# WAYNE-WESTLAND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2014 • hometownlife.com



LOCAL GRAD **MAKING STRIDES** ON MSU CROSS **COUNTRY TEAM** 

SPORTS, B1

# City to address methane from park

**By LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

Remediation of lead contamination at Westland's Central City Park and improvements to adjoining Tattan Park have caused methane gas to migrate further east toward

As a result, the city is planning to take steps to keep the methane from moving to homes on the east side of Carlson and increase monitoring.

Carlson residents received

an update at a council study session Thursday evening.

Naturally occurring as organic matter decays, methane gas can become dangerous if it builds up rather than dissipating into the air.

Central City Park has additional methane due to dumping that took place on the property over many years. The park was closed for several years until the lead contamination was addressed, in part with a geotextile membrane and clean soil to stop direct contact with the contaminated soil.

Part of the remediation in Central City Park included a passive trench and vents to keep methane gas levels safely

"(Engineers) SME has been monitoring the methane and it's all on the west side of Carlson in the (Central City) park," said City Attorney James Fausone, who has worked on Central Park issues since 2007.

Tests were being done a quarterly basis, he said, and all the test wells on both sides of

Carlson were clean in June. Unlike Central City Park, Fausone said Tattan Park has no history of dumping and has never had methane gas.

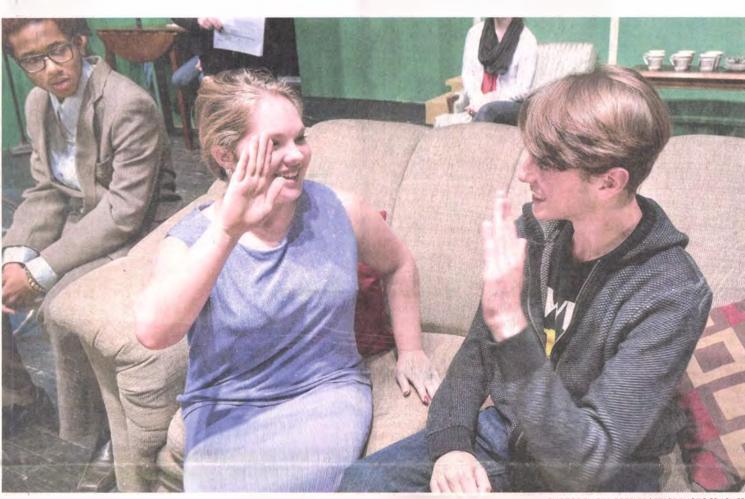
Over the summer, the Farmers Market Pavilion and parking were constructed in Tattan. "The late-September sam-

pling round showed methane in Tattan Park where it was not found before," Fausone said. "They tested the east side of Carlson and that was all clear. Our goal is to protect the homeowners.

Along with additional monitoring along the east side of Carlson, Fausone said a 4-foot deep, 2-foot wide trench will be constructed to let the methane dissipate. "We will backfill it with rocks. It will be aesthetically pleasing. Essentially, we are creating an open Morgan Drain," he said.

The Morgan Drain runs through the parks and continues east through the residential area. Some sections of

See METHANE, Page A2



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The billionaire's daughter, Fiona Starkweather (Hannah Hamilton), and his grandson, Jordan Starkweather (Jordan Khalaf), anticipate being in the money when the old guy kicks off.

# Audience decides the outcome of 'Heirs'

Wayne Memorial High staging murder mystery-comedy

> **Bv Sue Mason** Staff Writer

One play and nine different endings. It seems like a formidable task for students at Wayne Memorial High School, but director Kate Sullivan knows her cast is up to the challenge in staging Murder's in the Heir this weekend.

"I decided on this show after deciding on the spring production, The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee," Sullivan said. "It has audience interaction and I

# **IT'S SHOW TIME**

What: "Murder's in the Heirs" When: 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Nov 20-22

Where: Stockmeyer Auditorium at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wavne

Tickets: \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, available at the door

wanted to continue audience interaction for the season. That's why I went with this production."

The murder mystery-comedy will be

presented at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 20-22, in Stockmeyer Auditorium on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School at Glenwood and Fourth Street in

While Spelling Bee has members of the audience go on stage and be a part of the contest, the ending of Murder's in the Heir is determined by a vote of the audience. After viewing Act I, the audience, during intermission, will decide by secret ballot who they think killed billionaire Simon Starkweather. Students won't find out what the consensus is until just before that start of Act II.

See PLAY, Page A2

# Men to face trial in sports betting ring case

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Three men charged with participating in a multi-county illegal sports betting ring have been ordered bound over for

George Abick, 64, of Garden City, Sean Barnes, 42, of Novi and John Cramblet, 45, of Detroit, all waived their preliminary examinations in Westland 18th District Court before Judge Sandra Cicirelli

on Thursday. All three men had entered not guilty pleas at arraignment.

However, Cramblet waived his hearing conditionally. His defense attorney, David Lankford, said he had talked with the officers in charge of the investigation and was told they wouldn't recommend incarceration for Cramblet as the case is resolved.

"The prosecutor is not in a position to make that decision - it would have to move up

the chain," Lankford said. "If no incarceration doesn't come to pass, then the matter would be remanded back for the preliminary examination."

The preliminary examination is the hearing at which the prosecution, in this case the Michigan Attorney General, presents its probable cause case that the crimes were committed and the defendants likely committed those crimes.

"I don't have the authority to make that (no jail time)

recommendation," Assistant Attorney General Richmond Riggs said. "If it is the recommendation of the officers in charge, I need to speak to my superiors. If it isn't possible, we'll return for the preliminary exam."

Getting that kind of decision usually takes about 30 days, Riggs said, so he expected to be able to have that by the scheduled circuit court

See TRIAL, Page A2

# Vet gets his new home on **Veterans Day**

**By LeAnne Rogers** Staff Writer

Sometimes it's the small things in life that are taken for granted.

As William Childers Jr. was about to become a homeowner, Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County Executive Director Alice Dent asked him what made getting a home most special.

"He (Childers) lived in a 400-square-foot apartment in Wayne. He ate his food on his lap — there isn't enough room for a table," Dent said. "He said he was most excited about having a place with room for a table. There are things we take for granted.'

That wasn't the only problem with Childers' former apartment. The U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Ford Motor Company retiree lost a leg to gangrene. The apartment had steps that weren't handicapped accessible and he was unable to shut the shower door due to his wheelchair.

On Veterans Day, a crowd of well-wishers gathered outside Childers' new home on Matthew in Westland's Annapolis Park Subdivision as he accepted the deed to the renovated home

"All honor to God. I thank Habitat for Humanity for the opportunity to be a homeowner," Childers said. "This has been a wonderful experience. I thank everyone for coming out. May God bless you."

The well-wishers gathered

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Westland Mayor William Wild (left) congratulates new homeowner William Childers Jr.



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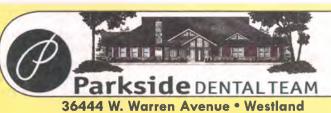
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Parkside DENTAL TEAM

# Local vets share stories at American Legion dinner

**By David Veselenak** Staff Writer

Westland resident and U.S. Navy veteran John Estrada has seen the world.

The Korean War veteran, a member of American Legion Post 32 in Livonia, traveled on a minesweeper for several years, going from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean, combing the waters and seeing several foreign countries. During his time in the service from 1951 to 1955, he and his crew found only one mine in the waters off Asia.

Combing the waters was a tedious task, considering how large the ocean is, Estrada said.

"Three ships would go out and hang cables; they



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Honor Guard members (standing) Bobby LaLiberte, Jerry Gonzales and Larry Fenner, (sitting) Dave Stratman, Dan Macika, Jack Roe and Richard Schmidt, relaxing in the lounge after the ceremony.

had big cutters on them," he said. "As we went, we tried to catch the mines. The mines would come up and we would cut the cables."

Estrada was one of

more than 100 people to attend the annual Veterans Day spaghetti dinner held Tuesday night by the Livonia post, 9318 Newburgh. Put on by many

treated veterans to a free meal as a "thank-you" for their service.

It's an event that is always well-attended by post members, as well as non-post members and their families, said Linda Roman, president of the Ladies Auxiliary unit at the post. It's taken place for many years at the post, and sees a wide range of attendees each year, she said.

"This is our way of thanking them for their service and commitment," she said.

Estrada, a former commander at the post, moved to Westland after getting a job at the Ford Transmission Plant in Livonia.

"When I came back, there was nothing," he said. "I started working for GM and didn't like it there, so I moved over to Ford.

Also at the post Tuesday night was the Legion's honor guard, which had been out during the day visiting senior facilities and honoring local veterans. Eric Bills, an Army veteran who served during the Gulf War, said many veterans the guard visits are appreciative of their recognition. "One guy started crying when I saluted him," the Garden City resident said. "A lot of them don't talk about being veterans.

Bills said many veterans don't make it wellknown that they served in the armed forces, especially after some of the things the individuals saw in combat overseas.

The guard goes to cemeteries to perform military honors for veteran funerals, including the rifle volleys typically fired. About 100 events are done by the guard each year, including a competition against other honor guards from across the state and country.

The group has seen a lot of success over the years, something that Westland resident, honor guard member and Korean War Army veteran Larry Fenner said shows the high-level of skill the group has.

"This is the best guard in the state of Michigan," he said. "I would challenge anyone on that.'

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# **METHANE**

Continued from Page A1

the drain are enclosed but the open parts in the park allow methane gas to dissipate, Fausone said.

At an estimated cost of \$50,000-\$100,000, the additional work is expected to take 30-60 days.

While he had no problem with the project, Council President James Godbout said his issue was with who was going to pay for the work. He mentioned the project engineers and Department of Environmental Quality.

"We paid a lot of money and Wayne County paid a lot of money. We had these discussions," Godbout said. "They were confident that we were going to maintain the methane in Central City Park, not Tattan Park. Six months later, we need to vent methane in Tattan Park."

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# PLAY

Continued from Page A1

# Like game of 'Clue'

It's much like a live version of the game Clue. Almost every character in the play has the weapon, opportunity and motive to commit the unseen murder.

"Every night the show will have a different ending based on the selection of the audience," Sullivan said. "Every evening we've been rehearsing a different character ending. It is a bit of a daunting task, but the cast is really excited. This keeps them on their toes. The script changes, and they have to be prepared to change."

Alex Sambone plays Simon Starkweather who summons his family and employees to announce the contents of his will. His lawyer, Lois Van-Zandt (Weronika Jarmoszewicz) reveals that he has bequeathed vast fortunes to his many servants and four heirs. However, the will is due to expire at midnight when the fortunes diminish to \$50,000 and the rest of the fortune will be spent creating his clone.

volunteers, the dinner

While Sullivan is directing the actual play, Madeline Abicht is directing as a member of the cast. She will stop the acting on stage to talk to the audience about the production.

"I make comments and the cast starts getting angry with me," Abicht. said "It's a very different role. It felt very odd sitting out here (in the theater) and watching what's happening on stage.'

Abicht also is one of four assistant directors who handle the day-today activities for Sullivan. She's in charge of attendance, keeping track of students who are late, tardy or with a teacher.

"I make sure they're focused, whether it's going over lines or doing scenes, so we put on the show we want to put on," she said.

Last year's Fiona in Shrek, Abicht credits Sullivan in with motivating her to extend her acting ability.

"She's helped me branch out and find my-self on stage," she said. "I love theater and I was drawn back in to it with Drowsy Chaperone. That made me fall in love with theater again, and Mrs. Sullivan pushes and motivates me.'

# Other assistants

Also serving as assistant directors are Megan Keiper, who handles props and costumes and plays Minerva Walker, a member of the household staff; Jordan Khalaf, who's handling publicity and patrons and plays Starkweather's grandson Jordan; and Alicia Highland who handles contacts and tracks progress reports and grades. She also plays Starkweather's great-niece Paula Thompson, a Southern belle.

For Highland, her role is "exactly" what she

wanted. "I did a lot of research before the auditions, and I fell in love with the role," she said. "She's kind of sneaky and has a

This is Keiper's third time as an assistant director. Her job is making a list of what's needed for the production, pulling what she can from the prop room and buying whatever else is needed.

She has been involved in the theater program at Wayne since her sophomore year and admits that it wasn't what she had thought it would be.

"I always loved the theater world and finally got the nerve to do it as a sophomore," she said. "It was a very life-altering experience to be with people who are passionate about theater."

It's Khalaf's second time as an assistant director and his second time handling publicity and lining up patrons for the show.

"It's a relatively straight forward job, and I enjoy it," he said.

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# HOME

Continued from Page A1

outside Childers' new home included elected officials, members of Cub Scout Pack 765, representatives of veterans groups and providing music, the Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipes and Drums.

A chaplain, U.S. Army Major Philip Willis of the 330th Medical Brigade at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., came to the ceremony to present Childers with a copy of his book Bulletproof. It's a book of devotionals Childers wrote during his second deployment to Iraq.

"I'm excited about any opportunity to reach out to veterans. We say if you help them, you help yourself," Willis said. "It's beautiful what has been done with Habitat. We need more of that."

The house on Matthew is the first specifically aimed at providing a home for a veteran.

'We saw the need. A lot of people were calling our office and a lot of the time it was for veterans," Dent said. "A lot of time it was calls from other agencies and the calls were about veterans. We know a lot of veterans are living in substandard housing."

The house was acquired by the City of Westland from tax foreclosure. The renovations for this house

"A lot of people were calling our office and a lot of the time it was for veterans."

ALICE DENT. Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne

were paid for by a donation from Minnesota Title and revenues received from mortgage payments made for other Westland Habitat homes.

As is the case with Habitat homes, Childers joined volunteers in putting sweat equity into his home.

"When Alice reached out and asked if the city wanted to partner on another house, we never say no to Alice, especially when the house is for a veteran," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "Look at this beautiful house. It was probably the most blighted house in the neighborhood not too long ago."

Self-described nosy neighbor Karen Cargill was checking out the renovated home and confirmed the home had previously been an

eyesore. "We called this the ugliest house on the block. My husband grew up in the neighborhood, it was the first block (of Annapolis Park) built," she said.

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# TRIAL

Continued from Page A1

arraignment date on Dec. 11. All three defendants, free on bond, are scheduled for Dec. 11 arraignment.

All three men are charged with operating a continuing criminal enterprise — two counts for Abick — along with failing to file income taxes. Abick and Barnes are charged with four counts each of gambling/taking bets, with Cramblet facing three counts of the same crime.

According to the complaint, the defendants were involved in a sports betting ring operated by Westland residents John and Ellen Zunich. According to police, the three men were instrumental in producing and distributing the football cards used in the betting

The three defendants are accused of working for John Zunich, 71, who pleaded guilty to one count of conducting criminal enterprises (also known as racketeering), a 20-year felony, and no contest to one count of failure to file/

false taxes, a five-year felony. He is currently serving an 18-month to 20-year sentence in state prison with his earliest release date in July 2016.

The investigation found that John Zunich took bets and printed professional and college football betting cards at ArtCraft Printing, a business he owned in Detroit. The cards were reportedly distributed in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

His wife pleaded no contest to one count of failure to file/false taxes, a five-year felony. Ellen Zunich handled all the

bookkeeping for the legitimate business and the illegal gambling operation. She was sentenced to probation, which is scheduled to end in January 2016.

In a separate criminal proceeding, forfeiture was approved of \$609,000 in funds from the couple, believed to be derived from the proceeds of the illegal gambling operation. The funds went to the Westland Police and other agencies involved in the investigation.

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Maverick Roperti hoists a heavy hen.

# BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Turkey farm owners pass on big bird for Thanksgiving dinner

By Karen Smith Staff Writer

The Roperti family of Livonia will dress 4,300 to 4,400 turkeys for Thanksgiving Day, but they won't eat a single one.

The Ropertis, who own and operate Roperti's Turkey Farm at 34700 Five Mile Road, will have had their fill of the holiday bird by then, having taste-tested several smoked turkeys as they perfect the process for their customers.

Instead of turkey, they will eat crab claws, filet mignon and a pasta dish like lasagna followed by

key lime pie for dessert. "It's tradition for us,"

said Ferida Roperti, daughter-in-law of farm owner Christine Roperti. "We're so sick of eating turkey."

Christine Roperti prepares the filet mignon and pasta; the key lime pie comes already prepared from Florida along with the crab claws, which only require brief cooking in a pot of boiling water.

It isn't a sit-down meal at a fancy-laid dining room table like that in a Norman Rockwell painting, either.

'It's grab and eat."

Ferida Roperti said, because there are still chores to do: lots of paperwork, laundry, cleanup and the occasional customer to wait on who forgot to pick up their turkey the day before.

"We have to wash aprons, coats, towels. We're still doing that the whole next day," Ferida Roperti said.

They also sleep in on Thanksgiving for the first time in many weeks, or try to take a nap in the afternoon. Leading up to Thanksgiving Day, the family puts in 10- to 15-

See FARM, Page A8

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# Wayne-Westland shares strategies for improved achievement

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

The Michigan Department of Education and Wayne County RESA have asked Wayne-Westland district officials to share what they've been doing to improve stu-dent achievement as it relates to the state's Top-to-Bottom ranking.

The district has shown "significant growth" in its standing, trimming the number of priority schools from four to one and focus schools from seven to three. According to School Superintendent Michele Harmala, the successful effort is related to collaboration and a narrower focus on strategies to improve achievement.

"The instructional staff has been phenomenal in coordinating the work," said Harmala, who added that the work has been "made easier" with support from the Michigan Department of Education gan Department of Education and Wayne County RESA.

And it is those two agencies that have asked the district to share what they are doing with other districts.

The Top-to-Bottom List is part of Michigan's school accountability system, which ranks schools on their student performance in mathematics, reading, writing, science and social studies and graduation rate data (for high schools). School performance components include student achievement, improvement and achievement gaps between the highest- and lowest-scoring 30 percent of

students in each school. Wayne-Westland's rankings reflect an increase in achievement scores on the fall 2013 state MEAP assessment, which gauged instruc-



Wayne-Westland's rankings reflect an increase in achievement scores on the fall 2013 state MEAP assessment.

tion for 2013-14. This year Hicks Elementary in Inkster is the district's only Priority school, while the Focus schools are Elliott and P.D. Graham elementaries and Stevenson Middle School.

Priority schools are ranked in the bottom 5 percent while focus schools have the largest gap of between 30 percent of their lowest achieving and 30 percent of their highest

achieving students.

Hamilton Elementary moved out of the priority status two years ago and gained 23 percentage points in two years. The staff recently served on panel at a MDE priority school confer-

The Hicks Elementary staff has been asked to present at the Leader in Me Symposium in Livonia in March.



A JROTC cadet places a wreath at the flagpole in honor of veterans who have served their country



Members of the John Glenn JROTC color guard present the flag during the school's Veterans Day ceremony.

# W-W JROTC cadets honor veterans

The service of veterans to their country was remembered in separate ceremonies Tuesday at Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne and John Glenn High School in Westland.

The ceremonies honored all men and women who have or are currently serving in the military and were held by the flagpoles at the two school.

The ceremonies are annual events at the high schools and are presented by their and respective Army JROTC programs.



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# Angela Hospice founder inducted into Hall of Fame

Sister Mary Giovanni, founder and CEO Emeritus of Angela Hospice in Livonia, was one of five people recently inducted into the National Association for Home Care & Hospice's Home Care and Hospice Hall of Fame.

The induction took place at the association's annual meeting and exposition in Phoenix.

"It was a surprise to learn that I was inducted into the Hall of Fame," Sister Giovanni said. "And it is an honor to be listed there alongside some of my own personal heroes - Mother Theresa, Senator Frank Moss and Ted Kennedy.'

Sister Giovanni, a registered nurse, spent a decade researching aspects of pain control, alternative comfort measures and the daily needs of dying patients and their families. Influenced by the work of England's Dame Cicely Saunders, who pioneered the modern hospice movement in England, and

inspired by the compassionate hands-on care provided to the aged Sisters in the Felician infirmary, Sister Giovanni founded Angela Hospice under the sponsorship of the Felician Sisters in

She continued her pioneering spirit, opening Michigan's first free-standing inpatient hospice facility in 1994, the same year Angela Hospice began operating a specialized pediatric hospice program. In 2000, Angela Hospice launched the first prenatal hospice program in the Midwest. Her recent work has included developing a mobile clinic to reach the underserved mountain populations of Jacmel, Haiti.

Sister Giovanni has received numerous honors and awards, and last year was named one of 30 "Visionaries" by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She credits her colleagues as the source of her success.

"Everything reflects back to the dedicated employees and volunteers," Sister Giovanni said. "Without them, Angela Hospice would not be the quality program that it

Sister Giovanni's fellow inductees to the Hall of Fame were Ann Armstrong Dailey, Founding Director, Children Hospice International, Alexandria, Va.; Rosemary Johnson Hurzeler, President and CEO, The Connecticut Hospice, Branford, Conn; Susan Levine, Executive Director, Hospice of the Valley, Phoenix; and Ron Wyden, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Portland.

Past inductees into the Home Care & Hospice Hall of Fame include a number of other famous names, such as President Bill Clinton, Sen. Claude Pepper (D-FL), Lillian D. Wald, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Sen. Robert J. Dole (R-KS), Hon. Rosalyn Carter, Dame Cicely Saunders, and Mike Vance.



Sister Mary Giovanni, founder and CEO Emeritus of Angela Hospice.

# Griffin offers memorial service for those grieving

The folks at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home know the Christmas holidays can be tough for people who've lost loved ones, and for years the funeral home has hosted a memorial service to provide help with the grief.

That service takes place Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at L.J. Griffin's Canton location, 42600 Ford Road, west of Lilley.

"Our desire is to not only honor the loved ones that have gone before us, but to also help those who have suffered a loss and are coping with grief during the holiday sea-

son," David Griffin said.
To do that, Griffin has arranged for Karen Laing, executive director of the New Hope Center for Grief in to lead

Laing

Northville, attendees in a ses-

answer common questions:

» Why is it important to plan for the holidays? » What are some ways others have handled the holidays to make them

more tolerable? » What should I do about decorating, sending holiday greetings and the many other activities that are part of the holi-

day season? » How can I make the holidays special for

small children when I don't feel like celebrat-

The group will be led in spiritual reflections by Pastor Drex Morton and Fr. Jack Baker.

"This event is not just for the families serviced by a Griffin Funeral Home (there are locations in Westland, Livonia and Canton)," David Griffin said. "It's open to all families in the Canton community, as well as the surrounding areas."

Following the holiday service everyone will be welcome to stay and enjoy refreshments and mingle with others who are also grieving.

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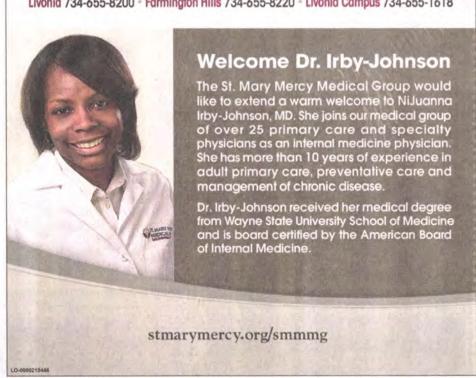


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# Oral history project earns national honor for Wayne-Westland teacher



FILE PHOTO

Michele Anderson was named the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History 2014 National History Teacher of the Year.

A Wayne-Westland teacher will be heading to New York City next month to receive the 2014 National History Teacher of the Year award from HISTORY® and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The award is just the latest in a string of honors award John Glenn High School history teacher Michele Anderson has received since starting her oral history project three years ago.

Using a 2012 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council Grant, Anderson launched the project, which had her students interviewing World War II veterans who were also treated to a USO-style dance in

2013. Last school year, her students worked with Korean War veterans. This year, they are interviewing Vietnam War veterans.

"Students get excited about history when somehow it becomes real to them," Anderson said. "Teachers have to help students make connections between what the student is learning and how that piece of history relates to something in their life. As teachers, we call it the 'aha' experience."

Anderson will receive the award and \$10,000 in a ceremony Dec. 9 at The Princeton Club. The award will be presented by historian Earl Lewis, former provost at Emory University and current president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The award is presented by HISTORY® and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school.

"Michele Anderson exemplifies the best in history education, and we are proud to help highlight her outstanding achievements," said Dr. Libby O'Connell, Chief Historian and SVP, Corporate Outreach for HISTORY®.

Selected for the National History Teacher of the Year Award from more than 1,000 nationwide nominees, Anderson also has drawn the attention and acclaim of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Library of Congress.

She has been VFW
District 4 Teacher of the
Year and in 2013received
the Michigan Historical
Commission's John B.
Swainson Award for her
efforts to preserve the
memory of Michigan's
defense workers and
World War II veterans.

She also received the 2013 Annette and Jim McConnell History Educator Award for Excellence in Teaching History from the Michigan Council for History Education, and along with teacher Scott Cramer, the Voya Financial Unsung Hero Award.

"Honoring a great history teacher is one of the most rewarding things we do because in celebrating Michele Anderson, we honor all teachers who inspire our children to learn about the people and events that shaped our country," said Lesley S. Herrmann, executive director of the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization devoted to the improvement of history education. The institute has developed an array of programs for schools, teachers and students, including a website that features more than 60,000 unique historical documents in the Gilder Lehrman Collection.

Each year the Institute offers support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers, and through them enhances the education of more than a million students.

By Sue Mason

# WAYNE COP CALLS

# Larceny

A resident in the 33000 block of Gerald told police Nov. 10 that someone had stolen a metal garden cart from in front of his garage. The cart was pulled behind a riding lawn mower.

The resident told police he had checked for the cart at local scrap yards but hadn't located it. The red cart was valued at \$100.

## **Vandalism**

On Nov. 6, a resident in the 33000 block of Forest Park Drive told police she was attempting to leave for work when the passenger side front wheel fell off her 2013 Ford Escape. She said she found that all but two lug nuts had been removed from all four aluminum wheels on the vehicle.

The resident found two landscaping bricks, which she said didn't belong to her. While she usually parks in the garage, she said she had parked in the driveway for the past two weeks.

The officer noted another resident in the 33000 block of Forest Park had reported her home alarm had been set off during the night of Nov. 6, possibly in a break-in attempt.

# Vandalism

Police were called to the Greyberry Apartments, 3607 Hannan, Nov. 5 when a resident reported the windshield on his 2000 Chevrolet van had been smashed.

By LeAnne Rogers







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# Gordie the dog's shame goes global

**By Darrell Clem** Staff Writer

Gordie, a friendly yellow Lab from Plymouth, saw his chance when owner Laurie Golden was getting ready for

He took her bagged lunch from a backpack. pulled her peanut butter and jelly sandwich out of a zipped bag, unwrapped her granola bar and confiscated her apple, savoring every bite before he was busted, empty wrappers strewn across the floor.

Gordie's behavior, certainly not his first petty theft, has landed him on the cover of an international dog-shaming calendar lovingly created by Pascale Lemire of Vancouver, Canada, who has a naughty dachshund named Dasha.



PASCALE LEMIRE

Gordie, a Plymouth yellow Lab, appears on the left front of an international dog-shaming calendar.

Gordie has been shamed in a human conspiracy by Golden and Lemire, who has a popular blog and website, www.dogshaming.com, where readers from as far away as Italy, Brazil, Sweden, England and,

yes, right here in Plymouth, Mich., shame their beloved dogs.

Golden, community relations department head for the Canton Public Library, shamed Gordie by placing a note next to him as he lay on the

floor. "I took Mom's lunch out of her bag and ate it that are technically off limits. while she was in the shower," it read.

Gordie is good at what he does. He is, after all, named after Detroit Red Wings hockey legend Gordie Howe. "We're a big hockey family," said Golden, who has three children, ages 18, 20 and 23, and a husband, John.

"Gordie (the dog) ate a hockey puck - chewed it up and basically ate it," Golden said. "He is fairly famous for some of the things he has eaten or chewed on. Most of them are edible. He ate an entire stick of Crisco. He ate a box of crayons, including most of the box. It was a 64-crayon pack, too. Just recently he ate a pound of paraffin wax."

Gordie steals from the family table, kitchen counter, lots of places

"He's almost 11 years old. He didn't do this until he was about 7," Golden said. "My daughter (Bryn Birchler) made some chocolate chip cookies that were cooling on the table. Gordie ate like two dozen chocolate chip cookies."

He doesn't get sick, even when he's devouring something theoretically inedible. At 75 pounds, he's not overweight, thanks to daily walks, tug-of-war games and chase scenes around the family house. Sometimes, Gordie makes healthy eating choices.

"He loves bananas. He eats them whole with the peel," Golden said. "He loves zucchini and potatoes and carrots and apples. He has eaten a whole bag of apples in

one sitting. Oh, and he dines on dog food, too. "He is not underfed," Golden said.

Lemire created her first calendar for this year, two for 2015, including a day-to-day calendar featuring Gordie, and she is working on more for 2016. She also has a dog-shaming book.

"Dog-shaming is a worldwide phenomenon," she said.

Lemire's work can be found in some bookstores and online at www.amazon.com. It seems Gordie doesn't mind the attention.

"He has been shamed multiple times," Golden said, saying he is the family's only dog. "He's all we can handle.

As for his calendar appearance? No shame, really. "It's his moment of fame.'

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver



Gordie, a yellow Lab who has a knack for stealing food, is shown in a better-behaved moment with Bryn Birchler, Laurie Golden's daughter.

# **Arthritis Today**

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## CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION

When a patient appointment ends, a rheumatologist has more to do than to write a chart note. In almost all instances the patient has a physician who recommended the patient see a rheumatologist, or has a personal physician who should know what diagnosis, treatment, and laboratory studies resulted from the just completed consultation.

Though most physicians in this area have electronic medical records, a rheumatologist, or any specialist, must send information via regular mail or fax. Using electronic means such as e-mail or direct transmission from doctor to doctor remains a future goal. The main deterrent to electronic exchange of information is that each hospital, facility and physician office has its own computer system with no provision, to date, of commonality.

In addition, the Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPPA), the federal legislation for protection for privacy in personal health matters, makes it impossible to transmit a consultation note

Calling a referring physician after seeing his or her patient is not practical. At the time the rheumatologist makes a call, the referring physician may be busy with patients or working through an emergency and may not be able to concentrate on the matter the rheumatologist wishes to bring up. Also, a letter has the advantage of clearly stating medications and their dosage, the providing exact results of laboratory tests, and laying out specific findings that led to a particular diagnosis. In contrast, recollecting a conversation hours or days later can be filled with errors and oversights. Therefore, despite sophisticated technologies and phones at hand, the best way to communicate between physicians is to write a letter headed: " I had the opportunity to see your patient ..



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# **FARM**

Continued from Page A3

hour work days every day. "We're just so dead tired," Ferida Roperti said

But it's well-worth the effort. Christine Roperti said she takes pride in delivering free-range, grain-fed, chemical- and preservative-free turkeys to her customers, just like those her father, Tom Roperti, raised back in 1948 when he started the form

farm.
"I'm putting something good into my customers' stomachs," she said, adding the sales are all based on word of

Christine Roperti, 69, said the family farm is entering its third generation with grandkids Meri-

da, 13, and Maverick, 10, now helping out. Christine Roperti's husband, Wesley Bates, and two sons, along with Ferida Roperti, are also involved in the day-to-day running of the farm.

The family sells almost all of its turkeys for Thanksgiving, freezing or smoking the few that are left over. There is little demand from the public for turkey for Christmas, Christine Roperti said.

That means the Ropertis can relax and actually enjoy celebrating Christmas. Typically, they go to Ferida Roperti's sister's home for dinner.

Christine Roperti always brings along one of her turkeys. By then they're ready to eat turkey again.

ksmith@hometownlife.com 248-309-7524



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Daisy spends a lot of time watching out for the 4,200 turkeys. In the background, Ferida Roperti takes orders for fresh birds.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Tom turkeys grow larger than hens.

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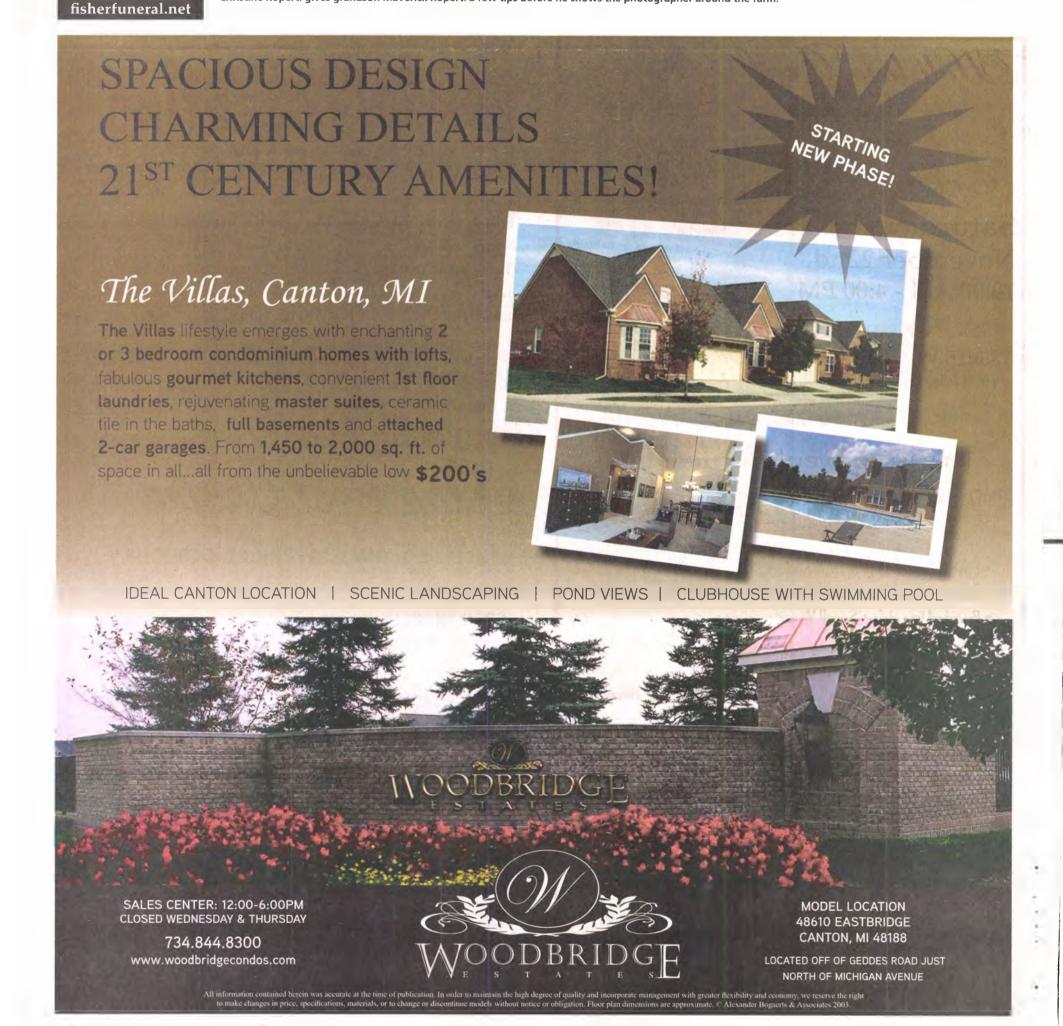
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christine Roperti gives grandson Maverick Roperti a few tips before he shows the photographer around the farm.



# Wish you were here



Mark and Terry Marecki of Livonia along with Debbie (Welling) and Mike Johnson, formerly of Livonia, recently visited the country of Iceland. Here they are with the Livonia Observer at Gullfoss Falls near Reykjavik.



Marcia Hermann of Livonia landed a 65-pound Amberjack 65 miles off the coast of Mexico Beach, Fla. She was on a yearly beach trip with 25 high school classmates from Ashland, Ky., called Tomcats for Tomcats, a social group of alumni that throughout the year sponsors people in need and "pays it forward." She is shown here with the "official fish weigher" and the Livonia Observer.



John and Patty Sadek of Livonia took a trip with the Livonia Observer to Alaska in August to Denali National Park and also a cruise to Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan. "The state is extremely beautiful," John Sadek said.



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LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Foundation President Diane Policelli and Vice President Lynda Scheel presented plaques to members of the LPS Education Foundation who have been on the board since it began 10 years ago. They are LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey, Director Judee Taormina, Treasurer Ernie Natalini and Co-Secretary Jay Young.

# Luncheon supports LPS Education Foundation

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LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

More than 225 people attended Wednesday's luncheon at St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center to support the LPS Education Foundation.

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More than 225 LPS
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supporters from every
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attended the annual luncheon Wednesday at St.
Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center in Livonia.

"Filling a room of that size, year after year, with such generous supporters only exemplifies the community spirit here in Livonia, and it shows that the work we do to support Livonia Public Schools is not only



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Keynote speaker John
McElroy.

worthwhile, but something everyone wants to be a part of," said Diane Policelli, president of the LPS Education Founda-

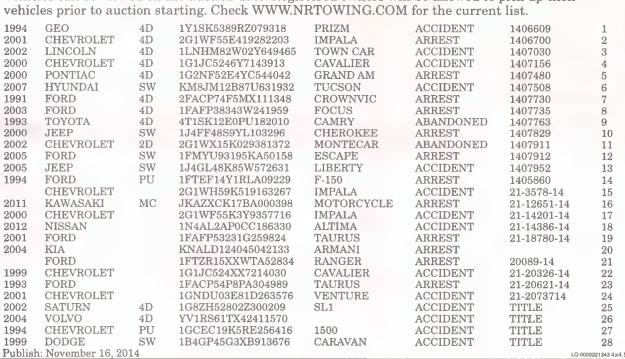
This year's event featured keynote speaker John McElroy, host of Autoline Daily, the first industry webcast of automotive news and analysis. Emmy Award-winning McElroy also hosts the TV program Autoline This Week and Autoline After Hours, the first regularly scheduled live webcast about the industry. His distinctive voice can be heard on WWJ News Radio 950 and on

McElroy offered glimpses into the future of the auto industry by showing videos of vehicles that can park themselves; a prototype car that completely drives itself; new innovations in manufacturing products and more. He said the Vehicle to Vehicle technology has Silicon Valley buzzing with excitement, noting the auto industry is on the cusp of technological advancements that will change the way we live — similar to the way autos changed society more than 100 years

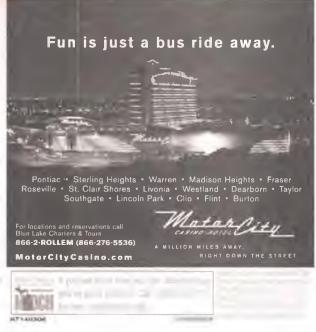
Hosted by WJR Sports Director and radio personality Steve Courtney, the fifth annual luncheon once again served as the primary fundraiser for the LPS Education Foundation's unique Competitive Edge College Savings Program, which offers Section 529 savings accounts for college and qualified trade schools, to LPS kindergarteners.

The Education Foundation gives back to LPS educators as well. The recently established classroom grant program has already provided more than \$55,000 in grants to LPS teachers to enhance their classrooms. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.lpsfoundation.org.

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned in the Township of Redford by the Redford Township Police Department and the Michigan State Police, and are to be sold, as is, at open auction on the 22th day of November 2014, at North Redford Towing, 25215 Glendale, Redford, MI 48239. Vehicles can be viewed on the auction date. Registered owners will be allowed to pick up their vehicles prior to auction starting. Check WWW NRTOWING COM for the current list.









# LPS teachers receive \$31,500 in grants

Seventeen Livonia Public Schools educators were treated to a nice surprise last week, when members of the LPS **Education Foundation** entered their classrooms, holding very large checks.

The LPS Education Foundation, for the second year, issued grants totaling \$31,500 for the purchase of various classroom tools, including Chromebooks; iPads; assistive technology for preschoolers with autism; technology for early literacy; and library books for the Niji-Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School. Forty teachers applied for the grants.

"Each proposal had its merits and we appreciated the time that the staff members committed as they created their proposals," said Lorna Durand, chair of the Grant Review Committee.

Grants were awarded to teachers at: Perrinville Early Childhood Center, Cass, Grant, Niji-Iro, Randolph and Rosedale elementaries; Johnson and Riley upper elementaries; Emerson and Frost middle schools and



LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Frost Middle School band and orchestra teacher Michael Rais received a grant for Smart Music: Interactive Learning, a computer program students will use to learn and practice various pieces of music, scales and rhythm studies.

Franklin High School. The program is funded through LPS employee

contributions, matched

by the LPS Education Foundation and also through other contributions via the foundation.

# Foundation taking scholarship applications

The Canton Community Foundation announced that it will accept applications for grants to be distributed in February

The foundation will consider applications for grants that: benefit the greater Canton and neighboring communities, encourage programs that are collaborative and comprehensive, and focus on the prevention of problems. Areas of interest are

community development and environment. For complete grant

arts, education, health

and human services,

guidelines, potential applicants can visit the **Canton Community** Foundation website at cantonfoundation.org.

The Canton Community Foundation raises funds for charitable grant making and scholarships in the greater Canton community. Its mission is to build trusted partnerships to connect local resources with community needs.

Applications will be accepted through Dec. 23, 2014. Application forms may be obtained at the Canton Community Foundation website, cantonfoundation.org, or by calling 734-495-1200.

For more information, contact Darice Schubatis at dschubatis@cantonfoundation.org or 734-495-1200.





Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas.

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Westland Car Care Westland Chamber of Commerce Westland City Hall, Lobby

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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.



Farmington Hills is officially a "Purple Heart City" — the first one in Oakland County.

A proclamation declaring the designation was presented at the Nov. 10 City Council meeting and accepted by Far-mington Hills resident William Holcomb, who received the Purple Heart for wounds he received in Vietnam at

He's a General Motors retiree and commander of VFW Post 345 in Redford.

"The City of Farmington Hills strongly supports its military population," Mayor Barry Brickner said. "We have the utmost gratitude and respect for the men and women who have selflessly served their country in the armed forces.'

Holcomb's wife, Diane Holcomb, spearheaded the movement to establish Farmington Hills as a Purple Heart City. Prior to accepting the proclamation, Holcomb spoke of his 1966 induction into the United States Army — describing his medical evaluation as "very minimal" and the buzz-cut he and the other newbies paid 65 cents for: "Boys with shoulder-length hair were crying their eyes out," he said.

Holcomb landed in Vietnam in February 1967 as part of the 32nd Artillery Division, and four months later was wounded in a time mortar attack. Shrapnel pierced his stomach. foot, leg and hand, he said, and after medical personnel at a MASH unit saved his life, he



William Holcomb shows off his Purple Heart and other military memorabilia.

spent several weeks in military hospitals. He was deemed ready to resume duty in January 1968 and was stationed at Fort Dix, N.J., until his discharge that August.

Due to exposure to Agent Orange while in Vietnam, Holcomb said, he's undergone open heart surgery, developed prostate cancer and is being monitored for type 2 diabetes. "Even after 46 years," he said.

Still, Holcomb said he is proud to have served his country and honors those who fought.

"I'm grateful I lived a full life following that fateful day in 1967," he

Brickner urges all to recognize the sacrifices that Purple Heart recipients have made in de-

fending freedom. Declaring the City of Farmington Hills a Purple Heart City honors military heroes for their courage and thanks them for their vital contributions to the way of life enjoyed by U.S. citizens, Brickner

The Purple Heart is the nation's oldest military award, initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782. The medal is awarded to members of the armed forces who have been wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States.

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# Farmington Players present 'Leading Ladies'

The Farmington Players will present Leading Ladies, a farce — described as a cross between the hit film Some Like It Hot and Shakespeare's famous comedy Twelfth Night, Nov. 28-Dec. 20 at the Players Barn Theater, 32332 12 Mile Road, Farmington

Hills.
"Leading Ladies is things about the crazy things we do for love," said director Tony Targan of West Bloomfield. "Despite our best (or worst) intentions, love can make us behave like fools."

The show opens Black Friday night. It's a perfect way for families to unwind from holiday shopping and laugh like mad at the antics on the stage, Targan added.

The comedy focuses on a pair of struggling Shakespearean actors Leo Clark and Jack Gable who wind up dressing as women to try and steal the fortune of a dying millionaire. Their quest begins as they decide to impersonate her nephews and heirs "Max" and "Steve."
When Clark and Gable discover the nephews are actually nieces, they have no problem transforming to "Maxine" and "Stephanie."

"It's fun directing a fast-paced farce," Tar-gan said. "It's like piecing together a rotating, three-dimensional jigsaw

The main two pieces of that puzzle include Keith Firstenberg of Livonia as Leo/Maxine and Lance Alan of Farmington Hills as Jack/ Stephanie. As their characters press on in drag, they fall in love with real women and find themselves frequently switching between their identities as both men and women.

As Ken Ludwig (author of Leading Ladies, Lend Me a Tenor, and

## **'LEADING LADIES' SHOW TIMES**

» 8 p.m., Friday Nov. 28 and Saturday, Nov. 29; 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 30 » 8 p.m., Friday Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6; 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7 » 8 p.m., Friday Dec.12 and 13; 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14

» 8 p.m., Thursday Dec. 18, Friday, Oct

## **TICKETS**

Reserved Seats are available at both www.farmingtonplayers.org and the box office at 248-553-2955. Adults, \$16; students, \$2 off any performance; seniors, \$2 off any performance; Thrifty Thursday, \$2 off the adult price for everyone on Thursday, Dec. 18; Group discount, \$2 off any show with group of 10 or more.

Moon Over Buffalo) has written, "There's a bit of the female in all men and a bit of the male in all females; it's just how we're made. To see it emerge full blown like that can be very funny and very joyous.'

The fun only intensifies when the duo discovers that the dying heiress Florence Snider (Ellen Doman of West Bloomfield) is still clinging to life. Leo falls madly in love with Florence's niece Meg (Emilie Tole of Farmington) who's engaged to the local minister Duncan (Mike Gingerella of Royal Oak), while Jack meets his dream girl Audrey (Sarah Lovy of Berkley). Jim Snideman of Commerce Township plays Doc, the cantankerous country doctor, and Daniel Tarjeft of Southfield plays his son Butch.

The magic of Leading Ladies lies in its bag of comedic tricks, including numerous doors,



JAN CARTWRIGHT

Leo Clark, played by Keith Firstenberg of Livonia, and Jack Gable, played by Lance Allan of Farmington Hills, try to steal the fortune of a dying woman in "Leading Ladies."

double-entendres, letter mix-ups and of course, mistaken identities. Also, audiences can expect to hear fabulously funny lines and see phenomenal facial expressions. Lance Alan's physical humor as a seductive Stephanie is guaranteed to generate side-splitting laughter.

Targan admits it's refreshing to see how the actors keep their characters real despite the ridiculous situations

they encounter. Leading Ladies is sponsored by Cadillac Travel. Reserved seats are available at www.farmingtonplayers.org and at the box office, 248-553-2955.

The cast includes: » Jack Gable: Lance Alan, Farmington Hills » Florence Snider: Ellen Doman, West Bloomfield

» Leo Clark: Keith Firstenberg, Livonia » Rev. Duncan Wooley: Mike Gingerella,

Royal Oak » Audrey: Sarah Lovy, Berkley » Doc Myers: Jim Snideman, Commerce

Township

» Butch Myers: Daniel Tarjeft, Southfield » Meg Snider: Emilie Toth, Farmington

The production team includes: director Tony Targan, West Bloomfield; assistant director Jill

Jones, Southfield; producer Amy Lauter, Farmington Hills; producer Tim Timmer, Wayne.

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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.

## **CAPTIVE FREE MEAL PACKING EVENT**

Time/date: 8:30 a.m. 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@holytrinitylivonia.org.

# THE MEN WHO MADE

**SELFRIDGE** Time/date: 2 p.m. Monday,

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: Annies, 33427 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Details: Widowed Friends, a

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# **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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 Annies. Meet new friends in a safe setting. Contact: Tom at 734-927-0610.

# **LAGERS FOR LUNCHES** Time/date: 7-11 p.m. Friday,

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 lagersforlunches.eventbrite.com Each ticket gives the attendees

15 drink tickets and appetizers.

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**WINTER CARD PARTY** Time/date: 6:30-10 p.m. Friday,

Location: Ss. Simon and Juse Church, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland.

**Details:** Bring your friends and play cards and games of your choice. There will be door and table prizes, 50/50, a light meal and snacks. Tickets are \$8 and are available at the door Contact: 734-722-1343.

## ST. MICHAEL **ALL-CLASS REUNION** Time/date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

Location: Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Far-

mington 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

aged to bring some of their old St. Michael's memorabilia to share with others. Contact: 734-261-1455, ext. 225;

available. Attendees are encour-

## TREASURES FROM **GRANDMA'S ATTIC**

Time/date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

livoniastmichael.org/alumni.

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.

# **CHRISTMAS CAMP**

Time/date: 3-8 p.m. 5aturday, Nov. 22.

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City.

Details: Open to children preschool and up, must be potty trained. Cost is \$20 for the first child and \$15 for each additional sibling. Drop them off for crafts, games, movies and pizza while you get some Christmas shopping done. Contact: 734-427-3660.

## **WORLD YOUTH DAY EUCHRE PARTY**

Time/date: 6:15 p.m. Saturday,

Nov. 22.

Location: St Aidan Catholic Church Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Details: All proceeds benefit pilgrims traveling to World Youth Day 2016. Cost of \$10 per player includes euchre, snacks, soda pop, chance to win cash prizes. Beer, wine, pizza, available for purchase along with 50-50 raffle. Tournament styleno partner needed. Casual, friendly, fun play.

Contact: Paul via email: bookkeeper@staidanlivonia.org.

## **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.

## THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Time/date: 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27.

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

Details: Free and open to all. A turkey dinner with all the fixings will be served. Football fans are invited to stay and watch the game. RSVP at www.newburgumc.org. Contact: 734-422-0149; www.newburgumc.org.

## ST. NICHOLAS IS **SANTA CLAUS PARTY**

Time/date: 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. Location: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. Details: The Council of Ortho-

dox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit will sponsor its fifth annual "St. Nicholas Is Santa Claus," a Nativityseason 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

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, 31117 Plymouth Road, east of Marriman, 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.

## **HOLIDAY CONCERT** Time/date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

Location: St. Paul's Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. Details: The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will perform a holiday concert. There will also be a bake sale and aferglow. Admission is free.

**Contact:** mike@entropystereo.com.

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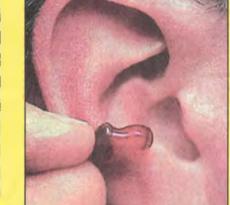
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SECTION B (WGRL)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2014 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# **SPORTS**

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**ABOVE AND BEYOND** 

# Kroll up to the challenge at MSU

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

When it came time to choose the high school athletic activity Sara Kroll would pour her heart, soul and thousands of waking hours into, she chose possibly the most demanding one available: long-distance running

So it's not surprising to know that once career-decision time rolled around for the Michigan State University senior, Kroll's ultimate choice was as challenging (and rewarding) as they come: special-

education teacher.

"I attended a conference my senior year of high school [Livonia Churchill] that exposed me for the first time to autism and the huge special-needs population that we have in this

ulation that we have in this
country," said Kroll. "I
started volunteering in
my cross country coach's
[Sue Tatro] classroom
and I found out this may
be something I'd be interested in."

Kroll's special-education career will begin
next year in Indianapolis
when she will take part in
the highly-acclaimed "Teach
For America", a non-profit or-

ganization that places highachieving college graduates into low-income communities for two years to help "eliminate educational inequity", according to the organization's web-

"It will be a challenge, but I like challenges," Kroll said.

Just getting into TFA is an accomplishment. Just a handful of the thousands of applicants are accepted each year.

"I was surprised at how demanding and comprehensive their interview process is," she said. "It was pretty intense and I have some good friends who

See KROLL, Page B4 lo



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Livonia Churchill graduate Sara Kroll has enjoyed a remarkably successful long-distance running career at MSU.

# All-Region volleyball

Several area high school volleyball players earn All-Region 18 accolades at a recent regional coaches meeting.

Livonia Churchill, Garden City and Livonia Ladywood all placed three players on the squad.

The Chargers' honorees were Natalie Panek a 5-foot-7 junior outside hitter, Rayna Yetts, a 5-8 junior setter/outside hitter and Lauren St. Pierre, a 5-6 senior libero.

The Cougars' all-region standouts were senior 5-4 libero Taylor Bejma, senior 5-8 outside hitter Holly Sayger and junior 5-8 outside hitter Allie Lynn.

Making the allregion grade for the Blazers were senior 5-4 libero Madison Mochetta, 6-foot junior outside hitter Kayla March and 5-9 junior outside hitter Haley Moores.

District champion Huron Valley Lutheran placed a pair of players on the allregion team: 5-8 senior outside hitter Madison Dest and 5-7 senior setter Anna St. John.



# Baseball camp

The Henry Ford Community College baseball program will be hosting a four-week camp that will include sessions in November, December, January and February.

The camp sessions, which will be held in HFCC gymnasium, will be divided into hour-long segments based on the participants' age

and position.

The cost is \$35 per session or \$100 for

four sessions.
To register, visit
www.henryford
camps.com.

For more information on the camps, contact Hawks head coach Steve Brown at 313-657-3200 or SJBrown@HF CC.edu.

# Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright at

734-578-2767.

The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.
The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 10 p.m.

**DIVISION 3 REGIONAL PLAYOFFS** 



ED WRIGHT

# CHIEFS 'HOOK' EAGL

New Boston Huron survives relentless rally by Thurston to win 38-29

Thurston's Chris Johnson ran the ball down to the New Boston Huron 1-yard line on this third-quarter carry.

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

A fiery second-half comeback by Redford Thurston's football team went up in flames Friday night thanks to the oldest trick play in the book: the hook-and-

Clinging to a tenuous 31-29 lead and facing a third-and-12

predicament from the Eagles 41-yard line, New Boston Huron quarterback Matt Hartwick lasered a short pass in the left flat to Devin Collins, who caught then pitched the ball to Jacob Fryer, who raced down the sidelines to put the Chiefs in front 38-29 (following Marco Marchionda's extra point) with just over 4 minutes left in the Divi-

sion 3 regional contest played in New Boston.

New Boston.

Thurston managed to mount a drive into the Chiefs' red zone in the final minute, but couldn't

come away with any points in the dramatic 38-29 setback. The loss ended the Eagles' stellar season at 8-4. The 11-1 Chiefs advanced to next week-

end's D3 semifinal round.

Thurston, which never led after falling into an early 14-0 hole, trailed 31-13, 44 seconds into the third quarter when Hartwick raced 42 yards untouched on a keeper two plays after the Chiefs recovered an

But the adversity seemed to light a fire under the Eagles in

onside kick on the second-half

See EAGLES, Page B4

AMATEUR SWIMMING

# LCSC's water rocket is Indiana-bound

Tucker commits to Hoosiers with long-term goal of Olympics stardom

> By Ed Wright Staff Writer

It all started with the dog paddle — but don't most Olympic swimming dreams?

Less than an hour before she would sign a National Letter of Intent to swim for national power Indiana University Wednesday afternoon on the deck of the Livonia Community Recreation Center pool, Livonia Community Swim Club standout Miranda Tucker recounted how her fabulous amateur career got kickstarted.

"When I was younger, I was one of the only kids in my neighborhood who didn't have a pool in my backyard, so I'd go to my friends' houses to swim," the 17-year-old Plymouth resident remembered. "They'd always say, 'Hey, let's race,' because they knew how to swim and all I knew how to do was the dog

See TUCKER, Page B2



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Miranda Tucker flies through the water during a recent meet for the Livonia Community Swim Club.

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**YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING** 

# Sky was the limit for junior varsity Comets

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Somewhere high above, Keith Demolay is wearing an eternal ear-to-ear smile in the wake of a couple of inspiring performances delivered by his beloved Westland Comets football and cheerleading teams.

Wearing infinity patches in memory of Demolay, who was a staunch supporter of the Westland program before passing away in January, the Comets junior-varsity football team completed its first-ever 10-0 season by upending Dearborn Heights, 29-20, in the Western Suburban Junior Football League Super Bowl on Nov. 9.

One day earlier, the Comets cheerleading teams sparkled at the WSJFL cheerleading Rally. Leading the way was the junior varsity contingent, which earned a gold medal in the cheer competition and a bronze medal in the dance portion of the event. The JV Comets also won the inaugural "Keith Demolay Trophy," which will be awarded annually to the top teams at each

The Comets' freshmen and varsity cheer teams took home silver medals while members of the junior freshmen squad were presented with gold medals for their efforts.

## A football first

Comets unit director Brion Dingman said the junior varsity football team's historic performance was extra special considering it came less than a year after the popular Demolay's pass-

ing.

"Keith would have been so proud of these guys if he would have been around to see what they accomplished — but myself and a lot of people believe he did see it all,"



Members of the Westland Comets junior-varsity football team celebrate after their 29-20 victory over the Dearborn Heights Redskins.



Pictured are members of the Westland Comets' four cheerleading teams, all of which performed extremely well at the WSJFL Cheer Rally held Nov. 8 at Belleville High School.

said Dingman, who coaches the offensive and defensive linemen for the JV Comets. "Doing what we did while playing for Keith this season just added a sheen to the entire experience."

The Comets' perfect season seemed improbable at the season's outset given that more than half the team were first-year JV players.

"We had 18 kids on the team who were just up from the freshmen team, and during their two seasons on freshmen they had won just one game and tied one while losing 14 times," Dingman said. "I think it came down to all of them saying, 'We're tired of losing and let's put the work in and get this thing done.' It was truly a team effort."

The most noteworthy regular-season victory came at Dearborn Heights when the Comets rallied from a 22-6 half-time deficit to edge the Redskins, 36-35, on Steven Walker's late touchdown run.

wii ruii. "Steven is probably our most well-rounded player, but he's a great kid, too," Dingman said. "During homecoming week, he encouraged everybody to vote for the linemen because he had already gotten enough pats on the back."

Other key players for the Comets were quarterback Austin Southern; multi-faceted Dominic Spalding, whose older brother Devon is a truefreshman starting running back at Central Michigan Unviversity; and starting offensive linemen Max O'Connell, Kayleb Parker, Gavin Dingman, Jalen Hamilton and Chad Taylor.

Of the 18 first-year JV players, Brendan Kiekens, Brandon Kubany, Owen Voss, Dustin Frazee and Sydney Tatum played key roles.

The team's head coach is Pat O'Connell.

"I think the most memorable thing we accomplished this season was beating Dearborn Heights three times — twice in the regular season and then in the Super

Bowl," Dingman said.
"Once you beat a team
twice, there's a tendency
to get a little cocky and
overconfident before you
play them a third time,
but our guys didn't let
that happen. In the Super
Bowl, they played as if
they had lost the first two
games to the Redskins."

# Something to cheer about

Comets cheerleading unit director Jan Fracassi said the Comets cheer teams' accomplishments were the result of long hours on the practice field.

"Cheerleading is a huge commitment for these girls," said Fracassi, who has volunteered for the Comets program for the past 17 years. "Before the football season starts, we practice four days a week, and we practice three days a week with a game on the weekend once the season starts. During the two weeks before the cheer rally, we practice five days a week.

"The day of the rally, the girls were at the school (Belleville High School) at 6 a.m. practicing, and they didn't leave until 4 p.m.

The Comets four cheerleading teams are co-coached by Veronica Chambers and Holly Fracassi.

Fracassi said the cheerleaders dedicated the season to the memory of Demolay.

"The girls wore the infinity symbol on their jackets and bows all season," she said. "Keith was such a big part of our program. We always knew he did a lot for us, but we didn't realize exactly how much he did until he wasn't here any more. He will always be remembered by everyone in the Comets organization."

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# TUCKER

Continued from Page B1

paddle

"I got so mad that one day I went up to my mom (Diane) and said, 'I want to learn how to swim.' She put me in swim lessons, but I failed. I was terrible."

Tucker laughed at the memory.
"But I didn't want to give up," she continued. "When my mom called to get me in more classes, they told her it would be cheaper to just put me on the swim team (the Livonia Blue Racers). I knew how to kick and do the freestyle, but that was about it."

Close to 10 years later, Tucker is one of the most-accomplished teenaged swimmers in the United States. A member of the USA Junior National Swim Team, she is ranked No. 12 by collegeswimming.com and has already made the cuts in two events — the 200-yard breaststroke and 200-yard individual medley — for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team trials, and is just a half-second off the cuts for the 100 breaststroke and 100 butterfly.

Her accomplishments are amazing, but not surprising considering the competitive spirit she exhibited in her first race, at the age of 8, with the Blue Racers.

ers.

"I remember standing behind the blocks; I was nervous and fidgeting with my fingers," Tucker reflected.

"But once I got in the water and the race started — it was a 25-yard breast-stroke — apparently — and I quote my parents — I made this monster face like 'AARRGG!' and my parents looked at one another and one of them said, 'It looks like we have a competitor!' A couple weeks later, I was just a couple tenths off the state cuts for my age group."

It wasn't long before Tucker aspired to one day become an Olympian. She started following the sport closely and one night, when she was just 9 or 10, she seized the opportunity to attend a meet at Canton High School, which was the home of future Olympic gold medalist Allison Schmitt.

"When I saw Allison swim for the first time, I was like, 'Wow, she's amazing!'," Tucker said. "It was like nothing

I had ever seen before.

"I brought a photo of myself swimming and after the meet, I walked up to Allison — I was awestruck — and told her she was my idol and I asked her to sign my picture. She was still in high school, so I'm not sure she knew what to do, but she signed it. It was probably her first autograph."

An outstanding student, Tucker's current academic situation is compelling, to say the least. She is homeschooled through the Waterford Cyber Academy, which is offered through the Waterford Public Schools, and she com-



SUBMITTED hes Joe

Miranda Tucker is flanked by coaches Joe Bublitz (LCSC) and John Bienkowski (Waterford United) as she signs her National Letter of Intent to swim for Indiana University.

petes for the Waterford United high school swim team.

"I love my online schooling and it's perfect for me because it allows me to not get overwhelmed by homework when I'm traveling to out-of-state meets," she said. "I can get my stuff done early and work at my own pace."

Although she admits high-caliber swimming is challenging, she can't get enough of it.

"Swimming isn't a natural thing for humans," she said, smiling. "You need to really put a lot of time and work into it if you want to see results.

"I absolutely love swimming. I love the feeling of swimming fast. I even love the feeling of fatigue because it means I'm working as hard as I possibly can."

Whenever she runs into that adversity-coated barrier that all world-class athletes face at one time or another while they're pushing their bodies to the limit, Tucker said she reminds herself of a passage she authored.

"When you get fatigued, your stroke falls off and you pull less water," she said. "When this happens, I tell myself, "There's no better time than right now to start pulling harder and getting stronger."

Recruited by every women's collegiate swimming power in the country, Tucker narrowed her next-level choices to the University of Michigan, the University of Arizona, Queens University in North Carolina, the University of Texas at Austin and Indiana, before ultimately choosing the Hoosiers.

"There are a million reasons why I

"There are a million reasons why I chose Indiana," she admitted. "They have an excellent kinesiology program and that's what I want to study. I love the girls on the team — they're silly, like me, and they're all about hard work. And the campus is amazing. There's a forest-y area just off campus that reminds me of Alice in Wonderland."

ewright@hometownlife.com

Sydney Murphy, senior, Plymouth: Murphy capped off a brilliant prep career for the Wildcats, leading the team to



in the state finals. Al-

Sydney Murphy Plymouth

consecutive appearance Division 1

a fourth

though Plymouth

did not repeat as champions, it was still another outstanding season for Murphy and the Wildcats.

"Sydney has led our program to unparalleled heights during her career," coach Dan Young said. "She's been a solid rock and great competitor for our program and we will miss her a lot."

Murphy was part of two state championships along the way, as well as four consecutive KLAA South Division titles and three conference championships.

Erica Heath, senior, Mercy: Heath was named to the Division 1 all-state team following a successful senior season. She led the Marlins to a sixth-place



Erica Heath Mercy

Her 40.1 dual average included three sub-40 rounds of

finish in

this year's

state meet.

one-over-par 36, 37, and 39. Her 81.6 tournament average was highlighted by 75 in the Farmington Invitational and 79 in the Oakland County tournament.

"Erica is the rare four-year varsity starter," coach Vicky Kowalski said. "She went to the state final all four years. After going as an individual last year, Erica was determined to help the team achieve the goal of winning the regional and returning to

the state final." Katie Chipman, junior, Plymouth: Whether blasting shots off the tee or threading the needle on chips and putts, Chipman continues to get it done in all phases of the game for the Wildcats

"Katie has continued to improve every year,'



Katie Chipman Plymouth

play."

hitters out there and is becoming more and more consistent with her overall

"Julia

Young said. "She

is one of

the longest

Julia Shaw, junior, Mercy: Shaw's second season as a varsity starter was a great success and resulted in her being selected for a Division 1 all-state honorable men-



Julia Shaw said. "She Mercy is very

focused during practice and in competition. Julia is a leader by example and I look forward to her senior year as a team captain. I know she will lead Mercy to top performances."

Alana Jones, fresh., **NF-Harrison:** Jones had an outstanding first year as a high school golfer, finishing with the second-best, all-time season average in the history of the program behind



coach Bruce

Alana Jones Sutton said. "She NF-Harrison

just needs to get some length off the tee. That was the exact same thing when Sophie was a freshman and sophomore. She has accuracy — the same as Sophie.

'She's really young, only 14. As time goes on and she gets more experience, hopefully, she'll become a very good player. She's almost there as it is.

Caroline Bland, senior, Mercy: Bland had a breakthrough senior season and was a solid No. 3 player for the Marlins after two years on the 'B' varsity and one

"Caroline was focused on the golf course and a lot of fun off the course,"



Caroline Bland Mercy

Kowalski said. "She kept team spirits high and backed up her words of encouragement with great scores to

help the team have a highly successful season.

Lilly Blake, junior, Mercy: Blake, who was on the JV team the previous two seasons, was the biggest surprise for the Mercy varsity this year.

She worked diligently in tournaments over the summer and stepped



into a starting role, according to coach Vicky Kowalski. She aver-

**Lilly Blake** 

aged 45.6 in dual meets and

88.7 in tournaments. "Lilly moved into the No. 4 spot on the team this season and solidified the Mercy lineup," Ko-

walski said. "She is an outstanding studentathlete, just below a 4.0. I look forward to having Lilly in a leadership role during her senior sea-**SECOND TEAM** 

Alyce Krumm, senior,

Canton: Krumm was a standout all season with a well-rounded game, in addition to providing essential leadership skills as team captain.



Alvce Krumm Canton

season in a row, averaging 44.6 for nine holes and

92 for 18. She was dual match medalist three

"Alyce has a strong overall game," coach Tom Alles said. "She hits it long but also possesses an exceptional short game. Alyce is a very intelligent player and manages her game skill-fully."

Krumm has committed to play golf for Northern Michigan University.

Alaina Strzalka, ju-

nior, Plymouth: An annual influx of talent continues to keep the Wildcats among the top teams in the state, and the performance turned in this season by Strzalka is another example.

The

18-hole

tourna-



Alaina Strzalka **Plymouth** 

ments. "Alaina is getting better and better," Young said. "She has a strong work ethic and she is starting to learn how to score consistently."

Darby Scott, soph., Salem: In just her second season playing competitive golf, Scott performed well enough to miss qualifying for the D1 state finals by four strokes.

"Darby has not been playing long but she ... spends many hours practicing the



**Darby Scott** Salem

for us in everv match except one this year and it counted in every tournament. That's lots of pressure knowing your score is going to count

game,'

coach

score

Ryan Nim-

merguth

counted

said. "Her

every time you play." Nimmerguth added that there is plenty of untapped potential. "Darby is very driven and still has many goals she wants to accomplish in the future."

Elle Greenlee, soph., Farmington: Greenlee is a two-time state qualifier in Division 2. She averaged 46 in dual matches and 90.33 in tourna-

ments.

earning a

"Elle

has excel-

place on

the all-

league

team.



Elle Greenlee

lent prac-Farmington tice habits," coach Mark Azeez said. "She worked real hard last summer to improve her consistency. The results

were great. I look for-

ward to Elle being the captain of our team for the next two years.'

Dana Iles, senior, NF-Harrison: A threeyear varsity player and team captain this year. Iles averaged 46.6 in dual matches and 90.7 in tournaments. Her overall average was 45.7.

Iles shot 85 — her best tournament score twice. She won the Think Pink Invite at Twin the

first time

and re-

in the

peated it

Farming-

ton Invite

Oaks. She

also had 88

at Glen



Dana Iles **NF-Harrison** 

in the OAA tournament at Bald Mountain. Coach Bruce Sutton had some helpful advice for Iles, an outstanding bowler, when she struggled with her putting.

"She's a solid player, I counted on her last year and this year. She was a solid No. 2 on this team. I counted on her as a solid No. 4 last year, and she never let me down. Her score always counted."

Kendyl Kirkland, junior, Mercy: After one season of JV golf and one season on the 'B' varsity team, Kirkland moved into a starting position on the varsity this year.

She played a big role in Mercy repeating as Traverse City champion with 88 on the Wolverine

and 87 on

the Spruce

courses at

Traverse

Kirk-

land's 45.6

Resort.

The Grand



K. Kirkland Mercy

dual average and 89.3 tournament average were highlighted by a 41 against Ladywood and a career-low 79 in the Farmington Inivte at Glen

"We call Kendyl the walking rule book," Kowalski said. "She is a student of the game and practices to improve every facet of scoring. There was significant improvement in Kendyl's short game. We look forward to Kendyl being a team leader in her senior year."

Oaks Golf Course.

Amy Vlachos, senior, Mercy: Vlachos stepped

up to a leadership role as a captain and top-six golfer in her senior season, averaging 45.5 in dual meets and 91 in tournament average.

Season highlights included a 43 against Divine Child at the difficult Dearborn Country Club and a career-low 82 in the Seaholm tourna-



Amy Vlachos,

the prestigious Birmingham Country Club. Vlachos was

ment at

Mercy

named an academic all-Catholic golfer and an all-state academic honorable

mention. "Amy is every coach's dream," Kowalski said. "She is an outstanding student-athlete. Amy is always positive. She encourages teammates and congratulates oppo-

nents on great shots. "I'm glad Amy had the experience of playing in the big tournaments this season after two years on JV and one year as a 'B' varsity player."

**COACH OF THE YEAR** Vicky Kowalski, Mercy: The Marlins won the Catholic League championship, a Division 1 regional and the Traverse City Invitational en route to another successful season. Mercy finished sixth in the state tournament.

The Marlins were runners-up in the Farmington Invite at Glen



Vicky Kowalski, Mercy

holm Tournament at Birmingham CC, and they were third in the Northville

Tournament at

Hudson Mills. Mercy scored below 340 six times was 7-2 in dual meets.

"This year's team was a joy to coach in my 36th season of varsity golf," Kowalski said. "After not making it to the state final last year, this team was focused on that goal and won the regional. I will miss the seniors, but I look forward to another successful season next year."

## **ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GOLF FIRST TEAM**

Sydney Murphy, senior, Plymouth

Erica Heath, senior, Mercy Katie Chipman, junior, Plymouth Julia Shaw, junior, Mercy Alana Jones, fresh., NF-Harrison Caroline Bland, senior, Mercy Lilly Blake, junior, Mercy

**SECOND TEAM** Alyce Krumm, senior, Canton Darby Scott, sophomore, Salem Elle Greenlee, soph., Farmington Dana Iles, senior, NF-Harrison

Amy Vlachos, senior, Mercy **COACH OF THE YEAR** Vicky Kowalski, Farm. Hills Mercy **HONORABLE MENTIONS** 

Alaina Strzalka, junior, Plymouth Kendyl Kirkland, junior, Mercy

Salem: Hope Warkoczeski, Kiley Flynn, Keista Elder;

**Bulldogs captured fall title** 

Canton: Madelyn Mans, Meghan Meredith; Plymouth: Arianna Strzalka; Farmington: Eunice Yoon; Stevenson: Kristen Szabelski, Danielle Marzec, Madi Maurier, Megan Gronau; Franklin: Kendall Payne.

Churchill: Sr. Alyssa Mazur, Kristin McLean, Marin McGowan, Paige Peterson;

Ladywood: Gabriella Scopone, Carley Hall.

**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL** 

# Blazers fall to Falcons in regional final

**By Brad Emons** 

Staff Writer Dearborn Divine Child got 14 kills and seven blocks Thursday night from senior Riley Blair to thwart Livonia Ladywood's bid for a Class B regional girls volleyball title with a 26-24, 25-13, 18-25, 25-12 victory at

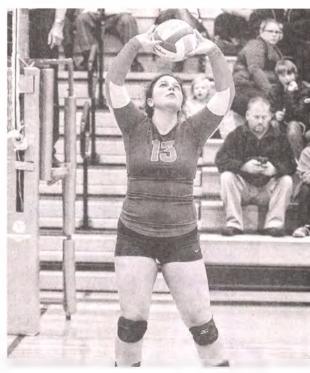
Livonia Clarenceville. Emily Reedy added 12 kills for the Falcons, who advance to the MHSAA quarterfinals beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Clawson against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

Senior setter Emily Fradette paced the Blazers, who finished 30-19-4 overall, with 38 assist-tokills, while junior Kayla March contributed 26

Other leaders for Ladywood included junior Haley Moores (16 kills, 10 digs); sophomore Maggie Shirk (12 digs); senior Madison Moschetta (18 digs); and senior captain Molly McClorey (eight kills, five ace serves).

Earlier this season, Ladywood fell in straight sets to the Falcons, who earned their first trip to the state quarterfinals since 2012.

"Let me start by congratulating Divine Child on winning the regional championship," Ladywood coach Peter Lau said. "It was a thrill to



Thursday's 3-1 Class B regional final loss to Divine Child.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK Ladywood senior Madison Moschetta finished with 18 digs in

compete against such a

well-coached team.

"As for our team, I'm very proud of the girls. They really came together for an amazing run at the Class B state title.

"The seniors - Molly (McClorey), Emily (Fradette) and Maddy (Moschetta) – will be missed and I thank them for their contributions to the Ladywood Blazer program."

The last time the Blaz-

ers reached a regional final was in 2011 against Gibraltar Carlson when they lost in four sets. Ladywood made it to the Class B state semifinals in 2010 before falling to North Branch.

"I would also like to thank all the parents and that supported the team this year," Lau said. "The student cheering section made me proud to be a

## The Motor City Bulldogs captured the FAAST 13U Advanced Fall League championship. The playoffs were held Oct. 26 at Eastern Michigan University. Pictured are (back row from left) Nick Dzeikan, Mike Pesavento, coach Al Madden, Baylor Emerson, Malik Lewis, Cebastian House, Brandon Meadows, Ryan Madden, (front row from left) Trevor McCorry, Evan Bosman, Brendan Lowry, Nik Nabozny and Tyler Van Vliet.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL** 

# Ocelots crunch Kellogg in 86-57 men's win

By Tim Smith Staff Write

Anthony Wartley-Fritz did all the heavy lifting early on for Schoolcraft's men's basketball team Wednesday night against visiting Kellogg Community College.

Freshman forward and Canton alum Davon Taylor was watching closely, and he needed to pick up the slack during the second half after Wartley-Fritz found himself in foul trouble.

"He's a beast down there," said the 6-8 Taylor, who scored six points in the second half of the Ocelots' 86-57 win. "I'm trying to learn from him and get better, just like him.

Wartley-Fritz scored nine points, all in the first half of the "Spirit Night" contest in Livonia. But six of those were scored in the opening minutes, when his team struggled to get going on offense.

"He (Wartley-Fritz) is a load inside and he did a very good job in the first half especially getting us going because we didn't have much else outside

of him," Schoolcraft first-vear head coach Abe Mashhour said. "He did a terrific job in the first half of just being strong and establishing his position.

"They did a couple things towards the latter part of the first half to take him away, to push him off the block. Which was smart on their part."

The Ocelots led 37-29 at halftime, but played a more well-rounded second half — hitting just over 50 percent from the floor (23-45) and pounding the boards with regularity.

# KROLL

Continued from Page B1

are very smart and very accomplished who didn't make it."

Before a classroom of fortunate kids in Indianapolis get to benefit from Kroll's presence, she'll be doing what she's done at such a high level in East Lansing the past five years - kicking some butt on the cross country trails and on the track-and-field oval.

After winning the individual Big Ten championship in 2012 (among other feats), she sat out the 2013 season with an injury, but managed to earn Academic All-Big Ten

This fall, her final cross country season at MSU, Kroll helped lead the No. 1-ranked Spartans to the Big Ten title and a first-place finish at Friday's NCAA Regional – the first time an MSU team has accomplished this feat since 2010.

"I love running and I love this group" of girls I'm running with this year," Kroll said. "I run so much more than I did three or four years

ago, but I feel great and I love it. I've been fairly luck with injuries knock on wood - in that I haven't had any fractures or anything serious like that.

"I have plantar faciatis now, but it's something you learn to deal with.

Kross assured that she will continue to run even after her challenging professional career kicks into high gear.

"I'll never quit running," she promised. "Even if it's in little 5K road races. It"s in my blood."

ewright@hometownlife.com.

# **EAGLES**

Continued from Page B1

the biting cold conditions. Following an exchange of possessions, Thurston constructed a much-needed six-play, 73-yard touchdown drive that was capped by Laymon Giddings-Whatleys' 8-yard run. The Eagles then closed to within 31-21 when Kobe Williams hauled in a tipped two-point pass from senior

quarterback Travis Wesenberg.

The Eagles maintained the momentum when Dionte Jones recovered a Hartwick fumble on the Thurston 37 with 4:30 left in the third quarter. Three plays later, Wesenberg rifled a short pass to senior receiver Isiah Crofford, who sprinted down the sideline before getting pushed out at

A Chris Johnson 1-yard TD run followed by a two-point conversion run by holder Alonzo McCoy off a fake extra point try closed the Eagles' deficit to 31-29 with 4:12 showing on the third-quarter clock.

## ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION: **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 @ 12PM** SPARKS AUTO AND TOWING 34043 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND MI

2004 DODGE 2002 CHRYSLER 2000 GMC 1998 FORD 2004 CHRYSLER 2009 DODGE

1999 BMW

VIN: 1B3EL46X74N177275 VIN: 2C8GP64L02R788089 VIN: 1GKEL19W0YB516826

VIN: 1FAFP13P4WW180714 VIN: 2C3HD56G14H586352 VIN: 1D3HV13T29J527827

VIN: WBAGH8334XDP01703

CASE #14-10052

CASE # 14-11100

CASE #14-11100

CASE #14-11346

CASE #14-11346

CASE #14-11346

CASE #14-13815



Publish: November 16th, 2014

# PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To all residents and interested parties: Legal notices are available for review at our website.

The minutes (including approved ordinances) from regular and special Council meetings are available at: www.gardencitymi.org/minutes

Current requests for bids and proposals are available at: www.gardencitymi.org/bids

You may also access this information at Garden City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Garden City Police station lobby 24 hours a day.

Publish: July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, 2014

## CITY OF LIVONIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS **FOR**

# 2015 STREET TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL PROGRAM

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia, Michigan, as owner, until 2:00 p.m. on December 16th. 2014. at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

The City of Livonia seeks proposals for the following:

2015 STREET TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL PROGRAM

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

Proposals must be submitted on forms found on the MITN website. Instructions to Bidders and Specifications for the items required may also be obtained on the MITN website. All addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Proposals must be submitted on the forms found on the MITN website. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the material bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING to explain the project and answer any questions will be held on Thursday, December 4th. 2014. at 2:00 p.m. Prospective bidders should meet in the West Conference Room of the Public Service Division, 12973 Farmington Road. For additional information, contact Douglas Moore, Parks & Forestry Supervisor at (734)466-2617

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the proposal, payable to the City of Livonia, as security for the acceptance of the contract. A Bid Bond in the Michigan standard form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a certified check.

No bidder may withdraw his proposal within sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. All work must be completed by November 15th. 2015, unless extended by the City. ADDRESS ALL BIDS TO THE CITY CLERK IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WHICH CLEARLY STATES THE NATURE OF THE BID.

> Kevin L. Maillard, P.E. Director of Public Works Jack E. Kirksev Mayor

**REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL** 

# Marlins rule regional tourney

By Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

Birmingham Seaholm had just scored back-toback points to take a 23-22 lead in the fourth game Thursday when Farmington Hills Mercy coach Loretta Vogel quickly called a timeout.

"Coach said, 'This is why we play volleyball," Mercy senior Jenna Lerg said. "This is what we play for; this is why we play club. We've been looking forward to this the whole season,' and that was the only thing going through our heads. This is why we want to win, why we play for each other."

That little pep talk inspired the Marlins and helped the team rally for a 28-26 victory and a regional championship in the Class A final at Marian High School, 3-1.

Mercy, surprisingly, had easy victories given the level of competition in the first and third games, winning both by a 25-14 count. The Maples came back hard in the second game to win

that one, 25-19. The Marlins (53-6-2) will play Romeo, which upset Clarkston in tournament play Thursday, in a quarterfinal match 7 p.m. Tuesday at Utica

Ford High School. Seaholm gained a 14-10 lead in the tight fourth game with four straight points, but the Marlins kept chipping away and tied the score at 17 with a Kayla Fisher

The lead continued to change sides even after the Mercy timeout. Vogel, mistakenly, thought the Marlins had won the match when Fisher hit another kill for the team's 25th point. It was a 25-24 score, however.

"I celebrated a little early," Vogel said. "I was like, 'Oh, my gosh. It was the 25th point and I thought it was the 26th, and I'm running out on to the court."

'Honestly, I was surprised, but you can't help but laugh," Lerg said about the premature celebration.

# Marlins clinch win

After the Maples regained the lead, 26-25, Fisher had yet another kill to tie, and senior

Emily Crowley came off the bench to serve an ace. The winning point resulted from a Seaholm hit into the net.

"Once you get that final point, you don't know what to do; you're just so happy," Lerg said. 'So happy for everyone else, everyone who came out and got to see a good game.

"Getting this far and knowing you're in the quarterfinals is such a special feeling. We worked so hard for this every day in practice."

Seaholm (50-11-2) frustrated the Marlins with an awesome double block in the second game. That helped the Maples on the attack, and they had Mercy scrambling and out of sync on its side of the

The Maples didn't change their scheme at all, according to coach Heather Lippert. They merely played the way they knew they could.

But the Marlins adjusted and were the better blocking team in the third game. Fisher in combination with Colleen Hadley, Lauren Hunter and Bella Mc-Donald thwarted quite a few attacks.

Lerg also served back-to-back aces, and senior setter Shanleigh Conlan caught the Maples off guard several times with quick kills.

## **Chess match on** floor

"I thought Seaholm came after us with everything," Vogel said. "In the second game, they took us out; their block was huge. We adjusted a little and tried to go higher off their fingertips. We also rotated a little according to their matchups. "We got better touch-

es in the third game. We're not noted for being big; therefore, we're not noted for getting great blocks. But tonight (the Maples) tend to hit a little lower to the tape, so it's an advantage.

"They were definitely ller than us," Fisher, who led the Marlins in kills, said. "Using their block and putting the ball where they weren't helped us and made us an effective team against the huge block. It

helped push us through at the end, because they really struggled with moving."

Fisher played like the veteran player she is at crunch time in the fourth

"I knew I had to play my role and put the ball away when I should," she said. "Having those kills motivates the team and gets (the other players) going — and it gets me going, too."

# **Trouble for Maples**

Lippert said Seaholm's passing was a little off, making it difficult to run a good, consistent offense. Mercy's defense was a problem

for the Maples, too. "Mercy dug a lot of balls," Lippert said. "We were expecting to use our size to an advantage and they're very good

defensively. "Offensively, they gave us some balls we haven't seen all season. We tried to prepare, but it's difficult when you haven't played them.'

# Senior standout

Lerg, a four-year varsity player, contributed in all phases, even with the block on a couple occasions. Her forte is defense and hitting from the left side, however. She was second in team

kills. Early in the third game, Lerg made a great, one-handed save out of bounds and later won the point for Mercy

with a kill. "I was thinking, 'I just need to be my best, so my team can be its best," she said. "Everyone was thinking that. Shanleigh said: I need to deliver ball, so the hitters can make good hits.' It was really a team

effort." The Maples had their best overall season in the seven years Lippert has coached the team, winning six tournaments and the most matches.

Meanwhile, the season continues for the Marlins, who hope to be playing on the last weekend in Battle Creek.

Mercy lost to Livonia Stevenson in a regional final last year and was in the quarterfinals two years ago, dropping a four-game match to Temperance Bedford.

## **Notice of Public Auction** November 21, 2014 At or After 10:00 am 1-800-Mini Storage of Redford 15440 Telegraph, Redford Mi 48239

Aprill Tubbs-Streeter Kenneth Moody 3208 Adrian Cox Alma Collins Jacqueline Ward 3538 Sheila Peck 2636 William Cross 3611 Lisa Kimbrough 2704 2713 Chantell Arnold 3624 Lois Garrett Ciara Montgomery 2833 3704 Nichole Goolsby 2905 Michael Jefferies 3901 Adrian Cox Aprill Tubbs-Streeter 4338 Michael Tucker

Goods are to be sold to satisfy landlord lien. All goods will be sold to highest bidder for cash. 1-800-Mini Storage reserves the right to reject any bids and reserves the right to bid on unsold units. Contents include but are not limited to furniture, appliances, household goods, clothing, boxes & more. 2001 Chrysler mini-van

Publish: November 9, 2014 & November 16, 2014

## CITY OF LIVONIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR 2015 STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia, Michigan, as owner, until 2:00 p.m. on  $\underline{\textbf{DECEMBER 16}^{\text{TH}}}.$  2014. at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

The City of Livonia seeks proposals for the following:

of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

2015 STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM Instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan

Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info Proposals must be submitted on forms found on the MITN website. Instructions to Bidders and Specifications for the items required may also be obtained on the MITN website. All addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Proposals must be submitted on the forms found on the MITN website. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the material bid upon, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City

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

A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting to explain the project and answer any questions will be held on Thursday, DECEMBER 4th. 2014. at 10:00 a.m. Prospective bidders should meet in the West Conference Room of the Public Service Division, 12973 Farmington Road. For additional information, contact Douglas Moore, Parks & Forestry Supervisor at (734)466-2617 Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check in the amount of five percent (5%)

of the proposal, payable to the City of Livonia, as security for the acceptance of the contract. A Bid Bond in the Michigan standard form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a certified check. No bidder may withdraw his proposal within sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening

of the sealed bids. All work must be completed by July 31, 2015, unless extended by the City. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids. ADDRESS ALL BIDS TO THE CITY CLERK IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WHICH CLEARLY STATES THE NATURE OF THE BID.

Kevin L. Maillard, P.E. Director of Public Works Jack E. Kirksey Mayor

LO-0000221341 3x8

Publish 11/16/2014

# Livonia Churchill grad pens mystery/romance novel

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

When she was a student at Churchill High School in Livonia, Tracy Gardner Beno loved to write short stories and read novels

"It's funny, as an adult I always say I never considered being a writer. But as a teenager all I did was write tons of short stories. Being in the accelerated program (at school) I was exposed to mind-blowing, wonderful teachers who opened my mind to literature. There is a bigger picture, a bigger meaning to stories that resonate ... teachers helped me understand the importance of a good story."

Beno took those lessons to heart and years later, after marriage, two children, a move to Howell, and an ongoing successful career in nursing, she penned her first novel, a mystery/romance, The Fall of Our Secrets. The book, about two friends, both women, who reconnect 17 years after being separated by tragedy, was published in September by e-Lit Books. Beno will sign copies of her novel at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Barnes & Noble, 17111 Haggerty, Northville. Her appearance is coordinated with the Churchill High School Library book fair at the store. A percentage of sales Thursday, Nov. 20, at Barnes & Noble Northville will go toward purchase of new books for the library. Visit bn.com/bookfairs to shop online through Nov. 25 and benefit Churchill. Enter the book fair ID, 11288418 at checkout.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of it," Beno said. "It's a good way to get books into the Churchill library. If I can bring in some extra business, that would be great."

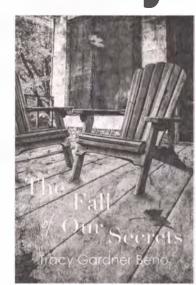
Beno wrote *The Fall of Our Secrets over* several years, putting it aside when she had completed 18 chapters.

"I was two-thirds of the way done, but I had no time. I got back into it two years later when a friend asked me to join a book club," she said. A club member wanted to read her manuscript but Beno declined.

"I said no, because it wasn't done. I had to re-read the whole thing. There was a lot of editing and revisions."

# Mixed genre

She wrote to literary agents in hopes of attracting representation and ultimately a publisher, but found herself in "query hell," with lots of rejec-



Tracy Gardner Beno's first novel combines romance and mystery.

tion letters.

"Somehow I got the attention of an agent who liked the manuscript but felt she couldn't think of a good home for it in a major publishing company. Being a mixed genre slowed the process of getting published. It didn't fit neatly into a box."

Beno, who grew up reading Stephen King novels, didn't consider revamping the story into a romance — without its mystery plot — simply to move

the publishing process along.
"I wouldn't change it. If I did I would have a mushy romance. I know that romance novels have a huge following, but some of it is so sugary sweet, over-the-top unrealistic. It's not how real life it."

Beno adds comedy or sarcasm to keep her characters from leaning toward the "sickeningly sweet."

# Writing credits

After getting an article published in Verite, an online quarterly magazine for women, Beno reached out again to the agent who liked her work, but couldn't find the right publishing house for it.

"She had started a small publishing house with her partner because they'd come across manuscripts they'd fall in love with but couldn't do anything with."

The Fall of Our Secrets was a perfect fit for their new, small publishing business.

Beno was thrilled.

"Up to a year ago, I assumed it was just going to be a manuscript on my computer," she said, adding that her sister and mother, both Livonia residents, are "so excited" about



Tracy Gardner Beno is a 1988 Livonia Churchill High School graduate.

her book.

her book.

Beno also continues to write both fiction and nonfiction pieces for Verite.

"I like both, and it has been a good exercise for me to write short stories. It's a challenge. I haven't done it since I was a

And her book club? Beno brought the finished product to the group just last month

where she got "good feedback' from her fellow readers.

Visit Beno's website at tracygardnerbeno.com. She's also on Facebook and Twitter.

# Baby Grace arrives, making life seem fulfilled

ove. I never really understood the meaning. I've ever felt a love like I feel now. There is no feeling in the world that compares to the love a parent has for their child.

My precious daughter, Grace Dorothy, was born on Oct. 25. My little angel took her time making her first appearance, and after being a week late, still took 48 hours after arriving at the hospital to be born. I never imagined what labor and delivery would really be like. I may have thought I knew what to expect, but actually my mind never got close to the reality I experienced. I was very lucky to have an amazing team of coaches, including my parents, my sister, and one of my best friends.

I ended up having a C-section after the first 47 hours in the hospital. I will never for the rest of my life forget the doctors saying "Uterus, bladder, BABY" and then hearing little Gracie's first cry. I cried too. My mom was able to hold Grace and bring her to me so I could see her, but it would be another hour until I could actually hold my baby and snuggle up with her. Once I finally did get to hold her, I had a real hard time letting her go. I wanted to just hold her for

Grace's father was there too, and was very helpful, staying with me the next two



Sarah Davies
THEN THERE WERE

nights in the hospital. I was not able to get up out of bed right away, so he had the lucky task of having to attend to me and to Grace. The hardest part about having a C-section is that you can't just get up and pick up your baby at any time, instead you have to ask someone to hand her to you. But I didn't hesitate when I wanted to hold her, and she was able to sleep right next to me so I could watch her at any moment.

# Together at home

Grace and I came home from the hospital on the third day after her birth. We were lucky to have many visitors over the first two weeks, who were helpful while I was recovering. My other sister, who lives out of state, was able to come and stay with me for a week to help me out until I felt like I could move around a little more. Although it was a long road leading up to Grace's birth, and a long time in the hospital, at two weeks after her birth I am feeling remarkably well and looking forward to venturing out on our own

Grace is a great baby. She sleeps well and soundly, and is



Grace Dorothy

up for a snuggle any time. She loves when I read to her, and she is working on tummy time and sitting alone in her Boppy. She tries to hold her bottle already, and although some people think I am making it up, she occasionally will take her pacifier out of her mouth and put it back in all by herself. She is smart, beautiful, and the love of my life. I wouldn't take

back any moment of the nine

months of pregnancy, any second of the six days in the hospital, or any of the days spent recovering at home, because Grace is everything to me now.

It's amazing how quickly your life can change. Suddenly I feel so fulfilled in my life, and I wonder how I ever felt even close to that before.

There always was something missing for me, always some-

thing else I was longing for. And now I know what it was it was my little angel, Grace. The little girl I love more than anything in the world.

**Sarah Davies** of Livonia writes about the ups and downs of becoming a single mother. Contact her at sarahmariedavies@gmail.com. "Loving Memoryat the Holidays

Observer & Eccentric

# REUNIONS

Send school reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com **LIVONIA STEVENSON** 

**CLASS OF 1974** 

40-year reunion, planned by Linda Armstrong, Kim Geiger and Jack Karbowski, 7 p.m. to midnight Nov. 29, Corsi's Restaurant, 27910 Seven Mile, Livonia. Reservations and payment with Karbowski, 313-530-9634; karblitski@yahoo.com.

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL

**CLASS OF 1975** 

Save the date, Saturday, July 25, 2015, at Embassy Suites Livonia, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia. Classmates may send their contact information to oakpark1975reunion@gmail.com, and to join the Reunion Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/ events/810805715636204/.

Honor the Memory and Celebrate the Life of passed loved ones by placing a Special Holiday Tribute. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a Special Tribute during the holidays. Here is the perfect opportunity to share your thoughts of loved ones who hold a special place in your hearts.

ST. MICHAEL THE **ARCHANGEL** 

**ALL CLASSES** 

Anyone with a connection to St. Michael's - graduates, attendees, participants in CYO, religious ed, Scouts — may attend the evening of food drink, music, and reminiscing, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. A \$5 admission fee will cover pizza and pop. A cash bar also will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring St. Michael's memorabilia. For an RSVP form, call 734-261-1455, Ext. 225, or see the parish website at www.livoniastmichael.org/alumni.

Call us for our

Sunday, December 14th

**Special Holiday Rate** 

through Thursday, December 25th

For Sunday Publication/Friday 4 p.m. prior

Thursday Publication/Tuesday 9:30 a.m. prior

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Call **800-579-7355** 

email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Fax: 313-496-4968

# ANNIVERSARY



SUBMITTED

**Edwin and Helen Taylor of Westland** 

## **CELEBRATING 67 YEARS**

Edwin and Helen (Rossow) Taylor of Westland marked their 67th wedding anniversary on Nov. 15. They were married in 1947 at Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington.

They are the parents of Peggy (Darrell) Knox of Brooklyn, Shelly

(Shawn) Gagnon of Northville and the late Randy Taylor. They have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Edwin is a retired bricklayer and Helen is a retired business owner.

Ed enjoys baseball and watching his grandchildren play sports; Helen likes to play bingo.

View Online www.hometownlife.com

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.

## BOROFF. MICHAEL A. "MICK"

August 13, 1939 -November 01, 2014.

Michael A. Boroff, master gardener, hunter, soldier, handy man, and sweet tooth, passed away in his sleep Millersville, Maryland home as the autumn leaves fell.

Mike loved and respected animals. He had a special kinship with nature, its rhythms, its colors and sounds. Growing up in Wayne, MI, he was always hunting or trapping or observing wildlife. Nature was simply a part of him. He was an active member of the Wayne High rifle

Mike grew flowers and veggies itively as a young man and won numerous trophies at the local flower and garden show. Later, he took gardening to extremes with his wife of years, (Sturtevant) Boroff. Flowers of every shape, color, and size adorn their yard. Somehow they also found time to produce and "grow" a son, Eric. Together they taught him about honest work, finding yourself, dry humor, and sacrifice.

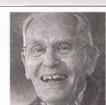
Mike graduated from the ROTC program at Eastern Michigan University and went on to a career in the US Army. He served two tours in Vietnam where he ran into Charlie, ate cobras, and blew things up. In 1985 he retired as a Major after 21 years of service. His son entered the army on the same day. He learned about fixing things around the house and on his truck. He enjoyed creating and building features that improved the landscape of his lot like timber and stone walls and terraces. Somehow he still found time to help handcraft glorious Pinewood Derby cars for his Cub Scout son.

Mike especially enjoyed desserts. Cookies, pies, ice cream, cake...it all went down the hatch. And woe unto others who turned their back on dessert in Mike's presence. The spoon is quicker than the eve. He was the first to enter the door on Karle St. and head for the cookie jar. Everyone loved his mother's big sweet chocolate chip cookies. He never took less than two at a

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Basil F. and Evelyn Boroff of Karle St. and his brother Jack. Mike is survived by his wife Edna Jo, his son and daughter-in-law Eric and Susan of Millersville, his grandsons Benjamin and Nathaniel, his brother Jerry of Fort Myers, FL, his sister Penny Coffey of Westland, MI, and a special sister-inlaw, Barbara Fulkerson of Salem Township, MI. His niece Tammy Smith is still living in the homestead on Karle St. where Mike was born. Becky Stoliker of Westland and Scott Boroff of Forsyth, IL are among the many nieces and nephews who also survive him.

In keeping with his straightforward take on life a private burial service will be held for family members at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville. http://memorialweb sites.legacy.com/MichaelBoroff/

A loving tribute



## EICKER, **CARL WALTER**

Age 92, passed away peacefully at his home in Shelburne Vermont November 5, 2014, after a long and amazingly fulfilled life.

Carl was born to Gus and Net Eicker in Brooklyn, NY, on December 19, 1921. He spent his youth in the East and earned his engineering degree from the University of Maryland. Following his service as a naval officer during WWII, he obtained an MBA from Boston University. Carl married the love of his

life, the "queen of my song", Dorothy Staudt, 65 years ago in Akron, OH. After employment with Addressograph in West Springfield, MA, he worked as an engineer for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, MI for more than two decades. He lived with Dorothy in the same house on Hupp Cross Rd. in Birming-ham, MI for 45 years, where they lovingly raised their family surrounded by many close friends and great neighbors. During retirement, he remained active in the community and his church, and traveled widely. He spent the final six years of his life with Dorothy in Vermont.

Carl never lost his love of the water. Whether Lake Cayuga, a Vermont river, or the Woodside pool, he was the first to swim. He body surfed in the Atlantic, sailed on Chesapeake Bay, and windsurfed on nearby lakes, at Cape Hatteras, and in the warm waters of Bonaire. He was even still water-skiing at age 85. Carl was blessed with a keen analytical mind. He was excellent at math, enjoyed challenging puzzles, and was an avid chess player his entire life.

He was the poster child for all extroverts. He made friends wherever he went, and went out of his way to make everyone feel welcome, even being dubbed the "ambassador" of Shelburne Bay, his retirement community. He was the eternal optimist, with a great sense of humor, who enjoyed telling stories and jokes, reciting poetry and playing pranks on unsuspecting friends.

Carl had a great love of music. He played the violin, but his greatest joy was singing. He had an astounding memory for lyrics and an amazing repertoire of songs. He often could be heard serenading residents and staff at Shelburne Bay, personnel at doctors' offices and the hospital, or anywhere else he could find an

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy of Shelburne; sister, Joan Whitwell of Williamsburg, VA; son, Steve Eicker and wife, Dorothy Ainsworth, of King Ferry, NY; daughters, Sally Wolfe of Lake Orion, MI, and Joan Eicker and Nancy Eicker of Richmond, VT; grandsons, Eric Wolfe and wife, Jessica, Brian Wolfe and wife, Jessica, Carl Wolfe and Rory Ulmer; greatgrandchildren, Kadin, Reese and Skylar Wolfe. He was predeceased by his brother, Bob. Carl's family would like to thank his physician, Dr. Mark Levine, for his wonderful care. A memorial service to celebrate Carl's life will be held at a future date.



Tony (Ashley) Diana, and the late Nick Diana. Proud grandfather of Nick, Ryley, and Kennedy. Uncle of Marisa (Greg) Wengryn and Kylee Turbish. Brother to Janet (Kirk) Turbish. Visitation Sunday 3-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, (between Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. In state Monday, November 17, 10 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170Memorials may be made to the Michigan Humane Society

Vermeulen-Sajewski FUNERAL CREMATION

or Salvation Army. To share a

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

memory, please visit:



# **CHARLES "BOB"**

November 11, 2014, age 83 by beloved wife Survived Barbara of 59 years. Dearest father to Cathy (Matt) McCormick, Bob (Vivian), John, and David (Shelly) Houchins. Dear Grandfather to Matthew Gray, Blaine McCormick, Bobby Sarah Houchins. Greatand Grandfather Audrey Houchins. Bob proudly served in the Air Force, retired from IBEW Local 58 Electrical Union, and was a Co-founder and memberof Motor State Street Rods. The family ask for donations to Heart to Heart Hospice (Bingham Farms) or Michigan Parkinsons Foundation (Bingham Farms) in lieu of flowers. We will miss your kind, gener-We love you Dad



# JACKSON, THEODORE "TED"

Age 72, November 13, 2014, of Westland. Beloved husband of Sharon. Loving father of Wendy (John) Sutton, Dawn (Patrick) Bartrum, Deanna (Ron) King and Cindy (Frank) Ferrell. Dear brother of William (Mary) Jackman. Also survived by many grandchildren and great grand-children. Funeral service Sunday at 4pm at the RG & GR Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Visitation Sunday from 12 noon until 4pm. Donations may be made to the Brain Injury Association of Michigan. Please share a memory of Ted at www.rggrharris.com.



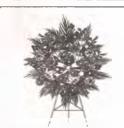


## KLINGBEIL SUSAN WARNER **SLOCUM**

Died peacefully on October 21,

2014 in Mount Dora, Florida. Granddaughter of Michigan Governor (1906-1911) Fred Warner, she was born April 4, 1925 in Farmington, Michigan to Edessa (Warner) and William Slocum. She graduated from nbrook Lasell College, and University of Michigan. She strongly believed the maxim "to whom much is given, much is expected". Throughout her life she was active within her community. She was active in Delta Gamma, Tau Beta, Junior League and Society of Colonial Dames of America. Early on she was an activist for the environment and participated in the first "Earth Day" held at the University of Michigan, Earth Fest '74, Concern - Detroit and the Bottle Bill. She served on the Boards of Friends School Detroit and the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. For many years she was a member of the Board of Directors of her beloved Lasell College, which recognized her as an outstanding alumna, and named a building in her honor. She had a love of music and chaired the Young People's Concerts with the Detroit Symphony. She was one of three creators of the Arts to the Schools with the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Junior League. Susan Klingbeil was courageous and adventuresome, a woman before her time. With her husband Bill, she traveled the world, and became a semi-professional photographer, capturing candid photos of people wherever she traveled. In an era before most worked outside the women home, she developed her own business as a Leisure Planning Consultant. For over thirty years matched children with summer activities all over the globe. She was affectionately known in Grosse Pointe as "The Camp Lady". She brought joy and sunshine to so many, but her greatest loves were her family and friends. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother whose positive outlook and grace will continue to influence their lives. She is survived by her husband of 65 William Hayward Klingbeil, four children and their spouses, eight grandchildren and

great-grandsons. Celebration of Sue's Life will be held at Sequanota Club Sunday, August 2, 2015. Memorial donations may be made to Friends of the Warner Mansion, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, MI 48335 or Little Traverse Conservancy - LTC@landtrust.org.



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

## PEEVER, GEORGE ERIC

Age 78. Beloved husband of the late Barbara Warson. He was born April 26, 1936 in Cobden, Renfrew Co., Ontario Canada and passed away on November 13, 2014 in Livonia Michigan. He is survived by his son Derrick and granddaughter Fallon Peever (Ottawa, Ontario). Also surviving are his siblings, Jackie Daugherty (Gatineau, Quebec); Carl Peever (Cornwall, Ontario) and Lawrence Peever (Ottawa, Ontario). Visitation Monday 3-8p.m. with Funeral Prayers Tuesday 11a.m. at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). After the service, burial will take place at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials suggested to

the Alzheimer's Association www.santeiufuneralhome.com.



## PETRELLA. MARCIA M.

Age 78, November 8, 2014. Beloved wife of Ronald Petrella. Loving mother of Nancy Low, Sally (Paul Stark) and Judy Petrella. Loving grandmother to Christie and Ashley Low. Beloved sister of James (Carolyn) Roth. Born in Grand Rapids August 22, 1936. Graduated U of M and married Ronald Petrella 1958. Social worker at Children's Aid Society. Second career as an antique dealer. She enjoyed entertaining family and friends and will be greatly missed by all. Memorial Service Saturday, November 22, 11 a.m. First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Memorial donations: www.alzinfo.org



## STODDARD, THERESA JENNIFER

Age 43, of Venice, Florida, went to be with The Lord on Saturday, peacefully in her sleep. Theresa was born November 25, 1970 in Gardens City, Michigan. She was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. Theresa was a beautiful person. inside and out. She is survived by her husband, Brad Stoddard of Venice; daughter Shelby Stoddard of Venice; her father and mother Tim and Karen Zerndt of Nokomis, FL; three sisters, Tiffany Uppleger of Pinckney MI, Katie Poth of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Kellie Zerndt of Nokomis, FL; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was the loving caretaker of her grandmother, Phyllis Keyes. Private services were held at 2 p.m., Saturday, October 25 at Farley Funeral Home in Venice. Contributions in memory of Theresa may be made to the Shiba Inu rescue of Florida, http://shibainurescueflorida.org/



# **URIBE, HELENE**

The blessings of our mother's love are forever... Her love lives on in her wise words, in the ways she shaped who we are and in the beautiful memories that will always bless our hearts. Mom departed her earthly home

to be with our Lord during the

morning of Saturday, November

8, 2014. She was born in France on April 28, 1921 and grew up in the town of Sens until immigrating to the United States in 1947. Despite the many challenges life pushed across her pathway, she found time to care for our home, work, earn an advanced degree from Henry Ford Community College and raise us. She en-joyed her work as an Administrative Assistant in the Pharmacy Department at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital (Detroit Medical Center) and retired with many wonderful memories. She was preceded by her parents and brother and is survived by her sons: Jonathan, his wife Kristina; their children Sharon Price (her husband Matt), Justin and grandchildren Gavin and Gage Price, Kaylee Rae-Marie Sullivan; and James, his wife Linda; their children Tatiana and Nicholas and close friends Jenny Deward and Barbara Boren. A member of the Red Hat Society who will be remembered for her wise counsel, willingness to impart the French culture upon the young and old; mom stressed the importance of making a difference in everything we do. A Mass celebrating her life will be said by Fr. Patrick J. Connell and Homilist Deacon Brian Carroll; at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 21 at Our Lady of La Sallette Catholic Church, 2600 Harvard Rd, Berkley, Michigan. Following the service, guests are invited to join us for brunch at Pasquales, 31555 Woodward in Royal Oak, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society.



888-751-5465.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

# Botsford Hospital's Mohs surgery treats common skin cancers

Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills has begun offering Mohs surgery, a new option for skin cancer treat-

The Botsford Mohs Surgery Center, led by Brian Kopitzki, D.O., a board-certified dermatologist and fellowship-trained Mohs surgeon, is located in the Botsford Cancer Center, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230, in Farmington Hills.

Mohs surgery is used mostly to treat the most common forms of skin cancer, basal and squamous cell carcinomas. The Mohs procedure removes a minimal amount of normal tissue, especially important in cosmetically sensitive areas



SUBMITTED

Brian Kopitzki, D.O., heads the **Botsford Mohs Surgery Center.** 

such as the face.

Skin cancer is the most widespread form of all cancers in the U.S. and is on the rise.

This year, about two million Americans will be diagnosed. Seeking medical attention at the first suspicion of skin cancer is critical to successful

Kopitzki says the most common warning sign of skin cancer is a change on skin, typically a new growth, or a change in

Patients that have tested positive for basal or squamous cell carcinoma may self-refer to the Botsford Mohs Surgery Center by calling 248-473-4828. Or they may be referred by their doctor. For a referral to a Botsford dermatologist, call 877-477-3621.

an existing growth or mole.

## **Baby basics**

First-time parents, grandparents or caregivers can learn how to care for a newborn, 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Botsford Hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Topics will include bathing, feeding, developmental stages, immunization schedules, identifying illnesses, choosing a pediatrician, medications, childcare options, choosing a babysitter, safety-proofing the home and more. Register by calling 248-888-2500 or going online, http://www.botsford.org/ medical\_services/new\_beginnings\_maternity/classes/.

## **Diabetes management**

Oakwood Healthcare will sponsor a free seminar on managing diabetes from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 26 at the Oakwood Physical Therapy and Wellness Center, 17101 Rotunda Drive in Dearborn. To register, visit Oakwood.org or call 800-543-9355.

# **Healthy eating**

» Denise Cykiert, Botsford Hospital dietitian, teaches healthy, quick and easy recipes for crock-pot cookery 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Busch's Fresh Food Market, 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills. Cost is \$5. Register by calling or visiting the Guest Service Counter at Busch's; 248-427-7400.

» St. John Providence Community Health also offers a free presentation on healthy holiday eating, 10:30-

# 11:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17, in Fisher Auditorium at Provi-

dence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine

» St. Joseph Mercy Health

Mile, Southfield. Register at

Center, Canton and St. Mary

off a series on senior health

issues at 10:45 a.m. Monday,

55+ Senior Center, Summit on

the Park, 46000 Summit Park-

November is Eating Healthy.

Register by calling 734-394-

Nov. 17, at the Canton Club

way, Canton. The topic for

Mercy Hospital, Livonia, kick

## **Upcoming**

# **ACA learning session**

Botsford Hospital presents a series of monthly learning sessions on the Affordable Care Act, 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, Dec. 10 and Jan. 7, 2015, at the hospital, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The ACA marketplace open enrollment period is Nov. 15-Feb. 15, 2015. The sessions, which are free, will help people learn about their options under the ACA; 248-442-1633

# **Kidney Ball**

The fundraiser for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan includes cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the MGM Grand in downtown Detroit. The event also will include silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$250. Visit nkfm.org/events or call 800-482-1455.

# **Kidney Smart classes**

Participants will learn about how kidneys function, the causes of chronic kidney disease, how to manage related health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, treatment choices and more. The 90-minute sessions are

» 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Westland Dialysis, 36533 Ford Road, Westland

» 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16, New Hope Church, 44815 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

To register and find more locations, visit www.kidneysmart.org or call Angela Humble, R.D., at 864-525-9599

# Walk with a Doc

Ron Kuzdak, D.O., will talk about fitness, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Heritage Park Nature Center, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Walk with a Doc is held the third Thursday of the month. Register by calling 877-477-3621, option

# Study: Physical skills of patients decline long after stroke, heart attack

A University of Michigan study has found that individuals who survive heart attacks and stroke may experience a decline in physical abilities that steadily accelerates over

Researchers analyzed Medicare records from to 2010 and from the Health and Retirement study, a national survey of older Americans funded by the National Institute on Aging and based at the U-M Institute for Social Research (ISR).

The study included 391 heart attack survivors and 370 stroke survivors.

The findings appear in Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes.

"More people are surviving heart attack and stroke than ever before but the long-term consequences for survivors may be much greater than we thought," said lead author Deborah Levine, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of internal medicine at the U-M Medical

School and researcher in the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

"We found that over time, survivors had increasing difficulty performing everyday tasks like walking, bathing, shopping and managing money and that these struggles got progressively worse every year following a heart attack or stroke.'

Stroke survivors also appeared to be at a higher risk of depression and mental declines, including memory loss.

Over 10 years, heart attack survivors gained approximately 1.5 to 3.5 new limitations that interfere with their ability to perform daily tasks. Stroke survivors gained approximately 3.5 to 4.5 limitations.

The researchers also found that the risk of developing severe depressive symptoms were 20 percent greater for every new functional limitation gained after heart attack and 34 percent greater for

every new functional limitation gained after stroke.

heart attack and stroke survi-

"Our findings suggest that

vors should be screened and monitored for functional disability long after discharge from the hospital because patients may need additional help with activities of daily living over the years after heart attack and stroke," said senior author Theodore Iwashyna, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine at the U-M Medical School and researcher in the Institute of Social Research and the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

In 2010 in the U.S., 7.6 million individuals survived heart attacks and 6.8 million survived strokes. The rate is expected to increase by 25 percent over the next two decades, while the supply of caregivers for the elderly is expected to decline.





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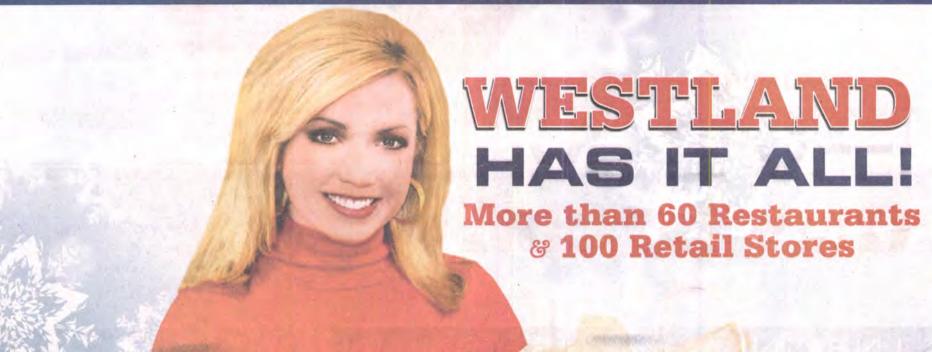
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# **Employers want IT workers...**



# So why can't you find a job?

## By Robert Half

When you started your search for an information technology position, you were optimistic. People you knew seemed to have no problem landing great tech jobs, or they were telling you about other people who had just been hired. But now that you've sent out many resumes with little or no response, you're wondering why no one is snapping you up. What's going on?

First, take comfort in knowing that the demand for skilled IT talent hasn't waned, so there are still opportunities to be had. However, the emphasis here is on "skilled:" Companies that are hiring generally seek experienced professionals with specific skills.

If your experience or area of expertise doesn't quite align with what many employers are looking for right now, it doesn't mean you aren't a viable candidate for hire You may just need to confirm that you're doing everything you can to give yourself an edge in a competitive marketplace. Here's some advice:

# **Revive your resume**

You've sent out your resume a bunch of times. But is it a good resume?

Does it underscore the skills, talents and credentials that make you marketable and valuable to an employer? Does it clarify employment gaps and accentuate the positive things you've done while searching for a new role? Does it highlight specific achievements?

One thing employers want to see from job seekers today is an explanation of how they solved a critical problem, increased efficiency or otherwise saved the organization headaches, time or money. If you have a great

story, use your job application materials to tell it.

Another important question: Are you leveraging terminology from employers' job descriptions in your resume and cover

For additional insight, look to the "2013 Robert Half Technology Salary Guide" for a glossary of common IT positions and their responsibilities.

Also include a professional summary at the top of your resume that succinctly highlights your most relevant qualifications and accomplishments. That way, hiring managers will have a snapshot view of what's most important to know about you as an IT professional.

# **Critique your credentials**

You're a technology pro, so no doubt you already understand the importance of having up-to-date technical skills and certifications. However, are you sure you have the best credentials for the jobs you're applying for? If you don't, that may be holding you back from getting an interview or an invitation to a second one.

Just like technology itself, IT roles are always evolving. Use your professional network to find out what skills and designations your peers landing employment offers have earned. You may need some additional training to increase your value to a potential employer, and this may require making that investment in yourself. Most employers are looking for IT professionals who can hit the ground running; they prefer you to come to the job with the in-demand credentials in hand.

Many firms are specifically seeking technology professionals who understand the chal-

lenges today's businesses face in harnessing the power of big data, seizing mobile opportunities and embracing a "bring your own device" approach. If you have relevant experience in any of these areas, make it known.

# **Expand your network**

Professional networking, conducted both online and in person, can help you connect to relevant job opportunities faster. However, if your network consists primarily of your peers who are also looking for employment -- or aren't employed at firms that are expanding their IT teams -- you need to broaden your scope of contacts.

Reconnect with old business contacts, mentors, teachers or family friends who have some business clout. Take advantage of networking events and other activities offered by local business organizations or professional associations. Be active in online networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter -- just be sure to keep all content fresh and professional. Once you've expanded your network, focus primarily on cultivating contacts who can introduce you to influential and well-connected people at the companies you'd like to work for most.

Lastly, don't fail to consider the opportunities and connections that an interim work arrangement might yield. A specialized recruiter can assist you in finding temporary IT positions. Often, these engagements lead to full-time roles for talented workers. Working as an interim technology professional also can help you earn income -and keep your skills sharp -- while you continue your search for fulltime employment.

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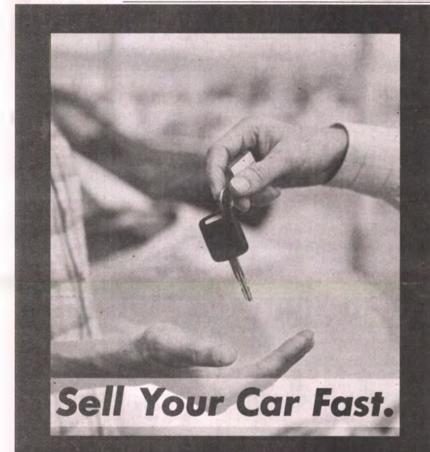
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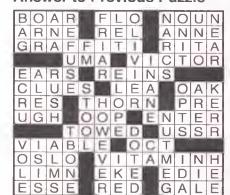
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9 Linen vestment10 Dale's favorite

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# 2015 Lincoln MKZ is 'attracting next generation of luxury car buyers'

**By Greg Mullin** 

The 2015 Lincoln MKZ continues to represent the road ahead for the Lincoln Motor Co., said Steve Hunsinger, sales manager at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn.

"With its design, performance and technology, the MKZ is attracting the next generation of luxury car buyers," he

Those customers enjoy a wide range of standard features, plus three power train options:

The standard 2.0L EcoBoost I-4. The available 3.7L

Ti-VCT V6 engine. The Lincoln MKZ Hybrid, which offers the third-generation 2.0L Atkinson-cycle I-4 gas

engine. The 2015 Lincoln MKZ competes head-to-head in the luxury mid-size sedan market with brands like the Acura TL, Cadillac CTS, Infiniti Q50 and Lexus ES 350, while the Lincoln MKZ Hybrid contends with vehicles like the Infiniti Q50 Hybrid and Lexus ES 300h.

'There are many standard features on the MKZ that aren't offered on many of the competitive models," Hunsinger

said. "One of the most intriguing features of the MKZ is the push-button transmission, which is on the dashboard, alleviating the center console shift and offering a more open feel to the cabin of the vehicle," Hunsinger said.

The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity. Exterior design fea-

tures include: Adaptive LED auto

## **SAFETY FEATURES**

Safety and security features abound in the MKZ. Among them are: AdvanceTrac electronic stability control. Driver and front-passenger knee airbags. Dual-stage driver and front-passenger airbags. Front-seat side airbags. Side-curtain airbags with roll-fold technology. Emergency trunk release.

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LED tail lamps and light-pipe driving lamps. Split-wing grille with

chrome surround. Pedestal-mounted heated side-view mirrors with integrated turn signals, blind spot mirrors and security ap-



The 2015 MKZ incorporates the new Lincoln design language of "elegant simplicity."

FORD MOTOR CO.

proach lamps. Power up/down deck

lid (available). Rectangular dual exhaust with bright tips. Retractable panoramic roof.

Interior design features include: 10.1-inch LCD instru-

ment cluster. Ambient lighting customers can choose

from seven different colors (select equipment group) Flow-through front console with storage bin, trinket tray and two cup

holders. Genuine wood appli-

ques. Illuminated scuff

plates. Premium leather seating surfaces (select and reserve equipment

groups).
"The luxury and elegant attributes of the MKZ have not gone unnoticed by today's luxury car buyers," Hunsinger said. "The MKZ has done very well with current Lincoln owners, but Lincoln is looking at the big picture of attracting the competitive buyers and converting them to Lincoln owners.

In fact, Lincoln predicts that 45 percent of sales will be to past or current Lincoln owners, while 55 percent of sales will come from "conquest" customers, Huns-

inger said. Jack Demmer Lincoln is ready to serve all cus-

"With the integrity and knowledge of our

The 2015 Lincoln MKZ features a flow-through front console with storage bin, trinket tray and two cup holders and a 10.1-inch LCD instrument cluster.

professional sales staff, today has never been a better time to buy from Jack Demmer Lincoln," Hunsinger said. "From the moment a client enters Jack Demmer Lincoln, it becomes very clear what sets Jack Demmer Lincoln apart from the competition.

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