

Wayne-Westland OBSERVER

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Donations help improve Cayley Park



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland residents and officials gathered on a blustery Thursday afternoon for the re-dedication of Cayley Park.

Grounds cleaned, playground equipment repaired, soccer field and parking added

Leanne Rogers
Staff Writer

Less than ideal weather at the dedication ceremony didn't hamper the enthusiasm for improvements at Westland's Cayley Park. "Cayley Park is beautiful thanks to the efforts of the DPS (Department of Public Services) staff, (Wayne-Ford Civic League President) Vic Barra, the Norwayne Community Citizens Council and (Westland Parks Director) Jessica Mistak," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Campbell said. Along with a clean-up of the park, playground equipment was repaired and spruced up and a soccer field was added with a basketball net set up on a vacated section of street. Parking was added on the site of a now-demolished quadplex. Cayley Park East/West spans two acres on Grand Traverse, just east and west of Everett, in

See PARK, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Cayley Sr., son of park namesake Charles Cayley, cuts the ceremonial ribbon for the re-dedication of Cayley Park in Westland.

Carjacking suspect ordered to receive competency evaluation

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A Westland man — accused of attempting two carjackings outside a Canton Walmart after witnesses said he first brandished two airguns inside the store — has for now avoided trial.

Police also allege that Faheem Tamir-Saul Nance, 25, made threats he had a bomb inside a Honda Accord he tried to steal, but authorities say the claim was false.

Nance's court proceedings are on hold because he has been referred to a forensics center for a psychiatric evaluation, after a defense attorney

raised questions about whether he should be held criminally responsible and whether he is competent.

The latest developments arose in October in 35th District Court, where Nance's probable cause hearing has been pushed back to Dec. 18 on two counts of carjacking, six counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and one count each of armed robbery, making a false bomb threat and felony firearm.



Nance

See SUSPECT, Page A2

Ceremony to honor vets; free movie, haircuts offered

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Local veterans can enjoy a free movie and a free haircut on Veterans Day.

» A free screening of the new James Bond movie *SPECTRE* is set for 1 p.m. Wednesday at the MJR Westland Grand Cinema 16, 6800 N. Wayne Road.

State Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor, is hosting the movie. Tickets are limited to two per veteran and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are required.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call 517-373-7800, email senhhopgood@senate.michigan.gov or visit facebook.com/#!/SenHopgood.

» The Westland Veterans Association will honor all veterans with a ceremony at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Veterans Memorial Garden of West-



FILE PHOTO

A marker at the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland.

land behind the William P. Faust Library on Central City Parkway. There will also be a special recognition of the 50th anniversary of Vietnam.

» Dobozy's Barbershop in Westland is offering free hair-

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These walls can talk: SC College photos shed light on past

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Ashley Demarest, 18, a Schoolcraft College biology student, was studying at the Radcliff Center in Garden City recently. As she entered the center's Michigan Heritage Room, she wondered about the 21 black-and-white photos revealing much of Detroit's history.

"I like them," the 2015 Westland John Glenn High graduate said of the photos. "It's cool to see all the old stuff," such as brick roads. "I prefer that to all the new stuff. I would rather stay simple."

Said Bonnie Heckard-Farmer, associate dean of College Centers, "It was fun picking

these out. I'm not from the area," the Mount Pleasant native added.

The 21 photos are from *The Detroit News* archives. "They have a whole gallery you can shop from. It's just nice to have local art on the wall."

For years, the Radcliff Center hosted police and fire training for Schoolcraft. EMT training remains there, although the police and firefighters now have their own building at Merriman and I-96. That means early police and firefighters are featured in photos.

One photo shows a policeman directing traffic from a tower in a Detroit business district. Another shows the

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PARK

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Norwayne. The park has a picnic shelter, grills, picnic tables and play equipment.

The park was named for the late Charles Cayley, who was a Nankin Township trustee. Cayley's son Michael Cayley Sr. has made two donations totaling \$8,000 to fund improvements at the park.

Cayley Sr. attended the dedication ceremony. He grew up in Westland, now resides in Chicago and is President of Mida-

co Corporations, a manufacturing company based out of Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

"We are so honored to receive this generous gift from Mr. Cayley," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "It is so rewarding to see people taking pride in the communities that they were raised in, and the family history that these communities hold, even after they have moved away."

The city has also budgeted \$28,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds for yet-to-be-determined future improvements to the park.

VETERANS

Continued from Page A1

cuts for veterans from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday. Walk-ins are welcome. The barbershop is at 244 N. Wayne Road. Call 734-721-4247 for more information.

» City offices in West-

land and Wayne will be closed Wednesday, including 18th District Court in Westland and 29th District Court in Wayne. Emergency services and trash collection will be unaffected by the holiday.

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Twitter: @LRogersObserver

Westland Police seek help identifying suspect in armed robbery incident at CVS

Westland Police are asking for help identifying an armed robbery suspect who robbed the CVS Pharmacy on Wednesday.

According to police, the suspect entered the CVS at 31411 Cherry Hill around 4:15 a.m. The suspect approached the counter acting as though he was going to purchase merchandise.

During the transaction, the suspect produced a large kitchen

knife and demanded money from the register, according to police. The employee cooperated and the suspect received the money and left without injuring employees, police said.

Westland Police tried tracking the suspect with a K9 unit. The track headed south and then ended shortly thereafter.

The suspect is described as a black male, age 40-45, 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-8 inches tall,

weighing approximately 200 pounds. The subject has a light complexion, a gray-and-black goatee and was wearing a black and gray "Detroit" baseball hat, a black jacket with front chest pockets, blue jeans and white gym shoes.

Anyone with any information about the suspect should contact the Westland Police at 734-722-9600 or Detective Gazdecki at 734-467-3250.



COURTESY WESTLAND POLICE
Westland Police are asking for help identifying this person, suspected in the robbery of the CVS at Cherry Hill and Merriman.

SUSPECT

Continued from Page A1

Charges against Nance followed a tense situation about 10:30 p.m. Sept. 13. Police say he pointed two Airsoft pistols at two employees inside the Walmart store on Ford Road, near Lotz,

and then attempted two carjackings involving customers in the parking lot.

Witnesses told police Nance managed to get inside one victim's Honda Accord, but struggled to work the manual transmission, giving officers time to reach the scene and make an arrest.

If convicted as charged, the defendant could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Nance had been slapped with a \$500,000 bond and ordered to jail after he was charged.

During the incident, police had received reports the suspect was pointing handguns at

people — some who believed the weapons were real — inside the store. Then, outside, one potential victim drove off amid an attempted carjacking before the suspect got into the second car.

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PHOTOS

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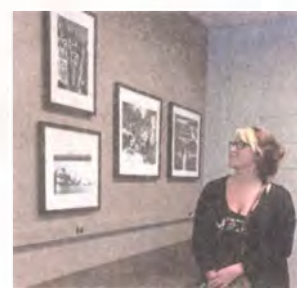
Bob-Lo boat steaming along.

"Some of them remember the Uniroyal conversations," Heckard-Farmer said of younger Schoolcraft students. They also like the Hitsville, U.S.A., photo with its year of 1965 shown in the Motown front window.

"They like looking at them. They always try to find out more about the story," she said of current students whose curiosity is piqued.

The Michigan Heritage Room at Radcliff isn't new, and the framed photos went up about four years ago. Students from the nearby Garden City Middle School enjoy visiting the room for their after-school program. Heckard-Farmer said.

"It's just a fun place



JULIE BROWN

Schoolcraft College student Ashley Demarest, 18, of Westland admires Detroit photos in the Michigan Heritage Room of the Radcliff Center in Garden City.

to meet," she said. "It doesn't feel like a classroom." The building was a former public school, and Schoolcraft officials have worked to make it inviting to adult students.

"It was always in the plan. It never happened," she said of adding small placards with short histories on the photos. "I need to put

somebody on that project."

She'd like to keep a journal in the room, too, for visitors to record memories. One shows paperboys — then all young boys — delivering *The Detroit News*. "Were you a *Detroit News* carrier? Jot them down," the associate dean said of memories.

The Michigan Heritage Room also hosts functions for the local Kiwanis and Rotary, as well as Garden City school-related meetings and computer training.

"My goal is to make this the community's college," said Farmington resident Heckard-Farmer, on the job there about four years. Of Garden City's K-12 district, she added, "We do whatever we can to help support them. We try to partner with them. We all know a better school's a stronger community."

She didn't see much of Detroit as a girl. "My

parents weren't big travelers. We would go north," recalled Heckard-Farmer, who in younger days was excited to see McDonald's golden arches in Lansing.

Of adding the suburbs to the walls, the administrator said, "That would be fun. That's a good idea. All of that, and Ford Road, is so different."

Perhaps Ashley Demarest, the biology student and Westland resident, will see that happen. She likes Schoolcraft, as it's "conveniently located, sort of affordable. My teachers are good, the building's nicely kept."

Her transition from high school took some getting used to: "This is a lot different," Demarest said. "A lot more responsibility. It was a big transition."

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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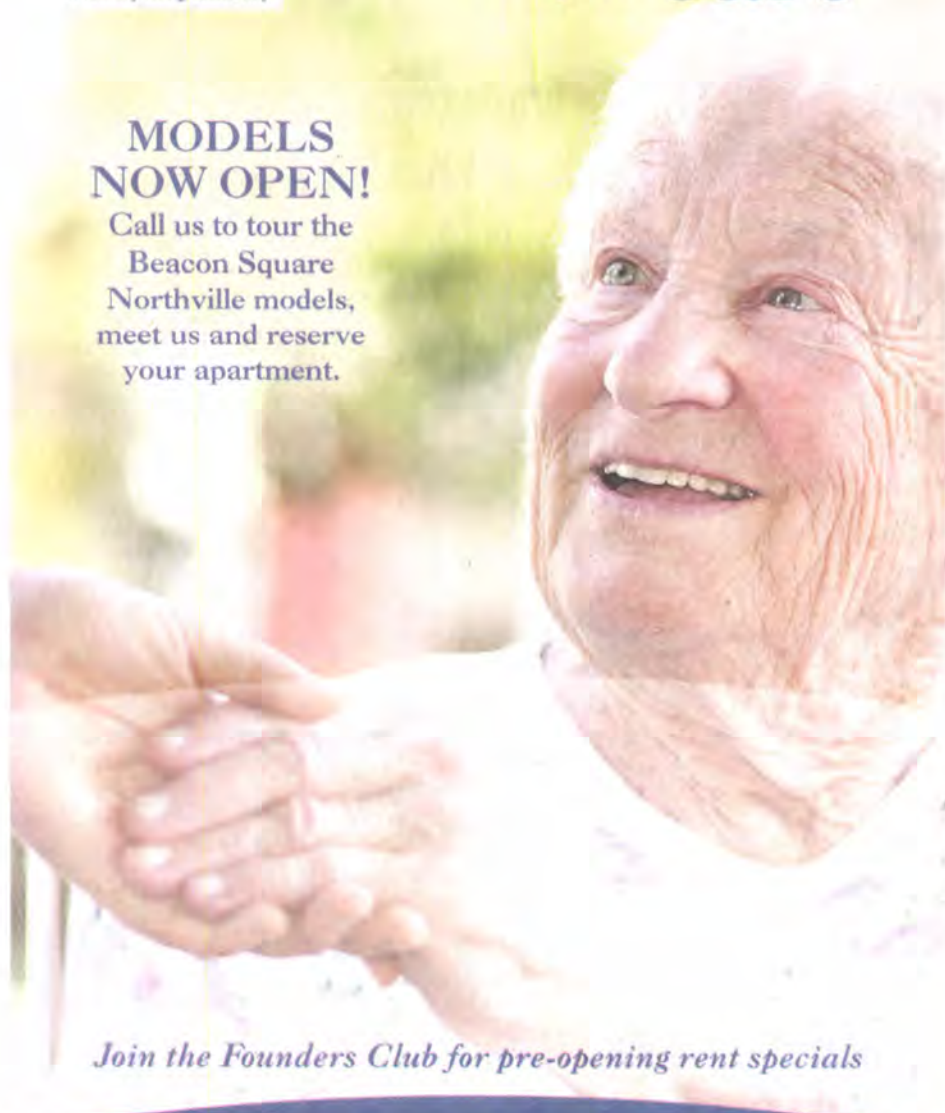


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Monday, November 16 - 4:30pm
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Henry Ford Centennial Library
16301 Michigan Avenue
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Wednesday, November 18 - 6:00PM
Wixom Public Library
49015 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393

Monday, November 23 - 6:00PM
Walled Lake City Library
1499 E. West Maple Road
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Teachers of the Year go above, beyond for students

Karen Smith
 Correspondent

The Livonia school board Monday night honored its Teachers of the Year for 2015-16.

Loren Schnell, fourth-grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary, is Elementary Teacher of the Year; Michael Rais, music teacher at Frost Middle School, is Middle School Teacher of the Year; and Julie Cosgrove, math teacher at Franklin High School, is High School Teacher of the Year.

The teachers were chosen from among the district's 1,000 educators by a 13-member committee made up of teachers, administrators and parents.

"The selection process is often difficult, as you can imagine," said Stacy Jenkins, the district's administrator of district communications. "We review nomination forms and data sheets with narratives from each nominee. There are far more excellent teachers in our district than the number we are able to honor each year. But the running list of honorees grows with each passing year." The program is in its 32nd year.

Loren Schnell

Schnell's teaching philosophy is centered around making

kids feel confident and competent in school - leaving doubt and low self-esteem at the door, Jenkins said during her introduction of Schnell.

On the first day of teaching for LPS more than two decades ago, a student told him: "I'm the bad kid. Watch out for me." Schnell responded that he was not a bad kid at all because he would not let him be.

In accepting the award, Schnell thanked many colleagues, including Interim Superintendent Andrea Oquist, who he said took a chance on a second-career teacher. But he also thanked all his former students and their families. "I've learned so much from all of you and I can only hope you learned a little bit from me as well," he said. He added that he hopes in the short time they were together, they left with sense they are smart, brave, competent and capable of taking the next step in life.

Schnell also serves as a district literacy leader. Former Roosevelt Principal Kay DePerro, in her reference letter, said "his contributions to both our school and Livonia Public Schools as a district, are endless."

Michael Rais

Michael Rais, who teaches five music classes at Frost and serves as assistant band direc-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Stacy Jenkins talks about the significance of the Golden Apple award, given to Teachers of the Year Michael Rais, Loren Schnell, and Julie Cosgrove.

tor for Churchill High School, received nomination letters from more than a dozen parents. A professional touring musician, Rais is passionate about music and about inspiring his students to follow their musical passions as well, Jenkins said.

One parent wrote: "Students admire and strive to be all they can be, by playing their best for Mr. Rais," she said.

A product of LPS, Rais remembers the opportunities he was given as a student to play with great jazz musicians including Al Martin who accompanied Billie Holiday. He said

that was something "I wanted to bring back to LPS," so after teaching briefly in Birmingham, he jumped at the chance to teach in Livonia.

When his students were learning and practicing a piece of music they had planned to perform in festival competition, Raise used a LPS Education Foundation grant to Skype with the composer of the piece. The composer listened as the students performed and offered feedback.

Julie Cosgrove

Julie Cosgrove teaches the high-level International Baccalaureate math courses as well

as stand level math classes at Franklin. Cosgrove believes that there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to learning and that she must find what works for every student, every day and every school year, Jenkins said.

For example, Jenkins said, when students ask if she will attend their performance in the school play, she buys a ticket; when students perform poorly on an assessment, she offers retakes; when students do not understand the importance of doing well in high school - or their options for higher education, she plans a trip to visit local colleges and universities; when students need to earn community service hours, she takes them to feed homeless people in Detroit on a Saturday morning or she trains them to be Early Literacy Volunteers.

Explaining her philosophy, Cosgrove said, "I can never predict which of my actions will finally motivate a particular student, so I just keep strategically trying new things until something works."

Franklin Principal Dan Willenborg said Cosgrove builds strong and positive relationships with her students and mixes well the seriousness of effort and hard work with the creative fun of learning new concepts.

Huskies team up with Rockets for fundraiser

John Glenn High School students and staff recently welcomed future rockets from P.D. Graham Elementary School for the first Rocket-Husky Run.

P.D. Graham fourth-graders spent the morning on the high school track, running and walking laps with Glenn students. Both schools used this event as a fundraiser.

John Glenn students plan to donate the money they raised to the American Cancer Society during next year's Relay for Life. Money raised by the P.D. Graham students will be given to the PTA.



WWCSD
 The P.D. Graham Husky poses with Assistant Principal Kim Cieszynski, Principal David Ingham from John Glenn High School and Jennifer Curry, the principal of P.D. Graham Elementary School.



WWCSD
 P.D. Graham fourth-graders join a John Glenn High School student in running around the track.

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Michigan remains accredited in emergency management procedures

Gov. Rick Snyder announced Nov. 4 that the state of Michigan has retained its accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. This national accreditation reaffirms the ability of state government to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies and disasters.

"The state of Michigan continues to be a national emergency management and homeland security leader," Snyder said. "In Michigan, we are committed to having a system in place that ensures our residents are prepared for all hazards, whether natural or human-made. I commend the Michigan State Police and the other state departments for their dedication and commitment in this arena."

As of October, 31 state emergency management programs were accredited.

To achieve re-accreditation, Michigan was required to document how the state's emergency preparedness and response system meets 64 national standards and undergo a peer-review assessment by an independent team of EMAP assessors.

The accreditation process was led by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Division, which is responsible for coordinating the state's activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

"This achievement displays Michigan's dedication to protecting the health and safety of Michiganders during times of crisis," said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, state director of Emergency Management and Home-

land Security and director of the MSP. "The accreditation process was crucial for assessing Michigan's emergency plans and procedures, ensuring we continue to be compliant with current emergency management standards and are establishing best practices for years to come."

The accreditation is valid for five years from the date granted by the EMAP Commission. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and are reassessed every five years.

EMAP is a voluntary assessment and accreditation process for federal, state and local government agencies. The program was established by a group of national organizations to foster continuous improvement and accountability in emergency management

and homeland security. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 areas, including planning, resource management, training, exercises, evaluations, corrective actions and communications and warning.

For more information about emergency planning in Michigan, go to michigan.gov/emhsd.

Coffee with mayor, casino trip coming

Mornings with the Mayor

Westland Mayor William Wild will hold his monthly Mornings with the Mayor coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road.

This is an opportunity to talk about city services or programs and events.

In honor of Small Business Saturday and the upcoming holiday season, the mayor will be raffling off four \$25 gift cards to local business Westland Car Care. To enter, just bring a non-perishable food item, unwrapped toy or small monetary donation for the Westland Goodfellows to the Nov. 10 coffee hour.

Donations for the Westland Goodfellows will be accepted at boxes in the city hall lobby and other municipal buildings throughout the holiday season.

The gift cards will also be raffled off at the Dec. 8 Morning with the Mayor event. Details on that raffle will be announced later this month.

Veterans Day

Westland will hold a Veterans Day program at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Veterans Memorial Garden on Central City Parkway behind the William P. Faust Library. Everyone is invited.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

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TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Vivian Lee Shoreck, who lived at 865 Westchester Road, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230 died October 7, 2015. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jasper Scandarito, 20305 Frazho Street, St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48081, named Trustee, or to both the probate court at WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE COURT, COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER, 2 WOODWARD AVENUE, ROOM 1305, DETROIT MICHIGAN 48226 and the named Trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.


Date: 10/27/2015

Trustee Name

Jasper Scandarito
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Former Livonia resident goes into Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

The late Janet C. Cooper, a former Livonia resident, was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame at an awards dinner and induction ceremony last week at the Kellogg Center in Lansing.

A longtime League of Women Voters member, Cooper was nominated by two fellow League members, Paula Bowman and Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, who attended the ceremony. Janet Cooper's sister, Marjory Cooper, also attended and accepted the award at the ceremony.

Janet Cooper began working for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in 1963. She started as a field investigator, educating the public about civil rights issues, and for the next 33 years



Cooper

worked her way up through the department, eventually serving as legal director and then deputy director of the entire department.

After receiving her law degree in 1974 from Wayne State, she became an adjunct professor of employment law at Wayne State. She later taught at the Detroit College of Law and the Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University until her death in 2002. During this time, Cooper mentored many young men and women and inspired many future generations of lawyers. Cooper served as

chair of the Metro Detroit Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and, in the late 1990s, as chair of the ACLU of Michigan. Cooper led the ACLU to adopt affirmative action standards and guidelines which are still in place today.

Cooper was particularly active in addressing housing discrimination and women's issues in the 1960s and '70s.

"She had a passion for eliminating disparate treatment and securing remedies for such discrimination throughout her life," Bowman said. "Her commitment to civil rights knew no boundaries and her professional responsibilities were inextricably linked to her community activism." Cooper lived in Livonia for 37 years and, despite her high-profile professional life, she was committed to serving her local community as well. She was the chair of the ethics committee for the Livonia City Council and helped draft the city's code of ethics for public officials, which passed in 1996.

These rules still govern the activities of Livonia's elected officials and employees. She was active in the League of Women Voters, Michigan Women's Campaign Fund, an early supporter of PLAID (People of Livonia Addressing Issues of Diversity) and numerous other organizations where she was able to give back to the community.

Green grants available for student-led initiatives

Peace, Love & Planet is offering \$50 to \$400 Go Green mini grants to qualifying student-led "green" initiatives.

Student charged initiatives addressing environmental concerns enable young people to become part of the solution while contributing positively to the community. Additionally, collaboration, implementation and project promotion will help develop valuable leadership skills. The deadline to apply is Dec. 5. Apply at peaceloveandplanet.org.

Northville-based Peace, Love & Planet's mission is to nurture appreciation for nature and promote environmentally responsible

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The mini grants are made possible by a matching grant from Farmington/Farmington Hills Foundation for Youth and Families, which promotes the growth of organized philanthropy that enriches the quality of life in those communities.

For more information, contact Gina Adams-Levy at 248-840-0248 or plp_gina@me.com.

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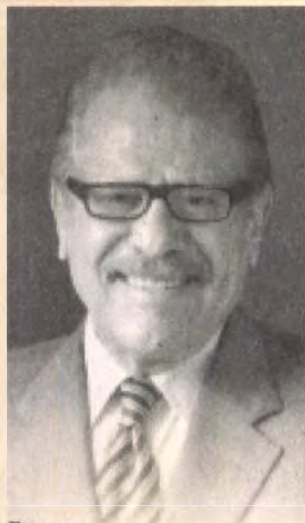
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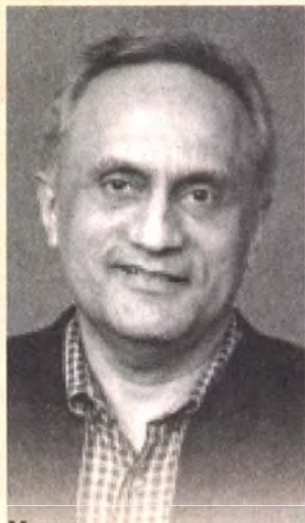
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Charities benefit from success of Chili Cook-Off

Sue Mason
Correspondent

Four Garden City charities receiving "sizable" donations from the eighth annual Garden City Chili Cook-Off.

A total of \$13,300 was divided among the Mayor's Committee for Underprivileged Children, United Needy Families, Straight Farmhouse and Garden City Goodfellows.

"The Chili Cook-Off was a huge success, allowing us to make sizable donations to our four local charities," said Downtown Development Executive Director Kim Dold in presenting checks of \$3,325 to the four charities. "It takes a community to do something like this, and Garden City is a great community."

Organizers borrowed a page from Westland's annual Blues, Brews and Barbecue with donations made to the organization of choice of volunteers per hour worked.

Organizations receiving proceeds were the Garden City Library, Autos for Autism, Garden City High School Boosters, Merriman Road F.A.I.T.H. Riders, O.U.R. Home Food Pantry, Straight Farmhouse,



DDA Executive Director Kim Dold (left) and Mayor Randy Walker present a Chili Cook-Off check to United Needy Families chairman Phil Boccaccio.

Project Graduation and Garden City Kiwanis.

"Thank you for the donation and the DDA for doing such a good job. You're doing some good here," UPC chairman Bob Squires said.

"The chili cook-off is getting bigger and better every year," Mayor Randy Walker said. "We have great volunteers in the city; no one gets paid to put this on. Thank you Kim and the volunteers for putting in a lot of hours."



Receiving a check is Mark Hammer, president of the Straight Farmhouse and Garden City Historical Museum.



Representing the Garden City Goodfellows at the check presentation was secretary Jaime Beccaccio.



Bob Squires, chairman of the Mayor's Committee for Underprivileged Children, accepts a check from Kim Dold (left) and Mayor Randy Walker.

WESTLAND, WAYNE, GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY EVENTS

Train Show

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club is sponsoring a buy and swap Railroadiana Train Show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, at the Ss. Simon and Jude Church Social Hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland.

There will be approximately 100 dealer tables available. The cost is \$10 for an 8-foot table. Dealer set up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show, and complimentary coffee and donuts will be available for dealers until 10:30 a.m. Food also will be available. Admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family. Parking is free.

For more information or table reservations, call Bob at 734-728-1247 or Norm at 734-595-8327.

Collectors show

A collectors show including Star Wars, Star Trek, lunch boxes, non-sport cards, G.I. Joe's, hot wheels, comic books, music items, movie posters, games, DVDs, beer signs, models, Hallmark and other items takes place Sunday, Nov. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Livonia Elks, 3117 Plymouth Road (just east of Merriman).

For more information, call Jacquie or Joe at 586-329-8213.

Spaghetti Dinner

St. John's Episcopal Church is having a Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7:30 pm on Friday, Nov. 13, at the church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years and



Wish you were here

George and Joyce Kopp from Livonia were at the Eagle's Nest, Hitler's private refuge, in the Bavarian Alps of Salzberg, Austria Oct. 12. A coach took the couple on a "breathtaking ride along steep rock walls and gorges up to the base of Kehlstein" and from there a large elevator carried them up another 365 feet into the Eagle's Nest with spectacular views in every direction.

under. Children age 3 and under are free. The dinner includes salad, bread, dessert and beverage.

For more information, call 734-721-5023.

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland is holding its monthly spaghetti dinner from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert for \$8 for adults, \$4 for children age 12 and under. Children age 3 and under are free.

The center will hold its monthly game night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call 734-419-2020.

Historical Society

The public is invited to attend the Wayne Historical Society's general

meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Town Square.

Come early, the museum will be open from 4-7 p.m. for tours and stay for refreshments. At 7:30 pm, Al Damitio will take guests on a fascinating trip back in time with color slides of the City in the 1050s, 1960s and 1970s, showing Parades, sidewalk sales and the 1969 Wayne Centennial Celebration.

Business Alliance

The Garden City Business Alliance will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, north of Ford, Garden City.

The GCBA meets on the second Friday of each month. New members welcomed. For more

information, visit the GCBA gcbiz48135.org, email gcbusinessalliance@gmail.com or call 734-788-9319.

Grandparents Support Group

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland is holding a Grandparents Support Group 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the church, 3 Town Square, Wayne. The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month and is for kinship caregivers, and all grandparents who are raising grandchildren or have concerns about their grandchildren.

Call Linda Maylone at 734-674-7239 for more information.

Crop FUNdraiser

St. Damian School will hold a 15-hour Crop FUNdraiser 9 a.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 14, in the community room, 29891 Joy, east of Merriman, in Westland. The cost is \$40 for a full day and \$25 for a half day. Cost includes a light breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and drinks. There also will be raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

Contact Karen Crunk at crunkk1@att.net for more information — type 15crop in subject line — or call 734-421-2853. Calls will be returned in the evening.

Community Concert

Good Hope Lutheran Church will host musician Rick Thum in workshops and a concert Saturday, Nov. 14, at the church, 28680 Cherry Hill in Garden City.

Workshops will be 9-10:30 a.m. for beginners, costing \$25 and two workshops for those of all levels 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. for a cost of \$30. The workshops will explore the basics and more, depending on the level and

needs of participants. Participants will learn how to use the chords and embellishments — how to find them fast and how many do you need. Take \$5 off is taking more than one workshop.

Thum will be in concert 6-7:30 p.m., followed by open jamming 7:30-9:30 p.m. Concert tickets are \$12 each and, if registered in a workshop, \$6.

For more information, contact Rick Thum at 314-406-0690, rthum@rthum.com or www.rthum.com.

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Farmington Hills mom promotes legislation to guard student data

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Are you concerned about who can access public school data bases – which serve as holding tanks for completed student assignments, personal information and more?

Farmington Hills resident Tammy Luty certainly is. And she recently made those concerns known in Lansing.

Luty, Michigan PTA's federal legislative chair, former president of the Farmington PTA Council and mother of three in the Farmington Public Schools district, was a featured speaker at the state's House Educational Committee meeting Oct. 22, as part of Michigan PTA Advocacy Day 2015. A main focus of the meeting was student privacy, and proposed legislation to protect it.

In her speech, Luty talked about her 13 years as a parent in the FPS district, and how technology use at school has greatly increased. With students' assignments for math and writing using online applications, for example, she questioned who owns the data and



Michigan PTA members pose for a photo outside the House chamber in Lansing, along with Rep. Christine Greig and Rep. Jeremy Moss.

the student reports, and how long it will be stored. "Never am I asked as a parent if it is OK. It is just now part of the curriculum and required. So I have to hope that someone will protect this data about my child," she said. "The security is based on if the software company will not use this data to negatively impact my student or sell the data to another company."

"The laws that are currently in place date back to when I was in school and we know that technology has changed a

lot since then...I have to be asked if my name, address and phone number can be shared in a school directory. Yet I have no control on who owns the data my student enters or the school district stores in all the databases it maintains or hires companies to maintain on students in our school system," she said.

Laws protecting student data privacy, she said, haven't "kept pace with the technology use" in schools.

That's what HB 4894 is designed to correct.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Tedder – who introduced the bill at the hearing – the legislation would require protection of school data and personal information contained on websites or online with companies that provide contracted services for public school districts.

"I urge you to pass the legislation on student data privacy and protect the students in Michigan," Luty told the committee.

Luty said she decided to take up the student data privacy cause for



Nick Luty, Harrison High School PTSA president, was among the group from Farmington-Farmington Hills who attended Advocacy Day. He's pictured here with Rep. Christine Greig.

Advocacy Day 2015 after attending a National PTA conference on its last year, in Washington, D.C.

"Having an active bill on this in Lansing also made it a great opportunity to be involved and represent the students and parents from across our state as Advocacy is the heart of PTA mission," she said.

It's been more than five years since the Michigan PTA held Advocacy Day in Lansing, and Luty said she would

have liked to see more participation from students and parents. Still, she said, "the ones that did attend had a great day of seeing the legislative process in action. Hopefully, we can see progress on student data privacy in Lansing."

Michigan PTA Advocacy Day 2015 was sponsored by Microsoft Corporation.

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For some people a trust is invaluable, but in other cases a will is sufficient

Q. My husband and I are in our 50s. We have three grown daughters. One still lives at home. We own our own home and two vehicles. Other than that, we don't have any other property. My husband has a 401(k) and an annuity; those have beneficiaries on them. I was wondering if you thought a will or a trust would be better for us?

A. I think in your situation, a will would be sufficient. After all, it appears from your situation that everything you own could avoid probate; therefore, why go through the expense of doing a trust when you can just have a will? In fact, the Michigan Statutory Will may fit your needs. The Michigan Statutory Will is a free fill-in-the-blank will that fits many people's situation. In this will, you can name beneficiaries as well as personal representatives. You can download a free copy of the Michigan Statutory Will on my website, www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

In reviewing the situation at hand, one thing



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

you want to verify is that on your husband's 401(k) and the annuity, you name primary and secondary beneficiaries. In addition, you should consider doing something with the deed on your home so that upon your and your husband's death, the property can go to your daughters without having to go through probate. A type of deed that you should consider is what is known as a Lady Bird Deed.

Trusts are not for everyone, but for many people they are an invaluable estate planning tool. Trusts can be used to control property past your death; for example, if you're in a situation where your beneficiary will not be able to handle their inheritance. As an example, it could be an adult child that is irresponsible with money. In those situations, a trust can be used to divvy up the property over time as

opposed to a beneficiary receiving their inheritance in one lump sum. In addition, trusts are an effective estate planning tool to reduce or to minimize estate taxes. Particularly, for someone who has an estate more than \$10 million, a living trust can result in a significant tax savings. Lastly, a trust is a very good estate planning tool to pass property such as artwork and collectibles that do not have a beneficiary designation attached to them. By having a living trust, this property can avoid probate.

One last thing, even though I feel that in this particular case a will would be sufficient, don't forget you need other estate planning documents as well. I'm a believer that every adult

today needs to have a durable power of attorney so someone can take over their affairs in case of an emergency, plus a medical durable power of attorney, which allows you to state what your medical wishes are and who should be in charge if you can't do it.

Don't think estate planning is only for people with substantial means; nothing can be further from the truth. Estate planning, in some form or the other, is important to all adults. Remember, a good estate plan doesn't just deal with death, but also encompasses how to deal with a family emergency.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Email questions to rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Senate prayer



State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, welcomed the Rev. Scott Sessler to lead the invocation Wednesday before the Senate session. Sessler (right) is the pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia.

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P-C Marching Band chalks up another win

Kim Ward
Correspondent

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band served up a sweet Halloween treat by ending the regular marching band season with another first-place finish Oct. 31 at Livonia Franklin High School.

PCMB scored 95.575 for its performance of their 2015 "E.X.O." an otherworldly show about what happens when alien nations meet for the first time. It features music by Aaron Copland.

Once again, the band also captured the awards for Outstanding Music Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Effect.

In Flight II competition, Wyandotte Roosevelt came in first place with a score of 87.775 and captured the awards for Outstanding Music Performance, Visual Performance and General Effect.

The winner in Flight III competition was Redford Thurston, with a score of 88.550. Thurston also captured the awards for Outstanding Music Performance, Visual Performance and General Effect.

Ferndale won in Flight IV competition and also took home awards for Outstanding Music Performance and General Effect.

Marching Band director Jon Thomann said he has been very proud of the student marchers all season.

"The band continues to strive for excellence each and every day," Thomann said. "When the students believe in themselves, set goals and do everything they can to prepare to achieve those goals, the journey becomes so enjoyable. That is exactly how the marching band has de-

veloped this season." According to junior Brian Vasquez, bass clarinetist, not even the rain could dampen PCMB's performance on the field. "There was a huge amount of power on the field and everyone was putting all of their energy into the music and movement," he said. "It was great!"

PCMB this week prepared to defend its state champion title Saturday at the Michigan Competing Band Association state championship at Ford Field in Detroit. PCMB has been Flight I state champion 24 times.

"We have a lot to look forward to at states since we compete with many great band programs. I can't wait to see the kids perform," Thomann said.

Tournament of Roses Parade

Although the regular competitive season ended Saturday, PCMB will continue to practice for its appearance Jan. 1, 2016, in the 127th annual Tournament of Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

And while the band practices, the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters will still be busily fundraising to ensure that all the student marchers are able to make the trip to Pasadena.

"Many people are working incredibly hard to make sure we raise enough money to offset the burden of cost families will bear to send their students to march in this iconic parade," said Chris Zygmunt, booster club president. "This will be a fabulous, never-to-be-forgotten experience for these kids and we want all 176 members to participate, so we hope the Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities come to our last two major fundraisers and make the trip happen for



A view from the stands as Plymouth-Canton performs its 2015 show, "E.X.O."

KRISTAN RODWELL

these kids."

Pucks for Pasadena

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth will host a USA Hockey National Team Development Program versus Red Wings Alumni Charity Hockey game. All proceeds will go to the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band for its trip to Pasadena. Tickets to this event are \$10. For more information, go to pcmb.net.

Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble

On Saturday, Nov. 21, PCMB will kick off the holiday season with its annual arts and crafts ensemble featuring more than 100 unique exhibitors, a bake sale, door prizes, concessions and music by members of the band. The show is held at Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, in Canton. Admission is \$2, with children under 12 free.



The PCMB brass and battery on the field.

KRISTAN RODWELL



KRISTAN RODWELL
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Pet Supplies Plus hosts pet pain workshop

New developments for treating pain in pets are being used to help dogs and cats with health problems from arthritis to cancer. But first, pet owners have to know how to spot signs of pain, which is the main focus of an upcoming workshop 7-8 p.m. on Nov. 19 at Pet Supplies Plus of White Lake.

The workshop, "Pain doesn't have to hurt," is part of the health series Pawsitively Healthy, conducted by Andrea Putt, D.V.M., of Commerce Village Veterinary Hospital in Commerce Township (www.commercevillagevet.com).

Left untreated, pain in pets can cause severe stress, lack of appetite and depression, which can all lead to more serious health issues, said Putt. The program is designed to help pet owners recognize the warning signs of a pet in pain along with an overview of recent developments and approaches in treating dog and cat pain.

Veterinary medicine has come a long way and pain management in pets has become the norm. Today, veterinarians are prescribing not only specifically formulated pet pain medications, but they are also recommending therapies like acupuncture, laser therapy, massage and physical therapy, all intended to treat pet discomfort associated with injuries — such as fractures and muscle strains — as well as arthritis, chronic conditions such as pancreatitis and serious illnesses such as cancer.

"The bottom line is that no pet should ever



Pet Supplies Plus in White Lake will host a workshop with Commerce Village Veterinary Hospital on identifying pet pain.

have to be in pain," Putt stated. "There are too many alternatives for pets with both acute, quickly onset pain, and with chronic pain that is persistent like that experienced with arthritis. The key is recognizing the signs."

In dogs and cats, signs of pain can be subtle since many species, as a throw-back to living in the wild, mask their suffering to ward off would-be predators. In other cases, signs can be more obvious like having trouble walking or going up and down stairs.

In addition to focusing on warning signs and new treatments, the workshop will also discuss what pet owners can do at home to help make pets more comfortable.

This includes joint care supplements, mobility aids to help pets access furniture and vehicles, and comfort care items such as heating pads.

"Pain can affect a pet at any age," Putt stated. "We have seen pets only a few years old with arthritis pain. Pain does not discriminate. Any pet — of any size, any breed and any age — can suffer from pain."

Pawsitively Healthy workshops are held at Pet Supplies Plus, 6845 Highland Road in White Lake.

Advance registration is required. A \$5 donation per workshop with proceeds going to Elizabeth Lake Animal Rescue. Register online at www.addysp.wordpress.com.

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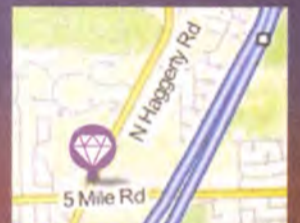
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Hills becomes new home for women's boutique

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When Beth Kranyak and Jim Seba were looking for a third location for their women's boutique C'est La Vie, they weren't really looking for a new home base.

Instead, they were looking to add to their inventory with a Farmington Hills location to go with stores in Novi and Dearborn and their headquarters at Northland Mall.

Then they found out they weren't going to be at Northland Mall much longer. When Northland officials told the C'est La Vie owners they were closing in May, Kranyak and Seba were left to scramble.

"Northland gave us 30 days to get out," said Kranyak, a Bloomfield Hills resident who opened C'est La Vie in 1984 with Seba. "We had other properties we could funnel stuff into."

The main property was the Orchard Lake Road facility in Farmington Hills. It seemed like a



Store manager Lulu Dickow, co-owner Beth Kranyak, of Bloomfield Hills, and C'est La Vie staffer Jade Hall.

natural, which is why the partners had bought the building in the first place. After all, Kranyak used to live in Farmington Hills; Seba still does, with his wife, Laura.

"It's a great place, it's a main thoroughfare," said Kranyak. "It's a little bit of an epicenter for us."

The pair had been a part of the management team at Donna Sacs at Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn when they decided to open C'est La

Vie. "We're both strong sellers so we said, 'Let's do it,'" Kranyak recalled. "When you're young and dumb (she was 20, Seba was 21), that's what you do."

Their first store opened in Southfield in 1984, selling a blend of men's and women's clothing. Expansion soon came to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and to the Fairlane Town Center. Now focused on women's fashion



Shopper Kim Campanalli of Orchard Lake makes her purchase with store manager Lulu Dickow. Dickow has been with C'est La Vie since the company opened in 1984.

including dresses, name-brand denim, shoes and accessories, C'est La Vie is flourishing in Farmington Hills.

This despite the advent of online shopping, which is biting into much of the retail market these days. But Kranyak said the beauty of her stores are that they provide shoppers with the tactile sense of what they're buying.

"The industry has changed in 30 years, with the online presence," Kranyak said. "People still like to come in and

try stuff on."

Kim Campanalli of Orchard Lake, shopping recently with her 18-year-old daughter, Cassidy, said the store carried a wide variety of merchandise.

"There's lots of different fashions for different styles and different ages," said Campanalli, shopping in the store for the first time. "You can actually see things and try them on."

Lulu Dickow manages C'est La Vie's Farmington Hills location, though it's not her first assignment.

She's been with Kranyak and Seba since the beginning, and believes taking care of customers like the Campanallis sits in line with the store's strategy.

"We give great customer service," Dickow said. "We go beyond to get what customers need. We stay in tune with what's 'in.' That's what the industry has lost."

In addition to the retail aspect, the Farmington Hills store will also be a "pass-through" location for employees wanting to pass on to management. Kranyak said C'est La Vie employees some 30 people in its three stores. "We have excellent employees, many of whom have been with us a long time," Kranyak said. "It's very much like a family."

Kranyak is happy they've settled into their first non-mall location.

"It's very homey here," Kranyak said. "It's much more relaxed than in the mall atmosphere."

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Child cancer survivor opens yoga studio in Birmingham for kids

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Twice before she reached the age of 13, Ashley Goldberg was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer.

The osteosarcoma was first detected in her left femur at the age of 7. Five years later, it returned in her rib cage.

The cancer kept her from participating in school sports and left her with a limp. It would have been an easy time to get discouraged, but Goldberg persevered. She credits part of her recovery process to yoga.

"I learned about breathing exercises and that played a really important part in helping



Child cancer survivor Ashley Goldberg, 31, runs a yoga studio with classes geared toward kids.

me get through chemo and the surgeries and everything," she said. "The whole experience has had a profound effect on me. It shaped my life and how I view the world today."

Today, Goldberg owns and operates a yoga

studio that's geared toward kids and families. It's called Born Yoga and it's located in a studio at 2121 Cole Street in Birmingham.

A former preschool teacher with a master's degree in clinical psychology, Goldberg, 31, wants her young students to understand there's more to yoga than just striking a certain pose. In many ways, she's passing on lessons she learned as a child cancer survivor.

"I bring a very playful approach to yoga, but I always bring an element of teaching," she said. "I teach students how to control their breathing and their bodies ... being present in the moment ... being

mindful and aware of who we are and how our actions affect ourselves and others."

Classes are geared toward pregnant moms, young families and adolescent groups ranging from ages 3-14. She also offers classes that are tailored to young students with special needs.

"I spent most of my childhood on crutches," she said. "Many of the lessons I teach improve muscle tone and balance, which gives them a good set of tools. And I use a lot of visual aids, which works well with autism and other sensory integration challenges."

Goldberg said about 80 percent of the classes are geared toward kids. Her lessons include sto-

ries — such as a tree reaching for the sun — to encourage her students to stretch or bend a certain way.

Most of all, she hopes to teach her students how to stay calm and focused, even during times of trouble.

"I tell my students they can take everything they're learning on the mat and apply it to the real world when they get stressed or angry," she said. "All you have to do is stop and breathe."

Go to the studio's website at bornyogastudio.com for a complete listing of classes and fees.

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Seniors, students share ageless passion for reading

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A simple lesson in reading is helping to form a bond between a Canton school and a senior housing center.

Twice now, seniors from Waltonwood at Carriage Park have visited Bentley Elementary School, listening intently while young students read to them. They are separated by generations, but drawn together by reading.

Pairing up, seniors huddle with students who realize someone other than a parent or teacher — someone they hardly know — cares about their reading skills.

"The students are beginning to build relationships with another generation," Bentley Principal Jerry Meier said. "The residual effect is the students have an opportunity to display their reading skills. They're reading for a purpose. The seniors' smiles do a whole lot to encourage the children to read."

Nichole Passmore, life enrichment director for Waltonwood at Carriage Park and a former Bentley PTO president, initiated the program as a way to enrich the lives of seniors and students, alike.

"For the seniors, hearing a child read to them is wonderful," she said. "And they love seeing the kids, too."

Students read from books or digital devices, teaching some seniors about technology such as iPads. Youngsters get to work on their reading skills as they develop new friendships.

"This is a way for them to form relationships, because a lot of the children don't have grandparents living with them," Meier said.

It's a program that also offers an outing for



Kindergartner Meah Hall reads to Marcia Fraser.

NICHOLE PASSMORE

seniors at Waltonwood at Carriage Park, which offers assisted living and independent housing.

Passmore said the seniors "love interacting with the students" and are "already looking forward to their next visit."

Meier said it's a good program that can grow.

"We're going to nurture this more and more," he said.

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Elena Allen practices her reading with Joe Mraulak.

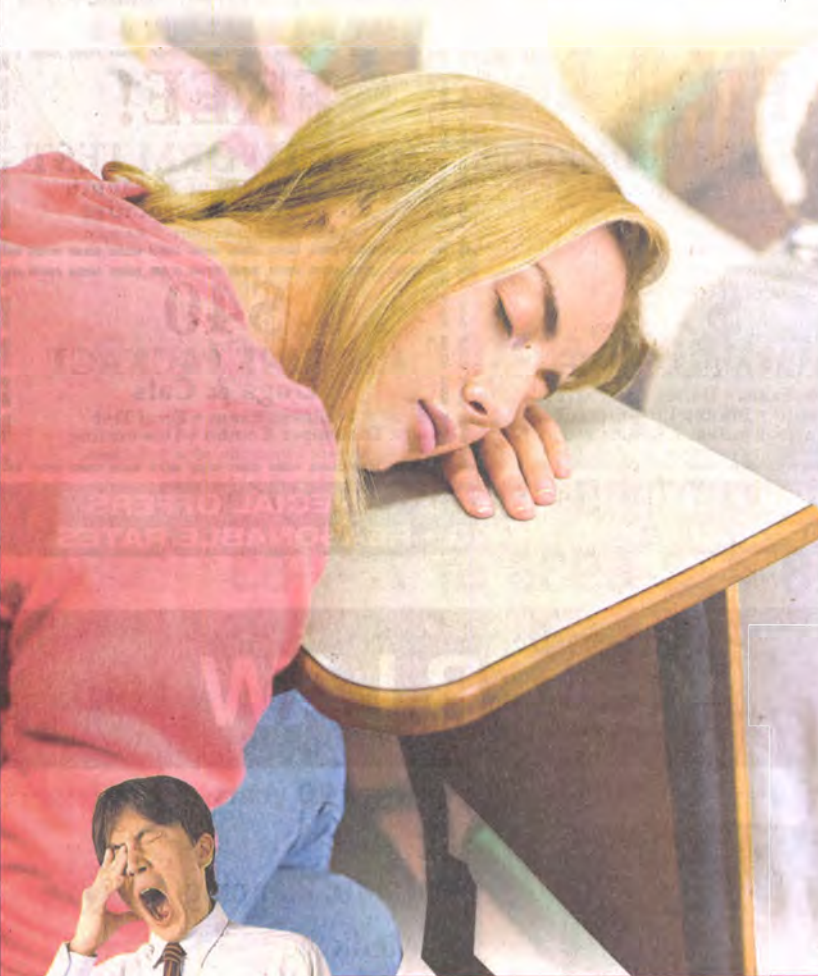
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Katelyn Mendal smiles during her reading exercise with Marie Porter.

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FOR THE LOVE OF KEVIN

Grieving mom shares story of son's death from heroin

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

At first glance, the Penny house in Farmington Hills is what many would consider a typical family home in a middle class, suburban neighborhood.

Enter the driveway off 13 Mile and right away you'll spot the basketball hoop and a garage filled with typical family stuff.

From the back yard, Stu the dog barks out a friendly greeting, his tail wagging.

And since it's almost Halloween, there's a large pumpkin on each of the front porch's three steps.

Typical family home. Step inside, and it's obvious the living room is all about hanging out there. Plenty of seating is arranged around the large-screen TV, including a perfect-for-lounging mattress plopped on the floor. A black and white kitty named Itty Bitty, still curious at age 12, leisurely strolls by.

A bulletin board hangs on a wall in the kitchen, showing off photos of mom, dad and three brothers taken over the last 15 years or so. Lil Bunny, the family's angora rabbit, sits munching in its pen near the side door.

Pretty much what you'd expect in a typical family home.

And set up in a corner of the dining room is the display that catches every eye that glances toward it.

Two North Farmington High School football jerseys laid out side-by-side in a shadow box, never to be worn again. A license plate from a car that's since been donated for scrap - never to be



Jeanette Penny has a tattoo in honor of her son, Kevin. AILEEN WINGBLAD

driven again. Photographs of a young man, grinning proudly on his graduation day. An angel lamp, its bulb always on to keep the collection perpetually illuminated.

And set up at the base of the display is a strip of yellow-painted wood, with a few red hearts and the symbols "11-1-2014, R.I.P. K.P."

The date Kevin Penny left this world, at age 20, when heroin got its hooks into him one last time. One final time.

So much for the typical family home. A heroin overdose is tragic, indeed, but it's way out there, isn't it? This type of evil doesn't come a-creeching into the lives of kids from loving homes in good neighborhoods, who have promising futures and opportunities galore. Right?

Jeanette Penny begs to differ: Hers is, indeed, a typical family home.

Heroin destroyed her oldest son, leaving a

throbbing emptiness in her heart and soul that will be there until she takes her own last breath. It's agonizing and perplexing.

It's her reality. And it has put her on a journey that has, so far, made it crystal clear that this can, and does, happen to a typical family. To a kid from a loving home in a good neighborhood, who had a promising future and opportunities galore.

And as the first anniversary of her beloved Kevin's death approaches, Penny is planning to mark that day with a public memorial and prayer service on the grounds of North Farmington High School.

And it's not just to remember her son - the three-sport star athlete with the good looks and friendliness and charm - but also to share information on available resources to deal with drug abuse and mental health. And, ultimately, to spread a message. A message

that people might not want to hear, but absolutely must heed. Doing so just might make the difference between life and death, she said.

"We have to keep this in the front for people - people who say 'it's not going to happen to me.' Parents who say 'it's not going to happen to my kid,'" said Penny. "Because it's anybody's kid. We can't just pretend our children are safe. We have to keep pounding this message into our community, because kids are dying from heroin use every single day."

The struggle begins

Penny's world came crashing down on a May morning in 2013.

Her two younger sons, Kyle and Nathan, were getting ready for school when they heard a loud noise from the kitchen.

It was Kevin, collapsed on the floor near the sink, unconscious. A broken glass and spilled water were next to him.

She knew it was a medical emergency, but thought maybe it was diabetes - like his father has - or some type of seizure. Once EMTs arrived, they suspected a drug overdose right away. Kyle and Nathan ran into Kevin's bedroom looking for evidence, and found a burned spoon.

Penny's shock and confusion was kicked into overdrive.

"I was so clueless ... it killed me to know he was using heroin," she said.

Kevin came close to dying that morning, Penny said. She vividly recalls the image of the emergency vehicle rocking back and forth in the driveway while the EMTs attempted to revive her son. "It took them 20 minutes to get his heart going again," she said.

He spent the next several days on life support in the hospital, fol-

lowed by nearly three weeks in intensive care. Once he was released, he was "scared, obviously, and ready for rehab," Penny said.

But he had to wait for a vacancy, and three weeks later Kevin was again using heroin, unbeknownst - at first - to Penny.

"He kept it under the radar, and often you really just can't tell," she said. "They can be pretty quiet about it. First, they get the high, the euphoria, and then comes the nod. And if you don't actually see it, you just don't know."

Then one day, Kevin came to her.

"He wanted help. He said, 'I'm in trouble, Mom. I need help,'" she recalled, voice quivering, eyes welling with tears.

After awhile, Kevin got into a rehabilitation program. But it was only for 30 days, which wasn't enough, Penny said.

"After the month was up, he said he was done. I knew he wasn't. I knew from what I had researched and the people I had consulted that the odds of survival, and of beating the addiction, take a long-term program," she said.

Penny found such a program in the Ann Arbor area, but again Kevin had to wait until a spot was available for him. And while he waited, of course, the heroin use continued.

She said she'd beg him not to go out, knowing by then what was going on.

"But he had to - he was getting sick if he didn't," Penny said.

Kevin absolutely despised using the drug, she said, and despised himself for his addiction.

"He'd come to me sobbing, saying 'I hate myself. I hate what I'm doing. But I don't know how to stop. How do I stop?' Nobody hates an

addiction more than the addict himself," Penny said.

Spreading the message

Kevin eventually made it into that long-term rehab program, seemed to do well, and was finishing out the last couple months of it - living in transitional housing - when the end came.

He and another recovering addict left the apartment complex, scored some heroin and returned home. Kevin's roommates, also recovering addicts, later told Penny they had no idea he had used that night.

"He walked in the door, said goodnight to them, and went into his bedroom," Penny said.

Kevin was found dead in his bed the next morning.

Soon after, police arrived at her doorstep in Farmington Hills to tell her Kevin was gone.

"I just remember screaming 'no, no, no' over and over," she said. "Over and over and over."

Penny keeps most of Kevin's ashes in a container next to her bed. A locket, which she wears "on occasion," holds some, too.

"How do I survive one day to the next? I just do," said Penny. "I have moments of just such profound sadness I can hardly breathe."

Other times, like when she's watching her son, Nathan, play football at NFHS, or the day Kyle graduated, she can relish a bit in the joy. But always, and before long, the horror of what became of her first-born returns.

"I'm a very broken mother, a broken woman. I'm just a broken person," she said.

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Tutoring program helps Titans on field, in classroom

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

There's a reason they're called student-athletes.

At East Middle School, the concept — that athletes must perform to a certain level to maintain their place in prep sports — is driven home twice a week.

That's how often East's football players meet with tutors from Club Z Tutoring, parent volunteers and coaches to work on their classroom skills. The volunteer tutors players learn to manage their time, work on academics that are troubling them and, most importantly, work as a team.

"The idea has always been ... we try to teach them they are student-athletes," said Todd Lipa, director of Farmington Hills youth and family services who is also the Titans' defensive coach. "You get to play because you're a student first."

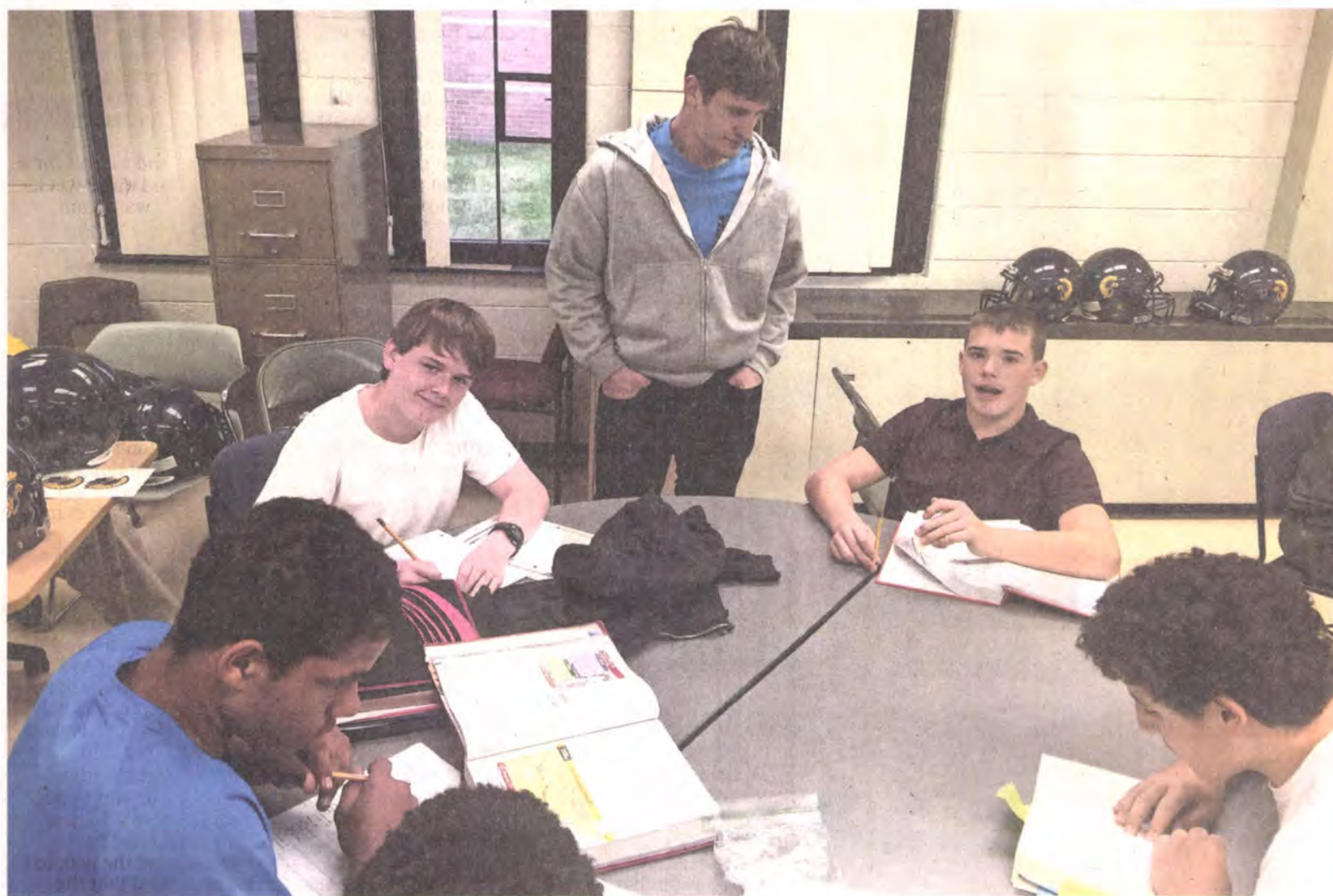
The key, according to Lipa, is to get the players to work together in the classroom as much as they do on the field. Two days a week, on the days the Titans conduct non-contact practices, the kids come into the classroom.

The team comes in a little early, "go through the basic stuff we have to get done," and then come into the classroom to work with the kids.

The idea is to teach the team's 30 players — "The lowest we've had recently," said Lipa — they have to develop good study skills and learn to manage their time.

Head coach Al Beyar monitors kids' grades and which subjects each might need work on. The goal is a 3.0 team grade-point average.

"Football is just a vehicle for (players) to get their grades up," said



John Pisaneschi of Club Z Tutoring works with East Middle School football players in an after-practice tutoring session.

BRAD KADRICH

"Football is just a vehicle for (players) to get their grades up. It's the academics that are going to drive them in the future."

HEAD COACH AL BEYAR

Beyar, a former teacher. "It's the academics that are going to drive them in the future."

John Pisaneschi of Club Z has been tutoring for a couple of years. He said the practice-time tutoring football players can be especially helpful to students who don't necessarily "get it" in class.

"A lot of the time in

class you don't always catch everything the teacher is saying," Pisaneschi said. "Here, you've got a guy like me who can explain it all."

The players seem to be buying into it. They just missed the GPA goal with a 2.97 a year ago, and Lipa said the team is on track to reach 3.0 when grades come out this week.

"It's a good way to build teamwork," said eighth-grader Jacody Sikora, the Titans' quarterback and captain. "We have many ups and downs but we stay together as a team and pick each other up."

Lipa agreed the players are supportive of the system, because they know how important the academics are.

"We ask all the athletes to work with each other and help each other be the best student they can be," he said.

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BRAD KADRICH

Parent Judy Miller is one of the volunteers working to help East Middle School players reach a team grade point average of 3.0.

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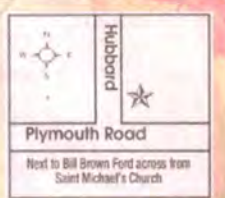
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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Franklin softball coach Jimenez resigns

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

It was fitting that Linda Jimenez pursued a career coaching high school softball because when it came to mentoring young athletes, she proved to be as sparkling as a "diamond".

Jimenez announced her retirement from the coaching

ranks after 20 years of leading Livonia Franklin's varsity softball program. Prior to taking over the Patriots, she served the same role at Westland John Glenn for nine seasons. "Linda was a tremendous



Jimenez

asset to our athletic program at Franklin," said Franklin Athletic Director Ron Hammye. "She knew the game, she played the game and she cared deeply about the athletes she coached.

"She was everything you'd want in a coach — organized, a good communicator, knowledgeable about her sport." Jimenez, who will continue

to teach health and physical education at Franklin, finished with a varsity coaching record of 524-387.

Stepping down was not easy, she admitted.

"This decision was really hard and very emotional because I love softball, coaching and working with young athletes," she said. "We graduated a great group of seniors (in

2015), including captains Becky Giacobbi and Sarah Cramton. I will go out with them.

"Coaching involves a year-round commitment. I want to give more time and energy to my teaching duties. Last year (Franklin) assistant principal Andrew Pesci introduced me

See RETIRE, Page B2

DIVISION 2 DISTRICT FOOTBALL FINAL



Livonia Franklin junior running back Chris Nehasil weaves through Jackson's defense for a 30-yard run during the Patriot's 63-35 victory Friday night.

ED WRIGHT

SECOND-HALF STATEMENT

Patriots scored 35 straight to deflate Vikings, 63-35

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In a matter of minutes during Friday night's Division 2 district final featuring Livonia Franklin and host Jackson, the game went from nail-biter

status to a hammer-time festival for the Patriots.

Trailing 35-28 with just 58.5 seconds left in the third quarter of the wildly entertaining contest, Franklin drew to within a point when Jacob Clark plunged into the end zone from

3 yards out.

After the Vikings were whistled for an offside infraction on the extra-point kick, Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert elected to go for two since the ball was moved up to the one-and-a-half yard line.

Senior quarterback Denzel Adams boot-legged right on

the play before lofting a perfect spiral to Ke-Mauri Heard in the right-corner of the end zone, giving the Patriots a 36-35 lead.

Franklin outscored its hosts 27-0 during the final 12 minutes to capture its first district title since 2007 and earn a berth in next week's regional

final against unbeaten Berkley.

"This feels great," Adams said. "But we're not done yet. The offensive line did a great job tonight and Jacob Clark was amazing."

Clark, who is technically the Patriots' third-string feature

See PATRIOTS, Page B4



TOM BEAUDOIN

Junior libero Alyssa Facione passes the ball during Churchill's three-set sweep of Garden City Friday night.

CLASS A DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL FINAL

Chargers roll to 2nd straight crown

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In the words of Livonia Churchill head volleyball coach Mark Grenier, senior all-around star Rayna Yetts was "a beast" during Friday's Class A district championship match against host Garden City.

And for those of you unsure, earning the moniker "beast" is one of the highest compliments a coach can bestow on a player.

Yetts' razor-sharp swing was in fine form against the Cougars as she delivered 18 kills to lead the Chargers to a 25-16, 25-20, 25-20 victory.

Churchill, which didn't lose a set during its three-match

"Our team is starting to play really well together."

MARK GRENIER
Churchill volleyball coach

district excursion, will carry a 32-19 record into Tuesday's 5 p.m. regional semifinal match against the winner of Friday's Berkley-Detroit Renaissance district final.

The regional will be hosted by Grosse Pointe South.

"Rayna is one of those players we can always count on," Grenier said. "She was outstanding wherever she was on

the court tonight, adding 12 digs and nine assists."

Churchill's attack was also fortified by top-notch efforts from Sam Zonca (11 kills) and middle hitter Anne Yost, who knocked down seven kills.

"Garden City has a very nice team," Grenier said. "They have two kids (Allie Lynn and Heather Pennington) who hit really well and John (Pace) always has them ready to play."

"Our team is starting to play really well together. They're clicking at the right time."

Although the Chargers never completely pulled away from the Cougars over the

See CROWN, Page B4



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CLASS B DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL FINAL

Blazers red-hot in quest for net title

Moore and March power Ladywood

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The essential E's — energy and enthusiasm — were vital ingredients in the Livonia Ladywood volleyball team's success defense of its Class B district championship Friday night at Livonia Clarenceville.

But it was the M&M girls — Hayley Moores and Kayla March — who powered the Blazers to a never-in-doubt 25-9, 25-15, 25-9 victory over an up-and-coming Redford Union team.

The Blazers' three-match unbeaten streak this past week improved their record to 33-15-2 while propelling them into Tuesday's regional semifinal match against Warren Fitzgerald. The match will begin at 5 p.m. at Ladywood.

"The keys for us this week were teamwork and not playing down to the level of our opponents' defense," Ladywood head coach Peter Lau said. "We had two of our best practices all



Ladywood's Hayley Moores unleashes a laser serve during a match earlier this week. TOM BEAUDOIN

season this week and the energy and enthusiasm

we showed in practice carried over to the



Ladywood's volleyball team poses with the Class B district championship trophy it earned Friday night at Clarenceville. LAURIE LAMOUREUX

matches." The Blazers promoted eight players up to the varsity roster for the postseason and the ones who saw action during the district tournament didn't disappoint.

"I think it was exciting for the young girls to not just get called up to varsity, but to actually play and contribute on the

court," Lau said. "That can only help their confidence going forward."

Moores and March led the champions in kills throughout the week — just as they did during the Blazers' ultra-successful regular season schedule.

Defensively, Abbi Laurentius and Maggie Shirk made life difficult

for the opposition's hitters, while Colleen Barnes and Monique Lamoureux were lights-out in the setting department.

"Hopefully, we can keep the momentum we generated this week and keep it rolling into the regional," Lau said.

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CLASS A DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL



Redford Thurston senior Kristian Hollis (right) and Garden City senior Allie Lynn rise simultaneously at the net during Wednesday's Class A semifinal match. ED WRIGHT

Garden City sweeps Thurston in three

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Judging by the ever-narrowing game scores, Redford Thurston's volleyball team got better as Wednesday's Class A semifinal match against host Garden City went along, but the Cougars ultimately prevailed in a showdown featuring Western Wayne Athletic Conference foes, 25-5, 25-11, 25-19.

The victory propelled Garden City into Friday night's district final against Livonia Churchill. Thurston's season ended with an overall record of 10-17-1.

The Cougars never trailed in the first two sets thanks to strong serving from Allie Lynn, Marti Dzendzel and

Aleea Montgomery, tight defense from Alexandra Roffi and Jacey Law, and dominant front-row efforts by Montgomery, Lynn and Heather Pennington.

Back-to-back aces by Roffi pushed the Cougars' lead to 8-1 in the opening stanza. Lynn was superb later in the set when she collected four kills that were sandwiched around a pair of aces by Montgomery.

Haliagh Maszatics closed out the first game with an ace.

One of the early highlights for the Eagles was an emphatic kill by Kentia Fearn.

An early textbook service run by Law — that was aided by multiple kills by Lynn and Brittani Radtke — gave

the Cougars a 9-0 lead right out of the gate.

Although the Eagles struggled to mount a consistent attack, Tae'lor Yancey scored a couple points for Thurston with stellar front-row plays.

Pacing the Eagles' offense were Jordan Cook, Yancey, Maya McKinney, K'lynn Rollins, Kris Hollis and Ayanna Norton.

Hollis and Cook dished out seven and four assists, respectively, during their stints as the team's setter.

Cook chipped in with six blocks while Yancey and Rollins contributed two a piece.

Dasia Johnson successfully received 16 serves for Thurston.

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CLASS A DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL SEMIFINAL

No sweat: Churchill takes down Crestwood

Everybody contributes in Chargers' three-game sweep

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Livonia Churchill and Dearborn Heights Crestwood volleyball teams were separated only by a net during Wednesday night's Class A semifinal match at Garden City High School.

Talent-wise, however, the two teams were divided by a Grand Canyon-esque space.

Churchill earned an opportunity to defend its 2014 Class A district title Friday night against the host Cougars after throttling the blue-and-white Chargers, 25-8, 25-6 and 25-5, in a contest that featured very few long rallies.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of the convincing win for the victorious Chargers was that they took advantage of an opportunity to get some invaluable postseason experience for several of the recently promoted junior-varsity players, including Mary Claire Yost, Kendra Juliette and Summer



Livonia Churchill's Brianna Fulton makes a nice play on a free ball during Wednesday night's victory over Crestwood. ED WRIGHT

Clark. While the youngsters sparkled during their time on the court, it was Churchill's veteran mainstays who proved to be too daunting of a task to contain for the overmatched Crestwood contingent.

Churchill dominated at the service stripe, in particular senior Madilyn Darling, who reeled off a string of 12 straight points — including seven aces — during a game-two blitz that extended the winners' lead to 18-2.

Senior Rayna Yetts was her usual fantastic self — both at the net

and in the back row. She skillfully floated one serve into a void in the Crestwood defense late in the second game that proved she can hurt other teams with power and finesse.

Other front-row standouts included middle hitter Anne Yost, who is the older sister of Mary Claire, Katelyn Seger, Annabelle Dunn and Samantha Zonca.

Libero Alyssa Facione sparked the Chargers' defensive effort while Brianna Fulton and Megan Gendjar did a super job of setting.

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RETIRE

Continued from Page B1

to some new teaching strategies for my health classes that I want to focus on. I am very fortunate to have great family members, religion and good health to pursue other interests."

Jimenez led several teams to outstanding seasons, including the 2009 Division 1 district championship squad that finished 32-6 overall and 16-0 in the KLAA.

That team was powered by all-state twin sisters Brittany and Brianna Taylor, Chelsea Williams, Natalie Sanborn, the Emery sisters and Geraghty sisters.

"Throughout the years I was fortunate to coach many athletes, but it was special coaching sisters or cousins because I got to know some families better," Jimenez noted, mentioning the Mosier, Garbutt, Morrill, Bagazinski, Lamble, Giacobbozzi,

"She was everything you'd want in a coach ..."

RON HAMMYE
Franklin Athletic Director

and Garbarino families. "We had great times, especially with our spring training trips to Myrtle Beach and St. Pete."

Of all the thrilling games Jimenez was involved in, a 1997 victory over Romeo stands out, she said.

"The 1997 game versus Romeo when Lori Jendrusik pitched a perfect game against a very good team," Jimenez remembered. "Her change-up and location were pin-point that day. It was also pretty cool because her mom was our bus driver that day."

Jimenez emphasized that none of the wins she helped coach would not have been possible with a strong supporting cast.

"I want to thank the

long-term assistants I have had over the years, including Willie Munro, Nicole Emery, Jamie Linden, Jackie Price, Margaret Schlack, Dan Hejka, Frank Friemund, Carrie Korican, Nicole Williamson, Tom Lamble and Reno Taylor," she said. "The administrators at Franklin have also been fantastic and very supportive. Dan Freeman, Ron Hammye and rincipal Dan Willenborg are first-class individuals."

"I also want to thank (Observer sports editor) Brad Emons, who knew me back in the 1980s, for all of his reporting and kind words."

"You know it's time to retire when you have your former players' children in class, like the Bagazinski family. It's also rewarding when former players stop by to visit. Several work in the City of Livonia as professionals, such as Jessica Sabbadin, Tara Muchow and Margaret Schulz."

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Madonna men put scare into Indiana East

Crusaders women's team edged by Windsor

The Madonna University men's basketball team put a scare Tuesday into No. 10-ranked Indiana East, but the Crusaders came up just short, falling 99-90 at the Tierman Center.

Nick Owens scored a career-high 19 points, with Chris Dierker (Salem) adding 16 to go along with 14 points each from Khalil Malone and Muhammed Zahr.

Dan Hall led Madonna on the glass with seven rebounds.

The two sides traded baskets over the opening eight minutes before IUE used a 9-0 run to take a 23-15 lead with 11:30 to play in the half. MU trailed 33-25 with 6:53 left before starting an 11-1 run of its own to lead 36-34.

Malone accounted for five of MU's points in the run while adding an as-

sist on a Hall basket as MU took the lead back briefly before trailing 45-39 at intermission.

IUE led by as many as 14 early in the second half before MU pulled all the way back to within a single point, 67-66, with 9:47 to play on one of Owens' four 3-pointers. IUE extended its lead back to four the next trip down the floor and did not let it slip below three the remainder of the game.

Lady Crusaders edged

A 30-point fourth quarter was not enough to overcome a cold first half of shooting and pull off the comeback as the No. 21-ranked Madonna University women's basketball team dropped its season opener Oct. 31 by an 85-79 score to visiting Windsor at the Activities Center.

Lindsey Hernden led all scorers with 26 points, just two away from tying her career high. Hernden scored 23 of her 26 points



Madonna's Chris Dierker lines up a free throw.

in the second half, connecting on seven 3-pointers in the contest.

Newcomer Becca Sabol posted a double-double with 21 points and 14 rebounds to go along with five blocks, while fellow newcomer Cris Harper added 17 points

in the setback.

Hernden gave MU its lone lead of the game two minutes in when she connected on her first triple to make it 3-2.

Windsor retook the lead in the first quarter and eventually saw it grow to as many as nine, 21-12,

after the first 10 minutes.

The Lancers pushed their lead into double figures in the second quarter, using a 9-2 run to take their largest lead of the half to that point at 30-16. Back-to-back baskets by the Lancers made it a 38-21 game with 2:04 left in the second quarter before Sabol made a pair of free throws to pull MU within 12, 38-26, at intermission.

A pair of free throws from Kacy Robinson pulled MU within 10 early in the third quarter, but UW went on a 19-11 run that spanned 6:02 and gave the visitors a 59-39 lead with 3:21 to play in the quarter. MU got back within 10, 59-49, thanks to a 10-0 run keyed by four points from Harper and capped by a Hernden triple. Windsor answered the MU volley with one of its own, scoring the last seven points in the third to lead 66-49 after three.

Down 74-54 with 7:21 to play in the game, Sabol knocked down a pair of

free throws to start a 13-4 MU run that pulled the Crusaders within 10, 78-68. Kelsey Gerhardt, Harper and Hernden all canned triples in the run with Hernden closing the barrage with a 3-pointer with 2:32 left.

After Windsor retook a 14-point lead at the free-throw line to lead, 84-70, with 1:07 to play, Harper started another MU run with two free throws before Hernden followed with back-to-back triples and was fouled on the second before completing the four-point play to bring MU back within five, 84-79, with 11 seconds left. UW split a pair of free throws with 10 seconds left to lead 85-79 and MU was unable to get another shot off, falling just short of pulling off the comeback.

Andrea Kiss led Windsor with 24 points, while Cheyanne Roger added 19 and Emily Prevost chipped in 16 for the Lancers.

CLASS A DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL

ROCKETS SOAR TO 3RD STRAIGHT TITLE

Trio of seniors power John Glenn to four-game win over Kennedy

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Sometimes it's not how hard you hit a volleyball that's important, but where you hit it and at whom.

That lesson was never more obvious than the latter stages of Thursday's Class A district championship featuring host Westland John Glenn and Taylor Kennedy.

With her team holding onto a perilous 23-22 lead late in the critical third game — the Rockets and Eagles split the first two stanzas — John Glenn senior Denae Tolu took some juice off her normally sizzling swing and two-handed the ball into the unguarded back-left corner on the Eagles' side of the court, putting the Rockets up 24-22.

Kaitlin McGrath's perfect tip seconds later gave the Rockets a 25-22 victory in a match they would go on to win in four — 22-25, 25-22, 25-22, 25-18 — over the powerful Eagles.

The triumph was the third-straight district championship for the Rockets, who advanced to Tuesday's regional semifinal match against the winner of Friday night's Monroe-Temperance Bedford match. The Kicking Mules entered Friday's match with a

53-12 record.

Tolu, an all-around star for the Rockets along with fellow seniors Ryan Clemmons and Shelby Hodges, also produced a statement-making play in the fifth game when she somehow executed a perfect pass after dynamic Kennedy outside hitter Daija Anderson ripped a flamespewing laser that appeared headed for Tolu's face.

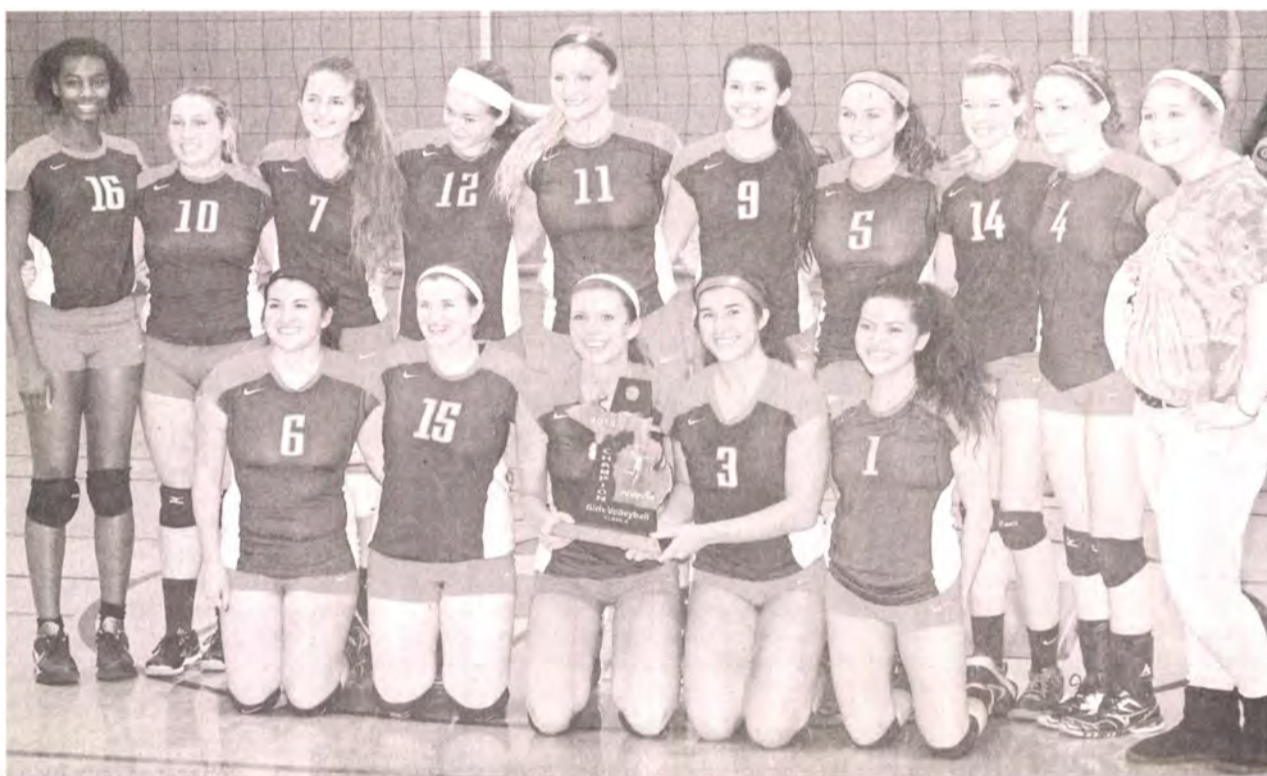
"It's just years of experience coming together at once," said Tolu, describing the instincts that led to her two monumental plays. "The play in the third game was just a matter of finding the holes in their defense. The pass I made, you just have to be ready for everything. We knew the patterns of where she liked to hit it and we tried to cover that area of the court."

Riding the front-row fireworks of Anderson, the Eagles never trailed in game one. A key sequence unfolded with Kennedy ahead 21-20 when each of the two end line officials made opposite calls on whether a would-be kill by the Rockets was in or out.

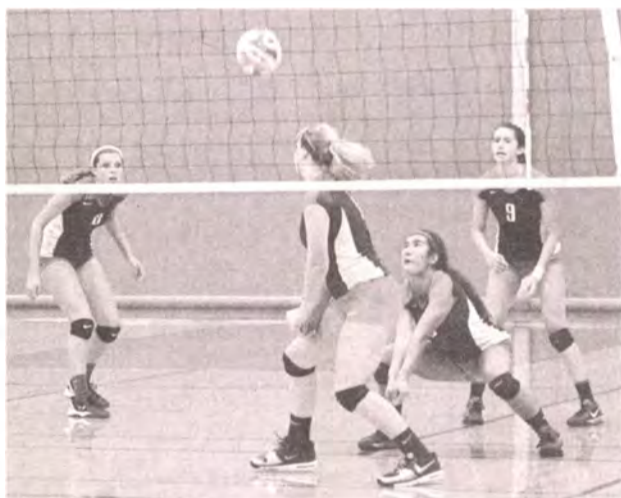
The ruling of the official who was closer prevailed and Kennedy seized a 22-20 advantage before going on to win the set.

Although Anderson was a force throughout the showdown, John Glenn managed to subdue her effectiveness over the final three games.

"We made some ad-



Members of the John Glenn volleyball team pose with their third straight Class A district championship trophy Thursday night.



John Glenn's Denae Tolu focuses on a pass as teammates (from left) Ryan Clemmons, Carley Loving and Kaitlin McGrath look on.



John Glenn senior setter Shelby Hodges delivers a spot-on assist in front of Taylor Kennedy's Calista Nasser.

justments on her defensively," first-year head coach Ron Staples said. "We moved our back row in and stood our ground. We were too far back and she was finding the seam."

"Our serving was fantastic tonight, too. I think our serving was the key. We beat a really good team tonight and we beat a very good Romulus team in the semifinals."

Clemmons was stellar

wherever she played on the court for the Rockets. In addition to knocking down 16 kills, she provided nearly impeccable defense and a cool demeanor that her younger teammates fed off.

Hodges engineered the Rockets' offense to perfection as the setter, putting up pillow-soft assists that her high-rising hitters turned into floor-crashing kills.

A six-point service run by Hodges midway

through game three proved to be a match-changing effort for the hosts.

Among the non-seniors who played huge roles for the winners were McGrath, a junior, and sophomore Carley Loving — both of whom were marvelous when playing the middle for the Rockets.

The fourth game was knotted at 9-all before the Rockets reeled off a six-point run thanks to

dynamic serving by Loving and a couple timely tips by McGrath and Tolu.

"This has been a great season," Tolu said. "We all have great chemistry and we're working really well together now."

"We've been working all season in practice on the little things that eventually made us better toward the end of the season."

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DIVISION 1 FOOTBALL DISTRICT FINAL



Canton football coach Tim Baechler presents the Division 1 district trophy to his team after Friday's win over Northville.

Chiefs honor Nolen's memory with 34-27 win

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Their biggest game of the season awaited the Canton Chiefs on Friday night.

But before making the bus ride over to Tom Holzer Ford Field in Northville, Canton head coach Tim Baechler talked to his team about Josh Nolen — the former Chiefs defensive back who died Oct. 30 after a bout with kidney cancer.

Nolen's funeral was earlier Friday, attended

by the entire team.

"We had the (No. 8) stickers, we talked about it," Baechler said following Canton's 34-27 victory over previously unbeaten Northville in a Division 1 district final. "The funeral service today was inspirational, it was awesome. And I talked to the kids a little bit about that. We played for him today and for his dad, his family. It was a special day."

"I told the kids in our meeting room before we got on the bus: 'Guys, if

you knew you had a week left to live, what would you do? How hard would you play?' This young man was just sitting here like you five years ago. You can't waste a down, you can't waste a play, you can't waste a yard."

Baechler's speech hit the mark, because on the second snap of the ballgame, 5-foot-7 junior running back Markus Sanders burst through the Mustangs' defense for a 74-yard run.

Only a desperation tackle by Ryan Nelson

kept Sanders from scoring. Taking it in from the 1-yard line on the next play was senior running back Jakob Wickens to put the Chiefs in front 7-0.

"That (Sanders' big run) kind of set the tone and let them know we were here," Baechler said.

Northville senior quarterback Justin Zimbo then had his first-down pass tipped at the line and intercepted near midfield by Canton sophomore Colin Troup.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Top-ranked Ocelots go to work

Schoolcraft boasts players hungry for more success after title season

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Abe Mashhour's first season at the helm of Schoolcraft's men's basketball program couldn't have gone any better — save for winning the NJCAA championship.

Although the Ocelots (31-5) came up short on the national stage, they did cruise to the Michigan Community College Athletic Association title with a 15-1 mark, featuring a blend of power in the paint and precision from the perimeter.

What can Mashhour's team — opening 2015-16 as the No. 1-ranked team in NJCAA Division II — do for an encore?

"Last year's team was very talented, but to some extent over-achieved," Mashhour said. "This year's team, if we don't have a terrific year, then you can say we underachieved."

"There's some pres-



Two sophomore players with Observerland ties, Davon Taylor (left) and Dre Black, are back for Schoolcraft.

sure on us. We have great depth, great size, all 14 guys are capable of coming in and giving us good minutes."

Such was the case Wednesday in the season opener against visiting Jackson College, a never-in-doubt 92-62 win for the Ocelots.

Leading the charge was a newcomer, sophomore guard Tyron Hamby, who poured in 24 points as Schoolcraft bolted to a 51-27 halftime lead.

"Tyron Hamby is ultra-talented, he can do a lot of different things,"

Mashhour said. "He is a very, very good defender. He can score the ball multiple ways. So Tyron is going to be a high-impact player immediately."

Several holdovers from 2014-15 got off to productive starts, including sophomore guard Dre Black (17 points, nine assists, six rebounds) and sophomore forward Davon Taylor (10 points, six boards), who played high school basketball at Westland John Glenn and Canton, respectively.

Joining them in double

figures were sophomore guards Ja'Christian Biles and Tyler Johnson (Howell), with 10 points each.

Schoolcraft opened the contest with Taylor and forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz up front and Black, Biles and Johnson rounding out the lineup.

"It makes a world of difference when you have five sophomores returning," Mashhour said. "And fortunately for us, we have one at every position. ... Obviously, they know what the expectations are and what we're trying to do as a team, collectively."

"It's almost like I don't even have to say anything. They kind of already know for the most part what they're doing wrong and what they need to do better, that type of thing."

Mashhour said his sophomore class made sure to come to training camp in top-notch condition.

"All five of them worked very, very hard over the summer," Mashhour said. "Davon Taylor is as improved as anybody, Ja'Christian had a great summer, Tyler had

an excellent summer. They went to a couple camps and did very well for themselves."

A large freshman class could make a quick impact this season. In the mix are guards Bryan Collins, Dwayne Chastain and Esa Abdulkami, forwards Daniel Dwyer, Rodney Scales and Carlos Taylor (eight points) and 6-10, 240-pound center R.J. Coil (Toledo, Ohio).

"R.J. Coil, once he gets going, he's going to be very, very good for us as well," Mashhour said, adding that the freshman is just now recovering from an illness that hampered him during the preseason. "And Bryan Collins, a freshman from (Dearborn Heights) Annapolis, he's a very good scorer as well. He gives a few more options. We have a lot of scorers, so that's nice."

Rounding out the squad is sophomore guard Juwan Clark.

Schoolcraft will enjoy several home games the rest of November, including at 3 p.m. Saturday against Grand Rapids, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday against Lake

Michigan and 3 p.m. Nov. 14 against Cuyahoga.

Lady Ocelots roll

Also opening the 2015-16 season with a win Wednesday was the Schoolcraft women's basketball team.

Led by Salem alum Janyra Wilson, who scored 18 points in her first game with the Lady Ocelots, the home team rolled to a 76-47 victory over Jackson.

Wilson started at guard and played 25 minutes for head coach Kara Kinzer, who last season guided Schoolcraft to a 26-10 record (including 11-5 in the MCCA).

Returnees Ashley Bland (Wayne Memorial) and T'era Nesbitt (10 points) also played in the back court.

Up front for the Lady Ocelots was freshman forward Jade Smith, with sophomore guard-forward Rikki Scherd, also on the 2014-15 squad, chipping in with eight rebounds.

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BOYS SOCCER

Shamrocks' run ends in state semifinals, 3-1

Top-ranked Rangers tally three unanswered goals

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

In the midst of their longest state tournament run in school history, the Novi Detroit Catholic Central boys soccer team finally met their match Wednesday night on an unseasonably warm night in Holt.

Top-ranked Grand Rapids Forest Hills spotted the Shamrocks an early goal and then answered with three straight goals to oust CC in the MHSAA Division 1 state semifinals, 3-1.

The Rangers, who improved to 24-0-3, earned their first trip to the state finals since 2004 when they defeated Rochester Stoney Creek for the Division 2 state title, 3-2. Forest Hills Central was scheduled to play defending champion Canton for the title Saturday at Brighton High School.

Catholic Central, which had earned its first regional title since 1996, bowed out at 20-3-3.

"Whenever you get



Catholic Central's Ben Sargent (right) tries to maneuver past Forest Hills Central's Anes Dzidic in Wednesday's Division 1 state semifinal.

here everybody has a little bit of nerves," CC fourth-year coach Gene Pulice said. "Now this is our first time here. This is not uncharted territory anymore and I think the guys next year can be back here again. But I think all of our guys played exceptionally well. We competed for 80 minutes."

Ironically, it was Forest Hills Central that found itself in an unfamiliar territory after CC junior Cade Kozlowski scored just 7:24 into the match off an assist from Noah Walter after the ball was served into the box Charlie Trevisan.

"(Walter) did a great job getting it over to me," Kozlowski said. "Just a great team goal. Noah

was definitely looking for me there and served a perfect ball to me."

That CC score came after the Rangers' Max Postlewait had ripped a shot off the crossbar just two minutes into the match.

The Rangers also had a pair of goals disallowed with 20 minutes and 17:33 left in the half, respectively, after being whistled both times for off-side.

And in an action-filled first half, CC senior goalkeeper Peter Kirouac left the field with an injury and was replaced briefly by fellow senior Connor Gaskin with 15:13 left.

"There was a collision in goal mouth," Pulice said. "Two plays later, (Kirouac) took an elbow

to the mouth. He's got a laceration on his tongue. His tongue is the size of a grapefruit. But he continued to play. He made some big saves for us and the ball just didn't bounce our way."

C.J. Strawser pulled Forest Hills Central even at 1-1 when he scored with 1:28 left until intermission off an assist from Postlewait.

"This is the second game we've trailed," Forest Hills Central coach Blair Lincoln said. "The first time we trailed was the first game of the season. We knew these teams coming out of Detroit were going to be tough. We had confidence in our strength of schedule. When you're down 1-0, the only way to go is claw back in or go home, so it was nice to see us respond before halftime and then the second half pull away."

But with less than 40 seconds left in the first half, CC nearly regained the lead when Kozlowski took a shot from 25 yards out that seemed to handcuff Forest Hills goalkeeper Ayan Hungerford, who recovered to in time to make the save after momentarily losing his balance.

But during the final 40 minutes, it became the Anthony Bowie show as the senior forward, headed to Western Michigan University, scored what proved to be the game-winning goal on a header from Kevin Conn with 30:49 remaining.

Bowie then took advantage of a two-on-one situation to set up Mohamed Haji with only 7:33 left to give the Rangers a two-goal cushion.

"The (CC) kid kind of miss-hit it," Bowie said. "I was behind him and I saw my teammate wide open there, played him the ball and he did the rest. It was all on him."

Bowie was certainly a difference-maker in the eyes of the Shamrocks.

"(Bowie), he's a game-changer and we knew that coming in," Pulice said.

Both Trevisan and Luke Goings each had ample opportunities to score in the final 24:01 and 14:19, respectively, but couldn't get their shots on target.

"We had a lot of dangerous moments throughout the game, too," Pulice said. "Like I told the guys, we're proud who and what we are. We've come a long

way as a team, as a program, as individuals ... we grew all year long as a group."

CC loses nine seniors to graduation, including some key performers on the back line which led to the team's best season in school history.

"It was the leadership of the seniors — Matt Turton, Peter Kirouac, Cole Moscovic, Justin Murray — they really kept us together," Kozlowski said. "They were really constructive on the field and I was really, really blessed to have them as my senior captains."

Pulice said the Shamrocks were a diverse team of players from four different grades, but also a tight-knit group throughout the season. The CC coach singled out the efforts of his staff that included Mike Stratton, Alex Lang, Brent Wasik and Bryan Finnerly, along with student manager Henry Koelling, a transfer student who had to sit out this season, along with the Rev. Dennis Kauffman.

"I think the culture in the school is growing, so you saw it tonight," Pulice said.

CROWN

Continued from Page B1

final two sets, they managed to maintain a "four-to-five-point" advantage past the 10-point mark, Grenier said.

Brianna Fulton had a first-rate match, dishing out 28 assists while contributing six aces from the service stripe.

"And our defensive anchor, Alyssa Facione, was fantastic," Grenier said. "She always makes the right pass at the right time."

Another catalyst for the Chargers, Grenier noted, was junior Megan Gendjar, who turned in a stellar all-around performance.

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TOM BEAUDOIN
Churchill's volleyball team poses with its most-recent Class A district trophy.

PATRIOTS

Continued from Page B1

back (although he was starting for the team's offense even before Nate Binkiewicz and Isaac Moore were sidelined by injuries), hauled the ball 23 times for 280 yards and four touchdowns.

Adams was also outstanding, gaining 175 yards on 21 carries and completing all four of his passes for 62 yards, including a 28-yard TD pass to Jake Giacobbi.

Several Patriots defenders shined — especially during the fourth quarter — but none more than senior linebacker Rob Erwin, who registered a rare trifecta when he blocked an

extra point following the Vikings' first touchdown, intercepted a pass early in the third quarter that set up a touchdown that knotted the game at 21-21 and recovered a fourth-quarter fumble that preceded the winners' seventh touchdown of the night by two plays.

"I had just come back onto the field on the play before the interception," Erwin said. "Just as I looked back at the quarterback, the ball was coming right at me and I made sure I hung onto it."

Chris Nehasil was a two-way stud for the Patriots, churning out 50 tough yards on seven carries while making a series of clutch tackles on the other side of the ball.

Jax Gasaway and Donny Terry made several

key stops for the Franklin defense.

It only took Adams a few seconds to set the game's high-scoring tone as the senior speedster burst through a gap in the Vikings' defense and sprinted 75 yards on the first play from scrimmage.

Jackson answered almost immediately, cutting its deficit to 7-6 on Shonte Suddeth's 5-yard scoring run.

The game started to take on the personality of a track meet on Franklin's next possession, when Adams capped a five-play drive with a quarterback sneak TD. Giacobbi's second of seven extra-point boots made it 14-6 just five minutes into the game — that is, until Vikings QB LaJuan Bramlett hooked

up with a wide-open Anthony Owens on a 47-yard TD strike that came on a fourth-and-five play.

Following a Franklin three-and-out, Jackson seized a 21-14 lead with 2:32 left in the half, when Bramlett and Cortez Butler hooked up on a 64-yard bomb before Suddeth plunged in for the two-point conversion.

Franklin was turned away twice at the Jackson 1-yard line during the final two minutes of the half. Nehasil was ruled short of the goal line by a few inches on a fourth-and-goal run from the 2.

With 18.1 seconds on the second-quarter clock, the Patriots again gave the ball to Nehasil on a fourth-and-two play from the Jackson 3, but the refs ruled he was stopped inches short of the first

down.

"Getting down there like that twice and not scoring got us fired up at halftime," Adams said. "We were ready to go in the second half."

Were they ever. One play after Erwin's interception to open the third quarter, Clark galloped 23 yards to pay dirt to deadlock the game at 21-21.

Jackson countered, however, with a nine-play, 78-yard possession that ended with Suddeth's 3-yard TD run to put the Vikings up 28-21.

Franklin bounced right back to re-tie the contest at 28-28 on Adams' 28-yard TD pass to Giacobbi, who was sprinting down the left sideline with 5:31 showing on the third-quarter clock.

No one in the Withing-

ton Stadium's stands were surprised when Suddeth secured an option pitch from Bramlett on the first play of the next drive and bolted 84 yards up the home team's sidelines to give the Vikings a 35-28 lead with just over 17 minutes left in the game.

The shocking part about the TD — it turned out to be the last time the explosive Vikings would step foot in the end zone.

Franklin scored touchdowns on its final six possessions to turn what once looked like a down-to-the-wire thriller into a lopsided triumph for the surging team that has now won as many play-offs games as it won regular-season games one year ago.

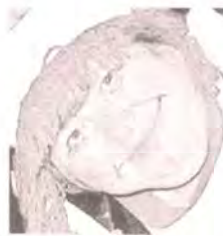
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TELLABRATION

CELEBRATING THE ART OF STORYTELLING



SUBMITTED
Gwendolyn Lewis will tell stories for adults Friday, Nov. 13 at the Livonia Civic Center Library.



SUBMITTED
Elizabeth Najduch will serve as maestro for the Detroit Story League's Tellabration in Livonia.



SUBMITTED
Judy Sima, president of the Detroit Story League, will perform at Tellabration in Livonia.



SUBMITTED
Alma Petrini will also tell stories.

THINKSTOCK

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Become the storytelling star of the family dinner table this Thanksgiving with the help of a few simple rules and a little practice.

"The first rule of becoming a storyteller is choosing a story you love. It's hard to love a story that doesn't call to you," said Judy Sima, president of the Detroit Story League. "If you're trying to pass on traditions to your

children, you can talk about how you celebrated Thanksgiving when you were a kid, what was served, describe who was at the table.

"Give more specific things. When I do workshops on personal narratives, I have a whole list of conversation starters to jog your memory. Thanksgiving is a great time to tell stories. Turn off the football game and talk about past Thanksgiving dinners, about going to the parade."

Need help with the delivery? Pick up a few pointers while watching storytelling pros, including Sima, in action at Tellabration! A Night of Storytelling for Adults, Friday, Nov. 13, at Livonia Civic Center Public Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

The event starts with a silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by storytelling at 7 p.m. and refreshments at 8:45 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Annual tradition

Tellabration is a worldwide event that was launched in 1988 by the Connecticut Storytelling Center to build community support for storytelling. Within three years it expanded nationally and by 1995 was held internationally. Traditionally it is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, although dates can vary depending on the organization.

See STORIES, Page B7

STORY STARTERS

Stuck for a story idea? Judy Sima's story and conversation starters can help you find your voice. Here's a sampling:

- » The story of how your parents met
- » Your mother's kitchen. Talk about a special dish or recipe
- » A skill or hobby your father taught you
- » Family gatherings and celebrations
- » A trip that turned out to be a disaster
- » A fortune won or lost

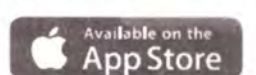


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Livonia Hill House furnishings receive fresh, new looks

Two chairs and a settee at Simmons/Hill house look almost new — by early 1900s standards — thanks to a grant from The Sauk Trail Quester Chapter #537.

The group paid for reupholstering the antique furniture with a grant it received last year at the Michigan State Quester Convention and with some of its own funds. John's Upholstery in Livonia reupholstered the pieces, which furnish the upstairs sitting room at the house, which is located at Greenmead, Livonia's historical park.

"One of our Quester members was instrumental in working with John's and picked out material appropriate for the time period," said Linda Wiacek, program supervisor at Greenmead. "Mrs. Hill had a good number of antiques. They bought the property in 1920 and started restoration and it took a couple years to complete it. They brought in electricity and water. It was a huge modernization in the 1920s. But I have a feeling the settee was older



SUBMITTED
One of the reupholstered chairs at Greenmead in Livonia.

than 1920."

Wiacek said the reupholstering project was finished in September and completes the furniture restoration in the second floor sitting room.

"There is still a lamp that needs to be done and wallpaper needs to be done, but the furniture is complete. They are really beautiful."

Wiacek said other Quester chapters have funded restoration projects in other rooms of the house and that the

Sauk Trail Questers also recently funded furniture restoration in one of the bedrooms.

"There are still pieces that need to be re-upholstered and as funds become available, we'll be able to do that," Wiacek said. "It's a multi-year process, worked on slowly as funds and grants are available. We're pleased the Sauk Trail Questers is so active."

For more information about Questers, visit questers1944.org.

Ready for Veterans Day



Sue and Gary Colepean, members of the Livonia Garden Club, place a fresh flower wreath on the Livonia Blue Star Memorial Marker at Five Mile east of Farmington near Nehasil Park. The Colepeans head the Livonia Garden Club committee that is responsible for decorating the site with wreaths throughout the year. They use fresh, dried or treated plant material. Dedicated in 2011, the Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Marker honors all service men and women.

Appliance Doctor evaluates new General Electric washer

A few months ago I received a press release with the headline that read "GE is building the great American washer." At that time I said that I would personally look at the workings of this new washer and report back to you. So here it is.

As soon as this new washer arrived at a certain appliance retailer, I was contacted and it didn't take me long to get there. The washer looks much like one from the past. It has a large tub with a full agitator and it fills to the same water levels we used to have. It has a stainless steel tub and a porcelain top which both should last for years.



Joe Gagnon
THE APPLIANCE DOCTOR

The operational sounds are different, and I feel that is acceptable as the washer no longer has a transmission. This fact may eliminate many of the transmission change-outs GE was once known for. Instead of a transmission, a lever mechanism moves the tub into spin and agitation cycles. Located under the machine, this mechanism is all encased in plastic housing. A small pump takes care of the pump-out cycle.

The control panel has

many different knobs for any cycle you want to select. This washer has a suggested retail price of \$599, with another model selling for slightly more. Most important is the extra spin cycle available on both.

Does it last?

Now, I'm not going to tell everyone to go out and purchase one of these new GE washers because one factor I can't comment on is the expected life span. I've written before that the expected life span of a clothes washer is a typical 10 years and I don't know about this washer. Only time will tell, and I wish GE would have given us consumers a

bit of an estimate.

All in all, I must say that I am a bit impressed with this machine. It's a large tub, fills to capacity with a full agitator and still meets the energy guideline set forth by the U.S. Department of Energy. I am sorry that I gave the impression in a previous column that this washer might have a suds saver and a mini basket. GE said it knows exactly what Americans want in a washing machine, but my contention is that they sound smarter than they are. I've had readers email me that mini baskets and suds savers are in demand. For those folks wanting a suds saver you have to remember that laundry

rooms today use a standpipe to drain a washer.

Sounds different

The retailer I visited that day informed me of two common complaints he receives from his customers who purchase any make of new washing machines. The first is that homeowners are not accustomed to the different sounds emitting from their new washer and the next is that they are disappointed with the lack of very hot water when using the hot cycle. They don't feel it gets rid of bacteria and so they hook up a hose to a faucet and fill the machine by hand before they turn it on. This is all a little back-

wards to me as I feel it is an automatic washer, isn't it? Besides, I take issue with the false advertising of it all. The knob says "hot," and you only get 104-degree water filling the tub. That is against the law and uses very poor logic.

My opinion of front load washers has not changed during the past 20 years. I have heard so many thousands of complaints that once in while I hear somebody praise their front loader and it pleases the ear drums.

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

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Alzheimer's benefit

Catwalk for a Cause will include a lunch, fashion show, and raffle from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, in the Chestnut Room at the Summit on the Park banquet center, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Cost is \$40. Proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Michigan. Register by calling 734-394-5485; cantonfun.org.

Breastfeeding clinic

The course runs 6:30-9:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at Beaumont Hospital-Farmington Hills, 28050 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills. It will cover the advantages and benefits of breastfeeding, physiology of milk production, basic nursing positions, assessing latch-on, back-to-work issues, how to determine if your baby is getting enough milk, common problems, and pumping and storing breast milk. Register for "Breastfeeding Basics" by phone at 248-888-2500, or go to <https://www.botsford.org/forms/payment/maternity/index.html>

Hearing loss support

The Hearing Loss Association of America meets 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. Contact Tony at 734-664-3297; afcrack@comcast.net

Lung cancer support

The Lung Cancer Support Group meets 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, at Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon David Sternberg, M.D., leads the group, which is open to anyone living with lung cancer, and their loved ones. For more information, call 248-473-4828.

Turner Town Project

Jennifer Wakenell of Livonia displays her Turner Town Project, a collection of dollhouses with accompanying storyboards that depict the day-to-day challenges of a girl with Turner

syndrome and nonverbal learning disorders, through November at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. The project offers suggestions for dealing with both medical and academic obstacles and aims to raise awareness of the disease, which can impact kidneys, thyroid and cardiac functioning and cause learning disorders. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. 734-466-2491

Walk with a Doc

Eric Kovan, D.O., physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist, and Nancy Webb, a physical therapist, will show you how to improve your balance and prevent falls, noon to 1 p.m. Nov. 19 at Heritage Park Nature Center, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Register by calling 877-477-3521, option #1.

Zumba party

Wear red and dance from 9-10:30 a.m. Nov. 14 at the Summit on the Park in Canton to raise money for the American Heart Association. Admission to the Zumba Party Hearty is a minimum \$5 donation. Zumba fuses Latin, pop and hip hop music with easy-to-follow moves to create a fitness routine. Participants are asked to bring bottled water and come ready to move. The Summit is located at 46000 Summit Parkway. Call 734-394-5460 or visit cantonfun.org for more information.

Ongoing

Ab-Anon

Twelve-step program and weekly group to help those suffering with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, and exercise compulsion is held 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Friendship Circle, 6892 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. An Ab-Anon meeting group is available for families and loved ones, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, also at the Friendship Circle. For more information, contact Mindy at 248-672-



Join a local support group, get a screening, or take a class to improve your health.

9776.

Amputee support

The Amputee Support Group meets 2-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month in Classroom #1 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-2837 for more information.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.

to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. Visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6-7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. Meetings open to families. Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Blood pressure

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, lipid panel (\$15) testing, 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 2, in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

Breast cancer support

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Choir therapy

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychoirs.org for additional information.

CPAP/BIPAP

The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan offers a free CPAP/BIPAP mask fitting clinic, 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday at 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Most insurances cover new supplies. No appointment needed. For more information, call 734-458-7251.

Health programs, support

The Garden City Hospital Health Enhancement Center offers classes designed to strengthen your heart after a cardiac event. It also offers an exercise class, "Get Up and Move." For more information, call 734-458-3242. GCH Community Education offers classes in diabetes self-management education. The hospital also hosts various support groups including Nar-Anon, Alzheimer's, Alcoholics Anonymous, Focus on Living and Diabetes, which are held monthly. For more information,

call 734-458-4330.

Low vision support

Meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For more information, call Ellen Stross at 734-453-0750, Ext. 232.

Lyme support

Meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, except January, July and September, at North-West Unitarian-Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield; 248-354-4488. For more information, visit the Michigan Lyme Disease Association website, www.mlda.org, or call 888-784-LYME.

Metro Fibromyalgia & CFS Support

Meets 1-3 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Ruthann at 734-981-2519 or visit www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

Neuropathy support

The group meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road. The Southeast Michigan Neuropathy Support Group is designed for individuals with any kind of neuropathy.

Scleroderma Foundation

The Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter offers support for scleroderma and overlapping autoimmune patients. The Livonia group meets 7-8 p.m. the first Thursday of the month, February-June and September-November, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Group leader is Sue Harris, sharris27@mi.rr.com; 248-982-5740. A virtual support group meets 1-3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month, February-November. Contact Judy Nichols at kenjudynichols@gmail.com; 231-775-8446.



The 2015 Nissan Altima.

Check out 2015 Altima at Nissan of Canton

The Nissan Altima midsize sedan comes with a choice of four-cylinder or V-6 power and is available at Nissan of Canton, 42175 Michigan Ave. Competitors to the five-seat, front-drive Altima include the Toyota Camry, Honda Accord and Ford Fusion.

The 2015 Altima has had success as the third-best-selling midsize sedan in the U.S., in one of the most competitive classes in the car market.

Our Altima test car was a 2.5 SV with the standard 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine. Trim levels include base, S, SV and SL, the higher three of which are offered with an optional 3.5-liter V-6 that changes the trim name to 3.5. All Altimas have front-wheel drive.

Interior

Nissan has added a tilt adjustment on the SV and higher trim level, which is an improvement. The Altima's comfort was rated pretty well thanks to good head-

room and a reasonable split between front and backseat legroom. The interior volume is about average for the group, but it feels nice and airy, aided in part by our car's light color scheme.

Our SV's leather steering wheel is a quality touch worth having. The car's bright, rich-looking gauges are a high point.

Ergonomics and electronics

The Altima proved blissfully simple to operate. The 5.0-inch color display is a decent size for general purposes, though a bit small and low in the dashboard for displaying the backup camera's image. The feature becomes optional on the Altima 2.5 S and is standard on higher trims.

The same is true of a USB port, though Bluetooth streaming audio and hands-free telephone support are standard on all trim levels.

Cargo and storage

With 15.4 cubic feet of trunk volume, the Altima is in the middle of a group that ranges from 14.8 (Mazda6) to 16.3 cubic feet (Chevrolet Malibu and Hyundai Sonata). The trunk lid's hinges drop into the storage space, but the aperture between the trunk and cabin when the 60/40-split rear seats are folded is nice and tall.

Cabin storage is good, with highlights including larger door pockets than many competitors, a very deep glove compartment and a generous storage console underneath the center armrest. In addition to the front seat's two cupholders and a bottleholder in each door, backseat passengers get door bottleholders and a flip-down center armrest that looks like it could take either a large or a small drink, but not both at the same time.

Safety

In Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

crash tests, the 2015 Altima earned the top score of good in all but the small-overlap frontal test, where it earned a rating of acceptable. This result matches six competitors in the institute's classification of moderately priced midsize cars. Seven other models scored good in the small overlap.

New for 2015

The available 3.5-liter V-6 engine is more efficient thanks to less internal friction and new technology like variable timing for the exhaust valves. Beige interior color schemes now have black carpeting.

Below is a list of highlighted features and not an exhaustive list. Features are standard unless otherwise noted.

Exterior highlights

- » 16-inch steel wheels with covers; 16-, 17- or 18-inch aluminum wheels available
- » Low-rolling-resistance tires

- » Available automatic headlights
- » Available fog lights
- » Available LED taillights
- » When filling tires with air, horn beeps when correct pressure is reached
- » Available remote start
- » Available power moonroof

Interior highlights

- » Cloth or leather upholstery
- » Bluetooth cellphone connectivity with streaming audio
- » 60/40-split folding backseat with armrest
- » Customizable 4-inch color screen in gauge cluster
- » Available Nissan-Connect with Pandora and iPod connectivity
- » Available power-adjustable driver's seat
- » Available navigation system
- » Available dual-zone automatic climate control
- » Available Bose premium stereo

- » Available heated front seats and steering wheel

Under the hood

- » 182-horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine
- » Available 270-hp, 3.5-liter V-6
- » Continuously variable automatic transmission
- » Front-wheel drive
- » Active Understeer Control can brake inside front wheel in corners for improved handling

Safety features

- » Required in every new car: front airbags, anti-lock brakes and an electronic stability system
- » Side-impact airbags for the front seat
- » Side curtain airbags
- » Available blind spot warning system
- » Available lane departure warning
- » Available moving object detection when in reverse

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