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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Ideas explored for Ford Road land

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Central City Park with the Farmers Market Pavilion to the south, 18th District Court and the Westland Police Department to the west — is getting some study and discussion.

"No decisions have been made. We are going into election season. Typically, there is a lot of misinformation out there," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "We want to bring everyone up to date on where we are at in a public meeting."

At a study session Monday, council members heard from planning consultant John Jackson of McKenna Associates about a concept for a mixed-

use, private/public partnership.

McKenna was hired in 2008 by the Downtown Development Authority to develop plans for Ford Road 2020. It was a conceptual plan and zoning district overlay for the Ford Road corridor.

Partner with developer

The concept presented by Jackson was to have the city partner with a developer for a project that would create open civic space while offering space for uses such as medical or education, retail and restaura-



FILE PHOTO

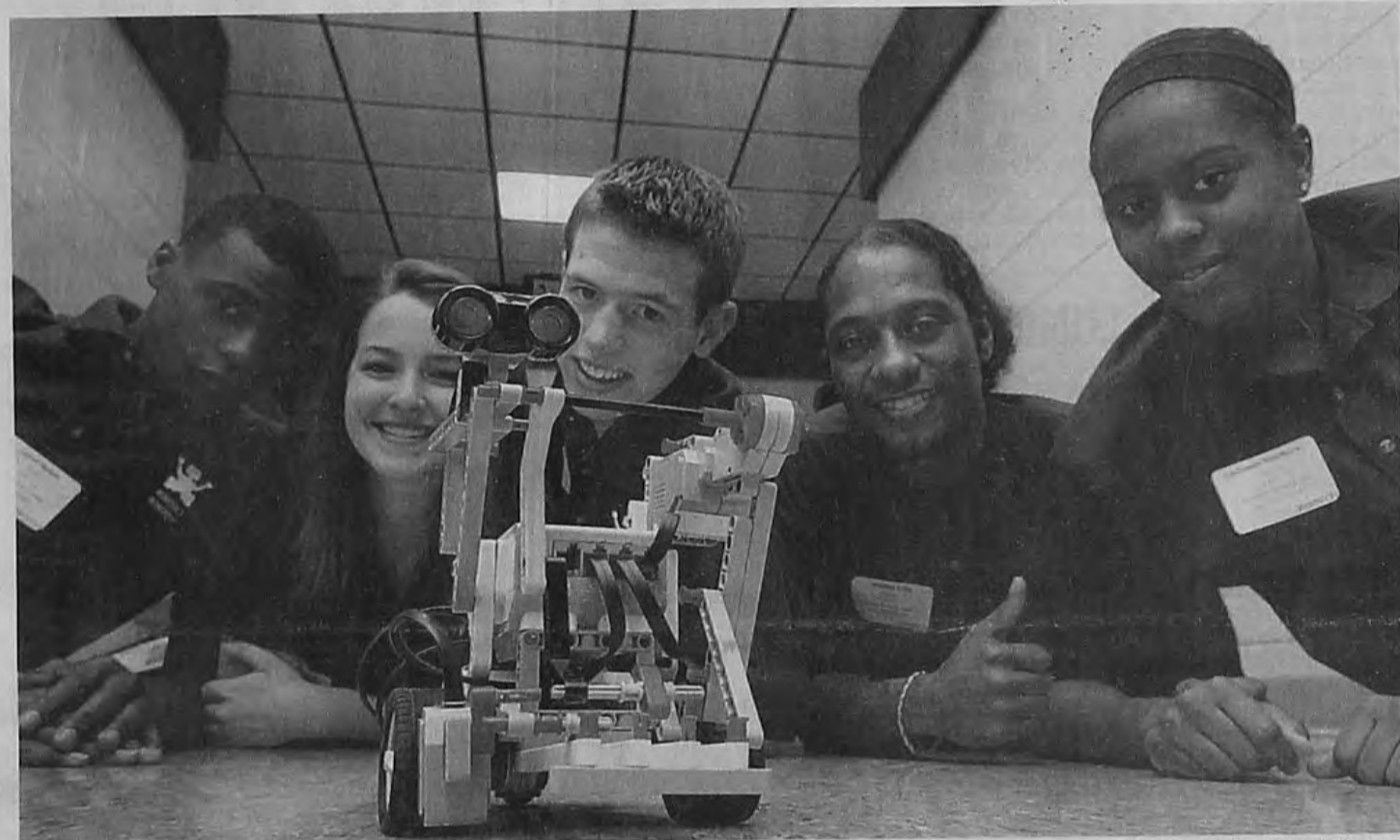
City officials have begun discussing what will be done with the site of the former Westland City Hall, Bailey Recreation Center and Fire Station 1 on Ford Road

See PROPERTY, Page A2

About the only thing certain about the future of the former Westland City Hall site is that the property at Ford and Carlson is likely to be cleared of its existing buildings by the end of the year.

The former city hall, which was vacated last fall, the closed Bailey Recreation Center and the former fire station 1, which moved to a new building on Central City Parkway, are all slated for demolition.

What to do with the newly vacant land — located adjoining Tattan Park to the east,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The William Ford Career Technical Center team included Lavail Nolan, Brooke Jennings, Conner Weber, Wes Erby and Lashaun Marbury.

Teams test STEM knowledge at Wayne-Westland Robofest

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Shirts and ties. Hawaiian shirts and Panama hats. Students came dressed for hopeful success at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Robofest.

A part of Lawrence Technological University's Robofest 2015, the event pitted

small student-created robots against each other for judging on their ability to complete specific tasks. The teams came from Wayne, Westland and Northville and more distant areas like Troy, Walled Lake, Adrian and Commerce.

"It's pretty intense. We're putting some real-world pressure on these students," said

Zachary MacLean, electronics/robotics technology at the career technical center. "We did this a few years ago, but the interest is far greater today. I think it's the emphasis on STEM education; the kids finally get it."

Robofest include two segments: the RoboBowl game in which the programmed autonomous robot had to bowl,

shoot or kick a tennis ball to knock down four water bottles; and an exhibition in which students were judged on their robotic creations. The teams were competing to advance to the state competition with hopes of making it to the world competition in May at LTU.

See ROBOFEST, Page A2

W-W school board wants residents to support road tax request

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board is asking residents to vote yes on Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot.

The board voted unanimously to approve a resolution supporting the proposed Michigan Sales Tax Increase for Transportation Amendment, citing the restoration of funds for education and the maintenance of roads for everyone's safety.

District Superintendent Michele Harmala, in asking the board to approve the resolution, said that "given the need we have to invest in our students through the School Aid Fund, this would allow us to provide appropriate programs for our students."

"I think the one thing in the proposal is that it guarantees educational funding," Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin said. "One thing we need to have is some stability in our school district finances. This district, as large as it is, needs to know what kind of money it will have for the upcoming year, so this board, this superintendent and this administration can make the kind of decisions that are needed."

"If you think we need help in the schools, this kind of financial proposal that will give us help in the schools to the tune of \$300 million. I encourage you to vote yes," he added.

See ROAD TAX, Page A2

Businesses can meet city officials at Wayne Chamber of Commerce lunch

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

In past years, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce would host a State of the City luncheon. This year the program is a chance to meet local lead-

ers. "We didn't feel we should have State of the City. The community needs to go to the State of the City," chamber board member Don Nicholson said. "This is basically for the businesses in town."

So instead of hearing a State of the City speech, guests at the luncheon on Thursday, April 9, are invited to a Meet Your Leaders Luncheon with networking.

Wayne Mayor James Hawley and chamber president the

Rev. David Furno of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church will speak at the luncheon. They will be joined by Wayne City Manager David Murphy for a question-and-answer session following the speeches.

The city is dealing with

financial difficulties — there is a more than \$600,000 shortfall in the current fiscal year and a more than \$2 million deficit projected for next year. A ballot question to establish a

See LUNCH, Page A2



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ROAD TAX

Continued from Page A1

Ballot proposal

In December, the Michigan Legislature decided to put the proposal before voters in May. If approved, it would:

» Eliminate the sales and use tax on vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel.

» Increase the state's sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent.

» Dedicate 60 percent of the first 5 percent of the sales tax and an amount equal to 12.3 percent of the first 5 percent of the use tax to the School Aid Fund. Currently, 60 percent of the first 4 percent of the sales tax is earmarked for the fund.

» Provide for the School Aid Fund to be used exclusively for aid to public K-12 and community colleges and eliminate universities as an allowable use for the fund.

» Dedicate 15 percent of the first 5 percent of the sales tax to be used for revenue sharing with townships, cities and villages. Currently, 15 percent of the first 4 percent is earmarked for revenue sharing with local governments.

» Increase the fuel tax to 41.7 cents per gallon from 19 cents per gallon of gasoline and 15 cents per gallon of diesel.

» Remove the depreciation discount for annual vehicle registration fees.

The House Fiscal Agency has estimated that the sales tax increase would generate more than \$1.6 billion per year, with \$1.2 billion going toward roads,

\$130 million to mass transit, \$300 million to the school aid fund and \$95 million to local governments.

'No Plan B'

"There is no Plan B," board President Thomas Buckalew said. "We have a majority party in the Legislature that has taken a pledge of no new taxes. This is a compromise; it's the best the majority party could get. If you vote no - I know you can find 10 reasons why you should - but I ask you to vote yes."

"We can't continue to drive on our roads. If we don't do something about them, we'll reach a tipping point where they can't be fixed," he added.

Board Secretary Carol Middel echoed Griffin's and Buckalew's sentiments, saying that the proposal was the topic of conversation at a recent legislative conference. One comment that was made was that "the Legislature had a chance to fix it and they couldn't, so now it is up to the voters to fix it."

"We have an opportunity to spend a lot of money on front end alignments and tires, but a greater opportunity to generate more money to go into the School Aid Fund, which doesn't have a lot of opportunity to grow itself," she said. "This might not be the best piece of legislation out there, but it is what's available to us. You might want to look at this seriously. I wholeheartedly support it."

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ROBOFEST

Continued from Page A1

Placing first in RoboBowl was the Troy High IMC & Robotics team, with John Glenn High School's Robotic Rockets second. Also moving on to the state contest were Wayne Memorial High School's Robotic Zebra, the William D. Ford's Robotic Techs, Northville's NCA Lights and the Washington Tyshka/Propson Homeschool's Fearsome Five.

Exhibition teams advancing included 7 of 9 Robotech from William D. Ford, Perpetual Motion Squad, two Lenawee ISD Alternative Energy and Robotics teams and Adrian Toast Hat. First place went to N/A, LISD Alternative Energy and Robotics, with Beta, another LISD Alternative Energy and Robotics team, placing second.

'Unknown problem'

Teams displayed their robots along the walls of the center's commons area for exhibition judging. Two tables were the center of attention for two rounds of RoboBowl in which the small robots competed against each other to complete a task.

Students were told the task and given a half hour to program their robots. They couldn't use their cell phones or communicate with coaches. Once the half hour was up, the robots were impounded until the competition.

"We give them an unknown problem and they have to solve it and program their robots," MacLean said. "Everything is based on math.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn's Robotic Rockets team of Steven Gray, Robert Radtke, Ashley Wrone and Terrell Payne show off their creation. Each team had to design and build a robot able to complete a specific task.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tyler Chad and Jared Ketcherside of the Robotic Zebra team work on programming their robot for the RoboBowl competition.

We may give them D or C and they have to figure out the problem. If they do the math correctly, the whole thing works."

Stephanie Bigelow, coach of the Robotic Zebra team, was impressed with how their robot did in the first round. Students Tyler Chad and Jared Ketcherside programmed the robot to make several turns to line up and roll a tennis ball at the bottles. While the ball wasn't strong enough to knock over the bottles, it did move several.

"Their program was good, but they knew going in that they need another motor," Bigelow said. "If the arm had a little more spring, it would be better."

Terry Ratliff and Raymond Uresti of the LISD Technical Center in Adrian chose the tropical theme for the exhibition competition. They wore Hawaiian print shirts and Panama hats and also strummed a guitar and a ukulele.

"We're hoping to get the wow factor and the judge's attention," Ratliff

said. "We're very uptight and nervous, but we want to be different, laid back. We're the only team like this. The most we can get for a grade is 10 percent for appearance."

Making it work

Across the room, the 7 of 9 team attracted attention with a life-size robot that moves back and forth and moves its shoulders and arms. The eyes even light up.

"We had so many problems with the program last year, so we couldn't make it autonomous," Kealani Sypher said. "We had to rush to build it and got the wires crossed. We did a lot more work on it this year."

Sypher said the problems were "manufacturer defects" and that students had to make their own parts. The work this year fixed the arms. Helping were Miguel Calvarro and Dannette Miller.

Among the 7 of 9 team members, career paths are varied. Sypher is looking at going into computer engineering, while Calvarro is planning on studying electrical engineering. Miller said she is very much "into solar," but she is excited about leaving in August for Kentucky where she will study equine massage. Impressed with how well her teams did, Bigelow gives all the credit to the students.

"I did nothing. This is student driven, they've done all of the work," she said. "They get full credit."

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LUNCH

Continued from Page A1

P.A. 345 retirement fund to help pay for police and fire pensions/health care and levy 1 mill for five years are on the May 5 ballot.

The event will be held at Wayne Tree Manor on Van Born, east of Wayne

Road. It will begin with networking from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Lunch is slated to start at noon with the speakers beginning just before 12:30 p.m.

The chamber has been without a director since November - it has had five directors in the last five years - and Nicholson and past president Stan Shelton have been

out visiting businesses who are members. However, the luncheon is open to both chamber members and other businesses.

The cost for the luncheon is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

"We have got reservations a little higher than for our holiday luncheon at this point," Nicholson

said. "We had nearly 80 or so at the holiday lunch. We'll take reservations right up to the day (of the lunch)."

To reserve a spot, call the chamber office at 734-721-0100 or email Nicholson at Don@Don-Nicholson.net.

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PROPERTY

Continued from Page A1

rants and residential development like lofts or brownstones to attract younger residents or empty nesters.

"You want to build on the Tattan Park improvements, the Farmers Market Pavilion," said Jackson, adding those projects happened after the initial Ford Road 2020 plan was developed.

City hall was an anchor that drew people during business hours on weekdays, Jackson said. Now the city can develop the municipal property in a way that will also bring people to the area on evenings and weekends, he said.

"People want to walk to restaurants, to walk to work out at some place like the Y or Lifetime Fitness," Jackson said.

Jackson used the examples of Plymouth's Kellogg Park and Shain Park in Birmingham: both are pedestrian-friendly open spaces with programming to attract visitors surrounded by

businesses and residential development.

"You would put out a Request for Development Proposals. You work as partners (with developers). You don't just take a check and turn the property over," Jackson said.

New development planned for the southwest corner of Ford and Newburgh is being designed with an upscale look, Wild said. Combined with whatever happens on the city-owned property, he said there could be a lot of impact on Westland.

'Exciting time'

"A lot of people can't wrap their arms around what a public-private partnership would look like," Wild said. "It's an exciting time to be on the council and the DDA."

The city has been in contact with the YMCA, he said, which is involved in a public-private partnership with Southgate.

"I will never vote for anything I saw - none of the buildings, education or medical use, storefronts or restaurants," Councilwoman Christine

Bryant said. "There are empty places on every corner."

Like Councilmen Bill Johnson and Michael Kehrer, Bryant has said she would only support recreational use for the municipal property, because the parcel hasn't generated property taxes, she said the property doesn't need to create revenue.

"I'm not going to get into restricting myself saying it is A or B. The sky is the limit on the site," Councilman Adam Hammons said. "The plan we were shown is too dense. We really need to put it out for a conceptual plan. There are ways to take this acreage and make it work for the city and for future residents."

Council members aren't developers and need to get proposals from professionals to consider how to utilize the property, Council

President James Godbout said.

"We can want all recreational use, but the community may not support it," he said. "We could build a great recreation center like Wayne and be closing it in a couple of years."

Conversations with the Y have included a possible study to determine if residents will support a recreational facility, he said.

"We can want things, but we have to see what is supportable and sustainable. There is nothing to say we don't maintain ownership of the property," Godbout said. "There is nothing to say we have to approve it. I would love to see an RFP go out with the guiding principles and see what comes back."

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FILE PHOTO

Roads throughout the state are deteriorating quickly. Voters have a chance to address the issue May 5.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015-2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of Westland for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall; 36300 Warren Road; Westland, MI 48185. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk
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County Parks ready for annual Marshmallow Drop

Join Wayne County Parks as it celebrates the 31st annual Marshmallow Drop at 11 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

"The annual Marshmallow Drop is the start of many fun, free, family-oriented events offered by Wayne County Parks each year, and I am happy we can provide these opportunities for our residents and visitors," Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said.

"Going on 31 years, it has become a tradition for families from across the metro Detroit area."

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from the Easter Bunny's helicopter to the delight of thousands of children, who scramble to collect these goodies and trade them in to receive a prize.

To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to fully participate, children will be divided into age groups: ages 4 and younger, ages 5-7 and ages 8-12.

There will be one colored marshmallow to be found for each age group. The finder of the colored marshmallow will receive an extra special prize.

The Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation, ITC Holdings, Taylor Ford, Flagstar Bank, Zeal Credit Union, KSP Insurance, UAW Region 1A, N Zone Sports, Jack Demmer Ford, Wayne County Community College, Fox 2 News, Observer & Eccentric Media and Friends of Wayne County Parks.

For more information on Marshmallow Drop or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.



FILE PHOTO

Kids from across Wayne County and southeast Michigan took part in last year's Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop in the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland.

Air Museum rolls out 20th annual Bomber Buffing

The Yankee Air Museum is inviting people to roll up their sleeves and join its 20th annual Bomber Buffing on Saturday, April 11.

This year it's bigger than ever, because the C-47 Skytrain "Yankee Doodle Dandy" also needs to be shined. The four-engine B-17 heavy bomber "Yankee Lady" and twin-engine B-25 medium bomber "Yankee Warrior" are also in need their aluminum skin polished to a high gloss. They'll be in Hangar 1, Bay 8, on the west side of Willow Run Airport.

Winter inspections and maintenance are complete; the planes have been washed. Buffing is the last step in preparing for the 2015 flying and air show season.

The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Hungry Howie's pizza luncheon will be served



YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

Volunteers help prepare Yankee Air Museum's four-engine B-17 heavy bomber "Yankee Lady" for the 2014 air show season.

for everyone. People are encouraged to bring plenty of clean, soft rags. Mothers Polishes, Waxes and Cleaners Inc. has donated plenty of aluminum polish for people to use.

"Twenty years we've been doing this and it never gets old," said Ray Hunter, chairman of the YAM Board of Directors. "I'm always amazed by the large crowd that comes out every April to

help us and believe me, it's a big help."

Hunter said this polishing party is even more important because 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. It's also the 70th

birthday of the Yankee Lady, which was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Forces on July 16.

"World War II veterans are passing rapidly; the youngest might be 86 or 87 years old. We work very hard to keep our airplanes in top flight condition to honor them," Hunter said. "Veterans, their children and grandchildren all marvel at these aircraft when we fly them into air shows and believe me they notice and appreciate the high gloss finish."

Hangar 1 is on the northwest side of the airfield. Follow the road signs for west and south access to Willow Run Airport to get to Hangar 1. Entry will be through the door under the awning of M2 Aircraft Management.

For more information about YAM, call 734-483-4030 or visit www.yankeearmuseum.org.

Library hosts program on de-cluttering your home

The Friends of the Livonia Library is sponsoring a program, How to De-clutter for a Happier Life, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road.

Speaker Therese Nagi, a member of the Friends, will share many ideas for how to disperse of articles that are difficult to discard such as cell phones, electronic gadgets, musical instruments, pianos, grandmother's flowered china, books or any other item not used for several years.

The program is free to attend. For more information, call 734-466-2495.



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Police investigate fatal shooting of Redford man

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland Police are continuing to investigate the fatal shooting of a Redford man who was found dead in his vehicle Saturday night.

Police identified the victim as Joseph Austin McClendon, 21. He was found dead in his vehicle having suffered several gunshot wounds.

"We're still working on the investigation. We've talked to a few people," Westland Deputy Police Chief Todd Adams said.

Officers were dispatched around 10:30 p.m. to Henry Ruff and

Annapolis after residents reported hearing several gunshots. The area is on the city limits of Westland and Inkster.

A copper-colored Ford Explorer was found stopped on the Westland side of Henry Ruff. Officers reported the lone occupant, later identified as McClendon, was found dead in the vehicle, having apparently died of his injuries at the scene.

"We believe he was shot where he was found. We (police officers) were there within several minutes," Adams said.

Not far from the crime scene is an Ink-

ster public housing development that sees a lot of narcotics enforcement, but the victim was found parked in a church parking lot, Adams said.

"It's kind of an odd place for him to be. We don't know if this was random, a domestic or a robbery," Adams said.

At this time, police said there are no suspects and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or 734-721-6311.

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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

A laptop computer was reported stolen from a home in the 29000 block of Manchester on March 26. A Westland man said he ordered the \$578 computer and had it delivered to the address where his brother lives.

UPS reported the computer was delivered March 17, but the resident said it was never received.

Vandalism

A resident in the 29000 block of Warren Road told police March 27 that overnight someone smashed the rear window of his car that was parked in front of the home.

Larceny

On March 29, a Wayne man told police that someone stole his bomber jacket and driver's

license from a locker at Planet Fitness, 34634 Warren Road. He said he locked the locker but when he returned from working out, the lock and his belongings were gone.

Identity theft

A Westland woman told police March 26 that someone stole her identity and applied for unemployment benefits. She said her employer, a Canton business, received notice that she was seeking unemployment benefits.

Vandalism

A Canton man told police he went to play cards at a business in the 35000 block of Warren Road on March 24 and returned to find someone smashed his vehicle window with a piece of cement. He said the glove box had been

searched but nothing was missing.

Fraud

On March 26, a Westland man told police someone tried to file his 2014 income taxes. He said he hadn't filed his taxes yet but received a follow-up letter from the IRS required to complete his return.

Identity theft

A Westland woman told police March 26 that about two weeks earlier she realized that she'd lost her driver's license. When she attempted to replace it online, she said she received errors and decided to go to the Secretary of State in person.

Once there, she said she was told a State of Louisiana employee had a hold on her identification. She said she never had been to that state.

By LeAnne Rogers

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny from a vehicle

Two tailgates, both from Ford F-150 pickup trucks, were reported stolen from vehicles parked at the Ford Wayne Assembly Plant, 37625 Michigan Ave., March 25.

A third tailgate from an unspecified model truck was reported stolen March 25 from a vehicle parked at the Ford Stamping Plant, 37500 Van Born.

Larceny

A resident in the 4000 block of Howe told police March 25 that someone had stolen her wheelchair from her yard sometime within the previous week. She said she uses the electric wheelchair when she leaves home.

On March 19, she said

she had returned home with her daughter after dark and left the wheelchair parked on the front lawn about four feet from the front porch. She said her young daughter was afraid to go into the garage in the dark to store the wheelchair.

It was raining when she awoke the morning of March 25, the resident said, and she remembered the wheelchair was outside. She didn't want it to get damaged and went to check but it was gone.

Valued at \$3,000, the wheelchair is described as maroon or burgundy in color.

Larceny

A black 1990 utility trailer, valued at \$1,800, was reported stolen from a home in the 4700 block of Hayes on March 25.

The owner told police he

had sent a friend to retrieve tarps from the trailer while he was at work. The trailer was there at about 10:30 a.m.

When he returned home later in the day, he said the trailer was gone. It was described as having wood around the front half of the trailer with a trailer gate held up with black ratchet straps.

Stolen vehicle

A 1996 Dodge Neon, valued at \$500, was reported stolen overnight March 27 from the parking lot of the Pebble Creek Apartments, 33429 Michigan Ave. The owner said she parked the vehicle, which is registered to her stepfather, the previous night but it was gone the next morning. She said the car had been unlocked.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Attempted fraud

Garden City Hospital faced potential fraudulent activity March 25 when a woman allegedly came for treatment and used the health insurance information of a friend who had been at the hospital earlier.

The first patient came with her 7-year-old daughter to the hospital, located at 6245 Inkster Road, and later left the hospital about 9:30 a.m.

Her friend came in about 12:45 p.m. that day and allegedly used the first woman's medical information and Social Security number. An alert hospital employee recognized the similarity in the provided information and notified the supervisor.

The second woman allegedly said that she used the false ID because someone took her insurance card. She then said that she was leaving the

hospital emergency room to retrieve her own medical card but allegedly never returned.

The hospital indicated in the police report that the false information wasn't processed.

Fraud

A resident in the 32000 block of Pierce reported March 24 that someone fraudulently used her Bank of America credit card. When she checked her balance online, she found numerous charges which totaled \$322.

Theft

A 30-year-old Garden City woman reported March 30 that someone stole her TomTom GPS device from the emergency room parking lot at Garden City Hospital, 6245 N. Inkster Road.

The woman said that her 2012 Chevy Impala had been unlocked. Nothing else was taken from

the car.

There is no hospital video of the theft. » A resident in the 6300 block of Henry Ruff reported a break-in of his garage March 30.

The thief gained entry by damaging the roll-up garage door. A tool box and hand tools valued at \$600 and a chain saw valued at \$400 was stolen from the garage.

Property damage

A window was broken at Smokers Depot, 28829 Ford, on March 24.

After a review of the store video, the manager thought that it might be a former customer. The video showed a man about 45 years old, 5-foot-8.

A man had been asked to leave the store previously after others in the store said he had been changing signs in the store.

By Sue Buck

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The Love Pack assembly took place after worship services Sunday, March 15, at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton. Shown from left are Dawn Christenson, Cindy Pohl and Hannah Glodich.

Church's Love Packs an outreach to homeless

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit has a ministry to reach out to homeless people. Some of those people are benefiting from the kindness of members at Geneva Presbyterian Church of Canton.

Worshippers gathered after services Sunday, March 15, to put together about 200 Love Packs of toiletries and other items. The Love Packs will get distributed to the homeless through groups like Fort Street Presbyterian Church's Open Door Ministry.

"We try to help wherever we can," church member Sandy Stoecklein, on Geneva's local mission team, said. "It's a nice little group."

Men from the Open Door program get items like shampoo, mouthwash and shaving cream, she said. Also benefiting



Lisa De Groot (front, left) and Barb Berberet (front, right) are joined by fellow worshippers in assembling Love Packs.

from Geneva's labors is the Wayne County Family Center, on Michigan Avenue near Merriman in Westland, for homeless families.

"They can use the computers there to try for jobs," said Stoecklein, a Westland resident and retired registered nurse at the Burger School for Students With Autism in Garden City. Children from the Wayne County Family Center are given small toys in their Love

Packs. "We try to put something in there so they have something to play with," she said. The Wayne County Family Center is a partnership of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and Wayne County.

"It was an inter-generational project for everybody who wanted to do it. It went very, very well," Stoecklein said of Sunday's assembly of Love Packs.

Luncheon benefits Salvation Army's after-school programs

Tickets for The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Metro Detroit annual "Swing into Spring" luncheon are now available. The event, emceed by radio veteran and comedian Jackie Purtan, will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

The luncheon program

will feature a brief presentation about The Salvation Army's after-school programs and a performance by the Detroit Temple Corps youth dance team. Rounding out the afternoon will be a silent auction.

Proceeds from the event will support after-school programming at The Salvation Army's Detroit Grandale, Detroit

Harding, Detroit Temple, Wayne/Westland and Wyandotte corps community centers.

Cost is \$45 per person. Reservations must be made in advance by Friday, April 10, by calling Rita Swan at 248-443-5500, ext. 231.

For more information about Swing into Spring, visit www.salmich.org/swingintospring.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

SPRING COMEDY KICK START

Time/date: 6 p.m. cocktails and dinner; 7:30 p.m. show-time Saturday, April 4.

Location: American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: Sponsored by the American Legion Post 32 Riders, this comedy event features special guest host Mike Neubecker, a primo pasta dinner, salad and dessert buffet, door prizes and a 50-50 raffle. Ticket sales after expenses support Post 32 American Legion Riders. Tickets are \$30 per person. Tickets are available from the post bar until April 2 or when sold out.

Contact: Trish Pellerito, 734-858-7956.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Time/date: 2-5 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

Location: New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, Redford.

Details: The community is invited to an Easter egg hunt and egg decorating. There will be door prizes and a raffle and a chance to find the golden egg.

Contact: 313-255-6330.

TOY SHOW

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

Location: Livonia Elks Hall, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Details: Vendors will be selling comics, hot wheels, games, sports and non-sport cards, items relating to music, TV, movies, Beatles, Elvis, Star Trek, Star Wars, GI Joe, beer, models, trains, Pez, etc. Admission is \$5, kids under 12 free.

WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 8.

Location: Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Widowed of all ages are welcome to attend a social hour followed by an Italian dinner buffet served at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes buffet, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games and conversation until 9 p.m. RSVP by April 5 — no walk-ins.

3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Time/date: 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8.

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

Details: See 3D images, and learn how to make your own 3D pictures. Meetings include a 3D program, refreshment break, and a competition among members. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to rent. The program for the meeting will be a presentation of the winning entries from the annual stereo sequence competition — short 3D programs produced by some of the world's top stereographers. A club competition with the theme "Reflections" will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.

Contact: www.Detroit3D.org; 248-398-3591.

FAMILY CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

Time/date: 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9.

Location: Home Instead Senior Care training center, 16013 Middlebelt Road, Livonia.

Details: Home Instead Senior Care of Western Wayne County is hosting a free workshop for persons caring for an aging loved one. Senior care experts will teach family caregivers how to manage behaviors, encourage engagement and care for themselves while caring for their loved one. The workshop will also include hands-on training in assisting seniors to and from a wheelchair, using a gate belt and helping seniors into and out of a vehicle. R.S.V.P. by April 3 to 734-525-5300.

Contact: www.homeinstead.com/430; 734-525-5300.

FASHION DOLL SHOW AND SALE

Time/date: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 12.

Location: Livonia Marriott, 17100 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia.

Details: Vintage and modern dolls and accessories. Barbie displays. Hosted by the Great Lakes Doll Club, this Grant-A-Wish Fund event will benefit Masonic Children's Learning Center, Leader Dogs for the Blind and Camp Casey.

Contact: www.gawfund.org; info@grantawishfund.org.

LIVONIA NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.

Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Master Gardner Margot McCormack, an award-winning member of the Master Gardner Association of Wayne County, will offer tips on how to grow a successful garden. Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. New members are always welcome. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month September through May. Special activity groups continue to meet year-round.

Contact: <http://livonianeighborsandfriends.tripod.com>.

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/date: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

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

Details: In partnership with the American Red Cross, St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold a blood drive in the North Auditorium. The public is invited to join hospital employees and volunteers in donating blood at the event. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcross-blood.org. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 18.

Location: McKinley Cooperative Preschool, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: Open house for McKinley Cooperative Preschool.

Contact: Erin Gibbons, 734-729-7222; mckinleypreschool.org.

SERVSAFE TRAINING

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 23 and April 30.

Location: Holy Cross Church, 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Lapeer County Michigan State University Extension is offering Manager Certification classes through the Serv-

Safe program developed by the National Restaurant Association. The cost is \$145. Upon successful completion of an exam, managers will receive a certificate verifying they are a certified ServSafe Food Protection Manager. Participants must attend both sessions.

Contact: 810-667-0341; msue.anr.msu.edu/events.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Location: St. Simon and Jude Catholic, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m. Preregister for \$20 per team (maximum of four persons). At the door the cost is \$30, if space available. It includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn, and one food choice for each team. Food choices are four hot dogs and four chips or one pepperoni or cheese pizza from Marina's. Additional food items and beverages (beer, coolers, pop, water, coffee) available for purchase. There will be a 50/50 raffle (tickets are \$1 each, three for \$2, 10 for \$5 and 25 for \$10) and prizes — mystery prizes, \$100 for first place, \$80 for second place, \$60 for third place and \$20 for last place.

Contact: Kathy Hansen, 734-716-4436.

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/date: 1-7 p.m. Monday, April 27.

Location: Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: All blood donors who attempt to donate will have the opportunity to win a \$100 Meijer Gift Card. Gourmet desserts will be served. Call 313-670-8861 for an appointment or visit www.miblood.org.

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, May 1, and 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2.

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Thursday is the pre-view sale. Admission is \$2 to shop a day early. On Saturday, prices will be half off, and a bag (provided) of merchandise is \$3. The rummage sale benefits charitable organizations.

CRAFT-VENDOR SHOW

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 LeVerne, west of Beech Daily and north of West Chicago, Redford.

Details: The Garden City American Legion Auxiliary Unit 396 will hold a spring craft and vendor show. Admission is \$1. There will be food available and a bake sale. All proceeds will help local military and their families, including veterans. Table space is \$30 for an approximately 8x10 space, with an 8-foot table and two chairs. Indicate on application if electricity is needed. If electricity is needed, there will be an additional \$5 charge.

Contact: Email detnana@sbcglobal.net; 248-477-8594.

SENIOR ALL-NIGHT PARTY

Time/date: 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 28.

Location: Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Discounted tickets are \$60 until March 7 for the Class of 2015 All-Night Party. For further information and to obtain a ticket order form, visit <http://stevenson.livoniapublicschools.org> then click on the PARENTS tab and select "Senior All Night Party."

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'This is not charity:' Lt. Gov. Calley, Justice Bernstein talk hiring disabled workers

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Why should we be focusing on inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce in Michigan?

That's the main question Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein says he hears when talking about hiring people with disabilities.

"This is not charity. This is about the idea that if you give a disabled person an opportunity, if you give them a chance to work with you, to have them be a part of your community ... you are going to find the most highly energetic, highly passionate, most incredibly loyal people that you could ever possibly hope to employ," he said. "You're going to find people who live life with an incredible sense of excitement and energy."

Bernstein, who made history becoming the nation's first blind state Supreme Court justice this term, spoke with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley during a panel discussion Monday night at Livonia's Embassy Suites hotel. The discussion, which also featured some local business representatives, was hosted by the Livonia, Westland and Greater Farmington Area chambers of commerce.

The two state officials kicked off The MI Hidden Talent Tour in Livonia before heading to the Upper Peninsula for a similar presentation Tuesday. The tour is designed to encourage businesses to develop disability hiring policies, as well as showcase talents of residents with disabilities.

ities.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said while more people are finding work in Michigan, about 500,000 people with disabilities are still searching.

"It was reported last week that Michigan's unemployment rate dipped to 5.9 percent in the most recent reporting period. That is the lowest point in our state in 14 years," he said. "But there are still people looking for work."

Calley shared the story of when he and his wife learned their daughter had autism, saying things began to change when the couple began accepting the condition and working toward making their daughter's life better.

"When I first learned several years ago that my daughter had autism, we already knew that something was different," Calley said. "When we received this diagnosis, this label, of autism, I really didn't know what to make of it."

That perspective, Calley said, has given him a different view of workers with disabilities.

Jeannie Stone, vice president of human resources at Wixom-based Trijicon Inc., said her company has worked with others to locate and hire those with disabilities.

It's a move, she said, that has paid off.

"What we found was we got loyal employees who came to work every day excited to be there," she said. "I didn't hire them because I wanted to be nice. I hired them because they had the



Lt. Governor Brian Calley talks about his family's experiences with his daughter, who is autistic. From left, Brent Mikulski, President and CEO of Services To Enhance Potential; Jeannie Stone, Trijicon Inc.; Suzanne Howell, Director of Michigan Rehabilitation Services; and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein.



Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein speaks during the panel discussion. At left, Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Suzanne Howell, director of Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

skills to do the job."

Calley said several companies he has heard from identified worthy

employees with disabilities.

"You'll have people you'll hire and you'll go,



Tiffany Taylor speaks with Lt. Governor Brian Calley.

"Where have you been all my life?" he said. "We've heard that in different cases around."

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

Easter bunny part of blended traditions

Every year the Easter Bunny brings baskets full of colored eggs, Peeps and chocolate bunnies to lucky children's homes. Most people celebrate the holiday and don't give the bunny a second thought. But just how did Easter and a rabbit come together?

Rabbits have been linked to Easter for a long time, and it has to do with the goddess Eostre (also known as Eostre or Ostara), who was the goddess of spring and fertility. Pagan Anglo-Saxons held feasts in honor of Eostre to celebrate the coming of spring. The rabbit and eggs, symbols of fertility, were part of this holiday. The Christian holiday of Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. This holiday falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25 each year. Over time, the two celebrations have merged traditions.

If you see a bunny hopping around, it's probably not the Easter Bunny but an eastern cottontail. They are very prevalent in Michigan and across the United States. There is also the less common snowshoe hare, which inhabits northern Michigan. Snowshoe hares have longer ears and larger back feet than cottontails.

Visit the Westland library for more information on Michigan rabbits or on the Easter Bunny itself. You can search our catalog at www.westlandlibrary.org. Try *The Rabbit Handbook* by Karen Gendron or *The Encyclopedia of Easter, Carnival and Lent* by Tanya Gulevich. You can

also reach the Reference Desk by calling 734-326-6123 and pressing 3.

Highlighted Events
Food for Fines, April 1-30 — Gleaners Community Food Bank, St. Mary's Outreach, and the Public Library of Westland are partnering to alleviate hunger in southeastern Michigan. How can you help? Bring non-perishable, in-date goods to the Circulation Desk at the Public Library of Westland and receive \$2 per item off of your fines (up to \$20 total, lost or damaged items not eligible). Find a list of suggested items in the library or call 734-326-6123.

Westland Writes ... Poetry and Fiction Book, April 1-28 — Celebrate National Poetry Month with your own written creations. Westland Writes ... is the library's seventh annual poetry and short story book collection with works by local poets and authors (previous books can be found in the library's collection). Each writer can submit up to two poems or one short story or chapter (maximum 2,500 words, email only) for the book to: andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org. You don't have to live in Westland to participate. Submission deadline is Tuesday, April 28.

Westland Library Poetry Contest, April 1-28 — Create an acrostic poem for our 2015 Poetry Month contest. Anyone can write an acrostic poem; simply write the name WESTLAND (or the city you live in) along the left hand margin of your paper and fill in a line for each corresponding letter. Use as few or as many words as you'd like for each line. Submit up to two poems between

April 1-28 by email to andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org or drop them off in our Poetry Box at the Reference Desk.

Pop-Up Palooza, April 6, Children and their families — Join in the Youth Activity Room for a chance to read and browse our Pop-Up Book Collection. This is a parent/child activity due to the delicate nature of the books. Program is at 1 p.m. and repeated at 6 p.m.

Board Meeting, 7 p.m. April 8 — The Library Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Library's meeting rooms. Board meetings are open to the general public.

Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Detroit: A Special Exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 7 p.m. April 9 — Learn how the 1930s Depression-era Detroit marked a dramatic turning point in the careers of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, which resulted in Rivera's most visionary statement for the future and Frida's boldly personal expressive art. Join Ken Szmigiel, a Gallery Information Volunteer for the Detroit Institute of Arts, for a talk about this special exhibit, which runs through July 12 at the DIA.

The library will close Saturday and Sunday, April 4-5, in celebration of Easter.

Information Central was compiled by Liz Waun. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Spaghetti dinner

The Wayne Baseball Association and Parks and Recreation Department have teamed up for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at 6 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis, Wayne.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children and are on sale at the Wayne Community Center. Hot fudge sundaes will be on sale by Senior Services.

The event will benefit the Wayne Baseball Association and Wayne Community Center Youth Programs.

All Class Reunion

The Wayne High Alumni Association will hold its 30th annual All Class Reunion Banquet from 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne.

Graduates and all those who attended Wayne High or Wayne Memorial High School and guests are invited to attend. The Class of 1965 will be honored. Tickets are \$30 each before May 1 and \$35. For more information, contact waynehighalumni@aol.com or Sharon Scott at 734-722-4651.

Garage sale

The Lighthouse Home Missions in Westland is currently accepting donations for a garage sale it will hold 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 1-4 and 6-9.

Donations of household items, appliances, TVs, furniture and computers can be dropped off at the mission at 34033 Palmer, Westland, during business hours.

The mission is also looking for volunteers to help with the sale. For more information, call Paula at 734-334-3104.

Democratic Club

The Westland Democratic Club's next meet-

ing will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, at the Dorsey Center 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy, Westland.

There will be guest speakers and discussion about the Chili Cook Off in the next month or two.

The new board elected last month and includes President Hank Johnson, Vice-President Nan Melke, Treasurer Mike Short and Secretary Judy McKinney.

Red Wings tickets

Would you like to win a suite for 20 people at Joe Louis Arena to see the Red Wings play the Hurricanes at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday, April 7?

The Westland Rotary Club is offering you a chance to do just that and help your community at the same time. The suite also includes a \$500 food credit and parking passes.

Tickets are \$10 each and available from Juemann Insurance Agency, online at www.westlandrotary.com or from any Westland Rotarian. The drawing will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 2.

Proceeds will go to the Wayne/Westland Salvation Army, Westland Rotary Scholarships and Charities and the Westland Rotary Club. For more information, call Kristi at 313-300-7832 or Dick at 248-417-1858.

Family event

The Garden City Family Resource Center is inviting families to its first annual Stand Up, Stand Out, and Stay Sober event, which is scheduled for 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at the center, 31735 Maplewood.

Join the center for a night of alcohol-free fun, including dinner, prize drawings, an impaired-driving simulation and interactive educational exhibits.

For more information, call 734-793-1860.

Business Alliance

The Garden City Business Alliance meets on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Friday, April 10, at Guardian Martial Arts, 30942 Ford, Garden City.

For more information, visit the Business Alliance at gcbiz48135.org or email the group at gcbusinessalliance@gmail.com.

Prom Dress Closet

Angels Above Baby Gowns and the Rainbow Girls of Wayne Assembly No. 72 will host a Prom Dress Closet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday April 11, at the Wayne Masonic Temple No. 112, 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Gently used dresses will be available for anyone in need, free of charge. Organizers are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cleaning cost incurred in preparation for the Prom Dress Closet. The donation will go to Angels Above Baby Gowns to defray the costs involved in creating the angel gowns made for families experiencing infant loss.

For more information, call Dawn Lafferty at 734-421-2322.

Euchre Night

Join Garden City High School Project Graduation 2015 for a Euchre Party on Saturday, April 11, at the Dearborn Heights Moose Lodge 1795, 27225 W. Warren Road, Dearborn Heights.

Registration begins at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person; 21 and older to play. There will be cash prizes for the five highest point totals, raffles, food, pop and bottled beer.

Proceeds will benefit the GCHS Class of 2015 All-Night Party. Pre-register by emailing pg2015Euchre@gmail.com by 8 p.m. April 10, or call Alan and Laura Bennett at 734-266-0232 for more information.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, Village of Westland support police, fire

At a recent meeting of the City of Westland City Council, representatives from the Village of Westland, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan and the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation made a presentation to the city's fire and police departments.

Members of the board for the Village of Westland and Roger Myers, CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan presented Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers and Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik with checks to the nonprofit organizations supporting important community outreach efforts led by each department.

The Village's presentation was in recognition and appreciation for the outstanding public service consistently provided by the City's Fire and Police Departments.

City Council members and Mayor William Wild also were also thanked for their leadership and

support for public safety initiatives across the Westland community.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM), headquartered in Southfield, is a faith-based, multi-site system that has served seniors of all faiths since 1945. PVM serves more than 4,300 seniors and currently has 25 senior living communities, including continuing care retirement communities (apartments, assisted living, and skilled nursing all on one campus), subsidized senior housing, and market rate senior housing. The PVM Foundation advances the PVM mission by providing philanthropic support for benevolent care, innovative services and wellness programs for residents and seniors throughout the state.

For more information on Presbyterian Villages of Michigan or Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation log on at www.pvm.org



Gail Quann, board chair for the Village; Jean Pisha, board vice-chair; Ellen Byrne, Executive Director, and Roger Myers, CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, present Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik and Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers with a check to support their community outreach efforts.

Review all statements, bills for accuracy

My 94-year-old dad received his gas bill the other day and he was stunned when it was more than 60 percent higher than the previous month. As opposed to assuming the bill was correct, my dad called the gas company to find out.

He got the standard answer that the meter had been read the meter and the higher bill was the result of that reading. My dad had me come over so I could read the meter. Lo and behold, it was totally different from what the gas company told him. When we reported the number on the meter, the company agreed that there was a mistake and my dad's bill was substantially reduced.

The lesson learned is just because you receive a bill doesn't mean that it's accurate.

Too many people assume that when they get an invoice from an entity such as a utility company or a financial institution, it's accurate. They make the assumption that these companies are infallible and the bills must be accurate.

Other people believe that even if there is a



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

mistake, it is too much of a hassle to get a company to correct it.

As far as I'm concerned, both are wrong. Companies make mistakes and getting them to correct the errors is not be as burdensome as you think.

Never assume a statement is accurate and that you don't have to review it. Every statement whether it's a bill from the utility company or statement from your bank or financial institution, needs to be reviewed for accuracy.

Companies make mistakes all the time and it is up to us to keep them honest. In addition, if you have had your sensitive information stolen, reviewing statements can be your first indication that something is wrong.

I'm not saying that companies intentionally make mistakes. However, mistakes do happen.

Years ago when I was reconciling my checking account I realized that the bank had cleared a

number of my checks twice. When I contacted the bank I was told they were aware of the error and would correct it. They also told me was that this error affected hundreds of people and I was the only one, who called. Something is definitely wrong with that.

In this technology friendly world, we can assume that computers are always right and we are wrong. However, that it not the case. We all know that humans make mistakes and we should also recognize that computers make errors too.

My advice is be more like my dad. He checks every statement, whether it's a bill in a restaurant, his bank statement or his utility bill.

Mistakes happen so take the time to review your statements. If something doesn't look right, question it and don't hesitate to keep going up the chain of command until it is resolved.

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

Saab appointed Westland DPS deputy director

Hassan Saab has been appointed as deputy director of the Westland Department of Public Services.

A professional civil engineer, Saab also holds a doctoral degree in structural engineering and has over 20 years' experience in civil engineering. Most recently, he was employed with the Wayne County Department of Public Services and the Environment.

Saab has extensive experience in environmental facilities management, parks and recreation, land resource and water quality management and roads.

"With Hassan's considerable experience in civil engineering and his knowledge of the processes by which road and other engineering pro-

jects are funded and approved, the city will benefit as it works to address the community's aging infrastructure," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

Saab also has a master's degree in civil engineering and is a published author. During his tenure with Wayne County, he was involved in a comprehensive reorganization of the DPS that included updating position classifications and improving the service delivery processes. The reorganization included development of information technology systems for improving data collection and online mon-

itoring of work flows.

Saab will be acting as the engineer in charge of assessing city infrastructure and overseeing major road projects, bridges, water and sewer and storm water management. He also will be responsible for maintenance functions related to streets, public right-of-ways and public facilities. Some of those operations include snow and ice control, street repair and sweeping, street signs, lights and landscape maintenance.

In addition, Saab will be the technical adviser to city consultants overseeing all engineering work, such as design, bidding and inspections of all infrastructure improvement projects, to ensure compliance with city, state and federal requirements.



Saab

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

5-star rating

Parkside Credit Union has been awarded 5 stars in Bankrate.com's Safe & Sound® Ratings service for the quarter ended Sept. 30, 2014. A 5-star rating is the highest award rating and is defined as a "Superior" ranking of relative financial strength and stability. For more than 17 years, Bankrate.com's Safe & Sound® service has given consumers information on the relative financial strength and stability of U.S. commercial banks, savings institutions and credit unions.

"In today's economic climate, it's important for consumers to trust that their money is protected," said Don Ross, CEO of Bankrate.com. "Earning a 4- or 5-star designation from the Safe & Sound® Star Rating is traditionally a strong indicator of financial strength and stability in a financial institution."

Bankrate's Safe & Sound ratings are comparisons to both industry peer norms and standards. Individual performance levels are determined from publicly available regulatory filings and are compared to asset-size peer norms, industry standards and key absolute benchmarks. To learn more about Bankrate's Safe & Sound ratings methodology, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2o6pku>.

Parkside Credit Union is a Michigan-based nonprofit financial institution and has been serving the community since 1953. Parkside has offices at 36525 Plymouth Road, Livonia, and 1747 S. Newburgh, Westland.

Slice for Life

Buddy's Pizza invites metro Detroiters to enjoy all-you-can-eat pizza during the 39th annual Slice for Life event Monday, April 13, benefiting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Patrons can visit any of Buddy's 11 locations,

including the one at 33605 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

The family-owned pizzeria has partnered with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen every year for more than half of Buddy's 69-year history, raising more than \$2.7 million to feed metro Detroit's hungry and support the soup kitchen's other programs.

From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., patrons who purchase a ticket can visit any Buddy's Pizza full-service location to enjoy an all-you-can-eat two-topping pizza and salad meal. A carry-out option is also available for purchase at all 11 Buddy's Pizza locations and includes either a four-square two-topping pizza or a medium-sized anti-pasto, Greek or house salad.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Advance tickets can be purchased at www.cskdetroit.org or by calling 313-579-2100, ext. 153/170.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154-5474 (734) 744-2500

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for the purchase of:

Hard Surface Cleaning Equipment Bid for the 2014-2015 School Year (See Attached Specifications)

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section titled DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids, 2014-2015 school year, open bids OR Buy4Michigan Website, www.buy4michigan.com. Please feel free to include additional pages of information if necessary. For bids to be considered they must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Sealed bids marked **Hard Surface Cleaning Equipment Bid** will be received until 11:00 A.M. on the 14th day April, 2015, in the Business Office at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

The Bid Opening will take place at 11:00 A.M. on the 14th day of April, 2015, at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Complex, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner and any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Board of Education, the Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or Director of Business Services, any member of the Wayne RESA Board of Education or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance - Iran Economic Sanctions Act. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part: to award to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Prices bid are to be F.O.B. Destination. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission. All bids must be submitted on the attached bid form and signed by the bidder. Two (2) signed copies of the bid package are to be addressed to the attention of:

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154-5474

"Hard Surface Cleaning Equipment Bid"

One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files. Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Harry Lau, Administrator of Facilities and Operations, hlaul@livoniapublicschools.org, 734.744.2511, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

OUR VIEWS

Now's your chance to help your community into the future

The political season is upon us and as a reminder for those people thinking about being a candidate for local office: the filing deadline — April 21 — is near.

Holding office is a serious commitment, and residents considering a run for mayor, city council or city clerk need to be sure they're making the right decision before filing by the 4 p.m. deadline.

Local government is the foundation of our democracy. Being an elected local official requires a commitment of time and effort and a willingness to communicate with constituents. This is one level where residents can interact with their elected leaders face-to-face at city hall, the local grocery store or a restaurant.

There are many reasons people choose to run for public office, and candidates would wise to take a close at their reason. Some people run for office because they want to give back to their community. They love their city and believe they have the solutions that will make it better. There are some candidates who run for public office because a local issue that has them at odds with current officials, and there are those who run to just run or make themselves feel more important.

Voters should have choices in an election. That is what democracy is all about. We encourage candidates who can make a positive difference, who can help position the city for a bright future, who truly want to serve their hometown and make it a better place to throw their hats into the ring.

Do you have what it takes to hold office? If so, you have until Tuesday, April 21, to decide.

Here are the local offices that will be filled in this election cycle:

Westland City Council: Four seats will be filled this election year. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected to four-year terms, and the candidate receiving the fourth highest number of votes is elected to a two-year term.

Westland City Clerk: The Westland City Clerk is an elected position. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected to a four-year term.

Wayne City Council: A charter amendment approved last November has changed how council members are elected in Wayne. Currently, council members are elected citywide; however, the charter amendment establishes six wards, and council candidates are required to live within the district. Only residents in that district elect their district council members.

Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be effective in the primary and general elections in 2015, and districts 4, 5 and 6 will be effective in the 2017 elections. Candidates for such districts will be required to have their principal residences in their districts at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their tenure.

Wayne Mayor: The mayor serves a two-year term and will be the only local position elected citywide in Wayne.

Garden City Council: Four seats will be filled in this year's election. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes get four-year terms and the next two vote-getters earn two-year seats.

Garden City Mayor: Garden City has a city manager form of government. The day-to-day activities are handled by the city manager, while the mayor performs mainly ceremonial functions and over the city council. The mayor serves for two years.

Garden City Library Board: Voters will fill positions of two members whose terms are expiring and fill the remainder of a third term. The two candidates receiving the most votes at that election will serve six-year terms ending in 2021. The third-place candidate will serve the remainder of a term ending in 2019.

A nominating petition and Affidavit of Identity with Campaign Finance Act Compliance Statement must be filed with the city clerk in order for a name to be placed on the ballot. Nominating petitions are available at the local city clerk's office.

We encourage folks who are thinking about running for office to give it serious consideration. It is at the local level where you can have the most impact on your community.



OUR VIEWS

Easter message is one of hope meant for all

It's Easter this Sunday, and Christians worldwide are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago.

Believers are gathering in churches adorned with white lilies to hear trumpets blare, choirs sing and pastors proclaim that, through faith in Jesus, they too will live eternally in Heaven.

It's a message of hope for a world that, at times, seems hopeless.

Christians believe that their life on earth is fleeting compared to the life they'll live forever in Heaven, where there are no problems of any kind, including sickness, pain and death.

It gives them that joy and peace that surpass understanding to face the trials of their daily lives, knowing those trials are only temporary.

It also gives them the hope, when they lose a spouse, child, parent or friend, that they'll see their loved one again in Heaven, where they'll be together forever.

The story of Jesus, God's son, rising from the grave after dying on a cross to take the punishment for the sins of everyone has been retold every year since that first Easter morning.

It's a story first shared by the women visiting Jesus' empty tomb and his disciples who, fearful for their own lives immediately following his crucifixion, courageously went to their own deaths to spread it to the 1st-century world.

It's a story recorded in the Bible for every generation since — a message of hope meant for all people for all time.

GUEST COLUMN

Then and now: How things change over a half century

There will be a special anniversary this week of a unique community institution that proves that change is the only thing that is guaranteed. The 50th anniversary will be that of the then-*Observer Newspapers* in Garden City and Nankin Township. The launching of the new editions was timed to create an editorial and advertising presence in the two towns in advance of the opening of Westland Center, which opened in July 1965.

I joined the *Observer Newspapers* 13 months after it launched as the third Garden City-Nankin community editor. But I still have vivid memories of what the communities looked like a year earlier.

With the arrival of the *Observer*, the two communities were served in part by five newspapers. The major source of information and advertising was the Associated Newspapers, which had a *Guardian-Review* in Garden City and the *Eagle* in Nankin Township. The others were the *Dispatch*, *Western Wayne Press* (published by the Ypsilanti Press), the *Press & Guide* (published by the Dearborn Press & Guide), which served only Nankin.

Driving through the main roads, you could see the Mazzoni family jewelry store in a new location on the southeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt with the three-year-old Kmart store on the opposite corner. The Mazzoni business had recently moved into the former Garden City Hall after the new municipal opened a few blocks north.

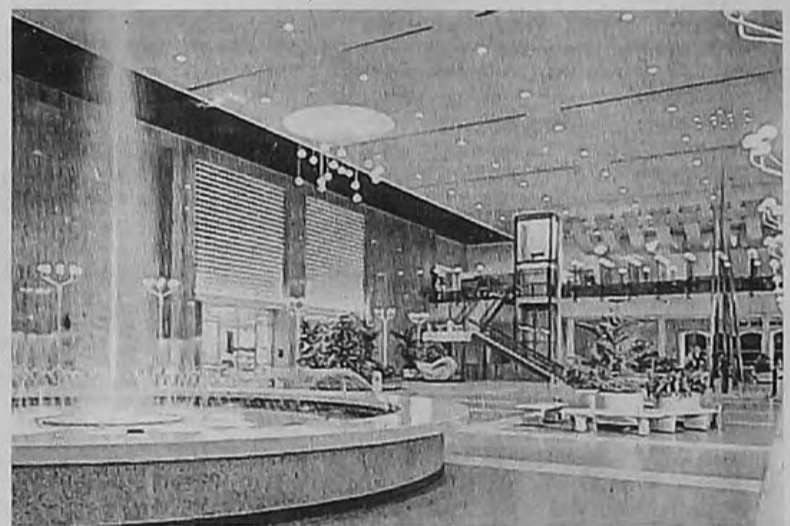
At the downtown's center were numerous businesses, such as Garden Lanes, the LaParisien Theatre, two gas stations on opposite corners, plus a nearby Harley Davison motorcycle shop. Only Joe D's, bar remains.

Changing downtown
The *Observer Newspapers* operated initially out of main office in Livonia but soon moved into office space at 5649 Middlebelt, adjacent to the bowling alley.

On the northwest corner were Minder's Drugs with its counter food service, Kmart, Hershey's Shoes and Al Nash's health and beauty aid business. (Only the shoe store and Kmart remain.) Within walking distance of the office were the Garden City school board offices, the library, the Secretary of State branch, and North Brothers Ford, which moved two miles further west in 1967.

Car buyers could drive along Ford Road and kick tires at Merrollis Chevrolet (now Gordon Chevrolet), Stu Evans Lincoln-Mercury (now a vacant lot and building), a Dodge dealership, and Red Holman Pontiac (now just Red Holman Buick-GMC). By the way, a new Ford Mustang could be had for under \$3,000 with the gas tank filled at 30 cents a gallon.

In Nankin, the township offices were in the Water & Sewer Department offices on Ford at near Carlson. Driving north on Wayne Road, retail businesses were sprouting to take advantage of the soon-to-open West-



A fountain was a main feature of the East Court of Westland Shopping Center when it opened in July 1965.

land Center.

One was the Quo Vadis Theatre, which was adjacent to the Algiers Drive-in. Down the street was the Topps Discount Store.

Residents and businesses could deposit their money the National Bank of Detroit, Detroit Bank & Trust, Manufacturers Bank, Bank of the Commonwealth, Wayne Community Credit Union or the Garden City Community Credit Union.

If you had major medical problems, you could be admitted to Garden City Hospital, Wayne County General Hospital or Annapolis Hospital (part of the Peoples Community Hospital Authority), among others. Only Garden City Hospital remains under its original name. Annapolis is now being operated by Beaumont Health Care system.

Your rubbish was hauled to the Central Wayne County Incinerator Authority, a regional facility supported by five suburbs. Like many other public services, the authority along with the hospital organization is old memories.

Grocery shoppers in the two towns had plenty of choices among the major chains: Kroger, Farmer Jack, Great Scott, Wrigley, A&P and Chatham. The only one still open is Kroger, joined in 1989 by Meijer in Westland.

In 1965, Garden City schools was nearing a record 14,000 student enrollment with 15 buildings: nine elementaries, four junior highs and two senior highs. Now the enrollment is down to under 5,000, four elementaries, one middle school and one high school.

The Wayne Community Schools (Westland was added to the formal name five years later at the request of then-Mayor Gene McKinney) had nearly 28,000 students. The northern section of Nankin was in the Livonia Public Schools, which then had an enrollment of 38,000 with four high schools and a fifth in the planning stages. Now the enrollment is half of its peak. The section of the township was in the Nankin Mills district, which offered a K-eight-grade program. New ninth-graders were sent to the nearby Bentley High in Livonia. In the late 1960s, the Nankin Mills district was dissolved with the land and students divided among the Livonia and Wayne-Westland districts.

Political changes

Fifty years ago, political changes were underway. Garden City, operating under the rules of a 1933 city charter, was about to see the start of a campaign to change the governmental rules through a proposed city charter that would have a full-time mayor and part-time city council. The proposed charter was defeated a year later when part-time mayor Ed Freeh Jr. was defeated by Tim Murphy.

In Nankin, a similar charter campaign was underway, also with a proposed full-time mayor and part-time council. One year after the *Garden City and Nankin Observer Newspapers* were launched, Nankin voters approved the new charter. Township Supervisor Tom Brown was elected the city's first mayor. He served until late 1969.

Many of the businesses along Ford, Middlebelt and Wayne Road are long gone.

While the *Observer* continued and expanded, I can still remember the "old way" of writing the news, features and editorials of the day. I could walk a few blocks or drive two or three miles to interview public officials or cover night meetings. Phone calls were made on a rotary phone.

Stories were written on a manual typewriter, and I had to use carbon paper to keep a copy of my stories. At times, the typewriter ribbons had to be changed. Photos were taken with an office Polaroid camera. With only one deadline a week, the editorial staff could take time to talk to news sources for background on the issues of the day. Delivery of the papers was mainly by school-aged children; now it's done by adults.

Now reporters and editors work remotely and use computers and smart phones to communicate. They write, tweet and post on Facebook. Breaking news is written and immediately posted to www.hometownlife.com and updated for the printed edition.

I realize that change is necessary. I love my cell phone and computer. But sometimes it's fun to look back after a half-century and remember how things used to be.

Leonard Poger was an *Observer & Eccentric* community editor for 33 1/2 years, retiring in January 2000. He lives in Westland.

OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising



DARRELL CLEM

Amal Faram, her granddaughter by the same name and Buthayna Farah are having a conversation with mosque visitors Denise Smith and former state Rep. Dian Slavens.



DARRELL CLEM

Hasina Abdu (standing) visits a table where other Muslim women are talking with Canton mosque visitors.

Canton mosque welcomes visitors to build relations

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Mansoor Nasir is proud to call Canton home. It's a place where he said the Muslim community has long been well-integrated.

"Canton is one of the most diverse communities I've ever lived in," he said. "That's what I love about it."

Yet, he has a wish for residents of the larger Canton area, including its Muslim community.

"I would like for the people to get to know their neighbors a little more personally," said Nasir, a biomedical engineering professor who has lived in places such as Washington, D.C., and California's Bay Area.

To that end, the Canton mosque drew about 60 people Saturday afternoon by welcoming visitors - some going to a mosque for the first time - to share coffee and conversation.

Visitors came from Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Ann Arbor, Dexter and other communities to mingle with their Muslim neighbors. They talked about their families, their religion, their communities, their shared vision for a better, more tolerant world.

Amal Faram, 19, who came with her grandmother, said she wants non-Muslims to better understand her community, apart from world tensions that can divide rather than unite.

"I want to be part of the community to show that we're not how the media always portrays us," she said.

Pete Zerger, a Livonia resident who attends Living Peach Church in Plymouth, said he grew up with Muslims in Dearborn. He and several members of the church, including Randy Short, its pastor, attended Saturday's gathering.

"I have a lot of friends in the Muslim religion," Zerger said, "and I'm exploring it more."

Short, a Westland resident, said it's important for people of all faiths to understand one another.

"It's how issues are solved - not through violence, suppression or marginalization," he said. One young Muslim

woman, Buthayna Farah, said it was important for her to attend to try to build community relations so that residents from all cultures and religions can have a better understanding.

"That's the goal," she said.

The mosque event came amid a backdrop of anti-Muslim violence elsewhere, such as the shooting deaths of three students in North Carolina - incidents that Muslims say only heighten the need to promote tolerance.

"I want others to see that we are human, like anybody else," said Hasina Abdu, who chairs the outreach committee for the mosque, or Muslim Community of Western Suburbs. "And we, as Muslims, have to become more involved in outreach efforts through our mosque. We have to get out of our comfort zone."

Canton police officer Ziad Elias, who lived in Baghdad, Iraq, until age 20, attended with a couple of other Canton officers to bridge relations with local Muslims. Elias is Christian, but knew many Muslims growing up.

Elias surprised some at Saturday's event when he spoke to them in Arabic.

"It's nice to meet people with the same culture and talk," he said. "And it's good public relations. The (Canton Police) Department really cares about that."

Visitors learned that the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs is not only a place of worship, but also has facilities such as Crescent Academy, a school for students in kindergarten



DARRELL CLEM

Mansoor Nasir (right) of Canton talks with Pete Zerger of Livonia at the Canton Mosque

through eighth grades, and a gymnasium.

The crowd broke into smaller groups to have conversation and get to better know each other. Visitors also got a tour of the mosque.

"When you get to know people personally, your attitudes toward them change dramatically," Nasir said, adding later, "In the end, we all want to live in a healthy community and work toward making it better."

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



DARRELL CLEM

Canton police officers stand and talk with a mosque member while other visitors sit at tables and chat.



DARRELL CLEM

Canton mosque visitors sat in small groups to talk.



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Chef's Feature

Carved Leg of Lamb

TOUCHING REMEMBRANCE

Churchill soccer team pays tribute to Abby Rubenson

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer



Abigail Rubenson

The upbeat and touching tribute that preceded Monday night's Stevenson-Churchill girls soccer match would have made Abigail Rubenson smile. Her older sister, Liz, is certain of that. "Oh, she would have loved it," Liz Rubenson said while releasing a warm smile moments after she played a starring role in the Chargers' 0-0 draw with the Spartans. Liz Rubenson is a first-year sophomore defender for the Churchill varsity soccer team. Her 9-year-old soccer-loving

little sister Abigail passed away last July after a valiant battle with cancer. As the Chargers' starting line-up was announced prior to Monday's games, the Churchill players wore T-shirts that read, "In Memory of Abby Rubenson". Churchill's public-address announcer then read a short tribute to Abigail. The brief ceremony was inspiring for Liz Rubenson. "It was emotional for me, but more than anything it got

me pumped up," she said. "I wanted to play hard for her." Rubenson was instrumental in helping the Chargers shut out Stevenson as she hustled around the pitch. "Liz played very, very well tonight," raved Churchill head coach Reid Friedrichs. "Her play on the ball and off were outstanding." In October, the Livonia City Soccer Club hosted its inaugural Abby Rubenson Cup tournament at Ward Church in Northville. The champion: Abby's former team, which prevailed in a PK shoot-out.

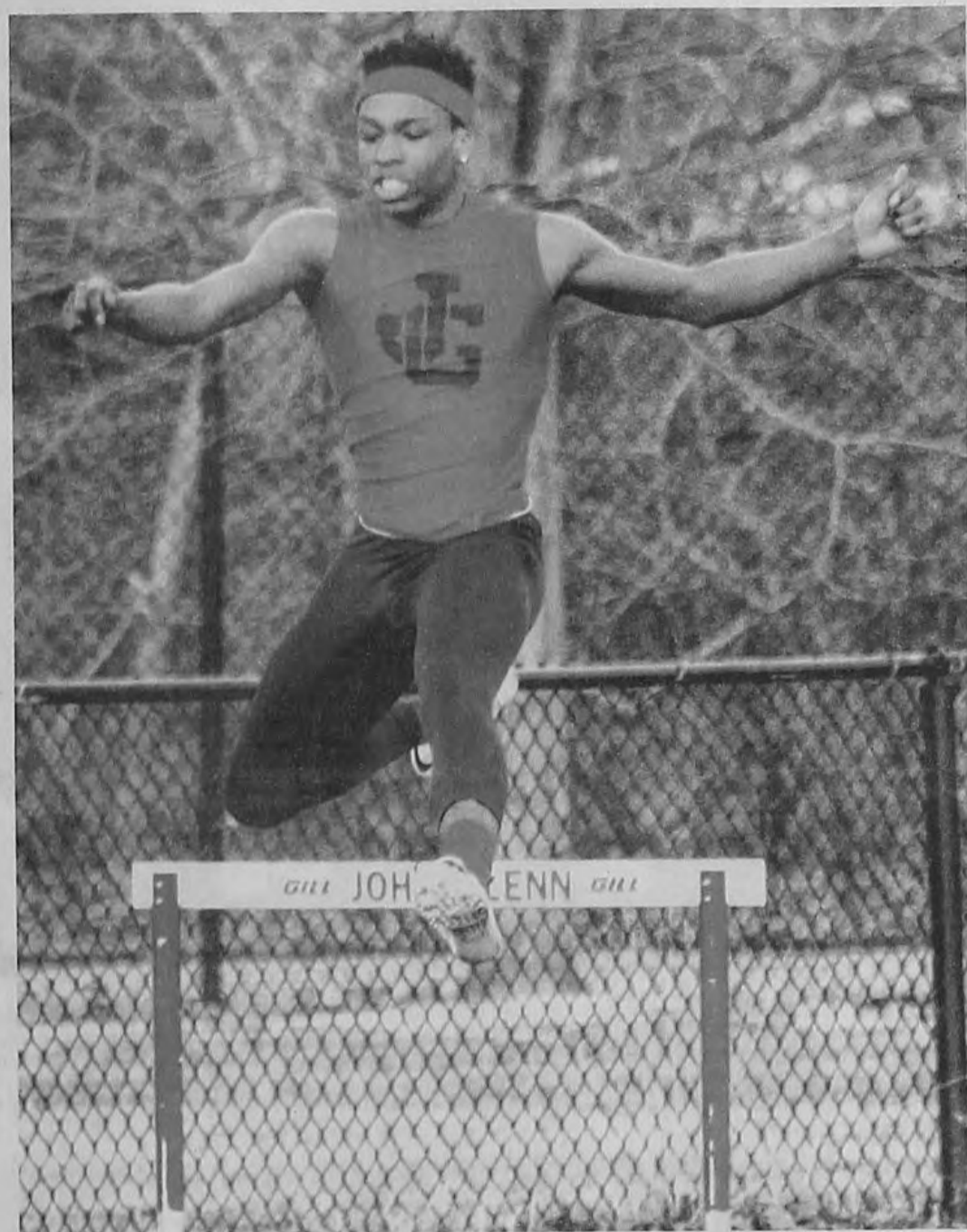
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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Churchill sophomore defender Liz Rubenson (right) excelled during Monday's game against Livonia Stevenson.

TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW



ED WRIGHT

A Westland John Glenn track-and-field athlete clears a hurdle during Tuesday's home meet against Livonia Franklin.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Deep, speedy Rockets shooting for stratosphere this spring

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's boys track-and-field team has started the 2015 season as if it was shot out of a cannon — or, more appropriately, a Rocket launcher. On March 21 in Ypsilanti, the Rockets captured the talent-saturated Huron Relays held inside Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse by piling up 47 points, three more than runner-up Belleville. While it was the Rockets' supply of speed that put them in a position to take the title, it was a final-event power play that lifted them to gold. "We picked up eight points in the final event when Deshawn Baker-Williams placed second in the shot put," said John Glenn head coach Jason Dixon. "We wouldn't have won without that." Dixon said this team's combination of talent and willingness to embrace work could make this spring special. "I like the guys' work ethic," said Dixon. "They work hard, which makes coaching easy." The Rockets will be paced in the leadership department by captains Austin Hickerson, a senior, and Kenyatta Mason, a ju-

nior. Both speedsters are members of the school's record-holding 800-meter relay team. "Austin is my right-hand man," said Dixon. "If I get pulled away from practice for a little while, I can tell him to take over and I know everything will be fine." "Our captains are selected based on integrity and who can lead, and Kenyatta falls under both those categories." The Rocket with the highest point potential is probably senior sprinter Jaron Flournoy, who has committed to run track at Louisiana State University beginning in the fall. Flournoy's blazing wheels were on display at EMU, where he won the 60-meter dash in 6.80 seconds. "Jaron puts that Superman 'S' on his chest during meets," said Dixon. "He has amazing talent. If he puts it out there every day, there's no telling how far he can go." John Glenn's top distance runner is Zeke Thompson, who can excel in everything from the 800 to the 3,200. Freddie Thompson is an extraordinary hurdler. He placed second in the 60-meter hurdles at EMU with a time of 8.70.

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GIRLS SOCCER

Marian's depth burns Ladywood, 4-1

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With the ground outside covered in snow, you couldn't have asked for better timing to book an indoor match Wednesday afternoon between Division 2 state powers Birmingham Marian and Livonia Ladywood at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac. And the host Mustangs found the climate controlled surroundings to their liking as they downed Ladywood, 4-1, in the Catholic League Central Division opener for both teams. The Mustangs, state runner-up the past two seasons to Richland Gull Lake, improved to 4-0-2 overall as sophomore forward Elaina Eckert figured in all four goals. Ladywood, which dropped to 2-2 overall, actually tallied the game's first goal with 29:44 left in the opening half when sophomore Taylor Bullard pounced on a rebound following a shot by sister

Kennedi Bullard after Samantha Riga sent a pass into the 18-yard box area. But by halftime Marian would go up 2-1 as Hannah Redoute tied it off an assist from Eckert with 6:01 left and Eckert would score what proved to be the game-winner off an assist from Redoute with 2:16 remaining. Zoe Hudson's goal with 24:04 left in the match off an assist from Eckert made it 3-0 and Redoute's second goal of the afternoon came with 5:11 to go after Ladywood sophomore keeper Holly Cusick was unable to handle Eckert's initial shot attempt. "I think it went the way that we thought it would, but you could just tell we got tired," said Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker, whose team fell to 2-2 overall. "And they took advantage of some mistakes by us and some sloppiness in our own end. Those two shots they scored

See BLAZERS, Page B3



BRAD EMONS

Among Ladywood's key returnees this season are (from left) tri-captains Kennedi Bullard, Samantha Riga and Andrea Kwasniewicz.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

MU's Salloum goes deep twice in sweep

Sophomore shortstop Nicole Salloum was the sultan of swat Monday as she homered twice and finished with eight RBI as Madonna University swept a non-conference women's softball double-header against visiting Cleary College. Salloum, the former Livonia Churchill High standout, went 2-for-3 with three RBI as MU captured game one in five innings via the run rule, 11-1. Mikey Kish also belted a 3-run homer, while Breanna Keethler added a 2-run shot for MU. Kasey Trierweiler also knocked in two runs. That was more than enough for winning pitcher Bree Crampton (9-4), who allowed just two hits and a walk while striking out seven in five innings. In game two, Salloum went 2-for-4, including her third homer of the season to go along with five RBI in a 13-5 five-inning run rule victory. Other offensive stars for MU included Trierweiler (3-for-3, RBI); Morgan



Salloum

Thompson (2-for-2, two RBI); winning pitcher Erin Combs (2-for-3, two RBI); and Kish (two RBI). Combs (9-3) allowed three earned runs on seven hits over five innings. She struck out three and did not allow a walk. Cleary College fell to 3-15 overall. The Crusaders were scheduled to return to the diamond 3 p.m. Wednesday at home against WHAC foe Aquinas College. **MADONNA 7-2, SIENA HEIGHTS 1-1:** The Crusaders (16-7-1, 2-0) used a pair of pitching gems to open Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play Sunday by sweeping a double-header against visiting Siena Heights University (12-9, 0-2). The Crusaders captured the opener, 7-1, as senior Bree Crampton (7-4) allowed just one hit and one walk over seven innings to go along with 13 strikeouts. Offensively, Emma Cook and Mikey Kish each went 2-for-4 with two RBI to pace MU's 12-hit offensive attack. Breanna Keethler also contributed two hits and an RBI. Nicole Salloum also knocked in two runs. Kelsie Abbott collected the lone hit for the Saints. MU captured the nightcap, 2-1, as Erin Combs (7-3) also went all seven innings allowing just five hits without a walk and four strikeouts. Morgan Kaiser went 3-for-3 with a run scored, while Cook added two RBI. Abbott (10-3), the losing pitcher, went all six innings allowing seven hits and no walks while fanning four.

PREP SOCCER

Grounded Garden City edges Patriots, 2-0

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Once Garden City's girls soccer team became grounded Monday night, it managed to separate itself from host Livonia Franklin.

Playing in a gusting breeze, the Cougars scored two second-half goals to edge the Patriots, 2-0, to improve their record to 1-1-1. Franklin slipped to 0-3.

"We were playing the ball in the air too much in the first half," lamented GC head coach Jeff Szyplula. "Once we started to play the ball on the ground and get more movement, we managed to possess better and create some scoring opportunities."

Szyplula said his team always gets fired up to play against the Patriots, who have become a non-conference rival of sorts.

"As far as non-league opponents, I'd say Franklin and John Glenn are our top rivals," he said. "The girls were definitely pumped up tonight, not only because they were playing Franklin, but also because they wanted to get that first win of the season."

Senior standout Lindsay Yankasky registered the night's first net-finder when she rained home a right-footed shot 7:30 into the second half.

"It was a nice goal because Lindsay is left-footed and she's been working hard on using her right leg," said Szyplula. "She chipped it right over the goalie's head."

Super sophomore Samantha Sultana provided an insurance goal with 10 minutes left when she torpedoed a



ED WRIGHT

Garden City's Samantha Sultana scored a goal in the Cougars' 2-0 victory over Livonia Franklin.

shot into the upper-right corner.

Tatum Spears earned the shut-out in net for the Cougars.

Szyplula also praised the play of senior Savannah Childress, who locked down the Patriots' forwards on the right side of the Cougars' defensive alignment.

Clarenceville toppled

Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody was upbeat and positive about her team's progress Monday despite an 8-0 loss to Wayne Memorial.

"The girls already have improved so much within a week," Moody said. "They looked like a totally different team tonight even though the outcome doesn't show it."

"We played well together. Our defense was clicking, and we communicated throughout the whole game. From last week to this week, it was a totally different atmosphere."

Goalie Jillian Bunker stopped 22 of 30 shots for the Lady Trojans. Jordan See and Sarah Curvin created offensive opportunities and played well defensively, according to Moody.

"Samantha Franco, Kyla Johnson, and Ashli Hearn played their hearts out on defense and saved many goal opportunities for Wayne," Moody said. "Nickendra Thomas, Paola Gonzalez and Kaitlyn Denny played in various roles and played aggressively with power."

COLLEGE SIGNING

Dochenez signs on with UM-D

Spartans' floor leader can play either guard position for Wolverines

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Not much rattles Livonia Stevenson senior Arryn Dochenez when she's on a basketball court.

Opponents of the University of Michigan-Dearborn women's hoops teams are about to discover this first-hand beginning later this year considering the poised and talented Spartan recently signed a letter of intent to play for the Wolverines.

A threat to post a steal or a three-point basket - depending upon which end of the court she's playing at the moment - Dochenez rarely left the court for head coach Tim Newman this past season, which was highlighted by Stevenson's third-straight Class A district championship.

Dochenez average just over 10 points per contest while handling both the shooting and point guard responsibilities.

The daughter of Daniel and Bernadette Dochenez, the newest Wolverine said she decided



Pictured with Stevenson senior Arryn Dochenez as she signed her letter of intent to play basketball for the University of Michigan-Dearborn on March 24 were (standing from left) brother Marcus, mom Bernadette, dad Daniel, brother Jeremy and Wolverines head coach Dymetrius Ware.

UM-Dearborn was the college for her in mid-March.

"It has everything I was looking for education-wise and I like that the campus is local," said Dochenez. "The Dearborn campus offers the same degrees as the Ann Arbor campus, so that was a factor."

Dochenez was also drawn to the style of game that the Wolverines play.

"I've been to several

NAIA games and I like the pace," she said. "It's fast and exciting."

Other colleges in the mix for Dochenez's classroom and hardwood talents included Schoolcraft College and Lourdes University, which is located in Sylvania, Ohio.

Dochenez also lettered in volleyball and tennis at Stevenson.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Cardinals capture indoor title



The 11U Livonia Cardinals captured first place in the Total Baseball-Wixom 12U winter indoor league. Pictured are (front row from left) Aiden Rowader, Jacob Patterson, Brandon Reiten, Collin Patterson, Cole Rubner, Aiden Rooker, (middle row from left) Edmond Riza, Raymond Kastl, Collin Hanrahan, Aidan Murray, Patrick Coggins, Tyler Weeks, (back row from left) coaches Patrick Coggins, Michael Reiten, Ray Kastl and Gary Patterson. Not pictured is Ray Riza.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2015-16 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at the Jeffress Center Board Room, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Glenn Cerny

Glenn Cerny
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 2 and 5, 2015

LO-00023544 3x2.5

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2822-B, Alspach

Req. for a 21' separation variance from Ord. 248 to construct a 20' x 24' detached garage at the west side of the home that would be located 11' ahead of the rear building line of the home; whereas Sec. 7.4.3(c) requires the structure be located so that its front building line is at least 10' to the rear of the rear building line.

Publish April 2, 2015

LO-000237474

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Livonia Public Schools will receive sealed proposals for:

Technology Move Management Services

Until 1:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday April 14, 2015, will be received by Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 at the Administration Building at which time, and place, all proposals will be opened and read aloud. Proposals received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained by contacting LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemoran.com or Christa Jarnot at christa.jarnot@plantemoran.com beginning Friday March 27, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

All interested firms are required to attend a mandatory pre-proposal meeting on Tuesday April 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the LPS Administration Building located at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154

All proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by Plante Moran Cresa and comply with the requirements of the RFP and include a 5% bid bond, 100% Performance, and 100% Labor and Material (Payment) Bonds. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or District Administration.

All bids must be accompanied by a signed and notarized statement to comply with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act of 2012. Proposals received without a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure will not be considered or accepted.

All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.

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

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools

Publish: April 2, 2015

LO-00022738 3x3

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PREP BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Trojans' rally subdued in 15-9 loss

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A Livonia Clarenceville comeback attempt fell short Monday as the Trojans sustained a 15-9 loss to Clawson in baseball.

Trailing 12-1 in the fifth inning, Clarenceville loaded the bases with two outs and scored eight runs to close the gap to three.

"I loved the way we battled the last three innings of the game," coach Craig Cotter said. "We could have packed it in and been mercied in five innings, but our team showed fight."

Jayson Harris led the Trojans with two hits. Bobby Jaber had a double; Kam MacIver, Adam Sade and Matt Drain chipped in base hits.

"We struggled to throw strikes," Cotter said, adding Clarenceville pitchers walked 10 batters and hit three. "Numbers like that run the score up quickly."

Adam Sade went three innings and got the loss. He and Jaber gave up a combined 12 runs over five innings.

- Dan O'Meara

Stevenson takes two

Livonia Stevenson upped its record to 2-1 Tuesday with a 10-3 victory over visiting Garden City. On Monday, the Spartans posted a 14-0 victory over visiting Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Jack Ferguson paced the winners' eight-hit attack against the Cougars as he went 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Mark Petterson and Gordon Ferguson both knocked in two runs each for the Spartans.

Winning pitcher Dan Bos was sharp, giving up just two earned runs and three hits while fanning five batters over four frames. Nick Cotter (two innings) and Joe Dupuis (one inning) were nearly perfect in their relief roles.

Stevenson trailed 3-1 until the bottom of the fourth when it put up six runs against GC starting pitcher Nick Montroy.

The loss dropped the Cougars to 1-2.

Gordon Ferguson picked up the mound victory on Monday, yielding just one base-runner while striking out five over three innings. Sophomore Dan Bullard blanked the Chargers over the final two frames as he retired all six batters he faced, three via strike outs. The Spartans eliminated



ED WRIGHT

Stevenson's C.J. Breen had a big day at the plate Monday afternoon.

the drama early as they built up a 12-0 lead after two innings in the five-inning, mercy rule-shortened match-up.

Leading the Spartans' 13-hit attack were Chris Tanderys (2-for-3, four RBI, two triples), C.J. Breen (two hits, including a home run), Petterson (2-for-3, two runs, RBI) and Frank Carlin, who contributed a double and two RBI.

GC trumps RU

Garden City manhandled Redford Union, 16-0, in a mercy rule-shortened three-inning contest played Monday.

Kyle Wladysiak earned the abbreviated victory for the Cougars after yielding just three hits in three innings.

Offensively, the winners manufactured 11 first-inning runs before tacking on five more in the second.

Travis Kidd was the catalyst, finishing 3-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBI. Matt Kindred was also a beast at the plate, delivering a double, triple, three RBI and three runs.

Other stars for the Cougars included Dakota Mahkmetass (four RBI); and Tyler Kelly, Vinnie Bakerian, Nick Tilley and Dakoda Darocha, all of whom knocked in two runs.

Thurston rolls

Redford Thurston registered an 11-1 season-opening triumph over visiting Romulus Summit Academy on Mon-

day afternoon.

The Eagles faced a 1-0 deficit before exploding for nine runs in the third inning to seize the lead for good. The hosts ended the contest with two runs in the fifth.

Bobby Snell earned the victory on the mound, yielding just one hit and one run in three innings. Snell struck out six and walked two. Austin Slomba did not allow a run while striking out two during the final two frames.

Offensively, Snell went 3-for-3 with a walk and three runs scored. Austin Benoit reached base four times (including two hits) and drove home four.

Slomba added a hit and three runs, while Donald Permy drove in the game-ending run.

Pats dump Chargers, edged by WB

Right-handed pitcher Jake Fry held visiting Dearborn Heights Crestwood to just three hits over four innings while leading Livonia Franklin to a 9-1 five-inning victory Tuesday afternoon.

The Patriots, who dropped a 3-2 decision to West Bloomfield 24 hours earlier, were 3-1 heading into Wednesday's game at Livonia Stevenson.

The only run Fry yielded (in the top of the first) was unearned due to a pair of fielding miscues. Kyle Wollam pitched the final three innings

for the winners, striking out five while allowing just two base-runners.

Jesse Jackson took the loss for Crestwood after giving up five runs in the three innings.

Notable offensive contributors for the Patriots included Tyler Camp (3-for-4, three RBI, two doubles), Ryan Prohaska (1-1, two runs), Mitch Gonyaw (double), Jay Hopson (1-for-1, two RBI) and Bobby Mandrink, who contributed a hit and a run.

On Monday, the Patriots put their lead-off batter (Fry) on first in the bottom of the seventh, but couldn't bring him around to extend the game.

T.J. Jones (six innings) and Desean Cole (one inning) combined to hold the Patriots to four hits. Adrian Reed was the hard-luck loser on the mound for Franklin after yielding just one earned run in five innings of work. Gonyaw scattered two hits and a walk over the final two innings, but didn't give up a run.

"I thought our pitchers threw really well," said Franklin head coach Matt Fournier.

"West Bloomfield is a good-hitting team. Our pitchers wiggled out of a couple jams when they had runners on second and third with one out and first and second with nobody out."

Reed was the only Patriot with multiple hits against West Bloomfield.

Warriors wallop HW

Lutheran Westland breezed past Harper Woods, 15-0, in a game stopped after four innings Monday due to the 15-run mercy rule.

Patience at the plate paid off for the Warriors, who drew 17 walks.

Jordan Williams earned the win on the mound, no-hitting Harper Woods while striking out 10 and walking two.

Offensively, the Warriors were powered by Brandon Ruelle (double, two RBI, two runs), Drake Snyder (two runs, RBI) and Andy Faith, who went 1-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and a run.

"For it being the first time on the field for us all season, I was happy with how we played," said Lutheran Westland head coach Kevin Wade. "It was a tough hitting day as it was our first time with live pitching outside and their pitchers had control issues."

"We have a long way to go, but it was nice to get out onto the field."

BLAZERS

Continued from Page B1

on in the first half were good finishes. Then I thought the long shot (fourth goals) and the third goal was what it was."

Ladywood, which dressed only 15 players to Marian's 22, simply lost the war of attrition during the second half.

"We ran 17-18 players at them today," said Marian coach Barry Brodsky, who has five Division 2 state titles to his credit. "Today we didn't sub as much as we normally do, but when we come back (from spring break), we'll have three games that first week, so it's nice to have a full bench to play and ready to go. It's part of Marian. We are blessed with a lot of good players, a lot of good people, and it makes it a good experience."

Ladywood had difficulty containing Marian's three sophomore forwards - Eckert, Redoute and Ellie DeConinck.

"They really work well together," Brodsky said. "It might take them awhile to get going at times, but they're going to get some damage done if they're out there for the full game."

"We're still pretty young. We have five freshmen. And like I said, those three up-top are all sophomores, so it's a good mix this year. We have some really good seniors that so far are great leaders. And I think that's something the other girls feed off of. It's been a fun group. It's been a lot of fun so far."

Cusick, who made one save, went all the way in goal for the Blazers.

Marian, meanwhile, used two goalkeepers with junior Kaitlin Patouhas going the first half and senior Megan Bricely taking her turn during the second half. The two combined to make three saves."

Ladywood lost several key players to graduation including all-state Emily Huddleston (Southwest Minnesota State), Lauren Wandzel (VMI), Jenna Urso (Albion College), Abby Pelon (St. Michaels, Vt.), Mykela Hawkins, Mariss Ozog and keeper Whitney Bauriedl.

But returning are five starters off last year's state semifinal squad including Riga, a first-team All-Area selection headed to NCAA Division II champion Grand Valley State, along with the Bullard sisters, Kennedy, a senior tri-captain, and Taylor, a sophomore forward.

Junior defender Conner Huggins and sophomore midfielder Brienne Rogers also started a year ago, while senior tri-captain Andrea Kwasniewicz, a defender returns to the starting lineup after missing all of 2014 with a knee injury (torn anterior cruciate ligament).

Other returnees include the Smalley sisters, Elyse and Emma, a pair of senior defenders; Elisabeth Pollock, a junior defender; and Clare Kelley, a sophomore midfielder.

Among the promising newcomers include Shannon Wolfe, a sophomore forward; Amy Babon, a freshman midfielder; Catherine Hawkins, a junior defender, and Natalie Hawkins, a freshman defender.

Marian, which knocked Ladywood out of last year's state semifinal, 3-1, returns nine of 11 starters.

"It's a lot different with Kelly Sweeney not being on the field, who was kind of the go-to ... they just have so many and the depth is such a key for them," Shingledecker said of the Mustangs. "And for a team like us we were fine for the first 30 (minutes) and then you could really tell that we wore down a little bit. And they just kept making subs. Overall, it's a good team. I wouldn't say it's their best team, but it's a good one."

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PREP SOCCER

Defense rules Stevenson-Churchill draw

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The thermometer changed significantly throughout Monday night's Livonia girls soccer showdown featuring Stevenson and Churchill.

The same cannot be said for the scoreboard.

On a night when the mercury dipped dramatically along with the sun, both teams' "D" shined in the 0-0 draw.

The offenses, on the other hand, left both coaches shaking their head in the bone-chilling post-game wind gusts.

"I thought Stevenson was well-organized in the back, but with that said, I didn't like our offensive creativity, I didn't like our offensive movement and I didn't like the intensity we came out with," said Churchill head coach Reid Friedrichs, whose team's record stayed level at 1-1-1. "I thought we played better in the second half due to a couple of adjustments, the wind, or what-



ED WRIGHT

Stevenson's Maddy Caves marks Churchill's Laura Wynns during a first-half rush by the Chargers.

ever, but my expectations were higher coming off a nice win against Ladywood.

"I thought that with us playing a city rival, we'd be more excited to be here. Our intensity and activity were disappointing."

Churchill sophomore keeper Britney Hayes made the save of the night 12:55 before

halftime when she elevated just high enough to fist away a rocket launched by Megan Verant.

"A tie is always disappointing," admitted Stevenson center-back Aliya El-Sabeh. "I know we were riled up for this game and I thought we played well. We got a lot of shots; we just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net."

With the exception of a couple sporadic rushes by the Chargers, Stevenson (2-1-1) controlled play in the first half.

"We had better chances," Stevenson coach Chris Grodzicki noted, "but that doesn't mean anything. We played well enough to score, but we made enough mistakes to get scored on, so we got what we deserved. A tie."

While the offensive deficiencies proved frustrating, there were still plenty of positives that played out on the pitch, particularly the performance of Churchill sopho-

more defender Liz Rubenson, whose 9-year-old sister Abigail was remembered during a pre-game tribute.

Abigail Rubenson passed away in July following a heroic battle with cancer.

"I thought Liz played really, really well," Friedrichs emphasized. "Her play on and off the ball was outstanding."

Grodzicki praised the efforts of two of his team's key combinations - one made up of veterans, the other fueled by youngsters.

"I thought our two center-backs - Aliya El-Sabeh and Jenna Thom - did a nice job communicating," he said.

"They've been doing this for two-plus years now, so they're really hitting their stride."

"I thought our two center-mids - Megan Verant and Kayla Gacioch - were tireless tonight, and they had a tough task with Churchill's number 10 (Erin Emmanuel), who is a very nice player."

PREP SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Well-rounded Patriots poised for big season

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Armed with eye-popping plate skills and equally impressive captaincy credentials, seniors Becky Giacobbi and Sarah Cramton are primed to pilot Livonia Franklin's softball team into the 2015 season.

Cramton, a first baseman who punished pitchers to the tune of a .407 batting average as a junior, earned just about every post-season award imaginable last spring, the most notable being an honorable mention All-State nod.

Giacobbi, who recently signed on to play college softball at Madonna University, hit a robust .505 last year while earning all-conference, all-district and all-regional awards.

"Our captains, Giacobbi and Cramton, are the foundation of the team with their playing and leadership," said Franklin head coach Linda Jimenez.

While the senior captains top the Patriots' list of key performers, they're far from alone.

"Our pitchers, Megan Chapman and Alaina DeFrain, have improved greatly," Jimenez

revealed. "And senior Lauren Michael is solid at third base."

The Patriots most impactful new-comer promises to be freshman shortstop Ashley Kent.

"Ashley's all-around ability and knowledge of the game has been the biggest surprise for us," said Jimenez. "With the addition of Ashley, we can keep Brooke Garbarino at the catching position. Brooke has one of the best arms in the league."

Jimenez also praised the leadership qualities of Garbarino and Gabby Woods, a junior outfielder.

Other pivotal returning players for Franklin include junior outfielder Jessica Banks, sophomore infielder Melissa Ferrier, sophomore infielder Makenna Dogonski and sophomore pitcher/infielder Danielle Hoskins.

Along with Woods and Kent, the team's top first-year players include junior infielder Rachel Beers, junior outfielder Ashley Olween, junior pitcher Kaeleigh Kerpet, freshman catcher Amanda Kesson and freshman infielder/outfielder Tara Trujillo.

ewright@hometownlife.com



ED WRIGHT

Franklin's Alaina DeFrain prepares to deliver a pitch during Tuesday afternoon's practice.

PREP TRACK & FIELD ROUNDUP

Franklin, Glenn boys finish opener deadlocked

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Given its bizarre series of twists and turns, Tuesday afternoon's KLAA South Division dual meet featuring Livonia Franklin and host Westland John Glenn may have been more appropriate for Wednesday (April Fool's Day) – or on a Friday the 13th.

The meet that showcased two of the division's projected front-runners ended deadlocked at 66-66, but only after the Rockets were forced to forfeit the pole vault and high jump events after the pits and standards at John Glenn were declared unsafe for competition, and both schools' 400-meter relay teams were disqualified for hand-offs outside the allowable zone.

"Glenn's sprinters and top hurdler racked up a lot of points," said Franklin head coach Pat Koelzer. "Our distance crew kept us in the meet and clinched the tie by sweeping the 3,200. John Glenn is a very strong team this season."

Fortunately for the Rockets, the throwing area was deemed safe because senior Deshawn Baker-Williams won the shot put (51 feet, 3 inches) and the discus (141-3) to help his team offset the forfeits.

With their 3,200 relay four-some serving as the catalyst, the Patriots were dominant in the distance events, most notably senior Keenan Jones, who placed first in the 1,600 (4:56.2) and the 800 (2:07.9).

Franklin's Nathan McCall



Franklin's Nikki Hawthorne (left) and Briana Thompson sail over fourth-to-last hurdles during the 300-meter race Tuesday at John Glenn.

captured the 3,200 in 10:55.3.

Freddie Thompson was a point machine for the hosts as he won the 110 highs and 300 hurdles. Austin Hickerson also excelled by crossing the line first in the 400 (53.3) and 200 (22.8).

Louisiana State University-bound sprinter Jaron Flournoy did not compete for the Rockets on Tuesday.

Mustangs out-stride Spartans

Hampered – but not hamstrung – by the graduation of 27 seniors, Livonia Stevenson's boys track-and-field team raced Northville down to the

wire Tuesday before dropping a 77-60 decision.

The Spartans matched up well with the Mustangs nicely in the sprint events, but couldn't stack up in the long runs.

Leading the charge for Stevenson were sprinters Nathan Sudek, who won the 110-meter hurdles in 18.04 and the 300 high hurdles in 44.42; Mike Muffler, who won the 200 in 23.7 and placed second in the 100 in 11.93; and Ladarius Sharpe, who racked up first-place points in the 100 (11.77) and third-place points in the 200 (23.7).

Senior Christian Sullivan

also had a solid day for the Spartans as he placed second in the 200 (24.17) and third in the 100 (11.97).

Senior thrower Nick Hitchcock had a dazzling debut, winning the shot put with a personal-best heave of 47 feet, and the discus with a 132-11 distance.

Also scoring the field events were seniors Abdulah Afify (second in the discus) and Connor Vaughan, who was third in the shot put.

Malik Lowery's first meet as a Spartan was impressive as he leapt 19 feet, 1 inch to take second in the long jump.

First-year senior Noah Campbell didn't score in the high jump, but his best effort of 5-8 was more than admirable given he's had just a handful of days to work on his new craft outdoors.

Stevenson's lone first-place showing in the relays came in the 400 thanks to good runs by Muffler, Sullivan, Sharpe and Tyler Hudson.

Patriot girls bury Rockets

Livonia Franklin's girls track-and-field team dominated host Westland John Glenn on Tuesday, 120-17, in the season-opening dual meet for both teams.

Senior thrower Sophia Modes got things kick-started for the winners by taking first in the shot put (31-9) and the discus (87-9). Franklin's Mikaela Hille completed the field-events sweep (the pole vault and long jump were forfeited to the Patriots due to unsafe

conditions) with a lead of 14-2.

Franklin sprinter Bryah White was untouchable in the 100, winning in 12.9 seconds while Natalie Douglas and Emily Marano went 1-2 in the mile with respective times of 5:38.3 and 5:45.0.

Northville girls defeat Spartans

The Mustangs defeated Livonia Stevenson's girls track-and-field team 94-43 Tuesday afternoon.

Churchill girls hurdle Plymouth

Livonia Churchill's girls track-and-field team opened its KLAA South Division slate with an impressive 76-61 victory over Plymouth.

The Chargers were bolstered by multiple first-place performances from thrower Gabby Carter, who won the shot put (107-5) and discus (35-6.5); Chelsea Gardner, who took gold in 100 (12.4), 400 (1:01.8) and 200 (25.9); and Caroline George, who won the 1,600 (5:36) and 800 (2:35.1).

Churchill's lone victory in the relay events was accomplished by its 3,200 foursome of Megan Gendjar, Raquel Zwick, Gabriel Swider and Christina Murphy.

Kathleen George won the 3,200 for the Chargers with a time of 12:10.

Churchill freshman Addison Mussen, who is also competing for the Chargers' soccer team in the spring, finished second in the 1,600 (5:37) and the 800 (2:37.7).

PREP SOFTBALL ROUNDUP



John Glenn pitcher Mackenzie Huren rocks into her wind-up Tuesday against Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

PREP TENNIS

Panthers, Zebras triumph

The Redford Union girls tennis team opened its home schedule in style on Monday with a 7-1 victory over Dearborn Heights Robichaud.

Both teams struggled occasionally in the gusty winds, but the Panthers managed to make more adjustments.

The short-handed Bulldogs were forced to default matches at No. 3 and No. 4 singles in addition to their final two doubles slots. The three of the four matches that were played evolved into down-to-the-wire thrillers decided by tie-breakers.

RU No. 1 singles player Abby Walters set the tone by defeating Jazlyn White, 6-2, 6-1. The match was compelling given that both players are left-handed.

"Jazlyn is one of my toughest matches in the league every year," said Walters. "We are friends off the court, but we are both very competitive on it. We have similar game strategies because we both can chase down balls, hit angles and keep the ball in play."

Panthers No. 2 singles player Jesse Kramer proved resilient against Kaitlyn Willis, storming back to win the final two sets 6-1 and 11-9 after dropping the opener, 6-3.

At No. 1 doubles, RU twin sisters Abby and Sarah Bishop dropped a tough 2-6, 6-4, 10-7 setback to Robichaud sophomores Rakhya Smith and Jasmine Turner. RU's second doubles duo of sophomore Kaylay Wiley and freshman Haley Hebner won an intense three-setter, 3-6, 6-3, 10-1, over Jada Nobles and TaPuisha Jackson.

"We have a core of returning players making a strong singles line-up and adding strength to

our doubles pairs," said RU co-coach Eric Geiger, who shares the mentoring duties with Alice Walters. "We expect to hold our own this season. New and returning players have been consistent and working hard in our practices."

"We've already seen tremendous improvement and anticipate building on that through the season."

Zebras triumphant

Wayne Memorial continued its strong start to the season by out-swinging rival Westland John Glenn, 8-1. The Rockets' lone win came when their No. 2 doubles team of Kiara Holmes and Domonique Williams outlasted Karla Strong and Halayna Reynolds, 6-2, 3-6, 10-5.

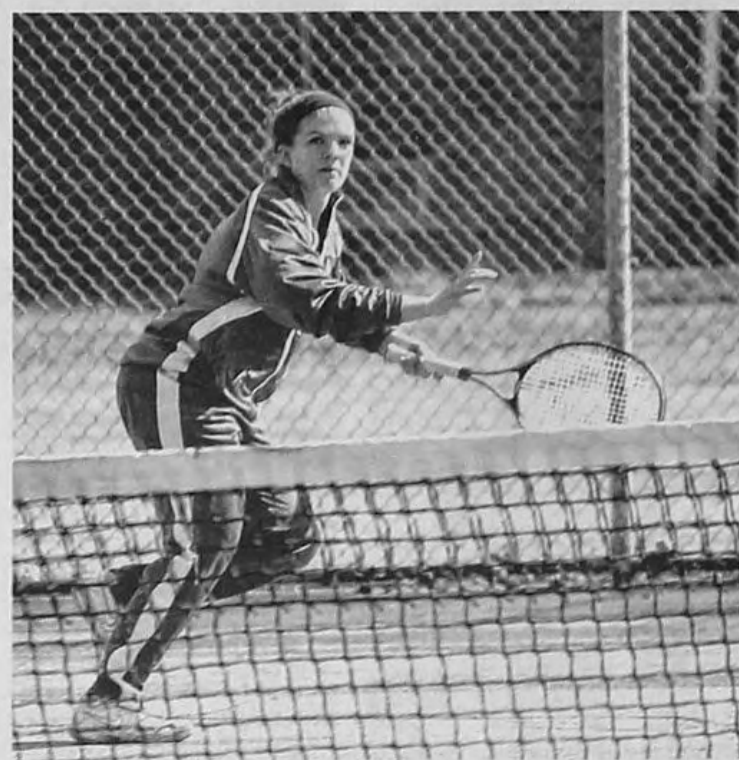
The Zebras dropped just one set in singles play. No. 1 player Janae Strickland defeated Malaysia Martin, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1, while No. 2 netter Kendelle Hood swept Makayla Hines, 6-1, 6-4.

Ciara Case kept the momentum flowing for Wayne with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Gifty Tawiah at No. 3 singles before No. 4 player Ryleigh Strong was too strong for Andi Edwards, 6-0, 6-0.

Wayne's top doubles duo of Danialle Lynn and Rachel Cherman defused Leanna Carreon and Hanna Mcelmeel, 6-2, 6-3.

Also picking up points for Wayne were the No. 3 doubles tandem of Macey Wolf and Sara Hively, who trounced Bryanne Campbell and Camille Hollins, 6-0, 6-1; and the No. 4 twosome of Britany Nahle and Tirzah Ault, who white-washed Tori Miller and Megan Bjerk, 6-0, 6-0.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Redford Union's Abby Walters eyes a forehand return during a match earlier this week.

Rockets hold off Annapolis, 6-4

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's softball team persevered through some tense late-inning moments Tuesday afternoon to chalk up a 6-4 season-opening victory over visiting Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

The Rockets started their season in style by batting around the order during their four-run first inning after the Cougars scored once in the top of the frame.

Annapolis pulled to within 4-2 with a run in the fourth before John Glenn countered with a two-spot in the fifth. Annapolis plated two in the top of the sixth to narrow its deficit to 6-4, plus it had a couple runners on base, but junior pitcher Mackenzie Huren managed to escape the jam with the help of her lights-out drop ball.

"The key for Mackenzie today was that she got ahead in the count on every batter she faced," said John Glenn head coach Dan Huren. "Her drop ball was working really well, too."

Rocket catcher Julia Michlowski made what proved to

be a pivotal play in the top of the first when she gunned down an Annapolis base-runner who was trying to steal second.

"That was huge," Huren said, "because they never tried to steal another base the rest of the game. She earned their respect right away."

John Glenn outhit Annapolis, 7-3. Both teams committed two errors.

Hannah Udell and Chelsea Gilbert powered the winners' hitting attack as they both contributed two hits and an RBI. One of Gilbert's hits was a double.

Huren praised No. 2 hitter and starting shortstop Megan Buford's all-around contributions.

GC mercies RU

Garden City opened its 2015 season with a 14-1 victory over Redford Union Monday afternoon. Junior pitcher Amber Swisher recorded her first varsity mound victory by holding the Panthers to one run, one hit and one walk over the first four innings.

Swisher, who switched to the circle from center-field in the wake of the early-season

loss of expected starting pitcher Abby Joseph, struck out four Panthers.

The Cougars were running on all cylinders at the plate thanks to strong debuts from Kaylen Glenfield (3-for-3, double, triple, three RBI, four runs), Mikey Smoler (3-for-3, double, RBI), Kelsie Powell (3-for-4, two runs, four RBI) and Alicea Ascensio, who went 2-for-3 with two ribbies.

Trojans blanked

The Clarenceville softball team got off to a slow start on opening day Monday, suffering a 20-0 loss to St. Catherine of Siena Academy.

The lone hit for the Lady Trojans was produced by sophomore Claudia Moore (single). Senior Emily Schwartz, junior Nicole Scott and freshman Skler Srock reached base with walks.

Schwartz took the loss in the four-inning game, allowing 17 hits, walking four and striking out five.

St. Catherine pitchers combined for a one-hit shutout, striking out nine. Second baseman Emma Reilly belted a grand slam for the Stars.

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Detained
 - 5 — Wiedersehen
 - 8 Tinned meat
 - 12 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
 - 13 My mind — blank
 - 14 Parking lot sight
 - 15 Good, for Pedro
 - 16 Result in (3 wds.)
 - 18 Marred a car
 - 20 Worldwide org.
 - 21 Beauty pack
 - 22 Burns with steam
 - 26 Wing it (hyph.)
 - 29 Wood for floors
 - 30 Goddess of dawn
 - 31 — a-brac
 - 32 Bear —
 - 33 Ice cream unit
 - 34 Woosnam of golf
 - 35 Thole filler
 - 36 Bouquet holders
 - 37 Fine-tunes
 - 39 Oxygen source
 - 40 Safety-testing org.
 - 41 Applause
 - 45 Game plan
 - 49 Undulating
 - 50 Tooth anchor
 - 51 Tire pressure meas.
 - 52 Historical periods
 - 53 Toshiba rival
 - 54 Sz. option
 - 55 Knights of —
- DOWN**
- 1 Where spokes meet
 - 2 Mr. Clapton
 - 3 Bold look
 - 4 Forceful
 - 5 Caught cold
 - 6 Pre-owned
 - 7 JFK watchdog
 - 8 Health-spa amenity
 - 9 Kind of tent
 - 10 ABA member
 - 11 Alley Oop's kingdom
 - 17 Canvasback
 - 19 Dartboard locale
 - 22 Slump
 - 23 Aloha tokens
 - 24 Cooked enough
 - 25 Fast fliers of yore
 - 26 Not much (2 wds.)
 - 27 Dead heat
 - 28 Queue
 - 29 Not just mine
 - 32 Orders for dinner
 - 33 In some degree
 - 35 Tex. neighbor
 - 36 Itinerary word
 - 38 Daddy's sis
 - 39 Stay away from
 - 41 River to the Seine
 - 42 "Othello" heavy
 - 43 In charge of
 - 44 Big Board letters
 - 45 AARP members
 - 46 Cote murmur
 - 47 Untold centuries
 - 48 Tach reading

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	O	G	O	N	A	I	L	M	E	M		
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S	U	N		O	V	E	N	C	I	A	O	
T	D	S		S	Y	N	E	T	A	M	P	

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45	46	47				48				49		
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53						54				55		

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CHEER WORD SEARCH

V E L C W R A G L F O D F U G A U N I Q
P O M P O N E R I L L R N C B F Y R M U
T C Y N K Q A V A Y I Y E U R C R O M H
S T U N T T N F O B C R E E O A R U D D
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D E S T P O R D A P S I D E T R E V N I
S E P P K I C K V Y M W K D T U O Y A L

WORDS

- ACCURACY
- AERIAL
- ARABESQUE
- ATTACK
- AWESOME
- BASE
- BLADES
- BRACE
- CAPTAIN
- CARTWHEEL
- CATCHER
- CHEER
- CRADLE
- CROWD
- CUPIE
- DISMOUNT
- DRILL
- DROP
- ENTRANCE
- FACIALS
- FLYER
- HANDSPRING
- INVERTED
- KICK
- LAYOUT
- PARTNER
- PIKE
- POMPON
- PYRAMID
- REBOUND
- SQUAD
- STUNT
- TOSS
- TUCK
- TUMBLING
- WALKOVER

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

W	E	L	C	W	R	A	G	L	F	O	D	F	U	G	A	U	N	I	Q
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C	A	M	N	A	F	L	E	B	S	E	C	W	R	H	I	U	T	O	C
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S	E	P	P	K	I	C	K	V	Y	M	W	K	D	T	U	O	Y	A	L

Scott Martin Band in Canton releases its first CD

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Scott Martin had just finished his second acoustic album in 2007, when he decided to turn a solo music career into a team effort.

"I needed a band, so I recruited some fellows," said Martin, a singer-songwriter who plays guitar and harmonica.

Eight years and a few personnel changes later, the Scott Martin Band has released its first CD, *Play*. And although the band carries Martin's name, the Canton resident stresses the group truly is an ensemble act.

"Each guy brings to the table something, not necessarily musical, although that is first and foremost," said Martin, who writes original songs in addition to booking gigs.

Drummer Tony Archer came up with the album's name. Steven Haack, bass guitarist, is Martin's "right hand man," and longtime friend. David Roof, the band's newest member, recorded the album at his studio, Rooftop Recording in Grand Blanc.

"Steve suggested it should be a full band effort. It took us seven months to record the album. The four guys currently in the band play on every cut. There are no additional musicians."

10-song CD

Nine of the songs are originals, penned by Martin. *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen, also on the album, is among the many cover songs, including rock, alternative and alternative country, that the band performs at venues such as Sean O'Callaghan's and Plymouth Roc, both in Plymouth.

"We had to get licensing for the song. I thought it was a hoot because I had to write a check to Bruce Springsteen. It was kind of a fun process. I took a picture with my cell



The Scott Martin Band, Scott Martin (left), David Roof, Steven Haack and Tony Archer, recently released its first CD.

SUBMITTED

phone of the check — which he hasn't cashed yet."

The CD is available at the band's shows and it can be downloaded online from CD Baby and iTunes.

Upcoming shows include Sean O'Callaghan's Saturday, April 11, and B Boomers Sports Bar & Grille in Allen Park, Friday, April 24. The band will be back at Plymouth Roc on May 29. Scott Martin Band also has played at several Backyard Beats summer concerts in Canton and will perform Saturday, June 20, at Canton Liberty Fest.

"I don't mind playing covers. I don't like playing the same covers all the cover bands play. We try to be really

picky and tasteful about what we play cover-wise. We play everything from Stevie Wonder to Bruno Mars, Goo Goo Dolls to Tim McGraw. We try to be diverse."

Young musician

Martin, who graduated from Wayne Memorial High School, grew up in a musical family in Westland. His mother played piano and his grandfather played accordion and harmonica.

"I was blessed with music nonstop in our household from the earliest of my memories ... Buddy Holly, Elvis, Fats Domino. My late father played some guitar but always had music on," he said. "We shared

that love of all things musical throughout the house.

"I have played music one way or another since I was in single digits — 8 or 9. The song writing and singing and guitar playing started in my teens."

Martin took drum lessons and played percussion in junior high and high school bands. He also sang in the high school choir and played in local rock bands.

"It was after high school I picked up the guitar." He played acoustic solo shows before forming the band.

Martin, who is married and the father of two grown children, also plays drums in a rockabilly band, Nobody's Business. He said he enjoys

the musical and social aspects of performing but never considered music a financially viable career. He has worked for Ford Motor Co. as a group leader at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne for 27 years. Two other band members work nonmusical day jobs. Only Roof is involved in music full time.

Martin said he feels blessed the band continues to book gigs at local venues.

"I hope we sell a lot of CDs and that people come to our shows and recognize the songs."

Visit the band's page on Facebook and at reverbnation.com/scottmartinband.



Dueling piano players take flying leaps at their keyboards.

Dueling Pianos International to film concert in Canton

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Twelve pianists will take the stage two at a time to mix piano skills, vocals, fast-paced comedy, and sing-alongs Saturday, April 4, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The entertainment concept, known as dueling pianos, pairs two pianists in an interactive concert.

"There is a lot of audience participation. The audience is just as much a part of the show as the entertainers are," said Jason Scarcelli, executive director of Lorio-Ross Sterling Entertainment, Royal Oak, which is bringing Dueling Pianos International to the stage.

"There is a sing-along. And it's not to be confused with a *Kumbaya* moment around the campfire. It's a sing-along in that the audience is encouraged to shout out the hook to

their favorite songs."

But that's not all. The performers will recruit willing audience members to join them on stage throughout the show.

"We want to stress the word, volunteer," Scarcelli added.

The show is at 7 p.m. at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$15, available by calling 734-394-5300. Buy online through April 2 at cantonvillagetheater.org and pay \$13.

Private, public shows

The performers will include four Michigan-based musicians and eight others from across the country. They're among 273 pianists on the Dueling Pianos International roster who perform at corporate functions and theatrical events worldwide. Dueling Pianos International also staffs piano bars such as 526 Main, in Royal Oak.

"This will be a little differ-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A dueling piano player mixes comedy and musicianship during his act. Twelve dueling pianists will perform Saturday, April 4, at the Village Theater in Canton.



An Elton John impersonator will be among the dueling pianists who will perform Saturday, April 4, in Canton.

ent than seeing it in a bar. In a bar, guests would be going in

and out of the show, mingling with each other. This is almost like a concert because the

audience won't have any distractions," Scarcelli said. "We'll be featuring a lot of talent, as opposed to strictly sing-alongs."

"These entertainers are the best dueling piano players in the country. Before they are piano players, before they are singers, they are entertainers."

The musicians will include Bill Connors who impersonates Elton John, and Marshall Charloff as Prince. The concert will be filmed to create a promotional piece for Dueling Pianos International. Scarcelli hopes the film will be used in a reality-style television series set to air next year.

"The more enthusiastic the audience is, the more they are screaming and shouting and singing along to the hooks and laughing, the better chances are (the film) will augment the reality series."

For more about Dueling Pianos International, visit duelingpianoshow.com.

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Brighten your Easter feast with unique flavor twists to refresh traditional dishes like ham and deviled eggs. And don't forget the decorations — it's easy to create vibrant centerpieces using eggs dyed in the hottest seasonal shades.

"We've developed easy tips to dress up your table, from the ham to the centerpiece," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "An orange glaze can bring new flavor to the classic ham, while food color can be used to make a variety of spring-inspired egg dyes to feature in Easter table décor."

For more Easter dinner recipes and egg dyeing ideas, check out www.McCormick.com and visit McCormick Spice on Facebook and Pinterest.

Courtesy of Family Features



ORANGE GLAZED HAM

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour 45 minutes
Servings: 24

1 bone-in spiral-cut ham, about 10 pounds
1 cup orange marmalade
1 teaspoon mustard, ground
½ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon black pepper, ground
¼ teaspoon cloves, ground

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place ham on side in roasting pan. Mix marmalade and spices in small bowl until well blended. Brush ½ marmalade mixture over ham, gently separating slices so mixture can reach middle of ham. Cover loosely with foil. Bake 1 hour, basting occasionally with pan drippings. Remove foil. Brush with remaining marmalade mixture. Bake 45 minutes longer. Serve ham with pan drippings.



SMOKY DEVILED EGGS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6

6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
½ cup mayonnaise
½ teaspoon McCormick Mustard, Ground
½ teaspoon paprika, smoked
¼ teaspoon Lawry's Seasoned Salt
2 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; place in small bowl. Mash yolks with fork or potato masher. Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, smoked paprika and seasoned salt until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

Tip: Deviled eggs are a snap to customize once you create the base of egg yolks, mayonnaise and ground mustard. Try adding chili powder, red pepper and cumin for a Southwest variation or dill weed and parsley for a dill and mustard version.



EASY LEMON DAISY CUPCAKES

Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 18

1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons pure lemon extract, divided
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
¼ cup (½ stick) butter, softened
2 tablespoons sour cream
1 package (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar
10 drops McCormick Yellow Food Color
18 large marshmallows

Decorating sugar
Jelly beans
Green sprinkles

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding 1 tablespoon of lemon extract. Spoon into 18 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup ¾ full. Bake as directed for cupcakes. Cool cupcakes on wire rack. For frosting, beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream and remaining 2 teaspoons lemon extract in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Stir in food color until evenly tinted. Frost cooled cupcakes. To decorate cupcakes, cut each marshmallow crosswise into 5 slices. Sprinkle 1 side of each marshmallow slice with decorating sugar. Arrange 5 marshmallow petals on top of each cupcake to resemble daisy, pressing marshmallows into frosting. Place jelly beans in center of petals. Garnish with sprinkles.