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OBSERVER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Kidney recipient eager for life-changing call  
COMMUNITY LIFE, B5



# Wayne resident gets a presidential shout-out

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

It's not every day that the President of the United States gives you a shout-out during a speech.

"In a way, it was a pretty big breathtaking experience," Wayne resident Ramone Davis said. "Being introduced by the president was a wonderful experience. It meant everything in the world to me. I will remember it the rest of my life."

Davis was seated near the stage as President Barack Obama spoke at the Michigan Assembly Plant on Wednesday.

"It was better than being on the stage," Davis said.

In a speech highlighting the resurgence and reinventing of American auto companies and manufacturing, Obama also talked about his commitment to getting jobs that will move people into the economic middle class.

That's when Obama pointed out Davis, an eight-year Army veteran from Detroit, who had difficulty finding a job after leaving the military and is now working at Michigan Assembly.

Joining the Army right out of high school, Davis said that after tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, he decided it was time to get out of the military.

"I came back home to Detroit. I wanted to be with my family," Davis said.

Signing up through Michigan Works, Davis was doing odds jobs and temporary work. Not wanting to burden family members, he was living in a homeless shelter.

"I had started at Walmart. I was there about two months. I was transitioning to veterans housing when someone



Ramone Davis poses for a photo with U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

gave me a Ford application," Davis said.

Now working at Ford nearly three years, Davis installs right rear seats for the C-Max and Focus.

"I moved to Wayne a year ago. I knew I would be working for Ford," said Davis, who is engaged. "I didn't have a good landlord in Detroit, so I moved closer."

Obama's team heard about Davis through Dwayne Walker, a UAW Local 900 bargaining representative and veter-



Westland resident Dwayne Walker led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See OBAMA, Page A2

# Wayne hires auditing firm

Three phases of work would cost \$73,350

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

Wayne's finances are going into triage, a term usually associated with large-scale medical emergencies.

"We need triage. This is our number one priority. Without knowing our finances, we can't move forward," Wayne Councilwoman Susan Rowe said.

"The operative word here is triage," Mayor James Hawley added.

The auditing firm of Plante Moran has been hired to help sort out the city's finances in phases over the next six months — the first phase is called triage. The firm was already working on the bank that hasn't been reconciled since July.

Following some budget cuts, the city had a projected \$500,000 deficit in the current year budget and an even larger shortfall in 2015-16. But without a finance director and multiple interim city managers, the current financial picture is murky.

Plante Moran staff has already completed year-end financial work, Interim City Manager David Murphy said, coming in under budget.

Now, he was proposing council approval of the expanded duties.

"They will help us on a multitude of issues and effectively serve as our fi-

See AUDIT, Page A2

# 34 residents displaced by apartment fire

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

More than 30 residents have been displaced after a fire gutted eight units at a Westland apartment building Wednesday afternoon.

Flames were reported in a third-floor apartment at the Woodland Villa Apartments at about 3:30 p.m. The apartment complex is on Warren Road just west of Central City Parkway.

"There were 24 units involved — eight units were directly involved with the fire. The flames were through the roof when we got there," Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy said. "There were no injuries. We got everyone out safe."

About 34 were residents displaced by the fire. The Salvation Army and American Red Cross responded to the scene.

"The management company requires renters insurance. They were cutting checks for temporary housing or finding places in vacant units," Reddy said.

Like the fire last Monday night at Warris Farms Apartments, the cause of this fire hasn't been determined. No one was injured in that fire, which damaged four units and displaced 20 residents.

The tenant of the third-floor apart-



Fire officials and workers were already assessing the damage at Woodland Villa a day after a fire destroyed eight units.

MICHAEL KINNEY

ment was at work when the fire was reported, but Reddy said it hadn't been determined if anyone was present in the apartment at the time.

"We have heaters inside the Warris Farms apartment. It's still frozen, so we probably won't have the cause and origin until next week," Reddy said. "It will probably take that long to get into this one (Woodland Villa), too."

The need for renters insurance, which will cover temporary housing

costs along with replacing contents, was going to be subject of a public relations push this year, said Reddy, even before the recent apartment fires.

Wayne-Westland firefighters had Mutual Assistance Aid from Livonia, Garden City and Inkster firefighters.

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# Mingle with mayor for coffee on Tuesday

Westland residents have a couple of new ways to connect with Mayor William Wild in the New Year.

Wild is launching his new Mingle with the Mayor series, which includes Coffee Hours and Lunch Hours.

First, Wild will be hosting Coffee Hour with the Mayor from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at city hall, 36300 Warren Road.

Then, Brown Bag Lunch with the Mayor will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, also at city hall.

"I am always looking for new ways to connect with and hear from our residents; it's one of the best parts of my job," Wild said. "When I hear directly from people about what's working, what could be improved or what needs to change, it provides an opportunity for progress in our community and it empowers residents and lets them know that their voice matters."

Future dates and times for meetings will be based on demand and input from residents.



Wild



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# Obama hails return of manufacturing in visit

By LeAnne Rogers  
Staff Writer

It was a speech Wednesday afternoon celebrating the resurgence of American auto companies and manufacturing, workers being able to move into the middle class and some commiserating about the Detroit Lions game as President Barack Obama visited the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant.

"Plants like this built the middle class - that's worth fighting for," Obama said, recalling the auto company bailout decision wasn't popular, even in Michigan. "When I ran for president, this wasn't on my to-do list. I ran to do the right thing, not the popular thing. This was the right thing. And it paid off."

The plant itself was closed due to excess inventory, but an invited crowd of several hundred auto workers, UAW officials and elected officials across the spectrum provided an enthusiastic welcome for the president.

"In five years, the auto industry has created 500,000 new jobs. Ford has brought jobs back from Mexico and added 1,800 jobs in this plant," Obama said. "American manufacturing has life, thanks to you. Manufacturing has life, because of you. The middle class has a future, because of you."



President Barack Obama speaks to the crowd at the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In Michigan, the creation of 100,000 new jobs has meant cutting the state's unemployment rate in half, Obama said.

"This resurgence is real. We are in calmer waters, the crisis is behind us," Obama said. "If we all do our part, we can make sure that the middle class is the engine for the economy."

Part of the auto industry success has come from rejecting the false argument that either the company or union wins, he said, instead succeeding through cooperation. Obama also touted a

Ford apprenticeship program located in Lincoln Park, which provides training needed to move into skilled manufacturing jobs with an average \$50,000 annual starting pay.

"Not all of us have to go to a four-year university; you can apprentice and start working," he said.

Having toured the plant which makes Focus gas-powered and C-Max hybrid cars, Obama said he was impressed with the new Mustangs.

"I just got a chance to look over the Mustangs. I

have to say, I love the Secret Service," he said. "The beasts - that's what we call the cars they put me into - are made in Michigan, too. The Mustangs have a little more style, a little more flash."

Pointing out Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Obama said the city has gone through tough times and, like the auto industry, has gone through needed changes.

"One thing you can take to the bank about Detroit, Detroit always comes back," Obama said.

Despite being a Chi-

cago Bears fan and noting the Lions defeated his team twice, Obama was sympathetic to complaints about a phantom non-call in last Sunday's loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

"Even a Bears fan has to admit it was suspect," Obama said.

The speech in Wayne was part of a series of visits by Obama as he gears up for the annual State of the Union speech later this month.

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## OBAMA

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ans committee member. Walker served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

"When he was hired, I got him (Davis) involved with the veterans committee," said Walker, also active in the Westland Veterans Association. "He had shared his experiences. We want to help veterans."

Walker was selected to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I do the pledge every union meeting, second Sunday of the month. I did at the (Wayne-Westland) school board meeting in the summer when no kids were present," said Walker, whose wife Shawna serves on board.

Canton resident Danielle Sligh works at Ford headquarters in labor affairs. When her manager asked for volunteers, she got involved with helping with the presidential visit.

"It's a great opportunity to hear what he (Obama) has to say about Ford. I'm very proud of the progress we have made," said Sligh, who was assigned to a riser for television and still photographers along the side of the stage.

Obama's speech didn't disappoint Sligh.

"It was great. I was glad to be part of it, very glad," she said.

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## AUDIT

Continued from Page A1

nance director," Murphy said. "They will help us with this year and next year, along with continuing the bank reconciliation.

The city has had va-

cant positions, including finance and personnel directors, which has reduced spending.

Murphy noted that the city will receive a \$330,000 rebate from the insurer Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority - \$130,000 more than was received last year.

## Three T's

The three phases of work by Plante Moran - triage, transition and maintenance - would cost \$73,350. Those are the same charges quoted in a Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships grant application submitted to the state.

"So this is expensive but I think we can afford it. This work needs to be done in any case," Murphy said.

Tasked as the council member working on finances, Councilman Albert Damitio said the work by Plante Moran was definitely needed.

"We must have the figures so we can budget for 2015-16. If we get a finance director in the next six months, that person can take over," said Damitio, who requested a study session on finances prior to the next city council meeting on Jan. 20.

The six-month plan is pretty aggressive, said Brian Camiller of Plante Moran, but needed. Part of that is simplifying the city's financial records and budgeting.

"I read financial documents for a living, and I had trouble reading them - they were so dense. The budget is two inches thick," Camiller said. "At the end of the

six months, you will have a much better idea about your finances; you will be in significantly better condition."

Tim McCurley, who served as finance director in both Wayne and Westland, will be assigned to work with the city by Plante Moran.

## Information needed

Resident Ron Roberts asked how soon the council would have the information needed to take action to balance the budget, such as closing the ice arena.

"It's costing us money. It doesn't surprise me that it will take six months for Plante Moran to get an answer," he commented.

The city currently doesn't have the information needed to make those kind of judgments, Hawley said, adding it was a good question.

"We need some of that information quickly. We have a large deficit to overcome," Hawley said. "We need to deal with the current year budget, get it balanced and then move forward looking at next year - maybe a couple of years."

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## WESTLAND COP CALLS

### Larceny from a vehicle

A resident of the Fountain Park Apartments, 37538 Fountain Park Circle, told police Dec. 30 that overnight someone stole the four tires and rims from his 2013 Ford Fusion while it was in the parking lot.

On Dec. 31, a resident of the Wilderness Park Apartments, 7401 Wilderness Park Drive, reported four tires and rims stolen from a 2015 Ford Explorer. The vehicle was on concrete blocks. He said the car is owned by Avis where he is an employee.

### Vandalism

A Belleville man told police Dec. 30 he was driving on northbound Middlebelt near Hines Drive when the rear passenger window of his vehicle was broken out. He told police he suspected the window had been shot out.

### Larceny

On Dec. 30, a resident in the 2100 block of Minerva told police that overnight someone had stolen a DeWalt circular saw in a case from his unlocked garage. He said in the morning he had noticed his side yard gate and garage side door

were open. The saw was valued at \$50.

On Jan. 1, a Garden City woman told police that someone had stolen her purse after she left it hanging over the back of bar-side stool at Applebee's, 36745 Warren Road, when she exited the restaurant. The purse was valued at \$150 along with \$50, identification and a debit card.

A pair of Michael Jordan limited-edition shoes, valued at \$200, were reported stolen from the front porch of a home in the 35000 block of Farragut. The homeowner told police the shoes had been delivered by UPS.

### Stolen vehicle

On Jan. 4, a resident in the 1200 block of Windham told police he started his 2007 Ford 500 to warm up in the driveway. When he returned in five minutes, he said the car was gone. Officers found that as the car was being stolen, it backed into a vehicle parked on the street before driving south on Windham.

Less than two hours later, the vehicle was involved in an accident in Inkster and sustained extensive damage. Inkster Police recovered the car.

By LeAnne Rogers

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As Farmington Hills firefighters responded to the Piedmont Concrete they were advised that five contractors were trapped. The Livonia Fire Department and CEMS also responded, while West Bloomfield firefighters covered other Farmington Hills incidents Thursday afternoon.

# Workers, firefighters hurt in cement company fire

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

Five contractors and two Farmington Hills firefighters were injured in a Thursday afternoon fire at Piedmont Concrete on Eight Mile, west of Middlebelt.

Farmington Hills firefighters received the call just before 3 p.m. "While we were responding, we were advised

that people were trapped and flames were coming out," Fire Chief Corey Bartsch said.

The Livonia Fire Department assisted.

The fire remains under investigation. It was unknown Thursday evening what may have caused the fire.

"They weren't mixing cement at the time. Something caused the fire to ignite and it developed quickly," the fire

chief added.

When firefighters arrived, they were informed that the contractors who were working on the facility were trapped in the mixer tower. Four of the five contractors escaped the tower on their own. Firefighters entered the tower from the top to recover the fifth man. That was when the two firefighters were injured, Bartsch said.

Three of the contractors were transferred to Detroit Receiving with burns and two remain hospitalized in stable condition in an area hospital. The two firefighters were treated and released, Bartsch said.

The contractors and firefighters were transported within a half-hour, an effort Bartsch attributes to mutual aid agreements with surround-

ing departments.

In addition to the Livonia Fire Department, Community Emergency Medical Services also responded. With more than 20 Farmington Hills firefighters at the incident, West Bloomfield firefighters stepped in to handle other incidents, Bartsch said.

"I really appreciate the mutual aid we have," the fire chief added.

## Police report: Man late for flight hits patrol vehicle, leaves scene

A 74-year-old Troy motorist who said he was in a hurry to catch a flight was reportedly involved in a hit-and-run accident with a Michigan state trooper's patrol car at 6:50 a.m. Friday on I-275 in Livonia.

According to Lt. Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police, 2nd District, the man hit the patrol car while the state trooper was investigating a one-car spinout crash on southbound I-275 near Six Mile Road.

While the trooper was talking to the driver, a 2015 Subaru traveling in the left lane crossed the yellow line and struck the patrol vehicle, then continued down the freeway, police said.

The trooper cleared the first crash and attempted to stop the vehicle. The driver continued down I-275, failing to stop for the trooper, police said. The trooper was finally able to box in the vehicle. When contacted,

the driver stated that knew he had hit something, but was late for his flight, police said.

The motorist was cited for leaving the scene of a crash and careless driving and released.

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## Wayne High JROTC drill team captures state title

Wayne Memorial High School's JROTC Zebra Battalion continued its winning ways by claiming the title of 2014-15 Michigan JROTC drill champion.

The announcement was made by Maj. Patricia Overton, executive officer of Detroit JROTC. The crowd cheered, but Wayne cadets stood silent at Parade Rest, reflecting the discipline it takes to win an event of that caliber.

In the two competitions leading to the championship, Wayne narrowly defeated last year's champ, Lincoln Park, at Center Line and lost to Renaissance at the Grand Rapids competition. The same schools finished in the top three, with Wayne Memorial as champion this time.

The win is Wayne's fifth in 11 years. Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Medlen's squad placed first, as did Cadet Maj. Nicholas Parraghi's color guard. Cadet 1st Sgt. Brie'Ona Nelson prepared the first-place inspection team, while Cadet Lt. Col. Douglas Chuong's platoon placed third.

"We had a slow start this year, but our success shows that perseverance and practice pay off," Chuong said.

The first-year cadets didn't place, but every point counted, as the margin of victory was less than a few points. The victory gives the Wayne Memorial team momentum as it looks forward to the Brigade Championship at Fort Knox and the National Championship in Louisville in the spring.

- By Cadet 1st Lt. Nicole Rodgers



WMHS JROTC  
 The Wayne Memorial High School JROTC drill team shows off the trophies it has won in competition.

## New Zonta scholarship honors memory of LPS principal

By Karen Smith  
 Staff Writer

A former Livonia Public Schools principal who was active in an organization dedicated to the advancement of women is being remembered with a college scholarship in her name.

Dr. Karen S. Milton, 70, of Farmington Hills, who died Nov. 16, worked for more than 40 years as a teacher and administrator, including serving as principal of McKinley and Hoover elementary schools for LPS.

She was also a 30-year member of Zonta International.

"It is very fitting that we honor her devotion to educating children and her many years of service in the Livonia



Milton

Public Schools," said Sally Randall, president of the Zonta Club of Northwest

Wayne County.

The scholarship will be awarded in the fall to a graduate of LPS.

Randall said the \$750 figure was decided upon by members of the club, including Milton, before she died. A small club, the group typically awarded scholarships of \$500, but members wanted to offer a larger scholarship to attract more interest, Randall said.

Milton was in favor of that, not knowing she later would have a scholarship named after

her, she said.

Since her death, a number of friends, colleagues and members of Milton's church have asked the club how they can join its efforts to preserve her memory and honor her accomplishments. "Since people asked, we thought we'd give them a chance to help," Randall said.

Fellow teachers, parents, students and families who were touched by her love of education may help continue the scholarship into the future by sending contributions to the Dr. Karen S. Milton Scholarship Fund, c/o Sally Randall, 16095 Fairlane Drive, Livonia, MI 48154.

For more information, call Randall at 734-464-3728 or visit Zonta15.org/waynew.

## W-W offers in-district schools of choice for 2015-16

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will offer district residents a schools of choice program for the 2015-16 school year for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The schools of choice program provides parents the opportunity to move their child from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district, provided there is room available in the school. Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by a parent or legal guardian.

School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary, middle or high school other than their school of residency must submit a 2015-16 application, which will be available in every Wayne-Westland school by Thursday, Jan. 29.

Applications for elementary school students, upper elementary students, middle school students and high school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette, Westland, between Jan. 29 and March 2.

Applications received according to these time lines will permit, if space is available, selected students to begin the 2015-16 year in their school of choice. If more students apply for a grade/building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to select students. The names of students not selected at that time will be placed on a waiting list for the 2015-16 year.

Current schools of choice students must reapply to remain eligi-

ble for the program next year.

After the deadlines, schools of choice applications will be accepted until Aug. 28 at the elementary or middle school the parent/guardian would like the child to attend. These names will be added to the 2015-16 school year waiting lists on a first-come, first-served basis.

Building principals will use the waiting lists to notify qualified students of an opening. Building principals will be allowed to place schools of choice students only through Sept. 18. No placements will be made after that date.

A schools of choice student will be moved back to his/her home school if an overcrowding situation occurs within the first 10 weeks of the school year.

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— DR. SOL COGAN, DC

Seminar Dinner will be held at:  
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(corner of 12 Mile & Middlebelt)

**Thursday, January 15th, 7:00 PM**

**Reservation Required**  
**Please RSVP to**

**248-494-4626**

*Feel free to bring a guest.  
Seating is limited to ONLY 40 spots. Adults only.*





HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Snowboarders are lined up in a row on one of the tow ropes at Mt. Brighton.

# Skiers flock to area slopes

By Philip Allmen  
Staff Writer

Mark Seiler let out a whoop at the bottom of a run last week at Alpine Valley.

Seiler was among the hundreds of teens taking advantage of the time off from school at the White Lake ski hill.

"I'd be out here every day if I could, but my mom doesn't like to always drive out here," the Livonia teen said. So instead, he sometimes heads over to Mt. Brighton, a smaller hill that's closer to home.

Area residents have plenty of choices for downhill skiing. In addition to those hills, Pine Knob and Mt. Holly are Oakland County locales for downhill aficionados.

Shannon Dunham was at Mt. Brighton during the holiday break, learning how to snowboard. She said last year's Winter Olympics and seeing 2003 Milford High School graduate Karly Shorr compete prompted her to try it out.

"I think I've spent more time on my butt than this board," Dunham said, laughing. "But it's fun. I'm starting to get the hang of it."

Alpine Valley, located at 6775 Highland Road in White Lake Township,



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marco Patterson, a 14-year-old student at Lakeland High School, flies off a jump at Alpine Valley.

offers 25 slopes, nine chair lifts, four tow ropes, a magic carpet and four terrain parks.

The resort expanded its snow-making capabilities, so the lack of

snow hasn't kept the facility closed. Officials

said early this week that there is 10-25 inches of



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Alpine Valley lodge has a large fireplace with a big roaring fire.

base snow for skiers to use. Upgrades were made to its terrain parks. For casual skiers, Alpine Valley has new rental equipment.

Learn more online at [skialpinevalley.com](http://skialpinevalley.com).

Mt. Brighton, located at 4141 Bauer Road in Brighton, now offers online ticket sales, with discounts for regulars. Now owned by Vail Resorts, the ski hill saw major changes last year, including new chair lifts, terrain parks, base facilities and snow-making equipment. The business has 25 trails and five lifts. Ski conditions earlier this week included a 21-to 23-inch base

Go to [www.mtbrighton.com](http://www.mtbrighton.com) for more.

Farther north are Pine Knob in Clarkston and Mt. Holly in Groveland Township.

Pine Knob, at 7778 Sashabaw Road, has 17 runs, two wonder carpets, six chair lifts and four tow ropes. It was reporting a base layer of snow at 18-34 inches. Go to [skipineknob.com](http://skipineknob.com).

Mt. Holly, at 13536 Dixie Highway, has 19 runs and 13 various lifts. It was reporting a base of 18-36 inches of snow. Go to [skimtholly.com](http://skimtholly.com).

[pallmen@hometownlife.com](mailto:pallmen@hometownlife.com)

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AT140306 LO-000227431

## Arthritis Today

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

ITS ALL IN THE TIMING

When is it time to consider a knee replacement? The traditional answer from physicians was that the person would know. Eventually, knee pain would become so constant and intense that the person would come knocking on the orthopedist's door requesting the operation. Experience has shown that this approach is inadequate to unacceptable.

Pain may determine the person's degree of discomfort but instability of the knee decides the person's risk. A worn out knee does more than hurt, it can give way. The experience of most people with a bad knee is that give-way weakness occurs at awkward times such as alighting from an automobile, coming down a stairs, tripping on a broken curb, or experiencing a sudden slide on a throw rug. The resulting fall from an awkward stance brings a risk of a broken hip, pelvis or head. Such an accident can occur long before pain becomes paramount.

Another consequence of a bad knee is that the person unconsciously begins to walk and move less. The person rationalizes decreased activity by saying going out is not exciting, seeing family doesn't matter as much as it did or that exercise is boring. The hidden reason is that moving about with a bad knee is too difficult.

A consequence of walking less is that leg muscles, particularly the quadriceps, lose their strength. But when knee replacement happens, success of the operation depends in large part on the strength of the leg muscles, particularly the quadriceps, to respond to the exercises of rehabilitation.

The best timing for a knee replacement is not when the person can go on no further, but when the person just starts on his or her downhill course of less activity and more instability.

LO-000225891



Westland Mayor William Wild awaits the president's arrival.



Wayne Mayor James Hawley, and Wayne County Commissioners Al Haidous and Richard LeBlanc attended the event. In the background is Westland Mayor William Wild.

# PRESIDENT'S VISIT PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON AUTO INDUSTRY'S RECOVERY



President Barack Obama waves and is on his way.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Westland resident Dwayne Walker strides to the podium to lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Westland City Councilman Bill Johnson is an executive officer with UAW Local 900 which represents employees at the Michigan Assembly Plant.



Wayne County Executive Warren Evans works the crowd before the president's arrival.



# Residents gather data on weather's front lines

Personal stations help provide forecasts

By Mike Lammi  
Michigan.com

When it's a cold day in Hell, John Colone lets the National Weather Service know about it.

When it's a cold day on Fonda Lake in Green Oak Township, Larry Wooden provides the details to the Weather Underground.

Colone and Wooden both have personal weather stations on their property. Colone's equipment stands behind Screams Ice Cream shop in the hamlet of Hell in Putnam Township. Wooden's weather station is outside his home on Fonda Lake.

Wooden's interest in the weather was passed down from his father, who began keeping track of the conditions at Fonda Lake about four decades ago.

"For years my dad recorded the daily temperatures and rainfall, and he'd keep track of the lake level," Wooden said. "He kept a notebook with highs, lows, rainfall, lake level."

While his father used pencil and paper to record measurements taken with the naked eye, Wooden's data is transmitted from a personal weather station via a Wi-Fi connection. The small station is perched atop a tripod about 8 or 9 feet high a few yards from his home. It records air temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed, barometric pressure and ultraviolet light from the sun.

Wooden's information is also transmitted to the Weather Underground, a San Francisco-based service that provides real-time weather conditions via the Internet.

The Weather Underground (wunderground.com) gets data from 19 personal weather stations in Livingston County and from about 25,000 personal weather stations in the United States, according to Andria Stark, the company's communications and events manager.

Personal weather stations are available for as little as

## WEATHER UNDERGROUND

For more information about personal weather stations and the Weather Underground, go to wunderground.com. Data from nearly 20 personal weather stations in Livingston County can be found on the site.

around \$150 from companies such as Ambient Weather and Oregon Scientific. The Weather Underground markets equipment on its website.

"The only way it gets expensive is if you get into the professional-grade systems that can go for \$1,500 to \$5,000," said Wooden, who estimates he has invested \$500 or \$600 in his equipment since getting started around 2007.

Because the real-time data is available on the Weather Underground website, Wooden — or anyone else — can see what the weather is like at Fonda Lake or other locations 24 hours a day. It also allows people to view weather conditions from years past.

Colone's personal weather station in Hell is less technologically advanced. The equipment from the National Weather Service measures only temperature and rainfall, and Colone must make a phone call to the NWS each day to report high and low temperatures and the amount of precipitation.

As the unofficial mayor of Hell, Colone inherited weather-recording duties when he took over Screams Ice Cream shop nearly 15 years ago.

Temperature readings are a hot topic when your town is called Hell.

"The weather is very important here," Colone said. "When Hell freezes over, we get calls from TV and radio stations from all over the world."

One thing Colone and Wooden agree on: The data from their personal weather stations showed that last winter was a cold one.

"There's supposed to be a warming of the Earth? It sure the hell isn't coming our way," Colone said.

Wooden said it was the coldest

winter in the seven or eight years that he has had a personal weather station.

"You have a hard time selling global warming around here right now," he said with a laugh.

While many scientists say their data clearly show a warming of the Earth's atmosphere, Wooden said owning a personal weather station has given him some doubts about that data.

"I am actually more skeptical than ever, because one thing you learn about with these things is that trying to maintain and keep accurate temperature measurements is very difficult," he said.

Some of the problems, Wooden said, can stem from the placement of equipment in or out of the sun, or whether the equipment has the proper heat shields or is otherwise properly installed.

"If you look at nearby weather stations in any given moment of time, you'll see temperatures are all over the map. ... These things aren't perfect," he said. "They are calibrated when you get them, but unless you go through the trouble to try to get someone to recalibrate them for you, they are going to drift a bit."

"There is just so much unknown that I would always hesitate to take any stands (on climate change) just because of the uncertainty of the data," he added.

Stark said the Weather Underground uses the information it gathers from personal weather stations to create forecasts and weather models.

"We make the data available to report up-to-the-minute conditions and forecasting information within our apps and on the site," she said. "We also use it to compare the historical data from each station to see how the models perform. We then adjust the model, depending on those correlations, to improve the forecasts for each specific station."

Wooden is a partner in a small engineering company, so he knows his way around computer equipment. But anyone with an interest in the weather — and a Wi-Fi connection — would make good use of a



GILLIS BENEDICT | MICHIGAN.COM

Green Oak Township resident Larry Wooden is following in his father's footsteps and tracking the local weather. While his father used pencil and paper to record daily weather conditions for many years on their property on Fonda Lake, Wooden receives data from his personal weather station that is transmitted via Wi-Fi to a unit inside his home. The data is then forwarded to the Weather Underground.

personal weather station, he said.

"What's made this accessible for the average person is that this wireless stuff is so ubiquitous, plus the ease of the

use of the software," he said.

"I really enjoy this."

Contact Daily Press & Argus business editor Mike Lammi at 517-552-2854 or at mlammi@gannett.com.

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# Yankee Air Museum adds Fly Zone

The Yankee Air Museum is dismantling its Mars Rover Exploration Station, making way for its next big attraction: Fly Zone. The Exploration Station is the museum's area for providing kids with interesting and challenging hands-on educational activities.

In 2014, nearly 6,000 students visited the museum and had the opportunity to operate small robotic rovers on artificial landscape, simulating the rigors of maneuvering on rugged Martian terrain and grasping objects by remote control.

Coming Feb. 28, Fly Zone promises more excitement than ever.

"It's the Exploration Station transformation, and Fly Zone is the next dimension," said Kevin Walsh, YAM executive director. "We're building an aerial challenge course for unmanned aircraft systems. Wait until the kids get a load of this. They thought our rover experience was exciting; they'll find this truly amazing."

Walsh said the Exploration Station is an important feature of the Yankee Air Museum because it's where young imaginations are captured and real learning begins. Kids like to be immersed in technical subjects in ways they



Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum, holds an unmanned aircraft system of the type that kids will be able to operate in Fly Zone.

can understand.

"It's absolutely essential for us to keep our interactive displays in sync with advances in aviation," Walsh said. "Unmanned aircraft systems are frequently in the news and now we are applying our skills to give people practical understanding of the technology."

Walsh said the museum has invested in special padded flooring and netting to confine the aircraft within the safe Fly Zone. Up to four aircraft will be able to

operate in Fly Zone, and the occasional crash is expected, but the design of the airspace will keep the UAS pilot safe and any damage to the vehicle minimal.

"Fly Zone is our logical next step," said Rachel Krumwiede, Yankee Air Museum's director of education. "In fact, we started talking about this exhibit virtually the day after we opened the Mars program. There has been a lot of planning involved over the past year, including consultations with the De-

troit Aircraft Corp., which manufactures unmanned aircraft systems. Fly Zone will be engaging, stimulating and certainly fun. The goal is to pique a child's interest, then get them to go further, inquire more and talk about what they're learning."

Krumwiede stressed the importance of having the right mix of sophistication and fun to blend into a meaningful educational experience. She said "it'll never get old" because Fly Zone is designed to have myriad missions for the kids to fly at different skill levels.

Krumwiede, who has been test-piloting UASs for weeks to determine the best ones to procure for Fly Zone, is mindful that remote-controlled aircraft of all shapes and sizes were popular gifts this holiday season. She added that there are employment opportunities in the UAS industry and a primary goal of Exploration Station is to expose kids to emerging career paths.

"Unmanned aircraft systems are the future of aviation," said Jon Rimanelli, chairman of Detroit

Aircraft Corp. "The practical applications of this technology to solve problems and keep people safe are endless. DAC is always working with students, their fresh minds and innovative approaches. Collaborating with Yankee Air Museum on Fly Zone is a great extension of our motto, 'Aerial assets for all.'"

Rimanelli said his unmanned aircraft systems are being reviewed by first responders who need ways of safely assessing dangerous situations before sending in police officers or firefighters. He is planning a UAS demonstration for the grand opening of Fly Zone.

Based in Detroit at Coleman A. Young International Airport, Detroit Aircraft provides unmanned aerial vehicle designs, integration, testing and training services for public and commercial purposes pending FAA authorization. Detroit Aircraft has established partnerships with some of the biggest names in the industry including Lockheed Martin Corp.

Once the Mars rover display is dismantled, work will begin on preparing the floor and wall subsurface for the construction of the thickly padded UAS confinement area. The Fly Zone will open Feb. 28 and will be in the Yankee Air Museum's high bay area at 47884 D St., Belleville. The museum remains open while this construction is underway.

Located at historic Willow Run Airport, the Yankee Air Museum is a collection of aviation-themed exhibits on the major global conflicts of the 20th century. Many of the aircraft that shaped history are featured, as well as a local focus on the Willow Run B-24 Bomber Plant.

For more information, go to [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org).

## Meditation series starts Jan. 14

A Journey of Self-Discovery: Meditation Lecture Series, at Schoolcraft College Continuing Education, Livonia, will be presented by Kathy Bindu Henning, founder of Present Moment Meditation.

The four-week series is part of the school's Personal Enrichment/Wellness program. Participants will learn ways to stay present in the moment, manage challenges and find joy in everyday activities.

"Regardless of where you are in life, this is a great time of year to start anew with a fresh approach — one that increases health and happiness and for many, one that decreases stress," Henning said. "For most of us, it's not easy to stay present in the moment or maintain inner peace. Yet even a slight shift in our outlook, choices and habits can make a big difference and impact every area of life for the better."

The series runs 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a different topic each week. Individual lectures are \$25 each or \$20 for seniors. The entire series is \$80, or \$64 for seniors.

» Jan. 14: Experience the Self: An Inner Journey

» Jan. 21: A Peaceful Mind is a Precious Gift

» Jan. 28: The Illusive Nature of Happiness

» Feb. 4: 10 Tools for Health, Harmony and Joyful Living

Lectures can be taken individually or as a series. For more information, visit [wschoolcraft.edu/cepd](http://wschoolcraft.edu/cepd).

### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2975

#### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 11.03 OF ARTICLE XI OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE."

This ordinance amends the waiver use provisions of the City's Zoning Ordinance in C-2 zoning districts to require waiver use approval of any business licensed pursuant to the Deferred Presentment Service Transactions Act, MCL 487.2121, et. seq., and to impose a 1,320 foot separation requirement between such businesses.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 2975 may be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk, First Floor, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

Ordinance No. 2975 was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Monday, November 17, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Terry A. Marecki, City Clerk

Ordinance No. 2975 was authenticated by me on the 18th day of November, 2014.

Approved as to form:

Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney

Dated: November 18, 2014

Jack E. Kirksey, Mayor

Publication Date: January 11, 2015

LO-00022897 2x3



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### PUBLIC NOTICE OFFICIAL 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE CITY OF LIVONIA- CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION 33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, LIVONIA, MI 48154

Notice is hereby given to the public that meetings of the Livonia Cable Television Commission for the year ending December 31, 2015, will be conducted according to the following schedule.

- Monday, March 9 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 11 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 10 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 10 6:00 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Gallery on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall.

Publish: January 11, 2015

LO-00022898 3x2

### City of Livonia: Regular Meeting of 12/15/14

Called to order @ 7pm  
Present: Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Nash, Brosnan  
Absent: None

- #358-14 Approving meeting minutes of 12/1/14
- Several items received and filed
- #359-14 Referring matter from Tom Wagatha, TNT Tree and Stump to purchase City-owned property located on Glendale to use land to process hardwood's into split firewood to the Planning Commission for R/R.
- #360-14 Accepting proposal by GovDelivery for a 1 yr. license for \$18,975.00
- #361-14 Authorizing the City to execute an agreement for Specialized Services Transportation Operating Assistance Program between SMART and the City from 10/1/14-9/30/15.
- #362-14 Accepting unit prices of Allgraphics for 7 items of clothing, Essential Business Services Group for 7 items, All-American Embroidery for 9 items and Creative Embroidery for 2 items to supply Parks and Rec Dept. for the 2015 year.
- #363-14 Authorizing purchase of 300 buckets of pulsar briquettes form B&B Pools and Spas for \$31,500.00.
- #364-14 Approving 2 year Weed Cutting Contract form 5/1/15-12/31/17 w/Maverick Property Maintenance at the unit price subject to final payment based on actual units. Authorizing second bidder US Lawns of Livonia, if needed. Estimated price \$36,000.00.
- #365-14 Approving the purchase of 7, 2015 Ford Escape SUV's from Gorno Ford in the amount of \$22,745.00 for a total price of \$159,215.00. These are replacing older models and some will go to auction.
- #366-14 Authorizing City of execute a 1 year contract with East Jordan Iron Works for various manholes not to exceed \$60,000.00.
- #367-14 Accepting quote of Liqui-Force Services to perform emergency relining repairs and relining a water main crossing under I-96 for \$439,674.50
- #368-14 Accepting low unit prices of Ellsworth Industries, Freeport Supply, and Dans Transport for aggregates for the 2015 calendar year.
- #369-14 Authorizing Change Order Number 2 to the 2014 Concrete Road Reconstruction Contract 14-C and additional expenditures for additional target areas in the amount of \$74,793.04, payable to Hard Rock Concrete over and above council resolution #90-14, further authorizing total monies of \$1,787,206.04 on Contract 14-C for additional concrete patching.
- #370-14 Determining to waive noise control ordinance for work during the night time hours for the duration of the M-14 Road Resurfacing Project in order to adhere to MDOT specs.
- #371-14 Authorizing An additional appropriation for the SRF-Manhole Rehabilitation Project for \$171,086.47, payable to Advanced Rehabilitation Project.
- #372-14 Approving Petition 2014-10-02-12 submitted by Futuristic Design Consultant to expand Green Cedar (19217 Newburgh) into a limited service restaurant. This waiver use is for this user only.
- #373-14 Approving Petition 2014-10-02-14 submitted by Elite Foot Spa requesting waiver use approval to operate a massage establishment @ 34389 Plymouth Rd.
- #374-14 Approving Petition 2014-10-08-16 submitted by Jades Investments to construct an addition to the BP gas station @ 33265 Schoolcraft Rd.
- #375-14 Authorizing the sale of a 10 ft. easement at Rotary Park to Fibertech Networks for installing one 2-inch conduit through the park to the Verizon Tower.
- #376-14 Determining to schedule a COW meeting to discuss the vacancy of the City Clerk position.
- #377-14 Accepting grant of easement by Outback Steakhouse for a 10' utility easement to allow access to the water main valve @ 13010 Middlebelt.
- #378-14 Suspending rules to permit consideration of items that do not appear on the agenda.
- #379-14 Approving as a local government, a new State of Michigan Microbrewery License for business @ 11721 Levan Rd.
- #380-14 Directing that a Closed Committee of the Whole be held to discuss matter with regards to pending litigation in A123 Systems, LLC v City of Livonia.
- #381-14 Directing that a Closed Committee of the Whole be held to discuss matter with regards to pending litigation in Robert Domino, et al v City of Livonia.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:44 pm  
Complete meeting minutes available at City Clerk's Office.  
Terry A. Marecki  
Livonia City Clerk

Publication date: 1/11/15

LO-00022899 3x8

**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.

**CELIAC SUPPORT GROUP**

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12.  
**Location:** First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington.  
**Details:** The next Tri County Celiac Support Group general meeting will feature guest speaker Jen Cuevas, The Gluten and Grain Free Gourmet. The title of her presentation is "Gluten Free vs. Grain Free, Bridging the Divide." Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**LIVONIA NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS**

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13.  
**Location:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Livonia author Penny McCusker will be the guest speaker at the January meeting of Livonia Neighbors and Friends. Currently she is writing novels for Harlequin, including *Mad about Max* and *Noah and the Stork*. She sold her first novel in 1997. Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May. Special activity groups continue to meet year round.

**3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING**

**Time/date:** 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.  
**Location:** Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road.  
**Details:** See great 3D images, and learn how to make your own 3D pictures. Meetings include a 3D program, refreshment break, and a competition among members. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to rent. The Jan. 14 meeting will feature 3D images from stereo clubs around the world. Also, members can win free photo items in our "Freebie" drawing. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.  
**Contact:** www.Detroit3D.org, or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

**BLACKTHORN CONCERT**

**Time/date:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16.  
**Location:** St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cash bar. Cost is \$15 a ticket or \$100 for a table of eight, \$125 for a table of 10. Purchase tickets in advance by calling St. Edith.  
**Contact:** 734-464-1222; cmisiak@stedith.org.

**CONCERT**

**Time/date:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17.  
**Location:** Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Mitch and Jesse Manns and Dean Rutledge will be in concert in the lower level of Timothy Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$10.  
**Contact:** 734-427-2290.

**DEMOLAY MEETING**

**Time/date:** 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.  
**Location:** Wayne Masonic Lodge, 37137 Palmer, west of Wayne Road, Westland.  
**Details:** The lodge is holding an informational day for Michigan DeMolay, a youth movement for men ages 12-21. The day will be a meet-and-greet with video games and board games.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Ray Lemons at 734-552-3125 or Raymond.Lemons@gmail.com.

**SPY OF THE CUMBERLAND**

**Time/date:** 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19.  
**Location:** Judge Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park off Newburgh Road, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.  
**Details:** The Livonia Historical Society will present a PowerPoint program by William Christen on "Pauline Cushman: Spy of the Cumberland." The public is welcome.  
**Contact:** 734-522-2033; 734-464-0450.

**LIVONIA GOODFELLOWS MEETING**

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19.  
**Location:** Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** All are welcome to the Livonia Goodfellows wrap-up meeting from the past Christmas season, especially those who may be interested in volunteering for the Goodfellows.  
**Contact:** 734-812-2031.

**WIDOWED MEN AND WOMEN**

**Time/date:** 5:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21.  
**Location:** G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia.  
**Details:** Widowed men and women are invited to attend a dinner, receive support and participate in games. Cost is \$20 and includes meat, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Stay for games and conversation until 9 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 15.  
**Contact:** Call Carol, 313-562-3080; Mary Ann, 313-565-5749.

**QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

**Time/date:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.  
**Details:** Timothy Lutheran Church will make simple quilts from samples of decorator fabric for Lutheran World Relief. Blocks will be sewn into rows and rows into quilts, which will be quilted later by a long arm quilter. Everyone is welcome; lunch will be served. No experience necessary.  
**Contact:** Jean Coleman, 734-422-8855.

**Schoolcraft center offers small business seminars**



Schoolcraft College

The Michigan Small Business Development Center of Schoolcraft College has announced its winter schedule for small business start-up and growth seminars in metro Detroit through April 2015.

The "Entrepreneur Series" is designed to provide entrepreneurs the education and tools to launch a successful small business. The series consists of the five classes — Starting a Business, Writing a Business Plan, Marketing Your Business, Financial Management and Business Legal Issues — which can also be taken individually.

The series will be held Thursdays, Jan. 15, through Feb. 12, Jeffress Center building on Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus and Wednesdays, March 4 through April 1, at the Schoolcraft College Radcliff campus in Garden City.

The Entrepreneur Series costs \$200. Individual classes are \$45 each, except for Starting a Business, which is \$35.

"It's not enough to have a great idea or product ... entrepreneurs have to know how to set up and operate a business," said DeAnna Gilbert, president of Integrity Pure & Natural. "The five classes in the Entrepreneur Series provided a great foundation of small business knowledge. They were definitely worth the time and money."

want a better understanding of how to use their financial statements to make better business decisions.

Register online or call 734-462-4438 for event information.

The Michigan Small Business Development Center is a statewide business assistance program that provides one-on-one counseling, training and research support for Michigan small businesses. The Southeast Michigan region serves Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. It is headquartered at the Eastern Michigan University campus in Livonia, with full-service locations at the MI-SBDC Detroit Service Center in Detroit, the Business Development Center of Schoolcraft College in Livonia and the Macomb County SBDC at Velocity Collaboration Center in Sterling Heights.

For more information, visit sbdc-michigan.org.

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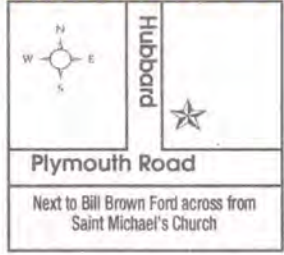
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# Garden City senior gets free furnace

A weekly game of cards at the Maplewood Center in Garden City turned into good fortune for local resident John Nakoneczny.

He noticed a sign-up sheet being passed around for free furnace inspections for senior citizens. Nakoneczny, who has owned a home on James Street for 35 years, decided to take advantage of the offer which led to the eventual replacement of his defective furnace — for free.

In early December, Nakoneczny, along with 55 other senior homeowners in the western Detroit suburbs were given free furnace inspections from heating and cooling contractor members of the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (SEMIACCA), based in Livonia.

For the last 28 years, SEMIACCA members have been offering the free service as part of its "Al Keats Day — Project Senior Heat." Many of the recipients of this service have furnaces cleaned, tuned up, or repaired for no charge. But in some cases — five this year — the furnaces need to be replaced. Nakoneczny's was one of them.

"They said my furnace had a crack in the heat exchanger, which was a carbon monoxide danger," Nakoneczny said. "I could continue to use it but it needed to be replaced very soon."

The original problem was diagnosed by technicians from Family Heating & Cooling of Garden City, who recommended the replacement. And so on Wednesday, Jan. 7, Family's Dan Palko and Josh Jenderat spent most of their day removing the old furnace, installing a new 80



The finished product is a more efficient furnace — all free of charge, thanks to SEMIACCA members.

percent efficient furnace, chimney liner and new ductwork/plenums to make an exact fit.

Including the shop time needed to create the sheet metal, the team spent almost seven hours on the job. The best part — for Nakoneczny — was the invoice: \$0. Family donated the labor and parts while Williams Distributing, a Michigan-based heating and cooling supplier, donated the furnace. The total job would have cost \$2,100.

"This was like a Christmas present for me," Nakoneczny said. "I don't have the resources to pay for a new furnace. But I had to delay the work because of a family emergency out of state. When I came back to town, I called Family and

they said they were ready to install a new furnace for me."

Palko said he was happy to help. It was his first time installing a free furnace through the SEMIACCA program.

"I install furnaces every day and this is special to me," he said.

Palko's father, Dan, an installation supervisor for Family, said his company has been working with the free furnace inspections for many years and takes a lot of pride in their involvement.

"It is our way of giving back to the community," he said.

As a part of the inspection program, SEMIACCA members also give away free carbon monoxide (CO) alarms,



John Nakoneczny (left) listens as Dan Palko explains the furnace replacement work plans.



Dan Palko sizes up the work needed to properly install the new furnace.

which can alarm homeowners to potential carbon monoxide build-up from conditions that Nakoneczny would have been experiencing with his faulty furnace. And it is important for all homeowners to know the warning signs of CO,

which can be detected from regular furnace and appliance inspections.

For more information on SEMIACCA and its members, visit [semi-acca.org](http://semi-acca.org).

For more information on Family Heating &

Cooling, visit [familyheating.com](http://familyheating.com).

Seniors who would like to be considered for a free furnace inspection in December 2015 from SEMIACCA members should contact your local Area Agency on Aging.

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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

## FIT TO BE TIED

Rocks, Spartans unable to finish what they started in 1-1 deadlock

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Following Wednesday's hard-fought 1-1 tie between KLAA Kensington Conference boys hockey rivals Salem and Livonia Stevenson, coaches for both teams talked perhaps wistfully about regular season overtime. Salem head coach Ryan Ossemacher nudged his Stevenson counterpart, David Mitchell,

in the on-ice handshake line following the draw at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

Overtime is used to break ties during the MHSAA state tournament, why not in KLAA play?

"Going through the line with coach Mitchell I said 'We need to get this changed around in our league,'" Ossemacher



Sinclair

said. "We don't do our kids any favors by not playing overtime."

Mitchell noted that every KLAA coach "would love to play overtime because it prepares you for the state tournament. ... But in a game like this, both teams played pretty well. It'd be tough to come away with a loss after a game like this."

The Rocks, back after winning late December's Scott Miller Memorial Tournament in Traverse City, grabbed an early lead on a power-play goal by senior forward Noah Willer at 4:54.

**Finally rewarded**

It took the Spartans nearly two full periods to net the equalizer, largely because of the bril-

See HOCKEY, Page B2

### Salvation Army basketball

The Salvation Army located at 2300 S. Venoy Road in Westland will be



hosting an 11-week youth basketball program for kids

in third through sixth grades.

Interested participants can register through Jan. 30 from Monday through Friday during the Salvation Army's office hours (9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.).

The cost is \$30 per player and all practices and games will be at the Salvation Army.

PREP BASKETBALL

## ROUGH LANDING

Rockets' late scoring drought costly in 53-48 loss at Canton

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

When Westland John Glenn's Mychal Bradley knocked down a game-tying three-point shot with just under four minutes left in Friday night's KLAA South Division opener at Canton, it appeared a down-to-the-wire barn burner was brewing.

But the Chiefs extinguished the drama with some late-game defense to secure a 53-48 victory.

Following Bradley's equalizing shot, Canton (6-1) forced five late Rocket turnovers and yielded just three points - a Mike Edwards triple with 7.8 seconds left - to seize the early lead in the South.

The Chiefs' biggest shot was delivered by leading scorer Greg Williams, who drained a three-point shot from four feet beyond the top of the key to put Canton ahead 50-45 with 1:30 left.

"We finished the game strong on the defensive end," said Williams, who netted 20 points. "We knew we had to get some stops, and we did. We got some boards, went to the line and hit some free throws."

Williams appeared to be guarded tightly on his clutch try, but he said that wasn't necessarily the case.

"They were all over me all night; that was the first time they gave me a little bit of space



John Glenn's Mychal Bradley (11) and Mike Edwards elevate to defend a shot by Canton's Noah Brown Friday night.

ED WRIGHT

See GLENN, Page B2

### Thurston volleyball events

The Redford Thurston volleyball program will be hosting a pair of upcoming events.

On Thursday, Jan. 29, from 6-7:30 p.m., the Eagles will take on members of the Thurston varsity football team in an annual "Showdown" match that will help raise money for the Methodist Children's Village in Redford.

The admission cost will be \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Kids under 5 years old are free. Concessions will be available.

On Sunday, March 15, beginning at 9 a.m., Thurston will host its annual "Spikefest" tournament that will benefit the volleyball program and the school's physical education department.

Participants of the "Spikefest" must be either current Thurston students, alumni or faculty.

### Reporting results

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

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



ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP GYMNASTICS

## McVey the brightest star in Red's wins

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Livonia Red gymnastics standout Marissa McVey was her team's catalyst in Tuesday's tri-meet victories over Northville and Waterford Unified.

McVey placed first in three of the four events to lead Red to 136.825 overall points, which out-distanced Waterford (132.325) and the Mustangs, who compiled 131.425 points.

McVey's best event was the floor exercise, in which she earned a first-place score of 9.15. She also won the meet-

opening vault competition with an 8.95 before taking the uneven-bars event with a solid 8.55.

The only event McVey didn't place in was the beam, on which she registered a score of 8.10 to give her an all-around mark of 34.75.

While McVey was Red's brightest star, she was far from its only stellar performer. Mikaela Hillie earned a mark of 8.85 on the vault to finish second behind her teammate. Hillie also impressed the judges with her floor-exercise routine, which garnered an 8.40.

Also turning in sparkling efforts for the double-winners were Olivia Ryktarsyk, who tied for third on the balance beam with a score of 8.75, and Megan Waters, who placed third in the vault with an 8.75 while also scoring a solid 8.40 on the bars.

Red's Olivia Dillon excelled in her floor exercise, netting a score of 8.55.

Breathing some fire into Northville's attack was Maddie Dragon, who scored an 8.85 on the beam and an 8.75 on the bars.



JOHN KEMSK/EXPRESS PHOTO  
Livonia Red's Marissa McVey placed first in three of four events Tuesday night.



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# GLENN

Continued from Page B1

to shoot," he said. "I shot it with confidence and knocked it down."

"This is huge for us to open the division with a win, especially against a team like John Glenn, which is always one of the biggest and best teams in our league. Tonight's win means a lot."

The Rockets were fueled by a strong effort from senior 6-10 post player Edwards, who scored 19 points on 9-for-11 shooting. Edwards also hauled down a team-high 11 rebounds.

"Edwards is a lot better than he was last year; he's long and tough to guard," said Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy. "We let Logan Ryan guard him. Logan was enthusiastic about it and I thought he did a good job. Our entire team did a nice job of limiting his touches."

Six players scored in the first quarter for John Glenn, which owned a 17-14 lead. Ryan kept the Chiefs in the game early with eight first-quarter points (including two triples).

Canton seized a 28-23 halftime lead after holding the Rockets to 2-for-17 shooting from the field.

The Chiefs led 45-40 with 4:30 left after 6-foot guard Obi Okoli threw down a dunk after chasing down a pass from Williams, who threw the dime while sitting down near mid-court after stealing the ball from a Rocket guard.

The Rockets battled back to knot the game at 45-all on five straight points from Bradley, but the hosts owned the final four minutes.

Ryan and Okoli both finished with 10 points each for the winners.



Canton's Noah Brown (1) and Greg Williams put the squeeze on John Glenn's Jamie Melchor Friday night.

ED WRIGHT

Bradley scored 11 for John Glenn and Christian Agnew chipped in with nine. Canton hit 20 of 42 shots from the field and 7 of 13 free throws.

John Glenn was 20 of 57 from the floor and 4 of 11 from the line.

ewright@hometownlife.com

# THE WEEK AHEAD

### BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
HVL at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.  
Thurston at RU, 7 p.m.  
Clarenceville at Garden City, 7 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 16**  
Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Garden City at Thurston, 7 p.m.  
Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
RU at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
Annapolis at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
Macomb at HVL, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 17**  
John Glenn at Mayweather Classic, TBA

### GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.  
Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Redford Union at Thurston, 7 p.m.  
HVL at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.  
Garden City at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.  
Dearborn at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 16**  
Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Thurston at Dearborn, 7 p.m.  
Clarenceville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.  
Romulus at Garden City, 7 p.m.  
Crestwood at Redford Union, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.  
Macomb at HVL, 5:30 p.m.

### PREP HOCKEY

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**  
Franklin at Stevenson, 6 p.m.  
Churchill at S. Lyon, TBA

**Saturday, Jan. 17**  
Churchill at Waterford Unified, 5:30 p.m.  
Stevenson at Traverse City West, 2:15 p.m.

### PREP WRESTLING

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**  
Stevenson at Salem, 5:30 p.m.  
Churchill, John Glenn at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.  
RU, Thurston at Romulus, 5:30 p.m.  
Clarenceville at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.

### BOYS SWIMMING

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
Garden City at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.  
John Glenn at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 15**  
Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.  
RU at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at Canton, 6:30 p.m.  
Garden City at Thurston, 6 p.m.

### PREP GYMNASICS

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
Livonia Blue at W.L. Central, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 17**  
Livonia Blue at Jeanne Invite, 8 a.m.

### PREP BOWLING

**Monday, Jan. 12**  
Wayne at Novi, 3:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
Wayne at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 18**  
John Glenn at Flint Metro Tournament, 8:30 a.m.

# HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

liant netminding of Salem senior goalie Dillon Phillips (27 saves).

That goal finally came with just 12.9 seconds to play in the second period — and Salem struggling to get established on a power play.

Stevenson senior forward Alex Hunt took the puck away along the left boards in the Rocks' zone and fed a perfect pass into the slot. Senior forward Mick Sinclair buried it.

"Any time you give up a shorthanded goal, especially with less than a minute left in a period, it is kind of a back-breaker," Ossenmacher said. "But I thought we came back in the third, we battled hard."

"Stevenson's a good team that Salem has never beaten in the history of the program. I

thought maybe we'd come through today, but it didn't happen."

Mitchell smiled when asked about Sinclair and what he means to a team that so far this season has struggled to consistently find the back of the net.

"He (Sinclair) is a smart, smart hockey player, he's a four-year guy for us, a captain, a leader," Mitchell said. "He epitomizes what a hockey player truly is."

### On the board

The Rocks (6-3-2 overall, 2-2-2 in the conference) came out with some extra zip and swagger after their Traverse City success and needed just 15 seconds to cash in on a power play.

Senior defenseman Noah Saad sent the puck from the blue line toward the Stevenson cage and Willer was there at the right post for a slam-dunk tally, beating Spartans senior goalie

Andrew Rozenbaum (24 saves).

Also assisting on the goal was sophomore forward Matt Schaumburger, who along with Willer and senior forward Liam Walker formed a dangerous unit most of the night.

Stevenson (6-4-1 overall, 2-2-2 in the conference) turned up the offensive heat in the second period but Phillips was there time after time to thwart the Spartans.

With Salem on the penalty kill, Phillips deftly got in front of a screen shot taken by senior forward Vince Glenn.

Moments after the Stevenson power play expired, senior forward Alex DeFlorio ripped a shot from close in that Phillips flexed his left pad to stop.

But Hunt and Sinclair made sure that the Rocks could not carry their slim, one-goal lead into the intermission.

"We needed something to energize us there, because our guys really work hard," said

Mitchell, about Sinclair's shorthanded goal. "But when the puck's not going in all you can do is work harder. You can't get down, you can't stop going."

In the third period, both teams had glorious chances but could not capitalize.

With about 10:30 left, Salem sophomore forward Joey Driscoll forced a turnover in Stevenson's zone and slid a pass across the front of the net to Walker.

Getting over to make a spunking save was Rozenbaum.

Moments later, Sinclair skated up the gut and blasted a shot from between the circles that Phillips came out to stop.

"Give Phillips the credit, he played outstanding in net," Mitchell said. "Our goalie Rozenbaum played well, and it was a very solid 1-1 hockey game with two good hockey clubs."

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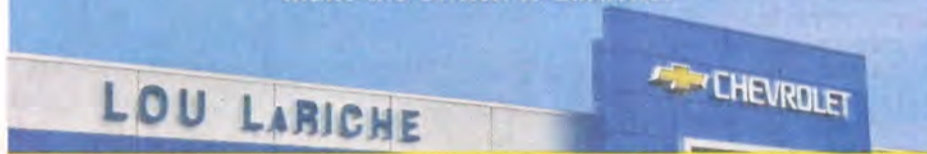
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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

# 'Cats kill penalties, knock off Chargers, 4-1

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Plymouth's hockey team was killin' 'em Wednesday night – big penalties, that is.

With Livonia Churchill poised to mount a rally during the third period of the pivotal KLAAs South Division match-up at Eddie Edgar Arena, the Wildcats extinguished an extended 5-on-3 Charger advantage before silencing a five-minute major on the way to a clutch 4-1 victory.

Plymouth improved its overall record to 8-2 while upping its South Division mark to 4-0. Churchill slipped to 3-6-2 and 2-2, respectively.

The clinical penalty kills were bittersweet for Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento, who would prefer his team didn't have to execute them so frequently.

"I thought we were a little undisciplined with our penalties, which kept the game a lot closer than it probably should have been," said Vento. "But give Churchill credit – they worked hard and made it a game the whole way through."

Played at a lightning-quick pace, the contest was scoreless for the opening seven minutes until Plymouth's Josh Smith capped a front-of-the-net scrum by tipping in a wedge past Char-



Livonia Churchill's Josh Friend (left) and Plymouth's Andrew Brace battle for the puck following a face-off Wednesday night at Eddie Edgar Arena.

ger goalie Andrew Broyles. Andrew Jossey and Mitchell Lopetrone assisted.

Churchill answered quickly, drawing even at 1-1 thanks to a dynamic effort by senior captain Dylan Smith, who carried the puck behind the net before slid-

ing a pin-point dime to Nolan Cioch.

Cioch's door-step shot was stoned by 'Cats goalie Jared Maddock, but Churchill's Justin Reinholtz pounced on the rebound and stuck it between Maddock's left pad and the right

post.

The pivotal 70 seconds in the 51-minute game followed moments later when Plymouth scored bang-bang goals that packaged the lead in a thick layer of bubble wrap.

The eventual game-winner was struck by Jossey, who lit the lamp from just a few feet in front of the goal crease off an assist from Lopetrone with 7:16 left in the first period.

Seventy seconds later, James Baldwin delivered an insurance goal to give the Wildcats a 3-1 lead after one.

"Those goals got us going," said Vento, "but for whatever reason we didn't seem to build off them, which was disappointing."

The well-played game's final goal came when Plymouth's Ricky Covault lifted a soft chip shot over a diving Broyles to make it 4-1 with 14:26 left in the second period.

The Chargers leased a short stretch of momentum midway through the second period when – a couple minutes after Broyles turned away a searing break-away shot by Ben Chafin – Parker Hodges broke free up the middle of the ice for what appeared to be a golden one-on-one encounter with Maddock, but the play was whistled off-sides. Churchill played most of the

game's final nine minutes with a one- or two-man advantage, but couldn't solve the Wildcats' defense, which was spearheaded by Kyle Kozler and Jake Zabrowski.

"Overall, I thought we played very well as a team defensively, and our penalty kill was great tonight," Vento said. "Killing their 5-on-3 and the five-minute major were big parts of the win."

Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds said he was satisfied with his team's effort – if not the result – against a team the Chargers have had a difficult time solving in the recent past.

"Overall, I can't get down on our guys too much," said Reynolds. "We've been playing better as the year has gone on and we've shown that we're able to compete with some of the best teams in the state. At times, we're just showing a bit of our youth."

"Tonight was one of the best games we've put together against Plymouth in a couple of years. For us tonight, it just came down to a couple breakdowns in our defensive zone. We stress having a lot of strong coverage and, unfortunately, they took advantage of the times we didn't have strong coverage."

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PREP HOCKEY

## Pats' 1-0 loss can't dampen fundraising 'Purple Out'

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's hockey team failed to light up the scoreboard Friday night against visiting Walled Lake Central, but the Patriots managed to brighten the night for several people battling – and conquering – cancer.

Vikings goaltender Sam Woznicki turned away 28 Patriots shots to lead his team to a 1-0 victory over Franklin, which slipped to 6-5-1.

The game served as the backdrop for the inaugural "Purple Out" fundraiser for Franklin, which wore special-order purple uniforms (purple is one of the colors noted for cancer awareness) and held a pregame ceremonial puck-drop that starred 10-year-old cancer survivor Jake Pesto, who is the cousin of Franklin goalie Matt Monendo.

Cancer survivor Jason Bruce was also honored – and participated in the pregame ceremony – for his heroic battle against the relentless disease.

The fundraiser – which included a bake sale and 50/50 raffle – was orchestrated by Franklin junior captain Brendan Whitney and the school's National Honor Society.

Monendo continued his exemplary season-long play against Central as he stopped 39 shots and "kept us in the game," Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon said.

"Even though we lost, it was a great night thanks to the awesome cancer awareness event Brendan Whitney and the National Honor Society organized," Gagnon



Livonia Franklin's Brendan Nutting posed a threat during the first period of Friday night's game against Walled Lake Central.



Cancer survivors Jason Bruce drops the ceremonial first puck as fellow cancer survivor Jake Pesto and the two teams' captains – Walled Lake Central's Sam Woznicki (left) and Brendan Whitney (right) look on.

said. "It really was a feel-good night for everyone involved."

The game's lone goal was scored at the 6:44 mark of the second period, when the Vikings' Ryan Kalis snuck the puck past Monendo.

"It was a great defensive hockey game, all around," Gagnon said. "The boys really busted it tonight; the effort was there. The puck just didn't bounce our way."

"Whenever you play

a team from KLAAs, you know you're going to be in for battle against a well-coached team and tonight was no exception."

Gagnon praised the play of Chase Wallis and Whitney, the Patriots' leading scorer who missed the previous two games with an injury.

### Patriots edge Richard

On Wednesday at the University of Michigan's Yost Ice Arena,

the Patriots edged Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 6-4.

Brian Hubbard earned the win between the pipes for the Patriots as he turned away 14 shots. Julia Chenoweth made 38 saves for the hosts.

Trevor Lassaline and Zack Nelson both scored a pair of goals for the winners, while Nic Anderson and Brendan Nutting contributed one goal each. Anderson's goal was his first as a Patriot.

Wallis added two assists, while Justin Makowski, Quinn Shine and Lassaline chipped in with one apiece.

"We were sloppy and undisciplined in our defensive zone and didn't seem to get our boots moving, but when it was all said and done, we won and outshot them by a wide margin," Gagnon said. "It's nice to get the win, even though I felt we didn't play up to snuff."

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Short-handed GC falls to Tractors

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Depleted by a mounting number of injuries, Garden City dropped a 49-44 decision at Dearborn Fordson Friday night.

The loss dropped the Cougars to 1-6 overall and 0-2 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's Blue Division.

GC, which finished the game with just five healthy players, tied the game at 44-all with two minutes left, but failed to score down the stretch.

Lindsey Michalak scored a team-high 14 points and grabbed 20 rebounds before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Rachel Spellman, Amber Swisher and Cassie Leleniewski all scored six points for the Cougars. Rana Elsamadouny led Fordson with 17 points.

### Chiefs defuse Rockets

John Glenn's Arriana Hassan scored 11 points and Kimah Stribling added nine, but it wasn't enough as the Rockets fell to Canton, 44-31, Friday night. Erin Hult led the Chiefs with 13 points.

Canton led 20-12 at the half and pushed its lead to 17 points at one point in the second half before the hosts battled back to within nine.

### 'Cats unplug Chargers

Hampered by a scoreless second quarter, Livonia Churchill dropped a 37-23 decision to visiting Plymouth Friday night.

Molly Pummill led the Chargers with six points while Natalie Spala added five.

Churchill excelled defensively, holding the Wildcats to just one first-half field goal. However, Plymouth made 13 free throws to just four for the Chargers.

"We missed a ton of lay-ups; we just couldn't finish," said Churchill coach Matt McCowan. "The good thing is everything we struggled with tonight is correctable."

### Patriots roll

Livonia Franklin won its second consecutive game, 64-8, Friday night over host Wayne Memorial. Jessica McNally paced a well-balanced Patriot attack with 12 points. Sarah Cramton added nine while Erin McNally chipped in with eight. Franklin got strong efforts from reserves Julie Perez (five points), Sophia Modes (four points) and Jackie Dailey (three points).

### Regina tops Blazers

A second-half rally fell short Friday as host Livonia Ladywood (2-7, 0-1) dropped its Catholic League Central Division opener against Warren Regina (6-2, 1-1).

Theresa Diehl paced the victorious Saddlelites with a game-high 22 points.

Erika Selakowski notched a double-double for the Blazers with 10 points and 10 rebounds, while Maggie Shirk also scored 10.

Ladywood trailed 28-18 at halftime before cutting the deficit to 27-23 after three quarters, but couldn't get over the hump.

"We cut it to within four and worked hard, but we had two quick turnovers, got down eight and never recovered," said Ladywood coach Amber Culloty, whose team was outscored 11-6 over the final eight minutes. "We played pretty hard and we're getting a lot better. There are still a lot of good things to come."

Ladywood struggled at the foul line going 5-of-14, while Regina was 11-of-19.

### Warriors downed

Eighth-grader Alexis Johnson finished with 15 points, 13 rebounds and four steals Friday to propel host Novi Franklin Road Christian (5-2) past Lutheran High Westland (2-4) in a crossover game between Michigan Independent Athletic Conference teams.

Senior guard Katherine Larabell added 14 points and five steals for the winners.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Madonna women knock off No. 11 Saints

Senior forward Rachel Melcher scored 19 points and pulled down nine rebounds as the Madonna University women's basketball team earned a huge victory Wednesday night on the road with a 63-56 triumph over No. 11-ranked Siena Heights.

The Crusaders, who improved to 9-6 overall, remain in second place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference only one game behind unbeat-

en and No. 2-ranked Davenport (15-0, 9-0) at 8-1.

The Crusaders also got 17 points from freshman guard Lindsey Hernden along with 13 from junior guard Michele Hayes. Justice Dean chipped in eight points, while Erin Menard hauled down a team-best six rebounds.

Mackenzie Tomasik



Melcher

led Siena Heights (12-4, 7-2) with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Sierra Calhoun and Alexis Khanlein added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

MU led 26-18 at halftime before the Saints evened the count at 52-all with only 4:12 on a jumper by Tomasik, but Dean answered with a three-pointer and the

Crusaders never trailed thereafter.

The Crusaders shot 23-of-60 from the floor (38 percent), including 9-of-26 from the beyond the arc as Melcher went 3-for-5. Madonna won despite being outrebounded 45-35.

### Men's basketball

**MADONNA 81, SIENA 72:** Senior guard Shaun Duncan rang up a game- and career-high 33 points

to lift Madonna University (7-10, 3-6) to a WHAC men's basketball victory at Siena Heights (7-10, 3-6).

The 26-year-old Duncan, a 6-foot-1 transfer from Wayne County Community College, connected on 9-of-17 shots from the floor and 13-of-15 free throws as MU overcame a 35-31 halftime deficit.

Jeff Schmitz added 12 points, while C.J. Ezeani had a productive nine

minutes off the bench with 10 points and six rebounds. Grant Smith pulled down team-best eight rebounds.

The Crusaders made 27 of 35 free throws and 24 of 56 shots from the floor (44 percent).

Senior forward Christian Covile paced the Saints with 26 points and six rebounds, while Stone Beckwith and Tyler Leighton added 13 and 10 points, respectively.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

# Churchill notches impressive road win

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

On Friday night at Plymouth, Livonia Churchill bounced back from Tuesday night's home loss to Livonia Stevenson like a nuclear-powered pogo stick.

Powered by a super-charged effort from guards Jon Hovermale (20 points), Joan Andoni (12 points) and Dayton Davis (12 points), the Chargers built up a 21-point first-half lead before locking down a 64-55 victory over the Wildcats.

In the KLAA South Division opener for both teams, Churchill improved to 5-2 overall while Plymouth suffered its first setback in six games.

"This was probably our best overall effort of the season," emphasized Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak. "After losing at home to Stevenson

the other night, then having a snow day, we came out and played really well right from the start."

Churchill led 13-8 after one quarter and 32-17 at the half. Hovermale added nine rebounds and six assists while Brian Alsbrooks contributed six boards and six assists.

The Chargers drained just 7 of 19 free throws while Plymouth made 18 of 33 freebies. Josh Reynolds led the hosts with 14 points. Brent Davis added 11.

**Zebras edge Franklin**

Wayne Memorial outscored Livonia Franklin 17-10 in the fourth quarter to post a 52-46 victory in the KLAA South Division opener for both teams.

The game was tight throughout as the Zebras held a 29-26 halftime advantage

before the Patriots battled back to grab a 36-35 lead with eight minutes to play.

"We had opportunities at the line and at the rim," noted Franklin head coach Jeremy Rheault. "Foul trouble hurt our top defenders in the second half, but it was the key turnovers and misses at the line that handed it away."

Charles Keith led the Patriots with 13 points. Johnny Cantrell scored 11.

**Eagles down Clarenceville**

Marque'l Thomas knocked down five three-point shots on the way to a 21-point night as Redford Thurston (6-1, 2-0) wore down host Clarenceville, 80-49 Friday night.

Isiah Crofford (18 points, six rebounds) and Rickey Hudgens (11 points, six steals) also played well for the Eagles.

Jermal Johnson led the Trojans with 26 points.

Thurston led 20-15 after one quarter, 41-25 at the half and 58-36 with eight minutes left. Brandon Marshall distributed a team-high seven assists and Crofford blocked four shots.

Thurston made 20 of 28 free-throw attempts. Clarenceville was 13-for-21 from the stripe.

**GC drops heart-breaker**

Senior guard Joe Pummill scored five late points to help Garden City draw even with visiting Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 64-64, Friday night, but Crestwood's Esa Abduljami dropped in a runner with less than a second left to give the Chargers a 66-64 victory.

The loss dropped the Cougars to 1-5 overall and 0-2 in the WWAC Red. Crestwood improved to 3-1 and 1-0, re-

spectively.

Travis Trigg registered a break-out performance for GC as he scored 21 points and nailed all seven of his free-throw attempts. Brandon Grace added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Cougars, who were also bolstered by Travis Kidd's 10-point/five-steal night. Pummill's stat line included eight points, three steals, four assists and seven rebounds. The Cougars clawed back from a 20-point first-half deficit.

**Spartans roll**

Nolan Bradford's three straight three-pointers in the first quarter spearheaded Stevenson's 59-35 victory over South Lyon Friday night. The Lions led 8-0 before Bradford (13 points) went off. Noah Campbell added 10 points while Kyle Malkowski had seven.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS  
Plymouth Whalers forward Sonny Milano (right), shown from earlier this season, is returning this week from the World Juniors to help boost the slumping team.

## Cloud over Whalers doesn't stop GM

Team's future in OHL remains up in air, trade deadline looms

By Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Right now, nobody with the Plymouth Whalers or Ontario Hockey League can — or will — verify whether or not the Peter Karmanos-owned franchise met the Dec. 31 deadline to move the team to another city for 2015-16.

"I don't know the answer to that," Whalers general manager Mark Craig said during last Friday's 7-2 loss to Saginaw at Compuware Arena. "I don't know if there was anything put in or not."

Craig deferred further inquiries to Mike Vellucci, Plymouth's OHL governor (and former coach/GM/president), but as of Monday Vellucci had not responded to a text message about the matter.

OHL spokesman Paul Krotz has not yet responded to an email Friday from the *Observer* about the Dec. 31 deadline and whether or not the Whalers applied to relocate.

Still, speculation persists that the Whalers will not call Compuware home next season with cities such as Flint and Chatham, Ontario, front and center in the rumor mill.

Moreover, it was reported in late November that an agreement was in place — "subject to due diligence" — for Karmanos to sell the Beck Road arena to USA Hockey early in 2015, with the U.S. National Team Development Program to relocate there from the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

However it shakes out, Craig continues to set sights on improving the 2014-15 Whalers. Plymouth currently sits 10th in the OHL Western Conference (12-22-2-1) with Friday's league trade deadline looming.

"The only thing I would look at is if it makes us a better hockey club right now," Craig said. "I honestly believe that with the injuries we've been through and losing players to World Juniors and suspensions and everything, we've literally been short anywhere from five to eight players out of our

normal lineup since Oct. 22.

"Game-hours lost, average in this league, is between 90 and 110. We're at 170 and we're not even halfway through the season."

The good news for Craig and head coach Don Elland is the team this week will welcome back goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, forward Sonny Milano and defenseman Yannick Rathgeb from World Juniors.

Although defenseman and team captain Alex Peters is out for the season with a knee injury, long-sidelined forwards Danny Vander Wiel and Bryce Yetman should be back sooner rather than later. Vander Wiel could be back sometime this week-end.

Plymouth hosts North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, respectively.

**Time to jell**

"We're getting close to getting healthy and I think we're really a good hockey club when we're healthy," Craig said. "My goal is to give these guys a chance to see how good they could have been — and could be, in the second half."

"If I make any moves, it will be to improve the team, to bring in a veteran guy that can help us."

Craig stressed that he would not be breaking the team up this week, instead hoping the Whalers can rejoin the race for a playoff spot.

"We will not be trading for draft picks or rebuilding or any of that," Craig said. "We think we have a very good hockey club this year, that can still make the playoffs and win."

"And we also think we have a great nucleus coming back for next year that we don't need to go out and make those type of trades."

Plymouth is 11 points out of the eighth and final playoff spot, now shared by Saginaw and Kitchener.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Kyle Cooper enjoys new starring role for Hillsdale

Former St. Edith hoops star shining at the next level

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

After being the Best Supporting Actor on the Hillsdale College men's basketball team a year ago, Kyle Cooper is now up for yet another Oscar nomination.

Only this time, it's for Best Actor.

The 6-foot-7, 225-pound junior forward, a Northville native who graduated from Novi Detroit Catholic Central in 2012, has increased his role significantly for the Chargers (7-3) after averaging 13.5 points and 6.2 rebounds per game as a sophomore.

Cooper opened the season with a 28-point, 10-rebound and three-assist outing in a 92-68 exhibition game loss Nov. 15 against the University of Michigan at Crisler Arena.

And in an 84-76 victory Nov. 25 at Cedarville (Ohio) University, Cooper exploded for a career-high 41 points to go along with 15 rebounds.

In 10 games this season, Cooper ranks ninth among NCAA Division II players and second in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in scoring at 24.0 points per game. He is shooting 59.2 percent from the floor, including 44.2 percent from 3-point range, and 83.9 percent from the foul line. He is also averaging 11.1 rebounds per game.

**Versatile threat**

"The thing right now that he's doing, maybe better than anybody we've ever had, is that he's scoring in a lot of different ways," Hillsdale coach John Tharp said. "He's offensive rebounding. He's running the floor and he can really shoot the basketball and he's scoring in the block. His game is diversified. When he came here on campus, he was more of a stand-still shooter, but he's made great strides in other areas. That's the thing that makes him so hard to guard."

Last season, Cooper played wingman at Hillsdale to Tim Dezelski, who earned third team NCAA Division II All-America honors while averaging 22.9 points and 9.6 rebounds per game.

The two were also teammates for one season at Catholic Central before playing two seasons together at Hillsdale.

And it was the 6-7 Dezelski, now playing professionally in Luxembourg, who showed Cooper the ropes.

"When I got to Hillsdale, I think I really took a lot of parts from his game that I saw and tried to incorporate them into my own, along with what I already did," said Cooper, who attended St. Edith's Grade School in Livonia. "I really tried to learn a lot from him, especially the last couple of years, because he was so good about doing the little things right that kind of add up to winning basketball games. He was definitely a big help with me improving my game and learning the subtle things about improving my game at the college level."

**Supporting role**

As a senior, Dezelski racked up 617 points, 259 rebounds and 107 assists as Hillsdale finished 18-9 last season. But the way Cooper is starting out so far this season, he could surpass Dezelski's All-



HILLSDALE ATHLETICS  
Hillsdale College junior forward Kyle Cooper, a Northville native and former Catholic Central standout, ranks ninth in NCAA Division II scoring at 23.9 points per game.

**America numbers.**

"Nobody did that in college basketball last year at any level but Tim," Tharp said. "I think what Kyle learned was that he was blessed to have Tim, because I think he saw how hard you need to work and the attention that Tim received last year in particular. The great thing is that Tim also had Kyle. This year, Kyle has almost been leading the charge by himself. Everybody is keying on him. The good thing is that he's rebounding the basketball. He's just doing so many different things. He played really well at the University of Michigan when we played them. So he kind of realized the kind of talent that he is."

And when the 2014-15 season began, Cooper was more than prepared to take center stage.

"Coach Tharp talked to me in the preseason about how I need to play a bigger part this year," Cooper said. "I just score when I can. Teammates find me the ball, set screens and if I hit the open shot, then that works out. It's really about if I have to set screens to get guys open to score, that's plenty fine, too."

It certainly worked out in Ann Arbor, when Cooper burned the Wolverines from all angles as the Chargers actually led by as many as 15 points in the first half.

**Quite the debut**

"It was definitely a cool experience," Cooper said. "All we were trying to do was go in there and win the basketball game. It was our first exhibition of the season, so looking back on it was a pretty fun experience. Beautiful facility, beautiful gym and really good competition and great crowd to play in front of. It was a lot of fun. We wish we could have competed a little better down the stretch, but we were pretty happy with the way we played most of the game. It was a good learning experience for our team and it's something a lot of people don't get to do."

And in the 41-point outing against Cedarville, Cooper was simply unconscious.

"It felt every time I was on the court, the guys were just finding me in the post with an undersized guy on me or getting me open on a screen and all the sudden you look at halftime, things are just kind of going well and you're making a lot of shots," Cooper said. "It was kind of the perfect storm of guys just finding me and me getting myself open. I wouldn't say it was something I was aiming for or I was 'in the zone,' but I was hitting

my shots and they kept getting me the ball. It just kind of how it happened."

Cooper, who also played starting quarterback on CC's 2011 Division I state runner-up football team, was on the radar screen of a few NCAA Division I basketball programs.

An academic all-state honoree who scored a 32 on his ACT, Cooper drew interest from Yale, Cornell, Holy Cross and the University of California-Davis.

**Recruiting days**

The summer before his junior year, Hillsdale coaches contacted Cooper's high school coach Bill Dyer.

"I had actually never heard of Hillsdale College except for the fact that I knew Tim (Dezelski), who graduated and had gone there as a red-shirt his first year," Cooper said. "I looked it up and saw it was only an hour-and-a-half away, so my mom and I drove out there one day, met coach Tharp and the assistant coaches, looked around the campus. I just remember leaving that day and I was like, 'Mom, this might be the perfect place for me.' I felt comfortable with the coaching staff and liked the location of it, liked the people I met there. ... I think it was a great decision for me."

And Tharp knew he had a diamond in the rough.

**Wounded knee**

Cooper, however, played only seven games his freshman season before going down with a torn meniscus in his knee and was unable to obtain a medical red-shirt.

But he bounced back to enjoy a solid sophomore campaign and has evolved into an all-around player.

"When I came into college, I kind of just saw myself as a shooter," said Cooper, who is an accounting major. "Especially these last couple of years and this off-season, I really wanted to get better at scoring with my back to the basket and getting into the post, so I could take advantage of mismatches when I get an undersized guy put on me. I worked a lot on my leg strength so I could battle in the post and finish around the basket with either hook shots or making moves in the post around guys. And I think this has been a big help to me so far this season."

Cooper is now starting to draw a lot more attention defensively. He was held to a season-low 13 points, but still managed to grab 10 rebounds, in a 79-63 setback Dec. 21 to Tiffin (Ohio) in the Quincy (Ill.) Tournament.

Hillsdale is 5-1 in GLIAC play after sweeping a pair of games in Ohio last weekend against Malone (76-64) and Walsh (84-74) as Cooper earned conference player of the week honors for the second time this season, averaging 24.5 points and 13.5 rebounds while shooting 65 percent from the field.

He has eight 20-point games to his credit this season and currently leads the GLIAC in both scoring average and rebounding average.

And Tharp is trying to find that Best Supporting Actor for his leading man.

"Right now, he's so strong physically and he's relentless around the rim," Tharp said. "I think he's such a tough match-up for people. I can't tell you how happy I am that he's wearing Hillsdale College blue, I'll say that."

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JULIE BROWN

Scott Whiteman's energy level will get a boost when he receives his donated kidney.

## KIDNEY RECIPIENT EAGER FOR THE CALL TO CHANGE HIS LIFE

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Scott Whiteman, 58, of Plymouth has been on kidney dialysis more than two and a half years. When he found out he's near the top of the list for a donor cadaver kidney, he was grateful.

"I've had a lot of spiritual support, people praying for me," said Whiteman, who works part time as a house painter. "The people've been really good, for the most part." He's on a number of church prayer lists locally, and people often ask when his surgery will take place.

"It's hard to juggle your life," he said of his dialysis at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. "Everything in your life has to be centered around the dialysis. You plan your life around that."

One potential donor wasn't healthy enough to give his kidney to Whiteman. Neither of Whiteman's sisters were suitable donors, nor were other family members.

The expense is a concern with surgery; the Kidney Foun-

ation pays Whiteman's supplemental Blue Cross and he's on Medicare. Whiteman, who grew up in Livonia, is a 1975 graduate of Livonia Bentley High School who also studied at Schoolcraft College and Madonna University.

When at Beaumont for dialysis, his blood is tested for a number of factors. He was interviewed there by a transplant team of health care pros to be sure he's disciplined to follow up with doctor visits, take anti-rejection medication and adhere to a good diet after surgery.

"You'll do what you have to do to keep your kidney," Whiteman said. The anti-rejection medication is mandatory for the rest of life.

### Preparing

Whiteman had a pre-transplant conference at Beaumont last July; at that time, he was told he'd wait four years for a kidney. He agreed to take a kidney of a donor over 60 or with hypertension (high blood pressure).

He was then told by a physician "Keep your phone

charged up" for the call. More recently, his nephrologist (kidney doctor) said Whiteman's even closer to receiving a kidney. Whiteman said he'll be an inpatient around five days after surgery if all goes well.

Whiteman has a mentor through Beaumont who first received a kidney that didn't take and had another donor surgery. "He's had his wife's kidney for five years now," said Whiteman of his mentor.

"I can work about six hours before I get tired," he said. He also does some demolition work and light carpentry, even on dialysis days. Around 22 hours a week is the most he's worked. "That's probably the most I could do without getting tired," he said. "They (doctors) were telling me most people on dialysis can't work."

When he has the surgery, his old kidneys, which function at around 15 percent, will remain, with the donor organ attached to his bladder. "I was told they just shrivel up," he said of the old and diseased kidneys.

"They're not sure when the donor's going to pass away,"

Whiteman said. "I've got like a four-hour window to get to the hospital."

He added his energy level is expected to increase with the donor kidney.

### Increasing need

Tim Makinen, communications director for Gift of Life Michigan, said the need for organ and tissue donors is great. "Definitely it is because the number of people waiting for organ transplants both in Michigan and nationwide is going up," he said. Chronic conditions like hypertension or diabetes can prompt the need for kidney donation, for example.

Gift of Life especially encourages living donors where possible. Makinen praised Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson in organ donor awareness. "She's done a lot in her speeches and the branch offices," he said. In 2011, a Johnson policy change allowed Secretary of State staffers to ask if people wanted to be donors.

"It was kind of up to the customers" before, Makinen

Gift of Life Michigan is online at [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org). It can be reached at 866-500-5801. Information on organ and tissue donation is also available at any Michigan Secretary of State branch office.

said. "We've experienced tremendous growth in the last three-four years in the donor registry."

Makinen noted that a Texas donor was 91 going on 92, and that age isn't a barrier to signing up. He agreed donors should share their wishes with family, "if medically suitable I would like to help others. I want to leave a legacy of generosity. That way, there are no surprises."

Gift of Life Michigan has donation coordinators on staff. It's federally designated as Michigan's organ and tissue recovery organization, and is based in Ann Arbor while covering the entire state, Makinen said.

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com)

## Learn about the health benefits of hypnosis at free event

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Walter Rosenblum and his fellow hypnotherapists hope to dispel a few myths about their work at "First Aid for the Mind and Body," a World Hypnotism Day in Michigan event.

"A common one is that you're under control of someone else," said Rosenblum, who practices hypnotherapy in Farmington. "When people see a hypnotism stage show, they think, OK, these people are under the control of a master manipulator who is going to make them bark like a dog or squawk like a chicken. Hypnosis can't force you to do anything you don't want to do. You have to be in agreement even to go into hypnosis, let alone accept the suggestions given to you."

Rosenblum uses hypnosis in his practice, Associates in Hypnosis, to help his clients lose weight, reduce stress, gain



ROSENBLUM

confidence, stop smoking, conquer phobias, and assist with pain management associated with dentistry, cancer treatment and surgery. Last year, he spoke about hypnosis and cancer therapy at the annual World Hypnotism Day in Michigan conference. Attendees this year will learn about hypnosis and its benefits from a variety of speakers and will get a chance to participate in a stop-smoking group hypnosis workshop.

Although World Hypnotism Day is celebrated every Jan. 4, Michigan practitioners involved in the Michigan Association of Counselors & Hypnotherapists, will hold their event from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 28100 Franklin Road in Southfield.

Rosenblum said the event draws between 70-200 participants every year, depending on the weather.

"Most people come because they are looking to connect with a hypnotist ... or they are curious about it and want to find out more," Rosenblum said. "I have an acquaintance

whose mother needed knee surgery. She kept making appointments and canceling because she got cold feet. I had him bring his mother to one of the events that had a speaker talking about pain management. Hypnosis has a good track record of being a useful tool in getting through surgery. She listened to the speech and after the program she turned to her son and said, let's do the surgery."

"The National Institutes of Health did a study and found that people undergoing pre-surgery and post-surgery hypnosis get through surgery, heal faster, recovery is quicker. It's a way of getting the body to bring its own natural healing process into focus better, in a more active role."

Rosenblum said hypnotherapists can help some patients reduce the amount of medications they take for pain management or undergo some dental procedures without medication. They also work with athletes on training and focus.

"It's not unusual for people to come for help with athletics.

### FIRST AID FOR THE MIND AND BODY

**What:** An event celebrating World Hypnotism Day  
**When:** 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17  
**Where:** Embassy Suites Hotel, 28100 Franklin Road, Southfield  
**Cost:** Admission is free; hypnosis entertainment show is \$5; group hypnosis for smoking cessation is \$30; lunch buffet is \$10  
**Presented by:** Michigan Association of Counselors & Hypnotherapists — a chapter of International Association of the Medical and Dental Hypnotherapy Association and the International Association of Counselors and Therapists; International Association of Holistic Providers, and GreeningDetroit.com  
**Details:** Exhibitors, vendors, group hypnosis for smoking cessation and speakers every hour. Topics include hypnosis for overcoming stress, habits, weight loss, and pain; one-minute stress busters, 10-day health transformation, letting go of negative thoughts, why hypnosis works, and more  
**Contact:** Mike Wysner at 734-787-9002

I've worked with people who have had golfing issues," he said.

Rosenblum, a former accountant and an Ohio native, became certified in hypnotherapy 15 years ago, but began learning about the work in high school. His father was a radiologist who took lessons in hypnosis from a colleague. Rosenblum underwent a few hypnosis sessions to help with short-term memory problems.

"My grades went from C to upper B's and middle A's," he said. "That is what got me interested."

He moved to Michigan in 1966 and years later, after his sister completed a nine-month course in hypnotherapy, decided to follow suit. He's glad he did.

For more about the World Hypnotism Day in Michigan event, call Mike Wysner at 734-787-9002.

# Plum Market teams with nonprofit to help cancer patients

Chicago-based Imerman Angels opened a Michigan Chapter less than a year ago and had its first official fundraiser recently at Somerset Collection. The nonprofit organization matches a person fighting cancer with a person who has survived that same type of cancer.

The party was nifty '60s all the way, from guests' psychedelic attire to twistin' and shoutin' to The Beats and piano music by Black Tie Entertainment Agency.

Party goes mixed and mingled among creative, delicious food stations catered by Plum Market. And continuing their support, Plum Market is collecting funds for Imerman Angels at its stores through Jan. 18. Shoppers can buy a special giving card at the register in the value of their choice. All funds raised will go directly to



**Julie Yolles**  
SOCIAL SCENE

Imerman Angels.

**Steve Miller**

Following a week of press and industry previews, the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) will open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Jan. 16, during the event of the year — Charity Preview. While guests will sip champagne and stroll among the cars and trucks from 6-9 p.m., the "space cowboy" himself, Steve Miller, will be prepping with his band for a special concert beginning directly after the close of Charity Preview at 9 p.m. at Cobo Center, in downtown Detroit.

Beneficiaries of NA-

IAS Charity Preview include the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Boys Hope Girls Hope Detroit, Children's Center, Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation, The Detroit Institute for Children, Judson Center, March of Dimes Metro Detroit, Detroit PAL, and DADA Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Tickets to the black-tie Charity Preview on Friday are \$400 and include the post-event Steve Miller Band concert. Go to [www.charitypreview.com](http://www.charitypreview.com).

**Ford-sponsored gala**

Arrive early, stay late. This year's 2015 AutoGlow, to benefit The Children's Center of Detroit, once again will be presented by Ford Motor Co. and held at Ford Field. The futuristic



Farmington Hills residents Marcy Hayes (left) and Neal Rubin, and Bloomfield Hills residents Tracey and Rich Homberg enjoy the Imerman Angels fundraiser.

PHOTO BY JULIE YOLLES, SOCIAL SCENE COLUMNIST

theme will include appetizers, dinner, dessert, dancing and private transportation to and from AutoGlow, the Charity Preview at Cobo Center and the Westin Book Cadillac for over-

night guests. The pre-event reception runs 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, and the main party is 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$325, available at [autoglow@thechildrenscenter.com](mailto:autoglow@thechildrenscenter.com) or

by calling 313-262-7123.

Contact Julie Yolles at [socialscenecolumnist@gmail.com](mailto:socialscenecolumnist@gmail.com) or leave a message at 248-642-9465.

## ENGAGEMENT

**DOBBS-SCHNEIDER**

Herb and Kathy Dobbs of Farmington are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Olivia, to Quentin Schneider, son of Paul and Françoise Schneider of Bordeaux, France.

Olivia is a graduate student of public policy at Rutgers University. Quentin graduated from Wayne State University and is employed at HP Financial Services in New Jersey.

A June 2015 wedding in Michigan is planned.



Olivia Dobbs and Quentin Schneider

SUBMITTED

## Think: Is a smart meter a dangerous appliance?

I'm starting off this new year of 2015 with a touchy subject that I've never written about. Let me begin with a little personal information about one of my past side jobs. For the past seven years, I have been a spokesperson for Consumers Energy and recently DTE, and in this period I have asked repeatedly to have a voice of authority join me on my radio show to inform



**Joe Gagnon**  
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

consumers about the safety of smart meters, to ease the minds of homeowners who have them installed.

I must also tell you that my yearly contracts with these energy providers have not been renewed and now I feel free to give you my opinions. Please keep in mind that I am no expert on this subject of smart meters and it appears that no expert wants to talk with me so I'll write about the facts I have accumulated from reading and talking with current owners.

First, let me address the issue of privacy. Is it such a case that we have to be concerned because the utility will know how much energy is being used by a specific appliance? Do you really think that your utility will shut off the power to your home if you use too much electricity? Some people think that a utility will be able to listen to their private conversations going on inside their home.

There is the serious subject of a person's health. Some people blame the smart meter for possible health issues they are going through and yet modern medicine has failed to prove this a fact.

Now, there are other issues and I would like to hear from you as to what your impressions are on this subject. I know that utilities across this country have been given millions upon millions of dollars to install this product and we all know what big dollars can do with ethics imperfections. Is this the case when all a company wants to do is eliminate the need and expense of a meter reader? Would they dare to place a smart meter at a home that can cause privacy and health concerns? I won't know the answer to this question until an expert calls me from DTE or Consumers Energy. I have seen little in the media in regards to the plus or minus on this subject. Is that because they are afraid of offending our utilities? What about our Public Service Commission in Lansing? Is it not in-



SUBMITTED

A "smart" utility meter

Involved in such a controversial product?

**What's your experience?**

You can go to your computer and Google smart meter complaints and read about how big an issue this is in other parts of the country. There are towns that have an ordinance refusing the installation of such product. Some areas where the utility installer has been arrested for trespassing and some installers jumping a fence to make the installation. Now, I understand that if you refuse to have one installed you will be charged dollars for that privilege or if you want one removed from your house that will cost you as well. It certainly appears that it is the ambition of utility companies across America to install a smart meter in every home. I know it will save a lot of money and remove thousands of meter readers from the payroll. What I don't know is a lot and I would like to learn the facts. That can't happen until someone high up reads this column and says, "Have so and so call Joe Gagnon."

Way back in 1972 I went through this sort of controversy when *Consumer Reports* magazine stated that microwave ovens were leaking and causing harm to the new purchaser. It was all proven to be false in short order but it did keep me on the road checking microwave emissions across the country. What we need now is to have our major media outlets get on the job of educating the public. Stay tuned.

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

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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**BUCKHAVE, MARLENE C.**  
Age 76, January 5, 2015  
Share online condolences at: [casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://casterlinefuneralhome.com)



**BURNETT, PATRICIA HILL**  
Acclaimed artist and feminist, passed away on December 29, 2014. She is survived by her four children: William Hill Lange, Harry Albert Burnett III, Terrill Hill Burnett and Hillary Hill Burnett, and her grandchildren Honora, Delia and Lilana Burnett, Blaise and Aiden Wallace, and Thea, Marina and Remy Mayaud. She was equally noted for her portraiture and as a veteran feminist and political activist. Visitation at A. J. Desmond and Sons, 32515 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak on Monday, January 12th, 5 - 8 pm. In lieu of flowers, please support College for Creative Studies (313) 664-7465. Please see [www.desmondfuneralhome.com](http://www.desmondfuneralhome.com) for a full tribute to this beloved and accomplished woman.



**PERKINS, BOBBIE RAY**  
Pastor Bobbie Ray Perkins, age 64, of Carleton, passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 in the comfort of his home. He was the Pastor of the Trinity Church of God in Carleton, Michigan Born on November 2, 1950 in Detroit, Michigan, he was the son of Westley and Dorsey (Morgan) Perkins. On March 24, 1995 he married Kay Halley in Oklahoma. Bobbie was preceded in death by his Parents, granddaughter, Trisha Wright and a sister, Jearline Milam. Surviving are wife, Kay Perkins of Carleton; sons, James (Antonia) Perkins of Westland and Aaron (Toshia) Cook of Ada, OK; daughter, Tammy (Jay) Locke of OK; brother, Shelby (Kelly) Perkins of Garden City; sisters, Patricia (Neal) Kibe of Garden City and sister, Brenda (Howard) Kilmartin of Garden City; seven grand children and three great-grandchildren; Cremation has taken place. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Lymphoma Foundation.



**QUINN, CHARLOTTE ELLEN**  
Age 83, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2015. She was the loving wife to Harlan Marshall Quinn for 55 years. Devoted Daughter of the late Charles Stepanauskas, (Charles the Builder) and Frances Sona of Dearborn. Loving Mother to Charles Campbell (Ellen) and the late Marshall Allen and sister to the late Marion Yuhn. Loving nana to Audrey Charlotte and Benjamin Marshall. She was a long time resident of Birmingham, 40+ yrs. in the Japanese contemporary house that she and husband Harlan toured as graduate students at the Cranbrook Academy of Arts in Bloomfield Hills, Mi. Charlotte's beautiful wildflowers. She spent many years rescuing protected endangered wildflowers and her yard was filled with some of Michigan's most beautiful wildflowers. Charlotte received a Master of Fine Arts from the distinguished Cranbrook Academy of Arts in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan in design and metal smithing. Although not intending to teach, Charlotte, by request taught metal smithing at the Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan (1973 - 1982), as well as the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center in Birmingham, Michigan (1973 - 1976). Charlotte's clean and contemporary fine jewelry has been sold both locally as well as through galleries throughout the nation. Charlotte was not only a designer, but also ran a full manufacturing facility from their home; she did it all right there, from design, to lost wax casting, mold making, buffing and finishing and stone setting. She has been exhibiting for more than forty years and has earned quite a collection of awards and recognition for her work. At times it presented challenges, however, her work was always satisfying and very creative. Charlotte felt very fortunate to have made a career out of the work that she loved. Charlotte deeply loved her family and was a great example to them in every way and will be greatly missed. Memorial donations can be made in Charlotte's name to: Cranbrook Academy of Art Development Office, P.O. Box 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0801 or call our office at 248-645-3214. Memorial Service will be held January 17, 2015 at 1 p.m. Grace Baptist Church 280 East Lincoln, Birmingham 48009.



**SCHNEIDER, JR., PROFESSOR GEORGE**  
December 25, 2014. Age 75, a native of Transylvania, Romania and longtime resident of Farmington Hills, Michigan. Graduate of Kent State University and Lawrence Tech University, and retired professor and business man. He is survived by his wife, Ingeborg Schneider; sons, Michael G. (Jodi) Schneider; Richard G. (Christina) Schneider; and Robert G. (Jayme) Schneider; grandchildren, Jacob, Cameron, Logan, Blake, Evan, Olivia and Derek; also step-children, Angela Weber, Heidi Sheedy, and Andrew Blum and step-grandchildren Patrick, Rachael, Lucas and Hannah. Also survived by many other loving family members and friends. Memorial luncheon Sunday, January 18, 1:00PM at Andiamo Trattoria, 7228 N Main St., Clarkston, MI. Interment on Monday, January 19 at 9:30AM at the Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd, Holly MI. See more at: [obits.dignitymemorial.com](http://obits.dignitymemorial.com)



**SMITH, BARBARA ELLEN**  
Age 67 a resident of Redford, MI died peacefully on December 31, 2014. She is survived by five children, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Bernice Proksch, two children and one grandchild. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Please contact the surviving children for further details.

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## Four-part series teaches meditation techniques

Learn ways to stay present in the moment and manage challenges through a four-week meditation series, beginning Jan. 14 at Schoolcraft College, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia.

Kathy Bindu Henning, founder of Present Moment Meditation™, will lead the classes, which can be taken individually or as a series. A Journey of Self-Discovery: Meditation Lecture Series is offered through Schoolcraft's Continuing Education Department and will run 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Henning

Wednesday, with a different topic each week.

"Regardless of where you are in life, this is a great time of year to start anew with a fresh approach — one that increases health and happiness and for many, one that decreases stress," Henning said, in a press release. "For most of us, it's not easy to stay present in the moment or maintain inner peace. Yet, even a slight shift in our outlook, choices and habits can make a big difference and impact every area of life for the better."

Topics are Experience the Self: An Inner Journey, Jan. 14; A Peaceful Mind is a Precious Gift, Jan. 21; The Illusive Nature of Happiness, Jan. 28, and Tools for Health, Harmony and Joyful Living, Feb. 4.

Cost is \$80 for the series, \$64 for senior citizens, or \$25 per class, \$20 for senior citizens. Register at schoolcraft.edu/cepd or call the school at 734-462-4448.

Henning also teaches a meditation class, 10:45 a.m. to noon Friday at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Cost is \$3.

Visit [www.LivinginthePresentMoment.com](http://www.LivinginthePresentMoment.com) or call 734-674-6965.

## Seniors: Stay indoors in frigid temps, keep house warm for good health

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Stay indoors and keep your home toasty.

Jean Borin, director of community service for Home Instead, a senior care service, says the elderly should heed that advice when temperatures plummet and snow begins to fly.

"Our goal is that we try to tell them to stay inside. But even if you stay inside there can be dangers in the home," she said, adding that seniors who keep furnace thermostats below 65 degrees may risk hypothermia. "As the body ages, the ability to maintain a normal (body) temperature decreases."

She suggests keeping home thermostats above 65, adding a carbon monoxide detector to the sleeping area and minimizing drafts by weather-stripping windows and doors, keeping doors to unused rooms closed or blocking door jams or drafty windows. Old socks filled with sand and tied at one end can be used as door draft dodgers.

"We worry about seniors with electric blankets because they may not be able to adjust the heat," Borin said. "They can burn themselves." A better alternative is an extra blanket and a hot water bottle to warm the bed before sleeping.

"If you have an elderly neighbor, you may want to check on them to make sure they aren't showing signs of hypothermia," she said. "Have emergency contact numbers for elderly neighbors."

She suggests that elderly residents keep an emergency kit and important contact phone numbers at home in case of blizzards or power outages.

"If there is a huge snowstorm and you take care of a loved one, you may not be able to get there."

Seniors who do go outdoors should be dressed in layers, with skin protected against the elements. "You don't want any body exposure," Borin said, adding that shoe or boots soles should have "proper gripping" rather than a smooth surface.

Borin suggests leaving outdoor tasks to family, friends or other caregivers. She recently heard from the daughter of a man who slipped on the way to his curbside mailbox.

"A neighbor found him laying on the



SUBMITTED

Elderly homeowners should keep furnace thermostats at least at 65 degrees or above to avoid the risk of hypothermia at home.

street. It's a good thing the neighbor saw him pretty quickly." She suggests that seniors call their local post office to inquire about mail delivery at the door, during harsh weather.

The Senior Alliance in Wayne County also offers cold weather tips from the National Institute on Aging, including these signs of hypothermia, the condition that occurs when the body's core temperature falls below 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

- » Cold feet and hands
- » Puffy or swollen face
- » Pale skin
- » Possibly shivering
- » Slower than normal speech or slurring words
- » Acting sleepy
- » Being angry or confused

A person experiencing later stages of hypothermia can move slowly, have trouble walking or may be clumsy;

exhibit slow, shallow breathing, slow and irregular heartbeat and stiff or jerky arm or leg movements; and approach a blackout or lose consciousness.

Assist an elderly hypothermia victim by calling 9-1-1. Use a blanket for warmth. Don't rub the person's arms and legs and don't warm an elderly person in a bath or with a heating pad.

Fingers, toes, cheeks, earlobes and the tip of the nose are most susceptible to frostbite which is caused by exposure to dry, cold temperatures below freezing. Symptoms include tingling, numbness and pain in the affected area. The skin turns white or gray and is cold and hard to the touch. Get medical attention immediately for frostbite.

For more information about Home Instead, visit [homeinstead.com](http://homeinstead.com). For The Senior Alliance, call 734-722-2830 or visit [aaalc.org](http://aaalc.org).



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Mon. & Thurs. 9 AM to 9 PM  
Tues., Wed. & Fri. 9 AM to 6 PM



\* Early Bird Program is effective January 6, 2015 through March 31, 2015. For current Ford Credit RCL/RCO customers. Up to three (3) waived payments with a maximum of \$1,800 with a scheduled lease termination date from April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 on Focus, Fusion, Escape and Edge. Must lease or purchase with Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the Early Bird Program. Past due payments, payment extensions and deferred payments beyond the original agreement are not eligible. Excess wear/mileage are customer's responsibility. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by March 31, 2015.  
\*\* Competitive Lease Conquest is effective January 6, 2015 through March 31, 2015. Offer available to current lessees of competitive (non-Ford/ Lincoln/Mercury Motor Company Car, SUV, or Light Duty Truck) vehicles with valid proof of ownership. Trade-in not required. Residency restrictions apply. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by March 31, 2015.  
\*\*\* 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. 10,000 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 03/31/15.