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# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

SUNDAY 04.03.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Fire destroys vacant Eloise building



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Fire inspectors at the scene began investigations as the fire was still burning at the former Eloise property.

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Fire destroyed a vacant two-story building that once housed a bakery at the former Eloise property in Westland Wednesday.

"The burning of the Eloise Bakery came as a sad surprise to all of us. While we are thankful that nobody was physically hurt in the fire, it pains us to know that another part of Eloise's past has been lost," said Jeff Koslowski, president of the Westland Historic Commission.

"What we lost today was more than just wood and brick. We lost a building

that provided food for the hungry when they had nowhere else to eat. We lost a part of a complex that gave people medical care where they had nowhere else to be treated."

The cause of the fire that destroyed the two-story building on the property on Michigan Avenue at Merriman in Westland is still under investigation.

Wayne-Westland firefighters responded the fire at the vacant building about 2 p.m. Wednesday. They were joined by firefighters from Garden City and Inkster.

"It's one of the out buildings. It was vacant. There was a fence around it to keep people out — we had to cut

through the fence when we arrived," said Wayne-Westland fire Chief Michael Reddy. "The flames were coming through the roof when we arrived."

Due to the fire coming through the roof of the three-story building, Reddy said the fire likely started on the upper floor. Firefighters were not able to enter the building while battling the fire, he said, due to the second and third level floors sagging.

The former burning building is west of the Kay Beard Building and Wayne County Family Center.

"It is pretty close to the Kay Beard

See FIRE, Page A2

## Play offers bingo, Bible trivia



Kristine Parker without the cowl of her Sister Sinergy costume.

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Parishioners attending a recent Mass at Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church were joined by a guest, a nun clad in a black and white habit with somewhat incongruous foot wear — Army boots.

Some church members expected the visiting nun was there to solicit donations at the end of Mass. But Sister Sinergy — actually parish member Kristine Parker — was on hand in costume to help publicize an upcoming church fundraiser, a performance of "Bible Bingo," subtitled a comedy with

God, games and goofy prizes.

"It was awesome. No one recognized me. There was a lady making announcements. I was up after her," said Parker, a Garden City resident. "She looked at me, she stared at me for 10 seconds, then said, 'I know you.'"

For some parishioners remembering old parochial school classes taught by nuns, Sister Sinergy came armed with a familiar teaching tool.

"You should have seen their faces when she started with the yardstick," said Judy Nichols, who is chairing the fundraiser.

A comedy about the Catholic culture of fundraising and bingo, "Bible Bingo"

is a new one-woman play written and performed by Chicago actress Vicki Quade, a creator of the popular "Late Nite Catechism." Her character is a former nun who now heads a fictitious archdiocese fundraising department.

Quade will be coming from Chicago for the performance at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10, at the church. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$15 for seniors 65 and older. No one under 14 will be admitted due to adult humor.

It's a one-woman show, but it's also interactive. "Quade walks

See PLAY, Page A2

## Westland fires under investigation

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Three dogs died Tuesday in a Westland house fire, one of two arson fires that day currently under investigation.

Limited information was being released about the fire at the home in the 37000 block of Warren where the three dogs died. The fire was reported at 1:30 p.m. in the home, a rental property.

"There isn't too much information I can give, but it was definitely an incendiary fire," Wayne-Westland Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said. "We had the Michigan State Police arson dog out there."

The tenant wasn't home when the fire was reported. There was heavy fire damage to the front of home, particularly the living room, Eggers said, with heavy smoke and water damage throughout the house.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The second fire was reported about 4:50 a.m. at a ground floor apartment at the Woodcrest Apartments, off Wayne Road north of Central City Parkway.

"It came in as a stove fire. It's definitely suspicious and listed as incendiary," Eggers said. "It certainly appeared to be a stove fire. Then we lifted the hood off the stove."

Under the top of the stove, firefighters found a can of fuel used for cooking while camping.

"We're not sure what happened. The occupant of the apartment and his girlfriend came home from bar when we were already there," Eggers said.

Witness saw two men leaving the apartment just as the fire was apparently beginning.

"The occupant (of the apartment) said the lock on his sliding back door is broken and people can get in and out," Eggers said. "(The tenant) says he knows the two guys from the neighborhood and (entering the apartment) happens on a regular basis."

The fire department has completed its investigation in the fire, Eggers said, and has turned it over to Westland Police.

There are six apartments in each building at Woodcrest Apartments. Eggers said the fire was contained to the single apartment. "Quick response from our guys saved it from spreading," he said. "There was heavy smoke and water damage. They will need to redo the kitchen."

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## State suspends Westland doctor's license

The license to practice medicine for a Westland doctor has been suspended following his conviction on two felonies in federal court.

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspended the license Laran Johnathon Lerner,

D.O. The state Public Health Code provides for the mandatory summary suspension of a health professional's license upon the conviction of a felony.

A Northville resident, Lerner, 59, operated Greater Detroit Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation, on Merriman

at Palmer, in Westland.

On Sept. 2, 2015, Lerner was convicted of one count of health care fraud and one count of structuring cash transactions to avoid bank re-

See DOCTOR, Page A2



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## IT GETS BETTER WITH AGE TOWN

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**GREEKTOWN**  
CASINO-HOTEL

**PLAY**

Continued from Page A1

around the audience — she picked me out twice,” Parker said. “I haven’t decided if I will come dressed as a nun. I could be the warm-up.”

Quade will ask for volunteers from the audi-

ence members, who could end up winning Purgatory or limbo cards.

Hosting the play as a church fundraiser was Nichols’ idea and she’s hoping for good turnout.

“I saw the show twice. At the end of the play, it was announced that they do fundraisers. We’re always looking for fun

things to do,” Nichols said. “I paid \$40 to see the show. It is only \$20 here.”

Nichols started working on getting the play presented at Sts. Simon and Jude in September. The parish council approved the event. The Rev. Gerard Bechard signed off on Parker promoting the event dressed as a nun with the

proviso that Parker, an army veteran, complete her outfit with the combat boots.

“At this church, I didn’t worry about dressing up like a nun — at other parishes, but not this parish,” Parker said. Nichols agreed. A Garden City resident, Nichols attended St. Raphael Church, now the

merged St. Thomas the Apostle, for many years. “Friends told me to check out this church and I never looked back,” Nichols said.

Tickets for “Bible Bingo” are available after Mass until Saturday, April 9; at the parish office 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. except noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednes-

day; 8 a.m. to noon Thursday and Friday; at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com); or at the door. Concessions will be available at intermission. Sts. Simon and Jude is located at 32000 Palmer, in Westland.

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**DOCTOR**

Continued from Page A1

porting requirements. Lerner was sentenced to prison for 45 months and ordered to pay \$2.7 million in restitution.

In a written plea agreement, Lerner admitted to willfully engaging in a scheme to defraud the Medicare program and depositing cash received as a result of this scheme in \$5,000 increments to avoid triggering a requirement under federal law that

domestic banks file a report with the Secretary of Treasury for all transactions more than \$10,000. The false and fraudulent claims Lerner submitted to Medicare as a result of unnecessary prescriptions, office visits and diagnostic testing totaled approximately \$5.7 million.

For more information on disciplinary actions taken by the health professional licensing boards within LARA, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/healthlicense>.

**FIRE**

Continued from Page A1

Building. Our guys were protecting that exposure (from the fire) when they first arrived until help arrived,” said Reddy.

Westland Police talked to a couple of people who were nearby when the fire was reported but at this time no one is in custody.

Wayne County owns the Eloise property and has offered it for sale. The vacant building will need to be demolished after the fire, Reddy said.

The Wayne County Family Center and a building with the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office road patrol division and a county clerk satellite office are not part of the sale.

At various times, the property housed the county poor house, a hospital for tuberculosis patients, a mental institution and a general hospital. At its peak, Eloise was a self-contained community with barns, a greenhouse, cattle herds, a piggery, a bakery, a cannery, its own post office and fire department.

Over time, various buildings were closed and most were demolished. The psychiatric hospital closed in 1979 followed by the closure of Wayne County General Hospital in 1984.

“When the Great Depression left 25 percent of the American population unemployed and many more with depleted bank accounts, this facil-



Wayne-Westland firefighters battle a blaze that destroyed a building that once housed a bakery at the Eloise complex.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ity provided warm meals to over 10,000 people at one time,” Koslowski said. “It gave homes to doctors, nurses, medical staff, facility managers, their families and thousands of people that needed medical care. Simply put, when society cast people away, Eloise took them in.”

The Westland Historic Commission is working to open an Eloise Museum later this year as part of the Westland Historic Village.

“This fire should also remind us of the delicate nature of historic buildings. Even when empty, they stand as solemn monuments to times of

our past,” said Koslowski. “What to some is just an empty building on the side of the road may be a fond memory and connection to the past for someone else.”

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Monday, April 11  
4:30PM - OR - 6:30PM  
Plymouth Cultural Center Card Room  
525 Farmer Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

Wednesday, April 13th  
4:30PM - OR - 6:30PM  
Taylor Community Library  
12303 Pardee Road  
Taylor, MI 48180

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# Site plan, rezoning approved for Haggerty shopping center

David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Yet another step forward was recently made on the proposed shopping center on Haggerty between Seven Mile and Eight Mile.

The City Council gave its approval during its March 21 to both a preliminary site plan and rezoning of the proposed Haggerty Marketplace center, located at 19700 and 19750 Haggerty. The site, a former tech center that has been closed for several years, has had some work done to prep for the proposed center, which would include some new restaurants, a larger retailer and a row of smaller shops. The plans were submitted by Bloomfield Hills-based Jonna Realty Ventures.

The decision was one that was several years in the making: the first reading on the

rezoning request for the property from R-E research and engineering to C-2 general business was done in 2011 by Councilman Brian Meakin. Since then, Meakin has spent two years off of the council because of term limits and came back to the council after being elected in 2013.

So perhaps it was fitting he was the one who moved for the second reading at the most recent council meeting. That rezoning request was approved unanimously by the council members in attendance.

The City Council typically waits on doing a second reading of rezoning until a site plan is also presented and meets approval by the same body. That happened at the last meeting.

"Now that they've both arrived, we're going to see a lot of new and exciting things



FILE PHOTO

The City Council recently approved a rezoning more than four years in the making for this property on Haggerty.

happening near that section of Seven Mile and Haggerty Road," Meakin said before the vote was taken. "This is a good opportunity for Mr. Jonna to get some new and exciting restaurants at this place.

"Once we get a building started here, it will help the development of the rest of the property and will hopefully complete the project in the next year-and-a-half or two years."

The council met in committee in February to hammer out more details regarding the property's site plan, especially since they were more preliminary in nature.

"Council made certain that they developer understood the desire of council and the city to have a very nice, well-developed property in that location," said council Vice President Brandon Kritzman. "We discussed materials and items related to design as well.

"It will be great to see some new life breathed into that property."

Once the developer locks down what restaurants will occupy the site, those site plans will need to return to the council for approval as well.

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## Family celebrates with World War II veteran on his 95th birthday

World War II veteran Joseph Girolamo, a longtime resident of Livonia, recently celebrated his 95th birthday, joined by more than 80 family and friends at a party at DeLuca's of Westland.

His niece, former Farmington Hills resident Diane Mehan, and her daughter Gabrielle came in from Colorado, while former Livonia resident Eileen Taylor Sigsbee arrived from Washington, D.C. In addition, friends Bill and Annette Mann drove from Sarnia, Ontario, to share in this special celebration.

A special surprise was having Girolamo's niece, country radio disc jockey Karen D'Alessandro, and her husband Doug fly in from Milwaukee. D'Alessandro was inducted in 2015 to the Country Music Radio Hall of Fame in Nashville. D'Alessandro delivered more than 60 birthday cards from loyal listeners. There were also many beautiful handmade birthday cards that



Country radio DJ Karen D'Alessandro presents her uncle, Joe Girolamo, birthday cards from radio listeners.

a class of Milwaukee elementary school children sent along to "Uncle Joe."

Girolamo's nephew Dominic and niece Viviana Buzzelli of Plymouth led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Girolamo's daughter Joyce

Hermann and husband Michael of Plymouth organized the party and also arranged for special birthday greetings to come from Gov. Rick Snyder, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, state Rep. Laura Cox, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and President Barack Obama.

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson presented Girolamo with a resolution honoring him on his 95th birthday.

Girolamo still participates in various veteran events though out the state and acts as patriotic instructor for the Livonia American Legion Post 32 and Livonia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3941.

Besides giving talks on his role in World War II, he also conducts classes on flag etiquette for local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops.

### LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

#### Window damaged

Livonia police were called Thursday to Bob Evans, 13911 Middlebelt, on the report of a window being damaged on a vehicle parked at the restaurant.

The vehicle's driver told police they were meeting a friend for dinner at the restaurant. Coming out after the meal, they noticed the rear window to the truck was broken out. The truck's bed cover was folded over in an open position, though the driver said they didn't believe anything was taken. It appeared that the cover did the damage to the window when it was pulled open and something struck the window.

#### Prices switched

Police were dispatched Wednesday evening to Walmart, 29555 Plymouth Road, on the report of a retail fraud that had taken place.

Police arrived and spoke to a store employee, who said the suspect was seen switching the price tag on a comforter set with a less expensive price. The suspect took the item to the self-checkout area and scanned it, paying the lower

price for the item. The shopper was stopped and detained until police arrived, who issued them a citation and released her at the scene.

#### Mailbox damaged

A resident who lives in the 27900 block of Whitcomb came into the police station Tuesday morning to file a report of his mailbox being damaged.

He said he retrieved mail from the box the day before and was awakened after midnight earlier that morning when he heard a loud bang and squealing tires. He said he did not get up to check what had happened. He came out and found the mailbox destroyed.

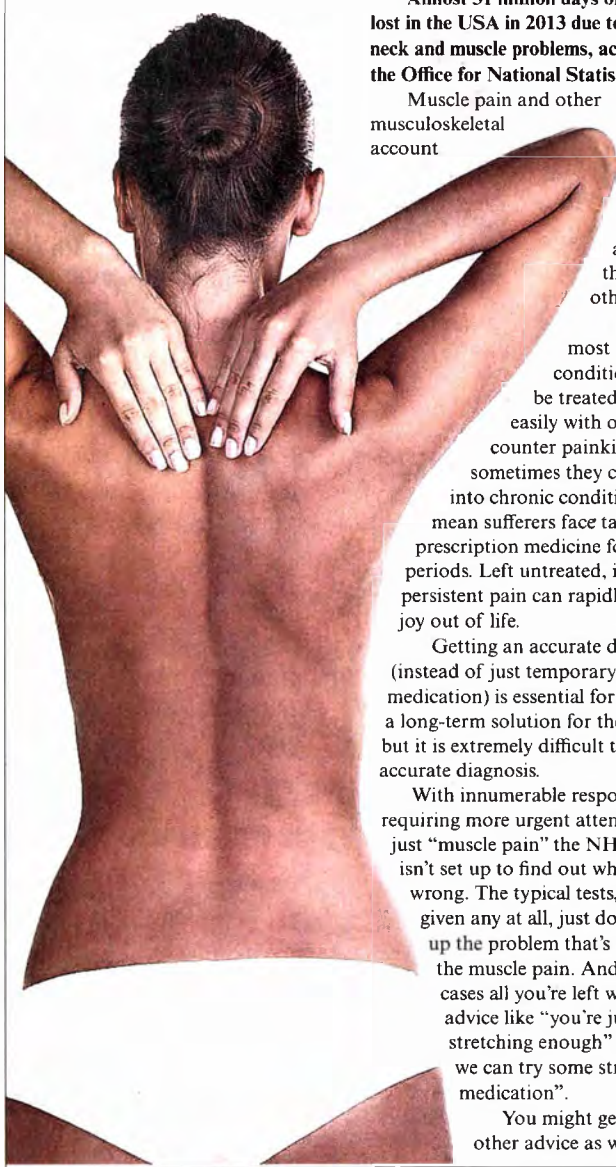
#### Items thrown at garage

Police were called Wednesday morning to a home in the 31800 block of Gable on the report of some damage done to a resident's garage.

The resident told police someone had, in the last 24 hours, threw glass objects at his garage. He said the objects caused damage to the door and some of the trim. The glass was cleaned up prior to the police's arrival.

— By David Veselenak

# How to find long-term relief from muscle pain



Almost 31 million days of work were lost in the USA in 2013 due to back, neck and muscle problems, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Muscle pain and other musculoskeletal conditions account for more

prolonged absences than any other ailment.

While most of these conditions can be treated relatively easily with over-the-counter painkillers, sometimes they can develop into chronic conditions that mean sufferers face taking prescription medicine for extended periods. Left untreated, intense and persistent pain can rapidly drain the joy out of life.

Getting an accurate diagnosis (instead of just temporary relief from medication) is essential for developing a long-term solution for the problem, but it is extremely difficult to get an accurate diagnosis.

With innumerable responsibilities requiring more urgent attention than just "muscle pain" the NHS just isn't set up to find out what is really wrong. The typical tests, if you're given any at all, just don't pick up the problem that's causing the muscle pain. And in those cases all you're left with is weak advice like "you're just not stretching enough" or "maybe we can try some stronger medication".

You might get lots of other advice as well, all

of which is just as deeply flawed, and you're likely to get something different from every healthcare provider that you speak to. They all have their own opinions.

But opinions won't help you stop the muscle pain. **Only a proper diagnosis can lead to the solution to fix this problem...**

So what's the answer?

Recent advances in the diagnosis of muscle pain have led to the development and huge success of a treatment for muscle pain that works directly on the cause of the problem.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals, with satisfaction rates as high as 90%.

In Livonia, you can get this treatment at Kramer Chiropractic the office of muscle pain relief expert Gregory Kramer.

Greg and his team of fully trained pain care specialists have helped thousands of patients find relief from their muscle pain. According to Greg "It is surprising that more of the recommended muscle pain treatments don't address the underlying causes of the pain. It always amazes my clients how many muscle pain conditions are connected to poor nerve function. Using a combination of ultra-advanced technology not found elsewhere in Bedfordshire, we precisely diagnose the problem and develop a unique programme to that brings superior long-term results for most people."

The majority of their clients have enjoyed lasting relief from muscle pain.

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with Greg and his team now by calling 248-615-1533. They are waiting to take your call Monday to Friday - but you can call on the weekend, leave a message to reserve your spot, and they will return your call.

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All Federal Guidelines are followed.

## Annual art exhibition set for April 8-10 at library

The fourth annual exhibition hosted by the Three Cities Art Club will be Friday through Sunday, April 8-10, at Westland's William P. Faust Library.

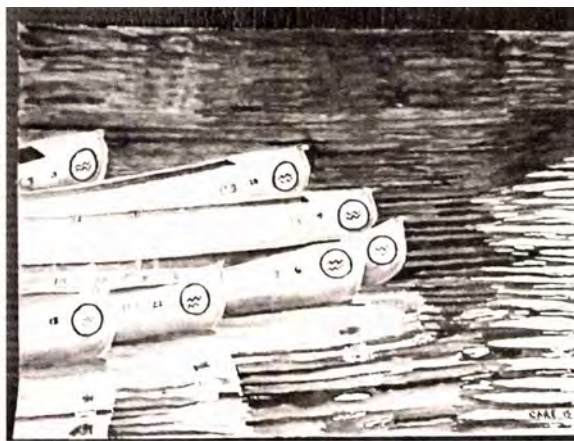
Twenty-one artists have entered some of the area's finest original art, including oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, collage, photography and more. This year's judge is Diane Smith of Commerce Township. Smith chose her top five favorite photos and top five drawings/paintings. Three winners in each category will receive a cash prize plus two honorable mention awards in each category will receive a gift certificate donated by D&M Art Studio of Canton.

Westland Mayor William Wild will select his favorite work of art and the artist will win his cash prize of \$100 for the Wild Art Award.

Everyone attending the free exhibition will have the chance to vote for their three favorite works of art. The exhibit can be visited during the library's regular hours 9



"South Haven Sunset," an acrylic by Marilyn Meredith, will be among the work shown at the Three Cities Art Club exhibit at the William P. Faust Library in Westland.



"Canoes," a watercolor by Carrie "Care" Wheeler, will be on display at the Three Cities Art Club exhibit.

a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 8-9; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10.

Three Cities Art Club will host a free Art & Appetizers reception 1-4 p.m. Sunday,

April 10, with awards presented at 2 p.m. J.D. Kilgas of Piano Pleasures will provide music for the event.

There will be free guided tours upon request by volun-

teer club members to enhance the experience for attendees.

The library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. For more about

this event or the club, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or at marilynmeredith@wowway.com. The club website is www.threecitiesartclub.org.

## Library to publish local poets

The Public Library of Westland will publish local writers' poems or short stories during April in celebration of National Poetry Month.

From April 1-28, email up to two poems or one short story (up to 2,500 words) to Andy Schuck at the library (andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org). Writers who contribute will receive a copy of the book.

Schuck has organized the book titled "Westland Writes" for seven years.

"Seeing your name and your work in print is a really big deal for our writers,"



Schuck

Schuck said. "This is a great way to celebrate all of the great work that they have been doing over the year."

In addition to the book, the library will hold a poetry contest. Patrons can submit up to two poems written in the American Sentence form to Schuck by April 28, as well. This short form, created by poet Allen Ginsberg, is similar to a haiku in that it contains 17 syllables, but is written in a sentence rather than

lines of poetry.

"We like to keep the poetry contest rules accessible for anyone who wishes to try it," Schuck said. "We get so many good entries for our poetry contest each year and publish these submissions as well."

For more information on National Poetry Month activities, go to www.westlandlibrary.org. This year's National Poetry Month marks the 20th anniversary of this literary celebration, which was created by the Academy of American Poets (www.poets.org).

### ON CAMPUS

#### Grand Valley State

Kayla Williams of Livonia is among students who made the Dean's List for the Fall 2015 semester at Grand Valley State University.

Williams, in her third year studying creative writing, is a 2013 graduate of Churchill High School. She is the daughter of Robert and Mercedes Williams of Livonia.

The Dean's List includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. The honor is noted on the students' official records.

#### Hope College

Hope College has announced the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2015-16 academic year. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

» From Farmington Hills — Allison Mann, Alyssa Goodwin, Annika Gidley, Natalie Boardway, Joseph Williams and Aileen Erickson.  
» From Livonia — Lauren Burford, Alexandra Knorp, Matthew Selesko, Kelsey Duntley, David Moening, Brianna Van Reenen, Julia Licata and Jacob Davenport.

#### Marquette University

Jaclyn Godwin and Samantha Wenson of Farmington Hills have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

Godwin is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing, while Wenson is pursuing a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws its more than 11,500 students from all 50 states and more than 75 different countries.

# Guide to Employment

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Center Representative  
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38000 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington Hills

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Established car & truck parts seeking quick learners. \$10/hr. No exp. needed.  
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3130 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48150  
Call: 313-274-6765

**BOOKKEEPER - FT.** experienced in AP/AR/GL, knowledge of construction property management accounting preferred. Must know Quick Books. Email Resume: Cheryl@infinityhomescorp.com

**DIRECT CARE - New wage\*** 9.50/hr. Trained; must be 18 & have a valid MI driver's license. CLS/MORC trained preferred. Full time and part time; many shifts; support adults living in their own homes; make a difference! 734-728-4201

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### General

**LEGAL SECRETARY**  
The Law Firm of Bernstein & Bernstein has an immediate opening for a professional legal secretary in our LaGrange Village office. The ideal candidate should have knowledge of legal documents, pleadings and court procedures. Candidate must have 2+ years of personal injury litigation. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word. Knowledge of Needles software is beneficial. Position is full time with salary and benefits. Please send resume to: slavelace@lawfirmofbernstein.com

**LINE COOKS.** Must have 1 yr. exp. **DISHWASHERS & BAR BACKS** Part or Full-Time. Please call Sean: 313-469-6545

**MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR/ MAINTENANCE TECH & LEASING CONSULTANT/ CLEANER**  
Expt'd. Maintenance Supervisor & 3 Maintenance Techs needed to work at one of our busy apartment communities in Waterford Dearborn Heights and Northville. Knowledge in all aspects of maintenance and must be HVAC Certified Freon Recovery. Must have basic electrical and plumbing skills, ability to trouble shoot, shared emergency on-call pager, general pool maintenance and snow removal. Competitive salary and benefits included. Also hiring a full-time dependable person to assist the Manager in managing, maintaining and cleaning at an apt community in Westland. Must love to clean. Benefits: [care@vorkcommunities.com](mailto:care@vorkcommunities.com)  
Fax resume: (248) 358-3779  
248-363-5443 Waterford  
313-274-6765 Dearborn Heights  
248-349-4612 Northville

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Apply in person at:  
Benson Building Supplies  
25018 Plymouth Rd, Redford.  
(313) 538-9300

### Healthcare-Dental

**DENTAL HYGIENIST** needed to cover a medical leave effective immediately. Fax resume: 810-227-6434

**MEDICAL AESTHETICIAN**  
Dermatology practice seeking Full-time licensed aesthetician w/laser hair removal & cosmetic exp. No weekends/Exc pay & Benefits. [rderrin@medspa.com](mailto:rderrin@medspa.com) or FAX 734-996-8767

### Sales-Marketing

**ADVERTISING**  
WHMI is looking for a motivated mature individual to sell advertising in Livingston City & the immediate surrounding area. Exp is not req the right candidate will need knowledge of marketing, good communication skills, and a love for closing a deal that achieves the client's goals. Compensation is very competitive along with generous benefits. Resume to WHMI Sales Manager Debbie Platt dplatt@whmi.com or P.O. Box 935, Howell, MI 48844 No phone calls please. EOE.

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## Boar's Head



We're now making Boar's Head Sandwiches

Good through date of Sunday, April 17th, 2016. We reserve the right to limit quantity & pricing offers.

# SEAFOOD

<b>Wild Caught Cod Loins</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> lb	<b>Wild Caught King Crab Legs</b>  <b>\$19.99</b> lb	<b>Jumbo Cooked Shrimp</b>  <b>\$10.99</b> lb	<b>Jumbo Sea Scallops</b>  <b>\$16.99</b> lb	<b>Wild Caught Salmon</b>  <b>\$8.99</b> lb <b>HOT DEAL!</b>	<b>9 oz. Lobster Tails</b>  <b>\$16.99</b> ea
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# MEATS

<b>USDA Choice Porterhouse or T-Bone Steak</b>  <b>\$7.99</b> lb	<b>USDA Boneless Chuck Eye Roast</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb	<b>Grass Fed, Bone-In Leg of Lamb</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb	<b>USDA Choice Top Sirloin Steaks</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb
<b>USDA Choice Flank Steak</b>  <b>\$9.99</b> lb	<b>Fresh All Natural Pork Shoulder, Great for pulled pork</b>  <b>\$1.79</b> lb	<b>Marvin's Sweet or Hot store made Italian-Sausage</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> lb	<b>Fresh smoked Amish Bacon 3 lbs or more</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb
<b>Amish Boneless Chicken Breast</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> lb	<b>Amish Chicken Wings</b>  <b>\$13.99</b> 5 lbs.	<b>Amish Chicken Leg Quarters</b>  <b>\$10.00</b> 10 lbs For	<b>City Chicken (Veal or Pork)</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb
<b>USDA Choice Grass Fed Cube Steak or Short Ribs</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb	<b>USAD Choice Beef Stew</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb	<b>USDA Choice Steak Kabobs</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> lb	<b>USDA Choice Ground Round</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> lb
<b>Pork Baby Back Ribs</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> lb	<b>Pork Spare Ribs</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> lb	<b>Bone-In Center Cut Pork Chops</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> lb	<b>Wigley's Corned Beef</b>  <b>\$7.99</b> Flat Cuts / <b>\$6.99</b> Point Cuts

# PRODUCE DELI GROCERY

<b>Idaho Russet Russet Potatoes</b>  <b>2 5lb bag / \$5</b>	<b>Fresh Asparagus</b>  <b>\$2.49</b> lb	<b>Bananas</b>  <b>49¢</b> lb	<b>Boar's Head Ovensold Turkey Breast</b>  <b>\$7.99</b> lb	<b>Boar's Head Everroast chicken</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> lb	<b>Boar's Head Tavern Ham</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> lb	<b>Boar's Head London Broil</b>  <b>\$9.99</b> lb	<b>Lawry's Garlic, Salt or Seasoned Salt</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> ea
<b>Fresh Sweet Onions</b>  <b>79¢</b> lb	<b>Green Giant Mushrooms</b>  <b>2 / \$3</b>	<b>Hot House Tomatoes</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> lb	<b>Boar's Head American</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb	<b>Boar's Head Colby or Colby jack</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb	<b>Krakus Polish Ham or Hoffman's Hard Salami</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb	<b>Best in Town Smoked Cherrywood Ham</b>  <b>\$7.99</b> lb	<b>Kowalski Pierogies</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> 8 ct
<b>Fresh Celery 1 lb bag</b>  <b>\$1.29</b> ea	<b>8 oz Whole Iceberg Head Lettuce</b>  <b>99¢</b> ea	<b>Albies Made in Gaylord, Michigan Beef or Chicken Pasties</b>  <b>2 / \$5</b>	<b>Kowalski Coleslaw, Potato Salad or Macaroni Salad</b>  <b>2 lbs / \$5</b>	<b>Fresh Hummus</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> lb	<b>Fresh Pico de Gallo Salsa or Antipasta salad</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb	<b>Del Monte Vegetables &amp; Campbell's Gravy</b>  <b>5 / \$5.00</b>	

# MEAT BUNDLES

<b>Everyday Bundle \$249.99</b>  3 Lbs. Sirloin Fillet or Pepper Steak 3 Lbs. New York Strip 3 Lbs. Denver Steaks 3 Lbs. Porterhouse or T-Bones 3 Lbs. Pot Roast 3 Lbs. Sirloin Tips or Rump Roast 8 Lbs. Ground Round 3 Lbs. X-Lean Beef or Pork Stew 2 Lbs. Hickory Smoked Bacon 1 Pkg. Homemade Sirloin Patties 3 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops 4 Lbs. Breakfast Bulk Sausage 2 Lbs. EMC's Homemade Meatloaf 3 Lbs. EMC's Homemade Fresh Sausage 8 Lbs. Whole Fryer (May Be Cut Up) 3 Lbs. Amish Boneless Chicken Breast 2 Lbs. Beef, Pork or Chicken Cube Steaks	<b>Single Family Bundle \$126.99</b>  1.5 Lbs. Beef or Pork Stew 8 Lbs. Lean Ground Beef 2 Lbs. Sirloin Tips or Rump Roast 2 Lbs. Country Ribs or Pork Roast 2 Lbs. Chicken Breast 2 Lbs. Bacon 1 Lb. Beef, Pork or Chicken Cube Steaks 1 Pkg. Homemade Sirloin Patties 2 Lbs. Pork Chops 3 Lbs. Pot Roast 1 Whole Fryer (May Be Cut Up)	<b>Beef Bundle \$126.99</b>  2 Lbs. New York Strip Steaks 3 Lbs. Sirloin Tips or Rump Roast 2 Lbs. X-Lean Stew Meat 6 Lbs. Lean Ground Beef 2 Lbs. Porterhouse or T-Bones 3 Lbs. Pot Roast 3 Lbs. Cube Steaks 2 Lbs. Homemade Meatloaf	<b>Shrimp Tray</b>  Small \$39.99 Large \$59.99	<b>Cheese Tray</b>  Small \$39.99 Large \$59.99	<b>Deli Tray</b>  Minimum 10 People <b>\$6.99</b> For Person with salad, bread and condiments
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Champions of Wayne

The Champions of Wayne Memorial program is hosting a 5K run/walk on Friday, May 6, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne.

Registration starts at 4:30 p.m. and the race begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes a T-shirt. Registration can be completed at <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/pdjin0>

The Champions of Wayne program is an educational incentive program that includes mentoring, setting academic goals and financial rewards. The Champions program creates an opportunity for WMHS students to earn a \$200 award if they reach a customized academic goal.

For more information on the Champions program or 5K event, contact Sean Galvin at [Galvins@wwcsd.net](mailto:Galvins@wwcsd.net).

Wildflower folklore

The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center hosts "Wildflower Folklore of the Holiday Nature Preserve," 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9. Learn to recognize native wildflowers and discover their fascinating folk history. Find out how people used them for healing, culinary and other purposes in the past. Call 734-261-1990 to pre-register. Fee is \$3 per person (add \$1 for out-of-county residence). Ages 12 and up.

Colbeck hours

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and his district manager, Penny Crider, will conduct office hours 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

Colbeck will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. All are

Meet the author



SUBMITTED

Madonna University presents Amy Elliot Bragg, the author of "Hidden History of Detroit," 6 p.m. Thursday, April 7. Bragg is a president of Preservation Detroit, a co-founder of the Detroit Drunken Historical Society and a founder of the Night Train, a local history blog. Book signing is available, and refreshments will be served. Madonna University is located at 36000 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

welcome, and no appointment is necessary.

For more information or to contact Colbeck, visit [www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com](http://www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com) or call 517-373-5713.

Career fair

Some 50 employers will be on hand for Madonna University's 2016 Career Fair, 3-5 p.m. Thursday, April 7. The fair is open to all students, alumni and the public.

From health care, hospitality, transportation and human services companies, to law firms, government agencies, financial and general businesses, find a list of all participating employers and register to attend the career fair at [www.madonna.edu/careerservices](http://www.madonna.edu/careerservices), or call 734-432-5623, during business hours. Dress for success and bring a résumé.

Mom2Mom sales

The Garden City High School Mom2Mom Sale takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the high school located at 6500 Middlebelt. Sell-

ers and shoppers will get good deals on new and gently used baby and kids' clothes as well as toys, games, DVDs, books, strollers, bikes, swings, bouncers, etc.

There will be more than 85 tables to shop from, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is \$1 (\$2 for early bird at 8:30 a.m.). Tables are \$25 for an 8-foot table/chair including standard rack space (you provide rack).

For more information including the table agreement, go to [www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale](http://www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale) or send an email to [gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com](mailto:gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com).

St. Edith/St. Colette hosts a Mom2Mom sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9, featuring 74 tables of great deals on gently used maternity, baby and children's items.

St. Edith Church is located at 15089 Newburgh in Livonia. Admission is \$2 from 8:30-9 a.m.; \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, email [mops.org.](mailto:m2msale@stec-</a></p>
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Photography meeting

The next 3D Photography Club meeting takes place at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13.

The meeting will feature a presentation by stereo expert John Waldsmith, co-founder of the National Stereoscopic Association. After a refreshment break, attendees will have a 3D image competition with a "Spiritual" theme. 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, visit [www.Detroit3D.org](http://www.Detroit3D.org) or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

'Gone With the Wind'

Join local "Gone With the Wind" expert Kathleen Marcaccio as she shares insights about this legendary novel and film in a presentation 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Wayne Public Library. Learn about author Margaret Mitchell, her real-life inspiration for Rhett Butler, and other intriguing background information.

Marcaccio's presentation also includes a trove of GWTW memorabilia. To register for this free program, call the library at 734-721-7821, or visit the Adult Services Desk.

Rainforest show

It's truly something you will have to see to believe. On Tuesday, April 5, Hayes Elementary School in Westland will be transformed into a tropical rainforest.

The show, "Live on Stage, The Rainforest," will make the audience feel like they're right in the middle of the tropical rainforest with the sounds and sights of the Amazon region. The show will include see exotic

birds, kinkajous, monkeys and snakes.

This comedy animal show will only be at Hayes Elementary School starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and will be available at the door. Hayes Elementary is located at 30600 Louise in Westland.

Casino trip

The Wayne Rotary sponsors a trip to Motor City Casino 2 p.m. Saturday, June 4.

Pickup is at the Wayne District Court on Sims. Cost is \$35 (you get \$30 back in slot play). The trip is a fundraiser for Wayne Rotary.

For more information, contact Trish Hampton, 734-890-6934.

Happily ever after

The Alexander Blue House at Greenmead hosts "Happily Ever After," a chance to reminisce about weddings, showcase vintage gowns and photos 7-9:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14.

Visitors will begin at the decorated Historic Newburg Church for a presentation, followed by the "reception" at the Alexander Blue House for hors d'oeuvres, sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.

Advance tickets are \$15, available at the Greenmead office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All tickets are non-refundable and at a first come, first serve basis.

No walk-ins. Tickets will be sold through Monday, April 11. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

Kindergarten readiness

The South Redford School District Shear Kindergarten Readiness Program offers children who reside in South Redford and will be 4 years of age by Sept. 1 an opportunity to experience quality learning activities which foster development as the children grow toward kindergarten.

Classes meet Monday

through Thursday, morning or afternoon for three-hour sessions. This is a tuition-free program (with the exception of a one-time material fee of \$75).

Registration takes place in the preschool room on Friday, April 22, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. The preschool room is located in the Shear Early Childhood Center at 26141 Schoocraft (Use the second parking lot south of Schoolcraft on Berwyn).

Parents interested in more information may contact the Student Services Dept. at 313-535-4000, Ext. 1028, or go to [srpreschool.weebly.com](http://srpreschool.weebly.com).

Maltese Bingo

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc., presents "Shamrock Bingo" Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., at 33111 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

The MABSI is donating 50 percent of its proceeds from its fundraising bingo nights to help [www.flintkids.org](http://www.flintkids.org) throughout March.

For more information, call 248-557-2000.

NRA Foundation Event

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association hosts its eighth annual Friends of the NRA banquet Friday, May 6, at the Hellenic Center, 36375 Joy in Westland.

Doors open at 5 p.m. to view prizes and silent auction for the Western Wayne County Conservation Association's eighth annual Friends of the NRA Banquet. Games start at 6 p.m., with a sit-down dinner served at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction. Banquet tickets are \$40 each and include entry in a drawing to win a .22 caliber rifle. Sponsorship and shooter packages also are available.

Contact Nancy Garneau at 734-259-3341 or Bob Haviland at 734-516-7921.

Livonia Towne Club

The club meets 11:30 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m., fourth Thursday of the month (September-May). It's a nonprofit women's organization bringing together women for social interaction, featuring speakers, bingo, a fashion show and more. For more information, call Vicki at 734-591-3254.

# Need Physical Therapy?

The experts from the **DMC's Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan** have moved to a new, larger location inside the Livonia YMCA.

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Mon-Wed, 10-5:30, Thu 10-8:30, Fri & Sat 10-5:30, Sun 12-4

**CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

**Petition #2833-K. Pathak-110 S. Newburgh**  
Req. for a non-conforming sign variance from Ord. 248 in order to replace panels on two existing free-standing signs located at the north & east sides of the site; whereas Sec. 15:3.6(b)(5) states that a non-conforming sign cannot be changed to any extent without being brought into conformance with current ordinance standards.

Published: April 3, 2016

**NOTICE OF THE LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

All voters are hereby given notice that the City of Livonia will hold a **Clarenceville School District Proposal Election**.

Electors who wish to vote in the election must be registered to vote no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2016.

Registrations will be taken at the office of the City Clerk, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during regular hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**THE STATUTORY DEADLINE** for registering to vote will be on Monday, April 4, 2016, on which day the City Clerk will be in her office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for the purpose of receiving registrations of electors to vote.

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Published: April 3, 2016

**CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following item:

**Petition 2016-03-02-05 submitted by Michigan Property Group, L.L.C.** requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 16.11(d) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to develop and operate an outdoor storage yard for recreational vehicles, and site plan approval pursuant to Sections 18.47 and 18.58 to develop an indoor, climate-controlled self-storage facility, at 28900 Schoolcraft Road, located on the north side of Schoolcraft Road between Inkster and Middlebelt Roads in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24.

The above-mentioned petition will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

Ian Wilshaw, Chairman Pro Tem  
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: April 3, 2016

# Leasing makes economic sense

**Q: I am 55 and my husband is 49. To make a long story short, since 2009 my husband has lost two jobs. We claimed bankruptcy and had a short sale for our home. We have been leasing for the last four years. My husband is now working full time and we only have about \$5,000 set aside for our retirement. I recently received a full-time job that allows me to start saving possibly \$1,000 a month. We have a 14-year-old that we hope will receive a scholarship for college. The question is do I start saving for a home to purchase or do I continue to lease and put the money into retirement?**

**A:** Hopefully your luck has changed and brighter days are ahead for both you and your husband. The recession hit many people hard and, unfortunately, too many people have not been able to move forward like you have; therefore, congratulations.

In reviewing your situation, I believe you need to put money away for your retirement. When it comes to your retirement, other than Social Security, you're going to have to be self-funded. Considering that you can live 30-plus years in retirement, as far as I'm concerned, it makes sense to fund your retirement.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that owning a home is always much better financially than leasing; that is not the case. From just a financial standpoint, leasing is a very good way of going. When people look at buying versus leasing a home, there's a tendency to think that if you're leasing, you're just throwing your money away. The theory being that at the end of the lease you have



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

nothing to show for it. On the other hand, when you're done paying your mortgage, you own the home. That is true; however, that's not comparing apples to apples. What you also need to consider is the cost of maintaining your home. We all know that there's not one house in America that's not a money pit. People tend to forget that when you own a home, your cost of maintaining that house is substantially higher. When you take paper to pencil, factoring all the cost of owning a home including the maintenance, and taking into consideration the favorable tax consequences of owning a home, you will see that from a purely economic standpoint, leasing holds its own. In fact, looking at just the economics in many situations, I would venture to say in most situations, leasing is better economically than owning.

Just because the economics in many situations favor leasing, it

doesn't mean I tell people never to buy a home. I believe that a home is a quality of life issue, not necessarily a financial issue. Therefore, in the case at hand, there's no doubt in my mind that at this point in time, Sue and her husband have to lean toward the financial aspect versus the quality of life. In that regard, saving for retirement is going to have a much better financial outcome than owning a home.

I am a big believer that you and I have to save for retirement as soon as we can. In today's world, retirement is the great unknown because we have no idea how long we can live. But suffice it to say, 30-plus years in retirement is becoming more the norm. Because of that, saving for retirement has to take priority over buying a home and in many situations, even saving for your child's college education.

Good luck!

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*



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# Trinity House Theatre class teaches improvisation

**Sharon Dargay**  
Staff Writer



Curley Gumina

Gloriann Curley and Laura Gumina will teach a six-week improvisation workshop for students, ages 9-18, beginning April 11 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Curley of Garden City, is an English teacher at a private school in Canton. She taught drama for three years at a Detroit middle school and has been involved in the Detroit Creativity Project's program that teaches improv to students in Detroit.

Laura Gumina of Farmington Hills has acted, directed and taught theater for more than 30 years throughout southeastern Michigan. She also has taught improv classes at Trinity House Theatre.

Curley said all ages

will work together as an ensemble. The workshop, which will run 4-6 p.m. Monday and Thursday, will include games and scene work designed to help students think on their feet.

Curley said she watched her students in Detroit become less self-conscious and more confident in their interactions with others after they began learning improvisation skills.

"One of the shyest kids I had got the confidence on stage to go on and attend a special improv camp," Curley said, adding that the student was one of only 20 improvisers selected for the

program. "And improv is a creative outlet. One fun thing about it is that it's purely imagination, and students don't always get that any more. They'll learn the constructs of the games...and right away we'll have them jumping in to create their own scenes."

Gumina has worked with emotionally impaired and learning disabled children in the Southfield Public Schools, and she includes those students in the improv class.

"We did creative dramatics, role playing story telling and plays," Gumina said.

Students will perform for family and friends at the end of the six weeks.

Cost is \$120. For more information call Gumina at 313-614-2406 or email to [glorianncurley@gmail.com](mailto:glorianncurley@gmail.com).

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# Birmingham hot spot latest success for Farmington native

**Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

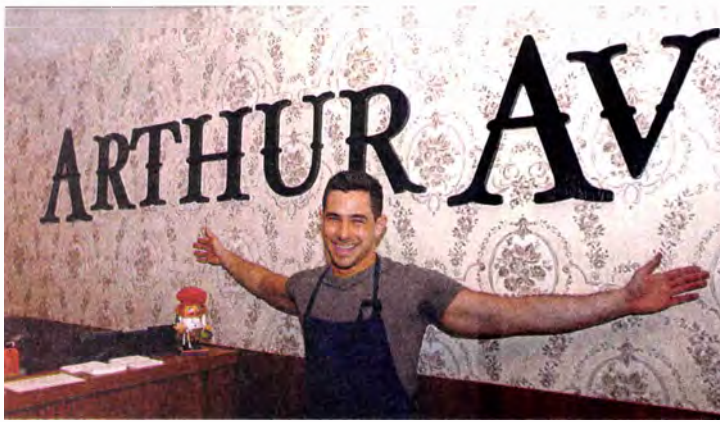
When Zack Sklar's elementary school friends were conquering video games or playing outside, he could usually be found inside, acquiring kitchen utensils or reading about cooking.

As a fifth-grader, young Zack took his share of kidding from his friends about his love for, of all things, cooking.

Until he made something for them. Suddenly, cooking was cool.

"My friends gave me a hard time," Sklar admitted, smiling. "They were getting Nintendos, I was getting knives. Then I cooked for them, and they loved it."

A lot of people are loving Sklar's cooking now. He's about to open his ninth restaurant (this one in Grand Rapids), continuing a string of



Zack Sklar in his restaurant, Arthur Av, adjacent to Au Cochon in Birmingham. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

eateries that started with Social Kitchen & Bar in Birmingham.

His latest (until Grand Rapids) are Au Cochon and Arthur Avenue, also in Birmingham. They opened about a

month apart last fall.

### CIA-bound

It's a career that took Sklar from the hallways of Farmington Public Schools to the kitchens of the prestigious Culi-

nary Institute of America in New York. Sklar graduated from North Farmington High School in 2004, where he was a self-admitted lackluster student.

He was slightly dyslexic, suffered from attention deficit disorder and a "solid C student" who benefited from teachers willing to let him learn his own way.

Because, as he says, he didn't "fit the mold" as a student, high school "was a struggle." "My teachers were willing to modify (methods) to help me learn," Sklar said. "It was cool that they were willing to adapt their style to me."

**First meal**  
He knew in fifth grade he wanted to be a chef, and was constantly researching and experimenting. The first meal he remembers cooking was chicken stir fry for a dinner party.

He understands how corny he sounds, but his love of food and cooking is simple. "I liked to cook and I liked making people smile," Sklar said. "Food was always a way to make people happy."

From there it was on to the CIA in New York, from which he graduated in 2008. While at the CIA, he absorbed whatever he could learn from the world-class chefs teaching at the school.

Chef Anita Eisenhauer, a professor of culinary arts at the CIA, said she remembers Sklar as a young man "just discovering his skill and thought" around food.

**Unusual weekends**  
He remembers Zack's first real job — at Emi-

ly's in Northville — where he'd work every Friday and Saturday night. That told the elder Sklar his son was different.

"When you're 15 or 16, you don't usually give up your Friday and Saturday nights," Larry Sklar said. "(But) he was always passionate about food."

Watching his son reach for such success has been fun for Larry Sklar, but actually helping him do it has been an adjustment, because fathers can't always step out of their sons' way.

"Most of the time I can separate the two," Larry Sklar said, and then laughed. "I have to bite my tongue once in awhile. I'm very proud of him."

In addition to growing his business, Zack Sklar says he wants to help the people who work for him grow, as well. They're all big on philanthropy, partnering with Heart 2 Hart, the Detroit-based effort to feed the homeless and hungry.

### Not the money

"We get our staff involved, and it changes them," Sklar said. "When you can do that stuff for people, it's absolutely amazing."

The new spot in Grand Rapids won't be the end of things. Sklar calls himself "a pretty relentless" guy, and he'll keep pushing the envelope. But it won't be the money — "I'm not driven by money" — spurring him on.

"I'm driven by success," he said. "There are other opportunities, but I don't do them unless I can give them 100 percent. I want to make an impact with everything I do."

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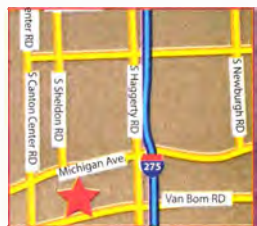


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## Community partners tout message at gathering

Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Ruth Johnson, assistant director of Transportation Riders United, a nonprofit advocacy group, was glad to be at Schoolcraft College's Earth Day event March 30.

TRU, organized in 1999, works toward "good local service and regional because it actually works together," said Johnson, who can take the bus between her Warren home and Detroit workplace.

She compared local and regional mass transit as the skeletal and circulatory systems of the body, both vital.

"We're the ones that are really going to cause this to be a great system," Johnson said.

She noted Livonia's not current in the SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) system, which affects those who wish to enroll at Schoolcraft's main campus there. "It needs to work for more people, more easily, more affordably," Johnson said of the system, adding TRU isn't anti-car.

She's enthused about the relatively new Regional Transit Authority and efforts to coordinate routes between SMART and the DDOT system of Detroit. "It's a very convenient option," Johnson said of her own bus commute. "For me, it's a choice because I have a car."

She noted some lack cars and some can't drive for health reasons. Johnson encourages a visit to TRU's website at [www.detroittransit.org](http://www.detroittransit.org). The Friends of the

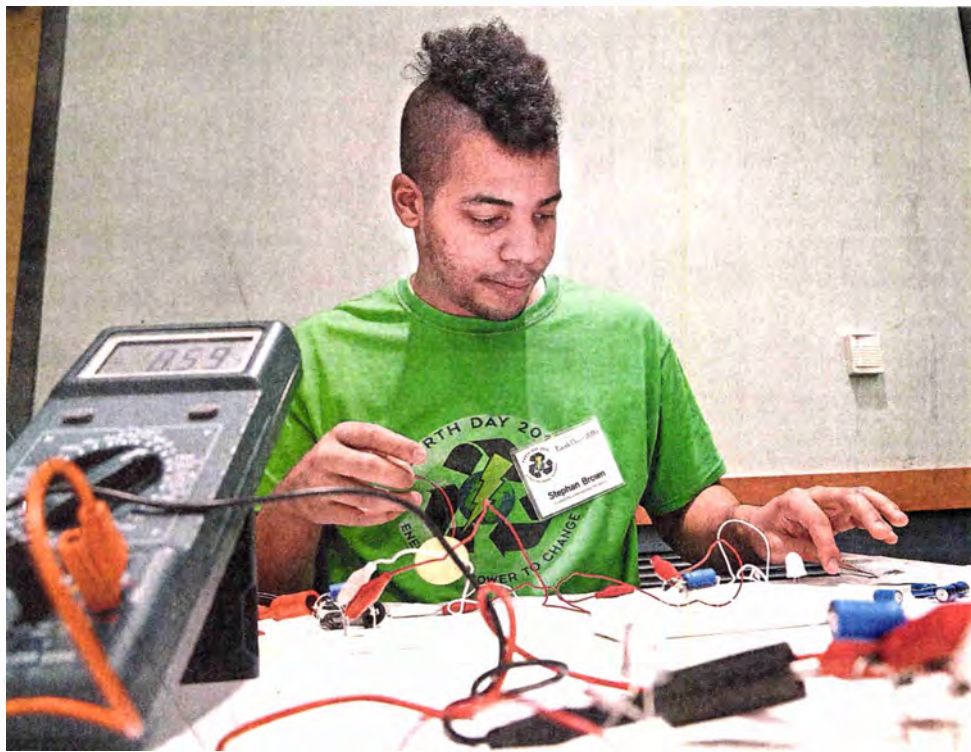
Rouge were also present, along with other community partners, including the Holliday Nature Preserve Association. Bill Craig of Livonia, an environmental activist, was manning the Holliday Nature Preserve booth at Schoolcraft.

The preserve is mainly in Westland and extends to Canton and Livonia, he said. Craig differentiates recreation from natural areas, noting his group works "to keep a nature preserve from becoming a park. You only have 500 acres of a nature preserve," Craig said.

He noted the park use of lengthy Hines Park and pointed on a map to narrow green river corridors of western Wayne County. The nature preserve is also linear along Tonquish Creek. "So there are pressures, there are stressors," Craig said, noting some are natural like erosion as well as some poor use by humans. "We try to help them, a stewardship group."

Of early 1970s Earth Day observances, he noted, "That was a time of certain upheavals," including anti-war protests. "That was an interesting time to live in. Over time, I think it's been dulled," he said of the Earth Day message.

"It's a struggle and it's going to be an ongoing struggle," Craig said of the environment, pointing to awareness vs. action.



Schoolcraft student Stephan Brown, a member of the Math & Physics Club, wires up piezoelectric discs that generate electricity from physical pressure. A road in Israel is planned that will have a piezoelectric surface. The weight of cars passing over the roadway will generate electricity.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Earth Day event at Schoolcraft promotes small steps, making a difference

Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Stephan Brown is a second-year Schoolcraft College computer science student and member of the Math & Physics Club. On Wednesday, March 30, at the college's VisTaTech Center, he was demonstrating "how to get energy from kinetic energy."

Brown, a 2013 Churchill High School graduate and Livonia resident, was at a Schoolcraft Earth Day event focused on "Energy: The Power To Change." He used slight hand pressure to store an electric current in a capacitor.

"I'm generating electricity, slowly and surely," Brown said, adding the technology is now used in doorbells. It's being studied for more advanced use in generators and traffic control.

"I've always loved computers and anything with electronics, really," said Brown, who hopes to transfer to a university to study chemical engineering. He noted the Math & Physics Club is active at Schoolcraft and that the math department publishes a weekly newspaper, the "Right Angle."

### 'Make a huge difference'

Nearby was second-year Schoolcraft student Katy Robinson, who's studying biology, sciences and social science and is a 2011 Redford Union High School graduate. The Redford resident was helping Earth Day event attendees with a computer simulation on their Earth footprint.

Robinson noted recycling more, buying products with less packaging and even turning off room lights when not



Kelli Oliver and 7-year-old son Eli Oliver find out about their family's carbon footprint.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland resident, was judging student displays that day. She assists students with online and blackboard systems in her regular job.

"We look at the layout, how the content relates to the topic," Adams said of judging. "And how it relates to the content topic they were given." She's judged for several Earth Days now.

"I love it. You get to see the creativity with the students," said Adams, whose daughter just graduated in environmental studies/political science from Adrian College. "It's a growing field," Adams said. "This generation coming up, they are very conscious of their role and to make it better."

Biology faculty members Michael Orick of Commerce Township and Caroline McNutt of Ann Arbor were busy keeping things running smoothly. The event has been held some 17 years, McNutt said.

It promotes awareness, she said, with Orick adding, "And also to encourage people to take action."

He noted a "Meatless Monday," for example, nationwide in the U.S. would be the equivalent of removing millions of cars from the freeways. The professors are grateful to community partners, including local nonprofits, that participated.

The Earth Day event is an extension of Schoolcraft's Natural Sciences program. Students can earn either an associate of arts degree in environmental studies or an Environmental Science Technician certificate.

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @248Julie

use all add up. "If everybody were to do it, it would make a huge difference," she said. "My parents really pushed turn off lights when you leave the room."

When Robinson drives on the freeway, she slows down as much as she can safely and sees fuel economy improve. "Little things make a huge difference. A huge difference in just that little amount of speed," she said of her driving 60 mph.

Robinson plans to transfer to Northern Michigan University, where her sister is enrolled. "Super-excited," Robinson said of her future. "I'm actually going to go into environmental science." As she learned more about ecology at Schoolcraft, her enthusiasm grew.

"I want to do something that's going to help, even if it's helping my community," she said. "Try to do what I can and inform people."

The event had some 40 student exhibits, 23 of which were being judged. Ideas ranged from wind farms, LED lights, electric cars, pros and cons of

nuclear power and the link between energy and environmental health.

Second-year Schoolcraft student Samuel Berger, a Livonia resident in environmental science, was demonstrating slot cars wired with a hand-cranked generator. "That is to showcase how wind turbines and water turbines work," said Berger, who was home-schooled.

### 'Really took a liking'

He grew up active in Boy Scouts, including an environmental badge. "I just really took a liking to the field," Berger said. "I want to do my part to help out. It's a fast-growing job market. The jobs will be there in demand in the future," he added of the relatively young job field.

Berger noted people can plant trees (which were available at Schoolcraft that day), turn off lights and take other steps to conserve energy. "There's really a lot of small ways you can make a difference," said Berger, who plans to transfer out of state to continue his studies.

College support staff specialist Susan Adams, a

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Matthew Sauter, 24, whose stage name is Adventures with Vultures, is a familiar folk blues/Americana solo artist in Plymouth, as well as the surrounding area.

## Plymouth solo artist gains popularity

**Danielle Alexander**  
Staff Writer

Born and raised in Plymouth, 24-year-old Matthew Sauter is a familiar solo artist in both his hometown and throughout the surrounding area.

Sauter, whose stage name is Adventures with Vultures, had always written hip-hop music until 1½ years ago, when he went through a “bad breakup.”

“I couldn’t really

write what I wanted to say via hip-hop, so I learned to play the guitar,” said Sauter, who describes his current music as folk blues or Americana.

In second grade, Sauter began playing drums and later continued percussion while his older brother of four years, Danny, played guitar and sang.

“I would observe how much my parents and uncles listened to him where, with my hip-hop

music, they would say, ‘What is this crap?’” Sauter said, laughing. “Eventually, I thought that maybe I should be doing what Danny’s doing.”

Sauter is currently in the process of obtaining his bachelor of arts in honors creative songwriting at the Detroit Institute of Music Education. His single, “Skies of Gold,” will be featured in the school’s annual album.

Currently, he per-

forms at school and open-mic each Monday at Plymouth Coffee Bean (“The Bean”), as well as other local venues.

“You have to make a fan base in your hometown before you leave it,” Sauter said.

For upcoming news and performances, like Adventures with Vultures on Facebook or follow adventureswithvultures on Instagram.

*dnalexander@hometownlife.com*

## Angels Above, GCHS host prom dress event

Prom goers who can’t afford a prom dress have an outlet to help.

Angels Above Baby Gowns and Garden City High School will be hosting a prom dress event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt in Garden City.

These gently used dresses will be available for anyone in

need, free of charge. Organizers are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cleaning cost. This donation will go directly to the nonprofit group AABG.

Anyone wishing to donate a dress can do so by calling Dawn Lafferty, 734-421-2322, or email angelsabovebabygown-sml@gmail.com.

The group will not be taking dress donations on the day of the event.



The Waco YMF-5C biplane.

## Yankee Air Museum features Waco biplane

The Yankee Air Museum’s newest aircraft, a beautiful 1992 Waco YMF-5C biplane, will make its first appearance of the year Saturday, April 9, at the Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show at Willow Run Airport.

The three-seat, open cockpit aircraft will be on display, in addition to offering air tour rides 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Hangar 1, Bay 7 at 801 Kirk Profit Drive, Ypsilanti.

“This is our first ever Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show and having our brilliant red Waco Biplane there, ready to fly, is sure to be a crowd pleaser,” said Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum.

The Waco YM series pays tribute to the 1930s barnstorming era, a revolutionary time in aviation history when airplane rides became increasingly popular, helping pave the way for the modern day air show. Often featuring biplanes (aircraft with two wings stacked one above the other) similar to the YMF-5C, pilots performed stunts and aerobatics that were sure to amaze bystanders.

As time progressed, modern improvements were made to these aircraft, but the basic style and heart of the 1930s remains. One of the most recognizable features is the open cockpit design. This concept was adapted not only for appearance and audience appeal, but it allowed the pilot to have increased vertical visibility while flying close to the ground, or during “low-level” aerobatic maneuvers. To this day, biplanes such as the YMF-5C, continue to implement this arrangement, allowing its occupants to become one with nature, and experience flight in a new, and exciting, manner.

Powered by a 275 HP engine and given a 30ft upper wingspan, the Waco is the perfect combination of

speed and style. Flying under Visual Flight Rules, lower altitudes are possible, and passengers are presented with a view of the expansive landscape. The Waco will be available April 9 for people wishing to experience the thrill of a 1930s inspired biplane ride, weather permitting. This is also a good time to visit the ramp and watch flight operations to learn more and perhaps plan flight later in the year.

“Yankee Air Museum is committed to education about flying and the Waco biplane is an immersive adventure for people taking their first vintage flight,” Walsh said. “Our pilots are alert to weather conditions, and will ensure a comfortable, level flight. This is the plane that will let your ‘inner pilot’ discover you!”

Although “on site” openings may be available, reservations for Waco rides are highly recommended. Anyone wishing to reserve a ride, view additional information, is encouraged to go to the YAM website at <http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/waco-biplane>, email: [biplanerides@yankeeairmuseum.org](mailto:biplanerides@yankeeairmuseum.org) or contact Geoff Bush at 734-776-7569. Pricing on the WACO is one person (not to exceed 350 pounds in passenger weight): \$195 for YAM member; \$225 for non-YAM member; two persons (not to exceed 350 pounds in combined passenger weight): \$295 for YAM members; \$325 for non-YAM members.

## Farmington Hills resident shares story to spread awareness, help others

**Aileen Wingblad**  
Staff Writer

For many who decide suicide is the answer to whatever is troubling them, there’s no reset option.

There’s no undoing the overdose, no redo on firing the gun or taking back whatever other method they chose to end it all.

But it was different for Rebecca Lombardo. Her attempt to end her life in 2013 was unsuccessful.

She got another chance.

And that was the motivation Lombardo needed to start blogging about her continuing struggles with bipolar disorder, anxiety, self injury – and recovery.

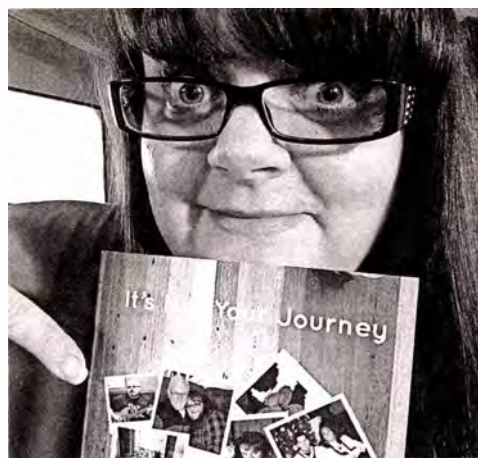
It didn’t take long for that blog, “It’s Not Your Journey,” to gain an immense following, she said. And now, it’s a book of the same name.

“I didn’t know I was writing a book when I started blogging,” said Lombardo, a 42-year-old Farmington Hills resident who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at 19. “But as popularity of the blog picked up, people started telling me ‘oh my gosh, you need to turn this into a book.’”

Lombardo calls it her “memoir,” noting that every time she wrote an entry on her blog – which ultimately became a chapter in the book – she felt relief. “It’s like I had purged the negative from instances I was dealing with ... it wasn’t swimming in my brain anymore,” she said.

By sharing what’s she’s gone through, she hopes to help others – detailing “the steps I took, relying on medication and not doing the work, finding a doctor,” she explained. “I consider it a cautionary tale of what did and did not work,” she said.

It also spreads awareness while driving home



SUBMITTED

Rebecca Lombardo’s has turned her popular blog into a book.

a vital message, Lombardo added. “People will understand they aren’t alone, and that suicide is not the answer,” she said.

“Glad I woke up”

“It’s Not Your Journey” is “real, raw and right from the heart,” she said, explaining that the title reflects her personal story, and that others dealing with similar challenges will have their own experiences.

“It’s important for people to understand just because I went through something doesn’t mean that’s the direction their life will take. It’s strictly about me and what happened,” Lombardo said.

Issues she writes about include the death

of her mother and brother, being abandoned by family members and friends due to her illness, “cutting,” post traumatic stress disorder and more. She avoids medical jargon, she noted, adding “it’s clear enough so anyone can understand it.”

Recalling the day she tried to commit suicide, Lombardo said she first cut herself and then swallowed an entire bottle of anti-depressants. She landed in a psychiatric ward, hospitalized for days.

She shutters as she imagines the big “what if:” What if she had been successful at killing herself?

“I think of it all the time,” Lombardo said.

How the love of her life – her husband of 15 years – would have been affected had she died that day is horrifying, she said.

“I always remember the look on my husband’s face in the emergency room (after her suicide attempt), and I think about people who have committed suicide and what (their loved ones) have to deal with. Then I think, ‘My God, I could have done that to him.’”

“It terrifies me, and it makes me sad that it got to that point. But I’m also glad I woke up,” she said.

“It’s Not Your Journey” is available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Book Depository and other online stores.

“It’s been a long road, I struggled with (the book), but to have it all done and out there is a little nerve-racking,” Lombardo said. Yet so far, for the most part people have been “pretty positive” about it, she said.

“Almost weekly, I hear from somebody who says they read the book and it has helped them – helped with their journey of figuring things out,” she said.

Lombardo is participating in a Local Authors Night at Shuler Books & Music, at the Meridian Mall in Okemos at 7 p.m. on April 12. Q&As and book signings are included. The event is free.

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**ON PROPOSED 2016-17 BUDGET**  
In compliance with “Act No. 43,” State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and “Act No. 2,” State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 (“Section 16” of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2016-17 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at the Jefferson Center Board Room, J228, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48152. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.  
*Glenn Cerny*  
Glenn Cerny  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Published: April 3 & 7, 2016

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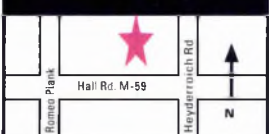
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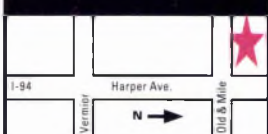
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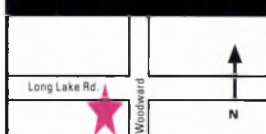
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COLLEGE BASEBALL

## Injured Cameron was raking at plate

Former Churchill star enjoyed record-setting season

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Former Livonia Churchill baseball standout Daniel Cameron was breaking pitchers' hearts (and their earned-run averages) this spring for Shenandoah University's baseball team; that is, until the ex-Charger fractured the hamate bone in his left hand on March 24.

If Cameron is shelved for the season, he went out with a flurry for the Winchester, Va.-based college team. In his final game, he went four-for-four with two home runs, a single and double, while driving in four runs and scoring three.

According to Cameron's dad, Art, he heard a pop in his wrist while fouling off a pitch during his fifth at-bat, forcing his removal from the contest.

Cameron had started every game for Shenandoah — catch-

ing all the games with the exception of the two he played at third base.

The former Charger was excelling at the dish at the next level, batting .385 (fourth on the team), with 18 RBI (third) and 18 runs scored (third).

His pair of home runs on March 24 earned Cameron a spot in the school's record books, as did his 11 total bases.

Shenandoah, which was 16-5 as of last week, was ranked in the top-10 in two Division 3 baseball polls.



SUBMITTED

Daniel Cameron was enjoying a successful collegiate season before suffering a potential season-ending injury.



## Zebras seventh at Huron Relays

Although shorthanded due to Spring Break, the Wayne Memorial boys track-and-field team placed seventh in the 25-team Huron Relays last weekend.

Among the Zebras' outstanding performers were long-jumpers Danny Delleh and Tyrese Billingslea, who placed third and sixth, respectively. Delleh, a senior, registered a personal-best leap of 20 feet, 4 inches, while Billingslea bested his previous finest effort by 10 inches.

The Zebras' 800-meter relay team of All-American Montel Hood, Andrew Chant, Reggie Micheaux and Kyle Osborne placed fourth, while the 1,600 relay foursome of Hood, Chant, Khalil Burks and Micheaux also earned fourth-place points.

Competing in his first high school meet, sophomore Javon Johnson finished seventh in the 60-meter dash.

## Banini lauded

Former Livonia Churchill tennis star and Westland native Quincy Banini was named the Crossroads



Banini

League's "Player of the Week" following her dual victories at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles for Spring Arbor University against Lawrence Tech.

Banini's double-victory helped propel Spring Arbor to its sixth consecutive victory.

A senior at Spring Arbor, Banini is currently 11-4 in singles action, including an eight-match winning streak. In doubles play, the former Charger is 12-2, and is on a 10-match winning streak along with her partner, Monika Wynne.

## Hole-in-one

Livonia resident Patrick Cole recorded his first career hole-in-one on March 25 on The Inn at St. John's Golf Course in Plymouth.

Using a nine iron, Cole aced the par-three, 141-yard seventh hole. The feat was witnessed by Derek Sokloski.

## 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.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER PREVIEW

## BEST FOOT FORWARD

### Patriots' offense ready to explode

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

The scoreboard operator for Livonia Franklin's girls soccer team could be getting a workout this season.

Coming off a season that was better than their 4-12-4 record would indicate — two of the draws came against perennial state powers Canton and Plymouth — the Patriots will provide a stiff test for opposing defenses, in the estimation of head coach Dean Kowalski.

"I'm optimistic that this team will score some goals this season," said Kowalski, who welcomes back a nucleus of eight players who logged extensive minutes in 2015. "We should be a fun, entertaining team to watch."

See PATRIOTS, Page B4



ED WRIGHT  
Senior defender Sara Cable will serve as one of Franklin's three tri-captains along with Riley Burnette and Rachel Dudek.

PREP PROFILE

## Spartan pitchers in good hands with Carlin

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

The Livonia Stevenson baseball team's starting catcher has an old-school name and an old-school mentality when it comes to rest.

"He'd catch every game if I let him, including both ends of double-headers," said Spartan head baseball coach Rick Berryman, smiling, while referring to senior Frank Carlin, who nearly did catch all 39 of his team's games as a junior.

"I usually caught the first game of double-headers last year, and then they'd ask me how I felt, to see if I could catch

Stevenson senior catcher is tough, enduring

the second game," said the tough-as-nails athlete, whose grit was on display when he hauled in 13 passes for close to 300 yards during his final high school football game last fall.

"I always told them I was fine, because I love catching. If they trusted me, they'd let me catch the second game; if they didn't, I'd DH. They usually trusted me.

"My legs would get a little sore after catching both games of a double-header, just because I was blocking so many

balls. But I'd be fine the next day."

An athlete for every season during his first three years at Stevenson, Carlin gave up basketball this past winter to focus on getting in shape for baseball.

"A player (Michael DiPonio) on our team's dad owns Precision Baseball in Canton, and he said we could go over there whenever we wanted to work out," said Carlin. "(Fellow senior) Gordon Ferguson, who pitches, and I would go there and do some bullpens."


Berryman showers praise on Carlin for his strong arm,

See CARLIN, Page B2




ED WRIGHT

Strong-armed senior Frank Carlin can excel from the mound and from behind the plate for Livonia Stevenson's baseball team.



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## HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PREVIEW

## Transition going well for Patriots

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

The Livonia Franklin softball program's "Brittany Gryns Era" is starting smoothly thanks to a solid group of players who have bought in to their first-year coach's game plan.

"The girls worked really hard during our off-season workouts and they put a lot of time into off-the-field projects like fundraising, so it's definitely going well so far," said Gryns, who is taking over the Patriots following the retirement of Linda Jimenez, who led the Patriots for the previous two decades.

"I'm excited about this team's potential. We have strong leadership from the veteran players and we have a very strong sophomore class. They're practicing hard, learning a lot and we're building for this season and the future."

A pair of seniors — Gabby Woods and Jessica Banks — have earned two of the three captains spots, Gryns noted.

"We let the team vote for one captain and the coaches picked the other," Gryns said. "Gabby won the players' vote

*"I'm excited about this team's potential. We have strong leadership from the veteran players and we have a very strong sophomore class."*

BRITTANY GRYS, head coach

in a landslide. She really provided a lot of leadership during the off-season with things like fund-raising. Jess is also a great leader and a hard worker."

Although a No. 1 pitcher hasn't been determined yet, Gryns likes the way the two top candidates — junior Danielle Hoskins and senior Kaeleigh Kerpet — are improving.

"There's definitely some opportunities as far as pitching goes and they have been throwing two or three times a week, working on their skills," Gryns said.

Providing the target for whomever enters the circle will be junior catching stand-out Brooke Garbarino, who

brings a strong arm and a powerful bat to the Patriots' lineup.

"Brooke puts the ball in play and looks strong on the bases," said Gryns. "The thing I'm most excited about with Brooke is her arm strength."

Hoskins will be in the mix at first base when she's not pitching.

The battle for middle-infield starting spots is healthy thanks to the presence of Tara Trujillo, Miyah Smith, Emily Johnson, Alanah Kirwan and Ashley Kent.

Among the potential starters at the hot corner include Melissa Ferrier, Rachel Beers and Smith.

The competition for starting outfield spots is also heading into the home stretch, with Makenna Dogonski (who will also catch), Ashley Olwean, Julee Perez, Woods and Banks all vying for playing time.

"We have four junior-varsity players who we plan on bringing up for weekend tournaments, so we have a good group of young players we can build with," Gryns said.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Tara Trujillo is one of several talented sophomores on the Patriots' roster.

## TRACK &amp; FIELD PREVIEW



Seniors Andrew Chant (left) and Montel Hood give Wayne Memorial exceptional talent in the 400-yard dash.

## THESE ZEBRAS CAN MOTOR

Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Led by Hood, Wayne Memorial has speedy nucleus of runners

On the Friday of Spring Break, when many of their metro-Detroit track-and-field peers were either hitting the Florida beaches one final time, several members of Wayne Memorial's team were hitting their stride during an afternoon practice at the school's stadium.

"One thing I like about these guys is that they do a lot together," said second-year head coach Jamal Johnson. "Yesterday, we had some fun out here during our training as a unit. It's a hard-working group and they want to get better."

The Zebras' most-decorated athlete is All-American Montel Hood, who is one of the country's fastest sprinters in the 400-meter dash.

Headed to the highly-acclaimed South Plains Community College in Levelland, Texas in the fall, Hood posted the second-fastest indoor 400 time in state history this past

winter, narrowly missing the state record set by U.S. Olympian Darnell Hall.

"The thing about Montel is that he's the hardest worker out here," said Johnson. "He is very, very coachable. It doesn't matter what coach is out here giving him advice, he listens and uses it."

While the Observerland track-and-field community is well aware of Hood's 400 exploits, he's far from a one-trick pony.

"He is really, really good in the 800, too, which I don't think a lot of people around here know," Johnson revealed. "Actually, we could put him in any event and he'd be among the best."

"Along with being a hard worker, Montel knows what his weaknesses are and he knows what he needs to improve them."

Hood's 400- and 800-meter running mate is fellow senior Andrew Chant, who has earned a track scholarship to Indiana Tech University.

"Andrew is a good 400 and 800 guy, but he's also gotten a lot better at the 200 recently," said Johnson.

The Zebras' No. 1 hurdler may turn out to be junior Khalil Burks, who is trying the demanding highs and lows for the first time this spring.

"The 300 may turn out to be Khalil's best event," Johnson noted. "He likes running the hurdles, which is very important."

Wayne's Achilles heel last spring was the 100 and 200 races. However, new-comer Javon Johnson's emergence will help change that.

"Even though it's his first year with us, he placed sev-

enth in the 60-meter dash at the Huron Relays, so he's without a doubt our best 100 and 200 guy," Johnson said.

Although it lost a trio of standouts to graduation, Wayne's long-distance crew is young and talented. John Gatton and Jacob Khalaf are both solid, while first-year runners Jon Rivera and Blake Barber registered debut 1,600 times close to 5 minutes and 20 seconds, which is more than impressive given their lack of experience.

Jamie Carranza is expected to be the Zebras' leader in the 3,200.

Providing points potential in the long jump are Danny Dellah and Tyrese Billingslea, both of whom excelled in the Huron Relays.

The Zebras' 0-5 record in the KLAA South Division last spring doesn't concern Johnson.

"We focus on what we can do more in the post-season than in the division," he said.

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## CARLIN

Continued from Page B1

quick release and iron-man endurance qualities.

A .315 hitter last spring, Carlin also swings a productive bat — so much so that the local Schoolcraft and Henry Ford community college teams have already invited him to further his career beginning next season (he has yet to commit to either school).

"I like football a lot, but baseball is my favorite sport, just because I think it's the sport I'm best at," he said.

Carlin's catching career was sparked when he was 10 years old by his I'll-do-anything-for-the-team attitude.

"The starting catcher for the travel team I played on that year didn't show up for practice, so I volunteered to catch for batting practice," Carlin remembered. "The coach told me afterward that I looked pretty good back there and he wanted to see how I played in a game. I did pretty well, I guess, and I've been catching ever since."

Carlin said there's an adrenaline rush that is ignited when a baserunner tries to steal a base against him.

"The best thing to do when trying to throw somebody out is not get too hyped up so that you make an overthrow," he said. "I just try to remember what the coaches tell me, stay calm and make a good throw."

The addition of freshman catcher Bobby Cavin to the Spartans' roster this spring will free Carlin up to excel at another skill Berryman said he's pretty good at: pitching.

"Frank has a great arm — he probably throws in the low-80s — and I would have loved to let him pitch more last year, but we really didn't have a backup who I could trust like I trust him," said Berryman. "With Bobby coming in, it will allow Frank to pitch some innings for us."

Carlin said he has high expectations for his final high school team.

"All seven of us seniors played varsity as sophomores," he remembered. "We've always pointed to this year as being our year because we've already played on varsity two years, we know what's going on and we know what's expected of us."

A stellar student with a grade-point average in the vicinity of 3.6, Carlin said he's eyeing a future career in either electrical engineering or business.

But first he has some business to take care of on Stevenson's diamond.

"I've played sports with a lot of these guys since I was a little kid, so I'm definitely going to miss that (once he graduates later this spring)," Carlin said. "But we're pretty tight, so I'm sure we'll still be hanging out a lot together, even after high school."

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BOYS GOLF PREVIEW

# Strong captains headline Patriots' lineup

Wiebelhaus, Nelson lining up stellar senior seasons

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

Led by senior captains Matt Wiebelhaus and Zack Nelson, Livonia Franklin's boys golf team has the potential to be a driving force on area fairways this spring.

"What I like about this year's team is that we have many players with experience playing in matches and tournaments, which I believe will help us compete," said Franklin head coach Jason Rammler. "Our starting lineup will change a lot."

"I'm looking for the captains to help the younger players in practice. We have a lot of returning players who will keep us growing in the right direction."

The Patriots carded a 2-3 record in the KLA South Division in 2015. Sophomore Jacob Kenward qualified for the regional round of the post-season tournament as a freshman.

In addition to Wiebelhaus and Nelson, the Patriots' experience is fortified with the return of senior Jeremy Haist; junior Owen Sullivan; and sophomores David Shoemaker, Kenward, Trevor Van Vliet and Quentin Smythe.

On the new-addition check list are junior Graham Opie; sophomores Zachary Pitera and Eric Liberati; and freshmen Cavanaugh Sullivan and Dylan Bittikofer.

"Our goals this year include having a better record in the division and crossovers, advancing the team or individuals to the state tournament, and to have fun," Rammler said.

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Senior Matt Wiebelhaus will anchor an experienced Livonia Franklin lineup.



Senior Zack Nelson has been named a co-captain along with Matt Wiebelhaus.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW



Franklin senior pole vaulter Drew Niemiec clears the bar during a meet last season.

ED WRIGHT

# Fresh blood energizes Franklin's program

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

Replenishing rosters is a part of life for high school athletic programs, which often sink or swim based on the performance of unproven commodities.

That's one of the aspects Livonia Franklin boys track-and-field coach Pat Koelzer loves about his job — the challenge of plugging the gaps created by the annual graduation losses.

"What I like about this team is that there are so many newcomers that it will be exciting to see what we have," said Koelzer. "We lost some big point-scorers last year in Keenan Jones, Nathan Rodgers, Jeremy Sheppard, and Matt Wirick. While there are some known entities stepping up in their place, we will need to rely on some of our younger and newer athletes to fill in the gaps."

There is no hole to plug at the top of the Patriots' distance contingent. That's because senior all-state cross country performer Tony Floyd returns for his final high school season with enough gold hanging on his letter jacket to set off an airport metal detector.

"Our distance runners should be exciting as we return

Tony, who is a double city champion and all-state cross country runner," Koelzer said. "He will be accompanied by the entire rest of our varsity top seven from last fall — a young, but strong, group that includes Grant Rudd, Jackson Nordbeck, Matt Lepper, and Trevor Doyle. It is a deeper, but younger group that will get better as the season goes on."

Short-distance speed will be provided by a trio of Patriots who proved they have what it takes to rack up points last season.

"Our top returning sprinter is Brandon Smiley, but he is joined by Jacob Clark — who showed promise last season and had a monster football season as a running back," said Koelzer. "We also have Christian Bagnall, who also came on strong at the end of last year. There are several new sprinters who show a lot of promise, but are yet to be tested."

Franklin's hurdles crew will be paced by Ian Hogg, who will also contribute in the middle-distance events. Cory Linsner and Marcus Martin, who both improved a lot last season, will give the Patriots depth.

"Linsner, Martin, and Jacob Kast will be relied on to lead the way in the jumps, as well, as several new jumpers are still learning the ropes," Koel-

zer added. "Pole-vaulters Ethan Nordstrom and Drew Niemiec hope to finish their high school careers with a strong season as they have set very high goals."

Bobby Madley will power the Patriots' throwing contingent.

"Bobby is primed to have a breakout season," Koelzer forecasted. "The rest of our throwers are mostly new and hope to develop into strong competitors as the season continues."

Koelzer listed Logan Evan-chuk, Mike Mackiewicz, Brandon Forrest, Shawn Plocharczyk, Austin McChristian, Hunter Klotz and Murjonie Stitt among the team's most-promising new-comers.

"After finishing in the middle of the pack in the division last season, I expect our guys to compete hard and be in every dual meet this season, but it is difficult to gauge where we will finish," Koelzer concluded. "I expect the competition to be stiff again. How we do will depend greatly on how quickly we are able to develop some of these young and promising athletes."

"It should be a fun season watching them learn to compete and excel."

ewright@hometownlife.com

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW

# Distance crew should set pace for Patriots

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

Fueled by a core of multi-event stars, and a group of distance runners who know how and when to kick it into high gear, Livonia Franklin's girls track-and-field team should be formidable, to say the least, this spring.

Although they will need to fill the big shoes left by graduated sprinter Bryah White and relocated hurdler Aubrey Mavin (who moved to Alabama), the Patriots have plenty left in the performance cupboard to match or exceed their solid 2015 campaign when they went 4-1 in the KLA South Division, fifth at their Division 1 regional and sixth at the KLA conference meet.

"In Bryah, we graduated one of the best sprinters in school history," said head coach Dave Bjorklund, who is starting his 16th season. "She was a two-time state qualifier and is on the record board in the 100-meter dash and 400 relay. That's a big void in the lineup, though we have some young kids who are working hard to improve."

"Aubrey was a regional champion in the 100 hurdles and runner-up in the 300s. That's another big void in the lineup, but we also have a large group of hurdlers who have been working hard so far this spring."

Franklin's list of versatile performers is headed by senior Julie Wonch, who excels in the high jump, 400 and 200, and Mikaela Hille, who can pick up points in the long jump and 400.

"Julie ran indoors this winter and is starting the season in the best shape of her career, and is very focused," Bjorklund raved. "She is a three-time state qualifier in the 400 and also qualified in the high jump last year (Wonch also holds the school record in the 400)."

The Patriots' long-distance standouts includes senior Natalie Douglas, junior Camryn Zurawski and freshman Erin Seibert.

"Our strength lies in our distance team, which comes off of a very successful cross country season and has



Senior Julie Wonch returns as a multi-event threat for Livonia Franklin's track-and-field team.

ED WRIGHT

logged a lot of miles this winter," said Bjorklund. "Natalie, who was an all-stater in cross country, ran on the indoor circuit this winter and is ready to post some outstanding times."

"She is joined by Erin Seibert, who was a state qualifier in cross country, and Camryn is also much improved and had an outstanding fall. Those three should provide a very formidable one-two-three punch in most of the distance events."

Additional key returners include junior thrower Alexis Browning, junior middle-distance runner Paityn Santi, junior hurdler/high-jumper Brianna Thompson, and sophomore sprinter Jenna Jacobs.

Freshman Lindsay Hoyer is also expected to make an immediate impact in the sprints, pole-vaulting and long jump.

"In the throws, we graduated a very consistent four-year thrower in Sophia Modes, but Alexis has worked hard all winter and is ready to step into the role and score some points," said Bjorklund.

"We have a lot of new faces this year, so as a coaching staff we are still figuring out what events some of our athletes are best suited for. Our division will be very competitive as all of the teams sound like they are each improved."

ewright@hometownlife.com

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**PREP BASEBALL**  
**Monday, April 4**  
PCA at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 5**  
Flat Rock at Garden City (DH), 4:30 p.m.  
Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
Thurston at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 6**  
Northville at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
Fordson at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
Lincoln Park at John Glenn (DH), 4 p.m.  
Clarenceville at Farmington (DH), noon  
**Thursday, April 7**  
Wayne at HVL, 4:30 p.m.  
Thurston at MLK, 4:30 p.m.  
John Glenn at Edsel Ford (DH), 4 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Parkway, 4:30 p.m.  
Garden City at Southgate, 4 p.m.  
**Friday, April 8**  
Franklin at Crestwood, 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 9**  
Garden City vs. Franklin at Wayne State (DH), noon  
Dearborn at Fordson (DH), 11 a.m.  
Taylor Kennedy at John Glenn (DH), 11 a.m.  
Stevenson vs. Lakeside (DH), 11 a.m.  
**PREP SOFTBALL**  
**Tuesday, April 5**  
Garden City at Airport, 4:30 p.m.  
Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
RU at Crestwood, 4 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 6**  
Novi at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
Northville at Churchill, 4 p.m.  
Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 7**  
Woodhaven at Garden City, 4 p.m.  
Wayne at HVL, 4:30 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Thurston, 4:30 p.m.  
Cranbrook at RU, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 8**  
John Glenn at Dearborn (DH), 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 9**

Northville at Garden City (DH), 11 a.m.  
Dearborn at Churchill (DH), 11 a.m.  
Annapolis at Wayne (DH), 11 a.m.  
**GIRLS SOCCER**  
**Monday, April 4**  
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Crestwood at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 5**  
Garden City at Gabriel Richard, 5:30 p.m.  
Milford at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 6**  
John Glenn at Garden City, 6 p.m.  
Churchill at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Bellville at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 7**  
Ladywood at Regina, 6 p.m.  
**Friday, April 8**  
Franklin at Garden City, 6 p.m.  
Churchill at Dearborn, 7 p.m.  
St. Catherine's at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Thurston, 4:30 p.m.  
**TRACK & FIELD**  
**Thursday, April 7**  
RU at Garden City, 3:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 9**  
Churchill at Monroe Jefferson Invite, 9:30 a.m.  
**BOYS GOLF**  
**Wednesday, April 6**  
Garden City at Kennedy, 3 p.m.  
**GIRLS TENNIS**  
**Wednesday, April 6**  
Garden City at Franklin, 4 p.m.  
RU at Lincoln Park, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 7**  
Gabriel Richard at Ladywood, 4 p.m.  
Wayne at Thurston, 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 9**  
Wayne Memorial Tournament, 9 a.m.  
Churchill at Brighton Quad, TBA  
**GIRLS LACROSSE**  
**Tuesday, April 5**  
Marian at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 8**  
Country Day at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.

CONCUSSION DISCUSSION

# MHSAA meeting focuses on head injuries

An increased effort to ensure that student-athletes and their parents or guardians receive concussion education information was among topics that generated the most attention from the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association during its annual winter meeting March 24 in East Lansing.

Most of the council's discussion pointed toward possible actions at its spring meeting in May, with possible additions to the MHSAA physical exam/clearance/consent forms among those that may be voted upon when the council reconvenes.

The council did take a first step, approving a requirement at its winter meeting mandating

all students and their parent/guardian to sign a post-concussion consent form signifying they have received information on potential risks prior to returning to activity following a concussion.

Continuing its emphasis on the importance of collecting in-depth student-athlete health histories, the council approved PRIVIT on a two-year trial basis as an electronic-based health history record-keeping tool to serve as an alternative to written communications and forms that accompany pre-participation physical examination of athletes.

The council also discussed for possible action in May standardizing MHSAA rules/risk management meeting

content for assistant and sub-varsity coaches and increasing the frequency of in-depth concussion information within those meetings while still giving adequate attention to a variety of other important health and safety topics, including heat illness, sudden cardiac arrest and overuse injuries.

In other ongoing business, the council reviewed necessary modifications to the MHSAA Membership Resolution and handbook in advance of a change to the MHSAA constitution that will permit schools to join the MHSAA at the sixth-grade level beginning in 2016-17.

The amendment will allow schools that join the MHSAA at

the sixth-grade level to let sixth-graders participate with MHSAA services and support and with and against seventh- and eighth-graders without MHSAA executive committee approval.

It allows all districts, but requires no districts, to provide athletic opportunities for sixth-graders under the auspices of the MHSAA, either on separate teams or with seventh- and eighth-graders.

The council considered one sport matter (in track and field), voting to begin the 2016 season to eliminate one preliminary round of the boys 110-meter hurdles, girls 100-meter hurdles and boys and girls 100- and 200-meter dashes at all Lower Peninsula regionals that

use fully automatic time to determine race results.

The council also voted to require all Lower Peninsula regional sites to use FAT beginning in 2017. Both actions were recommended by the MHSAA Cross Country/Track & Field Committee.

The Council also approved an Officials Review Committee recommendation to require all new officials to complete the National Federation of State High School Associations online course "Interscholastic Officiating" in addition to current requirements to complete the MHSAA Officials Guidebook exam and mechanics exams for new officials seeking to work football and basketball games.

## PATRIOTS

Continued from Page B1

The Patriots will be anchored by senior tri-captains Rachel Dudek, Riley Burnette and Sara Cable, all of whom bring a vast array of tools to the pitch.

Burnette, who has committed to play collegiate soccer at Albion College, "can play anywhere, and play it well," Kowalski noted. "She'll play a lot of mid-field, but we can also move her up into the attack because of her athleticism."

Dudek is the team's returning goal-scoring leader. "Rachel is one of those players who is a true forward; she is very dangerous with the ball at her feet," Kowalski said.

Among Cable's best attributes are her versatility — her primary role will be as the team's top defender — and her communication skills, Kowalski noted.

Replacing graduated starting goal-keeper Kathryn MacRae is at the top of the Patriots' to-do list. As of early this week, a No. 1 keeper hadn't been named, but Kowalski is confident the healthy intra-team competition will create a solid player between the pipes.

Joining Cable along the back line will be junior Bailey Elliott, who Kowalski praised as being "super-athletic."

Sophomore Riley Hawley is an emerging star in the midfield following a "break-through" freshman season, Kowalski said.

Senior Madison Kean can play with effectiveness anywhere on the field, but her primary position will be forward.

"We're pretty young defensively and there will be a big learning curve," Kowalski said. "I expect it to take us a few games to start to jell, but with the seniors we have in the midfield and up top, I think we have a chance to be very dangerous on offense."

"One of our goals is to win our district. We're in a good district this year, but we're not in the same one as



Franklin's Morgan Justice advances the ball during a game last spring against Churchill.

Plymouth, Canton and Salem anymore, so we don't have to pull three upsets to win it this year." ewright@hometownlife.com

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

### Trojans drop early games

Dan O'Meara  
Staff Writer

Clarenceville dropped a pair of close baseball games at home in the first week of the new season.

Lutheran Northwest defeated the Trojans Thursday, 5-3, and Ann Arbor Greenhills squeaked past them Wednesday for a 6-5 win.

"We have outthru our opponents, 17-5, in the two games, but we have nothing to show for it," Clarenceville coach Craig Cotter said.

"I like how we are playing, but we need to do the little things better, like, run the bases and execute in bunting situations both offensively and defensively."

Ryan Menifee went 6 1/3 innings Thursday, gave up four earned runs and struck out 10.

Freshman Nick Snage led the Trojans with three hits. Six of the other eight starters also had hits for a balanced attack.

The Trojans committed six errors and gave up four unearned runs Wednesday in the loss to Greenhills.

"We outthru them, 8-1, but just could not make enough plays," Cotter said.

Nick Bisaro entered in relief in the second inning and finished the game, striking out four and walking one in six innings. However, the errors were the difference in the game.

The Trojans banged out eight hits. Matt Drain and Adam Sade had two apiece; Bisaro had a double, and Nick Schiffman, Zach Richards and Kam MacIver each had a hit.

Snage reached base three times while making his varsity debut in center field.

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Representing Bloomfield Hills-based corporate sponsor Reverie, which donates mattresses to Humble Design's families, are Melissa Jarosz of Rochester, Marilyn Cannell of Farmington Hills, Staci Goodwin of West Bloomfield and Alissa Goldberg of Farmington Hills.

## Humble Design humbled by supporters

The tag line for the nonprofit Humble Design is "Furnishing hope for the homeless."

"But that's just part of what we do," Humble Design co-founders Ana Smith and Treger Strasberg said. "We restore hope and dignity to those who have lost it, rebuilding lives from the inside out."

That tireless dedication also earned Strasberg the "One Tough Cookie"



Julie Yolles

SOCIAL SCENE

### PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

Award Wednesday night at the Girl Scouts Cookie Gala at DTE Energy headquarters in Detroit.

And at the inaugural Humble Design Spring Luncheon, Strasberg, Smith and about 500 of their closest gal-pals — all volunteers, corporate sponsors and Humble Design boosters — came out to The Reserve in Birmingham for an afternoon of celebration and wonderful insights from women powerhouses Denise Ilitch, president, Ilitch Enterprises and 220 Restaurant Hospitality; Rhonda Walker, WDIV-TV (Channel 4) anchor and founder and president of the Rhonda Walker Foundation; Rodgers Chevrolet owner Pam Rodgers; and Amber Engine founder and CEO and dPOP co-founder Jennifer Gilbert.

In addition, about 15 women who were formerly living in homeless shelters and now have furnished and decorated homes from Humble Design and jobs at Rebel Nell and The Empowerment Plan, were treated to spa makeovers, gifts and the luncheon.

With Walker as the talented and nurturing moderator, she asked Ilitch, Rodgers and Gilbert about philanthropy, success and balance in life.

Growing up, Ilitch recalls daily family meetings with her siblings at the kitchen table after school.

"Denise, what did you contribute to the world today?" her father, Mike Ilitch, would ask her. "Nothing dad," Denise would reply, "I'm only 10."

With her dad as her inspiration, Ilitch lives by his advice: "Be kind, confident, work hard and persevere."

"Whatever your gifts are," Ilitch told the luncheon guests, "whether they're giving of your time, creativity, spirituality, financial or mentoring, that's what's important. Success to me is being your full, authentic



Farmington Hills resident Melyssa Dickow and West Bloomfield resident Mary Dickow.



Representing Bloomfield Hills-based corporate sponsor Reverie, which donates mattresses to Humble Design's families, are Ana Malbasc of Plymouth, Hilary Strasberger of Shelby Township and Abby Friedman of West Bloomfield.



Amidst the sold-out crowd of 500 women, Farmington Hills residents Daniel Isabella and Michael Isabella served up sweet samples from the Detroit Water Ice Factory, which donates its proceeds to S.A.Y. Detroit, a nonprofit founded by author and WJR-AM radio host Mitch Albom.

self and doing the best you can."

As one of the first woman dealership owners, Rodgers generated \$37 million in revenue her first year, back in 1996. Five years later, sales were more than \$80 million.

"My philosophy is that we're here to make the world a better place," Rodgers said. "I like to pay it forward. It's a reward and honor for me to give back to the community."

Life lessons learned along the way for Rodgers?

"Focus on the solution, not the problem," she said. "But sometimes, you just need to nurture yourself and treat yourself a little nicer. It's how you balance yourself and how you feel — being comfortable in your own heart."

Walker believes that as well. She founded her organization to empower inner-city teen girls to become "strong, confident, successful and moral future leaders."

For Gilbert, as found-

der of two start-up companies, she said, "You get really good at failing, but you learn from those failures and you don't make the same mistake twice."

Gilbert learned from her working mother.

"Live a purposeful and authentic life," Gilbert said. "It's OK to be vulnerable and put yourself out there. Learn to take risks, don't let opportunities pass you by and live life to the fullest."

And Humble Design will continue to do just that.

### Who's your bartender?

Next up for Humble Design, Treger and her husband, Doner co-CEO/creative director Rob Strasberg, will be pouring drinks for tips, a grand prize donation and bragging rights for Humble Design on Tuesday, April 26, at the Bird & the Bread in Birmingham. The Dynamic Duo start their shift 8:45-9:45 p.m. The event goes 5-11 p.m., with other charitable people seeking dona-

tions for their organizations. There is a \$10 cover charge. You can also vote online at [whosyourbartenderevent.com](http://whosyourbartenderevent.com).

### Modernism Fest

The 36th annual Michigan Modernism Expo kicks off next weekend at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. The Opening Night Preview Party, 7-10 p.m. Friday, April 8, gets you first dibs on 20th century cool items and benefits the Detroit Art Deco Society (\$65 in advance, [www.daads.org](http://www.daads.org)). The Modernism Expo runs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 9, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 10. Go to [www.michiganmodernismexpo.com](http://www.michiganmodernismexpo.com).

### Food Allergy Luncheon

This is the second year for the University of Michigan Mary H. Weiser Food Allergy Center Benefit Luncheon. Bloomfield Hills neighbors, event founders and Cranbrook moms Hilary Golden, Marla Karimipour and Stacy Klein are co-chairing the event that will be at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 20, at Knollwood Country Club in West Bloomfield.

Karimipour, event presenting sponsor with her husband Cyrus, was instrumental in getting Senate Bill 730 passed. The legislation requires Michigan restaurants to educate and train their staff about food allergies. This potentially life-threatening condition affects 15 million Americans, including one in every 13 children, and there is currently no cure. Money raised at the luncheon will go toward education, care and research. Tickets are \$85 to \$200. For reservations, call 734-763-0866 or email [facspringluncheon@umich.edu](mailto:facspringluncheon@umich.edu).

For consideration of coverage in this column, please send event happenings, including invitations and press kits, to Julie Yolles, Social Scene Columnist, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 Davis Ave., Birmingham, MI 48009. Contact her at [socialscenejulie@gmail.com](mailto:socialscenejulie@gmail.com) or leave a message at 248-642-9465.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

### APRIL CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3  
**Location:** Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuera, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected

**Contact:** 248-474-2860; [trinityfarmingtonhills.org](http://trinityfarmingtonhills.org)

### CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14  
**Location:** Northridge Church, 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

**Details:** MercyMe, a contemporary Christian music band performs. Tickets are \$50, \$35, and \$25

**Contact:** 800-965-9324; [itickets.com](http://itickets.com)

### CONCERT

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16  
**Location:** St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills

**Details:** Features Aeolian Chorale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Millito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted

**Contact:** 248-644-5460

### MOM-TO-MOM SALE

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23  
**Location:** Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

**Details:** Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2

**Contact:** 734-397-1777

### POMEGRANATE GUILD

**Time/Date:** 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10  
**Location:** Prentis Apartments community room, at the A. Alfred Taubman Jewish Community Campus, 15100 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park

**Details:** Judy Galperin will create a Huck-embroidered placemat and will teach the technique. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlecraft. RSVP if interested

**Contact:** Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

### RUMMAGE SALE

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 15  
**Location:** The Salvation Army, located on Main Street south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth

**Details:** Proceeds benefit the "Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group." Tables are available to rent for \$20

**Contact:** Major Colette or Sandy at 734-453-5464

### RUMMAGE, BAKE SALE

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, April 29, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 30  
**Location:** Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** From 1-3 p.m. Friday all items will be half off; \$5 bag sale, along with 50 percent off in boutique on Saturday. Tax-deductible donations may be dropped off at the church's back door 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 25-27. No furniture, television sets, computers, electronics. The church also is collecting used ink cartridges, eye glasses and cell phones for recycling

**Contact:** 248-626-7906; [antiochelca@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:antiochelca@sbcbglobal.net)

### VESPERS

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Sunday, through April 17  
**Location:** Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael

Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

**Details:** Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the responses

**Contact:** Olga Liskivsky at 248-252-8184; [Olga-liss0910@gmail.com](mailto:Olga-liss0910@gmail.com)

### ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

**Our Lady of Loretto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

**Details:** Scripture study

**Contact:** 313-534-9000

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish**  
**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

**Location:** 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

**Contact:** 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at [www.livonia-st-michael.org](http://www.livonia-st-michael.org)

**Faith Community Wesleyan**  
**Time/Date:** 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

**Location:** 14560 Merriman, Livonia

**Details:** This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

**Contact:** pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

**EXERCISE**  
**Time/Date:** 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

**Location:** Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through [zumba.com](mailto:zumba.com)

**Contact:** 313-408-3364

**FAMILY MEAL**  
**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

**Location:** Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Free meal

**Contact:** 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

**HEALING SERVICE**  
**Time/Date:** Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

**Location:** The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

**Details:** The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offeratory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

**Contact:** Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at [sbadeen@tbsm.com](mailto:sbadeen@tbsm.com)

**MOMS**  
**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

**Location:** 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

**Contact:** Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

**Dunning Park Bible Chapel**  
**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

**Location:** 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

**Details:** MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

**Contact:** Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

## Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances View Online [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

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**Deadlines:** Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers  
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers  
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

### DISE

**JOHN H., JR.** Attorney in Detroit, passed away in Colorado March 21, 2016. He was born in Detroit on May 29, 1949 to J. Harvey (deceased) and Doretha Dise. He is survived by his wife, Joy; son, John (Skip) Dise and his family; daughter, Anna; and his sister, Deborah Anderson. John graduated from Seaholm High School in Birmingham, Michigan State University and Detroit College of Law and served as a police officer in Detroit and as a legal advisor to the late Coleman Young of Detroit. Memorial services will follow.

# Canton hiker writes about walk across state

**Sharon Dargay**  
Staff Writer

What about bears? It's the question everyone asks Will Swartz when he talks about his book, "A Walk Across Michigan: Hiking the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail." It was inspired by his 2014 hike from Oscoda to Empire.

"Bears are pretty safe. There are very few bear encounters in Michigan. My wife did make me carry bear spray, but I think most bears prefer butter," he said, during an interview last week.

"Here's one of my favorite bear jokes. What is the best way to warn bears? Wear bells on your shoes. How do you know that is bear scat? It has bells in it." Swartz, a Canton resident and former administrator in Wayne-Westland schools, will field questions about his hike and his book during a presentation at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 17111 Haggerty, at Six Mile, in Northville. He'll also sign books and will give away copies that are meant to "travel" from reader to reader. Recipients can note online where the book has been.

"People are recording where they read the book. They can see where it went from the person they gave it to," he said. "One of the things I did with the book that is different from other hiking books is you can sign in at trail registers. I do virtual trail registers."

Three prompts throughout the book encourage readers to visit a website and sign in on a trail.

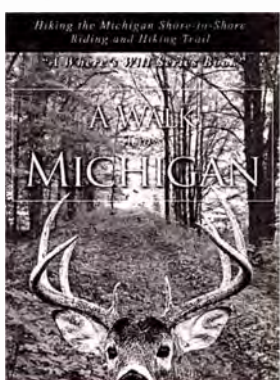
"I've always thought when you write, it's like a teacher's lecture. You're not getting feedback from the audience. This is kind of fun. It's a fun engagement thing."

## Hiking, writing

Swartz wasn't thinking about audiences and readers when he embarked on his 19-day, 233-mile hike from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan in July 2014. Turned 60 just a few months before had prompted a mild mid-life crisis. He wondered if he was up to the challenge of a lengthy hike, one of his bigger "bucket list" goals, and he wasn't sure about his next career move.

Swartz, a racquetball player, joined a fitness club and trained for a few months before hitting the Shore to Shore Trail in Oscoda.

"I was half-way into the hike when I decided not to go back to school that fall. I



WILL SWARTZ

The cover of Canton author Will Swartz' book about a trail that stretches from Oscoda to Empire.



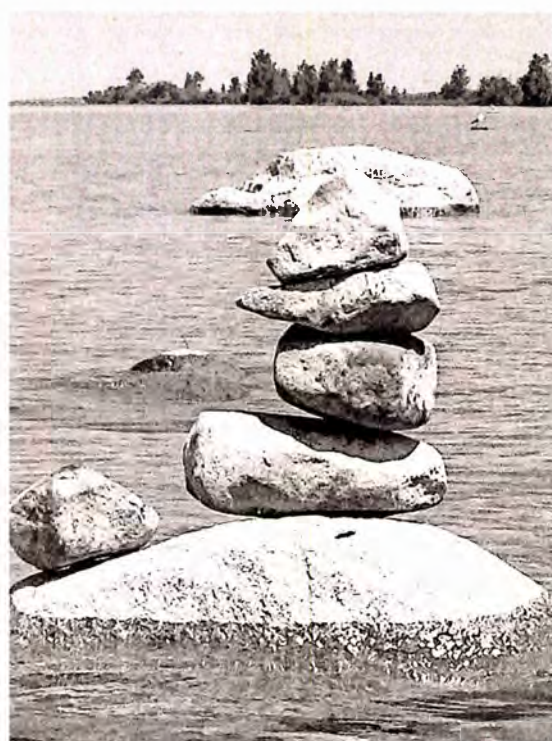
Will Swartz will talk about his book April 12 at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Northville.



A trail marker keeps hikers on the right path. Will Swartz says the Shore to Shore Trail is easy to follow, although it can be sandy.



The sandy Shore to Shore Trail runs from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.



Will Swartz photographed scenery as he hiked the Shore to Shore Trail.

said, I'm going to write a book and it will be about this trail."

He didn't take notes along the way, but shot lots of photographs that during the research phase of his writing would help him remember trail details. Four of his five adult children, his wife, Kate, and two brothers walked with him on portions of the trail. He hiked the last five days alone.

## Research

After the trip, Swartz got in touch with another Shore to Shore hiker and compared notes. He also interviewed riders. Some had taken their horses across the trail 50 times.

With a masters degree in library science and experience running school libraries, the research came easily to Swartz, who enjoyed digging up historical facts and stories related to the trail and its nearby communities.

But when he started writing, Swartz realized he had two different books in mind.

"One was everything you need to know as a hiker ... where to get water, all those things hikers needs. And the other was the Bill Bryson kind of book," he said, referring to the travel book author.

In the end, the storyteller in Swartz won out and he took an offbeat, humorous, and con-

versational approach to his work. In chapter one, he tells readers that have skipped the "bonus page" disclaimer, author's note and introduction to go back and read them while he and the other readers "wait here" for them to catch up. Swartz performs portions of his story, which was released last year, at speaking engagements called "Tales from the Trails."

He's in the process of recording an audio version of the book and is nearly finished with an online hiker's guide to the trail. It will include maps and need-to-know information.

His next project will include detailing the north-south spur

of the Shore to Shore trail, which he plans to hike this spring.

In July, he and his wife will head to China for a year-long teaching assignment that Swartz has accepted in Qingdao. Travel is another bucket list item.

And after that? "Maybe another book ... 'a walk across China' or 'a walk on the wall.'"

Find Swartz' book at amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble.

sdargay@hometownlife.com  
Download our free apps for  
iPhone, iPad or Android!

# Writer goes curly after 38 years of straightening hair

**Sharon Dargay**  
Staff Writer

Curly versus straight.

It was an easy choice for Courtney Conover of Wayne, who spent 38 years straightening her naturally-curly tresses, hot ironing, chemically-treating and blow-drying them into submission.

The former deputy mayor of Westland, mother two and wife of Scott Conover, former Detroit Lions offensive lineman, has detailed her struggle to maintain straight hair — and her recent decision to set her natural curls free — in an e-book, "Mommie Straightest: On frizz, frustration and how my baby girl taught me to finally embrace my naturally curly hair." The book includes her hair regimen and a list of products she likes. She published it this year on Amazon.com. It generally costs \$3.49 but is being sold for 99 cents through midnight, Sunday, April 3, in celebration of her 39th birthday on April 1.

Conover, who describes herself as a "Type A, go go go" personality wrote the book to share her journey from straight to curly, and help others who are wrestling with self-image.

"Straight hair is not bad. The problem is when your pursuit of straight hair alters your quality of life. That's the

problem," Conover said. "When you do everything in your power to change your hair to the point it affects your life, and you're putting bad chemicals on your hair and you are depressed. That's a problem."

Straightening became a time-consuming habit that sometimes took priority over other tasks.

If it began to rain during a shopping trip, Conover quickly drove home, leaving her melting foods in the car while she headed inside to fire up the flat iron and keep her hair from frizzing.

If it began to drizzle while she and her children were on the playground, she'd scoop them up and quickly head home to fix her hair.

She didn't mind if a blow-out took four hours as long as it made her hair straight.

## Ponytails, braids

"I tried to go natural in the summer of 2014. It lasted two weeks. I got so exasperated. I never really gave it a fair shot," she said, adding that heat and chemical damage caused her hair to break. "But that was the longest I had done it in my 38 years. My mom never allowed me to wear my hair curly."

Conover said she grew up wearing her hair in braids, a pony tail, sectioned off by



Courtney Conover of Wayne spent 28 years stressing over her straightened hair. In November 2015, she let it go natural.

barrettes and, when freed from hair accessories, straight. She doesn't blame previous generations for their focus on straight or tamed curly hair. In fact, she praises her mother for having the patience to keep her hair looking well-coiffed.

"They did the best they could with what they had," she said. "I was so married to the appearance of straight hair. I know society plays a role, but I don't want to say I blame society. I don't blame anyone."

She realized she had to

## COURTNEY CONOVER



Mommie Straightest

On frizz, frustration, and how my baby girl taught me to finally embrace my naturally curly hair

The cover of Courtney Conover's book about going from straightened hair to natural curls.

make a change last fall when an aunt pointed out that Conover's daughter Kennedy, 2, always wore her hair in a tight ponytail.

A few days later she let her daughter's hair down and watched Kennedy kiss her own reflection in the mirror. Conover praised her toddler's curls, a light bulb moment that made her reflect on her own obsession with straight hair. She mustered the courage in November 2015 to go natural and documented the process and

products she used along the way.

## Blogger

"Mommie Straightest" is Conover's first book, although she is a longtime freelance writer. The Westland native is a former broadcast reporter in South Carolina, has contributed nearly a dozen stories to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books, penned columns for media outlets including the Observer & Eccentric, and has blogged on a regular basis for several years, including for USA Football.

At courtneyconover.com she blogs about everything from yoga — she's a certified instructor and has designed yoga curriculum — to NFL football, parenting, shopping and hair.

Conover said she is enjoying the freedom that comes with wearing naturally-curly hair.

"I'm not always scared about rain. I'm not always scared about working out and sweating. I was tired of living in a self-imposed prison because my hair wasn't straight. I wasn't born with straight hair. And there is so much life to be lived without having to consider your hair. It was too much work. Those four-hour blow-outs are for the birds."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

## REUNIONS

### CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1976

40th reunion set for 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, at Kickers Allstar Bar & Grill, in Canton. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/Crestwood76>.

### FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1981

The 35-year reunion is set for Saturday, July 16, at the Holiday Inn in Farmington. Cost is \$60 per person. Call Jeri Martin Stam at 734-895-9026, or visit Farmington High class of '81 on Facebook.

### GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST & WEST

#### CLASS OF 1966

The 50th reunion will be held Sept. 10. Find more event information on the G.C.H.S. class of 1966 East & West Facebook page.

### PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OF 1966

50-year reunion dinner and celebration set for 5-11 p.m. Sept. 17, at the Summit in Canton. For more details, check the Plymouth High School Class of 1966 Facebook page or email [jerrynorquist@gmail.com](mailto:jerrynorquist@gmail.com).

## GARDEN CALENDAR

Cheryl Bord can predict when trout lilies, blue cohosh and other spring plants will bloom at Miller Woods in Plymouth Township.

She takes her cue from a tiny white flower called the harbinger of spring.

"Right now, today and through the next week, only the harbinger of spring is blooming," said Bord, who leads tours through the nature preserve. "We base our tour dates on that plant though. It is the first to bloom and we look for it to determine upcoming tours. It usually signifies that in two weeks, if the weather cooperates, the hepatica, spring beauty, trout lily, blue cohosh, bloodroot and wild leeks will pop up first."

"Around three weeks from the harbinger of spring, the trillium, squirrel corn, wild ginger, baneberry, dutchmen's breeches, jack in the pulpit and cut leaf toothwort will start blooming. May apple comes a bit later toward the end of April."

Because the harbinger of spring is in bloom now, Friends of Miller woods will offer its tours sooner than usual this spring. Guided tours run every half-hour from 2-4 p.m. — with the last tour leaving at 3:30 p.m. — Sunday, April 10 and 17. The entrance to the nature preserve is located on Ridge Road just east of Powell.

Bord plans to station plant markers along the ½-mile trail they will help self-guided visitors identify flowers, including harbinger of spring. The community tours include a guide who will point them out.

"The harbinger of spring is very tiny and difficult to find on one's own. There are two good patches of it, but most people would have a hard time finding it."

She hopes to place the markers by April 6. They'll stay on site as long as flowers are in bloom, for about a month.

Dogs and strollers aren't allowed in the nature preserve. Tour dates may change if weather conditions delay flowering times. Check [millerwoods.com](http://millerwoods.com) for changes or call Bord at 734-459-7666.

Here's a sampling of other garden and nature events:

#### Livonia Garden Club

Drew Lathin, general manager of Creating Sustainable Landscapes will explain what rain gardens are and how they work, at 7 p.m. April 5, at the Civic Park Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. [lathin@yaho.com](mailto:lathin@yaho.com); [livoniagardenclub.org](http://livoniagardenclub.org).

#### Butterflies

Anna Szczotha, Master Gardener and a member of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will talk about the benefits of rain gardens and how to design one for your backyard, 7 p.m. April 20, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. \$3 for non-members. [sembabutterfly.org](http://sembabutterfly.org).

#### English Gardens

» Annual Garden Party runs Saturday-Sunday, April 2-3 and will include presentations on bees, fences and garden edges, container gardening, hydrangeas, landscaping trends, annuals and more. For a complete schedule visit [EnglishGardens.com](http://EnglishGardens.com)

» Get tips for dividing and transplanting perennials at a free seminar, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor; 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Cooledge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.

# 'I am not insane — I am angry'



A scene from the documentary film "Reject," which explores the science of social rejection.

COURTESY OF "REJECT" DOCUMENTARY FILM

Jay Grossman  
Staff Writer

Imagine a world where everyone accepts you.

Now, imagine one where almost nobody does.

A documentary film called "Reject" that explores social rejection and how it can drive someone to deadly violence was shown Wednesday evening at Groves High School through a partnership between the Birmingham and Bloomfield school districts.

"A good school must be a good home for the least favorite person in the classroom," teacher Terry Varnell states toward the beginning of the film. Her classroom at Will Rogers Elementary School in Oklahoma is filled with young students who were kicked out of other schools and labeled as misfits.

One of those students, 5-year-old Justin, kept landing in the principal's office at one school until he was kicked out of kindergarten. He ends up in Varnell's class, where he matures and becomes a better student in a structured setting built on acceptance.

"You have to believe it," she said. "If you don't believe in the message, your students won't either."

We also meet the family of Eric Mohat, a 17-year-old boy from Ohio who commits suicide after he was relentlessly bullied in a math class for several months by a group of boys, while nobody else in the

room seemed to notice.

"I always tell the kids, it doesn't cost you anything to be kind," his mother explains in the film. "It comes down to one person at a time being nice to one person at a time."

#### The pain of rejection

Being rejected hurts. Using MRI brain imaging and a simple online game of tossing a ball, researchers in the film demonstrate that the brain looks like it's in actual physical pain when people are rejected — even when the person doing the rejecting is a total stranger.

The same research shows how someone feeling rejected, and thus physical pain, is more inclined to respond with aggression.

"I am not insane — I am angry," honors student Luke Woodham told a psychiatrist after he was arrested in 1997 for opening fire with a rifle in a cafeteria filled with students at his high school in Mississippi. One of the students he targeted and fatally shot was his ex-girlfriend.

The film explores Columbine and other high school shootings, creating a portrait of angry young men who lashed out after being socially rejected by their peers — and sometimes their families.

Before killing two people and wounding seven others, Woodham fatally stabbed his mother as she was getting ready for her morning jog. He told police she often picked on

him and called him names.

At the same time, the brain imaging scans showed the brain was in a much calmer state if the person felt acceptance — even if it was just by one other person. A simple gesture, such as making eye contact and saying hello to a passerby, can make a difference in how a person feels.

#### Second chances

Birmingham Schools Supt. Dr. Daniel Nerad led a panel discussion after the film on how schools can do a better job in making every student feel accepted and connected.

Panelist Bill Boyle with Bloomfield Schools questioned if a constant emphasis on academic scores inevitably creates a cast of winners and losers in today's classroom. Susan Rogers with Birmingham Schools agreed competition is stiff in the two districts, making it difficult for parents to "get off the roller coaster" of constantly pushing their kids.

"I think that culture has to change," said Bloomfield Schools Supt. Rob Glass, another member of the panel.

Kimber Bishop-Yanke, founder of Kids Empowered, said she encourages kids to learn how to stand up for themselves in unfriendly situations and to seek help if they can't get it to stop after four times. At the same time, she thinks it's important to give the aggressor a second or even third chance.

"Don't label them right away," she said. "It's only going to push them away even further."

The panel talked about social media and how it can become a tool to constantly bully someone. Even the popular "play dates" in elementary schools can create a sense of rejection, especially if a child is never asked to participate in one.

Fred Gruber with the Michigan Children's Law Center said nearly all the juveniles represented by his firm come from splintered families that provide little structure.

"Many of these children come from wealthy families where the parents don't have the time," he said. "They need a mentor."

In one part of the film, Eric Mohat's mom displays a "suicide quilt" she knitted that has portraits of students who took their own lives. According to the film, approximately one out of every 12 students attempt suicide every year.

If it seems to make sense to attack the problem of social rejection early rather than later, statistics indicate just the opposite happens: the expulsion level is almost three times higher in preschool than high school.

In other words, most kids by the time they reach kindergarten know exactly where they stand.

[jgrossman@hometownlife.com](mailto:jgrossman@hometownlife.com)  
586-826-7030 Twitter: @BhmEccentric

## Baldwin Library cardholders have access to Lynda.com

Lynda.com is now available to Baldwin Public Library cardholders. As an industry leader, Lynda.com is an online learning company that helps users learn business, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals. Learn more about Lynda.com and its many features during a hands-on workshop in the library's computer lab 7 p.m.

Monday, April 4.  
Lynda.com's online video tutorials cover a broad variety of subjects including CAD, operating systems, spreadsheets, word processing, accounting, animation, educational technology, social media marketing, video editing and production, web development, and more. These self-paced tutorials can be accessed at any time

from any device. Easy accessibility is especially important for people facing life transitions, looking for new jobs or looking to gain a new skill.  
"With technical literacy becoming ever more important to students and job-seekers alike, we are excited to offer Lynda.com's wealth of in depth classes and tutorials to our patrons," Baldwin's

electronic resources librarian Josh Rouan said.  
To sign up for an account and access more than 3,000 courses and 150,000 award-winning video tutorials led by industry experts, go to [www.baldwinlib.org/lynda](http://www.baldwinlib.org/lynda). Users will need to create a new account by entering their Baldwin Library card number and supplying a password.

## AT THE BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

The Bloomfield Township Public Library is located at 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Township. To register for events and classes and for more information, contact the library at 248-642-5800 or go to [www.btpl.org](http://www.btpl.org).

### TUESDAY APRIL 5 KNIT 'N' STITCH CIRCLE

**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Details:** Join other area knitters and needleworkers to share skills and companionship. Meets the first Tuesday of each month. Open to everyone and no registration required.

### SHANGHAI GIRLS BOOK DISCUSSION

**Time:** 1 p.m.  
**Details:** Drop in and discuss this year's Everyone's Reading selection by author Lisa See. Everyone is welcome and no registration is required.

### FAIRY FEST

**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Details:** Make your own fairy wings, decorate dainty desserts and design a house for your backyard fairies. For ages 5 and older. This program is generously funded by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 6

**LEGO COMPETITION. BUILDERS**  
**Time:** 6:30-8 p.m.  
**Details:** Kids 6-13, are encouraged to join library staff for a fun LEGO compe-

tion. The library supplies the LEGO, create a masterpiece based on a favorite book. Limited to the first 40 participants. Public reception to follow. Registration required.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 7 TASTEFUL TALES

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Details:** Maple Syrup. The literature of a variety of foods is explored in these programs of stories and activities featuring delicious things to eat. Ages 8-12 years will listen, eat, learn, and create in this food filled program. Registration is required.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 8 WEE PLAY

**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Details:** Drop in for unstructured play and discovery in the Story Room, for children from newborns to 24 months and their caregivers. No registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONVERSATION HOUR

**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Details:** New drop-in group is for anyone who is interested in improving their English by chatting with others for whom English is a second language. No registration required.

### FAN FRIDAYS

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Details:** Cast your vote! Books, crafts, games and more! Enjoy some fun activities, then vote for the activities we

will be doing at the next session. For ages 8 and older. Registration is required.

### SHERYL MARTIN & TRIO

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Details:** A regular on the Detroit jazz scene, vocalist Sheryl Martin has performed internationally as well as at local venues, from Baker's Keyboard Lounge to the Detroit Jazz Festival. This concert is free, open to everyone and no registration is required.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SECOND SATURDAY SALE

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** First hour for Friends' members only. Held in the Friends' area in the Lower Level of the library. Come find a treasured book or favorite movie.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 10 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY EXTENDED SALE

**Time:** Noon to 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** Held in the Friends' area in the Lower Level of the library. Bargains Galore!

### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 10-16 GUESS WHO?

**Details:** Can you figure out which book characters are hiding in our National Library Week puzzles? Drop in to Youth Services any time during the week.

### BE A STAR READER

**Details:** Have your photo taken with your favorite book in celebration of National Library Week. Drop in to Youth Services any time during the week with a copy of your favorite book. All participants will have their names entered into a special drawing. 20 lucky Star Readers will have their photos featured on READ posters that are displayed monthly at the library.

### MONDAY, APRIL 11 ADULT AND TEEN SENSORY STORY TIME

**Time:** 11 a.m.  
**Details:** A fun sensory story time — including stories, songs, movement and art — for adults and teens with special needs and a support person.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 12 TINKER TALES

**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Details:** Children, ages 3-6 years, come to this story time on their own as they become independent enough to participate and explore without a parent or caregiver. They will "tinker" in a story time filled with tales, rhymes, music and scientific discovery. Registration required.

### MEMOIR WRITERS' GROUP

**Time:** 1-3 p.m.  
**Details:** The group meets informally to share stories and writing ideas. No obligation to bring material — just come and become familiar with the idea of sharing your life experiences with others.



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## Featured Guest Speakers



**9:20 - 10:15**  
*Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN*  
**St. Mary Mercy Livonia**  
*Healthcare Decisions*



**10:30 - 11:25**  
*Rick Bloom, J.D., CPA*  
**Bloom Asset Management**  
*Everything you Need to Know about Estate Planning*



**11:40 - 12:35**  
*Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C. President and CEO*  
**HealthQuest Management, Inc.**  
*New Technology in Pain Relief*

## Demonstrations and Workshops

**9:00 – 9:30**  
**Schoolcraft College**  
*Facts, Figures and Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias*

**The Elder Care Firm**  
*How to protect yourself and loved ones from long-term care costs*

**Botsford Commons**  
*Why men don't listen and women can't read maps*

**12: 30 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Schoolcraft College**  
*Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain*

**Senior Helpers**  
*Age in Place*

**Michigan Department of State**  
*Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility*

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## Make your cover letter stand out

BY MATT TARPEY  
 CAREERBUILDER

Writing a résumé can be tricky, but it seems like a walk in the park compared with writing a cover letter.

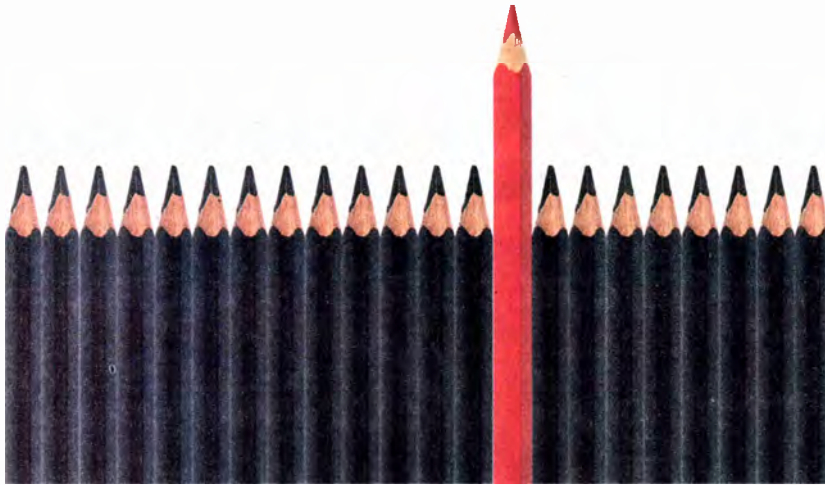
What's the secret? Here are five tricks to writing a standout cover letter — and getting it noticed by hiring managers.

### 1. Get rid of the fluff.

A cover letter gives you the opportunity to speak more expansively than you can on a résumé or application form, but there are still limits. Remember, hiring managers aren't obligated to read your cover letter — it's up to you to grab their interest.

"Keep it concise and focus on areas of your background that are connected to the opportunity," says Allie Basilica, social media director at Atrium Staffing. "Recruiters (and) managers rarely look at résumés and cover letters for more than one or two minutes.

"Often when people are trying to sell themselves, they use more verbose language than they ever would in another setting," she says. "Most positions in the business world require candidates who are succinct and efficient, and a wordy cover letter portrays the opposite message."



THINKSTOCK

### 2. Tell them something new.

If your cover letter doesn't add anything that hiring managers couldn't find on your résumé, then it's not worth their time or yours. "Use the cover letter as an opportunity to sell attributes that would make you a good fit for the position you are applying for that cannot be seen with a quick glance at your résumé," Basilica says.

This is your chance to make the case for why you are the best fit for the position. Connect the dots laid out on your résumé, and give examples of how you've implemented the

skills necessary for the job and the results you've attained from past experiences.

### 3. Research the company.

Personalizing your cover letter means more than just replacing the company name. It's important to tie the skills and experience listed on your résumé to the position you're applying for — and to do that, you need to know something about the company.

"Demonstrate that you've done your research," says Trevor Simm, founder and president of OpalStaff and

Talos Solutions. "Take some time to thoughtfully review the company's website and media coverage to get a feel for its solutions, services, culture and operations, and then find a way to reference this in your cover letter as a reason you are the perfect fit for the job."

### 4. Don't make it just about you.

Another key difference between a résumé and a quality cover letter is the focus. Your résumé should be all about you — the skills you've acquired and the results you've achieved. Your cover letter,

on the other hand, should tie it back to the company and explain how you can address its specific needs.

"Focus on how the company will benefit from your expertise and not (on) selling yourself," Simm suggests. "Your cover letter should show how you're a skilled and qualified candidate, but it's more important to explain what value you bring to the company. Avoid using 'I' or 'me,' and instead (share) how you'll provide solutions for the company's challenges. Doing this will illustrate why you're the best candidate for the job without you having to explicitly say so."

### 5. Take your time.

Above all, it's important to be patient and careful when writing your cover letter. "Avoid being in a rush to send off a letter," says Crystal Olivaria, a writer for CareerConversationalist.com, an online community and resource center for students. "Your cover letter is often the first impression a potential employer has of you. You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Take the time to do it right."

Matt Tarpey is a writer for the *Advice & Resources* section on CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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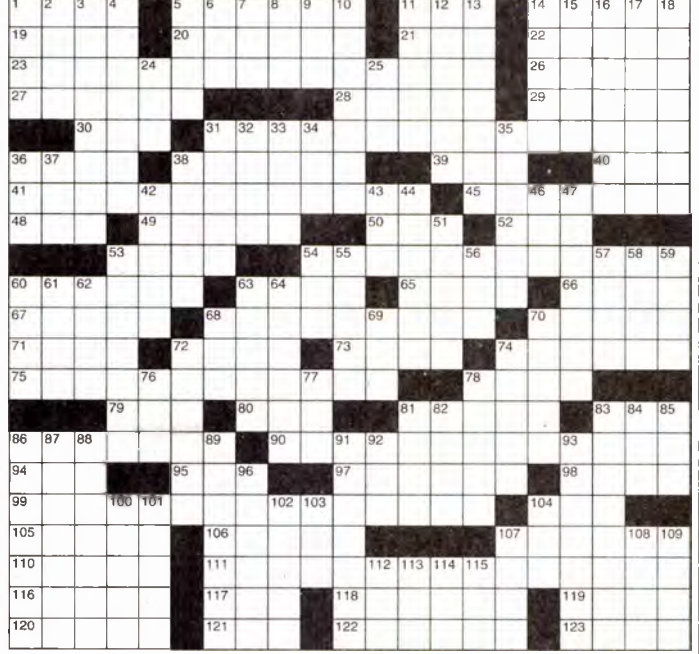
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# SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 In boots, e.g.
  - 5 Accident
  - 11 Leaf-cutting little colonist
  - 14 Lend — (assist)
  - 19 Roof border
  - 20 Pungent yellow cheese
  - 21 Corp. leader
  - 22 Go-kart, say
  - 23 Nickname for a really strong novelist?
  - 26 The Carolinas, e.g., in Caen
  - 27 Wings for women
  - 28 Many a flower girl
  - 29 Fen plant
  - 30 Wilhelm's "the"
  - 31 Return to get H.G. Wells' title Dr.?
  - 36 Eschew
  - 38 Topped party appetizer
  - 39 "— won't!"
  - 40 Prefix with 81-Across or 31-Down
  - 41 British poet as a young badge
  - 45 "The Streak" singer Ray
  - 48 "— a living"
  - 49 Company IDs
  - 50 Arthur of old TV
  - 52 Sister record co. of Virgin
  - 53 Nudge
  - 54 Neoprene produced at Alabama university?
  - 60 Ilallicize, e.g.
  - 63 Whitman or Disney
  - 65 Some HDTVs
  - 66 Singular
  - 67 Chicago airport
  - 68 Baby kangaroo living on a Pacific island nation?
  - 70 "Friday the 13th" villain
  - 71 Ariel is one
  - 72 Potter's dirt
  - 73 Shred up
  - 74 Most darling
  - 75 Very breezy summer month?
  - 78 Jay replaced by Jimmy Fallon
  - 79 Greek letter
  - 80 Min. fraction
  - 81 Handed out playing cards
  - 83 Item in a nest
  - 86 Dunce
  - 90 Convertible carriage used to transport popes?
  - 94 Suffix in sugar names
  - 95 Give support
  - 97 Port in Italy
  - 98 Greasy
  - 99 Boyfriend who's always upbeat?
  - 104 — -rock (music style)
  - 105 Hebrew letters after alephs
  - 106 Exit opposite
  - 107 Pilot planes
  - 110 Opinions offered
  - 111 Singer Gene who should never be forgotten?
  - 116 Black, in Bordeaux
  - 117 Blvd. or rd.
  - 118 Limited release?
  - 119 — Sous-le-Vent (the Leewards)
  - 120 Affirm
  - 121 Cold War-era state: Abbr.
  - 122 Train base
  - 123 Safari shelter
- DOWN**
- 1 Late-night host Meyers
  - 2 "How funny!"
  - 3 Adds vocals to, maybe
  - 4 Denigrates
  - 5 Cosmo, O and GQ
  - 6 Suffix with fool
  - 7 Grab a chair
  - 8 Stable feed
  - 9 Turkish title
  - 10 Attacked like a lion
  - 11 "The Mind of —" (PBS cooking series)
  - 12 Former liberal, briefly
  - 13 Many "Ole!" recipients
  - 14 "Am not!" rejoinder
  - 15 Spiteful sort
  - 16 College life
  - 17 Final profit
  - 18 Creator of the Lorax
  - 24 Private AOL exchanges
  - 25 "— Tok" (Kesha hit)
  - 31 Esimate
  - 32 Not falling for
  - 33 Ovine calls
  - 34 Springfield storekeeper
  - 35 Bishops hats
  - 36 — fi film
  - 37 Crude home counterpart
  - 38 Diner hirees
  - 42 Almost there
  - 43 Dwindle
  - 44 Axon's place
  - 46 Aussie bird
  - 47 Tremolo's kin
  - 51 Bowed
  - 53 Fluster
  - 54 Resembling
  - 55 One-eightly
  - 56 Con's vote
  - 57 Groundwork
  - 58 Greek Cupid
  - 59 Pay to live at
  - 60 Large couch
  - 61 What you used to be?
  - 62 Bonged
  - 63 Ragamuffins
  - 64 100% wrong
  - 68 — -bah
  - 69 Pa Ciampett of TV
  - 70 Internm ruling group
  - 72 11th-cen. king of Norway
  - 74 Prison parts
  - 76 Mu — shrimp
  - 77 Wilhelm's "I"
  - 78 Cake tier
  - 81 Dunce
  - 82 Allure rival
  - 83 Fit to print, after revisions
  - 84 Missy
  - 85 84-Down's counterpart
  - 86 Working farm horses
  - 87 "It's finally clear to me"
  - 88 Pork-filled pastry, e.g.
  - 89 Rabbit head features
  - 91 Put in cipher
  - 92 "I knew it!"
  - 93 Absence of restriction
  - 96 Krispy Kreme inventory
  - 100 One of Kirk's lieutenants
  - 101 Blender brand
  - 102 Ferret's kin
  - 103 Wilhelm's "the"
  - 104 Parade place: Abbr.
  - 107 City in Iowa
  - 108 Driving exam taker, often
  - 109 Lead-in to "while"
  - 112 Road topper
  - 113 "... Mac — PC?"
  - 114 Fabled flier
  - 115 Reinder cousin



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

## SUDOKU

		6		2	8		5		
2			7				1		
	3			6					7
	2				6				3
6				9		8			
		5	4					9	
		8	3			4			
	9				1				8
5				4			6		

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	9	2	6	4	8	7	3	5
8	3	5	1	7	9	2	6	4
6	7	4	3	5	8	9	1	2
2	6	9	4	1	7	2	8	3
5	1	8	3	6	2	7	4	9
3	4	7	9	8	5	1	2	6
7	2	6	5	9	1	4	3	8
2	9	8	4	1	8	6	5	4
6	3	8	2	2	6	9	1	7

## VEHICLE WORD SEARCH

C G D G F E N D E R L R S A S P H A L T  
 B N G N I K R A P L N A X U A L X E T P  
 F I G W G W N U T N E D I C C A C W I L  
 C D W S A H O O L A C C E L E R A T E R  
 A E K L B S I N O I T C E S R E T N I Y  
 I E D T O L A H X S P A T R O L O  
 T P E U I E C M R E M T H G I L C A R E  
 O S F D A N U Y O O U S H D E R T X M  
 L Y E E D E R S T H L F T R K E F H U E  
 L X N T I R T G V A R L I O T I A X H R  
 Y E S O R Y S G A X E V O E R U C T H G  
 A L I O B P N N F R E S M V S C V X P E  
 W I V R Y A O A F R A O V T E R Y G Y N  
 S B E O H S C S C L D G D S G R F C B C  
 S O R R I I V T E V B E F M Y D R L Y  
 E M L S F G K M E O U Y A W E E R F C E  
 R O S E U N X P N R P P A S S I N G L R  
 P T N L F S S Y A D Y T R A F F I C F R  
 X U N I O T I C K E T O H B U A O B T I  
 E A O M K B C D E T C A R T S I D U S X

### WORDS

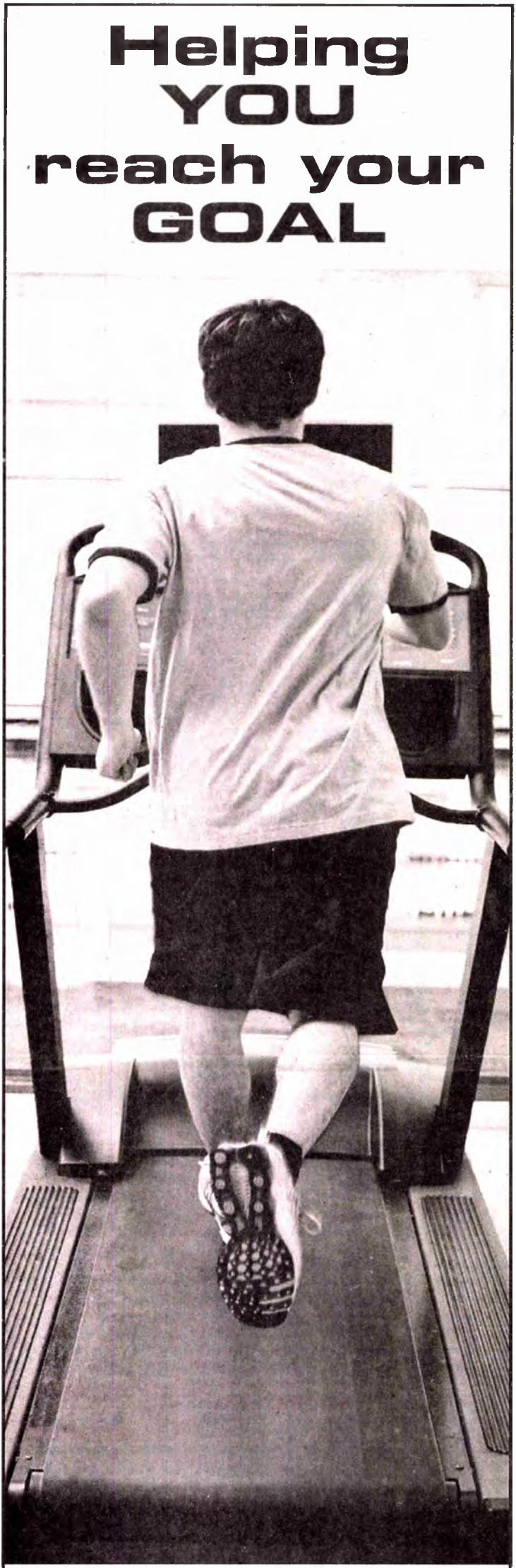
- ACCELERATE
- ACCIDENT
- AIRBAG
- ASPHALT
- AUTOMOBILE
- CAR
- CONSTRUCTION
- DEFENSIVE
- DETOUR
- DISTRACTED
- DRIVER
- EMERGENCY
- EXHAUST
- EXPRESSWAY
- FENDER
- FREENAY
- FUEL
- GARAGE
- HYBRID
- INTERSECTION
- LIGHT
- MILES
- MOTORCYCLE
- PARKING
- PATROL
- ROLLOVER
- SCENERY
- SEAT
- SIGNS
- SPEEDING
- SPEEDOMETER
- STOP
- TICKET
- TOLL
- TRAFFIC

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

**Crossword Answers**

SHOD MISHAP ANT AHAND  
 LEAVE ASIAGO CEO RACER  
 THEMIGHTYAUTHOR ETATS  
 HAREMS NIECE SEDGE  
 DIAS GOBACKFORMOREAU  
 GUN GAINAPLEIS  
 CUBINOUTARENS EVELS  
 IITS LOGOS BEAEM  
 POKE AUBURNRUBBER  
 STRESS WALT RICAS HARE  
 OHARE PALAUJOEY JASON  
 FOHNSOT FRIEND CUTS  
 AUGUSTOFWINDLENO  
 RHODES DEALT EGG  
 DIMBULB THEHOLYLANDAU  
 OSE AID NAPLES ROLLY  
 BEAUF GOODCHEER RITLY  
 BETHS CENTER AVIATIC  
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 NOIRE ARTE PAROLE LLES  
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# Car Report

## Buick Tries To Extend Reach with Millennials Via New Encore, Including theSkimm Marketing Gambit



By Dale Buss

Encore is a huge success for Buick in a number of ways.

It came on the market in 2013 just as the compact crossover utility segment was

exploding, positioning Buick squarely in the middle of a hot market that has helped the brand explode up the charts not only in sales but in the overall importance of the Buick franchise to General Motors. Meantime, of course, the lack of such a vehicle for Cadillac has really taxed the



Using theSkimm to market the new Encore.

GM luxury brand.

Also, Encore helped Buick conquest younger consumers at a much faster rate than perhaps any Buick nameplate before it. The brand has been trying for decades, actually, to skew younger, but no matter what Buick did with its sedans and even with its large SUV, the

Enclave, the basic demographics of its customer didn't shift all that much.

Encore has given Buick a lure with which to attract buyers who are both younger at heart and younger in reality. There are plenty of aging boomers who are buyers of Encore, but there also is a significant cohort of millennials who are attracted not only to the vehicle itself, to its amenities and convenience, but also increasingly to the Buick brand vibe.

You know that vibe -- the one that has been exemplified and consistently reinforced by the "That's not a Buick" marketing campaign. Hatched a couple of years ago during Buick's annual sponsorship of March Madness, the campaign has been cleverly executed and, more important, has forced viewers to confront the very question it is asking: Do they really understand the kind of vehicles that Buick is putting out there these days, what they look like, how they ride -- and how they're different from the stereotypes that younger consumers might have?

"It's a strategy that's been working to get consumers to reconsider their perceptions of Buick," Molly Peck, marketing director for Buick, told me. "And we've evolved it a tiny bit lately in that we've got all of this new product and all of this great

technology, so we're starting to pay off the question [and recast it] as, 'Is That a Buick?'"

"We're making more of a declaration of what consumers can expect from Buick, such as a brand new convertible, Cascada, and the Buick remote-link app."

Plus, she noted, Buick has four important new-vehicle launches this year: Cascada, the China-built Envision mid-sized SUV due in June, a new version of the LaCrosse sedan -- and a new version of the Encore.

As part of the Encore's marketing launch, Buick already has done something interesting. Encore already was the most female- and youngest-skewing nameplate Buick has ever had. So now GM's near-premium marque is pressing its advantage in a deal with theSkimm, the New York-based daily email news digest that is aimed at the millennial women Buick has been wooing -- and winning -- lately.

To extend the more traditional unveiling of the 2017 version of Encore at the New York International Auto Show press preview, Buick revealed the not-before-displayed model to readers of theSkimm in a late-March edition. Click on the oh-so-lightly promotional line, "Skimm'd for a late-night drive" at the top of the email and readers were redirected to an Instagram photo



Buick unveiled the 2017 Encore in New York.

of the new Encore including the seal-of-approval hashtag #skimm spotted.

"We really liked the communication on theSkimm," Peck told me about the tie-in with the news aggregator, which was launched in 2014 by two former NBC News producers who wanted to curate news for time-pressed peers in an intelligent, digestible, slightly cheeky round-up with an attitude and voice.

"It's savvy. It's funny. It's informed. It's inclusive. And we think of those as attributes of the Buick brand too. And as we talked with them about this, the Encore was a perfect fit for that."

The brand's first integration with theSkimm started in the previous week, when each day Buick, as theSkimm's exclusive

automotive advertiser, depicted the typical reader "featuring with her Buick, living her life," as Peck described the digital marketing plan.

Not only does theSkimm help Buick index higher with coveted millennial female car buyers or those considering a vehicle purchase, Peck said -- the ultimate "conquest" consumer for Buick -- but the site's high mobile consumption is crucial too.

"Mobile is super important to our consumers, especially younger consumers," she explained. "Over 60 percent of our traffic on the Buick.com mobile site is people who haven't been to Buick.com before."

And now, many of those are women coming from theSkimm.

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