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WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Westland man arrested in fatal hit-and-run

At 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Garden City Police officers made an arrest in connection with a fatal hit-and-run accident Monday night near Ford and Middlebelt.

Acting upon information generated through media coverage, information supplied by witnesses and the results of examination of forensic evidence, officers arrested a 39-year-old Westland man on I-96 and Beech Daly after a

two-day surveillance.

The man was not driving the vehicle involved in the crash, but officers were able to follow certain leads to a garage on Prevost Street in Detroit, where the vehicle was reportedly being concealed, and recovered it.

The suspect was scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, video out-county arraignment. Garden City Police Chief Robert

Muery said at 6 p.m. Friday he didn't know which judge would handle the arraignment. Additional details are posted at hometownlife.com over the weekend.

The suspect is described as a family man with three children and an expectant wife.

The driver has no prior criminal record and a valid driver's license. He is

not suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the crash.

Police have received conflicting statements regarding the possible involvement of a second vehicle and continue to investigate.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.



Santa and Mayor William Wild count down to the big moment when Mrs. Claus lights the tree.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crowd welcomes Santa and Mrs. Claus to Westland



Salvation Army Band members Greg Payton, Abby Johnson, John Hale and Matt Coakly entertain the crowd.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A rainstorm forced a last-minute shift in location, but wet weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm at Westland's Deck City Hall event.

It was the first time Westland's tree lighting had been held at the new city hall, and the event took advantage of the lobby, community rooms and council chambers.

There was caroling while the crowd awaited Santa and Mrs. Claus, who arrived on a fire truck.

Described as a personal friend of Santa Claus, Westland Mayor William Wild told the

See SANTA, Page A2

Larceny suspects sought in Westland

Police have released photos of two suspects who are wanted for allegedly stealing a credit card from a car in Westland and using the card at several locations.

A woman reported that her vehicle was broken into Nov. 21 while it was parked in a parking lot in the 34000 block of Elmwood. Initially, she checked her car and saw that her items had been moved but did not notice anything missing.

A call from American Express later that evening led to the discovery that her credit card had been stolen. She was told her card had been used at multiple locations for charges totaling over \$350.

A picture of the suspects was obtained from security cameras at one of the locations where the card allegedly was used.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Jeff Kavanaugh at 734-467-3189.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

A store security photo of two suspects wanted by Westland Police for allegedly breaking into a vehicle and using a credit card that was stolen from the vehicle.

Westland apartment fire kills 3 cats

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Tenants of four apartments at Forest Lane Apartments in Westland were displaced by an early morning fire Friday.

No one was injured but three cats died in the fire, which started in a first-floor unit and was reported about 6:30 a.m., said Wayne-Westland Fire Department Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers. The apartments are located at 6200 N. Wayne Road north of Ford.

"This was in the main building. There are four units at each address," he said. "Everyone got out safely. The fire set off the smoke detector (where the fire started) — they are all connected."

The fire started in the bedroom of an apartment that was occupied by a man and woman. Westland Police took the man into custody after finding narcotics in the apartment; then fire Rescue subsequently transported him to the hospital after he had a seizure.

"I believe it is an accidental fire at this time, pending further investigation," Eggers said. "I will try to figure out where the fire started and the cause."

The interior of the apartment where the fire started was destroyed, with heavy smoke and water damage to the other three units, he said.

"All of the tenants had relations local-

See FIRE, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cleanup was underway Friday after an early morning fire damaged four units at Forest Lane Apartments in Westland.



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Frost music students get 'real-world' experience

Where else can students learn to play four new music pieces and perform those pieces in a concert with other students they've just met ... all in one day? In the "real world," of course.

The philosophy in Frost Middle School's music classes, according to teacher Michael Rais, is "music education in the real world."

Taking this to heart, 12 seventh- and eighth-grade Frost band students participated in the 2015 Wayne State University Middle School Honors Band Day recently, where they received intense musical training from Wendy Matthews and Wayne State University music students.

They learned and performed with students

from all around Michigan and even some from Ohio. Together, the ensemble performed, and sounded "amazing," said Rais.

"I am very proud of our students for going above and beyond with their performing skills," Rais said. "I find it really important for our students to take part of any musical opportunity that comes our way at Frost."

Frost students who participated in the event included:

» Eighth-graders — Alyssa Hill (clarinet, concert master); Ariana Hernandez (flute); Skyler Scofield (baritone); Paul Garrett (tenor saxophone); Ian Buchanan (clarinet); Tess Heston (alto saxophone); Antonio Hinojosa (clarinet); Rachel Piper (alto saxo-

phone); and Emma Pawl (French horn).

» Seventh-graders — Nahum Young (percussion) and Ethan Lain (clarinet).

The Wayne State Middle and High School Honors Bands are under the direction of Douglas Bianchi, director of Bands; Joseph Dobos, Concert Band director, and Wendy K. Matthews,

assistant professor of music education, and are open to outstanding high school and middle school instrumentalists. For one day, the two ensembles are given the opportunity to rehearse in a university setting in large ensembles, master classes, and sectionals, led by Wayne State Department of Music faculty and students.

FIRE

Continued from Page A1

ly and went to stay with them," said Eggers, who expected to release the apartments back to those tenants after the weekend.

There was no structural damage to the apartment where the fire occurred, Eggers

said, but it will require major rehabilitation such as replacing the drywall and carpeting.

"Our guys from Station 1 knocked the fire down quickly — very quickly," he added.

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Ben Goetz and his kids, 3-year-old Nate and 9-year-old Mackenzi, write letters to Santa.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SANTA

Continued from Page A1

crowd that he had been checking the radar maps in his office and saw that Santa was crossing the Mackinac Bridge.

"He should be getting off (I)275 at Ford Road in about 10 minutes," said Wild, who questioned whether Deputy Mayor Thelma Kubitskey had slipped over onto the naughty list and attracted the rainy weather.

Santa, accompanied by Mrs. Claus, received an enthusiastic welcome from the crowd assembled in the city hall lobby.

"Wow! This is more people than Black Friday. It's great to be here in Westland," said Santa Claus. "I was singing on the way over. You know *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*? I was splashing in a rainy wonderland."

Assuring the crowd that Kubitskey was still on the nice list, Santa received the key to the city from Wild. At Santa's

request, Mrs. Claus pulled the lever to light the tree inside city hall and also the lights outside.

The event was expanded this year, with stations for youngsters to make crafts and write letters to Santa — volunteers at the Friendship Center will help Santa answer the letters and those left in a special mailbox at city hall.

Guests could also hear holiday stories read while having cookies and hot chocolate before

heading in to talk to Santa Claus. Youngsters who had each box checked on their passport could enter their name for prize drawings.

Along with city staff, volunteers from the Westland Areas Jaycees, Lions Club and other community groups helped with the event.

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Compassionate Friends hosting candle-lighting ceremony



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jamie Fidler signed "Calling All Angels" by Train at last year's ceremony. This year's candlelight vigil takes place Sunday, Dec. 13, in Kellogg Park in Plymouth.

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who left too soon, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

As candles are lit at 7 p.m., hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the

19th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

Started in the United States in 1997 as a small Internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

Hundreds of formal candle-lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle-lighting are conducted in

homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Starting in New Zealand, candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are started in another, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

The local chapter of The Compassionate Friends sponsors the Kellogg Park ceremony. The event will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, a

PowerPoint presentation of the children's names, poetry and songs.

Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of the children who have died too soon.

Friends and families are invited to the remembrance. For more information or to register a child's name to be included, call 734-778-0800 or email tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com.

Candles will be provided and an ornament will be placed on the memory trees in the park when you register a child's name.

Wayne City Council members say goodbye to Hawley, Monit

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

In recognition of their efforts, outgoing Wayne City Council members receive a certificate of service and the portrait that hung on their wall at city hall while in office.

At Tuesday's meeting, the council honored Skip Monit, who lost a reelection bid for a second four-year term last month, and James Hawley, who resigned midway through his four-year term. Hawley was appointed to fill a council vacancy, elected to a four-year term and spent the last year serving as mayor.

"I thank Jim and Skip for their leadership and their passion for the community. We have made significant steps forward under your watch," Councilman Anthony Miller said.

Also thanking Monit and Hawley for their service, Councilman John Rhaesa commented that he and Hawley became good friends.

"I appreciate all you have done for the community. History will tell



James Hawley, who resigned from the Wayne City Council, with Mayor Susan Rowe.

that in the last year we did the things that will move us in the right direction," Rhaesa said. "Thank you. I'm looking forward to visiting him in Florida."

In office a month, Council Christopher Sanders said it's been a very sobering experience to come to city hall for a series of meetings.

"You don't know what you don't know until you don't know it," said Sand-

ers, thanking Monit and Hawley for their service.

City Manager Lisa Nocerini added her thanks to the outgoing councilmen, teasing Hawley about his "no" vote on hiring her as a consultant a couple of years ago.

"I want to thank Skip and Jim. It was a pleasure working with you. I thank you for your support," Nocerini said. "We handled a lot of business

in the last six months. I thank you for your support and guidance."

Hawley, who voted to hire Nocerini as city manager earlier this year, said Nocerini is great and he knows she will do a great job for the council.

"It's kind of embarrassing to sit up here and take these compliments. I appreciate the support I've received over a long period of time," Hawley



Skip Monit, receiving a certificate of service honoring his four years on the Wayne City Council, with Mayor Susan Rowe.

said. "I extend my best wishes to the council. In the past, we've not had the quality of a city manager that we have today in Lisa. She has a tremendous amount of experience — that will make life easier for you."

Hawley also thanked the community for giving him the opportunity to serve. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart," he added.

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FINALLY - Straight talk About Sciatica

Are you suffering from back pain or sciatica? Then it's likely your biggest problem is pain. But there's another major problem: bad information.

To end sciatica misery you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy sciatica myths and give you the facts.

MYTH: Sciatica will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a sciatica specialist immediately. Left untreated, sciatica can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with sciatica.

FACT: In severe cases, sciatica can lead to the inability to control your bowels or bladder - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with sciatica.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure the root cause of sciatica.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to get sciatica."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to sciatica. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprit. Pregnancy can cause sciatica. Sciatica can affect anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to overcome sciatica.

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve sciatic pain and prevent the pain getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

MYTH: Sciatica requires surgery.

FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain. It's a new procedure called Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results from this treatment have been

published in major medical journals. Success rates are up to 90%.

MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

FACT: With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in sciatica, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

MYTH: Getting Sciatica properly diagnosed is expensive.

FACT: Not true. Greg Kramer of Kramer Chiropractic in Livonia, is currently offering an initial consultation for Just \$43.

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Edison principal risks hair for dance-a-thon funds

Brad Kadrich
 Staff Writer

Earlier this year, Edison Elementary School Principal Christine Swanson had to dress up like a duck after her students exceeded a dance-a-thon fundraising goal.

Now it's her hair that's at stake.

Swanson challenged her students to surpass the \$8,200 they raised at last year's Dance-a-thon.

"Last year if the school surpassed our goal I agreed to wear my duck costume all day and give each student a duck from my collection," Swanson said. "This year if we surpass my goal the top fundraiser at each grade level gets to help cut my hair off for donation."

They held their kick-off assembly Nov. 24 to show kids

the various dances that will be done. The Dance-a-thon is set for Dec. 16.

Swanson has asked each student or family to raise \$30. For every \$1,000 raised school-wide, students will receive an award.

Staff members will do many things when the school raises the following amounts:

» For \$1,000 — Teachers will stand on the roof to welcome students in the morning.

» For \$2,000 — Staff will karaoke on the morning announcements.

» For \$3,000 — Balloons filled with slime and yuck (pudding, jello, etc.) popped on teacher's heads.

» For \$4,000 — Staff pie-eating contest.

» For \$5,000 — Staff human ice cream sundae.

» For \$6,000 — Top fund-

raiser in each grade level will get to assist in cutting the principal's hair.

» More than \$6,500 — Each student at school gets a duck from the principal's personal collection.

Staff will complete the above named tasks as the funds get turned in and the goals are met. In addition the top fundraiser from each classroom will get to have pizza lunch with the principal and the top fundraiser in the school will get to be "Principal for the Day."

This is the school's only fundraiser for the year. They will use the funds to fund school field trips, classroom magazine subscriptions, buy classroom supplies and whole-school needs and buy books for classrooms and the library.



Edison Elementary Principal Christine Swanson wore her duck costume for a day the last time students exceeded Dance-a-thon fundraising goals.

Trott supports bill replacing 'No Child Left Behind'

U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, voted Dec. 2 in support of legislation to improve public education in southeast Michigan by reducing federal mandates, restoring local control and empowering parents and education leaders to hold schools accountable for effectively teaching students.

The legislation, known as the Every Child Succeeds Act, replaces the No Child Left Behind education initiative and reduces the federal government's involvement in America's K-12 schools. The legislation will:

» Return responsibility for accountability and school improvement to state and local leaders by eliminating the federal accountability system, known as adequate yearly progress or AYP.

» Reduce the influence of

Washington and help school leaders better address local priorities by repealing 49 federal programs.

» Protect the rights of states and school districts to determine what standards are best for their students by prohibiting any agent of the federal government from mandating, promoting or incentivizing a particular set of standards such as Common Core.

» Provide states and schools new funding flexibility. The agreement establishes a block grant with existing federal dollars that states and school districts can use to fund priorities set at the local level.



Trott

3 suspects arrested after teenagers robbed while waiting at school bus stop

Aileen Wingblad
 Staff Writer

Two men and a woman are in custody after allegedly robbing two Clarenceville High School students of their backpacks and going through the pockets of a third while they were at their school bus stop in Farmington Hills on Thursday morning.

According to a release from Farmington Hills Police Chief Chuck Nebus, the students, two girls and a boy, were waiting for their bus near Sedalia Avenue and Ontaga Street when a car pulled up, two people got out and approached them.

One suspect patted down the boy and went through his pockets looking for valuables, but found nothing. The two girls were robbed of their backpacks, and the suspects

fled the scene in their car. Two of the victims went home to tell their parents of the incident while the other stayed at the bus stop.

Moments later, the suspects returned to the scene and dropped off the backpacks with the student that had remained there. Nothing was reported missing.

Farmington Hills police caught up with the suspects' vehicle, a red Pontiac Grand Prix, about 10 minutes later at a gas station near Inkster Road and Grand River Avenue. The suspects, a 23-year-old man from Farmington Hills, a 21-year-old man from Redford Township, and a 20-year-old woman from Westland, were arrested.

According to Farmington Hills Police Lt. Paul Nicholas, the three could face unarmed robbery charges, but that

hasn't yet been determined.

Nicholas noted that no weapon was used and there were no injuries reported in the incident, which is believed to be isolated. Southfield, Livonia and Redford Township police departments were contacted, he said, and have had nothing like this occurring recently at bus stops.

"We're confident we have all three suspects in custody, and are confident people can feel comfortable at all the bus stops tomorrow," Nicholas said.

Another student was at the bus stop during the incident but wasn't approached. It's not believed the students knew the suspects, he said.

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Food, auctions, merriment kick off holidays

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

There was a chance to sample from different restaurants, use auctions to stock up on Christmas gifts and raise money for charity at the annual Westland Holiday Taste Fest.

"What I like about it is that it kicks off the holidays. It's become such a tradition — we've been doing it for 10 years," said Dan Martin, a board member for the Westland Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsor of Taste Fest with the Westland Rotary Club. "It's what is meaningful to us."

Guests could sample wares from 14 different establishments, ranging from the new Grindstone Smokehouse to Mr. Mike's Grill to the Hellenic Cultural Center, where the event was held. One restaurant, On the Border, participated by providing a sneak preview of its new location on Warren Road that isn't officially open until Dec. 10.

"There are those who



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teri Chomos wore a really ugly Christmas sweater designed and made by husband Monte Chomos for the ugly clothes contest at the Westland Holiday Taste Fest. According to Monte, the sweater represents the true Christmas spirit since you can eat candy canes right off the sweater.

are here for the food. I love the food — the restaurants work really hard," Martin said.

Not yet having had an official grand opening, Grindhouse owner James Raptoplous had brought pulled pork, pulled chicken, pig

candy — maple syrup-cured bacon — and cheese and mac.

"Cheese being the most important part. Everybody is loving it. Some people came back more than once," said Raptoplous, who was running out of food mid-

way through the event. "I prepared for 300 people. It's good marketing for use."

Pat Suggs was manning the table for M and P Chocolates — her daughter Pam Richards is the P partnering in the business with Michelle



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Angela Haase chooses a dessert from the Wayne-Westland Schools culinary arts program table. At right, Chef Tony Paquette, with students Marcus Wachtel (center) and Zack Cubeliere.

Geno. Their retail store is the Chocolate Drop Shop on S. Wayne Road.

"We have all kinds of goodies. People are taking business cards. They know the Chocolate Drop Shop," said Suggs, offering samples of cherry popcorn, holiday chocolates, cherry cheesecake and maple walnut chocolate fudge.

Along with food, there was live music from the Marsha Mumm Trio, a disc jockey and auctions. Along with a ticket auction, basket and 50/50

raffles, there was a live auction with bidding for prizes including a private plane flight to Marshall with a \$100 gift card to Schuler's Restaurant donated by Faust Library Board President Mark Neal and golf at Western Country Club with 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell.

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Westland seeks to recoup demolition costs for city hall, Bailey Center

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Westland is hoping to recoup as much as \$500,000 in costs related to the demolition of vacant municipal buildings by establishing Brownfield District.

A public hearing on the Brownfield proposal is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, prior to the next city council meeting. The properties included are the former city hall, the Bailey Recreation Center, the former fire station 1 and the city-owned Michigan Motor Exchange, all located at Ford and Carl-

son. The closed city buildings are on 14 acres.

"By making it a Brownfield, the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) can be reimbursed," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

The other part of the plan is to include the 22 acres of restricted-use land in Central City Park — the western section south to Marquette and the currently fenced-off pond.

The eastern section of the park along Carlson underwent extensive remediation to address the lead and other contamination that resulted in the park closing for

several years. It was cost-prohibitive to remediate the 22-acre section to west, which like the rest of the park was turned over to the city by Wayne County.

"This would be one chance to bring it all back on line," Wild said. "If we pave it for a parking lot, the restricted area could be used. We already did the methane trench for that area. It's too early to say what it is. If a developer wanted to do more with it, we might have more work."

Other than plans to demolish the vacant buildings, work that will be funded through the

DDA, the city hasn't approved any plans for redeveloping the Ford Road property or the currently restricted land.

The city would likely be able to be reimbursed for handling asbestos and hazardous material, demolition of the existing buildings, DDA administrative expenses, preparation of the brownfield plan and due care activities.

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FILE PHOTO

The former Westland City Hall, which is expected to be demolished in 2016.

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Man charged with robbing tattoo artist

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Unhappy with his new tattoo, a Westland man is facing an unarmed robbery charge after allegedly assaulting the tattoo artist and taking his money back.

Aidan Hudson, 19, has been arraigned on a charge of unarmed robbery in Westland 18th District. A not-guilty

plea was entered and Hudson was remanded to jail in lieu of a \$25,000 cash/surety bond.

On Nov. 27, Hudson went to the Inked Detroit Tattoo shop, 8347 N. Wayne Road, and inquired about getting a



Hudson

star tattoo on his hand. Hudson and the tattoo artist agreed upon a fee of \$50 to complete the tattoo. The tattoo artist was paid before doing the tattoo.

According to police, after the tattoo was completed Hudson, unhappy with the outcome, demanded a refund. Police said when the tattoo artist refused to return the money, Hudson re-

sponded by punching him in the face multiple times, cutting him and causing him to bleed.

Police said Hudson then took the money that he had paid for the tattoo and fled the location.

When officers responded to the tattoo shop, the tattoo artist provided a copy of Hudson's driver's license, which didn't have his current address, police said.

Checking into prior contacts with Hudson, officers went to a home in the 30000 block of Geraldine in Westland. Officers were initially told that Hudson was not at the home but they were later able to locate him inside the home sporting a new star tattoo on his hand, police said.

Although it was apparent that the tattoo artist

had been assaulted, he declined any sort of medical attention, police said.

Hudson is scheduled for a probable cause hearing Dec. 10.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Christmas decorations stolen

Livonia police were called Thursday evening to a home in the 32200 block of Bretton on the report of a stolen Christmas decoration.

The resident said he had recently installed an "instant light show" on his property, which showed beams of light on his residence, for the holidays. He came home from work that night and saw it working and later went to pick up his son when he discovered the item was missing. Nothing else appeared missing and no suspect information was available.

Police called on theft of knives

Police were dispatched Wednesday to Menards, 12701 Middlebelt, on a report of a retail fraud that had taken place.

When police arrived, they spoke to a store employee, who said they saw a suspect select a package of knives from the shelf and eventually took them out of their packaging. The suspect reportedly pocketed two of the knives and tried to pay for the third knife. She was stopped by store

security and detained until police arrived.

Catalytic converter stolen

Police were called Wednesday afternoon to a home in the 32000 block of Washington on the report of a stolen catalytic converter.

The resident said they parked the car in the front of the residence and later discovered someone had taken the catalytic converter. No suspect information was available.

Another catalytic converter theft

A resident who lives in the 30100 block of Grandon came into the police station Wednesday morning to report the theft of a catalytic converter from her vehicle.

She said the car was parked in front of the residence overnight. The victim's father, who lives in the residence as well, reportedly heard some sawing noises during the night, but couldn't see anything when he looked outside.

— Compiled by David Veselenak from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.
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Schoolcraft wins Educational Institution honor

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Gene Keyes has worked diligently over the years to build the manufacturing program at Schoolcraft College.

And the effort appears to be paying off.

Schoolcraft College has received the 2015 Clips & Clamps Industries Educational Institution Award as part of the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) Awards of Excellence in Metalforming.

The school won the award for its outstanding manufacturing programs designed for students seeking 21st century skills based on today's manufacturing environment. Educational programs at the school cover middle-school and college students, and industry workers.

"It's national recognition for what we do here at Schoolcraft," said Keyes, head of the school's Advanced Manufacturing Department. "We've worked hard on adapting our programs to what is needed to get jobs in local industries."

Schoolcraft College has a well-established Industry Advisory Committee that has been active for more than 15 years, with a dozen companies participating at the most recent meeting.



COURTESY SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Gene Keyes, teaching his students in the Schoolcraft College Manufacturing Lab, said participation in the program has risen to more than 400 students.

The college, along with both Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, works directly with local industries through the Livonia Industrial Council and the Plymouth Manufacturing Council, a partnership of educators, businesses and policy makers focused on growing a skilled and high-tech workforce in the region.

Local businesses have also donated time and machines to the manufacturing department, showing the trust and faith local businesses have in the school's manufacturing department.

The school's partnership with local businesses is a key to its success, Keyes pointed out.

"It's what sets us apart," Keyes said. "I'm

in (local) plants all the time. I want to give them (students) who are the best ... who are ready to be productive from Day One."

Under Keyes, Schoolcraft College has aggressively tackled the challenge for developing new skilled metalworkers by updating curriculum and pursuing NIMS accreditation.

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, students were able to acquire NIMS certification from the college's advanced manufacturing programs. A total of 73 credentials were earned, 30 of which were from Schoolcraft faculty and students.

Schoolcraft College actively reaches out to the community, introducing parents and students to the world of manu-

facturing and machining. One way the school does this is through the college's "Kids on Campus" program, the "Manufacturing High Adventures" section, which is attended by more than 60 students from middle school to high school every summer.

"It's about exposing them to the industry," Keyes said.

The department also works with the local K-12 teachers and administrators to develop a career path from middle school to college, and then onto jobs. The school also recently hosted its second annual open house in the Advanced Manufacturing Lab, allowing more than 200 students and parents to tour the lab and campus.

With the development of Schoolcraft's partnerships with the community, local industrial councils and manufacturers, enrollment keeps climbing in the college's manufacturing programs — "I had 54 students in 2009; now there are more than 400," Keyes said — and the school looks forward to this trend continuing in years to come.

The Educational Institution Award is one of eight Awards of Excellence in Metalforming presented annually by the Precision Metalforming Association.

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Westland greets the holiday season



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rickie Constantennia, Brandon Rice and Thelma Kubitskey lead the crowd in holiday song.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Santa and Mrs. Claus make a grand entrance.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael and Amy Randazzo watch for Santa. Their 4-year-old daughter, Chloe Sue, keeps an eye on the photographer.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Krysteanna Walker-Brown and Zion White, from Hicks Elementary, singing Christmas carols.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Watching and waiting for their turn to meet Santa Claus.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Four-year-old Flower Reyes meets Santa Claus.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Good morning, Redford

The Redford Chamber of Commerce sponsors the "Good Morning Redford" breakfast Tuesday, Dec. 8, with coffee at 7:30 a.m. and breakfast at 8 a.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 25630 Grand River.

Cost is \$8 for members and \$16 for non-members. RSVP to the chamber office by calling 313-535-0960 or emailing aa@redfordchamber.org

Breakfast with Santa

Good Hope Lutheran Church will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa and a Scholastic Book Fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 12. The price will be \$3 per person for a pancake-and-sausage breakfast and picture with Santa.

The Book Fair will help guests with Christmas shopping for their favorite readers. All proceeds from the Book Fair will go to Vista Maria in the form of books for the girls that are residing there. This breakfast is for anyone who enjoys eating pancakes and sausage (not just the kids). Good Hope is at 28680 Cherry



SUBMITTED

Helicopter grad

Warrant Officer-1 Casey James Ferris, the son of Linda Ferris, has graduated from helicopter flight training at Fort Rucker, Ala. He was born and raised in Garden City and attended Garden City schools. Ferris has been in the Army for eight years.

Hill (between Inkster & Middlebelt) in Garden City.

Christmas show

AMVETS Post 171 is hosting a Rock & Roll Tribute Christmas show at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the post located at 1217 Merriman in Westland.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 8 p.m. The event will feature free pizza and a cash bar. Cost is \$25 per person, \$45 per couple.

Service of Remembrance

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Livonia and Garden City will be holding their 25th annual Service of Remembrance on Dec. 6 for those families who have lost a loved one during this last year and in the years past.

At the service, family members will be invited to place an angel with their loved one's name

on a tree where it will remain until after Jan. 1. A popular Children's Table is available for the kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings. Helpful thoughts on getting through the holidays after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read. Cookies and warm beverages can be enjoyed indoors following the Service.

The service at the Garden City Chapel, 31551 Ford Road (just west of Merriman) will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Call 734-425-9200.

Night in Bethlehem

Merriman Road Baptist Church sponsors "A Night in Bethlehem," a hands-on experience that takes grandpas, grandmas, moms, dads and kids on a sensory-rich Christmas adventure that fills them with more joy than you could pack in a million stockings.

Families will see, hear, taste, touch and smell the Bible-times town of Bethlehem. Through hands-on activities, games, stories and more, they'll experience firsthand the amazing impact of the miracle of Christmas.

The event takes place

from 3-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and from 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Merriman Road Baptist Church is at 2055 Merriman in Garden City. Admission is free.

For more information, call 734-421-0472.

Widowed Friends

The Friends of Widowed Men and Women present the following events:

» Motor City Brass Band presents the Sounds of the Season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Michael A. Guido Theater at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Tickets are now on sale. Discounted when purchased from Craig Strain at 586-924-6866.

» New Year's Eve Dinner/Dancing \$33 pre-paid includes appetizers, plated dinner, dessert, tax and tip. Cash bar. Music/Dancing by the Showcasemen. RSVP with check by Dec. 21 and get mailing address by calling Carol Olsen at 313-562-3080.

Christmas dinner

Angel House hosts its third annual Christmas dinner for low-income people from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 18, at the Livonia

Senior Community Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia.

Angel House is looking for donations of a food dish or a \$50 gift card to meet its goal of feeding 200 low-income people.

For more information, call 248-622-0359.

Photography club

Time/date: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Details: The December meeting of the 3D Photography Club will feature its annual holiday potluck dinner, with live music performed by members. There will also be photographic items available, including a special photo book sale, as well as a monthly club 3D image competition.

Everyone is invited to join the club at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, for the dinner, music, sale and to see award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent. For more information, contact www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Police look into 'stranger danger' incident reported near Livonia school

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Livonia Police are looking into an incident of "stranger danger" after a suspect described as an "unknown white male" tried to lure a female Emerson Middle School student to his car Wednesday.

According to school officials, the incident happened around 7:40

a.m. Wednesday along West Chicago, between Henry Ruff and Louise. The female student was walking to school when the suspect reportedly called to her, "come over here, now!"

According to an email sent by the district to parents, the suspect was described to police as a white male of unknown age, with a blond mustache and goatee and

wearing a blue skull cap. The man was driving a mid-sized, four-door black vehicle. He drove west on West Chicago before turning south on Henry Ruff.

In the email to parents, school officials said the student "did the right thing, and immediately ran to a friend's nearby home."

It was the second time in three days Livonia

Police received reports of suspicious vehicles and people. According to the email, police received a report Monday morning from a parent who considered a full-sized white van to be suspicious near a bus stop at Northfield and Pere, in the area north of Joy Road west of Hix.

Someone also spotted a red Ford Escape, driven by an older white male,

parked near the bus stop Monday shortly before 4 p.m.

According to the email, neither Monday report is being treated as a case of "stranger danger."

"Student safety is our first priority and we'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents to talk with your children about safety precautions while walking to and

from bus stops or school," the email read. "Those precautions include walking in groups; not engaging in conversation with strangers; running if they are feeling threatened or afraid; and immediately notifying the police and an adult of the incident."

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PT M-F, 9-3. Must be local to Canton. Reliable car. Pay btwn \$9-\$11/hr. depending on experience. Resume: Opportunities@PerenniaSoftware.Com

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IN THE O&E CLASSIFIEDS

Livonia honors essay contest winners

More than 50 boys and girls ages 5-12 participated in the 28th annual "December is Special to Me Because..." essay contest sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation and the Friends of the Wilson Barn.

Participants submitted a 25-word-or-less essay summarizing what makes December special. Winners in each age division received \$25 and an award certificate. The grand-prize winner received \$100 and an award certificate.

The winners and their families assisted Mayor Jack Kirksey, Santa and Mrs. Claus with the City Tree Lighting on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

"The essay contest is a great opportunity for our young people to express

the importance of the December holiday season in their own words," said Ted Davis, Superintendent, Livonia Parks and Recreation. "Thank you to everyone who participated in this Livonia holiday tradition."

"December is special to me because..." winners were:

» Grand Prize — Kailey Flynn, 11, from Johnson Upper Elementary School. "...There are a lot of opportunities to help others. For example, donating cans of food, donating shoes, and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child."

» Ages 5-6 — Victoria Curtis, 5. "...I like to sing Christmas carols and decorate my Christmas tree. I also like to celebrate Jesus's birthday with a birthday cake and

food."

» Ages 7-8 — Clark Smith, 7, from Hoover Elementary School. "...It is Jesus's birthday and my brother Harvey's too. So, I get to spend time with my family, celebrate, and give thanks."

» Ages 9-10 — Kara Svoboda, 9, from Randolph Elementary School. "...Because it's magical. The spirit of Christmas and giving is everywhere. I love spending time with family and looking at the beautiful lights and decorations!"

» Ages 11-12 — Nathan Lyle, 12, from Holmes Middle School. "...I get to spend time with family and friends. We enjoy reliving old memories and traditions while creating new ones that will last a lifetime."



Essay winners Kailey Flynn, Nathan Lyle, Kara Svoboda, Clark Smith and Tori Curtis helped Santa and Mayor Jack Kirksey light the city Christmas tree Tuesday.

WAYNE COP CALLS

Break-in

A resident in the 4400 block of Edmund told police Nov. 26 that he returned home from work about 3:30 a.m. to find someone had broken into his home. There had been an attempt to pry the front door open but the back door had been unlocked.

Reported missing were a Gretsch electric guitar, an Epiphone electric guitar, two Ibanez electric guitars, a 27-inch LCD television, a tablet computer and a dorm-size refrigerator valued at \$2,400. A jar of assorted coins estimated at \$150 was also missing.

Break-in

On Nov. 28, a resident in the 5600 block of Newberry told police that someone had stolen a generator and four Michelin X-ice tires, valued at \$2,100, from his garage. He said he had last seen the missing items Nov. 20 and the garage had been left locked.

Larceny

A resident in the 3300 block of Clark told police Nov. 20 that 120 prescription pain pills were stolen from his mailbox. He said the post office reported delivering the prescription, a three-month supply, from the Veterans Administration Hospital on Nov. 16.

The resident said he never had a problem previously but would now have his prescriptions delivered to his postal box.

Break-in

On Nov. 24, a resident in the 34000 block of Currier told police he arrived home to find a window broken out and that his property had been searched. The glass door at the top of the interior stairway was also broken. He said it didn't appear anything was missing.

Larceny from a vehicle

A combination safe, a wallet, a Ryobi drilling

and driving set and AAA batteries valued at \$51 were reported stolen from a vehicle in the 4100 block of Gloria on Nov. 30. The vehicle had been left unlocked.

Found item

A resident in the 36000 block of Thinbark called police Nov. 30 after returning home to find a deer lawn ornament had been left on a tree stump in her yard. The officer collected the ornament for safekeeping.

Larceny

A Troy woman told police Nov. 21 that someone stole her purse containing \$60 and her driver's license while she was at U.S. 12 Bar, 34816 W. Michigan Ave. She said she used the restroom and set her clutch purse down on the counter to wash her hands.

Realizing she had forgotten her purse, she returned to the restroom within seconds but the purse was gone.

LeAnne Rogers

Twelve Oaks Mall celebrates holidays with 'Peanuts' gang

To celebrate the launch of *The Peanuts Movie*, a special family-friendly holiday experience is being offered exclusively at Twelve Oaks Mall and Great Lakes Crossing Outlets from Nov. 6 to Dec. 24.

Developed in partnership with 20th Century Fox, the iconic *Peanuts* characters will take center stage within unique, interactive Ice Palaces at each participating mall. The indoor holiday displays will feature a 30-foot dome complete with falling snow, a light show and other activities for the entire family.

"We are thrilled to be featuring these loveable characters in this year's Ice Palace," said Melissa Morang, Great Lakes Crossing Outlet's marketing and sponsorship director. "For those of us who grew up alongside these characters, as well as children who might be experiencing the *Peanuts* gang for the first time, this year's holiday experience is sure to be



Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

crowd-pleaser."

In addition, kids can watch special scenes from the new movie, create and compare their icy hand print alongside Snoopy and Woodstock, have their photo taken with a life-size graphic of Snoopy and his dog house and much more.

Both malls will also offer the opportunity for families to visit with Santa Claus as part of the Ice Palace experience. Those who visit Santa will receive a complimentary gift.

The Twelve Oaks Mall

Ice Palace, which is sponsored by DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, is located in Center Court. Great Lakes Crossing Outlets Ice Palace, which is sponsored by LEGOLAND Discovery Center, is located in District 7. The Michigan Education Savings Program is the presenting sponsor for both malls.

For more information on Ice Palace and holiday hours, go to www.greatlakescrossingoutlets.com/events and www.shoptwelveoaks.com/events.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154-5474 (734) 744-2500

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bids at Holmes Middle School and Johnson Upper Elementary School Buildings.

Holmes Middle School and Johnson Upper Elementary Schools, Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid for the 2015-2016 School Year

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section titled DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids, 2015-2016 school year, open bids OR Buy4Michigan Website, www.buy4michigan.com.

A MANDATORY pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at Holmes Middle School, 16200 Newburgh, Livonia, MI, 48154, proceeding to Johnson Upper Elementary School, 8400 Hix, Westland, MI, 48185. You must check in at the Front Office.

Sealed bids marked **Holmes/Johnson Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid** will be received until 10:00 a.m. on the 17th day December, 2015, in the Business Office at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. **Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.**

The Bid Opening will take place at 10:00 a.m., on the 17th day of December, 2015, at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Complex, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. Please feel free to include additional pages of information if necessary. For bids to be considered they must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

PREVAILING WAGE RATES APPLY TO THIS BID.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner and any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Board of Education, the Livonia Public Schools Interim Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, any member of the Wayne RESA Board of Education or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance – Iran Economic Sanctions Act. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.**

All bids must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Livonia Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each bid over \$23,230.00 and must be submitted with the bid forms furnished with the bid specifications/price sheet package.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part: to award to other than the low bidder: to waive any irregularities and/or informalities: and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Prices bid are to be **F.O.B. Destination**. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission. All bids must be submitted on the specification/price sheet package form and signed by the bidder. Two (2) signed copies of the bid package are to be addressed to the attention of:

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154-5474

"Holmes/Johnson Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid"

One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files. Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Arch Environmental Group, Inc., Phil@archenvgroup.com 248.426.0165, x330 or to Harry Lau, Administrator of Facilities and Operations, hlau@livoniapublicschools.org, 734.744.2511, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Published: December 6, 2015

LD-000285665 3x10

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 15125 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA, MI 48154-5474 (734) 744-2500

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bids at Holmes Middle School and Johnson Upper Elementary School Buildings.

Stevenson High School, Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid for the 2015-2016 School Year

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section titled DISTRICT, Purchasing Bids, 2015-2016 school year, open bids OR Buy4Michigan Website, www.buy4michigan.com.

A MANDATORY pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI, 48152. You must check in at the Front Office.

Sealed bids marked **Stevenson High School Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid** will be received until 11:00 a.m. on the 17th day December, 2015, in the Business Office at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. **Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.**

The Bid Opening will take place at 11:00 a.m., on the 17th day of December, 2015, at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Complex, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration. Please feel free to include additional pages of information if necessary. For bids to be considered they must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

PREVAILING WAGE RATES APPLY TO THIS BID.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner and any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Board of Education, the Livonia Public Schools Interim Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, any member of the Wayne RESA Board of Education or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance – Iran Economic Sanctions Act. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.**

All bids must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Livonia Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each bid over \$23,230.00 and must be submitted with the bid forms furnished with the bid specifications/price sheet package.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part: to award to other than the low bidder: to waive any irregularities and/or informalities: and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Prices bid are to be **F.O.B. Destination**. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission. All bids must be submitted on the specification sheet/price sheet form and signed by the bidder. Two (2) signed copies of the bid package are to be addressed to the attention of:

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154-5474

"Stevenson High School Asbestos Abatement Contractor Bid"

One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files. Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Arch Environmental Group, Inc., Phil@archenvgroup.com 248.426.0165, x330 or to Harry Lau, Administrator of Facilities and Operations, hlau@livoniapublicschools.org, 734.744.2511, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Published: December 6, 2015

LD-000285665 3x5

Northville residents lead fight on kidney disease

Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

It was more than 20 years ago that Duane McLean received a call that his father needed a kidney.

He didn't hesitate with an answer.

"It was an easy decision. My father was my hero," McLean said.

McLean's father, Gerald, had tried dialysis and was in the final stages of kidney disease. Aware of the looming possibilities, McLean, who has lived in Northville with his wife and three children for 12 years, had been tested earlier and was found to be a suitable donor candidate. When the opportunity arose for organ donation, he was prepared to act.

It was this experience — and others — that led McLean to join fellow Northville resident Ed Peper as honorary co-chairs of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's Kidney Ball set for 6 p.m. Dec. 5 at Motor City Casino.

"Once you are touched by something, it tends to matter more and you begin to realize how important the issue is," said McLean, executive vice president of Business Affairs for the Detroit Tigers.

"Raising awareness of kidney disease, and its prevention, is very important to me," he added.

Peper — the US vice president General Motors Fleet and Commercial and resident of the



Dan Carney, president and CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, and his wife Linda enjoy the last year's Kidney Ball with Ed Peper, 2015 Kidney Ball honorary co-chair, and his wife Pam.



Duane McLean, 2015 Honorary Kidney Ball Co-Chair (right) gathers with his daughter, Kayla and wife, Sue at the 2014 Kidney Ball.

Northville community since 2005 with his wife and two children — agrees.

Many people are not aware of the leading causes of kidney disease such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes, Peper said. More importantly, some of these factors are preventable, he added.

"Losing weight, eating better and trying to live a healthy lifestyle are all really important," he said.

More than 26 million people over the age of 20 — including 900,000 people in Michigan — suffer from chronic kidney disease, according to the

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. Chronic kidney disease is permanent kidney damage or decreased level of kidney function that continues for three months or more. When left untreated, CKD can lead to complete kidney failure with the only options for survival dialysis or a kidney transplant.

"The good news is that 70 percent of the time, we can prevent kidney disease ending in kidney failure by managing our risk factors," said Dan Carney, President and CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

The foundation was

ranked the number one charity in the category of diseases, disorders and disciplines in 2014 by Charity Navigator, the nation's leading charity evaluator. It is committed not only to raising awareness of the disease, but to helping people learn to manage the disease in the early stages, before it becomes life-threatening, he said.

"So much of our health can be determined by our lifestyle — that is why it is so important to help people understand the importance of controlling the factors that they are able. It is really important that people talk to their doctors and ask

about kidney function during their regular checkups with their physicians," Carney said.

He said that organizers of the Kidney Ball hope to raise \$550,000 from the event to support the foundation.

Not only does the Kidney Ball raise valuable funds, it also promises to be a fun-filled evening, Carney said.

The event includes a live auction featuring everything from an Italian Villa vacation to a "Detroit Tigers Experience" as well as a silent auction with jewelry, electronics, wine and even a toy-filled "Kid's Room" for those hoping

to get in some holiday shopping.

Fifty Amp Fuse, a local band recognized for their energetic live music performances, will be on hand to add even more excitement to the event, Carney said.

McLean said he is hopeful that people recognize the importance of the issue and get behind it.

"It really is a great opportunity to support an important cause," he said.

Tickets for the Kidney Ball fundraiser are \$250. For more information about the event, call 800-482-1455 or visit nkfm.org.

LPS school buses involved in accident

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Two students were taken to a hospital and a bus driver has been placed on administrative leave after two Livonia Public Schools buses were involved in a minor accident Wednesday near Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman.

The accident happened shortly before 4 p.m., when a bus that had just left Cooper Upper Elementary on Ann Arbor Trail accidentally rear-ended another Cooper bus that was stopped at the Middlebelt in-

tersection.

According to school officials, one student was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment of a minor laceration, while the second student was taken to the hospital by her parents as a precaution after bumping her head during the accident.

Stacy Jenkins, administrator of district communications, said the driver was immediately taken for drug testing and was placed on paid administrative leave pending the investigation. Both are standard operating procedures when there is an injury

accident, Jenkins said.

All parents were notified immediately by the LPS Transportation Department and were personally contacted by the principal and assistant principal, who were among the staff members on the scene shortly after the incident. The majority of the students were picked up by their parents and some were transferred to another bus, officials said.

In an email to Cooper parents, Principal Sarah Aherne wrote, "Our students did a wonderful job being patient and cooperative." She also com-

mended the staff members and emergency crews for their quick response.

"Our bus drivers do a tremendous job, day in and day out, transporting thousands of our students to and from our schools," Jenkins said. "While this was obviously an unfortunate incident, we're very grateful that the injuries were few and that they were minor."

Jenkins said district officials are looking into the cause of the accident.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Senior center hosts annual holiday craft show

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year. That much was obvious Friday during the Livonia Senior Center's annual holiday craft show.

More than 500 people were expected to come through the doors at the center off Five Mile and Farmington to purchase goodies such as soaps, glass work, blankets and even jewelry.

"Our parking lot will be packed all day," director Karl Peters said.

More than 40 vendors were on hand to share their wares with those looking for unique presents for loved ones. One change this year allowed one lucky vendor who won a raffle to sell their goods in the lobby. Sure enough, one vendor selling sweatshirts was out in the lobby as patrons came into the center.

"They got the premium spot," Peters said. "She took over the lobby."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Detroit first responders lauded, Canton native included

The Detroit Public Safety Foundation hosted the 2015 Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Cobo Hall. The ceremony recognized Detroit police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel for going "above and beyond" the call of duty, as well as community partners for their exemplary services in the city of Detroit.

Among the honorees was Canton native and Detroit Police Officer Kevin Schaefer.

All honorees received one of four major awards, one of which included the Medal of Valor. The Medal of Valor is an award given to first responders when their acts of service extend beyond the normal demands of service. Addi-

tional awards presented were the Purple Heart Award, City Change Maker Award and the Public Safety Partner Award. Detroit Police Chief James E. Craig and Detroit Fire Commissioner Eric Jones bestowed

the awards, along with local presenters.

Alonzo Bodden, an American comedian and actor who is best known for winning the grand prize on season three of the *Last Comic Standing*,

returned as the master of ceremonies.

In attendance were first responders from across the city, business and community leaders, as well as public safety officials.

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CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **December 22nd, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:
Generator Relocation and Installation
Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Devin J. Adams
Controller
Published: December 6, 2015

ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2015-33 November 17, 2015
A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Administered Oath of Office to the new Mayor & City Council. APPROVED: Anthony Miller as Mayor Pro-Tem; minutes of spec. mtg. of Nov. 2; reg. mtg. of Nov. 3; resignation of Susan M. Rowe as councilwoman; IGA with Westland for antenna use for water meter reading; accept grant from Lowe's and amend budget \$11,950.85 for police radios; consent calendar. Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 8:41 p.m.
Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk
Published: December 6, 2015

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Jefferson Barns Community Center, 32150 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **December 18th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:
NORWAYNE DEMOLITION
Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Devin J. Adams
City Controller
Published: December 6, 2015

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Jefferson Barns Community Center, 32150 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **December 18th, 2015 at 3:15 p.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:
NORWAYNE ASBESTOS REMEDIATION
Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Devin J. Adams
City Controller
Published: December 6, 2015

Embrace the embarrassment of old diaries

I recently unearthed a stack of seven diaries. Filled with loopy cur- sive and abundant excla- mation points, they detail a decade's worth of events from December 1982 through July 1992.

Starting from age 12 until 22, I entrusted my secrets and confessions to this series of books. Inspired by Anne Frank, I christened each journal with a name, which, in retrospect, makes me blush considering that I was writing under much more fortunate circum- stances.

Looking through these heavily underlined, all- caps passages would lead the reader to believe that life in the '80s was dread- ful and demoralizing — although a flip of the page could turn dark clouds into rainbows because my current crush smiled at me in chemistry.



Rebecca Kavanagh
MOM'S THE WORD

Whether these daily reports found me de- spondent or delirious, reading them now through 45-year-old eyes is nothing short of tortu- ous. I had intended to spend just a few minutes skimming, but instead fell deep into my self- created drama. Laughter turned to tears and back to laughter again as I revisited things Becky said, did and thought decades ago.

Up for air

My cheeks burned as I read entries such as this one from March 30, 1983: "Dear Jenni: I think I love JH!! It came about suddenly. I've always liked him as a friend.

Now I see him as more! In the hall, we smile and occasionally bump into each other accidentally- on-purpose! It makes me melt! He's in my 6th hour and I've been staring at him. It may be my imagi- nation but I see him look- ing at me too! If he likes me, I will die!!"

He didn't like me. And, fortunately, I didn't die. On May 23, 1983, I wrote: "TS asked RC if he likes me! He said he does AND he doesn't! He said the reasons he doesn't like me are because I am bossy and pushy. For RC, I would stop being that way!! I REALLY LIKE HIM!!"

Yikes. I came up for air a few hours after I'd started, and only because it was time for my high school daughter and middle school son to return home. As they bounded through the door, I was contemplat-

ing the fact that those kids of mine are in the same age range as I was during my diary days.

At 12½ Jackson is at exactly the point I had been in the entries above. Happily, he doesn't melt and die over the opposite sex, and instead regards girls as human beings who make perfectly ac- ceptable friends.

Meanwhile, Sophia is days away from 16. When I look back at evidence of how different my life was from hers, I shudder and send up a little prayer of gratitude. On the surface, she is living the same middle-class-honor- roll life I did. As much as I'd like to prove to Sophia that I can commiserate with her teen girl moods, I spent far too many unsupervised evenings engaged in far too many dubious activities to ever want to hand my diaries over to my daughter.

And yet here I am contemplating the idea of reading these same dia- ries on stage to a crowd of total strangers.

Angst written

Taking its name from the precise feeling I had as I paged through my old journals, Mortified is a stage show that's been around since 2002, play- ing to roaring audiences across the country, start- ing in early 2016 in the D.

During each storytell- ing event, adults share their childhood writings on stage, rewarded by hoots and applause. Far from a mean-spirited affair, everybody at a Mortified show is laugh- ing with, not at, the pre- senters as they look back with grownup perspec- tive.

The key ingredient in Mortified is humor, and the chuckles aren't acci- dental. Everything that's read on stage is real, without rewriting or embellishment. But partic- ipants don't show up with a stack of nostalgia



The author around age 12 or 13.

and start reading open- mic style, because not every page in our diaries is worth sharing. The process starts months in advance, when prospec- tive readers meet with story producers to re- view a range of child- hood artifacts — love letters, poems, song lyrics, diaries — and curate excerpts for what ulti- mately results in a 15- minute performance.

Each show features a handful of readers bar- ing their souls in a bar or restaurant. Like standup with a side of group ther- apy, Mortified is a cleansing experience for both the performer and the audience. Everyone walks out with a been- there-done-that-thank- goodness-we-made-it- through giddiness and real affection for our goofy younger selves.

I'm excited that Morti- fied is on its way to De- troit, and I'm even more excited that I get to help

make it happen. (Teen Becky would have used an entire row of excla- mation points, believe me.) As a story producer, I'll be part of the team meet- ing with participants to choose entries and create a unifying theme.

If you've got your own stack of humiliating dia- ries, toss me the key and let's get started. To join the fun, visit getmorti- fied.com and click the Participate button at the top. You'll have the chance to choose Morti- fied Detroit from the chapter pull-down menu and enter a brief descrip- tion of the material you'd like to share.

I'll be watching for you. I hope you like me! BECAUSE I REALLY LIKE YOU!!!

Mom's the Word appears periodically in the Observer. Write to author Rebecca Kavanagh at rakwordplay@att.net.

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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Stevenson repels Patriots, 5-3



Stevenson's Sam Judd steers the puck around the boards during Wednesday's game against Franklin.

Late flurry of goals lifts Spartans to big win

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

No, that wasn't a playoff game that created the impressive line for tickets in the lobby of Eddie Edgar Arena just before 8 pm. Wednesday night — and the electric atmosphere inside the complex's south rink that never lost steam for close to two hours.

It was something just as important, though, for approximately two-thirds of Livonia high school hockey fans: the much-anticipated showdown featuring revitalized Franklin and perennial power Stevenson.

Once the first puck

dropped, the action on the ice exceeded the build-up as the Spartans overcame a 2-1 second-period deficit to hammer out a 5-3 victory in a game enhanced by the raucous (and well-behaved) cheering sections from each school.

The triumph improved the Spartans' record to 3-2 and earned them this season's Livonia city championship (Stevenson defeated Churchill, 9-2, on Nov. 25).

The setback was the first in five games this season for the now-dangerous Patriots, who have quickly earned the respect of their crosstown opponents.

"We don't look at winning the city championship as much as we do knowing that Franklin

See HOCKEY, Page B4

Ladywood icers win

The Livonia Ladywood girls hockey team up-ended the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins, 3-0, earlier this week to improve its record to 2-0.

The Blazers, who have yet to be scored on this season, were anchored on the back-end of their defense by goalie Sam Erickson.

Scoring goals for the winners were junior Christina Rotundo, junior Katie Hayward and sophomore Sydney Pilut.

Livonia wrestling tournament

All four Livonia high school wrestling programs will converge in the Stevenson High School gymnasium Wednesday at 5:30 for the annual Livonia City Wrestling Tournament.

Churchill will be looking to defend its title against the host Spartans, Franklin and Clarenceville.

The event will serve as the 2015-16 debut event for all four squads, all of whom will compete in various invitationals on Saturday, Dec. 12.

GC mat tourney

The Garden City wrestling program will honor former coach Mike Howell, who passed away unexpectedly last year during the season.

The Cougars have renamed their annual Christmas tournament the "Mike Howell Memorial Invitational".

This year's competition is set for Saturday, Dec. 12, in the school's gymnasium. Multiple Observersland-area teams will compete in the event, as well as several other metro-Detroit teams.

Churchill looking for players from 1978 team

Livonia Churchill High School is looking for players from its 1978 undefeated varsity football team. The team will be honored at the annual athletic induction ceremony, which is set for March 23, 2016.

If you were a member of this team, please email Athletic Director Marc Hage at mhage@livoniapublicschools.org for all of the details.

Reporting results

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

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

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Livonia Churchill senior guards (from left) Joan Andoni, Dayton Davis and Jon Hovermale will be key components to the Chargers' season.

THREE-WAY THREAT

Churchill's trio of senior guards tough to contain

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's trio of senior perimeter stars may not catch your attention during the pre-game layup drills (although, don't be surprised if they do), but their "Wow!"

factor is off the charts once the opening tip is tossed.

Blessed with a combination of lights-out beyond-the-arc shooting skills and an ability to attack the rim at a relentless pace, Charger guards Jon Hovermale (6-foot-2), Joan Andoni (6-2) and Dayton Davis (5-8)

have the potential to give opponents fits.

"We are very fast and aggressive," said Churchill head coach Jimmy Solak, whose team carved out an impressive 15-7 record last season. "What we lack in size, we make up for with speed and tenacity."

The biggest obstacle the Chargers will be facing is a

noticeable shortage of "bigs" as the team's tallest player is 6-3.

"We have to play bigger than we are, and we have some guys who can do that," said Solak. "We have to put pressure on people and make it hard for them at both ends.

See CHURCHILL, Page B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Transfer-led Zebras stampede Trojans

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Following the quick-fix blue print a handful of other southeastern Michigan athletic teams have used to find instant success in recent years — basically inheriting a crop of blue-chip transfers from other schools — Wayne Memorial crushed host Livonia Clarenceville 70-7 Friday night.

The scheduling of the game

during the off-season made sense considering both teams endured 0-20 records during the 2014-15 regular season.

But it became obvious early on Friday night that Clarenceville was not able to fortify its roster during the off-season like the Zebras, whose reloaded line-up includes just three carry-overs from last winter along with highly-touted transfers

See WAYNE, Page B4



A Livonia Clarenceville guard is trapped by two Wayne Memorial players during the closing minutes of Friday's 70-7 Zebra triumph.

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BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Improved Patriots 'a mystery' for veteran coach

Franklin will thrive on taller, more-experienced roster

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

How will Livonia Franklin's taller, more-seasoned boys basketball team fare this winter?

Your guess may be as good as head coach Jeremy Rheault's.

"This is one of the first times in my coaching career that I can honestly say I don't know what to expect from a team," said Rheault. "We only graduated three seniors from last year's team and we're bringing back several players who gained a ton of experience last season."

"We were so small last year — actually, we were tiny — that we had a hard time matching up with other teams. This year I expect us to be a better rebounding team."

One thing you can count on this season regarding the Patriots: They will assuredly improve on last year's 1-20 record, which was a reflection of their youth and shortage of big bod-

ies.

Rheault's squad will be bolstered by the return of senior captains Joe Chinavare (a 6-foot-1 guard), and Jackie Hughes (a 6-4 forward).

"Joe is a well-rounded player who is my first four-year varsity guy," Rheault raved. "Offensively, he's a slasher type who knows how to get to the rim. He's also very good at the defensive end."

"Jackie is one of those players who works extremely hard around the rim and a good rebounder."

Junior guard Johnny Cantrell (5-11) led the Patriots in scoring last season as a sophomore. Cantrell will serve as the team's primary press-breaker as well as a reliable threat to score from the perimeter.

"Johnny is an excellent ballhandler who handles pressure well," said Rheault.

The Patriots' lack-of-height issues will be solved as least partially

by the emergence of sophomore Mark Mettie, who stands 6-7.

"Mark had a really good summer; he worked hard to improve his game," said Rheault. "Once he puts on a little more muscle, he'll be a force in the paint."

The Patriots received good news earlier this week when senior forward Denzel Adams (6-4) committed to play this season following a stellar season as the starting quarterback on Franklin's football team.

Adams, who only played a few games for the Patriots last season, brings a variety of positive attributes to Rheault's rotation.

"One of the best things I like about Denzel is that he not only gives you second effort, he gives you third effort," said Rheault. "He never gives up on a rebound and he gives you everything he has on the defensive end."

Three-sport standout Bobby Mandrink, a 5-10 senior guard, offers the kind of valuable intangibles all coaches crave.

"Bobby hustles and works," said Rheault.



ED WRIGHT

Livonia Franklin senior Joe Chinavare returns for his fourth season of varsity basketball.

"He does a lot of the little things that make teams better."

Among the Patriots' crop of high-potential juniors are 5-11 guard Cortez Rayford, 6-foot forward Caleb Boyd, 6-3 forward Jax Gasaway and 6-4 forward Jeremy Tracey.

"Jax is a hard-nosed player who will help us in

the rebounding department," Rheault said. "Caleb is good in the open court and Cortez is a first-year varsity guy who will give us nice depth in the back-court."

Seniors Neil McCaffery (a 6-2 guard) and Rob Erwin (a 6-foot forward) are exceptional role players.

"Rob is a worker —

the kind of kid who will set screens so his teammates can get open shots," Rheault said. "Neil is a deep-threat shooter who will help us especially against zones."

The Patriots open their 2015-16 campaign Tuesday against Livonia Stevenson.

ewright@hometownlife.com

BOYS HOCKEY

Chargers bounce back big time, 8-0

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill's hockey team proved Wednesday night that it's pretty good at bouncing back from adversity.

Exactly one week after suffering a 9-2 loss to Livonia Stevenson, the Chargers shifted into overdrive during their 8-0 triumph over visiting Notre Dame Prep.

Churchill improved to 3-1 while the Irish slipped to 3-3.

The game ended in mercy-rule fashion when Tyler Haydu scored the winners' eighth goal just 1:25 into the third period.

"I liked the way we came into tonight's game with a positive attitude, all things considered, after our last difficult game against Stevenson," Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds. "It's good to see that we have a team that can bounce back from a defeat like that and come out with some energy."

"We took a couple days to re-focus and get our priorities in order as a team. Hopefully, the loss to Stevenson will be the best thing to happen to us."

Reynolds said he has learned a lot about his young team (the Chargers' roster is peppered with just four seniors) during the season's early going.

"Even though we're still in the midst of a youth movement, I think we've experienced an upgrade in talent. We've added some strong sophomores and our core group of returners is another year older, which is nice."

"It's exciting because we have a lot we can build on the next couple of years. I think this team is proving that it is ready to compete at a higher level than we have the past couple of years."

Churchill goalie Chris



ED WRIGHT

Michael Papaioannou, pictured during a game earlier this season, contributed an assist in Churchill's 8-0 victory over Notre Dame Prep.

Sergison made his first start of the season a memorable one as he turned away all 14 shots he faced.

Nolan Cioch and Josh Friend paced the Chargers' offense with two goals a piece. Cioch broke the scoring ice with a net-finder just 14 seconds into the contest to set the tone for the hosts. Friend assisted.

Sam Spayd helped the Chargers keep the heat turned up by filling the net two minutes later

with a goal assisted by Matt Gibboney and Spencer Kovacs.

John Doyle then got into the scoring act for the winners when he lit the lamp at the 11:06 mark. Haydu and captain Joe Wozniak registered helpers on the play.

Churchill put a strangle-hold on the outcome when it ramped its advantage up to 5-0 before the first intermission thanks to goals from Cioch (from Seth Kucharczyk and Wozniak)

and Friend, who was assisted by Cioch and Gibboney.

The Chargers' sixth net-finder will never be forgotten by Zack Venditelli, who notched his first high school goal with 8:40 left in the second period (Zach Flynn and Dane Allen assisted).

Friend then lit up the scoreboard again with a power-play goal from Michael Papiouannou and Conor Burnette.

ewright@hometownlife.com



TOM BEAUDOIN
Churchill junior forward Evan Cummins drives to the basket during Thursday's scrimmage against Clarenceville.

CHURCHILL

Continued from Page B1

"I like the way our three senior guards lead. They had a great off-season, so I'm excited."

Davis, who is probably the quickest of the tremendous trio, will start out running the point, however, Hovermale and Andoni can handle the ball as well as any two guards in the area.

The sharp-shooting Andoni struggled with injuries during his junior season after setting a Churchill single-game scoring record as a sophomore, but has looked 100-percent healthy the past several months, Solak said.

"Even though Joan was never 100 percent last year health-wise, he still had a great season," Solak said.

Hovermale is a two-way offensive threat whose high-level hops will make him one of the Chargers' best rebounders.

As far as the other 40 percent of the starting line-up, Solak said "jobs are still open."

Among the candidates to earn significant minutes are 6-3 junior forward Evan Cummins, the starting quarterback for the Churchill football team.

"Evan is very versatile; he can play a cou-

ple different positions, which increases his value," said Solak. "He's one of those kids who plays bigger than he is."

Senior 5-10 guard Robert Seward has been impressive during pre-season workouts, Solak said.

"He was having a great year for us last season, but he was never the same after he got hurt and sick," the Chargers coach said. "He's looking like he did early on last season."

Junior 5-10 back-court player Alan Hammett sparkled in a recent scrimmage, said Solak, who added the 11th-grader is a dedicated worker who "was at every one of our off-season workouts."

When one of the senior perimeter players need a breather, junior Myron Burnette will be ready for action.

"Myron is still learning how to do some things, but he can really get to the basket," Solak said.

Solak said the KLAASouth Division will be up for grabs, which is usually the case, given the group of teams' consistently strong rosters.

"Top to bottom, the division is a question mark," Solak said. "Anybody can win it. I don't think many people expected us and Plymouth to be playing for the championship last year."

MU's Moore mourned at vigil



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madonna University students, student athletes, faculty, staff, family and friends gathered Tuesday evening for a candlelight vigil to honor the late Patrick Moore, Madonna's Sports Information Director. The crowd marched to the gymnasium where individuals spoke about their experiences with Moore.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 7
Redford Union at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Huron, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Birm. Groves at Thurston, 7 p.m.
HVL at Inter-City, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Detroit Edison, 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Luth. North, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 10
Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Kettering at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Wayne at Howell, 1 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 7
Huron at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 8

Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
RU at St. Catherine, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Ferndale, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Groves, 7 p.m.
HVL at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 10
Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Carlson, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Lutheran NW, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
Southgate at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
ABT at Wayne, 7 p.m.
RU at Summit Academy, 5:30 p.m.
Oxford at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Farmington, 7 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 9
Plymouth at Franklin, 6 p.m.
Salem at Churchill, 8 p.m.
Stevenson at S. Lyon, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at Country Day, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12
Churchill at Brighton, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin at Howell, 7 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Salem, noon
Mercy at Ladywood, 6:30 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Luth. Westland at Luth. NW, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9
Livonia City Invitational, 5:30 p.m. at Stevenson
Allen Park and Melvindale at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.
RU at Garden City, 5:30 p.m.
John Glenn at Airport, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
Churchill at Waterford Mott Invite, 9 a.m.
Wayne at Fraser Invite, 9 a.m.
Luth. Westland at Blissfield Invite, 9:30 a.m.
Churchill at Hawk Havoc, 9 a.m.
GC Mike Howell Memorial Tournament, 9 a.m.

John Glenn Team Invitational, 9 a.m.
Stevenson at Hawk Havoc, 9 a.m.
Stevenson at A.A. Pioneer IV Invite, 9 a.m.
HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING
Friday, Dec. 11
John Glenn at Milford, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Mott, 4 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Stevenson vs. Country Day, 6:30 p.m.
Garden City at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 10
Northville at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Garden City at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
John Glenn Invite, noon
EMU Relays, 1 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Dec. 8
Salem at Livonia Red, 6:30 p.m.
Livonia Blue at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.

ALL-AREA GIRLS GOLF

All-state talent abounds on girls golf team

FIRST TEAM

Katie Chipman, sr., Plymouth: Chipman came as close to perfection as possible during her senior season with the Wildcats, being named to the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Super Team.

Averaging 38 strokes per nine holes and 74 for 18, Chipman earned selection to the KLAAs Kensington Conference team, along with being a Miss Golf finalist.

Slated to golf at Grand Valley State University, she medaled at the Hudson Mills Invitational (71), KLAAs final (71) and MHSAA Division 1 regional (69).

"She hits it as long as anybody in the state and she improved her irons and short game this season with a lot of hard work," coach Dan Young said. "Best of all, she's a great teammate."

Alana Jones, soph., F.H. Unified: Jones made the Division 1 all-state first team after a season in which she averaged 76 strokes in tournaments and 38.8 for nine holes.

She was the No. 1 player in the OAA White Division, was the medalist in both league meets, placed among the top four in five of six invites, finished seventh in the state meet and was named team MVP.

"Alana is such a pleasure to coach," coach Bruce Sutton said. "In her two years on the team, she has established herself as the best women's golfer of all time here at North Farmington-Harrison with a 38.2 season average."

"She currently holds every

2015 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GOLF FIRST TEAM

Katie Chipman, sr., Plymouth; Alana Jones, soph., F.H. Unified; Julia Shaw, sr., Mercy; Darby Scott, jr., Salem; Mia Sooch, fr., Mercy; Ariana Strzalka, sr., Plymouth; Hope Warkoczski, sr., Salem; Kristen Szabelski, jr., Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Elle Greenlee, jr., Farmington; Alaina Strzalka, sr., Plymouth; Lilly Blake, sr., Mercy; Marissa Lobbia, jr., Mercy; Erin Johnson, soph., Plymouth; Kiley Flynn, sr., Salem; Nicole Dawson, fr., Canton; Kendall Payne, sr., Franklin; Jordan Rioux, jr., Ladywood

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ryan Nimmerguth, Salem

HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Manasa Potluri, Madelyn Mans, Meghan Meredith; Plymouth: Heather Muir, Rachel Kristian; Salem: Grace Grellan; Farmington: Rachel Newton; F.H. Unified: Sydney Cohn; Mercy: Sophie VanderWeele.

team record but one. Her accomplishments are many, particularly this past season. I would hope for even more next season as her work ethic is second to none."

Julia Shaw, sr., Mercy: Shaw earned a full-ride scholarship to the University of Detroit Mercy after an outstanding high school career.

Shaw, who averaged 39 strokes in dual matches and 80 in tournaments, is a Division 1 all-state honorable mention and led the Marlins to a seventh-place finish in the state meet.

She made the all-tournament team in seven events, including the Oakland County, Catholic League and regional meets.

"Julia wanted success for herself and the team in her senior season," coach Vicky Kowalski said. "She spent many hours every day at the golf course during the summer to achieve personal goals. She served as team captain and helped new and returning players to achieve team goals."

Darby Scott, jr., Salem: The Rocks enjoyed their best season in recent memory and Scott's strong, consistent play was a major reason as she averaged 39.4 per nine holes and 79.2 per 18.

The all-conference performer shot a 79 at the MHSAA D1 regionals at Fox Hills, good for sixth place and a berth in the state finals as an individual qualifier. At The Meadows in Grand Rapids, Scott registered a two-day total of 174 (29th place) and earned D1 first-team all-state honors.

"Darby was no question the top player on our team this season and one of the top juniors in the state," coach Ryan Nimmerguth said. "Darby placed in the top-10 in every tournament she competed in (and) she was the low scorer for the team on a consistent basis. Darby always expects the best from herself and she rarely settles for anything less than exceptional."

Mia Sooch, fr., Mercy: Sooch had an excellent rookie season, averaging 86 strokes in tournaments and 42 in dual meets.

She earned a place on the Oakland County and Catholic League all-tournament teams, shooting 81 and 79, respectively.

"As a freshman, Mia scored well at tryouts and made the varsity team," Kowalski said. "She had some tournament experience and moved into the starting lineup immediately."

"In the first three tournaments, Mia scored 92, 88 and 83. I knew Mercy had its next four-year varsity starter. Her 83 at the regional helped Mercy return to the state final, and she

was our No. 2 golfer by the end of the season.

"We look forward to Mia earning many honors the next three seasons."

Ariana Strzalka, sr., Plymouth: One of the key pieces in Plymouth's standout lineup, Strzalka averaged 43 per nine and 87 per 18, good for all-conference honors.

"She had an outstanding senior year," Young said. "She was our second-lowest average for 18-hole tournaments (and) was very consistent and reliable. She's a great teammate and leader in our program."

Strzalka, whose twin sister Alaina made the all-Observer second team, is drawing interest from college coaches, Young said.

Hope Warkoczski, sr., Salem: Capping off an excellent prep career, Warkoczski not only made the KLAAs all-conference team for the second consecutive year but she qualified for the D1 state finals.

The four-year varsity player averaged 44 per nine and 87.3 per 18 and came in 11th at the D1 regional with a score of 86 to qualify for the finals. At Grand Valley State University's The Meadows, she registered a two-day score of 175 (32nd place).

"Hope was one of our top scorers again this season and has many accomplishments in her career that she should be very proud of," Nimmerguth said. "At state finals Hope showed great determination and focus."

Kristen Szabelski, jr., Stevenson: Szabelski got her junior season off to a stellar start by earning medalist honors at



the Livonia City Meet by firing a 41 at Fox Creek Golf Course. She finished the fall in grand style by shooting a team-

low 18-hole score of 85 in a Division 1 regional tournament at Twin Lakes Golf Course. Szabelski narrowly missed earning an individual qualifying spot in the D1 state meet, missing the mark by just three shots.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ryan Nimmerguth, Salem: It was an important season for the Salem Rocks, with the steady leadership of Nimmerguth helping the team make strides in the KLAAs and state tourna-



ment. At the KLAAs championships in October, the Rocks finished fourth out of 24 teams — just 10 strokes behind champion Plymouth.

Then, at the Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth Twp., Salem nearly qualified for state finals in the team standings. The top three squads made the cut, and the Rocks came in fourth with a 359 tally (19 strokes back).

Yet Salem still enjoyed regional success because senior Hope Warkoczski and junior Darby Scott won individual qualifiers for the finals.

"Receiving this honor would not have been possible without having great players on the team," Nimmerguth said. "Any title I am given is a direct result of the players performance and improvement throughout the season."

"The girls worked very hard preparing themselves for the season and their results showed. I am proud and honored to have been the coach of such a hard-working, dedicated team."

Advertisement for 'NEED MORE CUSTOMERS?' featuring a newspaper clipping about education and a large graphic with the text '2/3 OF RESIDENTS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES READ LOCAL NEWSPAPERS'. It includes a call to action 'Get YOUR business in front of them today!' and 'YOUR AD HERE'.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUND-UP

Garden City takes down Franklin

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Led by senior guard Lindsey Michalak's near-triple-double, Garden City's girls basketball team evened its record at 1-1 Friday night with a 52-21 victory over host Livonia Franklin.

Michalak finished with 13 points, 10 rebounds and five assists as the Cougars never trailed after building up an 11-4 first-quarter lead.

GC stretched its advantage to 24-13 at the half before carrying a 31-17 edge into the final eight minutes.

"We knew Franklin had a scrappy team, so we talked about executing and keeping our turnovers down," said GC head coach Michele Tyree. "We rebounded well (the Cougars won the battle of the boards, 39-28). I thought Franklin worked really hard. They're young, but they hustle."



Garden City's Aleea Montgomery drives to the basket during a game earlier this season. TOM BEAUDOIN

Senior guard Amber Swisher scored 10 points for the winners, but it

was her effort at the other end of the hardwood that earned Tyree's

praise. "Amber did a great job defending tonight," Tyree noted. "Her pressure on their guards created a lot of turnovers."

Cassie Leleniewski was solid in the paint for the Cougars, racking up nine points and seven rebounds. Six of Taneja Horne's eight points resulted from a pair of long threes.

Rounding out the Cougars' scoring ledger were Mikaela Smolar (four points), and the quartet of Aleea Montgomery, Kayley Hower, Tatum Spears and Alicia Ascencio, who scored one bucket each.

Lexi Bryant (six points) and Brooke Garbarino (five points) led the Patriots.

GC drained 23 of 34 free-throw attempts. Franklin was nine-for-16 from the stripe.

HVL nips Thurston

Huron Valley Lutheran opened its season earlier this week with an exciting 39-38 victory over Redford Thurston.

HVL hung on for the victory after building up a 30-23 halftime advantage.

The most-unusual statistic that emerged from the game was that there were only two free throws attempted (both by Thurston).

Junior guard Samantha Golchuk led the winners with 29 points (20 of which came in the first half) and five steals.

Other key contributors were sophomore Kim Beckerman (six points) and Rosie Rustadler, who chipped in with four points, six rebounds and two assists.

Thurston was led by center Bryanna Burton's 18 points.

"We started strong in the first half and built up a 10-point lead," said HVL head coach Kris Ruth. "We fell apart and

got tired in the second half, and had way too many turnovers. Thurston used their inside post game well in the second half."

Lutheran Westland triumphant

Lutheran Westland surged to a 22-6 halftime lead and was never threatened thereafter while winning its season opener, 46-22, over Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

Rachel Reddeman netted a team-high 13 points for the Warriors, who also received strong efforts from Eleanor Storck (10 points and six rebounds) and Makayla Wyley, who added nine points.

Stars shine against Farmington

St. Catherine of Siena Academy defeated Farmington, 61-31, Tuesday night is the season opener for both teams.

Livonia's Cheryl Setlock netted 12 points.

WAYNE

Continued from Page B1

from Ann Arbor Huron and Detroit Country Day.

Using a relentless, trapping, three-quarters-court pressure defense against the undersized and undermanned Trojans, the Zebras stamped to a 39-5 halftime lead.

Forced to call off the full-court press once their lead exceeded the 40-point mark, the Zebras continued to trap with gusto in the second half, which led to a parade of uncontested lay-ups at the other end.

Wayne led 60-5 after three quarters and would have shut the Trojans out in the fourth quarter had Raven Redding and A'sha Whittaker not drained a free throw a piece during

the final moments.

The Trojans didn't do themselves any favors, as they often launched quick, off-balanced three-point shots, but they probably figured a long shot was better than no shot at all against the much-taller, more-athletic Zebras.

Clarenceville made just one of 18 first-half shots — 14 of which were beyond the three-point arc.

Wayne sophomore guard Camree Clegg, who came to Wayne following one season at Detroit Country Day, led all scorers with 24 points, many coming on uncontested lay-ups. Clegg, who teased the Trojan guards with lengthy between-the-legs dribbling exhibitions, finished with six rebounds and a couple of steals.

Freshman Jeanae Terry scored 17 points while junior Amara Chikwe, a transfer from Ann Arbor Huron, scored 11.

Adrianna Gonzales, who was the Zebras' leading scorer last year, added nine points.

Senior Haley Scott, another starting hold-over from last season's winless campaign, rarely touched the ball in her team's half-court sets except during the game's final three minutes when her teammates attempted to get her in the scoring ledger.

Clarenceville was led by senior guard A'sha Whittaker, who scored six of her team's seven points. Whittaker also contributed a team-high eight rebounds.

ewright@hometownlife.com

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

and Churchill are high-quality opponents now that we have to be up for," said Stevenson head coach David Mitchell. "These are emotional games, fun games. It's a great time to be a high school hockey player in Livonia and a high school hockey fan."

With the possible exception of the final few minutes, during which Stevenson effectively protected a two-goal lead, the match-up was coated with drama throughout.

"I was very proud of our guys' effort tonight; they never quit," said Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon. "Stevenson is a talented, fast team with an excellent coaching staff."

"We will watch film on this game, learn from it and keep our eyes on the prize at the end of the year."

The Patriots drew first blood 11 minutes in when Cory Linsner back-handed a rocket from the bottom of the right face-off circle past Stevenson goaltender Cullen Barber after breaking free behind the Spartan defense just inside the blue line.

Franklin was just 13 seconds away from carrying the lead into



Franklin's Trevor Lassaline loads up for a shot while being defended by Stevenson's Ben Kowalske. ED WRIGHT

the first intermission, but Stevenson's Kevin Stefanick gave his team a jolt of momentum when his slap shot from just inside the blue line found its way through traffic in front of the crease, past Patriot freshman goalie Jake Penny and into the back of the net.

In the wake of a pair of impressive saves by Penny off blistering shots from juniors Ryan McCamant and Christian Nabozny, Franklin seized a 2-1 lead when Linsner threaded a long pass to Brendan Whitney, who was stationed just outside the blue line after darting off the bench as a Patriot penalty expired.

With the entire zone to himself, Whitney carried the puck to Barber's glove side before

flipping the disc into the top of the net, setting off a thunderous cheer from the Patriots cheering section.

"I think we caught them by surprise a little bit," Gagnon said.

The game's turning point arrived four minutes later when the Spartans answered with bang-bang goals from Nate Sudek at the 2:32 mark and Joe Alcantara 61 seconds later to seize a 3-2 advantage.

Stevenson never trailed again. "We got stronger as the game went on, which is a testament to our guys," Mitchell said. "Tonight was a good test for our veteran players and a good learning experience for our younger players."

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PREP PROFILE

Leadership among Kondrath's many skills

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill senior guard Alivia Kondrath is one of those get-after-it players that new Charger coach K'Len Morris covets.

Whether it's velcro-ing an opposing guard on a press, or executing a defensive drill in practice, the 5-foot-5 Kondrath mirrors the effort of the animated Tanzanian Devil.

As an added bonus, Kondrath is also a dependable ball-handler, nifty passer and accurate perimeter shooter.

"I started playing basketball in fifth grade and I fell in love with it right away," said Kondrath, who also excels as a mid-fielder for Churchill's soccer team. "I like everyone on this team; we're bonding really well."

After logging a ton of



Churchill senior guard Alivia Kondrath gives the Chargers experience and tenacity in the back-court. ED WRIGHT

minutes at the point guard position as a junior, Kondrath is looking forward to more time at the shooting guard spot this winter.

"I've been working a lot on my shooting during the off-season," said Kondrath, when asked what aspect of the game she's improved the most at since last season.

Kondrath listed a team goal as the No. 1 priority she wants to

achieve once her final season of high school basketball tips off next Tuesday.

"I really want to win a district tournament before I leave here," she said. "Everything is going well with our new coach, but we're still in the process of learning because he has a totally new offense and stuff."

Kondrath has thoroughly embraced the team-volunteering that Morris has introduced to the Chargers, who contribute at least one day a month to help out people in need.

"My favorite thing that we've done so far is when we visited a young girl battling brain cancer on Thanksgiving," she said. "She was shy, but you could tell she appreciated us being there."

A solid student in the classroom — Kondrath has carved out a 3.2 grade-point average.

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**Zoning Board of Appeals
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Appeal 15-02: Applicant Emory C. Daniels, 17360 Beech Daly, Redford Twp. MI 48240, Lots 8 through 12 of Frischkorns Glendale Subdivision between Santa Maria Ave. and Curtis Ave.

The applicant is requesting a variance that would allow a concrete section (16' wide by 77' long) already poured to be permitted to stay as poured adjacent to the existing driveway.

Zoning Ordinance 152N, Sec. 3.12-A prohibits off street parking within the minimum required front yard setback.

THE LAW REQUIRES THAT OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN 300 FEET OF THIS PROPERTY BE NOTIFIED OF THIS REQUEST IN WRITING. THIS IS YOUR NOTIFICATION.

This appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Redford Township Hall board room, 15145 Beech Daly Road, on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Written comments must indicate the above appeal number and will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m. December 9, 2015. No comments will be accepted over the telephone.

**Jennifer Lawson, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Charter Township of Redford (P.C., ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc.) will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing, upon seven (7) days notice to the (PC, ZBA, Board of Trustees, etc.). Further, individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk by writing to 15145 Beech Daly Road, Redford MI 48239, or by calling (313) 387-2750.

Published: December 6, 2015

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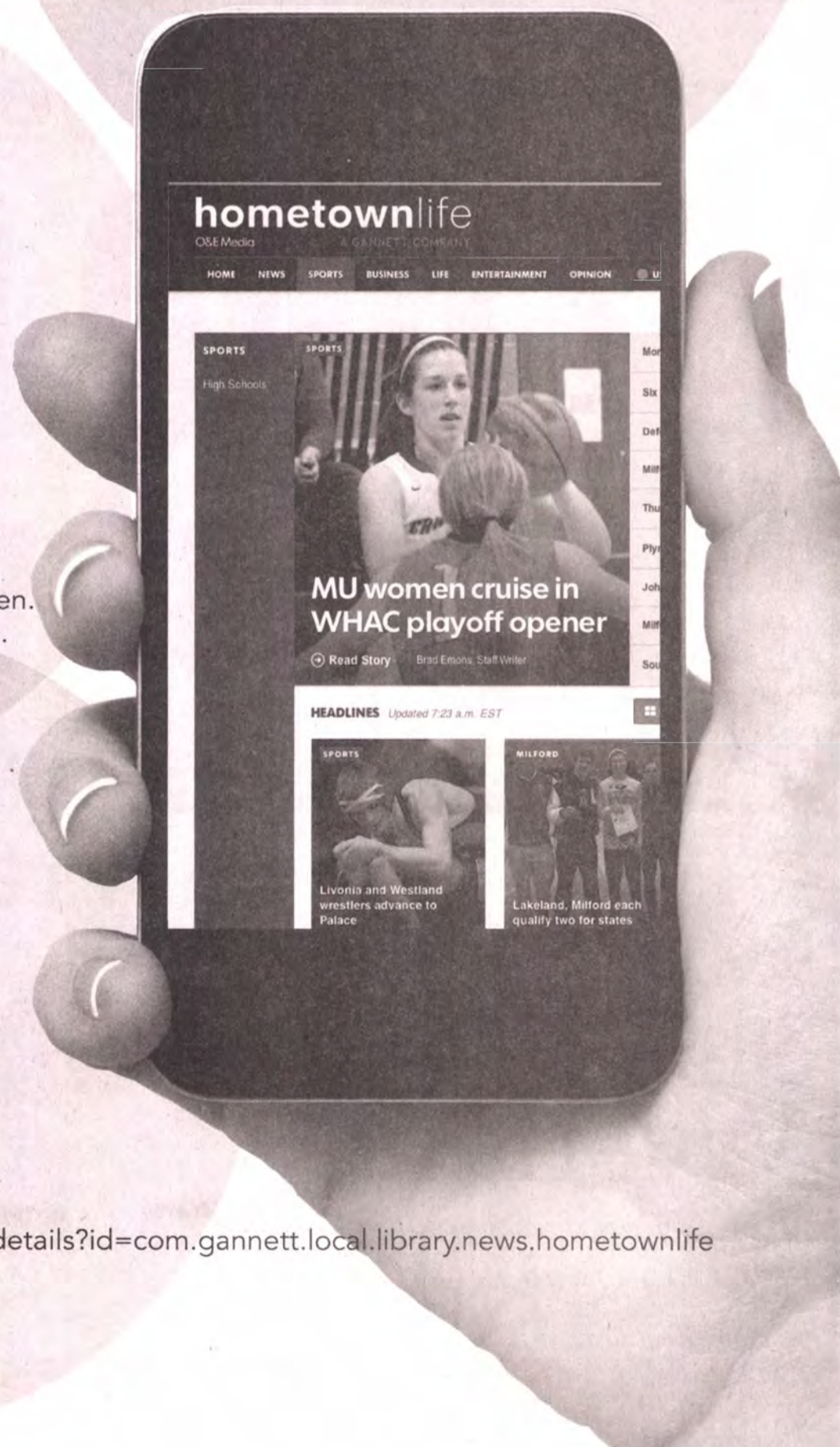
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HELPING HANDS

LOCAL BUSINESSES COLLECT FOOD, HOUSES FOR OUTDOOR DOGS

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Animal Care Network volunteers will hit the streets of Pontiac and Inkster this weekend, bringing pet food, shelter and hope to outdoor dogs.



PET PROJECTS

"It could be Christmas, Easter, we go. We go every weekend. We'll visit 35 backyards in one day. Sometimes we're out for 12 hours. It's long hard work," said Lindsay Warren, public relations director for Michigan Animal Adoption

Network (MAAN), the nonprofit organization that runs the Animal Care street teams.

"Our biggest thing is educating and taking care of the animals that they (pet owners) tell us they love, but they keep them outside."

Volunteers work with some households for years on improving living conditions for an outdoor pet. Help may come in the form of a free new dog house — raised on a pallet to keep it from flooding — bowls, collars, fresh water, free pet food, free straw delivery, a tidier backyard and care for fly bites. Volunteers make regular wellness and welfare checks, respond to emergency calls and check vacant houses for abandoned animals.

Food, shelter drives

They'll get some help this month supplying houses, bowls and foods from two local businesses: Pet Supplies "Plus" in Bloomfield Hills and Aleta Sill's Bowling World in Farmington Hills.

MAAN supporters can buy a large doghouse and two steel bowls for \$60 at Pet Supplies "Plus," 2057 S. Telegraph. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Purchases can be made in person or by telephone with a credit card by calling 248-333-7545.

The doghouse and bowls will remain at the store for pickup by MAAN volunteers.

Aleta Sill's Bowling World, 30250 W. Nine Mile, is accepting pet food donations from 1-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. The bowling center informally collects pet food all year for MAAN, but makes an extra effort at the holidays with a food drive.

"They do amazing work. Volunteers are out there making sure these animals are OK. The least we can do is be a hub to collect food for them," said Michelle Mullen, co-owner of Aleta Sill's Bowling World. Mullen and Sill also have organized an annual summer bowling event for the past 10 years that benefits both MAAN and Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter. The event is MAAN's biggest fundraiser

Mullen said she also will accept cash donations to buy pet food this month for the organization.

"MAAN operates on a shoestring budget and they need supplies to do what they do. They are angels. They are warriors."

Spay, neuter

While offering assistance, MAAN



Marie Skladd, Michigan Animal Adoption Network president, sits atop a mound of pet food bags collected in August at Aleta Sill's Bowling World in Farmington Hills. SUBMITTED



The next best thing to a comfy indoor bed is a warm doghouse and straw from Michigan Animal Adoption Network. SUBMITTED



Outdoor dogs in a fenced yard get a visit from the Michigan Animal Adoption Network. SUBMITTED

encourages pet owners to spay or neuter their animals. "People need assistance, we work with them. We want them to get their animal fixed," Warren said. "We make a deal first. We're big on low-cost spay and neuter." Some families bring their animals indoors, but can't afford to buy pet

food. Persistent rechecks on outdoor dogs sometimes pay off in an owner surrendering an animal for adoption. Volunteers have no authority to confiscate or unchain dogs, but work closely with animal control and sheriff departments in reporting cruelty. "A lot of people are good with animals but they need help. Those are the

people who are receptive to spay and neuter," Warren said. "If you can get them spayed and neutered, there won't be unwanted ones." Visit MAAN at michigananimaladoptionnetwork.org.

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Author makes light of short height in new book

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Norene Fritz of Canton knows she's short.

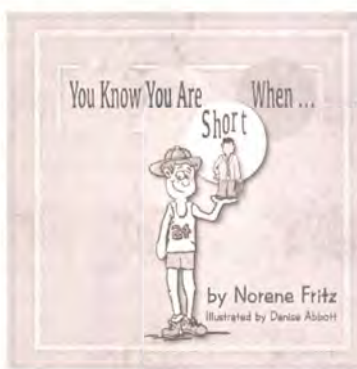
She's 4-feet, 8-inches tall and has heard her share of height jokes and comments through the years.

"In the beginning I would get really offended. I would think, how dare you. You don't know me," said Fritz, a grandmother and retired counselor. "I did a lot of praying about this and my kids did a lot of 'Oh, Mom!' Over the years you learn to live with it and I have enough self-esteem to know who I am."

Now she's laughing at the comments and hopes others will, too. She compiled them into a book, *You Know You Are Short When...* The 49-page softcover book, published by Westbow Press, is illustrated by Danise Abbott and includes comments about height with comebacks, observations on being short, a few Bible verses and other quotes, along with a mention of fam-



Norene Fritz is author of "You Know You Are Short When..." SUBMITTED



The 49-page softcover book is illustrated by Danise Abbott. SUBMITTED

ous short celebrities, including Dolly Parton and Michael J. Fox. It's available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

"They say you should write about what you know. I wrote about what I know — being short," said Fritz, an aspiring writer who hopes to some day pen a novel. "After talking to short people and using my experiences, it took off."

Fritz said she was inspired by comedian Jeff Foxworthy's

style while writing the book. The comments are short, simple and lighthearted.

"I know a lot of short people. My whole family is short. I went on Facebook one time and said I would like comments from short people. I'd look things up online to see other people's comments on being short. They are all basically the same issues. I've heard all of them growing up. 'I'd have to say a lot of the

bullying comments I've heard are from adults. Hopefully, the book will make people think before they speak."

Missionary work

Height has never held Fritz back. She learned Spanish and worked as a missionary for seven years in Mexico with her now ex-husband and four children. After returning to Michigan, the single mom worked nights at a restaurant and attended college classes during the day, while also raising her children. It took 15 years, but she earned a bachelor's degree in human resources from Concordia University in Ann Arbor.

While between jobs, she volunteered for Mercy Ships, a medical program that assists residents in developing countries with health needs. Her volunteer service was cut short when she returned home to become a caregiver for her ailing mother.

Fritz earned a master's degree in counseling in 2011 from Spring Arbor College

and worked for Primacare, a mental health service in Westland, before retiring in September.

She hopes sales from her book, which retails for \$20.95, will help support her mission work next year in Honduras and India. She'll sign books from 3-5 p.m. Jan. 9, 2016 at Barnes & Noble Bookseller, 17111 Haggerty, Northville.

So, how do you know your short? Here's a sampling from *You Know You Are Short When...*

- » You have to use a garden tool to get the laundry out of the washing machine.
- » "Friends" nickname you Hobbit.
- » Someone bends down to talk to you.
- » Someone bumps into you and says, "Oh, I didn't see you down there."
- » Clothes (even petites) drag.

sdargay@hometownlife.com
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Learn to love your front-load washer again

In the many years of writing this column, I don't think there is one issue I haven't brought to the attention of our readers. Most of these problems are the very things that consumers have passed on to me and some came directly from my darling Valorie who didn't have any love for her Maytag front loader. I'm pleased to say that with the purchase of a new washing machine last Christmas, all is quiet on the homefront.

I have received permission from Mary Beth to share her email with readers to show how she turned a negative into a positive.

She writes: "I hope that this email finds you well. Over the years you have helped me fix my



Joe Gagnon
THE APPLIANCE DOCTOR

refrigerator and ice maker as well as my dryer, allowing me to save considerable money. I am hoping that maybe my solution can save your readers some money and help them to love their front load washer again.

"I have a Maytag 2000 Series front load washer. It's about three years old. About a year ago it started to get that musty smell. I used the tablets but the smell quickly came back. I did some research and here's my solution. First, use the tablets to reduce any built up bacteria/mold.

Then going forward when I fill the laundry detergent cup with liquid detergent up to the proper line, I then fill the cup with water and then add it to the dispenser drawer. I do the same thing with fabric softener. Fill the softener lid up to the correct line with softener and fill to the top of the cap with water. Then add to the dispenser drawer. I noticed that this eliminates the detergent and softener residue that was building up in the drawer. After I am done washing clothes for the week, I take out the drawer turn it upside down over the sink and let the excess water drip out. I then pour a splash of vinegar into the drawer opening and pour another

splash of vinegar into the drum cavity. (A splash like I'm cooking with wine). The vinegar is acidic enough to stop any bacteria/mold from growing. I've been doing this since last February and the musty smell has not returned. The result is that I love my Maytag front load washer all over again."

Bad bearing

Dear Mary Beth, I thank you and so will many readers who will prove your system of washing may solve their odor problems. As for this guy who experienced this odor problem for seven years, you could have saved me the cost of a new washer. I can't say that really, because the tub bearing was going

bad, so the washer was ready for the scrap metal yard anyway. As you mentioned, I have saved you money in the past and it is always my intent to do the same in the future, so here is a tip for you and all owners of the Maytag front loaders: When that washer starts to make a screeching screaming noise you can pretty well rest assured that the rear bearing is going bad. It will run for some time before it locks up on you and know that the cost of repairs will exceed \$600. Should this occur, it's time to put on some lip gloss and kiss your love goodbye.

When a consumer purchases a new washer today they will want it to look good in the laundry room and there is no

doubt that a front loader fits the bill. My darling Valorie thought the same way eight years ago when shown a new shape in the cabinet and all the colored lights on the consul. It didn't take her long to realize how much she missed her 35-year-old Maytag top loader.

Longevity must be kept in mind and you should find out who makes the best washing machine today or you could spend an extra \$1,000 after a 10-year period of ownership. Know what you're buying and don't be afraid to ask me.

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

Women To Work program offers helps with job searching

Southfield-based JVS will offer the Women To Work Program at two locations starting in January 2016.

The program will be held in Southfield for five weeks, twice per week from 9 a.m. to noon and starts with an information meeting Thursday, Jan. 14. The program begins Tuesday, Jan. 19. The program also will be held at JVS in Detroit and begins with an information meeting Jan. 26. The Detroit program includes basic computer training and will take place three mornings per week, also for five weeks.

"JVS does this in order to help women enter or re-enter the workforce often after many years," said Judy

Richmond, Women To Work coordinator for JVS. Often, women have been at home caring for children or other family members, and find themselves in need of paid employment due to a change in life circumstances.

The goal, Richmond said, is to give women the skills to find and keep employment. The Women To Work program is also open to men.

Sessions include information on resume writing, interviewing, job search skills, decision-making, goal setting, stress management and more. If you are interested, contact Richmond at 248-233-4232 or jrichmond@jvsdet.org.

By Julie Brown

Seedlings Braille Books for Children sells holiday card

If you're looking for a holiday card that sends a message in braille and print, check out Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

The Livonia-based organization is selling a package of 12 cards and envelopes for \$16. The cards sport a photo of a paper Christmas tree made by a 9-year-old braille reader who learned the craft of paper folding while in the hospital. The message inside the card, in both braille and print, says Happy Holidays and Best Wishes.

Order cards by calling 800-777-8552. Shipping is available at \$6 for up to three packages and \$13 for four to 18 packages.



Submitted: Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia is selling holiday cards with print and braille messages.

Visit seedlings.org for more information.

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Livonia Garden Club

Jennifer Shockling, who served as community forester at the Greening of Detroit, will give a PowerPoint presentation about the Greening of Detroit organization, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016, at the Civic Park Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information, visit livoniagardenclub.org or email lgcprresident@yahoo.com.



Submitted: Make a terrarium snow scene at English Gardens stores.

Wreaths

Create a grapevine wreath or holiday gifts using materials found in nature, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Nature Center in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 11 Mile and 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. The program is open to all ages and costs \$10 per person or \$30 per family of four. Children's nature crafts also will be available. Register online at <https://reg.fhgov.gov> or at the Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call Ashlie Smith at 248-477-1135 or email asmith@fhgov.com.

English Gardens

» Make a candle centerpiece, 7

p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. Cost is \$24.99 and includes all materials. » Make a terrarium snow scene, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$24.99. Pre-registration is required for all workshops. Visit EnglishGardens.com. Classes are held at all locations, including these stores: 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

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NEW 2015 Ford Focus SE Sedan



24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

\$144* per month \$467 Due at Signing with \$1,000 Down Buy For \$16,354+ MSRP \$22,630

Featuring: Equipment Package 201A, 2.0L GDI I4 Engine, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, SE Appearance Package, Ambient Lighting, Cruise Control, Fog Lamps, Perimeter Alarm, Power Windows & Locks, Rear Window Defroster, Remote Keyless Entry, SIRIUS® Satellite Radio*, SYNC® with MyFord®

NEW 2016 Ford Fusion SE



24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

\$136* per month \$444 Due at Signing with \$1,000 Down Buy For \$18,759+ MSRP \$27,110

Featuring: Equipment Package 200A, Front Wheel Drive, 1.5L EcoBoost® Engine, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Cruise Control, Rear View Camera, Rear Window Defroster, Remote Keyless Entry, SIRIUS® Satellite Radio, SYNC® with MyFord®

NEW 2016 Ford Escape SE



24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

\$143* per month \$436 Due at Signing with \$1,000 Down Buy For \$19,907+ MSRP \$28,155

Featuring: Equipment Package 201A, Front Wheel Drive, 1.6L EcoBoost® Engine, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Cruise Control, Perimeter Alarm, Rear View Camera, Rear Window Defroster, Remote Keyless Entry, Reverse Sensing System, SIRIUS® Satellite Radio, SYNC® Gen 3 with MyFord®

NEW 2015 Ford F-150 XLT Super Cab 4x4



24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

\$252* per month \$555 Due at Signing with \$1,000 Down Buy For \$30,817+ MSRP \$44,145

Featuring: Equipment Package 301A, 2.7L EcoBoost® V6 Engine, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Cruise Control, Fog Lamps, Power Tailgate Lock, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry, Reverse Sensing System, SIRIUS® Satellite Radio, SYNC®, Trailer Sway Control

NEW 2015 Ford Edge SEL



24 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

\$271* per month \$527 Due at Signing with \$1,000 Down Buy For \$28,733+ MSRP \$35,945

Featuring: Equipment Package 201A, Front Wheel Drive, 2.0L EcoBoost® Engine, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Cruise Control, Heated Front Seats, Intelligent Access w/Push Button Start, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, SIRIUS® Satellite Radio, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®

NEW 2016 Ford Explorer XLT



36 Month Lease

Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee and lease renewal

\$317* per month \$441 Due at Signing with \$1,000 Down Buy For \$32,144+ MSRP \$38,615

Featuring: Equipment Package 202A, Front Wheel Drive, 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Cruise Control, Forward Sensing System, Intelligent Access w/Push Button Start, Rear View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry, Remote Start System, SYNC® with MyFord Touch®

** All payments and prices are for qualifying A1Z Planners. For qualifying non (not new) A1Z Planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including previous lease, and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 01/04/2016.

** Early Bird Program is effective 12/01/2015 through 01/04/2016. For current Ford Credit RCL/RCO customers. Up to four (4) waived payments with a maximum of \$2,400 with a scheduled lease termination date from 01/01/2016 through 04/30/2016 on C-Max, Escape, Fiesta, Focus and Fusion. Must lease or purchase with Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the Early Bird Program. Past due payments, payment extensions and deferred payments beyond the original agreement are not eligible. Excess wear/mileage are customer's responsibility. Customers must take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 01/04/2016.

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** Low Price Tire Guarantee Valid on Quick Lane® installed retail purchases only. Requires presentation of competitor's current price ad/offer on exact tire sold by Quick Lane® within 30 days after purchase. See Quick Lane® Manager for details through 12/31/15.

*** Quick Lane® installed retail purchases only. Must purchase qualifying tires between 11/02/15 and 12/07/15, and claim tickets by 12/11/15. Qualifying tire brands: Bridgestone, Continental, Dunlop, General Tire, Goodyear®, Hankook, Kelly Tires, Michelin, Pirelli®, Uniroyal and Yokohama. While supplies last. Legal residents of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana 18 years of age and older. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Sweepstakes ends 12/11/15. For official rules and to claim your tickets, visit www.quicklanebowlsweepstakes.com. Sponsor: Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126. See Quick Lane® Manager for details through 12/11/15.

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