

#### **BLOWING THE WHISTLE** OFFICIATING RANKS TAKE A HIT

**SPECIAL REPORT, B1** 

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## **WAYNE-WESTLAND**



Two facing charges in Norwayne fire

Staff Write

Two people are facing criminal charges in connection with an arson fire at a Westland home

Westland resident Westley Simmons, , was arraigned Tuesday in Westland 18th District Court on charges of second-degree arson, two counts of animals-killing torturing over two cats that died inside the home and being an habitual offender with three or more prior felonies. Bond was set at \$500,000 cash or surety.

Carolyn Hennison, 44, of Taylor, was also ar-raigned Tuesday on a charge of being an accessory after the fact to a felony. Her bond was set \$10,000/ten percent

Not guilty pleas were entered for



both and probable cause hearings were set for

The fire was reported at 7:35 p.m. at 32612 Montmorency Court in Norwayne

The house is occupied but no one was home. We went out today to dig it out," Wayne-Westland Assistant Chief/

Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said Monday

"We have ruled out an electrical fire. The floor was consistent with possible our patterns. We've sent samples to the Michigan State Police for analysis.

Another indication of arson, Eggers said, was how rapidly the fire spread and the amount of damage that resulted. He noted firefighters arrived within fire spread should be sufficient to the spread of the spread five minutes of being called about smoke to find flames coming out a rear

See FIRE, Page A2



Gospel singer Kirk Franklin talks with radio host Randi Myles, who was broadcasting live from the Westland St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.

## Singer visits for store water drive

An award-winning Gospel singer dropped in to a lend a hand during a Good Friday water drive to benefit Flint residents at a Westland charity

Seven-time Grammy winner Kirk Franklin visited the St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and Donation Center on Wayne Road and Hunter It's one of 11 thrift stores operated by St. Vincent de Paul in southeast Michigan.
Praise 102.7 host Randi Myles broad-

cast live during the event at the store. St. Vincent de Paul staff collected water donations along with donated toiletry supplies

For more than 130 years, St. Vincent de Paul has provided vital services in southeast Michigan, including food, shelter, medical and dental care, utility assistance, disaster relief and emergency support. St. Vincent de Paul also provides outreach programs to the youth and elderly, including Camp Izanami and the Matching Nutrition Cen-



**B7** 

Community activist Tarence Wheeler and radio host Randi Myles draw a name for the Kirk

## Nankin **Transit** chief touts upgrades

James Ridener is getting the word out on a new and improved Nankin Tran-

The curb-to-curb service for those age 55 and up and disabled people is for Garden City, Inkster, Wayne and West-land. It began in 1976. Ridener, former Westland police chief, has headed up

Wankin Transit the past two years.

"If you were riding with me, you were riding in handcuffs," he joked with Westland Rotarians at a March 17 Joy Manor luncheon, referencing his early days with Nankin Transit learning the

"It's still more economical than tak-ing a taxi cab, Uber," Ridener said. It now operates 10 new buses, which will

mark one year on the road in July, all with wheelchair lifts. Cost is

\$3 for a one-way ride. Nankin Transit buses will pick up residents at home and take them any where within the cities of Garden City, Inkster, Wayne and Westland and up to one mile outside of

those boundaries. It also serves St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and Beau-

Ridener

mont/Oakwood Main in Dearborn.
Canton had started with the service and later opted out, Ridener noted.
Many residents use the service for jobs, medical appointments and even enter-tainment like movies.

Rides can now be scheduled up to 10 days in advance. "That's some anxiety we wanted to try to take away," he said of seniors with medical appointments to

keep.
When Ridener arrived, a "scheduling board" was still used and technology needed to be incorporated. He noted about half a year to right the ship on finances, which included a fare hike, a look at expenses such as fuel and buses not being in use, health cost relief from the union, and a millage.

The added software, with drivers now also using tablets, means buses are used more efficiently, Ridener said. "The system serves an underserved population," he said, citing his 83-yearold father who faces surgery as an ex-

"How do you get around when you don't have that?" Ridener asked of car

He estimated Nankin Transit operates now at 70 percent capacity so could accommodate more users, such as a

See TRANSIT, Page A2



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**Business** Crossword Puzzle Entertainment .....

INDEX

Food.

Homes **B6** Jobs Obituaries. 89 Opinion

Services .. Wheels



## Home Equity Loans



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#### Spring means compost collection

The calendar may say it is spring, but weather reports call for possible snow over the weekend.

But the official start of spring has arrived as weekly compost resumes in Wayne and Westland. The curbside collection of yard waste resumes Friday, April 1, in Wayne, and Monday, April 4, in Westland. Yard waste is col-

lected on regular trash collection days and will continue through the week of Dec. 15. Yard waste is grass clippings, leaves, very small twigs, potting soil, garden fruits and vegetables and old flowers. Yard waste cannot be placed in plastic bags; it can go in

trash cans labeled "yard waste" or kraft paper yard waste bags. Compost in trash containers should not weigh more

than 50 pounds.

» Separate yard waste from regular trash by about 10 feet in Wayne, four feet in Westland.

» Mark the yard waste containers with "yard waste" stickers. The stickers are available at city hall or the Department of Public

Works.

» Branches need to be cut into three-foot lengths and tied into bundles that weigh no more than 50 pounds

#### CORRECTION

A story in the Sunday, March 27, Observer should have said the pastor at St. Robert Bellar-mine is the Rev. Richard Leliaert and that Cabrini High School is located in Allen Park



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## Plymouth Township teen gets prison in murder plot

Robert Allen

At an age when most kids are thinking about graduating from high school and heading to college, Roksana Sikorski only has prison to look forward to for the next 10-20 years of her life.

While her former classmates in the Plymouth-Canton Communi-ty Schools district are enjoying spring break this week, the waifish 17-year-old sat Monday trembling in a chair in the middle of a Wayne County courtroom, handcuffed and attired in an orange jail jumpsuit, waiting to hear the judge pronounce his sentence.

Sikorski was only 15 in October 2014, when she plotted with an adult boyfriend to kill her family inside their Ply-mouth Township home in what the county prose-cutor called a "truly haunting" plan. She got a fish fillet knife, sneaked into her 12-year-old brother's room, put her hand over his mouth and



Sikorski

put a knife to his throat. As he reacted, the knife

cut deep into his flesh. The boy screamed, alerting the rest of the family. Sikorski dropped the knife and fled out-side, where her then 23-year-old boyfriend — who police say had been texting her instructions on how to carry out the killings — was waiting. They were soon arrested.

Despite being the target of the plot, Lau rene and Jeff Sikorski start, even hiring an attorney to represent her They said the teen stands 4-foot-8 and weighs 95 pounds — suffered from depression and was manipulated by her older boyfriend.

Sikorski's parents adopted her and two siblings from Poland more than a decade ago after the children endured an abusive early childhood. They say her co-defendant, Michael Rivera, now 24, coerced her into the conspiracy, and they blame law enforcement for not arrest ing him sooner after he had illegal sex with her. "She's in desperate

need of continued psy-chological help," Laurene Sikorski told the court Monday before sentencing. "She is still fragile and an adult prison would shatter her del-icate world. How will sentencing her as an adult help her? Is this justice?"

Roksana Sikorski took

a plea deal Feb. 22 to one

count of assault with intent to murder in exchange for six other felony counts getting dropped. Rivera is serv-ing a life sentence after being convicted by jury on all seven counts.

Sikorski tearfully apologized to her family Monday "for not being the daughter they wished I would be. And I prom-ise that I will get better, no matter what happens."

Circuit Judge James

Callahan said this a case of a young person "swayed by an older person," who previously had victimized her with "inappropriate sexual behavior." He said that given the investigation's findings, she may have had second thoughts, as the injury custoined by the injury sustained by her brother appears to have been "more of his being aroused ... from her initial action" than from her cutting into

him.
"This is truly an un-Callahan said, as he sentenced her to 10-20 years in prison.

#### FIRE

Continued from Page A1

The occupant of the home arrived home to find her former stepfather, 47, unexpectedly at the home. The man and the occupant's mother, who owns the home as a rental property, were reported to have been recently divorced.

"It is a rental property and the owner had been letting her daughter and son stay at the home," Eggers said. "The former stepfather had occasion-ally stayed at the home also in the past.'

The occupant had arrived home a minute or two before she called 911 to report the fire, Eggers said, and began questioning the former stepfather about why he was at the home Saturday night.

to collect a television that belonged to him. He was very insistent that she leave with him now," Eggers said. "Then he ran down the driveway, jumped into his car and drove off."

"He said he was there

At that point, he said that the woman noticed smoke and called 911, never having gone inside the house. No injuries were reported.

"There was significant

damage to the house. There was minor structural damage but the interior and contents were destroyed with fire, smoke and water dam-age," Eggers said. Simmons was arrested Sunday in Standish and

subsequently brought back in custody by Westland Police.

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

#### TRANSIT

Continued from Page A1

young person in his 20s with a short-term disability of broken legs. Nan-

kin Transit's office has moved into the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center in Westland's Norwayne community.

Nankin Transit operates 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday,

other than major holidays and the week be-tween Christmas and New Year's Day. Its business office is at 734-729-2720, the website ww.nankintransit.com

Ridener said the

SMART regional bus system contributes, as do the communities served by Nankin Tran-

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## Local residents among DPS principals charged

Stafford, Kathleen Gray and Ann Zaniewski

Michigan.com

In its latest crackdown on school corruption in Detroit, the federal government Tuesday dropped a legal bomb on 12 current and former principals, one administrator and a vendor - all of them charged with running a nearly \$1 million bribery and kick back scheme involving school supplies that were rarely ever delivered.

At the heart of the alleged scheme is businessman Norman Shy, 74, of Franklin, who is ac cused of paying \$908,500 in kickbacks and bribes to at least 12 Detroit Public School principals who used him as a school supply vendor in exchange for money some for as little as \$4,000, another for \$324,000. He secretly did this for 13 years, scam-ming school after school

with the help of princi pals who benefited along the way, prosecutors allege.

Among others charged are Josette Buendia, 50, of Garden City, principal at Bennett Elementary School, charged with accepting \$45,775 in kickbacks from Shy; and Tia' Von Moore-Patton, 46, of Farmington Hills principal of Jerry White Center High School, charged with accepting \$4,000 in kickbacks from

Shy.
The news of the corruption case comes at a critical time as the state grapples with fixing the finances of the strug-gling Detroit district, the largest school system in Michigan. DPS has been under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager since 2009 and has accumulated an operating deficit of at least \$515 million.

Just last week, the Legislature passed \$48.7



TRESA BALDAS | MICHIGAN.COM

U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade discusses corruption in Detroit Public Schools

million in emergency funding to ensure that DPS doesn't run out of cash early next month, as well as put the district under the authority of a financial review commission to oversee the dis-

trict's finances
"This is exactly why House Republicans were so adamant that strong fiscal oversight be a prerequisite to any addi-

tional state funding for Detroit's corrupt and broken school admini-stration," Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, said in a news release Tuesday. "And it is why we will continue to insist that strong financial and aca demic reforms be a part of any long-term solution to decades of DPS fail-

U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade announced the sweeping charges at a news conference Tues-day afternoon, calling the case "a punch in the gut." McQuade stressed

that the charges have nothing to do with DPS's existing financial trou-bles, or the political debate surrounding wheth-er the state should help the city's struggling school system.

"Public corruption never comes at a good time," McQuade said. "This case is not about DPS. It is not about emer gency managers. It is about these 14 individuals who breached their

McQuade noted that the charges stem from a two-year-old audit of the **Education Achievement** Authority, a state-formed agency that was supposed to oversee and help Detroit's most trou-bled schools. That audit raised red flags, including one that led to the

eventual indictment of former principal Kenyet-ta Wilbourn Snapp, who pleaded guilty to bribery two months ago and agreed to cooperate with the government in its prosecution against oth-

The Free Press attempted to contact attorneys for all 14 defendants. Only one offered to comment. Most were unavailable; two declined comment, saying it was too premature to discuss the case.
McQuade said DPS

and the defendants are cooperating. They were all charged in a document known as an "information," which is similar to an indictment, but does not involve a grand jury. Prosecutors often bring charges by way of an information in cases where the govern-ment believes a plea deal will be reached. McQuade would not comment on any prospective plea deals in this case.

#### Volunteer youth mentors needed

**LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

A few good people are needed to volunteer to spend an hour or two each week with a young-ster who needs some support and direction.

I like the mentors to come from different backgrounds and experi-ence. We need people who are reliable, consistent and a good listener,"
Westland Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz said. "They're not necessarily giving kids an-



helping them navigate the decisionmaking

Westland Youth Assistance is holding

a mentor training session over three days: 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 9, and 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 12.

"We have a nice group signed up, but I would like to have a few slots I would like to fill," Motz said. "It's interactive training. They learn a lot more about our program and that kids that we deal with and support."

During the training. Motz said some youngsters who have been mentored previously and already trained mentors will share their experi-

Currently, 13 youngsters are being mentored, with another 14 kids on a waiting list for a mentor. Most of the youngsters waiting for a mentor are girls, Motz said, in part likely due to a greater willingness by girls to talk about their lives.

'None of us are per fect, that's for sure. We need people who are accepting of youths," Motz said.

Among the youngsters served by Youth Assistance. Motz said 70 percent come from singleparent homes with at least 75 percent low or very low income. The mentors can help provide some additional adult guidance for the young-

"Meeting with the mentors gives the kids a chance to focus on their own life, their future and goals," Motz said. "I really like it when you see the transformation after a time. The young person is more directed, happier and more confident. The mentor has a big role in

Anyone interested in participating in the threeday training session is asked to contact Westland Youth Assistance at 734-467-7904 by Tuesday, April 5.

lrogers@hometownlife.com 734-883-9039

## Northville actress leads in Plymouth stage show



Frank McCay is one of the actors in the "Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens.

A Northville woman takes a lead role in "Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens" of Better Than Ever Productions at the PARC, 650 Church, in downtown Plymouth.

Set in the small town of Sweetgum, Texas, the three Verdeen cousins, Jimmy Wyvette – played by SuzyQ Storey of Northville – Peaches and Gaynelle decide to impress the governor of Texas with their party planning expertise by

organizing the last re-union of the old high school that's about to be torn down. But of course, in typical Jones, Hope, Wooten style, everything that can go wrong does.

Jimmy Wyvette gets herself in trouble with the law, Peaches (De-nene Pollock of Ypsilan-ti) winds up agreeing to a date with a surprising personality and Gaynelle (Lynda Trygg of West-land) gets herself roped into a bet with her mean

old Aunt LaMerle (Ruth Butts of Canton) that could wind up changing her life forever.

The show is stage at 7 nm. Thursday through Saturday, March 31 and April 1-2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased at betterthaneverprod.wix.com/btep or call 734-306-7883.



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## Two men sought for tool theft at Lowe's store

Westland Police are requesting the public's assistance identifying two suspects wanted in connection with the theft of a large amount of construction tools from a vehicle

On March 10, the victim arrived at the Westland Lowe's store, 6555 N Newburgh, and went inside to shop. Upon returning to his vehicle, he told police that he had discovered that it had been broken into and many of his tools had been stolen.

Upon checking surveillance tapes at the store, police obtained photos of two suspects and a vehicle that were involved in the incident.

Suspect one was described as a white male in his 30s.

approximately 5-foot-10 with a thin build, short brown hair, wearing a black Carhartt-type coat, blue jeans, and black

Suspect two was described as a white male in his 30s, approximately 5-foot-10 with a medium build, goatee, dark hair, wearing a gray hat, gray hooded sweatshirt, and blue jeans.

The suspect vehicle is described as a 2000s Chevrolet Silverado, black, extended cab, 4 door, with a silver toolbox in the bed.

Anyone who can help identify the suspects is asked to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Jeff Kavanaugh at 734-467-



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

This vehicle was driven by two men wanted in connection with a shoplifting incident at Lowe's in Westland.



WESTLAND POLICE
DEPARTMENT

This is one of two suspects wanted in connection with a larceny from a vehicle parked at Lowe's in Westland.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

This is one of two suspects wanted for breaking into a vehicle and stealing tools at the Westland Lowe's store

#### Stolen vehicle

A resident in the 4100 block of Winifred told police March 22 that someone had stolen her 2014 Dodge Journey from her driveway overnight. She said the payments were current and the car was fully insured. The owner did tell police that she had lost one set of keys several months ago, but had the second set in her possession.

#### Vandalism

The owner of a 1986 motor home told police March 24 that

#### WAYNE COP CALLS

someone had smashed a rear side window while it was parked at his home in the 4400 block of Randolph. He noted random fruits and vegetables on the ground below the smashed window.

#### Vehicle searched

A resident in the 4400 block of Mildred told police March 22 that overnight someone had searched his vehicle and a few unspecified items were missing.

#### Larceny

A resident in the 4800 block of Woodward told police March 26 that a hubcap was missing from his vehicle.

- By LeAnne Rogers

#### Break-in

Police were called March 23 to a home in the 1600 block of Helen after the homeowner was alerted that his burglar alarm had been activated. The man said his wife and child had left approximately 45 minutes earlier

When he arrived home, the rear door had been pried open. He said that nothing appeared to have to be missing or disturbed. The alarm company reported that someone had unsuccessfully attempted to use the key pad to disarm the alarm. The homeowner also noted that he has a large pit bull which was loose in the home.

#### **Vandalism**

A couple told police March 22 that from Feb. 22-26, they had a Roseville woman — the wife's friend — stay at their home in the 28000 block of Barton to watch their kids while they were away. The friend had been given permission to use their vehicle while she was watching the children. Talking with the kids while

Talking with the kids while they were away, the couple said they learned the woman hadn't been staying at the house. They said the woman was told she couldn't stay at the house any longer and she mentioned something was wrong with the car.

When they returned, the

husband said he found all of the dash board lights on his 2014 Volkswagen Jetta were lit. He said he took the car to the dealership, where they reported damage to the rear seat, a hole in the plastic under the seat cushion, fraying of the seat belt and a wire. There was also a bot missing on the seat

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

The man told police that his kids had overheard the woman and her boyfriend talking about drugs. That led the man to conclude the vehicle was possibly damaged in effort to create a spot to hide drugs.

#### Vandalism

belt harness.

Overnight March 24, a resident in the 31000 block of Leo-

na told police that someone had smashed the rear window on her vehicle.

#### Fraud

On March 28, a Garden City woman told police that she attempted to file her federal income taxes Feb. 24 and was told someone had already filed using her name and Social Security number. She said she hadn't filed a police report because she wasn't getting a refund and was able to get her state refund.

The woman, who had her taxes completed a the Maplewood Community Center, said that she received a letter March 22 from a credit report service about someone at-

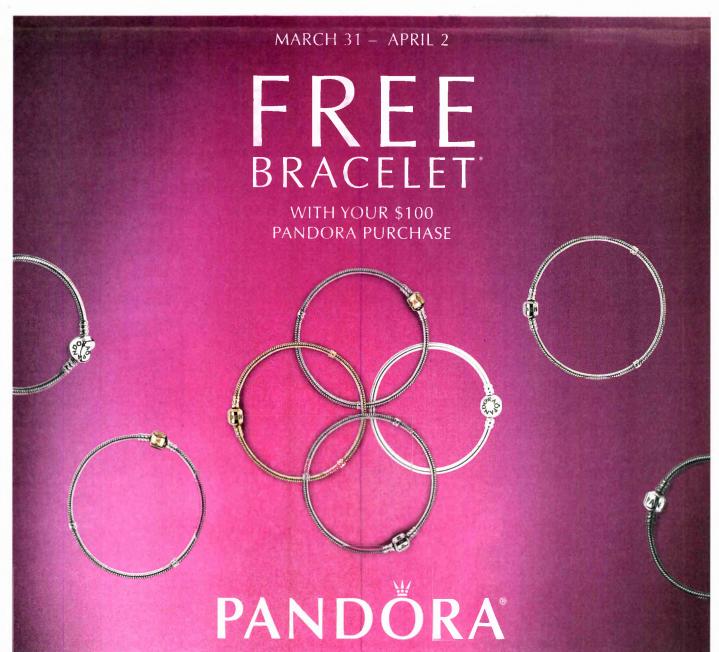
tempting to use her name and Social Security number to open a credit card. The application was denied.

#### Suspended license

» A Westland man stopped for driving with a cracked windshield March 28 was arrested for driving with a suspended license. He was cited for defective equipment and no proof of insurance.

» On March 29, a Dearborn man stopped for a defective headlight was arrested for driving with two license suspensions. He also had two warrants.

— By LeAnne Rogers





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## FIRST robotics challenge 'like a giant community' for area high school teams

Julie Brown

The Plymouth-Canton Lightning 862 robotics team was on hand to set up, tear down and inspect robots, as well as to serve as technical advisers and to keep score while other teams competed in the FIRST in Michigan District competition Saturday in Livonia

But the Lightning 862 team will in the spotlight this coming weekend when it competes in Troy, said Jay Obsniuk, adviser and Canton High

adviser and canton right School teacher. Meanwhile, Novi Detroit Catholic Central High School students Mark Didonato and Keaton Mulcahy were glad to be at the FIRST in Michigan District Event, competing among 40 high school robotics

"We're doing very well," said Didonato, 17, a CC senior who lives in Ann Arbor. The who lives in Allii Arbot. The event ran March 24-26 at Livo-nia Churchill High School; early Saturday, Catholic Cen-tral was eighth of the 40

"We have a certain amount of ranking points. We still have a couple competitions left," said Didonato, who plans to study electrical engineering at Kettering University and pursue a General Motors in-ternship.

The CC team has about 22

students and its members worked to get the FIRST program in school with sponsors and school support. "At first, there was a lot of math involved," Didonato said. "You got a lot of experience in the field."

He noted it helps with engineering study and college scholarships. Added freshman Mulcahy, a Canton resident, "I like the experience and I like how everyone works together. It's like a gient community."

It's like a giant community."

Mulcahy is mulling Michigan State University for engi neering and of robotics noted, "I love the hands-on." The CC team is the Shambots.

FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. For more information, go to

www.firstinmichigan.org.
"I would say it's a lot more
friendly than I thought it
would be," Didonato said of the Churchill-based competi-tion. "Even on the opposing

team, they would help us out." Nearby were the Hackbots of the Farmington Public Schools, from Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington high schools. Mark Skodack, a Wixom resident and their teacher and coach, and is on the staff at Farmington High.

The Hackbots have about 70 students, Skodack said, and are in their fourth year as a unified team. "This is our fourth robot," he said. The FPS team has been to

Worlds competition in St. Louis, Mo., four years ago and is striving to return. "It was a good experience," Skodack said. "It's a lot of connecting the dots with their core class." es. They're in there, they're problem-solving. They're owning it. Our kids this year are taking an outstanding initia-

The FPS team now has some college students in engineering, FPS grads who assist. Skodack noted multiple teams from pneumatics to safety.

"It's almost like a small business," he said. "A business has to market, a business has to be safe. Six weeks to build a robot is tight for these kids. It gets their focus razor sharp."

Avery Cosier, 17, is a junior at Farmington High and a Hackbot. This is her second year on the team.

"There are so many different subgroups," Cosier said. "You get to be really creative and apply things you've learned." Her plans are bio-chemistry study in college for

a dentistry career.
Cosier is the team brand manager, including marketing, imagery, graphics and the business plan

In competition, remote controlled robots, piloted by students and cheered on by fans, go head-to-head in short games on the floor of a sports arena, battling it out to earn points during a round.

Isolina Carlini is the team

leader and coach for Livonia Public Schools, whose Warrior team includes Stevenson, Churchill and Franklin high schools. The Warriors have 52 kids and 31 mentors, said Car-



TOM BEAUDOIN

e Memorial High School Bionic Zebras team 313 did well in this year's robotics competition. The Zebras also have a John Glenn High student.

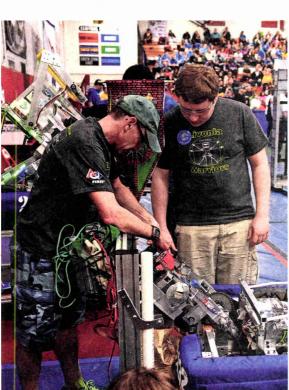


TOM BEAUDOIN

and Ben Lenze before the next round of the competition last weekend.



Thurston students Raj Patel, Chad Fletcher, Tyree Gregory and Jay Pettis and coach Heather Staley pose in the "pit" as they are ready for the robotics competition at Churchill High School.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Livonia students and mentors adjust their robotic creations at the Robotic competition this past Saturday

linl, a Livonia resident.

This is the sixth tournament hosted at Churchill. "It has a perfect layout for the competition," she said, noting some 2,000-2,500 people attend including students voltend, including students, volunteers and spectators.

"Everyone here is trying" to get to Worlds in St. Louis, Carlini said. "We are banter-ing for the position." She teaches English at

Holmes Middle School in Livo-nia and noted the three district middle schools feed into high school-level LPS robotics. "I think it gives them a handson experience that simply is not possible in the classroom," Carlini said. "It positions kids for success and scholarships and internships. Kids that like this kind of stuff, it really appeals to them.

Among enthused students is Joshua Johnson, 16, a Wayne Memorial High School junior on the Bionic Zebras team. "I actually think it's really good, Johnson said, adding of the FIRST event compared to other competitions, "I would say so far it's the best. I like the theme of it, the medieval theme.

This year's theme included use of a catapult arm to throw a ball through a target. The Bionic Zebras are mainly Wayne Memorial students in the Wayne-Westland district, plus a John Glenn High stu-dent. Johnson is at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center for welding.

Robots took over Churchill High School last weekend. He was working at Churchill with Trevor Davis of Garden City, a mentor who works at the Suburban of Garden City car dealership as a lube technician. Davis graduated from Wayne Memorial in

2007.
"Getting to teach the students about electrical and networking," Davis said of what he likes. "To teach students about networking and programming, it's fun." This is his seventh year as a mentor, with the Bionic Zebras having with the Bionic Zebras having 21 students.

"We tend to help out a lot of the new teams," said Johnson, who has found new friends through robotics. He's his

team's safety captain The volunteer mentors, often engineers, are key to team success. Andy Monique of Farmington is an engineer at FANUC with a son, Jay, 16, a sophomore at Farmington High, on the Hackbots team. "He just likes the whole program," Monique said. "I think it's very good for the kids and

TOM BEAUDOIN

their future."

Monique is an electrical/ software engineer. "There's a lot of opportunity out there in the engineering field," said Monique, in his first year as a

mentor.

"There's a big presence from Bosch," he said. "A lot of people contribute."

AISIN Group was the title sponsor for the FIRST in Michigan District Event at

## BUSINESS

**BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR** 

BKADRICH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-678-2386 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Chevy dealer helps disabled teen become wingman

**Scott Daniel** 

Until Wednesday, Jordan McKenzie had never ridden in the front seat of a car. Afflicted with a rare genetic disorder, the 13-year-old got his first taste of being the wingman when he and his family drove home in a brand new MV-1 from Matick Chevrolet in Red-

"This is a life-changing event for us," said Sandra McKenzie, his mother. 'We've been limited going anywhere with Jordan for a long time. For him to reach his full potential, we want to get him out into the world."

The family lives in Augusta Township, which sits directly south of Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County. They were able to purchase the vehicle, built by Indiana-based Mobility Ventures and designed from the ground up for people with disabilities, with the help of friends, family and busi-

"It was a combined effort to get this done,' Sandra McKenzie said 'We couldn't have done it without a lot of help."
The MV-1 retails for

around \$50,000, depending on options. Matick, one of two dealerships that offers the vehicle in Michigan, sold it to the McKenzies for substantially less.

"It's a game-changing product," said Karl Zimmermann, owner of Matick. The longtime Red-ford dealership, located at Telegraph Road and I-96, is transforming an adjacent office building into a mobility center which will sell the vehicle and offer therapeutic services starting later this year. "We want to make solutions for all of our customers' mobility needs. This really fits with that approach." The McKenzie family



Sandra McKenzie adjusts son Jordan's chair inside their new MV-1

SCOTT DANIEL

has been dealt more than its fair share of hard knocks

Until recently, Jordan had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Extensive testing revealed a genetic disorder known as ATR-X Syndrome, which causes a variety of physical and intellectual disabilities. The 13-year-old is

unable to speak, but can express emotion. As Sandra rolled his wheelchair into the MV-1, the teenager let out sounds of joy, which came as music to the ears of friends like

Nicole Markovits.

A grade-school classmate of Marc McKenzie. she has been friends with both Jordan's parents since 10th grade. She has been a main cog in "Team McKenzie," organizing spaghetti dinners and funds for medical bills.
"Marc and I grew up
together," Markovits
said. "He's such a great
dad."

Unfortunately, the elder McKenzie, 44, was diagnosed with cancer in January. Doctors re-moved his gall bladder and a portion of his intestine, but follow up testing revealed the can-cer had spread to his liver and other portions of his body. Sandra McKenzie said the family is hoping

for a miracle.

Like his wife and son, Marc McKenzie was happy to receive the new vehicle Wednesday. "She has been doing all of the heavy lifting for us lately," he said. "At least this vehicle will help her out. We're trying to focus on whatever positives we

can right now."
To donate to the McKenzie family, please visit their Go Fund Me at gofundme.com/jordans-van.

## Finding a financial adviser best for your situation

couple weeks ago, I sat down with a potential new client. The individual had contacted me after attending one of my semi-nars and wanted me to manage his money. He came into my office and we had a nice conversa-tion about the type of investor he is and his goals and objectives.

After the conversa-tion, much to the shock of the potential client, I told him that our firm was not the right firm for him and that he should con sider using a different adviser. Needless to say, the client was somewhat shocked that I would turn down his business. As I explained to him, I didn't want to turn down his business. As a profes-



Bloom MONEY MATTERS

sional, I know it's important to remember not every adviser is good for every individual. I explained to him that the things he wanted to do were not within my ex-pertise and the reason I was referring him to a different firm was because I wanted him to have the best profession al advice available. It is important for people to recognize there are dif-ferent types of financial advisers in the market and it's not one size fits

Financial advisers

or, sometimes as they're called, wealth managers – can be categorized in a number of different ways. Because I believe that professionals should be independent and work solely for the client, I believe one of the ways you should categorize an adviser is how they are

compensated. Some advisers are compensated by commissions. They receive compensation in a couple different ways. First, by selling you a product. Second, by receiving additional compensation year-by-year through higher fees associated with your product in many of those commission products they provide. My problem with commission salespeople

is they have dual loy-alties, the client and the company's product they

represent. In addition to the conflict of interest, the prob-lem I have with commission products in general is that it is very difficult to know exactly what you're paying in fees. When they make it diffi-cult to know what you're paying in fees, you know you're paying too much.

The second type of adviser is what is known as a fee-only adviser. A fee-only adviser only receives compensation directly from you. Most fee-only advisers will either work on a set fee or a percent for money under management. These advisers receive no compensation from

anyone other than their clients. One of the rea sons that I am a fee-only adviser is because I want to eliminate as many conflicts of interest as possible.

The third type of ad-viser charges fees and at the same time accepts commissions. Sometimes these advisers will offset the commission with the fee, other times they will not. The same objections I have to the commissiononly salespeople apply to these types of advisers as well. In addition, I think in many cases these ad-visers are double dipping

Another way that you categorize advisers is based upon their expertise. Some advisers will specialize in mutual

on fees

funds, others in individual stocks. Some advisers will implement more aggressive trading strategies than others

As far as I'm concerned, in selecting an adviser you not only have to look at how they are compensated, but also what their expertise is Just like medicine, where doctors can't be a jack of all trades, the same thing applies to financial advisers. The key is just not finding a good adviser; but finding a good adviser for you.

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

## ARLY BIRD SPECIA



#### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**



COURTESY ZEAL CREDIT UNION

Volunteering at Forgotten Harvest are Zeal Credit Union marketing team Kathy Hurt (from left), Jennifer Shelton, Tiffany Sweet, Lisa Fawcett, Beverly Outland and Bryan Feldpausch.



#### Zeal helps the hungry

What does 10 thousand ounds of carrots look like? The marketing team at Zeal Credit Union knows. On a recent Friday afternoon, this team worked as volunteers at Forgotten Harvest in Oak Park to repackage large crates of fresh carrots into grocery bags.

Forgotten Harvest is a Detroit area nonprofit that rescues surplus prepared and perishable food that is distributed to emergency food provid-ers to help feed the hun-

gry.
"It was a fun teambuilding project and made us feel good to do charitable work for such a worthy organization. said Lisa Fawcett, vice president of marketing for Zeal Credit Union. "We got a kick out of the fact that they had us

packaging carrots, and we were all dressed in our 'Zeal orange' logo

wear for the occasion."
Fawcett added that Forgotten Harvest receives a variety of perishable food like carrots, potatoes and other items and counts on volunteers to help repackage them for distribution

#### Top partner finalist Travis White of West-

land was named a finalist for Texas



Roadhouse Managing Partner of the Year award, which is

the compa-ny's highest honor He and 20

other outstanding managers were chosen from a pool of more than 450.

'These 21 managing partners kicked it to the moon and back in 2015,"

Texas Roadhouse Founder and CEO Kent Taylor said. "Each is a dynamic superstar in their own right. All consistently exceed goals, provide caring environments for their people, legendary food and service to guests, and are true community partners. They contribute to our overall success with outstanding leadership that helps shape the future of Texas Roadhouse.'

The Managing Partner of the Year will receive a new Corvette, a check for \$25,000, a lead crystal replica of a Texas Roadhouse restaurant, a Managing Partner of the Year ring and a gold belt buck-

White has been the Managing Partner of the store located at 36750 Ford Road in Westland for three years, and has been with Texas Roadhouse for 10 years.

www.livoniastmichael.org/sms • Look for us on Facebook!



The Rugiero Family cordially invites you to join them for their 2016 Special Events

"Help us keep our promise for a better tomorrow!



**Rugiero Promise Foundation** is a 501C-3 organization.

> Go to our website www.antoniorestuarants.com for event update.

#### 2016 ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL **USA METRO** DETROIT

Come Join Us Every Weekend March 30th - April 24th

Come join us and celebrate the 12th Annual Italian Film Festival USA.

This year we are pleased to collaborate again with the 12th Annual Detroit Italian Film Festival as a National Sponsor bringing 14 award-winning Italian films to venues around the metro area and 13 other cities in the USA.

www.italianfilmfests.org or call 248-930-6017 All films are FREE and open to the general public.



8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL **OPERA DAY** 

Thursday, May 5th, 2016 Celebrating 8 years of supporting the arts in Michigan

Dine with us on Opera Day, Thursday May 5th ~ a portion of proceeds from this day will be donated to The Michigan Opera Theater.

Pick up your Discount Voucher April 10th - May 5th

Dine with us - Receive a 25% Discount Voucher to purchase tickets for any opera performance of THE MAGIC FLUTE, (surg in English) May 14th - May 22nd

#### 23RDANNUAL **FEAST** ST. ANTONIO Monday, June 13th

Benefiting Capuchin Soup Kitchen The Holy Year of Mercy 2016

Donate what you can and enjoy a free lunch buffet from 11am - 3pm, or order off the regular priced menu 11am - 10pm. A portion of the proceeds benefit the

Capuchin Soup Kitchen. (Antonio's locations only)



FESTA DEL GELATO

June 27th - July 3rd (closed July 4th) FREE Gelato when you dine with us, lunch or dinner.

(Dining room only)

#### FERRARI FRIDAY

July 1st 5 - 8 pm

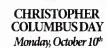
Displaying the Finest Cars of Italy. We welcome Ferrari owners to join us in displaying their vehicles this evening and enjoy a complimentary dinner.

(Some exclusion apply) Canton location only

#### Month of October BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

\$2 donated for every Large Pizza sold in the month of October. Benefiting "Breast Friends Forever" at St. Joseph's Mercy Health System supporting uninsured or underinsured women who are in need of treatment.

In memory of Fernanda Santioni Benefiting Breast Cancer Awareness



"In 1492, Christopher Columbus

sailed the Ocean Blue . . . Order any entrée off the menu and pay \$14.92

includes dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage. (Dine-in only, tax and gratuity not included, some exclusions apply)



#### **SALUTING OUR** VETERANS

Veterans Day, November 11th All past and present U.S. military receive 50% off lunch or dinner hen presenting military ID. (Dinein Only) A portion of proceeds benefit the Veterans Outreach Project of Southeast Michigan.



#### 6<sup>TH</sup> RUGIERO CASINO **ROYALE**

November 12, 2016 The Rugiero family along with the University of Michigan Invite you to the 6th Rugiero Casino Royale at the (Location TBD)



Join us for the **Charity Event** of the Year!

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LUNCH with SANTA! Santa is visiting two Antonio's locations!

Two seatings: 11am and 1pm



Saturday and Sunday, December 3" & 4 [CANTON]

Sunday, December 11th [DEARBORN HGTS.]

This very popular event includes a delicious buffet lunch with healthy food choices plus Antonio's specialties, fun crafts for all ages, picture with Santa and live Reindeer!

Reservations will be taken after November 1ª by calling (734) 981-9800 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. (Seating is limited)

Tickets: \$21 per person, children 3 and under \$5 +20% tip will be added Benefiting Wayne County Good Fellows

All locations - unless specified. For details on each event visit www.antoniosrestaurants.com







Proud to collaborate as a national sponsor in 14 cities



testivai<sub>usa</sub>

www.italianfilmfests.org



## All films are FREE

Local premieres of award winning contemporary films in original language with English subtitles

> JOIN US ON THE WEEKENDS March 30th - April 24th

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## **OPINION**

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

## Home improvement scams common in spring

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard is warning people to watch for door-to-door home improvement scammers, a perennial spring problem. Scammers can strike at any time, although they're especially prevalent in spring.

Such scammers often target seniors, said Bou-chard, as those seniors are often home alone. "They

often are unable to do some of the jobs that are being pitched to them," he noted.

Driveway and roof repair are often two common pitches. In many cases, two scammers will approach the home, with one asking to use the bathroom and then taking advantage of the absence to steal items such as jewelry or blank checks from the back of a checkbook

checkbook.

"Sometimes they try to gain access to the house for

nefarious purposes. Never let somebody in your house ever that you don't know," Bouchard said.

When it comes to high-pressure tactics to sign a contact, "There's no rush," he said, noting reputable businesses will be around in the future to do business with. "Most are bonded, insured and they have refer-

In some cases, a scammer will climb up on a roof, hit it with a hammer to do damage and then pressure a senior who's unable to look for herself, Bouchard

sealor who is unable to look for herself, Bouchard said. Sealing of driveways is often done by scammers using cheap black paint that doesn't last.

If you feel threatened, don't hesitate to call police, said Bouchard, noting they'd rather check out situations that prove harmless later rather than have someone be victimized. You should always read a con-

tract carefully, and can take your time by asking a son, daughter or trustworthy neighbor to review the contract as well prior to signing anything.

Bouchard also touts the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan as a source of business information. The local BBB is online at www.bbb.org/detroit/ and also takes calls at 248-223-9400. Its general email is info@easternmichiganbhb.org ganbbb.org

The Oakland County sheriff recommends you ask

about bonding and insurance, for example what will happen if a hired worker falls and is injured.

References should also always be checked out thoroughly, he added. Don't let your springtime be one in which you're victimized by a home improvement scommer. ment scammer.

**LETTERS** 

#### GOP's philosophy failed in Flint

People can argue about who is to blame for the Flint water crisis, but one thing is clear. The lead poisoning in Flint's water is a failure of the basic Republican governing philosophy - the idea that we can and should run government like a business. Gov. Rick Snyder is the epitome of that philosophy. His only credentials as a candi-date were those of a business executive. He orga-nized his administration around spreadsheets and dashboards. He looked at numbers and ignored people. He overthrew democracy in the name of the bottom line.

After the people of Flint complained to Sny-

der's Department of Environmental Quality and were ignored, Snyder blamed "bu-reaucrats" for relying on an overly legalistic interpretation of the rules to ridicule their concerns about the water.

Snyder claims none of this was his fault and calls for a new culture in state government that says "taking care of our citizens has to be part of it." For the people of Flint, it's way too late. But for the rest of us, every election from now on is a chance to soundly reject the Republican "government is just business" philosophy. Judy Daubenmier

Brighton

**GUEST COLUMN** 

### Keeping 'community' in mental health

■ar too many of our ■friends and neighbors suffer every day with the struggles trials and tribulations of mental health conditions. They all too often suffer alone bearing their burdens the rest of us cannot

Those of us who do not bear such a burden can, and should, do more. We can be there to listen. We can offer to help. We can do what we are asked to

But, we can do more than that. We must do more than that. We must erase the stigma surrounding mental illness in all its forms so that our friends and neighbors do

not suffer in silence. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Act. This was the first of several federal policy changes that helped to stimulate a major transformation of the public mental health system, shifting re-sources away from insti-

William Wild GUEST COLUMNIST

tutionalization and into community-based mental health treatment programs. This was a bold new

approach to addressing mental health. But, for decades the country failed to develop the appropriate resources and staffing adequate to treat and support individ-uals in community-based settings. To this day, far too many public mental health systems remain critically underfunded

and understaffed. We have Values Driven Leadership right here in Southeast Michigan. For years, the for-mer Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Board was one of them, struggling to create a strategy to help those with mental illness, espe-cially those with serious

nental illness who would likely fall through the cracks of society. When the decision was

made to form the De-troit-Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWCHMA), new ways to help people deal with mental illness started to become a priority. Under the DWMHA and its president and CEO Tom Watkins, they were not going to allow the broken system, nor would they let partisan politics in-terfere with common

sense solutions. The DWMHA has instituted stronger re-forms that have improved services and no longer tolerate using the prison system as a de facto mental health pro-

What has impressed me most about the DWMHA is their outreach and partnership they have built with the broader community.
They have trained more than 10,000 first responders, clergy, parents and

the general public in Mental Health First Aid training and were recent-ly recognized nationally for their leadership for truly engaging the com-munity — in mental health. With the support of the Flinn Foundation they produced: Opening Minds-Ending Stigma A Youth Perspective — view it on YouTube. As First Lady Mi-

chelle Obama said, "Whether an illness affects your heart, your leg or your brain, it's still an illness, and there should be no distinction ... It's time to tell everyone dealing with a mental health issue that ... get-ting support isn't a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength."

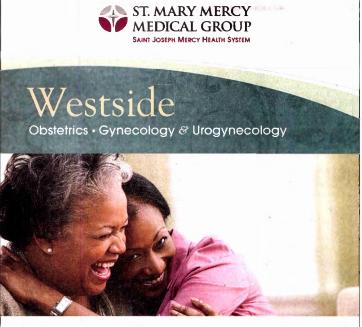
We are not there yet, but, thanks to Tom Watkins and the good folks at the DWMHA, we are finally on the path.

William R. Wild is mayor of Westland and chairman of the Conference of Western Wayne.

WAYNE-WESTLAND

**Brad Kadrich** Community editor Larry Ruehlen, Managing editor

Jani Havden Advertising director



#### Women's Health Presentations

Dr. Paul Makela, urogynecologist, provides insight and education about a variety of female conditions including bladder dysfunction, overactive bladder and pelvic prolapse. Grab a friend, your sister or mom and learn about the latest therapies and procedures available that may eliminate or reduce your symptoms or pain, and improve your quality of life. Attend any date!

#### April 20 · May 18 · June 15

St. Mary Mercy Livonia Classrooms 1 and 2 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia

5:45 p.m. - Check-in • 6 p.m. - Presentation

#### **REGISTER NOW!**

The presentations are free, but registration is required. Please call 734-655-1980. Light refreshments will be served.

**Discover**Remarkable

stmarymercy.org/westside

ATTENTION WARTIME VETERANS, FAMILIES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES...

Join us for an informative workshop on the

## Aid & Attendance Benefit

Presented by Mall Malisow & Cooney, PC Holistic Estate & ElderCare Attorneys of Farmington Hills

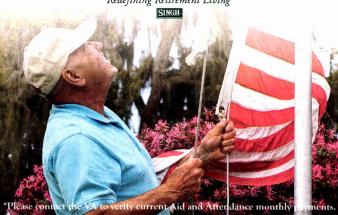
#### Thursday, April 21st 6:00 p.m.

Did you know that you may qualify to receive up to \$2,120/month for senior housing benefits from Veterans Benefits?\*

Space is limited for this free event; call today!

RSVP by April 18th





Independent Living & Licensed Assisted Living 2250 N Canton Center Rd., Canton

Multiple locations in Canton. See our sister community on Cherry Hill Rd.

www.Waltonwood.com

## Some 400 area teens turn out for a 'modest' prom

**Amanda Ordaz** 

Local teens said they enjoyed an atmosphere where "no one rejects you or criticizes your terrible dance moves" and "the music has no swearing or sexual content" after some 400 of them attended a winthem attended a win-ter formal dance themed, "Out of this World," hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints.
The dance took place Saturday, March 19, at the Westland Stake Center.
Teens came from as

far away as Saline, Troy and Toledo for the dance. The church, with more than 15 million members worldwide, is organized into geographical sections called stakes (similar to a Catholic diocese). Each stake takes turns hosting a dance, so teens from across the Detroit area can socialize with each other in what organizers call "a wholesome environment without compromising the standards they strive to keep in their daily lives."

"This is an important event, as many youth are not comfortable attending their high school dances where clothing, music and dancing are not in line with church stan-dards," said Lisa Niel-sen, Westland Stake Young Women's president. "Youth can expect to enjoy dancing, so-cializing, eating and getting their pictures taken in the photo booth."

Guidelines regarding standards of dress and behavior were sent to local youth leaders to inform the teens of expectations before the dance. "We try to do everything we can to encourage appropriate dress before they get to the dance, so that we don't give our youth negative experiences to associate church dances with," Nielsen said.

Guidelines for the dances come from "For the Strength of Youth," a booklet produced by

the church. Membership in the church was not requisite for attending the dance, but adhering to the standards were. Alisha Burnside of Canton invited four of her



Some 400 teens turned out for the winter formal dance.



JESSICA MCALLISTER Alisha Burnside of Canton brought four friends to the dance.

friends from school, who opted to attend the church dance instead of their school dance, which was held the same night.

Alisha was respon sible for informing and ensuring that her friends, who are not members of the church, followed the guidelines. Her friends commented that it was difficult to find affordable kneelength dresses with sleeves. Alisha made her own skirt for the dance. Elizabeth DeBri-to of Canton said she appreciated that the teens at the church dance "understood personal space, unlike school.

Jessica McAllister of Novi has volunteered countless hours planning and leading the decorating efforts for the past three years.

Notice of Public Sale

City of Livonia Accident and Impounded Vehicles Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Inspection begins at 8:30 am Auction starts at 9:00 am Location: Livonia Towing 12955 Levan Livonia, MI 48150

"I myself was there for 17 hours over three days ,but I had over 30-40 people helping me get the job done at different times each day," McAllister said. "It was a lot of hard work from many volunteers that made it a success."

Jason Mero of Canton operates his own DJ business, but provides music for church dances at no cost. He admits "it is difficult" to find music that follows the church guidelines, which includes music with no vulgar or offensive language.

Nielsen said there
was "something special" about the dance.
"It's an experience

with wholesome fun that cannot be experienced at most school dances anymore," she

### Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin ...Dinner Show From Las Vegas



"With Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin... chemistry is the key work to the success of this clever and talented duo"

"...Sacco, Morello will keep you laughing all night long!"

## SATURDAY, APRIL 9 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
19801 FARMINGTON RD., LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
(BETWEEN 7 & 8 MILES)

Box Office: (248) 473-7777

Tickets: \$35 (tickets include dinner & Show) Dinner at 5pm, Show will Follow

THE BILLY JOEL & ELTON DINNER-DANCE SHOW SUNDAY MAY 22, AT 5 PM HTTP://WWW.ROSECATERING.COM

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 2016 SIDEWALK AND CONCRETE REPAIR PROGRAM WATER MAIN BREAK LOCATIONS, CONTRACT 16-F

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 12th, 2016 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

> Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at  $\underline{www.mitn.info}$

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 2016 SIDEWALK AND CONCRETE REPAIR PROGRAM WATER MAIN BREAK LOCATIONS, CONTRACT 16-F, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening

City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bi-agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Todd J. Zilincik, P.E. City Engineer Published: March 31, 2016 Dennis K. Wright

Vehicles to be auctioned:

2006 Chrysler 2003 Cadillac 2003 Mercury 2003 Ford 1999 Buick 2005 Chevrolet 2005 Chevrolet 1999 Saab

2005 Land Rover

2c3la43r86h513615 1g6dm57n530168289 1mefm55s23g624754 1ftyr10d13pa34722 2g4wb52kox1442318 1gnct18x75k108551 2cnd173f656014397

ALL ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND ALL SALES ARE FINAL. SALES ARE "CASH ONLY" AND PAYMENT IS DUE, IN FULL, THE MOMENT THE BID IS ACCEPTED.



#### HUNTER LENG & BRANCHES DRAIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: TIME:

April 8, 2016 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION:

Wayne County Department of Public Services Roads Division Central Maintenance Yard 29900 Goddard Road Extension

QUESTIONS: (313) 224-3620

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the costs related to maintenance work have been determined by the Hunter Leng & Branches Drain Drainage Board on February 26, 2016 to be tentatively apportioned as follows:

CITY OF WESTLAND, Wayne County, Michigan, for benefits to public health.

96.49%

COUNTY OF WAYNE, Michigan, For benefits to county roads

Romulus, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Drainage Board will meet at the above date, time and location for the purpose of hearing any objections to said apportionment.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 400 Monroe Street, Suite 400, Detroit, Michigan 48826.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner at the number listed above or through the Michigan Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Published: March 17 & 31, 2016

Kenneth M. Kual Kenneth M. Kucel, P.E. Wayne County Drain Commissioner

#### CITY OF LIVONIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

<u>Proposal/Bid Due Date</u>: Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the administrative offices of the Livonia Housing Commission, 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

Scope of Work: The Department of Parks and Recreation will be accepting proposals at the above address for the purchase, delivery and installation of One  $(1)-20^\circ \times 20^\circ$  Picnic Shelter with 4" concrete slab (floor) and one (1) Tot Lot with safety surfacing with installation at

<u>Budget/Financial Authorization:</u> These park improvements are funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant funds authorized by HUD under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and 1977, as amended and as such, prospective bidders are hereby advised that this project is subject to Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Wage Rates and Section 3 regulations.

Construction Documents: Drawings, specifications and other bidding documents will be available beginning, March 31, 2016, through Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) www.mitn.info, and on the City of Livonia website under Parks and Recreation <a href="http://www.ci.livonia.mi.us/Departments/ParksandRecreation/Departments/ParksandRecreationHomePage.aspx">http://www.ci.livonia.mi.us/Departments/ParksandRecreationHomePage.aspx</a> All proposals are to be submitted on the forms furnished by the City which are included in the

Bid Package. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the project, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to James M. Inglis, Director Livonia Housing Commission 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150.

Bids must be accompanied by a non-collusion affidavit and bid security in the amount of not less than 5% of the bid. Each successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bonds.

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and to waive any informalities in the bids received. Furthermore, the Department of Parks and Recreation encourages Minority Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises to submit proposals for this project.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Site Visit: Will be held Wednesday, April 6, 2016 10:00 a.m. (Local Time). Meet at Compton Park, located at 28732 Lyndon, Livonia, MI 48154. All principal contractors are required to visit the site to review the scope of the work.

Edward Davis, Superintendent James M. Inglis. Director Dennis K. Wright, Mayor CITY OF LIVONIA



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TUESDAY, **April 5, 2016** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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## **Featured Guest Speakers**





9:20 -10:15 Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN St. Mary Mercy Livonia **Healthcare Decisions** 



10:30 - 11:25 Rick Bloom, J.D., CPA

**Bloom Asset Management Everything you Need** to Know about Estate **Planning** 



11:40 - 12:35 Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C. **President and CEO** 

HealthQuest Management, Inc. New Technology in Pain Relief

#### **Demonstrations** and Workshops

9:00 - 9:30

**Schoolcraft College** Facts, Figures and Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and other **Dementias** 

The Elder Care Firm How to protect yourself and loved ones from long-term care costs

**Botsford Commons** Why men don't listen and women can't read maps

12: 30 - 1:00 p.m.

**Schoolcraft College** Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain

**Senior Helpers** Age in Place

Michigan Department of State Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility

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#### Spring bazaar

St. John's Episcopal Church hosts its Spring Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at the church, located at 555 S. Wayne Road.

The event features arts, crafts, baked goods, etc., with lunch available. For more information, call 734-721-5023 (11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

#### Mom2Mom sales

» The Garden City High School Mom2Mom Sale takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the high school, 6500 Middlebelt. Sellers and shoppers will get good deals on new and gently used baby and kids' clothes as well as toys, games, dvds, books, strollers, bikes, swings, bouncers, etc.

There will be more than 85 tables to shop from, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is only \$1 (\$2 for early bird at 8:30 a.m.). Tables are \$25 for an eight-foot table/chair including standard rack space (you provide rack).

For more information including the table agreement, go to www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale or send an email to gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com

» St. Edith/St Colette hosts a Mom2Mom sale hosts a Momzwom sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Sat-urday, April 9, featuring 74 tables of great deals on gently used maternity, baby and children's items

St. Edith Church is located at 15089 Newburgh in Livonia. Admission is \$2 8:30-9 a.m. and \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon

For more information email m2msale@stecmops.org.

#### 'Gone With the Wind'

Join local "Gone With The Wind" expert Kath-leen Marcaccio as she shares insights about this legendary novel and film in a presentation at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6,

at the Wayne Public Library. Learn about author Margaret Mitchell, her real-life inspiration for Rhett Butler and other intriguing background information.

Marcaccio's presenta-

tion also includes a trove of "GWTW" memorabilia.
To register for this free program, call the library at 734-721-7821, or visit the Adult Services

#### **Casino trip**

The Wayne Rotary sponsors a trip to Motor City Casino at 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 4. Pick-up is at the Wayne District Court on Sims. Cost is \$35 (you get \$30 back in slot play). The trip is a fundraiser for

Wayne Rotary. For more information, contact Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.

#### Rainforest show

It's truly something you will have to see to believe. On Tuesday, April 5, Hayes Elementary School in Westland will be transformed into a

tropical rainforest. The show, "Live on Stage, The Rainforest," will make the audience feel like they're right in the middle of the tropical rainforest with the sounds and sights of the Amazon region. The show will include see exotic birds, kinkajous, monkeys and snakes

The ]show starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and will be available at the door. Hayes Elementary is located at 30600 Louise in Westland.

#### Happily ever after

The Alexander Blue House at Greenmead hosts "Happily Ever Af-ter," a chance to remi-nisce about weddings, showcase vintage gowns and photos 7-9:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14.
Visitors will begin at the decorated Historic Newburg Church for a presentation, followed by the "reception" at the Alexander Blue House for hors d'oeuvres, spar-

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS** Wish you were here



 (from left) Dave, Eric and Kim Mozurkewich, Katie Schesky. The Mozurkewich family -Meghan McGinnis and Kevin Mozurkewich -– went skiing recently in Breckenridge, Colo., and made sure to take their Livonia Observer with them.

kling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.

Advance tickets are \$15, available at the Greenmead office, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets will be sold through Monday, April 11. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

#### Kindergarten readiness

The South Redford School District Shear Kindergarten Readiness Program offers children who reside in South Redford and will be age 4 by Sept. 1 an opportunity to experience quality learning activities which foster development as the children grow toward kindergarten.

Classes meet Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon for three-hour sessions. This is a tuition-free program (with the exception of a one-time material fee of

Registration takes place in the preschool room 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Friday, April 22. The preschool room is located in the Shear Early Child-hood Center at 26141 Schoocraft (Use the sec ond parking lot, south of Schoolcraft on Berwyn). Parents interested in

more information may contact the Student Services Dept. at 313-535-4000, ext. 1028, or go to srpreschool.weebly.com.

#### 1,000 books

Families are invited to join the 1,000 Books Be-fore Kindergarten pro-gram at the Livonia Pub-lic Library. It's a nation-wide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and pro-

in three years and pro-vide their children essen-tial early literacy skills. The 1,000 Books Be-fore Kindergarten pro-gram is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Regisintrive years. Registration is open. For more information, call the library at 734-466-2493 or go to www.livoniapubliclibrary.org. This pro-gram is free of charge.

#### **Maltese Bingo**

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc., presents "Shamrock Bingo" at 6:30 p.m. each Monday and Tuesday at 33111 Plymouth Road in Livonia

The MABSI is donat-

ing 50 percent of its pro-ceeds from its fundraising bingo nights to help www.flintkids.org throughout March.

For more information, call 248-557-2000.

#### Karate tournament

Shotokan Karate Federation of Michigan hosts a Michigan Karate Tournament on Sunday, April 10, at Garden City Middle School, 1851 Radcliff.

Age groups include 5-11, 12-17, 18-34 and 35-older. Cost is \$40 for one event, \$50 for two events, \$60 for three events and \$70 for four events.
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Sensei Tony Valvona at 734-658-5683 or

email Tony@karatemi.com.

#### GriefShare meetings

The congregation at Christ Our Savior Luther an Church has experi-enced the deaths of several members in the past few months. In an effort to respond to the grief and sorrow for their loved ones, the church will be starting a grief support group using the "GriefShare" materials. GriefShare groups meet weekly for 13 sessions to help face the challenges after the loss of a loved one and move toward rebuilding lives.

Each week, the Grief-Share group will watch a video seminar featuring experts on grief and recovery subjects. After viewing the video, group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was pre-sented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in their lives. GriefShare will be

held 6:30-8 p.m. each Monday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran, 14175 Farmington Road, in Livonia in the chapel. This is free for all who would like to attend, but registration is requested to know how many to prepare for. Register at www.christoursavior.org under Events tab. For more information, contact Mike McGrath at 734-459-1274 or Linda Hollman at the church office at 734-522-6830.

#### CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, on April 27th. 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

#### RTU / CONDENSER REPLACEMENT(S)

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www. CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

City Controller

Published: March 31, 2016

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 3 YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL HVAC AND PLUMBING SERVICE, REPAIR, INSPECTIONS, CONSULTING AND MAINTENANCE

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia. Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 26th, 2016 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at the Department of Public Works Building, 12973 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan (734) 466-2655 at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 12th, 2016. Bids will not be accepted from those firms who do not attend.

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 3 YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL HVAC AND PLUMBING SERVICE, REPAIR, INSPECTIONS, CONSULTING AND MAINTENANCE, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154. No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Douglas Moore Superintendent, DPW Published: March 31, 2016

Dennis K. Wright Mayor

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#### CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 7 3/21/16

Presiding: President Pro Tem-Cicirelli Bryant Present: Coleman, Hammons, Herzberg, Kehrer
60: Minutes of regular meeting held 37/16.

North Bros/Ford/City of Westland 5K Run/Walk 5/14/16.

WWFA Charity Boot Drive 4/14-16 Wayne & Ford Rds.

Girl Scout drive-thru cookie booth at 7205 N. Wayne Rd. on various weekend dates in March

Traffic Control Order 2016-01; Install (2) "Handicap Parking" signs in front of JBCC, 32150

Traffic Control Order 2016-02; Install (1) "No Parking 8 am to 5 pm Mon-Fri" "This Side of

- Traffic Control Order 2016-02; Install (1) No Parking o am to 5 pm Addi-Tri This Side of Sign" sign on south side of Bayview just east of Fairlane.

- Addendum to Synergy Environmental Contract approved by Council 6/1/15.

- Adopted Prepared Resolution to approve Wayne Co. Annual Permit A-16128.

- Adopted Prepared Resolution to approve Wayne Co. Annual Permit A-16073.

- Adopted Prepared Resolution to approve Wayne Co. Annual Permit A-16158.

- Intro. Ord. 248-A-80 to amend Sec. 4:13 of Ord. 248 re. temp. sales, uses, or special events & Accept building & structures

Intro. Ord. 248-A-80 to amend Sec. 4:13 of Ord. 248 re. temp. sales, uses, or special events & temp. buildings & structures.
Intro Ord. 29-W-39-1, to amend. Ch. 46, Sec. 46-1 of the City Code re. the license, review, & inspection fees for temp. sales from structures.
62: Rev. Site Plan for Prop. Ext. Renovation, 35100 Ford Road w/contingencies.
63: Site Plan for Prop. Additions to Greenwood Villa Apts., 7600 Nankin Blvd. w/contingencies.
64: Rezoning CB-3, General Commercial Business to CB-1, Low Intensity Commercial Business, Parcel #002-99-0014-000, south side of Joy Rd. East of Middlebelt Rd.
65: SLU for Prop. House of Faith International Ministries Church, 28945 Joy Road w/contingencies.

contingencies 66: Appr. checklist: \$ 8,635,416.80.

Mtg. adj. at 8:28 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

Christine Cicirelli Bryant Council President Pro Tem

Donna DeWinter Council Secretary

ublished: March 31, 2016



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California

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2/51

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**SECTION B (WGRL)** 

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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**ED WRIGHT, EDITOR** 

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WOMEN'S SOFTRALL

## Schoolcraft splits doubleheader with Macomb

Tim Smith

Displaced from Ford Field due to last week's heavy rain Schoolcraft College's softball team played Saturday's double-header at Macomb Community College instead.

Franklin, Stevenson, Garden City grads shine in Lady Ocelots' 8-2 victory

And thanks to a complete game by sophomore pitcher and captain Elaine Gerou (Ply mouth), the Lady Ocelots notched their first Michigan Community College Athletic Association victory — a 8-2

and get the split," Schoolcraft

head coach Rey Linares said.

executing and moving our base

'We didn't do a good job of

runners in the first game, we cannot strand all those base

runners and expect to win

triumph over the Monarchs. The win followed the day's opening contest, a 3-0 loss to the defending conference

champions. "Overall, I was pleased that we were able to go to Macomb many games in this tough con-

"But we made the necessary offensive adjustments in the second game with a good mix of strategic hits and small ball, accompanied by solid team

See OCELOTS, Page B5

#### BLOWING THE WHISTLE

#### **ABOUT THIS** SERIES

Go to any scholastic, club-level or rec league athletic event in any city or town across Michigan and you will find one constant: one (or more) referee who is there to ensure fair play and following of the rules. A team might be short of players or lack an assistant coach, but without a man or woman in the proverbial striped shirt. there is no game or match or meet.

In recent years, officials in all sports have come under fire, whether from overheated parents, increased social media or disrespectful players and coaches. Many leagues and gov erning bodies are having a difficult time finding enough adults to act as officials for youth sports events

**Observer & Eccentric** reporters conducted a variety of interviews in the last several weeks, with referees, officials, executives and others who are involved in the recruitment and training of sports officials. We found that, while many still enjoy the unique thrill of being part of the game, others are being driven from the playing field, some haunted by the killing two years ago of local soccer referee John Bienowicz.

Today begins a twopart package of stories, "Blowing the Whistle." Come back April 7 for the second installment

#### INSIDE

» Young official says education key to improving attitudes, B2 » Former player, coach angle, B3

#### **COMING APRIL 7**

- 'You don't have a horse in the race,' referee says » Former prep player moves straight into offici-
- » Teenaged umpire talks about leaving game for
- » MHSAA makes recruiting, retaining officials top priority

## KICK IN THE GUT



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As much as Mario D'Agostino (left) and Kevin Winningham love calling soccer games at High Velocity Sports in Canton and at other area venues, their patience is being tested by parents and others who jump at any chance to criticize dedicated refs.

Veteran soccer refs blame social media, culture of disrespect and 'win-at-all-costs' mentality for dwindling pool of officials

**Tim Smith** 

Mario D'Agostino's hands trembled as he held them up, presenting the ultimate irony. One of his wrists was adorned with a yellow and orange wrist band with a simple but direct message: "Respect the Game." The veteran youth and high

school soccer official — the referee coordinator at High Velocity Sports in Canton — had just witnessed a troubling incident in which a young female soccer ref was verbally abused following a game by off-the-rail parents and coach-

"I got parents up there that are just berating the referee and it's a young girl," D'Agos and it's a young girl," D'Agostino said during a recent interview at the Michigan Avenue soccer facility. "They're just going crazy. There's a coach who just is ripping into me, telling me 'Have you ever played soccer? Have you ever been in a stadium?' That has absolutely nothing to do with absolutely nothing to do with

"My hands are shaking ight now because I just got done with the confrontation This is U-7 boys up here right now ... this is the problems we're having. The parents are up there all screaming and

yelling at the referee."
According to D'Agostino and fellow soccer official Kevin Winningham, also a familiar face at High Velocity as assistant head referee for the Canton Soccer Club, such attacks are on the rise almost every day.

#### **Walking away**

As unchecked attacks in social media now carry over to real life conflict, as venom escalates, the number of registered soccer officials across the board is plummet-

ing.
Winningham said annual attrition is at about 25 percent. Just as troubling, fewer are signing up with the ed States Soccer Federation.

These kinds of problems we have with parents," D'A-gostino said. "Just verbally abusing these children to the point where they're not in-terested in being out there."

Who could blame them? No one would want to be faced with maximum abuse for a few bucks more than the minimum wage.

'If a parent, if a player, would step in to become a

See REFEREES, Page B2



Bob Czech (center) has been officiating for more than 30 years and heads the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials group. Working on his crew at a recent basketball game are Plymouth's Paul Woodard (left) and Southfield's Darcy Gitchuway.

#### Longtime official keeps things in Czech

Staff Writer

With more than 30 years of experience, Bob Czech has virtually seen it all as a regis-tered high school official.

The 60-year-old from Berkley, a retired Detroit police officer who also worked for Farmer's Insur ance for 10 years in auto theft Michigan High School Athletic Association official while working behind the scenes as an assignor for the Metro **Detroit Athletic Officials** 

The officiating landscape has changed dramatically over the past 30 years for Czech, who is now an assignor for the 24-school Kensington Lakes Activities Association in both basketball and football. He is also a baseball and softball assignor for the 23-school Oakland Activities Associ

"When I first started out, the A.D.s and get their games," Czech said. "Then, a few years later, I got a call from George Lovich (former Livonia Franklin A.D.) and he wanted me to become an assignor.

George Lovich, Ron Holland (former North Farmington A.D.) and Paul Cummings (Salem A.D.)

See CZECH, Page B2

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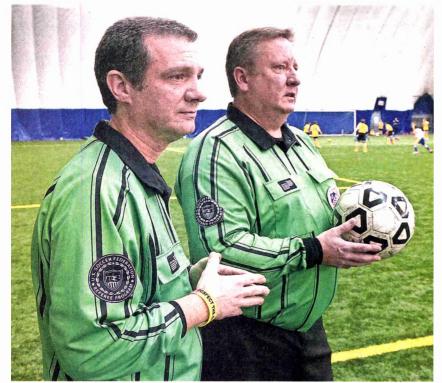
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#### BLOWING THE WHISTLE



On any given Saturday, Mario D'Agostino (left) and Kevin Winningham expect to work several games, at the very least. Every year, fewer are returning to officiate contests in youth, high school and adult rec leagues.

#### REFEREES

Continued from Page B1

referee," Winningham said, "they would have a greater understanding of a game, as well as a greater respect for those who are working games whether it's an 11-year-old girl upstairs or a 50-year-old guy out on the field."

Nodding emphatically in agreement was D'Agostino.

"I think one of the greatest things that I wish could happen is that every parent or coach could officiate a game, D'Agostino said. "Put them behind the whistle. And I guarantee you their perspective of the game would totally change, in all sports. To see what it's like to make that split-second decision.'

#### Remembering John

Both Canton men always wear the "Respect the Game" wristband when they officiate contests. And they do plenty, at the youth and club levels

ard for the Michigan High School Athletic Association. "I always make it a point to roll it up (almost to his fingers) during my captain's meeting," Winningham said.
"Just to make a point: "We're here to respect the game, gentlemen" tlemen

Yet there are times when both men can't help but won-der what's happening, why wild shappening, why violence, trash talk and overall unruly behavior directed at refs of all ages is threatening the lifeblood of their sport.

That unwanted element already is costing much more than that. D'Agostino and Win-ningham also wear their wristbands as a constant reminder of dear friend John Bienowicz, a Westland man and longtime official who was fatally punched in the head in summer 2014 by an angry player during an adult amateur

league contest in Livonia. Bienowicz lost his life because the player, Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn, went berserk when Bienowicz issued a red against him (thus eject ing him from the match)

Saad eventually pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and is serving 8-15 years in prison.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ver and wherever Mario D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham go to officiate soccer games, they wear these wristbands to honor the memory of friend and fellow referee John Bienowicz.

Earlier this year, a player who had been kicked out of a men's game in Argentina reportedly was so upset that he retrieved a gun from his per-sonal belongings, marched back on to the pitch and shot the referee to death.

'Why should we be fearful for our lives now when we officiate games?" D'Agostino said. "We have our families telling us (to give up refereeing) ... my wife's saying that. But she knows and (Winningham's) wife knows, it's im-bedded in us. It really means a lot for us to do these games

But yet we've got family members now who are telling us to slow down a little bit? When you need to be escorted to your car after a game by an athletic director, after a high

school game, that's really, really bad. That's what it's getting to right now.'

#### What now?

Another thing it's getting Another thing it getting to is a crossroads for soccer lifers such as D'Agostino and Winningham, who routinely pack each Saturday with an endless string of games to call simply because not enough refs are cause not enough refs are in the mix.

"They want to limit us to three or four (games), but there's nobody there." Win-ningham said. "We keep saying yes. (This is) our weekend; we both work (regular jobs), we have wives at home ... I do it

See REFEREES, Page B3

## College player says education the key to curbing anger

Tim Smith

It isn't just middle-aged guys such as Mario D'Agosti-no and Kevin Winningham that have some issues with the way soccer referees are treated in the anything goes world of

Yes, even 20-somethings don't like the current landscape where every perceived misstep by an official is video-taped for the social media masses to peruse. Or where every so-called soccer "ex-pert" can anonymously rip a ref and start the snowball of anger rolling down the hill.

One of them is Tyler Winningham, a longtime soccer player even though he is in his early 20s. He was part of the Canton varsity boys soccer state championship team in 2011 and also competed with the Canton Soccer Club.

After high school, he's played at Schoolcraft College and Lawrence Technological University and also refs and coaches the sport at the club soccer level.

Although Tyler Winningham was unable to attend a recent roundtable discussion at High Velocity Sports, he responded via email to several questions that also were delved into by D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham.

Q: As a player, referee and coach, do you have a unique perspective in how you deal with game officials?

TW: I think being a player, referee and coach does give

me a unique perspective to-wards how I deal with game officials. I think when you coach vs. play vs. ref at the different levels available, it makes things frustrating but enjoyable. At each level you have a different expectations of the referees. I coach U-9 and U-10 boys, so I will rarely yell at referees at that level because they are typically either new young referees who are nervous and do not know exactly what they are doing or they are older referees who only walk all game because they are far out of their prime. The expectation when I play in college or semipro, you are expecting to have top officials and you respect those game officials much more because for the most part, they are very competent but you do have to understand that referees will make mistakes at all levels

Q: Have you considered stepping away from being a referee due to the increasing safety concerns, with highly publicized stories about soccer refs being killed or injured by fans and players?

TW: I have never considered stepping away from reff-

ered stepping away from reff-ing due to increasing safety concerns. I understand the safety and understand that players and fans can be stupid, but I have also come to realize that when players and coaches and fans are yelling, there is usually a reason. Yes, some yell for stupid reasons be cause they do not understand the game. But for the most part, certain coaches and players only yell because maybe you did mess up. One thing that I try to focus on when I



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO Tyler Winningham works a soccer game during the 2015 Canton Cup. He also plays and coaches the sport, giving him a unique perspective on the way officials are treated.

"I understand the safety and understand that players and fans can be stupid, but ... when players and coaches and fans are yelling, there is usually a reason." **TYLER WINNINGHAM** 

am reffing is game management. When events happen and safety becomes an issue, it usually is because the build up of events. It isn't just a one time sporadic moment. When issues arise during the game, players/parents/coaches yell-ing at the officials or each other, parents being disre spectful and ruining the atmosphere, those things need to be taken care of right away. When they are not properly taken care of or handled, they escalate to a point that is no longer controllable and the referee crew is then in danger. Game management starting from the moment you arrive at a game to the moment you leave a game is a key to stay-ing safe and maintaining a smooth game.

Q: How much do you confab with your dad about these issues? Are you seeing these issues the same way or differently? Please explain why, either way.

TW: I think my dad and I partially agree with the issues. There are multiple aspects to the issues going on and the

the issues going on and the dwindling of referees. The two main things I see are the cul-ture we live in and the thinness of skin my people now a days. I have thick skin. Kevin has thick skin. Mario has thick skin. Referees today have very thin skin. One small com-

See EDUCATION, Page B3

#### CZECH

Continued from Page B1

those guys mentored me and got me into it."

#### Changes in the wind

Czech said the procedure for booking games took a different course during "the late 1980s and early 1990s." "It's changed a lot ... how

you get your games, how you get trained, coaches, behavior of parents, etc, etc," Czech

The MDAO boasts more than 400 members, "but a lot of guys belong to two or three different associations," whether it's Downriver or the East Side, according to Czech.

Another challenge Czech and MDOA faced came in 2008, when the MSHAA lost its gender equity lawsuit, forcing coinciding girls and boys seasons. Volleyball moved from the winter to the fall, while

girls basketball went from fall to winter, among other changes.

"They're working more than they have before," Czech said.
"And obviously, if they're older, it's a little rougher on the body. Whereas before you'd work the girls (games) in the fall and the boys in the winter, so you only worked a couple of times a week. Some of these guys are working three and four times a week, maybe

Many officials have had to transition during the week back and forth between boys and girls basketball games, which can also be a challenge and an adjustment.

The boys game is much faster, but the rules are the same," Czech said. "You have to interpret the rules the same. The boys game is obviously faster than the girls, so you have to adjust a little bit, but like I said, the rules are the same. We generally have to be neutral. Boys are stronger, so

they're going to be able to take a little more hitting and bump-ing a little bit, whereas females aren't quite as strong, so you have to adjust a little

#### Knowing the rulebook

Officials also have to adapt year-to-year to rules changes and points of emphasis handed down from both the MHSAA and the National Federation of High School Associations.

From the people in Lansing (MHSAA), Mark Uyl and Nate Hampton, they're the ones that kind of give us guidance," Czech said. "They're kind of like our bosses. They give us feedback and they just tell us what we need to do. Kind of like a teacher when a principal tells them to do something. Well, the principal is the boss,

In the KLAA, varsity foot-ball and basketball officials are paid normally \$60 to \$65 per game, while it's \$45 to \$50 for freshman and JV.

"We're a little behind other states because we just haven't caught up, but hopefully we'll catch up eventually," Czech

Czech said his biggest chal-lenge now is recruiting younger officials.

'The problem is the average age of the officials here is between 53 and 57, so we need some more young guys," he said. "We keep reaching out to the seniors and the coaches at the high schools. We talk to them and say, 'Hey, do you have any seniors that are going to graduate, stay in town and go to college, like Wayne (State), Oakland (University), anywhere?' We say, 'Hey, want to become an official?' If you played high school sports, we want to train and mentor you. It's the local associations that have to go out and hustle the guys."

#### Ongoing shortage

The shortage of officials remains an ongoing concern for Czech, particularly from an

assignor's standpoint. 'Basketball, we're kind of OK, but we need more and football we need some more," he said. "The problem is base-ball. We don't nearly have enough baseball umpires. It's at 4 o'clock and it's in the spring when it's cold. It doesn't warm up around here until the middle of May, so the first two or three weeks it's ice cold. And it's 4 o'clock in the afternoon and most people are working unless you're retired or work midnights."

The MDOA assignor said there are a couple of necessary components to in becoming a registered MHSAA official.

"You got to have thick skin and common sense," Czech said. "And be like in your job ... flexible. It's an avocation, not a vocation.

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#### BLOWING THE WHISTLE

## This official has a new appreciation for the job

Former player, coach sees wrestling competition from a whole new angle

Dan O'Meara

When a friend pushed the idea of being a wrestling official, Zaim Cunmulaj decided to give it a try. He was not enam-ored with the job after his initial experience.

"By the time I was done, I said, 'This not for me; it's too hard,'" Cunmulaj said. "He said: 'Don't worry; it's hard for everybody at first.'

everybody at first."

"I went home and was exhausted, mentally and physically. He pushed me into hanging in there. I came back. I'm very glad I did come back."

Cunmulaj, 45, recently completed his third season of officieting matches at the middle

ciating matches at the middle and high school levels

An all-state wrestler at North Farmington High School and former college football player, Cunmulaj is still fit and looks as if he could compete

After a period of adjustment, Cunmulaj adapted to the rigors of being back on the

"Everyone thinks officiating is easy," he said. "It's diffi-cult to do, to be in the right spot at the right time. In wrestling, you have to anticipate what the next move is going to

be.
"It's a lot harder than what I thought it would be. Being an official now, I look at the game a lot differently. I'll go, 'Wow, that has to be hard on the referee, taking all that heat.'
"We're human Sure. I've

"We're human. Sure, I've made mistakes. But I totally look at the officiating differ-ently than I did."

#### Playing experience helps

It helps in the case of Cun-mulaj, who was a heavyweight wrestler and a defensive lineman at East Carolina University, to know the sport and have competed in it.

He also is an assistant foot-ball coach and was the wres-tling head coach at North Farmington in the 1990s, but there's still more to being a

good official.

"It's a challenge to know all the rules," he said. "You have to know them in a split second. You can't open the book. You

have to be ready to go or coaches are all over you. "They'll take advantage of you if they see you don't know the rules. They'll let you know and that will travel (through-

out the coaching ranks). "There was a lot of stuff I had to learn. A lot of stuff had changed since I had wrestled. There are changes every year to the rule book."

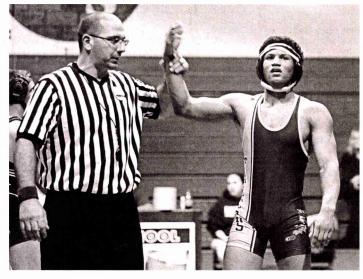
Cunmulaj recalled one incident when an understanding

cident when an understanding coach took the time to share

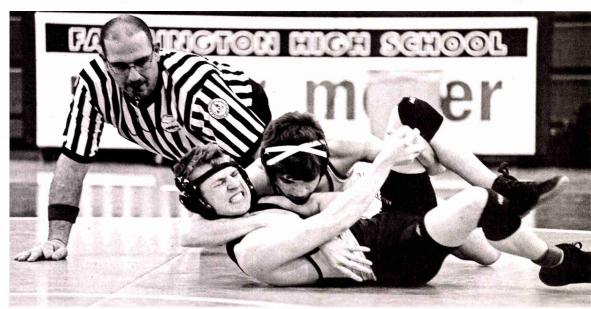
his knowledge with him.
"This what kept me in officiating," Cunmulaj said. "I had



Cunmulai



JOHN STORMZAND STAFF Zaim Cunmulai declares Farmington's Gyasi Davis the winner during a match this past season.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Zaim Cunmulaj referees a match during the Farmington Public Schools tournament.

made a mistake. He said, 'Let me open the book and explain it to you.' He was wonderful. He didn't scream at me; I

didn't have to put my guard up. "He said: 'Please, stay with it. We're glad to have you in the sport.' He was encouraging and it helped."

#### The right balance

Cunmulaj tries to find the right balance between being an authority figure and a calm, understanding figure, too. Other officials and coaches have told him it helps to have

the deep voice he does, he noted.

"I try to be as invisible as possible," Cunmulaj said. "If I make a mistake, I'll walk over and apologize and say, 'I'm sorry; I didn't see that.' I try to combine the two things and get the best of two worlds for the the best of two worlds for the coaches and the referees.

"There was one incident this

year at a tournament. A guy was hanging on the railing. He leaned over and screamed something at me. I said, 'Sir, if you want to stay in the gym, you might want to sit down. He sat down.

"He came to me later and said: "I'm sorry about what I said.' I said: 'I understand; everybody gets upset some-

Sometimes, Cunmulaj's reputation precedes him with coaches who've seen the tape of him wrestling a black bear 20 years ago at a promotional

event.

"I look back and say, 'What was I thinking?'" Cunmulaj said. "A couple guys wrestled him before me. As soon I got up there, (the owner) told the bear to ctood up. My care. bear to stand up. My eyes opened like half-dollars.

"We kind of wrestled around. He was just kind of playing. It was something to remember.

'As a young referee, you get a lot of good feedback from coaches. Some have said, jok-ingly, if I did make a mistake, they weren't going to tell me."

#### It's no good to yell

The worst thing an athlete or spectator can do is yell at an official, according to Cunmulai, a resident of Walled Lake.
"I've never had a problem with that," he said. "Most coaches seem to do a good job of keeping spectators in line. It's something that happens in every sport.

every sport.
"You walk into any gym and hear that. You just have to let it roll off your back. You just

kind of block it out.
"I've seen kids sitting there yelling at referees. I'll walk over to him and say, 'Coach, this guy or that guy needs to watch what he's doing or keep it to himself.' I've had very

little problems with anybody."
As a former coach, a major motivation for Cunmulaj being an official is to encourage and help young people.
"When a match is over and a

guy walks by with his head down, I'll ask, 'What year are you?' I'll say, 'I didn't do very well as a freshman, either. Keep your head up and stick with it. You're a very good wrestler," Cunmulaj said. "Most of the time, he'll pick his head up and smile."

Like most sports, the Michigan High School Athletic Asso-

gan High School Athletic Asso-ciation is in need of more offi-cials in wrestling, he added. "Some guys are getting ready to retire," Cunmulaj said. "We need to get more younger guys involved, guys younger than me or just out of high school."

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#### **EDUCATION**

Continued from Page B2

plaint from a coach or parent throws (other refs) off their game and they feel shaken up. After they feel shaken up, everything goes downhill from there and they keep making bad decision after bad decision and that escalates the situation and parents/coaches get heated when the referees are bad. At the

same time the culture we live in now is ignorant. People feel the need to speak out about anything and everything. Most of the parents yelling have no idea what they are yelling about. Parents are competitive and get way into the game. Instead of enjoying the game and watching their son or daughter run around and play soccer, they just want to win and yell as loud as they can for no real reason.

Q: In your opinion, what

needs to happen for this current situation to be alle-

TW: Players, coaches and parents need to be educated. There is a current system in place, but it is a very loose and relaxed system. FIFA and U.S. Soccer has had movements like 'Say No to Racism' or 'Respect the Game.' The English Football Association released a commercial last year about parents yelling at youth games magnifying how embarrassing it is and how

you ruin the entire game for everyone. But not enough is being done for referees. It either has to start from the top at U.S. Soccer or it needs to start from the clubs. Everyone knows that the treat ment of referees is terrible. Referees are verbally abused, (and) physically abused in certain situations. But is has become a problem that no one wants to resolve. When an issue does come up about a referee being assaulted, abused, killed, as a referee

community we are aware. MSYSA is aware. But U.S. Soccer, the top dog, is not doing enough to protect soccer referees or educating parents and players. I do not include coaches in that because coaches nowadays have to take a referee portion test/ module when they get new licenses so coaches are ver knowledgeable on the laws of the game."

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#### REFEREES

Continued from Page B2

because I love this game. This

is a beautiful game.
"There's nothing better than having a kid when he was 10-11 years old and then you get to see him play at 14 and then you get to watch him

play in high school."

Chiming in was D'Agostino, agreeing that "there's not enough referees to officiate all these games. Guys like us, who it's meaning a lot, are doing way too many games than what we should be. We hate saying no; we love doing what we do. But by the sixth or seventh game on a Saturday

afternoon, we're exhausted."

But both men acknowledge they need some help on the pitch. Is it ever going to hap-

pen? Winningham would like to see more parents consider give officiating a try, perhaps

even the players as they mature. Doing just that was his own son Tyler, a member of Canton High School's 2011 state championship team.
"I would love other parents,

other people, who have worked the game, to come back," Winningham said. "They're just not anymore and the reason is, 'Why do I want to go stand out there and get yelled at for an hour-and-a-half and get belittled by people, when I could be doing something better?'

"We need re-education and re-commitment to what this game is all about, which is teaching kids life skills."

#### **Basic values**

That means people returning to tried and true values such as showing some respect for authority. Also putting cellphones into pockets instead of videotaping every move an official makes —

good or bad.
And don't forget good old-

fashioned communication rather than confrontation

Still, despite honest efforts to reverse the trend, nastiness continues.
"The clubs are doing a

much better job compared to a decade ago, communicating what is expected," Winning-ham said. "But there's no accountability to what is expect-

ed.
"So they tell (the parents),
don't approach your coach,
have a 24-hour rule before you approach a coach about a problem with your son or daughter. Don't yell at the coach, don't yell at the players on the field. Let the coach coach the kids.

"So all of those are great things. But many times, during tryouts when they communicate that at the beginning of the season, once the season begins, all of that accountability goes out the window, it's just a free-fall for parents to say whatever they want to." As the young official found

out first-hand on this partic-ular day at High Velocity, that lowly standard applies to those whose kids are playing for a rec league participation trophy — those who probably

rophy — those who probably never will compete for a World Cup someday. "We give little \$2 trophies to these little kids that are absolutely meaningless in a weird sense," D'Agostino said. "But it seems like it's so much for these parents."

Inexpensive trophies aside, today's "win at any cost" mentality is something that troubles both veteran refs.

"That's something I just can't understand," D'Agostino said. "I just think it also comes with maturity and age. The younger (parents) tend to be a little bit worse because of the fact they are new to the sport and a lot think their (children) are superstars, that they're going to be playing in the big leagues someday.

When it all comes down to it, it's just a game."

#### Win off the field

What's the big deal about 10-year-old kids winning when there are so many other positives to be gleaned from an hour or two on a soccer field?
"That shouldn't be the ulti-

mate goal," Winningham said with a nod. "The ultimate goal should be fun, development of our kids, friendships, devel-oping skills of communication, commitment, hard work and discipline. And it's all about the trophy."

Perhaps what should be doled out instead are those wristbands to respect the game — and each other.
They hope it isn't too late for that already.
"Unless some changes are

going to be made, I don't see it getting better," D'Agostino said. "I really don't. ... Society changes. It really starts in the

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports **HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL** 

## Livonia Franklin's Rheault steps down

**Ed Wright** 

After 24 consecutive years (and 33 overall seasons) of coaching high school athletes, Jeremy Rheault has decided to hang up his whistle and lay down the clipboard, possibly for the last time.

Livonia Franklin's varsity boys bas-ketball coach since 2007 — and a prep coach at some level since he was a freshman in college — Rheault official ly delivered his resignation to Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye on March 24.
"I always re-evaulate my situation

after every season, just like every coach does, whether it's a winning sea-son or not," said Rheault. "After looking over the list of pros and cons, I decided this was a good time to step away from coaching.

"Although we didn't win a lot of games this season (the Patriots finished 2-19), the kids who stuck it out and played the entire season gave me everything they had. Effort was rarely an issue. What it came down to in a lot of games was that we just didn't match up

#### Resignation ends 24-year coaching career

well with our opponents."

Rheault, who has taught art at Franklin since 1998, started coaching high school athletics at his high school alma mater, Canton, for the school's junior-varsibasketball team when he was

"I was looking into getting into teaching at the high school level, and friends of mine who were teachers told me that it may be a good idea to coach high school kids to make sure you enjoy working with kids that

age.
"I've never taught a day as a teacher without being a coach as well, so it will be interesting to see how that goes. The time of this feels right. It's not some-thing I was thinking about at the begin-ning of the season, but it hit me toward the end of the season."

Rheault's impressive coaching re-sume includes varsity boys basketball coaching stints at Canton (from 2000-03) and sub-varsity basketball coaching jobs - both boys and girls - at Canton, Franklin and Westland John

Glenn.

He also served as an assistant boys track-and-field coach at

Canton.

"For a few years, I coached two and sometimes three sports in a school year," he said, re-ferring to the former set-up when girls basketball was played in the fall. "I've coached a lot of ath-

letes; a lot of great kids." Among Rheault's many successes was a 2010 Class A district championship with Franklin, a division championship with Canton in 2002 and a monumental district-tournament upset of Livonia Churchill in 2014.

"We didn't make the KLAA playoffs

"We didn't make the KLAA playoffs in 2010, but we got healthy before the he reflected, noting the contributions of Mike Gadsby and Andy McCaffery. "One thing that can be said about most of my teams is that we usually improved as the season went on." roved as the season went on."

Rheault said he takes pride in the

fact that several of his former players decided to join his coaching staffs after they graduated from high school.

Among the coaching careers Rheault helped spark was that of current Canton boys varsity basketball coach Jimmy Reddy, who started as a freshman coach when Rheault was the varsity head coach for the Chiefs.

Rheault praised the efforts of this past season's group of assistants, including tom Van Wagoner, Jake Barham, Matt Bowden and Michael Booth.

Other former players who have coached on Rheault's staffs include Jeff Poole, Connor Leidal, Adam Monroe, Nick Guest (all former Franklin play ers), Matt Mair, Kyle Lasko Jason Silk and Phil Muszynski.

"I always enjoyed the challenge of coaching ...the constant thought process of trying to make a team better. I enjoyed preparing underdog teams and watching kids improve over the course of a season."

When asked if ever thinks he'll renew his coaching career, Rheault responded, "probably not."

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PREVIEW



Livonia Stevenson head coach Rick Berryman oversees a base-running drill during a practice last week.

## RELOADED FOR ANOTHER RUN

**Ed Wright** Staff Write

Armed with an abundance of hardthrowing pitchers, a flowing list of mul-ti-sport athletes and a roster loaded with proven varsity performers, Livonia Stevenson's baseball team is primed to make the spring of 2016 a bountiful one.

But what's new?

Winners of four consecutive district crowns and a perennial power in the mighty KLAA Central Division, the Spartans are poised to add to their run of 20-plus-wins seasons.

We have seven returning starters, including our entire infield, so that's always a good sign," said Stevenson head coach Rick Berryman, when asked about his current squad's attributes. "I think we'll be very solid defensively and offensively. It's going to come down to how we pitch, but it always does. "We have 14 kids on the roster who

can pitch, but you never know how they're going to pitch until the games start."

Twelve of the 20 Spartans play two or three sports at Stevenson — a statistic that pleases Berryman.

"I love multi-sport athletes," he said.
"Studies have shown that kids who focus on just one sport suffer more injuries. We have so many kids playing football

#### Stevenson returns bulk of 24-win 2015 contingent

that we didn't have enough players for a

fall team. That's a first."

Stevenson's roster is well-balanced with seniors, juniors, sophomores and one freshman — 6-foot, 220-pound

catcher/pitcher Bobby Cavin.
Headlining the strong senior class are catcher/pitcher Frank Carlin, out-fielder Nick Beers, infielder Joe Du-

puie, pitcher/outfielder Nate Bunton and pitcher/infielder Gordon Fergu "Gordon went 7-2 last year, so he'll be our No. 1 pitcher heading into the sea-

son," said Berryman. "He hit 404 last year, so he swings a good bat, too. "Frank caught just about every in-ning for us last year, but now that we have another catcher in Bobby (Cavin), it will free me up to let Frank pitch. He

has a great arm and throws in the low-80s. 'Nick is an outstanding outfielder

and will play a lot of center."

Junior Chris Tanderys returns for his third year as the Spartans' starting shortstop. He'll be joined on the infield by slick-fielding first-baseman Mark Pettersson, sophomore second baseman Devin Dunn and sophomore third base-

man Danny Morris, who hit .353 a a freshman and led the team in doubles

Dupuie is a coach's dream — a player who can capably handle all four infield

spots.

While the starting outfield is still "up in the air," according to Berryman, the killer B's — Beers, Bunton and junior Dan Bos — will see plenty of time patrolling the spacious area in front of the warning track.

Bos is also slotted as the No. 2 man in the Spartans' pitching rotation following a stellar sophomore season when he went 4-3, but pitched better than his record indicates

Junior Branden Posky, who missed his entire sophomore year while recuperating from an injury, has looked strong and has a good shot to win the No. 3 slot in the rotation.

Stevenson, which finished 24-15 last spring, will host a Division 1 district in June that also includes North Farmington, Farmington Hills Harrison and Farmington High School.

Berryman's coaching staff includes Mark Wagner, Nate Hoffman, Glenn Scala and Lou Pirronello.

Among the Spartans' early-season games is an April 6 clash at cross-town rival Livonia Franklin.

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#### SPORTS BRIEFS

The Garden City High School volleyball program is searching for a junior varsity head coach.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Garden City High School athletic director Rob Phillips at 734-762-8363 or phillir@gardencityschools.com.

GC volleyball coach needed

#### Stevenson

pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom-pon program will host a clinic Saturday,

April 9, for students who are currently

in grades 1-11. The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 1

p.m. in the Stevenson field house. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. The clinic fee of \$30 includes a light snack and T-shirt for clinic partici-

The clinic will be instructed by members of the Stevenson coaching

staff and current pom athletes. For more information, contact Stevenson varsity pom coach Shaylyn Sikorski at stevensonvarsity-pom@gmail.com or 248-880-1881.

#### LJAL needs umpires

The Livonia Junior Athletic League baseball and softball program is looking for individuals who would like to work as an umpire this summer.

Interested participants will be trained and given excellent support. An understanding and appreciation of baseball and fast-pitch softball are

The minimum age requirement for

umpires is 14. If interested, send an email to info@ljal.com.

**BOYS BASKETBALL FINAL** 

### Raiders finish as runners-up in Class A

Top-ranked U-D Jesuit captures state basketball title with 69-49 victory over North Farmington

Dan O'Meara

It was a disappointing finish for the North Farmington varsity basketball team and its fans Saturday after a great run through the Class A boys state tournament.
The Raiders, though they were

underdogs to top-ranked University of Detroit Jesuit, had their hopes and oil Detroit Jeshit, had their hopes and sights set on winning it all. But so did the undefeated Cubs, who claimed their school's first state championship with a 69-49 victory at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

With 11 seniors on this year's team North made history by getting

team, North made history by getting past the regional final to the last day of the season, finishing with a 24-3 slate and a school record for singleseason wins.

"I can't say enough about this group of kids, what they've meant to our program, what they've meant to our school and the North Farmington community," coach Todd Negoshian

"They left an impression, not just from a basketball standpoint but a life standpoint on how to behave, how to carry yourself. It goes way beyond the basketball court, and there aren't enough words to say how proud I am of them."

#### Scoring wizard

Jesuit senior guard Cassius Winston showed the crowd of nearly 10,000 and a television viewing audience why he is the 2016 Mr. Basket-ball Award winner.

The Michigan State recruit scored a game-high 31 points on 14-of-16 shooting with two 3-point baskets and a free throw to go with

mine assists and four rebounds.

"We felt, if we could try to keep
Cassius out of the paint, we'd give
ourselves a chance to win," Negoshian said. "That's the best I've seen

him play in four years.
"I don't know if it was the big tage, the final game, but Cassius that's going to Michigan State. And he was really damn good

Winston was able to penetrate the lane and scored the majority of his points on drives to the basket.

'This one of those days I knew I would need my best performance, the 6-foot-1 Winston said. "It was going to be my last high school game, the last chance at winning a state championship.

"I had to go out and play my best game. I was zoned in, focused and ready to go. I was scoring the basketball, so my teammates kept going



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER ear starter Jacob Joubert had eight points, including a pair of threes, six assists, five rebounds and three steals in his final game for the Raiders.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS PREVIEW**

## Patriot netters in position to thrive

The unofficial slogan for the Livonia Franklin girls tennis team this spring could be, "Know Payne, Know

Bolstered by the return of No. 1 singles player Kendall Payne, who has earned a college scholarship in golf from the University of Detroit Mercy, the Patriots are primed to be a serious contender in the balanced KLAA South Division.

"Last year we ended in a three-way tie for second place in the South Division and that was really a good sign," said Franklin head coach Rick Clack. "This year our singles lineup is very

strong with Kendall returning for her senior year as No. 1 singles again.

"I look forward to another solid season.

Senior Carla Yanez will start the season as the Patriots' No. 2 singles

player, with sophomore Yasmeen Free-man and senior Emma Fogel earning the opportunity to start at No. 3 and 4, respectively.

"With three or four positions filled by seniors, that maturity level will really help playing the tough KI AA

really help playing the tough KLAA season," Clack said.

In the wake of losing six starting players (out of 14) to graduation, the team's doubles line-up is in flux.

Among those fighting for starting

spots are Haley Griffin, Veronica

McAuliffe, Eva Muller, Elaina Homer, Grace Mathews, Ashley Jones, Jenna Polzin, Angela Nelson, Haley Quinn, Maria Lazzarino and Maria Walters.

"It is to early to have a set doubles lineup, but I have a good idea of the top four doubles players," Clack noted. "We will have to see who plays well with each other as the season progresses in finalizing the lineup."

The Patriots' willingness to sharp-

The Patriots' willingness to sharp ening their skills has impressed Clack

during the early portion of the season.
"The team has been very committed to practicing indoors when we cannot play outside," he said. "Their work

ethic has been very nice to see.

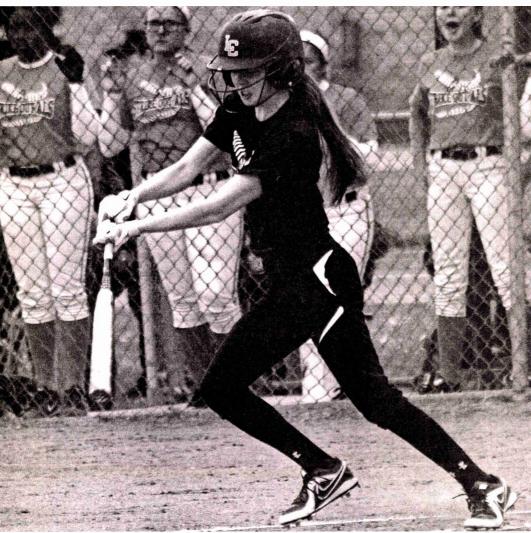
"This is really a great group to work



CHRIS GUDDECK

Senior Kendall Payne returns to give Livonia Franklin a strong No. 1 singles player.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PREVIEW



Churchill senior outfielder Elyse Baumgardner slaps at a pitch during a game last season.

## Positional competition should make Chargers strong in 2016

Churchill ready to battle for South Division crown

**Ed Wright** 

Staff Writer

Who's on first? Thanks to a healthy dose of roster-wide positional battles, Livonia Churchill head baseball coach Steve Gentilia isn't quite sure yet.

But once the Chargers take the eld for their season-opening set games next week, the veteran mentor is confident that his lineup will be

potent and productive.

"There's competition at just about every position," said Gentilia, whose team went 19-19 last spring and fin-ished third in the ultra-competitive KLAA South Division. "We haven't had a chance to get outdoors too much, so as far as the starting lineup goes, we're not positive where all the puzzle pieces are going to fit.

"All signs point to us scoring quite a few runs, though. From what I've seen, our offense is going to be pretty good. It will come down to whether our pitching can limit teams to three

or four runs and keep us in games "I told the girls after tryouts that everyone is going to be competing for starting positions. The key for us will be to play for the team and not individual glory."

The play of their four seniors — Regan Peyton, Elyse Baumgardner, regan Peyton, Elyse Baumgardner,
Erin Carpenter and Angela Lewan —
will go a long way in determining how
much success the Chargers will
achieve this spring.
Peyton is one of three players —
freshmen Rachel Klisz and Haley
Rennett are the others — who is com-

Bennett are the others - who is competing for the starting first-base nod, although each of the trio will see time at first throughout the season.

Baumgardner has early dibs on the center field spot while Carpenter can play both the infield and outfield with equal efficiency.

"Angela has a really good bat, and she'll serve as kind of a utility-player role for us," Gentilia noted.

The Chargers are in good shape in the circle, where junior Madison Christensen and the sophomore tandem of Paige Hanson and Kaitlyn Vinitski will give Gentilia promising

"All three are pretty equal when it comes to velocity—they can all throw in the low- to mid-50s on a good day— but they have different strengths when it comes to their off-speed stuff," Gentilia said.

Sophomore Jenna Kwiecinski and Bennett will be given shots to catch.

Brooke Hanson - the twin sister of Paige — will contribute dynamic skills wherever she plays, whether it's on the infield or patrolling the outfield.

Junior Colleen McGowan brings intangibles to the team that go beyond

"When it comes to leadership, Colleen is one of the best," he said. "She is always supporting her teammates, telling them, 'We've got this,' or 'Great job!' She's another player who can play just about anywhere on the dia. play just about anywhere on the dia-

Junior Ashley Bond, whose primary position is third base, showed her plate potential when she blasted a home run during the Chargers' preseason scrimmage against Garden

City.

Junior Jenifer Rousseau is another player whose talent and versatility reflects the Churchill roster, from top to bottom.
"Our division is always tough; in

fact, I tell people it's one of the tough-est divisions in the state," said Gentilia. "If we continue to work hard, I think we have what it takes to compete with Canton and Plymouth. Franklin should also be improved this season and I know John Glenn has a good pitcher.

ewright@hometownlife.com

**MEN'S LACROSSE** 

### Walter set to guide fledgling MU men's lax program

**Tim Johnston** 

With the inaugural season of Madonna University men's lacrosse set for the spring of 2017, director of athletics Bryan Rizzo announced the hiring of Mike Walter as the program's first head

coach.
The appointment of Walter rounds out Rizzo's head coaching hires for all eight new sports added to the 2016-17 athletics slate. The Crusaders announced the addition of

men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's and women's bowling, and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track & field in August 2015.



"Coach Walter is a perfect fit for Madonna men's lacrosse," said Rizzo. "He is passionate about the game, understands what it takes to be a student-athlete and has strong recruiting ties throughout the lacrosse community."

Walter, now entering his first stint as a collegiate head coach, previously helped build a pair of men's lacrosse programs after enjoying four years of playing experience at the NCAA level. "I am honored and very excited to be

able to start the program at Madonna University," said Walter, who is now serving as an assistant with the North-ville varsity boys team. "Starting a col-legiate lacrosse program is something I am very comfortable doing after helping oversee a pair of start-up programs over the course of my prior two stops.

"That experience, combined with the great support given to me by the university, will help this program create a culture of success from day one."

#### Top agenda item

While winning is important to Walter, building character-driven young men remains paramount. "I don't only want to build winners here at Madonna, but good men – men who will be leaders in the classroom, in the weight room, on the field and at home."

Walter most recently helped launch the program at NCAA Division III Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC, spending three years on staff as an assistant coach and offensive coordina-tor. While at Methodist, Walter had the fourth-best man-up unit in the nation (NCAA DIII) and was in charge of recruiting along the east coast and from Texas to the west coast.

A four-year player at the NCAA level. Walter played his final two seasons of collegiate lacrosse at Ferrum College (Va.) where he was a two-way midfield

At the conclusion of his final collegiate campaign, Walter was the recipient of the Mike Walter Senior Award, named in his honor and now doled out to a senior who best demonstrates the qualities of unselfishness as a player desire, hustle and the ability to develop team camaraderie.

The successful collegiate men's coach also spent time running summer camps for the United States Naval Academy and was the interim coach for Methodist women's lacrosse during the 2013 season. During the summer of 2014, Walter was in charge of the Carolina Hilltoppers, one of North Carolina's elite men's lacrosse teams

Tim Johnston is sports information director at Madonna University.

#### **OCELOTS**

Continued from Page B1

defense.'

Gerou's work in the circle was outstanding in Game 2. She allowed eight hits and two earned runs without walking a batter and fanning two.

Schoolcraft overcame an early 2-1 lead, tying the contest up in the fourth on a squeeze bunt by freshman outfielder Alaina DeFrain (Livonia Frank-

That hit scored sophomore shortstop







and captain Katlyn McIntosh (Garden City), who had singled to open the

A four-run fifth blew the game open for Schoolcraft, who loaded the bases on hits by Mackenzie Quinn, Shelby

Shelton and freshman third baseman and Garden City product Kelsie Powell. A sacrifice fly by freshman Mariah

Coleman gave the Lady Ocelots the go-ahead run and Livonia Stevenson alum Kassidy Lipinski, a freshman second baseman, drilled a line drive home run to left-center, opening up a

Capping off the big game was a two-run sixth and Schoolcraft (4-9 overall, 1-1 in the MCCAA) had more than

enough offense to prevail.

In Game 1, freshman pitcher Kerry
Prowse threw a complete game and gave up just three runs and two walks

while striking out three.

But the Lady Ocelots weren't able to provide her with much offense in the shutout loss. Powell led Schoolcraft with two hits, with single tallies by Quinn and Caitlin Fitzpatrick.

Schoolcraft will visit Oakland Community College for a conference doubleheader set for 3 p.m. Friday.

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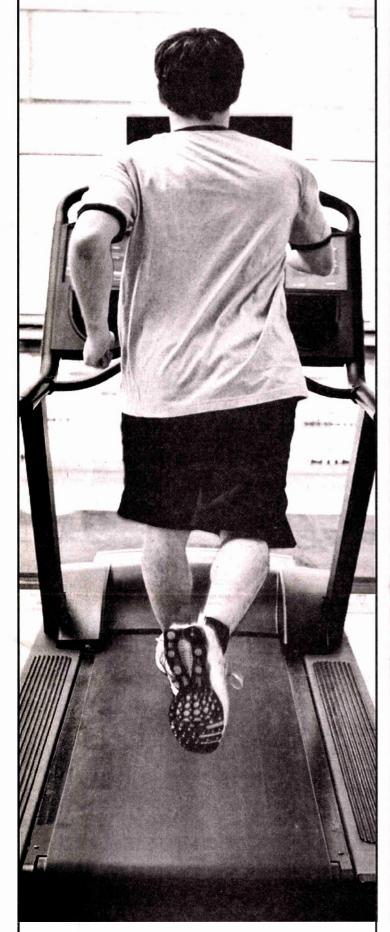
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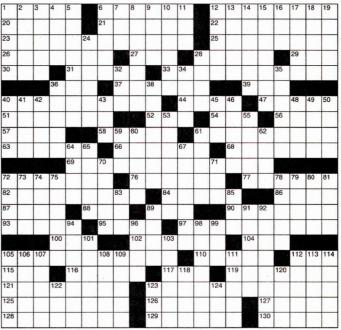
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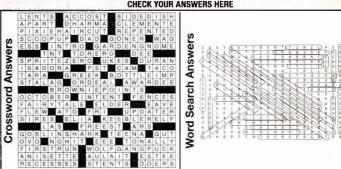
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## THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM RECTAL TO STATE RECTAL TO STATE THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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#### Building of new homes is increasing

## SE Michigan new housing report shows upswing in building

Julie Brown

With some late reporting by municipalities in the fourcounty area, the final total for new single-family home per-mits issued in 2015 (4,316) across Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties nearly matched the total in 2014 (4,321). When multi-family activity is added to the ily activity is added to the totals, 2015 (5,658) saw its best year for permit activity dating back to 2006 (6,962).

"It is very encouraging," said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan

tion of Southeastern Michigan. "To have such a strong start to the calendar year. What a difference a decade makes. Now that we're on the up-swing, that's very exciting four our builders and I'm sure the citizens of Michigan."

Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Associa-tion of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the HBA Southeastern Michigan Resi-dential Building Activity Re-port, a total of 603 single-family permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in the two-month, January-February 2016 time frame. That's the highest two-month total to start a calendar year since

January-February 2006

Activity was 70 percent higher compared to January February 2015's total of 354 permits, reflecting in-part the much milder weather this year compared to last. Oak-land County leads this year's fast start with 254 new home permits and 162 multi-family permits issued in January-February.

Said Stoskopf of the encouraging news.

"No. 1, it's peo-ple being em-ployed." Roof-ers, carpenters, those who lay carpet and others go to work when home building picks up.



Stoskopf

"There's people that need to work to do those jobs," he said. Also, the new homeowners begin to think about major retail purchases such as a couch or a refrigerator.

"It's showing up in retail outlets," said Stoskopf, adding, "Typically, new homes have a higher value for the unit because of newer materials' than do existing homes.

That translates to higher property taxes which in turn benefit school systems, he

said.
"The more people you have

working, the more service jobs you have. That restaurant on the corner has people work-ing," Stoskopf said. "The other benefit of people working is

Working people working is Working people often need a place to go for lunch, he noted, boosting the local econ-

omy.
As for lessons to be learned from the Great Recession, Stoskopf notes it's his own opinion people got tied up in thinking "everybody was enti-tled to buy a home."

His daughter and son-in-

law, in their 20s, are now working out what a down payment on a home should be as well as their other expenses. Their question is "What can we afford and figure out the right number?"

He noted there were some

predatory lending practices. "If we don't learn that from the Great Recession, we're doomed to repeat it." There are people on both sides of the political aisle now, Stoskopf said, who say home ownership should be unrealistically high,

such as 70-80 percent. Some people either don't want or can't afford a home, he said. There was a housing "bubble nationwide," in the Great Recession, he said, although auto sales were a major factor locally.
"People stop making cars,

they get laid off. It's really auto manufacturing that's the primary driver still in south-east Michigan," Stoskopf said. Based on the econometrics

used in the forecast calcula-tions, the HBA/ASA New Housing Permit Forecast projects a total of 3,087 per-mits will be issued in the six-month, March-to-August time frame, which represents an increase of 23 percent over the actual permits issued dur-ing the same period in 2015 (2,504)

In the midst of that forecast is the projection for May. If the prediction holds, May 2016 would see over 600 new home permits issued in a single month. This would be the first time since July 2006 (718) that

permits exceeded that thresh-old, according to the HBA. The HBA's monthly new housing permit forecast is sponsored by ASA, asabuil-derssupply.com, an area busi-

ness.
Stoskopf also encourages attendance at the April 1-3 Spring Home & Garden Show of the HBA, held at Suburban Collection Showplace on Grand River Avenue in Novi. You can get home ideas and talk to contractors there, he

jcbrown@hometownlife.com Twitter: @248Julie

## Management company needs to earn its keep

Q: Our board is consider ing a law firm who has indicated that they represen magnitude of associations but it is hard to get them to call us back, Our manage-ment company recommend ed them, and says that a lot of management companies recommend them; what are your thoughts on this?

A: Some management companies recom-

mend the same law firm over and over again notwithstanding how well they perform because they have a "special" relationship with them. Accord-



ingly, the law firm doesn't have to work very hard to get cli-ents or, for that matter, retain them, because they know that they have a constant source of referral from management companies with whom they have a close relationship and, in many instances, the law firm will never pursue any claims that the association might have against the management company. You are best advised to consider another. best advised to consider another management company as well as another law firm who will give you service that you deserve and who need not be complacent in providing you with what you are entitled to when an issue arises within the

when an issue arises within the management company.
Q: We have a Declaration for our homeowners association but, unfortunately, it does not have any provision for amending the Restrictions Section. What is it go ing to take to amend out restrictions and can the board use its rule making power to impose any new

restrictions?
A: Based upon a recent Michigan Court of Appeals decision, the absence of an amendment provision in the original Declaration of Restrictions for a subdivision lawfully precluded the HOA from later amending its Declaration with less than unanimous consent to impose addi-tional restrictions on the homeowners. The court said that the amendment provisions and restrictive covenants and by-laws will be enforced as written and if there is no provision requiring less than unanimity, it will be required. Again, this is something that you should consult with your community association attorney about before engaging on this issue.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as

## Realtor survey: Suburban homes hold their appeal

Over three-quarters of surveyed households would purchase a single-family home if they were to buy in the next six months, and 79 percent of renters would choose to buy outside of an urban area, according to the second installment of the National Associa-tion of Realtors new quarterly consumer survey. The survey also found that confidence about now being a good time to buy is waning amongst rentnarticularly in the West where prices have solidly

In NAR's first quarter Housing Opportunities and Market Experience (HOME) survey, respondents were asked about their confidence in the U.S. economy and various questions about their housing expectations and preferences, including a question on if they were to purchase a house in the next six months, what type of home and in what

area would they choose to buy. The survey data reveals an overwhelming consumer preference for single-family homes in suburban areas Most current homeowners (85 percent) and 75 percent of renters said they would purchase a single-family home, while only 15 percent of homeowners and 21 percent of rent-ers said that would buy in an urban area.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says the survey findings call attention to the glaring need for more supply of single-family homes. "The American Dream for most consumers is not a cramped, 500-square-foot condo in the middle of the city, but instead a larger home within close proximity to the jobs and en-

tertainment an urban area provides," he said. "While this is not a new discovery, supply and demand imbalances and and demand imbalances and unhealthy levels of price growth in several metro areas have made buying an afford-able home an onerous task for far too many first-time buyers and middle-class families."

According to Yun, it's time for home builders to double their focus on constructing single-family homes. With ing in the suburbs — as NAR reported earlier this month — tight inventory and affordability concerns will likely worsen without significant headway made in housing starts in relation to job creation.

#### Renters lose optimism about now being a good time to buy

Heading into the spring buying season, NAR's survey found that compared to the December 2015 survey the same share of homeowners (82 percent) but fewer renters (62 percent versus 68 percent last quarter) believe that now is a

good time to buy.

"A high number of homeowners are expressing that it's a good time to buy and this sentiment is no doubt being fueled by the \$4.4 trillion in housing equity accumulation in the past three years," Yun said. "On the other hand, ac-celerating home prices and the perceived difficulty in obtaining a mortgage appears to be tugging at the confidence of

Overall, respondents over the age of 65, those living in the Midwest and those with incomes over \$100,000 were

the most optimistic about buying now.

Among current homeown-Among current homeowners, fewer (56 percent) believe it is a good time to sell compared to the fourth quarter of 2015 (61 percent). Amidst steep price increases and tight supply, respondents in the West were the most likely to think now is a good time to sell, while also being the least likely to think now is a good time to buy.

#### Slightly fewer households think the U.S. economy is improving

Among all households in the survey, less than half believe the economy is improving (48 percent), down from 50 percent in last quarter's survey. Renters, those living in urban areas and respondents with lower incomes were the most optimistic

The HOME survey's month-ly Personal Financial Outlook Index of all households has slightly dipped (to 58.1) since December (59.6), but is mostly unchanged from March 2015 — reflecting stable confidence that respondents' financial situation will be better in six months. Currently, renters, younger and lower income households and those living in urban areas are more optimis-tic about their future financial

#### **Location matters** depending on lifestyle

situation.

Across all age groups, when asked about their future buying preferences, survey responses were closely tied to each generation's typical lifestyle, with younger buyers

buying a single-family home. Not surprisingly, renters and younger buyers would for the most part purchase larger homes, whereas older buyers would purchase similar or smaller sized homes

Highlighting the apparent appetite for some older houselds to downsize and live in the city, respondents over the age of 65 were the most likely to consider a condo and nearly the age of 35 to consider pur-

chasing in an urban area.

Most respondents indicated their preference to stay in a similar area to their current living situation if they were to buy in the next six months. Over two-thirds of those living in rural areas and 75 percent of those living in suburban areas would buy in a similar area. Only those living in an urban area would be more likely to move elsewhere, with a suburban area within 20 miles of the city being the most frequent choice of urban buyers moving to another type

#### **About NAR's HOME** survey

In January through early March 2016, a sample of U.S. households was surveyed via random-digit dial, including half via cell phones and the other half via land lines. The survey was conducted by an established survey research firm, TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence. Each month approximately 900 qualified households responded to the survey. The data was compiled for this report and a total of 2,781 household responses are represented.

#### **REAL ESTATE** BRIEFS

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are from 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in South-

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayde Koehler at 313-819-0919

#### Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Call the office at 248-782-

7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

#### **APRIL** CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, April

**Location**: Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuera, Farmington Hills

Details: Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected Contact: 248-474-2860; trin

ityfarmingtonhills.org

#### CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16

**Location**: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills Details: Features Aeolian Cho-

rale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Milito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ John Sittard, conductor. Present ed by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted

#### Contact: 248-644-5460 **DEVOTIONS. SWIECONKA**

Time/Date: Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3 **Location**: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the /Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benedic tion; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m. Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hard-boiled eggs, beet horseradish, rye bread, butter lambs, salad, babka, lazy perogi, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gomulka 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336. Include number of attendees Must be received by March 26 Sponsored by the West Side Detroit Polish American Histori

cal Society Contact: 855-POLONIA; detroit-

#### MOM-TO-MOM SALE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23

**Location:** Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton **Details**: Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30

a.m. Admission \$2 Contact: 734-397-1777

#### **POMEGRANATE GUILD** Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, April

**Location:** Prentis Apartments community room, at the A. Alfred Taubman Jewish Community

nity Campus, 15100 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park Details: Judy Galperin will create a Huck-embroidered placemat and will teach the technique. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan

studies and creates Judiac no dlecraft. RSVP if interested

#### Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337 **RUMMAGE SALE**

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-6 p.m Friday, April 15

Location: The Salvation Army located on Main Street south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth

**Details:** Proceeds benefit the "Older, Wiser and Loving Senio Group." Tables are available to rent for \$20

Contact: Major Colette or Sandy at 734-453-5464

#### **VESPERS**

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, through April 17

Location: Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

Details: Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysos-tom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter Orthodox chorus will sing the

Contact: Olga Liskiwsky at 248-252-8184; Olga-liss0910@gmail.com

#### **ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY**

Our Lady of Loretto Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township Details: Scripture study Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel **Parish** 

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

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniast-michael.org.

Faith Community Wesleyan Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every

Location: 14560 Merriman.

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

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

#### **EXERCISE**

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday **Location:** Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Mid-dlebelt, south of Eight Mile,

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

#### Contact: 313-408-3364

**FAMILY MEAL** Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every

Location: Salvation Army 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

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

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

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

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

#### MOMS Christ Our Savior Lutherar

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

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

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

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

**Dunning Park Bible Chapel** Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

**Location:** 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships,

receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

#### PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

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

Contact: 313-563-0162

#### PRAYER

St. Edith Church Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday Location: Parish office, 15089

Newburgh, Livonia **Details:** Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows Contact: Parish office at 734

#### **RELIGION CALENDAR**

464-1223 Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church Time/Date: 6-7 a m. Monday-

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests wel-

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

#### RISEN CHRIST **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

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

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

#### 734-466-9023 **SINGLES**

**Detroit World Outreach** Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

**Details:** Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated. Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

Steve's Family Restaurant Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399 **SONG CIRCLE** 

Congregation Beth Ahm Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m.

every Shabbat Location: 5075 W. Maple, West

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

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

Apostolic Christian Church Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Location: 29667 Wentworth,

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

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

**Connection Church** Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

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

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

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems Contact; 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August Location: 28301 Middlebelt

between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011 » Merriman Road Baptist

Church ate: 1-3 p fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with

questions at 734-981-2519 » Fireside Church of God Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday Location: 11771 Newburgh,

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program endent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a

drop-in center Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@fireside chog.org

» St. Andrew's Episcopal

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A twice-monthly dropin Food Cupboard (nonperish able items) is available

View Online

www.hometownlife.com

SCHREIER

Contact: 734-421-8451

## Passages Oklinaries Memorphes & Rememberances

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

#### **CARTER**



LILLIAN MARIE Age 82
March 26, 2016 Beloved
former wife of the late Charles
Sr. "Sonny". Loving mother of
Charles Jr. (Audrey), Debra,
Robert (Laurie), Walter, John
(Deborah), Kathleen (John)
Slone, Patricia, Bonnie (Danie)
Jenkins, Proud
grandmother of 12,
Also survived by dear siblings
Florence (Thomas) Eastin,
Madeline (the late Edward)
DiBartolomeo, Roberta (the
late Donald) Clavone, Richard
Peters, Carolann (Norman)
Techow, Earl (Terri) Peters,
Linda (the late Ronald) Jahlas
and Calvin (Karen) Peters.
Memorial gathering Saturday
12 noon until time of service,
4 pm at the Harry J. Will
Funeral Home, 37000 Six
Mile Rd. in Livonia. www. Mile Rd. in Livonia

JACK Age 88. Beloved husband of Peggy. Dear father of Jack, Jann, Jill (Robert) Forbes, Jeanne (Dale) Marble, Jeff (Cecillia), Jennefer, John (Laura), James (Elena), Juliann (Rob) Joy, Josh (Hannah), and Jereme (AJ) Ureel. Grandfather of 21. Great-grandfather of three. Dear brother of Laura Jean Dupont and Ronald E. Dagg. Also leaves faithful companion, Jogg. Visitation Wednesday, 3-8 p.m. at Charles Step Funeral Home. 18425 Beech Daly Rd. (between 6 and 7 Mile) in Redford. Memorial Service Thursday 11 a.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. 6 Mile Rd. Redford (E. of Beech Daly Rd.), Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery. Condolences to Charlesstepfuneralhome.com.

DIAMOND

KEVIN PATRICK March 28,

Paula (the late Torn) Mies, Tim (Cathy) Diamond, Edwar Haggerty, James Haggerty, the late Patricia and the late Michael. Also survived by many cousins and niece Sofia. Kevin proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. Funeral Friday, 10:30 a.m. from the chapel of the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt (at Ann Arbor Trail His family will receive visitors Thursday, 2-9 p.m. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at

DAGG

#### **MORRISON** STUART JEROME Dr. Stuart

STUART JEROME Dr. Stuart
J. Morrison passed away in
Ahwatukee, Arizona on March
6a at the age of 81. Beloved
husband of Martha (née
Rummell), married 56 years.
He is lovingly remembered
by his five children: daughter
Catherine Morrison Wimer
(Tom) of Fairtax, Va, Marilyn
Morrison MoCarthy (Dennis)
of Glenview, IL, son John
Morrison of Phoenix, AZ,
Mary Morrison of Rochester,
MN and Carolyn Morrison of
Scottsdale, AZ. He was adorec
by his grandchildren Rachel
and Thomas Wimer, Collin
Globig Morrison, Morgan
Swanson and Ryan and Jack
McCarthy. He was born in
Parkhill, Ontario on October
2, 1934. He graduated from
The University of Guelph and
started his life's work as a
veterinarian in Detroit. He was
the proud owner of Morrison
Animal Hospital in Garden
City, Michigan for more than
30 years. A private celebration
of his life will be held with
family and friends. In lieu of
flowers, and to honor the love
he had for his black labradors,
memorial donations may be
made to Guiding Eyes for the
Blind, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit
that provides guide dogs to
people with vision loss, as well
as service dogs to children
with autism.

BARBARA HIRSCH 81, of Ann Arbor, died March 27, 2016. She was a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School and Ohio State University. Barbara taught English as a Second Language for decades, the last 15 years at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, positively influencing the lives of hundreds of immigrants to the U.S. She was also active in many organizations including AAUW and the Jewish Cultural Society. She was the cherished mother of Eric (Jaki) Schreier, Jordan (Shelly) Schreier, Jordan (Shelly) Schreier, And Barry (Tom Birkenholz) Schreier. Loving grandmother of Alayna, Rebecca, Haley, Abraham, Mallory, and Brooklyn Schreier. Friend of her former husband, the late Leonard Schreier, M.D. Ms. Schreier was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Sara Hirsch. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Barbara Schreier Citizen Education Endowment Fund at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (fsannarbor org), or a charity of your choice. SERVICE 2:00 PM. WEDNESDAY AT TEMPLE BETH EMETH OF ANN ARBOR. ARRANGEMENTS BY THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL. 248-569-0020. SANDERSON

www.irakaufman.com



NANCY J. Age 75 passed away peacefully on March 28, 2016 at Rivergate Terrace nursing home in Riverview. Nancy was born October 12, 1940. Beloved daughter of the late Carl & Shirley (nee: Burkholder) Buchholz. Loving mother of Pamela (David) Balfour of Garden City, Mark Larive of Waterford and Sandra (Scott) Downer of Palatine. (Scott) Downer of Palatine IL. Cherished grandmother of Jonathan, Jarred, Kendall and Evan. She was the oldest of four children: the late Joan Mulligan, the late Carol Buchholz and is survived by her brother, Carl (Nancy) by her brother, Carl (Nancy) Buchholz, She was a loving aunt, special friend and doting owner to many furry friends. Nancy grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Edsel Ford High School in 1959. She married, raised her family, and lived throughout the Michigan area. She lived in Florida for 16 years and later returned to Garden City. She held a long career in insurance, real estate career in insurance, real estate, interior decorating and certified nursing care. She loved all family/social gatherings. Her passions included cooking, gardening, music, shopping, card playing, sketching and being near the water. Her energy and enthusiasm will be areally missed by all whose life. greatly missed by all whose life she touched. In lieu of services and flowers, memorials can be made in Nancy J. Sanderson's name to the American Cancer Society at cancer.org/donate.

## Wishes o peace to yours in this time

SEOG MARK A. 66 years old, formerly of Livonia, MI, passed away at his residence in Clearwater, Florida on March 17, 2016. He is preceded in death by his father, Joseph V. Seog; mother, Dorothry Belle Burk Seog; and brother, Bruce H. Seog all of Livonia, MI. Mark is survived by his son, Mark A. Seog of Leonard, MI; grandson, Zachary Seog; brother, William Seog (Wanda) of South Lyon, MI; brother Greg Seog of Tilton, New Hampshire; sister, Donna Clayton (Don) of New Bern, North Carolina; and sister, Lori Seog of Franklin, NH. Arrangements were handled by The Neptune Cremation Society, Clearwater, FL. Mark will be placed with his parents and brother at a future date. The family requests any memorial donations be made to a charitable organization of your choice.

## May the memory of your loved one...

to a charitable organization of



## Your Invitation to Worship

For information regarding this directory please Call Janice Brandon at 248-926-2204 or email

jkbrando@michigan.com

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN** 

WARD 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400

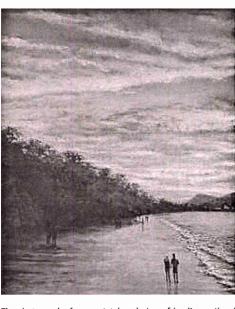
Sunday Worship Services 8 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m. www.wardchurch.org

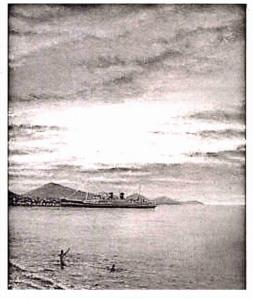
A Church for Seasoned Saints **OPEN ARMS CHURCH** 

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OF GOD

Worship: day 10:30 am







The photograph of a sunset, taken during a friend's vacation, inspired this triptych, "Hawaiian Air," by Robert Aikins. It features a Hawaiian Airlines 1935 Sikorsky S-43 flying boat.

## Artist combines history, detail in aviation paintings

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Before Robert Aikins puts brush to canvas, the Farming-ton Hills artist opens his histo-

ry books.
"It's research. I'm sitting in my studio and looking at books, a couple of hundred aviation books," said Aikins, whose detailed aircraft paintings

resemble photographs.
"Aviation art is a specialtytype thing. People who like aviation art, they want details. Are you telling the right story? Are you showing it (the airplane) in the right part of the world?"

When he was chief designer for Ford Motor Company, Aikins made sure images showed vehicles as sellable and in the best possible light. Now 16 years into retirement, Aikins strives for realism in his avia-

tion paintings.
"When you're doing aviation art, you're trying to represent something that appeared in history," he said, adding that a dirty or weathered-looking airplane may be acceptable in a scene. "People are more interested in authenticity."

Aikins is flying high these

days as an artist with some 200 oil paintings focused on airplanes, both in the sky and on

the runway.

His work will be on exhibit during Farmington Hills' Festival of the Arts, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 14-15 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 16 at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Aikins is a former artist-in-residence for the communi-

He also has an upcoming exhibit of 24 paintings at Dean Sellers Buick GMC, in Far-

mington Hills.
"That is a first for me to exhibit in a dealership," said Aikins, who worked in automo-

tive design for 35 years.

Three of his paintings will
be shown June 1-July 25 during an aviation art exhibit at the



"Showtime," a 29-by-35-inch oil painting on canvass by Robert Aikins is a previous American Society of Aviation Arts competition winner. It shows a WACO biplane viewing aerobatics at the 2007 Columbus. Ohio air



Robert Aikins, an artist from Farmington Hills, will be the guest speaker Monday, April 4, at Three Cities Art Club in Canton.



"Flightline," showing planes on display at the 2005 Thunder Over Michigan air show at Willow Run Airport, will be on display June 1-July 25, at the James C. Weston Gallery at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo

James C. Weston Gallery at the Arts Council of Greater Kala-

His work also is on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum, the San Diego Air & Space Museum, the Gallery at Baltimore Washington Interna-tional Airport, the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and the National Museum of the Mighty Eight Air

He'll be the guest speaker at Three Cities Art Club, 7-9 p.m., Monday, April 4, in the lower level of Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill Road, in

Canton. The event is free.
"This is the sixth art club
I've been invited to," he said. "I

form of art out there. And some of the things we talk about with oil paint technique might help them in their own paintings.

#### Self-taught in oils

Aikins, who is married and has two adult sons, worked with watercolor, gouache and other media while studying

industrial design at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, Calif. He didn't use it at school nor on the job. "Everything in the automo-tive industry is based on a

timeline. Painting for fun is the opposite. I don't care when it's done," he said.

"Oil painting takes a long

time to dry and the way I work in oils is almost like watercolor. I put in thin washes and let it dry and then add another color or two. I've had no official training in oils. I read a book."

He tried oil paints because they represented "a challenge" and they offered brilliant colors. Aikins, looking for a creative outlet in retirement, bought a book on oil painting

and a book on drawing aircraft
"like a pro."

"I still loved airplanes and I
what is the see if I could paint

As a youngster, growing up in Washington D.C., Aikins had spent many hours building model airplanes and entering contests. He eventually swapped out airplanes for cars and won several design scholarships. He credits his father a arships. He credits his father, a World War 1 airman for inspiring his interest in aviation.

Today, inspiration comes from attending air shows, from photographs that friends send him, photos he takes, from watching a beautiful sunrise or sunset, or talking with men who flew during World War II. Sometimes he gives the veter-are his completed paintings ans his completed paintings. "There's nothing greater

than seeing the joy of a guy in his 80s or 90s get something like that."

For more about the Three Cities Art Club call Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or email to marilynmeredit@wow-way.com. Visit Aikins' website at aikinsaviationart.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

## Trinity House Theatre class teaches improvisation

**Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

Gloriann Curley and Laura Gumina will teach a six-week improvisation workshop for students, ages 9-18, beginning April 11 at Trinity

House Theatre in Livonia. Curley of Garden City, is an English teacher at a private school in Canton. She taught drama for three years at a Detroit middle school and has been involved in the

Detroit Creativity Project's program that teaches improv to students in Detroit.

Laura Gumina of Farmington Hills has acted, directed and taught theater for more than 30 years throughout southeast-ern Michigan. She also has taught improv classes at



Trinity House Theatre. Curley said all ages will work together

as an ensemble. The workshop, which will run 4-6 p.m. Monday and Thurs-

day, will include games and scene work designed to help students think on their feet Curley said she watched

her students in Detroit be-

come less self-conscious and is that it's purely imaginamore confident in their interactions with others after they began learning improvisation skills

One of the shyest kids I had got the confidence on stage to go on and attend a special improv camp," Cur-ley said, adding that the stu-dent was one of only 20 improvisers selected for the

program.
"And improv is a creative outlet. One fun thing about it tion, and students don't always get that any more. They'll learn the constructs of the games...and right away we'll have them jumping in to create their own scenes.

Students will perform for family and friends at the end of the six weeks. Cost is \$120. For more

information call Gumina at 313-614-2406 or email to glorianncurley@gmail.com.

#### **ANIMALS** DETROIT 700

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. beginning April

**Location**: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

**Details:** Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Soci ety members get free admission and

Contact: 248-541-5717

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS **CITY GALLERY**

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 8

**Location**: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** "Night and Day" exhibit features new work, including landscape and portraits of other local artists, by

Taurus Burns Contact: 248-473-1859

#### **FARMINGTON HILLS CITY**

Time/Date: Through April 22 Location: 31555 11 Mile, Farmington

Details: Works by local artists Pamela Contact: 248-473-1859

#### **NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE**

**Time/Date**: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 1-30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details**: The exhibit features the personal work of the late Richard Rochon, who was known in the field of architecture. ture for his renderings of buildings Includes a reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday,

**GET OUT! CALENDAR** 

Contact: 248-344-0497 or

#### U-M MUSEUM OF ART

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. through May

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann

Details: First U.S. exhibition of Chinese artist Xu Weixin focuses on portraits of Chinese coal miners and of Chinese historical figures during the Cultural Revolution

Contact: 734-764-0395; umma.umich.edu

#### FILM

#### **PENN THEATRE**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday, April 1, and 4:25 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 2-3

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth Details: "Joy," \$3 Contact: 734-453-0870:

#### www.penntheatre.com REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 1 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 2

**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit Details: "Seven Brides for Seven Broth-

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

ers," \$5

#### **FUNDRAISERS GIVING HOPE**

Time/Date: 6:30-9 p.m. April 13

Location: Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Ply

**Details:** The "Giving Our All for Family, Fun and Fitness" event, presented by Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, includes food, a cash bar, shopping, a fashion show from local shops and boutiques, a raffle and a silent auction. Admission is \$35 and pre-registration is required. Proceeds from the event will help bring ShapeDown, a family weight management program to the greater Canton and Plymouth area

Contact: cantonfoundation.org

For a complete listing of Get Out! visit www.hometownlife.com

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### **Transform** traditional dishes with seafood

ow more than ever, food choices matter. People want healthy, environmen-tally-friendly foods without sacrificing flavor. Substituting the traditional protein in your favorite dishes with seafood is one delicious way to satisfy these demands

Seafood offers numerous health benefits. It's high in pro-tein, omega-3 fatty acids and es-sential vitamins and minerals, but low in saturated fat and calories. When it comes to the environ-

ment, seafood offers an advan-tage as well – it's the most environmentally friendly of all the animal proteins. In a comparison of environmental costs, wildcapture fisheries have a miniscule cost compared to foods such as beef, chicken, pork and

Changing up traditional meals to incorporate seafood is easier than you may think. Just pick a non-seafood protein dish that you regularly enjoy, and replace the protein with seafood. For exam-ple, replace veal in veal Parmesan with cod or the chicken in chicken Marsala with flavorful Alaska

Find more easy, meatless reci-pes and inspiration at wildalaskaseafood.com.

#### **COD PARMESAN WITH ZUCCHINI NOODLES**

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 20 minutes

- 2 medium zucchini (5-6 ounces each),
- thinly sliced
  1 tablespoon unsalted butter
  1 teaspoon olive oil
- salt and pepper, to taste ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese 1½ tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- % teaspoon dried oregano % teaspoon dried oregano % teaspoon onion powder 4 Alaska cod fillets (4-6 ounces each) 2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese, divided

In nonstick skillet, saute zucchini slices in butter and oil just until soft. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Keep

Heat oven to broil setting. Mix grated Parmesan cheese, mayonnaise, lemon juice, basil, oregano and onion powder together. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Divide and spread topping onto the top of each fillet. Place fillets on foil-lined broiler pan. Broil 5-7 inches from broiler element for 3 minutes, or until top is browned and bubbly. Reduce heat to 300 F and cook 3-5 more minutes. Cook until fish is opaque throughout.

To serve, place ¼ of zucchini on each plate. Top with cod fillet and garnish with %tablespoon shredded cheese.



Salmon Marsala

#### **SALMON MARSALA**

Prep time: 10 minutes

- 4 Alaska salmon fillets (4-6 ounces
- each)
  salt and pepper, to taste
  2 cups flour
- 2 cups flour % cup olive oil 1 cup Marsala wine
- 2 cups mushrooms, sliced 2 cups chicken stock
- teaspoons fresh thyme tablespoons cold butter
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs, for garnish

Season salmon fillets with salt and pepper, to taste. On plate, season flour with salt and pepper, to taste. Dredge both sides of each salmon fillet in seasoned flour, shaking off excess Heat large saute pan and add olive oil then place each piece of salmon in pan. Cook for 2-4 minutes, turn fillets over and cook until almost done. Re-move fillets from pan; set aside. Off heat, add wine to pan, scraping bits off the bottom. Return pan to heat and add mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper, to taste, and cook for 1 minute. Add stock and thyme, and let liquid reduce by half.

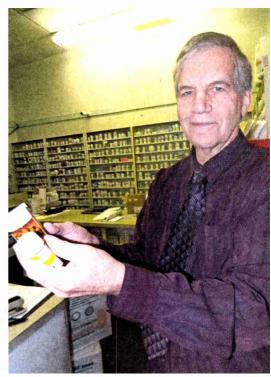
Return salmon fillets to pan. Cook

while basting fish, until fillets are heated through. Remove fillets to 4 serving

Return pan to heat, add cold butter and swirl until incorporated and sauce slightly thickens. Remove from heat and divide sauce evenly over salmon fillets. Garnish each plate with 1 thyme sprig, if desired.



Registered dietician and nutritionist Aarti Batavia begins to prepare a vegan and gluten-free sprouted mung bean salad in her Novi Providence Park campus office March 18.



Pharmacist Paul Krause, a vegan, said he believes most people could eliminate their need for medications by changing their diet.

## NOT JUST LETTUCE

#### Vegan pharmacist, dietitian share nutrition tips

Susan Bromley

Pharmacist Paul Krause doles out medications daily to treat patients with high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other ailments, all while advocating a better, cheaper, drug-free way to stay

Most customers don't want to consid er his alternative, however

"People come in and I tell them, 'All you have to do is live a vegan lifestyle' and they say, 'No way, just give me the Lipitor,'" Krause said. "A lot of the disease states that occur are results from the way we live. If you switch to a vegetarian/vegan diet and exercise, 80 percent of cardiovascular diseases would go away, 95 percent of type 2 diabetes could be eliminated and a lot of specialists say 80 percent of cancers could be eliminated."

He isn't concerned about what such

He isn't concerned about what such a change might mean for his business. He said he would happily close his store, The Medicine Cabinet in South-field, if everyone switched to a vegan lifestyle, which avoids the consumption of animal products, including dairy.

Krause is president of VegMichigan, a nonprofit organization whose mission is "promoting awareness of the health, ethical and environmental benefits of a plant-based, vegan lifestyle.

The group will do that locally through a display April 1 at the Novi Public Library, as well as through Veg-Fest Vegan Tastefest and Expo, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. April 24, at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, in Novi. The event features celebrity presenters including former Detroit presenters, including former Detroit Pistons player and vegan John Salley, as well as samples from local restaurants and bakeries, exhibits with eco friendly products, clothing, cookbooks, food demonstrations, children's activities and more

More than 5,000 persons, including vegans, vegetarians and even meateaters are expected to attend VegFest

We have cooking demos there and people can get an idea of how to transi-tion some of their cooking habits," Krause said. "It's funny how we'll go into surgery and do all these dramatic things to our body because of our life-style, but consider it drastic to change our eating habits. It's not a difficult transition anymore."

The Troy resident, 69, made the change himself more than two decades ago after he was diagnosed with a cardiovascular blockage. Doctors wanted to perform an angioplasty. Krause de-clined, and after research, decided to pursue preventive measures to maintain his health.

Raised on pizza, chips, meat and dairy — or the standard American diet (SAD, as he likes to call it) — Krause set to work changing food habits and reversing the cumulative effects of lifetime consumption of animal prod-

ucts. It worked.

#### Food as medicine

As a registered dietitian and founder of Nutrition and Wellness Consulting, LLC, in Novi, Aarti Batavia uses food as medicine to develop individualized plans for patients struggling with al-lergies, diabetes, weight management and cardiovascular, gastric, hormonal and neurological disorders.

and neurological disorders.

"I believe in food as medicine," Batavia said. "We are what we eat, drink, think and touch. Eating whole foods and consuming more plant-based foods provides vitality and exuberance that we need to enjoy life. Food is not just calories. Food is information for your genes. It sends messages to your DNA, regulates hormones, your immune. regulates hormones, your immune system, bacteria in the gut, neurotrans mitters and even influences mood and

Batavia believes the three biggest steps individuals can take to improve their nutrition are to eat mindfully, consuming whole foods, more vegeta bles and less processed foods while enjoying food flavors; knowing that food affects inflammation; and being

aware that food speaks to genes.

The biggest mistakes people make about food is thinking of it only in terms of calories; assuming that foods promoted as "low-fat" or as "diet" are healthy; eating quickly on the go without savoring food; and assuming that food is not related to mood

#### Decrease meat, fish and eggs

Batavia, a vegetarian, suggests turning to beans and whole grains as protein sources. Animal products have vitamins and minerals, but lack antioxidants that are crucial in preventing free radicals from damaging cells through a process called oxidation.
Antioxidants are present in fruits

and vegetables. "If you are consuming animal-based proteins, be sure that it is antibiotic and hormone-free," she said. "The antibi-otics used in animal farming do have an impact on our gut bacteria and the hormones can play as endocrine disruptors in our bodies."

Krause admits that switching from meat and dairy products to a plant-based diet can be challenging. But he notes the huvery adaptable."
Buying fruits and vegetables



Aarti Batavia's sprouted mung bean salad.

#### SPROUTED MOONG **BEAN SALAD**

Recipe developed by Aarti Batavia MS, RDN, CLT, CFSP, IFMCP.
Prep time: 15 minutes Total time: 25 minutes

Servings: 2 1 cup sprouted moong beans 1 small diced carrot 1 small diced cucumber

%cup diced apple

½ cup halved grapes

% cup blueberries

1 tablespoon pumpkin seeds
% teaspoon black pepper powder

¼ teaspoon cumin po

¼ teaspoon salt 2 tablespoons lime juice 1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro

In a bowl add sprouted moong beans,

diced carrots, cucumbers, apples and blueber-

Add pumpkin seeds, black pepper powder, cumin powder, salt and add freshly squeezed lime juice. Mix all the ingredients and garnish with

cilantro.

Variations:

» Add tomatoes and avocado » Instead of fruits, add onions, tomatoes,

» Add a variety of beans either sprouted or

cooked or from a can (rinse canned beans) » Add ¼ teaspoon chili powder if you enjoy

also can be less costly than buying

#### Helping picky eaters

How can parents convince their children to enjoy eating vegetables? Batavia suggests a shopping trip to the produce section of the market where youngsters can select a few fruits and vegetables. She said not to force them to eat, but to create positive experiences around food and to be a good role model.

You can't ask your kids to eat fruits and veggies while you're sitting with a bag of chips watching the television," she said.

To learn more, go to vegmichiga n.org and aartibatavia.com.

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