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COMMUNITY LIFE, C1

Water meter project moves forward

Replacement program set to begin in January

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland water customers can expect a citywide program

of meter replacements to get underway in January.

The new water meters will be read remotely, utilizing towers at the Westland Police Department and a second at Middlebelt and Annapolis.

"The contractors have a software test area to see how it

responds and work out any bugs in the test area," Wayne-Westland Department of Public Services Director Ramzi El-Gharib said. "They will have full-scale installation beginning in mid-January."

Citywide, the water meter replacement program will take

two years to complete. The city has 26,000 residential and commercial meters. The Westland City Council has approved a nearly \$9.9 million agreement for meter replacement with Etna Supply Company. The bid covers the meters and installation.

The meters are to provide more accurate readings and also allow remote reading aimed at increased efficiency.

Wayne will also be going through a bidding process for meter replacement using con-

See METERS, Page A2

Westland hires parks and rec director

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

After having the position vacant for two years, Westland has hired a new parks and recreation director.

The city council confirmed Mayor William Wild's appointment of Jessica Larkin Mistak as the new director effective Dec. 1.

Since August 2012, Mistak has served as Wayne County Parks deputy director and previously was a government relations/public information officer with the county Department of Public Services.

A Plymouth resident, Mistak has a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in labor studies. Her salary and benefits will total \$86,000 annually.

The director's position has been vacant since Robert Kosowski, recently elected to a second term as state representative, retired in 2012. Then-deputy mayor Jade Smith oversaw the department subsequently.

Westland had entered an agreement to operate a joint Parks and Recreation Department, effectively offering residents in both cities services and programs in either city at resident rates. For Westland residents, the primary benefit was use of the Wayne Community Center at resident rates following the closure of Westland's Bailey Recreation Center.

Wayne has also been without a permanent Parks and Recreation director since Nathan Adams resigned in early summer.

Financially strapped, Wayne is requesting the equivalent of one mill in that city — currently

See DIRECTOR, Page A2



In his last official act as mayor, Al Haidous helps cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new Urgent Care medical facility with owner Nabeel Shahid and State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

Haidous says farewell to city after 21 years

He leaves mayoral post for county commission

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

For the first time in 21 years, Al Haidous isn't serving as an elected Wayne city official.

Elected as 11th District Wayne County Commissioner earlier this month, Haidous resigned Tuesday as Wayne mayor — the city's only voter-elected mayor.

The temporary council chambers inside the Wayne Activities and Banquet Center was packed with well-wishers at a reception prior to the council meeting.

"What a beautiful evening. I see all these friends and family. You all know my story from the beginning," Haidous said. "I can't thank you enough for being here. Wherever I go, whatever I do, the City of Wayne is the priority in my heart and I will do the best I can for you."

The well-known story is that Lebanon-native Haidous came to Wayne 40 years ago, operated a market at Annapolis and Howe and in 1993 became the city's first Arab-American elected official. Raising five children with wife Mary, Haidous often shared the story of achieving the American dream.

'Thank my family'

"I want to thank my family for working so hard for

See HAIDOUS, Page A2



At a reception in his honor, Wayne Mayor Al Haidous greets Barry and Donna McEachern, the latter a former councilwoman.

Wayne, Westland say shop local on Small Business Saturday

Wayne and Westland are joining in a national initiative to encourage residents to shop at small local businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29, was started by American Express in 2010 to celebrate the small businesses that support neighborhoods. It falls between the post-Thanksgiving

Black Friday and the Cyber Monday online shopping days and encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick-and-mortar businesses that are small and local.

In Westland, Mayor William Wild will be giving out gift cards to winning residents at five local businesses in the city's Shop and Dine District

around Westland Shopping Center.

Wild will visit the businesses from noon and 2 p.m. and raffle off a variety of gift cards, ranging from \$10 to \$50.

"Statistics show that for every \$100 you spend locally, \$66 stays in the local community," Wild said. "That means your dollars are helping to

build parks, libraries and improve fire and police departments."

Wild will give out gift cards: at noon at Leo's Coney Island, 36595 Warren Road; at 12:30 p.m. at Arcade Cuts, 34700 Warren Road; at 1:15 p.m. at Saranda's, 35135 Warren Road;

See SHOP LOCAL, Page A2



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Starbucks provides showcase for students' photos



Among photographer Judith Sallador's students was Ta'varis Lumpkin of Wayne Memorial High School.



Asia Beauty of Wayne Memorial High School strikes a pose by a photograph of herself hidden in a collection of fall leaves.



Maria Mitter, who oversees the Wayne-Westland Bright Futures sites, talks with Sam Froomkin.



Emma Grace and her father John Grace check out the photographs of Francisco "Paco" Herrera of John Glenn High School.

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Judith Sallador admits she had been in a rut for four months as a photographer until she met Maria Mitter, who recruited her to work with students in the Bright Futures programs at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools.

For eight weeks, Sallador worked with the students on the basics of photography – composition, light and details. Then she invited their families and the community Friday, Nov. 14, into the Starbucks on Warren Road in Westland for an art show.

"As I was setting up the show, people stopped, looked and wanted to know if they could buy pieces," Sallador told students who showed up for the show. "I'm a firm believer in the power of creativity and that you are all able to create. You were fearless, courageous and amazing."

"This is an awesome turnout," said Mitter, who oversees the Wayne-Westland Bright Futures program. She uses Starbucks as a place to meet people in the community. She talked with Sallador several times and asked

her to explore the idea of getting involved in the after-school program.

Different subjects

Sallador worked with four students at Wayne Memorial and 11 at John Glenn for eight weeks. Using a Cannon Point and Shoot, the students used her instruction to create their own photos, which she framed and then hung on the walls at Starbucks.

The subject matter was as different as each student. Ta'varis Lumpkin photographed his fingertips and then played with the photo in the editing process.

"When I was editing it, I was messing around and found I could remove the color except for the bright areas," he said. "I got into this because I wanted to learn more about working with pictures. To me, this is a way for me to express myself in pictures. There was never a time when I thought I couldn't do this."

John Grace and his daughter Emma came to the show to support the budding photographers like Francisco "Paco" Herrera.

"I came to see what was going on. I was in photography in high school," Grace said. "They can do a lot more now than I could. We spent more time learning how to put the film in a black bag for developing. They just hook it up to a computer."

You had to look closely to find Asia Beauty in her photographs. In one photo, the top of her face was visible underneath an umbrella of fall leaves.

"I like the background of fall colors," she said. "A picture can tell people a lot. It expresses the world at that moment. Pictures are forever, moments are here and gone."

The Bright Futures program is available to students at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Wayne-Westland. Beauty has been trying to get into the program for three years and finally did at Wayne Memorial, where Bright Futures is a drop-in program.

"I wanted the help with homework and to prepare for college," she said. "I've found I can express my talents in Bright Futures. I'm not afraid to be myself."

Created a stir

The photographs are hung on the walls throughout Starbucks and their arrival created a stir among patrons, according to Sallador.

Along with the photos are comments by the students. Teagan Berry from John Glenn wrote that "photography showed me that I can take more colorful photos and find better angles. I learned perspective, foreground, background and photo effects."

"It's been a joy to see them grow over the eight weeks," Sallador said. "I watched them improve and become more confident. I saw the light bulb go off. They were fearless, courageous and did amazing things."

The photographs will stay up at Starbucks for a while "or until we do another project," said Sallador, whose involvement is expanding with the addition of two more clubs in the Romulus and Ypsilanti Bright Futures programs.

"I think involvement will increase," Sallador said. "It doesn't really matter what you do, it's knowing how to use the equipment."

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Lightfest returns to Hines Park for 21st year



Fireworks illuminate the cold night and celebrate the opening of the 21st annual Wayne County Parks Lightfest. **BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

It's a sure sign the holidays have arrived with the official opening of the Wayne County Parks Lightfest.

Families braved bitter cold temperatures and snow showers to watch as Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Santa flipped the switch, lighting up 4½ miles of Hines Drive from Merri-man Hollow in Westland to Warrendale in Dearborn Heights.

The festivities included a performance by the Livonia Franklin High School chorus and a fireworks display. There was bonfire and doughnuts and hot chocolate to help chase the chill.

"The kickoff of Lightfest is one of our most anticipated events for people of all ages," Ficano said. "I encourage the public to experience Lightfest and all of our great family-oriented events offered by Wayne County Parks."

This is the 21st year for Lightfest, the Mid-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus flips the switch to light up Lightfest during the official opening festivities.

west's largest and longest drive-through light show. It features more than 55 giant animated holiday-themed displays. This year, several new displays have been added and the entire light show has been converted to energy-efficient LED lights.

Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m.

Friday through Sunday. The display is closed Christmas Day. Cars can enter at 7651 Merriman Road, Westland, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail. The entry cost is \$5 per car.

Youngsters also can visit Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the drive. Santa will be there from Nov. 26 through Dec. 23 to visit with children.

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

More photos from Thursday evening's grand opening can be found online at hometownlife.com and in the Nov. 27 issue of the Observer.



There are many different themes in the 4½-mile light show. **BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

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GENE SCOTT

A second barn and silo at the farm, circa 1877, also still stands.

HOUSE

Continued from Page A3

buildings and pens with dairy cows, horses, sheep and chickens plus a carriage house and a house in which the help lived. Only their youngest child, Helen, was born in the new house.

By 1870, Simmons had retired from business and farming, leaving that to his sons Lawrence and Joshua Morrell. He also bought farms west of Meadowbrook for these two sons. For son Richmond and his wife Huldah (Power's granddaughter), he bought a farm in Oakland County. A fourth son, William, died at age nine.

The Simmons supplied milk for the Power family's cheese factory next door (where the golf course is now). Livonia cheese factories once produced a million pounds a year, most of it retailing at seven to 12 cents a pound.

Joshua Simmons died on his birthday, April 12, 1882. His wife Hannah lived another 12 years. Both are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Oakland County. At that time, the family legacy was surviving more strongly in Oakland than in their home county of Wayne. Joshua and son Richmond are included in early histories of Oakland County (Durant, Everts) while there is hardly a mention in Wayne County histories.

A farmer, craftsman,



GENE SCOTT

Main dining room at Simmons-Hill House.

and politician (unpaid back then), Simmons was driven by hard work and challenges. Great-great grandson Richmond Simmons, a retired physician now living in Minneola, Fla., said he was a vain and pompous man, extremely proud of his family.

Christmas 1875

He talked about a family Christmas in 1875 when Joshua had fancy gold watches made for all

31 of his children and grandchildren and spouses. After they opened their presents, the watches were hung on the tree so holiday guests could view the family's latest largesse. A month later, they bought the Simmons a fancy new horse and carriage for their 50th anniversary.

Simmons' granddaughter Lucy German continued to live at the farm until 1915 when she sold the property to

George Rackham. He was the brother of Horace Rackham, a Detroit attorney and major benefactor of the University of Michigan (Rackham Graduate School of Engineering).

In 1920, the Rackhams sold the farm to Jean and Sherwin Hill, a prominent Detroit attorney. The Hills often passed the farm on their way to the recently opened Meadowbrook Country Club, one of the several other places nearby called Meadowbrook. So, they renamed their farm Greenmead.

The Hills continued the farm until his death in 1961. The Hill estate sold the property to the City of Livonia during the nation's Bicentennial in 1976. Three acres of the farm property later were sold for the Greenmead Post Office.

The Simmons House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and a state historical marker placed there later.

Today, the Simmons-Hill House within Greenmead Park still includes



GREENMEAD ARCHIVES

Joshua Simmons III

Village's main offices, meetings and events have been centered at the Judge Blue House (the one painted beige).

Meanwhile, restoration at Simmons-Hill House continues. Extensive work has been done in the kitchen, sun room, and basement. Window treatments, repainting, and re-wallpapering are still on tap for the dining rooms, parlor, library and a first-floor bedroom.

Replacement or recovering of period furniture in the downstairs rooms is being provided by the local Questers chapter.

Present sources of funds for Greenmead and Simmons-Hill House include the City of Livonia, Livonia Historical Society, Friends of Greenmead and the Questers.

Gene Scott has been a Livonia Historical Society member for about 12 years. He is a retired editor and teacher who has published four books on the histories of Michigan towns. The most recent is "Michigan Shadow Towns." He and wife Barb have lived in Livonia for 23 years.

nine other buildings including a carriage house, caretaker's house, garage, two barns, and several outbuildings but no outhouses.

Greenmead also includes the restored homes of five other early Livonia residents, a church, schoolhouse, store, the former Quaker meeting house and four other buildings — all moved there to create an historical village. Together they span nearly 100 years of early Livonia history. Since 2003, the

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Boy with autism gets trip of a lifetime

7-year-old and family head to Florida

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

The sun is shining on a Redford boy who suffers from autism.

Seven-year-old Todd Caver of Redford and his family are on a trip of a lifetime to the Sunshine Foundation's Dream Village in the Sunshine State at Davenport, Fla.

"He's excited. He woke me up at 5 o'clock this morning," Deanna Caver, Todd's mom, said as they were heading to the airport.

Because Todd suffers from severe autism, taking a family trip has been difficult due to the physical and financial stress that comes along with an illness, according to the Sunshine Foundation.

Caver said she applied for the trip when Todd was 4 years old.

"I've known of other families who got to do this," she said.

He's never been on a trip like this, his mom said.

The plan is to visit Legoland, Universal Studios and Disney World, she said.

The family receives round-trip airline tickets, lodging, theme park tickets, expense money and a rental vehi-



Todd Caver and his family are on a trip to the Sunshine Foundation's Dream Village.

cle to use for the duration of their stay. Sunshine will host the family at the foundation's Dream Village, a 22-acre retreat created specifically for special children that boasts nine uniquely themed cottages, a wheelchair accessible pool, handicapped friendly playground and its own citrus grove where families can pick oranges.

very blessed

"I feel very blessed that we were selected," she said. "I know it's a once-in-a-lifetime oppor-

tunity."

"He's old enough now that he can appreciate it," she said.

Two cousins are joining them on the trip, she said.

Sunshine Foundation, founded in 1976, in the very first wish-granting organization to grant the wishes of seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children ages 3-18.

In the 1960s, Philadelphia police officer Bill Sample was assigned to a local children's hospital. He encountered critically ill children and saw first-hand how

these children's families were burdened not only by mounting medical bills, but also by the frustration of not being able to provide their child's special dream.

In 1976, Sample took out a personal loan and with the help of others, started the Sunshine Foundation and began making dreams come true for seriously ill, physically challenged, abused and truly deserving children nationwide. Today, the Sunshine Foundation utilizes \$0.83 of every dollar to help a child's dream come true.

While Livonia Public Schools received the highest marks possible on its 2013-14 financial audit report for its accounting work, the good news is tempered by the funding plight faced by LPS and school districts across the state, officials said.

Declining enrollment, which is a result of fewer live births in the community, coupled with steady decreases in state funding since 2008 and increased costs in retirement, have painted a clear picture, Superintendent Randy Liepa said.

Livonia Public Schools' revenue is down by about \$20 million since 2008, while state-mandated retirement contributions, at about \$30 million, have doubled over the past 10 years, according to the audit report. Despite cost-saving measures, certain other costs continue to increase, the report said.

In the report, presented Monday to the school board by Plante Moran, auditors note that the district has responded appropriately to this funding picture by adhering to "generally accepted accounting principles" and by reducing expenses wherever possible.

LPS receives highest possible marks on audit

Plante Moran. "It's a very positive audit report," she said of the "unmodified opinion" rating, also noting that a test for compliance of special education and physical education federal awards also came out "squeaky clean."

The general fund revenues, as of June 30, 2014, were \$140.5 million and expenditures were \$143.5 million. The fund balance was reduced from \$6.7 million to \$3.8 million.

Board Vice President Colleen Burton commended the LPS staff for "coming up with ways to balance the budget."

"We've been striving for so many years to keep the cuts out of the classrooms and away from our programs," she said.

Liepa said it's been a "tough, tough ride" thus far, to maintain programs while cutting expenses.

"The board deserves to be complimented that we've been able to maintain our programs for that period of time, but it's been pretty darn difficult," he said, noting this is the plight not only for Livonia Public Schools, but for school districts across the state.

Board President Mark Johnson noted one reality that makes it difficult to reduce expenses is that when a district the size of LPS loses 200-300 in student enrollment, it's not possible to cut expenses to meet that decline because the enrollment loss is spread across some 800 classrooms throughout the district.

"We can't shut the lights off just because we've lost a few students (in a class)," he said.

"When we lose revenue because of a reduction in the number of students, we can't cut expenses to meet it."

The financial audit summary and presentation is available on the district's website for anyone to review at www.livoniapublicschools.org.

Anderson will hold coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City on Monday, Nov. 24, to field questions from citizens. No appointment is necessary.

In addition, Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb will conduct her monthly district office hours Monday, Nov. 24, in Livonia.

Anderson will meet with constituents from 9-10 a.m. at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, and from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood St., Garden City.

Constituents who are unable to attend but would still like to address an issue with the senator may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, phone at 517-373-1707 or email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Webb will conduct her monthly district office from 10-11 a.m. at the Civic Park Senior Center, Livonia.

If residents are unable to attend, they can contact Webb's office at 313-224-0930 during normal business hours or email her at dwebb1@waynecounty.com.

Webb represents the Commission's 8th District, which covers the portion of Livonia east of Middlebelt Road and south of Five Mile Road, and all of Dearborn Heights and Redford Township.



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Anderson, Webb to hold office hours Monday

State Sen. Glenn Anderson will hold coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City on Monday, Nov. 24, to field questions from citizens. No appointment is necessary.

In addition, Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb will conduct her monthly district office hours Monday, Nov. 24, in Livonia.

Anderson will meet with constituents from 9-10 a.m. at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, and from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood St., Garden City.

Constituents who are unable to attend but would still like to address an issue with the senator may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, phone at 517-373-1707 or email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Webb will conduct her monthly district office from 10-11 a.m. at the Civic Park Senior Center, Livonia.

If residents are unable to attend, they can contact Webb's office at 313-224-0930 during normal business hours or email her at dwebb1@waynecounty.com.

Webb represents the Commission's 8th District, which covers the portion of Livonia east of Middlebelt Road and south of Five Mile Road, and all of Dearborn Heights and Redford Township.



Hire an attorney when drafting real estate agreement

Q: Dear Rick: I am divorced and retired. As part of my divorce settlement, I received the house free and clear, as well as some other investments and property. My problem is that the house is too big and I want to downsize. I am going to sell my home and buy a house with a friend. We figure we can save a lot of money by sharing a home. We each have children from another marriage and what we want is that upon either of our deaths, the other person would buy out that person's share. Is this arrangement possible? Should we each amend our will to reflect this? Is there anything else we should consider?

A: What you want to accomplish is doable and requires you and your friend to have a legal document drafted that sets forth the terms of the arrangement. This is a separate document



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

from your will and would require both of you to sign the agreement.

In drafting the agreement, there are a couple issues to consider. What happens if the survivor does not have the money to pay for the other per-

son's share or they don't want to buy the other's share? Could they be forced to put the home up for sale? In addition, what is the time frame to complete the sale? You would not want this dragging on for months or years.

Another important issue is how the sale price is going to be determined. Is the house going to get appraised and, if so, who selects the appraiser? Valuation

is an issue that can cause all sorts of problems. That is why it's important to address the valuation issue in the agreement. Remember, what you paid for the home may have no bearing on what it is worth.

Assuming that all things go as anticipated and the price is set, it also has to be determined whether payments can be made over time or if the transaction must be completed by a

lump-sum payment.

These are some of the issues you need to discuss so that the agreement reflects both of your needs and concerns. Sit with an attorney who can help you draft an agreement. It is possible to do an agreement on your own, however, I believe when it comes to real estate there are a number of issues that need to be addressed and a good attorney can help.

I am concerned that if you try to do an agreement on your own, there may be issues not addressed and, as a result, it could lead to litigation and a fair amount of aggravation that surely you would want to avoid.

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

Town hall planned on proposed gas tax hike

A bill that could raise gasoline taxes by over \$1 billion annually is causing concerns for some Michigan taxpayers, so Wayne County Campaign for Liberty coordinator Steve Boron has announced a plan to fight the tax hike.

Campaign for Liberty will be holding a town hall to discuss the gasoline tax increase from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at Beaver Creek, 1609 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

"We need to stop this bill from passing in the Michigan House," said Boron, a Westland resident. "Taxpayers can't afford to pay another \$1 billion in state taxes."

The bill passed 23-14 in the Michigan Senate.

According to Boron, state legislators say that the tax increases are needed to fund road repairs. However, various taxpayer groups have proposed alternative methods of raising the necessary funds, such as repealing prevailing wage laws and cutting spending on corporate subsidy programs like the Michigan Strategic Fund.

Boron said the town hall also will cover other state issues, such as proposed legislation requiring police officers wear body cameras while on duty.

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A TREE MEMORIALIZED

Massive old maple saved as a garden sculpture

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

A bear wouldn't do. After all, when was the last time anyone in Farmington or Farmington Hills saw a bear in the community? So, Kari McGraw decided it had to be a squirrel — one of the community's more plentiful creatures.

Today, in her front yard on Robinson stands a sculpture of squirrels, expertly created by wood carver Emil M. Szkipala — also known as the Chainsaw Man of Michigan — from the 10-foot or so remains of a once majestic silver maple that had been ravaged by one storm after another.

The tree, once a focal point of McGraw's front yard, had already been cut and trimmed considerably from the damage. But she wanted to repurpose the 150-year-old tree.

"It was one of the reasons I fell in love with the lot and also the neighborhood," said McGraw who moved into her home in 1998.

"It was the most beautiful tree," she said. "I tried to save it."

Then came the May 15 storm and the tree was so damaged, including one large limb that hung precariously over McGraw's garage. She knew that a family of raccoons also had been at one time living in the stately tree. But she had to make a decision. She didn't want the tree destroyed, so it was trimmed, leaving about a 10-foot base.

"I thought if it was not

rotted, I want to memorialize the tree," McGraw said.

She found the Chainsaw Man of Michigan online and was amazed at what the native Romanian artist created with his carving skills. "I was doing hand-carved furniture there," Szkipala said, referring to his homeland.

He and his family moved to the U.S. in 1991 and with it the Romanian heritage of wood carving. "I keeps me busy all year," Szkipala, said adding he also has a carving in Shiassee Park in Farmington.

On the recent Saturday that Szkipala arrived at McGraw's house, he was armed with the knowledge of the sculpture she had requested. But first things first. He had to trim what was left of the large 6-foot-diameter tree. "I am going after the good wood," he said. "Then I sketch it."

Accompanying Szkipala was his son, Stephan, who intends to follow in his dad's footsteps. While at McGraw's, Stephan practiced his skills creating an American eagle on wood his father trimmed off the large silver maple. "I've been doing this since I was 8 years old," Stephan said, as his father cut in and reminded him he will go to college first.

McGraw recalled the conversation when she finally reached Szkipala by phone. "I asked him if he could do a squirrel. He said, 'Squirrel? Heck, yeah. I do squirrels.'"

Sculpting the detailed squirrel wasn't a one-day



JOANNE MALISZEWSKI

A smaller version of a wood-carved squirrel is the muse for sculptor Emile Szkipala.



KARI MCGRAW

One of the two squirrels sculpted in the silver maple tree comes to life.

effort. In fact, with every slice at the tree, Szkipala discovered something new, including a rope pulley in the tree's trunk.

A few days later — as the weather grew colder — Szkipala presented McGraw with not one, but

two, sculpted squirrels with a decorative branch between them. The sculpture stands 8 feet tall and is a fitting memorial to McGraw's once-stately silver maple.

Although she expected only one squirrel, she loves



KARI MCGRAW

Emil Szkipala heads toward his finished wood-carved sculpture.

what Szkipala created. "You hate to completely cut down a tree that's beautiful and been here for about 150 years," McGraw said.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com
248-396-6620

Our Lady of Loretto to serve up Thanksgiving dinner

Our Lady of Loretto in Redford is ready to set the tables for its annual Thanksgiving day meal which will be served from 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27.

The dinner is at the

family center of the parish located at 17116 Olympia at Six Mile.

A cantor from a neighboring church is set to sing during dinner.

"It's for anyone that is disadvantaged in some

way," said Karen McCuean, who, along with her husband, Don, created the event 14 years ago and has coordinated it ever since. "Some people can't afford to put on a Thanksgiving dinner. Some people are alone for the holidays. Some are handicapped. Some people have no where to go. Some can't prepare a

nice dinner."

St. Collette in Livonia donates pies from its Thanksgiving eve "Pie Fest." One of Don McCuean's friends, Nageeb Atisha, donates cases of sweet potatoes and other foods.

RSVP to volunteer or to dine at Our Lady of Loretto's Thanksgiving dinner by calling the church at 313-534-9000.



Parishioners at Our Lady of Loretto are getting ready to serve up a Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday.

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CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN

Chronic low back pain has features that distinguish it from other causes of back pain such as ankylosing spondylitis, ruptured disc, metastatic tumor, back infection and osteoporosis.

Chronic low back pain may start as sudden event, a turn or near fall, may initiate aching in the low back. The ache gradually worsens, but does not move either up the back or down the legs. The pain just stays. Staying for weeks is a given, remaining for years is a possibility.

A patient may not be happy with the physician's first response. The gold standard therapy for new onset low back pain is to do nothing. The medical literature shows that 85% of such back pain clears in 6 weeks. Thus, the recommended treatment is to tell the patient to use a medication such as acetaminophen to ease the pain and come back for a re-evaluation in 6 weeks if the pain has not resolved.

Physicians are also trained to know when low back pain is an emergency; such instances are rare but compelling. If a person has back pain and a fever, back pain accompanied by leg weakness or foot drop, or the patient not only has pain but cannot urinate or control the bowels, the doctor knows that these findings require immediate care.

For the patient for whom a six week wait is appropriate, the regimen recommended emphasizes keeping the back from strain. Thus during this time, physical therapy orders are held in abeyance, but the individual should remain active with activities like walking, swimming if possible, and stationary biking.

If back pain patients follows such a program, it is rare that they will need to fill the 6 week appointment slot.

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Livonia teens earn Eagle Scout rank

Alexander Lee and Adam Ross were recently awarded their Eagle Scout badges at Troop 782's Court of Honor in Livonia.

Lee is a senior at Livonia Stevenson High School who plans to attend Michigan State University or Grand Valley State where he will pursue a career in sports broadcasting.

His Eagle Project was to solicit and collect used tools for the Detroit Blight Busters, a volunteer group whose goal is

to clean up and beautify some of the dilapidated areas of metro Detroit. These tools and salvage supplies allow the group to board up, or tear down, old abandoned homes, as well as to assist in the planting of urban gardens to help beautify some of the neglected areas of the city. Alex and his workers spent 78 hours on the community service project.

In the scout troop, Lee has served in such leadership positions as Troop Guide, Assistant Senior

Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Ross is a senior at Livonia Franklin High School in the International Baccalaureate program. Ross will attend either Michigan Tech or the University of Michigan to earn a degree in environmental engineering.

Ross and his helpers spent 70 hours collecting tools for the Detroit Blight Busters. Donated tools included shovels, rakes, weed whackers and assorted hand tools

desperately needed by the Blight Busters.

Ross has held leadership positions such as Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and currently as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 782. He has participated in a 15-day high adventure trip sailing, fishing and snorkeling the coral reefs of the Florida Keys, and is a proud member of the Order of the Arrow.

Troop 782 meets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia.



Alexander Lee, left, and Adam Ross are Troop 782's newest Eagles Scouts.

November marks National Hospice Month

November for many is the month with Thanksgiving. For some, it's the month when it's finally time to put up their holiday decorations. But for the hospice community, November is a time to raise awareness.

November became National Hospice and Palliative Care month in 1992, long after the first Thanksgiving. The number of hospices in the United States has speedily grown since the first hospice was founded in 1974. That includes Livonia's Angela Hospice, founded 11 years later in 1985.

In 2013, more than 1.5 million patients received services from 5,800 hospices nationwide. Angela Hospice served 1,760 of those patients.

While the numbers for 2014 haven't been totaled yet, Agnes Chor's husband John was one of this year's many patients who received care.

During his one month and three days in the Angela Hospice Care Center, Agnes spent nearly every night with him, making it a home away from home.

"I was grateful they would let me spend the night with him," she said.

"I ate a lot of meals there."

She even brought her red slippers from their Livonia home and noted that she could do anything there that she could at home. That included watching movies and walking around the "absolutely beautiful" grounds, she said.

Staying at the Care Center almost every night allowed Agnes to see what really happens behind the closed doors of Angela Hospice.

"They (the staff) were good to everybody," she said. "It wasn't because I was there that they were on their best behavior. They just did what came natural to them and they were excellent."

After taking care of her husband at home for five years John was moved into a home. Agnes said that he had been in three or four within a year and a half. She also said that Angela Hospice was the best of the group.

"It was like family was taking care of my husband," she said. "It was like they considered him their family. So it was their job to take care of him. I just thought it was fantastic. I loved it."

Being in such a warm environment surrounded by caring people also took some of the stress off of Agnes. She said that the nurses were so good at checking on their patients and that bed sores John had acquired previously were gone within weeks of arriving at the Care Center. She also said that the staff took just as good of care of her as her husband.

"I would recommend Angela Hospice to anybody, everybody," she said.

"The number one comment we receive from families is that they wish they had chosen hospice sooner," said Mary Beth Moning, Interim President/CEO of Angela Hospice. "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month is a great time to spread awareness about all that hospice has to offer for patients and their families — the compassionate physical care, the supportive spiritual, emotional, and social work services; and the grief support available to families and the community."

For more about Angela Hospice, visit AskForAngela.com or call 734-464-7810.



Angela Hospice Interim President/CEO Mary Beth Moning readies a room in the Angela Hospice Care Center. The center was designed to be a home away from home for hospice patients, where they can receive around-the-clock care. Hospice's family-focused care inspired comfortable spaces for visitors throughout the center as well, and family members can even stay overnight in mini-suites.

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St. John's Project showers veterans with praise

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The tale of what the St. John's Veterans Project has accomplished in the past eight years can be told in numbers.

Founded in 2006 as a project to bring a bit of the holidays to hospitalized and homeless veterans, organizers and students at St. John's Lutheran School in Westland packaged and wrapped 200 boxes. That number has grown this year to 315 boxes, including 50 new home boxes for veterans transitioning from VA housing to permanent homes.

But the group is now doing more than just those boxes. This year, it delivered 100 coats, hats, gloves and scarves to the Ann Arbor VA and an additional 92 to the VA in Detroit and 25 blankets to the Detroit and Ann Arbor VA facilities.

It also sent 30 boxes to troops. In the past, the destination was Afghanistan, but with the troop withdrawals, the project has shifted gears and is sending boxes to troops stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Over the course of nine years, the St. John's Veterans Project has prepared and delivered 3,011 boxes and articles of clothing, thanks to the generosity of people in the community.

"We'll take anything and everything," Kendra Schaffer said. "There's no deadline for donations. We can store stuff for next year. It's important people know that this is year-round."



TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN SHOW OFF THE SCARVES THEY RECEIVED IN THEIR ST. JOHN'S PACKAGES.

Helping more

For Schaffer and organizers like her daughters Anna and Bethany and Jamie Kittle, the focus remains on helping veterans. The needs in Ann Arbor are not as great as in Detroit, so they are again expanding.

"The homeless veterans they deal with are 20-30 years old and not in as great of need," Schaffer said. "We asked for a contact in Detroit, and I am so thankful that we can now deliver the homeless food boxes to Detroit and that they will

be given to homeless vets. Now we can adjust to where the need is greater."

The St. John's Project has gotten monetary support from Thrivent Financial, which has helped pay the cost of shipping the packages overseas. They also have gotten other donations, especially from a neighbor who saw a story on TV.

But more is always needed.

Volunteers packed boxes for the soldiers in Okinawa on Saturday, but more items are needed

for the inpatient boxes and those for the homeless veterans. The group is looking for canned food — soups, meats, meals — individual packaged crackers, tooth paste, tooth brushes, mints, hand sanitizer, pudding cups, fruit cups and granola bars.

The project also is looking for cards and letters to include in the boxes. The 44 students at St. John's do them, but Schaffer would like more.

"It would be so awesome to send them cards and letters — Christmas



WORKING ON THE ST. JOHN'S VETERANS PROJECT WITH KENDRA SCHAFER (FROM LEFT), ARE HER DAUGHTER BETHANY SCHAFER, JAMIE KITTLE AND HER OTHER DAUGHTER ANNA SCHAFER.



ST. JOHN'S VETERANS PROJECT ST. JOHN'S STUDENTS NOT ONLY ASSEMBLE THE PACKAGES, THEY HELP LOAD THE TRUCK FOR THEIR DELIVERY TO THE ANN ARBOR VA HOSPITAL.

cards, thank you letters, whatever," she said.

Donations are 100 percent tax deductible and 100 percent of the donations go to the project. They can be dropped off at the school at St. John's Church and School at 2602 Wayne Road, north of Glenwood, or to Trisha Dork at Elite Reality, 31077 Schoolcraft, east of Merriman, in Livonia.

The inpatient boxes will be packed and wrapped on Friday, Dec. 5, by St. John's students and delivered to Ann Arbor on Saturday, Dec.

6. Monday, Dec. 7, is the tentatively deliver date for the Detroit VA.

Part of holidays

Schaffer's daughters got involved as students. Anna was a senior in high school and Bethany was a fourth-grader at St. John's.

"I really like taking part in it and helping out," said Anna who now is the group's secretary. "I feel like it's part of my life. Honestly, I don't know what I would do if this wasn't incorporated into Christmas."

Bethany likes going to the VA Hospital when the packages are delivered. Volunteers visit the veterans, talk with them and sing Christmas carols.

"It's more personal and it's always nice to see how thankful they are," she said. "I like seeing the gruff ones that say don't come in here, leave it on the table. Two years ago we saw a young man who was rolling bed because of pain. We asked if we could sing him a Christmas song, and he said yes."

"People think veterans are old, but they're not," she said.

For her mother, the project represents a way of "giving back to those who have given so much."

"It's only through what these men and women have done or are doing that we can live in freedom," she said. "For that we are truly thankful and are just trying to give back to them a small token of our appreciation."

More information can be found at [facebook.com/stjohnsveteranproject](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsveteranproject).

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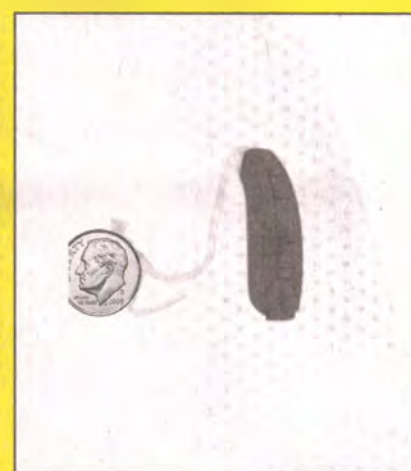
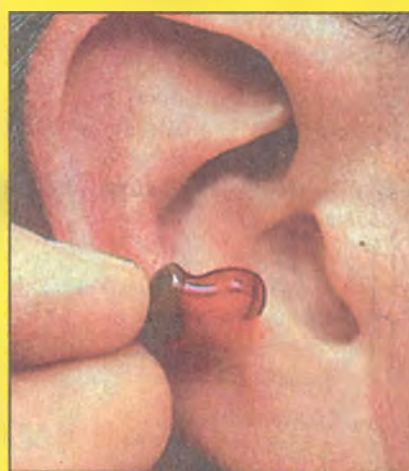
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit will sponsor its fifth annual "St. Nicholas Is Santa Claus," a Nativity-season children's party featuring the story of St. Nicholas as told by St. Nicholas himself. Children will meet St. Nicholas and receive a gift while their parents take their pictures. They will do a craft project, and there will be a carol sing-a-long and refreshments. Prior to the party

from noon to 1 p.m., children will be able to have their pictures taken with live reindeer. The party is free of charge and open to Orthodox and non-Orthodox children of all ages and their parents. Refreshments will be served.
Contact: 248-345-9346; paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

RAILRODIANA

Time/date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30.
Location: St. Simon and Jude social hall, 32500 Palmer Road, west of Merriman, Westland.
Details: The Ushers Club will sponsor a buy and swap, toy and train show at the church hall. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts and more than 100 dealer tables with various gauges of trains. Tables are available at \$10 per table.
Contact: To reserve tables, call 734-595-8327. Dealer set-up is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

TOY SHOW

Time/date: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30.
Location: Livonia Elks Hall, 31117 Plymouth Road, east of Merriman, Livonia.
Details: Admission \$4, children under 12 free. Show includes Hot Wheels, comic books, beer signs, lunch boxes, music, movie and TV items, Star Trek, Star Wars, model cars, dolls, games, books and magazines, cards, etc.
Contact: 586-775-3289; 586-790-6290.

TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLING CEREMONY

Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.
Location: Front steps of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia.
Details: Free for all ages. Come sing holiday carols with the Livonia Civic Chorus in City Hall. Afterward, visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, make holiday crafts, watch a magician perform tricks and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the Livonia Civic Center Library. Co-sponsored by Livonia Parks and Recreation, Livonia Rotary Club, Livonia Public Libraries, Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia and Livonia Civic Chorus.
Contact: 734-466-2410.

HOLIDAY TASTE FEST

Time/date: 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.
Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.
Details: The Westland Rotary

Club and Westland Chamber of Commerce have teamed up again for their annual charity food and fun extravaganza, the 2014 Holiday Taste Fest. You'll dine on food from 13 different vendors, enjoy holiday music by RCDJ and Video, and vocals by Frank Sinatra impersonator Bart Ventura. There will be raffles and a live auction. Wear your "ugly holiday sweater" and you might win a \$100 Visa gift card!! Admission is \$25 per person. Tickets available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce or Juenemann Insurance Agency.
Contact: Brookellen Swope, 734-326-7222 or westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

COLLEGE FUNDING WORKSHOP

Time/date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.
Location: Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.
Details: Robert Hoger, Certified College Planning Specialist with Michigan College Funding, will discuss such topics as how to help your student decide on which colleges to apply to, how to pick the colleges that may give you the most amount of money, how to help maximize your student's potential to receive scholarships and grants and why procrastination may cost a family thousands of dollars. Admission is free but seating is limited by the size of the room, so call to reserve your seats.
Contact: 248-662-1300.

GABRIELLE'S ANGELS BENEFIT

Time/date: noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.
Location: Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey St., Wayne.
Details: Fundraiser to benefit children aging out of the foster care system, low-income single parents and homeless prevention. White elephant auction, raffle drawings for gift certificates donated by local businesses, fun and games for the family.
Contact: 734-895-1830.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Time/date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.
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 afterglow. Admission is free.
Contact: mike@entropystereo.com.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD HOLIDAY MUSICAL

Time/day: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Location: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: Presented by Metro Dance and Music Co., the Christmas Around the World Holiday Musical tells the story of Santa's elves working as "newsies" traveling the globe collecting stories of the different traditions and holiday customs while the North Pole readies for Santa's arrival. Tickets are \$12 each, \$40 for a family of four. Come early to enjoy live music, Christmas caroling, and our "around the world" bake sale. All audience members are also welcome on stage following the show to take pictures and get autographs from cast members, including Santa.

Contact: <http://metrodance-company.com/>.

ANNUAL WCGH REUNION

Time/date: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9.
Location: Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet, 6539 North Wayne Road, Westland.
Details: The 30th annual Wayne County General Hospital employees holiday reunion will be held in the party room of the Hibachi Grill Supreme. There is a large choice of food selections and a senior discount. All retirees and former employees are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. You can pay at the door.
Contact: 734-331-9291.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Time/date: 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.
Location: New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware Ave., Redford.
Details: Enjoy chips and hot-dogs, create your own ornament to put on the tree and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Everything is free.
Contact: 313-255-6330.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS

Time/date: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.
Location: St Robert Bellarmine Church, 27101 W. Chicago Road, Redford.
Details: All-you-can-eat breakfast presented by the St. St Robert Bellarmine Men's Club. Adults are \$5, kids 2-12 are \$2, kids under 2 are free. Get instant photos for \$2. First-place raffle prize is a sled full of toys, second-place is a 20-inch bicycle.
Contact: harold.jackman@gmail.com.

IKEA expansion begins on Canton site

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

An expansion of Canton's already-massive IKEA store has begun, with company officials predicting the 44,000-square-foot addition should open next summer and potentially create new jobs.

"New job opportunities will exist as the business needs arise, as is always the case," company spokesman Joseph Roth said. "Long term, this project should result in more positions as sales continue to increase."

Construction crews have started building the addition to the west side of IKEA at Ford and Haggerty roads, a project adding nearly 15 percent more space to the 311,000-square-foot home furnishings store.

Extended area

IKEA Canton manager Matt Hunsicker has said the store's success since opening in 2006 has ramped up efforts to extend the self-service furniture area "so it can hold more products and improve our customer shopping experience."

Roth said exterior construction should be complete by spring, with the new section opening next summer on a site where IKEA demolished the former ABC Warehouse store, which moved to the Ford-Morton Taylor intersection.

Roth said the "primary purpose" of the expansion is to create more space and increase availability of the company's products. Canton is home to Michigan's only IKEA store and draws customers from neighboring states and Canada.

Roth declined to say how much of an investment the IKEA expansion means for the store, which has some 300 employees.

"As a privately held company," he said, "IKEA does not discuss finances publicly."

Growth plan

The area being expanded includes space where shoppers collect flat-packed furniture to take home to assemble. The project also includes rearranging the customer service section and improving the home-delivery area.

IKEA's plans came with a \$250,000 gift as Canton inches toward improving traffic-snarled Ford Road. Long term, the Michigan Department of Transportation has said the stretch of Ford Road in Canton, which has some of the state's highest-crash intersections, could potentially be transformed into a boulevard.

Roth, meanwhile, has said IKEA's plans to expand the Canton store is an indication it will remain the company's only Michigan store for the foreseeable future, calling it "a great location and a great community."

In other development across the street, Canton Marriott Hotels has confirmed it plans to build two new four-story hotels northeast of the Ford-Haggerty intersection after demolishing the aging America's Best Value Inn & Suites.

Officials say the new hotels, with a combined 178 rooms, could open by late next year. Mike Abdulnoor, regional manager for A&M Hospitality, has said the new hotels will complement two others already on the site.

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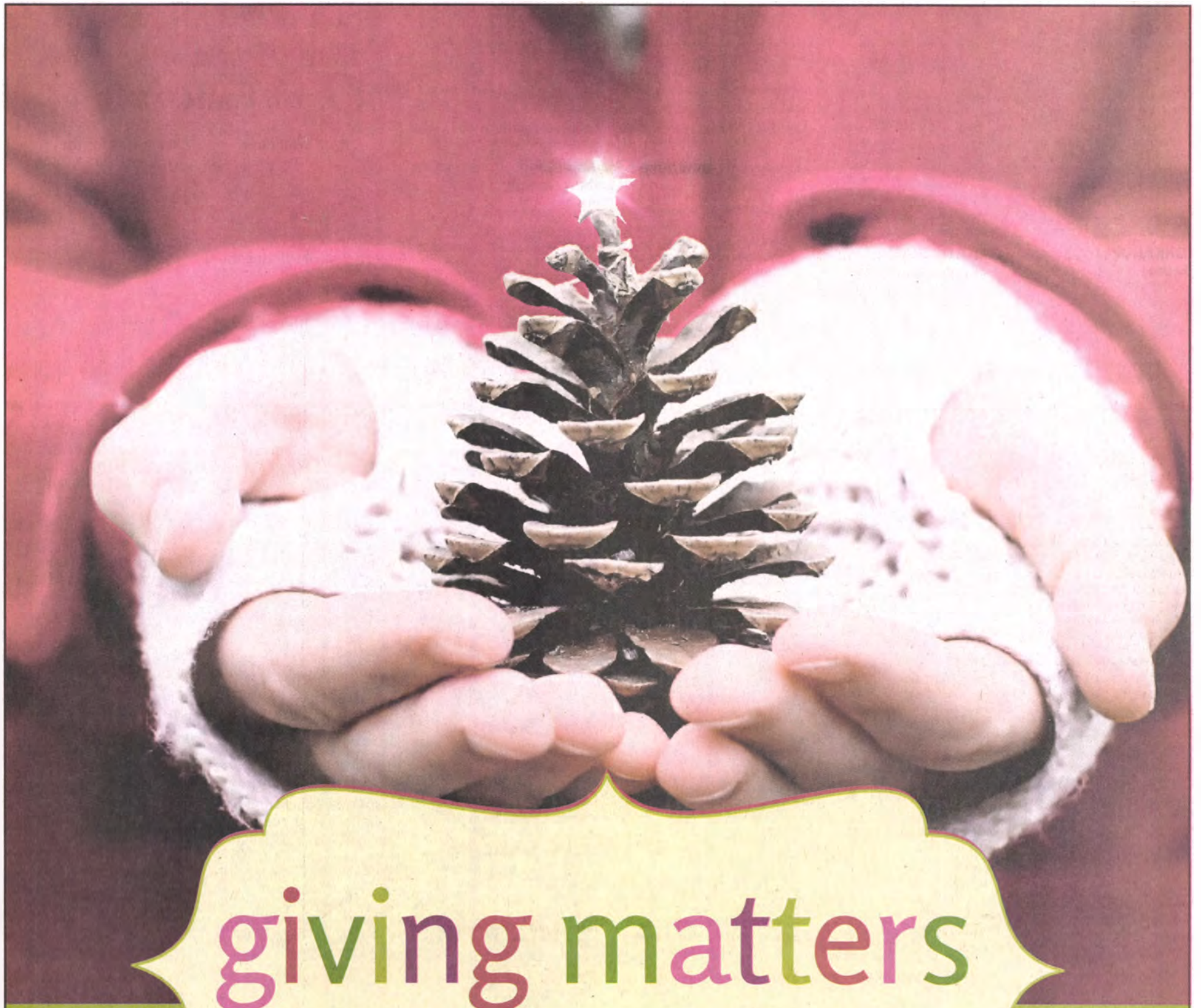
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USDA Premium Choice Angus Porterhouse, T-Bone or Flank Steak	Amish Country Turkey Breast	Sweet Italian, Hot Italian, or Polish	Large (31-40 ct)	Fresh Lake Superior Walleye Fillets
\$9.99 lb	\$2.99 lb	\$3.99 lb	Save \$3.00 lb	\$12.99 lb
Entrees to Go Apple Cherry Stuffed Pork Chops	Bell & Evans Turkey	Alexander & Hornung Honey Spiral Ham	Jumbo (16-20 ct)	Fresh Wild Caught Whitefish Fillets
\$4.99 lb	\$3.49 lb	\$3.29 lb	Save \$2.00 lb	\$11.99 lb
Save \$2.00 lb	Fresh All Natural Leg of Lamb	MADE IN MICHIGAN	Blue Point Fresh Oysters	Save \$1.00 lb
\$4.99 lb	\$6.99 lb	Save 70¢	3/\$4	

DELI

Boar's Head Black Forest Beechwood Smoked Ham	Boar's Head Colby Jack/Colby Cheese	Dietz & Watson Tavern Honey Ham	Barber's English Vintage Cheddar	Wisconsin Parmesan Cheese
\$8.49 lb	\$6.59 lb	\$7.99 lb	\$10.99 lb	\$6.99 lb
Save \$1.50	Save \$3.50	Save \$4.00	Save \$4.00	Save \$1.00
Boar's Head Low Sodium Turkey	Di Bruno Brothers Spread All Varieties	Dietz & Watson NY Horseradish Cheddar	Hoffman's Hard Salami	Joe's Pumpkin Dip
\$7.99 lb	\$5.99 ea	\$7.99 lb	\$5.99 lb	\$5.99 lb
Save \$2.00	Save \$1.00	Save \$3.00	Save \$3.00	Save \$2.00
Boar's Head London Broil Roast Beef	Dietz & Watson Homestyle Turkey Breast	Dietz & Watson Garlic Roasted Cheddar	Hoffman's Super Sharp Cheddar	Joe's Spinach Dip
\$11.49 lb	\$7.99 lb	\$7.99 lb	\$5.99 lb	\$4.99 lb
Save \$3.50	Save \$4.00	Save \$3.00	Save \$4.00	Save \$2.00

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Gourmet Mac & Cheese	
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Menage A Trois Midnight	
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PREP HOOPS PREVIEW

Senior-laden Patriots look for big rebound season



Pictured (from left) are Livonia Franklin senior captains Erin McNally, Jessica McNally, Sarah Cramton and Tyonna Tate.

Three-win campaign in 2013-14 a distant memory for experienced Franklin

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

With a roster stocked with 10 seniors, Livonia Franklin's girls basketball squad should earn an A-plus in team chemistry during the upcoming season.

"A lot of these girls have grown up together and played throughout middle school and high school together, so they know each other — and they know my style of coaching — very well," said Franklin third-year head coach Jim Milican. "They've really seemed to click

the first couple of weeks of practice and they're communicating well, which is very important."

Several of the 10 final-year Patriots played for Milican at Emerson Middle School as well as at Franklin.

Milican said his team's No. 1 strength will be its defense, which will switch from an aggressive zone to a zone/man-to-man mix.

"We were pretty much all zone last year, but we've been working on changing things up a

See PATRIOTS, Page B2

All-State soccer

Several area boys soccer players earned accolades as part of the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association's All-State teams that were recently announced.

Earning Division 1 2nd team All-State recognition were Livonia Stevenson senior defender Austin Rynicki and junior goal-keeper Austin Kaczmarek.

D1 honorable mention All-State accolades went to Livonia Churchill senior mid-fielder Daniel Jones and Livonia Franklin junior forward Jordan Whitt.

GIRLS HOCKEY PREVIEW



Ladywood's Brooke Spiegel (right) fights for the puck in front of the Country Day net in Tuesday's season-opening 8-1 victory.

DIANE JACOBS

SC kickers ousted

The defending National Champion Iowa Western Community College men's soccer team defeated Schoolcraft College 3-2 Wednesday at the NJCAA Division I national tournament in Prescott Valley, Ariz. With the loss the Ocelots season comes to an end at 17-3-1.

The Rievers opened the scoring with just 36 left in the first half, when Orlando Alvarado on a two yard shot off a pass from Rafael Ferreira.

Schoolcraft got the equalizer early in the second half, when Jon Quintana scored his second goal of the tournament on a penalty shot at the 46:37 mark.

The Ocelots took the lead just 1:38 later when Livonia Stevenson product Billy Werthman took a pass from Canton alum Nate Bergeson and scored on a 20-yard shot from the right-side end line.

Iowa Western tied the match at the 67:15 mark, when Nick Melville scored on a one yard header on a pass from Yuri Domiciano.

Schoolcraft, needing a win to advance, pulled the goalie but Iowa Western scored into the empty net with just seven seconds left when John Blair hit Jarom Farnsworth. He then put it in the empty net from 35 yards out.

Ladywood icers off to hot start

Hayward returns as Blazers' top scorer

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

On the heels of strong finish to end the 2013-14 season, along with some promising

early season returns, Livonia Ladywood could become a key factor in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League race.

The Blazers started last year 0-8-1 before

finishing with an 8-14-1 record that included a Catholic League title. Ladywood's season ended with a heartbreaking 4-3 double-overtime setback to defending Michigan Metro Division 1 playoff champion Grosse Pointe

See LADYWOOD, Page B3

PREP HOOPS PREVIEW

GC fueled by aggressive defense, perimeter shooting

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Opponents of this season's Garden City girls basketball team will have to contend with a double-double machine (senior Abby Joseph), a three-point sharp-shooter (senior Hannah Vera-Burgos) and a get-after-it brand of defense (the entire) that helped lead the Cougars to a stellar 12-9 season in 2013-14.

Fueled by the experience and skills that five seniors bring to the mix, Garden City is looking

to improve on last year's second-place finish in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's Blue Division. The Cougars finished 6-2 in the division, which was behind only unbeaten Romulus.

"We have great chemistry this season; everybody gets along," said Garden City's third-year head coach Michele Tyree noted. "We have five seniors [on the 10-player roster] and seven total returning players, so we're

See COUGARS, Page B5

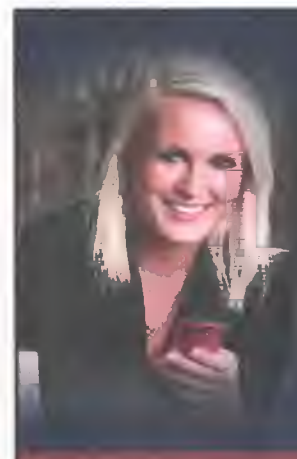


Pictured (from left) are the Garden City basketball seniors Ashlynn Caviness, Abby Joseph, Rachel Spellman, Hannah Vera-Burgos and Kelli McDaniel.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

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



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Aces abound on 2014 all-Observer tennis team

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES
Griffin Mertz, N. Farmington: Mertz was a four-year starter and standout in the North singles lineup. He is a three-time member of the all-area team.

He compiled a 24-3 record this year, won a regional championship and was a Division 2 state semifinalist.

"Griffin had a phenomenal senior season," coach Whitney Wasielewski said. "He finished with only one Division 2 loss - in the semifinals of the state tournament, to the eventual state champion. His other two losses during the season were to top-seeded Division 1 players."

"Griffin has improved and grown as a player and teammate tremendously over the past four years. He was a great leader and captain on and off the court, and he has signed to play tennis at U-D Mercy next year."

Rohan Vaishnav, Canton: The senior capped off an outstanding four years as Canton's No. 1 singles player and team leader.

Vaishnav rose to the occasion every time, only losing twice during the season while defeating top-notch opponents he previously struggled against during his career.

"Each year you have seen an amazing transformation to his understanding that his physical development and energy were key to his overall skill and success," coach Barb Lehmann said. "His leadership and talent will be greatly missed and very difficult to replace."

Jordan Lu, Plymouth: The junior stalwart has his third straight outstanding season at No. 1 singles for the Wildcats, finishing with a 16-7 record and earning team MVP honors.

Lu also enjoyed a 10-game winning streak and advanced to the Division 1 regional quarterfinals - barely missing a berth in the state finals.

"He is an incredibly talented and smart tennis player," coach Tom Kimball said. "Jordan is competitive with the top players in Michigan."

Jonathan Martin, Churchill: A senior, Martin's list of career accomplishments is longer than a tennis court's baseline. A four-year varsity singles player, Martin (20-7 this season while playing against a stellar lineup of foes) was the 2014 Livonia city champion at No. 1 singles, the gold medal-winner at the Howell Fall for the Cure tournament, the champion at the Brighton Quad event and runner-up at the Troy Athens Relay Tournament and at the Division 1 regional.

"Jonathan led the way up at the top of our lineup playing No. 1 singles," Churchill head coach John Webster said. "He was in every match he played and we could always count on him to do his best. Jonathan is a once-in-a-career-type player for a coach."

Joe Pummill, Garden City: A three-sport standout for the Cougars, Pummill did not lose a single Western Wayne Athletic Conference match the past three years while playing No. 1 singles. During his spectacular prep career, he has won 78 matches.

"Joe has been our leader the past three years and it has been a pleasure and an honor to have coached him," said Ron Pummill, his coach and father. "I am proud of him as both his coach and his dad."

George Zhou, Canton: A winning constant for Canton throughout the past four seasons was having a talented 1-2 singles combo of Vaishnav and Zhou.

His senior season was a rewarding one, as he only lost one match and

received the "Coaches Award" for unending dedication and commitment to Canton

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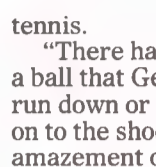
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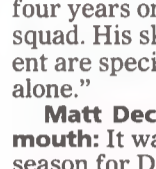
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George Zhou
Canton



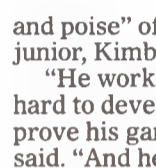
Kevin Hou
Plymouth



Yogesh Mohanraj
Plymouth



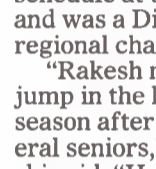
Shivang Shah
Canton



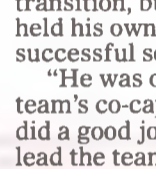
Rakesh Rajakumar
N. Farmington



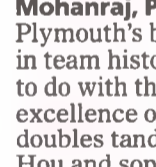
Matt Decker
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Howard Zhang
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Tom Kimball
Plymouth coach



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Garden City



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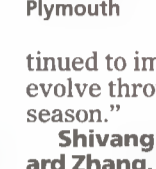
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Andy Berman
North Farm.



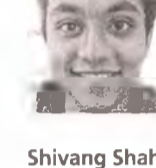
Adwaiy Manerikar
North Farm.



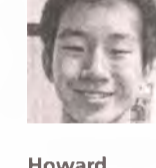
Tom Kimball, Plymouth coach



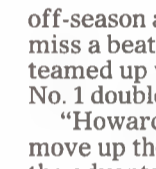
Ron Pummill, Garden City



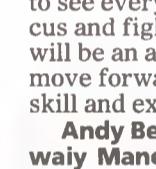
Jordan Lu, Plymouth



Kevin Hou, Plymouth



Yogesh Mohanraj, Plymouth



Shivang Shah, Canton



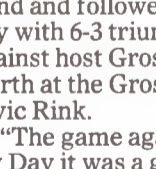
Rakesh Rajakumar, N. Farmington



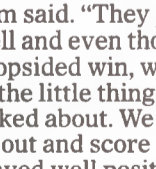
Matt Decker, Plymouth



Howard Zhang, Canton



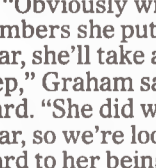
Tom Kimball, Plymouth coach



Ron Pummill, Garden City



Jordan Lu, Plymouth



Kevin Hou, Plymouth



Yogesh Mohanraj, Plymouth

ord of 13-9. Among highlights was a gold medal at the Monroe Invitational.

"This duo plays doubles with power, precision, and touch," Kimball said.

"Their tactics and strategy skills continued to improve and evolve throughout the season."

Shivang Shah, Howard Zhang, Canton: The Chiefs' top doubles tandem meshed right from the moment Zhang joined fourth-year varsity player Shah in the lineup. They complemented each other, Lehmann said.

"His talent and strength at the net continued to be a great weapon for success," Lehmann said about Shah. "Shivang used his height to his advantage and the team's overall success."

Meanwhile, Zhang worked hard during the off-season and did not miss a beat when he teamed up with Shah at No. 1 doubles.

"Howard's desire to move up the ladder was the advantage we needed and were looking for," she said. "We were lucky to see every day his focus and fight. Howard will be an asset as we move forward with his skill and experience."

Andy Berman, Adwaiy Manerikar, N. Farmington: The senior duo won the No. 1 doubles position in a program noted for the quality of its doubles teams.

Berman and Manerikar played many of the top teams in Oakland County and represented the Raiders at the Division 2 state meet.

"Andy and Adwaiy were both members of the JV team last season

and showed a ton of growth and improvement, earning the No. 1 doubles spot on the varsity team this season," Wasielewski said.

"They had some very tough competition playing this flight, but they held their own and had some good wins."

"Both have great attitudes and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. They were a pleasure to coach and always gave their best effort, working hard on and off the court."

CO-COACHES OF YEAR
Tom Kimball, Plymouth: The veteran coach presided over another outstanding season, as Plymouth won the KLAASouth Division for the fourth year in a row.

The Wildcats went 5-0 in the division and 9-1 overall, while winning three invitationals and earning a regional finalist medal.

Yet Kimball pointed beyond the won-loss record and other accolades.

"The intangibles are what stand out," Kimball said. "The varsity players have an impressive all-state academic honors award average grade-point of 3.89. This is a hard-working and self-directed group of young men."

"The players were consistent in exhibiting traits of leadership, teamwork, compassion, friendship, fairness, encouragement and spirit."

Kimball said most of this year's varsity will return in 2015 as the Wildcats look to top this autumn's success.

Meanwhile, he downplayed his own contributions to the 2014 team's strong showing, citing the efforts of assistant coach Erik Batell and Plymouth athletic director Kyle Meteyer.

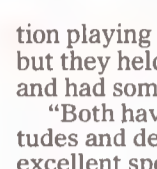
"Erik isn't just a pas-



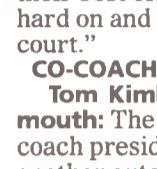
Andy Berman
North Farm.



Adwaiy Manerikar
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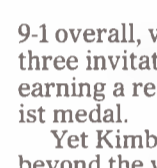
Tom Kimball, Plymouth coach



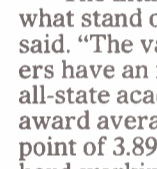
Ron Pummill, Garden City



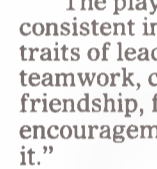
Jordan Lu, Plymouth



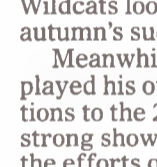
Kevin Hou, Plymouth



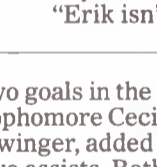
Yogesh Mohanraj, Plymouth



Shivang Shah, Canton



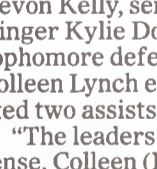
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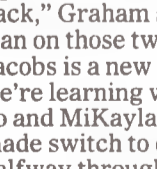
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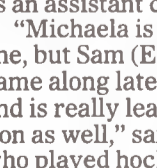
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Kimball said most of this year's varsity will return in 2015 as the Wildcats look to top this autumn's success.

Meanwhile, he downplayed his own contributions to the 2014 team's strong showing, citing the efforts of assistant coach Erik Batell and Plymouth athletic director Kyle Meteyer.

"Erik isn't just a pas-

sionate tennis instructor, he also conducts progressive fitness and conditioning drills for our team and brings enthusiasm to every practice, match and team activity," Kimball said.

"The new athletic administration at P-CEP has also helped our program. Our athletic director, Kyle Meteyer, is a responsive, supportive, forward-thinking leader who is breathing new life into athletics and activities."

Ron Pummill, Garden City: Pummill has helped mold the Cougars into a WWAC power. This season, Garden City went 11-0 in the conference, winning 79 of 88 matches. At the season-ending tournament, the Cougars took home seven gold medals and one bronze.

"I had an awesome time coaching this team," said Pummill, who also coaches Garden City's boys basketball and golf teams. "These guys came to practice every day trying to improve. They went to every match trying to play their best tennis. It's those efforts that brought them the results we had."

Michaela is a catcher on the softball team and she really took to goaltending. She traps the puck very well and she's got pretty good reflexes."

Among the other newcomers are junior forward Olivia Williams, junior center Maddie Haas, freshman forward Mary Breyer and freshman center Brooke Spiegel.

"Brooke has a good stick and good pair of hands around the net," Graham said.

Against Grosse Pointe North, Ladywood jumped out to a 2-0 first-period advantage and led 4-0 after two periods.

Werner led the way with a pair of goals, while Malek and Spiegel each collected a goal and assist. Pilut and Kristofik tallied the other goals and Pearson contributed two assists.

Scoring leaders for North (0-1, 0-1) included Elizabeth Gallagher (one goal, two assists), Devyn LaValley (one goal, one assist) and Lindsay Gallagher (two assists).

Warner, starting her third season as the Blazers' goaltender, made 23 saves in the victory.

"The new girls coming into the mix, along with the older girls that have been on the team, are bringing them in and it's been a nice blend so far," Graham said. "We'll see how it goes from here."

Ladywood returns to Michigan Metro action beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday against Grosse Pointe South at Arctic Pond.

ALL OBSERVER BOYS TENNIS

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES
 Griffin Mertz, sr., N. Farmington
 Rohan Vaishnav, sr., Canton
 Jordan Lu, jr., Plymouth
 Jonathan Martin, sr., Churchill
 Joe Pummill, sr., Garden City
 George Zhou, sr., Canton
 Matt Decker, soph., Plymouth
 Rakesh Rajakumar, jr., N. Farmington

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES
 Kevin Hou, jr., Plymouth
 Yogesh Mohan, soph., Plymouth
 Shivang Shah, sr., Canton
 Howard Zhang, jr., Canton
 Andy Berman, sr., N. Farmington
 Adwaiy Manerikar, sr., N. Farmington

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR
 Tom Kimball, Plymouth
 Ron Pummill, Garden City
SECOND-TEAM SINGLES
 Cade Burton, soph., Stevenson
 Yaswanth Karmey, sr., Farmington
 Sean Mulka, soph., Churchill
 Charlie Hou, sr., Plymouth
 Robbie Meyers, jr., Garden City
 Deven Patel, soph., Plymouth
 Mitchell Watsky, jr., N. Farmington
 David Kagan, soph., N. Farmington

SECOND-TEAM DOUBLES
 Jack Dunne, jr., Stevenson
 Brad Weiland, sr., Stevenson
 Cooper King, jr., Churchill
 Mi Patel, sr., Churchill
 Michael Manna, sr., N. Farmington
 Blake Maddalena, fr., N. Farmington

HONORABLE MENTIONS
 Canton: Noah Lindbauer, Plymouth; Ramana Ramanathan, Justin Kapke, Matt McDonald, Alex Tsakoff, Nathan Tseng, Evan Kopp, Adam Sochacki, Ani Hadagali; Salem: Ryan Karim, Garden City; Travis Kidd, Tyler Kelly, Zack Quartz; Farmington: Ryan Gandy, Navjit Girija, Shrihari Bhaskaramurthi, Chirag Adappa, Harrison, Aaron Hask, Scott Butts, Kyle Trautmann, Mark Payton; Churchill: Tim Ohtake, Johnny Zhou; Stevenson: Cade Burton, Brendan Parker; Franklin: Nick Munro, Lukas Pekorius, Jordan Stasser, Adam Alger; Redford Union: Luke Heberer, Quinn Johns, Wayne; Tyler Harnos; John Glenn; Cotz Diaz

PREP HOCKEY

Patriots soar above Skyline in opener, 8-4

By Ed Wright
 Staff Writer

All systems were go Wednesday night for Livonia Franklin's hockey team, which launched its 2014-15 season with an eye-opening 8-4 triumph over visiting Ann Arbor Skyline.

Thanks to strong play between the pipes from senior goaltender Matt Monendo (16 saves), the Patriots were never threatened after securing a 3-1 advantage through the first period.

Franklin tallied three unanswered goals in the second stanza to bury any hopes the Eagles had of mounting a comeback.

"It was a great way to start the season," Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said moments after his team's emphatic victory. "Everybody got to play a lot of minutes, which is always a plus, and I was very pleased with the way our kids competed."

"We stayed out of the (penalty) box for the most part and we stayed away from retaliation penalties as much as possible. I was happy with our motor tonight."

The Patriots' only cause for worry came

with 5:49 left in the second period when Monendo was on the wrong end of a vicious check from Skyline's Blake Hill while venturing out of the goal crease to clear a puck near the boards. Hill was slapped with a 5-minute penalty while Franklin's goalie shook off the after-effects of the questionable hit.

"The goalie is not fair game just because he leaves the crease, so obviously I was upset," Gagnon said. "I was upset, too, because our backup goalie is out with a concussion. Matt is so big and strong, though, I think the player that hit him got the worst of that collision."

First-year high school player Brendan Whitney, a junior forward, ignited the Patriots' potent offense with two goals and three assists. Chase Wallis also had a dazzling season debut for the winners, chalking up two goals and a helper.

"The entire team played well tonight," Gagnon said. "Our defense was solid with Justin Makowski, Kolby Dewhirst and Bailey DiClemente, and Brendan Whitney, Chase Wallis and Trevor Lassaline all

played well up front." Wallis scored the season's first goal on a power-play opportunity 5:33 into the game off assists from Lassaline and Whitney.

Jeremy Borque's goal just over two minutes later evened the ledger for Skyline, but late first-period net-finders from Dewhirst (from Wallis and Makowski) and Lassaline (from Whitney) gave the hosts a two-goal edge after one.

A pair of short-handed goals - the first unassisted by Jack Engel and the second off the stick of Wallis (from DiClemente and Whitney) - followed by a Whitney goal from Makowski extended the Patriots' lead to 6-1.

Whitney slapped home an unassisted, short-handed goal and Nick Salisbury scored from DiClemente and Cory Linsner to cap the scoring for the winners.

Cooper Schmunk, Yishai Ribon and Alex Wood tallied third-period goals for Skyline.

PREP HOOPS PREVIEW

Spartans are tall, versatile, inexperienced

Veteran coach Newman inherits hard-working group of players

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

With six players 5-foot-10 or taller, Livonia Stevenson's girls basketball team won't be out-sized by many opponents this season.

However, with just four seniors dotting his 13-player roster, Spartans head coach Tim Newman may be facing a tall task in the experience department.

A 36-year veteran of the basketball coaching ranks, Newman is taking over the reins of the Stevenson program from Jennifer Knoph, who stepped down following last season's Class A district championship campaign.

"It's a nice group of players," said Newman, who has coached both boys and girls basketball at Stevenson. "It's a versatile team with a lot of players who can play different positions — and they're working hard."

"Our biggest problem, at least early in the sea-



Livonia Stevenson sophomore point guard Grace Lamerson (right) hustles after a loose ball during Friday night's scrimmage against Divine Child.

son, is that we don't have a lot of players with varsity game experience."

The only current Spartan with starting varsity experience is 5-8 sophomore point guard Grace Lamerson, who directed the team's offense as a

freshman for part of the 2013-14 season.

"Grace is relentless," Newman said. "She never stops competing. We tell the players that when they make a mistake, don't worry about it; make up for it, and that's

exactly what she does. She goes one speed and that's all-out."

Heading into Friday's preseason scrimmage against Dearborn Divine Child, Stevenson's starting lineup was still unsettled due to the fact it has had just a handful of practices with its entire roster intact.

"We've had girls missing due to sickness, to attend banquets from other sports, so we'll learn a lot during the scrimmage," Newman said.

Newman won't need the scrimmage to confirm that 5-7 senior guard Arryn Dochenetz will be an impact player this winter.

"Arryn's a really good shooter; I've been impressed by her range," Newman said.

The Spartans' most-experienced post player is senior 5-10 forward Oly Nwankwo, who will serve as a captain along with Dochenetz and senior forward Danielle

Marzec. "Oly will give us a good low-post presence," Newman said.

Marzec is an "all-purpose" player who has the potential to excel at guard or forward.

"Danielle saw a fair amount of playing time on varsity last year, so her experience will help," Newman said.

The Spartans' fourth senior is 5-6 guard Maggie Law, who will be a backcourt spark plug off the bench if she doesn't earn a starting spot.

The remainder of the Spartans' solid backcourt contingent includes 5-7 sophomore Diane Senkowski, 5-6 junior Brooke D'Arcy and 5-6 junior Jessica Schoenfeldt.

Providing talent and depth in the paint will be juniors Amanda Schultz (5-10), Paige Ackman (5-11), Audrey Staharr (6-0) and Ashley Lupinski.

The Spartans will host Livonia Franklin on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in a unique girls/boys basketball doubleheader. The girls game will tip off at 5:30 p.m.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Livonia Stevenson defenders double-up on a Divine Child shooter during Friday night's scrimmage.

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
Zoning Board of Appeals
December 9, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466-2259

APPEAL CASE 2014-12-62: Stanley and Jessica Niemi, north side of Grove (36732), between Levan and Mallory, seeking to maintain a family day care from the existing dwelling, resulting in this family day care home being within 1000 feet of an existing home day care.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 — all comments must include name, address and signature.

Publish: Sunday, November 23, 2014
Livonia Observer

Guide to Employment

Check out these exciting career opportunities! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

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

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Make your own Schedule!
Work from Home FT or PT.
Schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart, call Mon-Fri, 9-5: 734-728-4572 or email phoneownerinfo@aol.com

ASSEMBLY/ PRODUCTION OPERATORS
KELLY SERVICES
is looking for Assembly/ Production Operators for a Premier Automotive Supplier in Plymouth, MI
Must have assembly experience
For consideration, please call 734-542-9935 or email resume to 33Y@kellyservices.com

CITY OF LIVONIA
Library Aide I
Public Service Worker I
Program Supervisor-Evidence/Property Room Manager
Police Service Aide
Police Officer

For complete information visit our website at: www.ci.livonia.mi.us or apply in person at Livonia City Hall, 3rd floor, 33000 Civic Center Dr. Livonia, MI 48154
E.O.E. M/F/H

Drivers
Class A CDL
BLACK HORSE CARRIERS has openings in the Plymouth, MI area. Route delivery driver, 5 day work week. Driver will handle freight, after-noon and night shifts. Average \$1000 per week. Work-week is Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Days off are Tuesday and Saturday. These full time positions come with full Benefits, 401K and paid vacation. If you have 2 yrs. Exp. and a Class A CDL with a clean MVR, we want to hear from you.
Call 734-455-2811 or email to: jobs@blackhorsecarriers.com WITH CODE "PLYMOUTH" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.
E.O.E. Drug testing is a condition of employment.

Regency HOUSEKEEPING AIDES
Do you have exceptional cleaning skills? Then you are the ones we are looking for. Regency at Whitmore Lake, a 124-bed skilled nursing facility is seeking part time (with possibility of a full time) Housekeepers. Position will be day shift (7am-3:30pm). Must have experience in cleaning. Must be able to pass a criminal background check and drug screen. If interested please send resume to: Wake_payroll@ci.nafacilities.com

HVAC/R COUNTER SALES
Behler-Young is seeking an experienced Counter Rep for our Livonia Branch to provide superior customer service to our wholesale customers. Must have a 2+ yrs HVAC/R customer service exp. B-Y offers a competitive wage & benefit package. Please apply in person M-F 7:30 am - 5 pm at: Please apply in person Behler-Young Company 11939 Merriman Road Livonia, MI 48150 careers@behler-young.com No Phone Calls Please/EDE

Manufacturing
FAST PAGED metal stamping facility in Canton is seeking candidates for the following positions:
• Tool & Die Maker/Repair
• Die Setter
• Machine Repair
• Weld Tech
• Machine/Weld Operator
• Truck Driver
• Shipping and Receiving
• Purchasing
• Quality Manager
• Quality Tech
• Cost Estimator
• Design Engineer
• New Model Engineer
• Project Engineer
• Robotic/Weld Engineer

Competitive wages and benefits. High School diploma or equivalent required. Higher education and or exp a plus. Please email resume to: fcurlan@adveng.net

Senior Structural Engineer
Wanted in Troy, Michigan to conduct analytical structural studies through FEA techniques on automotive components and systems. Send resume to: Julie Metz Human Resources Manager Vehm International of America Inc. 750 Tower Drive Mail Code 4000 Troy, MI 48098

FRONT DESK
Part-Time for Dental office. Exp preferred. Must have efficient computer skills. Email resume to: anjdentistry@att.net

PEDIATRIC DENTAL ASSISTANT
Part Time, for busy Canton office. Exp. needed. Fax resume to 734-254-0861

Help Wanted - Medical
CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER
Full-Time position for busy out-patient pain management clinic in Ypsilanti. Mon-Fri. No holidays or weekends. Competitive salary & benefits package offered RN with management experience. Preferred experience in critical care or recovery room. Pain management a plus. Send resume via fax: ATTN: HR Manager 734-547-4871 or email to: manj@2michiganpainspecialists.com

Help Wanted - Medical
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Full-Time position available in busy pain management practice in Ypsilanti. Experience with recovery or critical care background preferred. Excellent wage & benefit package. Clinic Hours are Mon-Fri, day shift. No holidays or weekends.
Send resume via fax: ATTN: HR Manager 734-547-4851 or email to: manj@2michiganpainspecialists.com

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Administrative Assistant
PENSKE Automotive
Penske Automotive Group (PAG), a Fortune 250 leader in the automotive retail sector, announces an outstanding corporate opportunity at its headquarters in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Reporting to the Chief Financial Officer and serving the finance/accounting team, we are seeking an energetic self-starter with experience providing support to a fast-paced business environment. This key position will include the following duties and responsibilities:
• Providing day-to-day administrative support to the CFO and key departmental leaders
• Efficiently managing the calendar, meeting schedule and travel logistics of the department
• Providing advanced support in all areas of Microsoft Office applications
• Preparing and proofing internal and external communications pieces in support of management
• Interfacing effectively with corporate staff members and key external contacts on behalf of the CFO
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PREP HOCKEY OPENER



Livonia Stevenson's Alex DeFlorio got behind the Brother Rice defense on this first-period rush. DeFlorio registered a hat-trick in the Spartans' 4-3 overtime loss.

Brother Rice clips Stevenson in OT, 4-3

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A fierce third-period surge by Livonia Stevenson's hockey team pushed Wednesday night's season-opener against visiting Birmingham Brother Rice into overtime, but the Warriors ultimately prevailed, 4-3, on a goal with just 47 seconds left in the extra session.

Trailing 3-1 entering the third stanza, the Spartans shifted their offense into over-drive and outshot Rice, 12-5. Two of the dozen shots were net-finders off the stick of Alex DeFlorio, who accounted for all three Stevenson goals.

"It was a great period for us because instead of laying down or backing off, our players did the opposite and pushed back, pushing the issue, contolling more of the puck and more of the game," said Stevenson head coach David Mitchell.

Mitchell said he learned a lot about his team during its stirring third-period rally.

"Obviously, any time you lose a game it's tough, but with this team and in this situation, we were pleased with the effort and how we battled back," he said. "Down 3-1 to a team like Brother Rice, we could have cashed it in or got real sloppy as we pressed. But we stayed focused on our play and it showed in the third. "We grew up tonight, for sure. We just need to stay true to our process and keep getting better."

The Warriors netted the lone first-period goal when Alex DeLuca deposited a wrist shot that was assisted by Nick Rosa and Tommy Theoharis.

The Spartans roared out of the first intermission by leveling the score at 1-1 just 47 seconds into the second period when DeFlorio flicked in a rebound shot. Alec Allen and Michael

Sinclair registered assists on the lamp-lighter.

DeLuca struck again less than two minutes later off assists from Jack Clement and Rosa to put the Warriors back in front, 2-1.

Rice padded its lead to 3-1 64 seconds later on William Vanderveen's goal from Jaret Kogar.

The focused Spartans owned the third period from the get-go. DeFlorio cut his team's deficit to 3-2 with 14:25 left on a power-play goal assisted by Allen and Sam Judd. He then netted the equalizer at the 7:59 mark off a pass from Sinclair.

Rosa scored with just 47 seconds left to give the Warriors a dramatic season-opening triumph.

Stevenson goalie Andrew Rozenbaum made 28 saves while his Rice counterpart, Nicholas Macina, made 29 stops.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP SWIMMING

Local swimmers make a splash in KLAAs meets

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Canton captured first place in the KLAAs South Division girls swimming championship held earlier this month at Canton.

The Chiefs edged runner-up Plymouth, 616.5 points to 610. Led by third-place Westland John Glenn (276 points), the other four teams in the division meet were tightly bunched. Livonia Franklin placed fourth with 256 points, just ahead of fifth-place Wayne Memorial (236.5) and Livonia Churchill (211).

The highlight of the event for the Chargers was Sydney Grenier's first-place showing in the diving competition. The senior accumulated 347.95 points to out-distance Plymouth's Megan McKeehan (333 points).

Plymouth touched first in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1 minute, 59.09 seconds. Wayne Memorial's quartet of Olivia Hustad, Julia Bryant, Alicia Beene and Morgan Smeltzer was third in 2:02.10, just ahead of fourth-place John Glenn's foursome of Sahara Tomlin, Sidney Aloisi, Kera Sells and Ashlee Alexander.

Franklin was fifth thanks to strong efforts from Caitlin Jodway, Megan Theisen, Paityn Santi and Cheyenne Franklin.

Santi placed fourth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:12.82. Maddy Hagood of Churchill was fifth in 2:13.43.

Sells excelled in the 200 individual medley by touching first in 2:14.0, less than a second before Canton's Claire Green. Theisen was sixth in 2:34.61.

John Glenn's Sidney Aloisi won a duel with Wayne's Julia Bryant in the 50 freestyle, finishing in 25.20 seconds to Bryant's 26.36. Churchill's Joelle Ghareeb was fifth in 27.50.

Sells, a sophomore, also

won the 100 butterfly in 59.97 seconds, out-stroking runner-up Kathryn Waters of Plymouth by close to two seconds.

Churchill's Crystal Domrowski (1:00.63) and Maddy Hagood (1:01.35) placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 100 freestyle, which was won by Plymouth's Allison Lennig in 55.90 seconds.

Franklin's Caitlin Jodway, a freshman, placed sixth in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:15.66.

John Glenn's foursome of Aloisi, Alexander, Cyanne Jones and Sells won the 200 freestyle relay in 1:47.12. The Zebras' foursome of Bryant, Morgan Smeltzer, Amber Rutter and Kayla Theus was fourth in 1:54.65.

Hustad of Wayne took fourth in the 100 backstroke with a 1:07.41 clocking. Franklin's Theisen was fifth in 1:08.88.

Wayne's Bryant continued her fine performance with a second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke (1:12.72). John Glenn's Aloisi was third in 1:12.77.

KLAAs Central meet

Among Livonia Stevenson's standouts in the KLAAs Central Division championship meet hosted earlier this month by the Spartans was Rebecca Arakelian, who placed second in the 200 freestyle in 1:57.56.

Spartan junior Rachel Arceri placed third in the 50 freestyle with a time of 25.61.

Arakelian sparked in the 100 breaststroke, winning the race in 1:09.58 - just over a second faster than Salem's Katie Xu. Arceri took fourth in 1:13.48.

Stevenson's Brenna Erickson, Sara Bowen, Bayne Fronee and Scout Fronee placed fourth in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:54.08.

ewright@hometownlife.com

COUGARS

Continued from Page B1

building from a high place. And our three new players are blending in nicely.

"The nice thing about having an experienced team like we do this year is that the girls know our system well. If our shots are on - we'll shoot a lot of threes, as always - we should be pretty good. We're versatile, too. A lot of girls can play multiple positions, which is nice."

The Cougars will be led by senior multi-tasker Joseph, who serves as the team's point guard on offense and low-post rebounding clinician on defense. Joseph nearly

registered a double-double per contest last season, pumping in an average of 8.3 points while pulling down 12.2 rebounds.

"Abby is a very competitive person and she's a vocal leader," said Tyree. "She led us in points, rebounds and assists last year, which is a reflection of the hard work she puts in."

A four-year varsity basketball player, Joseph is also a standout on the Cougars' softball team.

The two-guard duties will be handled ably by Vera-Burgos, a three-year varsity contributor who brings a high-level of perimeter shooting and versatility to the Cougars' mix.

"Hannah will play

mostly shooting guard, but she could play any position except center," Tyree said. "Her biggest asset is her outside shooting, but she rebounds very well for her size (5-5). She's one of those players who stays after practice to work on her shot."

Senior 5-1 guard Rachel Spellman is one of the Cougars' get-after-it guards, who can also knock down clutch jumpers when called upon.

"Rachel has great defensive technique and she's a natural leader," said Tyree.

Next to Joseph, the Cougars' top rebounder is senior Kelli McDaniel, who gobbles up a ton of missed shots despite her

modest 5-7 size.

"She has great instincts when it comes to rebounding," Tyree said of McDaniel. "She knows where to be and she has great hands. Kelli can score, too."

The Cougars will be without the services of senior post player Ashlynn Caviness (5-8) for the entire season after an MRI revealed she suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament during her final varsity volleyball match of the season two weeks ago.

"We are definitely going to miss Ashlynn, but she is going to stay with the team and help us in other ways," Tyree said.

Garden City's pair of returning juniors are both

talented players: 5-9 Lindsey Michalak and 5-5 Amber Swisher.

"Lindsey likes to drive, but she has a good outside shot, too," Tyree said. "She really put a lot of time in this summer to improve her defense and it shows. She's had a really good varsity career so far, but I'm looking for a break-out year from her this season."

"Amber has the ability to come in and knock down some big shots for us. She's like our version of the Pistons' Vinnie 'Microwave' Johnson. She's a great kid to have on the team."

The Cougars' trio of

new-comers includes Cassie Leleniewski, a 5-10 junior low-post player; 5-7 junior Mikaela Smolar, a defensive wizard; and 5-8 sophomore Allea Montgomery, who can excel around the basket.

"Cassie will play a lot in the post, but she can hit a decent percentage of outside shots," Tyree said. "Mikaela is very fast, very athletic and has good instincts on defense. We'll call on her to come in and be a defensive stopper."

"Allea has a lot of potential. She just needs to get used to playing at the varsity level and believing in what's she capable of, which is a lot."

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RELIGION CALENDAR

NOVEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARTY
Time/Date: 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

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

Details: Children will meet St. Nicholas and receive a gift while their parents take their pictures. The party includes a craft project, carol sing-along and refreshments. Youngsters can have their picture taken with a live reindeer, noon to 1 p.m. Free

Contact: Richard Shebib at 248-345-9346 or pascha-books@sbcglobal.net

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Sermon theme is Thanksgiving is a Time to Remember

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

THANKSGIVING WEEK SERVICES

Time/Date: 10 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 23 and 30

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

Details: Intergenerational service on Nov. 23 will honor ancestors. The sermon on Nov. 30 is about the evolution of human singing

Contact: 248-0354-4488

DECEMBER ADVENT REFLECTION

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 2-3

Location: St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: Craig Pohl, Director of New Evangelization for Lansing Diocese, speaks on "Men's Night," Dec. 2; Sr. Mary Finn of Sacred Heart Seminary speaks on "Women's Night," Dec. 3. Both events begin with dinner and child care is provided. Register in advance for child care

Contact: 734-455-5910

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The meditation theme is Waiting With The Old Testament Church

Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-968-3523

CANDLELIGHT GATHERING

Time/Date: 5:30-8:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Michigan Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Evening ceremony at 5:30 p.m., reception at 6 p.m., candlelight program, 7:15. Music, food and fellowship. RSVP to michigantemple@yahoo.com

Contact: 734-890-2307

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. December 4-6

Location: Trinity in the Woods, 26880 La Muera, Farmington Hills

Details: Holiday Hearthsong, a celebration concert for the

holiday season, features the Trinity and Friends Choir. Tickets are \$10 and include a wine and cheese reception

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityinthetwoods.org

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Laverne, Redford

Details: Excerpts from Bach's *Magnificat*, along with carols and other songs; tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students

Other concerts: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills

Contact: www.detroitluthersingers.com

DVD COURSE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, beginning Dec. 3

Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Mark Berkson teaches a 24-part course on Cultural

Literacy for Religion: Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know." Free, walk-ins welcome

Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931 or e-mail nancyelen879@att.net

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The service includes readings of scripture from *The Message*, a contemporary language translation of the Bible, along with songs and carols by the Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Grace and Amazing Grace choirs and House Band, under the direction of Julie Ford. Local percussionist, Tom Arnett, also will perform. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan

Contact: 734-453-0190, or visit stjohndsplymouth.org

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: St. Aidan, located on the east side of Farmington Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia

Details: Features the ensembles and members of St. Aidan Music Ministry. Admission is a \$5 donation or two canned food goods for Christmas food baskets for the needy

Contact: 734-425-5950

WINE & CHOCOLATE

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

Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills

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

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

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

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

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

Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK

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

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

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BRINK, SHIRLEY A.

November 19, 2014, age 80 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Irwin. Loving mother of Lynda (Daniel) Markiewicz, Russell (Carolyn), Jerry (Theresa), and Kathleen (Michael) McCollum. Proud grandmother of Amanda (Andrew), Scott, Jaclyn, Jeffrey, Garrett, Christopher, and the late Stephen; and great-grandmother of Jackson. Dear sister of Thomas (Sharon) Bombach, and Richard (Patricia) Bombach. Memorial visitation Tuesday, November 25, 4-8 p.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road (between Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Memorial contributions may be made to the church. To share memories, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

VERMEULEN-SAJEWSKI FUNERAL HOMES CREMATION SERVICES

McCLUMPHA, DYNESSE MARIE

Passed away November 20, 2014 at the age of 56. She was born August 3, 1958 in Livonia, Michigan to Clifford and Rita (Datcher) McClumpha. She is the dear sister of C. Hurd McClumpha, Amy L. (Michael) Glenn and Natalie (Craig) Finley and dear aunt of Clifford, Jenny and Emily McClumpha, Abigail, Gabriel and Elizabeth Glenn, Emilia (Jeremy) Finley, Julia (Joe) Wamsley, Andrew (Kylie), Alec, Sarah, Isaac and Erinn Finley. She is the great aunt of William, Sophie and Tristan Wamsley. Dynesse was preceded in death by her parents. Dynesse grew up in Canton and graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School. She then went on to graduate from the University of Michigan with a degree in Classical Studies. She was a long time Zingerman's employee. Dynesse was an artisan working mainly in pottery and a member of the Potter's Guild. A memorial gathering will take place Monday, November 24, 2014, 5pm until 8pm at Zingerman's Road House, 2501 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Memorials may be made to Potter's Guild, 201 Hill St., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. To leave a condolence www.schrader-howell.com

MOORE, VIRGINIA DEAN HAMMOND

Age 84, of Woodland will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. from Roanoke First United Methodist Church with Rev. Ralph Barrow and Rev. Paul Moore officiating. Mrs. Moore will lie in state at the church for one hour prior to services beginning. There will be a private graveside service at Big Springs Baptist Cemetery. Mrs. Moore passed away Thursday, November 20, 2014, at her family home. Survivors include one son, Will Moore (wife, Laurie) of Woodland and many cousins. A Troup County, Georgia native, Mrs. Moore was born on October 20, 1030, the daughter of Holland and Claire Woodyard Hammond. She was a very active member of Roanoke First United Methodist Church and was a sales clerk at Woolworth 5 & 10 for 45 years. Mrs. Moore was an avid reader; well known for making baby blankets; and she was treasurer of the Grape Myrtle Garden Club, a member of Magazine Club, and a member of the American Legion Auxillary. Mrs. Moore was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, M.T. "Junior" Moore; twin sons; and one brother. The family is accepting flowers or, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Roanoke First United Methodist Church's window fund. Online condolences may be expressed at www.quattlebau funeralhome.com.



THOMAS, JAMES ROE

Age 67 of Franklin, Tennessee, passed away November 18, 2014. Veteran of the U.S. Army. Graduate of Ohio University. Owned and operated James R. Thomas & Associates where he was second generation toy sales representative. Avid golfer and member of Westhaven Golf Club. Member of Kiwanis. Member of Westhaven Men's Bible Study Group. Survived by wife of 41 years, Carol Thomas; son, Joe (Sara) Thomas; daughter, Kate (Ryan) Shepherd; brothers, Peter Thomas and Tom Thomas; sister, Nancy Thomas; grandchildren, Annabelle, and Sadie Thomas, Mason and Emma Shepherd. A Celebration of Life will be conducted 2:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20, 2014 at Williamson Memorial Funeral Home with visitation starting at 1:00 p.m. prior to the service. Memorials may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org. WILLIAMSON MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, 615 794-2289. www.williamsonmemorial.com



VERNIER, MARJORIE JANE

Age 90, passed away Friday, November 14. Born in Detroit Michigan on April 16, 1924. She was the youngest of three siblings and the only daughter of Harry T. Wunderlich and Charlotte Rose. She was married to Floyd Vernier Jr for a beautiful 67 years and he survives her as well as her two daughters Claudia Geist (John) and Cynthia Van Tiem (John) and her son Chip a.k.a. Floyd Vernier III. She is also survived by four grandchildren and one great grandchild and her brother Robert Wunderlich. She was dearly loved and will be missed by all. A Memorial Service will be held at Canterbury On The Lake in Waterford MI with a reception to follow on Tuesday, November 25th at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to any one of the following four charities: Alzheimer's, Milford Presbyterian Church, Hospice, or Canterbury Good Samaritans.



WRENN, DAISY M.

Age 81, November 18, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Jackson Ray. Loving mother of Beverly (Rev. Dan) Cavin, Nina (Rev. Jim) Hopkins, Jeff (Karen) and the late Barry. Mother in law of Diane. Grandmother of 10. Great grandmother of 28. Funeral Services were held at Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, Garden City. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

May you find comfort in family & friends



MILESTONES

ENGAGEMENT

MEEKER-SOKOL

Samantha Elizabeth Meeker and Christopher Joseph Sokol, both of Plymouth, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Renee Meeker of Livonia, is a 2009 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2014 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is a special education teacher at Romulus Middle School.

Her fiancé, son of Kenneth and Joanne Sokol of Caledonia, formerly of Livonia, is a 2007 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2013 graduate of Lawrence Technological University. He is an assistant manager at Dunkin Donuts.

The couple plans a fall 2015 wedding.



Christopher Sokol and Samantha Meeker of Plymouth

REUNIONS



It's time to reconnect with fellow graduates at an alumni reunion.

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

DEARBORN FORDSON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1965

50th reunion is set for Aug. 7, 2015, at the Italian American Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile, east of Haggerty, Livonia. Tickets are \$60 each. Deadline is April 11, 2015. Contact Virginia (Mariani) Koch at 734-981-4763, ginny6491@att.net; Rochell May-Bridge at 734-675-2680, wildchild48138@aol.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; karblit-ski@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 oak-park1975reunion@gmail.com, and to join the Reunion Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/810805715636204/>.

OUR LADY OF LORETTO CLASSES OF 1960-62

Reunion planned for 5:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, 2015 at Villa Amantea Restaurant, 32777 W. Warren Road, Garden City. Includes appetizers, dinner, refreshments. Cost is \$25 per person. Write checks payable to Joanne Kosta and send to her at 959 Princess Drive, Canton, MI 48188. Write Our Lady of Loretto Class Reunion in the check memo area. Deadline to RSVP is Jan. 5, 2015. For more information call Janis Fiorentino Gajowski at 734-812-8938 or Joanne Megis Kosta at 734-981-0532.

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Henry Ford Hospital patients gain privacy with gown redesign

SUBMITTED
Henry Ford Health System's new Model G patient gown snaps in the front and along the sleeves, and is closed in the back, with a fold-over access panel. There's even a pocket.



Here's a typical patent gown — tied at the neck and open from top to bottom in the back.

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The last thing Dale Milford needed to worry about was a backside “wardrobe malfunction” while hospitalized for a liver transplant last year.

“When you’re not bed-bound, the first thing the doctor wants you to do is to walk around. If you have to get up and walk — just picture standing there with an IV pole in one hand and the other hand gripped around the backside.

“You don’t get a sense of comfort. Those old gowns are so thin and drafty.”

During his 40-day stay at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, the Farmington Hills man endured the typical tie-at-the-neck and open-in-the-back style hospital gown for a few weeks before testing the Model G, a new thicker, snap-in-the-front version, created by the hospital’s Innovation Institute.

“They brought in this gown that opens in the front. It snaps. It has a much thicker weave and a more homey feeling. It gives you a greater sense of comfort,” said Milford, who was among more than 500 patients to wear the gown in a clinical trial and give feedback.

“My gut reaction is why didn’t somebody think of this before?”

Practical, private

Michael Forbes, who led the gown redesign project for two and a half years at the Innovation Institute, said the Model G gives doctors and nurses “uncompromised clinical access” to patients. With a fold-over access panel in the back and snap closures in the front and on the sleeves, there’s no need to remove the gown for IVs

and other medical lines. The patient gains more privacy because the back of the gown is closed.

Forbes, a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and the College for Creative Studies, (CCS) said fixing the backside of the gown was a priority for the design team.

He was a student in a CCS class that collaborated with the Institute, and offered ideas for improving items throughout the hospital. Forbes was hired by the Institute and a subsequent CCS class decided to focus on re-vamping hospital gowns.

“There is a lot that goes into development and one of the reasons the gown was chosen as a product to develop was because it was accessible and would be quick to (bring to) market,” Forbes said. “Once we

were able to get prototypes and do a clinical trial, we had to make sure we had a manufacturer.”

Ready next year

Detroit-based Carhartt is producing the gown and plans to have 35,000 garments ready for use in Henry Ford Health System’s 28 medical centers and six hospitals by early spring 2015.

Forbes said he took “all sorts of feedback and suggestions” from patients during the clinical trial. The design evolved during the process.

“One of my pet peeves was the god-awful pattern,” said Forbes, describing the old-style gowns. “I didn’t like the colors and I thought they were depressing. I wanted to brighten things up.” Forbes also wore the

gown, testing the way the fabric draped when he sat, stood and slept in it.

Milford, who is working toward becoming a church pastor and practicing to run half-marathons, gives a thumbs up to the new design.

“The first thing you lose when you go into the hospital is a sense of privacy and right along with that, dignity,” he

said. “With this gown, you don’t look like a fool. I can’t help but think these have a therapeutic value as well.”

“I give kudos to Henry Ford Hospital and the design team. It speaks to a sense of culture that the hospital is there not just to deal with an organ, but to take care of the whole person.”

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BREAK BREAD with neighbors at a local church on Thanksgiving Day



ILLUSTRATION BY RANDY MASTERS

Thanksgiving Day dinners at area churches bring community members together for food and camaraderie.

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia is gearing up for Thanksgiving day dinner in a big way — and you're invited to share its bounty.

"One hundred pounds of potatoes, 15 bags of fresh cranberries for homemade sauce, 5 pounds of brown sugar for the sweet potatoes, 50 pies, 400 dinner rolls, 20 pounds of salad," said Katy Fillion, describing the church's shopping list.

"In terms of the menu, we keep it pretty traditional, although we have made a few changes this year," said Fillion, chair of the church missions committee, the group that oversees the annual community Thanksgiving Day meal. "We have swapped pre-made cranberry sauce for fresh cranberries. Homemade sauce will be made in house. We also previously had relish trays on the tables for appetizers — pickles, carrots, olives. This year we have swapped that item out and instead will have finger food snacks in the football lounge area — snack mix, peanuts, cheese crackers."

Newburg UMC will serve

its fourth annual free Thanksgiving day community dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27. Two seatings, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. are available at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail. It's open to all.

Fillion said the dinner drew 150-200 individuals its first year and 300 last year. She expects about 300 diners this year but "would love to have more than that ... the more the merrier."

Family day

"We invite guests to stay between seatings or come early for the second seating to enjoy America's favorite Thanksgiving entertainment — football. We will have a lounge area set up with couches to watch the game and card tables with snacks and activities. We also have a kids area with activities for kids of all ages to participate in."

Fillion said the church tries to improve the event each year and strives to make the gathering an "authentic family experience." She said some repeat guests dine at the first seating, socialize in the church lounge area and then eat "leftovers" at the second meal, just as a family might spend a Thanksgiving day at home.

"It's become a tradition. It feels like a family," she said.

This year participants, especially church members, may linger in the lounge after the second meal to catch *Jeopardy!* at 7 p.m. on WDIV. Michelle Chick, a church member, competed on the show and the broadcast of her appearance is slated for Thanksgiving day evening.

In Redford

Our Lady of Loretto in Redford plans entertainment for its annual Thanksgiving day meal, too. A cantor from a neighboring church is set to sing during dinner, which is served 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, at the church, 17116 Olympia.

"It's for anyone that is disadvantaged in some way," said Karen McCuean, who, along with her husband, Don, created the event 14 years ago and has coordinated it ever since. "Some people can't afford to put on a Thanksgiving dinner. Some people are alone for the holidays. Some are handicapped. Some people have no where to go. Some can't prepare a nice dinner."

They all are welcome to dine at the church for free. McCuean bases the menu,

which mostly stays the same from year to year, on her own recipes.

"We put sausage in our stuffing and do creamed corn, vegetable medley with Swiss cheese. We do eight items. I do a gourmet coleslaw that has apple, celery and cran-raisins. I make my own poppy seed dressing. And there's a pistachio salad, too."

St. Collette in Livonia donates pies from its Thanksgiving eve "Pie Fest." One of Don McCuean's friends, Nageeb Atisha, donates cases of sweet potatoes and other foods.

"People eat, have a good time and say thank you a lot," McCuean said, recalling the senior citizen who told her "I wouldn't have a Thanksgiving dinner if it weren't for you."

"It made me feel good," McCuean said.

Moving on

This year's gathering will be bittersweet for the McCueans, empty nesters who plan to move to the White Lake area next year. This will be their last Thanksgiving day meal at Our Lady of Loretto.

"I feel bad about it because my husband and I love doing it," she said. "But it's still go-

ing to go on. Someone has offered to take it over."

RSVP to volunteer or to dine at Our Lady of Loretto's Thanksgiving dinner by calling the church at 313-534-9000.

Register to volunteer or dine at Newburg UMC's dinner by calling 734-422-0149 or visit online at newburgumc.org.

Last year the Catholic Community of Divine Savior, St. Theodore and St. Damian churches brought desserts and volunteers to the dinner at Newburg UMC.

"Our Evangelization Committee wanted to reach out into the community and do something for Thanksgiving at our church. Then I remembered helping out at (Newburg) on Thanksgiving a few years ago," said Ann Schroeder, a member of Divine Savior. "So, instead of re-inventing the wheel, I decided to make a phone call...our relationship began."

The group will be back again this year.

Both McCuean and Fillion said registration is preferred, although walk-ins will be accepted.

"We want everyone who is able and willing to experience this event," Fillion said.

Send holiday greetings with cards that help charities

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With the holidays around the corner it's time to start chipping away at your annual greeting card list.

You can help nonprofit charities fund their programs and services, while sending seasonal wishes to family and friends.

Here's a sampling of holiday cards that help a cause, while sending a greeting:

» Forgotten Harvest

Matt LeBarre Illustration in Royal Oak designed the holiday cards, which include a new Detroit riverfront design and a "Michigan Love" theme. A snowflake pattern and Christmas tree design also are avail-

able. Each pack includes 20 cards and cost \$28, shipping included. A tribute card that can be included in the holiday card is available for a donation of \$5. Cards and tributes are available at

www.forgottenharvest.org or by calling 248-864-7527. Allow five to seven days for shipping. Last year, holiday card proceeds helped Forgotten Harvest provide more than 150,000 meals to Metro Detroit residents in need. Forgotten Harvest collects surplus prepared and perishable food from 800



Sale proceeds of this holiday card go to Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary's support of pediatric patients and their families.

See CARDS, Page C4

Karmanos Institute scrapbooking group shares support

Patricia A. Ellis
Correspondent

Cancer can unite people in ways we never imagined. Just ask the participants of the Scrapbook Support Group at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute's Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center in Farmington Hills. Led by volunteer Carole Middleton of West Bloomfield, the group of scrapbookers gathers each week to express creativity with paper, glue, a few embellishments, treasured photos and a lot of memories. Even more importantly, they gather to support each other. Middleton, a retired teacher, lost her brother to non-Hodgkin's lym-

phoma when he was 50. She felt the need to do something to help herself and she also wanted to give back. When Karmanos Oncology Social Worker Kathleen Hardy reached out to her to facilitate the group, Middleton agreed to help. That was 11 years ago and she has been volunteering her time to teach scrapbooking at Karmanos ever since.

Many in the group, like Debra Ananda of Livonia, had never done scrapbooking before. Ananda had an extremely busy career as a mortgage broker. She was good at finances and even knew how to tile floors and do her own electrical work. She was on the go constantly. But



PATRICIA ELLIS

Debra Ananda holds her scrapbook titled *Cancer to Cards* as her mother Bernadine Tomasik proudly looks on. Ananda's scrapbook pays tribute to her medical team and her mom, who helped her through her cancer journey. Ananda now designs greeting cards and shares them with others.



PATRICIA ELLIS

Members of the Scrapbook Support Group gather each week at Karmanos Cancer Institute's Weisberg Treatment Center in Farmington Hills to document their cherished memories, celebrate their survivorship and express gratitude for being alive.



PATRICIA ELLIS

These are pages from Debra Ananda's scrapbook that pay tribute to her medical team for saving her life. For Ananda, documenting her experience was not only therapeutic; it made her appreciate all those who helped her survive stage 4 lung cancer.

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that all came to an abrupt stop four years ago.

It was just before Thanksgiving and Ananda, who was 53 at the time, was experiencing terrible migraines. She went to her internist who sent her to the emergency room where she underwent tests. It was discovered that Ananda had brain swelling caused by a tumor. The tumor originated from her lung. She was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.

A life change

Once the swelling was reduced, Ananda was transported by ambulance to the Karmanos Cancer Institute on a Saturday and on Sunday Sandeep Mittal, M.D., FRCS, neuro-oncologist, operated on her to successfully remove the brain tumor. Following her surgical care, Ananda continued her treatment under the care of thoracic oncologist Antoinette Wozniak, M.D., F.A.C.P., also at Karmanos.

"My whole life changed," said Ananda. "There wasn't much I could do for a few months after the surgery. I went from a constant on-the-go schedule to

pretty much nothing. Coping with that drastic change was not easy. I had to survive the disease and learn how to live my new normal life, which was anything but normal."

She underwent four rounds chemotherapy and seven weeks of radiation treatment. Her mother Bernadine Tomasik, also of Livonia, was with her every step of the way. She even attends the support group with her daughter.

Ananda got involved in the Scrapbook Support Group and learned that she could express herself by being creative. Ananda documented her entire cancer journey in a scrapbook, which features her medical team, nicely decorated pages and sayings of gratitude.

"For me, this is therapeutic. I'm so thankful for my entire medical team," she said. "Everyone at Karmanos has been so nice and they really provided me excellent care. I don't know where I would be without them or my loved ones who have been by my side through everything."

Strengthened bond

This Thanksgiving will mark Ananda's four

year anniversary as a cancer survivor.

"I recently mentioned to my mom that cancer may not have been such a bad thing since it made our bond even stronger. I've met some amazing people, including the other cancer survivors in the support group. It's like a spiritual experience. We create scrapbooks, we laugh a lot and we're there for each other."

Ananda added, "Cancer has changed me. I had to surrender my old life to discover my new life. I laugh a lot more now, forgive a lot easier and see the joy in the simplest things. I'm happy."

Ananda has completed her scrapbook and even made copies for her physicians. She now makes special greeting cards and gives them to others who need a little cheering up. Each one is thoughtfully and artistically made.

There are even survivors who come just to be surrounded by the camaraderie the group shares, like Mary Durham who is a leukemia survivor. Tomasik was knitting one day and taught Durham, who now

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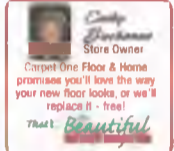
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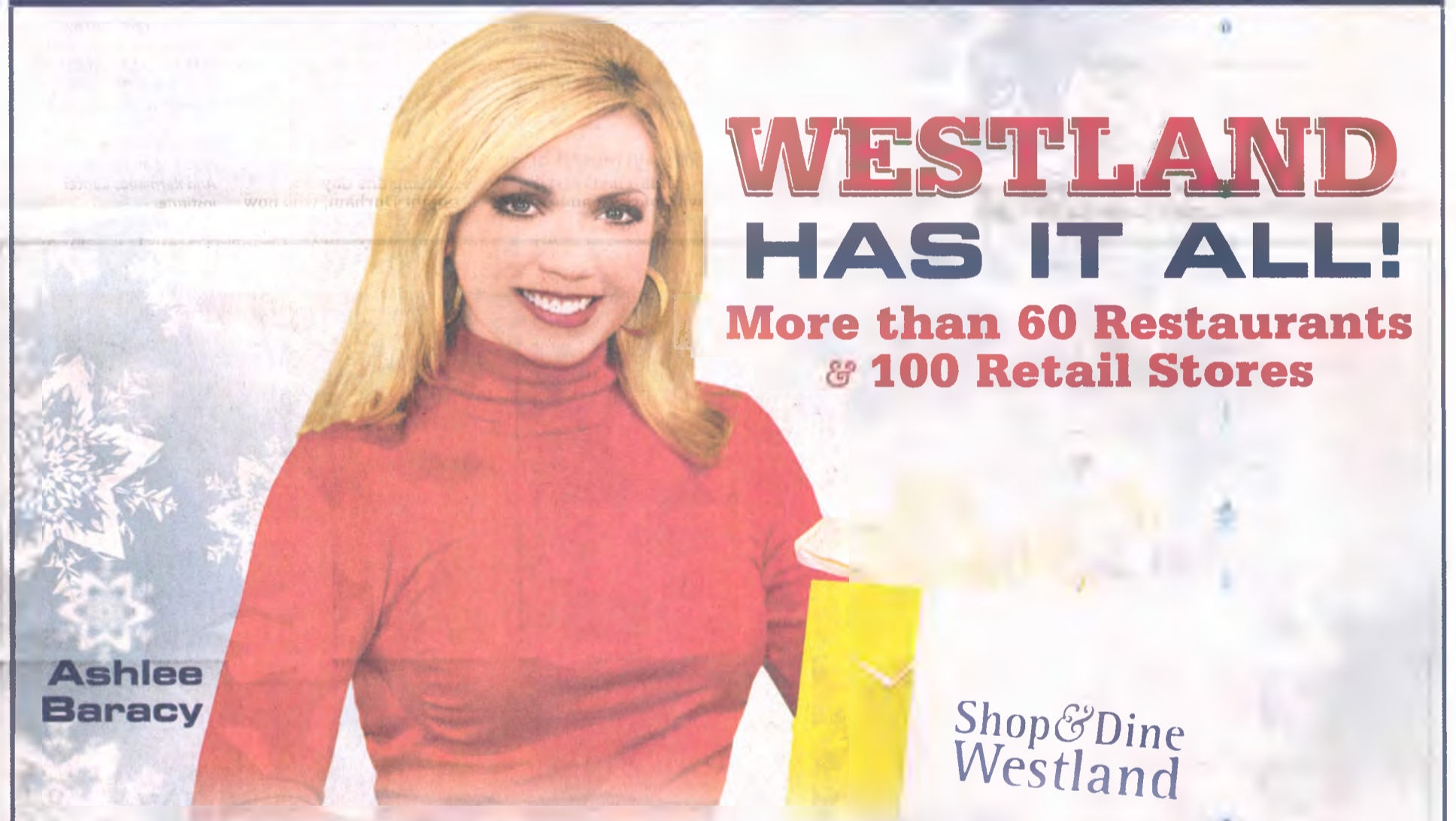
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The Michigan Humane Society's holiday card helps make wishes come true for homeless animals.



This holiday card supports Big Family of Michigan and its work with children who are waiting to be adopted.



One of five card designs offered by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit

CARDS

Continued from Page C1

sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to 280 emergency food providers in the Metro Detroit.

» **Children's Hospital of Michigan**

The Auxiliary's card, created by artwork contest winner, Kenise LaShawn Donaldson, features a mug of hot chocolate and cookies near a burning fireplace, with a glimpse of a holiday tree in the background. The inside of the card reads, "Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness." The holiday cards are \$20 for a pack of 20 cards. Cards may be imprinted with the sender's name for an additional cost. Gift cards also are available by making a donation to the Auxiliary. For a minimum donation of \$5 per card, the donor receives a special card acknowledging the

gift. Proceeds benefit children and their families that face health-related issues. Buy cards online at www.chmauxiliary.org or locally at Good Neighbors Family Pharmacy, 1956 Venoy, Westland; 734-722-8774.

» **Michigan Humane Society**

Help make wishes come true for homeless animals by sending out Michigan Humane Society (MHS) holiday cards featuring a photo of a puppy and two kittens that found homes through MHS. Each box includes 15 cards and 16 envelopes and costs \$12.95 plus tax. Order cards from the MHS Online Store at www.ShopMichiganHumane.org or call 800-866-9189, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Cards also are available at MHS animal adoption centers: 7401 Chrysler Drive in Detroit; 3600 W. Auburn Road in Rochester Hills; 900 N. Newburgh Road in Westland. Visit michiganhumane.org/holidaycards to see the photo shoot for the card. MHS's mission is to end companion animal homelessness, provide quality service and compassion to animals in its care and to be a leader in promot-

ing humane values.

» **Big Family of Michigan**

Big Family of Michigan is a nonprofit organization in SE Michigan serving the needs of children waiting to be adopted or who are victims of child abuse. Last summer the organization asked children in the foster care system to submit artwork reflecting a holiday message. Five pieces, including Christmas tree art and a "Holiday Happiness" theme, were selected for greeting cards and ceramic ornaments. A package of 20 cards — four of each design — costs \$15. Visit bigfamilyofmichigan.org for more information.

» **Make a Wish Foundation of Michigan**

Cards with artwork inspired by youngsters, are \$20 for a pack of 20. Animated eCards are \$5. To view and purchase cards visit michigan.wish.org. The organization grants wishes of children with life-threatening medical

conditions.

» **Seedlings Braille Books for Children**

A child in the Livonia Public School's preschool program for students with visual impairments created the artwork — a Christmas tree with red and blue ornaments — for the organization's holiday card. It includes both a print and braille message, "Happy Holidays and Best Wishes!" Twelve cards and envelopes cost \$16. They're available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Seedlings' office, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. Shipping also is available. For more information, contact Seedlings at info@seedlings.org or call 734-427-8552 x301. Seedlings is dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality, low cost braille books for children.

» **American Diabetes Association**

Twelve different card styles, including Hanukkah and seasonal senti-

ment as well as Christmas greetings, with art ranging from Americana snow scene, festive wreath to colorful ornaments, cost \$22-24 for 20 cards. Visit shopdiabetes.org. The organization's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of individuals affected by diabetes.

» **Capuchin Soup Kitchen**

Five styles including an angel, heart and peace theme cost \$10 for a pack of 10 cards. Suggested donation is \$18 for an assorted pack of 20 cards. See all card designs and order at cskdetroit.org. For optional order by mail, note card style, include shipping address and an additional \$1 per pack ordered and mail to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Attn: Stephanie Murray, 1820 Mount Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207. The Capuchin Soup Kitchen serves full-course meals, mostly to working families and seniors at its dining room on Conner in Detroit, and to the homeless and chronically poor at its site on Meldrum in Detroit. It also offers several other programs, including an urban farm, bakery and substance abuse services.

» **The American Heart Association**

Buy a set of 10 cards and envelopes for Christmas, Hanukkah or with a holiday theme for \$9.95 and personalize with a photograph. Available at shopheart.org. The organization devoted to fighting cardiovascular diseases and stroke by educating the public about the disease, advocating for changes to improve and protect community health and providing science-based treatment guidelines to healthcare professionals.

» **Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan**

Five different card designs, including a penguin in the snow, steaming hot cup of cocoa, holiday bells, Christmas tree, snowman and skaters, were created by children. Card packs are \$25 and include 20 cards and envelopes. An assorted pack is available. Visit leukemiamichigan.org to view designs and to order. The Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan's mission is to provide and promote compassionate, personalized support to adults and children in Michigan affected by leukemia, lymphoma and other related blood disorders.

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

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Radio host/performer helps local actors hone audition skills



Julie Yolles
SOCIAL SCENE
COLUMNIST

What happens when Broadway-loving, multi-tasker, Farmington Hills resident Amy Lauter contacts Broadway-loving, multi-tasker, Sirius-XM radio host, composer, author and performer Seth Rudetsky? "Ahhh-mazing" things occur.

Lauter is the director of marketing at Farmington Players. She's also co-producing the comedy *Leading Ladies*, which opens Nov. 28-Dec. 20.

When Lauter found out Rudetsky was coming to town to perform his outstanding one-man show as a fundraiser for the Berman Center for Performing Arts in West Bloomfield, she contacted Rudetsky to see if he would conduct a master audition class at Farmington Players.

He said yes and for the 15 lucky talented, local singers who participated in the master class, the rest, as they say, should be history. Warner



JULIE YOLLES

Maryanna Lauter (center), a sixth grader at Warner Upper Elementary School in Farmington Hills, meets Seth Rudetsky at his master class at Farmington Players. Her mom, Amy Lauter (left) arranged for Rudetsky's visit.

Upper Elementary School sixth-grader Maryanna Lauter was the youngest to perform for Rudetsky. And she rocked it.

Rudetsky signed copies of his just-released book *Seth Rudetsky's Broadway Diary* and left the Farmington Players Theatre to play a concert with Tony

Award-winning legend Chita Rivera that night at the Berman Center.

Again, to quote Seth, "ahhh-mazing" weekend. Order tickets for *Leading Ladies* at www.farmingtonplayers.org.

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

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2015 Lincoln MKC: Arrive in style

By Greg Mullin and Cars.com Staff

Ford's premium brand is entering the luxury compact crossover fray with the 2015 Lincoln MKC.

For the folks at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn, the move is a game-changer.

"It's a unique vehicle to Lincoln," sales manager Steve Hunsinger said. "It's a brand-new product for us, which is fantastic. The '15 MKC is Lincoln's new flagship for a new style and a new product to expand the Lincoln lineup and target additional customers."

"With our location in the heart of Dearborn and in the heart of Ford country, it's great to have the Lincoln lineup available, not just to Ford employees or retirees, but to the Dearborn market itself and Detroit," Hunsinger said. "And with our ever-increasing product lineup, our store is going to expand and it's going to grow. It's just a matter of time — as our volume grows, our clientele list will grow."

"It's a great day for Jack Demmer Lincoln."

The 2015 Lincoln MKC aims to compete with established luxury compact crossovers like the Audi Q5, Acura RDX and Cadillac SRX and somewhat smaller, new premium entries like the upcoming Mercedes-Benz GLA. The MKC compares favorably, Hunsinger says.

"It's the lowest price of the class, but equipment-wise, it's right up against the toughest competition head to head," he said.

A wide selection of inventory is available now — customers don't have to wait to drive home the model they desire.

Coupled with the seal of approval from A-list movie star Matthew McConaughey — who's appearing in a series of sleek, memorable TV commercials — the 2015 Lincoln MKC is a brand on the rise.

"It shows Ford's commitment to Lincoln and the Lincoln brand with this new product," Hunsinger says. "And tied in with the new spokesperson for Lincoln, it really shows



According to Jack Demmer Lincoln Sales Manager Steve Hunsinger, the MKC is the lowest priced vehicle of its class, but equipment-wise, is right up against the toughest competition.



FORD MOTOR CO. The Lincoln MKC has a base price of \$33,995 for the front-wheel drive or \$36,490 for AWD.



The 2015 Lincoln MKC.

that Ford is standing with a commitment to the Lincoln

brand and we're moving forward, which is fantastic.

check the vehicle's fuel level, tire pressure and battery charge.

Under the hood

Although the MKC shares a platform with the Ford Escape compact crossover, one of its powertrains is new. Under the hood is a turbocharged 2.3-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder. Lincoln says it's good for 275 horsepower; fuel-economy figures are not yet out. The standard engine, however, is the Escape's turbocharged 2.0-liter; it makes 240 horsepower in this application. Lincoln hasn't confirmed the MKC's transmission, but we expect it to use the Escape's six-speed automatic. One item carried over from the concept version is the push-button shifter instead of an actual mechanical shifter.

Front-wheel drive is standard; all-wheel drive is an option and includes a new continuously controlled damping system. Drivers can select from Sport, Comfort and normal drive modes, and Lincoln says CCD continually monitors the road and adjusts the suspension according to the mode selected.

Safety features

The MKC is loaded with safety options, including a blind spot warning system, collision warning with brake support, lane keeping system, cross-traffic alert and the class-exclusive park-out assist system. Rather than help guide the vehicle into parallel parking spots, the latter system helps steer the car out of a tight parking spot.

Value in its class

The MKC is a well-rounded luxury car with athletic looks and a driving experience to match, along with all the luxury goods buyers expect in the segment. Lincoln sold roughly 600 MKCs per month during its first two months on sale, May and June 2014. Cars.com's national inventory is quickly populating with MKCs and most run from \$40,000 to \$45,000, a price range in which the MKC should be a serious consideration.

"It's a nice feeling to know that we're not forgotten and we're expanding our product line to increase our clientele base."

Exterior

The MKC slots below the MKX in size and Lincoln stayed true to the concept car in styling the production version. The MKC retains the concept's prominent winged grille, sculpted body, menacing LED-accented headlamps and full-width LED tail lamps with wraparound lift gate.

Interior

Inside, a panoramic sunroof, leather seats with French stitching and real wood trim give the cabin an airy, upscale look. An 8-inch touch-screen that uses Ford's Sync with MyLincoln Touch is front and center. Unlike many vehicles that use Ford's troubled multimedia system, the MKC's panel also features buttons and knobs for controlling audio and climate functions — a welcome sight.

Connectivity is a highlight. With the MyLincoln Mobile app, drivers can start, lock, unlock and locate their MKC. They also can use the app to call roadside assistance and

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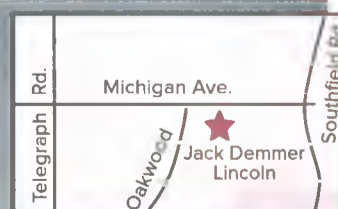
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How to: Escape an awkward networking conversation

By Debra Auerbach
CareerBuilder Writer

There's nothing worse than being stuck in an awkward conversation at a party with no escape. After several painful minutes of talking about the weather and the latest football game, you finally blurt out, "I have to go to the bathroom!" and quickly run away.

You can find yourself in the same situation at a networking event. Except at these, you have no choice but to act polite and professional, because important career relationships may be at stake. Conversations can hit just as much of a dead end, and without having a clear exit strategy, you may waste valuable networking time.

"The secret to exiting an awkward networking conversation is the same as the secret to getting out of anything you don't want to do: preparation," says Robby Slaughter, author of "The Unbeatable Recipe for Networking Events." Following this sage advice, here are some tactics for escaping those uncomfortable exchanges and coming out with your career connections intact.

The bait and switch

Want to get out of a conversation while still appearing helpful? Try handing the person off to someone else who is better suited to chat. "Use the downtime in the conversation to ask the person what they are hoping to get from the networking event, and facilitate an introduction to someone else who can help them," says Kristi Hedges, executive coach, leadership development consultant and author of "The Power of Presence." "For example, if they're looking for a job, introduce them to a recruiting friend or someone who has just found a job. When they are situated, you can warmly excuse

yourself in order to catch up with some other folks there."

The concerned conversationalist

When you've reached the point of no return in a networking conversation, make ending the conversation about the other person -- how you must be keeping him from other important people, places or events. But be sure to close with a clear parting statement so there's less of a chance for lingering.

Sheila C. Sheley, president of Sheley Marketing, suggests using one of these lines:

- "You probably want to find a seat before they start the presentation. I hope you enjoy it."
- "You should get in that line for the bar before it gets too long, and I should go return a call from my office. Nice chatting with you."
- "I'm sure there are other people here that you want to meet, so I'll let you continue your networking. Have a nice evening."

The open-ended closer

Another conundrum that comes along with networking is the inevitable exchange of business cards and the promise to keep in touch. But what if you don't really want to reconnect? "If the other person wants to continue talking later, but you aren't interested, sometimes you can respond as if you assume it is a general expression of interest and not a specific request," Sheley says. "You could respond with something like, 'Yes, it was nice talking to you, too. I'm sure we'll run into each other at another one of these events,' or 'Perhaps our paths will cross again soon and we can talk more about that.'"

The "It's not you, it's me" approach The risk you run with "the open-ended closer" is that you're still leaving the door slightly open for another conversation. If you want to slam it shut, try placing the blame on your schedule or current career situation.

Slaughter gives these two examples of how to be direct with your rejection:



• "I appreciate your offer to meet up for coffee. But I respect you and want to be honest: I already have a trusted partner who works in real estate to whom I send all of my referrals. I'm sure there's someone in your network who has total confidence in your professionalism and does the same for you."

• "I'd love to expand my network, but I am completely booked up right now with current projects and am not taking any new meetings for the next six months. If you'd like to reach out to me in six months, perhaps we can get a cup of coffee then."

The written rejection

Meghan Ely, networking event regular and owner of OFD Consulting, a niche marketing firm for the wedding industry, has had success with this trick: "If the person wants to continue the conversation at another time but I have no interest, I will still exchange cards if they insist but will ask them to contact me directly. If they do reach out, this gives me the

opportunity to be a bit more eloquent when it comes to my approach. With these scenarios, I would simply be polite but firm and say something along the lines of how I appreciate them reaching out, but I don't think my skill set/area of expertise, etc. would be of benefit to them."

The phone call fake out

This is likely a last-resort tactic, but if you've tried everything else and you still can't escape, you can always pull the fake phone call from a friend. "You can always recruit a confederate who knows that you are trying to escape a situation," Slaughter says. "They can call you on the phone and pull you into an 'important conversation.' Your ally can also rescue you directly: 'Mind if I borrow Fred for a minute? He's needed on the other side of the room.'"

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



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Automotive

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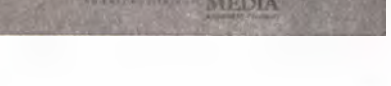


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Car Report

Toyota Throws Down for Hydrogen, Races EV Makers Like Tesla



By Dale Buss

Let the race to the future of automotive transportation begin! Each side — all-electric vehicles like Teslas, versus hydrogen-fueled u p c o m i n g models -- is suspicious of the other and there are even aspersions, which makes the whole competition more fun. And the stakes couldn't be higher.

The gauntlet has been thrown by Toyota as it hypes and ramps up introduction of the hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered new car called Mirai -- Japanese for "future" -- that it unveiled this week at the Los Angeles auto show. Only a relative few will be available initially, and they're aimed mainly at California at first. Still, the move is nothing less than what Toyota called a "re-imaginat[ion] of the future

of mobility" akin to the big bet it placed on gas-electric hybrid early last decade, which gave us the Prius franchise.

Mirai will feature a fuel stack that fits under the front driver and passenger seats and provides up to 153 horsepower, accelerating from zero to 60 mph in nine seconds. And Mirai will be able to serve as a mobile3 power generator in case of emergency.

Able to get up to 300 miles on a tank of hydrogen that can be refilled in five minutes, Mirai represents "a turning point in automotive history," Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda said in a videotaped statement for the launch. "A turning point where people will embrace an environmentally friendly car that is a pleasure to drive."

Elaborated Toyota Chairman Takeshi Uchiyamada, according to Forbes.com: "Prius paved the way by demonstrating to mainstream buyers that the future in mobility

would include electric motors. The gas-electric hybrid technology in the first Prius blazed a new trail, that many critics said could not be blazed. The hydrogen fuel cell technology in the new Mirai will do the same."

Toyota's case is based on selling the new \$60,000 Mirai beginning next year initially in California, where strict emissions standards and associated financial credits have begun to encourage the technology over battery-powered electric cars. Toyota itself has soured on all-electric vehicles in the few years since it forged a partnership with Tesla to supply the battery packs for an EV version of the RAV4 SUV, which is being discontinued, and then tacked hard toward hydrogen vehicles.

Other automakers, including Hyundai and Chevrolet, also have been developing and demonstrating hydrogen-powered vehicles for years. Honda actually is probably furthest along after Toyota, though the company just said that it's pushing back the introduction of its own such model to 2016 or so because it needs all engineering hands on deck right now to deal with the fallout from the Takata air-bag debacle. Power-train supplier Bosch said fuel-cell vehicles will be commercially viable by 2025 in the U.S.

Among the other advantages of hydrogen is that it typically is produced by breaking down natural gas, which is increasingly abundant -- and cheap -- in the United States.



Will the new Toyota Mirai really bring the "future"?

And hydrogen power can be easily scaled up to larger vehicles, even semi-trucks, while larger battery-powered vehicles at some point don't make sense because they need ever-bigger, heavy batteries just to power them. It's the same problem that holds down the range of EVs.

But if you talk with Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Toyota's hydrogen-powered dream is actually a fantasy over what he calls "fools' cells." He has noted the fact that hydrocarbon emissions currently are created by producing hydrogen fuel (though the forces of hydrogen imagine a future where wind and solar power is used to produce hydrogen for fuel) and that the difficulty and cost of spreading an infrastructure of hydrogen supply and "hydrogen filling stations" across the United States would far outstrip the cost and challenge that he's currently addressing: establishing a critical mass of electric-car recharging

stations.

Turning to hydrogen power, Musk and others argue, would simply replace one form of "range anxiety" for another, as hydrogen-powered vehicles could only be refilled at specific stations. EVs typically can be plugged in anywhere, though it can take several hours to recharge them depending on the current and equipment.

Despite its recent problems, it's difficult to short Toyota's bet on hydrogen in part because of other big wagers that it has won, including not only Prius but also its pioneering creation of Lexus, in the Eighties, which went on to dominate US luxury-car sales.

On the other hand, we all know that you don't want to bet against Elon Musk either. But that's sort of what Toyota did recently when it reduced its own minor stake in Tesla.



Toyota wants to replace EV plug-ins with this.

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Challenging fun for ALL ages Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 Capricorn 5 Not masc. 8 Bacon on the hoof 11 Faint trace 12 "Rope-a-dope" boxer 13 Suffix with fail 14 Drama awards 15 Vast 17 August kid, maybe 18 Buying frenzies 20 Ms. Ferber 22 Always, to Byron 23 Trillion, in combos 27 Neutral or first 29 Lukewarm 30 Ear bones 33 Escalator parts 34 Drops in the slot 35 Tree, to Fritz 36 Siamese, now 37 Razor brand 38 Gush out 42 Poser 45 Philosopher --tzu 46 Straightening up 49 Make smile 51 Shed tool 52 Biol. or astron. 53 Troubadour instruments 54 "Westworld" name 55 Nondiscriminatory hirer abbr. 56 Psyche components DOWN 1 Jeered at 2 Pungent veggie 3 Get more mellow 4 D'Urberville girl 5 Clearer 6 Wascally Wabbit hunter 7 Play charades 8 "Lettuce pray," e.g. 9 1040 org. 10 Golly! 11 Enameled metal 16 Regards highly 19 Tender pods 21 Nimbleness 24 Pollution org. 25 Get -- of that junk! 26 Pitches 28 Overhead railways 29 Robert Morse role 30 Invoice no. 31 Uh-uh 32 Travel word 33 Muscle-car dial 35 Very important thing 37 Con game 39 Mickey Mouse's dog 40 Loosens, as a grip 41 Hardships 43 Seine feeder 44 Harvard rival 46 Quaker pronoun 47 Item in a poker pot 48 PC key 50 Tankard

10x10 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-56 indicating starting points for words.

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box.

GOBBLE, GOBBLE WORD SEARCH

Word search puzzle with a grid of letters and a list of words to find.

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Check your answers here section with a grid for the Sudoku puzzle and a grid for the Word Search puzzle.

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*All payments and prices are for qualifying A|Z Planners. For qualifying non (not new) A|Z Planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 01/05/15.

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