

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 131, No. 48

Following voters' approval of two proposals for a new district library, the project is moving forward with the hiring of a construction manager.

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Canton Police Sgt. Daniel Traynor successfully completed Eastern Michigan University Police Staff and Command School recently.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Three new officers have officially joined the Westland Police Department and two veterans of the force have been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

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New township officials take oaths

Don Howard
Staff Writer

New Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise received thunderous applause from a standing-room-only audience during his official swearing in last week.

Heise spoke to the assembled crowd of residents, police officers, fire fighters and township officials last Tuesday as he and the other members of the board of trustees elected swore to perform their elected duties.

LT Gov. Brian Calley administered the oath of office to six of the seven board members, five of whom are first-time office holders.

Heise who was elected as a write-in candidate, addressed the assembly with an emotional testimonial calling for "healing,

tolerance and co-operation," prompting a standing ovation from the crowd.

"In the last two years I could not have survived without the steadfast support of my family. We have suffered the most negative, expensive campaign in the history of this township. This is a time for healing and healing takes time," he said.

Heise praised the team of professionals who now comprise the board of trustees which consists of four lawyers, two who have earned Master of Business Administration degrees and a management executive.

"You sent us here to find solutions and that is exactly what we'll do," he said.

New Township Treasurer Mark Clinton, who replaced long-time office holder Ron Edwards, thanked fellow board



New Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise swears his oath of office administered by Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley before a standing-room only crowd last week. Photo by Don Howard

members and "everyone in this room," and praised the many police and fire firefighters in attendance.

New Clerk Jerry Varva introduced newly-appointed Deputy

Clerk Sandy Groth who was credited as one of the residents who fostered the grassroots political revolution two years

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Singing the blues Plymouth native signs record deal

That heartbreak in Matt Sauter's songs is the real thing.

In fact, it was a broken heart that motivated the 24-year-old Plymouth resident to pick up a guitar a few years ago and begin to write about the angst he was experiencing when his first love left his life.

Now, Sauter has a deal for an album and an early press of four of his songs will be released by Original 1265 Recordings early next year.

Sauter said he is still someone that surprised by his success as he has been making music for as long as he can remember.

"I wanted to do whatever my big brother Dan was doing and he played the guitar and sang. I played the drums for him with some of the bands he was involved in and then started playing in other bands."

That led Sauter to his hip hop days during his time at

Canton High School and after graduation.

"That was what I did for years. I really enjoyed hip hop, but then came the breakup with my girlfriend. That was when I picked up the guitar and really started writing songs about how I felt."

Heartbroken and adrift, he decided to audition for the prestigious Detroit Institution of Music Education in Detroit (DIME), but rather than his familiar hip hop music, he decided to take a gamble on his new songs.

"I actually auditioned for them playing the guitar, even

though by then I only had a couple of songs," he said. He began to write songs in earnest while at the music school, where he is pursuing a three-year degree in song writing. He had only been a student there for about a year and a half when he was picked up by the record label.

His current music is a modern day folk-blues mix with some old-style country.

"I'd say I'm sort of a modern-day Johnny Cash and do kind of Willie Nelson type songs."

He has been playing con-



Photo by Kelly Manning

Matt Sauter

See Singer, page 3

Westland begins Shop & Dine campaign

We are proud of Westland Shopping Center and the entire Shop and Dine District.

Mayor William Wild

The holidays have officially come to Westland with the start of the annual Shop and Dine Holiday Campaign.

The 7th annual campaign is a six-week multifaceted marketing effort which promotes the premier shopping district in the city. "Everything you want. Everything you need," is the slogan which will be promoted with TV and radio commercials this week.

The Westland Shop and Dine district is anchored by the Westland Shopping Center and is surrounded by more than 160 shops, restaurants and services making it the premier shopping and dining destination in Wayne County, officials said.

Radio ads will be hitting the metro area air waves, and the city will also utilize billboards on major freeways to promote the campaign, along with a encompasses a large digital

and social presence.

New this year, Westland encouraged local businesses to offer special deals on Small Business Saturday. As an added incentive to participate, the city advertised these sales on an interactive map at www.cityofwestland.com/smallbizsat. There, shoppers could view a comprehensive list of all the sales around Westland in one convenient location.

"Small businesses are a crucial part of the success of our fantastic shop and dine district," Mayor William Wild remarked, "so when you visit

Westland this holiday season, tell them the City of Westland sent you."

The third piece of the shop and dine campaign is the \$1,000 in 1,000 seconds shopping spree contest. The contest went live on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26 and will continue until Tuesday, Dec. 13. Interested contestants should visit www.cityofwestland.com to enter to win. Three finalists will be chosen from the pool of entrants and they will meet at 11 a.m. at Westland Shopping Center on Saturday, Dec. 17 to see who the lucky winner will

be. At that time, one more contestant will be picked from the crowd and the four finalists will take turns opening gifts to find out which one holds the grand prize of the \$1,000 shopping spree. The winner will then have 1,000 seconds to spend \$1,000 at one of the Westland Shopping Center four anchors: Maey's, JCPenney, Kohls or Sears.

"We are proud of Westland Shopping Center and the entire Shop and Dine District," commented Wild. "Our city has so much to offer, our dining industry is growing, we have restaurants featuring foods from around the world. The stores inside this mall that have something for everybody from our anchor stores to our smaller boutiques. Our Shop and Dine District not only keeps our economy going but it is essential to our quality of life."

WAYNE - WESTLAND

Westland police add, promote officers



Ryan Damico



Curtis Johns



Jacob Broda



Robert Fruit



Stephen Vidauri

Three new officers have officially joined the Westland Police Department and two veterans of the force have been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

The officers took their oaths of office last month during ceremonies at city hall.

"Recently, sergeants Jeffrey Kavanaugh and Harlan Epperson both retired from the Westland Police Department," commented Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik. "Both men served our community with honorable police careers. With their retirements, we welcome three new police officers and the promotion of two veteran officers to the rank of sergeant."

Ryan Damico is one of the new

officers. He is a Westland resident and formerly served as a Westland Police Explorer. He graduated with an associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Schoolcraft College and graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy in 2013. He also served three years with the Romulus Police Department as an officer prior to accepting the position with the Westland Police Department.

Curtis Johns is a Newport resident and attended the Detroit Police Academy and served the City of Detroit for two years. He left the Detroit Police Department to serve on the Flat Rock Police Department for 13 years. Johns has received specialized training in accident investigation and is a trained evidence technician.

Jacob Broda is a Livonia resident and has served as a Westland Service Aide for 2.5 years. Broda is the first Public Service Aide to successfully test and promote through the program into an officer position. He graduated with an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College in 2015 and from the Wayne County Regional Academy last month.

The two veteran officers to receive promotions to the rank of sergeant are Robert Fruit and Stephen Vidauri.

Fruit started his law enforcement career with the Highland

Park Police Department where he served for five years, before joining the Westland force where he has served for 16 years. Fruit has worked assignments in the Westland Police Community Police Unit, Alcohol Enforcement Bureau and the Traffic Bureau. Fruit holds certifications as a Drug Recognition Expert, is a Standardized Field Sobriety Training Instructor and is a certified Accident Re-constructionist. He has received two distinguished awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and two life-saving awards.

Vidauri began his career in law enforcement with the Detroit Police Department for 25 years, after which he moved to

Westland where he has served for 19 years. He has a Bachelor's degree for Olivet College. Vidauri was a 13-year member of the Westland Tactical Response Unit (SWAT), a motorcycle officer, a field training officer, a member of the Honor Guard and was assigned to the Westland Special Investigations Unit and served as a Firearms Instructor.

"I am proud to welcome these new, highly qualified individuals to Westland. Our community looks forward to their service and dedication to the residents," commented Mayor William Wgt. Vidauri the best of luck in their new positions."

Suspect arraigned in Wayne shooting death

The 27-year-old man arrested by Wayne police following a shooting Nov. 14 on John R. Street has been arraigned on multiple charges including manslaughter.

Tyler Lyndell Lankford, 24, of Westland, was arrested by Wayne police later in the day of the incident. He was arraigned in 29th District Court Nov. 18 and ordered held without bond.

He faces charges including homicide-

manslaughter-statutory short form, homicide-manslaughter-death by weapon aimed with intent but without malice, weapons-firearms-possession by felon and felony firearm. He was also charged as a habitual offender-second offense. According to state records, Lankford served two years in prison on a dangerous weapons charge stemming from an October 2013 incident. He was released from prison, state records show, in

September 2015.

The latest charges resulted when Wayne police were dispatched to a residence in the 3000 block of John R. in the early-morning hours of Nov. 14 where officers discovered the body of a male

victim, dead from a gunshot wound.

Lankford was arrested by Wayne officers later the same day.

Lankford is due back in court for a preliminary court examination on the charges Dec. 6.

Wayne to light tree

The City of Wayne official Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place from 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Wayne Historical Museum. Visits with Santa will be available.

Volunteers are needed to help wel-

come guests and act as Santa's helpers. Volunteers will also read short holiday stories to children visiting the museum.

The Museum Store is now open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Thursdays.

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INKSTER - NORTHVILLE

Former supervisor named to county post

Mark Abbo, of Northville, is returning to Wayne County government as fiscal director for the Wayne County Commission. His appointment was announced last week by commission Chairman Gary Wornochak, D-DeARBorn, and will be effective Monday, Dec. 5.

"I am honored to once again be serving the residents of Wayne County, especially in monitoring

how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent," Abbo said. "Wayne County Commissioners have always performed their due diligence regarding financial matters and I intend to keep them fully informed on all future fiscal items."

Abbo was the county's chief financial officer from November 2013 to December 2014, reporting to the county executive.

Before that, he served for 12 years as Northville Township Supervisor. He also has more than 35 years of private sector experience in numerous financial capacities.

In his new position, he will assist the 15 Wayne County Commissioners as they provide fiscal oversight of the \$1.48 billion county budget and ensure that county tax dollars are spent effi-

ciently and effectively.

"Mark is an excellent fit for the position as he not only brings a wealth of experience in all aspects of financial management and oversight, but is keenly aware of the fiscal challenges the county faces," Wornochak said.

Abbo is a certified public accountant and holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University.



Mark Abbo

Inkster men face armed robbery charges

Two Inkster men have been charged with armed robbery and attempted murder in a robbery which took place in Detroit.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy has charged Linton Richey, 33, and Pierre Wilson, 28, both of Inkster, in connection with the robbery of a

25-year-old woman and a 23-year-old man last month. During the robbery, the man was shot by the assailants.

The robbery took place at approximately 3:30 a.m. Nov. 10 in the 2000 block of Yonka in Detroit. When Detroit officers responded, they discovered the 23-year-old man suffering from

a gunshot wound. His companion told the officers that the couple had just been robbed and the man shot during the incident.

Richey and Wilson were arrested by Detroit police and have been charged with two counts of armed robbery which carries a maximum penalty of

life in prison; one count of assault with intent to commit murder which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison; one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years; six counts of felony firearm with a maximum penalty of 2 years

and carrying a firearm with unlawful intent which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years.

Wilson is also charged with fleeing and eluding a police officer which has a maximum penalty of 5 years.

The two defendants were arraigned last Monday in 38th District Court.

Northville welcomes new officer

Jennifer Johnson is the newest police officer with Northville Township. Johnson took the oath of office Nov. 15 at Northville Township Hall with her husband, daughter and other family members along with Northville Township employees present to witness the event. Johnson was pinned with her new badge by her father and daughter.

Johnson grew up in Dearborn Heights and is the oldest of seven children. She

graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy on Nov. 14. During Johnson's duration in the academy she broke

four physical training records and graduated receiving two awards: Most Improved Female Physical Training Award and an Academic Excellence Award. Johnson received her Associates of Science degree from Madonna University.

Police Chief Todd Mutchler said the department welcomes Johnson to the team.



Clt. Jennifer Johnson

Tickets for charity raffle still available

The Inkster Legends organization needs help in providing the gift of Christmas to 100 families in need.

The Legends, known for the youth basketball camps, provides holiday gifts and food to families annually at the holiday. The effort is primarily funded by donations and the sale of \$10 raffle tickets, which is already under way in the community.

This year, the \$10 donation offers a chance to win first prize which is two tickets to see the world champion Cleveland Cavaliers play the Detroit Pistons. Second prize in the drawing this year is a 24-inch flat screen TV and third prize is a birthday party blast at the Romulus Athletic Center

for 15 people. Fourth prize is a Wayne Bowl party for 10 people and the fifth and sixth prize winners will each receive a one-day weekend stay at the Sheraton Hotel or a one day weekend stay at the Marriott hotel. The seventh and eighth place prizes are a Wilson golf bag and a dozen golf balls and a case of Choice sirloin steaks. The ninth and 10th place winners will be awarded certificates for dinner for two at local restaurants.

The raffle drawing will take place at 6 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Sheraton Hotel in Romulus.

For tickets or more information, contact Director Fred Smiley, (734) 890-2478 or access www.inksterlegends.com.

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