WAYNE-WESTLAND



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Committee formed to study fire authority

Wayne, Westland and Inkster are all included

> **By LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

A committee of council members from Wayne, Westland and Inkster is being formed to study a possible fire authority for the three commu-

"It's a preliminary group to get information together and figure out the direction where it is heading," said Wayne Coun-cilman Skip Monit, who was appointed last week to serve as Wayne's representative.

The Wayne and Westland

fire departments have had merged operations since 2012, including sharing the services of Chief Michael Reddy and a single employee union.

In the interim, Reddy has been assessing whether the goal of enhanced service and decreased expense could be accomplished by establishing an authority, created under state law and requiring voter

'We started with Wayne. A council person from each city will be on the committee so they can review with me what the authority looks like," Reddy said. "The committee can sit with me and a financial planner, then they can educate their

fellow council members."

Westland and Inkster haven't appointed their representatives yet. Monit said that he expects the committee to meet relatively soon after the other appointments are in

"I'm glad we are doing this. Our council in Wayne has many questions that have not been answered," Monit said. "This is encouraging and hopefully will answer the questions we have about an authority."

The committee will also meet with attorneys as members look at what it will take to establish a fire authority, Reddy said.

"We're at the infant stage.



FILE PHOTO

Council members from Wayne, Westland and Inkster will begin meeting to explore the possibility of creating a fire authority.

We will start sifting through it and see if there is a savings,' Reddy said.

In Inkster, Reddy served as chief briefly. Earlier this summer, John Adams retired from the Westland Fire Department and became the Inkster chief.

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



Carolyn Marnon (left) and Lois VanStipdonk were manning a table for the Main Street program at the Wayne Farmers Market. They were selling frames to make scarecrows for the upcoming contest.

Scary, pretty or funny: ime to start scarecrows

Annual downtown Wayne contest attracts student groups, individuals

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Brooke Wess and her two daughters have made scarecrows each year Wayne has had a contest downtown, but the themes are starting to change.

"They are getting to an age where they want it scary. (Daughter) Temperance wants to make it super-scary. It started out with princesses," said Wess, whose daughter is 7. Her other daughter Verity is 4.

Stopping by the Wayne Farmers Market to buy frames to build scarecrows. Wess said she and her daughters would make one, while a second frame was for her daughter's second-grade class at nearby St. Mary Catholic School.

"We've done it each year and with the Girl Scouts at school. This is the first

See SCARECROWS, Page A2



LEANNE ROGERS

Brooke Wess stopped by the Wayne Farmers Market to pick up frames to make scarecrows.

Firefighters in training end up with real emergency

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

A training session with a life flight helicopter Wednesday afternoon turned into an actual emergency response by Wayne-Westland firefighters.

The University of Michigan Hospital Survival Flight was at Westland's Tattan Park for a training session. At about 3 p.m., firefighters were heading to the administration building

on Wayne Road.
"They were going for handson training. A unit saw a pedestrian get hit by a vehicle, Wayne-Westland Assistant Fire Chief/EMS Coordinator Michael Stradner said. "He had massive injuries to his legs."

The accident happened at

Wayne Road and Florence. The man, an 80-year-old Westland resident, wasn't crossing Wayne Road at an intersed or crosswalk, Stradner said.

"Our guys treated him at the scene. He was flown to the trauma center," Stradner said. "It was a unique situation. We usually go to Oakwood (Hospital) main or St. Mary's (Hospital), which are trauma centers for a 'copter. He could not have gotten better care."

In this case, Stradner said the helicopter was only a mile away from the scene of the accident. That nearly eliminated the usual 15 minutes on ground transportation to get the patient to the hospital for

See TRAINING, Page A2

Mulholland resigns post as Wayne personnel director

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

The resignation of Personnel Director Mathew Mulholland was accepted Tuesday by the Wayne City Council.

Mulholland, 48, has been personnel director for three years, having been appointed after serving four years as a Wayne councilman.

"It's just time. I'm leaving with a deep appreciation of my time with the city," Mulholland said. "I learned a ton from all those I worked with. The city's best asset is the employees. I'll definitely miss that the most.



Mulholland

and recreation director earlier in the summer, along with Finance Director James Ghedotte. Ramzi El-Gharib also retired as Department of Public Works director, but is now overseeing both Wayne and Westland public works on a

It's been an

with them."

resignation

who left his

follows that of

Nathan Adams,

position as parks

honor working

Mulholland's

contractual basis While commenting that he

will be exploring opportunities in the municipal and private sectors, Mulholland acknowledged the city's financial issues and relating uncertainty were factors in his decision.

"Under a different scenario, I planned to stay here the rest of my life," said Mulholland, a lifetime Wayne resident whose grandfather opened the Mulholland Dry Goods store in the city in 1919.

Before being appointed personnel director, Mulholland spent 10 years in the U.S. Army, worked on the corporate side of franchising and owned a Toarmina's Pizza franchise.

"I can't say enough about what Matt has done for the city him and his entire family," Councilman Albert Damitio said. "I'm sad that he will not be working for the city."

Commenting that he wasn't sure if he was adding congratulations or condolences, Councilman James Hawley said he was concerned that Muholland would not be the last employee to leave. The council needs to resolve the budget deficit and other budget issues, he said, so the staff is more confident about their jobs.

Of full-time Wayne department heads besides City Man-

ager Joseph Merucci, only Clerk/Planning Director Matthew Miller and Police Chief Jason Wright remain. Fire Chief Michael Reddy heads the combined Wayne-Westland Fire Department. Library Director Paulette Medvecky retired, but is retiring to work part time sharing co-director responsibilities.

The council is looking at options for resolving the deficit in the current fiscal year about \$500,000 – and the projected deficit for the next fiscal year.

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Smooth roll out for Westland's new trash collection system

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

More than 25,000 new wheeled trash carts have been delivered and are now in use at Westland homes in a process city officials describe as pretty much a seamless tran-

"The automated equipment rolled out today. It went a little slower than I would like," said Paul Ruthenberg of Midwestern Sanitation, the city's trash hauler. "My guys are getting used to the equipment.'

The use of the 96gallon carts and one-man trash trucks requires residents place all rubbish into the cart - the driver uses an automated



The use of the 96-gallon carts and one-man trash trucks requires residents place all rubbish into the cart - the driver uses an automated arm from the truck to lift and empty the

arm from the truck to lift and empty the cart.

The use of the new carts Tuesday follows a month after collection routes were adjusted for greater efficiency.

"This is a really incredibly big project. (Curbside) recycling was major, but this is even bigger," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "Recycling was an add-on. We

are actually changing how we do trash. We have had changes to routes and delivered 25,000 carts."

Wild and council members thanked Ruthenberg and his staff for their work getting the trash collection program rolled out. The city's Department of Public Services staff, in particular the clerical staff, who had to handle calls from residents, was also praised.

'Great job'

"To Paul (Ruthenberg), great job. I'm sure it was a logistical nightmare. I didn't receive a single call myself," council President James Godbout said. "I'm sure that's not the case at DPS. It doesn't go without notice that the

staff steps up. Within two weeks, it will be a nonissue.'

One aspect of the new trash collection system that needs work, Wild said, is making it easier for residents to schedule pickup of large or excess items. Those pickups are now at additional cost and currently must be ordered in person at city hall, although Wild said the goal is to establish an online service.

To encourage recycling, the city will provide a second recycling cart at no charge when requested. A second trash cart will cost \$60 annually.

Councilwoman Christine Bryant asked for a council study session to

AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

look at how the city should handle excess trash that might occur at a home occasionally, for instance a garage sale

clean out or a large party. Even if residents think they might not need the capacity of the 96-gallon trash carts on a weekly basis, Bryant said they might want to keep it for the larger carts to have room for those times when it is needed.

The city does offer 64-gallon carts as an alternative to the larger carts, but is suggesting residents try out the larger ones when possible.

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Westland police chief, deputy outline initiatives in fighting crime

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik aims to get more "feet on the street' to fight crime.

"Increasing manpower is going to increase safety and reduce crime," Jedrusik said Aug. 28 during the Westland Rotary lunch at Joy Manor. He and colleagues encourage better resolution of neighbor disputes.

'It's police department problem solving and community involvement," the chief said, citing as a local example a coordinated neighborhood Facebook page to combat crime.

He was joined by Deputy Chief Brian Miller to give an overview of the department to Rotarians. Jedrusik has been chief almost two years and with the department around 20, while Miller is a Westland veteran of nearly 17 years.

'Things are in a good spot now, I'm proud to say," Jedrusik said.

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Jedrusik

going to be gnod things to come with the Westland Police Department.

We've got a very hard-working department.'

He noted turnover at the top has lessened, although the department going from 106 officers down to 77 is a challenge. "We do the best we can do," Jedrusik said. An accreditation initiative includes adherence to policies daily.

"It helps us get the officers on track and doing what they should be doing," the chief said. "That's our goal to start working with the businesses and the communi-

He and Miller explained technology that enhances local law enforcement.

"Everybody's trying to do more with less," Miller said. "The police department is really no

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different." "There are

Miller cited a Speed-Spy tool which records traffic speeds locally with a spreadsheet showing data on speeding, including times. "It just allows us to be a lot more efficient," Miller said, noting they can police problem areas for speed-

> There's also a www.crimemapping.com website which both police and the public use. Residents can sign up to get alerts via email, such as of larcenies within a mile. The website includes motor vehicle thefts, burglaries, robberies and fraud.

"The notification is, I think, a great thing," Miller said. "You guys are our eyes and ears.

Alert residents and business people help direct police where they need to go, he said.

Jedrusik is pleased with the department's Explorer and Taurus platform vehicles. "It's great to have this technology," the chief said. "It benefits everybody."

In addition to the initial police vehicle cost, about \$7,000 is needed to equip a police car, Jedrusik said. He added the ars run 24/7 and miles add up quickly.

The Westland department is also experimenting with police body cameras with a digital upload of video and audio. Similar to cameras in police cars, those protect both residents and the police, who may face frivolous lawsuits.

Jedrusik acknowledged the department building has issues, as it was built in 1977. He's working with the city council and administration on that, but noted funding is an issue and the decision doesn't rest with him.

Miller said assaults and larcenies are the most common crimes in Westland. "Overall, robberies are not a super-common thing," Miller added.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Fall Festival

St John's Episcopal 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland, will have its annual Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 4.

There will be three bands, a beer tent, car show, children's activities and food and drinks to purchase. Crafters are needed for the craft show

For more information call St John's at 734-721-5023 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Annual golf outing

Glenn Wrestling will hold its 17th annual Golf Outing Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Hilltop Golf Course. Cost is \$100 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn and dinner after golf.

Contact Judy at igwrestling. mom@gmail.com or 734634-4595, if you have questions, need further information or want to make reservations. You can also obtain further information at glennwrestling.com. Hole sponsorship and raffle donations are also being accepted. All donations are

Veterans dinner

World War II, Korean veterans and their spouses are invited to the fourth annual veterans dinner, hosted by the Bova VFW Post in West-

The dinner will be 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the post, 6440 Hix, north of Ford Road in Westland. The program will be emceed by John Glenn High School history teacher Michele Anderson. Plans are to have music and possibly jitter bug dancers.

For more information,

or to reserve a spot, call 734-334-0190 or send an email to abbysmom@gmail.com.

Rummage sale

The First Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland is holding a fall rummage sale Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 18-20, at the church, located at 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Post Office.

The Thursday and Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday is also bag day. A grocery bag is \$2 and a plastic lawn bag \$5.

The plus room is exempt from Saturday bag day. Homemade bake goods and refreshments also will be available for

The building is handicap accessible. For more information, call the church at 734-721-4801

TRAINING

Continued from Page A1

the less than 10-minute trauma flight to Ann

Arbor, he said. Immediately after the accident, Stradner said firefighters transported the man to Tattan Park for the survival flight. The man, who is hospitalexpected to recover, didn't have a head injury as suspected

at the scene, he said. For firefighters, the first part of the training dealt with the helicopter itself, Stradner said, like



Westland firefighters trained with the University of Michigan Hospital Survival Flight crew last week.

where the fuel shut-off is located, loading and unloading patients.

"We talk about how to approach the helicopter they usually don't shut it

off when they land," Stradner said. "We use them a couple of times a year. They are very professional.

SCARECROWS

Continued from Page A1

vear for the class at school. I talked to the teacher about it," Wess said.

The frames are \$20

each and must be purchased by Sept. 24 with a completed entry form, which can submitted at the farmers market or mailed to Wayne Main Street, Creating A Ripple Effect, P.O. Box 327, Wayne, MI 48184. The form can be downloaded at waynepride.wordpress.com/contact-us/.

Manning the Main Street table at the farmers market recently were Wayne Rotarian Lois VanStipdonk and Carolyn Marnon, who chairs the Main Street design committee

'It's been going pretty well. We started selling the frames two weeks ago," VanStipdonk said.

Individuals or groups can make scarecrows reflecting their mission or simply expressing their imagination. Each scarecrow will bear a placard stating the organization or family

name while on display on a Michigan Avenue westbound tree or light post.

Once completed, entrants drop off their completed scarecrows 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at the State Wayne Theater. Volunteers will install the scarecrows on light poles

There will be a Scarecrow Reception and judging 7:30-9 p.m. at Goudy Park. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call 734-629-6822 or send an email to director@downtownwayne.org.

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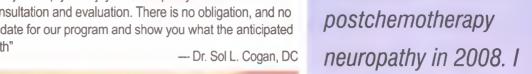
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- · Stumble into things
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New school year opens new chapter for Japanese school

Zoe Patterson and Tsubasa Okada are classmates in fourth grade, but they're also teach-

They work alongside one another, teaching and learning from each other.

"He helps me with Japanese and I help him with English, because we are both still learning," Zoe said.

And that's the way it's done at the Niji-Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School, now part of the Livonia Public Schools district.

Each classroom is balanced between Japanese and English speaking students, making collaboration a natural part of the learning process

"They're able to feel more confident when they help each other," Principal Karen Young said. "And it's an overall confidence boost for struggling learners. We are also differentiating instruction, so we are able to meet each child where they're at."

The dual immersion model means students enter the program as kindergartners, with little or no prior training in the language they will learn, whether it is Japanese or English. They learn from two classroom teachers - in English for half of the school day and Japanese during the other half. There is additional support offered to students who may need it in their new language. Students who wish to attend Niji-Iro but are not entering kindergarten must take a proficiency test to be enrolled.

A rainbow

Just like its name, Niji-Iro, which means "rainbow colors." the K-4 school's 130 students are from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. The school community picked the new name for the school.

Second-grader Madeline Lenk said she voted for the school's new name when Young asked the students, parents and staff to weigh in - and here's

why.
"I picked the name because
rainbow' in it," she said. "An individual is so cool, but together, we're awe-some, just like a rainbow."

They took the rainbow theme a step further and created a color sign for each tenet of the school's guiding principles: Respect others; Big heart; You are a Team; Great effort; Be responsible; Always positive; and Valiant Spirit. The signs are posted throughout the school and, of course, on a large rainbow mural in the hall.

A new excitement

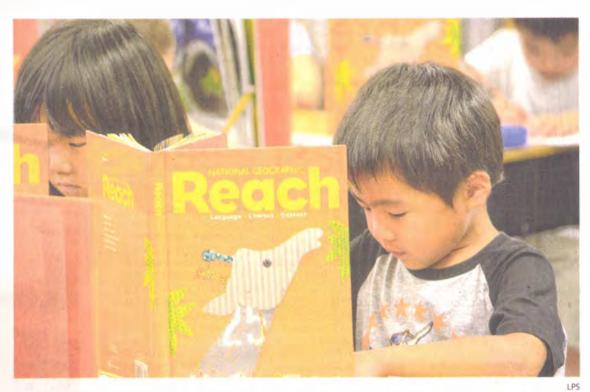
The school year at Niji-Iro began Aug. 11 – the first day of a new chapter in the school's

"The kids are having a blast," Young said. "There is an excitement in the halls.'

The school operated in the past as the Hinoki International School, a charter school authorized by Livonia Public Schools for four years. The program is only one of a few in the entire country. The Livonia school board revoked its contract July 28 with Hinoki International School after citing concerns about its chances for long-term success because of management and governance issues.

The majority of the Hinoki teachers were brought on board at Niji-Iro. The program continues to operate at the former Taylor Elementary near Levan and Seven Mile in Livonia and the majority of the Hinoki families are now enrolled at the new school.

Being part of a large school district has its advantages, said Young, who spent 11 years



Kensuke Suzuki concentrates on his work in first grade.



Teacher Ishida Sensei gives clues to students who are reading Japanese words on flash cards.

teaching and leading charter schools.

"Coming from a charter school background and knowing the struggles, I know that having that global support from the school district is so important," she said, noting that charter school parents often have a year-by-year uncertainty that their school will be open the following year.

There is now an expanded computer lab; improved playground and parking lot areas; added security features; district and Wayne RESA computer database access and support; a school secretary; an experienced administrator; professional development, better pay and benefits for staff and added curriculum materials and opportunities for students, including increased time for literacy and math instruction, she said.

"Having a public school district allow such a unique program to continue is such a great opportunity and I'm grateful to be a part of it," Young said.

The school is currently K-4, but fifth grade will be added next year, then sixth grade the following year.

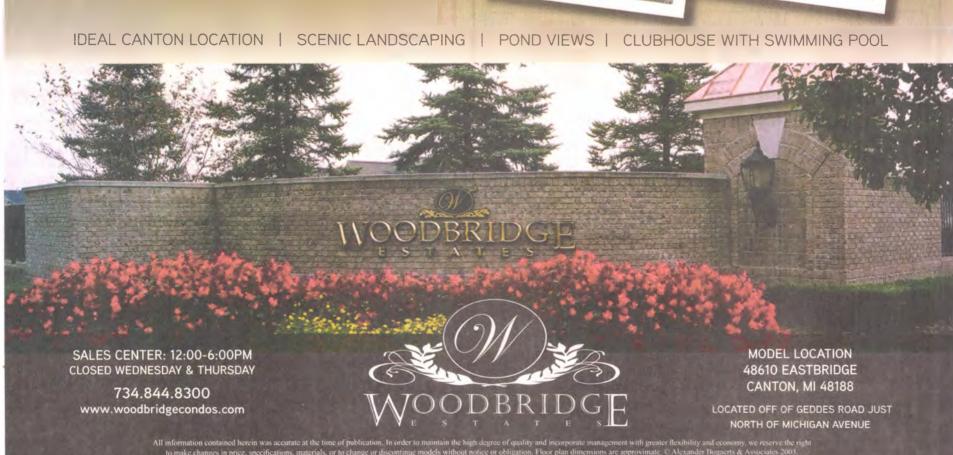
For Zoe and Tsubasa, they wish the school had more students and more grades.

"I would love for kids from all over the world to come here and learn Japanese and Eng-lish," Zoe said. "I would love for lots of people to come here."
Tsubasa wants to extend his

future education at Niji-Iro.

"I want to go here until I'm like 20," he said, smiling. For more information about Niji-Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School, visit www.livoniapublicschools.org and click on the Schools tab.





Two men arrested after break-ins in Farmington Hills, Livonia last week

By Joanne Maliszewski Staff Writer

An alert Farmington Hills police officer on patrol arrested two men early Aug. 31 right after they allegedly broke into a business on Middlebelt. They are also suspected

in a Livonia break-in.
"Heads up for him," said Cmdr. Matt Koehn of the Farmington Hills Detective Bureau.

Ronald Dickey, 52, of Walled Lake and Leonard Huff, 61, of Detroit were arraigned Sept. 1 by 47th District Magistrate Carl Christoph on one charge each of breaking and entering a building with intent, a 10-year-felony. Christoph set a bond of \$25,000 or 10 percent for Huff and \$50,000 or 10 percent for Dickey, Koehn said.

The men were charged in connection with a break-in at Uncle Ed's Oil Change on Middlebelt in Farmington

The officer was patrolling in the Middlebelt/Nine Mile area just before 1:30 a.m., when he

Amateur adult and

teen actors are needed

for the Livonia Family

theater.

YMCA's new community

ty Players will present A Christmas Carol Dec.

12-13 at Livonia Steven-

son High School.

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The YMCA Communi-

Auditions will be held





received from Livonia police the description of a white work van suspected in a break-in of an

oil change business at Eight Mile and Orchard "The BOL (be-on-thelookout) gave a car description and said they (Livonia police) saw a

while male suspect in the

van," Koehn said. The Hills officer, meanwhile, noticed a white van matching the description and stopped the driver at a red light at 10 Mile and Middlebelt. When he approached the van, he saw that another man was also in the vehicle. The officer saw recent cuts on both man's arms and hands, Koehn said.

"He noticed the driver fit the description out of Livonia," he added.

The Hills officer found property in the

Livonia YMCA opens new community theater

Sept. 16, at Frost Middle

School, 14041 Stark Road,

across from the Livonia

welcome to participate

as well if a responsible adult is also participat-

ing, so families are en-

Everyone who audi-

couraged to audition

Children ages 8-15 are

YMCA.

together.

van that was reported to have been taken from the Livonia oil change business. Meanwhile, Farmington Hills police headquarters had received an alarm of a break-in at Uncle Ed's Oil Change on Middlebelt, not far from where the two men were stopped.

When the break-in at Uncle Ed's was investigated, police found blood at a window that had been broken to gain entry, Koehn said.

Livonia police Sgt. Steve Petsch said the two men arrested are indeed suspects in the burglary, which took place Aug. 30 at a heating and cooling business in the 30000 block of Eight Mile.

He said a warrant request was submitted Friday to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office asking to authorize possible charges against the men.

Staff Writer David Veselenak contributed to this report.

imaliszews@hometownlife.com 248-396-6620

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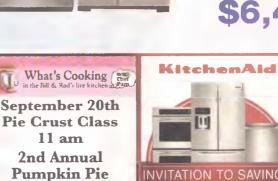
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INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

Local family battling emotions, cost of muscular disease

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Erinne Williams and Kevin Yopek of Canton have the usual sibling relationship.

She learned her love of hockey from him and he taught her how to play video games. Now, according to Erinne, she "kicks his butt" at them.

There's a sibling rivalry tinged with a touch of competitiveness surrounded by a love of family that's normal in most relationships.

But their relationship is not a normal one, because very little about Erinne Williams is normal. While Kevin can play his hockey on skates in full pads zooming across the ice, Erinne's version of hockey - and she's a huge fan

 is on wheels. That's because Erinne, struck young by a strain of muscular dystrophy called spinal muscular atrophy, has been confined to a wheelchair much of her life. The disease, which her family likens to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis but in children, has altered the lives of Erinne and her family in ways no family should bear.

Blending in

"I want to be a regular teenager, but I just can't," Erinne said, her voice hushed and raspy from a tracheostomy

tube through which she has to breathe much of the time. "I feel a little like an outsider. I try to blend in as much as possible.

Blending in, particularly at school, is tough enough. It's a little more difficult when you travel with your own nurse and service dog (Latte, provided by Canine Assistants). It's a battle Erinne, now a senior at Plymouth High School, has been fighting most of her life.

When she was born in 1997, Erinne "seemed perfectly healthy," according to her mom Suzanne and that was the expectation. Considered an older mother at 36, Suzanne Williams had genetic testing done and everything came back normal. But when Erinne was about 7 months old, she hadn't yet mastered gross motor milestones, like pulling up to standing and cruising along furniture, and she started losing the ones she had mastered - crawling normally and sitting up.

Wrong solution

A worried mother, Suzanne started having her daughter tested, but the tests didn't tell her much. Some doctors told her she was "expecting too much" and measuring her too closely against her siblings, Claire and Kevin, who had both learned to walk at a young age.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erinne and service dog Latte, are out the door.

Three doctors came back with the same diagnosis: A tumor on the spine. But Suzanne wasn't buying it.

"It didn't sit well with me, so we kept pursuing it," Suzanne said of the tumor diagnosis. "There were clues to me that something was wrong. It just didn't feel right.

She took Erinne to see

Dr. Michael Nigro, the doctor who runs the MDA program at Children's Hospital. His diagnosis - spinal muscular atrophy – came almost immediately.

"I was numb," Suzanne said. "I had no idea what SMA was and

what her prognosis was." Turns out the prognosis wasn't good. Doctors

HELPING ERINNE

The cost in both human and financial terms of caring for a daughter with spinal muscular atrophy is high for Suzanne Williams, a single mother taking care of her 17-year-old daughter.

Some examples of donations that would help include a full house, self-starting generator to help recharge the battery backup for the host of machines that dominate her daily life; hotel gift cards, because the home frequently loses power and the family is forced to retreat to a hotel; contractor time and home repairs, grass and snow removal and wheelchair ramp maintenance; help with utility costs; gas cards; and gift cards to places such as CVS, Target, Meijer, Costco, Vitamin Shoppe, etc.

Where to help: » http://www.gofundme.com/ErinneRoseWilliams » An account has been set up at Chase Bank; to donate, simply designate funds to account number 2747823769.

» Erinne's story can be found at www.our-sma-angels.com/ErinneRose/story.html.

didn't figure Erinne would make it to her eighth birthday and Suzanne was encouraged to just take her home and "love her for however long I would have her."

So much for doctors and their predictions. Erinne celebrated her 17th birthday in May, though it certainly hasn't been an easy road. She's had pneumonia 21 times, 14 surgeries and 25 hospitalizations. She spent summer 2001 on life support due to unforeseen post-op complications and was not expected to survive. She was hospitalized for 101 days and spent 85 of those on a ventilator.

"She was just 4 years old. I was told that I needed to accept reality and that my daughter

was never going to come back as the child she once was," Suzanne wrote in her blog. "I was told to let her go. But I couldn't - I knew it wasn't her time.'

Ozzie fan

And it wasn't. Erinne picked up Kevin's love of hockey and is a huge Detroit Red Wings fan who asks her mother frequently to drive past the Plymouth home of retired goalkeeper Chris Osgood, her "favorite person in the entire world." (According to Suzanne, "Ozzie" was Erinne's first word after "mama" and "da-da.")

She's a defenseman, one of just four girls in her 50-player wheelchair hockey league (she was also the only girl chosen for an elite team). She now beats Kevin in video games to the point where "he hits the reset button" when he begins to lose, according to Erinne (it's a charge at which Kevin only smiles). She's fully integrated at school, where Plymouth High School staff and students accept her as a friend.

But she'll never drive - "I really want my driver's license, but it's not going to happen," Erinne said - and there are days when she can't breathe on her own or feed herself. There are also days when she can and Suzanne loves those days.

"The days she can feed herself breakfast are good days, because there are days she can't," Suzanne said. "The days she can sit in her chair are a blessing, because there are days she can't even get out of bed."

Good and bad

Those are the days that are particularly hard on Suzanne, although none of the days is easy anymore. A former director of a child care center for Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn with a degree in elementary education and early childhood development, Suzanne had to give up her job to take on the 24-hour-a-day care of her daughter (though she gets a nurse for 16 hours).

The physical strain of lifting and caring for her daughter has taken a toll on Suzanne's body. She has three bulging discs in her back and suffers from spinal stenosis. While physically she's a candidate for surgery, Suzanne won't have it. because it would force her to change the way she takes care of her daughter.

But it has forced her to stop working and money is becoming a big issue. Erinne and Suzanne both get Social Security disability money and Erinne gets "a little bit of child support," but income is at a

premium these days. "We are bare-bones," Suzanne said. "There's no room for extras."

"Extras" don't even figure into the equation. Taking care of Erinne is not only a physical battle, it's a financial struggle, as well. Insurance doesn't cover much of her care; for instance, the feeding tubes she

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See SPIRIT, Page A12

Local man builds four-seater airplane from 1947 prototype

By Jim Totten Gannett Michigan

Marvin Dunlap's quest started with acquiring a one-of-kind aircraft

In 1990, he bought the shell of an experimental, four-seat Ercoupe airplane that never made it off the factory floor.

It had no wings, no tail, no instrument panel and not even a door to get inside the shell. Just a shiny, gray metal fuse-

The prototype was left unfinished in 1947, when the private aircraft business went belly-up and Engineering and Research Corp. — the maker of Ercoupe — sold off all of its assets. Dunlap said the four-seat prototype originally went to a couple of attorneys and later bounced around to numerous owners over 40 years before landing in Michigan and into Dunlap's hands. He said Ercoupe had made twoseaters, but this would have been the first four-

"It was never finished, never flown, never tested," Dunlap said.

Through pure determination and skill, Dun-

lap will change all that. The 79-year-old Green Oak Township man has spent the last 22 years building the plane that was never finished. Using old blueprints, he created most of the parts and has been assembling the plane in his hangar at Brighton Field airport in Brighton Township.

The retired electrical mechanical engineer plans to finish restoring the Ercoupe and get it up in the air this year. Despite spending long hours reviewing designs, testing the wings and getting parts made, Dunlap said his desire to finish the plane never waned.

DETROIT (

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the designer and I knew this was the only one, I want to see it finished," Dunlap said. "I want to

Assembling from scratch

Dunlap said his first step was researching the plane's design and getting any old blueprints.

He met with the aeronautical engineer Fred Weick, in the early 1990s to get the design plans. He tracked Weick down in Florida, where the former university professor and airplane

but very sharp.
"What makes you think you're qualified to finish the plane?" Dunlap recalled Weick asking

After a three-day visit, he said Weick provided him with 250 pages of engineering data. He said Weick also visited him in

Dunlap promised Weick to do several things to ensure the plane was safe, including getting help with the redesign of the wing and

Dunlap said Weick was a legendary airplane designer who wrote the book on propeller design. He also knows that Weick, who died a few years after their meeting in the early 1990s, would be thrilled to see the prototype take flight.

'When he visited, (he said) that was one of his biggest disappointments, not completing the air-

A full-time job

Dunlap spent the first eight years researching the plane's design before even starting to build it. He created the dies used to cast certain parts,

"The fact that I knew see it fly.'

plane's original designer, designer had retired. He said Weick was in his 90s,

Michigan.

load-testing the wing.

plane," Dunlap said.

customized standard Ercoupe wings to handle the extra load, made the horizontal tail and in-

stalled the instrument panel. "This is a full-time

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job," he said. His wife Ruth ad-

mitted she wondered if this project would be "too much work."

However, the couple's passion for flying has probably helped this project along. The couple, who own a two-seat Ercoupe, love flying across the country; they purchased their plane almost 40 years ago. They also are members of the Ercoupe Owners club, which meets at airports across the United States.

Marvin Dunlap said Ercoupe planes were designed to be incredibly safe. He said it's impossible to cause the plane to stall and spin into a nosedive, which happens to other planes that climb

He said their plane flies at a top speed of 100 mph.

"It's easy to fly, very forgiving," Marvin Dunlap said.

JIM TOTTEN | GANNETT MICHIGAN

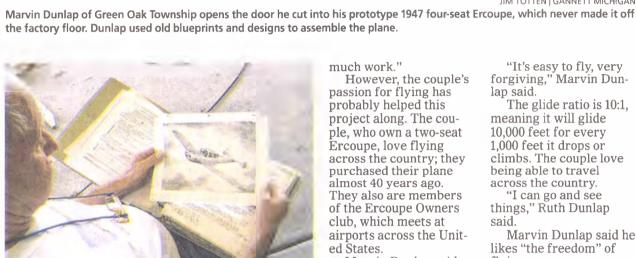
The glide ratio is 10:1, meaning it will glide 10,000 feet for every 1,000 feet it drops or climbs. The couple love being able to travel across the country.

"I can go and see things," Ruth Dunlap Marvin Dunlap said he

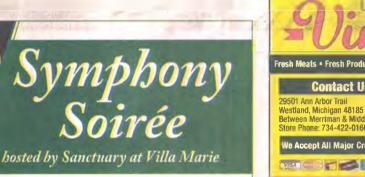
likes "the freedom" of "The freedom to just

get up and go," he added.
Dunlap figured he has another month before he's completed his fourseat Ercoupe and takes it

on a test run. He can't wait to "show off" and let his aircraft buddies know: "I did it."



Marvin Dunlap used renderings and old blueprints to assemble a four-seat Ercoupe. He's been working on this project since 1990, when he purchased a prototype shell.



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Updating your estate plan makes good financial sense

Q: Dear Rick: My husband passed away a couple months ago and I'm just starting to get things organized. He was in his late 60s and was still working. At his death, he had an IRA and a 401(k) through work. I had no problem transferring his IRA to me. My problem is with the 401(k) plan. According to the company which my husband worked for over 30 years, he did not name a beneficiary. Even though I am in the will as the beneficiary, the company tells me that I have to go through probate in order for them to give me the 401(k) money. Is this correct? In addition, my husband owned a rental property and there was a quit-claim deed. The house is now in my name. The tenant would like to buy the house and I would like to sell it. When I sell the property, what is my tax liability? My son told me that I would have to pay tax on the entire proceeds from the sale because the house was fully depreciated.

A: I am sorry to hear about the loss of your husband. I hope as time goes on your pain will be replaced with loving memories of your husband.

Unfortunately, I agree with the company's assessment. The company is concerned that the 401(k) goes to the proper individual. Even though you are the spouse and you were named in the will, that doesn't mean you are



entitled to the proceeds. That is why the company wants you to do a probate, so it can be assured that you are the

beneficiary. It certainly

would be easier if the

company paid the pro-

ceeds to you. However,

the company would be

Bloom

MONEY

potentially opening itself for liability. We've all seen it where upon death, families fight. A perfect example is the Casey Kasem situation, where the second wife and the

children are locked in a

bitter dispute. With regard to the tax situation, here is some good news. Because you inherited the property, you're entitled to a stepped-up basis. That means your cost basis the number you would use to show purchase price - is the fair market value of the property on the date of death.

For example, if your husband paid \$150,000 for the property and upon his death it's worth \$200,000, if you sold it for \$200,000 your gain would be zero. Therefore, from a tax standpoint, there is no reason not to sell the property.

I've always been a believer that being a landlord is a difficult job and not meant for everyone. That is why I agree that it is a good decision to sell the property.

Unfortunately, people not naming beneficiaries or naming the wrong beneficiaries is

quite common. There have been many situations where someone passes away and an exspouse is named as a beneficiary or even where someone's parents were named and they've been gone for decades.

We name beneficiaries when we open an account or sign up for a new life insurance policy and rarely do we examine it later. I believe that we need to routinely review our beneficiary designations, every year or so. Family situations change and beneficiary designations may also have to change.

Whether it's an IRA. life insurance policy, brokerage account or salary deferral program, it pays to spend a few minutes to confirm that the right person is named as a beneficiary. A few minutes of your time can potentially save your beneficiaries time and aggravation and potentially a substantial amount of mon-

There is never a right time for death to occur. Therefore, it is important that an estate plan is up to date at all times. An estate plan is more than just wills and trusts and other legal documents. It is also making sure that you've named the proper beneficiaries. Good luck.

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



Schoolcraft PTAC hosts annual Meet the Buyers

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center of Schoolcraft College will host its sixth annual Meet the Buyers event Oct. 7 at School-craft College's VisTaTech Center in Livonia.

The attendance fee is

\$45 per person.
"The PTAC of School-craft College's Meet the Buyers event is one of the key procurement matchmaking and government contracting events in the state," said Jenni Riehle, the vendor outreach coordinator for

the state of Michigan. "The number of procurement personnel from regional, state and federal agencies is very comprehensive, resulting in excellent networking opportunities and vendor-agency discussions for those who attend."

The event, which sells out every year, promotes networking, discussions on purchasing and the ability to initiate conversations about how small businesses can fulfill agency buying needs. Attendees will

rotate among different agency tables, learning how the organization buys, what they are buying and other valuable procurement information. Large prime contractors are also in attendance for the event.

"The Meet the Buvers event is an excellent opportunity for informational exchange between government agencies and small business concerns helping the government to provide maximum practicable opportunities in its acquisitions

to small businesses and ensure that a fair proportion of contracts for supplies and services are placed with small business," said Jack Mylan, director of business operations for Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Government buyers in attendance often include representatives from the Department of Defense, General Services Administration, Veterans Affairs, NASA, state of Michigan, Wayne County Airport, SEMCOG and many others.

Regional and community business resource partners will also be in attendance. Organizations and firms such as the Small Business Administration, Michigan Small Business Development Center, Automation Alley, Michigan Defense Center and more are often available for discussion on how to start, grow and expand businesses.

Questions and comments may be directed to the PTAC of Schoolcraft College team by phone at 734-462-4438 or by email at inforeg@schoolcraft.edu.

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center of Schoolcraft College is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense, state of Michigan and Schoolcraft College. PTACs provide free government contracting assistance to businesses in selling products and services to federal, state and local government agencies.

U-M to manage operations at county Medical Examiner's Office

The Wayne County Commission has approved a three-year 16.7 million professional and operational contract with the University of Michigan, designed to enhance operations at the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

The agreement, effective Oct. 1, is the latest development in a plan toward improving services at the office, one of the busiest facilities of its kind in the nation, with upward

nations performed annu-Wayne County Exec-

of 2,500 forensic exami-

utive Robert Ficano said that the new agreement will further expand and enhance forensic improvements and academic programs there, at a tremendous benefit to

Wayne County.
"Our collaborative partnership with the University of Michigan Health System and the Medical Examiner's

Office be-

October 2011 and has resulted in cost savings, increased productivity and new educational opportunities for pathologists," Ficano said.

"The new operating arrangement with U-M will now enable the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office to become a premier learning and forensic facility, with access to advanced laboratory facilities and resources.'

U-M officials also voiced approval of the

"We are very excited about expanding our relationship with Wayne County," said Dr. Jeffrey L. Myers, the director of Anatomic Pathology

and MLabs at the U-M Department of Pathology. "This partnership allows us to better serve the citizens and families of the county, while building a national center of excellence in forensic pathology to

which we can recruit and retain world class faculty and staff, build and sustain leading educational programs and

create opportunities for research and innova-

tion." Wayne County will continue to appoint the chief medical examiner and county staff will be offered the opportunity to become employees of the University of Michigan Health System.

Operations will remain at the existing Wayne County Medical Examiner's facility at 1300 E. Warren Ave. in Detroit.

More information about the arrangement will be provided when the contract takes effect.

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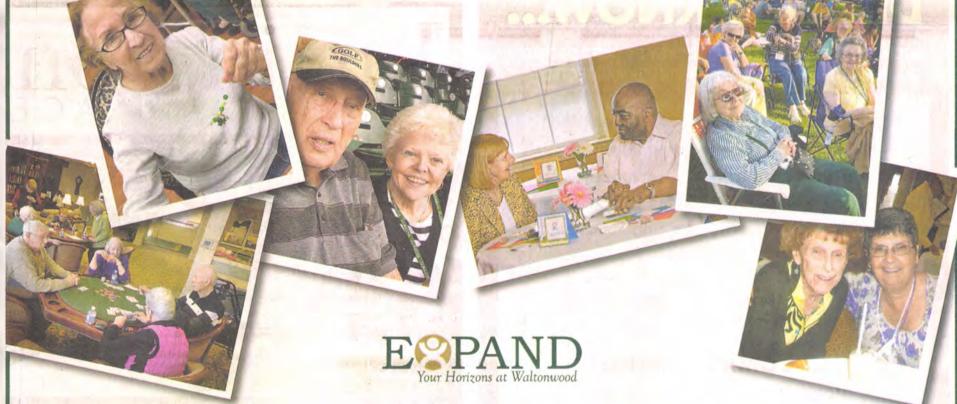
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Oakwood, Botsford, Beaumont launch new health care organization

Hospitals in Wayne, Farmington Hills and Royal Oak that once competed for patients are now part of the new eight-hospital health organization that was launched Tuesday.

Botsford Health Care, Beaumont Health System and Oakwood Healthcare have completed their affiliation agreement to combine operations as the new Beaumont Health. The merger involves eight hospitals -Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak, Troy and Grosse Pointe; Oakwood Hospitals in Dearborn, Southshore, Taylor and Wayne; and Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills - with 3,337 beds, 153 outpatient sites, 5,000

physicians, more than 33,000 employees and about 3,500 volunteers.

With the announcement also came assurance to the more than 33,000 employees at the eight hospitals that layoffs or hospital closures are not on the list as they work to integrate Beaumont Health System, Oakwood Healthcare and Botsford Health

"No layoffs are planned at the present time and we are going to make every effort to avoid layoffs by making sure we look ahead of the curve in demand versus supply of labor," said Gene Michalski, CEO of the Royal Oak-based Beaumont Health System and interim chief executive of the new organization. "(There are also) no plans to close any of the hospitals for the foreseeable future."

Brian Connolly, president and CEO of Dearborn-based Oakwood Healthcare, said already it has been able to refinance debt because of the merger and has identified more than \$100 million worth of savings.

'We are very confident there will be significant cost savings coming out of this organization, he said.

The three entities have been working since March to combine their organizations into a new comprehensive, collaborative health system



Oakwood Wayne Hospital in Wayne is now part of the new eight-hospital Beaumont Health



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that will put a strong emphasis on patient care. Federal and state regulatory officials reviewed and approved the affiliation and granted taxexempt status as a new \$3.8 billion not-for-profit

health care organization. 'This is a great day for the people of southeastern Michigan. Beaumont Health will continue the traditions of our legacy organizations as a nonprofit, locally governed organization," said John Lewis, chairman of the new Beaumont Health Board. "With our combined strengths of patient satisfaction, medical excellence and community focus, we look forward to serving the health needs of patients and families for years to come, with quality and compassion guiding all that we do.'

Lewis is chairing the new 14-member Beaumont Health Board that's a blend of representatives from the three or-

ganizations. With the close of the transaction creating Beaumont Health, integration teams involving leaders from the three organizations will step up their efforts, shifting their focus from formation of a new organization to transformation that builds on the individual strengths of the three legacy organizations.

A Clinical Leadership Council and seven Clinical Transformation Teams made up of physicians, nurses and other patient care professionals are leading efforts to identify and share best care practices.

Officials still have a

lot of work to do before the end of the year, including:

» Appointing the Beaumont Health executive team.

» Finding a location for the executive offices, which will temporarily be located at the PNC building.

» Determining a plan for integrating the eight hospital names with the new Beaumont Health name.

» Developing a new corporate organizational structure to align all the individual entities that make up the new organi-

"We want to create the best health care system, not only in southeast Michigan, but nationally," said Paul LaCasse, president and CEO of Farmington Hills' Botsford Health Care.

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by Leisa Parham



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Bosch breaks ground on expansion of Plymouth Township facility

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder joined Robert Bosch President Mike Mansuetti and other company executives
Monday in a ceremonial
groundbreaking to publicly announce a 220,500square-foot expansion of Bosch's Technical Center in Plymouth Township.

Snyder trumpeted the expansion plan as a means of showing "Michigan truly is a great place to do business.

"Michigan's business climate has improved dramatically, making our state a prime location for global companies like Bosch to expand and invest," Snyder said. "It is also exciting that Bosch is an advocate for preparing tomorrow's workforce through hands-on tech training. Together, Bosch and Michigan are tapping into our talent potential and building a bright future.'

Double the size

The expansion, which is expected to be completed in November 2015, will nearly double the size of the existing technical center, which opened in 2007.

When complete, the total site, which is located on 75 acres on Haggerty, will have more than 445,000 square feet and capacity for 1,400 people. The expansion will further enable the growth of several key technologies, including automotive electronics, start/stop motors, electrical drives and a variety of safety and driver assistance systems that will further advance automated driving.

In addition, the new site will provide Bosch with the needed labora-



Gov. Rick Snyder (left) and Robert Bosch President Mike Mansuetti throw the ceremonial first shovels of dirt on the project.

tory and office space to co-locate certain associates in southeast Michigan, some of whom currently work in different leased facilities, thereby fostering more innovation and greater collaboration.

Mansuetti told the group of government officials, community leaders and Bosch associates assembled at the ceremony the plan makes for "exciting

"For a company whose heritage - and future - is based on innovation, breaking ground to begin the expansion of this technical



Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (left) joined Robert Bosch President Mike Mansuetti in a ceremonial groundbreaking to announce a 220,500-square-foot expansion of Bosch's Technical Center in Plymouth Township.

center at a time when this market offers so much potential to grow is truly exciting," Mansuetti said. "Our founder, Robert Bosch, believed that education and sustainability were both essential for the success, not only of his business, but of society. We are here today, continuing that philosophy and living our company imperative of 'invented for life."

Growing footprint

Currently, the Plymouth Technical Center houses 850 people. In Michigan, Bosch has approximately 3,200 associates in 15 cities, including Farmington Hills (which is the headquarters for Robert Bosch LLC), Plymouth Township, Ann Arbor, Bridgeport, Buchanan, Canton, Flat Rock, Kalamazoo, Kentwood, Orion, Novi Rochester Hills, St. Joseph and Warren.

With this expansion and the co-location of certain groups, Bosch expects to add up to 200 new jobs in Michigan in the next three years, Mansuetti said.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Mansuetti thanked com munity and government leaders and said Plymouth Township "offers the kind of environment" for attracting and retraining business.

"It has long been our hope to expand the technical center here," he said. "As we built the business case for further expansion, the township allowed Bosch to construct a temporary building on site for about 160 associates, thereby enabling Bosch to keep these jobs in Plymouth Township.'



CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to rezone the property located at 30247 and 30259 Ford Road from C-2 Community Business District to C-3

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City,

Publish: Sunday, September 7, 2014

CITY OF LIVONIA **PUBLIC NOTICE**

AGENDA Zoning Board of Appeals

September 23, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Livonia City Hall – Gallery (5th Floor) 33000 Civic Center Drive Livonia, MI (734) 466-2259

APPEAL CASE 2014-09-49: LIVCOM, LLC, 9986 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122, on behalf of Lessee Aspen Dental, 13417 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI 48150, seeking to erect two wall signs (one on the east elevation and one on the south elevation) on an end unit of a multitenant commercial building, on property located on the west side of Middlebelt (13417), between Schoolcraft and Industrial, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall

APPEAL CASE 2014-09-50: LIVCOM. LLC, 9986 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122, on behalf of Lessee JCD South 96, LLC, 19369 Fairlane Ct., Livonia, MI 48152, seeking to erect two wall signs (one on the east elevation and one on the north elevation) on an end unit of a multi-tenant commercial building, on property located on the west side of Middlebelt (13453), between Schoolcraft and Industrial, resulting in excess number of wall signs

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 – all comments must include name, address and signature.
Publish: Sunday, September 7, 2014
Livonia Observer

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2014-08-01-06 submitted by Kucyk, Soave and Fernandes, P.L.L.C. pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone properties at 38801 and 38901 Plymouth Road, located on the south side of Plymouth Road between Newburgh Road and Eckles Road in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 30, from R-U-F (Rural Urban Farm - minimum 1/2 acre) to R-1 (One Family Residential - 60' x

Petition 2014-08-02-11 submitted by Brian and Lisa Rich requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(t) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate a second-hand store and resale shop (The Children's Outlet) at 31092 Five Mile Road within the Merri-Five Retail Plaza, located on the north side of Five Mile Road between Merriman Road and Henry Ruff Road in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 14

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

> R. Lee Morrow, Chairman CITY PLANNING COMMISSION



heartlandnursing.com

Afghan translator builds new life in Michigan

By Laura Colvin

When he stepped off the plane in the United States this past April with just a backpack, small rolling suitcase and no money, Mohammed Elham - everyone calls him Elham - wasn't sure he was really in the U.S.

"I was like, 'Am I dreaming right now?" he said. "It was the coolest time in my life. I felt like I had a heavy weight lifted from my shoulders.'

Indeed. Here in the States - here in Milford, where he lives with Scott Hippakka and his family - Elham feels safe from the constant threats on his life in his native Afghanistan.

After just a few short months in the U.S., Elham is working at Palate in downtown Milford. He already has a car and he's hoping to fulfill a dream of becoming a nurse so, one day, he can go home to Afghanistan and help the many poor families who are living without

even basic medical care. For Elham, it's the American dream.

Army translator

It all began in 2007, when a friend in Afghanistan suggested Elham, with his knowledge of the English language, apply for a translator's job with the U.S. Army.

At first he wasn't sure he had no experience being around military forces – but decided to give it a try.

After he was hired, he found the job was a challenge for many reasons. As a linguist, his task wasn't just translating word-for-word between the Americans and the Afghans. It was important, he explained, to make sure both parties understood the intent behind the words and to make sure the Americans understood the cultural nuances of the Afghan

people. "You got to place yourself as a bridge," he said. Being thrust into military life wasn't easy either. In fact, it was downright frightening.

"A huge convoy came to pick me up," Elham said, remembering his first encounter with the U.S. military. "A couple military guys came in and called my name. I was scared. I didn't know about all the weapons. It was my first time meeting Americans. I was super-panicked. When I sit in the Humvee, I'm like, 'Oh, my gosh, look at all these guns."

Along the way, Elham met Hippakka, a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who was a task force commander with teams dispersed though northern and western portions of Afghanistan.

Elham began going along on various missions with the U.S. forces - translating and lending a hand as the U.S. teams he was working with helped to deliver medical assistance to remote villages, develop schools, water sources, community infrastructure and also worked to support the Afghan Border Police.

Early on, Elham found himself in a particularly frightening situation as the team he was working with received word that an Afghan National Army unit had been ambushed by a group of Taliban or other insur-

"(The insurgents) killed them all," Elham said. "I saw the bodies on the ground; it was the first time I saw people who were killed in a very terrible condition. I was so, so scared. I couldn't translate. They were telling me 'Can you ask the guy what happened?' Mentally, I wasn't there. It was the first time and I was so scared. After that incident, I got used to it. I got hard. I got strong."

But that doesn't mean it got easy. Elham said he did a lot of thinking about the fighting in his country and had a difficult time understanding why it was happening. The Afghans he knew and



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Mohammed Elham said he is living the American Dream working in Milford.

grew up with, after all, were good people. Many, many good people.

"Then you get contact someone is shooting at you - you are under fire, by the same people from that village," he said. "I am confused."

Threats made

After his first year on the job, Elham became a senior linguist and over the next seven years, while he was translating for the U.S. forces, his face became recognizable - he'd been shown on local television channels and things began to get especially dangerous for him.

On numerous occasions, he was told by intelligence officers that threats had been made against his life - common for Afghan translators.

"He was my senior linguist and he was the senior linguist for a lot of different people," Hippakka said. "Because of that, he was out and about. Early on in the war in Iraq, a lot of the translators would wear masks so their face

couldn't be seen. In Afghanistan, most linguists didn't wear a face mask."

It's culturally disrespectful for an Afghan man to cover his face, Elham said, and other Afghans won't talk with a man who does. Covering one's face indicates a lack of trust.

Even as things got more dangerous, Elham kept his fears to himself.

'Anything that was happening or I was seeing, I wouldn't tell to my family," he said. "I was telling my mom I'm working in the office, I'm not even going outside. Don't worry about me, I'm safe. I'm OK. It's not good to lie, but I didn't want my mom to (wor-

But his family - Elham has five brothers, four sisters and a fiance knew something was going on.

Once, when he came home to visit his fiance, he stayed one night at his mother's home.

'She did not sleep the entire night because she was so, so worried about me," he said. "She was

thinking that maybe that night someone would come and kill us. There was a chance, too.

As the threats increased, Elham knew it wasn't safe for him to stay any longer in Afghanistan. His life, as well as that of his family and his fiance, was in imminent danger and because of his work for the U.S. military, he was eligible to come to the United States. He had, in fact, submitted his application more than a year prior.

So he sold his family's car, packed two small bags and took a huge step toward freedom and safety.

A new life

Elham arrived April 1 in the United States. He knew he had a home waiting in Milford.

"In January 2013, before I left Afghanistan, I told Elham when you come to the U.S., just let me know what I can do,' Hippakka said. "If you need a place to live, you can come live with me. The choice was his."

Another Afghan linguist who'd also worked with Hippakka's team arrived in Michigan several months earlier, while another is currently working toward the same end.

For Elham - who is currently working to bring his fiance to Michigan, as well - it's a dream come true.

He has his struggles, certainly, like finding his way through all kinds of red tape in order to get federal assistance with schooling. Hippakka, he said, has been a huge and consistent help in teaching him about things like credit cards - there are none in Afghanistan interest, credit ratings and paying bills online, as well as car insurance none of that in Afghanistan, either - and rules of the road.

Getting a little help while he gets on his own two feet has been a bit of a challenge, as well. Recently, for example,

he went to the Department of Human Services to find out about getting some medical coverage and was told he could not get full coverage because he was not a refugee.

"I told her, 'I am not a citizen (either)," he said. "If I am not a U.S. citizen and not a refugee, than who am I? Explain it to me.' I was so confused. For the first couple months, it was so hard because all the rules and regulations came at once on top of my shoulders. I was trying to stand on my own two feet."

The slow pace of things has been difficult. Elham said he wants to get on track to make a difference. Still, even while the pace of things is slower than he'd like, Elham is happy at his job at Palate and determined to move forward.

"The people are so, so friendly. I love to work with them," he said.

At his new home in Milford, where he's staying until he can afford his own place, Elham lives with Hippakka and his family: wife Susan and children Abby, 14, and Alex, 11.

"I told my mom, 'Don't worry, I have a second family, they are well taking care of me," he said. "My mom asks, 'What are you doing, what are you eating, how are your living conditions?' I tell her, Scott's family, they are so awe-some to me. They are so good to me."

Elham's favorite thing about living in America is his security. And the people. And the nation itself.

"When you come from a country such as Afghanistan, you would understand how blessed you are here in the U.S.." he said. "I am so blessed that I came to this great nation and I will (eventually) become a U.S. citizen. My family is proud of me because I am in the best country in the world."

Icolvin@hometownlife.com 248-390-7396

SPIRIT

Continued from Page A6

uses cost about \$200 a month. That's just one example of an out-ofpocket expense.

Most of the machinery that dominates Erinne's existence is powered by electricity, so Suzanne's utility costs are high. The conversion van necessary to accommodate her wheelchair guzzles gas. Her medications are costly.

Helping out

Beverly Wheeler is a friend who's trying to help with all of that. Wheeler, a Canton resi-

dent who met Suzanne six months ago through (Sydney and Erinne are friends), noticed there was no curtain in the doorway leading to the hallway from the living room to Erinne's bedroom.

So Wheeler made one. Since then, Wheeler has been a fixture in the Williams home, helping Suzanne help Erinne. She has seen the toll it has taken on Suzanne.

"I kept seeing more and more need and I have the background to help," said Wheeler, a retired paramedic. "I think Suzanne needs my help more than Erinne does. Erinne gets help

from elsewhere; Suzanne's help comes from

Wheeler's daughter doesn't have the limitations Erinne faces and can do more things. Wheeler said she sometimes feels a little guilty telling Suzanne about Sydney's exploits, knowing Erinne won't ever do those same things.

"Sometimes I feel I shouldn't tell Suzanne what Sydney is doing, because her child can't." Wheeler said. "It makes me feel bad to share with my closest friend the things I can do, because her kid can't."

Suzanne, of course, pooh-poohs Wheeler's concerns, because selfpity has never entered into the equation.

"One thing I've never done is ask God, 'Why me?" Suzanne said. "Erinne is a gift. I know she's not going to be here forever, so every day is a gift. She has affected my



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Suzanne Williams prepares to drive Erinne and Latte to school, where Erinne will meet her teachers.

life more than any other person in my life.

No pity party

Likewise, though she might be the one person entitled to ask the question, Erinne doesn't spend much time wondering, "Why me?" She wants to be a veterinarian and her dream car would be a Camaro, if she were ever going to drive one. Those things might not happen, so Erinne

focuses on the things she can control. Like video games

"That's the one thing where I'm on a level playing field," Erinne said. "SMA has given me a lot of perspective on the things in life that are taken for granted."

It's the kind of attitude her brother admires. Kevin, now 23, said he loves how his sister takes every day and makes it

the "best it can possibly "We all have our mo

ments, but at the end of the day, you can't do anything about it," he said. "What I admire most about her and my mom is they ... literally

have an indomitable spirit." Suzanne knows she's

going to lose Erinne and faces the fact head-on. She's done the unthinkable things parents with terminally ill children have to do, like planning for the end. But that doesn't mean she's not

having trouble facing it. "In my mind, I've planned her funeral, but I just can't imagine going through that," Suzanne said. "I'm just trying to be there for her every day. I can't imagine what my life is going to be like without her."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com Twitter: @bkadrich

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. on September 17th. 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following: Thermal Imagers

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.

Publish: August 7, 2014

Devin J. Adams City Controller

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PATIENTS BE PATIENT

Physicians are notorious for falling behind their schedules and keeping patients waiting hours for their appointments. That situation

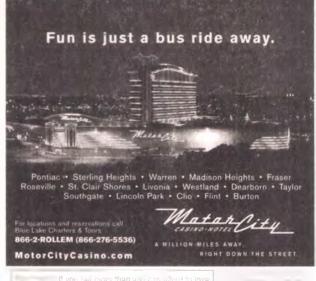
I refer to the present effort of many physician groups to finally move into Electronic Medical Records (EMR). Going "paperless" is a difficult enterprise even for physicians versed in using home and hospital computers because the amount of information that the physician must input is large. Furthermore, the way the computer requires data entry is not in keeping with the approach physicians traditionally take in interviewing and examining a patient.

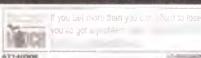
When physicians first move from written to electronic records, the scheduling of patients also shifts. If a medical practice before EMR had each doctor seeing 4 patients an hour, the initial scheduling with EMR is 2 patients/hour. If the physician can keep that pace it means the practice, at best, will see half the number of patients/day that it saw when using traditional charting. Usually an office keeps this temporary schedule for a week; to do so longer means a loss of income too great to sustain and delay of patient care too long to accept.

Usually the office returns to the previous 4 patient/hour schedule But the old efficiency is never regained as added documentation requirements plus unexpected breakdowns in the electronic equipment cause disruptions that can last minutes to hours.

Nationally, the purpose of the change to electronic medical records is to build a system of transmitting information that physicians and hospital can tap into as needed. The country is just at the start of this initiative. All patients see at this time is delay, but eventually patients and physicians will benefit from timely relay of information and an end to duplication and fragmentation of care.







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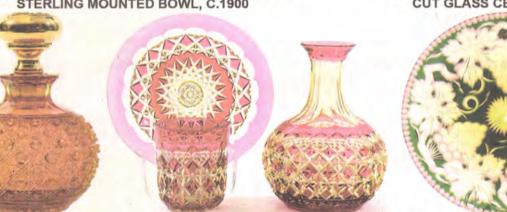


RARE RAINBOW DECANTER, C.1900



LIBBEY INTAGLIO CUT GLASS & J. E. CALDWELL STERLING MOUNTED BOWL, C.1900





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STEVENS & WILLIAMS INTAGLIO CUT GLASS PLATE, C. 1910



AMERICAN 'RUSSIAN' **GLASS BASKET, C. 1880**



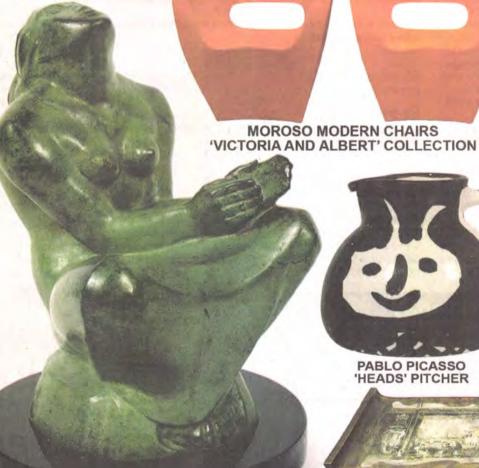
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DAVID HOCKNEY



DOUGLAS ARTHUR TEED COLLECTION



MARSHALL FREDERICKS FEATURE

PABLO PICASSO HEADS' PITCHER



MALCOM FARLEY, OIL ON CANVAS, SIGNED BY ZETTERBERG, LIDSTROM, DATSYUK & OSGOOD



BABE RUTH SIGNED **BALL, C. 1946**



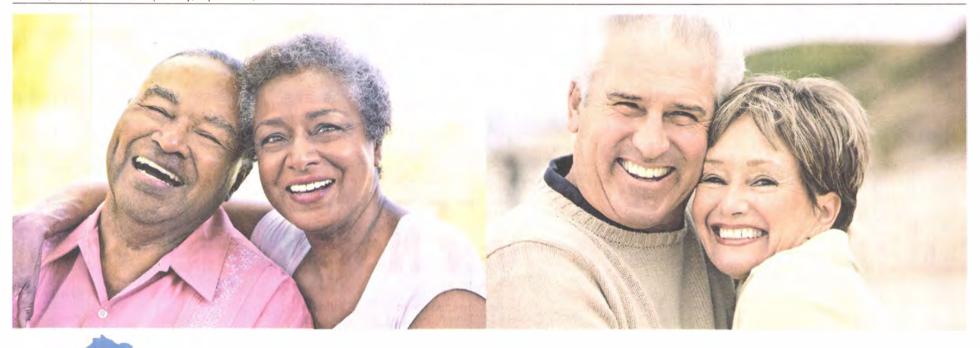
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SPORTS

ED WRIGHT, EDITOR

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PREP SOCCER WRAP

Spartans goalkeeper Miller dazzles in win over Northville

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Air-tight defense, a big break and a standout debut from its goalkeeper led Livonia Stevenson's boys soccer team to a 2-0 victory over Northville Thursday night in a typical hotlycontested KLAA Central Division showdown.

The triumph was pivotal for

the Spartans, who suffered a setback to division foe Novi earlier in the week. Stevenson is now 4-1 overall and 1-1 in the Central.

"It was a quality bounce-back win for us on the road," said Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker. "Our back line and midfield really played well tonight. Turner [Miller] stepped in and did a nice job in goal."

The loss dropped the Mustangs to 2-2-2 overall and 1-1 in the division.

Northville outshot Stevenson 8-7, but Turner rose to the occasion with five saves. Alec Melucci registered five stops for the hosts.

The winners' first goal game in the game's 35th minute when Spartan Brandon Eklund's free kick was headed in by a Northville player.

Four minutes later Stevenson put a stranglehold on the momentum when Austin Rynicki volleyed in a restart from Dom

Stevenson returns to action Tuesday with a 7 p.m. home game against South Lyon. Clarenceville earned its sec-

See SOCCER, Page B4

LIVONIA GIRLS CITY CROSS COUNTRY MEET



ED WRIGHT

Runners from all three Livonia public schools got off to a quick start Wednesday afternoon during the annual city meet.

PATRIOTS' DAY



WRIGHT

Livonia Franklin's Natalie Douglas (center) and Livonia Churchill's Kathleen George (right) surged to the front immediately during Wednesday's city meet.

Trio's superb performances fuel Franklin's first title in 'a long time'

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

The final 100-yard uphill stretch of the Cass Benton Park 5-kilometer cross country course was lined late Wednesday afternoon with screaming supporters, each imploring the front-running participants of the Livonia Girls City Meet to run like every stride would determine the meet's champion.

As it turned out, every stride

On an afternoon coated with heavy heat and infrequent breezes, Livonia Franklin captured its first city championship in decades – but it wasn't easy. A string of three consecutive Patriots – Natalie Douglas, Amanda Pokryfky and Ellary Marano – sprinted across the finish line behind winner Kathleen George of Churchill to lift Franklin to a one-point triumph (29-30) over the Chargers, who were powered by five top-10 placers.

Defending champion Livonia Stevenson placed third with 66

points.

"I'm not exactly sure when Franklin last won this meet, but I know it's been a long time," Patriots head coach Dave Bjorklund revealed, emphasizing

See CITY MEET, Page B4

PREP VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Pinpoint serves power Redford Union to wins

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Redford Union's volleyball team has aced its first two tests of the season – literally and fig-

Sparked by a flurry of hardto-return serves, the Panthers have yet to lose a game in their first two matches of the 2014 season.

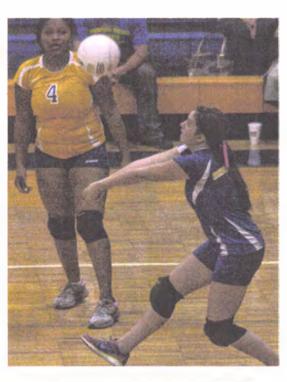
On Thursday, RU steamrolled visiting Harper Woods, 25-12, 25-17, 25-12. Service specialist Arielle Gaines-Rozier set the tone early by dealing three consecutive aces during the Pan-

thers' 5-0 start in game one. Later in the opening stanza, Gaines-Rozier reeled off four straight aces.

RU opened the season on Tuesday by defusing host Hazel Park, 25-21, 25-18, 25-12.

"We're serving great, the girls are communicating well; it's really been a combination of things," said RU head coach Rob Reese, when asked about his team's sparkling start. "Shae Smith has done a great job setting, too. We definitely need to work on our spiking, but we had

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B4



ED WRIGHT
Redford
Union's
Logyn Kraft
keeps a point
alive during
Thursday's
match
against
Harper
Woods.

Hole-in-one contest

The Detroit News/ GAM hole-in-one contest will be held Monday, Sept. 8 on Whispering Willows Golf Course's hole No. 7

The event will run from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants must have a previous hole-in-one to participate. Each contestant will receive two shots

There will also be a raffle to raise money for the Folds of Honor.

Prep golf

Plymouth's stateranked girls golf team upended host Livonia Churchill, 174-233, Thursday afternoon at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Medalist Sydney Murphy of Plymouth carded a 39. Kristin McLean led the Chargers with a 54. Also scoring for Churchill were Megan Crocker (59), Alyssa Mazar (60) and Marin McGowan (60).

McGowan (60).

The Wildcats'
contributors included Alaina Strzalka
(44), Katie Chipman
(45) and Ariana
Strzalka (46).

MU spikers triumph

The Madonna
University women's
volleyball team
opened defense of
their WolverineHoosier Athletic
Conference title
Wednesday night
with a 25-19, 25-13,
20-25, 25-18 win over
visiting University
of Northwestern
Ohio.

The Crusaders, now 7-2 overall and 1-0 in the WHAC, were led by senior Casey Gates, a transfer from UNO. The 5-foot-9 outside hitter from Jackson Center, Ohio finished with a team-high 14 kills and 13 digs.

Katie Breault,
Samantha Geile and
Emily Johnson each
added eight kills,
while junior setter
Spencer Strokes
collected 37 assist-tokills for the victorious Crusaders.

Northwestern
Ohio (3-6, 0-1) got 12
kills and 12 digs from
Chanel Cantere,
while setters Rachel
Wilson and Hailey
Rosinski combined
for 36 assists with 21
and 15 respectively

and 15, respectively.
The Crusaders,
ranked No. 4 in the
NAIA preseason poll,
return to action Friday at home in the
Julie Martin Memorial Classic. MU will
take on Western
Ontario at 4 p.m.
followed by Lewis &
Clark State (Id.) at 8

On Saturday, Madonna will face Purdue-North Central at 11 a.m. followed by a match against St. Xavier (Ill.) at 3 p.m.





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'RED OUT' FUNDRAISER

Franklin's 'Moms Club' assists cancer-stricken kids

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Since the beginning of time, moms have been known for going the extra mile to help their chil-

What makes the gesture the Livonia Franklin football program's "Moms Club" executed Friday night extra special considering they were working overtime to help children that weren't their own.

The idea of Franklin varsity football coach Jennifer Kelbert, Friday night's "Red Out" fundraiser involved the orchestration of several fundraisers that will gen-

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erate funds for cancerstricken children in the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital's Oncology Unit.

Several Mott patients were scheduled to attend Friday's game, but the threat - and eventual arrival - of severe weather forced them to miss the event.

Among the fundraising projects that greeted spectators once they walked through the stadium's front gates prior to the Patriots' game against Milford were basket raffles, T-shirt sales and other assorted items, the sale of which proceeds will go directly to Mott patients.

Kelbert said the

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wheels started to go in motion on the project about five weeks ago. Thanks to the full-fledged support of the Franklin football players' moms, the fundraiser's momentum quickly picked up steam.

"I had a friend from high school whose son was diagnosed with a brain tumor," recalled Kelbert, when asked what motivated her to kickstart the "Red Out." "He passed away March 9. I want to help raise as much money as I can so that other families don't have to suffer the pain my friend's family experienced."

Spearheading the program along with Kelbert is Moms Club member Debbie Mead

Along with the fundraising portion of the special night, Patriot fans were encouraged to wear red for Friday's game and many obliged as the home stands were saturated with a see of red apparel.

Members of the football team pitched in by wearing red pants and red jerseys.

"Next year, and in all future years, I'd like to start organizing this a lot sooner than we did this year," said Kelbert. "I'd also like to get the football players more involved. We could have them go to the homes of chidlhood cancer patients and help out with yard work and things like that. I think it would benefit the players and the families.

Livonia restaurant Dave & Buster's had a tent set up with assorted games, as did Build-A-Bear.

Few, if any, fans who circulated into the stadium bypassed the fundraising tables without making some kind of donation.

'We didn't really have a goal set as to how much



Members of the Livonia Franklin football program's Moms Club raised money for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital's



ED WRIGHT

The majority of the fans at Friday's Livonia Franklin home game against Milford wore red clothing in honor of the Moms' Club's "Red Out" fundraiser.



Livonia Franklin's Nathan Rodgers intercepted a first-quarter Milford pass and raced 89 yards for a pick-six to knot the Patriots' game with Milford at 7-7.

tween Franklin and Milwe wanted to raise this

first year," Kelbert said.
"We want to raise as much as we can. Next year, since we will start planning a lot sooner, our goals will be a lot higher."

Game delayed

The early going of Friday night's game beford was entertaining, to say the least.

Bolstered by a 70-yard return on the opening kick-off by Alexander Puente, Milford grabbed a 7-0 lead on its first possession when Tyler Carrier scored on a 28-yard run with just 18 seconds

into the game.

Sparked by strong running from Nate Binkiewicz and Nathan Roders, the Patriots countered with a long drive inside the Mavericks' 10-yard line on its first drive, but Milford sacked quarterback Denzel Adams on a fourthand-1 play to erase the threat.

Milford then powered the ball to the Franklin 28, but quarterback Joshua Johnston's pass over the middle was picked off at the 11 by Rodgers and returned 89 yards for a touchdown. Ryan Prohaska's extra point knotted the game at 7-7 with 4:51 left in the first quar-

The game was halted around 8 p.m. due to severe storms and lightning.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL Friday, Sept. 12

BOYS SOCCER

nn at Churchill, 7 p.m. Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m. Redford Union at Robichaud, 7 p.m. Wayne at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Garden City at Annapolis, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Luth. North, 7 p.m. Thurston at Dearborn, 7 p.m uth. Westland at Parkway, 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 8 Redford Union at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Garden City, 7 p.m. Thurston at Crestwood, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9 Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m. HVL at Franklin Road, 4:30 p.m. Wayne at Churchill, 7 p.m. South Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 Crestwood at RU, 5:30 p.m. Dearborn at Garden City, 7 p.m. Edsel Ford at Clarenceville, 6 p.m. Thurston at Fordson, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Parkway at HVL, 4:30 p.m. Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m Thurston at Farmington, 7 p.m. Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m Friday, Sept. 12 Belleville at Wayne, 4 p.m

HVL at Calvary, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 PREP VOLLEYBALL Tuesday, Sept. 9 HVL at Luth. NW, 6:30 p.m Luth. Westland at Parkway, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 Wayne at Franklin, 6:30 p.m. S.L. East at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m. John Glenn at Churchill, 6:30 p.m Edsel Ford at Thurston, 7 p.m. Luth. Westland at Oakland, 6:30 p.m.

Dearborn at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. Garden City at Annapolis, 7 p.m. Inter-City at HVL, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 Ladywood Invitational, 8:30 a.m. Wyandotte Invitational, 8:30 a.m. Clawson Tournament, 8:30 a.m. **GIRLS SWIMMING** Tuesday, Sept. 9 Hazel Park at Wayne, 6:30 p.m Thursday, Sept. 11 Canton at Wayne, 6:30 p.m. Redford Union at Garden City, 5:30 p.m. Ladywood at John Glenn, 6 p.m. Thurston at Fordson, 4 p.m Churchill at Northville, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13

BOYS TENNIS Tuesday, Sept. 9 Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Wayne at Franklin, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 Robichaud at RU, 4 p.m. Churchill at Farmington, 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 Wayne at Canton, 4 p.m. Franklin at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Plymouth at Churchill, 4 p.m. Stevenson vs. South Lyon, 4 p.m Saturday, Sept. 13 **GIRLS GOLF** Tuesday, Sept. 9 Wayne at Franklin, 3 p.m.

Novi at Stevenson, 3 p.m. Marian at Ladywood, 4 p.m. Churchill at Canton, 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 John Glenn at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m. Canton at Franklin, 3 p.m. Salem at Stevenson, 3 p.m. Cranbrook at Ladywood, 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 PREP CROSS COUNTRY Tuesday, Sept. 9 Wayne at Franklin, 4:30 p.m. John Glenn at Churchill, 4:30 p.m. S.L. East at Stevenson, 4 p.m. Ladywood at CHSL Quad, 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12
Belleville at Wayne, 4:30 p.m.

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Saturday, Sept. 13

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PREP VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

New coach set to steer Patriots toward success

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

When Desiree Betts resigned her head volleyball coaching position at Livonia Franklin earlier this summer following the birth of her first child, it was only natural that Ashly Butkowski fill the void.

A former standout player at Franklin before graduating in 2009, Butkowski served as a freshman and junior-varsity coach for the Patriots prior to landing the varsity position in

"I'm really excited about this opportunity," Butkowski said. "I've coached most of these girls already, so I'm familiar with what they can do and they know how I coach.

We have a lot of seniors on this team, so we have the potential to be good. We have senior leadership pretty much everywhere on the court. They're not only strong players, but they know what they're doing on the court. They know where to be and they communicate well."

Butkowski said she is im-

plementing a series of new hitting drills that will help diversify the Patriots' offense.

Engineering the Patriots' new scheme will be senior setter Kennedy Mang (5-

"Kennedy is a great all-around player," said Butkowski. "She's the kind of player who is always motivating the team and she never gives up on a point. She's committed to winning and she loves the

The Patriots' premier defensive player is senior libero Kelly Newton (5-8), who frustrates opposing hitters with her all-out style of play.

'Kelly reads the ball well and she can cover anything that comes over the net," said Butkowski. "She's always encouraging her teammates and is a good leader."

Senior Sarah Cramton, a 5-9 outside hitter who can play pretty much anywhere on the court, is the kind of dependable player a first-year coach covets.

"Sarah is very committed to helping the team be success-



Pictured (from left) are Livonia Franklin volleyball players Julie Williamson, Alaina DeFrain, Ashley Mardeuse. Rachel Beers, Sarah Cramton, Jessica McNally, Kelly Newton, Erin McNally, Hannah Nordstrom, Mikayla Sinkiewicz, Kennedy Mang, Samantha Grzech and head coach Ashly Butkowski.

ful," said Butkowski. "Off the court, she's very reliable; one of those players who never misses a practice. On it, she's a very good defensive player and right outside hitter who is a good passer and can get aces when she's serving.

Senior setter Mikayla Sien-

kiewicz is "an energy player," Butkowski said.

"She's smart, she can get the ball up no matter what the pass is like, and she knows how to lead," the Patriots' coach raved.

Twin seniors Jessica and Erin McNally will play pivotal roles along the front row for the Patriots, Butkowski said.

The team's top newcomer is freshman Hanna Nordstrom, a 5-7 outside hitter.

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Pictured (from left) are Lutheran Westland football captains Jacob Davenport, Thomas Krueger, Caleb Richter and Austin Olson. All four are seniors.

PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Warriors are deep, experienced

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Lutheran Westland's football team will only go as far as their seniors carry them this season.

Given the quality of the Warriors' senior nucleus, that could be a long way.

"We have 10 seniors, so it's a knowledgeable group," said Warriors head coach Paul Guse'. "Most of our kids haven't played before they get to us, so having 10 seniors this year, we feel comfortable being able to make in-game adjustments. It's a smart group.'

Guse' said his team's offense has the potential to be explosive.

"All of our backs are back from last year," he said. "Jacob Davenport and Austin Olson are our two key backs - they're our heart and soul. The big question mark we had coming into the season was quarterback, but sophomore Luke Smith has stepped in and done a nice

"We have good athletes along the front line and we have depth, which is something we don't normally have."

The Warriors lost their opener last week against Burton Atherton, an athletic contingent that had just a little too much speed for the Warriors to contain.

"We played well enough to win," said Guse'. "We came back and made it close. We know we have to play better. We realize the mistakes we made and with all the seniors we have, they know what needs to be fixed."

Davenport is the Warriors' version of a transformer. He can play anywhere on the field - and often does - excelling at running back, quarterback and lineback-

"I like the versatility this team has," said Davenport. "I can play pretty much anywhere; really, any of our backs can play anywhere and do a great job.

"We have a lot of experience with our seniors. We can do more things offensively than we could last year. There are a lot of positives."

Guse' fondly referred to Davenport as "a machine out there".

"He's our best hitter, a great running back and he caught six passes last week and threw seven passes. Not a lot of players anywhere can say that. We have a series of plays for him at quarterback, so he can do it all. We just have to keep him healthy.

Senior Austin Olson will also carry the ball a lot this fall, Guse' emphasized.

"On a lot of our other teams here, Austin would be our feature back, but with Jacob here, too, we split them up. He's a hard runner and he can catch the ball, too.'

The Warriors' top lineman is senior guard Tom Krueger, who is strong, smart and agile.

"He's our strongest player and most knowledgeable lineman," Guse' said. "Even though he's not the center, he'll make most of our line calls."

Lutheran Westland's fourth captain is fullback Caleb Richter, a 135-pound tornado.

"Caleb is like a Tanzmanian devil out there," Guse' said, smiling. "He's usually one of the smallest players on the field, but he's so active. We didn't play him much at fullback last year because of his size, but he's such a great edge blocker that he'll play

there a lot this year." Other key seniors are linebacker/center Nick Garber, two-way tackle Travis Fry and split end

Cleveland Tarp. "Everybody plays both ways for us," Guse' noted. "I think we started three kids on defense last week that didn't play offense. We're cognizant of not overloading the kids, but of our 30 kids, 15 are technically junior-varsity players, so we only go about 18 or 19 deep. That's way it is here and that's the way it will always be. The kids know they're going to play a lot and they're fired up about that."



St. Edith soccer coordinator and tournament director Bassel Atala presents the first-place trophy to junior varsity boys Shrine coach Kevin Ciarlone as the Shrine players rejoice.

St. Edith soccer tourney draws 26 teams

The 2014 St. Edith Soccer Classic held at Livonia Ladywood High School proved to be an overwhelming success as 26 teams competed in four division: junior varsity boys, junior varsity girls, varsity boys and varsity

Among the 26 teams competing were eight Catholic Youth Organization squads. Shrine defeated St. Mike's in the JV boys

final, 3-1, while All Saints defeated Our Lady of Good Counsel, 4-1, in the varsity boys bracket final.

In the JV girls division, Our Lady of Sorrows upended Dearborn Divine Child, 4-1, in the title match, while Shrine blanked Our Lady of Sorrows, 6-0, in the varsity girls championship showdown.

"The St. Edith Tournament Committee would like to thank all the participants, the sponsors and the families for making this tournament a huge success, and we look forward to seeing you again next year," stated tournament director Bassel Atala.

The division champions received trophies and T-shirts.

By Ed Wright

PREP VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

Extra work paying off for Redford Union spikers

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

When Redford Union volleyball coach Rob Reese decided to double up his team's preseason workouts last month, he wasn't sure how the Panthers would respond.

'We went from practicing two hours a day to four," said Reese. "At first, I thought the girls might not like it because they have a lot of other things going on, but they ended up loving it; and I can tell we're better because of the additional work we've put in.'

The Panthers will be led this season by a pair of stellar captains — sophomore Shae Smith and senior Renee Reed, both of whom can lead by example and with their voices.

'We're both vocal leaders," said Reed, who is the team's top front-row force. "Being selected captain meant a lot to me. This is a hard-working team and we all get along, which is key to being success-

Although RU's roster isn't stockpiled with high-elevating hitters, it is loaded with hustling, instinctive players who will do whatever it takes to win a point.

"We have a lot of good diggers," Smith said. "So as long as the ball doesn't hit the floor,

we're good." Reese had high praise for his pair of captains. "They're both great kids

who the other players look up

to and listen to," said Reese. "Renee is a great server and a good outside hitter; she'll definitely be playing all around for us. Shae was our MVP last year and will be one of our setters this year. She talks the entire game, encouraging her teammates. She does a nice job of

running the show out there." The Panthers' primary middle hitters will be senior Sasha Sartin (5-foot-11) and freshman Haley Hebner (5-9).

Sasha is a good middle hitter and an excellent server," Reese raved. "Even though she's a freshman, Haylie has proven that she belongs on

varsity.' Splitting time at libero will be senior Logyn Kraft (5-3) and freshman Ashley Kato.

"Logyn knows the game so well; she's very dependable,' said Reese. "I wouldn't even think about having a freshman on varsity unless I thought she could excel, and Ashley definitely can excel at this level.'

Sophomore Sadie Miles will play all around, but her best position is right-side hitter, Reese said. Reed and Kiara Sharps will patrol the left side

of the net. Junior Keyonia Cuff (5-8) will offer depth along the front row while senior Arielle Gaines-Rozier has established herself as one of the team's best servers despite having sat

out the past two seasons. An ankle injury will keep senior Lisa Hairstone sidelined for an extended period, but



Sophomore Shae Smith (left) and senior Renee Reed will serve as co-captains for the Redford Union volleyball team this fall.

Reese was impressed by how she attended all of the team's conditioning workouts.

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CROSS COUNTRY ROUNDUP

Zebra harriers out-stride Garden City

Boys win handily while girls chalk up narrow triumph

Wayne Memorial's boys cross country team opened its dual-meet season on Thursday with a decisive 17-46 victory over visiting Garden City.

The Zebras swept the top three places with seniors Ma-lik Jordan (18:40.1), Devin Gibson (18:40.5) and Michael Gibson (18:43.3) finishing 1Also scoring for Wayne were sophomore Jamie Carranza (fifth place in 20:10.6), freshman John Gaton (sixth place in 23:15), freshman George Ferguson (seventh place in 23:54) and junior Tye Moore, who placed eighth in

"The heat and humidity were really tough for all the runners since we haven't had an opportunity to run in these conditions very often this summer," noted Wayne head coach Tom Gibson.

Cody Hardrick was the fastest Cougar, finishing fourth with a time of 19:28.38. Also scoring for GC were Jacob Callender (ninth place in 24:23.91), David Gausden (10th place in 24:41.03), Justin Sadowski (11th place in 24:50.09) and Justin Outlaw (14th place in 25:31.25).

Milestone victory for **Wayne girls**

The Zebras girls team won its first dual meet in the past seven years by nipping visiting Garden City, 27-28,

Thursday afternoon.

Junior Kelsie Wysong paced the memorable day for the winners by posting a second-place finish in 24:34.91. Sophomore Nikita Bhangu was fourth with a personal-best

course time of 26:45.97. Garden City's Korey Szymaniak won the race with a time of 23:09.38.

Also factoring in on the triumphant effort were sophomore Melaina Climer (28:03.62), freshman Jessica Leigh (28:52.69) and senior Victoria Boyd (29:10.59), who

finished in sixth through eighth places, respectively.

Junior Gabby Niemiec (31:30.52) and senior Kendelle Hood (32:04.88) also competed for the Zebras.

Also scoring for the Cougars were Gabby Castillo (third in 26:27.53), Erica Turnbull (fifth in 27:33.12), Hayley Plummer (ninth in 29:20.91) and Savannah Childress (10th in 30:01.34).

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LIVONIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Jones, Spartans rule the trails

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's dynamic one-two punch of Keenan Jones and Tony Floyd wasn't enough to stagger Livonia Stevenson during Wednesday afternoon's Livonia Boys City Cross Country Meet at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

Jones, a senior, successfully defended his individual title at the early-season heavyweight meet, finishing nine seconds ahead of runner-up and team-mate Floyd, but the Erik Grisaled Spartans flooded the top-10 with four runners to compile 36 points – six fewer than the

Paced by fourth-place finisher Jonathan Alessandrini, Churchill placed third with 48

Stevenson won the meet for the first time since 2010.

"I looked at all the numbers after the Mustang Invitational last week, and I thought we had a good chance," said Stevenson head coach Chris Inch. "I knew it would be tight because all three teams get up for this meet. Everybody ran hard today. I was very

Jones seized the lead during the first couple hundred yards and held off his hard-charging teammate down the stretch.

"This feels awesome," said Jones. "Honestly, though, it was a little harder than last year. I had to re-focus a little bit around the two-mile mark."

Jones said he had a pretty good idea of how wide his cushion was over his closest

"You're not supposed to look back during a race, but I was glancing a little bit on the turns," he said, smiling. "Tony was always right there with me. He has a lot of talent and I hope he wins this next year. He deserves it."

Grisa, a senior, defied the mid-80s heat with a personalbest time at Cass Benton of



Livonia Franklin's Keenan Jones (second from left, bottom) and teammate Tony Floyd (pictured at Jones' right) finished one-two in Wednesday's Livonia City Meet, which was won by Livonia Stevenson.



Livonia Stevenson's Erik Grisa placed third overall while leading the Spartans to their first city title in

"I was really pleased with how Erik ran today," said Inch.
"I expected him to be right there, chasing Jones and Floyd, and he really stepped up.'

Inch also praised 10th-place finisher Alex Mikonczyk, who was battling through an injury. "Alex couldn't train for

most of the summer because of a stress fracture, but he ran a tough race," said Inch.

The champions were also bolstered by stellar efforts from fifth-place Luke Green (17:27.4) and eight-place Andrew Bambach (17:46.8).

Franklin's third runner was Matt Lepper, who crossed the line in ninth place in 18:14.5.

Joining Alessandrini in the

top 10 for the Chargers were Jonathan Hovermale (sixth place in 17:38.3) and Matt Cohan (eighth place in 18:08.9).

"I liked how competitive we were today," said Churchill coach John McGreevy. "We ran a lot better than we did here at the Mustang Invitational last week

LIVONIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY MEET

ELVONIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY MIET Wednesday at Cass Benton Park FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Stevenson, 36 points; 2. Franklin, 42, 3. Churchill, 48. STEVENSON: 3. Erik Grisa, 17 minutes, 1.2 seconds; 5. Luke Green, 17:27.4; 7. Andrew Bambach, 17:46.8; 10. Alex Mikonczyk, 18:19.2; 11. Nathan Ward 18:20.5

Ward, 18:20.5.
FRANKLIN: 1. Keenan Jones, 16:46.6; 2. Tony
Floyd, 16:55.8; 9. Matt Lepper, 18:14.5; 14. Nathan
McCail, 18:35.1; 16. Jacob Forgacs, 18:50.2.
CHURCHILL: 4. Jonathan Alessandrini, 17:11.3; 6.
Jonathan Hovermale, 17:38.3; 8. Matt Cohan, 18:08.9;
13. Josh Mussen, 18:29.9; 17. John Sas, 18:53.9.

CITY MEET

Continued from Page B1

long. "I knew it was going to be a close meet - it always is and I knew we had a chance, but Churchill looked really good. I knew we needed four or five girls in the top 10, and we got four, which was just enough."

George and Douglas hooked up in a classic battle for first, almost always lurking in the other's swift-moving shadow over the first half of the 3.1-mile race.

George pulled away slightly over the final half mile, winning with a time of 20 minutes, 41.9 seconds - exactly nine seconds faster than Douglas.

"It was a tough loss today, but Franklin deserves a lot of credit," said Churchill head coach Sue Tatro. "They were definitely the hungrier team. I was extremely proud of Kathleen. She took command of the race from the start to finish. Today was definitely a great learning experience for

As it turned out, Douglas had just a little more help from her friends, specifically Pokryfky and Marano, who placed third and fourth, respectively.

Chargers Addison Mussen, Chirstina Murphy and Hailey Pampreen-Lohman finished fifth, sixth and eighth, respectively, sandwiched around Stevenson's top runner, seventh-place Emily Chapski.

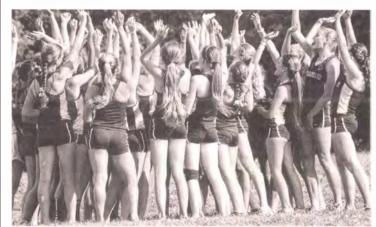
Franklin's Natalie Martinez and Churchill's Alexis Lombardo placed ninth and

"Once all of our scoring girls finished, I was 99 percent sure we had won, but you never know until it's official,' said Bjorklund. "Once it became official, the girls got real excited. The city meet is a big deal for the athletes at all three schools. I'm extremely proud of them."

The first five finishers for each team figured in the final scoring.

2014 LIVONIA GIRLS CITY MEET Wednesday at Cass Benton
FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Franklin, 29; 2. Churchill,
30; 3. Stevenson, 66.
FRANKLIN: 2. Natalie Douglas, 20 minutes, 50.9
seconds; 3. Amanda Pokryfky, 21:23.2; 4. Ellary
Marano, 21:28.1; 9. Natalie Martinez, 22:18.8; 11.
Campn Zurawski, 22:42.3.

Camyn Zurawski, 22:42.3.
CHURCHILL: 1. Kathleen George, 20:41.9; 5.
Addison Mussen, 21:56.5; 6. Christina Murphy,
22:11.; 8. Hailey Pampreen-Lohman, 22:18.4; 10.
Alexis Lombardo, 22:25.5.
STEVENSON: 7. Emily Chapski, 22:15.7; 13. Julia
Cercone, 22:55.1; 14. Grace Lamerson, 23:11.0; 15.
Kennedy Thurlow, 23:15.7; 17. Emily Lauzon,
23:31.6.



Franklin runners celebrate their first city meet championship in a long time.

PREP TENNIS ROUNDUP

Charger netters sweep Wayne, John Glenn

Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's boys tennis team rolled to a pair of KLAA South Division victories earlier this week.

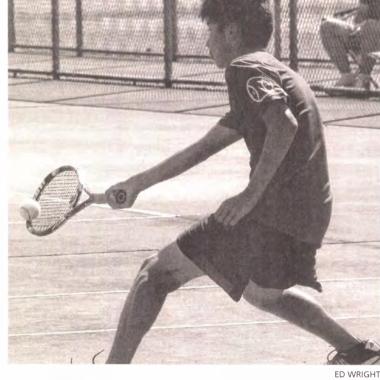
On Wednesday, the Chargers blanked visiting Wayne, 9-0. One day later Churchill swept its match at John Glenn. Leading the victory parade

was senior No. 1 singles player Jonathan Martin, who defeated Wayne's Tyler Harnos, 6-3, 6-4; and John Glenn's Cotz Diaz, 6-0, 6-0. Churchill's No. 2 player Sean Mulka is also off to a sizzling start, upending the Zebras' Conner Weber, 6-1, 6-0; and John Glenn's Reilly Diaz, 6-1, 6-1.

Sophomore Tim Ohtake lost just two total games in his victories over Wayne's Brenden Benten and John Glenn's Kyle Nikula, while No. 4 singles player Johnny Zhou, a freshman, played beyond his years, winning 6-0, 6-1 over Waynes Jay Best, and 6-1, 6-0 against Rocket Caleb Woodard.

Both Wayne and John Glenn defaulted their No. 3, 4 and 5 doubles matches against the Chargers, whose No. 1 doubles team of Raymond Peters and Matt Smith ousted Wayne's Drake Carpenter and Collin Hudson, while Cooper King and Mit Patel swept John Glenn's Steve Gray and Phil Sheridan at No. 1 doubles.

Mickey Ohtake and Shantam Ravan won their No. 2 doubles match against John Glenn's Rock Williams and



Livonia Churchill's No. 4 singles player Johnny Zhou returns a shot during a match earlier this season.

Rahmier Borgart, 6-2, 6-0.

Patriots runners-up in Monroe

Led by silver-medal efforts from three singles players and a pair of doubles teams, Livonia Franklin's boys tennis team placed second at last weekend's Monroe Invitational.

Plymouth won the top prize with 24 points followed by Franklin, Riverview and Mon-

Earning second-place points for Franklin were singles players Lucas Pekorius (No. 2), Jordan Stasser (No. 3) and Adam Alger (No. 4). The doubles tandems of Griffin Mang and Reo Tang (No. 2) and Graham Schuerman Kyle McCullach (No. 4) also were runnersup in their respective flights.

ewright@hometownlife.com

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page B1

some really good net play [Thursday night] from Renee Reed and Sasha Sartin."

Like in any early-season high school volleyball match, Thursday's RU-Harper Woods showdown was plagued at times by serve-receive errors and off-target passes, but the Panthers quickly established themselves as the more welloiled machine.

After Harper Woods crept to within 8-5 in the first game, the Panthers went on a 9-1 run thanks to a dominating effort at the service line by Kiara Sharps. The momentumchanging streak included a pair of emphatic kills by Reed.

Reese admitted that his team will be severely tested at this weekend's University of Michigan-Dearborn tournament.

"We're going to run into some teams who can really put the ball down, but that's what we need to measure where we're at," he said.

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SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

ond victory in boys soccer Wednesday, defeating the visitors from Detroit Cass Tech, 3-1.

Chargers oust Franklin

Livonia Churchill earned a significant KLAA South Division victory Thursday night when it outscored cross-town rival Livonia Franklin, 4-1.

Churchill's first goal was scored by junior forward Riles Dobar.

The Chargers benefited from a Patriots' own goal, which was credited to Churchill junior forward Mario Shkembi.

Junior forward Erlin Guri tallied the final two net-minders for the victors.

The host Patriots' lone goal came from P.J. McGeary.

"It was a sloppy game, in my opinion," said Franklin head coach Vic Rodopoulus. "With 10 minutes left in the

first half we started getting way off our game. We started playing kick ball and not looking for the easy passes."

Trojans notch win Jayson Fitzpatrick scored

the first goal of the game on an incredible hustle play for the Trojans, according to coach Trevor Johnson. The Technicians made the

tally 1-1 through halftime. Cam Fyffe had the gamewinning goal, carrying the ball 50 yards through traffic to score, and Gerardo Arzate added another goal with a shot from 30 yards out.

Dante Marzolo and Kam MacIver each had assists, and keeper Noah Elagamy played great for the Trojans (2-3) with nine saves, Johnson said.

Luis Borjac had the lone goal for Cass Tech.

Clarenceville's home game with Riverside Academy has been rescheduled for 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11.

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'Safe at Home' work boosts independence

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

When "Tasha," a 43-year-old woman, returns from a hospital stay to her home in Farmington Hills, she'll be able to maneuver her walker more easily through the doorway.

She'll find a new ramp, installed courtesy of Evangelical Homes of Michigan, where porch steps used to be.

The disabled woman and her wheelchair-bound mother who lives with her, received help recently through Evangelical Homes of Michigan's Safe at Home Charitable Fund program, which repairs and modifies homes without charge for hundreds of physically handicapped and elderly persons annually.

"We do about \$2,500-\$3,500 a month in services. Sometimes we're just putting in a Lifeline (Medical Alert) service in a house," said Berge Avesian, Safe at Home director. "But the truth is, a lot of times you walk into a person's home and there's a leaky faucet or a broken fixture. It's a little problem, but if left alone it can become a big problem. We've replaced water heaters for people.'

Evangelical Homes of Michigan is a faith-based, nonprofit organization with offices in Farmington that runs assisted and independent senior housing communities in Detroit, Saline and Sterling Heights. It also offers dementia care, health care services including skilled nursing and rehabilitation, hospice care, and an extensive program to help seniors remain independent at

Safe at Home Charitable Fund helps seniors and those with physical disabilities remain independent at home. The program is aimed at individuals who can't afford to pay for home repairs and modifications.

More than a ramp

"Tasha," who declined to use her full name, called Avesian after hearing about Safe at Home, hoping the program would pay for a ramp at her

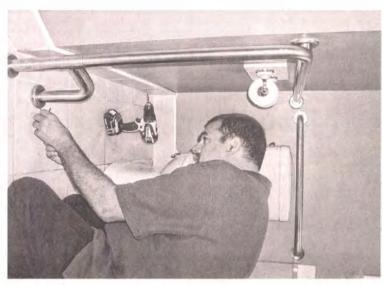


Evangelical Homes President and CEO Denise Rabidoux (left) chats with two of 100+ Women Who Care Motown Chapter's founders, Karen Rashid Balow of Beverly Hills, and Nancy Sullivan of Northville.



A wheelchair-bound mother and her daughter, who uses a walker, will have an easier time getting around their Farmington Hills home, after Safe at Home replaced steps with a ramp.

"He came out and looked at everything I needed. They not only did the ramp, but other things, including replacing my dryer, which has just conked out," she said. "They are very good, warm and receptive,



Tom Reuter, an employee of Evangelical Homes of Michigan, installs a grab bar in a bathroom, making the home safer for its residents.

outstanding people. He also bought my (eye) glasses for me. They had been sitting there (at a store) because I couldn't pay for them."

Mary Griffin, executive and marketing assistant, said the Safe at Home Charitable Fund is a part of Evangelical Homes

of Michigan's philanthropic division and is funded by donations and through fundraising appeals.

100+Women Who Care Motown Chapter, a group that exists to help charitable causes, recently gave the program \$15,000.

Unique philanthropists

Denise Rabidoux, president and CEO of Evangelical Homes of Michigan, is a member of the chapter and suggested Safe at Home Charitable Fund as a potential funding recipient. Chapter members sign a commitment form when they join, agreeing to pay \$100 at each quarterly meeting toward a charitable cause that the group selects by vote. Any member of the chapter may suggest a charity. All suggestions are placed into a hat and three are drawn. The "winners" then have five minutes to advocate for their suggestion.

"There's five minutes for questions and answers and after the presentations everyone votes," said Nancy Sullivan of Northville, one of the chapter founders along with Molly Williams and Karen Rashid Balow, both of Beverly Hills. "We tally up the votes and say who the winner is. At that point everyone writes a check for \$100 directly to the charity.'

Women who are absent have five days to make good on their

Past funding recipients have included Matrix Theatre, St. Patrick Senior Center, Lighthouse PATH, Sweet Dreamzzz, Mercy Education Project, Humble Design, and Common Ground.

"We've served seniors, the homeless, the fine arts. Lighthouse PATH is about abused women. Mercy Education is tutoring and Sweet Dreamzzz teaches kids the importance of sleep. And now Evangelical Homes of Michigan," Sullivan said. "My mother had a hip replacement recently. She's 85, so it (Safe at Home) was something close to my heart.'

Balow said the Safe at Home concept resonated with many of the women.

"Letting people stay in their homes is really important," Balow said. "People's hearts go out to older adults."

For more about Safe at Home and Evangelical Homes of Michigan, call 866-979-9109 or visit ehmchoices.org. For more about 100+Women Who Care Motown Chapter, visit 100pluswomenmotown.com.

Change is the only constant in life during pregnancy

t's crunch time. About six weeks left before baby's due date, and everything is coming into place. I have her nursery all put together and have really started the "nesting phase" of organizing all the rooms in the house. I'm anticipating meeting my little girl and getting both excited and nervous about what is to come.

I think one of the biggest changes I have begun to see is the closeness of people in my life. Some family members and friends have gone out of their way to help me prepare for this life-changing event, while others have simply vanished or almost vanished from my life. I have found that I'm not the one to invite to the drinking festivities with all the unmarried couples or single friends, yet I'm also not quite on the list for the play dates and kids'



birthday parties. I'm kind of in a "middle-phase" where it's just me. Perhaps spending all this time alone is preparation for this miracle to come into my life. After all, it will just be the two of us at home together and at least for a little while, my daughter won't be much for conversation. I think I will continue to discover a lot about myself during those first few months, just as I have during the last few. I am eagerly anticipating the joys of learning things just as much as I am of teaching them. I cannot wait to hold this little baby in my arms, and try my hardest to

protect her from the negativity and scariness the world sometimes offers.

Important considerations

There is a point in pregnancy when you realize that everything you have done up to this point in your life is both incredibly valuable, and invaluable. It is fantastic that you have learned so many things that you can pass on to your child, yet the dreams that you have thought about accomplishing really don't matter anymore. Now, the important thing is providing a safe and nurturing home for your child to grow up in, a place where she can be loved fully and given opportunities to become successful and happy. You think about missing all the parties with your friends lasting late until the night, but you are easily distracted when you are reminded that you have much better parties to look forward to and you won't even have to stay up late to attend them. Things change in your life, but they still remain great.

Everything changes

If you're like me, when you are pregnant, one of the things vou learn is that the only thing that stays the same is change. Your whole life changes when you are busy building your baby. Your house will change. You may not physically move, but the house itself will change as you prepare a room for baby and make the necessary changes to have space for all her stuff. Your friends might change. You may become closer with friends who have children already or are expecting,

while your closeness with others may gradually fade. Your body will change. Your belly will get bigger, and your brain a little smaller and things you never thought could grow will grow. But your heart will grow too, and that makes it all worth

Change will happen. Sometimes you will expect it, sometimes you won't. But life will bring you change every day. You cannot plan who you will be your whole life but you can follow your heart and adjust as need be. Sometimes, we will find, the things we cannot change end up changing us for

Sarah Davies of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of her journey toward single motherhood. Contact her at sarahmariedavies@gmail.com.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Butterflies

Brenda Dziedzic, author and co-founder of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will talk about winter garden maintenance and overwintering of butterflies, 7 p.m. Sept. 17, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Nonmembers pay \$3. Annual memberships are \$15. www.sembabutterfly.org.

English Gardens

» Learn what it takes to keep your lawn healthy over the winter at a free presentation, 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13.

» Get information on designing, planting and maintaining flowers and plants in outdoor containers at 10 a.m. Sat-

urday, Sept. 20. Free. » Learn the basics of designing a bulb garden at a free presentation 10 a.m. Saturday,

Sept. 27.

» Get tips on dividing perennials and pruning plants to ready them for winter, 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. Free.

Classes are held at all English Gardens stores. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 248-851-7506.

Heritage Park

The park is located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Pre-register for programs online at recreg.fhgov-

» Take a full moon hike 7:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 10 and 7-8 p.m. Nov. 7. The Friday night hikes are for families and children, 5 and up. Cost is \$3 per person payable online or at the door. Meet at the nature center in the park.



Learn what you need to do to help your lawn survive the winter at a free presentation, Saturday, Sept. 13, at English Gardens stores.

» Hayrides run 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12-Oct. 24 and Saturday, Nov. 1. Rides are approximately 30 minutes. The fee is \$5 per person. Pre-regis-

ter online. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the event. Includes the hay wagon ride, marshmallow roasting over a campfire and apple

» Practice yoga 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 10-Oct. 8 outdoors, in front of the Heritage Park Visitor Center. Designed for adults of all skill levels. Cost is \$45 for five classes paid online or \$10 per class paid at the class. Bring your own mat and blanket.

» Junior Naturalist Club, for ages 5-11, meets 10-11:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month from September through June at the nature center. The fee is \$10 per class in advance and \$12 per class, paid at the door. Register online. The topic is Trees 101 on Sept. 13 and Wilderness Skills on Oct. 11.

Meet critters

See some of the animals, such as turtles and snakes, that make the Kensington Metropark Nature Center their home, 2 p.m. every Sunday. The program is free. To register or for more information, call 810-227-8917

Rescue sets pet adoption at Farmington Hills cleaners

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Andy and Sandy Dubin have rescued five dogs over the past 25 years, including three from Michigan Animal Rescue League.

So, it's no wonder when they staged their first animal adoption two

years ago, they teamed up with MARL, inviting the Pontiac rescue to

PET PROJECTS bring dogs and cats to their dry cleaners and laundry in Farmington Hills.

'Our history with MARL goes back. We just got our third dog from MARL," said Sam, 22, the couple's son and fourth generation to work in the family business. "We like to be involved in the community and we are definitely animal lovers

"Well before I was born my dad had a store in Detroit, Rosedale Park. A man dropped this dog off in front of my dad's store. The dog walked into the cleaners and my dad brought him home that night. That was the start of their

Dubin said the animal adoption is just one way his family gives back to the community. During the winter, his parents also collect winter clothing for donation to charity. They're currently collecting "wish list" items and money for MARL, as a prelude to the third annual adoption, which will run 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, at Dubin Cleaners & Laundry, 29975 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

"We had one customer come in the other day who brought in probably a whole shopping cart (of items) for the pets.

Dubin said customers like the adoption event and some even share their own pet stories with his family. The Dubins own Max, a boxer-shepherd-border collie mix, and Archie, a golden retriever.

"We have a lot of people show up to support the cause. A lot of kids and babies come. All the pets we have here are adoptable," Dubin said. "It's a community-wide event. It's a fun thing to do with the kids."

He said MARL will bring a mix of dogs and



Andy (left), Sam and Sandy Dubin show off an adoptable puppy at their second annual pet adoption last year. The family owns Dubin Cleaners & Laundry in Farmington Hills.

cats to the event.

For more about MARL, visit michigananimalrescueleague.org. For more about Dubin Cleaners & Laundry, see dubincleaners.com

Animal festival

If you've ever wanted to scurry along in a human-sized hamster ball, see exotic animals up close or have your photo taken with a horse, Creature Feature Fest is where you'll want to be, 5-8 p.m. Sept. 10 at Inglenook Park, 20901 W. 12 Mile, between Evergreen and Lahser, in Southfield.

Visitors will get a chance to come face to face with farm animals from The Barnyard Express and small animals

from Little Creatures. They'll learn the history of horses in industry and watch Disc Dogs of Michigan and South-field's K-9 Team demonstrate their skills

Canton-based Wildlife Safari will bring a menagerie of creatures.

"We work with over 100 animals so anything can come out, from the cute and cuddly to the creepy and crawly, said Teron Erchenbreacher, Wildlife Safari office and show assistant, as well as zookeeper. He said the outdoor temperature and animal disposition help determine which creatures the company brings

"They're like people. Some days they have



The Wildlife Safari of Canton will surprise and entertain visitors at Creature Feature Fest in Southfield.

good days and some days they have bad days, so they let you know, 'I'm not working today. I don't feel like going out," he said, noting that the animals are trained, so they're accustomed to music played during presentations and most can interact with people.

"Most of the time they're relaxed and they know what the routine is so they're calm and they're good to go about it," he said.

Erchenbreacher said Wildlife Safari generally doesn't want the audience to know which creatures will appear at a presentation.

"We don't want every-

there's a 6-foot alligator coming out to the box.' We like to keep the element of surprise with our shows.'

Parking for Creature Feature Fest will be available at the park and at Highland Park Baptist Church, 28600 Lahser, south of 12 Mile. Take a free shuttle to the park;

248-796-4617. Ribbit, ribbit

Want to become the next mayor of the Detroit

Zoo's Amphibiville? Kids, 7-12, who want to rule the two-acre wetland "village" that is home to the National Amphibian Conservation Center, may submit an essay of 100 words or less to the zoo by Oct. 3. The piece should explain why they should become mayor.

Submit entries to PR1@dzs.org or to Mayor of Amphibiville, Detroit Zoological Society, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak, MI 48067. Entries must include the candidate's name, age, address and daytime telephone number. The winner will be announced in November.

 Diana Wing, correspondent, contributed to this column.

Metro Detroit author luncheon set for Livonia Oct. 20

Five authors will talk about their latest books at the Metro Detroit Book & Author Society's fall book luncheon Oct. 20 at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, Livo-

The event starts at noon; book sales open at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$40 and are available online at www.bookandauthor.info and by phone at 586-685-5750.

The authors are:



Lisa Jackson

» Kathy Reichs, a forensic anthropologist, has turned her knowledge and experiences in criminal cases into 16 best-selling novels fea-

SUBMITTED

Craig Johnson

turing fictional forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan. She is also a producer of the Fox television series Bones.

» Gary Shteyngart, a Russian-born writer, has lived much of his life in New York. His experiences became the basis for three novels, The Russian Debutante's Handbook, Absurdistan and Super Sad True Love Story, that mix reality and humor.

» Lisa Jackson has written more than 85 novels of romantic suspense. Her new novel, Close to Home, is a story of buried secrets that come back to haunt many lives

» Craig Johnson authored eight novels in the Walt Longmire mystery series. The books, several of which have been best sellers, are the basis for the A&E television series Longmire. His new novel, a collection of short stories, is titled Wait for Signs.

» Hampton Sides is a bestselling historian and journalist. His works of narrative history and literary nonfiction include Hellhound, Ghost Soldiers and Blood and Thunder. Authors will auto-

graph books after the luncheon.

Two grants also will be awarded at the event.

The Society will present the Dick Johnston Award to a Metro Detroit library to help improve its collection. The Elaine R. Irvin Friends Award will go to a Friends of the Library group, to help support a program or project. The Howell Carnegie District Library received the Johnston Award last year. The Wayne Public Library's Friends group won the 2013 Irvin Award.

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anded duties desired

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Livonia/Dearborn offices Pay to commensurate vith experience Exp'd. for Huntington Woods dental office. Approx. 35 hrs/wk. Must be exp'd

nt plans. Exc. compensation

for right person. If you are up-beat, friendly & organized

meeting these qualifications. Please send resume dentalofficelife@gmail.com

Help Wanted - Medical CAREGIVERS: CNA required FT & PT work afternoons & dnights required at Northy Senior Living in downtown Must enjoy working with

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT Part-Time position Mon., Wed. & Fri. 2.45-7:30pm and Saturday 8:45am - 1:30pm. Must have exc. communication skills, basic general office knowledge, enegetic & able to multi-lack Westland

seniors. Email resume

ian@northvilleseniorliving.com

Call: 734-522-5501 RECEPTIONIST/ASSISTANT For chiropractic center in Northville. PT afternoons, days/wk & 1 morning per wk w/additional morning hrs pos-sibly added later Approx 18

hrs/wk to start. No wkend hrs

Basic computer skills helpfu

nent. Hrly compensation com

Histotechnologist

nensurate with exp/skills

Tech with frozen section ex perience to process fresh tis sue with Mohs frozen se sue with Mohs frozen sec-tion techniques in his ex-panding, private practice. Background in histology, cryostal preparation and maintenance, and histo-chemical staining is essen-tial. Full or part-time, excel-lent pay and hepefits. lent pay and benefits Ann Arbor area

Medical Assistant

Email or Fax Resume to:

Full-Time. Fast paced Primar office Must be able to work shifts Occasional Sat's, 8-1pm, Need to have experience with injec tions, blood spirometry and EKG. Resume

Food - Beverage

COOKS **EXPERIENCED** Beautiful Assisted Living Community in Westland Benefits available

Please fax resume to:

(248) 350-9083

RESTAURANT

DELI MANAGER stevesdeli@comcast.net

SERVERS

Immediate Openings for Beautiful Assisted Living Community in Westland (248) 350-9083

Help Wanted - Domestic

IRONING HELP WANTED hursday's. Bloomfield Twp. Men shirts & tablecloths. required 248-594-9771

IT'S ALL ABOU RESULTS! Every week, we bring buyers & sellers,

employers & employees and landlords & tenants



O&E Media

800-579-7355



SEPTEMBER BIBLE PROPHECY

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m., beginning Sept. 15

Location: Metropolitan Church, 15585 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, and multiple other locations

Details: An in-depth Bible prophecy series called Unlocking Revelation will examine prophecies of Scripture. Visit the website to see all locations and to pre-register and receive a free Bible Prophecy DVD on the first night. Snacks will be served Contact: www.UnlockRevelation.com

FITNESS CLASSES

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, beginning Sept. 15

Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer, instructs a 10-week series of classes that include aerobic movements, strength training with light hand weights and yoga stretching, followed by abdominal and back exercises. Cost is \$70 with a portion of proceeds going to the parish.

Contact: 734-455-5910 **GRIEF SUPPORT**

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21-Jan. 4, 2015

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Weekly seminar and support group designed to help participants rebuild their lives after losing a loved one. The group is led by individuals who have experienced grief and who want to help and encourage others

Contact: 313-682-7491 **GRIEF WORKSHOP**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, beginning Sept. 10

Location: St. Priscilla's Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia **Details:** "Grieving with Great Hope" is a five-week series for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. The workshop is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. For more information and registration details, visit the Good Mourning Ministry website at www.goodmourningministry.net or contact Kay at St. Priscilla.

Contact: 248-476-4700, kay@saintpriscilla.org

POMEGRANATE GUILD Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sept. 14 Location: Prentis Apartment Community Room, located on 10 Mile, east of Greenfield in Oak Park

Details: Anne Greenstein will lead the group in creating cloth bears for charity. Bring sewing gear. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlework

Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337 **RALLY DAY**

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sept. 14 Location: First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman Road, at Maplewood, Garden City

Details: Worship, food, games, Contact: 734-421-8628

REVIVAL Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Sept. 8-10

Location: Palmer Road Baptist Church, 33740 Palmer, Westland **Details:** Worship with praise and music, along with messages of repentance, renewal and revival with the Rev. Charles Ozment

Contact: 734-729-2434 **WIDOWED FRIENDS**

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty, Plymouth Details: Widowed Friends, a peer support group, invites all widowed men and women to celebrate Mass together. Refreshments follow the Mass Contact: Angie at 734-905-7262

OCTOBER CRAFTERS WANTED

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11

Location: St. Theodore Parish Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: St. Theodore Confraternity of Christian Women is looking for crafters for its Fall Craft Show. There are 70 tables available. Each costs \$25.

Contact: Mary at 734-425-4421

(voice mail #10)

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

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

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

St. Michael the Archangel Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

Details: Catholic author Gary Michuta leads a study of Acts of the Apostles.

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200, or www.livoniastmichael.org **Ward Presbyterian**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Mondays Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville Township **Details**: Learner's Bible study is

Contact: 248-374-5920 **FAMILY MEAL**

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington

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

MOMS Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May Location: 14175 Farmington

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

Road, Livonia

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 the service

Contact: 313-563-0162 **PRAYER**

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Contact: 248-476-8860

St. Edith Church Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.

Details: Music, singing, prayer Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

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

Friday Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday Location: 7000 N. Sheldon,

Details: Praying silently or

aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information **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

First Presbyterian Church Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays. Location: 200 E. Main St.,

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.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 Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Contact: 248-374-5920

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

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, Livonia

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

Contact: 734-261-9000: www.woodhaven-retire-

ment.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, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling. Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

» Farmington Hills Baptist

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 Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and 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 offers an activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care.

Not a drop-in center Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

» St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451 » St. John Neumann

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesdays Location: 44800 Warren Road. Canton

Details: Overeaters Anonymous meets

Contact: Mary at 734-634-7154 or Jennifer at 734-812-6077 for additional information

» St. Thomas a' Becket

Church Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group meet-

ing starts at 7 p.m. Thursday Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly encourages members of the organization to lose weight and keep it off for good.

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322 for additional information » Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday Location: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: Overeaters Anonymous Contact: 248-559-7722: www.oa.org for additional information

» Ward Evangelical Presby-

terian Church Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/ desserts)

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery-.com and www.wardchurch.org/ celebrate

THRIFT STORE St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford Contact: 313-534-7730 for

additional information **Way of Life Christian Church** Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third

Saturday from October through

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Details: Women's fellowship is

designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month Location: The Solanus Casev Center, a Capuchin ministry, at

1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. He provided soup for the hungry, kind words for the troubled and a healing touch for the ill. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five or more. No

donations are accepted. Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149; www.solanuscenter.org **WORSHIP**

» Adat Shalom Synagogue

cost for the tour, although

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays Location: 29901 Middlebelt,

Farmington Hills Contact: 248-851-5100

» Bethlehem Lutheran Church Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday service

Location: 35300 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills Contact: pastor Terry Miller at tshelton@mi.rr.com; 248-478-6520

» Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday

school and youth and adult Bible classes Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia

Contact: 734-522-6830

month

» Congregation Bet Chave-Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m. the third Friday of the

Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Reformed Jewish Congregation with Rabbi Peter Gluck and Cantorial soloist **Robin Liberatore**

Contact: www.Facebook.com/

betchaverim or email to be tchaverim@yahoo.com » Due Season Christian

Church Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m. Tuesday Bible study

Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services.

» Faith Lutheran Church Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday; learning hour is at 9 a.m. for all

Contact: 248-960-8063 or visit

www.DueSeason.org

Location: 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia Contact: Visit www.livon-

» Faith Community Wesleyan Church Time/Date: Prayer service, 9 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., Sunday school, 12:30 p.m.

Bible study, 6 p.m., Sundays Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia Contact: pastor Roger Wright

contemporary service, 1:30 p.m.,

at 313-682-7491 » Garden City Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: Adult Bible study at 8:15 a.m.; worship service at 10 a.m. Youth Sunday school with child care. Refreshments in the church fellowship hall immediately after service. Elevator and handicap parking

Location: Middlebelt, one block

south of Ford Road Contact: 734-421-7620

» Good Hope Lutheran Church Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 10

a.m. Wednesday Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Contact: 734-427-3660 » Grace Lutheran Church Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service and 10:30 a.m. contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15

Location: 46001 Warren Road, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton Township Contact: 734-637-8160

» His Church Anglican Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity and 10 a.m. at Madonna Univer-

Location: Trinity Church, 34500

Six Mile, Livonia, and Kresge Hall

campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia Contact: www.HisChurchAnglican.org; 248-442-0HCA

» Holy Cross Evangelical

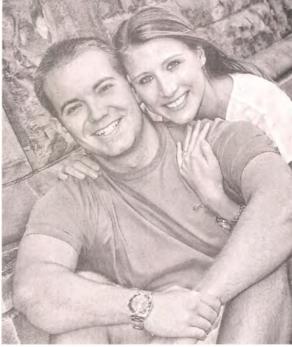
on the Madonna University

Lutheran Church Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Faith Forum; 10 a.m. Sunday school; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday worship in the chapel.

Location: 30650 Six Mile, Livo-

Contact: 734-427-1414

ENGAGEMENT



SUBMITTED

TAMER-KWIECIEN

Kristie Katherine Tamer and Timothy Daniel Kwiecien, both of Detroit, announce their engagement.

Tim Kwiecien and Kristie Tamer

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Susan and Norman Tamer of Coldwater. Her fiance is the son of Linda and Daniel Kwiecien of Canton.

Kristie graduated from Grosse Ile High School and Wayne State University College of

Nursing. She is a car-

diovascular intensive care nurse at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Timothy is a Plymouth High School graduate. He plans to start a medical residency in anesthesiology after graduating in May 2015 from Wayne State University School of Medicine.

A May 2015 wedding is planned at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church in Detroit.

Passages

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 · fax 313-496-4968 · www.mideathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change. ANKRAPP, BETTY A. July 23, 1954 - August 31, 2014 Services entrusted to L.J. Griffin



BIDDINGER,

MARGARET G. Age 97, September 3, 2014. Beloved wife of the late John "Bill" Biddinger. Loving mother of Gail Powers and the late Sharon Dear grandmother of Carrie (Marvin) Andrews and Pyhtila. Great John (Brook) grandmother of Katherine, Evan. Luke and Ben. A Funeral Service was held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Saturday, September 6th at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to Barbara Ann Karmanos

Cancer Institute. Please share a



EDMONDS. **EDWIN ROY "TED"**

Was born on September 18, 1921

and passed on to his heavenly home on September 4, 2014. Ted was the son of Angus Roy and Sarah Iola (nee Ryckman) Edmonds. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret "Peggy" Edmonds, who he married on January 26, 1946. A devoted father to Leslyann (Donald) Wisch, Cheryl (Rich) Johnson, Michael (Debora) and Gary (Rusty). Grandfather of Kimberly (Brian), the late Eric, Valerie (Doug), Nathan (Jamie), Darold (Amy), Andrew, Bradley, Ryan, and Tyler. grandfather of Eric, Tyler. Great-Sophia, Carter and Emma. Brother of Geraldine Dutcher Launstein and Rosemary (Wade) Humphrey. Preceded in death by his siblings Robert, Donald, Keith, Charles, Ilamae and Iola. Ted retired from Coon Brothers after 35 years of dedicated service. He was a longtime member of Newburg United Methodist Church. His love of aviation brought him to be a founding member of the Yankee Air force and the Stearman group. He also enjoyed his time as a member of the Plymouth Elks Club. Ted's love of country music and his caring, loving personality will always be remembered by his family and friends. Visitation will be Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia. A Funeral Service will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Friends may visit the church beginning at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be given to either the Newburg United Methodist Church or the Yankee Air Force Museum. Visit

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



FERNELIUS, EARL W. Age 86 passed away August 30, 2014 in Tucson, Arizona. Earl was a real estate broker and appraiser in Birmingham for nearly 50 years before retiring to Arizona in 2001. He loved fly fishing in northern Michigan and was a regular golfer. He taught his daughters the importance of hard work and inspired them to be generous and take care of our planet. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed his time in Arizona. He was preceded in death by his wife Dottie and daughter Linda Fernelius, and is survived by daughter Margi Brooks and granddaughter Emma Brooks-

Ward, both of Tucson. KARPINSKI, EDWARD Born July 10, 1921. Passed September 3, 2014. Beloved husband of Huberta for 58 years. Dear brother of Lorraine Mason, of Winston-Salem, NC. Loving father of Rebecca Donnelly Hitch (Jeffrey) and Amy Jaward. Dearest grandpa of Graig

(Sarah), Lana (John Tenerovich), Jennifer, James, and the late Joel Edward Hitch; Myron, Eric and Shaun (Mary) Jaward. Loving great grandpa of Brendan, Cameron and Kayla Jaward; Mia Margaret Tenerovich; Chloey Jaward. Served in the US Army October 1942 to November 1945, private to technical sergeant; bandsman. Pursued his love of music as an Instrumental Music teacher at Detroit Public Schools, 42 years, retired 1984.



Get involved in a fundraiser for a health cause



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Bernadine Vida of Redford undergoes chemotherapy. A benefit on Sept. 20 will raise money to help her pay expenses while being treated for breast cancer.

Put on your walking shoes, sharpen your pool cues or get ready to laugh.

Advocates for health causes plan a variety of fundraisers over the next few weeks, starting with St. Mary Mercy Hospital's annual Embrace Life 5K. The run/walk starts at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at the hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia.

The race begins on St. Mary Mercy Hospital grounds and racers are routed through nearby residential streets. The event is a celebration of life for cancer survivors, for those who have cancer and an opportunity for family and friends to honor or remember a loved one. Prizes are awarded to the top three finishers in each age group, as well as top overall finishers.

Race day registration runs from 7-8:30 a.m. Cost is \$30. Proceeds support cancer services at the hospital. Here's a sampling of other fundrais-

» A benefit for Bernadine Vida of Redford Township, who is battling breast cancer, will start at 1 p.m. Sept. 20, at Snookers Pool & Pub, 27630 Schoolcraft, Livonia. The event will include a live band, food, raffle, and silent auction. Proceeds will help Vida, who works as a costumer for television, theater and films, pay expenses while taking chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Vida, who travels considerably for her freelance costuming assignments, is unable to work while undergoing treatment. For more information about the fundraiser, call 313-443-0151. Or email bernavida@ameritech.net. Visit her Go Fund Me campaign at gofundme.com/Saving-Berna-

» Yoga Shelter will lead a Yoga Mala class, 6-9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, at Detroit's Eastern Market Shed 3, to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Cost is \$25 if registered in advance online and \$30 at the door. Doors will open at 5 p.m. The class will consist of 108 Sun Salutations. Visit yogashelter.com or call 248-538-0200.

» Comedian Paul Reiser performs at Kadima's 30th annual Benefit, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1, at Max M. Fisher Music Center. in Detroit. An Evening with Paul Reiser costs \$100 for adults and \$50 for ages 18-40. The event includes a pre-glow reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Kadima is a Jewish mental health agency whose mission is to provide psychological services, residential options, supported employment and social activities on a nonsectarian basis. For more information or to register, go to www.kadimacenter.org or call Paula Schonberg at 248-559-8235, Ext. 118.

» The second annual Wine, Women & Shoes event, 5:30 p.m. Oct. 9, at The Inn at St. John in Plymouth Township will benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation's Dream, Hope, Discover Campaign. The event will include a fashion show, shopping, auction and wine. Ticket prices start at \$150. For more information, call or email Kate Kesner at 313-745-8814 or kate.kesner@chmfoundation.org. To buy tickets, visit http://www.winewomenandshoes.com/chmf.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Upcoming

American Red Cross Upcoming blood

drives: Southfield — 6:30 a.m.

to 5:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile.

Call 800-RED CROSS to make an appointment.

Blood pressure

Oakwood Healthcare offers free blood pressure screening 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Dearborn Farmers Market, 22100 Michigan Ave. on the corners of Garrison and Mason. For more information, visit Oakwood.org.

Healthy eating

Upcoming nutrition workshops and cooking demonstrations from Botsford Hospital and Busch's Fresh Foods Market:

» Dietitian Denise Cykiert will give tips on

how to keep grilled recipes healthy and nutritious. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Busch's Market, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West Bloomfield. Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron will demonstrate grilled dishes. \$15 admission includes a \$5-off-of-\$50 coupon, recipes, samples and more. Register by calling the store or visiting the Guest Service Counter; 248-539-4581.

» Dietitian Denise Cykiert focuses on desserts, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Busch's Fresh Foods Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$5 and includes a \$5 Busch's coupon, recipes, and samples. Register by calling or visiting the Guest Service Counter in the store; 248-427-7400.

» Dietitian Denise Cykiert teaches quick and easy recipes for the slow cooker, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 2, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 33300 W. 14 Mile, West Bloomfield. Cost is \$5 and includes a \$5-Busch's coupon, recipes, and healthy eating tips. Register by calling or visiting the Guest Service Counter at the store; 248-539-4581.

» Busch's chef Rebecca Wauldron will show how to make the most of seasonal produce and dietitian Denise Cykert will give tips on keeping recipes nutritious, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Busch's, 37083 Six Mile, Livonia; 734-779-6100.

Hearing support

Hearing Loss Association of America will hold an "open mic" for sharing and learning 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Contact Tony at 734-664-3297, aferack@comcast.net.

Prostate cancer

Farmington Hillsbased 21st Century Oncology of Michigan offers a free seminar about prostate cancer, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Bloomfield Open Hunt Club, 405 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. "State-Of-The-Art Update In Prostate Cancer" will focus on the latest advances in prostate cancer detection and care. To reserve a space at the lecture, call Samantha Dedoes at 248-464-3246 or email samantha.schmoyer-dedoes@21co.com by Monday, Sept. 8.

Walk with a Doc

Savitha Balaraman, an oncologist at Botsford Hospital, will talk about meditation and will lead a walk, noon to 1 p.m. Sept. 18, at Heritage Park Nature Center,

located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Register for this free program by calling Botsford at 877-477-3621.

Women's health

Paul Makela, M.D., medical director of gynecological robotic surgery at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, will present information about bladder dysfunction and overactive bladder 6-7 p.m. Sept. 24 at Meadowbrook Country Club, 40941 W. Eight Mile, Northville. Register by Sept. 19 at 734-655-1980.

Ongoing

Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with

eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, bingeing and purging, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An AB-ANON meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-9776.

Aquatic classes

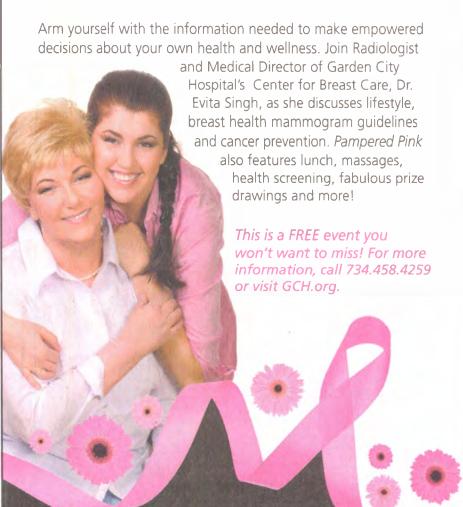
The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit www.ymcadetroit.org.



AN EVENT TO EMPOWER & CELEBRATE WOMEN FOR BREAST CANCER MONTH

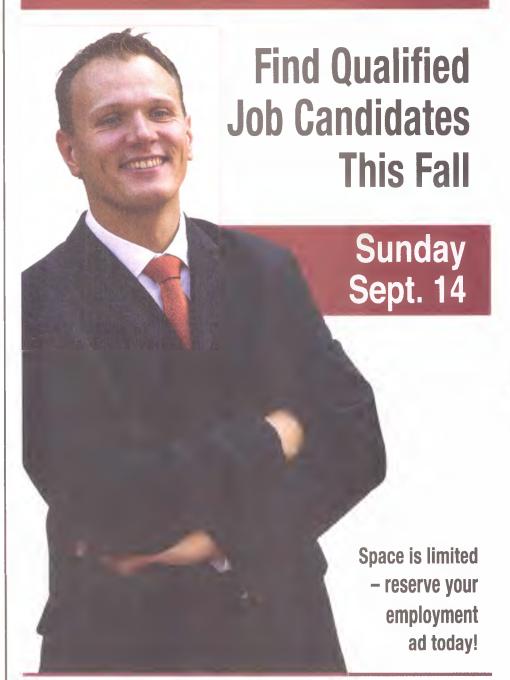
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014 | 12-2 P.M. (Pampering & Displays 12 p.m.; Lecture 1 p.m.)

Westland Mall, East Court





Special Autumn Jobs Section



careerbuilder







helping you regain your momentum

By Robert Half

When your job search drags on for weeks and you feel no closer to landing a job than when you first started, it's easy to get discouraged. But even if you aren't getting the callbacks you were hoping for, now is not the time to call it quits. To stay motivated and focused during this frustrating time, use these six job-search strategies to regain and maintain your momentum.

1. Treat the search like a job

Unemployment often leads to an aimless feeling. The lack of a routine is a major reason your motivation may be waning, as it's a constant reminder of your situation. The key is to treat your search like a real job. Wake up at a reasonable hour and get dressed. Create a schedule with set times for phone calls, emails, social networking and job board searches. Make to-do lists and check off each item as you complete it. After you've completed your to-do list for the day, "clock out" and take part in any leisure activities you enjoy.

In other words, conduct yourself as if a boss were looking over your shoulder. Stay focused on your daily tasks and avoid playing a quick game of Solitaire or Candy Crush when you're supposed to be working. Little indulgences may seem like some of the few perks of unemployment, but they can lead to listlessness and a dip in job-search momentum.

2. Put yourself out there

As important as it is for you to be connected online, you also need to make sure you're occasionally leaving the house. Not only will this help you get out of a rut, but it can also help make you more marketable. Sign up for a class or go to job fairs, workshops, conferences and seminars, where you can meet people and brush up on your skills. Join

professional associations and attend their meetings, where you can learn about trends in your field. Volunteer your time and skills with a worthwhile organization, where you can work on your soft skills like written and verbal communications. All of these things will deepen your network and help you find the right job.

3. Be proactive

Don't wait for opportunity to knock. Instead, take the initiative and knock on opportunity's door. In other words, even if the companies you're interested in don't list any current job openings, contact them anyway and express your desire to work there. This extra effort demonstrates enthusiasm and initiative, and hiring managers may take notice.

4. Track your progress

When you start to feel like you're going nowhere, take some time to create a method to track the efforts you've made. Write up a list of realistic short- and longterm goals with regard to your job search, and work toward them every day. For example, decide how many applications you'd like to send out this week, or this month. Set a goal for the number of networking events you're going to attend, and for the number of new people you're going to talk to about your search. Then keep track as you move toward the goal. That way, you'll have a tangible way to prove to yourself that you've made progress, something that can help keep you motivated as you continue to look for a job.



5. Consider other work options

A full-time job with a check direct-deposited to your account is not the only type of work out there. You can also expand your search to include part-time and contract work or set yourself up as a consultant or freelancer. Maybe you can barter your skills in exchange for goods and services.

Signing up with a staffing agency for temporary or projectbased gigs can also be a productive approach. It can bring in extra income while you're looking for full-time work. Even better, some part-time or temporary gigs can turn into full-time jobs or longterm contracts. Even if they don't, though, they'll still allow you to make valuable contacts that will help you in your job search.

6. Relax, recharge, revive

Allowing a job search to take over your life is a sure way to burn out. Give yourself permission to take a break from the

search at night and on weekends. When you make a point to relax and recharge for a few hours at the end of the work day, you'll be able to start fresh the next day. A change of scenery and new experiences may give you a new perspective on your search and even your career.

The key to finding employment is to keep at it. Don't let a lull discourage you to the point of giving up. By following these job-search tips and persevering, you'll greatly increase your chances of finding full-time work that is satisfying and rewarding.

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university. Must have successfully completed & possess proof of M.C.O.L.E.S. certification, or certifiability Applicants will be req'd to pass a written and oral exam, personal back-ground check, physical

and psychological exam \$51,521 starting pay. Applications are available nd returned completed to: Charter Township of Northville man Resource Dept.

44405 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 by Friday, October 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. An application form is also available on the Northville Township website at www.twp.northville.mi.us Resumes without applica-tions will not be accepted.

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CANTON - WETHERSFIELD SUB -WIDE GARAGE SALE SW comer of Haggerty & Palmer. Thurs-Sat, Sept. 11-13, 9-4.

Livonia - 18115 Middlebelt & 15. 9-6pm. tools, large col-lection of Vintage Ford parts.

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10th-13th Wed.-Sat. 9a-5p. LIVONIA-Moving Sale! Household items, furniture, collectible clothing and books! Sept 10th- 13th; Wed-Sat. 9a-5p. 17405 Ellen Dr. 48152

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Garage/Moving Sales

Livonia: SW Livonia 37698 Northfield - Th-Sat. 9-5. Household items, many holiday decorations, outdoor furniture,

Livonia: Vintage furniture 1960's orange love seat & two chairs and danish modern type end tables and lamps, 80's era mediterranean-style end ta-bles, vintage bar items, man-ual treadmill, electric pedal/cycle, housewares, vhs and dvd's, books, christmas items, knicknacks---and whatever else I find.....38148 Lyndon St, Friday 9/12 Noon-4 pm and Sat.9/13 9 am -2 pm

NORTHVILLE: MOVING SALE Sunnydale, Household, collectibles, bike, iron bed, antiques, NO Early Sales

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Ann Arbor Trl., E of Sheldon SOUTH LYON

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- PC "brain" Watch chains
- 8 Fall guys
- 12 Sister of Helios 13 Notion
- 14 Wedding-cake part 15 DA's degree
- 16 Critical
- warnings (2 wds.) 18 Warty critters 20 "Norma -
- 21 News article 24 Shore up
- 28 Continuous movement
- 31 Zig opposite 33 Ms. Teasdale
- 34 Vegas lead-in 35 "Sheila" singer Tommy -
- 36 Acquired 37 Iowa college town
- 39 Comic-strip

15

prince 40 Cellar, briefly

- 41 Rock bottom - cost you'
- 45 Six-shooter
- 47 Filmmaker Coen
- Take turns (2 wds.)
- 56 Inspect
- Candy striper
- 58 Court order 59 Give
- 60 Swerve
- stands 62 Calif. hours

DOWN

- **Ancient Briton** Game with
- mallets Beef-rating
- org. "Who's on —?" 4
- Lyric poem Bunk or futon
- German industrial region

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2012 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

- 8 Directs
- Oxygen source 10 Teacher's
- favorite
- Almost-grads
- Test facility
- 19 Reformer Dorothea -Poet - Pound 23 Kiwi language 25 Contented
- 26 Stuff 27 Part of SEATO 28 Caramel custard

murmurs

- 29 Prayer-wheel turner 30 Secondhand
- 32 Cultured fellow 38 Check
- endorser 40 Lunch counter order 42 Toupee.
- slangily Some boxing
- jabs 46 Pond dweller 48 Rope fiber
- 49 Pro votes 50 Shipshape
- Cleveland NBA player 52 Make haste
- Summer quaff 54 Pay dirt 55 Hamlet's oath

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Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The

more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Ε М D Ε Ι F Ι Ţ R Ε L G Α C I Ε S U R C Ε U G C U U

WORDS

ACADEMIC F ACHIEVEMENT INTEGRATED ADVANCEMENT MANIPULATIV N MANIPULATIVES PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS BILINGUAL PHONICS CERTIFIED PORTFOLIO HARTER **PROFESSOR** CREDENTIALS PUPIL URRICULUM **RESOURCE** RUBRIC DISTRICTS ENRICHMENT STAFF STANDARDS GIFTED TENURE GRADES T TESTING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle

T K M G S T A N D A R D S L S R O H R

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE 3 6 7 1 6 8 5 2 4

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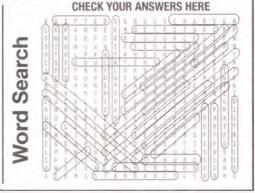
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Car Report

10 Reasons the Buick-GMC Juggernaut Will Keep On Cruising





By Dale Buss

The feel-good automotive story of the year is emerging from the unlikeliest of brands at the unlikeliest of companies. Buick and GMC are keeping head above water and providing the only solid performances as the company endures an annus horribilis

over the recall fiasco.

Buick and GMC continued to lead the company's sales charts through August, each posting increases of about 8 percent for the year to date while Chevrolet sales rose by just 2 percent and Cadillac sales eased by 5 percent.

"We've got a wonderful convergence of elements right now, all working together - and hence, our sales gains," Tony DiSalle, marketing vice president for Buick and GMC, told me.

Here are 10 reasons Buick and GMC continue

to accelerate:

Great and timely products: While Cadillac has gotten attention for the 2013 North American Car of the Year, the ATS sedan, Buick arguably has more effectively overhauled its entire product line over the last few years, beginning with the Enclave SUV that was launched for the 2008 model year. Most recently, Buick has scored a direct hit with its new Encore compact SUV, a very timely entry in one of the industry's hottest segments. Encore sales through August were up 65 percent over its launch year.

Meanwhile, GMC has been playing a role in this regard as well, most notably with the new 2015 version of its Yukon large SUV, whose sales were up by 59 percent over 2013 sales of the old version. A new version of the GMC Sierra

pickup truck has raised sales by 7 percent over those of the earlier version a year ago.

Bulls-eye advertising: The Buick ad campaign that launched earlier this year and expanded this month — in which consumers can't believe the slick vehicles in front of them were actually Buicks - has scored heavily for the brand. "It leverages consumers' misperceptions and reels them in," DiSalle said.

Working backward from the test: Major boosts for the brands have come from a recent spate of significant third-party evaluations of perceived quality levels in which Buick and GMC brands and products have outshone all or nearly all other domestic brands, including annual surveys by J.D. Power & Associates and the American Customer Satisfaction Index. Turns out brand managers have looked intently at how such things are graded and have made great efforts to satisfy those specific measurements.

Savvy dealers: Every automaker now is focusing on customer satisfaction at the dealership as one of the last frontiers for boosting sales and market share. But Buick/ GMC dealers have found ways to excel - even faced with the challenge unique within GM of having to "dual" the brands in the same facility. "We have a huge focus on the customer at the dealer level," said Duncan Aldred, GM vice president for Buick and

The 2014 Buick Encore hit a segment sweet spot.

GMC. "The way we're treating our customers is top-drawer."

Passing under the recall radar: Buick and GMC have escaped nearly as much notice as Chevrolet has received in GM's radar mess.

Comfort in their own skin: There was confusion for decades about exactly how GM positioned the Buick brand, first vis-a-vis Oldsmobile and more recently compared with Cadillac. Sometimes GM executives would even insist that Buick was a second true luxury brand like Cadillac. But now brand stewards seem comfortable in Buick's true skin: as a "near-luxury" brand that holds down a vast swath of market real estate for GM and serves as the company's most important portal for moving consumers upscale, especially "conquest" customers.

Very little string-pushing: Buick and GMC are the GM brands that don't have to try to arm-twist consumers to buy electrified

vehicles that they don't want. Connectivity strategy: Buick

has a strategy for breaking out of the pack: Soon it will offer highspeed 4G LTE connectivity across its model range, as GM makes this capability available across more of its product line than any other automaker by the end of this year. And Buick will be offering it as a standard feature.

The China factor: GM's design staff in China is increasingly designing Buick vehicles or features that end up in the U.S. market, beginning with the 2010 LaCrosse. The latest: a midsize crossover called Buick Envision that the brand is showing in China.

A promising pipeline: Beyond whether Envision shows up on American shores, Buick's U.S. lineup will add seven new or redesigned models over the next three years. And a beefier Buick lineup will mean only better things for the Buick-GMC juggernaut.



The 2015 GMC Yukon is bringing back the mammoth SUV.

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