



Man ordered to trial in woman's death

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Arrested for allegedly murdering his former girlfriend, the mother of his young son, Jaime Pearson reportedly had little to say as police urged him to explain what happened.

At one point during a video recorded interview, Pearson reportedly said, "She made me do it." It was a reference to Rachel Watson, 30, who was



WESTLAND POLICE
Pearson

Police Sgt. Jon Torolski conceded under defense questioning that he hadn't realized what was said until he was reviewing

found strangled to death in her Westland home Oct. 22.

Pearson's comment was spoken softly and mumbled to such an extent that Westland

the interview tape. Pearson, 38, also told the detectives he had been in love with Watson.

In portions of the interview played during the preliminary examination Thursday in Westland 18th District Court, Pearson, 38, provided little explanation for what happened despite urgings from detectives.

During the interview, Pearson comments that he was angry at Watson for throwing out his belongings. He was no

longer living with Watson and her four children at the home on Avondale, instead residing at an apartment in Detroit where he was arrested.

Pearson told officers that he arrived at Watson's home the morning of Oct. 22 — she worked at Heartland Health-care in Ann Arbor on a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. The couple had sex twice, Pearson said.

An autopsy found Watson had been murdered by strangulation.

Wayne County Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Jeffrey Hudson said there were no signs that Watson had been strangled by a rope or other item around her neck, nor were there finger marks on her neck.

"There were marks consistent with a choke hold — an arm bar or leg, any object across the neck," Hudson said.

See EXAM, Page A2

Chamber offers two winter markets

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Fans of Westland's summer market can get an extra dose Thursday at the Farmers and Artisans Winter Marketplace.

The market will be held 2-6 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Farmers Market Pavilion on Carlson south of Ford in Central City Park.

"We'll have a good sampling, 10-12 vendors, and only in the pavilion, which is heated," said Brookellen Swope, president of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, which manages the market. "We'll only have one produce guy. People will be able to buy for the Thanksgiving holiday and Christmas."

There will be fresh produce, jams, breads, honey, baked goods and hot coffee, gourmet salad dressings, natural soaps and lotions, candles, jewelry, crafts and hot fresh mini-donuts with cider or hot chocolate. Heavenly Dogs will be serving hot dogs, sausages, nachos and pop.

The winter marketplace is one of two planned for the cold weather. A second one will be held 2-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. It will be the last until the market opens for the season next May.

The summer market was a popular attraction with 20 vendors. Swope is looking to have the market grow next year, especially with the new pavilion location in the park. It brought about a renewed interest in the market and introduced it to a new people.

"It helped that people who parked had to walk through the market to get to the water park and play ground," Swope said. "Some senior residences made it a monthly day trip. People came and they stayed longer. That made the vendors happy."

She added that the new location also helped the market become more of a community market and it worked out better for the entertainment.

"The new location had everything," Swope said. "It was nice to have something extra to add to the market."

The chamber is testing the waters with the two winter marketplaces, she said.

"We want to see what happens," Swope said.

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GINNY LAWRENCE (SUMMER WARREN) AND JIM LAWRENCE (KOREY CORONA) ARE IRKED BY THEIR NOSY NEIGHBOR, HANNAH MILLWAYS (ASHA SMITH), IN A SCENE FROM "TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE."

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's not so sleepy in Glenn's 'Two Heads'

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

It's not quite the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* we all know. Certainly, *Two Heads Are Better Than One* includes a Headless Horseman, but this guy has a girlfriend who's also missing her head.

Toss in an eccentric movie director, a family that's skeptical about his slightly warped version of the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, a pompous mayor who's against the movie entirely and the SOBS — that's the Save Our Bridges Society — which shows up to block the movie from filming and it's up to Jim and Ginny Lawrence and their two teenage daughters to prove that "two heads are better than one."

The play is being performed at John Glenn High School at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 13-15.

"It's a fast-paced farce that's loosely

IT'S SHOWTIME

What: *Two Heads Are Better Than One*
When: 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 13-15
Where: John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland
Tickets: \$7 for adults and \$5 for students at the door

based on the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, but everything is crazy, including the Headless Horseman," said Kevin Gidley, who is directing the play with Belinda Walakonis-Semak and Steven Goldberg.

Gidley had actually selected the same play Wayne Memorial High School will be presenting next week, *Murder's in the Heir*, but switched to

Two Heads.

"It sounded good and a lot of fun," he said. "It seemed like a good fit for the potential cast. This is the first time we've done a modern written show that's set in the past. This is here, today."

Getting ready

Twenty students are appearing in the production. Some are "absolutely brand new" to the theater program at the high school. Auditions were the last week in September and the cast has been rehearsing ever since.

At one point in the play, all 20 cast members are on stage and the directors are working on blocking so everyone gets seen.

"We have a small stage, so we have to use blocking to find a place where

See PLAY, Page A2

Westland Veterans Day program set for 2 p.m. Tuesday

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland.

"I invite all of you and everyone in the city. The memorial garden is something to be proud of — a lot has been done there," said Mike Williams, the new chairman of the West-

land Veterans Association. "This is something for the city to be proud of."

The event won't be as large as the 2013 program, which featured the dedication of the memorial garden located behind the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

The program was scheduled for 2 p.m., Williams said, to accommodate various veterans groups that hold ceremonies at the traditional 11:11 a.m. on Nov. 11.

The Westland Veterans Association, which raised money to pay for the memorial garden, will have several

fundraisers in the coming year, Williams said, including a bowling event, golf outing and cigar party at the Firing Line. There is also an ongoing fundraiser selling engraved memorial brick pavers installed at the memorial garden.

By LeAnne Rogers



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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Canned Food Festival

Bloomfield Hills-based MJR Digital Cinemas, in conjunction with 96.3 WDVD, Nash 93.1 and WJR, will host the Canned Film Festival Wednesday.

Bring five cans of food to any MJR Digital Cinema, excluding their Adrian location, and see a movie for free, that day only, any time from 4-10 p.m.

All food donations will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank.

96.3 WDVD's Beau Derek will broadcast live from the newest MJR location, the MJR Troy Grand Digital

Cinema 16 from 2-7 p.m. And Nash 93.1's Robby Bridges will broadcast live from MJR Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16 at 6800 N. Wayne Road from 3-7 p.m.

Pasta dinner

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland, 36745 Marquette, is holding its monthly pasta dinner from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert for \$8 for adults, \$4 for children age 12 and under. Children age 3 and under are free.

For more information, call 734-419-2020.

CORRECTION

A story in Thursday's *Observer* should have stated that Melandie Hines received a six-year term and will take her seat on the Wayne-Westland school board in January.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Culinary program holds annual Thanksgiving buffet benefit

Chef Tony Paquette and his culinary arts students will be serving a Thanksgiving buffet Wednesday, Nov. 12.

The buffet will be served 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

The event was started



FILE PHOTO
Chef Anthony Paquette

by Paquette eight years ago as a way for students to practice their skills while helping others. Guests make

a donation of \$10 for the turkey dinner with all the trimmings, prepared and served by the center's culinary arts students.

The money raised used to provide Thanksgiving dinners to needy families through the Wayne-Westland Family

Resource Center.

The buffet is open to the public and no reservations are necessary. Pay at the door and enjoy the feast.

The William D. Ford Career Technical Center is at 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Officers fired on during drug search

Michigan State Police are investigating an incident Wednesday night in which shots were reportedly fired at Westland Police officers executing a narcotics search warrant in Inkster.

Officers from Westland's Special Investigations Unit were approaching a home at 26086 Colgate in Inkster at about 8:30 p.m. when they reportedly came under fire from a fully automatic AK-47 assault rifle. The shots were reported to have been fired by someone in the home.

While returning fire, the officers retreated to cover. The officers maintained a perimeter at the residence with assistance from Michigan State Police, Dearborn Heights Police and Inkster Police. Immediate neighbors were evacuated and other residents in the neighborhood were told to stay inside their homes for their safety.

The MSP Emergency Support Team and a bomb squad cleared the home without incident. The home was secured at 4:30 a.m. Police reported taking nine people out of the home and convinced a 10th to come out.

By LeAnne Rogers

EXAM

Continued from Page A1

"If the carotid artery is blocked it takes 10 to 30 seconds to lose consciousness. If the artery is released, generally the person regains consciousness."

It takes about four minutes of constant pressure on the carotid artery to cause brain death, Hudson said.

Other witnesses taking the stand included Watson's 12-year-old son, her sister, her father and a friend, who began looking for Watson after she didn't show up for work.

Watson would arrive home from work after her eldest child, Isaiah Walker, had already gotten off to school. But the youngster testified his mother normally greeted him when he returned home, but wasn't there Oct. 22.

"Her car was in the driveway. Jaime's van was in the driveway. He opened the door. I didn't see her (his mother)," said Walker, who testified he didn't go into the basement where his mother's bedroom was located and her body later found.

Pearson went to get fast food for the children about 5 p.m. and left shortly afterward, Walker said.

A friend and former

"Basically, he was stalking her. He told her he was going to put her in a grave next to our mother."

BETHANY WATSON,
sister of Rachel Watson

co-worker, Gina Williams, testified she went to the home on Avondale after receiving a call from Heartland Health-care when Watson didn't arrive at work the evening of Oct. 22.

"I was concerned. Her car was in the driveway. Her younger kids saw her before they went to school," said Williams, who had the unattended children pack clothing and took them to her home.

Williams said she contacted the father of Watson's three older children and he picked them up. The 20-month-old son of Watson and Pearson stayed with Williams.

Joined by her sons and their father and Watson's sister Bethany, Williams said she returned to the home on Avondale about 11 p.m. Inside, the two women went into the basement looking for Watson.

"We saw that (bed) room as we went up the basement stairs. Be-

thany went into the room," Williams said. "I heard her holler. I didn't want to go in. I didn't want to see her body."

Bethany Watson testified that her sister had told her that since she put Pearson out of the house, he'd been showing up at her workplace.

"Basically, he was stalking her. He told her he was going to put her in a grave next to our mother," she said.

After receiving an urgent call from Rachel, his youngest daughter, Theodore Watson said he and his wife drove from Saginaw to Westland.

"She said she needed her locks changed. She was afraid he (Pearson) would enter the house," Theodore Watson said. "Her and Jaime were having problems. She said he tried to strangle her but she got out of it and called the police. I love my daughter. I came right away."

Defense attorney David Lankford offered no witnesses and no arguments against a motion to bind Pearson over for trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

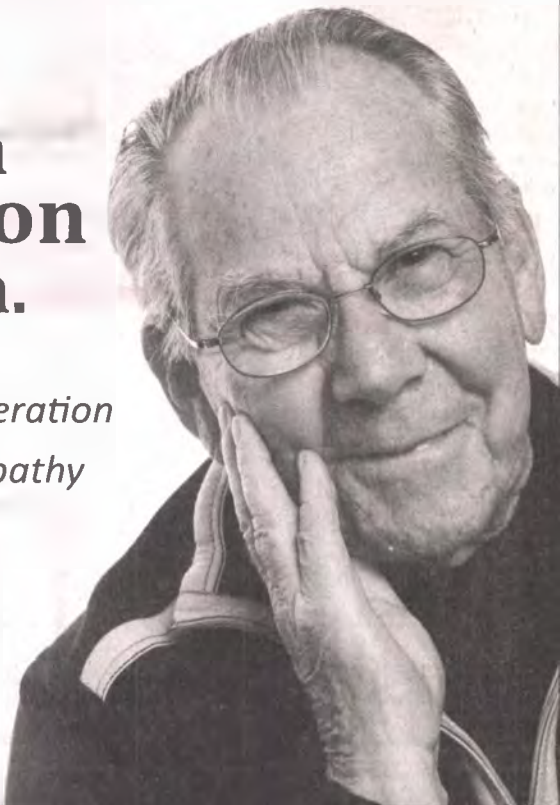
Held in lieu of bond, Pearson entered a not guilty plea at arraignment. His Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment will be Nov. 13.

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PLAY

Continued from Page A1

we can see all of them," he said. "At this point, after they say their lines, they'll move to a point where they fade into the business of the stage."

Seniors Kevin Booth and Megan Gratwick play directors on stage and are serving as assistant directors off stage. Booth plays the eccentric director, Max Mercedes, a role he wanted.

"I read the character description; he's flamboyant and bombastic," Booth said. "I read that and I wanted that role."

This is his first time as an assistant director, a role he also sought out. "My first show was *Happy Days* two years ago; I saw what the assistant directors were doing and it made me strive to do that," he said. "I want to be at the top of my game and it

gave me something to strive for."

'Wonderful experience'

Booth works backstage, helping out where he can. He tries to help fellow cast members with their lines and runs and gets costumes.

"It's an absolutely wonderful experience," he said.

Gratwick plays Beth Jeffers, Mercedes' assistant, who deals with his mood swings, a party-minded crew, outraged hotel manager, egotistical star and a would-be boyfriend.

"I identified the most with this role," she said of being Beth Jacobs. "Out of all of them, I felt I could do the best with this one. As a person, she doesn't seem that extreme. We're definitely similar and I can pull from that."

Gratwick is on the stage for most of the play and when she's not there, she's helping build

the characters. She started in the theatrical productions as a sophomore and this is her second stint as an assistant director. The first time was with *Totally Awesome '80s*.

"I love it," she said. "It's a great feeling helping people, helping mold the show. You start with a blank slate and build it from there. It's really great to see my peers achieve. It's great to all work together."

The production is moving into dress rehearsals this week and will kick off the performances with a matinee Wednesday for seniors from the Dyer Center and students in the TAG program at Marshall Upper Elementary.

Evening performances will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at the door.

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Wayne County kicks off the holiday season with Lightfest 8K

Participants in the annual Wayne County Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk on Tuesday, Nov. 18, and Bike through the Lights on Wednesday, Nov. 19, will be among the first to view more than 55 lighted, animated holiday displays that have been converted to LED lights.

"This is a great opportunity to enjoy Hines Drive and Lightfest at your own pace with no vehicle traffic," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said. "I encourage the public to experience these wonderful activities and all of our great family-oriented events offered by Wayne County Parks."

The cost to register for the Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk and Bike through Lights is \$20 until noon Monday, Nov. 17. After Nov. 17, late registrants will pay \$25. Those high school age and younger will pay \$12 for each event regardless of when they sign up.

Both events take place in Hines Park-Merriman Hollow area, located at Merriman Road and Hines Drive in Westland. Long sleeve T-shirts and a glow-in-the-dark item will be distributed upon check-in and post race food will be available for all participants.

This year marks 21 years of the annual Wayne County Lightfest, the largest and oldest holiday light show in the

Midwest. The Wayne County Lightfest encompasses more than four miles of Hines Drive. Annual visits to Lightfest exceed 250,000. Several new displays have been added this year, including a 40- by 40-foot abominable snowman with an 18-foot tall tree and a 15-foot by 15-foot woolly mammoth.

Wayne County Parks will host its Lightfest Grand Opening at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Hines Park-Merriman Hollow area. The opening will feature music, entertainment, refreshments and a fireworks show for the public.

Open through Dec. 31, Lightfest hours of operation are 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Lightfest is closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Wayne County Lightfest sponsors include Friends of Wayne County Parks, DTE Energy, ITC Holdings, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters, Zeal Credit Union, Entertainment Express Limousines, McDonald Modular Solutions Inc., Beatthe train.com and Motor City Mountain Biking Association.

To register online for the events, visit runningfitevents.webconnex.com/flanding. For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fireworks filled the sky as cars began to move along Hines Drive through the 2013 Lightfest.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

State Sen. Glenn Anderson shows of his Heroes of Breast Cancer Award he received from the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Anderson receives Heroes of Breast Cancer Award

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute has presented State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, the Heroes of Breast Cancer Award.

The award recognizes individuals in the community who have distinguished themselves and inspired others in the fight against breast cancer. Anderson's district includes Livonia and Redford.

Anderson's leadership award was presented in recognition of his successful work to establish a Michigan Breast Cancer Awareness license plate that will fund the Michigan Breast and Cervical Cancer Control program and make breast cancer screening services and treatment available to those who have no

insurance or are under-insured in the state of Michigan.

"I am truly humbled to be recognized as one of the Karmanos Cancer Institute's Heroes of Breast Cancer," Anderson said. "We worked hard to create this license plate, knowing that the funds raised will help save lives."

The specialty fundraising license plate first became available in mid-September. For the initial purchase of each fundraising plate, a \$35 fundraising fee, in addition to any applicable registration fee, is charged. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program will receive \$25. The annual renewal fee of \$10 for the plate also will go to the

program.

Anderson received the award Oct. 27 at the Max Fisher Music Center in Detroit. In a Facebook post, he said he was "deeply honored to be presented with the Karmanos Heroes of Breast Cancer Award" and that "it was even more special to have my family and most of my staff with me."

"My staff deserves a lot of credit for their support in getting this done," he wrote.

To order a fundraising license plate, contact a local Secretary of State office or go online to print out an order form at www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1585_1595_9026-336982-,00.html.

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Students celebrate school's 90th birthday

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

The weather was perfect for walking and that's what students and staff at St. Mary's School in Wayne did to celebrate the school's 90th birthday.

They spent a total of 90 minutes, broken up into two 45-minute segments, walking and raising money for the school's tuition fund that helps families meet the expense of attending the parochial school.

"We haven't done one (a fundraiser for the tuition fund) in eight years," administrative assistant Theresa Formella said. "The families have been really receptive; it's a win-win for the school, the students and the families."

St. Mary's has 162 students in its pre-K-eighth-grade program, and many things are done to help keep stu-



Sister Theresa leads students around the parking lot of St. Mary's School in Wayne during one of the two 45-minute walks they did to celebrate the school's 90th birthday.

dents enrolled in the school. The Alumni Association holds a dinner every year and the teachers did McTeacher night at McDonald's.

"It's difficult for a family to afford a Catholic education, so we do all kinds of things to help support their commit-

ment," Principal Kathy Sparks said. "Our support (for the school) comes from tuition and subsidies from the parish. We want to maintain and support the school without being a burden to the parish."

Rather than do laps, the walk-athon was

timed. Students were asked to give \$9 to participate.

A "fast walker," Colleen Verla of Canton enjoyed being outside with her friends. A seventh-grader, she's been a student at St. Mary's since kindergarten.

"I like walking and I

like walking and talking to my friends," she said. "I like being out here even though it's a little cold."

Brendan Wong of Westland would have preferred to run, but "I can't, I have to walk." He used his form of speed walking to circle the

parking lot.

"I'm not keeping track of how many times I go around," the sixth-grader added.

Sara Hock of Wayne, an eighth-grader, said the school uniforms are "comfy," but likes the special T-shirt they got to wear on gym days. An eighth-grader, she brought in a few pledges for the walk-athon.

"I have an uncle who works for a party business, he donated a flat amount," she said.

For the students, there was a treat after they finished their 90 minutes of walking — decorated cookies, emblazoned with the number 90. They were the creation of Sheila Morales of Canton who made enough for all of the students and staff to enjoy.

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Going pink

TIPTON ACADEMY
 Students at the Tipton Academy in Garden City made a fashion statement Oct. 23 while raising money for breast cancer research. The students paid \$1 to wear pink to school for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and raised \$200.

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Pictured here with Rep. John Walsh, center, are Madonna alumni Susan McEwan of Berkley, and Paula Otto of Ferndale, with current students Cherie Vanvliet of West Bloomfield, and Heather Issers of Farmington Hills; both aging studies majors.

Lawmakers hold monthly district coffee hours

Residents in 6th Senate District, 11th and 16th House Districts and 12th Commission District are welcome to attend a district coffee hour Monday, Nov. 10, in Westland.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, State Reps. Robert Kosowski and David Knezek and Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc will be on hand to talk to constituents about their concerns and answer their questions.

The coffee hour will be 9-10 a.m. in the banquet room at Mr. Mike's Grill, 6047 Wayne Road, north of Ford Road, Westland.

Anderson also will hold a coffee hour 10:30-11:30 a.m. Nov. 10, at the

Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford.

Constituents who cannot attend can reach Anderson by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, by phone at 866-262-7306 or by email at SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov.

Contact Kosowski at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909, 855-600-2625 or RobertKosowski@house.mi.gov; Knezek at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909, 888-4KNEZEK or DavidKnezek@house.mi.gov, and LeBlanc at 500 Griswold St., Seventh Floor, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-224-8855 or District12@waynecounty.com.

Madonna students volunteer at Senior Celebration Day

Alumni and current students of Madonna University's aging studies program volunteered at the 20th annual Western Wayne County Senior Celebration Day held recently at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center. As volunteers, they helped the seniors play a variety of games, engaged them in conversation, and distributed information about health and aging.

"I had fun giving out prizes, and the seniors really enjoyed the games," Madonna alumna Susan McEwan said.

This was the second year that Madonna students helped with the event, which enhances their classroom learning.

"It's a priority in our aging studies program that students experience many different environments that serve seniors, and that they learn how to promote quality of life in later years," said Denise Brothers, assistant professor at Madonna. "We are pleased to be a part of this event."

Hosted by State Rep. John Walsh (R-Livonia),

Angela Hospice, and Senior Citizen Achievement Needs, it was a day to show appreciation for the contributions senior citizens make to their local communities. The event included a hot lunch, raffles, music by Mike Wolverton, exhibitor booths, bingo and other games and prizes.

Walsh appreciated the students' participation, "This event would not have been such a success without the Madonna volunteers running the games. (They) were a big help. Very impressive!"

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The Truth About Accessing Benefits to Help Pay For Care At Home, In Assisted or Independent Living, or at a Nursing Home

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When it comes to paying for care at home, in assisted or independent living, or at the nursing home, the real problem is simple: you are not being told the truth about how to access benefits to pay for that care. The internet, friends, neighbors – even the government shapes what we think we know when it comes to benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid and Veterans Improved Pension.

The reality is, though, that what I'm about to tell you is something that most attorneys don't know – not even traditional estate planning attorneys.

Almost anyone can access benefits to assist in paying for care – whether it is at home, in assisted or independent living, or at the nursing home – even if you think you have (or been told you have) "too much money."



The need for long term care is one of the biggest threats to your lifetime financial security. That being said, basic planning (your traditional estate planning) rarely (if ever) adequately addresses the need for care.

Proper planning is the key to success. But you have to be sure that you do it right, with the laws as they are today.

The thing is, in order to have planning done right, an attorney must know not only estate planning, tax and probate law (traditional estate planning) but they also need to know Medicare law, Medicaid law, Veteran's law, and special needs law. This requires a concentration in these areas of the law that most law offices simply don't have – but our office does.

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Handling a minimum required distribution

Q: Dear Rick: Last year, my mom turned 70½. She was told she did not have to take a minimum required distribution until next year (2014). She did so in March. My mother has been told that she now must take another distribution this year. Is that right? It doesn't seem fair she has to take two distributions this year. My mom doesn't need the money so she can donate it to charity and avoid paying taxes. My mom does not itemize her deductions. I got the transfer information from my mom's church (where she wants to donate money) and when I gave it to the bank I was told she can't do that because she has already taken a distribution this year. Is there anything that she can do?

A: I have some good news and some not-so-good news for you.

The law says is that when you turn 70½, you must take a minimum required distribution. The one exception is the first year. Technically, the year you turn 70½, you do not have to take a distribution. You can delay that until the next year. As long as you take that distribution before April 1 (which you did) you are in good shape.

The downside, however, is that distribution is really for the previous year, the year you turned 70½. The bank is accurate. You also have to take a distribution for this year. That is why the year people turn 70½, many people take the distribution even though



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

they're not required. They do it in order to avoid having to take two distributions in the same year.

On transferring the money to a charity, the bank's answer was incorrect. The fact that you had already taken the distribution doesn't affect whether you can transfer your minimum required distribution to a charity. However, there is a problem. Unfortunately, the provision under the law that allows minimum required distributions to be directly donated into a charity has yet to be approved by Congress and the president this year.

At this point, in time the legislation has not been approved. However, I believe it will eventually be approved.

You have a couple options. One, you can contact the IRA custodian of your bank and find out what is the last day that you can do the transfer. They may say you have until mid-December or something of that nature and thus, you can delay your distribution until the last minute possible. On the other hand, if they do pass the law you will already be in a position to have it transferred into a charity.

I wish I could give you some certainty as to whether the provision will be passed or not. My feeling is that it will; however, we all know

that with the dysfunction in Washington, anything can happen. However, keep this in mind; the worst case scenario is that if you do transfer the money to a charity, you would have to include that amount as ordinary income on your tax return. Whether you itemize or not would be dependent upon what your other deductions are.

For those interested, this is the time to start thinking about making charitable contributions. By donating appreciated securities you could have a double tax benefit. Not only can you deduct the full fair market value as a charitable contribution on your tax return, you can also avoid the tax that you would normally have to pay on the gain.

For example, if you bought a stock for two dollars a share and it's now worth \$10 a share and you donate 100 shares, you'll receive a tax deduction of \$1,000. Had you sold the stock, you would have had a substantial capital gain to pay. However, by donating the security you are avoiding that tax.

Last word about charities and that is if you're going to donate appreciated securities, don't wait. Now is an excellent time to complete that transaction.

Good luck.

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

Art auction raises funds for children's camp

An Arts, Beats and Eats-style fundraiser and art auction will be held Friday, Nov. 14, in Westland to help create a camp in Michigan for children with cancer.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, in Westland, for the event that includes the art auction starting at 7 p.m., music by two bands, including the Harrison Project, until midnight and a chili cook-off with the winner announced at 9 p.m.

There is no cover charge for the event, which runs through midnight. There will be a cash bar; however, the chili will be free. Contestants are still being accepted for the chili cook-off.

The art auction will feature glass art, wood, vintage, pottery, paint-

ings and much more and all proceeds from the art auction will go toward creating the children's camp in the state, according to organizer Lisa Keck-Kujawa.

"We have so much awesome art available for auction – national artists, local artists, pottery, glass, air brushing, unique items, antiques and vintage," Keck-Kujawa said. "If you would like to create or hand make anything and donate it, please contact me."

Keck-Kujawa can be reached at 313-363-8610.

People interested in making donation to the camp can go online to www.gofundme.com/goldenkeyshoretoshore or mail them to Keck-Kujawa at 21660 Hunter Circle North, Taylor, MI 48180.

Livonia woman honored by DIA for volunteering 15 years

Coralyn Riley of Livonia was one of seven volunteers for the Detroit Institute of Arts honored Oct. 27 by the museum for 15 years of service.

Volunteer Service Awards were given to those who have served from 15 to 35 years.

In total, the museum honored 676 volunteers who logged a total of 66,013 hours of service within the past year.

During the meeting, volunteers enjoyed highlights from the past year, a presentation on the DIA's shadow puppet collection and an exhibition of artwork created by 31 volunteers. Following the meeting, more than 200 volunteers with 50 hours of service or more enjoyed a "thank-you" luncheon in the DIA's Great Hall and Rivera Court.

For more information, visit dia.org or call 313-494-5221.

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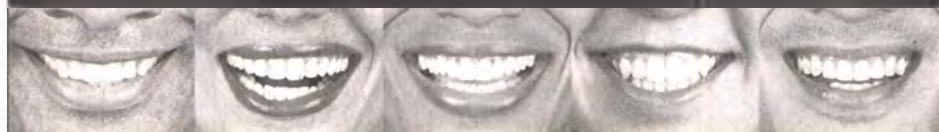
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Families find winter apparel at clothing distribution

Four local congregations, 48,000 pounds of clothing and hundreds of volunteers came together to distribute winter clothing to thousands of attendees Oct. 24-25 at an event hosted by The Church of Jesus-Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The project began in 2010 in Farmington Hills, then expanded to Roseville, Southfield and Dearborn.

The clothing came from Deseret Industries, a thrift store owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Currently there are no Deseret Industry stores in Michigan, but a truckload coming from Utah arrived in southeast Michigan last week to deliver clothing at four local chapels of the church.

The clothing arrived in 100- to 200-pound bales, which required a crew of 10 men to unload. Members of the Dearborn Ward, a congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, gathered to help unload the bales, sort and fold the clothing and prepare the building for distribution event.

Mandee Ordaz of Livonia, Alice Edwards of Canton and Joe Zelinski of Northville were some of the organizing committee volunteers stationed at the Dearborn chapel.

Line of people

"By the time we opened our doors at 9 a.m., the chapel was full and there was a line of people that wrapped around the building," said Ordaz, media specialist for the Westland Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Members of local congregations and full-time missionaries for The Church of Jesus-Christ of Latter-day Saints worked all morning to keep the crowd flowing in an orderly manner as well as to keep the clothing stocked. However, due to a high demand, a few attendees waited up to two hours before being served.

Attendees were offered clothing, coats, boots and a blanket. Some recipients drove long distances to receive clothing, while others used public transporta-

tion, taxis, social workers and agency vans to get there.

"It was humbling to see the faces of so many who had taken great efforts to arrive and were willing to wait patiently for up to two hours in hopes of finding used clothing for their families," Ordaz said. "We are thankful for the opportunity to help our community. There is nothing as fulfilling as serving as Christ would."

Prior to the event, committee members distributed 2,000 vouchers to local community agencies to distribute to their clients. No client information was gathered; agencies used their discretion to distribute the vouchers.

Vouchers given out

Vouchers were required for admission Oct. 24, but the event was open to the public Oct. 25.

"Next year, we may put different starting times on the vouchers to avoid the Friday morning rush," said Edwards, who volunteered her time to print and distribute all 2,000 vouchers.

By 1 p.m. Oct. 24, the crowds had thinned out and a fresh group of volunteers arrived to finish re-stocking for the afternoon and Saturday crowd.

"On Friday morning, the rule was one pair of boots and one coat per family member, but by Friday afternoon and Saturday, we wanted all of the clothing to be tak-

en," said Zelinski, Dearborn project coordinator. "What was left by Saturday at 1 p.m. was bagged up and donated to the Salvation Army."



Attendees were offered clothing, coats, boots and a blanket. Volunteers helped people with their selections.



A church representative talks with a woman who had come to get winter clothing.



Volunteers unpack the bales of clothing sent from Deseret Industry stores in Utah for distribution in Michigan.

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Perrinville students raise \$6,578 on Challenge Day

Students at Perrinville Early Childhood Center played hard for a cause at Perrinville's second annual Challenge Day on Oct. 30.

Perrinville houses programs for both special needs and typically developing students in Livonia Public Schools.

"A couple of years ago, when we were brainstorming fundraising ideas, we noticed that many elementary schools in the district held 'fun runs' to help raise money for their schools," Perrinville administrator Carol Carignan said. "Many of our students with disabilities wouldn't be able to participate in something like that, so we came up with Challenge Day."

For Challenge Day, students were asked to gather pledges toward their participation in fun activities that were difficult for them. To ensure that all students were included, Perrinville staff planned activities on a program basis, rather than attempting to have all students complete the same challenges.

Students in the Autism



Students Lucas Patterson and Ryleigh Songalewski race to the finish line.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Spectrum Disorder (ASD) program, for example, were challenged with sensory activities involving shaving cream, as well as motor challenges like dropping bean bags into buckets.

Children in the Early Childhood Special Education Program, which encompasses various cognitive, emotional, speech and physical development delays, partic-

ipated in an obstacle course and used flashlights to find suckers disguised as ghosts in the darkened library.

In the Kids First Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), which serves typically developing preschool students, the children played floor hockey, participated in a bean bag toss and raced each other on scooters. The PTA-run event

raised \$6,578 in pledges. The funds will go directly toward purchasing needed therapeutic and educational equipment for the building.

"Our incredible staff worked so hard to put together these challenges," Carignan said. "When you put them together with our dynamic and engaged PTA, you get wonderful events like Challenge Day."



Student Lauren Weldon finds a ghost in the library.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hoover Elementary School to celebrate 50th anniversary



Engraved brick pavers will be for sale, with plans to install them in a memorial patio and garden at Hoover Elementary.

Hoover Elementary School will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special evening of reminiscing, fun, laughter and celebration with generations of principals, teachers, staff and alumni. The celebration will be held 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at the school, located at 15900 Levan Road in Livonia.

The free event will include a full buffet of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and hot and cold beverages. There will also be crafts for the children, a photo booth with props to capture the special occasion, a display of multi-generational Hoover memora-

bilias, live music provided by Stevenson High School musicians and a slide show capturing 50 years at Hoover Elementary School.

Special guests will include Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Randy Liepa.

For a limited time, engraved brick pavers will be for sale, with plans to install them in a memorial patio and garden at the school. The bricks, ranging in price from \$50 to \$90, will be sold in three sizes: 6-inch by 6-inch, 6-inch by 9-inch and 9-inch by 9-inch. They will be available for purchase during the event. For more in-

formation on purchasing a brick, contact the school at 734-744-2730.

Event sponsors include: Hoover Elementary School; Hoover Elementary PTA; Sterling Services of Canton; Jimmy John's, Six Mile, Livonia; Panera Bread, Six Mile, Livonia; Schoolcraft College, Livonia; Tim Hortons, Five Mile, Livonia; Just Baked, Seven Mile, Livonia; and Thomas's Catering, Livonia.

For more information, visit Hoover's webpage at <http://lpshoover.ss5.sharpschool.com/> or search for Hoover Elementary 50 Year Anniversary on Facebook.

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Patrick helps Debbie navigate in sightless world

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Westland resident Debbie Dayton doesn't miss a beat or a step with Patrick at her side.

And Patrick, her golden retriever Leader Dog, seems to know he has some big responsibilities to fill. This is Dayton's second Leader Dog. Her first was Josh, who died.

Patrick seems to know Dayton is the center of his life.

Dayton, who lost her sight more than 10 years ago, realizes how easy it is to take sight for granted. She has diabetic retinopathy in one eye and a form of glaucoma in her right eye, which led to her loss of independence.

"It's like looking through a dense fog," Dayton said. "With Patrick's help, I can move around with confidence."

Dayton was on hand Oct. 11 at the Garden City Fire Department's Open House promote the Lions Club.

Pairing dogs with people

The goal of Leader Dogs is to match dogs with people and the environment in which they live. The organization takes into account rural versus city needs.

"I love golden retrievers," Dayton said. "They have an easygoing personality."

Other breeds are also trained. The dogs, devoted to their owners, adjust to such things as cats in the home.

Patrick has learned to guide Dayton at Westland Shopping Center. Ever since she tapped the first



Debbie Dayton, a Westland resident, and Patrick her Leader Dog help promote Lions Clubs and a better understanding about blindness to sighted people.

time on the entry glass at the Macy's store and told Patrick, "Macy's," he has guided her through the mall to that entrance.

Patrick helps Dayton be an equal opportunity shopper. She has told him, "This is Kohl's. This is Penney's"

His amazing talents have included helping Dayton locate her hotel room at conventions.

"I have one of my sighted friends show him one time where my room is," Dayton said.

When she tells Patrick to take her back to her room, he is able to lead her back from the parking lot or banquet room area.

"He walks right up to the room," Dayton said.

Patrick just needs the first instruction to "find the door" or "find my car," when her husband is waiting for her. They have become a team.

Valuable training

It's not unusual for individuals like Dayton to receive multiple Leader Dogs during their lifetimes and that can be costly. The estimated cost to train a Leader Dog is about \$40,000. A dog's working life is eight to 10 years, depending on their health.

Training a Leader Dog takes about six months after they return from living for one year with a puppy raiser. One of the most important traits a dog must have is willingness to work, plus a low distraction threshold. Dogs are taught to stop at every curb, avoid obstacles, pay attention to traffic and, if necessary, use intelligent disobedience if it's unsafe to cross the street.

sbuck@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @SueBuck

Collegiate Job Fair is Nov. 14 at Burton Manor

Eastern Michigan University will host one of the largest and longest running job fair events in the state from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

The Michigan Collegiate Job Fair is a state-wide event held in the spring and fall each year. This is an opportunity for employees to recruit qualified graduates from Michigan colleges and universities for entry-level positions, as well as students seeking employment to begin their post-college career.

Prospective employees are encouraged to pre-register online before Nov. 12. The cost to pre-regis-

ter is \$10 and \$15 for walk-in registration.

"The number of employers continues to rise, which shows that the job market is stronger, especially in the Information Technology and engineering fields," said Ebony Jones, senior corporate relations manager at Eastern Michigan University.

Those attending the job fair are recommended to "dress for success" in business casual attire. Candidates should also bring approximately 25 copies of their resume and prepare to discuss their qualifications.

"Candidates will have the opportunity to stop at the prep room available on-site where they can prepare their pitch to

employers, receive a wardrobe check as well as learn how to utilize LinkedIn for networking," said Jones.

More than 120 employers will be attending the event including Coca-Cola Refreshments, IBM, Quicken Loans, Target Stores, Thomson Reuters, Enterprise Rent-a-Car and several state and government departments. More than 700 job candidates are expected to attend.

The EMU University Advising & Career Development Center is offering resume assistance for students interested in attending the job fair. For more information on the job fair or to pre-register, visit the mcjf website.

New award to honor business, environmental diligence in Livonia

The city of Livonia's Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability established a new award to recognize a Livonia business or organization that successfully balances environmental and economic strategies.

The Livonia Greenleaf Award was created to recognize a Livonia entity that implements sustainable environmental practices, social responsibility and economic development in their operations.

Modeled on the "Triple Bottom Line"

approach, Commission Chairman Jim Baringhaus said award-winning organizations would demonstrate to the Livonia community the idea of environmental quality, economic prosperity and social equity are equally important.

In collaboration with the City of Livonia, Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability, this award recognizes Livonia organizations that demonstrate their commitment to making Livonia a more

sustainable, green community.

The inaugural Livonia Greenleaf Award will be handed out along with other business and community honors Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, during the Livonia Chamber's annual Leadership and Awards Celebration at Laurel Manor.

To apply for this award or for additional information on the Livonia Greenleaf Award, visit the city website at www.ci.livonia.mi.us.



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Farmers & Artisans Winter Marketplace!
THURSDAY, NOV. 13 from 2 pm - 6 pm
Local vendors featuring Fresh Produce, Jams, Breads, Honey, Baked Goods & Hot Coffee, Gourmet Salad Dressing, Natural Soaps & Lotions, Candles, Jewelry & Crafts
Enjoy hot fresh mini-donuts with cider or hot chocolate.
Heavenly Dogs will be serving hot dogs, sausages, nachos & pop.

The Farmers & Artisans Marketplace is located at
1901 N. Carlson, Westland MI 48185 (between Ford & Marquette)

Westland Farmers & Artisans Marketplace is brought to you by Westland Downtown Development Authority

Heated Pavilion
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www.westlandfarmersmarket.com
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Gumball creation wins VCA Crystal Pumpkin contest

People say the third time is a charm. For Kellee Cochran, it was that.

Cochran won the 2014 Crystal Pumpkin Contest, held annually at the VCA Garden City Animal Hospital, culminating five years of middle-of-the-pack finishes.

In the contest, which began in 1994, the staff members of the animal hospital each display a pumpkin creation, and then clients vote.

Winners receive a small prize, but mainly they look forward to getting their name on the Crystal Pumpkin, a trophy with a glass pumpkin on top that's displayed in VCA's lobby. "The five years of



The identities of the designers were kept secret, and clients at VCA Garden City voted for their favorite pumpkin using a number.

waiting was worth it," said Cochran upon hearing the results. "I finally got my name on the Pumpkin. I am the Crystal Pumpkin Champion." Her pumpkin, covered in half gumballs, and placed on a stand to give

the appearance of a gumball machine, edged out Dr. Marilyn Begen's Snoopy Flying Ace, to take the top spot.

The rest of the top five included Kim Arbour's perched owl with two baby owls, Dr.

Brad Davis's bobble head hula dancing bulldog and Jess Bullard's Stanley the Red Wing Octopus.

"Clearly this was the best year for the artistic quality of the pumpkin," said Davis, clinic medical director and Crystal

Pumpkin contest moderator. "Any one of the top six likely would have won last year."

"It's a big deal for our clients, and a lot of people in the area, who feel that coming in and seeing the pumpkins is a

Halloween tradition," he added.

Cochran, a veterinary technician, started at the VCA Garden City in 2008, and has been full-time there since her arrival.

"I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me! It's exciting to know my name will be on the Crystal Pumpkin forever," she said.

The pumpkin entries can still be viewed on the contest Facebook page, just search 2014 Crystal Pumpkin Contest.

For more information, contact Brad Davis at 734-425-4515 or bda-vis1236@aol.com. VCA Garden City is 2085 Inkster Road, just south of Ford Road.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

VETERANS MASS

Time/date: 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 9.

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard Road, Livonia.

Details: St. Michael invites all veterans, reservists and active military to participate in its annual Veteran's Day Mass. There will be a color guard and flag-raising ceremony at the flag pole in front of the church at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Mass at 10 a.m. An informal reception for all will follow, a highlight of which is always the letters of thanks and military tribute made by the St. Michael School children.

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 200; www.livoniastmichael.org.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Time/date: 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Location: Madonna University Library, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: Madonna University

faculty member Dr. Monica Miller will present her book *Abandoned: The Untold Stories of Abortion Wars*, a historical account of the pro-life movement since Roe vs. Wade. The event is free and open to the public.

Contact: 734-432-5767; edecenso@madonna.edu.

HEARING LOSS PROGRAM

Time/date: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Location: Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

Details: Hearing Loss Association of America will host Dr. Robert Hong who will speak about "Beyond Conventional Hearing Aids."

Contact: Tony at 734-664-3297 or aferack@comcast.net.

PASTA POPS

Time/date: 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: Pasta Pops is the Livonia Symphony's major fundraiser. The event begins with a silent auction of Italian-related items, pasta-type food baskets, tickets to musical events and unique wines. A family-style dinner of a variety of pastas and other foods will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a concert with many Italian

favorites at 8 p.m. Tickets will not be available at the door. Reserved tickets are \$75.

Contact: 734-591-0266; www.livoniasymphony.org.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Time/date: 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

Location: Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City.

Details: The Garden City Presbyterian Women's annual Holiday will feature a turkey dinner served from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday. Tickets are available at the church. There will be many booths to purchase items as well as a Cookie Walk, Grandma's Attic, Baked Goods Booth and Silent Auction.

Contact: Call the church office at 734-421-7620.

ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Time/date: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

Location: Pierce Middle School, 25605 Orangelawn, Redford.

Details: More than 35 crafters with unique and different talents. There will be a tin can raffle with items donated by community members, a bake sale, face painting and kids' basketball tournament. Admission is free.

Contact: 313-535-4000, ext. 1661.

CAPTIVE FREE MEAL PACKING EVENT

Time/date: 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

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

Details: All are invited to a worship service led by Captive Free, a relational music ministry team. In addition to leading worship, these dynamic youth will facilitate a Food Packaging Service Event. All are invited to help prepare 7,200 nutritious, life-saving meals for starving children around the world. Lunch will be served at 12:15 pm, followed by food packing. This is an ideal service activity for scout or other youth groups. Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.

Contact: Kathy Weinberg, 734-464-0211 ext. 202, info@holylivonia.org

THE MEN WHO MADE SELFRIDGE

Time/date: 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17.

Location: Judge Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park, Eight Mile and Newburgh roads, Livonia.

Details: Author Dan Heaton will give a historical presentation on the two men instrumental in the creation of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the launching of the U.S. Air Force. There is no charge and the public is welcome to attend this meeting of the Livonia Historical Society. Enter the parking lot off Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile Road.

Contact: 734-416-3848.

WIDOWED CO-ED BREAKFAST

Time/date: 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20.

Location: Annes, 33427 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites all widowed men and women to meet for breakfast, good coffee, good food and good conversation at 9 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Annes. Meet new friends in a safe setting.

Contact: Tom at 734-927-0610.

LAGERS FOR LUNCHESES

Time/date: 7-11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

Location: One Under Bar & Grill, 35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Presented by the Livonia Junior Chamber, the first ever Lagers for Lunches will raise money to pay off school lunch debts within the city of Livonia. The Livonia Junior Chamber donated over \$1,000 last year to three local schools and is planning on widening the impact with this event. Attendees will sample beers from all over the country with an emphasis on Michigan breweries. Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased at <http://lagersforlunches.eventbrite.com>. Each ticket gives the attendees 15 drink tickets and appetizers.

ST. MICHAEL ALL-CLASS REUNION

Time/date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

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

Details: St. Michael the Archangel School in Livonia is holding its annual all-class reunion for all alumni 21 years of age and older. Anyone with a connection to St. Michael's (graduate, attendee, participant in CYO, Religious Ed,

Scouts etc.) is invited to attend for a fun-filled evening of food, drink, music, and reminiscing. A \$5 admission fee will cover pizza and pop, while a cash bar will also be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring some of their old St. Michael's memorabilia to share with others.

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 225; livoniastmichael.org/alumni.

TREASURES FROM GRANDMA'S ATTIC

Time/date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

Location: Alexander Blue House, Greenmead Historical Park, Eight Mile and Newburgh roads, Livonia.

Details: Estate, vintage, flea market items. No admission or parking fee. Benefits Greenmead Historical Park.

Contact: 248-477-7375.

GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Time/date: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23.

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

Details: "Hope for the Holidays" grief support workshop led by the New Hope Center for Grief Support. There is no charge and the event is open to the public with registration at the door.

Contact: 734-422-0149.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Time/date: 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27.

Location: Our Lady of Loretto Family Center, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford.

Details: Don't be alone for the holiday. Don't try to cook if you can't. Thanksgiving dinner can be costly. Everyone is invited — couples, singles, families. Sponsored by Our Lady of Loretto and the business community. RSVP by Monday, Nov. 24.

Contact: 313-534-9000.

ST. NICHOLAS IS SANTA CLAUS PARTY

Time/date: 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29.

Location: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit will sponsor its fifth annual "St. Nicholas Is Santa Claus," a Nativity-season children's party featuring the story of St. Nicholas as told by St.

Nicholas himself. Children will meet St. Nicholas and receive a gift while their parents take their pictures. They will do a craft project, and there will be a carol sing-a-long and refreshments. Prior to the party from noon to 1 p.m., children will be able to have their pictures taken with live reindeer. The party is free of charge and open to Orthodox and non-Orthodox children of all ages and their parents. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: 248-345-9346; paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

RAILROADIANA

Time/Date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30.

Location: Ss. Simon and Jude social hall, 32500 Palmer Road, west of Merriman, Westland.

Details: The Ushers Club will sponsor a buy and swap, toy and train show at the church hall. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts and more than 100 dealer tables with various gauges of trains. Tables are available at \$10 per table.

Contact: To reserve tables, call 734-595-8327. Dealer set-up is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

TOY SHOW

Time/date: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30.

Location: Livonia Elks Hall, 3117 Plymouth Road, east of Merriman, Livonia.

Details: Admission \$4, children under 12 free. Show includes Hot Wheels, comic books, beer signs, lunch boxes, music, movie and TV items, Star Trek, Star Wars, model cars, dolls, games, books and magazines, cards, etc.

Contact: 586-775-3289; 586-790-6290.

GABRIELLE'S ANGELS FUND RAISING BENEFIT

Time/date: noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Location: Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne.

Details: A fundraiser with raffle drawings for gift certificates donated by community businesses and a white elephant auction will be held along with fun and games for the family. Benefits children who are aging out of the foster care system as well as low-income single parents. Homeless prevention.

Contact: 734-895-1830; Gabrielles_angels@yahoo.com

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received at the City of Westland Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **November 26th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

JEFFERSON BARNES COMMUNITY CENTER – ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR HUD FUNDED RENOVATION

(A mandatory site walk-through will be held on **November 14th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**)

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.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: November 9th, 2014

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received at the City of Westland Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **November 21st, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

NORWAYNE DEMOLITION

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.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: November 9th, 2014

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

WHY SLIPPERS ARE APTLY NAMED

Slippers cause slips and falls. Slippers present as much a problem to people over age 65 as does osteoarthritis, but unlike arthritis, many falls are avoidable.

Slippers are dangerous to wear outside of the house. The number of falls occurring when people walk to the mailbox in their slippers is legion. With winter coming the danger increases as even shoes become a hazard in icy weather. It does not pay to be in a hurry to get a newspaper or mail lying outside the front door. Wear boots or galoshes or shoes with thick rubber soles when stepping even a few feet out in wintry weather.

Moreover, slippers can be dangerous indoors. Particularly going down stairs, the slipped foot too often slides, not steps, and a tumble follows. Prudence dictates that if one wears slippers down a stairs, at least one hand grasps a banister.

Slippers cannot take all the blame. In going up stairs or climbing basement steps or walking up a front porch, falls occur not because of faulty footwear but as the result of a shuffling gait. Legs need to be strong enough to step, not trudge or shuffle. In a patient free of stroke or nerve damage, weak legs reflect lack of exercise.

Avoiding falls requires older persons to provide themselves with good equipment: shoes, banisters, adequate light and in winter, gloves to grasp railings and canes. But the person must not forget personal effort: exercise and activity every day.

Aging may mean giving up a job and social ties, but aging also means taking on responsibilities, particularly for keeping oneself as independent as possible for as long as possible. That is hard work.

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ea ~~249~~
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Kraft or Sargento Cheese
Select Varieties,
5-8 oz
ea ~~299~~
With Card **-50¢**
249 ea
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Participating Items With Card

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**BUY 10,
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Mix & match participating items
in multiples of 10 with Card.

Participating item varieties and sizes may vary by store.

Look for these tags.



Marie Callender's Entrée
12-19 oz or Healthy Choice,
9-12.5 oz; Select Varieties
ea ~~228~~
With Card **-50¢**
178 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Thomas' Bagels or English Muffins
6-12 ct or Brownberry Bread,
24 oz; Select Varieties
ea ~~299~~
With Card **-50¢**
249 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Hot or Lean Pockets
Select Varieties,
2 ct
ea ~~199~~
With Card **-50¢**
149 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Marie Callender's Pie
28-46 oz or Edwards,
23.5-38 oz; Select Varieties
ea ~~499~~
With Card **-50¢**
449 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Hormel Natural Choice Lunch Meat
Select Varieties, 7-8 oz
ea ~~299~~
With Card **-50¢**
249 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Carnation Evaporated Milk
12 fl oz or Pillsbury Cake Mix,
15.25 oz; Select Varieties
ea ~~129~~
With Card **-50¢**
79¢ ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card

Mealtime favorites



Minute Maid Orange Juice
or Minute Maid Pure Squeezed,
Select Varieties, 59 fl oz
ea ~~249~~
With Card **-50¢**
199 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Hormel Black Label Bacon
or Natural Choice,
Select Varieties, 12-16 oz
ea ~~499~~
With Card **-50¢**
449 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Coca-Cola or Pepsi
Select Varieties,
2 Liter
ea ~~150~~
With Card **-50¢**
\$1 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card

Breyers Ice Cream
48 fl oz or Ben & Jerry's,
16 fl oz; Select Varieties
ea ~~349~~
With Card **-50¢**
299 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Stacy's Pita or Bagel Chips
or Pita Crisps, Select Varieties,
6.75-8 oz, In the Deli
ea ~~299~~
With Card **-50¢**
249 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Martinelli's Sparkling Cider
Select Varieties,
25.4 fl oz
ea ~~249~~
With Card **-50¢**
199 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Oreo Cookies
Select Varieties,
10-15.5 oz
ea ~~299~~
With Card **-50¢**
249 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Pumpkin Cake Roll
22 oz, In the Bakery,
Limited to Stock on Hand
ea ~~649~~
With Card **-50¢**
599 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Pringles
5.33-6.63 oz or
Chex Mix, Gardetto's or
Bugles, 4.3-8.75 oz
ea ~~149~~
With Card **-50¢**
99¢ ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Domino Pure Cane Granulated Sugar
4 lb
ea ~~249~~
With Card **-50¢**
199 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Coffee-Mate Coffee Creamer
Refrigerated,
Select Varieties, 32 fl oz
ea ~~299~~
With Card **-50¢**
249 ea
WHEN YOU BUY ANY 10
Participating Items With Card



Reynolds Wrap Aluminum Foil
Select Varieties, 35-75 sq ft
ea ~~349~~
With Card **-50¢**
299 ea
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Participating Items With Card

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Mfg. List \$149.95
\$99.95 INSTALLED

VIPER ALARM WITH 2-4 BUTTON REMOTES
•1,500 ft. range •Kill switch •Double guard shock sensor •Six tone siren •Code hopping. 3105V/1591
Mfg. List \$229.95
\$129.95 INSTALLED

VIPER REMOTE STARTER 2-4 BUTTON REMOTES
1-way-1,500 ft. range. •2 4-button •Limited lifetime warranty. #1455
Mfg. List \$249.95
\$129.95 INSTALLED

AVITAL 2-REMOTE STARTER & ALARM SYSTEM
•1,200 ft. range •Zone-2 impact sensor •Fault-proof starter kill •Limited lifetime warranty •6-tone siren •Warn away •Superhet receiver. S103L/1824
Mfg. List \$299.95
\$159.95 INSTALLED

VIPER 2-WAY INDICATOR CONFIRMS CAR STARTED
REMOTE START 2-WAY
•2,000 ft. of range •1 button •1 remote •Super code •Mini remote. Lifetime warranty. 4205V1/1282
Mfg. List \$249.95
\$189.95 INSTALLED

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•Front aux input •Remote control •Detach face. #2212
Mfg. List \$129.95
\$69.95

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•Front USB and aux input •iPod/iPhone control •Pandora control thru iPhone •Remote control. DEH-X2700U1/2352
Mfg. List \$179.95
\$89.95

INSTALLED PIONEER AM/FM CD PLAYER
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Mfg. List \$179.95
\$89.95

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•Built in bluetooth •Simple pandora creation •Dual phone pairing •USB and aux inputs. FHX720BT/2360
Mfg. List \$189.95
\$149.95

INSTALLED JVC AM/FM CD MP3 Receiver
•With built in Bluetooth •Pandora control •iPod/iPhone controller •Android controller •Front USB/aux input. #2024
Mfg. List \$179.95
\$99.95

INSTALLED PIONEER AM/FM CD With Bluetooth
•USB control iPod/iPhone •Pandora control •Handsfree calling •Streaming audio •Color customization. #2179
Mfg. List \$179.95
\$109.95

INSTALLED PIONEER AM/FM Double Din CD Player
•Built in bluetooth •Simple pandora creation •Dual phone pairing •USB and aux inputs. FHX720BT/2360
Mfg. List \$189.95
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\$99.95

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•JX250/11/1704
Mfg. List \$249.95
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•300 watts. KFC1665S/7482
Mfg. List \$69.95
\$29.95 PR.

JOCKFORD FOSQATE 6.5" Prime 2 Way Speakers
•90 watts max power handling. R165X3/7071
Mfg. List \$79.95
\$49.95 PR.

PIONEER 6" x 9" 4-Way Speakers
•400 watts peak power. TS-975M/7380
Mfg. List \$99.95
\$59.95 PR.

KENWOOD Amp & Subwoofer Package
•350 watt amp •2 10" subs. PW1020/7630
Mfg. List \$199.95
\$129.95

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KENWOOD AM/FM 6.1" Touchscreen Monitor
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TOUCH SCREEN PANDORA internet radio
PIONEER 6.1" DVD/CD Touchscreen
•Bluetooth streaming •8 band graphic EG •Smartphone control. 2181
Mfg. List \$399.95
\$279.95

TOUCH SCREEN PANDORA internet radio
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CLASS A DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL FINAL

Churchill wins first title since 2011

First-set comeback sparks 3-0 triumph

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

With her team trailing host Garden City 23-19 in the opening set of Friday night's Class A district volleyball final, Livonia Churchill head coach Anna Gatt orchestrated a quick question-and-answer session during a regrouping time-out.

"First I asked the girls, 'Has Garden City done anything spectacular yet?' and they all said 'No,'" Gatt recounted. "Then I asked them, 'Do they have a hitter who is absolutely blowing us out of the water?' and they all

said 'No'. So I asked them, 'How are they getting a lot of their points?' and they said, 'Because we're hitting it out of bounds.' I told them, 'That's great because that's something we can change' and they were like, 'Yeah!'"

The Chargers played like a revitalized team from that point forward, rallying to win the first set, 25-23, with a six-point, post-timeout surge, before ultimately capturing their first district title since 2011 with 25-20 and 25-16 triumphs in the middle and final stanzas, respectively.



Livonia Churchill volleyball players celebrate their Class A district championship seconds after the final point was recorded.

See TITLE, Page B4

MU wins

A 15-4 run just past the midway point of the second half was the difference for the Madonna University men's basketball team in its 89-74 come-from-behind win over Great Lakes Christian in the 2014-15 home opener at the MU Activities Center.

Senior center Donald Owens (Inkster) led all scorers with a career-high 26 points to go along with a career-best 16 rebounds for his first double-double of the season.

Junior guard Tyler Stewart (Salem) added a career-best 15 points, while freshman Grant Smith (Goodrich) contributed a career-high 13 points off the bench, including three straight three-pointers during the decisive run.

Sophomore point guard Khalil Malone (Waterford Mott) also recorded a career-high seven assists to go along with his 11 points.

The Crusaders shot 53.1 percent from the floor (34-of-64), but made just 58.6 percent from the foul line (17-of-29). They also committed 17 turnovers.

Djuan Williams paced Great Lakes Christian (0-6) with 25 points and six assists, while logging all 40 minutes. Jalen James joined Williams in double figures with 18 points and a team-best five rebounds as Madonna won the battle on the glass, 54-23.

FOOTBALL DISTRICT FINAL



Livonia Churchill defenders try in vain to stop Canton running back Marcus Sanders (No. 2) during one of his many long gainers Friday night.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

RED STAMPEDE

Canton runs over Churchill to win first district title since 2009

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Like a well-oiled machine, the Canton Chiefs came out clicking on every cylinder from the start of Friday's Division 1 football district final against Livonia Churchill.

The first eight times the Chiefs had the football, they scored touchdowns.

Add to the mix 637 yards rushing – with 5-6 sophomore Marcus Sanders racking up 363 yards on 27 carries and three touchdowns – and there was really nothing

the Chargers could do to stem the tide.

Canton (9-2) rolled to a 56-21 win and advanced to Friday's regional final against either Saline or Monroe.

"We're excited just to be practicing and to keep playing," said Canton head coach Tim Baechler, whose team won a district for the first time since 2009. "Whoever we play next week, we're going to be jacked to play."

"We're still not great. Because of the injuries, we still have not peaked yet as a full football team. Hopefully we do, but it's starting

to happen at the right time."

Baechler prepped his squad to come out hard against Churchill, remembering the tussle the KLAA South rivals had Oct. 3 (a grueling 40-35 Canton win).

"We're finally a little healthy up there (offensive line)," Baechler said. "It's the first time we've had the same line healthy for three straight weeks and that's definitely helped us."

"(Churchill is a) great offensive football team. We went in thinking we might have to score every time we get the ball to beat these guys."

The Chargers (8-3) found them-

selves behind the eight-ball right away when Canton senior running back Chuck Turfe (13 carries, 107 yards, one TD) took the first offensive snap of the game and broke 48 yards down the left side-line.

That set up Sanders for a 20-yard touchdown run with 9:56 left in the first quarter. After the first of eight extra points by Andrew Loehnis, it was a quick 7-0 lead.

Churchill immediately answered the bell, however.

A 46-yard pass from senior

See FOOTBALL, Page B4

Baseball clinic

Livonia Clarenceville will be hosting a six-week baseball camp starting Jan. 17.

Classes are available for players in grades one-12 and are limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and base-running. To register, visit www.usbaseballacademy.com or call 1-866-622-4487.

DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL FINAL

Hawks soar to third straight championship

Senior quartet sparkles in HVL's three-set sweep of Inter-City Baptist

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Celebrating Class D district championships is becoming as much of a November tradition as observing Thanksgiving for members of the Huron Valley Lutheran volleyball team.

On Thursday in their own gym, the Hawks carved up Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, 25-8, 26-24, 25-22, in the district title match to advance to Tuesday's regional semifinal contest at Plymouth Christian Academy.

It was HVL's third consecutive district championship, all under the guidance of head coach Mike Dest.

HVL, which improved to 26-14-3, will play PCA in Tuesday's second match. Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes will square off against either Southfield Christian or Novi Franklin Road in the night's opener.

All four HVL seniors – Madison Dest, Anne St. John, Nikki Alcini and Bethany Schaffer –



Members of the Huron Valley Lutheran volleyball team pose with their third consecutive Class D district championship trophy Thursday night's three-set sweep of Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

ED WRIGHT

See HAWKS, Page B3

Softball clinic

Livonia Churchill will be hosting a series of softball clinics on Nov. 15 (noon to 2:30 p.m.), Nov. 21 (7-9:30 p.m.) and Dec. 6 (noon to 2:30 p.m.) and on four Saturdays in January and February.

The cost of the clinics is \$5 per day and pre-registration is required. For more information, send an email to churchillsoftball@gmail.com or call 734-776-1716.

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DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL SEMIFINAL

Sweep redemption: Chargers bump Spartans

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A volleyball player since she was in the third grade, Livonia Churchill senior Amanda Rybak was bound and determined to make sure Wednesday night's Class A district semifinal showdown against Livonia Stevenson wasn't her last competitive match.

Rybak was a lightning rod in the Chargers' three-set sweep, netting 16 digs while helping to lead Churchill into Friday's 6 p.m. final against host Garden City. The Cougars swept Livonia Franklin 3-0 in the double-header's night-cap.

"This feels good," she said in the wake of her team's emphatic 25-23, 25-14, 25-16 triumph. "We didn't play them this season before tonight, but there's still a strong rivalry there. Knowing that they knocked us out (of the district tournament) the past two years made us play harder."

"Amanda played ferocious defense for us tonight," said Churchill head coach Anna Gatt. "She was all over the floor tonight."

First-year Stevenson coach Lindsey Grillo said she was proud of her team's effort in the season-ending match.

"Yesterday at practice we talked about what Churchill's tendencies were and what they try to do, but unfortunately it didn't transfer over as well as we would have liked," said Grillo. "But like I told the girls after the match, they played really well tonight and with a lot of energy, which is all you can ask when you're in a do-or-die situation."

"After the match I reminded the girls about the positive things they did this year. There were a lot of things to be hap-



Livonia Churchill's volleyball team celebrate a Sam Zonca (left) kill during Wednesday's victory over Stevenson.

py about and that's what they have to remember."

The two-time defending district champions Spartans started strong while vaulting to a quick 7-4 lead in the opening set. After senior Lauren Fallu rallied the Chargers with three straight service points, neither team could establish more than a three-point lead.

Stevenson trailed 21-19 before back-to-back kills by Allison Whitehead and Maura Wasserman deadlocked the score at 21-all and forced Gatt to call a regrouping timeout. Whatever she said worked as the Chargers won four of the next six points - the final one coming on a Natalie Panek kill - to win 25-23.

The second set was never close as Churchill stormed to an 8-2 lead thanks to strong play in the middle by Annie Yost and a series of unforced errors by the Spartans.

The match's most entertaining rally came midway through set

three when Rybak and Rayna Yetts hit the floor for spectacular point-extending digs to set up a Panek kill to put the Chargers ahead 15-8.

Stevenson closed to within 16-12 on one point, but never threatened thereafter.

"Our saying is, 'Do it for the patch' because you get a patch if you win the district and this group has never won one," said Rybak. "We have to keep working hard and playing good defense like we did tonight."

Panek knocked down a team-high 12 kills for the Chargers, who haven't won a district title since 2011. Yetts added 17 assists, 15 digs and 10 kills.

"I liked the way we came out tonight and played with a lot of confidence," said Gatt. "Any time you play a city rival like we were tonight, you have to play with confidence. Stevenson came out and played very well. They wanted it."

Whitehead and Arryn Dochenetz led the Spartans with eight kills each. Wasserman chipped in with four. Carmen Distler also sparkled for Stevenson, contributing 16 assists and two aces. Laura Coleman and Emily Ehreheart combined for eight assists.

Defensive standouts for Stevenson were Dochenetz (14 digs), Allie Strautz (nine digs) and Brittney VanHorn (eight digs.)

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Livonia Stevenson's Elizabeth Scupholm rises for a hit Wednesday night.

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Publish: November 9, 2014 & November 16, 2014

NO. 2974

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260 AND OF TITLE 6, CHAPTER 04 (DOGS) OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 260 of Title 6, Chapter 04 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended as follows:

6.04.260 Kennel operation conditions. All dogs in a kennel shall be provided with sufficient housing to protect them from the elements, commensurate with the breed of dog. No dog shall be so penned, caged, boxed, housed or kept that reasonable, adequate outside runs, pens or yards are not individually available to such dog for his exercise, health and well-being, commensurate with the breed of dog. There shall be a dwelling situated on the premises on which any kennel is located, in which dwelling there shall reside such person or persons as is or are responsible for the care, upkeep and control of dogs contained in such kennel. An owner, employee, or authorized agent of a kennel shall be on site each period of the day that any dog is sheltered, kept, boarded, or maintained at the kennel.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

Section 3. Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Monday, October 20, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Terry Marecki, City Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 21st day of October 2014.

Jack E. Kirksey, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney
Dated: October 21, 2014

Publish: November 9, 2014

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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Blazers scorch Clarenceville in finals

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Clarenceville coach Wendy Merschman burned all her timeouts, but nothing could douse a Livonia Ladywood inferno Friday night in the Class B district girls volleyball final.

The Blazers got 10 kills from 5-foot-10 junior Kayla March to earn their first district crown since 2011 with a convincing 25-4, 25-14, 25-11 over the host Trojans, the two-time Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division champions.

"The Ladywood team played good tonight," said Roy, whose team bowed out at 19-16-4 overall. "We just needed to play a little better on defense. We really didn't get a chance to set up our offense that often, so without that you can't win a game."

Ladywood, which improved to 29-18-4 overall, moves into the regional semifinals against

Ferndale beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Clarenceville.

"I think we did a really good job like keeping ourselves together and we always had our team pumped up," March said. "I think I did a pretty good job cheering on my teammates and keeping a positive attitude on the floor."

Ladywood jumped out to a 19-3 lead in the opening set.

"I thought the energy out of the gate was intense and it started with a big run," Ladywood first-year coach Peter Lau said. "Basically we took the life out of the Clarenceville team. They have talent, but when they're running around playing free balls to us we have enough talent to put the ball back down. And that's exactly what we did."

March also contributed four ace serves and seven digs in the victory.

"Kayla March is being recruited by several schools and she's definitely a force on the court," Lau said. "She's not

only our leading attacker for the season, but also serves very well as well. Complete player."

Junior Haley Moores also had a strong night by adding eight kills and eight digs for the Blazers' cause.

Setter Emily Fradette finished with 33 assists, while Madison Moschetta had a team-best 20 digs.

"Our seniors have been four-year lifers in Blazer volleyball," Lau said. "I really want to compliment Molly McClorey, Emily Fradette and Maddy Moschetta. These seniors have been leaders on-and-off the court. Very proud of our seniors."

Clarenceville, which loses nine seniors to graduation, had just seven total kills. Sarah Curvin had four blocks and four digs, while Hayley Abajay also contributed four digs.

"Actually this is a really good team," Roy said. "We had a lot of fun this year. The girls worked extremely hard. I

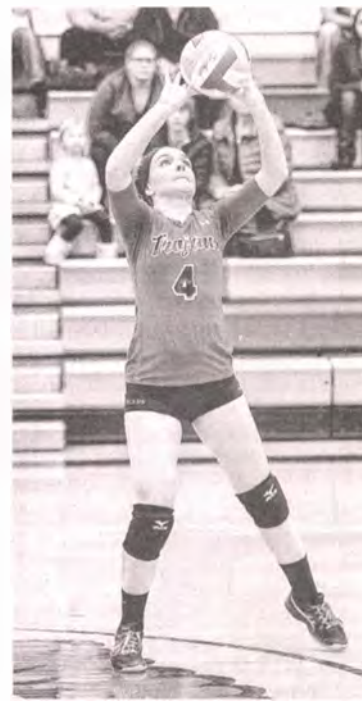
guess we'll move on from here. We'll lose a lot of seniors."

The Ladywood-Ferndale winner will square off against the winner of the other other semifinal match Tuesday between Dearborn Divine Child and Detroit University Prep (set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Clarenceville).

"We've had regional final circled," Lau said. "Divine Child is going to be there. That's obviously a Catholic League foe. We unfortunately had three injuries when we matched up with them the first time. We lost in straight sets, but we're healthy. That's going to be a big difference."

So what will it take for the Blazers to get through the regional?

"Just a lot of hard conditioning in practice and just high energy, high spirits and faith," March said.



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK
Clarenceville's Emily Schwartz (4) makes the pass in Friday's Class B district final setback.

bemons@hometownlife.com

Rain can't dampen Franklin powder-puff action



ED WRIGHT

Livonia Franklin's annual powder-puff football game played Thursday afternoon provided fans with two hours of nonstop action. In the above photo, Baylie Billington (right) barely misses pulling the flag of Vanessa Hummel. In the photo at right, Nicole Kosowski leaps over defender Kelly Kepley for a short gain.



HAWKS

Continued from Page B1

played instrumental roles in the triumphant night as they took turns giving the Chargers fits with their potent blend of all-around skills.

Dest was the catalyst of the Hawks' offensive attack, knocking down 23 kills, while St. John contributed 23 assists, 10 digs and eight kills. Schaffer added 12 digs while junior Ashley Setian had six assists and six service aces.

"Our four seniors have grown up together, playing volleyball with or against one another, so it was nice to see them earn this championship tonight" said Mike Dest. "They've all been key parts of all three of our district championships, but especially this year. They've really worked hard to get to this point."

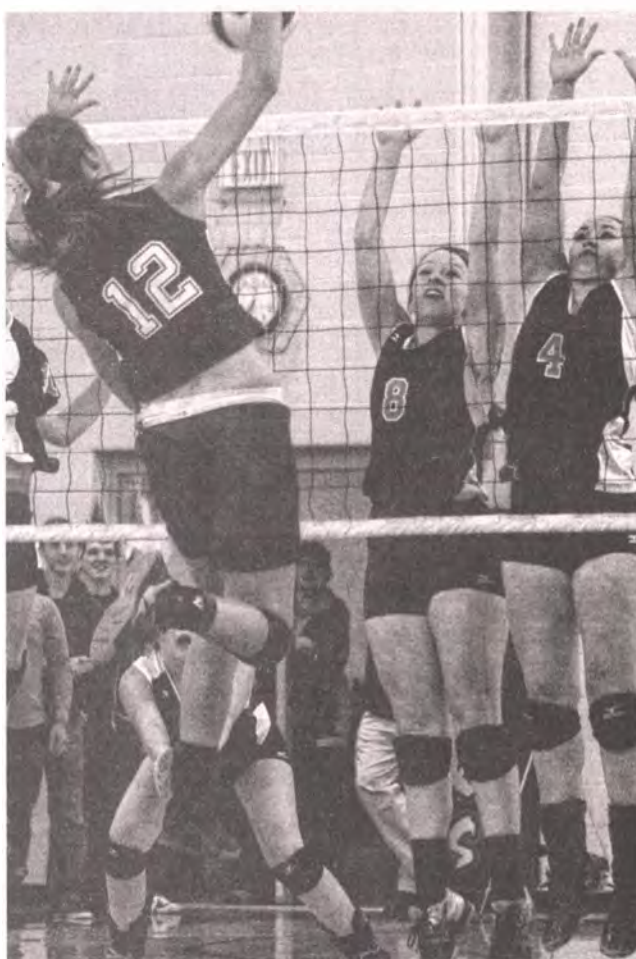
Alcini assuredly spoke for her three senior teammates when she said Thursday night's crowning achievement was the most satisfying of the past three.

"All three years have been a great experience, but being a senior and playing a bigger role than I have in the past definitely makes this year the most memorable," Alcini said.

The Hawks revved their engines from the get-go and cruised to a dominating 25-8 victory in the opening stanza. Dest piled up nine of her 23 kills in the opening set, most off of pillow-soft sets from St. John.

But just when it looked like the match would be a breeze, Inter-City countered with a strong response in set two when it rode strong inside play from Makayla Thoune and a series of acrobatic defensive saves to a 24-22 lead.

Facing game point, Dest called a time out to



ED WRIGHT

Huron Valley Lutheran players (from left) Samantha Golchuk (10), Nikki Alcini (8) and Anne St. John elevate to block a hit by Inter-City Baptist's Makayla Thoune.

give his players a chance to refocus.

"When we came out of the time out, we knew we had to play as hard as we could and get the job done, no matter what it took," said St. John.

"Anne's our best setter and Madison is our best hitter, so we decided to go with our strength and we got the ball down twice to tie it at 24," Dest recounted. "The girls did an outstanding job of executing what we were trying to do."

St. John then closed out the dramatic comeback by delivering back-to-back aces.

The third set was anything but a cake walk as well for the Hawks, who surged to a 4-0 lead before

the Chargers battled back to seize a 9-8 lead.

A Dest kill knotted the game at 9-all before Setian strung together five straight service points to give HVL a lead it would never relinquish. Things got interesting at the end when the Chargers sliced a 24-18 deficit to 24-22, but the hosts prevailed.

The Hawks managed to hold Thoune in check for the most part thanks to spot-on defensive efforts from Alcini and Schaffer.

"We knew she was a good hitter and that we had to play hard to stop her," Schaffer said of Thoune. "We have a really good defensive team, so that definitely helped."

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Garden City knocks off Franklin in quest for first district title since '07

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

To use a volleyball term, Garden City was "kill-Lynn" it during Wednesday night's Class A district semifinal sweep of visiting Livonia Franklin.

Playing against a team it had never swept, the Cougars thrived thanks to strong front-row play from junior Allie Lynn (team-high 20 kills) and senior Holly Sayger (10 kills) and nearly perfect serve-reception (34-for-35), GC advanced to Friday's 6 p.m. final on its own court with a 25-10, 25-21, 25-15 triumph over the Patriots.

"We were very focused tonight," said Sayger, when asked for the key to her team's solid performance. "We really wanted to get to Friday, so everybody was on the same page and that pulled us through."

"We made sure we didn't take (Franklin) lightly. They have a good team so we knew we had to be prepared. Playing on our own floor I think we were a little more pumped up than we would have been somewhere else."

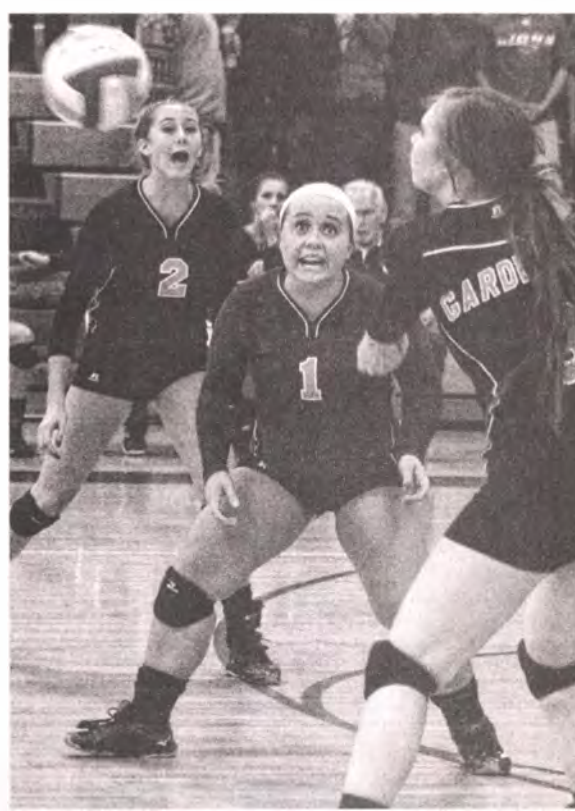
One of the many Cougars who provided a victory-igniting spark to the night was junior Heather Pennington, who was 13-for-13 from the service line – and all of her point-starters were sharp and forceful.

"Before this week Heather was about serving at about a 40 to 50 percent rate," said GC head coach John Pace. "But we've really been working on it and she's been serving amazingly well this week. It shows you what confidence can do."

The Cougars' attack was pin-point accurate most of the night as they followed the pre-match game plan to a "T," Pace revealed.

"I saw Franklin play against John Glenn a few weeks back and they were a little different tonight," said Pace, whose team improved to 31-12-3. "But we knew a couple of their tendencies and we had an idea how to play against them and the girls held it to."

"We wanted to work their back corner and that's what Allie and Holly did. We started seeing spots in their defense and telling the hitters where the spots were and how their blocks were set up. We started hitting outside



ED WRIGHT

Garden City's Holly Sayger executes a pass as teammates Taylor Bejma and Allie Lynn deliver instructions during Wednesday's victory over Livonia Franklin.



ED WRIGHT

Livonia Franklin's Jessica McNally tips the ball over the net during Wednesday's match against Garden City.

their block and into the 61 seam. They did a nice job because it had to be just off their block or the ball was going to be right at a player. We executed perfectly."

Leading the Cougars' defensive charger were Lynn and Taylor Bejma, both of whom scooped up 12 would-be kills, and Sayger, who registered nine digs.

Both GC setters were stellar: Hannah Vera-Burgos dished out 16 assists while Alex Roffi contributed 11 helpers.

After trailing by a decisive margin most of the first set, the

Patriots showed a lot of spunk in the middle stanza and trailed just 22-21 thanks to inspired play from seniors Kelly Newton and Sara Cramton. GC notched the game's final three points thanks to kills from Pennington and Lynn and a set-ending hitting error by the Patriots.

The Cougars maintained the momentum in set three by roaring to a 5-0 lead that was sparked by strong serving from Sayger and back-to-back throw-downs from Lynn, who also contributed a point-achieving block.

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Trojans, Blazers coast to semifinal wins

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Livonia Clarenceville and Livonia Ladywood cruised through the semifinal round of the Class B district volleyball tournament Wednesday evening at Clarenceville.

The host Trojans routed Detroit Community, 25-7, 25-10, 25-7, in their tune-up match for the Friday final, and the Blazers trounced Redford Union in the second half of the doubleheader, 25-2, 25-11, 25-7.

Clarenceville got a lot of serving practice as it recorded 37 aces in a match that had very few back-and-forth volleys. The Hurricanes had no offense, and the ball rarely came back over the net.

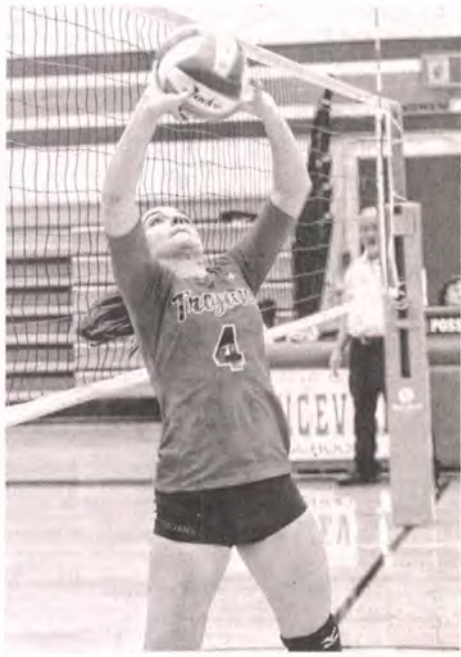
"Our serving was good tonight," Clarenceville coach Wendy Merschman said. "(The Trojans) were consistent and kept their serves in. We were trying to hit all areas of the floor. I think they did a good job of that.

"There wasn't much defense to be had there. When (the Hurricanes) did hit the ball, Sarah (Curvin) put it down and had some real good hits."

Lindsey Fosth and Emily Schwartz, who was 18-of-19 on serves, had a team-best eight aces each for the Trojans (19-15-4). Lindsey Cairns served seven and Madison Van Dyke six.

Hayley Abajay and Jillian Bunker added four aces each. Curvin also had five kills, Fosth and Cairns four each; Schwartz had 12 kill assists.

Ladywood (28-18-4) had better com-

Clarenceville's Emily Schwartz sets the ball.
TOM BEAUDOIN

petition from and more volleys with Redford Union, but it still dominated the match.

Six-foot-1 outside hitter Kayla March was unstoppable and pounded 16 kills. Molly McClorey had seven and Haley Moores five.

The Blazers had a good many aces (17), too, but not as many as the Trojans. Moores, who served the first 18 points of the first game, had nine, Emily Fra-

Redford Union's Haley Hebner knocks the ball over the net.
TOM BEAUDOIN

dette three and Colleen Barnes two. Madison Moschetta had a team-high 21 digs and Fradette 30 kill assists.

"I'm blessed to have two outside hitters (March and Moores) who can terminate on a regular basis, and

they're both juniors and three-year varsity players," Lau said, adding both will play at the college level.

"It starts with them and then we have a strong middle (McClorey) and right-side attacker. Then, the defense can't key on the outside hitters.

"We played well; we can play better, and I'm expecting that on Friday night."

The district final will match the Western Wayne Athletic Conference champion Trojans against the Blazers of the rugged Catholic League Central Division.

Clarenceville is a senior-dominated team that features a strong front court of Curvin, Fosth and Lindsey Cairns with Vandyke rotating into the game. Mia Sampson and Schwartz are solid players in the back row.

"We'll go to practice tomorrow; we'll dig in and do the things we need to do and get ready for Ladywood," Merschman said. "They looked good. They have a real good offense, and we'll have to play good defense to keep up with them.

"And we're going to need a block (opposite March). They have some very good players. I think we do, too, and if we prepare we'll be right in there."

Lau said the Blazers have been preparing for this moment all season with their tough league schedule.

"We go up against tough competition every night or at least once a week," Lau said. "When we play some teams we're supposed to beat, we beat them. It's that mentality."

TITLE

Continued from Page B1

Now 27-16-4, Churchill heads to Birmingham Marian on Tuesday for a regional semifinal showdown against Farmington Mercy.

"This is something I've wanted since my sophomore year, so it feels unbelievable," said Churchill senior libero Lauren St. Pierre. "We were all on tonight - offense, defense, setting. Everybody played awesome."

The Chargers' unquestioned catalyst during the championship performance was junior all-around star Rayna Yetts, who turned in a statistical dream night with 19 kills, 20 assists and 12 digs.

"Rayna played out of her mind," praised Gatt. "She was the one who kept providing us with the energy we needed to get through the tough times. She played with what we call 'The Look.' She played with fire and just kept swinging away."

Panek attack

Yetts' sweet-swinging front-row partner was junior outside hitter Nat-

alie Panek, who threw down 12 kills, a couple of which may have left indentations in the Garden City gymnasium floor.

"I wanted to win this so bad," said Panek. "We've been saying this whole week to do it for 'the patch' [the district patch that members of the winning team get for their letter jackets]. Once we won game one, we needed to keep the momentum. We got down a couple times, but we'd bring it right back up.

"This is the best we've played all season. We're on a streak right now and it feels great. We've been trying to bring the program back up after the big seniors left a couple years ago and we finally did it. It feels awesome."

The match couldn't have started any smoother for the Cougars (31-13-3), who rolled to a quick 10-2 lead in set one behind the textbook serving of junior Heather Pennington, who ignited an early five-point run with two aces.

However once the Chargers got their act together, they rarely trailed the rest of the match and ultimately proved to have too much firepower for their hosts.

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page B1

quarterback Brian Alsobrooks (8-of-16 passing, 148 yards, two TDs) to senior slot receiver Shakur Lockett moved the Chargers down to the 2-yard line. Alsobrooks, on third down, wheeled around the right edge to find the end zone.

This time, it was Canton that responded when Sanders scored on a carbon-copy run, this time from 19 yards out. Both early TDs were scored after he made sharp diagonal cuts toward the front-left pylon of the end zone.

"We kind of started as a track meet in the beginning," Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo said. "They got the ball first and we had to keep answering scores and answering scores."

The Chargers let one get away on their next possession, when an Alsobrooks deep pass intended for senior Tim Dulin could not be hauled in.

Canton then got the ball back and made it a 21-7 game with 10:18 left in the half. Sanders slashed his way down the left sideline for 64 yards, down to the Churchill 6-yard line. He would have scored if not for a diving tackle by sophomore Jamal Allen.

But that only delayed Sanders from scoring by one play.

"He makes some things happen," Baechler said about Sanders. "He's not the fastest kid, but he's quick and has great balance.

"We run a system, sometimes our right halfback has the big day, sometimes our left halfback, sometimes the full-back. Tonight was his night."

Churchill showed some of the bounce-back toughness displayed all season when

senior running back Paul Romain (10 carries, 80 yards, two TDs) answered with a 58-yard scoring run to cut the deficit to 21-14 with 9:30 left in the half.

He waited for a hole to open up on the left side and shot through it, all the way down the field.

The teams traded touchdowns later in the second quarter, with Canton senior running back Brian Newton (19 carries, 89 yards, three TDs) scoring on a 2-yard run.

On the Chargers' subsequent possession, Alsobrooks connected with senior receiver Dylan Padgett for a 63-yard completion and Romain then scored from the 4-yard line to make it 28-21.

Before halftime, Canton senior quarterback Greg Williams completed a 4-yard TD strike to senior tight end Nolan Gilo.

With Churchill getting the ball to open the second half, down only 35-21, DeFillippo knew the first possession was crucial to any comeback.

"Being it was 35-21 at the half and we had the ball first, we had to get a score to turn it into a game again," DeFillippo said. "And we weren't able to do it."

Instead, Alsobrooks was picked off by Canton senior Robert Guajardo near the Chiefs' 25-yard line.

Canton took advantage of that mistake by marching 75 yards in six plays, scoring on Turfe's 1-yard run with 7:43 remaining in the third. That opened up a 42-21 edge.

Newton added a 7-yard touchdown early in the fourth and the Chiefs made it a 35-point spread when Sanders scored, also from the 7.

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COLLEGE SOCCER

MU keeper stars in playoff win vs. Davenport

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Blaire Schmalenberg might have felt like she was playing the lead actress in a Steven Seagal movie.

The 5-foot-11 Madonna University junior goalkeeper, was certainly *Under Siege*, but stood tall with a career-high 12 saves Wednesday as the host Crusaders knocked off No. 25-ranked Davenport University, 2-0, in the quarterfinal round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs.

"I think that we came into the game really prepared," said Schmalenberg, a former basketball player from Warren Cousino who underwent three knee surgeries during her high school career. "And we knew exactly what we were going to do going in. It's been our goal all season to beat Davenport, so there's nothing that we wanted more."

With the victory, MU moves into a semifinal matchup Saturday on the road against top seed University of Northwestern Ohio (16-1-1), the WHAC regular season champion and No. 9 in the latest NAIA rankings.

The first meeting between the two teams (Oct. 1) didn't go well for MU with Northwestern Ohio rolling to a 6-0 victory.

"I think if how we play like we did today, that anything can happen in the tournament," Schmalenberg said. "So as long as we stay positive and work together as a team, anything can happen."

The Crusaders, who improved

to 12-6-1 overall, took only three shots on goal against Davenport goalkeeper Michelle Marcus, but two went in.

At 6:41 of the first half, senior forward Ashley Parent (Amherstberg, Ontario) notched her 12th goal of the season. The first-team All-WHAC selection pounced on a loose ball in the box after a corner kick and deposited a shot into the upper left corner.

And at the 36:49 mark, senior forward Katlyn Krysiak (Madison Heights Lamphere) scored her team-leading 13th goal of the season on an unassisted effort when she two-touched around the Panthers' defense and bent a shot inside the post from the right side.

From there, the Crusaders went into a Seagal-like defensive mode finding themselves in the *Belly of the Beast*.

But Schmalenberg was up to the challenge in the second half making 10 saves.

"Blair was amazing today," fifth-year MU coach Jeff Hodgson said. "She saved everything and kept everything out of there, like a force beam keeping everything out of net. She did great."

And there was plenty of motivation for the fourth-seeded Crusaders going into the match.

"That was our biggest motivation knowing that they ended our season the last three years, so there was nothing more than to end their season on our home turf for once," Schmalenberg said.

And with the exception of a few counter-attacks, the Crusad-

ers found themselves in a *Fire Down Below* for a majority of the 90 minutes.

"We had to keep on eye on number seven (Paige Eli) - their player - she creates a lot for them," Hodgson said. "We had to be strong defensively supporting each other. If you do that against them it's going to be harder and with our two good forwards up top, with a couple of breaks, we'll score."

The loss ends Davenport's season at 10-5-3 overall.

"The girls were looking to this for a couple of years now ... they've eliminated us three years in a row, so they were fired up for the big game," Hodgson said. "They played well, but obviously with Davenport you can obviously see how good they are. I think the girls played very hard and I'm proud of them."

Postseason honors

The WHAC announced their postseason honors this week with Krysiak earning first-team all-conference, while Parent and senior defender Mo DeGrandis (LaSalle, Ontario) both made honorable mention.

DeGrandis, Krysiak and Schmalenberg were joined on the WHAC All-Academic team by midfielder senior Morgan Himanek (Warren Regina), junior defender Dayna Meloche (Amherstberg, Ontario) and junior redshirt forward Kelly Capoccia (Livonia).

DeGrandis was also named to the WHAC Champions of Character team.

COLLEGE

Schoolcraft women cagers to tip off season

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College's 2014-15 women's basketball team plans to go with the flow - literally.

That's because second-year Lady Ocelots head coach Kara Kinzer will often have five guards out on the floor who can run and gun.

"We have a high skill level," Kinzer said. "I give the green light to pretty much every girl on this team to shoot the ball."

When the MCCA season opens at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday against Jackson College, Kinzer will start a quintet of guards.

They include freshmen T'era Nesbitt, Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm), Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial) and Rikki Sherdt and sophomore Sara Gammons.

"It's pretty much five guards out there," said Kinzer, whose team is looking to improve upon last year's 7-11 mark.

Out of the quintet, the Lady Ocelots will rely on Tolbert, Bland and Nesbitt to spark the offense with their perimeter shooting.

"Elise Tolbert is probably one of our best shooters, with Ashley Bland," Kinzer said. "T'era Nesbitt is a shooter that can curl off a screen, catch and shoot the ball."

All will handle the ball whenever necessary, but Kinzer said Gammons brings a full season of experience at point guard for the Lady Ocelots.

"(Gammons) averaged 38 minutes a game last season," Kinzer said. "So she has tons of experience handling the ball."

"If we get into a situation where we need her to handle the ball, she'll be comfortable with it. But I give trust to anyone on the court handling the ball."

Opponents shouldn't assume Schoolcraft's smallish lineup will give them open paths around the rim, however.

Kinzer noted that 5-6 Sherdt, from Ypsilanti Lincoln, is as tough in the paint as they come.

"She'll probably lead the league in rebounding," Kinzer said about Sherdt. "She's one of the toughest players I've seen in a long time. She's a hard worker."

Forwards march

There also are a few forwards who hope to help the cause.

One of them is 5-9 freshman forward and Livonia Churchill product Stefani Polkowski. Although she won't open the season in the starting lineup, she continues to improve and impress in her bid to see minutes.

"She's going to be working in the post for us when we're in our four-out, one-in offense," Kinzer said. "Since the summer when I signed her, she's got better each and every week."

"If she keeps working hard on the boards, she'll be staying in the game."

Alyssa Saenz and Breiana Allen are other options to help down low.

"Alyssa (Saenz) just joined our team a few weeks ago," Kinzer said. "Right now, she's learning the system. She'll be gradually getting more and more time."

"Breiana, she's one of those players that has very high skill level, but doesn't know she has it yet. She does things on the court and you're like, 'Did that come out of her?'"

She'll spark team

Schoolcraft's lineup will get a positive jolt in the coming weeks when sophomore guard Jessica Parry joins the squad as soon as the women's soccer season concludes.

"She hasn't been practicing with us because she's been in soccer," Kinzer said. "But last year she came off the bench half the season and then ended up starting the last eight games."

"She's a crazy, hard worker on defense. She's very intense and I'm so excited for her to join the team, because I think she's just going to bring our level of defense up."

Kinzer said the team will need time to jell, but added that it is a good thing to open up with four home games.

"Because we have eight freshmen listed there, I know there's going to be mistakes," she said. "I know that's going to happen. As long as we learn from them, move on and keep playing hard, then we'll succeed."

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Local artists exhibit, sell their works at new holiday shows

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Gerald Neikirk has transformed 4,800 pieces of wood into polished, hand-crafted pens, wine stoppers, scoops and other useable items over the past three and a half years.

Every piece fashioned on Neikirk's lathe is unique. "A lot of turners duplicate. They have a duplicating machine they can put on a lathe and it turns consistently. If they sell wine stoppers that look alike, they're duplicating," said Neikirk, who works from his basement studio in Farmington. "I don't duplicate. All of my pieces are 100 percent unique."

Like Neikirk, Carrie Stanley creates only one-of-a-kind art. The Garden City woman pours heart, soul and often prayer into the silver jewelry she crafts as memorial keepsakes for her clients. Pieces bear the fingerprints of their deceased loved ones and sometimes even cremated remains are rolled into the silver clay before it goes into the kiln.

"Everything is custom-made, hand-carved," Stanley said.

Both artists will bring their works to new local holiday bazaars this month. Neikirk will be on hand for the first Holiday Art Fair, presented by the Guild of Artists and Artisans and Ypsilanti Convention & Visitors Bureau, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Eastern Michigan Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt, Ypsilanti. Admission is \$5; no charge for children 12 and under. The show will feature 100 jury-selected artists with jewelry, glass, ceramics, wood, painting, photography, fiber and more.

Stanley will be among local artists and merchants participating in the inaugural Hunger-Free Holidays Bazaar, 6-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Suburban Collection Show-

place, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. The event, a fundraiser for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan, will include a strolling dinner and the artisan marketplace. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Buy tickets at gcfb.org/holiday.

Wood turning at home

The Holiday Art Fair kicks off Neikirk's busy season. He has spent 65 days this year at weekend art fairs and farmers markets and countless hours in his home studio with his golden retriever at his side, turning out items for sale at shows and through his website, jerrysnaturedesign.com. His wife helps with some of the fairs, but Neikirk says he is in charge of everything from buying wood to filling orders.

The retiree considers wood turning a hobby, rather than a full-time job.

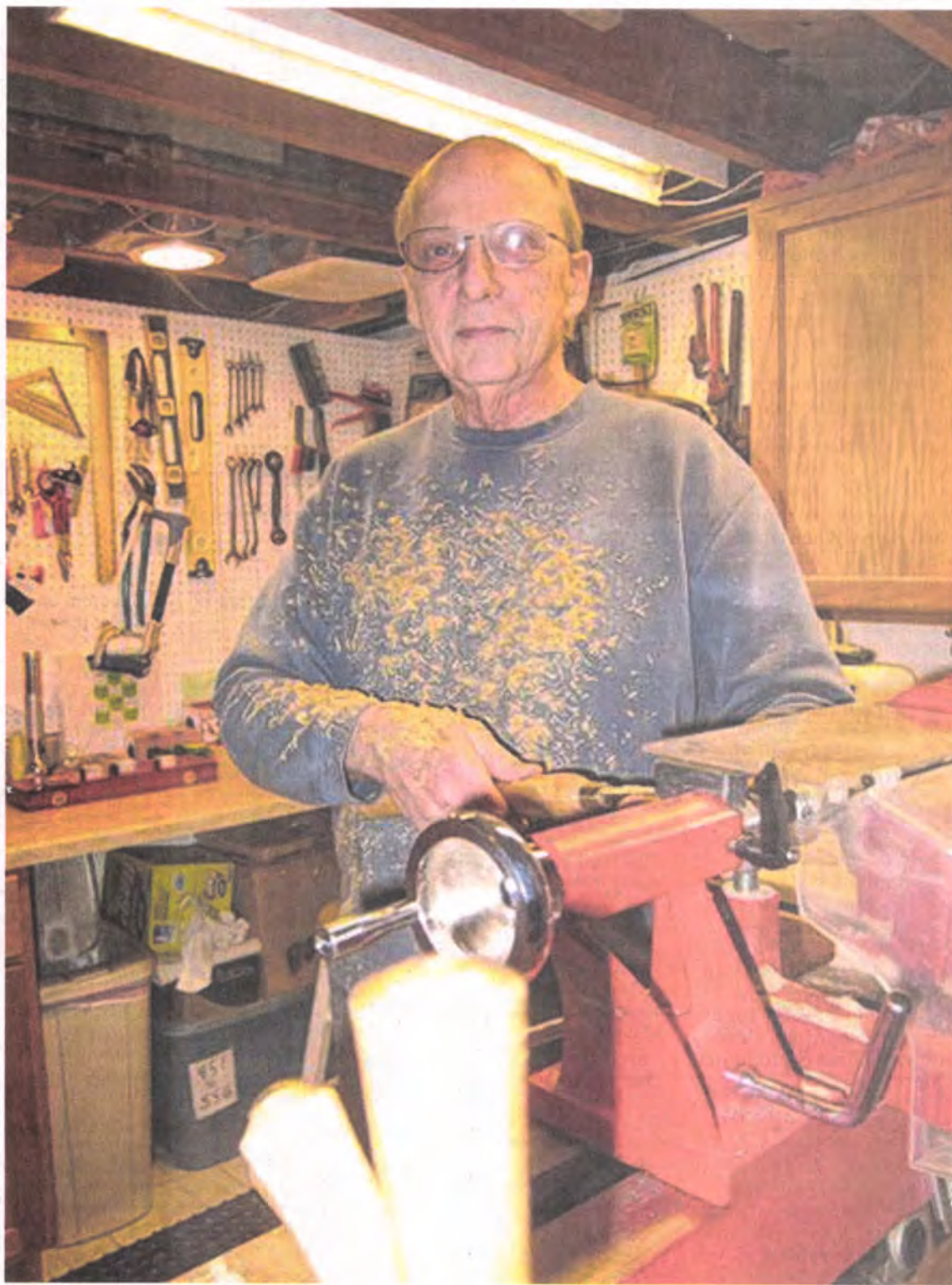
"I don't make a lot of money doing it. Everyone tells me my prices are too low, but I don't pay myself. I don't put my time into the price of the product. If I did, a pen would cost \$75. I price because I enjoy it. It's a hobby for me but I'm not losing money on it. I definitely cover my costs," he said. "I sold 1,000 items this year."

Neikirk started turning wood after an acquaintance showed him how to use a lathe to create a pen. He made one pen and then took a class, where he made his second pen.

"And away it went. The next thing I knew I was ordering lathes."

Fingerprint jewelry

Stanley also launched her jewelry studio without formal fine art training. In 2010, after being told her daughter, Leiryn, had just a few months to live, Stanley went in search of a jewelry maker to capture the youngster's fingerprints in a keepsake accessory. Leiryn, 6, was diagnosed with a malig-



Gerald Neikirk runs his Jerry's Nature Design from his home studio in Farmington. He'll be on hand for the first annual Holiday Art Show, Nov. 15-16 in Ypsilanti.

See HOLIDAY, Page B7

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Rest of the story: Are top-load machines all washed up?

Can you imagine some 18 years ago when I was reading a trade magazine and the headline jumped out at me telling me that there would not be any more top-load washing machines available next year?

Now, here is a guy who makes his living selling top loaders and repairing them and all of a sudden this would be no more. The story said that front loaders were going to take over the market and that Maytag couldn't make them fast enough. The energy savings and wash performance would cause top loaders to go the way of wringer washers. At the time I had already written about the new front loaders and I wasn't too kind to the design of this new prod-



uct. It wasn't really a new product because Westinghouse sold this washer back in the 1950s and consumers just loved it. What I simply said about this new design was that you can't wash your hands in a cup full of hot water and you can't wash clothes in a few gallons of water. I guess you can but I don't believe homeowners will be happy with the results. I also said that it would retain water and cause an odor problem and boy, was I correct in that assumption.

Maytag produced a few millions of these front loaders before they

announced a recall to correct a mold and odor problem. Their recall was so ineffective that Ruth Spencer of WDIV didn't even receive notice on her five-year-old Maytag even though she is a consumer reporter on television. At that point in the history of front loaders I made the statement that the washer is a living laboratory and odor comes from bacteria that is not suitable to a healthy washing machine.

Complaints, compliments

In the past 18 years I have received a few thousand emails from consumers who are not happy with their front loaders and many have switched back to the top loaders. Oh, yes, I do

receive compliments from owners about their front loaders but they are not many. Another thing about these washers that people complained about was having to bend down to do the wash so the manufacturers sold an extra — a wooden stand to place under the machine. They were so flimsy that the washer would vibrate all over the place, so the manufacturer redesigned the suspension system. Well, that's just about enough said except one last thing. I have one of these front loaders in my house and my darling Valorie has some choice words to describe its performance, but nothing I can print. You may ask why the big dummy has one in his own house. Valorie said that I wrote so negatively

about the Maytag Neptune, that I should buy one and put it through the test. I did purchase one seven years ago and the drum bearing is starting to squeal and there goes a \$600 repair. You'll have to trust me on this one folks, I don't like front loaders. Easy enough to find out the comments by browsing the comment sections of online washer reviews.

Today's top loader

Last week, I read an article which stated that as of the fourth quarter of 2009, 45 percent of washers sold in the U.S. were front loaders. Today that figure is just 29.5 percent and I predict it will drop a lot more in the next few years. People do catch on after a while that millions of dollars spent on advertising does

create a desire to purchase things. Repeat the same message over and over and look what it did for front load washers. Now that the top loader is becoming the way to go, you must use care and smarts to purchase the washer that does the job properly. I am not too happy with the top loader of today because in my opinion, it doesn't clean like the old days. Remember, the washer you purchased back when lasted many years. Today, the average life span of a washer is 10 years. Can you believe it? Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com.

Volunteer clowns gather for pre-Thanksgiving Day party

The pre-Thanksgiving Parade festivities are in full force. The Parade Company early risers, including Eric Larson, the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation chair, attended the 15th annual Pancake Breakfast recently at the Parade Company. Larson also was at the eighth annual Distinguished Grand Jester Reception at the Reserve at Big Rock Chophouse in Birmingham a few weeks earlier.

"This has become one heckuva social event of the year," Larson told Distinguished Clown Corps (DCC) members which, this year, should have record involvement of almost 190.

Livonia resident and former Grand Jester



John Landis is one of the longest-standing Corps members, having participated for 26 years.

"It's all about the people. I keep coming back because of the camaraderie," said Landis, who sponsored this year's Distinguished Grand Jester, Rick DiBartolomeo. DiBartolomeo is a second-generation clown and seven-year Corps veteran.

Next up is Hob Noble Gobble, the family-friendly bash of the year, which will be held 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Ford Field, in Detroit. Ford Motor Co. is once again the



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST
Clowning around at the Distinguished Grand Jester Reception are Rick Miller (left), Maggie Prong, Clownie, Mitchell Perlin, and Sandee Rellinger. Perlin, of Farmington Hills, has been a volunteer clown in the Thanksgiving Day parade for eight years.

presenting sponsor. Hob Noble Gobblers wear their finest black tie clothes or clown ruffles and enjoy a crazy, fun evening of carnival games and rides, delicious and decadent food, prize


giveaways and dancing all night long. Tickets are \$350; \$200 for 6 and under. A table for 12 costs \$4,200. The gala always sells out. Money raised benefits the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation. Call



Livonia resident and former Grand Jester John Landis (left) is a long-standing member of the Detroit Clown Corps. He and Distinguished Grand Jester Rick DiBartolomeo enjoy the eighth annual Distinguished Grand Jester Reception in Birmingham.


313-923-7400, Ext. 244, to make a reservation. This event is not to be missed.

Contact Julie Yolles at socialscenejulie@gmail.com or leave a message at 248-642-9465.



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HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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HOLIDAY

Continued from Page B5

nant cancer at 18 months. When she couldn't find the perfect piece, she decided to make her own. "I learned the whole thing through trial and error and YouTube videos and online tutorials," said Stanley, who is married and has three sons, in addition to Leiryn. She launched Elle Bird Studios in 2011, and a non-profit arm called Imprints of the Heart that offers fingerprint jewelry to families with a child that has a terminal condition or has died. Memorial jewelry is available to all customers, although Imprints of the Heart offers it free to families. Stanley meets customers in their home, the hospital, a hospice or funeral home. "For all of the deceased or soon-to-be deceased persons, we take a finger, hand and footprint. The family is present and I walk them through rolling out the silver." Prints are made directly into the silver. Not all fingerprint jewelry is used as a memorial keepsake, with prints taken from deceased or seriously-ill loved ones. Customers can order fingerprint pieces through private appointments or book "Playdate" parties where guests shop for jewelry. Children are invited. Customers can book an "Artfully Charmed" party to create their own wine charms, bookmarks, shoe-lace tags, zipper pulls, charms and pendants, carving words, pictures or symbols into their handmade works before they are hardened in a kiln. "Rather than painting on canvas, I bring a kiln and you make a piece of jewelry," she said. Stanley will bring all items to make fingerprint jewelry to the Gleaners event. For more about her work, visit ellebirdstudios.com.

Local artists win top honors at fall exhibit in Livonia

Artists from Farmington Hills, Livonia, Novi and other local communities won top prizes in the recent Visual Arts Association of Livonia Fall Art Exhibition.

The first-place award was to Gail Churchill of Dearborn for her acrylic painting *September Afternoon*.

Her art journey began in childhood in Toledo, Ohio, where she grew up. She took art classes in grade school and high school and won an award to study at the Toledo Museum of Art. Churchill earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in print making and lithography.

After college, she continued to study art abroad including a stint in Florence, Italy, which she said was a "life changing" experience. After moving to Columbus, Ohio, she continued painting and met a group of women painters. They traveled together to Provence, France, several times to do plein air painting.

When she moved to Michigan, she found her way to the Birmingham Bloomfield Arts Center, and eventually to the VAAL club. She studied with Edie Joppich, Janet Kondziela, and Jim Markle. Although Churchill has won several honorable mention awards,



Gail Churchill of Dearborn won first place for her painting in the Visual Arts Association of Livonia fall exhibit.



Barbara Rex of Farmington Hills painted this scene from a photo taken in Maine.



Sue Mallick used real leaves to create a special effect in her painting.

this is her first "first place" award.

The second-place award was presented to Barbara Gage Rex of Farmington Hills for her impressionistic water media, *Bill's Favorite ... Near Lubec*. Lubec is in Maine and it is the furthest point east in the United States. This is an area that Rex and her husband have visited. She painted the scene from a photograph. Rex started out years ago working in

arts and crafts, but more recently has taken up the fine arts.

The third-place award went to Sue Mallick, an award-winning painter, for her painting *Fallen Leaves* done in Tech Ink. She used real leaves to create a special effect in the painting.

After graduating from The Center for Creative Studies in 1980, Mallick worked in graphic arts until 2005, when she began working in fine art

full time.

The judge awarded five awards for Honorable Mention. They include: Dorothy Amberger of Livonia for *Wilderness*, Allison Kardell of Novi for *Nature's Song*, Kathleen Rodak of Farmington Hills for *Take a Hike*, Chuck Schroeder of Livonia for *Point Aux Barques*, and Jerry Valentine of Livonia for *Free Fly*.

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia is dedicated to advancing knowledge and appreciation of the creative arts by offering studio classes and twice-yearly exhibits, all open to the public.

For more information, call 734-838-1204 or visit the VAAL website at www.vaalart.org.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

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

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.com or at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile.

» Living with White-Tailed Deer workshop is for all ages and will run 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14. Includes storytime and deer-related crafts for kids and take-home resources for adults. Meet at the nature center. \$3 per person.

» Jean Smith of Old Winery Farmer's Market will show

how to dry your own herbs and use them to make a flavored butter, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the park nature center. \$5 per person. Register by Nov. 14.

Plymouth Nursery

» Annual Christmas Extravaganza open house runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 15-16 at the Nursery, 9900 Ann Arbor Road W, Plymouth. See themed Christmas trees, including an upside-down fairy tree, win door prizes and enjoy refreshments. Free

» Girls Night Out runs 6-8 p.m. Nov. 21. The first 50 women will get goodie bags. Includes shopping, vendors, door prizes, drawing for Nutcracker tickets, refreshments. Call

734-453-5500 for more information.

English Gardens

» Learn how to make a bow, 10 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15; 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9 and 16; at all stores and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Ann Arbor, Dearborn Heights and West Bloomfield locations. \$5, in addition to the cost of ribbon purchased at the store.

» Make a Christmas wreath 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at all stores. Cost is \$5 and includes a free 24-inch pre-lit wreath for all who register. Participants will shop for decorations from the store and receive step-by-step instructions on creating a decorated wreath to

take home.

» Take a workshop in creating a holiday porch pot at 7 p.m. and learn to plant a paperwhite bulb garden at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at stores in Ann Arbor, Dearborn Heights and West Bloomfield. Cost is \$5 for each session.

Pre-registration for workshops is required. Visit englishgardens.com. 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.

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

To place your ad here contact us at careers@hometownlife.com or call 1-800-579-7355

<p>Help Wanted - General</p> <p>APPOINTMENT SETTER Make your own Schedule! Work from Home PT or FT. Schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart, call Mon-Fri. 9-5. 734-728-4572 or email: phonerworkinfo@aol.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted - General</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Part-Time, Experienced Needed for fast paced office in Plymouth. Fax resume to: 734-453-8223</p>	<p>Help Wanted - General</p> <p>Drivers: Penske Logistics Hiring Event Penske Logistics hiring drivers for dedicated customer No- Touch Routes. Drivers will average \$60k annually! Plus, \$3000 Sign-on Bonus! Plus, End of the year raffle of Ford 150 lease! Plus, Quarterly Bonu- sus! - And, Brand New equip- ment! Can't Apply Online, come see us Sunoco Station on 21980 Stibley Rd., Brownstown, MI 48192, or call: 855-395-6630</p>	<p>Help Wanted - General</p> <p>MECHANIC LARGE EQUIPMENT Exp'd. MECHANIC for Livonia warehouse. Email resume: mksapan@amservices.com or fax: 734-793-1934</p>	<p>Help Wanted - General</p> <p>TEACHER For Livonia preschool. 12 college child development credits req. Full or Part-Time. livoniactcpreschool@gmail.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted - Medical</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT - CERTIFIED Part time. Exp. required. Week- ends & holidays for busy inter- nal medical office in Livonia. Call Wendy 248-476-4724, btwn. 10-2pm.</p>	<p>Help Wanted - Sales</p> <p>CONTACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST Engineering Consulting Firm Part-Time, hrlly. Pay + per- formance bonus. B2B event invites/database updates. Email resume to: smz@structuretec.com</p>	<p>REACH MORE potential employees with an O&E Media RECRUITMENT PACKAGE!</p> <p>1-800-579-7355 hometownlife.com</p>	<p>IT'S ALL ABOUT RESULTS!</p> <p>Every week, we bring buyers & sellers, employers & employees, and landlords & tenants together. You can rely on O&E Media Classifieds to deliver results.</p> <p>800-579-7355</p>
<p>AUTOMOTIVE SELLERS BUICK GMC Division of Sellers Auto Group immediate openings for the following positions: •Fully Certified General Repair Technician. •Quick Lube Tech •Utility Porter Excellent pay and benefits 401K. Automotive News top 100 Dealerships to work for. Apply in person or email to tombrown@sellersgm.com</p>	<p>DIRECT CARE: Staffing Agency seeks caring staff to assist and support individuals to live in their homes as independently as possible by assisting with recreation, daily living needs, transporta- tion and other duties/services. Positions available in Canton/ Westland Area. Contact: 734-722-4890 Ext #17 or apply on-line www.ahscomserv.com/</p>	<p>DRIVERS "START at .48 CPM all miles *PLUS Fuel & Safety Bonuses *Excellent 401K *Medical, Dental, Vision *No Touch Freight *Respect 419-705-8371 mcstrucks.com</p>	<p>MILL HAND, Toolmaker for precision detail milling. Must have minimum 2 years' experience in milling for gage shop in S. Oakland Co. Not a production facility. Top Wages, day shift, good benefits. You must have own precision tools & be proficient in math. This is a great oppor- tunity for right candidate. Drug Test. Email resume to: jims@mcprep.com</p>	<p>WAREHOUSE/ SHIPPING RECEIVING Full-Time. Electrical Co. in Can- ton. Misc shipping & receiving duties. Be energetic & dependa- ble. Forklift exp. a plus. Starting pay to commensurate w/exp. Email resume: jims@mcprep.com</p>	<p>WAREHOUSE/ SHIPPING RECEIVING Full-Time. Electrical Co. in Can- ton. Misc shipping & receiving duties. Be energetic & dependa- ble. Forklift exp. a plus. Starting pay to commensurate w/exp. Email resume: jims@mcprep.com</p>	<p>CASH IN with O&E Media's CLASSIFIEDS</p> <p>800-579-SELL</p>	<p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT - Full-Time Exp. req'd. for busy OB-GYN practice W. Bloomfield area Email: mwh01@gmail.com</p>	<p>PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHS Team Rehabilitation has openings for Full-Time & Part-Time PHYSICAL THERAPIST TECHNICIANS at our Novi office. We offer a competitive salary, excellent benefit package and bonuses. Apply online at www.team-rehab.com</p>
<p>AUTO PARTS SORTING & INSPECT ING Established Co. in Brighton is seeking quick learners. \$10/hr. No exp. needed. Paid training provided. Must have own vehicle. Call Mon-Fri. btwn. 9-3pm. 810.379.4675</p>	<p>DIRECT CARE WORKERS Part-Time at Magnolia Estates of Milford 248-756-1652 lizz.mister@yahoo.com</p>	<p>ERICKSON Living is hiring for these full time positions: CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICER Must have EMT License CAMPUS SECURITY SUPERVISOR CAMPUS SECURITY TEAM LEADER Learn more at jobs.ericsonliving.com Click on Detroit Jobs to apply to this location!</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL ROUGH FRAMERS Plymouth/Northville areas 734-444-7740</p>	<p>POWER WASHER - Vary phys- ical outdoor career. Will train. Good driving record a must. powerwashcareer@yahoo.com</p>	<p>YARD WORK Part Time with own transportation. Call: 734-667-3513</p>	<p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT Pediatric office in Livonia. Exp req. approx 30 hrs/wk 734-591-0220</p>	<p>PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHS Team Rehabilitation has openings for Full-Time & Part-Time PHYSICAL THERAPIST TECHNICIANS at our Novi office. We offer a competitive salary, excellent benefit package and bonuses. Apply online at www.team-rehab.com</p>	<p>REFERRAL/ FRONT DESK CLERK Needed part time for a small but busy medical practice. Good interpersonal and phone skills and basic com- puter skills a must. Medical background helpful, but not necessary if willing to learn and work hard. Call 810-229-8511 brownmed@comcast.net</p>
<p>AUTO USED CAR & TRUCK SALES For an upscale Westside deal- ership. Recent used car exp is a must. 401k, health and den- tal insurance, great pay plan. Please apply in person or email resume to bob@jeannotta.com Bob Jeannotte Buick-GMC 14949 N Sheldon Rd Plymouth, MI 48170</p>	<p>DRIVERS for Snow Removal Contract \$50-\$60/hr. Must have own truck & plow. Call: 734-427-9353 or Email tab36215@aol.com</p>	<p>FRAMERS RESIDENTIAL ROUGH FRAMERS Plymouth/Northville areas. 734-444-7740</p>	<p>RETAIL HELP For charming downtown Plymouth retail store. Must be reliable & personable. Per- manent, part-time employ- ees for 2-4 days/wk includ- ing weekends. Email info: maybeathome@gmail.com</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL ROUGH FRAMERS Plymouth/Northville areas 734-444-7740</p>	<p>ROOFING SERVICE PERSON Are you an experienced Roofer but tired of roofing every day? Would you like good pay, nice company & benefits? Do you have a driver's license? Apply Mon-Fri, 9-11 & 1-4 Tailor Construction 25407 Van Born Rd. Taylor.</p>	<p>DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER Must have minimum of one year experience in all aspects of general dental office ad- ministration. Dentech knowl- edge a plus. Must be a team motivator, detail oriented and energetic. Full-Time position with benefits. Some evenings and weekends required. Fax resume: 313 557-0956 fid@familydental.com</p>	<p>Dental Receptionist We are a large fast-paced dental office in Milford looking for an upbeat individual to join our team. Email resume: maadentist@gmail.com Madden, Andrews & Associates DENTAL CARE</p>	<p>PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHS Team Rehabilitation has openings for Full-Time & Part-Time PHYSICAL THERAPIST TECHNICIANS at our Novi office. We offer a competitive salary, excellent benefit package and bonuses. Apply online at www.team-rehab.com</p>
<p>CAR WASH HELP FT or PT in Plymouth. Must be mechanically inclined. Apply in person. 15065 N. Sheldon Rd, Plymouth</p>	<p>DRIVERS- Home Weekly Ashley Distribution Services in Romulus, MI seeks: •LTL DRIVERS (Multiple stop loads to retail stores) Earning potential avg. \$81,000 year Ability to Enter Canada •Home Weekly •Paid Vacation •401K •Med/Life/Dental Class A CDL & at least 1 year current OTR exp. Clean MVR/PSP Reports. Call 1-800-837-2241 SAM to 4PM CST for info & app or email: jobs@ashleydistributionservices.com or www.ashleydistributionservices.com to apply under jobs.</p>	<p>FRAMERS RESIDENTIAL ROUGH FRAMERS Plymouth/Northville areas. 734-444-7740</p>	<p>SHIPPING RECEIVING MANAGER Mfg. experience is required Duties include: inspection, Engineering, building boxes, sawing, lifting to 50k. Hi-Lo, Internet shipping UPS and Fed Ex. Proficient on PC with Word, Excel. Machined part blue prints reading. Good Benefits & pay rate. Drug test Fax: 248-471-1156 Email sales@mayagage.com</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL ROUGH FRAMERS Plymouth/Northville areas 734-444-7740</p>	<p>SNOW PLOW DRIVERS Up to \$16 per hr with exp only SNOW SHOVELERS, \$12/hr. Must be on call 24 hrs, 7 days a week. Call Ervin at: 248-788-6797, 248-504-7358</p>	<p>OFFICE MANAGER • RECEPTIONIST Looking for cheerful Office Manager and Receptionist for busy dental office in Southfield. Exp is preferred. Please email resume to kristic21@comcast.net</p>	<p>Help Wanted - Medical</p> <p>Credentialing Specialist Process applications to obtain license & hospital privileges. Generate and send verification letters needed for licensure. dhurston@hrdoctor.com Full job posting CareerBuilder.com Keyword 2469671</p>	<p>RN Full-Time position available in busy pain management practice in Ypsilanti. Experience with recovery or critical care background preferred. Excellent wage & benefit package. Clinic Hours are Mon-Fri, day shift. No holidays or weekends. Send resume via fax: ATTN: HR Manager 734-547-4851 or email to: maryb@nichiganpainspecialists.com</p>
<p>COUNTER CLERKS Full or Part-Time or Students. Locations in Birmingham, West Bloomfield & Novi. Mai Kai Cleaners Call Robin or Steve before 2pm. 313-537-8050</p>	<p>DRIVERS w/CDL Walk-Away Lease. Zero Down. No Balloon Payment, 2 Year Warranty. Contract Rates as high as \$3/mile! 877-936-0012</p>	<p>GARDENER/BUTLER Needed full time for Japa- nese office. Must have gar- dening and butler exp., and be professional. Salary and benefits. Send resume to info@dt.mofa.gov.jp or fax 313-567-0274</p>	<p>Tax/Accounting Seasonal Position Seeking an exp'd. tax preparer interested in seasonal or ongoing part-time employment for the upcoming tax season to assist with tax preparation with business bookkeeping a plus Please send resume, cover letter & pay expectations for confidential consideration to PO Box 5441 Plymouth Michigan 48170</p>	<p>FRONT DESK For fast paced Livonia Chiropractors office. Must be extremely organized, friendly, excellent work ethic, previous computer and med-chno-dental experience needed. \$13-17/hr + bonus. work until 6:30pm 30-35hrs/wk. Email resume: gkchiro@msn.com See full ad at CareerBuilder.com Keyword 2459047</p>	<p>Help Wanted - Medical</p> <p>X-RAY TECH - Registered Part time. Farmington Hills area. Please fax resume to: 734-261-0775 or call 566-504-6681</p>	<p>Food - Beverage</p>	<p>BARTENDER No exp. necessary. Will train. 734-778-7609</p>	<p>RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER</p>
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<p>Customer Service Rep Large construction company looking for a highly energetic, customer oriented individ- ual. Competitive pay with benefits. Experienced or we will train. Send Resume with salary requirements to: HR P.O. Box 930559 Wixom, MI 48393</p>	<p>DRIVERS for Snow Removal Contract \$50-\$60/hr. Must have own truck & plow. Call: 734-427-9353 or Email tab36215@aol.com</p>	<p>OLGAS RECRUITING HIRING ALL POSITIONS Apply www.olgas.com Also hiring at locations in: Dearborn Heights, Canton, Laurel Park Place & Grand River Ave., Novi.</p>	<p>JANITORIAL POSITIONS Wixom/Novi/Brighton \$8.15-\$9/hr. Apply online at: USService.com or fax over resume: 248-926-9595</p>	<p>FRONT DESK For fast paced Livonia Chiropractors office. Must be extremely organized, friendly, excellent work ethic, previous computer and med-chno-dental experience needed. \$13-17/hr + bonus. work until 6:30pm 30-35hrs/wk. Email resume: gkchiro@msn.com See full ad at CareerBuilder.com Keyword 2459047</p>	<p>Help Wanted - Medical</p> <p>X-RAY TECH - Registered Part time. Farmington Hills area. Please fax resume to: 734-261-0775 or call 566-504-6681</p>	<p>Food - Beverage</p>	<p>BARTENDER No exp. necessary. Will train. 734-778-7609</p>	<p>RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER</p>

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ENGAGEMENT



SUBMITTED

William Alan Turner and Allison Elaine Spitzley

SPITZLEY-TURNER

Allison Elaine Spitzley and William Alan Turner announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael G. and Mary Spitzley of Canton, graduated in 2013 from Central Michigan University. She is employed at St. Mary

Mercy Hospital.

Her fiancé, son of David and Marianne Turner of Canton, plans to graduate in spring 2015 from Eastern Michigan University. He also is employed at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

A wedding is set for August 2015 at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church in Canton.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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.



BUIKEMA, LOLITA G. "LOLLY"

Age 84, of Georgetown, Texas and formerly of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 in Lakeway, Texas. She was born on October 7, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois to Carl and Pearl (Osterholm) Green. She married her beloved husband and best friend Kent on August 23, 1952 in Chicago, he passed away on August 18, 2014. Lolly worked throughout her 36 year career in public education, initially as a grade school teacher and eventually as a principal of Tanger Elementary and Miller Elementary Schools in the Plymouth Canton Community School District. Lolly and Kent retired in 1988 and moved, first to Sanford, North Carolina, then to Georgetown, Texas. She was a gracious host and they loved to travel. Lolly was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Georgetown, where she served as an elder and deacon, and led their involvement in Meals on Wheels. She was a proud and active member of the P.E.O. in Georgetown, and served as president of the HY chapter in Sun City. Together, Lolly and Kent had two sons, Robert (Jeanne) Buikeema and Todd (Linda) Buikeema. They were proud grandparents of Jodi (David) Svoboda, John (Maggie) Buikeema, and great-grandchildren. They were loving great-grandparents of Kara and Lauren Svoboda. A Memorial Service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, Texas, on Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. Memorials may be made to the P.E.O. Foundation. Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Lake Travis, (512) 263-1511. Obituary and guestbook available online at www.wcfish.com



CUMMINGS, PHYLLIS M.

Of Farmington, November 6, 2014. Beloved wife of the late P. Kennard "Ken" Cummings. Loving mother of Bruce (Alyce) Cummings, Nan (Dan) Otting and Jay (Julie) Cummings. Cherished grandmother of Chelsea and Kyle Cummings, Matthew, Jason and Taylor Cummings and Jared and Casey (Jennifer) Otting. Great-grandmother of Austin Otting. Funeral Service Monday 11 a.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Visitation Sunday 4-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association. www.thayer-rock.com

JERUE, RICHARD A.
Age 87 of Traverse City, passed away on October 29, 2014 surrounded by his loving family. Loving husband of 66 years to Carol. Beloved father of Laura (Bob) O'Dell, Matt (Cheri) and Roy (Emily). Dear grandfather of Sean, Heather, Matt, Ben, Kevin and Collin. Great-grandfather of Finn. Memorial Service November 22, 2014, 1 - 4 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1800 West Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

LAMPHERE, CARLA DANIELLE

67, of Traverse City, passed away Saturday, October 25, 2014 at her Traverse City home, surrounded by her loving family. Carla was the daughter of Chauncey and Dorothy (Kibby) Wood. Following her graduation from the Leelanau School in Glen Arbor, Carla attended Michigan State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising. Carla married Ward Lamphere in Bay City in 1970. Carla began her career in banking in 1970 followed by 32 very rewarding years as Executive Director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra. They made their home in Birmingham, MI from 1970 until 2010, when they moved to Traverse City. There she became Vice President of the Traverse Symphony Orchestra, and her passion for volunteering continued with her involvement with the Grand Traverse County court system as conservator and guardian. Carla is survived by her husband Ward; her son Benjamin Lamphere of Traverse City; her daughter Jessica Lamphere of San Diego, California; five grandchildren; her sister Michael (Fancher) Jansen of Cyprus; and her brothers Jon Wood of Orlando, Florida and Roger Wood of Las Vegas, Nevada. A private family gathering will be held in lieu of a formal public service. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 1925, Birmingham, MI 48012 (www.bbso.org) or The Traverse Symphony Orchestra, 300 E. Front St., Ste. 230, Traverse City, MI 49684 (www.traversesympphony.org). Your thoughts and memories of Carla may be shared with her family at www.reynolds-jonkoff.com. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Traverse City.



LIVY, CHERYL LYNN "CHERIE"

Age 66, October 25, 2014. Survived by daughters Marilyn Noel and Eva Livy. Sister: Ann McDonald. Grandchildren: T.J. Noel, Angelina Sanders, Tori Noel, Allison Fogle and Caryn Fogle & a great-grandchild. The family asks that in lieu of memorial service and flowers, please visit the "Cherie Livy Memorial" at http://www.gofundme.com/gbwcvco



MCCARTHY MADELEINE SEXTON

October 31, 2014, age 78. Beloved wife of Joseph J. for 57 years. Dear mother of Anne M. Graf and Joseph J. III (Susan). Loving grandmother of William, MaryClaire, Kiley, Conor, Patrick and Ryan. Sister of the late MaryAnn Brennan. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services were held November 4, 2014 at Holy Name Church, Birmingham. Memorial tributes to Angels' Place. A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home.

View obituary and share memories at **DesmondFuneralHome.com**

NOVEMBER BODY, MIND SPIRIT FEST

Time/Date: Festival, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., concert, 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15

Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: More than 40 vendors will have products aimed at helping body, mind, and spirit. Learn about conscious living, wellness, natural healing, personal growth, organics, holistic health, metaphysics and more. Tatiana Scavnicky performs rock, pop, world beat and mystical music with Mark Watson. Admission, \$5, admission and concert, \$10. Children with an adult admitted free. All proceeds go toward replacing the church roof

Contact: 734-421-1760 or email office@unityoflivonia.org

BLOOD DRIVE

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15

Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Walk-ins welcome

Contact: 734-422-0494

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 16

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

Details: Pancakes, French toast,

ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice; cost is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421

HARVEST SUPPER, BAKE SALE

Time/Date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13

Location: Atonement Lutheran Church, 6961 Mead, Dearborn

Details: Roast pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, pie, beverage; \$10 adults, \$4 children, 5-12, \$2 preschoolers. Take-outs must be ordered by Nov. 12

Contact: 734-855-4477 or 313-581-2525

MISSIONARIES

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 16

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

Details: Captive Free, a relational music ministry team sponsored by Youth Encounter, will lead morning worship. They'll also facilitate a food packaging service event following lunch at 12:15 p.m. RSVP for lunch and food packing

Contact: Kathy Weinberg at 734-464-0211, ext. 202; or email info@holylivonia.org

SWEATSHIRT DRIVE

Time/Date: Between Masses Sunday-Saturday, Nov. 15-16

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Dr. Thomas A. Dooley Knights of Columbus Council #5492 will collect small to XX-large sweat shirts for children, which will be donated to Holy Cross Children's Services. New sweatshirts with emblems of Detroit sports teams are encouraged. Drop them off in boxes in the church vestibule

Contact: Bill Alderman at 313-608-6171

THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

Time/Date: Sunday, Nov. 9

Location: St. Mel, 7506 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights

Details: Family bingo, 1-3 p.m., marathon bingo, 3-8 p.m., midway, 1-9 p.m., dinners starting at 2 p.m., raffle and more

Contact: 313-247-0684

VETERANS MASS

Time/Date: Color guard and flag raising, 9:45 a.m., Mass at 10 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 9

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia

Details: Flag raising ceremony, Mass, and reception

Contact: 734-261-1455, Ext. 200

DECEMBER WINE & CHOCOLATE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Wine and chocolate tastings, musical entertainment and silent auction. Tickets are \$18 per person. For reservations, make checks payable to Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301.

Contact: Harriet Cooperman, at 248-321-9023 or hcooperman@sbglobal.net.

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 Shulenberg 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

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

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

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

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 Road, Livonia

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

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

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

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, Canton

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., Northville

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

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

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

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

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

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

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

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

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

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

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

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

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

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, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry 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. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

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

New guide helps adults, parents talk about aging topics

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Pamela Thomson, a registered nurse at Garden City Hospital and one of seven siblings, has witnessed families squabble over financial and health care decisions when their aging parents face a crisis.

Because she didn't want to experience the same disagreement in her own life, Thomson and her siblings began talking about topics of aging when their parents were in their 50s.

"As a nurse I see families fighting. I see families that don't agree. Sometimes it comes down to finances. Sometimes it's 'I work full time and can't help take care of mom and dad at home.' It's just easier to have it all spelled out. We pretty much told our parents to write up a will and trust early on because we didn't want that to rip our family apart later.

"It's really important. I'm 58 and I have everything spelled out, too."

Jean Borin, director of community services at the western Wayne County office of Home Instead Senior Care, says Thomson was proactive in talking with her parents about their golden years. But she's also in the minority.

"I'd say the majority of families avoid it. The research is that 70 percent don't have that conversation until a crisis occurs," Borin said.

To help children and aging parents start a conversation about such topics as driving a car when elderly, taking medications properly, becoming forgetful, preventing falls in the home and more, Home Instead has created a guide called the 40-70 Rule. It includes advice and scenarios to help families talk about sensitive topics and it's based on interviews with 1,500 U.S. and Canadian adult children of aging parents. The idea is that an adult child in their 40s should talk about senior topics when their parents are in their 70s.



Home Instead Senior Care created the 40-70 rule to help aging parents and adult children talk about life topics.

"Be proactive instead of reactive," Borin said. "The goal is to make the aging process easier. If you're in a crisis, then it's a whole different ball game. There's a lot of stress and it can cause disputes.

"Driving and taking away the keys from an elderly parent is a difficult topic. If you have a conversation ahead of time and you're talking with people who still have their faculties, you're able to reason with them," Borin said, adding that aging parents who feel invincible — but who are a danger on the road — may agree to give up their car keys

if they realize their actions may hurt others. "You can say you don't want them to endanger someone else on the road."

The 40-70 Rule offers these communication tips:

» Get started. If you're 40 or your parents are 70, it's time to start observing and gathering information carefully and thoughtfully. Don't reach a conclusion from a single observation and decide on the best solution until you have gathered information with an open mind and talked with your parents.

» Talk it out. Approach your

parents with a conversation. Discuss what you've observed and ask your parents what they think is going on. If your parents acknowledge the situation, ask what they think would be good solutions. If your parents don't recognize a problem, use concrete examples to support your case.

» Sooner is best. Talk sooner rather than later when a crisis has occurred. If you know your loved one has poor eyesight or has trouble driving at night, begin to address those issues before a problem arises.

» Forget the baby talk. Remember you are talking to an

adult, not a child. Patronizing speech or baby talk will put older adults on the defensive and convey a lack of respect for them. Put yourself in your parents' shoes and think of how you would want to be addressed in the situation.

» Maximize independence. Always try to move toward solutions that provide the maximum amount of independence for the older person. Look for answers that optimize strengths and compensate for problems. For instance, if your loved ones need help at home, look for tools that can help them maintain their strengths. Professional caregiving services, such as those offered by Home Instead Senior Care, provide assistance in a number of areas including meal preparation, light housekeeping or medication reminders. Or find friends who can help.

» Be aware of the whole situation. If your dad dies and soon afterward your mom's house seems to be in disarray, it's probably not because she suddenly became ill. It's much more likely to stem from a lack of social support and the loss of a lifelong relationship. Make sure that your mom has friends and a social life.

» Ask for help. Many of the issues of aging can be solved by providing parents with the support they need to continue to maintain their independence. Resources such as Home Instead Senior Care, Area Agencies on Aging and local senior centers can help provide those solutions.

"I'm happy this rule is out," Thomson said. "Being a discharge planner in the hospital, I see where it (the 40-70 conversation) isn't happening with families. But you don't have to have dissension in the family."

Download the 40-70 Rule booklet from homeinstead.com. In addition to conversation-starter advice and scenarios, it also includes information on end-of-life decisions and life legacies.

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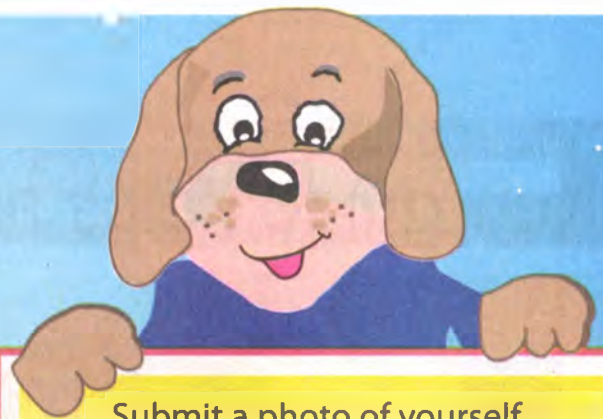
Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

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Scoop wants to see how you jump start your holiday season.

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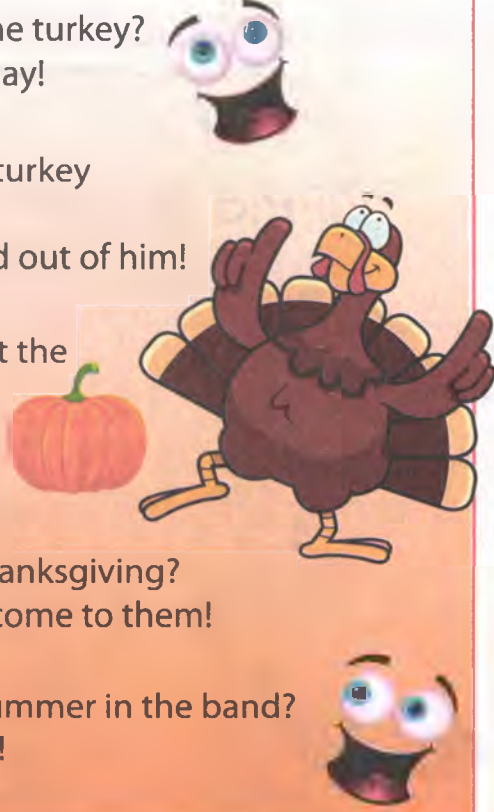


Submit a photo of yourself "Jumping for Joy" and you could win. The more creative the better! Include the phone number, age, community of residence, and name of each person in the photo. Winner's parents may need to completed a wavier and registration online at skyzone.com before admittance into the park.



Thanksgiving: Giggles & Riddles

- Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?
A: They suspected it of fowl play!
- Q: What happened when the turkey got into a fight?
A: He got the stuffing knocked out of him!
- Q: What's the sleepest thing at the Thanksgiving table?
A: The NAPkin!
- Q: Why do most people go to grandmother's house on Thanksgiving?
A: Because the house cannot come to them!
- Q: Why was the turkey the drummer in the band?
A: Because he had drumsticks!



Facts & Fun

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Answer: Thanksgiving

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November 28

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JOBS

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5 classic interview questions updated for today's job search

By Debra Auerbach
CareerBuilder Writer

Going into a job interview, you know the standard questions to expect. "What is your biggest weakness?" "What interests you about this position?" and "Why do you think you'd be a fit for this role?" often rise to the top of the common interview questions list.

While these queries are important to today's hiring managers and recruiters, many employers are updating their customary questions to include ones that refer to new trends, address the current economic situation or gauge a candidate's commitment to the company and position in question.

Here are five questions that job seekers may be asked in today's job hunt and what they should address when responding:

1. Have you used social media in your current job? If so, how?

Unless you've completely sworn off new technology, you should be very aware by now that social media are a part of the fabric of society and are well-ingrained in most companies'

communication practices. Employers asking this question want to know how well you understand social media and how you think companies can benefit from using social networks. Try to give an example of how you have used the communication form in your current job. If you haven't done much in this area, speak to how the company as a whole uses social media. For extra points, share how you think your prospective employer could benefit from social media.

2. Give me an example of how you've contributed to your present/most recent company's success.

You've likely heard or read résumé-writing advice stressing the importance of not only sharing your qualifications but also addressing accomplishments. In today's competitive job market, employers don't want to hire someone who can just complete tasks. They want someone who can make an impact on the bottom line. If you can, answer this question by sharing examples of how you increased revenue, helped a client gain market share or created efficiencies that saved



money. Use numbers or percentages, when possible. If you don't know the numbers off the top of your head, you can provide that information in your follow-up or thank-you note.

3. Why did you leave your last job?

While this may not be a new question, today's hiring managers understand the answer may have evolved. If you've been laid off, be honest. Employers know that the economy is rough, and they expect that some of the candidates they interview will be unemployed. In this case, briefly talk about what happened and then demonstrate how, in the time you've been unemployed, you've continued to boost your résumé by volunteering, attending networking events or joining industry organizations. They want to know that you've put your time to good use and that you'd be ready on day one to take on the required tasks.

4. Describe the work environment or culture in which you are most productive and happy.

In a recent article, human-resources expert Susan

M. Heathfield lists this as a question employers should be asking potential employees. A company doesn't want to hire someone, only to have that person leave quickly because he wasn't a fit with the company's culture.

And it goes both ways. Hiring managers want to hire employees who will thrive in their company's work environment. To answer this question, make sure you do your research so you know what kind of culture to expect. If you know a current employee of the company, ask her to tell you about her experiences working there. Speak to why that type of environment is a match with your personality and work style.

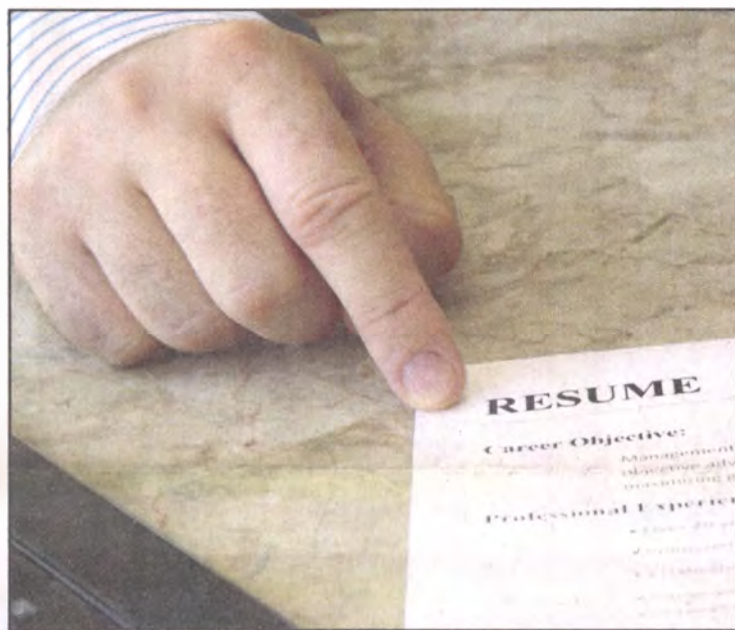
5. What is your motivation for pursuing this position?

According to a recent CareerBuilder survey, 43 percent of hiring managers and

human-resource professionals are concerned that top workers will leave their organization this year. As the economy slowly improves and more opportunities become available, unhappy workers will be more likely to leave their jobs in pursuit of a more fulfilling career. While there's no way to guarantee an employee won't head for the door as soon as a better job offer comes along, hiring managers may try to get to the root of why candidates want to work at their company.

"I've been unemployed for more than a year and I'm really desperate to get a job." Yes, that's an honest answer, but it's also a red flag to an employer that you're more interested in getting a job versus getting this particular job. When asked this or a similar question, speak to why the company at which you're interviewing is the right company for you, and why the particular role will help you achieve your career goals. Also mention how you see yourself growing at the company as a way to show your commitment to the organization.

Debra Auerbach is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



How common questions have evolved and HOW TO ANSWER THEM

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Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.25	0	3.5	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.25	0

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Car Report

Toyota Still Dominates Hybrid Segment as Worthy Prius v Measures Up



By Dale Buss

Prius remains by far the world's dominant hybrid franchise, but things have gotten tougher lately for Toyota's pioneering U.S. sales and so are gasoline prices, and competitors that are still eyeing the hybrid segment as a good thing promise to keep pestering Prius with new entries of their own.

I recently drove one of the relatively new iterations of the original Prius, the Prius v, and it reliably provided the experience that every hybrid enthusiast has desired since the dawn of this vehicle type a couple of decades ago: great fuel economy with dependable, not ostentatious,

performance.

Yes, Prius v is EPA-rated at 51 mpg in the city and 48 on the highway for a combined fuel economy of 50 mpg, which just about sets the standard in the US auto industry for a mainstream vehicle. Owners will save \$6,250 in fuel costs over five years compared with the "average" new vehicle, regulators allow Toyota to claim about Prius v.

A 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine and, of course, Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive battery system deliver the power. In any normal driving situation, what it delivers is adequate, for accelerating onto an interstate or making a quick pass. It's not instantaneously responsive, but responsive enough. The "joy of driving" isn't the point of a hybrid, anyway.

Design-wise, Prius remains the exemplar of clean and rounded

exterior and interior lines that once were looked at as the shape of the future and now mainly communicate a certain Spartaness of expression that seems to fit the minimalist mindset that has historically represented the Prius buyer. The key — as with the powertrain — is efficiency.

So the lack of a traditional instrument panel above the steering wheel is a perfect example of the Prius approach. Instead, monitoring and performance information is clustered in the center of the car, topped with a crescent-shaped dashboard readout above a navigation screen and various controls that segue into storage spaces between the front seats.

Conveniently, there is a storage area with a lot of space underneath that console that is ideal for fulfilling the demand that many women make, but which carmakers for some reason over the eons have decided to ignore: a place to store a purse, where it stays and doesn't slosh or slide all over the car as it can do if it's placed on the passenger seat, for example, or the floor on the passenger side.

Otherwise, Prius v is appointed with everything that most drivers will be looking for in their main vehicle, including all the convenience, safety and electronic touchpoints you'd expect. And it's plenty roomy in the rear seats as well as the front, with ample cargo room under the hatchback in the rear.

It's this kind of predictability and steadiness that has allowed Prius to carve out an undisputed place as



Twelve of the Toyota and Lexus hybrids available in the U.S.

the master of the hybrid automobile. Toyota took a big chance in attempting to mainstream Prius in the first place, given that the Honda Insight, a two-seat hybrid, already had appeared on the U.S. market.

But as is the Toyota way, the company dedicated itself to a certain path and gradually but inexorably built up not only the Prius franchise but also the hybrid market itself. Strategically, this included extending the Prius product line with both smaller and larger versions of the original car, which, respectively, reduced the stiff price premium to get into a Prius and gave buyers with more roominess needs a Prius option to consider.

Nearly every other automaker over the years also introduced hybrids in an attempt to get a shred of the market that Prius created. And some have tried and failed to mount a direct frontal assault on the

Prius brand, especially Ford with its sluggish-selling C-Max hybrid. Now Ford is talking about mounting another assault on Prius's hold on the hybrid market, and Hyundai seems to be planning to do the same.

The Prius line still comprises Toyota's third-best-selling car, and fourth-best-selling vehicle overall. But Prius sales were down about 15 percent for the year through October. Plunging gasoline prices also erode the incentive that many Americans may feel even to consider a hybrid.

So Toyota recently launched a new advertising campaign under the slogan, "Let's Lead the Way," that features the video testimonials of actual Prius owners who testify to all the other wonderful things about the cars besides their exemplary fuel economy. My experience with Prius v testifies to their endorsements as well. And, yes, you can't beat the mileage.



Toyota Prius v is the roomiest entry in the line.

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