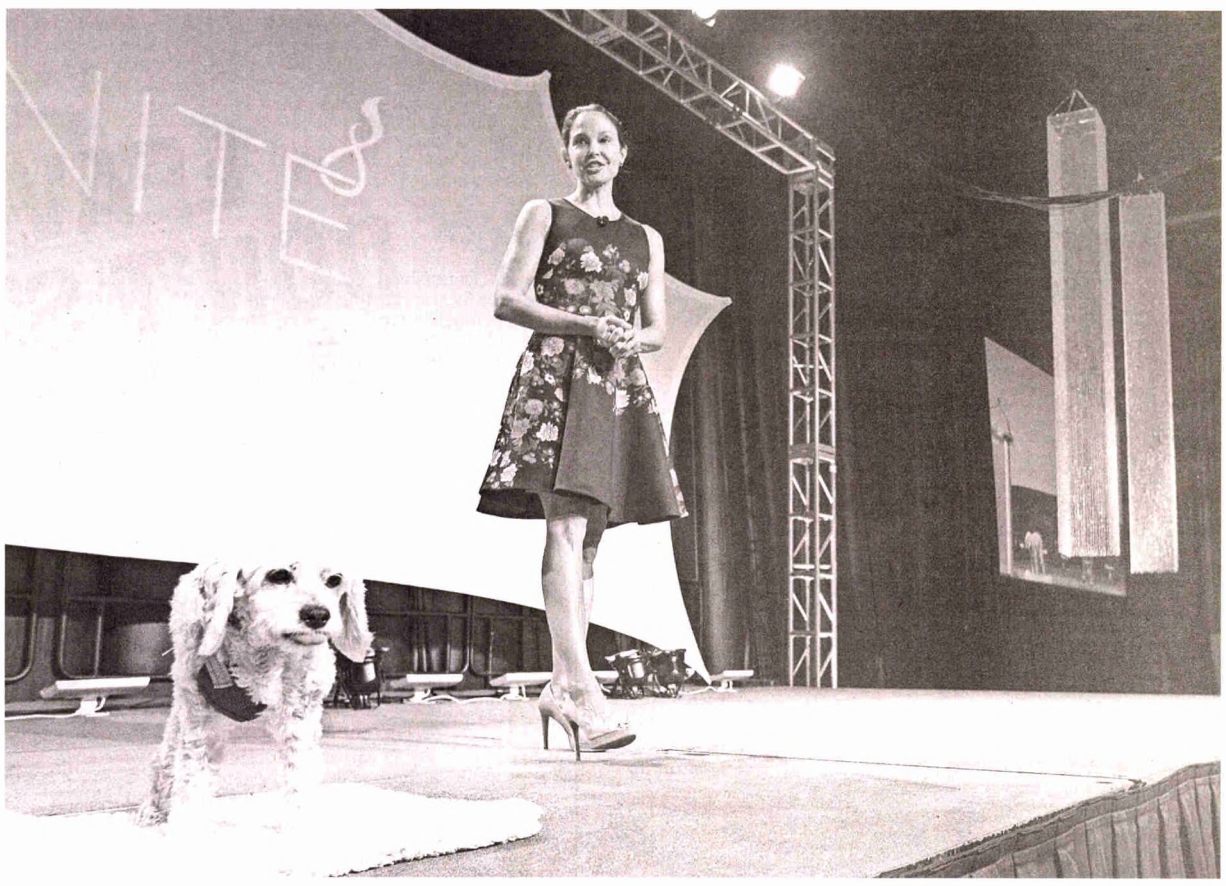
ACTRESS JUDD TO LANSING'S FEMALE LEADERS: WORK TOGETHER

Alexander Alusheff
Lansing State Journal



MATTHEW DAE SMITH/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Actress and humanitarian Ashley Judd delivers her keynote closing address at the ATHENA International Leadership Conference at the Lansing Center. On stage with Judd is her certified comfort dog, Shug.

LANSING - One thing actress Ashley Judd remembers about attending her former husband's IndyCar races are the bikini contests.

The women who competed in them were called "lollipop girls" after the sticks they held that had the race car's number at the top.

"I was disgusted with the whole thing," Judd said, who added she would internally shame the women or not speak with them. "I was not able to honor our differences and have a spacious enough mind ... about my fellow girls and women that allowed me to have a strong female-to-female alliance."

Judd spoke to more than 300 people, mostly women, during her closing keynote speech at the ATHENA International Leadership Conference on Tuesday at the Lansing Center. ATHENA International is a nonprofit organization that seeks to support, develop and honor women leaders.

Judd is known for her roles in the movies "Ruby in Paradise" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood", but she is also a humanitarian and political activist. She has addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations on the modern slave trade. She was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations Population Fund. She was previously married to now-retired Indy Car driver Dario Franchitti, who won the Indy 500 three times.

The way forward for women, Judd said, is a journey toward interdependency.

"It's the pluralism and diversity of women sharing our experience, strength and hope is what I believe is the way forward," she said. "It will create a sustainable way for everyone to be able to reach their full potential."

Judd said in her journey toward this, she had to be able to love everyone, including the women in the bikini contests.

"Let go of that binary thinking, like 'they really should be doing this differently.'"

When she accomplished that, it allowed Judd to stand up for women, she said. Most recently, Judd said she received an ovation during a conference after calling out a Saudi Arabian minister for how women are treated in his country. She also called out the host of the conference for barely having any female leaders as panelists .

Judd said she is a fierce advocate of speaking with dignity and respect. She draws courage from attending events like ATHENA where she gets the "dynamism of female-to-female alliances where it is really okay to say "What the heck is going on in the world?"

Sarah Jennings, chair of ATHENA's Lansing-based Women's Interest Network, said Judd's speech was inspirational.

"I'm not sure anyone could leave here and not want to make a change," Jennings said.

Jennings said the conference was intended to encourage women to leave a legacy and give back to the community.

Her challenge to the attendees before concluding the conference: "Make sure what was ignited here does not fizzle out."

Alexander Alusheff is a reporter at the Lansing State Journal. Contact him at (517) 388-5973 or aalusheff@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @alexalusheff.

MSU Tollgate Farm celebrates autumn

Terry Jacoby
Correspondent

RONDA KIMBROW, GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

MSU Tollgate Farm hosts a Pumpkinfest the weekend of Oct. 8-9.

The MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest has grown faster than a pumpkin patch.

This year's event, sponsored by VIBE Credit Union, promises to continue the trend from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 8-9 at the MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook, in Novi.

"This is our third year and we grew from 300 (visitors) the first year to 5,500 last year," said Ellen Koehler, education coordinator with the center. "There is a lot of community excitement and collaboration heading into this year's event and we are really excited about hosting it again in 2016."

Koehler said the central theme of the event, obviously, is the pumpkin and the fundraiser for educational programming at the center.

"The pinnacle experience is getting on that wagon and riding out to the pumpkin patch, where you can search around and pick out your pumpkins, whether as a family, a group or as an individual," she said. "We will have thousands of pumpkins and they should be ready to pick."

There will be plenty of fun activities for the kids, including pumpkin bowling, a straw maze, a pumpkin decorating station, bounce house, inflatable archery stand and a Pheasants Forever shooting booth.

The Novi and Walled Lake public libraries will offer story times throughout both days, with a special appearance by children's author Linda McLean.

"They also are going to be running the face painting, which is always a big hit with the kids," Koehler said.

New this year will be a local re-enactment club staging historic harvest food ways.

"They will be on-site with their camp and fire and talking about the three sisters of corn, beans and squash and will be in full Native American and colonial garb," Koehler said. "They will even have their kids with them in costume and they just share their stories. The crowds just love it."

The popular Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum will be present, too. "They are coming out and will have five separate activity tables, along with a 30-person workshop at four different times," she said. "It's a cow's eye dissection workshop."

The MSU Bug House and the Yesteryear's Antique Tractor Club also will be on hand to share special exhibits. And, of course, the MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center's farm animals will be in the middle of all the fun.

On the music side, Gemini will be performing a free concert at 1 p.m. Saturday. Billy Brandt and the Sugarees will play at 3 p.m. Saturday. Whoa Nelly will be playing Sunday, as well as the Farmington Community Band.

Yummy and MSU dairy store ice cream will be among the many sweet treats available during the two days. Parmenter's Northville Cider Mill will be providing cider and doughnuts. There will be other food concession stands so "no one goes home hungry," Koehler said.

"VIBE has been a wonderful sponsor for this event, helping with funds to get it off the ground and also helping with activities," Koehler said. "We also are fortunate to have a huge group of volunteers who help make this event happen. We have more volunteers this year, including National Honor Society members and other groups of high school students from both Northville and Novi and local teen clubs are coming out to help and make things happen."

Entry to the event is free. Parking is $5.

The MSU Tollgate Farm site represents a working farm with animals and retired draft horses from Greenfield Village. The 160-acre farmstead is currently owned by the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Americana Foundation. Go to www.tollgatecc.msu.edu/events for more information.

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HERRMANN

THOMAS J., M.D. Age 80 of Bellaire, MI, passed away Monday, September 12, 2016. He was born May 28, 1936 in Detroit, MI, the son of Thomas A. and Josephine (Lynch) Herrmann. Beloved husband of Mary A. (Backelant) Stephens. Tom graduated from the University of Detroit High School, University of Notre Dame, the University of Michigan Medical School, and the Harvard Business School. He became a transplant surgeon and had the privilege of working under Dr. Thomas E. Starzyl, often referred to as "the father of modern transplantation". Under Dr. Starzyl Tom was part of the team that performed the first liver transplant in the world. Tom later went into administration at the University of Michigan and became the associate dean of the medical school. Prior to retiring he was Director of physician services for the Humana Health Systems. Proud father of Thomas (Kathy) Herrmann of Bend Oregon, Janette Herrmann Luitgaarden of Seattle Washington, Michael (Terri) Herrmann Of Sylvania Ohio, and Renee (Thomas) Loftus of Denver Colorado; grandfather of nine. Tom was an avid sailor who loved spending time on his sailboat, his beloved "Bounty". A Memorial Mass of Resurrection will be held Friday, October 14, 2016, 11 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 2201 South Old US 23, Brighton, MI. Dr. Herrmann's family wish to offer a special thanks to Dr. Andrew Riddle and Dr. David Heimburger, Munson Hospital and the caring staff at Munson Hospice. Memorial contributions are suggested to the University of Detroit High School. Please sign the family's online guestbook at

macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.

MANUEL

WALTER THOMAS Age 71, passed away suddenly June 14, 2016. Born in Andersonville, Tennessee on October 12, 1944 to Delia and Thomas Manuel (killed in action in WWII). Raised by Delia (93 years) and Henry Manuel (pre-deceased). Walt was a loving husband to Judy (Hill) for 53 years, the doting father of Wendy (Matt) McNew, Jeff Manuel, Paula (John) Martin, Nathan (Kim) Manuel, and Shari (Larry) Frazier, proud grandpa of Michael (pre-deceased), Samantha, Heather, Nicholas, Kaydee and Violet, great-grandpa of Logan, Memphis, Chloe, and Chase. Brother of Henrietta (Jim) Payne, Ponezella (Ken) Knipe, Lola (Don) Robinson, and Demanda (Lyle) Touroo. Walt retired from General Motors after 36 years and enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, traveling as well as helping friends and neighbors. He is dearly missed by family, friends and neighbors.

YOUNG

OLA F. age 70, of Ann Arbor; passed away peacefully at home on September 29, 2016. Beloved Wife of almost 53 years to George Young; dear Mother of Claudette L. (Mark Lozier) Young, Channon C. (Steve) Knowlton, Jennifer L. Young, George E. Young, and Jason Degan. Proud Grandmother of Abbey L., Garrett M.G., George Ethan, Ola G., Sequoyah I., Andrew J., Jenna M., and James M.; caring sister of Beech (Nettie) McIntosh, Juanita (the late James) Wofford, Eula (Vern) Woodard. Ola was preceded in death by her parents Matthew and Willie McIntosh and three of her siblings. The visitation will be Tuesday, October 4th, from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (betw Sheldon and Beck). Funeral Service will be Wednesday, October 5th at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation will follow. Memorial contributions to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, P.O. Box 8249 Missoula, MT 59807 attn: Memorial Donations or visit their website at: www.RMEF.org. To share a memory, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

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